

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

N. Korean leader seeks increased nuclear strength

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — In his first reported appearance in more than three weeks, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presided over a meeting calling for increased nuclear capabilities and putting the armed forces on “high alert,” state-run media said Sunday.

The 36-year-old leader’s whereabouts have been closely watched after speculation that he may have suffered health problems began last month during a similar absence from public view.

Kim resurfaced on May 1 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a fertilizer factory but was not seen again until the Korean Central News Agency published photos Sunday showing him overseeing a meeting of the nation’s top military-governing body.

“Set forth at the meeting were new policies for further increasing the nuclear war deterrence of the country and putting the strategic armed forces on a high alert operation in line with the general requirements for the building and development of the armed forces of the country,” KCNA said.

“Taken at the meeting were crucial measures for considerably increasing the firepower strike ability of the [North Korean army’s] artillery pieces,” it added.

The emphasis on developing

nuclear capabilities and military firepower was the latest blow to hopes for a revival of U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons program.

It also came a day after The Washington Post, citing three anonymous officials, reported that President Donald Trump’s administration has discussed whether to conduct the first U.S. nuclear test since 1992.

The issue was raised at a May 15 meeting of national security officials following administration accusations that Russia and China are conducting low-yield nuclear tests, the Post said. No publicly available evidence supports that assertion and both countries deny it, according to the report.

KCNA didn’t mention the report or give a date or location for the meeting of the central military commission of North Korea’s ruling Workers’ Party.

Kim also promoted the ranks of major commanding officers. Ri Pyong Chol, a senior party official in charge of weapons development, was elected as the commission’s vice-chairman, KCNA said.

Photos showed him speaking to an audience of uniformed officials as they furiously took notes, pointing to a screen with a blurred-out image and signing documents.

North Korea has demonstrated major advances in its nuclear program since Kim assumed power after his father died.

Navy touts 7 of its 11 carriers are underway

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Navy on Friday touted the fact that seven of its 11 aircraft carriers are now underway after coronavirus and maintenance issues had beset the fleet in recent months.

“Around the world, we are underway and ready,” the service said in a Facebook post featuring a graphic with a large “7” plastered over the photos of carriers Ronald Reagan, Gerald R. Ford, Abraham Lincoln, Nimitz, Harry S. Truman, Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Aircraft carriers are perhaps America’s most visible manifestation of global military might, each operating with its own strike group and able to project power into hotspots.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt was sidelined for almost two months in Guam dealing with a coronavirus outbreak that infected more than 1,100 sailors and killed one. It finally set sail Thursday, but only with essential crew members aboard.

The Ronald Reagan headed to sea after six months of routine maintenance at its homeport in Yokosuka Naval Base near Tokyo. Seeking to avoid the type of widespread contagion experienced by the crew of the Roosevelt, the Navy placed Reagan sailors into phased sequestrations of up to 21 days as they transferred to the carrier.

The Abraham Lincoln departed its homeport of San Diego on May 7, less than four months after completing a record-breaking 295 days at sea during its previous deployment. Nimitz got underway from San Diego a day later.

With an eye toward China, the Navy has stepped up publicity over its operations in the

South China Sea in the wake of the coronavirus crisis.

China took advantage of the diminished presence of U.S. Navy carriers in the Pacific by twice in April sailing its own carrier, the Liaoning, between two islands of Japan’s Okinawa prefecture.

During its second pass through on April 28, the Liaoning was accompanied by two guided-missile destroyers, two multirole warships and a combat-support supply ship.

China also appeared to step up its operations in the South China Sea by carrying out surveys within the waters of Malaysia’s exclusive economic zone.

In early April, a Vietnamese fishing boat sank during a skirmish with a Chinese coast guard ship in a disputed area. Vietnam officials claimed that the Chinese boat intentionally rammed the fishing boat, while China said that the fishermen were to blame for the sinking.

The Navy has been challenged to keep carriers at sea in recent years.

An analysis published by USNI News in September 2018 concluded that during the previous 15 months, the Navy had the lowest number of carrier strike groups underway in 25 years.

In December, the Navy announced that seven carriers were finally underway after half the carrier fleet had spent the fall in a nondeployable state, but the virus waylaid the Theodore Roosevelt three months later.

Among the carriers that had been sidelined last year, the USS George Washington was in the shipyard for an overhaul, while the USS John C. Stennis was awaiting one.

Taliban announces cease-fire for Eid holiday

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban have announced a three-day cease-fire across Afghanistan beginning Sunday to mark the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

The group's fighters have been ordered not to attack government forces "in any place" during the period unless they are attacked first, a statement by the group released late Saturday said.

Fighters were also advised not to travel into government-controlled territory during the pause, and government troops would not be allowed into insurgent-controlled territory, the statement said.

The announcement followed an uptick

in violence across the country since a U.S.-Taliban deal was signed in late February that could see all American troops pull out of Afghanistan by mid-2021.

U.S. officials had expected that the deal would usher in a prolonged period of reduced violence and quickly lead to formal talks between the Taliban and Afghan government on reaching a comprehensive cease-fire. The insurgents, however, almost immediately resumed attacks on Afghan forces.

The spike in violence and issues such as a dispute over a prisoner release have delayed the peace process by over two months.

Earlier this month, President Ashraf Ghani ordered the military to resume of-

fensive operations against the Taliban, citing a rise in Taliban attacks. Government forces had been observing a purely defensive posture for roughly two months in a bid to advance the peace process.

There was no immediate reply by Ghani to the Taliban's cease-fire announcement, although he had been calling for a cease-fire for months.

The Taliban, Afghan and American militaries observed a period of reduced violence in the week leading up to the signing of the U.S.-Taliban deal Feb. 29. All sides also agreed to separate cease-fires during Eid al-Fitr in 2018, during which Taliban fighters were welcomed into several Afghan cities and posed for selfies with residents.

Marines reducing rotation to Australia

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Fewer than half as many U.S. Marines than originally planned will rotate to Australia's Northern Territory for a training mission this summer that was cut short by the coronavirus, according to the Australian Minister of Defence.

The Marine Corps on May 5 announced the resumption of the rotation to the northern Australian city of Darwin. It had been scheduled to begin in March, but was delayed following an order that month from Defense Secretary Mark Esper barring nearly all official movement overseas for Defense Department personnel.

"The modified rotation will involve around 1,200 Marines who will exercise exclusively at Defence training areas in the Northern Territory until September," the Australian Ministry of Defence said in a statement Thursday.

The annual rotation had been slated to involve 2,500 Marines, the same number that headed Down Under last year.

"I am pleased that the modi-

fied deployment will proceed this year, following careful planning and preparations undertaken by both Australia and the United States to minimize COVID-19 risks to the Northern Territory," Australian Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said, in the statement.

Fifty-four Marines who arrived in Darwin in an advance party in March have already gone through a 14-day quarantine and begun training with their Australian counterparts.

The first group of additional Marines will disembark at Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin in early June, beginning the Australian component of a detailed quarantine and testing regime, the Australian statement said.

Each Marine will be screened four days prior to departure, the statement said.

"They will then be screened and tested for COVID-19 upon arrival in Australia, before being quarantined for 14 days at specially prepared Defence facilities in the Darwin area," the statement said.

USS Zumwalt fires first rounds from onboard gun

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

Sailors aboard the USS Zumwalt recently fired the first rounds from the destroyer's high-velocity cannon, another waypoint on the ship's segue into naval service.

Test firing of the Mark 46 MOD 2 Gun Weapon System took place May 16 at the Naval Air Weapons Center Weapons Division Sea Test Range off Point Mugu, Calif., according to a U.S. 3rd Fleet press release.

The remotely operated system is comprised of a 30 mm high-velocity cannon, a laser rangefinder for shipboard self-defense against surface targets, a forward-looking infrared sensor and a low-light television camera.

"The privilege of being a 'first-in-class' ship includes having the opportunity to systematically conduct testing across the breadth of systems installed onboard the ship," Capt. Andrew Carlson, Zumwalt's commanding officer, said in a Navy statement.

"The real plus is conducting those tests, such as today's live fire with the Mark 46

GWS, which provide tangible evidence of combat capability maturation," Carlson said.

Structural test firing is required for the first ship in a class to confirm that a vessel can operate safely while firing its own weapons due to the vibrations and shock caused when firing live ordnance. The test fire is also the first time a Zumwalt-class destroyer shot a large-caliber weapon.

The Zumwalt entered the fleet in April 2½ years after it was commissioned by the Navy in October 2016. Soon after the Zumwalt's commissioning, Congress prohibited the Navy from taking delivery of a vessel not fully outfitted to its combat capacity, according to a USNI News report April 24.

It is designed to operate in open-ocean and near-shore environments.

"Today's event is the first in a chapter of live fire test events over the next year that will prove the lethal capability that these ships will bring to the fight," Lt. Cmdr. Tim Kubisak, Zumwalt test officer, Program Executive Office for Integrated Warfare Systems, said in the statement.

Troops in Europe mark Memorial Day online

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Few people gathered at the Luxembourg American Cemetery for this year's Memorial Day service due to coronavirus precautions. But the livestreamed event highlighted the difference just one person can make — the only woman buried among the more than 5,000 service members at the World War II cemetery.

Second Lt. Nancy J. Leo, of Cumberland, Md., served as a nurse for 16 months in Scotland, England and France during the tail end of the war. Her service with the 206th General Hospital was an example of humanity and caring amid the inhumanity of war, the Rev. Jean Ehret said during the invocation.

"For how many soldiers was 2nd Lt. Nancy J. Leo the presence of a loving mother, of a caring wife, especially when they were close to death?" Ehret asked. "With her, we honor all those women who served during World War II in the Army and at home and we honor all those who fight today in the front line against coronavirus."

The Saturday event was one of several streamed online in Europe as organizations sought to continue a long tradition of honoring the war dead each May, despite the restrictions imposed to prevent the virus's spread.

Pre-recorded Memorial Day events from St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Lorraine American Cemetery were slated to be streamed on Monday at <https://www.facebook.com/usabmc/live/>. They are scheduled to begin, respectively, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. in Europe (8 a.m. and noon Eastern Daylight Time).

The American Legion's Paris Post 1, which began decorating American World War I graves on the first Memorial Day after the war in 1920, also planned to stream a service Sunday from its mausoleum outside the French capital for the first time. Completed in 1939, the site is the final resting place to some 300 U.S. veterans and their families.

"We're still trying to make the best of it," Bryan Schell, the post commander, said of the situation during a phone interview Saturday.

During the pandemic, technology has

also helped the post reach its members, some of whom are spread out throughout France. The post has seen an uptick in attendance at virtual meetings, Schell said, including older members excited by the opportunity to participate in online streaming for the first time.

But despite the increased use of technology, Schell said, the livestreamed Memorial Day event came together somewhat unexpectedly, after a call from Souvenir Francais, an organization responsible for caring for war memorials and gravesites in France.

The American Legion coordinated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Paris and the American Overseas Memorial Day Association, which decorates service members' graves at remote cemeteries in Europe.

Participants at the service in Luxembourg sat in chairs spread wide apart. Though they were few, they were united with many more at other events honoring the legacy of the war dead, as well as those online, said Ehret, a professor of religious studies at Luxembourg's Sacred Heart University.

Museums, memorials provide virtual events to remember

BY ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Despite restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the ritual of Memorial Day must occur, said Matt Naylor, president and CEO of the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Mo.

"It's right that we do this work of memory and we should," he said Tuesday as the museum finalized preparations to take their traditional in-person ceremony into a virtual setting.

Observed on the last Monday in May since 1971, Memorial Day is intended for the country to pause and honor the people who have died fighting in America's wars and conducting those rituals of memorial services are important regardless of who is watching, Naylor said. The most responsible way to host those events this year is online, he said.

"Even if nobody participated, which I don't think will happen, but if nobody participated, it's right that we do this," he said.

"It's both for the community so the community can participate in ritual that helps them remember and it's equally important that we do this in memory of those who lost their lives."

Like many other military- and veteran-focused museums, the WWI museum closed to visitors in March, but as Memorial Day approached, Naylor said he and the staff couldn't let the day pass without recognition.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, president and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio, said their mission is to connect with veterans, and, pandemic or not, they intend to do so on Memorial Day.

"We often say in the military, the conditions have changed, but the mission hasn't," he said. "As a veteran memorial and museum, it's about those who we serve and that's those who have served and those who have given ultimate sacrifice. It's a no-brainer to keep going."

Even Colonial Williamsburg

in Virginia, which was a focal point during the American Revolution, Memorial Day services will go online and include the re-enactment of history for which it is known. The ceremony's closing prayer will be presented by Navy Chaplain Candidate Lt. Joseph Feaster, a reservist and full-time Colonial Williamsburg actor-interpreter portraying Gowan Pamphlet, the first known ordained black Baptist preacher.

At the WWI Museum, a typical Memorial Day would include activities beginning Friday and wrapping up Monday. This year, the museum will host three events available to view online and one outdoor display that people can visit while remaining physically distant from one another.

In Ohio, the Veterans Memorial and Museum will host three different opportunities to virtually honor the fallen, including the We Honor Them Together National Virtual Walk/Run, which has more

than 600 participants registered in 32 states.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in Washington, D.C., is aiming to keep their ceremony as close to past events as possible while bringing it to veterans online, said Heidi Zimmerman, vice president of programs and communications for the memorial.

The livestream will occur on Facebook Live and the organization's website at 1 p.m. and will include a presentation of colors, the singing of the national anthem and a mix of previously recorded content. It will also include video tributes to all those on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a wreath laying, Zimmerman said.

"Our world is sort of coming undone at the moment and it would be easy for people to skip through Memorial Day without honoring those who served and died," said Naylor. "It's essential we do all that we can to help provide an opportunity for people to do the work of memory."

Americans, Europeans ease into summer amid new rules

Associated Press

BERLIN — Europeans and Americans soaked up the sun where they could Sunday, taking advantage of the first holiday weekend since coronavirus restrictions were eased, while European governments grappled with how and when to let in foreign travelers in hopes of salvaging the summer tourist season.

Beach patrols and police watched to make sure people abided by the social distancing rules and spread out on the sand and at parks.

The U.S. is on track to surpass 100,000 coronavirus deaths in the next few days, while Europe has seen over 169,000 dead, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The New York Times marked the horror by devoting Sunday's entire front page to a long list of names of those who have died in the U.S. The headline: "An Incalculable Loss."

President Donald Trump played golf at one of his courses during the Memorial Day weekend — the unofficial start of summer — as he urged states to ease their lockdowns.

Across Europe, a mishmash of travel restrictions appears to be on the horizon, often depending on what passports visitors carry. Germany, France and other European countries aim to open their borders for European travel in mid-June. But it isn't clear when intercontinental travel will resume.

Spain, one of the hardest-hit countries and also one of the world's top destinations for international travelers, said that it won't reopen for foreign tourists until July. To boost the economy, the country's leader has encouraged Spaniards to start planning their vacations for late June inside Spain.

"Come July, we will allow the arrival of foreign tourists to Spain under safe conditions," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said. "We will guarantee that tourists are not at risk and that

they don't represent a risk" to Spain.

In Germany, domestic tourists will be allowed to return Monday to the country's Baltic Sea coast and to hotels in Berlin. But tourism campaigns will require a new approach.

"We don't think people want closely packed big-city bustle at the moment," Burkhard Kieker, the chief of visitBerlin, told RBB Inforadio. His agency has launched a campaign showing "how much green space and how much water there is" in Berlin.

In France, families flocked to the beach at La Grande Motte on the Mediterranean, swimming and sunbathing with 86-square-foot spaces marked off with ropes and wooden stakes to keep people apart. Reservations were required, and there was already a two-day waiting list.

Other beaches in France have also reopened, but only for exercise, with visitors not allowed to sit or lie down.

In Paris, where all city parks remain closed, locals soaked up the sun along the embankments of the Seine River and lounged on ledges outside the Tuileries Gardens. In some spots, people sat safely spaced apart. Elsewhere, groups of maskless teens crowded together, shrugging off the rules.

Beginning Monday, France is relaxing its border restrictions, allowing in migrant workers and family visitors from other European countries. But it is also calling for a voluntary 14-day quarantine for people arriving from Britain and Spain, because those countries imposed a similar requirement on the French.

Italy, which plans to open regional and international borders June 3 in a bid to boost tourism, is only now allowing locals back to beaches in their own regions — with restrictions.

In the northwestern Liguria region, people were allowed to take a dip in the sea and a

walk along the shore, but no sunbathing. In Savona, a dozen people were fined for violating sunbathing bans. Rimini, on Italy's east coast, attracted beachgoers beginning at dawn, and many sat in widely spaced groups. Still, authorities had to work at enforcing distancing on a popular beach in Palermo.

"We cannot forget that the virus exists and is circulating," Deputy Health Minister Pierpaolo Sileri told Sky TG24. "Even if the numbers of new cases are low, we must respect the rules."

For the first time in months, the faithful gathered in the Vatican's St. Peter's Square for the traditional Sunday papal blessing, but they kept their distance from each other. Some 2,000 Muslims gathered for Eid al-Fitr prayers at a sports complex in the Paris suburb of Levallois-Perret, spaced 1 meter apart and wearing masks.

Beachside communities in England urged Londoners and others to stay away after rules were eased to allow people to drive any distance for exercise or recreation. The southern coastal city of Brighton said: "Wish you were here — but not just yet." Wales kept up its "Later" tourism campaign, reminding people that its hotels, restaurants and tourist sites are still closed.

In the U.S., restrictions have been eased state by state, though hundreds of people are still dying from COVID-19 every day. New Orleans stirred back to life as some of its famed restaurants and businesses opened for the first time in over two months. In California, where many businesses and recreational activities are reopening, officials in Los Angeles County said that they will maintain tight restrictions until July 4. New York state on Sunday reported its lowest number of daily coronavirus deaths — 84 — in many weeks in what Gov. Andrew Cuomo described as a critical benchmark.

Fla. virus data curator fired over public remarks

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The woman who raised questions about Florida's COVID-19 data after being ousted as the data's curator had been reprimanded several times and was ultimately fired for violating Health Department policy by making public remarks about the information, state records show.

Rebekah Jones' comments over the past week-and-a-half in emails to researchers, interviews with a handful of media outlets and blog posts have sought to sow doubt about the credibility of the data now that she is no longer in that role.

State health officials strenuously deny any issue with the information's accuracy as Gov. Ron DeSantis seeks to make a data-driven case for a step-by-step reopening of the state's battered economy following safer-at-home orders.

Jones has not alleged any tampering with data on deaths, hospital symptom surveillance, hospitalizations for COVID-19, numbers of new confirmed cases or overall testing rates — core elements of any assessment of the outbreak and of federal criteria for reopening. And Jones acknowledged that Florida has been relatively transparent and relatively successful in controlling the pandemic.

She has, however, suggested that Health Department managers wanted her to manipulate information to paint a rosier picture and that she pushed back. In an interview late Friday on CNN, she finally cited some detail after several days of vague statements.

She said that the state made changes in April to support its initial reopening May 4, for example, by altering the way it reports the positivity rate of testing in a way with which she disagreed. Instead of showing the rate of all positive tests, it began showing the rate of new positive tests — filtering out people who previously tested positive.

Muslims observe holiday amid curfews

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Muslims around the world Sunday began celebrating Eid al-Fitr, a normally festive holiday marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, with millions under strict stay-at-home orders and many fearing renewed coronavirus outbreaks.

The three-day holiday is usually a time of travel, family get-togethers and lavish daytime feasts after weeks of dawn-to-dusk fasting. But this year many of the world's 1.8 billion Muslims will have to pray at home and make do with video calls.

Some countries, including Turkey, Iraq and Jordan, have imposed round-the-clock holiday curfews. But even where many restrictions have been lifted, celebrations will be subdued because of fears of the pandemic and its economic fallout.

Saudi Arabia, home to the holy cities

of Mecca and Medina, is under complete lockdown, with residents only permitted to leave their homes to purchase food and medicine.

In Jerusalem, Israeli police said they broke up an "illegal demonstration" and arrested two people outside the Al-Aqsa mosque, which Muslim authorities have closed for prayers since mid-March and will not reopen until after the holiday. Worshipers who tried to enter the compound scuffled with the police.

Iran, which is battling the deadliest outbreak in the Middle East, allowed communal prayers at some mosques but canceled the annual mass Eid prayers in Tehran led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran has reported over 130,000 cases and more than 7,000 deaths.

In Dubai, the skyscraper-studded commercial hub in the United Arab Emirates, authorities set up barricades and police

checkpoints around an industrial area housing foreign laborers. The Emirates is trying to reopen its hard-hit economy, but cases continue to rise. The UAE has reported over 28,000 confirmed cases and 244 deaths.

Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, has reported nearly 22,000 infections and 1,350 fatalities, the most in Southeast Asia. Lockdown orders intended to contain the pandemic mean there will be no congregational prayers at mosques or even open fields, no family reunions, no relatives bearing gifts for children.

In neighboring Muslim-majority Malaysia, businesses have mostly reopened after weeks of lockdown. But mass gatherings are still banned and people are not allowed to travel back to their hometowns for the holiday. Police have turned away more than 5,000 cars and have warned of strict penalties for those who try to sneak home.

Second hairstylist at Mo. salon sick with virus

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — A Springfield hairstylist served 84 clients over eight days while experiencing symptoms of coronavirus, and now a coworker is sick, health officials said.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department announced in a Facebook post Saturday that 56 other Great Clips clients were potentially exposed by the second stylist.

The announcement came one day after the health department's director, Clay Goddard,

said in a news briefing that the first stylist to get sick worked eight days from May 12 to May 20, with only the 18th off. The coworker then worked five shifts from May 16 to 20 while experiencing very mild symptoms.

All of the two stylists' clients wore masks and will be tested. The owner of the Great Clips said in a statement that the salon will be closed until it goes through sanitizing and deep cleaning.

The two cases come just days after city officials announced

plans to relax even more distancing requirements and about a week after the health department started seeing an influx of new travel-related infections.

Goddard said health officials still had enough capacity to pinpoint the origin of infections and potential spread, although that could change, the Springfield News-Leader reported.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services on Saturday reported 194 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 11,752 since

the pandemic began. Five new deaths brought that total to 671.

Antibody, or serology, tests show whether a person has ever had COVID-19. A viral, or PCR test, shows whether a person is actively infected with the virus.

In statewide data Friday, Missouri reported about 6.5% of tests conducted in the state were positive. After separating the two types of test, however, the data showed that 8.3% of PCR tests were positive and 4% of antibody tests were positive.

Fire destroys warehouse on famed SF wharf

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A fire engulfed a warehouse on San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf early Saturday, sending a thick plume of smoke over the waterfront and threatening to spread to a historic World War II-era ship before firefighters brought the flames under control.

One firefighter sustained a hand injury while battling the fire at the warehouse the size of

a football field on Pier 45, San Francisco Fire Lt. Jonathan Baxter said.

More than 130 firefighters fought the flames, with some using ladder trucks to drench the warehouse from above. A fire boat was used to protect the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, a liberty ship that stormed Normandy on D-Day in 1944.

"Our firefighters absolutely saved the SS Jeremiah O'Brien during this fire as flames were

pinching on the side of this vessel," Baxter said.

The ship docks by Pier 45 and is among numerous tourist attractions on the wharf, a maritime hub for cruises around San Francisco Bay as well as fishing boats hauling in the catch of the day. Visitors come for the Dungeness crabs, clam chowders served in sourdough bread bowls, the sea lions that hang out on the floating docks and shops and curiosities on

Pier 39.

The fire was confined to the end of the pier, well away from the Musee Mecanique and its historic arcade games and the popular restaurant Alioto's.

Coast Guard crew members and police assisted by keeping other vessels away from the pier.

Fire investigators were assessing any damage to the pier and were looking into the cause of the blaze, Baxter said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bullied student to get \$900K in settlement

IA DES MOINES — A suburban Des Moines school district and a former student have reached a \$900,000 settlement in a lawsuit filed by another student who suffered permanent brain damage after being attacked at school.

Audrey Vacek will receive \$880,000 from the Ankeny Community School District and \$20,000 from the alleged bully, Mallory Schaubhut, under a settlement approved in late April, the Des Moines Register reported.

Vacek said in the lawsuit that Schaubhut had threatened and verbally abused her for a year before punching her in the face and slamming her head against a concrete wall at the school in 2016.

Vacek, now 20, is doing well in college but requires “a lot of support,” said her attorney, Roxanne Conlin.

Man arrested after stealing 12 beehives

MO NEW CAMBRIA — Police in northern Missouri arrested a New Cambria man accused of stealing a dozen beehives over four counties.

Ricky Elam was arrested following the execution of a search warrant near his home that turned up the stolen beehives, television station KTVO reported. Authorities in Macon, Linn, Schuyler and Randolph counties said they had fielded numerous reports of stolen hives over the last year.

The search warrant was issued after a beekeeper in Macon County installed a GPS tracker in one of his hives after experiencing a theft, authorities said.

Man, 75, suspected of making meth, heroin

OR SALEM — A 75-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of manufacturing methamphetamine and heroin.

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office deputies searched a home west of Salem in Otis and found stolen property including firearms that had been taken during recent burglaries in the north Lincoln County area, the Statesman Journal reported.

When they searched James Golden's car, they found 20 grams of meth and 10 grams of heroin, a large sum of money and packaging materials, authorities said.

Five ducklings rescued after mother killed

NY NEW YORK — Five ducklings going through the worst days of their new lives were rescued from the treacherous Central Park waters in which a snapping turtle is believed to have killed their mother.

The baby mallards were floating bait for what lie beneath in one of the manufactured ponds of New York City's nature haven. The birds were transferred to the nonprofit Wild Bird Fund, the city's lone wildlife rehabilitation facility.

The birds will stay with an employee who the nonprofit's director, Rita McMahon, calls the “duck wrangler.”

She takes care of the little ones in her home bathtub until they are able to jump out of it, at which point they'll come back to the nonprofit's waterfowl pool during a crucial period.

In the absence of a surrogate mother to guide them back to the park, the ducklings will be sent to a sanctuary upstate.

Woman injured by rabid fox while sitting in yard

ME LISBON — A Maine woman was attacked and injured by a rabid fox while sitting in her yard, officials said.

A woman, 76, was injured after a fox bit her on her legs and hand in front of her Lisbon home, the Sun Journal reported.

Lisbon Police Chief Marc Hagan said the woman's husband heard her cries for help from the porch and worked with her to get control of the fox and eventually kill it.

The woman was taken to a hospital to receive treatment, which includes rabies vaccinations.

Animal control took the dead fox to the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention in Augusta for analysis, where the animal tested positive for rabies, Hagan said.

Turtle lacks home after owner dies of virus

MA BOSTON — Wanted: Loving home for a middle-age tortoise that loves fruit salad, dandelions and sunshine.

MSPCA-Angell, a Boston animal welfare organization, put a tortoise named Ms. Jennifer up for adoption because the owner recently died of COVID-19.

Ms. Jennifer, 53, weighs four pounds and is about the size of a dinner plate. Anyone interested in adopting her has to be in it for the long haul, because tortoises can live to be 100 or older, the organization said.

The tortoise is the 10th animal to be surrendered to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals whose owners have either died of COVID-19 or become too ill to care for their pets.

Deputy resigns after being caught with meth

NM TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES — A New Mexico sheriff's deputy resigned after authorities said they caught him with methamphetamine and a pipe inside his patrol car.

KRQE-TV reported that New Mexico State Police arrested Grant Taylor this month following a call from the Sierra County Sheriff's Department.

According to a criminal complaint, officers found a glass pipe in the center console of his patrol car, along with two bags of methamphetamine inside the sunglasses holder.

Court records show Taylor was also charged with possession in 2011 and pleaded no contest. He was also charged with drunken driving in 2009.

Tourists attempt to take selfies with foal

NC SHACKLEFORD BANKS — The National Park Service is looking for three tourists who allegedly tried to capture a month-old wild foal in the Outer Banks in an attempt to take some selfies.

The three people are wanted for questioning, the Charlotte Observer reported. The Park Service said the situation at Shackleford Banks was captured on video.

The newspaper reported that it is illegal to be within 50 feet of the more than 100 wild horses in the park.

“During their chase — and trying to catch the foal so they could take a ‘selfie’ — they managed to scare the foal enough that it became separated from its mother,” Cape Lookout National Seashore posted on Facebook. The foal and its mother later reunited.

From wire reports

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Hall of Fame coach Sutton dies at 84

Associated Press

Eddie Sutton waited so long to be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He couldn't hang on long enough to make it to the ceremony.

The man who led three teams to the Final Four and was the first coach to take four schools to the NCAA Tournament, died Saturday. He was 84.

Sutton's family said in a statement he died of natural causes at home in the Tulsa, Okla., area, surrounded by his three sons and their families. His wife, Patsy, died in 2013.

"Dad and Mom treated their players like family and always shared the belief that his teachings went beyond the basketball court," the family wrote. "He cherished the time he spent at every school and appreciated the support of their loyal fans. He believed they deserved so much credit in the success of his programs."

Elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on April 3, Sutton fell short as a finalist six times before finally being selected. He had said he believed that a scandal that ended his stint at Kentucky was likely the culprit for his lengthy wait. The NCAA announced 18 allegations against the program in 1988, and he resigned in 1989.

He certainly had a worthy resume. He was 806-328 in 37 seasons as a Division I head coach — not counting vacated victories or forfeited games — and made it to 25 NCAA Tournaments. He led Final Four squads at Arkansas in 1978 and Oklahoma State in 1995 and 2004. He took Creighton, Arkansas, Kentucky and Oklahoma State to the NCAA Tournament. He was Asso-

ciated Press Coach of the Year in 1978 at Arkansas and in 1986 at Kentucky.

Former Kentucky star Rex Chapman appreciated his time under Sutton.

"Eddie Sutton was a fascinating and complicated person," Chapman wrote in a tweet. "He also was an unbelievable teacher of the game of basketball. I was fortunate and lucky to have learned from him. Grateful."

Sutton's retirement at Oklahoma State in 2006 came roughly three months after he took a medical leave following a traffic accident that resulted in charges of aggravated DUI, speeding and driving on the wrong side of the road. He pleaded no contest to the charges, received a one-year deferred sentence and was ordered to pay a fine.

Through it all, he remained wildly popular at Oklahoma State, often attending games while confined to a wheelchair. He would receive loud cheers as the camera panned to him and Aloe Blacc's "The Man" played over the sound system.

"Oklahoma State University is deeply saddened by the passing of Coach Eddie Sutton," Oklahoma State president Burns Hargis said in a statement. "A Hall of Fame Coach with more than 800 wins, he revived our historic basketball program and will always be revered and loved by the Cowboy family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Sutton family."

Even rivals had the highest respect for Sutton.

"Seems like just a few days ago we were celebrating the news that Coach Eddie Sutton had been elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame," Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione said in a Tweet. "Now this very

sad news of his passing. So grateful I had a chance to get to know him & his family. Thinking about Steve, Sean & Scott. RIP Coach."

Sutton was born in Bucklin, Kansas, in 1936. He played at Oklahoma State under Hall of Fame coach Henry Iba, then stayed there to begin his coaching career as an assistant under Iba in 1958.

Sutton got his first Division I head coaching job at Creighton. He led the Bluejays to an 82-50 mark in five seasons from 1969 to 1974.

He took over at Arkansas in 1975, and the Razorbacks went 17-9 and 19-9 before beginning a nine-year stretch of 20-win seasons. He finished his run in Fayetteville with nine straight trips to the NCAA basketball tournament. His 1978 Final Four squad featured versatile stars Sidney Moncrief, Marvin Delph and Ron Brewer.

Sutton left his mark at Arkansas — the practice gym there is named for him. Former President Bill Clinton, who was the governor of Arkansas for part of Sutton's run there, once sent a video message for a ceremony honoring Sutton at Arkansas in 2016.

"Your time as coach was a defining era in Razorback basketball," Clinton said. "You put our program on the map. You helped mold a generation of student-athletes into winners on the court and after they left. You made us think we could win again."

Sutton moved on and replaced Joe B. Hall at Kentucky in 1985. While there, he compiled a 90-40 record, including two Southeastern Conference titles. But he slumped at the end, and his program endured NCAA scrutiny.

FC Dallas defender eager to assist off the field

Associated Press

With two children of their own, FC Dallas defender Ryan Hollingshead and his wife, Taylor, wanted to add to their young family in a way that would align with a desire to help others.

Guided by that faith, last year the couple went through the process to become foster parents. And now, while social distancing at home because of COVID-19, they have also welcomed a 13-month old boy into the young family.

It isn't an easy job. Foster parents are tasked with providing love and care with the

knowledge that eventually the children may be reunited with their parents or another family member.

"This is our saying in our house, our saying with our kids, 'You can do hard things,'" Hollingshead said. "So even though these things are hard, think of how much harder it is for the foster kid who's going from house to house and doesn't have any stability. He doesn't have his parents. So if it's hard for us, it's 10 times harder for him. And so we can do hard things so that a baby can have a safe place to be."

The Hollingsheads have been

caring for the boy for three months. It is their second foster child. Their first, a four-month-old girl, returned to her biological family.

The Hollingsheads hope to eventually adopt, which might happen with the boy they are currently caring for. The biological mother's rights have already been terminated and the father cannot be located. For privacy reasons, the family cannot reveal the name of the child or post photos on social media.

A standout at UCLA, Hollingshead was named the Pac-12 Player of the Year in 2012, scoring seven goals and eight

assists as a senior midfielder. A future in Major League Soccer looked bright.

Hollingshead took some time away from the game to work in a Haitian orphanage with Taylor. He didn't even know FC Dallas drafted him with the No. 20 pick in the second round.

He was thrilled at the opportunity, but he had promised his brother Scott he'd help launch a church in Sacramento. To his surprise, FC Dallas said it would wait. After 10 months his brother said the church was on solid ground and Hollingshead needed to pursue his soccer career.

NBA confirms single-site talks with Disney

Associated Press

The NBA is in talks with The Walt Disney Company on a single-site scenario for a resumption of play in Central Florida in late July, the clearest sign yet that the league believes the season can continue amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The National Basketball Players Association is also part of the talks with Disney, the league said Saturday. Games would be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, a massive campus on the Disney property near Orlando.

NBA spokesman Mike Bass said the conversations were still “exploratory,” and that the Disney site would be used for practices and housing as well.

“Our priority continues to be the health and safety of all involved, and we are working with public health experts and government officials on a comprehensive set of guidelines to ensure that appropriate medical protocols and protections are in place,” Bass said.

The ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex is a 255-acre campus with multiple arenas that could host games simultaneously and has been home to, among other things, the Jr.

NBA World Championship in recent years. ESPN, one of the NBA’s broadcast partners, is primarily owned by Disney.

Space won’t be an issue, even if Major League Soccer — which is also in talks to resume its season at Disney — is there at the same time as the NBA. The entire Disney complex is roughly 40 square miles, with nearly 24,000 hotel rooms owned or operated by Disney within the campus.

The NBA suspended its season March 11, becoming the first of the U.S. major pro leagues to do so after it was revealed that All-Star center Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz tested positive for COVID-19. The list of NBA players who were known to test positive eventually grew to 10 — not all were identified — and Commissioner Adam Silver said last month that the actual total was even higher.

But the league has been working on countless return-to-play scenarios for several weeks, all with the caveat that testing would be an integral part of any resumption of the season.

It remains unknown where the NBA is in the process of securing tests or developing

large-scale testing protocols. Also unclear: how many regular-season games would be played before the postseason begins — or if all 30 teams would be playing. The league has asked team general managers for additional input on those matters.

Jared Dudley of the Los Angeles Lakers said in a conference call with reporters on Wednesday that he believes the playoffs, whenever they start, will be the traditional best-of-seven format.

“That’s the money-winner when it comes to Disney,” Dudley said. “That’s why we’ll be in Orlando. Disney owns ESPN. That’s where they make their money. During the playoffs and finals, it will all be seven games. That one I’m almost 100% sure of.”

Central Florida has been known as a viable option to host an NBA restart since at least mid-April, and other cities — such as Las Vegas, which also has a longstanding relationship with the NBA — were known to be considered as well.

Florida has confirmed just more than 50,000 COVID-19 cases, though more than half of those are in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties

and not in the Orlando area. Gov. Ron DeSantis has said he wants the state open for pro sports, even telling franchises not based in Florida that they could come to the Sunshine State and train if restrictions preventing it existed in their own locales.

“Places are opening up. Let’s not forget COVID isn’t magically less contagious now,” Malcolm Miller of the Toronto Raptors tweeted Saturday. “The virus itself didn’t get better... stay safe.”

Teams have been allowed to welcome players back to training facilities for voluntary sessions since May 8, and more than half of the franchises have taken advantage of that opportunity.

The next steps along a return-to-play path would likely include a loosening of the restrictions for those voluntary workouts — no more than four players are currently allowed inside any facility at a time — and then a plan for when training camps could open. If the league plans to resume play in late July, then camps conceivably could open around the start of that month.

Rams’ Donald: Football minus fans ‘wouldn’t be fun’

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Aaron Donald is not thrilled about the prospect of playing football without fans.

The Los Angeles Rams’ superstar defensive lineman doesn’t like the idea of playing an NFL season in front of empty seats, saying it “wouldn’t be fun to me.”

“I feel like you need fans to play the game,” Donald added Thursday from his offseason home in Pittsburgh. “I don’t see how you could play a game without the fans. I feel like that takes out the excitement and the fun out of the game.”

Donald realizes his opinion won’t carry much weight if the coronavirus pandemic forces the NFL to take extraordinary measures to provide a television product to the world. But the six-time Pro Bowl selection is among those sportsmen worldwide who don’t really see the point of continuing with

their professions while large crowds are unable to gather safely.

“I feel like the fans pick you up,” Donald said. “The fans are what makes the game exciting. The fans would give you that extra juice when you’re tired and fatigued. When you make that big play and you hear 80,000 fans going crazy, that pumps you up. If you don’t have that in the game, I think that just takes the fun out of it.”

The possible realities of a pandemic year are coming home for Donald and the Rams, who haven’t reopened their training complex while conducting their spring work online. Donald is used to missing offseason workouts with his teammates, thanks to two contract holdouts that eventually ended with his mammoth six-year, \$135 million extension in August 2018.

Donald usually spends much of his offseason working out at Pitt, where the Aaron

Donald Football Performance Center is at his disposal for obvious reasons.

But with the university shut down due to the pandemic, Donald said he has been working out “back where it all started” in The Dungeon — his nickname for the tiny basement of his father’s home. He’s lifting weights three days a week for at least two hours a day alongside his nephew.

He recently finished his communications degree, joining his brother and sister as college graduates.

“I’ve been taking classes for the past couple of years here and there, online classes,” said Donald. “It’s a promise I made to my mom and dad. When I got drafted, I promised my mom and dad that I’d still get the degree, because that’s what they wanted. It took a while, but I accomplished it. They were proud of me. I’m just glad and relieved that I’m finally done.”