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Top commander: US not fully aware of threat from Chinese

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Americans do not understand the severity of the military threats posed by China, particularly its ability to strike the U.S. mainland with a nuclear weapon, a top U.S. commander said Monday.

"I get apprehensive that we are not fully conscious as a nation of the threats that we face. China now has the capability ... to directly threaten our homeland from a ballistic missile submarine. That's a pretty watershed moment," said Adm. Charles Richard, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, which has a mission to protect the country by deterring such attacks and, if that fails, prepare to respond.

Richard's comments follow the release earlier this month of the Pentagon's annual report to Congress on China's military power, which states the country now has the largest navy in the world and is planning to grow its nuclear weapons arsenal. The estimated number of nuclear warheads that China has is "in the low 200s," according to the report.

"Over the next decade, China will expand and diversify its nuclear forces, likely at least doubling its nuclear warhead stockpile," according to the 200-page report.

Despite China's increased military ability to strike the United States, Richard said the American people do not grasp the threat against them like

they did during the Cold War.

"So we knew there was a threat to us that might require us to respond strategically. We don't even think about that anymore. We take strategic deterrence for granted in a lot of cases," he told reporters at the Pentagon. "Not acknowledging the fact that we have never had a nuclear attack on the nation and haven't had a great-power war in 70 years was not just some accidental fate in history ... It was a lot of hard work by a lot of people to maintain systems ready to go, so that we deterred that from happening."

The Pentagon's 2018 National Defense Strategy also shifted the U.S. military's focus from counterterrorism operations to "great-power competition" with China as well as Russia. The economic policies of China and its militarization of the South China Sea and Russia's efforts to undermine NATO and its nuclear arsenal are major concerns for the U.S. military, according to the National Defense Strategy.

The Pentagon report also states that China's leaders want to develop their military to be "world-class" by 2049, which the Pentagon interprets to mean to be on par or better than other world powers such as the United States.

Richard added Monday that China's plan to increase its nuclear capabilities "is increasingly inconsistent with a stated No First Use policy."

"It's not my place to judge whether they intend to honor that or not," he said.

Fire evacuees housed in hotels to cut virus spread

Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — Fearing one disaster will feed another, relief groups are putting some people who fled their homes during West Coast wildfires into hotels to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, stringing up shower curtains to separate people in group shelters and delivering box lunches instead of setting up buffets.

Large disaster response organizations like the American Red Cross are still operating some traditional shelters in gyms and churches, where they require masks, clean and disinfect often and try to keep evacuees at least 6 feet apart. The groups say they can reduce the risk of COVID-19 in a shelter but can't keep people safe if they don't evacuate from the flames.

"The last thing we want to have happen is people to remain in the path of a wildfire or hurricane because they think it's safer to do that than risk a shelter," said Brad Kieserman, vice president of disaster operations and logistics for the American Red Cross.

Kathy Gee, 68, has diabetes and other conditions that make her vulnerable to the virus, but that didn't keep her from fleeing her farm in Molalla, Ore., where wildfires made the hillside grow red, for a shelter in Portland.

"If it's going to happen, it's going to happen. I'm tough," she said of COVID-19. "I've survived lots of things. I can survive that."

It can be difficult, however, for people already reeling from a disaster to consistently follow rules on the virus.

At the Oregon State Fairgrounds in the capital of Salem, groups of maskless evacuees gathered in a parking lot and a

barn Friday, talking about the unprecedented wildfires that have destroyed an area bigger than Rhode Island. Volunteers wearing disposable masks walked from group to group, taking down their information and asking what they need for the days ahead.

Signs plastered the doors of the exposition center, where cots were set up, with safety guidelines for both wildfires and the pandemic. Inside, nearly everyone wore masks after volunteers manning the door reminded them to do so.

The fires in California, Oregon and Washington state have killed several people and sent 6,300 to emergency Red Cross shelters and hotels. As many as 50,000 more could need shelters before the blazes are under control, Kieserman said.

Normally, they'd be gathering in school gymnasiums and meeting halls, sleeping on cots and eating at buffet lines provided by the Red Cross, Salvation Army and other faith and community groups. But because COVID-19 is easily spread in close quarters, gathering places are potential hotbeds of transmission. That's got disaster assistance groups taking a different approach. The Red Cross screens evacuees and those who are sick or have symptoms are sent to special isolation shelters and kept away from one another. When possible, displaced residents are sent to hotels, not group shelters. Instead of buffet lines, box lunches are delivered.

"We're not using a gym, we're renting a hotel room at 120 dollars a night. And hotels charge for parking — it's all those things you never think about during a disaster," Kieserman said.

German officials: US woman linked to virus spread at Edelweiss wasn't 1st case

By JOHN VANDIVER
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A worker at the U.S. military's vacation lodge in Bavaria who may have spread the coronavirus when she went barhopping instead of quarantining last week wasn't the first case of the virus at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, German officials said Monday.

Another person at the popular resort in Garmisch-Partenkirchen tested positive for the highly contagious virus about two weeks ago, Garmisch district spokesman Stephan Scharf said.

It wasn't clear if the hotel had performed broad staff testing after that first case, Scharf said, or if it was an employee or guest at Edelweiss.

The lodge closed Monday

for two weeks after two dozen workers tested positive, including a 26-year-old American woman who German officials have said had a night on the town last Tuesday, despite showing symptoms of the virus and being directed to self-quarantine.

Officials in Garmisch said they are still working to determine if the woman, whom they contacted last week, was the source of a new outbreak in Garmisch.

She visited Peaches bar and the Irish Pub in Garmisch, Scharf said. Anyone who has frequented those establishments recently should call the local health hotline on 08821-751-500, the Bavarian resort town said on its website.

If she is found to have willfully violated a quarantine order, she could face a fine of nearly \$2,400, officials said.

Students test positive at DODEA schools in Bavaria

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

A handful of coronavirus cases were reported last week among students at Defense Department schools on Army bases in Bavaria.

Cases were confirmed at Grafenwoehr Elementary School on Tower Barracks and the elementary and middle schools at Netzaberg, Col. Christopher Danbeck told the U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria community in a video message posted on the garrison's Facebook page last week.

Danbeck did not specify the number of cases but said the infected students had not been in school since Sept. 4.

"All children and families traced by the medical department have already been contacted and told to remain in their quarters or just to monitor their symptoms," he said.

"If you haven't been contacted, you should be confident your kids are safe at these three affected schools."

Some parents commented under Danbeck's message that they received a phone call from their child's school notifying them of the situation. Others said they heard nothing from school.

Department of Defense Education Activity officials in Europe and Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment Monday.

The cases cropped up during a 14-day restriction of movement for soldiers of the Vilseck-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment after an unspecified number of troops tested positive for the virus.

The restrictions were ordered "to reduce the potential spread" of the virus and test soldiers, said regiment spokesman Maj. John Ambelang.

Afghan peace talks begin as Taliban continue attacks

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban staged attacks in more than half of Afghanistan's provinces while they began peace negotiations with the government over the weekend, Afghan officials said Monday.

The attacks in 18 provinces included an advance in northern Jowzjan province Sunday that forced hundreds of people to flee their homes, local officials said.

"If military support does not arrive soon, the district will fall to the Taliban," Mingajik district governor Matiullah Ehsan said by phone Monday.

The Afghan Defense Ministry said it was sending help to the embattled district, but couldn't provide details on injuries and couldn't confirm any deaths in Jowzjan or elsewhere Monday.

U.S. and Afghan government representatives called on the Taliban to declare a cease-fire as the peace negotiations got underway in Qatar on Saturday, but the insurgents did not respond.

"The attacks by the Taliban continue," Fawad Aman, the ministry's deputy spokesman, told Stars and Stripes on Monday. "They still want to continue violence against the people of Afghanistan."

Aman was hopeful the Taliban would curb violence once the long-awaited negotiations began. Analysts have been more wary, however, suggesting the group may continue or increase bloodshed to gain leverage at the negotiating table.

In Faryab province, "serious fighting" erupted in Almar and Qaisar districts Sunday night after insurgents attacked military checkpoints, said

Mohammad Hanif Rizayee, a spokesman for the 209 Shaheen Corps.

"Luckily, none of our forces and no civilians were injured," Rizayee said, adding that seven Taliban fighters were killed, and nine others wounded.

Significant fighting also occurred in southern Kandahar province, central Ghazni province and eastern Paktia province Monday, the Defense Ministry said.

The Taliban have also accused opposing forces of attacks that killed civilians. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid accused the United States of violating a peace deal in late February by conducting a drone strike on a mosque last week, killing two civilians and wounding several others, in a tweet Sunday. The U.S. denied those claims.

"Claims of civilian casualties & agreement violations are false," Col. Sonny Leggett, spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said on Twitter. "All parties should reduce the violence to allow the political process to take hold."

As part of the U.S.-Taliban deal, the Taliban have agreed not to attack foreign forces in Afghanistan but continue to target Afghan forces.

The beginning of intra-Afghan peace negotiations was a condition outlined in the deal for Washington to begin lifting sanctions against the group. It also paves the way for a complete withdrawal of American troops by mid-2021. Other conditions, like the requirement that the Taliban break ties with al-Qaida, have not been met, the United Nations has warned.

Nevertheless, the U.S. began reducing its troops in Afghanistan by about one-third earlier this year.

As Sally chugs to coast, Gulf residents get ready

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Storm-weary Gulf Coast residents rushed to finish last-minute preparations Monday as Hurricane Sally chugged slowly through warm Gulf waters. Forecasters predicted landfall as a hurricane, and said the biggest threat is flooding, with as much as two feet of rain falling in some areas.

“The bottom line continues to be that Sally is expected to be a dangerous slow-moving hurricane near the coast of southeastern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama during the next 2-3 days,” the National Hurricane Center said early Monday.

Sally is perhaps the least welcome guest among lots of company: For only the second time in recorded history, there are five tropical cyclones churning in the Atlantic basin, meteorologist Philip Klotzbach said: Paulette, Rene, Teddy and now Vicky also are spinning over ocean waters.

Jeffrey Gagnard of Chalmette, La., spent Sunday in Mississippi helping his parents prepare their home for Sally — and making sure they safely evacuated ahead of the storm.

“I mean, after Katrina, anything around here and anything on the water, you’re going to take serious,” he said, as he loaded the back of his SUV with cases of bottled water in a grocery store parking lot in Waveland, Miss. “You can’t take anything lightly.”

The National Hurricane Center said it was

too early to tell exactly where Sally would come ashore, because it’s still not known when it would make a turn to the north. At 10 a.m. local time, it was about 140 miles east-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River. Its top sustained winds were 65 mph and it was moving toward the coast at just 6 mph.

People in New Orleans were watching the storm’s track intently. A more easterly landfall would likely bring the heavier rains and damaging winds onto the Mississippi coast, or east of that. Already outer bands from the storm were hitting the Florida Panhandle.

A more westerly track would pose another test for the low-lying city, where heavy rains have to be pumped out through a century-old drainage system. Officials with the Sewerage and Water Board said Sunday that all of the pumps were in operation ahead of the storm, but the aging system is also susceptible to breakdowns.

Sally became a hurricane Monday and is expected to reach shore by early Tuesday, bringing dangerous weather conditions, including risk of flooding, to a region stretching from the western Florida Panhandle to southeast Louisiana.

The Hurricane Center warned of an “extremely dangerous and life-threatening storm surge” for areas outside the levee protection system that protects the greater New Orleans area stretching from Port Fourchon, La., to the Alabama/Florida border.

Boy, 10, is youngest virus fatality on Guam

Stars and Stripes

A 10-year-old boy who died late Saturday is the youngest victim of the coronavirus on Guam as the U.S. territory’s pandemic death toll rises to 26.

The patient, who had underlying health conditions according to the Guam governor’s office, tested positive on Sept. 3 and died at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. His connection to the U.S. military was not announced.

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, in a statement expressing condolences on Sunday, called the death announcement the hardest one she’s had to make.

“This is news no parent ever wants to receive. He was a child, with a full life ahead of him. There is no pain deeper than losing a child ... with his passing, we are forced to see the reality that COVID-19 does not spare even the most innocent among us. None of us are immune to this virus, and we need to do whatever it takes to ensure we have no more days of grief.”

Guerrero, who recovered from the coronavirus after testing positive last month, recently extended a stay-at-home order until noon Friday that directs “all persons in Guam” to remain in their residences, except for essential activities such as food shopping, medical care or commuting to and from work.

The island has been under a “Pandemic Condition of Readiness 1” since Aug. 15. That order, which is set to expire Sept. 30, shuts nonessential businesses; forces schools to use virtual instruction; prohibits most public gatherings; and closes parks and beaches to most visitors.

As of Monday evening, Guam had recorded 1,927 coronavirus infections. Of those, 257 have been U.S. service members.

The U.S. military on Guam, which is under Health Protection Condition-Charlie, signifying a “substantial” risk of infection there, does not regularly publicize new cases.

Strong winds a worry as death toll rises from West Coast fires

Associated Press

BEAVERCREEK, Ore. — Nearly all the dozens of people reported missing after a devastating blaze in southern Oregon have been accounted for, authorities said over the weekend as crews battled wildfires that have killed at least 35 from California to Washington state.

The flames up and down the West Coast have destroyed neighborhoods, leaving nothing but charred rubble and burned-out cars, forced tens of thousands to flee and cast a shroud

of smoke that has given Seattle, San Francisco and Portland, Ore., some of the worst air quality in the world.

The smoke filled the air with an acrid metallic smell like pennies and spread to nearby states. While making it difficult to breathe, it helped firefighters by blocking the sun and turning the weather cooler as they tried to get a handle on the blazes, which were slowing in some places.

But warnings of low moisture and strong winds that could fan the flames added urgency to the

battle. The so-called red flag warnings stretched from hard-hit southern Oregon to Northern California and extended through Monday evening.

At least 10 people have been killed in the past week throughout Oregon. Officials have said more people are missing from other fires, and the number of fatalities is likely to rise, though they have not said how high the toll could go as they search. In California, 24 people have died, and one in Washington state. Thousands of homes and other buildings have burned.

US meat plants have over 200 virus deaths

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators knew about serious safety problems in dozens of the nation's meat plants that became deadly coronavirus hot spots this spring but took six months to take action, recently citing two plants and finally requiring changes to protect workers.

The financial penalties for a Smithfield Foods plant in South Dakota and a JBS plant in Colorado issued last week total about \$29,000 — an amount critics said was so small that it would fail to serve as an incentive for the nation's meatpackers to take social distancing and other measures to protect their employees.

Meat plant workers, union leaders and worker safety groups are also outraged that the two plants, with some of the most severe outbreaks in the nation, were only cited for a total of three safety violations and that hundreds of other meat plants have faced no fines. The companies criticized federal regulators for taking so long to give them guidance on how to keep workers safe.

At least 42,534 meatpacking workers have tested positive for the coronavirus in 494 meat plants, and at least 203 meatpacking workers have died since March, according to an analysis by the Food Environmental Reporting Network, a nonprofit investigative news organization.

Arizona

PHOENIX — Arizona State University President Michael Crow alleged that several restaurant-bars near the school's Tempe campus have violated the safety protocols that businesses must abide by in order to operate amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Arizona Republic reported Sunday that Crow sent a letter to Arizona Department of Health Services Director Dr. Cara Christ and the head of the state Department of Liquor Licenses and Control about the alleged violations by some Mill

Avenue eating and drinking establishments.

The letter was accompanied by photos and descriptions of people inside various bars who were not wearing masks or practicing physical distancing on Sept. 5 and 6, according to the Republic.

Kansas

WICHITA — Several Wichita bars and nightclubs have been ignoring the city's 11 p.m. coronavirus curfew, with one owner saying he has to do it for his business to survive.

City and county officials say the venues that have been flouting the curfew put in place by Sedgwick County health officials could lose their liquor licenses and expose themselves to lawsuits if their patrons or employees get sick.

Among the well-known bars that ignored the curfew Friday night were Heroes, Emerson Biggins, Revolution, 6 Degrees and Rock Island Live.

To date, city and county officials have not issued any citations related to the curfew or a city mask requirement.

Florida

ST. PETERSBURG — A veteran Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputy has died from the coronavirus, according to the agency. She was the third officer in that county to die of the virus. All three worked in the agency's corrections department.

According to the Palm Beach Post, Angela Chavers was 44 years old and is survived by her son and niece. She worked in the sheriff's corrections division in inmate management.

On April 4, deputy Jose Diaz-Ayala became the first deputy in Palm Beach County to die from the coronavirus. He also worked in corrections. Deputy Maurice Ford died on Aug. 28. Ford, who had been hospitalized since June, worked in the West Detention Center in Belle Glade and had been working with the sheriff's office since 2006.

North Dakota

BISMARCK — North Dakota officials on Sunday confirmed 431 new positive cases of the coronavirus, after more than 8,500 tests in the last day.

The cases included 90 in Burleigh County, 87 in Cass County, 42 in Morton County, 38 in Stutsman County and 35 in Stark County.

The report listed one new death, a woman in her 60s from Benson County with underlying health conditions. A total of 168 people have died since the pandemic began.

There have been 482 cases per 100,000 people in North Dakota over the past two weeks, which ranks first in the country for new cases per capita, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

Massachusetts

BOSTON — A Massachusetts high school scheduled to reopen this week with a hybrid learning model will now switch to remote-only learning after dozens of students attended a party without taking proper coronavirus prevention measures, the principal said.

The party held Friday night involved alcohol and a "complete lack of safety precautions to protect against the spread of COVID," Lincoln-Sudbury Principal Bella Wong said in a letter to the school community.

Police who broke up the gathering said about 15 students ran into the woods, and 13 gave fake names to officers, she said.

Because it's not clear exactly who attended the party, the Sudbury Board of Health is mandating that all high school students must undergo full remote learning for 14 days.

Maine

A small liberal arts college in Maine is implementing a "study-in-place" program after detecting nine cases of COVID-19 on campus, the college president said.

Saint Joseph's College of Maine in Standish will deliver

all classes remotely and students will be required to stay in their rooms as much as possible for two weeks, President Jim Dugos said in a statement Saturday.

Contact tracing had linked most of the cases to one residence hall, he said. All students who tested positive are in quarantine.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — An employee in the Wake County Sheriff's Office has tested positive for COVID-19, a development that could cause a disruption in responding to an unprecedented number of pistol permit applications.

Sheriff Gerald Baker, who announced the positive test Sunday, said he is working to put together a modified crew to meet with the applicants who have appointments scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. Baker told The News & Observer there may be delays.

Baker said the office is processing about 2,000 permits a week and has a backlog of more than 4,000.

The division has about 10 employees, who will have to be tested and isolated, he said. Baker said he is turning to staff who have been on leave or haven't been in contact with the division.

Tennessee

NASHVILLE — The extra \$300 unemployment payments available amid the coronavirus pandemic are ending.

According to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency informed the state that funding for the Lost Wages Assistance Program payments was slated to stop Sept. 5.

The state says eligible claimants will receive the additional \$300 for the weeks ending on Aug. 1 through Sept. 5.

Retroactive payments will be delayed at least two weeks, and the Aug. 29 and Sept. 5 payment periods will have a lag time.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

City repeals 13-year ban on saggy pants

FL OPA-LOCKA — After 13 years, a South Florida city has overturned a ban on “saggy pants” — bottoms that reveal the wearer’s underwear.

The Opa-locka City Commission voted 4-1 to repeal both the original 2007 legislation and a 2013 ordinance that said women, not just men, could receive civil citations for wearing pants that exposed their undergarments. The Miami Herald reported that the vote was a first reading of the repeal, meaning it will need to be approved again at a subsequent meeting before it’s official.

Police pursuit ends in 4-vehicle crash; 8 hurt

MO ST. CHARLES — Eight people were taken to hospitals after a police pursuit of a stolen car ended in a four-vehicle crash in the St. Louis area, authorities say.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that St. Charles police said officers spotted the stolen car and tried to stop it. But the 17-year-old girl who was behind the wheel fled and caused the pileup a few minutes later while driving in the wrong direction.

The girl and her passengers — two 15-year-old boys and a 13-year-old boy — were taken to hospitals along with occupants of two other vehicles. None of their injuries were life-threatening.

Community can keep its iconic Cold War missile

IL RANTOUL — A central Illinois community that was facing the impending loss of its iconic Minuteman missile can keep the Cold War relic under a last-minute arrange-

ment with the Air Force.

Three days before the planned dismantling of Rantoul’s first-generation Minuteman missile, Mayor Chuck Smith announced that the Air Force will hand over upkeep of the missile to the village.

After the missile is renovated, it will then be transferred back to the National Museum of the Air Force and loaned to the village, The News-Gazette reported.

The missile was installed at the west entrance of the former Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, in 1966. It had remained in place after the Air Force closed the base in 1993.

Hikers find remains as bear lurks nearby

NC RALEIGH — Hikers found a man’s remains scattered near a campsite in the North Carolina portion of Great Smoky Mountains National Park as a bear lurked nearby, rangers said.

After finding an unoccupied tent, the backpackers saw what appeared to be human remains scattered across a nearby creek, “with a bear scavenging in the area,” rangers said in a news release.

“Staff arrived at campsite 82 shortly after midnight and confirmed the report of a deceased adult human male,” the news release said. Rangers said they also saw a bear “actively scavenging on the remains” and euthanized the animal.

School system hacked, data held for ransom

VA FAIRFAX — Virginia’s largest school system was hacked and the attackers were seeking a ransom payment to keep them from disclosing stolen personal information.

WRC-TV in Washington re-

ported that the internet hacking group Maze posted some of the data stolen from Fairfax County Public Schools, including student disciplinary records and grades, to prove its hack was successful.

The school system confirmed the hack and said it is investigating and working with law enforcement.

Police: Man shot after striking officer with bat

NY BUFFALO — Buffalo police said man wielding a baseball bat was shot and critically wounded after striking an officer in the arm.

Police Capt. Jeff Rinaldo said police were responding to a mental health call when they encountered the man holding the bat and acting erratically. Police followed the man for several blocks, attempting to get the bat away from him, using pepper spray on more than one occasion, Rinaldo said.

The man swung and struck one of the officers and was shot in the abdomen as he attempted to swing again, Rinaldo said.

The suspect was taken to Erie County Medical Center, where he was listed in critical but stable condition, police said.

Man opens ‘rage room’ for venting frustrations

GA ALBANY — A Georgia man hopes to profit by giving people a guilt-free outlet for venting their frustrations amid the prolonged coronavirus pandemic.

Quentin Collins, of Albany, is the owner of No Consequences Rage Room. For prices ranging from \$25 to \$80, Collins provides his customers in search of a stress-relieving outburst with TV sets, windshields, cups, bottles and other items to smash using a baseball bat or sledgehammer.

Similar “rage rooms” have opened across the U.S. as Americans have faced heightened anxiety from a deadly infectious disease, lockdowns, layoffs and children stuck at home in online classes.

Worker hurt after 2nd collapse at building site

GA ATLANTA — A concrete slab at a parking deck under construction in Atlanta collapsed Saturday — the second collapse at the site in as many days — sending a worker trying to shore up the structure plunging several stories below, authorities said.

The man suffered leg injuries after falling eight to 10 floors, Atlanta fire spokesman Sgt. Cortez Stafford said.

Authorities have stopped all work at the site and blocked off streets around it. The 3,000-space parking garage is being built at one of Emory University’s hospitals just north of downtown Atlanta.

New Pikes Peak cog railway halfway finished

CO COLORADO SPRINGS — Construction of a new cog railway to the top of Pikes Peak near Colorado Springs is halfway finished, and the popular tourist attraction is on track to open to the public next spring.

Crews working on the Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway recently completed construction of the second of three sections of track that allow trains to pass each other, The Colorado Springs Gazette reported.

The railway began taking passengers up the scenic route in 1891 and grew into one of the area’s most popular tourist attractions.

From wire reports

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Bolts beat Islanders, one win from final

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — While the New York Islanders were celebrating Brock Nelson scoring the first goal of the game, Tampa Bay Lightning center Yanni Gourde was steaming about giving it up. Coach Jon Cooper decided to keep him on the ice for some redemption.

"I'm not really happy out there after that goal," Gourde said. "I'm like, 'Let's go back out there and try to have an O-zone shift where we can actually get momentum back.'"

They did more than that. Gourde set up Blake Coleman to tie it 15 seconds after Nelson's goal, Ondrej Palat added another 12 seconds later and the quick-strike Lightning moved within a victory of the Stanley Cup Final with a 4-1 victory Sunday in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference Final.

"Getting scored on doesn't sit real well, but credit to Coop keeping us out there, giving us a shot to go get it back," Cole-

man said. "Any time you can respond quickly in a game, it's going to swing the momentum right back. Then obviously our big boys took over from there."

Those big boys were the Lightning's best players. Brayden Point scored in his return after missing Game 3 before leaving in the third with injury, fellow top liners Palat and Nikita Kucherov set him up for that goal, defenseman Victor Hedman played 29:12 and goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy made 26 saves.

That combination has Tampa Bay on the verge of its first Cup Final appearance since 2015.

"All the guys are pretty excited to play for the big prize, but we have business to do here," said goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy, who has played every minute of every Lightning game this postseason. "We have to win the fourth one first."

The Lightning won their third game of the series during the furious 27-second stretch with three goals.

Resilient Nuggets force Game 7, again

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Flights home from the NBA's bubble are planned whenever a team is on the cusp of elimination, just in case they're needed.

Denver is in no hurry to board that plane.

The never-say-die Nuggets pulled off another season-saving comeback — and, after rallying from 19 points down with 22 minutes left, they'll see the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 7 on Tuesday for a berth in the Western Conference finals.

Nikola Jokic had 34 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists, and the Nuggets topped the Clippers

111-98 on Sunday to even their West semifinal series at three games apiece. The Nuggets will try to become the first team in NBA history to rally from a pair of 3-1 deficits in the same postseason, after doing so against Utah in the West first round.

Paul George had 33 points, Kawhi Leonard scored 25 and Lou Williams had 14 for the Clippers, who are now 0-7 in games where they could clinch a trip to the conference finals.

"It's frustrating," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "Listen ... it's not going to be roses every day. We clearly have the right formula as far as how we're playing and then we keep losing it."

Incredible sports slate produced special Sunday

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — In a year where good days seem in short supply, sports delivered one.

The NFL roared back to life, even if the roar was from fans who weren't in the stadiums. Baseball saw a no-hitter. The NBA and NHL playoffs continued. Men's tennis and women's golf got first-time major championships. And one school reached the AP Top 25 for the first time since World War II.

Put simply, Sunday was special.

Sept. 13, 2020, will go down as a day like none other; of course, it should be no shock that there's never been such a menagerie of NFL games, NBA and NHL playoff games and a no-hitter on the same day, with everything else just being superfluous garnish atop that mix.

There were 12 NFL games, including a winning debut for the now-Las Vegas Raiders, who topped Carolina — and a big rally for Ron Rivera, whose Washington club came from 17 points down to beat Philadelphia. Rivera, who revealed last month that he's fighting cancer, needed a precautionary IV at halftime. Washington, in its first game since scrapping a nickname out of touch with the times, outscored Philly 27-0 the rest of the way.

Denver became the first team in NBA history to force its way into four consecutive Game 7's; the Nuggets rallied from 19 points down in the second half and ran past the Clippers to force a deciding game in their Western Conference semifinal series.

In the NHL, Tampa Bay and the New York Islanders combined for no goals in the first 1,887 seconds of their Eastern Conference title-series game and then three in the next 27 seconds — tying for the third-fastest three-goal barrage in Stanley Cup playoff history.

For the first time since Jan. 1, 2000 — when he was a senior at Michigan — Tom Brady played

a football game in something other than a New England Patriots helmet. Brady's Tampa Bay debut didn't go as planned; Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints prevailed 34-23 in the matchup of over-40s.

Brady is a legend; Alec Mills is a journeyman pitcher who entered Sunday with a career record of 38-46 at the MLB, minor league and fall league levels of baseball.

Mills — whose only other complete game as a professional was a seven-inning effort in the Carolina League 5½ years ago — pitched a no-hitter for the Chicago Cubs in Milwaukee, blanking the Brewers 12-0.

It was a special day for Mirim Lee, who won her first LPGA major by claiming the ANA Inspiration — chipping in for eagle on the 72nd hole just to get into a playoff. It was a special day for Dominic Thiem, who rallied from two sets down against Alexander Zverev and won the U.S. Open men's title in a classic five-setter at a strangely empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

For the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns, it wasn't a day like no other. It was just a day like none other since Nov. 1, 1943 — the last time, before Sunday, that the AP Top 25 football poll came out and they were on the list. It was a Top 20 back then during World War II, including such schools as Arkansas-Monticello, Colorado College, Iowa Pre-Flight and Del Monte Pre-Flight.

They went to Iowa State on Saturday and won 31-14, just the program's second all-time win in 22 tries against Big 12 competition. The Cajuns were ranked No. 19 Sunday.

The reigning WNBA champion Washington Mystics got a last-day-of-the-season win to clinch the last remaining playoff spot in their league, meaning they'll have the chance at back-to-back titles.

"This is a sports junkie's heaven right now," Mystics coach Mike Thibault said.

NFL roundup

Bucs fall to Saints in Brady's debut

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Tom Brady threw two interceptions in his Tampa Bay debut, Alvin Kamara scored touchdowns running and receiving, and the New Orleans Saints beat the Buccaneers 34-23 on Sunday.

The first of Brady's interceptions led to Kamara's 6-yard touchdown run. The second pick thrown by the new, 43-year-old Bucs QB — who left the New England Patriots in free agency after 20 years and six Super Bowl triumphs — was returned 36 yards for a touchdown by Janoris Jenkins.

Neither quarterback was statistically exceptional in this first-ever NFL game featuring two quarterbacks in their 40s. The 41-year-old Drew Brees passed for 160 yards and two TDs, but he also avoided critical mistakes. He did not turn over the ball and took only one sack. His first TD pass was a dump-off to Kamara from 12 yards. In the fourth quarter he hit free-agent signing Emmanuel Sanders for a 5-yard score.

Rams 20, Cowboys 17: Malcolm Brown rushed for a career-high 79 yards and two touchdowns, Jared Goff passed for 275 yards and Los Angeles opened SoFi Stadium with a victory over Dallas.

Robert Woods had six catches for 105 yards to help the Rams improve to 4-0 in season openers under coach Sean McVay and spoiled the debut of Mike McCarthy, Dallas' first new head coach in a decade.

Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 96 yards and a touchdown and caught another scoring pass, but the Cowboys began a season of high expectations by losing three starters to injury in the first half and then failing to mount a late comeback in a scoreless fourth quarter for both teams.

Cardinals 24, 49ers 20: DeAndre Hopkins had a career-high 14 catches for 151 yards in his Arizona debut and set up Kenyan Drake's 1-yard

TD run with 5:03 to play in a win at San Francisco.

Kyler Murray threw for 230 yards and a touchdown and ran for 91 yards and another score to help the Cardinals overcome a pair of fourth-quarter deficits to beat the defending NFC champion 49ers in a smoky opener at an empty stadium.

Jerick McKinnon, in his first game in more than two years, caught a 5-yard TD pass from Jimmy Garoppolo to give San Francisco a 20-17 lead with 8:38 to play before Murray led a late comeback. His 33-yard pass to Hopkins got the ball down to the 1 and Drake ran it in on the next play to give Arizona the lead.

Chargers 16, Bengals 13: Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow ran 23 yards untouched for a touchdown — the best moment of his NFL debut — but visiting Los Angeles roughed up the Cincinnati quarterback and rallied.

Playing in empty Paul Brown Stadium, Burrow got his first snaps in the NFL and learned the hard way what it's like to face a tough front line.

The Bengals also had an in-character finish. A.J. Green was called for offensive interference in the end zone in the closing seconds, and Randy Bullock missed a 31-yard field goal try with 2 seconds left and pulled up lame.

Washington 27, Eagles 17: Peyton Barber ran for two touchdowns and Dwayne Haskins rallied host Washington from a 17-point deficit.

After falling behind 17-0 following a pair of touchdown passes by Carson Wentz, Washington relied on a punishing defense and opportunistic offense in its first game since owner Dan Snyder finally agreed to change the team's name and former employees alleged sexual harassment in the organization.

Rivera lived up to his "Riverboat Ron" nickname earned in nine seasons with Carolina. In

his first game after finding out he has a form of skin cancer, Rivera went for it on fourth-and-1 from the Philadelphia 5 with the score tied midway through the fourth quarter. Barber ran for the first down and then scored from the 3 to give Washington a 24-17 lead.

Ravens 38, Browns 6: Looking every bit like the reigning NFL MVP, Lamar Jackson threw for 275 yards and three touchdowns, ruining Kevin Stefanski's debut as Cleveland's head coach in a game played without fans in attendance in Baltimore.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic kept the seats empty and the play was sloppy following a preseason without any games, two constants prevailed: Jackson was the focal point of a high-powered offense and the Browns lost another opener.

Facing a Cleveland secondary depleted by injuries, Jackson completed 20 of 25 passes and racked up a team-high 45 yards on the ground. A year ago, the multi-faceted star set an NFL single-season record for yards rushing by a quarterback and threw 36 TD passes.

Patriots 21, Dolphins 11: Cam Newton looked just fine as Tom Brady's replacement, rushing for two touchdowns as New England won at home.

Newton rushed for 15 times for 75 yards and threw for 155 yards, leading a Patriots offensive attack that did most of its damage on the ground in their first game since the departure of Brady to Tampa Bay as a free agent. Sony Michel added a touchdown for New England, which had 217 of its 357 yards on the ground. Newton was 15-for-19 passing.

Packers 43, Vikings 36: Aaron Rodgers took full advantage of the young cornerbacks and the empty stadium in Minnesota, beginning his 13th season as Green Bay's starting quarterback by passing for 364 yards and four touchdowns.

Davante Adams was predict-

ably the biggest beneficiary with a career-high, franchise-record-tying 14 catches for 156 yards and two scores. Marquez Valdes-Scantling and Allen Lazard each reached the end zone, too, as the Packers had their way with a Vikings defense renovated this year out of salary-cap necessity as hefty new contracts were given to quarterback Kirk Cousins and running back Dalvin Cook.

Seahawks 38, Falcons 25: Russell Wilson was cooking right from the start, throwing four touchdown passes in a win at Atlanta. With the Falcons not allowing fans for at least their first two home games because of the coronavirus pandemic, Seattle took advantage of what was essentially a neutral site to pull away in the second half.

Wilson completed 31 of 35 passes for 322 yards, throwing a pair of TD passes in the first quarter as the Seahawks built a 14-12 halftime lead, adding two more in the third quarter to put Atlanta away.

Bears 27, Lions 23: Mitchell Trubisky perfectly lofted a 27-yard go-ahead touchdown pass to Anthony Miller with 1:54 remaining as Chicago won at Detroit. The Lions drove to the Bears' 16 with a chance to win, but rookie running back D'Andre Swift dropped a pass in the end zone.

Jaguars 27, Colts 20: Gardner Minshew threw three touchdown passes, including a 22-yarder to Keelan Cole in the fourth quarter, and host Jacksonville stunned Indianapolis and Philip Rivers.

Raiders 34, Panthers 30: Josh Jacobs ran for 93 yards and three touchdowns, Derek Carr threw for 239 yards and a score as visiting Las Vegas spoiled Matt Rhule's coaching debut at Carolina.

Bills 27, Jets 17: Josh Allen led three consecutive first-half touchdown drives, and host Buffalo Bills overcame its own sloppiness and injuries to two starting linebackers.

MLB roundup

Cubs' Mills tosses no-hitter against Brewers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — From college walk-on to major league starter, Chicago Cubs right-hander Alec Mills had to earn most every break he got.

On the brink of big league history, he was happy to welcome this bit of luck: expecting to see two-time batting champion Christian Yelich in the on-deck circle, Mills looked over and saw his backup instead.

"That kind of surprised me," he said.

This one surprised just about everyone.

Mills cruised through baseball's second no-hitter this season in just the 15th start of his career, completing the gem in a 12-0 romp over the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday.

Mills got Jace Peterson — who replaced Yelich, the 2018 NL MVP, on defense late in the blowout — to hit a routine grounder to shortstop Javier Baez with two outs in the ninth. Baez completed the play, and the Cubs swarmed around Mills, tearing off his cap and pulling at the smiling right-hander's uniform after his first career complete game.

"It just hasn't really hit me yet," the 28-year-old said. "It's kind of crazy, I didn't even know how to celebrate. Just something that all came together today. Obviously a memory I'll have forever."

Mills (5-3) threw 114 pitches and hardly had any close calls in Chicago's 16th no-hitter. He struck out five and walked three. His five strikeouts are the fewest in a Cubs no-hitter since Ken Holtzman in 1969. He only induced five swings and misses, tied with Oakland's Dallas Braden during his perfect game in 2010 for fewest in a no-hitter since at least 1988, per Stats Inc.

Dodgers 8, Astros 1: Mookie Betts, Chris Taylor and AJ Pollock homered, leading host Los Angeles to a win over Houston on Sunday.

Eight relievers combined on a four-hitter. Brusdar Graterol opened with an inning of one-hit ball, striking out three. Victor Gonzalez (3-0) got the win with two scoreless innings.

George Springer hit a leadoff drive in the sixth for Houston. Zack Greinke (3-2) gave up five runs and eight hits in five innings in his second straight loss.

The Dodgers took three of four in this shortened season from the team that beat them in the 2017 World Series, after which the Astros' cheating scandal was revealed. Even with fans banned because of the coronavirus pandemic, they made their feelings known. For the second straight day, the Astros were bombarded with messages towed by planes over Dodger Stadium.

Angels 5, Rockies 3: Albert Pujols tied Willie Mays for fifth place on the career homer list with No. 660, a two-run shot in the eighth inning off Carlos Estevez (1-3) that overcame a 3-2 deficit in a win at Colorado. The 40-year-old Pujols had not gone deep since Aug. 4. Pujols trails only Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755), Babe Ruth (714) and Alex Rodriguez (696).

Padres 6, Giants 0: Mike Clevinger pitched a two-hitter for his second career shutout to open a doubleheader forced because of a false positive COVID-19 test. Clevinger (3-2) struck out seven and walked one in seven innings for his second career complete game.

Braves 8, Nationals 4: Adam Duvall and Ozzie Albies hit two-run homers in the sixth as visiting Atlanta overcame a 4-2

deficit against Max Scherzer (4-3).

Yankees 3, Orioles 1: Gleyber Torres had a tiebreaking, two-run double with two outs in the eighth inning for his first career pinch hit, and host New York (26-21) completed a four-game sweep that opened a 5½-game lead over Baltimore (20-26) for the AL's eighth and final playoff spot.

Blue Jays 7, Mets 4: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a home run completely out of Sahlen Field and Hyun Jin Ryu (4-1) made the early lead stand up for host Toronto, winning his fourth straight decision by allowing one run in six innings.

Red Sox 6, Rays 3: Christian Vazquez and Christian Arroyo homered as last-place Boston gained a four-game split at Tampa Bay, which has lost four of six.

Marlins 2-8, Phillies 1-1: Braxton Garrett (1-0) allowed three hits over five innings to win his major league debut, and host Miami completed a doubleheader sweep to leapfrog Philadelphia for second place in the NL East.

Rookie Sixto Sanchez (3-1) pitched a three-hitter over seven innings to win the opener, his first complete game in five major league starts.

Royals 11, Pirates 0: Brad Keller (4-2) pitched a five-hitter for his first major league shutout, and host Kansas City won its sixth in a row.

Twins 7, Indians 5: Nelson Cruz hit his 16th homer, and Marwin Gonzalez, Ryan Jeffers and Josh Donaldson also connected as host Minnesota completed a weekend sweep and won for the 10th time in 12 games. The Twins stayed one game back of AL Central-leading Chicago heading into a four-game series at the White Sox starting Monday night.

Thiem stages unprecedented rally at US Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A U.S. Open unlike any other finished unlike any other — with an unprecedented fifth-set tiebreaker as Dominic Thiem became the first man in 71 years to win the tournament final after dropping the opening two sets.

So close to defeat in a nearly empty Arthur Ashe Stadium — fans were banned because of the coronavirus pandemic — Thiem slowly but surely turned things around against a

faltering Alexander Zverev and surged to a 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (6) victory to earn his first Grand Slam title.

When a backhand from Zverev landed wide on the third championship point, a weary Thiem dropped to his back way behind the baseline and covered his face with his hands. When he arose, he was met by Zverev, who walked around the net to clasp hands, then embrace his friend and foe, two sights rarely seen in this era of social distancing.

Thiem then rested his head on the shoulder of the taller Zverev, a 23-year-old from Germany who himself came within two points of what would have been his first major triumph.

"I wish we could have two winners today," Thiem said. "I think we both deserved it."

The 27-year-old from Austria is the first man to win the American Grand Slam tournament after trailing 2-0 in sets in the final since Pancho Gonzalez did it against Ted Schroeder in 1949 at an event then known

as the U.S. Championships and held in Forest Hills.

The event never had been settled by a fifth-set tiebreaker; no major tournament ever had until Novak Djokovic edged Roger Federer that way at Wimbledon in 2019.

"I wish you would have missed a little bit more so I could have held that trophy up," Zverev said, choking up when he mentioned his parents, "but here I am, giving the runner's-up speech."