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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

Today, cloudy, showers, increasing wind, high 61. Tonight, rain, locally heavy, thunderstorms, low 56. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, showers, high 65. Weather map, Page C8.

\$3.00

Packing Street, Rites for Rabbi Anger de Blasio

Mayor Draws Outrage as He Seethes Online

By LIAM STACK

Soon after a revered Hasidic rabbi died of the coronavirus in Brooklyn on Tuesday, his fellow congregants informed the Police Department of an unexpected decision: Despite the coronavirus restrictions now in place, they

would hold a public funeral. The local police precinct did not stand in their way, a testament to the Hasidic community's influence in the Williamsburg neighborhood. By 3:30 p.m., police officers began erecting barricades, expecting a small number of mourners to show up. Loudspeakers were put up to help mourners hear while keeping their distance.

But by 7:30 p.m., an estimated 2,500 ultra-Orthodox Jewish men had arrived to mourn Rabbi Chaim Mertz, packing together shoulder-to-shoulder on the street and on the steps of brownstones, clearly violating social distancing guidelines and turning the funeral into one of the most fraught events of the virus crisis for Mayor Bill de Blasio.

The police began to disperse the mourners, some of whom were not wearing masks. Word of the gathering soon reached City Hall, where the mayor decided to go to Brooklyn to oversee the dispersal himself.

After the crowd had been broken up, Mr. de Blasio lashed out on Twitter at "the Jewish community, and all communities," saying he had instructed the Police Department "to proceed immediately to summons or even arrest those who gather in large groups."

Mr. de Blasio spent much of Wednesday on the defensive over his handling of the funeral and his use of the phrase "Jewish community" in his public criticism of the mourners. But the episode also underscored the challenges that officials have faced in addressing the flouting of social distancing rules in insular and close-knit Hasidic neighborhoods around the

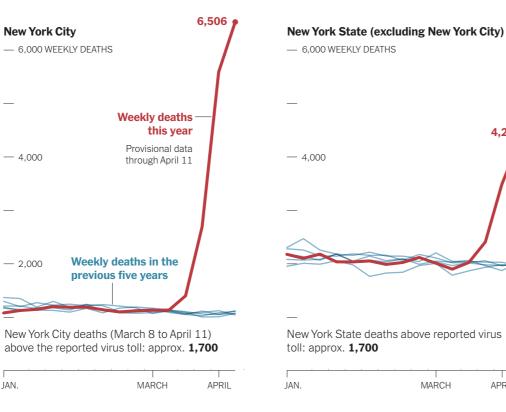
New York region. People in these neighborhoods have long voiced distrust of state and local authorities, even as they have been able to band together to exert political power. Hasidic Jews have been disproportionwhich has killed hundreds in their community, including influential religious leaders.

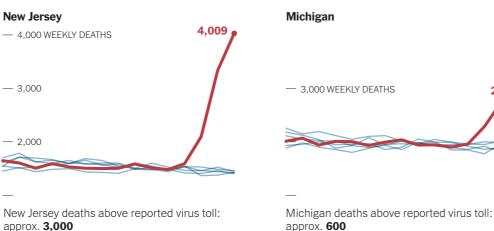
The challenge of monitoring gatherings may become even more daunting as the weather gets warmer and more New Yorkers are tempted to leave their homes for the first time in weeks. taking long walks or meeting in parks - even as the pandemic appears to have no clear end in sight.

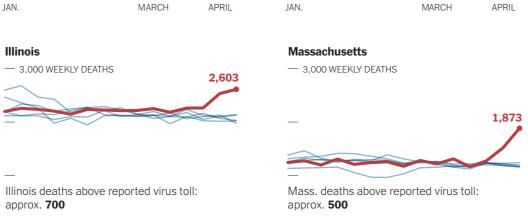
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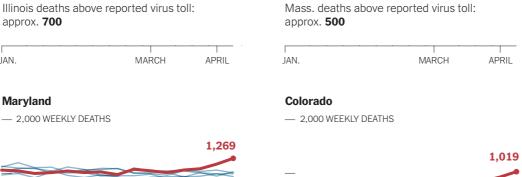
The Pandemic Death Toll Is Much Worse Than Reported

Total deaths from all causes in seven hard-hit states are nearly 50 percent higher than normal for the five weeks from March 8 through April 11. That is 9,000 more deaths than have been reported in official counts of deaths from Covid-19. Article on Page A12.









Maryland deaths above reported virus toll: Colorado deaths above reported virus toll: approx. **500** approx. 300 JAN. MARCH

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; N.Y.C. health department

JOSH KATZ AND DENISE LU / THE NEW YORK TIMES

Biden's Silence on Sex Allegation Leads to a Standoff in His Party

JAN.

Maryland

By LISA LERER

and SYDNEY EMBER For more than three weeks, progressive activists and women's rights advocates debated how to handle an allegation of sexual assault against Joseph R. Biden Jr. The conversations weren't easy, nor were the politics: Mr. Biden, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, faced one allegation; his opponent, Presi-

dent Trump, at least a dozen. Finally, several of the women's groups prepared a public letter that praised Mr. Biden's work as an "outspoken champion for survivors of sexual violence" but also pushed him to address the allegation from Tara Reade, a former aide who worked in Mr. Biden's Senate office in the early 1990s.

Women's Groups Urged Him to Respond

"Vice President Biden has the opportunity, right now, to model how to take serious allegations seriously," the draft letter said. "The weight of our expectations matches the magnitude of the office he seeks."

Then Mr. Biden's team heard about the advocates' effort. According to people involved in the discussions, the group put the letter on hold as it began pressuring Biden advisers to push the candidate to make a statement himself before the end of April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Continued on Page A20

They Sat for a Game of Cards, Each Hand Posing a Dire Risk

By JACK HEALY

DENVER - It had already been a grim day. The governor of Colorado had just announced the state's first coronavirus death, an 83-year-old woman, when public health investigators discovered where she had spent some of her final days: a bridge club.

Leon Kelly, the county coroner in Colorado Springs, felt his stomach drop. "It was full-throttle,

worst-case scenario," he said. For decades, the Colorado Springs Bridge Center had been a social hub for retirees immersed in the world of trumps, tricks and cutthroat bidding strategies. The players would spend afternoons inside their clubhouse overlooking Pikes Peak, snacking on popcorn and celery sticks and show-

4 Dead and 25 Sick at Colorado Bridge Club

MARCH

ing off photos of their grandchil-

dren while playing hand after

Now, the club had become a new breeding ground for a virus that has carved through family funerals, church gatherings, nursing homes and choir practices across the country, striking groups of older, vulnerable people with cruel efficiency.

That evening on March 13, Dr. Kelly hurriedly called an aunt and asked her: Tell me everything you can about bridge. How do players sit? How many cards do they

Continued on Page A13

ECONOMY SHRINKS AT QUICKEST PACE SINCE 2008 PLUNGE

Data Reflects First Weeks of Shutdown, Hinting Far Worse Is Yet to Come

By BEN CASSELMAN

The coronavirus pandemic officially snapped the United States' economic growth streak in the first three months of the year. The question now is how deep the damage will get — and how long the country will take to recover.

4,239

APRIL

2.676

U.S. gross domestic product, the broadest measure of goods and services output, fell at a 4.8 percent annual rate in the first quarter of the year, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. That is the first decline since 2014, and the worst quarterly contraction since 2008, when the country was in a deep recession.

There is much worse to come. Widespread layoffs and business closings didn't hit until late March in most of the country. Economists expect figures from the current quarter, which will capture the shutdown's impact more fully, to show that G.D.P. contracted at an annual rate of 30 percent or more, a scale not seen since the Great Depression.

"They're going to be the worst in our lifetime," Dan North, chief economist for the credit insurance company Euler Hermes North America, said of the second-quarter figures. "They're going to be the worst in the post-World War II

The Federal Reserve pledged Wednesday to use its full range of tools to mitigate the effects of the downturn and restore the econ-

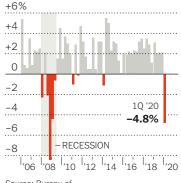
omy to health. Jerome H. Powell, the Fed chair, said Congress, too, would most likely have to do more.

"The depth and the duration of the economic downturn are extraordinarily uncertain," Mr. Powell said Wednesday. "It may well be the case that the economy will need more support from all of us if the recovery is going to be a robust one."

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said this week that he expected the economy to "really bounce back" this summer as states lift stay-home orders and trillions of dollars in federal emergency spending reaches businesses and households. But most independent economists are much less optimistic. The Con-

Continued on Page A10

G.D.P. CHANGE



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis THE NEW YORK TIMES

Early Findings From Drug Trial Lift Stock Market, and Spirits

This article is by Gina Kolata, Peter Baker and Noah Weiland.

Modest results from a federal trial of an experimental drug helped send the stock market soaring on Wednesday, another sign of the desperation for a viable treatment against the coronavirus.

Just before markets opened. Gilead, maker of the antiviral drug remdesivir, announced that it was "aware of positive data" about the drug's performance in a federal trial, sending futures upward. Trading in the company's shares was briefly halted.

Later, in a briefing at the White House, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the trial had shown that treatment with the drug could mod-

estly speed recovery in patients infected with the coronavirus.

The improvement in recovery times "doesn't seem like a knockout 100 percent," Dr. Fauci conceded, but "it is a very important proof of concept, because what it has proven is that a drug can block this virus."

Sitting at Dr. Fauci's side, President Trump said, "Certainly it's positive, it's a very positive event."

Business leaders, scientists and politicians alike are scrambling to find ways to fight an insidious epidemic and to reopen a devastated economy. The virus has claimed at least 60,000 lives in the United States, and more than 200,000 worldwide. There have been few reasons for optimism, and the markets seized on the news.

The trial sponsored by the Na-Continued on Page A12

College Athletes Could Cash In On Fame in a Landmark Plan

By BILLY WITZ

As the star quarterback at the University of Alabama, Tua Tagovailoa was a marketer's dream: He had charisma, a million social media followers and a championship pedigree he earned as a freshman by throwing the winning touchdown in the national title game.

And yet because of longstanding National Collegiate Athletic Association rules, Tagovailoa could not cash in on that fame until he declared in January that he was leaving school for the N.F.L.

That restriction may be about to The N.C.A.A. Board of Gover-

nors, weary from increased attacks in legislatures and court-

N.C.A.A., Facing Push, **Backs Endorsements**

houses and from the public, an-

nounced Wednesday that it would support rule changes allowing athletes to earn money from the use of their names, images and likenesses. But the deals would have to come from third parties so that athletes could not be considered university employees.

The board's recommendations will be forwarded to the three N.C.A.A. divisions that govern the levels of competition in college sports. The divisions are expected by January to adopt rules that would take effect at the start of the

Continued on Page A21



INTERNATIONAL A16-18

Fire Kills 38 in South Korea

The blaze was a new challenge to President Moon Jae-in's pledge to end manmade catastrophes.

Baby Boy for Prime Minister

The arrival of a son is the latest milestone in a tumultuous period for the British leader Boris Johnson. PAGE A18

NATIONAL A19-21

A digital ad strategy used by a former Facebook employee that helped Donald Trump win the presidency is now being used to try to defeat him. PAGE A19

Pro in 2016, Con in 2020

Trump Attacks Own Campaign The president screamed at his campaign manager after seeing polls that had him trailing Joseph R. Biden Jr. PAGE A20

SPORTSTHURSDAY B9-11

Fauci Can See a Sportsless Year

The leading U.S. infectious disease expert threw cold water on the idea of leagues playing anytime soon. PAGE B9

BUSINESS B1-8

The Slaughterhouse Rules

As workers in the meat industry fear for their safety, an executive order from President Trump is giving industry lobbyists a victory.

Contract Foresaw a Pandemic

It won't be easy for a buyout firm to back out of its deal for Victoria's Secret, James B. Stewart writes. PAGE B1

OBITUARIES B12-14

Owner of a Harlem Hangout

Samuel Hargress Jr. ran Paris Blues, a throwback to the 1960s that has been a mainstay. He was 84. PAGE B14

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Their Met Gala, Their Way

A group of internet kids are about to hold the biggest fashion party of the year, online. You're invited.

Social Distancing, on Edge

After weeks and weeks of pandemic living, frustrated New Yorkers are starting to turn on one another. PAGE D1

Hidden Feats of Skyscrapers

Engineering ingenuity helped build landmarks like Black Rock. A virtual tour with Michael Kimmelman. PAGE C1

The Film Festival That Wasn't

Two critics look at highlights from the scuttled South by Southwest 2020, now on Amazon Prime Video. PAGE C6

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Barbara Kruger

PAGE A23



