

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Britain to boost security for shipping

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain announced plans Monday to develop and deploy a Europe-led “maritime protection mission” to safeguard shipping in the vital Strait of Hormuz in light of Iran’s seizure of a British-flagged tanker in the waterway.

Briefing Parliament on the budding crisis, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt accused Iran of “an act of state piracy” that will be met with stern international resolve.

He announced few details but said Britain’s European allies will play a major role in keeping shipping lanes open. One-fifth of all global crude exports pass through the narrow strait between Iran and Oman.

“We will seek to put together a European-led maritime protection mission to support safe passage of crew and cargo in

this vital region,” he said.

“We have had constructive discussion with a number of countries in the last 48 hours and we will discuss later this week the best way to complement this with recent U.S. proposals in this area.”

He sought to put distance between Britain and its closest international ally, the United States. Washington has broken with London on Iran policy because of President Donald Trump’s rejection of the international accord designed to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord last year and reimposed harsh sanctions, which have had a severe effect on Iran’s economy.

The foreign secretary said the planned European mission was not part of the U.S. policy of exerting “maximum pressure” on Iran.

It was not clear which coun-

tries will join the protection force Hunt is discussing, or how quickly it can be put in place.

Iranian officials have suggested the seizure was in response to Britain’s role in seizing an Iranian oil tanker two weeks earlier.

Iran released new video showing the ship’s crew for the first time Monday, an apparent attempt to show they were unharmed. None of the 23 is a British national. The crew is mostly Indian and includes Filipino, Russian and Latvian nationals.

British Prime Minister Theresa May chaired an emergency security session to discuss how to respond to Iran’s actions.

May’s official spokesman, James Slack, said giving an individual naval escort to all U.K.-flagged ships is not an option because of the volume of traffic.

But he denied cuts have made

the Royal Navy too small.

“We have the largest military budget in Europe, and we are investing in a world-class Royal Navy,” he said.

Maritime industry publication Lloyd’s List said there are currently no U.K.-flagged ships heading to the Persian Gulf and eight U.K.-flagged vessels anchored there after a government advisory to such vessels to avoid the Strait of Hormuz.

The tanker crisis is unfolding in the final days of May’s leadership. The Conservative Party plans to name her successor Tuesday, and the new prime minister — either front-runner Boris Johnson or Hunt — is expected to take office Wednesday.

Friday’s seizure of the Stena Impero came amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran as the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers unravels.

ISIS militants return to Iraq to continue fight

The Washington Post

QAIM, Iraq — Islamic State militants who escaped the defeat of their self-described caliphate in Syria earlier this year have been slipping across the border into Iraq, bolstering a low-level insurgency the group is now waging across the central and northern part of the country, according to security officials.

About 1,000 fighters have crossed into Iraq during the past eight months, most of them in the aftermath of the caliphate’s collapse in March, said Hisham al-Hashimi, a security analyst who advises Iraq’s government and foreign aid agencies.

These fighters, mostly Iraqis who followed ISIS into Syria, are now returning home to join militant cells that have been digging into rugged, rural areas, sustained by intimate knowledge of the local terrain including concealed tunnels and other hiding places.

The militants move under the cover of darkness to carry out sniper attacks and rudimentary roadside bombings several times per week.

Their attacks, occurring outside major cities, are often opportunistic and primarily target community leaders and security forces involved in efforts to root them out. An explosion earlier this month in the northern city of Kirkuk killed

two motorcyclists.

A separate attack in Diyala, in eastern Iraq, targeted militiamen assigned to hunt down militants.

ISIS media published grainy videos showing the assassination of paramilitaries and local notables, such as “mokhtars,” tasked with helping security forces identify individuals linked to the extremist group.

“I warn all the mokhtars that the Islamic State can reach anywhere they want,” said one abductee in a video released earlier this year, addressing community figures like him who had cooperated with government forces.

Iraqi security forces announced earlier this month the

start of a new military campaign to secure and clear the desert along the country’s 370-mile border with Syria. Within days, they reported the discovery of bomb-making factories and said several militants had been killed.

On the ground, the challenge of uprooting ISIS fighters appears daunting.

“Look at where they’re hiding. It’s deserts. It’s caves. It’s places no one can ever fully control,” said Col. Saad Mohammed as he drove through the rocky desert of western Anbar province, gesturing across a vast open expanse. “How many units would we need to secure every inch? Too many. No one has that capacity.”

Sailor reported overboard identified

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Navy has identified the sailor who was reported overboard from an aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea last week and remains missing after the end of search and rescue efforts.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Slayton Saldana, 24, an aviation electronics technician assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5 aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln, has been listed as duty status whereabouts unknown, or DUSTWUN, the 5th Fleet said in a statement late Sunday.

The search was called off Friday after “extensive attempts to locate the sailor” involving three ships and aircraft from two patrol squadrons, the 5th Fleet said. Saldana was reported overboard Wednesday.

Vice Adm. Jim Malloy, the U.S. Naval

Forces Central Command, 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces commander, said in a statement Saturday that the command’s thoughts and prayers were with Saldana’s family, friends and shipmates.

Saldana’s Facebook profile lists him as a native of San Antonio.

Some of the 24-year-old’s his belongings had been found on the side of a ship catwalk early Wednesday morning, his fiancée, Lexi Posey, told the Bryan (Ohio) Times, her hometown newspaper, last week.

Posey, a Navy petty officer third class serving in Japan, said he was believed to have been wearing his “float coat,” or flight deck life vest.

Officials with the 5th Fleet did not immediately respond to a request for confirmation of those details. The Lincoln, the USS Leyte Gulf and patrol squadrons VP-10 and

VP-40 had been joined by the Spanish frigate Mendez Nunez in searching where Saldana had been reported missing.

Under Navy policy, commanders can list sailors DUSTWUN for 10 days to conduct search efforts or investigate the circumstances of a loss.

If the sailor is not recovered alive in that time and returned to the military, commanders can recommend a sailor’s status be changed to “missing,” “unauthorized absence” or “deceased,” based on the available evidence.

The squadron Saldana belonged to, made up of about 200 servicemembers, is part of Carrier Air Wing 7 and is assigned to the Lincoln strike group, which had its deployment to the region expedited in May amid escalating tensions with Iran.

New aircraft, products draw crowds at British air show

BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS

Stars and Stripes

RAF FAIRFORD, England — The roar of jet engines was the soundtrack as more than two dozen nations and aeronautical companies showcased next-generation aircraft designs and debuted new product lines at Britain’s Royal International Air Tattoo.

Around 185,000 people attended the three-day event over the weekend at RAF Fairford, about 30 miles west of Oxford, where 245 military aircraft from the air forces of 25 nations were on display and pilots put on aerial displays.

Northrop Grumman’s new Firebird, which is designed for unmanned or crewed flight, made its European debut at the show. The modular intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft system can fly for up to 30 hours at altitudes of up to 25,000 feet.

In comparison, Northrop Grumman’s Global Hawk drone flies for more than 32 hours at a ceiling of 60,000 feet. However, Firebird’s crewed option allows it to fly in areas where drones are restricted.

The Firebird’s crew station can be removed and an antenna mounted within hours, leaving the aircraft ready to be used in its unmanned configuration, a

spokesman for Northrop Grumman said at the show.

Multiple U.S. government agencies have already placed orders for the new aircraft, Northrop Grumman said.

Visitors to the show also had the opportunity to sit in the cockpit of a concept combat aircraft that the Royal Air Force may fly in the future.

The plane, called the Tempest, will use technologies found in the F-35 Lightning II and is compatible with the U.S. aircraft. The sixth-generation fighter is projected to enter service in 2035, replacing the Eurofighter Typhoon.

Afghan airstrike blamed for deaths of at least 9 civilians

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — An airstrike in eastern Afghanistan has killed at least nine civilians, including children, Afghan officials said Monday.

Several more civilians were wounded in the airstrike, which targeted suspected Taliban in the Baraki Barak district of Logar province early Monday, police spokesman Shahpur Ahmadzai said from the provincial capital of Pul-e-Alum, which borders the district.

The airstrike was conducted by Afghan forces against a Taliban target, and the government is investigating reports of civilian casualties, Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Rohullah Ahmadzai said during a phone call Monday. The Afghan ministry said it would release a statement at a later time.

News of the deaths comes amid near-daily reports of noncombatant casualties in Afghanistan’s conflict, as American and Taliban officials continue negotiations aimed at ending the war.

“No government authority could give us

a reason for this massacre,” said Huma Ahmadi, a member of Parliament from Logar. “Pro-government forces need to stop killing innocent people.

“There have been several recent cases,” Ahmadi said. “There seems to be no coordination between security forces in the air and on the ground.”

All nine known civilians killed in Monday’s airstrike were from the same family, and six of them were children, Ahmadi said.

Negotiators close in on debt, budget deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are on the cusp of a critical debt and budget deal, one that would amount to a hard-fought, against-the-odds victory for Washington pragmatists seeking to avoid politically dangerous tumult over must-do fiscal deadlines.

Aides on both sides of the talks say the tentative deal would restore the government's ability to borrow into the next administration and build upon recent large budget gains for both the Pentagon and domestic agencies. The deal would mostly eliminate the risk of a repeat government shutdown this fall.

The agreement on an outline for \$1.3 trillion in agency spending would represent a win

for lawmakers eager to return Washington to a more predictable path amid political tumult and polarization, defense hawks determined to cement big military increases and Democrats who oppose spending cuts.

The aides who spoke about the emerging deal did so on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly before a deal was final. A person close to the talks said final obstacles are down to technical issues.

It comes under the radar of the political tumult consuming Washington and the already blazing 2020 presidential campaign.

A push by the White House and House GOP forces for offsetting spending cuts was largely jettisoned, though Pelosi, D-Calif., has given assurances about not seeking to use

the follow-up spending bills as vehicles for aggressively liberal policy initiatives.

Fights over President Donald Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall, other immigration-related issues and spending priorities will be rejoined on follow-up spending bills.

Prospects for an agreement, a monthslong priority of top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell, became far brighter when Pelosi returned to Washington this month and aggressively pursued the pact with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who was anointed lead negotiator instead of more conservative options like acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney or hard-line budget director Russell Vought.

Mnuchin was eager to avert a crisis over the government's debt limit. There's some risk

of a first-ever U.S. default in September, an unthinkable risk to the markets, which added urgency to the negotiations. McConnell and Pelosi, whose alliance on appropriations is undefeated so far in the Trump era, are sure to deliver the votes.

If sealed Monday, the measure would first advance through the House and win the Senate's endorsement next week as Congress takes its annual August time out.

Trump has yet to weigh in, and his options seem limited, especially if the deal receives strong votes in both the Democratic-controlled House and the GOP-held Senate. Any veto threat or other blow-up that craters the deal would create a crisis that would be rejoined in September and would only generate more losers.

Ill. GOP group apologizes for sharing 'Jihad Squad'

The Washington Post

Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar's face is contorted into an attitude-filled pout and she appears to be toting a large gun. Below her are the doctored images of three other Democratic congresswomen: Reps. Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan; Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, of New York; and Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts.

According to the movie poster-style picture that was recently shared to an official Facebook page for Republican leaders in Illinois, the four minority lawmakers are the stars of "The Jihad Squad."

"POLITICAL JIHAD IS THEIR GAME," reads all-caps text on the fake poster. "IF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THEIR SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY, YOU'RE RACIST."

The meme, which reportedly first appeared Friday on the Facebook page of the Illinois Republican County Chairmen's Association, has since drawn

widespread backlash from top state leaders in both parties. On Sunday evening, the association's president, Mark Shaw, apologized and announced that the post had been taken down.

It is unclear if the poster was created by the organization, but its logo was featured on the image.

The post, Shaw added, "is an unfortunate distraction from the serious debate surrounding the policies advocated by these four socialist members of the United States House of Representatives of which I strongly disagree."

The poster marks yet another ugly broadside against the congresswomen following President Donald Trump's racist tweets on July 14 in which he suggested that the four women of color should "go back" to the "totally broken and crime infested places from which they came." Ocasio-Cortez, Tlaib and Pressley were born in the U.S. and Omar, a Somali refugee, became a citizen at 17.

Audit: Native Americans at higher risk with opioids

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Government hospitals placed Native American patients at increased risk for opioid abuse and overdoses, failing to follow their own protocols for prescribing and dispensing the drugs, according to a federal audit released Monday.

The report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General doesn't draw any conclusions about actual abuse or overdoses. But it said all five Indian Health Service hospitals it reviewed had patients who were given opioids in amounts that exceeded federal guidelines.

"There are vulnerabilities with this particular population in the opioid prescribing and dispensing practices," said Carla Lewis, one of the auditors.

The overdose epidemic that has killed more people than any other drug epidemic in U.S. his-

tory has hit indigenous communities hard. Native Americans and Alaska Natives had the second-highest rate of opioid overdose out of all racial and ethnic groups in 2017, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report made more than a dozen recommendations to the Indian Health Service to better track patients' health records and pain management, ensure opioids are kept under tighter security and update its information technology systems.

The agency agreed on every point and said changes are coming.

The Indian Health Service, the federal agency that administers primary health care for Native Americans, has put an increased focus on opioids lately with a new website and the creation of a committee focused on decreasing overdose deaths, promoting culturally appropriate treatments and ensuring that communities know how to respond.

Massive protest in Puerto Rico as governor's resignation sought

The Washington Post

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Puerto Ricans filled the streets in a massive protest, paralyzing a major San Juan highway in an islandwide demonstration to demand that their governor resign.

The embattled Puerto Rican leader has refused to resign after more than a week of growing protests in the U.S. territory's capital city. Ricardo Rossello, 40, a Democrat and member of the island's statehood party, said Sunday he would not seek reelection in 2020 and would step down from his role as head of the party.

But the announcement did nothing to assuage Puerto Ricans incensed by a leaked series of group-chat messages in which Rossello and his closest collaborators denigrated their opponents, insulted women and gay people, made light of Hurri-

cane Maria's death and revealed potentially criminal behavior by his administration.

Leaders of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives are exploring the possibility of impeachment, but it is not clear when or if proceedings will take place. Rossello said he respects the process and welcomes the inquiry.

The secretary of state is the next in line, but the governor has yet to fill the vacancy left by Luis Rivera Marin, who resigned earlier this month because of his role in the embarrassing content leaked from the Telegram messaging app.

Residents of the archipelago are growing impatient.

As they go on, these protests have morphed from a targeted repudiation of their leader to an exasperation of all the grievances Puerto Ricans have harbored for years. The debt. The economy. The unelected

federal oversight board managing the territory's finances. The lack of opportunity for its young people.

The masses assembled in San Juan early Monday, with tens of thousands flooding the streets ahead of a planned 9 a.m. start time, while photos and videos of the march inundated social media.

A slogan calling for the governor's resignation, "Ricky Renuncia," was everywhere: in hashtags and on hats, on signs and sidewalks and on the lips of protesters who hoped their show of force would succeed in driving him from power.

Music blasted through the streets as protesters expressed themselves through song, with some dancing in the roads that had surrendered to the wave of demonstrators.

Spacecraft launched to the moon from India

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India successfully launched an unmanned spacecraft to the far side of the moon on Monday, a week after aborting the mission due to a technical problem.

Scientists at the mission control center burst into applause as the rocket lifted off in clear weather as scheduled at 2:43 p.m. from Sriharikota, in southern India. K. Sivan, head of India's space agency, said the rocket successfully injected the spacecraft into orbit.

The spacecraft — named Chandrayaan, the Sanskrit word for "moon craft" — is scheduled to land on the lunar south pole in September and send a rover to explore water deposits that were confirmed by a previous mission that orbited the moon.

India's first moon mission orbited the moon in 2008 and helped confirm the presence of water. The country plans to send its first manned spaceflight by 2022.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India's lunar program will get a substantial boost, writing on Twitter that the country's existing knowledge of the moon "will be significantly enhanced."

Sivan said at a news conference that the successful launch of the spacecraft was the "beginning of India's historic journey" to the moon.

The launch of the \$141 million moon mission a week earlier was called off less than an hour before liftoff due to a "technical snag." Media reports said the launch was aborted after scientists from the Indian Space Research Organization identified a leak while filling helium in the rocket's cryogenic engine.

The spacecraft is carrying an orbiter, a lander and a rover that will move around on the lunar surface for 14 Earth days. It will take about 47 days to travel before landing on the moon.

Abe short of votes to change constitution

Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition secured a majority in Japan's upper house of parliament in elections Sunday, but it lost ground and fell short of the super-majority needed to propose constitutional revisions, according to vote counts by public television and other media.

NHK public television said Monday that Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner Komeito won 71 seats. If Abe gained support from members of another conservative party and independents, he would reach 76, still short of the 85, NHK said.

Abe's ruling bloc has a super-majority of two-thirds of the seats in the lower chamber, but Sunday's results mean he has a slimmer chance of achieving

his long-cherished goal of reforming Japan's postwar pacifist constitution before his term ends in 2021.

Nonetheless, Abe welcomed the results, saying winning the majority means the public's mandate for his government.

"I believe the people chose political stability, urging us to pursue our policies and carry out diplomacy to protect Japan's national interests," Abe told an interview with NHK. He was at his party's election headquarters where he monitored results, placing red ribbons on winners' names written on a panel.

Up for grabs were 124 seats in the less powerful of Japan's two parliamentary chambers. There are 245 seats in the upper house — which does not choose the prime minister — about half of which are elected every three years.

Media surveys had indicated Abe's ruling bloc would keep a majority, with most voters considering it a safer choice over an opposition with an uncertain track record.

Two-thirds of both houses must approve a constitutional revision before the revision can be decided in a national referendum.

His goal was already a challenge because voters are more concerned about their jobs, the economy and social security.

A voter who identified himself only as a company worker in his 40s said he chose a candidate and a party that have demonstrated an ability to get things done, suggesting he voted for Abe's ruling party and its candidate, as "there is no point in casting my vote for a party or a politician who has no such abilities."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Guide on 'Safari Tour' injured in bear attack

PA FARMINGTON — Officials said a worker at a western Pennsylvania resort was injured in a bear attack while guiding a routine "Safari Tour" of wildlife kept at the property.

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort said the Himalayan bear reached through a wire fence Saturday morning, pulled the employee closer and bit the person's arm.

Resort spokesman Kory Young said the animal was engaged to release the arm, and the employee was stabilized by a nurse and flown to a trauma center. The victim was described as "stable and alert."

Students able to take 'mental health days'

OR SALEM — A new law in Oregon allows students to take "mental health days" just as they would sick days.

The teens behind the bill say it's meant to respond to a mental health crisis in schools. Gov. Kate Brown signed the measure into law last month.

The Oregon Health Authority reports suicide is the second-leading cause of death among those in the state age 10 to 34. Nearly 17% of eighth-graders say they've considered taking their own life within the last 12 months.

Great white shark snatches fish off line

MA ORLEANS — A family fishing in Cape Cod Bay had an up close and personal encounter with a great white shark that leaped out of the water to snatch a fish

they had caught right off the line.

Doug Nelson, of Franklin, who caught the leaping shark on video Saturday, told New England Cable News it "gave us a pretty good scare."

His son, Jack, can be seen on the video jumping back as the shark breaches the water's surface.

The Atlantic White Shark Conservancy confirmed it was a great white.

Man charged as dogs found in hot truck

RI NORTHSMITHFIELD — A Rhode Island man faces charges after police say he left five dogs alone in a trailer for more than an hour during a stiflingly hot day.

North Smithfield police say they responded to a store parking lot Friday afternoon after getting multiple calls.

Police said Jeffery Menard Levesque came out of the store a few minutes after officers arrived and said he had been inside only for a few minutes to use the restroom. Police said the dogs had been left in the trailer for more than an hour.

Levesque was charged with mistreatment of animals, unnecessary cruelty to animals and animal confinement in a motor vehicle.

Officials: Drawbridge stuck due to heat

NJ RUMSON — Officials said a drawbridge spanning a New Jersey river was stuck open for about an hour due to the hot weather.

NJ.com reported that the Oceanic Bridge over the Navesink River between Rumson and Middletown was closed Saturday evening after operators were unable to get it to lock back in the closed position.

Monmouth County officials say heat caused expansion of the metal encasing the drawbridge, which is a popular route for residents and beachgoers. Temperatures were between

No reindeer stand-ins allowed this holiday

AL JASPER — Live stand-ins for Santa's reindeer won't be allowed to come into Alabama this year as part of the state's precautions against a deadly deer disease.

So far, there hasn't been any chronic wasting disease in Alabama, and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources wants to keep it that way.

The Daily Mountain Eagle reported that the department's deputy commissioner told the Rotary Club of Jasper on July 16 that reindeer typically arrive days before a show and might bring in the disease.

Reindeer already in the state can stay

Governor: Don't feed the alligators

LA BATON ROUGE — Louisiana officials say high water means people are seeing more alligators than usual, and feeding them is dangerous.

State wildlife officials sent out a news release last week, and Gov. John Bel Edwards tweeted about the subject Friday. The governor wrote, "It feels like we shouldn't have to say this, y'all. But please don't feed the alligators."

Wildlife biologists say feeding alligators makes them view people as an easy food source, increasing the chance that they'll bite someone.

The statement from the Department of Wildlife and Fish-

eries notes that throwing fish scraps into the water or leaving them on shore is a bad idea for the same reason.

Woman photographing car crash assaulted

PA PHILADELPHIA — Police said a woman photographing a crash after a possible drag race in south Philadelphia was assaulted and her phone was stolen.

A police spokesman said the woman, 24, told investigators she was driving shortly after midnight Saturday when a vehicle flashed its lights for her to get out of the way, so she pulled over. She said as she stood behind her vehicle, it was struck by a vehicle possibly involved in drag racing.

Police said the woman started taking photos when the other driver tried to leave the scene, but a man and woman in their early 20s approached her, began punching her and took her phone. Police said they then ripped her license plate from her vehicle and fled.

Capture of sturgeon indicates recovery

NY SYRACUSE — A 6-foot-long sturgeon was recently pulled from an upstate New York lake.

State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said the capture of the threatened species was good news for a recovery program that began nearly 25 years ago.

Researchers caught the 139-pound sturgeon in Oneida Lake near Syracuse, along with 10 smaller sturgeon.

The fish were measured, weighed and tagged before being released back to the lake.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Rivera closes out HOF inductions

Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — For Mariano Rivera, it was the culmination of a storied career, dreams of being the next Pele long since forgotten. For Brandy Halladay, the Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony was a tearful moment to reflect on the accomplishments of her late husband, and she handled a difficult task admirably.

Rivera, the career saves leader and the first player unanimously voted into the Hall by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, was greeted by chants of his name from the adoring crowd as he stepped to the podium in a fitting close to Sunday's ceremony. He spoke in both English and at the end in Spanish, rarely looking down at the speech he had prepared.

"I think I choose that because sometimes you write words and it doesn't sound right," Rivera said. "But when you come from the heart, it comes right. My intention was always to speak from the heart."

Rivera and fellow closer Lee Smith, starters Mike Mussina and Roy Halladay, and designated hitters Edgar Martinez and Harold Baines were feted on a sun-splashed afternoon. A crowd estimated at 55,000, the second-largest for an induction ceremony, quickly made Rivera feel at peace.

"You're special for me," said Rivera, who left his native Panama in 1990 unable to speak English. "Thank you for your help. Latin American fans, thank you. Thank you for loving me. I'm so humbled and blessed to receive this incredible honor. God bless you all."

As a child, Rivera dreamed of being a soccer player in the mold of Brazilian star, Pele. Instead, he found his niche on a baseball mound and finished his career with 652 saves. He pitched 19 seasons in the major leagues, all with the New York Yankees, and retired with 952 games finished — also a record. A 13-time All-Star, Rivera helped the Yankees win five World Series titles and seven American League

pennants.

"To the fans, you guys always pushed me to be the best," he said. "When I was at Yankee Stadium pitching, it felt like I was pitching with 55,000 people throwing one pitch after another. Without your support, I cannot do it. You guys came to see me succeed."

Brandy Halladay fought back tears as she spoke for her late husband, who had two sons.

"I knew I was going to cry at some point. It's overwhelming the amount of people here today," she said, tears welling in her eyes, her voice quavering with emotion. "I'm so grateful you're here. I can't tell you how many hugs I've gotten. There are not enough words to thank you."

"I know how honored Roy would be to be sitting here with such accomplished men. Thank you for being such a good example to him and to supporting him in his career. This is not my speech to give."

The son of a commercial pilot, Roy Halladay was 40 when he was killed in a plane crash in November 2017 into the Gulf of Mexico while piloting his own plane alone off the Florida coast 20 miles from his home. A toxicology report showed high levels of amphetamines and morphine in his system and hints of an antidepressant.

"I think that Roy would want everyone to know that people are not perfect," Brandy said. "We are all imperfect and flawed in one way or another. We all struggle, but with hard work, humility and dedication, imperfect people can still have perfect moments. Roy was blessed in his life and in his career to have some perfect moments."

A two-time Cy Young Award winner, Halladay amassed a 203-105 record in a 16-year career with Toronto and Philadelphia. He became just the second pitcher in major league history to throw a no-hitter in the postseason, opening the 2010 NL Division Series with one against the Cincinnati Reds in the first playoff start of his career. He also pitched a perfect game that season.

Halladay was elected in his first year on the ballot.

"Of course he would be honored and humbled," Brandy Halladay said. "He was a true competitor. He went to the field every day ready to do whatever it took to give his team the best possible chance to win. I think Roy would rather be remembered by who he was, not what he did on the ballfield. He so desperately wanted to be as great and successful at home as he was in baseball."

The family decided that there would be no logo on his plaque because both organizations meant a lot to Halladay.

Mussina, who pitched for 18 major league seasons, posted a record of 270-153 and was a seven-time Gold Glove winner. He spent his entire career in the high-scoring AL East with the Orioles and Yankees.

Smiling from beginning to end, Smith congratulated his new classmates before crediting his family and hometown of Castor, La., for much of his success.

Smith pitched 18 seasons for the Cubs, Red Sox, Cardinals, Yankees, Orioles, Angels, Reds and Expos and retired as MLB's career saves leader with 478, a title he held for 13 seasons. That total now ranks third all-time, as do his 802 games finished.

Martinez was a seven-time All-Star and five-time Silver Slugger Award winner for Seattle, where he spent his entire 18-year career. He won two AL batting titles, led the league in on-base percentage three times, and was named the outstanding designated hitter five times, an award that now bears his name.

The soft-spoken Baines never displayed much emotion in his 22-year career, but his voice cracked throughout his speech.

"Somehow I acquired a reputation for not saying much. I'm not sure why," he deadpanned at the start. "From teachers to coaches who showed me kindness and discipline, I thank you all for what you've done for me. If I can leave you with one message, it's to give back to your community."

Aussie swimmer refuses to take podium with Sun

Associated Press

GWANGJU, South Korea — Mack Horton walked into the dining room at the athletes' village and the applause began. It swelled into a standing ovation for the Australian swimmer after his personal protest against China's Sun Yang at the

world championships.

Horton refused to step onto the podium or shake Sun's hand after losing to Sun in the 400-meter freestyle final on Sunday night.

"Gutsy move, for sure," U.S. backstroke Matt Grevers said Monday.

Horton is angry that Sun,

who served a three-month doping suspension in 2014, is being allowed to compete in Gwangju before he faces a Court of Arbitration for Sport hearing in September that could potentially end his career.

The World Anti-Doping Agency is challenging a decision by FINA, swimming's

world governing body, merely to warn Sun over incidents during a doping control team's attempts to take blood and urine samples at his home in China last September.

On Monday, FINA's executive board decided to send a warning letter to Swimming Australia and to Horton.

MLB roundup

Hoskin lifts Phillies in 11th

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Phillies manager Gabe Kapler spotted a man strolling over to the third base umpire and figured it was a member of the PNC Park grounds crew. After all, there had been a rain delay a little earlier.

Kapler soon realized he was wrong.

Especially when the man, wearing a Hawaiian shirt and carrying a cellphone, turned away and casually walked toward home plate to approach Philadelphia hitter Brad Miller for a handshake.

Long after the fan casually made his way onto the field in the sixth inning before being apprehended, the Phillies beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-1 Sunday on Rhys Hoskins' home run in the 11th inning.

Still, Kapler couldn't comprehend what had happened.

"Everyone was just like, 'Hey, what's that guy doing?'" he said. "But nobody felt threatened until he started to get close to the umpire and he's in like street clothes. It was crazy. It was really bizarre."

Moments after Bryce Harper argued a called third strike and Hoskins spiked his bat after being hit by a pitch, Miller backed out of the batter's box while the sauntering fan approached.

The man kept walking before being handcuffed by security personnel at the top of the steps to the Phillies dugout and led away. Miller then grounded into an inning-ending double play.

Hoskins hit his 21st home run, and his second in 17 games since June 29, connecting off Chris Stratton (1-3).

Dodgers 9, Marlins 0: Walker Buehler struck out 11 in seven innings and host Los Angeles hit a trio of home runs to complete a three-game sweep of Miami.

Max Muncy, Joc Pederson and A.J. Pollock went deep as the first-place Dodgers won for the sixth time in nine games since the All-Star break

Angels 9, Mariners 3: Re-surgent slugger Albert Pujols and Mike Trout homered, Brian Goodwin connected twice and visiting Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Pujols sliced a second-inning solo drive into the right field seats for his 648th career homer. Trout added to his AL-leading totals with his 32nd home run and 79th RBI, hitting a solo shot in the seventh.

Braves 7, Nationals 1: Kevin Gausman pitched into the eighth inning after missing more than a month, Josh Donaldson and Ronald Acuna Jr. homered, and host Atlanta beat Washington to protect its NL East lead.

Following a split of the four-game series, the first-place Braves still lead the Nationals by 6½ games.

Rockies 8, Yankees 4: James Paxton allowed a leadoff home run for the second straight outing when Charlie Blackmon shook out of a slump and sparked visiting Colorado to a win over New York that halted a six-game losing streak.

On the second consecutive day with a 94-degree temperature at game time, DJ LaMahieu homered on the first pitch from German Marquez (9-5) in the bottom half. But Marquez rebounded from his worst big league start and cooled the Yankees' bats after that.

Cardinals 3, Reds 1: Yairo Munoz celebrated a rare start with a home run and a triple to help visiting St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

Munoz, making his 16th start among 55 games, also singled to finish with three of the six hits for the Cardinals, who improved to 7-3 since the All-Star break.

Indians 5, Royals 4: Francisco Lindor homered after originally being scheduled to get the day off, Jose Ramirez hit a tie-breaking home run in the sixth and host Cleveland beat Kansas City.

Lindor talked his way into the lineup at designated hitter after manager Terry Francona

planned on resting the All-Star shortstop. His two-run homer in the third tied the game at 2-all.

Tigers 4, Blue Jays 3 (10): Nicholas Castellanos led off the bottom of the 10th inning with a home run, and host Detroit snapped its six-game losing streak.

The Tigers won for only the eighth time in their past 41 games — and this victory didn't come easily. Closer Shane Greene allowed a tying, two-run homer by Lourdes Gurriel Jr. in the ninth.

Rays 4, White Sox 2: Blake Snell struck out 10 in six scoreless innings, Travis d'Arnaud hit his first grand slam and host Tampa Bay stopped its longest losing streak of the year at five games by beating Chicago.

D'Arnaud had been hitless in 11 at-bats since a three-homer game Monday night.

Astros 5, Rangers 3: Michael Brantley homered twice, Jose Altuve also went deep and host Houston beat struggling Texas for its fifth straight victory.

Rogelio Armenteros (1-0) pitched five solid innings in his first major league start.

Twins 7, Athletics 6: Max Kepler drove in four runs, including the game-winner to cap a two-run rally in the ninth inning, and host Minnesota beat Oakland.

Padres 5, Cubs 1: Francisco Mejia homered, Fernando Tatis Jr. drove in three runs and San Diego averted the sweep in Chicago.

Mejia and Tatis had two hits apiece for the Padres, who scored three runs in the ninth and have won just two of their past nine.

Giants 2, Mets 2 (12): Mike Yastrzemski homered with one out in the bottom of the 12th inning to give host San Francisco a victory over New York.

Brewers 7, Diamondbacks 4: Tyler Saladino had his first career grand slam, Mike Moustakas hit a go-ahead run-scoring single in the eighth inning for visiting Milwaukee.

O's pitcher falls short of no-no

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — It all seemed rather surreal, watching Asher Wojciechowski head into the seventh inning working on a no-hitter.

After all, the 30-year-old journeyman hadn't won a major league game since 2017, came in with a 6.49 career ERA and was facing the highest-scoring team in the majors.

Alas, Wojciechowski lost his bid to make history when Rafael Devers opened the seventh with a double off the right-field wall. But the right-hander was more than delighted to finish with a shared one-hitter while helping the Baltimore Orioles beat the Boston Red Sox 5-0 Sunday.

After striking out 10 over 7⅓ innings while completely dominating the defending World Series champions, Wojciechowski wore a huge smile.

"A day like that, when you're throwing the pitches and they're doing pretty much exactly what you want them to do, that's what you dream for as a pitcher," he said.

It was, without question, the finest performance of his life.

"Just a great day, a great team win," Wojciechowski said. "Just a lot of fun today."

After pitching previously for eight different organizations and spending last season in the minor leagues, Wojciechowski (1-3) earned his first win since Aug. 8, 2017, when he beat San Diego as a member of the Cincinnati Reds.

Although he had never worked more than six innings in his previous 14 starts, Wojciechowski was operating without a pitch limit while the no-no was intact.

"It was going to be his moment for as long as he could go," manager Brandon Hyde said.

Wojciechowski got three straight outs after Devers' hit, then was sent out for the eighth inning. He retired the first batter, issued a walk and was pulled after his 105th pitch.

Kevin Harvick holds off Hamlin for win

Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Kevin Harvick used a late bump and run to win last year at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

Repeating required another bump, but there was little time for a run before Harvick crossed the finish line 0.210 seconds ahead of Denny Hamlin on Sunday.

"It turned into a wild finish," Harvick said after his first NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season.

Harvick gave Hamlin a late opening when he had trouble navigating a group of cars that were off the lead lap. After nearly catching him on the back stretch, Hamlin made another run through the final two turns but couldn't regain the lead.

"I just told him 'we were leaving on a tow truck or winning the race today,'" said Harvick, who hadn't won since Texas in November.

Driving a backup car after wrecking during a practice lap Friday, Hamlin led 113 laps, but couldn't catch Harvick after pitting on a caution after Kyle Larson blew a tire on the 265th lap.

"I just could not break that barrier," Hamlin said. "I could not get him to make that one little slip to give me the bottom."

The 43-year-old Harvick led the final 41 laps in the No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford for his second straight victory at the track. He has four victories at the mile oval to tie the record set by Jeff Burton.

Harvick won at New Hamp-

shire last year after a late bump from behind knocked Kyle Busch off the lead. On Sunday, Harvick had a late bump again, but this time it was nudging Hamlin just enough to the side coming out of the final turn.

"I'm like, 'You're not getting under me again.' And he drove to the outside of me, and I waited until he got near me, and I just put a wheel on him," Harvick said.

Erik Jones was third, and Ryan Blaney fourth.

NASCAR paid tribute to crew chief Nick Harrison, who died overnight after Saturday's Xfinity Series race.

NASCAR announced Harrison's death during the drivers' meeting before the race Sunday and honored him with a moment of silence.

No details were given.

The 37-year-old Harrison was the crew chief for Justin Haley, who finished in 13th Saturday.

"Not just a crew chief, but a friend to everyone who knew him," Haley wrote on Twitter. "I, and everyone at Kaulig Racing are devastated. He will be greatly missed."

Harrison was a veteran crew chief with all three NASCAR national series since 2006. His teams won five Xfinity Series races with drivers Austin Dillon, Paul Menard and Kurt Busch, who were all driving Sunday.

"We all lost a friend last night. We love you Nick Harrison. You were a leader, and a great friend to all," Kurt Busch posted on Twitter.

Six within reach of Tour victory ahead of Alps

Associated Press

NIMES, France — A Tour de France jam-packed with unexpected plot twists is saving its biggest surprise for last.

With six riders within reach of the podium heading into the toughest final stages in the Alps, the race that resumes Tuesday after the final off-day is tantalizingly poised. Furious racing over the first 2,500 kilometers through Belgium and France and the uncertain outcome ahead of the grand finale in Paris are conspiring to deliver the most engrossing Tour in recent memory.

Like a summer rain, the suspense of still not knowing who will win with just six of the 21 stages remaining is exquisitely refreshing for cycling's greatest race after years of implacable domination by the uber-rich, super-calculating British Ineos team, formerly Sky.

"Nobody is really controlling the race as such. It's way more exciting but it's more like chess in another sense. It's brilliant fun," Ineos team boss Dave Brailsford said on Monday's rest day. "We've sat here on the second day of a Grand Tour so many times and people say we've closed the race down and it's not been exciting. That's not been the case this time. It's fun to be involved in one of most exciting editions in a long time."

Either Geraint Thomas, Ineos' struggling defending champion, or Thibaut

Pinot, the French climber who rebounded in the Pyrenees from what had seemed a decisive loss of time on the flat before the mountains, could still ride up the Champs-Elysees in the iconic yellow jersey on Sunday.

A Pinot victory would trigger delirium across France, which has not had a home-grown champion to celebrate since Bernard Hinault in 1985 and suffered the indignity of many years when Lance Armstrong and other dopers hijacked the race that is as much part of the French national identity as romance and the baguette.

But Thomas' Colombian teammate Egan Bernal or dark horses Steven Kruijswijk from the Netherlands and German rider Emanuel Buchmann could put French champagne back on ice. Making few waves and avoiding the misfortunes, mistakes and big off-color days that sank other riders' title hopes, they're very much in the podium picture. But their stealthy consistency could hit its limits in the Alps, where conservative riding might not be enough to win if Pinot and others attack, as expected.

Just 39 seconds — practically nothing in cycling, where riders often lose minutes when they wilt on big climbs — separate Thomas, in second place overall, from Buchmann, in sixth. Kruijswijk is third, Pinot fourth and Bernal fifth.

Missing from this script, of course, is the yellow jersey himself, France's sweetheart

Julian Alaphilippe. His punchy, unpredictable style has endeared him to fans bored with the by-the-numbers wins that Sky, now Ineos, secured with Bradley Wiggins in 2012, four-time winner Chris Froome and, last year, with Thomas. But in the Pyrenees, Alaphilippe started to pay for the energies he expended in taking, losing, getting back, and then extending his race lead in weeks one and two.

Having built up a lead of 2 minutes, 2 seconds over Thomas at the top of the Tourmalet, the first of seven climbs to above 2,000 meters at this Tour, Alaphilippe then cracked Sunday on the last ascent in the Pyrenees. His lead shrank to 1:35 and, most importantly, his ride appeared to signal that the even harder climbs to come in the Alps, where what remains of his lead could quickly melt away if he can't stay with the pace, might be beyond his limit.

Another big unknown is whether uncharacteristic signs of weakness at Ineos, with Thomas off-color on the Tourmalet and his usually solid teammates not setting a punishing pace up climbs, were just blips or perhaps some sort of devilish rope-a-dope strategy cooked up by Brailsford that, in the Alps, will see the team return to its can't-catch-us best.

The Alpine stages from Thursday to Saturday will see the Tour ascend six times to above 2,000 meters in the three days, with two uphill finishes.