

CHILD CARE CRISIS
THREATENS PLANS
FOR A RECOVERY

BARRIERS FOR NEW YORK

Part-Time Schedule for
Schools Puts Workers
in a Tight Spot

By ELIZA SHAPIRO
and PATRICK MCGEEHAN

When New York City decided to reopen its school system, the nation’s largest, on a part-time basis in September, it set off a new child care crisis that could seriously threaten its ability to restart the local economy and recover from the coronavirus outbreak.

Business and union leaders say the city needs to mount a kind of Marshall Plan-like effort to find child care for many of the system’s 1.1 million students when they are not in classrooms. They said there was no way the economy — from conglomerates in Midtown Manhattan to small businesses in Queens — could fully return to normal if parents had no choice but to stay at home to watch their children.

The concerns reflected a growing recognition across the nation that the reopening of schools could be the linchpin in the broader effort to undo the severe economic damage from the outbreak. New York City alone is facing its worst financial crisis since the 1970s, with an unemployment rate hovering near 20 percent.

“There is no discussion of this right now that’s serious,” said Kathryn S. Wyde, chief executive of the Partnership for New York City, whose members include the city’s biggest private-sector employers. “There is not a serious solution. Which means that people will not be able to go back to work.”

Under the plan announced by Mayor Bill de Blasio this week, classroom attendance would be limited to only one to three days a week in an effort to protect public health. The city’s approach is similar to that being followed by many school districts, which are concerned that crowded schools

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Pace of Deaths
Is Accelerating
In Large States

This article is by Farah Stockman,
Mitch Smith and Giulia McDonnell
Nieto del Rio.

The daily number of deaths from the coronavirus has risen recently in some of the nation’s most populous states, leaving behind grieving families and signaling a possible end to months of declining death totals nationally.

In Texas, officials announced 119 deaths on Wednesday, surpassing a daily record for deaths in the pandemic that the state had set only a day earlier. In Arizona, more than 200 deaths have been announced already this week, and the daily virus death toll in the state reached higher than ever. Mississippi, Florida and Tennessee also set single-day death records this week.

Among those who died of the virus in recent days was a 30-year-old man from Nashville who played the organ in church; a 39-year-old mother from St. Augustine, Fla., who told her six children goodbye on a hospital speaker phone; and a 91-year-old grandmother from Dallas, who played a mean game of dominoes.

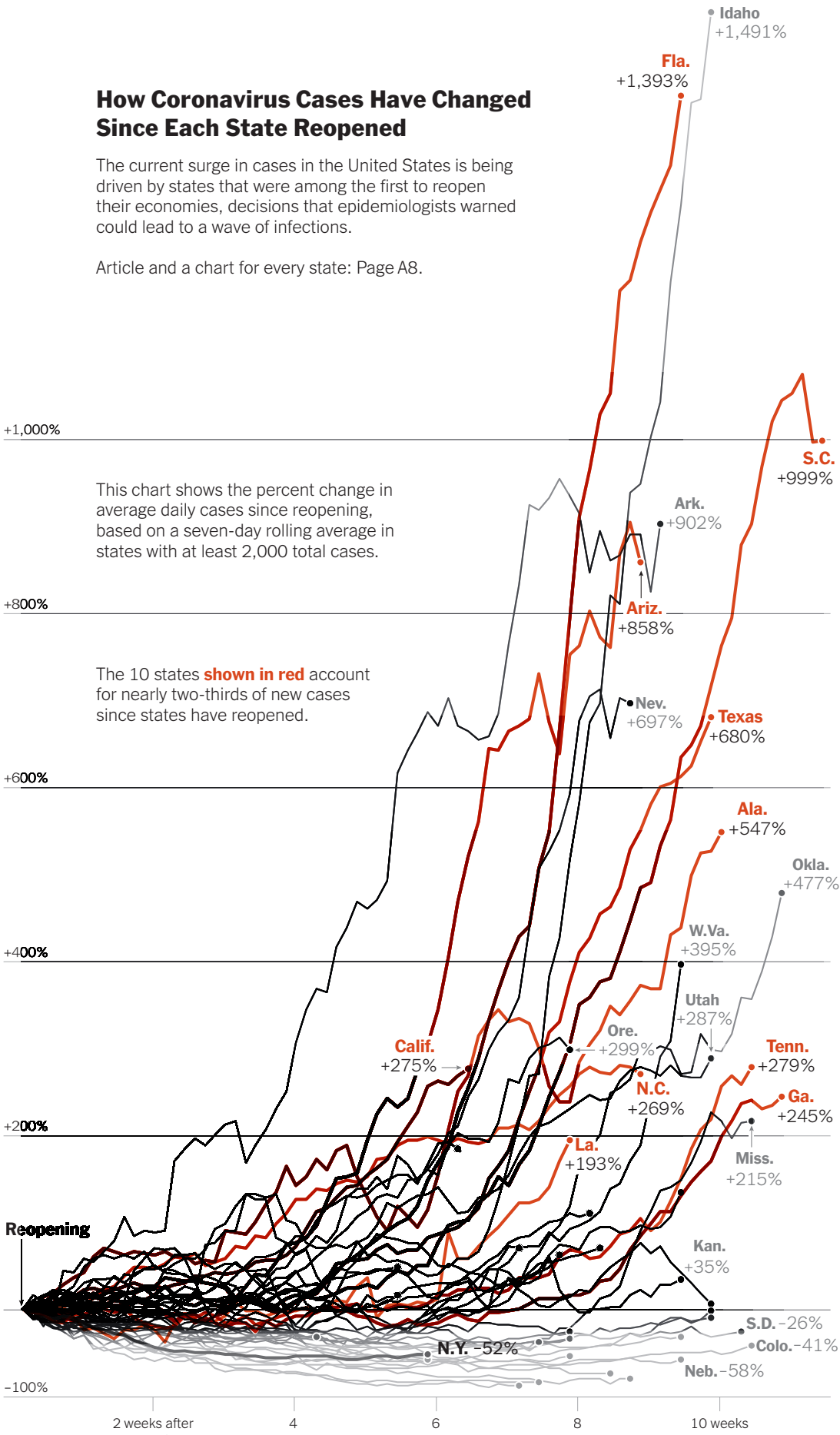
The seven-day death average in the United States reached 608 on Thursday, up from 471 earlier in

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How Coronavirus Cases Have Changed
Since Each State Reopened

The current surge in cases in the United States is being driven by states that were among the first to reopen their economies, decisions that epidemiologists warned could lead to a wave of infections.

Article and a chart for every state: Page A8.



As Paper Withers, a Reporter Dares to Ask Why

By DAN BARRY

POTTSTOWN, Pa. — An essential worker drove his cluttered Toyota Corolla through the early spring emptiness, past a sign outside a closed parochial school asking people to pray. Time to bear witness in a pandemic.

He pulled up to the closed Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School, where masked employees were distributing bags and boxes of food. Dozens of cars waited in line for curbside pickup, many with children eager to spot their teachers.

In the global context of the coronavirus, the moment was small. But to those who live around a Pennsylvania place called Pottstown, the scene reflected both the dependence on subsidized school meals and the yearning to connect in an unsettling time of isolation. It was a story.

Evan Brandt, proud reporter for a once-proud newspaper — The Mercury — emerged from his Toyota with press identification dangling from his neck, the photo old enough to be of someone else. The newspaper’s last staff photographer left years ago, and Mr. Brandt, grayer and heavier at 55, had not updated his image.

After snapping smartphone photos with a forefinger protruding from a cut in his latex glove, he interviewed several people, including a counselor dressed as a kid-friendly Tyrannosaurus. Dinosaur to dinosaur.



HARUKA SAKAGUCHI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Evan Brandt of The Mercury in Pottstown, Pa., which was facing an uncertain future long before the pandemic’s economic fallout.

Forget dashing foreign correspondents and “All the President’s Men”: Daily journalism often comes down to local reporters like Mr. Brandt. Overworked, underpaid and unlikely to appear as cable-news pundits, they report the day’s events, hold officials accountable and capture those mo-

ments — a school honor, a retirement celebration — suitable for framing.

But they are an endangered species being nudged toward extinction by the most important news story in decades. The coronavirus.

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TRUMP COMMUTES
STONE’S SENTENCE
ON SEVEN FELONIES

Friend Requested Help From President
After Lying to Congress in Inquiry

This article is by Peter Baker,
Maggie Haberman and Sharon LaFraniere.

WASHINGTON — President Trump commuted the sentence of his longtime friend Roger J. Stone Jr. on seven felony crimes on Friday, using the power of his office to spare a former campaign adviser days before Mr. Stone was to report to a federal prison to serve a 40-month term.

In a lengthy written statement punctuated by the sort of inflammatory language and angry grievances characteristic of the president’s Twitter feed, the White House denounced the “overzealous prosecutors” who convicted Mr. Stone on “process-based charges” stemming from the “witch hunts” and “Russia hoax” investigation.

The statement did not assert that Mr. Stone was innocent of the false statements and obstruction counts, only that he should not have been pursued because prosecutors ultimately filed no charges of an underlying conspiracy between Mr. Trump’s campaign and Russia. “Roger Stone has already suffered greatly,” it said. “He was treated very unfairly, as were many others in this case. Roger Stone is now a free man!”

The commutation, announced late on a Friday when potentially damaging news is often released, was the latest action by the Trump administration upending the justice system to help the president’s convicted friends. The Justice Department moved in May to dismiss its own criminal case against Mr. Trump’s former national security adviser Michael T. Flynn, who had pleaded guilty to lying to the F.B.I. And last month, Mr. Trump fired Geoffrey S. Berman, the United States attorney whose office prosecuted Michael D. Cohen, the president’s former personal lawyer, and has been investigating Rudolph W. Giuliani, another of his lawyers.

Democrats quickly condemned the president’s decision, characterizing it as an abuse of the rule of law. “With this commutation, Trump makes clear that there are two systems of justice in America: one for his criminal friends, and one for everyone else,” said Representative Adam B. Schiff, Democrat of California and a leader of the drive to impeach Mr. Trump



YARA NARDI/REUTERS

Roger J. Stone Jr. was set to begin serving a 40-month term.

last year for pressuring Ukraine to incriminate his domestic rivals.

Two House committee chairmen quickly announced that they would investigate the circumstances of the commutation, suggesting that it was a reward for Mr. Stone’s silence protecting the president. “No other president has exercised the clemency power for such a patently personal and self-serving purpose,” said a statement issued by Representatives Jerrold Nadler and Carolyn B. Maloney, both New York Democrats.

Mr. Stone, 67, a longtime Republican, was set to begin serving a 40-month term.

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Scandal Taints
A Political Star
At His Suicide

By CHOE SANG-HUN

SEOUL, South Korea — Mayor Park Won-soon of Seoul spoke passionately at a news conference on Wednesday about his vision to create jobs and fight climate change in a post-pandemic world, part of his broader, socially conscious campaign that also called for building a city that was more innovative and safer for women.

The same day, one of his secretaries went to the police, accusing him of sexual harassment. She described how Mr. Park made unwanted physical contact and sent sexually suggestive, dehumanizing texts to her on the encrypted messaging service Telegram, usually late at night, according to local media outlets.

The next day, Mr. Park called in sick. He canceled his entire schedule.

At his desk in the two-story official residence, he wrote a note to his family, asking them to cremate his body and scatter the ashes around the graves of his parents in his hometown.

“I’m sorry to everyone, and I thank everyone who has been with me in my life,” he wrote in longhand in the note, which was released by his aide. “I remain always sorry to my family, to whom

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Alliance Brings
The Flag Down
In Mississippi

By RICK ROJAS

JACKSON, Miss. — The activists were infants when two-thirds of Mississippians voted in 2001 to keep the state flag embedded with the battle emblem of the Confederacy. They grew up pledging allegiance to it in school, where they also learned about a history of segregation and oppression associated with the banner.

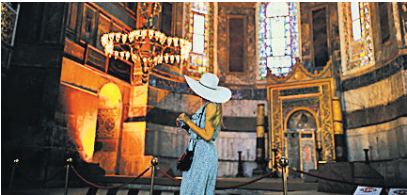
The activists, a band of Black Lives Matter organizers, marched last month through the streets of Jackson, the flag’s removal among their demands. But despite the fury, it seemed a false hope in a state that had proudly flown it for 126 years.

“The state flag, we thought, was a constant,” Calvert White, 20, said on a recent afternoon.

But in a matter of days, something that had seemed inevitable was suddenly inevitable. State troopers folded the flag at the Capitol for the last time, a turnabout that was powered by a coalition of seemingly unlikely allies, including business-minded conservatives, Baptist ministers and the Black Lives Matter activists.

They were bound by a mutual affection for a state not always understood by the rest of the world

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INTERNATIONAL A9-11

Erdogan’s Explosive Decree

Turkey’s president ordered that Hagia Sophia, built as an Orthodox cathedral, again host Muslim prayers. PAGE A9

Damage at Iran’s Nuclear Sites

Some officials say an American-Israeli strategy is evolving to a series of short-of-war clandestine strikes. PAGE A11

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-8

Trump vs. Top Universities

Harvard and M.I.T. want a court to protect foreign students’ visas, and the president threatened certain universities’ tax-exempt status. PAGE A6

NATIONAL A12-20

Trump Insider Was Kept Out

Elaine Duke, who briefly led homeland security, said she was cut out of real decision-making on DACA. PAGE A17

She ‘Is Not Jeffrey Epstein’

Lawyers for Ghislaine Maxwell seek to distance her from her disgraced longtime companion. PAGE A16



BUSINESS B1-7

Different Work for Idle Hands

When the pandemic kept European laborers from coming to harvest produce, Britons responded. PAGE B1

Possible Ban of Political Ads

Under pressure, Facebook is said to be weighing the change across its network before the November election. PAGE B1

SPORTSSATURDAY B8-10

What’s in a Name? Money

Long defiant, the Redskins’ owner, Dan Snyder, quickly changed course on a name change after FedEx threatened to withdraw its sponsorship. PAGE B9

OBITUARIES A21

Saks Fashion Executive

Helen O’Hagan promoted designers as the store’s head of publicity and lived a glamorous life as the actress Claudette Colbert’s friend. She was 89.

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Dave Eggers

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THIS WEEKEND

