House Dems unveil Trump impeachment charges

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment Tuesday against President Donald Trump — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress — pushing toward historic votes over charges he corrupted the U.S. election process and endangered national security in his dealings with Ukraine.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, flanked by the chairmen of the impeachment inquiry committees, stood at the Capitol for what she called a “solemn act.” Voting is expected in a matter of days in the Judiciary Committee and by Christmas in the full House. Trump insisted he did nothing wrong and his re-election campaign called it “rank partisanship.”

“He endangers our democracy; he endangers our national security,” said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., the Judiciary chairman, announcing the charges before a portrait of George Washington.

“O u r  n e x t  e l e c t i o n  i s  a t  r i s k .  … That is why we must act now.”

Trump tweeted ahead of the announcement that impeaching a president with a record like his would be “sheer Political Madness!”

The outcome, though, appears increasingly set as the House prepares for voting, as it has only three times in history against a U.S. president. Approval of the charges would send them to the

SEE CHARGES ON PAGE 9

In confidential documents, US military trainers bemoan shortfalls of Afghan forces

By Craig Whitlock
The Washington Post

For almost two decades, U.S. military commanders have assured the public they are making progress on the cornerstone of their war strategy: to build a strong Afghan army and police force that can defend the country on their own.


“The Afghan forces are better than we thought they were,” Marine Gen. John Allen told Congress in 2012.


But in a trove of confidential government interviews obtained by The Washington Post, U.S., NATO and Afghan officials described their efforts to create an Afghan proxy force as a long-running calamity. With most speaking on the assumption that their remarks would remain private, they depicted the Afghan security forces as incompetent, unmotivated, poorly trained, corrupt and riddled with deserters and infiltrators.

In one interview, Thomas Johnson, a Navy official who served as a counterinsurgency adviser in Kandahar province, said Afghans viewed the police as predatory bandits, calling

SEE FORCES ON PAGE 4
Messages suggest T-Mobile deal may hike prices

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Messages by a Sprint executive revealed in federal court suggested he thought an acquisition by T-Mobile might push up mobile service prices for consumers, undercutting T-Mobile’s argument that its deal will benefit Americans.

The text messages, presented by attorneys for a coalition of states suing to block the deal by attorneys for a coalition of states suing to block the deal by attorneys for a coalition of states suing to block the deal by attorneys for a coalition of states suing to block the deal, were sent in October 2017 by Roger Sole, Sprint’s chief marketing officer, to Sprint’s then-CEO Marcelo Claure. Sole wrote that customer prices could rise an average $5 per user if a deal went through.

He added that prices could also rise at AT&T and Verizon once the wireless market consolidated to three competitors from four. At the time, Sprint and T-Mobile were negotiating terms of an acquisition.

Merger supporters argue that a combined T-Mobile and Sprint will emerge as a fiercer rival to Verizon and AT&T that will help keep prices low. In testimony, Sole said he was simply presenting a “hypothetical” and that he did not make formal analysis to arrive at the $5 number.

A group of 14 state attorneys general, led by New York and California, are trying to convince a federal judge that the $26.5 billion deal should be blocked.

The trial, in U.S. District Court in New York, opened Monday and is expected to last several weeks.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate ____________________ 4.75
Discount rate _________________ 1.25
3-month bill ____________________ 1.52
3-year bond ____________________ 2.26

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

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After feedback, Navy unveils uniform updates

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sailors now have the option to wear a black neck gaiter during cold weather as well as a two-piece swimsuit for the physical readiness test among some of the uniform updates announced Monday by the Navy.

The list of uniform updates comes from feedback from sailors and leadership directions, according to the Navy.

Sailors can wear a black neck gaiter during extremely cold weather, which is defined by regional policy or ship commanders.

The gaiter is worn from the neck up, covering the sailor’s nose and face to just under their eyes. They can be purchased commercially and worn only with the following cold weather outer garments: cold weather parka, Navy working uniform type II and III parka, pea coat, reefer coat and all-weather coat.

Sailors who swim for their semi-annual physical readiness test now have the option to wear two-piece swimwear that must cover the entire torso.

The swimwear can be purchased off the shelf, “navy blue or black in color, conservative in design and appearance and must not prohibit the swimmer from swimming freely,” according to the Navy.

For the two-piece swimsuits, male and female sailors can wear their physical training uniform shorts and shirt or swimming trunks or board shorts with a “rash guard” shirt that is typically worn by surfers. Women can also wear a two-piece swimsuit called a burkini, or burkini, that covers a swimmer’s body from their hair down to their ankles.

Sailors are also now allowed to wear the Gold Star Lapel Button and Next of Kin Lapel Button with their service dress and full-dress uniforms. The pins are given to family members of service members who died during their military service.

Warning sign aims to decrease US military aircraft noise

By Aya Ichihashi
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Kin town, home to Camp Hansen and close to Camp Schwab, both Marine Corps bases, has launched a message campaign to the U.S. military on the island.

In vivid, yellow letters 5 feet high and 66 feet long, the words “No Fly Zone” appear on the rooftop of Kin Town Hall, a plea to U.S. military pilots to steer wide of the community below. The words are visible at night.

“This is permanent signage and we had allocated the budget to paint five locations, including the town hall,” a Kin town official told Stars and Stripes on Dec. 2. The official said the messages will also be painted at Kin Chuo Community Center, Nakagawa Elementary School, Kin Elementary School and Kin Middle School.

“Some government officials in Japan customarily speak to the media on condition of anonymity. “Our residents constantly asked us to do something about the noise” from U.S. helicopters, the Kin official said. “We had asked numerous times to the U.S. officials, but nothing has changed, so we had to do something within our ability.”

The Ryukyu Shimo newspaper reported Dec. 1 that noise levels attributed to military aircraft and measured after 10 p.m. near Camp Hansen in 2017 and 2018 frequently exceeded limits.

However, the newspaper did not specify what limit the aircraft noise exceeded and did not respond Tuesday to requests for further information. According to the Japan Ministry of the Environment website, 40-50 decibels is the limit for nighttime noise in residential areas.

The bureau and the Kin town official declined to comment on how frequently U.S. aircraft exceeded the nighttime residential noise level.

The Okinawa Defense Bureau installed six meters to measure noise in Kin at the town’s request. Four meters were installed in Aug. 2013 and two in March 2018. The bureau gives a monthly noise report to Kin officials and the media.

A spokesman for III Marine Expeditionary Force said the Marines on Okinawa try to keep the noise down.

“The III MEF operates within all bilateral agreements between the United States and the Government of Japan,” 1st Lt. Ryan Bruce said in an email Dec. 3. “When executing training, III MEF makes every effort to accomplish our vital mission for Japan’s defense while minimizing our impact to the local communities where we operate.”

Noise is not the only issue Kin town has with the Marines. On Dec. 5 and 6, several 60 mm mortar flare rounds were found in a Kin neighborhood. The Marine Corps suspended its use of illumination flares on Okinawa after the incident. No injuries or damage were reported.

Army major in Georgia is jailed on federal child porn charge

Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — An Army officer who held a top-secret security clearance shared nude photos of a teenage girl online and discussed plans to drug the girl and have sex with her, according to federal court records unsealed Monday.

Army Maj. Jason Musgrove was arrested and charged with distributing child pornography after an FBI agent monitoring online groups devoted to child pornography and discussions of child sex traced the photos to a computer in Musgrove’s home in Georgia, said documents filed in U.S. District Court.

Court records said Musgrove is assigned to Army Cyber Command at Fort Gordon in Augusta, where he works as an integrat ed threats operations officer with a top-secret security clearance.

Maj. Kip Patterson, a Cyber Command spokesman, said the Army is cooperating with civilian authorities in their investigation.

He said commanders had suspended Musgrove’s security clearance and taken other “standard Army administrative actions.”

“Obviously, the chain of command is very concerned and we’re looking at what actions should be taken,” Patterson said.

Musgrove was being held Monday at the Lincoln County Jail. Court records did not list whether he has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.
WAR ON TERRORISM

 Forces: US, NATO officials admit they were too slow to build up Afghan defenses

 FROM FRONT PAGE

them “the most hated institution” in Afghanistan. An unnamed Norwegian official told interviewers that he estimated 30% of Afghan police recruits deserted with their government-issued weapons so they could “set up their own private checkpoints” and extort payments from travelers.

Ryan Crocker, a former U.S. ambassador to Kabul, told government interviewers that the Afghan police have chronically failed because they’re out-gunned or out-numbered. It’s because they are useless as a security force and they’re useless as a security force because they are corrupt down to the patrol level.

Since 2002, the United States has allocated more than $83 billion in security assistance to Afghanistan, a sum that dwarfs the defense budgets of other developing nations. In 2011, at the peak of the war, Afghanistan received $1 billion in security aid from Washington — $3 billion more than what neighboring Pakistan, which has a stockpile of nuclear weapons and a far bigger army, has received.

President Donald Trump has said he wants to withdraw more U.S. troops, and his diplomats are engaged in peace talks with the Taliban. But during his presidency, U.S. military aircraft have pounded Afghanistan each month with three times as many bombs and missiles, on average, as they dropped per month during President Barack Obama’s second term, according to Air Force data.

In the interview documents obtained by The Post, U.S. and NATO officials partially blamed themselves for the predicament. They said they moved too slowly to build up the Afghan forces during the first few years of the war when the Taliban presented a minimal threat. Then, after the Taliban rebounded, they rushed and tried to train too many Afghans quickly.

As recently as January, a civilian adviser to former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, told government interviewers in 2015 that the Afghan government’s plan to produce biometric data, including fingerprints and face scans, to verify the existence of people in uniform was “way everything gets resolved in a three-year legal battle.”

In February 2005, Rumsfeld forwarded a confidential report to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice about the Afghan National Police, or ANP. The report was titled “ANP Horror Stories” and described how most of the police were illiterate, underequipped and barely trained.

In the Lessons Learned interviews, other Bush administration officials said Rumsfeld was stung by the Pentagon’s inability to produce biometric data, including fingerprints and face scans, to verify the existence of people in uniform. As recently as January, a civilian adviser to former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, told government interviewers in 2015 that the Afghan government’s plan to produce biometric data, including fingerprints and face scans, to verify the existence of people in uniform was “way everything gets resolved in a three-year legal battle.”

But the Lessons Learned reports omitted the names of the vast majority of those interviewed for the project, as well as their most biting critiques. The Post obtained notes and transcripts of the interviews under the Freedom of Information Act after a three-year legal battle.

“We got the [Afghan forces] we deserve,” Douglas Lute, an Army lieutenant general who served as the White House’s Afghanistan War czar under Presidents George W. Bush and Obama, told government interviewers. “If the U.S. government had ramped up training between 2002 and 2006, when the Taliban was weak and disorganized, things may have been different,” Lute added. “Instead, we went to Iraq. If we committed money deliberately and sooner, we could have had a different outcome.”

The disconnect between what U.S. officials really thought about the Afghan security forces and what they said in public became ingnared during the early stages of the war.

In October 2004, the Pentagon distributed a set of talking points that bragged about the Afghan army and police. The document praised the 15,000 soldiers in the nascent Afghan army as “a highly professional and capable force, which is rapidly becoming a pillar of the country’s security.”

But internally, Bush administration officials shared anxieties and sounded alarms.

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Memos from Rumsfeld and other documents show that the defense secretary pushed to train the Afghan forces quickly yet wanted to keep them small so the U.S. government would not get stuck with the expense of sustaining a massive foreign army and police force.

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“Now we’re talking about God knows what, 300,000 or whatever.”

Strmecki said the dispute dragged on even as it became clearer in 2004 and 2005 that the Afghan forces needed to expand quickly to fight a resurgent Taliban.

“The way it gets resolved is the way everything gets resolved in Washington — by not getting resolved,” he said.

In his Lessons Learned interview, Strmecki said another fundamental problem was that the U.S. government lacked the capacity to train and equip large foreign armies from scratch.

This is an abridged version of the Washington Post report. For a full version of this story and others in the Post’s special package on Afghanistan, visit: stripes.com/news/middle-east

ANA troops prepare to enter a building during a military operations on urban terrain exercise at Camp Shorabak in July 2018.

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ANA troops prepare to enter a building during a military operations on urban terrain exercise at Camp Shorabak in July 2018.

Washington to pay for security forces of 100,000 to 120,000. But he said in a Lessons Learned interview that Rumsfeld drew a hard line and held the training program “hostage” until the Afghans agreed to the 50,000 cap, which led to long delays.

“So we were fighting in 2002, 2003 about those sort of numbers,” Khalilzad told government interviewers, saying it was apparent more Afghan forces were required. “Now we’re talking about God knows what, 300,000 or whatever.”

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SEE PAGE 5

This is not just doing good or it would be nice to be able to operate better. You succeed or fail on whether you can do these things in a timely manner.”

Marin Strmecki
civilian adviser to former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

An Afghan National Army member delivers a reporting statement prior to the start of an exercise at the Kabul Military Training Center in June 2016. The nation’s army and police have suffered so many casualties that the Afghan government keeps the exact numbers a secret to avoid destroying morale.
“You wouldn’t invent how to do infantry operations at the start of a war. You wouldn’t invent how to do artillery at the start of a war,” Strmecki said. “Right now, it is the most important political act you will ever do. That requires an awful lot of thought and sophistication.”

In the Lessons Learned interviews, U.S. and NATO officials said the glowing progress reports delivered to the public were largely an illusion and glossed over major deficiencies that were visible from the outset.

For starters, only about 2 in 10 Afghan recruits could read or write. U.S. and NATO trainers put them through crash literacy courses, but those lasted only a few weeks.

Other gaps in basic knowledge had to be bridged. One U.S. Special Forces trainer told government interviewers that the Afghans took out trash—every day—on the grounds of the air base where he worked. He said pilots who had no flight experience filled the roles of reporters, engineers, and snipers. The local police “seemed to be drug addicts or Talibans.”

“We can’t even stand up a sustainable local police unit in the U.S. in 18 months. How could we expect to set up hundreds of them across Afghanistan in that time frame?”

The unnamed U.S. military adviser said the Afghan government officials who were often stymied by the lack of qualified pilots but also a dearth of mechanics who could read repair manuals.

One U.S. military adviser assigned to the Afghan air force told government interviewers that “Afghans would come to the base with ‘pilot’ uniforms in hand but then realize they were ill-equipped.”

The unnamed U.S. adviser said that the air base where he worked was plagued by “shenanigans” and that many Afghans reeked of jet fuel when they left each day.

The interviews revealed much criticism of Afghan police abilities, loyalties and even their training.

“Questionable motivations and loyalties snaked through the ranks of the army and police. Ethnic and tribal tensions posed a perpetual problem, with the officer corps dominated by warlords who doted on promotions based on patronage, according to the interviews.”

Filling specialized billets was not easy. It took nearly a decade to get the Afghan air force off the ground because of not just a lack of qualified pilots but also a dearth of mechanics who could read repair manuals.

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“Petty corruption was rampant. In a 2015 Lessons Learned interview, an unnamed United Nations official described how Afghan police recruiters would undergo two weeks of training, ‘get their uniforms, then go back to the province and sell them.’ Unworried that they might get in trouble, he said, many would reenlist and ‘come back to do it again.’”

U.S. advisers consistently tried to plug holes in the system to prevent looting and stealing but said they were often stymied by Afghan government officials who did not want things to change.

“The less they behaved, the more money we threw at them,” a former U.S. official told government interviewers in 2015. “There was no real incentive to reform.”

For much of the war, Washington paid the salaries of the security forces by transferring huge sums of money to the Afghan government, which in turn paid soldiers and police officers in cash — after commanders often took an illicit cut for themselves, according to the interviews and news reports.

Today, to prevent skimming, most of security forces receive their pay by electronic bank account transfers, but graft persists.

“Viralent corruption compromised the security forces in other ways. Over time, the Afghan public became so disgusted by all the

The local police “seemed to be drug addicts or Talibans.” He added that their “main concern was getting fuel from their U.S. unit; they always wanted fuel.”

Robert Perito, a former analyst at the U.S. Institute of Peace who studied the Afghan police, called the local police “dysfunctional” and said that in many areas it was “a corrupt force, run by warlords.”

In the Lessons Learned interviews, officials said the United States and NATO deserved a large share of the blame. They said the training programs for the Afghan security forces were not just the police — were ill-designed, poorly coordinated and thinly staffed.

One former U.S. trainer said he had the concept for the job because he “had a pulse.” When government interviewers asked him in 2017 how U.S. officials intended to use police training, he replied that no single person was responsible but that he “wasn’t sure who he was.”

Others said the programs were plagued by insufficiency and haphazard engagement by the fact that U.S. and NATO trainers served for only six to 12 months at a time.

One called the loss of institutional knowledge “the annual lobotomy.”

For years, the United States and NATO could not find enough certified law enforcement professionals to train the Afghan police.

To fill the gap, the U.S. assigned regular troops to the job even though they knew little about police work.

Afghan policemen stand guard at the site of a shootout in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Dec. 2.
Story of American flag hidden in Iraq inspires message from Trump

By Seth Robson Stars and Stripes

The story of an American flag, signed by U.S. troops and hidden from Iraqi insurgents for more than a decade, has inspired President Donald Trump to write to its owner.

The flag was among the possessions of Ahmed AlSaedi, the object of a search by the military. Staff Sgt. Ahmed AlSaedi, 38, a member of the Army’s 155th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Los Angeles, got a reply from his commander in chief Nov. 14 after writing to tell him about the flag.

Trump, in his letter to AlSaedi, thanked him for his “incredible story of patriotism.”

AlSaedi was a graphic design student at Baghdad University when U.S. forces invaded Iraq in 2003, he said in a telephone interview from California last month.

As a younger, AlSaedi used the English he’d learned in school to get a job as a linguist working with troops from 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, on a base called Baghdad Island in 2003, he said.

He said he went on many dangerous missions, including one in which he avoided being shot by pushing away an insurgent’s rifle.

When it was time for the troops to head home in April 2004, one of them, Spc. Scott Larson, of Houston, suggested they sign an American flag as a memento for their linguist, AlSaedi said.

Larson was killed in action on one of the group’s last missions, but AlSaedi cherished the flag and kept it with him while working with other Army units.

John Wright, a retired Georgia Army National Guard officer who worked with AlSaedi in Baghdad during a 2005 deployment with 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, described the linguist as “top notch.”

“We were outside the wire every day on patrols,” he recalled, in a telephone interview from his home in Gainesville, Ga. “Our commander allowed him to carry a weapon and he brought an AK-47 on every operation.”

AlSaedi said he buried the flag, along with his linguist’s identification card, to hide them from insurgents manning a checkpoint near a road north of Baghdad in 2005.

For years the flag remained hidden as the insurgency raged. U.S. troops came home and Islamic State began a new campaign of violence.

In 2008, AlSaedi immigrated to the United States and joined the Army in 2011.

Not until 2016, when his parents were preparing to visit America, did he decide to try to bring the flag home. He asked his dad to search for it and, after returning to the area AlSaedi described four times, his father finally found it still buried and in perfect condition, AlSaedi said.

Today the flag is proudly displayed at his home in California. Larson’s father, who is also named Scott, in an email Dec. 1 said the story of the flag made his family proud.

“It did not come as a surprise that [Spc. Scott Larson] might have done something like this as he had often displayed his love for others even as far back as high school,” he said. “And, even though he was unable to present the flag to Ahmed personally, we know that his friendship with Ahmed was real and genuine.”

A U.S. flag that survived for more than a decade after it was hidden from insurgents in Iraq is displayed during a ceremony at Fort Bliss, Texas, on Sept. 11.

Drunken American misguided by GPS damages rental car

By Marcus Kloeckner Stars and Stripes

KAIERSLAUTERN, Germany — An American found sleeping in a battered Mercedes in a field had his license confiscated after he followed the walking directions on his GPS and drove through a narrow pedestrian tunnel, police said.

The man, who was not identified by German authorities, had a blood alcohol content of .10 — twice the legal limit in Germany — and a drug test found marijuana in his system sometime after police woke him up Sunday, about 30 miles east of Kaiserslautern, police said.

The driver, who a spokeswoman at Ramstein Air Base said Tuesday had no military affiliation, didn’t notice that his GPS was on the pedestrian setting and was telling him it would take 22 hours to cover the 132 miles between Landstuhl and Stuttgart Airport.

Soon after setting off, the navigation system told him to go through the tunnel, which police said was probably in Ramstein. He squeezed through it, but not without gouging the left side of the vehicle and doing an estimated 20,000 euros, or about $22,000, in damage to the rented Mercedes, police said.

Scraping the car along the side of a concrete wall didn’t deter the driver. He continued on his way until he came to the village of Geinsheim, near Neustadt an der Weinstraße.

There, the driver and vehicle left the road and ended up in the middle of a field. Villagers found the car entrenched in mud, its driver sound asleep, on Sunday.

The police were called and questioned the driver. He was not arrested but had his license confiscated pending review of his case by prosecutors.

He is being investigated for dangerous driving, Neustadt police spokesman Andreas Mueller said. Penalties include a ban on driving in Germany and a fine to be determined following a recommendation by prosecutors, Mueller said.

Authorities in the U.S. will be informed of the incident, Mueller said.

Whether the man eventually made it to the airport in Stuttgart is not known.

GOP opposition to Space Force, leave plan fades

By Jeff Stein The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Key congressional lawmakers announced their support Monday evening for a defense bill that would create Space Force and paid parental leave for more than 2 million federal workers as signs of Republican opposition to the measure appeared to fade.

House and Senate negotiators in both major parties said they would back the bill granting $658 billion to the Department of Defense and other defense programs, a measure that includes dozens of security provisions prioritized by the armed services.

However, the measure faced at least some opposition from liberals in Congress who quickly announced they would be voting against the legislation over its provisions related to U.S. support for Saudi-led efforts in Yemen, which has earned bipartisan rebuke and led to one of the world’s deadliest humanitarian crises.

In a major development late last week, the White House and congressional Democrats agreed to create Space Force as the sixth branch of the U.S. military in exchange for new parental leave benefits for the federal workforce as part of the must-pass defense package. If approved, it would be the biggest change to federal employee benefits in nearly 30 years.

“Including paid family leave is a victory for all workers because it will help push more employers in the right direction and ensure more workers get paid family leave,” Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in a statement. “Expanding access to paid family leave helps the health and economic well-being of individuals who have it and strengthens the ability of employers to retain their workers.”

The biggest remaining hurdle to the compromise has appeared to be Senate Republicans, who earlier this year rejected a measure to establish similar benefits for federal workers.

But as of Monday afternoon, at least before the bill text was released, most in the Senate GOP caucus appeared prepared to approve the plan. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., chairman of the committee that oversees government affairs, said he opposed the expansion of the federal benefit but does not expect to be able to stop it.

“I think it’s a done deal,” Johnson said, adding that the provision has key national security measures he thinks should be approved.

He added of the leave benefit: “I think it’s unfortunate. I think it sets a very dangerous precedent.”

Several other Republican senators — including John Barrasso, of Wyoming; Mitt Romney, of Utah; and Roy Blunt, of Missouri — said they were prepared to support the deal reached between the White House and congressional Democrats.
Wis. Guard leader resigns in wake of assault review

By Todd Richmond
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The commander of the Wisconsin National Guard agreed to resign at Gov. Tony Evers' request Monday following the release of a scathing federal report that found the Guard defied federal law, regulations and policies for years over the handling of soldiers' sexual assaults and harassment complaints.

The report from the National Guard Bureau in Washington found the Guard allowed internal investigations in dozens of federal cases to be handled by the Army as well as Department of Defense and bureau policy investigators falsely presented themselves as working for the federal bureau; case records were mishandled; and Guard sexual assault response policies did not comply with local, federal and in compliance with federal regulations for more than five years.

Evers' office said in a statement Tuesday that the governor asked the Guard's top leader, Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar, to resign hours before his administration released the report Monday afternoon. Dunbar agreed to step down Dec. 31.

Evers appointed Brig. Gen. Gary Ebben — the assistant adjutant general of the Wisconsin Air National Guard — as interim commander and will choose a permanent replacement, his office said. The governor also ordered the Guard to implement all of the report’s recommendations by September.

Dunbar is the nation’s longest-serving state National Guard commander. He was appointed in 2007 by then-Gov. Jim Doyle, a Democrat. He has earned numerous commendations, including the Legion of Merit award for exceptional command performance.

Among the key findings:
- The Guard’s sexual assault response policy has not been updated since 2013 and doesn’t include changes to federal laws and regulations.
- Guard officials didn't note substantiated sexual offenses in offenders permanent evaluation records.
- Every state's National Guard was ordered to implement a reprimand prevention plan in 2017 to encourage personnel to file complaints without fearing retaliation but Wisconsin officials never implemented one.
- Evers on Monday ordered the Guard to implement changes detailed in a corrective action plan submitted by bureau investigators, including updating written policies and communicating all disciplinary actions down to the company level.

The bureau will oversee implementation and conduct another review to ensure every issue has been addressed.

The order also calls for the creation of an outside ombudsman who will oversee sexual assault complaints within the Guard.

New phone app looks to avert military assaults, crimes

By Nikki Wentling
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A new mobile app claims to activate at the sound of a safe word and immediately alert a user's friends, family and 911 in an emergency, as well as share the GPS location and livestream audio and video to selected contacts.

The creators of UrSafe, which was launched Tuesday, want to improve personal safety and accelerate response times to sexual assaults and other violent crimes. Service members are a main component of their target audience.

"We've seen this crisis taking over not just in the military, but as a society as a whole, with assaults," said Dr. Anthony Oyogoa, a physician and a cofounder of UrSafe. "We wanted to ask the question: What can technology do? I took the baton, and we've gone back and forth trying to create something we think starts the process of addressing this."

In its simplest form, UrSafe costs users $3 each month. They're instructed to create a safe word, which can be activated in an emergency by opening the app and saying the word aloud. The app is trained to activate only at the user's voice, Oyogoa said.

When activated, the phone will automatically share their name and GPS location with emergency dispatch, as well as three friends or family members chosen by the user.

"We believe in those moments, it could save a lot of lives," Oyogoa said.

Heath Phillips, an outspoken military sexual assault survivor, is throwing his support behind UrSafe. Phillips is a Navy veteran and advisory board member for Protect Our Defenders, a national organization dedicated to ending sexual harassment and assault in the military.

The biggest benefit he sees in the app is to help prevent the "he said, she said" of sexual assault reporting.

"As soon as you say your call word, everybody is getting an alert. Automatically, it's audio. It's video," Phillips said. "If you're getting beat up in a parking lot, they know what happened. Sexually assaulted? They know. A lot of cases get thrown out because there's no evidence, no proof, and it's his testimony versus her testimony. This right here is a game-changer."

The app's developers are also hoping UrSafe will become a deterrent to potential perpetrators.

While troops can download UrSafe like anyone else, Oyogoa and the app's other developers are hoping to launch a military-specific version that would include a service member's chain of command in the emergency alert, as well as civilian authorities. The military version is complete, but UrSafe's founders are waiting for military leaders to agree to use it.

A Defense Department report released in May showed that 20,500 service members experienced sexual assault in 2018, up from 14,900 in 2016. Sexual assaults against female troops increased by 44% since 2016, with the highest increase affecting junior enlisted service members.
Friends: Gunman’s behavior changed after Saudi trip

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The Saudi air force officer accused of killing three classmates at a Florida Navy base last week was a gifted student whose personality appeared to change after a trip to his native country earlier this year, acquaintances and officials familiar with the case said Monday.

Second Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani was described as “strange” and “angry” in the weeks leading up to Friday’s shooting rampage, but schoolmates and other acquaintances said he showed no outward sign that he was preparing to open fire inside a classroom building where he had been training to become a military aviator. The shooting, which also left eight people injured, is being treated by the FBI as a possible terrorist attack.

While the FBI has not yet determined a motive for the shooting, investigators are building a profile of the gunman from interviews with acquaintances, as well as from a Twitter account that authorities now believe belonged to Alshamrani. The suspect is thought to have authored a “will” that was posted to the account a few hours before the shootings began in which he blurs U.S. policies in Muslim countries.

Alshamrani was among hundreds of foreign students training at Naval Air Station Pensacola. He had completed two years of schooling in the United States and was expected to graduate from the program in the summer.

A Saudi government official familiar with Alshamrani, 21, described him as “an A student” who was “well-liked and kept to himself.”

The official said the Saudi government was unaware of a formal complaint filed by Alshamrani in April in which he accused an instructor of humiliating him by calling him a derogatory nickname in front of classmates. The FBI on Monday declined to comment on the reported ill will between Alshamrani and one of his instructors.

The depiction of Alshamrani as generally mild-mannered echoed accounts given to investigators by his classmates, who described him as quiet and reserved, rarely speaking during class. But his demeanor seemed to change following a recent home leave, several students said, with Alshamrani becoming more withdrawn and often appearing sullen, officials familiar with the matter said.

The typo-filled “will” apparently posted by Alshamrani is addressed to the “American people.” The writer says he does not dislike Americans per se, but that he hates U.S. policies that he views as anti-Muslim and “evil.” His views as anti-Muslim and “evil.”

The letter states. “I see in the U.S. policies an outward sign of anti-Islam, which is [sic] invasion of Muslim countries,” the letter states. “I see invasion of my country by its troops. I see Guantnamo Bay. I see cruise missiles, cluster bombs and UAV’s.”

By Brendan Farrington

PENSACOLA, Fla. — There’s a bakery on Pensacola, Fla. that is built on centuries of history.

Both Allied officers, we opened the first Pensacola flight school student, first responders and U.S. Marines. But it’s not just a reaction to the Royal Saudi Air Force officer who fatally shot three sailors and wounded eight others Friday. Yetter said people have always shown their appreciation for the sailors and Marines on the base.

The heart of Pensacola: City has long, strong ties with base

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON

Everybody says, ‘Are you from Pensacola?’ and made people say, ‘No, I’m from somewhere else.’ But we all move here eventually,” said Yetter.

The Navy was beginning to discuss the possibility of awarding Purple Hearts to sailors who were killed or wounded in Friday’s attack at a recruiting center in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The criteria to receive one was expanded in 2015 through congressional action to include service members wounded statewide in acts of terror. The guideline for the award.

In 2016, the military awarded Purple Hearts to service members who were killed or wounded in the July 2015 attack at a recruiting center in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The criteria to receive one was expanded in 2015 through congressional action to include service members wounded statewide in acts of terror. The guideline for the award.

The change occurred after years of lobbying in response to two attacks on military facilities in 2009. In one, 13 people were killed and more than 30 wounded at Fort Hood, Texas. In the other, two service members were killed in a shooting at a recruiting center in Little Rock, Ark.

Purple Hearts mulled for Pensacola victims

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By Eric Tucker and Michael Balsamo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI was justified in its organizing investigation into the former special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election, the Justice Department concluded, undercutting President Donald Trump’s repeated claims that he has been the target of a “witch hunt.”

The long-awaited report, issued Monday, rejected theories and did not act with political bias, and did not act with political bias, and did not act with political bias, and did not act with political bias.

The report also details that the FBI had an “authoritative purpose” when it opened its investigation in July 2016 into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, which was coordinating with Russia to tip the election in favor of the executive. The report said the FBI had cause to be justified in its organizing investigation into the former special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

It found that the FBI had overstated the significance of Steele’s past work as an unmasking technique arguing that the information collected wasn’t used in the Russia probe, but did find political bias and record a September 2016 interview with a high-level Trump campaign official. The official wasn’t identified by name, but was not a subject of the Russia investigation, the report said. While the information collected wasn’t used during the Russia probe, it doesn’t mean the FBI had overstated the significance of Steele’s past work as an unmasking technique. The report said.

Both Barr and Durham issued conflicting reports re-sulting in “applications that there was sufficient evidence to open the FBI investigation. The attorney general’s reaction was espe-cially unusual in that the head of the Justice Department typically would not take issue with an in-ternal investigation that clears a department agency of serious misconduct.

Former White House doctor seeks Texas seat

AUSTIN, Texas — A former White House physician who President Donald Trump picked last year to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs and who his nomination was derailed by professional misconduct allegations filed paperwork Monday to run for a rural congressional seat in Texas.

Rep. Doug Collins, of Georgia)

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., joined from left by Reps. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.; Maxine Waters, D-Calif.; Richard Neal, D-Mass.; and Adam Schiff, D-Calif., announces two articles of impeachment filed against President Donald Trump on Tuesday.

The 3-2 vote by the Burleigh County Commission, which in the past has worked as the county’s usual meeting space.

If commissioners had voted no, refugee resettlement groups say they believe Burleigh — home to about 95,000 people and the capital city of Bismarck — would have been be the first local government to ban them since President Donald Trump ordered that states and counties should have the power to do.

BISMARCK, N.D. — A North Dakota county voted Monday night to accept no more than 25 refugees next year after initially voting yes to do so last year to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs and who his nomination was derailed by professional misconduct allegations filed paperwork Monday to run for a rural congressional seat in Texas.

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NATION

Merriam-Webster declares ‘they’ word of the year

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A common but increasingly mighty and very busy little word, “they,” has an accolade all its own.

The language mavens at Merriam-Webster have declared the personal pronoun their word of the year for 2019, based on a 313.3% increase in look-ups on the company’s search site, Merriam-Webster.com, this year when compared with 2018.

“I have to say it’s surprising to me,” Peter Sokolowski, a lexicographer and editor-in-chief at Merriam-Webster, said at a large, ahead of Tuesday’s announcement. “It’s a word we all know and love. So many people were talking about this word.”

Sokolowski and his team monitored news and “they” got an early start last January with the rise of model Oslo Grace on top fashion runways. The Northern Californian identifies as transgender nonbinary, walking in both men’s and women’s shows around the world.

Another look-up spike occurred in April, when U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Washington, voted emotionally while talking of her gender-nonconforming child during a House committee hearing as she advocated for LGBTQ rights legislation.

Merriam-Webster recently added a new definition to its online dictionary to reflect use of “they” as relating to a person whose gender identity is nonbinary. In October, the American Psychological Association endorsed “they” as a singular third-person pronoun in its latest style guide for scholarly writing.

“We believe writers should try to use a person’s self-identified pronoun whenever feasible,” said Jasper Simons, chief publishing officer for the APA. “The singular ‘they’ is a way for writers to avoid making assumptions about gender when it is not known.”

The American Dialect Society, which is dedicated to the study of the English language in North America, named “they” its word of the year for 2015, in recognition of its emergence among people who reject “he” and “she.”

Sokolowski told The Associated Press that “they,” one of a handful of nonbinary pronouns to emerge in recent years, is “here to stay.”

Nick Adams, director of transgender representation for the LGBTQ advocacy group GLAAD, said Merriam-Webster’s choice is a positive step in acknowledging nonbinary people.

And the Merriam-Webster ran-up?

They include “quid pro quo,” “impeach” and “crawdad,” the latter a word in the title of Delia Evans best-selling novel, “Where the Crawdads Sing.”

The word “they” is displayed on a computer screen Friday in New York. Merriam-Webster has declared the personal pronoun its word of the year for 2019.

The word “they” also included “egregious,” “clenency” and “the,” a shocker of a factored spike when The Ohio State University attempted to patented the word to protect its turf. It failed.

Also in the mix: “snitty,” which emerged on the lips of Attorney General William Barr in reference to a letter by Robert Mueller about a summary Barr wrote of the Mueller report.

We have the Huntington Post columnist George Will to thank for “turgidisation.” The word, meaning an evasion or a deseret, was Merriam-Webster’s top look-up on Jan. 24 after Will used it in a column in reference to the Mueller report.

The words “camp” and “excelsis” rounded out the Top 10 list.

Study: Brain differences may be tied to obesity

BY LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press

New results from the largest long-term study of brain development and children’s health raise provocative questions about obesity and brain function.

Does excess body weight somehow reduce brain regions that control what are known as executive function tasks? They include things like ability to plan, control impulses and handle multiple tasks simultaneously.

The differences compared with normal-weight kids were subtle, said study author Scott Mackey, a neuroscientist at the University of Vermont.

The heaviest kids also had slightly worse scores on computer-based tests of executive function. But Mackey and lead author Jennifer Laurent, a University of Vermont obesity researcher, said it’s unknown whether any of the differences had any meaning-

Walmart removes offensive sweaters

BY DEANNA PAUL
The Washington Post

Walmart removed several pieces of holiday merchandise from its Canadian website after customers took offense to a line of risque Christmas clothing.

The retail giant also issued an apology over a sweater offered by a third-party seller FUN Wear that featured an image of a bug-eyed Santa Claus seated in front of three white lines that appeared to be cocaine. The sweater’s tagline: LEVITATION.

For those who weren’t quite sure what the sweater might be suggesting, its product description said: “We all know how snow works. It’s white, powdery and the best snow comes straight from South America. That’s bad news for jolly old St. Nick, who lives far away in the North Pole. That’s why Santa really likes to favor the moment when he gets his hands on some quality, grade A, Colombian cocaine.”

Walmart said in a statement, “These sweaters, sold by a third-party seller on Walmart.ca, do not represent Walmart’s values and have no place on our website. We apologize for any unintentional consequences that may have caused,” it said.

The sweater and several others that have since been removed from the website were sold by a third-party seller, Walmart reiterated in an email to The Washington Post.

The other items depicted the famous Christmas couple in compromising positions, according to the National Post. On one, a pantsless Santa Claus was seen “roasting his chestnuts” atop a burning manatee. On another, a woman captioned “Santa has been naught-y,” a lingerie-clad Mrs. Claus was depicted holding a whip and preparing to strike her husband’s bare behind.

Walmart has faced similar issues.

Last year, supporters of President Donald Trump called for a boycott over a T-shirt sold on Walmart’s American market-place. The shirt bore the words “Impeach 45,” a reference to Trump, the 45th president of the United States.

Walmart is not the only online retailer facing seasonal product that some consumers have found objectionable.

Amazon recently halted the sale of Auschwitz-themed holiday decorations, including a Christ-mas tree ornament and a bottle opening can opener suggesting “Auschwitz survival.”

The retail giant removed the products after an outpouring of condemnation led by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum in Poland.
Dozens of neglected horses rescued

WA ENUCLAW — Dozens of neglected horses living in a muddy field without shelter were rescued during a King County Sheriff’s Office sting operation in Enumclaw.

Police seized an air fryer containing meth

KY LOUISVILLE — Police said a Louisville police officer is recovering after a suspect — accused of stealing a wheelchair — attacked the officer with a pair of pliers during a sting operation.

Burglar hits officer in head with pliers

FL TAMPA — Authorities said a Tampa police officer is recovering after a suspect — accused of stealing a wheelchair — attacked the officer with a pair of pliers during a sting operation.

On frozen pond

Isahah Hunt, 2, of Norway, Maine, wants to have a turn as his father, Matthew, augers through the 4 inches of ice on Hall’s Pond in Paris, Maine, on Sunday afternoon and his mother, Chelsea Marshall, keeps him from falling. While the small pond is safe, most lakes and ponds in the Northeast have yet to freeze over and are dangerous to walk on.

7 sickened by leak during boat parade

DC WASHINGTON — At least seven people, including three children, were sickened by an apparent carbon dioxide leak while taking part in an annual holiday boat parade in Washington, authorities said.

Man allegedly tries to steal wheelchair

AZ PHOENIX — Police in Phoenix said they have arrested a man who allegedly tried to steal a wheelchair from a woman while she was riding the light rail last month.

Police seize air fryer containing meth

KY LOUISVILLE — Police in Kentucky confiscated an unusual gift being delivered to a Kentucky man’s home — a package with about 20 pounds of meth that was shipped through the mail.

Liberals have an arrest warrant for a woman they said is known to hoard horses and neglect them. The woman runs a nonprofit that helps rescue horses and is accused of neglecting them.

Police alleged Shurbutt then attempted to steal the wheelchair but was stopped by a group of bystanders who heard the victim screaming.

Law enforcement executed a search warrant Saturday and ordered the removal of a large herd of horses that were infected, struggled to walk in deep mud and struggled to stand.

On frozen pond

Isahah Hunt, 2, of Norway, Maine, wants to have a turn as his father, Matthew, augers through the 4 inches of ice on Hall’s Pond in Paris, Maine, on Sunday afternoon and his mother, Chelsea Marshall, keeps him from falling. While the small pond is safe, most lakes and ponds in the Northeast have yet to freeze over and are dangerous to walk on.

7 sickened by leak during boat parade

DC WASHINGTON — At least seven people, including three children, were sickened by an apparent carbon dioxide leak while taking part in an annual holiday boat parade in Washington, authorities said.

Man allegedly tries to steal wheelchair

AZ PHOENIX — Police in Phoenix said they have arrested a man who allegedly tried to steal a wheelchair from a woman while she was riding the light rail last month.

They said Austin Shurbutt, 26, reportedly pushed the woman out of a light rail car on Nov. 30. The victim began to scream for help, but Shurbutt is accused of forcibly grabbing the wheelchair and causing the victim to fall from it during the struggle.

Police alleged Shurbutt then attempted to steal the wheelchair but was stopped by a group of bystanders who heard the victim screaming.

Police said Shurbutt has two outstanding warrants and has been booked into jail on suspicion of robbery, attempted kidnap, assault and a vulnerable adult abuse charge.

The number of rounds of ammunition police in Camarillo, Calif., confiscated in a raid at a home as part of a drug investigation, authorities said. The raid last week also turned up multiple handguns, four AR-15s, body armor and “what appeared to be a fully functional flame thrower,” according to a statement Saturday by the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department. Camarillo police arrested Christopher Olekisk in suspicion of multiple drug and weapons charges, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday. Investigators also recovered heroin and items consistent with the manufacture of firearms at the residence, authorities said.

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On frozen pond

Isahah Hunt, 2, of Norway, Maine, wants to have a turn as his father, Matthew, augers through the 4 inches of ice on Hall’s Pond in Paris, Maine, on Sunday afternoon and his mother, Chelsea Marshall, keeps him from falling. While the small pond is safe, most lakes and ponds in the Northeast have yet to freeze over and are dangerous to walk on.
WHAKATANE, New Zealand — Survivors of a powerful volcanic eruption in New Zealand washed into the sea to escape the scalding steam and ash and emerged covered in burns, say those who first helped them.

The accounts Tuesday came as some relatives were forced to continue waiting for news of their loved ones, with authorities deciding it remained too dangerous for crews to land on the island and remove bodies.

Six deaths were confirmed after Monday’s eruption of the White Island volcano. Another eight were safe.

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Michael Schade / AP

A rescuers’ boat leaves White Island on Monday following the eruption of the volcano located 30 miles from New Zealand’s main North Island.

A rescuers’ boat leaves White Island on Monday following the eruption of the volcano located 30 miles from New Zealand’s main North Island.

unfolded when the volcano exploded a little after 2 p.m. Monday.

Geoff Hopkins was in a boat offshore after visiting the island with his daughter, the tour a 50th birthday present for him. He told the New Zealand Herald the eruption at first looked beautiful but quickly turned menacing. As injured people arrived on their boat screaming in pain, Hopkins and his daughter, Lillani, poured fresh water onto them, cut them out of their clothes and tried to keep them calm.

In all, police believe there were 47 visitors on the island at the time. They say 24 were Australian, nine were American and five were New Zealanders. Others were from Germany, Britain, China and Malaysia. Many were passengers aboard the Royal Caribbean cruise ship Ovation of the Seas.

Relatives of a newlywed American couple say the husband and wife were severely burned. Barbara Barham told The Washington Post that her daughter, Lauren Urey, 32, and son-in-law, Matthew Urey, 36, from Richmond, Va., were on a honeymoon trip.

KIRUNA, Sweden — Thick reindeer fur boots and a fur hat covering most of his face shielded Niila Inga from freezing winds as he raced his snowmobile up to a mountain top overlooking his reindeer in the Swedish arctic.

His community herds about 8,000 reindeer year-round, moving them between traditional grazing grounds in the high mountains bordering Norway in the summer and the forests farther east in the winter, just as his forebears in the Sami indigenous community have for generations.

But Inga is troubled. His reindeer are hungry, and he can do little about it. Climate change is altering weather patterns here and affecting the herd’s food supply.

“If we don’t find better areas for them where they can graze and find food, then the reindeer will starve to death,” he said.

Unusually early snowfall in autumn was followed by rain that froze, trapping food under a thick layer of ice. Unable to eat, the hungry animals have scattered from their traditional migration routes in search of new grazing grounds.

Elder Sami herders recall that they once had bad winters every decade or so, but Inga said that “extreme and strange weather are getting more and more normal; it happens several times a year.”

The arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the globe. Measurements by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute show the country has warmed 2.95 degrees Fahrenheit compared with pre-industrial times.

In Sweden’s alpine region, the increase is even greater, with average winter temperatures between 1991 and 2017 up more than 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit compared with the 1961-90 average.

Snowfall is common in these areas, but as temperatures increase, occasional rainfall occurs — and “rain-on-snow” events are having devastating effects.

The food is still there, but the reindeer can’t reach it. The animals grow weaker and females sometimes abort their calves while the survivors struggle to make it through the winter.
Shooter kills 6 in Czech hospital, then kills self

Associated Press

PRAGUE — A man with an illegal gun shot six people dead and wounded three more in a hospital in the eastern Czech Republic on Tuesday, the prime minister and officials said. The apparent assailant later shot himself dead as police approached his car.

Prime Minister Andrej Babis told Czech public television the shooting took place around 7 a.m. in a waiting room. The attacker opened fire at people’s heads from close range, Babis said.

The prime minister canceled an official visit to Estonia and was heading for the site at the University hospital in the eastern city of Ostrava, 220 miles east of Prague.

“It’s a huge tragedy,” Babis later said. “It’s an unfortunate, individual act.”

He said the man had been treated in the hospital but didn’t offer details.

Interior Minister Jan Hamacek said police found the man’s car and he shot himself in the head as they approached and died from his injuries about half an hour later. Hamacek said police will be investigating his motive.

“I’d like to assure the public that there’s no danger anymore,” Hamacek said.

Police identified the shooter as a 42-year-old man. Several hundred police officers had launched an extensive manhunt, using two helicopters, for the man and his silver-gray Renault Laguna car.

Regional police chief officer Tomas Kuzel said the assailant used an illegally held Czech-made 9 mm gun. He said police believe the man who had a criminal record acted alone.

Police published a photo of the man, having withdrawn an earlier photo of a different man. They said that man was now considered to be a witness.

Clinic director Jiri Havrlant told media the dead were four men and two women. Another man and a woman had to be operated on, while one person was more lightly wounded.

All the victims were adult patients waiting for treatment.

French pension strikes grow; police gird for new protests

Associated Press

PARIS — French airport employees, teachers and other workers joined nationwide strikes Tuesday as unions cranked up pressure on the government to scrap upcoming changes to the country’s national retirement system.

As the strike entered a sixth straight day, commuters and tourists in Paris used apps and shared bikes and creativity to find ways to get to work, school and museums.

Many French commuters still express support for the strike, fearing their own pensions will shrink under President Emmanuel Macron’s new plan. But some admitted their patience is wearing thin with the transportation woes, and with train workers who are striking to keep their right to retire years earlier than other workers.

Paris police ordered shops and restaurants closed on boulevards around the gold-domed Invalides monument, fearing violence on the fringes of what government opponents hoped was another mass march Tuesday afternoon.

At least 800,000 people turned out for demonstrations around France when the strike movement kicked off Thursday. Protests were being held around the country Tuesday, with union activists waving red flags from Marseille on the Mediterranean to Lille in the north.

Chilean military plane goes missing on way to Antarctica

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Chile’s air force lost radio contact with a transport plane carrying 38 people on a flight Monday evening to the country’s base in Antarctica, and authorities indicated several hours later that they were not optimistic about the aircraft’s fate.

The military said earlier that it had declared an alert and activated search and rescue teams.

The C-130 Hercules carried 17 crew members and 21 passengers, including three civilians. The personnel were to check on a floating fuel supply line and other equipment at the Chilean base.

President Sebastian Pinera said via Twitter that he was with his defense and interior ministers at the air force headquarters monitoring developments.

In a statement early Tuesday, the air force said the plane had not been heard from in more than seven hours and likely would have run out of fuel around 12:40 a.m.

The air force “continues the search in the sector where communication with the aircraft was lost, in order to rescue potential survivors,” the statement said.
Golden Globe nods a scream

‘Booksmart’ costars Dever, Feldstein ‘overwhelmed with emotion’

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL
Los Angeles Times

For “Unbelievable’s” Kaitlyn Dever, the only appropriate way to celebrate a first-time Golden Globe nomination is with a hearty breakfast. First up: A stack of pancakes, whipped up by her dad, came shortly after the big news on Monday morning. And while fielding calls from press later in the morning, she was driving to pick up some breakfast burritos.

“I was just shocked,” she says.

Los Angeles Times: What was Beanie screaming to you? Dever: It was really early for me, and she was still in bed. It was the best phone call. 2019 was a big year for you. You starred in the critically acclaimed “Booksmart” and stunned audiences with your performance in “Unbelievable.” What did you learn about yourself and what you’re capable of through those experiences? So much. With “Booksmart,” it was my first-ever leading role. Me and Beanie, both. Being the lead of a movie is a very different energy. The way you act and treat people really sets the tone for how the whole movie goes. That was my first time doing that, and I learned that I could do it. And I learned I only ever want to work with good people, nice people. With “Unbelievable,” I learned a lot about myself. But I also learned a lot about trauma. I put a lot of pressure on myself to get it right. And it felt very worth it. But I realized meditation and being present was important.

How was it stepping into the emotional mindset of Marie? There are so many compelling and powerful emotions that you have to tap into.

My heart immediately broke when I read the story. It’s something that seems just unreal. It’s an incredibly shocking story. Because the producers put their faith in me from the beginning and trusted me to play her, I felt I had no other choice but to give it everything that I had. And I did. I kind of stopped and thought about what I really wanted to achieve. And I just wanted to make sure that I was doing the best that I could for Marie. Because we were doing this for her. I kind of just had to forget about my feelings for a second. If I had a headache from crying on set, it doesn’t even touch the way she felt or will feel for the rest of her life. She’s seen the show. And she says that it gave her a lot of closure. She said it was perfect, which is so gratifying, and I feel honored to have told her story.

Were you surprised by the response to the series? It really seemed like word-of-mouth propelled it. What did that tell you? It’s amazing that we get to tell this kind of story on a platform like Netflix. I think this kind of story deserves to be yelled from the mountaintops. Everyone should know about it. You can’t go into anything with expectations. This could have been something that never got seen. I loved this project so much. It’s not surprising to me that it affected people.

It was interesting to see the conversations that were had on Twitter, particularly between women — going deeper into this idea of feeling powerless or that their voice isn’t being heard.

It was a great example of the kind of room there is for that kind of woman in the world. It’s getting a lot better for women. I have seen a lot of change. But there’s still a great amount of work to be done. I think what’s great is that it shows the other side of it — where the work needs to be. The systems that need to do better. It’s about believing women from the very beginning so they don’t feel like they aren’t being heard. I think “Unbelievable,” in being made and being seen by people, will only help continue that conversation and better it.

Every scene felt so vital and important. How was that to play?

It’s kind of an intense thing to step into. You look at the schedule for the entire show, and it’s a four-month shoot. It’s daunting. But literally every single scene to me — even the most traumatic scene, even the moments when Marie really was trying to be happy and trying to laugh a little — these were also extremely important to me. I treated it all very equally.

And you didn’t get to spend much time working with [costars and fellow nominees] Toni Collette and Merritt Wever because the storylines were a bit separated.

It blows my mind that I was chosen to act alongside them. That’s insane to me. Now that all three of us are nominated — I’m still processing that. It’s been so much from them, even while doing press and doing interviews and getting to know them that way. Because we really didn’t get to know each other much when we were filming. We were passing by each other for very brief moments.

How does it feel to be going through this experience with Beanie? It’s been unlike anything I’ve ever experienced. I’ve had the most exciting year. And half of it has been with Beanie Feldstein, between flying on planes together and staying in hotel rooms together and talking about “Booksmart.” It’s been such a joy to be able to share that experience with her, and I wouldn’t have wanted to do it with anyone else.
**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AROUND</th>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>29 Say it's so</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>30 Cager Archibald</td>
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<td>31 Actress Skye</td>
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<td>32 Powerful engines</td>
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<td>42 “Mangia!”</td>
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<td>43 19th Century</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>44 — alone (have no help)</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>45 Church keyboard</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>46 Bern's river</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>47 Air-show stunt</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>48 Meditative practice</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>49 Body art, for short</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>50 Exist</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>51 Born abroad?</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>52 “As I see it,” in a text</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>53 Energy</td>
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**ACROSS**

1. Summer cooler
2. Aware of
3. Like ganders
4. Rink surface
5. Modern taxi rival
6. Mouscat’s land
7. Small orange
8. King of Judea
9. Candied veggie
10. Corporate symbol
11. 28 Indian cooking style
12. BLT bread
13. Post-WWII alliance
14. Actor
15. Longoria
16. Seventy
17. Shred
18. Hardens
19. Colorful birds
20. Pick up the tab
21. Finding—
22. 44 Big D.C. lobby
23. Like St. Nick
24. Dangle a carrot
25. Tic-tac-toe win
26. Vicinity
27. Send forth
28. Marsh
29. Casual tops
30. Robbers’ foes
31. Clean air org.

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

```plaintext
R A M P
P E T E
E L S E
O R A N
F I B E R
A D O P G
E X R T
M A C A R O N I
U S E R
C U T I E
O F T
P O E
S S R
E L O N
O P T S
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**12-11 CRYPTOQUIP**

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P C N G U     R B B J X M Z     K R   U N X M
N R F B G    E M X M F B M F X K M N J J T
Z B F F X M Z    P F G E A L    D T   N D X Z
G K A L    N P F K M B ’ P F C G K B
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Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: AS WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE ON OUR DREAM TRIP TO A WEST GERMAN CITY, PEOPLE CRIED “BONN VOYAGE!”

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S
By Andrew Bacevich

Los Angeles Times

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has made it clear that the U.S. military lexicon has a new rationale for U.S. military actions in the Middle East. It is “defensive.” But if that’s all the Pentagon has nothing to do with keeping the grass trimmed. “To mow the lawn,” Esper recently noted, “may sound esoteric, but every now and then you give your adversary a good, swift kick in the shins.” You have to do these things, he explained, “so that a threat doesn’t grow, doesn’t resurge.”

You mow the lawn not to eliminate a threat but to manage it.

The phrase itself is of Israeli provenance and describes country’s prevailing approach to dealing with the militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah. Unable to eliminate the threat posed by these organizations, Israel accepts the necessity of periodically engaging with them rather than attempt to destroy all balance. Mowing the lawn, in other words, is a euphemism for attrition warfare that accepts low-level hostilities as inevitable and permanent.

Esper’s endorsement of this concept is striking for two reasons. First, his boss does not consider it an evolving war as inevitable and permanent. In speeches and rallies, President Donald Trump has repeatedly promised an “endless wars.” Mowing the lawn as a tactic for dealing with Islamic State and similar entities conceals that America’s wars in the Middle East will be ending any day soon. Commander in chief Trump insists that a decisive victory over these adversarial forces is not only achievable, but also that he himself will deliver it. Now his Pentagon chief in effect acknowledges that nothing approximating victory is in the cards.

Of course, it isn’t remarkable that this president and one of his principal subordinates should concur on such different scripts. In this case, however, the contrast, and Esper’s embrace of lawn mowing as a de facto military doctrine, is troublesome. The Pentagon has no alternative but to persist on the course it embarked on after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. According to this logic, the lawn constitutes a tacit admission of strategic bankruptcy.

For the situation confronting Israel and the United States may be instructive. Given the nexus of its dispute with the Palestinians — both sides lay claim to the same territory — Israel has few viable strategic choices that the majority of Jewish Israelis will deem acceptable. Peace with Palestinians has been elusive for the simple fact that the minimal demands of the two sides have proved irrefutable. So a small state operating under severe constraints, mowing the lawn offers an expedient way of coping with an intractable problem. While solving nothing in the long run, it helps to stabilize the situation so that Is- reals have learned to live with.

Yet the United States is not small. Nor is the military the only chose of the Middle East. Even if most members of our hidebound and war-besotted foreign policy establishment remain willfully blind to them.

The groups with which Israel and the United States are presently locked in con-

By Eli Lake

Bloomberg News

T he long-awaited report from the Justice Department Inspector General on the origins of the FBI’s investigation into President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign is now public. The report’s conclusion that the inves- tigation was deeply flawed but nonetheless justified. The senior officials and agents who led the investigation, even the president himself, made serious mistakes but were not motivated by political bias.

Some Democrats, predictably, are claiming the report does not exonerate the ex- chief to a secret court. On its own, the fate of Page is not im- portant. It matters because his surveillance gives the public a window into how the pro- cess from obtaining electronic surveillance warrants from a secret court can be easily gamed. Because surveillance of a suspect- ed foreign agent or terrorist must be kept secret, these court proceedings fail. In the case of Page, that process failed. The report says, for example, that FBI agents did not adequately review the warrant that Page had legally been cooperating with another U.S. intelligence agency on Russia, even after one of those attorneys specifically asked for such information. It also says the first warrant request failed to include that Page told a confidential FBI informant that he had never met former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort, contradicting Steele’s claim that Page was acting as a conduit between the Kremlin and Manafort for dirt on Hillary Clinton.

All told, the report cites 17 serious errors of process in the Page surveil- lance warrant. “These errors and omis- sions resulted from case agents providing incomplete or incorrect information to the court and omitting basic safeguards and is in need of serious reform,” the report says.

In its conclusion, the Inspector General Michael Horowitz’s report concludes that the bureau’s application for a warrant to electronically spy on a former Trump campaign aide, Carter Page, was riddled with errors of fact and omitted exculpatory information. The application relied on political opposition research. It showed, Christopher Steele, whose credibility was exaggerated in the surveillance warn- ant application to a secret court. On its own, the fate of Page is not im- portant. It matters because his surveillance gives the public a window into how the pro- cess from obtaining electronic surveillance warrants from a secret court can be easily gamed. Because surveillance of a suspect- ed foreign agent or terrorist must be kept secret, these court proceedings fail. In the case of Page, that process failed. The report says, for example, that FBI agents did not adequately review the warrant that Page had legally been cooperating with another U.S. intelligence agency on Russia, even after one of those attorneys specifically asked for such information. It also says the first warrant request failed to include that Page told a confidential FBI informant that he had never met former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort, contradicting Steele’s claim that Page was acting as a conduit between the Kremlin and Manafort for dirt on Hillary Clinton.

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**SCOREBOARD**

**College football**

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<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday's games EAST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Army (5-7) vs. Temple (2-10) at Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowl schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tucson at Arizona (5-7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NMSU (6-7) vs. New Mexico State (2-10) at Albuquerque</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boise State (7-5) vs. San Diego State (5-7) at San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice (5-7) vs. Arkansas State (5-7) at Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMU (10-2) vs. Memphis (6-6) at Memphis</td>
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<td>New Orleans (12-0) vs. Tulane (6-6) at New Orleans</td>
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<td>Monday, Dec. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston College (8-4) vs. Rutgers (4-8) at East Rutherford, N.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Boston College (9-3) at Boston College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida State (11-1) vs. Louisville (6-6) at Louisville</td>
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<td>Saturday, Jan. 3</td>
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<td>Rose Bowl Champion vs. College Football Playoff Champion at Rose Bowl</td>
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**College basketball**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AP Men's Top 25</th>
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<tr>
<td>The top 25 teams in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses. Scoring is based on a 25-point system. The number of first-place votes in parentheses is determined by the number of points scored. Teams are listed in order of first-place votes.</td>
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<td>Record</td>
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<td>-------</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Louisville (55)</td>
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<td>2. Michigan (53)</td>
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<td>3. Ohio St. (5)</td>
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<td>4. Arizona (3-1)</td>
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<td>5. Michigan St.</td>
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<td>6. Oregon (2)</td>
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<td>7. Kansas</td>
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<td>8. Kentucky</td>
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<td>9. Virginia (2)</td>
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<td>10. Iowa State</td>
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<td>11. Tennessee</td>
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<td>12. Auburn</td>
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**College hockey**

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<th>NCAA Division I poll</th>
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<td>The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, with first-place votes in parentheses. Scoring is based on a 25-point system. The number of first-place votes in parentheses is determined by the number of points scored. Teams are listed in order of first-place votes.</td>
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<td>16. Boston University</td>
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**Sports on AFN**

**Monday's transactions**

**BASEBALL**

**Baltimore Orioles** — Named David Hyde manager of Triple-A Norfolk. **Traylor football coach.**

**Chicago Bears** — Reassigned RHP Mitch Harris and OF Tony Giansanti from El Paso to Double-A Tennessee. **Daytona 500.**

**Chicago Cubs** — Placed 3B Kris Bryant on the 10-day injured list; called up 1B David Bote and OF Dustin Harris from Iowa. **National Football League**

**Indianapolis Colts** — Re-signed QB Andrew Luck to a one-year contract. **NCAA Division I poll**

**Other recent signings:**

The Dallas Stars fired second-year head coach Jim Montgomery on Tuesday for what the team called unprofessional conduct. Montgomery was 60-43-10 as Stars coach.
Los Angeles 31 11 18 2 24 77 102
Anaheim 30 12 14 4 28 79 90
San Jose 32 15 15 2 32 88 111
Vegas 32 15 12 5 35 93 93
Edmonton 32 18 10 4 40 97 93
Chicago 30 12 12 6 30 83 93
Nashville 28 13 10 5 31 95 92
Minnesota 30 14 12 4 32 90 98
Winnipeg 30 18 10 2 38 87 82
St. Louis 31 18 7 6 42 92 83

New Jersey 29 9 15 5 23 74 109
N.Y. Rangers 29 15 11 3 33 93 91
Pittsburgh 30 17 9 4 38 103 81
Philadelphia 30 17 8 5 39 96 85
Washington 32 22 5 5 49 117 93
Ottawa 31 13 17 1 27 84 97
Tampa Bay 28 14 11 3 31 103 92
Toronto 31 14 13 4 32 100 103
Buffalo 31 14 11 6 34 96 95
Florida 29 15 9 5 35 105 99

**Scoring leaders**

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Roundup

**Isles’ Varlamov shuts down Bolts**

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The New York Islanders showed they have more than just a strong defense.

Semyon Varlamov stopped 31 shots, Brock Nelson scored twice in the third period, and the Islanders beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 5-1 on Monday night.

“Our offense isn’t maybe the focal point of the conversion but we have guys that can score,” Nelson said. “I think we have the character that we can win in different ways and we’ve shown that.”

Ross Johnston, Josh Bailey and Anders Lee also scored for the Islanders, who are 18-0-1 when scoring three or more goals.

“It’s all about the team, team win,” Varlamov said. “I’ve got to give the credit to this team. The boys are battling in front of me, playing really good defensively like tonight.”

Tampa Bay got a goal from Steven Stamkos and Curtis McElhinney stopped 19 shots.

“It’s frustrating,” Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said. “You’re going to wake up tomorrow and see 5-1 and clearly it wasn’t a 5-1 game. But it was a loss. We left plays out there. There’s no question we left some plays out there.”

The Lightning have lost four of five at home.

Varlamov made an in-close rebound save on Stamkos and a diving glove grab on Pat Maroon early in the third.

In addition to Nelson’s goals at 7:31 and 14:41 of the third, Lee added a power-play goal with 3:55 remaining.

The Islanders got on the scoreboard first. After Tampa Bay’s Cory Conacher failed to score on a breakaway, Johnston put the Islanders up 1-0 on the ensuing rush at 6:44 of the second.

Nelson scored twice, once on a breakaway, and an assist, Derek Ryan also scored and David Rittich made 19 saves in his first loss in regulation since Nov. 8.

_Flash 5, Avalanche 4 (OT):_ Sean Monahan scored 2:19 into overtime to lift visiting Calgary past Colorado.

Matthew Tkachuk had a goal and an assist. Derek Ryan also scored and David Rittich made 28 saves for the Flames, who have won five in a row under interim coach Geoff Ward and finally broke through against Colorado this season.

Andrei Mangiapani and Michael Frolik scored 1:27 apart to start the third period for Calgary.

The Flames have struggled against the Avalanche of late, starting with the first round of the 2019 playoffs before eighth-seeded Colorado won in five games. The Avs won the first two meetings this season, as well.


New York Islanders goaltender Semyon Varlamov, right, stops Lightning center Cory Conacher on a breakaway during the second period of Monday’s game in Tampa, Fla. The Islanders won 5-1.
BY PETER FINNEY JR.  
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Derrick Rose’s heart is 31 and his body has taken a beating, but the 2011 NBA MVP showed once again he can still take over a game and knock down the decisive shot.

Rose hit a 14-foot jumper in the lane with 0.3 seconds left and odded 17 of his team-high 22 points in the fourth quarter to lift the Detroit Pistons over the skidding New Orleans Pelicans 105-103 on Monday night.

It was Rose’s second consecutive strong fourth-quarter performance for the Pistons, who have won four of five. New Orleans lost its ninth straight.

“I don’t talk a lot or boast or brag about it, but I still have goals,” said Rose, who has endured a series of physical setbacks, including an ACL tear that has resulted in him playing for five teams over the past five years.

“I know overall where I’m at as a player and as a person, and I believe in myself,” Rose added.

“That’s where it all starts — with me believing in myself — and going to an organization and playing for a team that believes in me, too. I believe this is the start.”

With the game tied at 103, Detroit worked an isolation play for Rose, who dribbled the ball out top against Jreue Holiday, one of the best defenders in the league.

Rose drove into the lane, spun to the right and hit his jumper over Holiday’s outstretched arm.

“He has everything,” Holiday said. “I think it was a good play on his part. I’m not going to take anything from him. He’s a great player and the shot that he made was a tough shot. There was nothing I could do about it.”

Pistons coach Dwane Casey said Rose is not completely recovered from a strained right ham- string that forced him to miss the last five games last month. But his leg must be improving. In a 108-101 victory over Indiana on Sunday, Rose had 10 fourth-quarter points — including four in the final 1:14 and a floater in the lane with 18.4 seconds left that iced the game.

“This man has done it,” Casey said. “His timing and his rhythm — I still don’t think he’s back 100%, but it’s coming. We’ve just got to make sure we play high IQ basketball.”

Rose went 7-for-8 from the field and drained both three-point attempts during his fourth-quarter flurry.

After his go-ahead basket, New Orleans inbounded the ball from halfcourt toward Jaxon Hayes, but the rookie center could not get the tying tip-in.

Brandon Ingram’s 18-foot turn-around gave New Orleans a 103-101 lead with 1:11 to go. Rose hit a spinning layup to tie it at 103 with 38.7 seconds remaining. Ingram then missed a tough-angle, left-handed floater after the ball deflected off Blake Griffin, who switched over to guard him in the final 30 seconds.

Ingram led the Pelicans with 31 points but scored only four in the fourth quarter.

“We lost the game. We didn’t guard Ingram for long periods of time, but for one possession or two pos- sessions, we wanted him to use his physicality (on Ingram), and he used it,” Casey said. “He did a great job on him.”

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4 Heisman finalists named
Three transfer QBs, defensive end heading to New York

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts and Ohio State teammates quarterback Joe Burrow and defensive end Chase Young will join LSU quarterback Joe Burrow as Heisman Trophy finalists.

The top vote-getters for college football’s most famous player of the year award were announced Monday, and three of them were quarterbacks who transferred to their current schools.

Burrow is the clear front-runner to win the Heisman on Saturday night in New York after a record-breaking season, leading the Sooners and leading them to their current schools.

Fields played his freshman season last year at Georgia, but transferred to Ohio State and was granted immediate eligibility by the NCAA to play this season. The sophomore has the Buckeyes on second behind Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel in 2012.

Young is the first exclusively defensive player to be a Heisman finalist since Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te’o finished second behind Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel in 2012. He leads the nation with 16½ sacks, despite missing two games for an NCAA violation.

The 60-year gap between Heisman Trophy awards was ended by Billy Cannon in 1959. The other finalists were not so obvious even after all the games had been played. Ohio State had been played. Ohio State had

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NFL/OLYMPICS

Patriots’ Belichick says he wasn’t aware of filming

NFL investigating incident at Bengals game

By Kyle Hightower
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick said he nor his coaching staff has watched any video footage shot by an in-house production team now at the center of an NFL investigation for inappropriately filming the Cincinnati Bengals’ sideline at a recent game.

Belichick said during a conference call Tuesday he was not involved and had no knowledge of what took place during Sunday’s Bengals-Browns game in Cleveland. Belichick said he wasn’t informed of it until Monday afternoon.

“I personally have never viewed any of that footage,” Belichick said. “I don’t know that those production people have done other than what’s shown on public television or something like that,” Belichick said.

In a statement posted on Twitter and the team website Monday night, the Patriots said a three-person crew producing a web series titled “Do Your Job” “inappropriately filmed the field from the press box” as part of a feature on the scouting department. The filming took place “without specific knowledge of league rules,” the statement said.

An NFL spokesman declined comment. Patriots coach Zac Taylor confirmed during a news conference Monday that the league was investigating the crew’s activities.

The Patriots’ statement also said that while they were granted credentials for the crew from the Browns, “our failure to inform the Bengals and the league was an unintended oversight.” When shown the footage, the crew “immediately turned over all footage to the league and cooperated fully,” the Patriots said.

Belichick said the purpose of the filming was for an illustration of the work the team advance scouts do while on the road. The team says it accepts full responsibility for the crew’s actions.

New England was fined $250,000 and lost a first-round draft pick in 2007 for violating NFL rules against using video to steal signals in a scandal dubbed Spygate. Belichick was also fined $500,000.

Spygate fueled a distrust of the Patriots that persisted when the team was accused of illegally deflate the footballs used in the 2015 AFC championship game.

The punishment by the NFL in that case was also severe. Quarterback Tom Brady was suspended for four games, and the team was fined $1 million and docked another first-round draft pick.

A few years after Spygate, Josh McDaniels, who was head coach in Denver before stints as Brady’s offensive play caller, was fired in the aftermath of a video scandal in which Steve Scarnecchia, the son of longtime Patriots offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia and who followed McDaniels to Denver, illegally filmed the 49ers’ practice ahead of a 2010 game against the Broncos in London.

The Patriots (10-3) visit the Bengals (1-12) on Sunday.

By James Ellingworth
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri will finish this season on injured reserve with an injured left knee.

The 46-year-old Vinatieri hopes his stellar career ends differently.

The Colts announced Monday that Vinatieri will have season-ending surgery for an injury he attempted to play through all season after first experiencing soreness in the knee at training camp.

Coach Frank Reich said team doctors had monitored Vinatieri throughout the season and that it didn’t affect Vinatieri’s performance at practice.

Reich said when the knee flared up again last week, Vinatieri had a scan that revealed he needed surgery.

Indy (6-7) claimed rookie kicker Chase McLaughlin off waivers last week. McLaughlin made all of his extra points and two of three field goals in Sunday’s 38-35 loss at Tampa Bay. But he missed a 47-yarder in the fourth quarter.

Cowboys waive struggling K Maher

FRISCO, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys have waived struggling kicker Brett Maher and replaced him with eight-year veteran Kai Forbath.

 Maher is the only kicker in NFL history with three field goals of at least 60 yards, but the Cowboys couldn’t count on him for the shorter ones that are often more critical.

In his second season, Maher was just 1-for-5 in the 40- to 49-yard range and had two misses in the 30- to 39-yard range.

Despite ban, Russian athletes preparing for Tokyo

By James Ellingworth
Associated Press

Despite another doping ban, many Russian athletes will still be competing at the next Olympics.

The sanctions handed down by the World Anti-Doping Agency on Monday mean there won’t be a Russian flag or national anthem at a string of major sports competitions, including next year’s Tokyo Olympics.

There are enough loopholes for Russia to continue sending neutral teams to the events.

That’s before the inevitable legal challenges, which could further water down the sanctions.

Similar restrictions have been imposed before. At the 2015 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, there was no “Russia” but there were 168 “Olympic Athletes from Russia,” two of whom later failed doping tests.

When the men’s hockey team won the gold medal in uniforms echoing the old Soviet “Red Machine,” players belted out the Russian national anthem, even without any music. Russian President Vladimir Putin called the coach on the bench to congratulate him.

One of Russia’s top athletes said she is still aiming to compete at the Tokyo Olympics.

“I didn’t believe the stories that everything will be fine. What has happened today is a disgrace,” three-time world high jump champion Mariya Lasitskene wrote on Instagram. “I’ve never had any plans to change my citizenship and I don’t plan to do it now. I’m going to prove in my jumping that Russian athletes are alive, even in neutral status.”

Lasitskene has been a vocal critic of how Russian sports officials have handled the doping issues. She missed the 2016 Olympics because of a blanket ban on the Russian track team. Competing in 2020 as a neutral athlete would be nothing new for her, because similar restrictions have been in place for Russians in track since 2016.

“I’ve been doing that for all of the last few years. The only thing that disturbs me is that athletes are fighting alone and our sports authorities have all this time been paying lip-service to our defense,” Lasitskene said.

Much remains unclear about how Russians will compete.

At the Pyeongchang Games, the International Olympic Committee was criticized for letting Russian athletes have uniforms in national, not neutral, colors. The IOC also came under fire for allowing Russian officials to attend and for approving the “Olympic Athletes from Russia” name instead of “Independent Olympic Athletes,” as those from suspended countries were known at earlier games.

“A team that goes there is not a representative of Russia,” Jonathan Taylor, the head of WADA’s compliance review committee, said when asked about the Tokyo Olympics. “It is to send the message that Russia has forfeited its place at these games.”

Playing at the soccer World Cup in 2022 would mean FIFA would have to change its rules to allow for a neutral team.

“I don’t know if they are going to qualify,” Taylor said. “If a mechanism is put in place, (Russia) can apply to participate on a neutral basis.”

That would be particularly awkward since FIFA lambasted praise on Russia for hosting the tournament last year.
Eagles rally past Manning, Giants

By ROB MAADDI  Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz relied on a bunch of guys off the practice squad and his go-to guy Zach Ertz to rally the Philadelphia Eagles.

After Eli Manning led the New York Giants to a 14-point lead, Wentz brought the injury-depleted Eagles back and tossed a 2-yard touchdown pass to Ertz in overtime to give Philadelphia a 23-17 win on Monday night.

The Eagles (6-7) snapped a three-game losing streak and moved into a tie with Dallas (6-7) for first place in the NFC East. Philadelphia takes the division title if it wins its final three games. The Eagles meet the Cowboys in Week 16.

“Guys stepped up and made plays,” Wentz said. “We had guys moving around and I had no choice but to trust these guys.”

The Eagles were down to one healthy wide receiver by the end of the game and were using inexperienced guys and players out of position. Ertz, a Pro Bowl tight end, had to line up at wide receiver.

“We understood as a team that we had to find a way,” Ertz said.

Manning, the two-time Super Bowl MVP, threw a pair of TD passes to Darius Slayton in his first game since Week 2. Filling in for injured rookie Daniel Jones, Manning was 15-for-30 for 203 yards. But he couldn’t prevent New York (2-11) from losing its ninth straight game, tying a franchise record set in 1976, when the team was 0-9.

“I’ve played a lot of football games,” Manning said. “I know the offense and know what I’m supposed to do. I made some good throws and didn’t make some plays that I needed to.”

Wentz threw for 328 yards and a pair of TDs, including a 5-yard toss to Ertz to tie it at 17 with 1:53 left.

Already missing three starters on offense, the Eagles lost wide receiver Alshon Jeffery and right tackle Lane Johnson in the first half and were booted off the field trailing 17-3 at halftime.

They went three-and-out on five straight possessions before Boston Scott caught a 10-yard pass on third-and-5 in the third quarter. Scott then ran 4 yards to the 2 on third-and-3 and scored on the next play to cut it to 17-10.

Scott, one of the former practice squad players, provided a big spark. He had 59 yards rushing and 69 receiving.

“Just do my job. You never know when your opportunity might come,” Scott said.

Wentz drove Philadelphia to the Giants’ 29 with just under 10 minutes left but Greg Ward dropped what should’ve been a 29-yard TD on third-and-11. Jake Elliott then missed a 47-yard field goal wide left.

But the defense held and Wentz drove the Eagles 85 yards with Ertz to tie it.

The Eagles won the toss in overtime and went 75 yards.

Ertz had nine catches for 91 yards.

Manning connected with Slayton for a 35-yard TD on a third-and-13 to give the Giants a 7-0 lead on the first play of the second quarter.

Manning hit Slayton for a 55-yard TD with 27 seconds left in the first half for a 17-3 lead.

“I thought he battled. He did a lot of good things,” Giants coach Pat Shurmur said of Manning.

Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz passes during the second half on Monday against the New York Giants in Philadelphia. Wentz rallied the Eagles with a TD pass late in the fourth quarter and another in overtime.

Eli’s future

Manning walked over to a waiting group of friends and family outside the Giants locker room, leaned in and gave his wife, Abby, a kiss on the cheek. Abby had vowed years ago after a rough night among the Philly crowd she would never watch a game in the city again.

But an exception had to be made since Manning made his first start for the Giants in three months, and there’s no guarantee he’ll get many more.

“She kind of had to break her rule and come for this one,” Manning said. “I hadn’t played three months. I don’t know if I’m going to play again.”

Manning has fallen from Super Bowl champ to substitute starter, and a couple of early flashes of success against the Eagles could not be sustained in the second half.

Manning grabbed his helmet and went to midfield to shake hands, whisper and smile with Eagles and Giants before he headed back to the locker room with another L on his record — 116-117, oh, but with two Super Bowl championships.

“I didn’t know it, so no thoughts,” Manning said.

Manning, who turns 39 next month, is a free agent after the season. It’s uncertain when Jones will return, so it’s possible Manning could finish out the season.

So that leaves the question, when will Manning decide if he returns for next season?

“Probably next year,” he said, smiling.

OFFSides

AFC North

Baltimore 9-6 (2-11) • Cleveland 4-9-0 (6-7-0) • Cincinnati 4-10-0 (4-9-0) • Pittsburgh 4-10-0 (4-9-0) • Indianapolis 7-6-0 (7-6-0)


AFC West

Denver 5-8-0 (5-8-0) • Los Angeles Chargers 5-8-0 (5-8-0) • Oakland 5-8-0 (5-8-0) • Las Vegas 5-8-0 (5-8-0) • Tennessee 5-9-0 (5-9-0)


AFC South

Houston 8-5-0 (8-5-0) • Jacksonville 6-7-0 (6-7-0) • Miami 3-10-0 (3-10-0) • Tennessee 7-6-0 (7-6-0) • Tennessee 4-10-0 (4-10-0)


AFC East

Miami 3-10-0 (3-10-0) • New England 10-3-0 (10-3-0) • New York Jets 9-4-0 (9-4-0) • Buffalo 9-4-0 (9-4-0) • Buffalo 9-4-0 (9-4-0)


AFC North

Baltimore 9-6-0 (9-6-0) • Cleveland 4-9-0 (4-9-0) • Cincinnati 4-10-0 (4-10-0) • Pittsburgh 4-10-0 (4-10-0) • Indianapolis 7-6-0 (7-6-0)


AFC South

Miami 3-10-0 (3-10-0) • New England 10-3-0 (10-3-0) • New York Jets 9-4-0 (9-4-0) • Buffalo 9-4-0 (9-4-0) • Buffalo 9-4-0 (9-4-0)


AFC West

Denver 5-8-0 (5-8-0) • Los Angeles Chargers 5-8-0 (5-8-0) • Oakland 5-8-0 (5-8-0) • Las Vegas 5-8-0 (5-8-0) • Tennessee 5-9-0 (5-9-0)


Green Bay 10-3-0 (10-3-0) • Jacksonville 6-7-0 (6-7-0) • Miami 3-10-0 (3-10-0) • Buffalo 9-4-0 (9-4-0) • Buffalo 9-4-0 (9-4-0)

Staying put

Strasburg opts to remain with Nationals, reaching deal for $245M, 7 years

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

San Diego

Stephen Strasburg returned to the Washington Nationals with a record contract on the first day of the winter meetings, a deal that puts fellow free agent pitcher Gerrit Cole in position for an even larger payday.

Washington and the World Series MVP agreed to a $245 million, seven-year contract, a deal of surprising size and length for a 31-year-old right-hander with an injury-filled résumé.

Strasburg received the highest deal for a pitcher in both total dollars and average annual value at $35 million. The largest contract for a pitcher had been David Price’s $217 million, seven-year deal with Boston that began in 2016. The highest average value had been Zack Greinke’s $34.4 million as part of a $206.5 million, six-year agreement with Arizona prior to the 2016 season.

“For me, it was an early Christmas present,” Washington manager Dave Martinez said. “Just watching his whole career, to think that he’s going to end it here with the team he started with is awesome for him and his family.”

Strasburg gets $35 million annually, with $80 million deferred—an even $11,428,571 a year—at 1% interest. The deferred money is payable from 2028-30, with an interest payment of about $4 million due on Dec. 31, 2029.

Cole, like Strasburg represented by agent Scott Boras, is expected to shatter Strasburg’s salary standards sometime soon.

Cole is two years younger, and while he made five trips to the disabled list from 2014-16, he has not been sidelined since.

Other big names could be in play this week as teams talk trades and agents pitch free agents. But recent meetings have been more talk than action.

SEE DEAL ON PAGE 21

By the numbers

18-6
Record of Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg last season, when he led the National League with 209 innings pitched.

3.32
Strasburg’s ERA last season, when he topped 30 starts for the second time in his 10-year major league career.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Four Heisman Trophy finalists named » College football, Page 21