

STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, July 20, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Iran: Seizure of British ship 'reciprocal'

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's seizure of a British oil tanker was a response to Britain's role in impounding an Iranian supertanker first, senior officials said Saturday, as newly released video of the incident showed Iranian commandos in black ski masks and fatigues rappelling from a helicopter onto the vessel in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The seizure prompted condemnation from the U.K. and its European allies as they continue to call for a de-escalation of tensions in the critical waterway.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Britain's response to Iran's seizure of a British-flagged ship in the Strait of Hormuz "will be considered but robust."

In comments on Twitter on Saturday, he said he spoke with Iran's foreign minister and expressed extreme disappointment that the Iranian diplomat assured him Iran wanted to de-escalate the situation but "they have behaved in the opposite way."

He wrote, "This has (to) be about actions not words if we are to find a way through. British shipping must & will be protected."

The free flow of traffic through the

Strait of Hormuz is of international importance because one-fifth of all global crude exports passes through the waterway from Mideast exporters to countries around the world. The narrow waterway sits between Iran and Oman.

The British-flagged Stena Impero was intercepted late Friday by Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard forces. The ship's owner, Stena Bulk, said the vessel was stopped by "unidentified small crafts and a helicopter" during its transit through the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel was seized with a crew of 23 crew aboard, although none are British nationals.

A video released by the Revolutionary Guard shows several small Guard boats surrounding the larger tanker. Several men dressed in military fatigues and black masks rappel onto the ship from a hovering helicopter.

Hunt said the ship's seizure shows worrying signs Iran may be choosing a dangerous and destabilizing path. He also defended the British-assisted seizure of Iran's supertanker two weeks ago as a "legal" move because the vessel was suspected of breaching European Union sanctions on oil shipments to Syria.

The view from Iran was different.

In comments on Twitter on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif characterized the seizure of Iran's tanker July 4 as piracy. Politician and former Guard commander, Maj. Gen. Mohsen Rezai, wrote that Iran was not seeking conflict, "but we are not going to come up short in reciprocating."

The spokesman for Iran's Guardian Council, Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei, was also quoted in the semiofficial Fars news agency describing Friday's seizure as a legal "reciprocal action." The council rarely comments on state matters, but when it does it is seen as a reflection of the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's views. The council works closely with Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters.

The tit-for-tat move by Iran drew condemnation from European signatories to Iran's nuclear accord with world powers. Germany and France both called on Iran to immediately release the ship and its crew, with Berlin saying the seizure undermines all efforts to find a way out of the current crisis. Britain, which remains a signatory to the nuclear accord, has figured prominently in rising U.S. tensions with Iran.

Incidents may raise costs, risks of Gulf shipping

Associated Press

Recent seizures and attacks aimed at oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz will raise insurance rates for shipping companies and, if unchecked, reduce tanker traffic in the vital waterway, according to energy experts.

Iran on Friday seized a British-flagged oil tanker and a second Liberian-flagged ship was briefly detained. The events occurred in a passageway that carries one-fifth of the world's crude exports.

"If this kind of problem continues, you might see people start to shy away from the (Persian) Gulf or try to reflag — not

be a British tanker," said energy economist Michael Lynch.

The near-term impact will fall most heavily on the shipping industry in the form of higher insurance rates, said Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research Inc.

Richard Nephew, a Columbia University researcher who wrote a book on sanctions, also believes the tanker seizures could create "a real risk premium" for companies that operate in the Gulf and insurers that underwrite them.

On Friday, Iran's Revolutionary Guard said it took the British tanker Stena Impero to an

Iranian port because it allegedly violated international shipping regulations. An Iranian news agency said the Liberian-flagged Mesdar was briefly detained.

The seizure marked a sharp escalation of tension in the region that began rising when the Trump administration withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and imposed severe restrictions on Iranian oil exports and other sanctions. Many of the 2,000 companies operating ships in the region have ordered their vessels to transit the Strait of Hormuz only during the daylight hours and at high speed. But only a

handful of the companies have halted bookings.

The tensions in the Gulf also pushed oil prices slightly higher. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 0.9% to \$62.47 a barrel on Friday, while benchmark U.S. crude gained 0.6% to settle at \$55.63.

There's a long history of shippers enduring threats in the region.

"There have always been little problems around the Gulf where people will say, 'You're in our territorial waters,' but usually that doesn't go so far as the seizure of tankers," Lynch said.

Bergdahl's appeal over comments rejected

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—A military court has rejected an appeal by former Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl to dismiss his convictions due to comments by President Donald Trump that included calling the soldier a traitor who should be shot.

Bergdahl's lawyers argued to the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals that the soldier was denied a fair court-martial because of Trump's "unlawful command influence."

The three-judge panel did not agree.

"Although there was some evidence of unlawful command influence adduced at trial and in the post-trial process, the government met its burden to

demonstrate that an objective disinterested observer would not harbor a significant doubt as to the fairness of the proceedings," Judge and Army Col. Paula Schasberger wrote in the panel's appeal decision issued Tuesday. Army Col. Gary Saladino, another judge on the panel, concurred.

The panel in a 2-1 ruling concluded the military judge for the court-martial, Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance, was correct in his findings.

Eugene Fidell, Bergdahl's lead attorney, said Friday that he will seek another appeal, this time from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Bergdahl walked off his post in Paktika province in Afghanistan in 2009 and became a

captive of the Taliban until the United States exchanged five Taliban detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay for him in 2014.

In 2017, Bergdahl pleaded guilty to charges that he deserted his post in Afghanistan and endangered his fellow troops. He was sentenced to forfeit \$10,000 in pay, a reduction in rank to E-1 private and a dishonorable discharge.

Trump routinely derided Bergdahl during his election campaign as a "dirty, rotten traitor" who "should be shot" or returned to the Taliban in front of cheering crowds. Trump also made more comments after Bergdahl's sentencing.

"The decision on Sgt. Bergdahl is a complete and total disgrace to our country and to our

military," Trump tweeted Nov. 3, 2017.

The president again took to Twitter on April 26, calling Bergdahl "a traitor" as he denied media reports that his administration paid money to North Korea to release American Otto Warmbier, who had been imprisoned by Pyongyang and died shortly after he was released to the United States in June 2017.

The third judge on the panel, Army Lt. Col. James Ewing, agreed in part with the majority opinion of the other judges, but argued the post-trial action by the trial's convening authority, Gen. Robert Abrams, could be perceived as influenced by Trump.

Soldier who died in Kuwait is identified

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon on Saturday identified a soldier who died in a noncombat incident in Kuwait last week, while serving on his second deployment.

Sgt. William Edward Friese, 30, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic in the West Virginia Army National Guard died Thursday at Camp Buehring, the military said. Details of the incident were not released and a Pentagon statement said it remained under investigation.

Friese, of Rockport, W.Va., was assigned to 821st Engineer Company, 1092nd Engineer Battalion, 111th Engineer Brigade, based in Summersville, W.Va. He was deployed as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S.-led coalition battling the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

"Our missions are inherently dangerous and not without risk, yet every day, our military members are prepared to defend our Nation in the most

dangerous places in the world," said Maj. Gen. James Hoyer, adjutant general of the West Virginia National Guard, in an emailed statement.

The death brings to eight the number of servicemembers who have died supporting the anti-ISIS mission this year, most of them from nonhostile incidents. A January bombing in Syria that claimed the lives of a Navy chief petty officer and an Army Green Beret also killed a Defense Intelligence Agency employee and a U.S. contractor—the only reported U.S. combat fatalities under Inherent Resolve so far this year.

It is the third Army fatality in noncombat incidents in Kuwait, following the deaths of Sgt. Holli R. Bolinski and Spc. Jackson D. Johnson in a vehicle crash in March. Both had been deployed to Camp Arifjan with the 657th Transportation Company, 419th Transportation Battalion, 103rd Sustainment Command out of Mount Vernon, Ill.

A West Virginia native, Fri-

ese had enlisted in 2008 and previously deployed to Afghanistan for a year in 2010 with the 1092nd Engineer Battalion, said Air Force Maj. Holli Nelson, a spokeswoman for the West Virginia National Guard, in an emailed statement.

Friese's many medals and decorations include the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Afghanistan Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Army Good Conduct Medal, the statement said.

Friese represented the values that are foundational to the Guard, Hoyer said.

"The loss of William will be felt throughout our entire organization," he said. "I extend my heartfelt condolences to William's family, friends and those who served with him."

He is survived by his wife, two children, mother, sister and grandparents, Nelson said.

Gov. Jim Justice asked all West Virginians to join him and his wife in praying for Friese's family and the entire National Guard.

Joint Iraqi forces begin anti-ISIS operation

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's military says its troops are partnering with security agencies and paramilitary forces to clear remnants of Islamic State north of Baghdad and surrounding areas.

The operation launched Saturday is the second phase of operation dubbed "Will to Victory." The military said the new target area is north of Baghdad and Diyala, Salahuddin and Anbar provinces.

The first phase was launched two weeks ago, and targeted the area along the border with Syria.

The military said Iraqi troops, Iran-backed Popular Mobilization Forces, the federal police and others are taking part in the operation supported by the Iraqi and the U.S.-led international coalition.

US marks 50 anniversary of lunar landing

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A moonstruck nation celebrated the 50th anniversary of humanity's first footsteps on another world Saturday, gathering in record heat at races and other festivities to commemorate Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's "giant leap" on Apollo 11.

At NASA's Kennedy Space Center, cars were backed up for miles outside the visitor complex at opening time. In Armstrong's hometown of Wapakoneta, Ohio, nearly 2,000 runners competed in "Run to the Moon" races.

"We're celebrating the 50th anniversary of perhaps the most historic event in my lifetime, maybe in anybody's lifetime, the landing on the moon," said 10K runner Robert Rocco, 54, of Centerville, Ohio. "The '60s were very turbulent. But that one bright wonderful moment was the space program."

The Eagle lunar lander, carrying

Armstrong and Aldrin, landed on the Sea of Tranquility on July 20, 1969. Armstrong was the first one out, proclaiming for the ages: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

"Few moments in our American story spark more pride than the Apollo 11 mission," President Donald Trump said in a Space Exploration Day message. His statement reiterated the goal of sending astronauts back to the moon within five years and taking "the next giant leap — sending Americans to Mars."

Armstrong died in 2012, leaving Aldrin, 89, and command module pilot Michael Collins, 88, to mark the golden anniversary.

Both astronauts and the Armstrong family met with Trump in the Oval Office on Friday, with Collins pushing for a direct mission to Mars and skipping the moon, and Aldrin expressing dismay at

the past few decades of human space exploration.

On Saturday, Aldrin and Armstrong's son, Rick, traveled with Vice President Mike Pence to Florida to visit the Apollo 11 launch pad and the building where the astronauts suited up for liftoff on July 16, 1969, now known as the Neil Armstrong Operations and Checkout Building.

In New York City, organizers moved a moon-landing party from Times Square into a hotel because of the heat wave. Youngsters joined former space shuttle astronaut Winston Scott there, as a giant screen showed the Saturn V rocket lifting off with the Apollo 11 crew in 1969.

Countdowns were planned across the country later in the day at the exact moment of the Eagle's landing on the Sea of Tranquility — 4:17 p.m. EDT — and Armstrong's momentous step onto the lunar surface at 10:56 p.m. EDT. The powdered

orange drink Tang was back in vogue for the toasts, along with MoonPies, including a 55-pound, 45,000-calorie MoonPie at Kennedy's One Giant Leap bash.

Halfway around the world in the 100-degree heat of Kazakhstan, an American, Italian and Russian, launched on a Russian rocket to the International Space Station. Only one of the three — cosmonaut Alexander Skvortsov — was alive at the time of Apollo 11. The three already living on the space station also were born long after the moon landings.

The crew deliberately modeled its mission patch after Apollo 11's: no astronaut names included to show the universal nature of space flight. Morgan explained in a NASA interview that Apollo 11, and now his flight, represents "an accomplishment of the world and not one single country."

High temperatures take over weekend in lower 48

The Washington Post

Torrid levels of humidity combined with high temperatures in the upper 90s to low 100s are combining to form dangerous heat conditions across the United States. The weather map shows a stretch of magenta hues, denoting heat warnings, stretching from Texas northward to Chicago and east all the way to northern New England.

The heat index, which measures the combined effect of heat and humidity on the human body, is predicted to reach the rare territory of 110 to 115 degrees or higher across highly populated areas Saturday, including the District of Columbia, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. On Friday, some of the highest heat indexes were found in Iowa, where evapotranspiration from cornfields (also known as "corn sweat") led to heat indexes as high as 121 degrees.

The heat wave is prompting cities like New York to cancel outdoor events, open cooling shelters and warn residents that the hot weather can be deadly. A subway outage at rush hour on Friday evening compounded the misery in the Big Apple, as temperatures on crowded subway plat-

forms climbed well into the 90s.

Extreme heat typically is the biggest weather killer, outnumbering hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding. It's a sneaky killer, too, as heat stroke can mimic other illnesses due to symptoms like confusion, nausea and rapid heartbeat.

The heat poses a particular risk to the elderly, children, athletes practicing outdoors, outdoor workers and anyone without air conditioning. Pets left in areas without air conditioning, including cars, can quickly succumb to the heat.

This heat wave has already proved deadly, taking the life of ex-Giants offensive lineman Mitch Petrus Thursday in Little Rock, Ark.

In many cities affected by the heat, public fountains have turned into oases of relief, zoos are taking precautions to keep their animals cool and public swimming pools are staying open late.

Electric utilities are seeing energy demand spike as customers turn up their air conditioners. In New York, ConEd has crews working longer shifts, and Mayor Bill de Blasio has urged building owners to set thermostats to 78 degrees to ease the burden on the grid.

On Friday, Rockford, Ill., tied its record for the warmest all-time overnight low temperature of 81 degrees. On Saturday morning in Washington, the temperature failed to fall below 81 degrees, missing the daily record by 1 degree.; the forecast low for Sunday morning is in the low 80s once again.

Providence, R.I., is likely to set a record high minimum temperature for Saturday, according to meteorologist Jason Furtado, with a low of 77 degrees. New York City's Central Park also tied a record low on Saturday morning, as the temperature failed to drop below 82 degrees, with an overnight minimum heat index of 87.

On Saturday morning, more than 200,000 people were without power in these three states, cutting out access to air conditioning during the heat event.

Heat waves such as this one are becoming more likely to occur, more severe and longer lasting as the climate warms due to human activities. One of the most robust conclusions of climate science, rooted in statistics and physics, is that as you increase the global average temperature, the odds of hot extremes increase at a disproportionately high rate.

Trump reverses on criticism of crowd chant

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has reversed his previous criticisms of a North Carolina campaign crowd that chanted “send her back” about a Somali-born congresswoman.

Trump on Friday defended the rallygoers as “patriots” while again questioning the loyalty of four Democratic lawmakers of color. His comments marked a return to a pattern that has become familiar during controversies of his own making: ignite a firestorm, backtrack, then strongly reaffirm his original, inflammatory position.

When reporters at the White House asked if he was unhappy with the Wednesday

night crowd, Trump responded: “Those are incredible people. They are incredible patriots. But I’m unhappy when a congresswoman goes and says, ‘I’m going to be the president’s nightmare.’”

It was another dizzying twist in a saga sparked by the president’s racist tweets about Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota, who moved from Somalia as a child, and her colleagues Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, of New York, Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan, and Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts.

The moment took an ugly turn at the rally when the crowd’s “send her back” shouts resounded for 13 seconds as Trump made no attempt to interrupt them. He paused

in his speech and surveyed the scene, taking in the uproar, though the next day he claimed he did not approve of the chant and tried to stop it.

But on Friday, he made clear he was not disavowing the chant and again laced into Omar, the target of the chant.

“You can’t talk that way about our country. Not when I’m president,” Trump said. “These women have said horrible things about our country and the people of our country.”

Omar was defiant after the rally, telling reporters at the Capitol that she believes the president is a “fascist” and casting the confrontation as a fight over “what this country truly should be.”

Puerto Rico gov. goes quiet amid resignation calls

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — In the Spanish colonial fortress that serves as his official residence, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello is under siege.

Motorcyclists, celebrities, horse enthusiasts and hundreds of thousands of ordinary Puerto Ricans have swarmed outside La Fortaleza (The Fort) in Old San Juan last week, demanding Rossello resign over a series of leaked online chats insulting women, political opponents and even victims of Hurricane Maria.

Rossello, 40, the telegenic son of a former governor, has dropped his normally intense rhythm of public appearances and gone into relatively long periods of near-

media silence, intensifying questions about his future.

For much of his 2½ years in office, Rossello has given three or four lengthy news conferences a week, comfortably fielding question after question in Spanish and English from the local and international press. And that’s on top of public appearances, one-on-one interviews and televised meetings with visiting politicians and members of his administration.

But since July 11, when Rossello cut short a family vacation in France and returned home to face the first signs of what has become an islandwide movement to oust him, the governor has made four appearances, all but one in highly controlled situations.

New protests began Friday afternoon, with unionized workers organizing a march to La Fortaleza from the nearby waterfront.

Horseback riders joined them with a self-declared cavalry march, while hundreds of other people came from around the city and surrounding areas. A string of smaller events was on the agenda across the island over the weekend, followed by what many expected to be a massive protest on Monday.

The chorus calling for Rossello’s resignation was joined Friday by Puerto Rico’s nonvoting member of Congress, Jenniffer Gonzalez; U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, of Florida; and New York congresswomen Nydia Velazquez and Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez.

Former Marine is among picks for court clerkships

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former Marine who deployed twice to Afghanistan. A patent law professor. A woman who’s blind. Two Rhodes scholars.

They’re among the lawyers starting work this summer as law clerks at the Supreme Court.

The group of 16 women and 23 men hired by the justices were already on paths to become leading judges, professors and Supreme Court advocates. The one-year clerkship will cement their high-profile status.

“I think clerking on this court affects everybody’s career who does it. ... You put it on your resume and all of a sudden doors open, sometimes justifiably so and sometimes not,” Justice Elena Kagan has said.

She should know.

Kagan, who clerked for Justice Thurgood Marshall, is one of five current justices who was once a Supreme Court clerk. So was Chief Justice John Roberts. Justices Stephen Breyer, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

Justices hire four clerks annually; retired justices hire one. The clerks review poten-

tial cases, help their justice prepare for arguments, conduct research and write draft opinions.

Scholars disagree about how much influence the clerks have. But what is clear is that while the justices are the public face of the court, the clerks are their behind-the-scenes assistants who help the place run. Clerks generally decline to give interviews until after their clerkships are over. Even then, they are careful about what they will say.

For their work, they’re paid about \$83,000. When they’re

done, law firms have recently been offering bonuses of \$400,000 to clerks who join them.

The clerks have accomplishments beyond academics.

Kagan clerk Jordan Bock rowed at Harvard, where she studied physics, astrophysics and government. Roberts clerk Joseph Falvey served in the Marines. Megan Braun, another Roberts clerk, played college water polo and was a Rhodes scholar. Mark Jia, retired Justice David Souter’s clerk, was also a Rhodes scholar.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Driver injured when car slid under truck

MA UXBRIDGE — Fire officials said they are “amazed” that a driver whose car roof was crushed when his vehicle slid under a tractor-trailer wasn’t seriously hurt.

Authorities said the car hit something in the road and went airborne. The brakes didn’t work and the car crossed a grassy area onto a highway ramp, where it became wedged under the truck.

The car was then dragged “a good distance.”

Fire officials said the motorist climbed out of the driver’s side door.

Man impaled on stump rescued by runners

MI EAST LANSING — A man who was impaled on a stump after falling from a tree in mid-Michigan was rescued after runners heard his calls for help about 14 hours after he fell.

Cindy Eiseler told the Lansing State Journal she and three other women heard someone calling, “I need help!” from a dense thicket along the Lansing River Trail.

Eiseler’s group flagged down runner Chris Smith, who said the impaled man was face down with a “chunk of tree” through his shoulder.

Police said the 37-year-old man was taken to a hospital, and police declined to say why he was in the tree.

Man tied up wife’s lover, cut off penis

FL BELL — Authorities said a Florida man held his wife’s lover at gunpoint and cut off the man’s penis before fleeing with the flailing ap-

pendage. News outlets reported Alex Bonilla, 49, was arrested hours later on charges including aggravated assault.

The Gilchrist County Sheriff’s Office released a statement that said Bonilla broke into his neighbor’s home July 14, tied the neighbor up and mutilated his genitals with scissors. Deputies said the victim told authorities that Bonilla then took the severed penis and fled to his own house.

Deputies said the motive still is under investigation, though an arrest report said Bonilla caught his wife and the victim having sex in May.

250-pound tortoise reunited with owners

CA SANTA YNEZ — A 250-pound tortoise that wandered away from its home was rescued after California Highway Patrol officers found it on the side of a road.

And no, they didn’t arrest it for speeding.

The CHP said the big reptile was spotted on the shoulder of a road in Santa Ynez, about 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Santa Ynez Animal Rescue picked up the tortoise before CHP officers arrived. The CHP located the owners and delivered it to them.

Steamy texts spark marriage fraud probe

RI PROVIDENCE — A steamy text message at the most inopportune moment sparked a federal marriage fraud trial in Rhode Island.

The Boston Globe reported that Prince Mark Boley, a Liberian national living in Providence, married Amanda Hames-Whitman in 2016.

According to court documents, Boley and Hames-Whitman visited a U.S. Citizenship

and Immigration Services field office in June 2017 so Boley could apply for permanent resident status.

But while Hames-Whitman was showing an official text messages from Boley, in popped one from “Chriss” saying, “We had the best sex ever.”

The text prompted an investigation, and Hames-Whitman admitted the marriage was a sham designed to get Boley a green card.

Truck driver watched porn before fatal crash

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota truck driver is accused of watching pornographic videos before a crash that killed a highway worker standing along an interstate.

Tate Doom, 47, of St. Paul Park, was charged with criminal vehicular homicide and criminal vehicular operation.

The crash happened last October in Rogers and killed Vernon Hedquist, 59, of Pillager.

According to the complaint, Doom’s semi rear-ended a pickup and trailer merging to the left. The trailer struck Hedquist while flying debris hit a co-worker.

Troopers seized two cellphones from Doom’s semi. Authorities recovered deleted files from a pornographic website.

Boy dies after falling into grease trap

NY ROCHESTER — A 3-year-old boy died after falling into an underground grease-collection tank behind a New York fast-food restaurant.

Rochester police investigator Frank Camp said the boy fell through a plastic cover into the grease trap behind a Tim Hortons restaurant at about 11 a.m. Monday. Witnesses pulled

the unidentified child out and administered CPR.

Camp said the child was pronounced dead at Strong Memorial Hospital.

Authorities: Man ran heroin mill in apartment

NJ IRVINGTON — Authorities said they’ve broken up a heroin mill and seized tens of thousands of doses of the drug.

Union County prosecutors said Sean Henderson, 30, is charged with maintaining a narcotics production facility, possessing heroin with the intent to distribute and other drug offenses.

County, local and federal law enforcement agencies executed a search warrant at the apartment and seized over 70,000 doses of suspected heroin and about 150 grams of raw heroin, along with other related items.

Prosecutors said the seized heroin had an estimated street value of over \$800,000.

Man hit deputy with cuffs, knocked out tooth

FL DESTIN — Authorities said a Florida man driving drunk without a license used his handcuffs to hit a deputy so hard it knocked out the deputy’s tooth.

Okaloosa County Sheriff’s officials said Angel Lopez, 26, rear-ended another driver with such force the car went airborne. Authorities said Lopez does not have a driver’s license.

According to deputies, he was able to wriggle the handcuffs behind his back to the front of his body while in a patrol car.

When the deputy stopped to resecure the handcuffs, they said Lopez struck the deputy in the mouth, knocking a tooth loose.

From wire reports

Your objective source for military news
updated 24/7 from bases
around the world.
Now online at www.stripes.com.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Pitchers stock new Hall of Fame class

Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — It never changed for Mariano Rivera — from his childhood in the fishing village of Puerto Caimito in Panama to the pitcher's mound at Yankee Stadium.

"I always wanted to be the last guy to kick the ball or took the last shot at the basket. Give me the ball," Rivera said. "I wanted to contribute to this victory. I wanted to help my team do whatever it took to win, and it worked many times."

With that mindset came greatness.

A lightly regarded pitcher when signed as an amateur free agent with the New York Yankees in 1990, Rivera struggled as a starter but found his niche as a reliever with a devastating

cut fastball.

The Yankees won seven pennants and five World Series with Rivera in the bullpen. His major league record of 652 saves was his ticket to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Not for nothing, he was nicknamed "Sandman" after the Metallica song "Enter Sandman" that boomed across Yankee Stadium whenever he headed to the mound, ready to silence bats.

His greatness on the mound and his humble spirit — win or lose — helped Rivera achieve another milestone. He's the only player in history to be elected unanimously, receiving all 425 votes in the January balloting.

"I feel humbled that I was the one that the Lord blessed,"

said the 49-year-old Rivera, who will be inducted Sunday. "It won't change my life, but it's something that you know that you were the first one. That is special."

Rivera joins Rod Carew as the only Panamanians elected to the Hall of Fame. He heads a class that also includes pitchers Mike Mussina, Lee Smith and the late Roy Halladay, and designated hitters Edgar Martinez and Harold Baines.

Baines and Smith were selected in December by a veterans committee. Rivera, Mussina, Martinez and Halladay were elected in January by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Rivera grew only stronger in the postseason, allowing just

86 hits with 110 strikeouts, 21 walks and only 11 earned runs in 141 innings and registering 11 saves in the World Series. He also was 4-1 in World Series clinchers, the lone loss in 2001 to the Arizona Diamondbacks on a bloop single by Luis Gonzalez with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth.

"When it comes to the playoffs, you're talking about facing the best of the best in the critical situations and critical times," said Rivera, who will deliver part of his induction speech in Spanish to a crowd of local officials project to be around 50,000. "I wanted to be in those situations. I wanted to be the last guy that throws that last pitch. I have a passion for it."

MLB roundup

Mariners' Leake carries perfect game into 9th inning

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A week after the worst start of his career, Mike Leake came back with his best.

Shockingly so.

Leake took a perfect game into the ninth inning, losing his bid at baseball immortality when rookie Luis Rengifo hit a leadoff single as the Seattle Mariners beat the Los Angeles Angels 10-0 Friday night.

There were hugs all around the clubhouse after Leake finished off a one-hitter and stopped Seattle's six-game losing streak.

It was an amazing turnaround from his previous outing — the Angels tagged him for seven runs on eight hits in a walk last Friday while he got just two outs, the only time he's been pulled from a start without getting through the first inning. Seattle lost that game 13-0 as two Angels pitchers combined for a no-hitter on a day their club wore the jerseys of late teammate Tyler Skaggs.

Yankees 8, Rockies 2: Edwin Encarnacion hit a go-

ahead grand slam and a trio of ex-Colorado players beat up on their former team in New York.

Encarnacion lined his 12th career slam in the third inning off Kyle Freeland, and first-year Yankees DJ LeMahieu, Adam Ottavino and Mike Tauchman poured it on in their first games against their old club. LeMahieu had two hits and two RBIs, Ottavino struck out the side in a perfect relief inning and Tauchman had a career-high three hits, a stolen base and threw out a runner at home plate from left field.

Braves 4, Nationals 3: Josh Donaldson's bases-loaded single off Fernando Rodney in the ninth inning lifted host Atlanta over Washington after Luke Jackson allowed a tying, two-run homer to Victor Robles in the top half.

Astros 4, Rangers 3: Justin Verlander struck out 12 in six solid innings, four teammates hit solo home runs and host Houston held off Texas.

Athletics 5, Twins 3: Marcus Semien led off the game with a

home run and later tripled and doubled as visiting Oakland kept rolling, topping Minnesota on a sweltering night.

Dodgers 2, Marlins 1: Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched seven strong innings and combined with Kenta Maeda and Kenley Jansen to help host Los Angeles beat Miami.

Giants 1, Mets 0 (10): Alex Dickerson raced home from first on a botched fly ball to shallow left field with two outs in the 10th inning and host San Francisco won its season-high seventh straight game.

Diamondbacks 10, Brewers 7: Christian Walker hit a two-run homer to cap the first natural cycle in franchise history, lifting host Arizona over Milwaukee.

White Sox 9, Rays 2: Leury Garcia had four hits, including three doubles, Reynaldo Lopez won for the first time in six starts and visiting Chicago stopped a seven-game losing streak by beating slumping Tampa Bay.

Orioles 11, Red Sox 2: Anthony Santander and Keon

Broxton homered off David Price, and host Baltimore got six solid innings from rookie right-hander John Means in a rout of Boston.

Cardinals 12, Reds 11: Jose Martinez homered and singled during a 10-run rally in the sixth inning and visiting St. Louis overcame a seven-run deficit for a wild win over Cincinnati.

Blue Jays 12, Tigers 1: Marcus Stroman breezed through seven scoreless innings, and visiting Toronto batted around in both the fourth and the sixth on its way to a rout of Detroit.

Phillies 6, Pirates 1: Bryce Harper's go-ahead RBI single was one of 15 hits visiting Philadelphia used to beat Pittsburgh.

Indians 10, Royals 5: Rookie Oscar Mercado went 5-for-5 and drove in two runs as host Cleveland won its sixth straight game, beating Kansas City.

Cubs 6, Padres 5: Anthony Rizzo hit a grand slam and host Chicago overcame an early home run by Manny Machado to beat San Diego.

Alaphilippe widens Tour de France lead

Associated Press

LA MONGIE, France — When the team of Geraint Thomas was in its pomp at the Tour de France, a time trial followed by a big mountain stage would have been playgrounds for Sky — now in new colors as Ineos — to take cycling's greatest race by the scruff of the neck and leave everyone else fighting for second place.

Not this year.

Thomas, the defending champion, cracked on Saturday on the Tour's first encounter with a climb to above 6,500 feet, exposing unprecedented weaknesses in his team that has won six Tours in the past seven years.

The time trial on Friday and the climb up to the legendary Tourmalet pass on Saturday seemed primed for Thomas to reel in Julian Alaphilippe, the yellow jersey holder from France who is setting the Tour alight with his punchy riding and determination to keep the

race lead, filling French fans' heads with dreams of a first homegrown winner since 1985.

But instead, Thomas has seen Alaphilippe only get further and further away. In two days, the Frenchman has put 50 seconds of extra daylight between him and the Welshman. His lead — up to 2 minutes, 2 seconds — is becoming large enough to start realistically envisioning Alaphilippe in yellow in Paris next weekend as the first French winner since Bernard Hinault.

Fueling the ecstasy of delirious crowds that lined Saturday's steep uphill finish, French rider Thibaut Pinot won Stage 14, putting him back in the picture to fight for the podium after he lost mountains of time on Stage 10.

Thomas rightly pointed out that the Tour is far from done, with six more ascents to above 6,500 feet still to come. But his inability to stay with Pinot, Alaphilippe and other title contenders at the top of the

Tourmalet — he was eighth, 36 seconds behind Pinot — was a mini-earthquake for the Tour dominated by his British team since 2012 — with champions Bradley Wiggins, Chris Froome and, in 2018, Thomas.

"Not the best day. I just didn't feel quite on it from the start. I was quite weak," Thomas said.

"At the end I knew I just had to pace it. I didn't really attempt to follow when they kicked. I just thought I should ride my own pace rather than follow them and blow up on the steepest bit at the end. It's disappointing. I just tried to limit the damage."

Having taken cycling to a new level since 2012 with its vast budget and attention to the minutest of details, the team run by David Brailsford has been hit both by misfortune and by the inevitability that, eventually, other teams would start to close the gap.

A horror crash in training for four-time winner Chris Froome, now recovering from

career-threatening broken bones, robbed the team of its ace. Thomas' own preparations were hampered by a crash at the Tour of Switzerland last month. And Egan Bernal, being groomed by Brailsford to succeed Froome and Thomas, looks increasingly unable to compete for the title this year. Bernal was fifth on the Tourmalet and is fourth overall, 3 minutes behind Alaphilippe.

Pinot, now sixth overall and 3:12 behind Alaphilippe, is showing remarkable grit in bouncing back from his Stage 10 misfortune, when he was part of a group that got separated from other title contenders in crosswinds.

"I have this rage inside me, because in my opinion it was an injustice," said Pinot, a podium finisher in 2014.

"Since the start of the Tour I had this stage in the back of my mind. The Tourmalet, it's mythical," said Pinot, who has three career stage wins at the Tour.

British Open marches on without its star attraction

Associated Press

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — Royal Portrush had all of Saturday morning to recover from the reality that Rory McIlroy is no longer part of this British Open.

In a second round so packed with emotion that it felt like Sunday, McIlroy nearly recovered from his opening 79 by coming up one birdie short of making it to the weekend. McIlroy, one of three players from Northern Ireland celebrating the return of the Open after a 68-year absence, says he has never felt such support.

And now for the rest of the show.

Ireland's Shane Lowry is the leader midway through the third round of the British Open.

Lowry, seeking his first major championship, birdied the ninth hole to move out of

a pack of players and get to 11 under par with the back nine yet to play. He led J.B. Holmes, Lee Westwood and Tommy Fleetwood by a shot.

Rickie Fowler shot a 66 that moved him up the leaderboard. He was three off the pace at 8 under, while Brooks Koepka was another shot back playing the back nine.

Royal Portrush was proving easier for players, largely because there was little wind on the seaside links. Earlier, Danny Willett tied the best round of the week with a 6-under 65.

Willett is 7 under for the tournament and holds the clubhouse lead, three strokes behind the leaders out on the course.

The 2016 Masters champion was bogey-free in his third round and made six birdies. He missed a 4-foot putt for birdie at the last.

Kyle Stanley says he was

"caught off guard" after being criticized by a playing partner for not alerting spectators to an errant tee shot, and described the incident as a "non-issue."

Bob MacIntyre said after his round on Friday he was angry with Stanley for not yelling "Fore" before his tee shot went into the crowd on the 17th hole. The ball hit the mother of MacIntyre's caddie.

Speaking after his third round Saturday at Royal Portrush, Stanley said his caddie, his playing partners and some volunteers or marshals all shouted "Fore," and he thought "that was enough."

Stanley said he hasn't apologized to MacIntyre and doesn't feel he needed to be "schooled on the rules of golf."

Stanley, who didn't play with MacIntyre on Saturday, shot 2-over 73 in the third round and was 2 over for the championship.

Gary McNeill was simply making up the numbers in the third round of the British Open. He still had a blast.

The head professional of Royal Portrush since 1999, McNeill realized at 8:30 p.m. on Friday that he might be needed the following day as a marker in the first group of the third round. Seventy-three players made the cut, so Paul Waring would be going out on his own Saturday and was happy to have some company.

McNeill, who was Irish Amateur champion in 1991, hit a few balls on the range in the morning and felt good. He took a swing on the first tee, with thousands watching him, and he said his club "felt like a feather."

It got much better for McNeill, who made a long putt across the green at No. 17 for his highlight of the day.

Kanter, Walker may turn Celtics around

Associated Press

BOSTON — Enes Kanter took a playful swipe at him.

Kemba Walker will try to replace him.

Kyrie Irving is no longer with the Celtics, but his brief flameout in Boston is still on the minds of fans in the city and even, apparently, players who have yet to play a minute for the team.

On the day that the Celtics introduced Walker as their point guard of the future, Kanter said he chose the No. 11 last worn in Boston by Irving in part because it was his number in Oklahoma City in 2016-17. But he also quoted a commer-

cial in which Irving aspired to have the number retired in his honor.

"I want to be the reason no one else wears it," Kanter said, cracking up himself and the media at the introductory news conference he shared with Walker. "I had to say it."

Irving was the Celtics' big free agency splash two summers ago, when he asked the Cleveland Cavaliers to trade him and they shipped him to Boston for the immensely popular Isaiah Thomas. The Celtics, who had just lost to Cleveland in the conference finals, returned to the East finals the next year — when Irving was

injured — but bowed out in the second round this season, when he was healthy.

General manager Danny Ainge took pains to stress that he doesn't blame Irving for the team's disappointing season.

"The last point guard, it didn't end like we wanted this year, but it certainly wasn't his fault," Ainge said.

Irving, who had spoken about his desire to finish his career in Boston — and have his number retired — opted out of his contract and signed with the Brooklyn Nets. Fans were mostly glad to see him go, and Walker played along on Wednesday, joking with a

reporter about the Earth being flat — a reference to another famous Irving comment.

Al Horford also jumped ship, meaning the Celtics had lost their biggest acquisition from two of the last three offseasons.

Instead of adding role players to make another run at an 18th NBA title, they needed replacements for their stars. But coach Brad Stevens said he never spent any time worrying about whether the roster was in need of a multi-season rebuild.

"We always go through every scenario," he said. "But nobody was looking at what we weren't going to be. We don't ever look at it that way."

Sports briefs

Former Giants offensive lineman dies of heat stroke

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Offensive lineman Mitch Petrus, a walk-on at Arkansas who went on to a three-year NFL career that included a Super Bowl win with the New York Giants, has died. He was 32.

Pulaski County Coroner Gerone Hobbs said Petrus died of heat stroke Thursday night at a North Little Rock, Ark., hospital after working outside that day at his family's shop near his hometown of Carlisle, which is about 35 miles east of Little Rock.

Like much of the country, Arkansas is in the grips of an intense heat wave. The heat index — the temperature it felt like — in the area where Petrus was working on Thursday was higher than 100 degrees, according to the National Weather Service.

Petrus was drafted by the Giants in the fifth round in 2010 and got into 11 regular-season games his rookie year, with no starts. In his second season, Petrus played in six regular-season games, starting three of them, as the Giants went on to win the Super Bowl. He played

six games for the Giants the following season before being released. He was picked up by New England and played two games for the Patriots before being released. Tennessee then signed him and he played two games for the Titans before the team released him the following March.

"We are saddened to hear of Mitch's passing," the Giants said in a statement. "Our thoughts go out to Mitch's family and friends."

In other NFL news:

■ An offensive tackle for the Arizona Cardinals who was released this week has surrendered to police in North Carolina after a warrant was issued for his arrest on an assault charge.

A news release from the Greensboro Police Department says Desmond Harrison turned himself in to authorities Friday. Police say the alleged assault was reported on Tuesday, but provided no additional details of the incident. It's not known if he has an attorney.

The 25-year-old was claimed last month by the Cardinals after he was cut by the Cleveland Browns.

Flames acquire Lucic from Oilers for Neal

CALGARY, Alberta — The Calgary Flames acquired forward Milan Lucic from the Edmonton Oilers on Friday for forward James Neal and a conditional third-round pick in the 2020 draft.

Edmonton will retain 12.5% of the remaining salary on the seven-year, \$42 million contract Lucic signed in July 2016.

The 31-year-old Lucic had six goals and 14 assists in 79 games for the Oilers last season. He has 198 goals and 303 assists in 890 regular-season games with Boston, Los Angeles and Edmonton.

Neal, also 31, had seven goals and 12 assists in 63 games for Calgary last season, and has 270 goals and 244 assists in 766 regular-season games with Dallas, Pittsburgh, Nashville, Vegas and Calgary. He signed a five-year, \$28.75 million deal in July 2018.

In other NHL news:

■ The Carolina Hurricanes agreed to a two-year, \$4.2 million contract Saturday with Brock McGinn and avoided

arbitration.

In the deal, the 25-year-old forward will earn \$1.9 million next year and \$2.3 million for the 2020-21 season. Team president and general manager Don Waddell said the team is "relieved to have this settled."

Angels drop pitcher Harvey from roster

SEATTLE — The Los Angeles Angels gave up on their \$11 million investment in Matt Harvey, designating the 30-year-old right-hander for assignment on Friday.

Harvey was 3-5 with a 7.09 ERA in 12 starts. He gave up six runs, seven hits and five walks over six innings in a 6-2 loss to the Houston Astros on Thursday night.

Once dubbed The Dark Knight, Harvey was among baseball's most dominant starters for a time with the New York Mets. He started the 2013 All-Star Game at Citi Field but hurt his elbow later that summer and never consistently regained his 98 mph fastball or his command following Tommy John surgery.