



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Senior quarterbacks get 1 last shot at Army-Navy glory

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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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CONTINGENCY EDITION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019

stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

## Judiciary panel debates Trump impeachment; vote approaches

By MARY CLARE JALONICK AND LISA MASCARO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House Judiciary Committee argued through a marathon session Thursday ahead of voting on articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, the latest big step as the politically split panel prepares to send the charges to the full House.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi sounded confident Democrats will have the votes to impeach the president next week but said it is up to individual lawmakers to weigh the evidence and decide for themselves. Republicans seem unwavering in their opposition to expelling Trump.

"The fact is we take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," Pelosi told reporters. "No one is above the law; the president will be held accountable for his abuse of power and his obstruction of Congress."

Trump, apparently watching the live proceedings on television, tweeted his criticism of two Democratic women on the panel, Reps. Veronica Escobar and Sheila Jackson Lee, both of Texas. He called their comments about his actions inaccurate.

SEE JUDICIARY ON PAGE 11



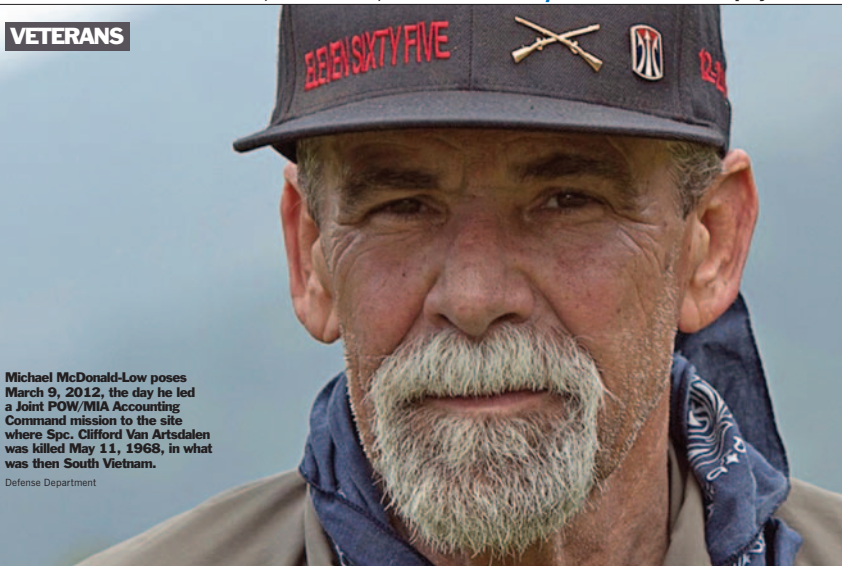
ANDREW HARRIN/AP

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, listens during a House Judiciary Committee markup of the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Thursday in Washington.

## VETERANS

Michael McDonald-Low poses March 9, 2012, the day he led a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command mission to the site where Spc. Clifford Van Artsdalen was killed May 11, 1968, in what was then South Vietnam.

Defense Department



# UNACCOUNTABLE

## A Vietnam veteran's 10-year quest to bring his soldier home

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

**P**ushing through dense foliage toward the site of the bygone ambush, Michael McDonald-Low felt like he was floating through time.

He had longed for this day, planning thoroughly for the time he would return to this hillside in Vietnam's Que Son Valley where many of his infantry company were wounded or killed by a hail of North Vietnamese gunfire on May 11, 1968. The body of one of those soldiers in the platoon he commanded, Spc. Clifford Van Arts-

dalen, had never been recovered.

That fateful trek was etched like a gravestone inscription in his mind as he retraced his steps during this mission on March 9, 2012, to pinpoint the exact location of Van Artsdalen's death so that his remains could be found and returned home.

He pressed on to find the split in the trail where he had sent Van Artsdalen and two other soldiers ahead to secure the route.

Soon after finding it, McDonald-Low was joined by the other 11 members of the mission team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the U.S. Defense Department body tasked at that time with finding

America's lost warfighters.

McDonald-Low was confident that this was the exact location where Van Artsdalen was killed, he told Stars and Stripes during a series of interviews about his search. With the location pinpointed — the government for years had been working with an erroneous place and date of his death — the way was finally clear to find and repatriate the soldier's remains.

Seven years later, nothing has changed. McDonald-Low's quest to bring him home is no further along than it was then.

And there is little time left.

SEE UNACCOUNTABLE ON PAGE 8

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Firm gives \$10M in bonuses to 198 employees

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A commercial real estate developer is handing out a total of \$10 million in bonuses to its 198 employees.

News radio station WTOP reported Monday that Baltimore-based St. John Properties announced the bonuses at the company's holiday party.

Edward St. John, the founder and chairman of the company, said the amount of money that each employee gets is based on

tenure. The average bonus was \$50,000, but some employees will get upward of \$250,000.

One man, a maintenance technician who started at the company in 1981, received more than \$200,000.

"I was in shock," Stanley Ches told the "Today" show. "I'm still in shock. Everybody was shaking me down and giving me hugs."

The company has employees throughout Maryland and northern Virginia. The bonuses celebrate the company's achievement

of developing 20 million square feet of office space, retail and warehouses. That real estate is spread out over eight states.

Edward St. John said that he is "thankful for every one of our employees for their hard work and dedication. I couldn't think of the better way to show it."

The company was founded in 1971. It has retail and warehouse space in Maryland, Virginia, Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 13)	\$1.1431	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Dollar buys (Dec. 13)	60.8748	British pound	\$1.3148
British pound (Dec. 13)	\$1.35	Canada (Dollar)	1.3181
Japanese yen (Dec. 13)	105.00	China (Yuan)	7.0213
South Korean won (Dec. 13)	1,161.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.7183
		Egypt (Pound)	16.1998
		Euro	\$1.1124/0.8990
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8046
		Hungary (Forint)	296.34
		Israel (Shekel)	3.4815
		Japan (Yen)	106.96
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3035
		Norway (Krone)	9.0948
		Philippines (Peso)	50.65
		Poland (Zloty)	3.85
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7502
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3563
		South Korea (Won)	1,182.64
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9848
		Thailand (Baht)	30.18
		Turkey (Lira)	5.7710

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.55
3-month bond	1.52
30-year bond	2.22

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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CustomerService@stripes.com

ADVERTISING  
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# PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at [www.stripes.com/relo](http://www.stripes.com/relo)



## WAR

# US troops clean up after Bagram attack

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A pair of Taliban bombs detonated by suicide attackers at a nearby hospital shattered windows and damaged buildings at Bagram Airfield, spurring cleanup efforts after Wednesday's failed attempt by the insurgents to breach the base.

Pictures released by the Air Force on Thursday showed airmen walking through dust and debris as they repaired parts of the passenger terminal, one of the base's busiest locations. Airmen cleared away broken metal and ceiling tiles during cleanup operations elsewhere on base Wednesday and Thursday.

The attack began at 6 a.m. Wednesday when Taliban suicide bombers blasted the under-construction hospital in a bid to storm the base. The blasts destroyed several houses outside the base and left at least two Afghan civilians dead and 80 injured, Afghan officials said.

The hospital, which was being rebuilt for use by locals, is on the boundary line of the base and has a gate leading into it, said Mohammad Mahfooz Alizada, Parwan's police chief.

Sporadic shooting continued throughout the day as some armed fighters hid within the medical facility, leading one engineer to pause and chamber a round in his pistol upon hearing nearby gunfire, the caption of an Air Force photo said.

Five service members from the nation of Georgia received minor injuries during the assault, the Georgian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The insurgents never entered the base, and the daylight fight ended with a series of U.S. airstrikes killing the holdout attackers, NATO officials said.

Orange flames amid billowing smoke filled the skyline Wednesday evening as the clash drew to a close.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.  
lawrence.jp@stripes.com  
Twitter: @jplawrence3



PHOTOS BY BRANDON CRIBELAR/U.S. Air Force

Air Force airmen from the 405th Expeditionary Support Squadron remove damaged metal and ceiling tiles Thursday in the passenger terminal the day after a Taliban attack near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.



BRIGITTE N. BRANTLEY/U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Mytchel Collingridge helps with recovery operations Wednesday before the "all clear" is given at Bagram Airfield.



Tech. Sgt. Ryan Schell, a U.S. Central Command Material Recovery Element technician, cleans up.



Air Force airmen clear debris from Bagram's passenger terminal.

## DOD keeps Afghan food supplier despite fraud charges

By AARON GREGG  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is allowing its primary supplier of food and water for troops in Afghanistan to continue doing business with the U.S. military even though fraud charges against three former executives resulted in a \$45 million settlement.

Dubai-based logistics company Anham is at least the third supplier to be involved in massive fraud allegations for the Defense Logistics Agency's primary Afghan troop supply contract. Anham's former Virginia-based subsidiary, Unitrans International, agreed to pay the settlement last week to resolve federal criminal and civil complaints of obstruction and making

false claims.

The settlement highlights how the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan, which has stretched for nearly two decades and cost taxpayers at least \$1 trillion, has consistently created opportunities for fraud.

Three executives associated with Anham, including longtime chief executive Abul Huda Farouki, were indicted by the Justice Department last year. They were accused of setting up a fake construction scene to overstate progress on a warehouse, jacking up prices for basic items sold to deployed military units and illegally shipping products through Iran.

In January, Anham was suspended in relation to the fraud charges and barred from applying for any future opportuni-

ties with the U.S. government. However, the suspension was soon lifted because the Defense Logistics Agency entered into an "administrative agreement" that allowed the company to continue its work, providing food and water to 13,000 troops stationed in Afghanistan.

In a lengthy statement on its website, Anham said it has agreed to "revisit and continue to strengthen" its internal compliance programs and cooperate with future investigations.

Farouki, his brother Mazen and another executive named Salah Maarouf were charged with counts including fraud and conspiracy. The charges were dismissed Dec. 3 after federal prosecutors entered into a nonprosecution agreement with the

three, records show.

The Defense Logistics Agency has put the contract out for new bids, hoping to find a way forward. Anham, however, remains eligible and is one of the bidders on the new contract, according to court documents. An award date has not been determined.

The settlement is the latest example of a private company using the war in Afghanistan to earn excessive profits at U.S. taxpayers' expense. The supplier before Anham, a Swiss company called Supreme Foodservice GmbH, pleaded guilty to similar charges and paid \$288 million in criminal fines. The supplier before that, a Kuwaiti company called Agility Public Warehousing, spent \$95 million to resolve civil fraud charges of its own.



MILITARY

# USMC: Release of pollutant on Okinawa poses little risk

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
*Stars and Stripes*

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa** — The inadvertent release of a banned pollutant in firefighting foam at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma created “minimal to no impact” on the environment, Marine officials said this week.

The incident occurred Dec. 5 when an auxiliary power unit in an aircraft hangar was inadvertently switched on, activating a fire suppression system, Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokesman 1st Lt. Tim Hayes wrote Wednesday in an email to Stars and Stripes. The system released an unknown amount of firefighting foam.

No injuries or property damage were reported.

“Approximately 99 percent of the... firefighting foam, and contaminated water has been contained and cleaned up,” Hayes said in the email.

“The environmental team on site has determined that the environmental impact to the area is minimal to no impact, and there is no safety concern to the public,” he said. “Proper procedures to prevent recurrence has been briefed to all military and civilian personnel regarding the use of the auxiliary power unit and other equipment in confined spaces.”

Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono told reporters Tuesday

that the foam contained perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, or PFOS, a synthetic, organic acid known to cause tumors, increases in body and organ weight and death in animals.

PFOS and its sister acid, perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, are found in firefighting foam, aircraft grease, water-repellent materials and fluorine chemicals.

Japan has no guidelines on safe levels of either chemical, but health advisories in the United States are issued for drinking water at levels of 0.07 micrograms per liter and above. Their manufacture and importation have been prohibited in Japan since 2010.

The chemicals are still in use in



CARLOS VAZQUEZ/Stars and Stripes

**Firefighting foam from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, seen above, was reported to have had “minimal to no impact” on the environment in Okinawa.**

firefighting foam on U.S. military installations in Okinawa but are being phased out, U.S. military officials have said.

The Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents the Defense Ministry, said it was waiting for further details on the incident.

“Marine officials informed us that they cleaned the majority of the firefighting chemical foam

from the facility and they did not see anything that spilled or leaked off base,” a bureau spokesman said Wednesday. “Marine officials said there is no concerns for the environment and they will retrain their people so that this won’t happen again.”

burke.matt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @MattWhMBurke1  
ichihashi.aya@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Ayaiichihashi

# Ex-USAF employee in Germany pleads guilty to lying about theft

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

A former civilian employee of the U.S. Air Force in Germany pleaded guilty Tuesday to lying to federal investigators about stealing more than \$144,000 in government funds, according to a news release from the Justice Department.

Gregory Burris, 48, of Miesau, Germany, pleaded guilty to one count of making false statements before U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen B. Molzen of the District of New Mexico. A sentencing date

has not been set. Court records indicate he faces between 12 and 18 months in prison and a fine of up to \$55,000.

Burris worked between 2013 and 2016 as a resource adviser assigned to a multinational electronic warfare training facility, known as the Polygone, in Bann, Germany, near Ramstein Air Base. His responsibilities included generating and transmitting invoices and payment instructions to foreign militaries for their use of the NATO training facilities, according to the news release.

Between early 2015 and early

2016, Burris generated and transmitted six invoices to foreign militaries to money owed to the U.S. government for expenses related to Polygone-sponsored training exercises and directed those militaries to transmit payment of the invoices to Burris’ personal checking account held jointly with his wife at a German bank, rather than the authorized Defense Department bank account, according to the news release.

More than \$144,950 landed in Burris’ bank account from the foreign militaries, including the Royal Netherlands Air Force, the

Swedish armed forces, the German Ministry of Defense, the Spanish air force and the Danish armed forces.

The court could order Burris to repay the money to the government, according to court documents.

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations began looking into the missing funds in February 2018, according to court documents.

When agents interviewed Burris on Aug. 29, 2018, at Kirtland Air Force Base near Albuquerque, N.M., he falsely stated that

after receiving the deposits, he wire-transferred the funds to a Defense Department account in person at the local branch of his bank in Germany, according to the news release.

Burris had actually used the entirety of the funds to pay for personal expenses.

thayer.rose@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Rose\_Lori

# Australia’s \$715M in upgrades will benefit US ships

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Upgrades worth \$715 million to naval facilities in Australia’s Northern Territory will mean more support for visiting U.S. warships, according to an Australian defense expert.

The improvements are being made to an Australian naval base, HMAS Coonawarra, and the Larrakeyah Defence Precinct in Darwin, the Australian Department of Defence said in a Dec. 11 email.

The enhancements are designed to support new Australian vessels used for border protection, but they will also be useful for visiting Navy ships, former Australian Assistant Defense Secretary Ross Babbage said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

A number of American warships have called on Darwin this year, including the destroyer USS Stockdale, the mine countermeasures ship USS Patriot and the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land, U.S. 7th Fleet news releases show.

The port has been a focus of a

rebalance of U.S. military forces to the Pacific, begun under the Obama administration and seen as a reaction to China’s rapidly growing military. The Marine Corps, which deployed a rotational force there for the first time in 2012, sent an air-ground task force of 7,500 Marines to Darwin for six months this past summer.

Air bases in the Northern Territory are also being upgraded. At the Royal Australian Air Force base at Darwin, for example, \$88.65 million worth of projects have been awarded to build fuel tanks, expand the airfield and erect maintenance facilities. Upgrades at nearby Tindal air base are also planned.

Australia’s Defence Department, in an earlier email, said the naval upgrades at Darwin include \$272 million for a new outer wharf to support major surface combatant ships, with associated fuel storage and refueling facilities by 2023.

Upgrades of the inner harbor at Coonawarra will support the home-porting of six out of 12 new Arafura-class offshore pa-

trol vessels being introduced into the Royal Australian Navy over the next decade, the department said.

“Around \$220 million of proposed works includes dredging the inner basin, upgrades to the existing wharves to accommodate the significantly larger new vessels,” the department said.

The funding will also pay for logistics, maintenance and other work areas, with construction due for completion by mid-2026. Another \$223 million will upgrade infrastructure at the Larrakeyah Defence Precinct to support

growth for the next 25 years, the department said.

“Beyond these projects, there are no plans for further investment in new naval basing capabilities in the Northern Territory,” the department said.

However, Babbage predicted there will be ongoing development of naval facilities in the Northern Territory.

“The details are still being sorted out, but you will see quite a bit more in the next three to four years,” he said.

robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter: @SethRobson1

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## MILITARY

# House approves \$738B defense policy bill

By PAUL SONNE  
AND KAROUN DEMIRJIAN  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The House passed a \$738 billion defense policy bill Wednesday, a step toward establishing the Space Force and introducing parental leave for federal workers, as dozens of liberals signaled their dissatisfaction with compromises Democratic lawmakers reached by voting against the legislation.

President Donald Trump said he would sign the bill after striking a deal with House Democrats that permits the creation of the Space Force as a sixth branch of the military, one of his top priorities at the Pentagon, in exchange for extending 12 weeks of paid parental leave to more than 2 million federal workers, a victory for Democratic lawmakers. Federal workers at the moment don't have guaranteed access to paid family leave.

The bill passed in the House in a 377-48 vote. Those who voted against it were primarily liberal Democrats who felt the compromise version of the legislation hammered out with the Republican-led Senate offered up too many concessions, including a top-line authorization that gives

\$22 billion more to defense than last year, plus another \$5.3 billion for disaster recovery on military installations.

Known as the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, the annual bill sets out priorities for the Pentagon and funding targets for programs. Congressional appropriators ultimately will decide how much federal money the Pentagon receives for those priorities in budget legislation. The compromise bill, having passed in the House, will face a Senate vote slated for next week.

In a tweet Wednesday before the House vote, Trump said he would sign the bill when it reaches his desk and appeared to take credit for its provision on paid parental leave, even though Democratic lawmakers pushed for that measure as a trade for the Space Force, facing down Republican opposition to the expansion of federal worker benefits.

"Wow! All of our priorities have made it into the final NDAA: Pay Raise for our Troops, Rebuilding our Military, Paid Parental Leave, Border Security, and Space Force!" Trump wrote. "Congress — don't delay this anymore! I will sign this historic defense legislation immediately!"

The president's daughter and adviser Ivanka Trump has made pushing for paid family leave a central part of her formal duties at the White House.

The Republican-led Senate's version of the bill didn't include a provision on paid parental leave for federal workers. The provision grew out of legislation led by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., chairwoman of the House Oversight Committee, which was then tacked onto the House version of the defense policy bill. Democratic lawmakers then fought for its inclusion in the compromise version of the defense policy bill with the Senate.

The bill would authorize a 3.1% pay raise for service members and would repeal what's known as the "widow's tax," or regulations that penalize military spouses collecting benefits from the government owing to the death of their partner. It also authorizes sanctions aimed at pipe-laying ships involved in Russia's construction of a new gas pipeline to Europe under the Baltic Sea.

Questions about whether Congress will agree to "backfill" \$3.6 billion the Trump administration took from the Pentagon budget under emergency authorities for

border barrier construction have been deferred to appropriators still negotiating a budget deal.

The bill expresses a "sense of Congress" that supports the people of Hong Kong in defending their rights and autonomy against China. It would authorize another \$4.5 billion to continue long-running U.S. efforts to build up Afghanistan's national security forces in their fight against the Taliban, even though U.S. officials described that effort in confidential government interviews released this week by The Washington Post as a long-running calamity.

The legislation also would give the secretary of defense the power to pay personal injury or death claims by service members owing to medical malpractice at military facilities — but stops short of repealing a judicial precedent known as the Peres doctrine that has long prevented active-duty personnel injured during military service from suing the government.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, rejected criticism from within his own party that the Democrats gave up too much during the negotiations

and noted that the bill brings paid family leave to millions of federal workers and repeals the "widow's tax," two measures he said Republicans fought during the talks. He called the legislation the "most progressive defense bill we have passed in decades."

Still, Democratic lawmakers had included many provisions in the House version of the bill that didn't make it into the compromise legislation.

Among them were Democratic initiatives to overturn restrictions on transgender troops serving in the military, prohibit the deployment of new low-yield nuclear weapons, restrict Trump from waging war against Iran without congressional sign-off, and end the Pentagon's backing for Saudi Arabia's war against Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Some lawmakers also had hoped to see more extensive requirements for the Pentagon to deal with polyfluoroalkyl, or PFAS, contamination of groundwater and drinking water on military installations. The bill would phase out the use of PFAS, a group of man-made chemicals, in firefighting foams. The Pentagon is still conducting a health impact study on the chemicals.

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## MILITARY

# DOD watchdog probes contract for border wall

By COLLEEN LONG  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's internal watchdog is investigating a \$400 million border wall contract awarded to a firm that used multiple appearances on Fox News to push for the job.

The Pentagon's inspector general sent a letter Thursday to House Homeland Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson telling him the contract awarded to North Dakota-based firm Fisher Sand and Gravel Co. would be audited. Thompson, D-Miss., asked for the review last week, in part over concerns the proposals did not meet operational requirements and prototypes came in late and over budget.

Tommy Fisher, the head of the family business, said Thursday there would be "nothing to find" in an audit.

"We were told we were the lowest price and the best value," he said. "We look forward to working with the Army Corps of Engineers."

The border wall is one of President Donald Trump's top priorities. He campaigned on a promise to build a "big beautiful wall" between the U.S. and Mexico, said Mexico would pay for it, and promised to build 450 to 500 miles by the end of 2020. Mexico is not paying for the wall and, as of Nov. 1, Trump had built 78 miles.

Trump's effort to push through funding using money from the Pentagon after Congress refused to fund the wall, has been met with resistance and lawsuits. A federal judge this week blocked the administration from spending some Defense Department money on the barrier.

The company was awarded a contract Dec. 2 to build 31 miles of wall in Arizona, part of a series of contracts to push out increased

mileage. Fisher had made a number of appearances on Trump's favorite cable news channel — Fox News — talking about his desire to win a contract. His firm, though, has little experience with such construction and a previous proposal was rejected.

Fisher said his company could do the work for \$13 million a mile. He said the next closest bid was \$20 million a mile.

A letter from the Army Corps when Fisher was awarded the contract said the company's proposal was both technically acceptable and the best price.

Two administration officials familiar with the matter told The Associated Press this year that Trump aggressively pushed the Fisher firm's bid with the heads of Homeland Security and the Army Corps of Engineers, which manages wall contracts. The interference in federal contracting by a president concerned some overseeing the process but, the officials said, Trump insisted Fisher could get the wall up faster and cheaper than other bidders.

Thompson had said one of his concerns was that officials from Homeland Security, the department managing border security, had toured a private barrier built by the company shortly before the contract was awarded.

The Pentagon watchdog said it was assessing how to complete the audit and would formally announce it soon.

Thompson said he was pleased. "The company had never been awarded a construction contract before and their wall prototype was late and over budget," he said in a statement. "Given the President's multiple endorsements of this company and the amount of taxpayer money at stake, I remain concerned about the possibility of inappropriate influence on the Army Corps' contracting decision."



PHOTOS BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

Maj. Jason Byers, the chaplain with the 41st Field Artillery Brigade, carries his son, Lincoln, to the end of a march at Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Thursday.

## US soldiers, Santa collect gifts for kids after march at Grafenwoehr

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON  
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — American soldiers marched 3 miles from the drop zone at Grafenwoehr Training Area to Tower Barracks on Thursday carrying assault packs filled with toys to be delivered to local children in need.

"This is about giving back to the kids and community, and building those bonds with the surrounding areas," said Staff Sgt. Peyton Baker, a target acquisition platoon sergeant with the 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, who was dressed up as Santa Claus.

American children who also took part in the march received goodie bags containing candy and small toys. Some 600 additional toys, backpacks and school supplies that were collected were wrapped up and will be distributed to children at the Haus St. Elisabeth children's home in Windscheschenbach and to American military families who are financially strapped over the holidays.



Soldiers march in a toy delivery event at Grafenwoehr. The soldiers will provide toys to children living at Haus St. Elisabeth in Windscheschenbach, Germany.

This is the first year the regiment has distributed toys to local children.

"It's a small way to ... be good neighbors," said Capt. Mike Kayle, chaplain for the regiment. German paratroopers who at-

tended the event were supposed to parachute from CH-47 Chinook helicopters to deliver the gifts, but inclement weather caused the jump to be canceled.

johnson.immanuel@stripes.com  
Twitter: Manny\_Stripes



Smoke billows from the Admiral Kuznetsov carrier during a fire in Murmansk, Russia, on Thursday.

## Fire hits Russia's only aircraft carrier

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's only aircraft carrier suffered a massive fire Thursday that killed one crew member, injured another 11 people and significantly damaged the ill-fated ship that has been haunted by incidents throughout its service.

The fire on the Admiral Kuznetsov broke out during welding work at a shipyard in the Arctic port of Murmansk and spread quickly through the carrier's internal compartments. The ship's crew and emergency teams spent the day battling the blaze. The Defense Ministry said the fire was localized.

The military said one crew member died while battling the fire and another one is missing. Authorities in Murmansk said 11 people were injured and

10 of them were hospitalized in intensive care.

The Admiral Kuznetsov has been plagued by breakdowns and setbacks since its launch in 1985.

In October 2018, a 70-ton crane crashed onto its deck when a mammoth floating dock holding the ship sank. The crane left a 215-square-foot hole, and the loss of the dock significantly slowed repairs on the carrier since the navy lacked another of comparable size.

Thursday's fire will delay work to fit the ship with modern control systems and new weapons.

With its turbines belching black smoke, the Admiral Kuznetsov looks outdated compared with the nuclear-powered carriers of the United States. However, the Kremlin has used it to project military might far from Russia's shores.



## MILITARY

# Troxell leaves GIs with call to know all conflict arenas

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

America's future enlisted leaders will need to couple the ability to bring violence to bear on the country's enemies with a range of new skills, such as diplomacy and countering disinformation campaigns, the Pentagon's outgoing top enlisted adviser said.

The forces of the future will have to maintain a "shoot 'em in the face, beat 'em to death with an trenching tool attitude," Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell said in a wide-ranging interview with Stars and Stripes earlier this year. "But we also have to be savvy enough to understand all-domain conflict, especially when it comes to cyber, information operations and things like that."

The third senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Troxell retires Friday after nearly 38 years in the Army, including four years advising the chairman and the defense secretary on issues that affect the enlisted force.

His comments echo remarks he made in Iraq and Afghanistan two years ago during a USO tour, in which he said Islamic State faced the choice to surrender or die — by bomb, gunshot or blade-gouging with an e-tool, a type of shovel. The comments circulated widely and he's since signed hundreds of e-tools sent to him by fans of his statement.

Troxell sat down with Stars and Stripes during a conference in Germany organized by his successor, U.S. Africa Command senior enlisted leader Chief Master Sgt. Ramon Colon-Lopez, which focused on enlisted professional development among U.S. partner militaries in Africa.

Troxell believes future enlisted leaders will need to focus on maintaining low-tech capabilities

while embracing new technologies, allowing them to compete with "great power" adversaries like Russia and China around the globe and in the cyber and space domains.

In addition to bringing more technological know-how, non-commissioned officers also will be expected to do more of what looks like diplomacy in leading and influencing foreign partners, Troxell said.

There's also a current need for NCOs to better police their own, he said. He cautioned against taking personal beefs with peers to a third-party to "weaponize" them, and instead called for dealing with such issues person-to-person.

Good conduct and leadership produce enlisted personnel who thrive, he said, citing his own experience of 14 years in the 82nd Airborne Division as contributing to his success.

"Culture is driven by leadership," he said. "How the leaders act and how the leaders perform, the culture will adjust to how the leaders are doing."

During Troxell's tenure as SEAC, he traveled to nearly 60 countries, often advising his counterparts or gathering information to advocate on behalf of U.S. enlisted troops.

"How do you follow a guy like this with all the accomplishments he had over the past four years?" Colon-Lopez, his successor, asked Pentagon reporters Monday. "The answer is pretty simple: We can never do enough for our troops compared to what they do for us."

A career special operations airman, who earned a Bronze Star with combat "V" for valor and the Air Force Combat Action Medal for actions in Afghanistan, Colon-Lopez will be the first airman to hold the position.

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland



DANELLE O'DONNELL/U.S. Army

Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell, senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shows the memento presented to him during his last visit to the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence in El Paso, Texas, last month. Troxell retires Friday.



IMMANUEL JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Rocky Johnson, left, communicates with a command center before the 2nd Cavalry Regiment conducts a live-fire exercise in Vilseck, Germany, on Thursday.

## 2nd Cavalry's Bulldog Battery learns how to fire, then avoid being tracked

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON  
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The blasts of howitzers rang across the snow-covered landscape of Vilseck as soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment's Bulldog Battery learned how to fire and move during a qualification exercise Thursday.

"We try to make this as real as possible for them," said Sgt. 1st

Class James Deese, a digital master gunner with the 2nd Cavalry.

Soldiers need to be aware of how many rounds they fire, with the assumption that they're being tracked by the enemy, Deese said.

"The more we shoot, the more they can pinpoint where we are," Deese said. "Once six rounds are fired — the radar knows where we are — we move the platoon after that."

The basic qualification allows platoons to continue on to advanced training, said 1st Lt. Jack Baisley, a squadron adjutant with the Field Artillery Squadron.

With temperatures below freezing, the exercise also gave the soldiers, some of whom will deploy to Poland at the end of January, a feel for the weather expected there.

johnson.immanuel@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Manny\_Stripes

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# VETERANS

## Unaccountable: US still pursuing cases of more than 1,100 MIA from Vietnam War

### The toughest cases

Clifford Van Artsdalen represents one of the toughest types of cases to resolve in the search for the still-missing 1,600 soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors from the Vietnam War: ground-loss cases.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the body now overseeing the U.S. government's effort to repatriate the country's missing troops, is still actively pursuing the cases of 1,102 service members missing from the Vietnam War.

Van Artsdalen is one of the 257 lost infantrymen and Marines not associated with large metal objects such as helicopters and airplanes. The enemy often stripped the American dead bare of even their metal dog tags before a hasty burial.

Progress in retrieving these ground losses has been achingly slow, with the DPAA identifying only seven such cases since the beginning of 2015. At such a rate, it would take almost two centuries to recover them.

Many of the remains rest in the harsh, acidic jungle soil of Southeast Asia, dissolving over the half-century since the U.S. and combat operations there ended in 1973. "Time is not our ally," Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, then DPAA deputy director, said in June at the annual conference of the National League of POW/MIA Families.

"One of the biggest reasons when it comes to the Vietnam War is because remains are degrading at a very fast rate. It makes identifying individuals from their remains more challenging all the time."

McDonald-Low's efforts on the Van Artsdalen case illustrate many of the obstacles that have stood — indeed, still stand — in the way of DPAA recovering ground troops still missing in action, or MIA.

For the past decade, the decorated Vietnam War veteran has shepherded Van Artsdalen's case through the government bureaucracy, tracked down and interviewed eyewitness veterans, dug up official after-action reports and pushed back on erroneous assumptions and information held within the official case file.

"The grim reality is that there's no sense of urgency or priority at DPAA to recover the remaining unaccounted-for soldiers of the Vietnam War, although they are keenly aware that the window for their recovery is rapidly closing," said McDonald-Low, who lives in Portland, Ore.

The DPAA said in a written response to Stars and Stripes that the Vietnam War missing are its "primary operational priority" and that it is increasing the pace and scope of operations, spending, for example, more than \$50 million in the last two years in investigative and excavation missions in Southeast Asia.

### The boyish-faced grenadier

First Lt. Michael McDonald-Low arrived by ship to Vietnam for his first combat tour in December 1967 after graduating two years earlier from Officer Candidate School in Fort Knox, Ky., and then training in Hawaii.

Within a couple of months, his company was patrolling South Vietnam's countryside on search and destroy missions for 10 to 12 days at a time, he said.

Among the men in his platoon was Clifford Van Artsdalen, an 18-year-old boyish-faced grenadier who stood barely 5 feet tall.

Growing up, "Cliffy" had a passion for baseball, said Garth Garges, a boyhood friend, now 70, who still lives in the tiny town of Perkasio, Pa., where they both grew up. During summers in their early teens, the pair played sandlot baseball almost every day, he said.

"He didn't have a mean bone in his body," Garges said. "He always had some funny little quip."

He lost track of him after Van Artsdalen dropped out of high school during the 11th grade. The two had talked frequently about going to college, and neither had any desire to go fight it, Garges said.

But Van Artsdalen found himself in the thick of it as an infantryman in Vietnam, where danger and death lurked everywhere, from sprained ankles, jungle rot and diseases to firefights big and small with the enemy.

He was among hundreds of soldiers killed or wounded in Que Son Valley, about 30 miles southwest of Danang, in the early part of May 1968, when the North Vietnamese Army launched attacks marking the start of their second Tet Offensive.

On May 5, McDonald-Low's Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade was choppered into a valley below Landing Zone Center, a hilltop U.S. firebase. Together with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, the soldiers swept through the nearby hillsides where two U.S. helicopters had been shot down.

McDonald-Low led his men on assaults over five days on the top of Hill 352, a North Vietnamese Army stronghold, each time being driven back, each time dragging the dead and wounded down the slope to

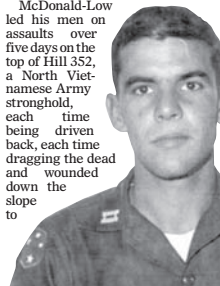


Gary Sanner

**Spc. Clifford Van Artsdalen, left, plays cards with his fellow platoon members on May 5, 1968, as they await a helicopter shuttle to Hill 352 on Nui Hoac Ridge, South Vietnam. Van Artsdalen was killed in an ambush six days later, and his body was never recovered.**



ANDREA VILLARI/Stars and Stripes



**Capt. Michael McDonald-Low poses in December 1968 after completing his combat tours in Vietnam. Spc. Clifford Van Artsdalen was one of the men in McDonald-Low's platoon.**

Michael McDonald-Low

where they could be treated or evacuated.

After days of intense battle, Delta Company was badly depleted of men and rest, and on May 11 they were ordered to leave Hill 352 and make haste to Landing Zone Center for refitting and replenishment.

McDonald-Low was tasked with leading the company from Hill 352 across the valley and up the roughly 1,200 feet to LZ Center.

When McDonald-Low reached a split in the trail on a nearby summit, with one path leading up to LZ Center, the other heading down into the next valley, he sent Van Artsdalen and two other men up trail 30 yards and three men down trail the same distance to secure each location.

It was the simple kind of command he'd given countless times in recent months, but the moment was locked in his memory.

"Some guys just stick out in your mind," McDonald-Low said of the many men who died under his command. "I remember looking at Van Artsdalen and sending him up that trail. I'll never forget it."

Van Artsdalen and two other soldiers were ambushed and killed moments later.

The date of Van Artsdalen's death remains seared into McDonald-Low's memory because that same day, May 11, 1968, he was wounded in the head, right shoulder and arm and evacuated for weeks of hospital recovery.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



# VETERANS

## FROM PAGE 8

Two months later he returned to the battlefield as a newly minted captain in command of Delta Company.

## Leaving Vietnam behind

McDonald-Low left the Army when his four-year stint was up in July 1969, taking with him a Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star with "V" device for valor, Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

"I left Vietnam behind me," he said. "I put it in the back of my mind for many, many years. Never admitted I was a Vietnam vet."

He said he never forgot the bedlam, uncertainty and loss he experienced in infantry combat; it flooded upward through nightmares and mood swings.

An extreme-sports enthusiast, he made a career out of writing and publishing magazines on windsurfing, snowboarding and wakeboarding as he raised a family.

When he retired in early 2009, he began for the first time reflecting in depth about the Vietnam War experiences he had pushed into a dark corner: He found the website for his old unit, the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, which listed those in the unit who died in action.

He was stunned when he reached the entry about Van Artsdalen. He was listed as missing in action, body never recovered.

He had no idea that one of his soldiers remained unaccounted for in Vietnam.

The website listed Van Artsdalen's death on the wrong date — two days before McDonald-Low had looked the soldier in the eye and sent him up the trail — and in the wrong location.

— He said he was agghast to learn that the Hawaii-based Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, was using the same flawed data — even sending search teams several times to the wrong location in Vietnam.

The information JPAC and its sister agency, the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office on the East Coast, had on Van Artsdalen's death was largely based on statements made by Capt. Charles Seketa, Delta's company commander during a board of inquiry May 20, 1968 — nine days after the deadly battle near Landing Zone Center.

After discovering Van Artsdalen was still missing, McDonald-Low tracked down Seketa and met with him in the summer of 2009, about six months before he died.

"He was very cordial, and we sat down with a map," McDonald-Low said. "But Chuck couldn't read a map if his life depended on it. He admitted to me, 'You know, you couldn't really rely on me for those kinds of things.'"

"At the heart of inquiry, all he was trying to do was put names to dates, nine days after he'd lost some 45 men," McDonald-Low said. "For a company commander to do that even with as few men as we had would be very difficult to do under the best of circumstances."

In June 2010, McDonald-Low



**Above:** A member of a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command field mission searches on March 9, 2012, for evidence of the remains of Army Spc. Clifford Van Artsdalen, who was killed on the spot in Vietnam on May 11, 1968. **Right:** On the same date decades later, Michael McDonald-Low leads a JPAC team up the same trail in Vietnam that he had led soldiers up 44 years earlier.

Defense Department photos

provided JPAC with a map showing the exact location where Van Artsdalen died.

Three months later he received an email from a JPAC analyst telling him that Seketa's information "is obviously incorrect," and invited McDonald-Low to head the next investigative field team to the location just below LZ Center.

Under JPAC protocol, no excavation was done during that investigatory field mission in March 2012.

McDonald-Low said the mission's forensic anthropologist, Elliot Moore, indicated that the most likely spot the North Vietnamese would have buried Van Artsdalen was in a nearby small gully covered with dense overbrush and

that there was a 10-year window to retrieve bones before the acidic soil dissolved them.

"Research has shown that remains can be lost within 10 years in very acidic soils," Moore, who retired from JPAC in 2015, told Stars and Stripes in an email. In less acidic soils they may last "up to 40 years plus," he said.

## 'Fog of war'

Two years after standing on that Vietnamese trail with Moore, McDonald-Low had grown frustrated that no excavation mission had gone to the site.

In May 2014, he was contacted by Alisa Stack, a senior Defense Department civilian heading the Personnel Accounting Consolidation Task Force, or PACT, which had been formed by Defense Department Secretary Chuck Hagel to oversee the overhaul of the department's accounting after a series of scandals. She invited McDonald-Low's feedback on the agency's performance.

In an email, he complained about the slow progress in finding his soldier, whom JPAC had officially designated MIA 1165.

"The reason I have been given [for the delay] is that JPAC needs confirmation by a Vietnamese villager or a former soldier who remembers the date and location of 1165's loss," he wrote. "This is in my opinion an unreasonable burden of proof being demanded.



lost in that same area is virtually zero."

DPAA spokesman Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman, in a written response to a query by Stars and Stripes, said the agency routinely takes U.S. and foreign veterans and civilians back to battlefields to help locate burial sites.

"Many of these individuals, to include Mr. McDonald-Low, were not able to confirm precise locations based on their recollection of events that occurred decades ago in the fog of war," Hoffman said. "Mr. McDonald-Low was able to point out the general area where he last saw SP4 Van Artsdalen but could provide no information on where he was killed or buried."

McDonald-Low dismisses that characterization.

"I wasn't in a fog of war," he said. "I knew the exact map coordinates. I provided precise information on where he was killed."

## Illogical conclusions

Stack invited McDonald-Low to become a member of the PACT task force, and he was sent to Hawaii for a week to assess JPAC's operations and procedures.

It was during these interviews that the chasm between JPAC in Hawaii and DPAA on the East Coast became clear: "There was not just miscommunication, but also a self-serving willingness to guard information — an unwillingness to share, which was affecting their ability to work as a team and accomplish the mission," he said.

**SEE UNACCOUNTABLE, PAGE 10**

Read our series of features that add context and understanding to the history of the Vietnam War

[stripes.com/vietnam50](http://stripes.com/vietnam50)

## VETERANS

## Unaccountable: Vietnam vet feels frustration, sense of urgency

FROM PAGE 9

In his final report, McDonald-Low wrote that burden-of-proof protocols for infantry ground-loss cases, like Van Artsdalen's, should be changed to improve the chances for success in these "toughest remaining cases."

A few months later, in August 2014, McDonald-Low was appointed as the first-ever Southeast Asia veteran liaison for JPAC/DPMO. He underwent a background security check, was issued an official Defense Department ID card and worked as an unpaid contractor reviewing unresolved ground-loss cases.

As he worked the cases, it became clear to him that too many JPAC investigators were unfamiliar with basic Vietnam War-era infantry combat tactics and weapons, as well as the types of wounds and damage they could inflict, he said.

"In one case, an investigator said a soldier had an 81-mm mortar land at his feet, and his body was vaporized," he said. "Hence, there was no further remains we could identify and recover, as had been reported by the soldiers on the ground.

"It's impossible for a human being to be disintegrated by that mortar size," he said.

He saw that ignorance surface in Van Artsdalen's case, which he reports detail a search for the bodies up the trail about three hours after the initial fire-fight. They recovered the bodies of two but could not recover the third body they saw, Van Artsdalen, because of subsequent heavy enemy fire.

"For the JPAC case analyst to imply that 1165 lay at that location for three hours until [Alpha Company] arrived and then [he] departed after their firefight is illogical," he wrote.

## Waning casework

By the end of 2016, he said the flow of cases from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency had dried to a trickle.

His numerous inquiries about cases he had worked on and requests for new cases went unanswered.

As someone who speaks his mind, he is cognizant he may have rubbed somebody the wrong way.

"Certainly I'm an abrasive personality," he said. If he judged something in an analyst's report to be ridiculous, "he did not hesitate to point it out," he said.

But he also suspects he might have ruffled feathers with a book he self-published in 2016, titled "Unaccounted," which chronicled the battle that led to Van Artsdalen's death and the mission McDonald-Low led in Vietnam in 2012.

"I wrote it for 1165 and myself,"



Gary Sanner

First Lt. Michael McDonald-Low awaits the arrival of a helicopter on May 5, 1968, to take him and other soldiers to Hill 352, Nui Hoac Ridge, South Vietnam. More than 50 years after one of his soldiers was killed in the Que Son Valley, McDonald-Low is still fighting frustration and Father Time in an effort to locate that soldier's remains.

he said of the book, which depicted the government accounting effort in a generally positive light. "I wanted to memorialize his service, his loss and my experience going through it."

To this day, he does not know why the casework ended. "I only had one goal, which was to be honest and give them my opinion based on my knowledge and experience," he said. "I had no axe to grind. I just wanted to see the mission fulfilled, streamlined and improved."

His official credentials giving him access to certain DPAA databases ended in November 2017. The lapse left him ever more removed from the Van Artsdalen case.

Frustrated, he wrote a lengthy letter in early 2018 to President Donald Trump, which he copied and distributed to veterans' groups and members of the media. In it, he highlighted the shortcomings in the DPAA's procedures for locating and excavating remains for ground-loss cases such as Van Artsdalen.

Months later, in September 2018, he finally received a letter from DPAA Director Kelly McKeague, who wrote that he was responding on behalf of the president.

McDonald-Low was familiar with the director because McKeague's professional involvement with the MIA accounting effort mirrored his own.

As an Air Force major general, McKeague took command of JPAC at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in 2012, the same year McDonald-Low led the

mission to Vietnam. McKeague became DPAA's first deputy director when it was created in 2015. He became its director in 2017 after retiring from active duty.

## 'With rigor and urgency'

McKeague touted DPAA's new review and evaluation processes — which now includes writing an overall case narrative — as a means of speeding approvals of investigation and excavation field missions.

He concluded, "The pledge that I make to families of the missing and veterans whose comrades-in-arms are unaccounted-for is that DPAA will diligently and dutifully pursue this noble humanitarian effort, and sacred obligation, with rigor and urgency, employing best practices as well as embracing new methodologies."

While the letter addressed some of McDonald-Low's general concerns about DPAA, it did nothing to advance Van Artsdalen's case. Although sidelined from official access to DPAA databases, McDonald-Low continued to work the case on his own.

In October 2018, he tracked down and interviewed a radio operator who was among a group of soldiers from Alpha Company, 1-6 Infantry, sent out on May 16, 1968, to recover the body of a different soldier left on the trail leading to Landing Zone Center. That was five days after Van Artsdalen was killed.

His recollections provided clarification over reports by searchers that had confused sightings of the body of another soldier as

being that of Van Artsdalen.

Confident that the new statement would move the case forward, McDonald-Low submitted an updated report to the DPAA in November 2018. In the following months he queried the agency about the status of the updated report with the radio operator's information but received no reply.

The radio operator died Feb. 2, 2019. No DPAA interview was ever done.

"So the man who gave me this new information dies before DPAA even bothers to interview him and verify what I put in that report," he said. "They dragged their feet."

## Still lost

With a heightened sense of urgency in the wake of the death, McDonald-Low wrote to the DPAA a few days later requesting to review Van Artsdalen's case narrative, if one had been written.

About two weeks later, he received a reply from Navy Cmdr. Jason Menarchik, chief of a sub-regional team at the DPAA's Hawaii lab, which said the agency was conducting an "in-depth review of your report."

"To clarify," concluded the short email sent Feb. 27, "since you are not the Primary Next of Kin for SP4 Van Artsdalen, nor have on-record any authorization, we cannot provide sensitive details on this particular case, such as the Case Narrative, that you requested at this time."

McDonald-Low said he still sees her over the denial.

He had spent the last decade

collecting official after-action reports and tracking down veterans with eyewitness accounts. He led an accounting agency mission to Vietnam in 2012 to verify the exact location where Van Artsdalen had died — after JPAC had sent missions to Vietnam numerous times to the wrong place, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

To be so casually dismissed from the case he'd built and shepherded — in the death of a soldier he led and fought beside — epitomizes all he finds self-defeating within the Defense Department's MIA accounting effort.

"The bottom line is that Van Artsdalen represents every other poor, forgotten soul — particularly infantrymen and Marines — still lost from the war," he said.

McDonald-Low's entreaties to DPAA officials, including McKeague, have gone unanswered.

A request by Stars and Stripes to interview McKeague was not granted.

McDonald-Low talks often about the letter McKeague sent him a year ago — and the vow he made in it to pursue cases with "rigor and urgency."

"I am still waiting to see Director McKeague's promises fulfilled for the many MIAs remaining unaccounted," McDonald-Low said. "I am deeply worried about when the last Vietnam veteran dies — the last man to see a fellow soldier alive, a man like me who gave him an order to go up that trail — who will be left to carry the mission?"

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattWilson

## NATION

# Judiciary: Clashes between Republicans, Democrats mark Trump impeachment hearing

## FROM FRONT PAGE

"Very sad," Trump tweeted. As the hearing began, lawmakers dug in for the second day of the Judiciary session, only the fourth time in U.S. history a president is facing impeachment, to consider the two articles brought by Democrats. They charge Trump with abuse of power for asking Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden while withholding aid as leverage and with obstruction of Congress for stonewalling the House's investigation.

Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., immediately asked for a full reading of the nine-page resolution, airing the two articles of impeachment against the president for the live TV cameras. It was expected to be a long day of fights over amendments, primarily by Republicans trying to stop the impeachment. They were likely to be rejected by Democrats along party lines.

The top Republican, Rep. Doug Collins, of Georgia, called the proceedings a "farce" and said they should be halted until his side was provided a chance for its own hearing. The request was denied, with the chairman saying the process was in line with the impeachment hearings of Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton.

First up was an amendment from GOP Rep. Jim Jordan, of Ohio, who tried to delete the first charge against Trump. "This amendment strikes article 1 because article 1 ignores the truth," he declared.

Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I.,

argued there was "overwhelming evidence" that the president, in pushing Ukraine to investigate rival Biden, was engaged in an abuse of power "to corrupt American elections."

Debate on that one amendment lasted for hours with no vote yet called.

Thursday's hearing picked up where Wednesday's late night session left off.

Into the night, Democrats and Republicans delivered sharp, poignant and, at times, personal arguments for and against impeachment. Both sides appealed to Americans' sense of history — Democrats describing a strong sense of duty to stop what one called the president's "constitutional crime spree" and Republicans decrying the "hot garbage" impeachment and what it means for the future of the country.

Cicilline asked Republicans standing with Trump to "wake up" and honor their oath of office. Republican Rep. Mike Johnson, of Louisiana, responded with his own request to "put your country over party." Rep. Lou Correa, D-Calif., shared his views in English and Spanish.

One Democrat, Rep. Val Demings, of Florida, told the panel that, as a descendant of slaves and now a member of Congress, she has faith in America because it is the "government of the people" and "in this country 'nobody is above the law.'" Freshman Democratic Rep. Lucy McBath, of Georgia, emotionally talked about losing her son to gun violence and said



Matt McClain, Pool/AP

**House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., speaks during a committee markup of the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Capitol Hill on Thursday.**

that while impeachment was not why she came to Washington, she wants to "fight for an America that my son Jordan would be proud of."

But Rep. Jordan insisted Democrats were impeaching because "they don't like us," and he read out a long list claiming Trump's accomplishments.

For all the debate, the articles weren't likely to be changed. Democrats were unlikely to accept any amendments proposed by Republicans unified against Trump's impeachment.

Democrats are also unified. They have agreed to the articles' language, which says that Trump acted "corruptly" and "betrayed the nation." Hamstrung in the minority, Republicans wouldn't have the votes to make changes without support from at least some Democrats.

Nadler said the committee

should consider whether the evidence shows that Trump committed the acts he's accused of, whether they rise to the level of impeachable high crimes and misdemeanors and what the consequences will be if Congress fails to act.

"When his time has passed, when his grip on our politics is gone, when our country returns, as surely it will, to calmer times and stronger leadership, history will look back on our actions here today," Nadler said. "How would you be remembered?"

Republicans are also messaging to the American people — and to Trump himself — as they argue that the articles show Democrats are to get the president. Most Republicans contend, as Trump does, that he has done nothing wrong, and all of them are expected to vote against the articles.

Collins argued that Democrats are impeaching the president because they think they can't beat him in the 2020 election.

"That's the wrong reason to impeach somebody, and the Americans are seeing through this," Collins said. "But at the end of the day, my heart breaks for a committee that has trashed this institution."

The House is expected to vote on the articles next week, in the days before Christmas. That would send them to the Senate for a 2020 trial.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that he would be "totally surprised" if there were the necessary 67 votes in the chamber to convict Trump, and signaled options for a swift trial. He said no decision had been made about whether to call witnesses.

# Pelosi drug bill reflects Trump idea but he isn't on board

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As a White House candidate, Donald Trump said he could save Medicare billions of dollars by negotiating prescription drug prices.

Legislation expected to pass the Democratic-controlled House on Thursday would deliver that and much more.

But Trump's not on board, the White House is threatening a veto. Republicans who run the Senate say they will ignore the bill by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., because they say the government shouldn't negotiate drug prices.

That's not stopping Democrats from savoring the moment. They contend Trump's disapproval shows a lack of control behind some of his populist pitches.

They're also betting that Pelosi's plan will prove popular with 2020 voters, helping elect Democrats who will eventually be in a position to pass something like it.

The bill would cap drug copays and deductibles at \$2,000 a year for Medicare recipients. It would

**"We were sent to Washington with a mandate to bring down the cost of prescription drugs."**

Rep. Haley Stevens  
D-Mich.

use about \$360 billion of its projected 10-year savings from lower drug costs to create Medicare coverage for dental care, hearing and vision, filling major gaps for seniors.

"We were sent to Washington with a mandate to bring down the cost of prescription drugs and to deliver for the American people — this will untie the hands of the federal government to negotiate prices," said Rep. Haley Stevens, D-Mich., as debate got underway. She is a member of the freshman class that enabled Democrats to regain control of the House in 2018.

White House officials say Pelosi's bill is unworkable and that Trump wants something that can pass now. Near unanimous opposition from congressional Rep-

licans means it would never clear the Senate.

Republican lawmakers predict Pelosi's bill would stifle innovation and they urged House Democrats to seek a bipartisan compromise.

"Drugs that save lives will not be around," said Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore. "Innovation goes on the rocks; lives will be lost."

A major concern about the legislation is that it will result in fewer drugs coming to market. But there's debate about the extent. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates about 3% to 10% fewer new drugs, while the White House Council of Economic Advisers says it could be much higher, up to one-third of new medications.

Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., who

helped write the Pelosi bill, said Republicans predicting the drug pipeline will dry up are using scare tactics.

"Any drug that's out there, we're going to have access to," he said. "The U.S. would still be the biggest market."

The pharmaceutical industry is strongly opposed to the bill. Among the groups backing it is AARP.

High prescription drug prices consistently register in polls as the public's top health care concern. But it's unclear in a capital divided over Trump's impeachment that any major legislation will pass before next year's elections.

There's a bipartisan Senate bill that would also cap seniors' out-of-pocket costs at \$3,100 a year and require drugmakers to pay Medicare rebates if companies raise prices above inflation. The plan has Trump's support but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., hasn't said if or when he'll bring it to the floor.

Inflation rebates are included in Pelosi's bill as well, so there is considerable overlap between the

two major pieces of legislation before lawmakers. But Pelosi's measure goes farther with several unique features, including:

- Medicare would be authorized to negotiate prices for costly medications, using a formula based on lower prices paid in other economically advanced countries.

- Drugmakers who refuse to negotiate would be hit with steep sales taxes for the medication at issue. Republicans say proposed taxes as high as 95% are unconstitutional. The budget office projects that most pharmaceutical companies would opt to accept lower prices from Medicare.

- Private health insurance plans would be able to receive Medicare's discounted prices.

- Congressional budget experts estimate the price negotiations provisions of Pelosi's bill would save \$456 billion over 10 years. After subtracting for new Medicare dental, hearing and vision coverage, that still leaves money to increase spending on medical research, community health centers and countering the opioid epidemic.



NATION

# 2 killers in NJ attack tied to fringe group

BY MICHAEL R. SISAK  
AND DAVID PORTER  
Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The two killers who stormed a kosher market in Jersey City had apparently been followers of the Black Hebrew Israelites — a fringe group whose members have been known to rail against white people and Jews — and one of them had made anti-Semitic posts online, according to a law enforcement official briefed on the investigation.

The findings stoked suspicions that the rampage Tuesday that left the killers and four victims dead was not a random crime but an anti-Semitic attack, even as state and federal authorities cautioned that the motive was still under investigation.

The FBI on Wednesday searched the Harlem headquarters of the Israelite Church of God in Jesus Christ, which is the formal name of the Black Hebrew group, according to the official, who was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

“The why and the ideology and the motivation — that’s what we’re



Workers on Thursday replace a window that was broken by gunfire at the Sacred Heart school during a gunbattle in Jersey City, N.J.

investigating,” New Jersey Attorney General Grewal said Wednesday, adding that authorities are trying to determine whether anyone else was involved.

Others, including Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop, pronounced the bloodshed a hate crime against Jews, with Fulop saying surveillance video made it clear that the attackers targeted the

Jewish market, slowly and deliberately driving up to the grocery in a stolen rental van and immediately opening fire.

The attackers were identified as David N. Anderson, 47, and Francine Graham, 50 — both of them also prime suspects in the slaying of a lively driver found dead in a car trunk in nearby Bayonne over the weekend, Grewal said.



Anderson

into the market. Several weapons were recovered from the store.

The victims killed in the store were Mindel Ferench, 31, who with her husband owned the grocery; Moshe Deutsch, 24, a rabbinical student from Brooklyn who was shopping there; and store employee Douglas Miguel Rodriguez, 49.

Members of New York’s ultra-Orthodox Jewish community gathered Wednesday night for funerals for Ferench and Deutsch. Thousands of people, mostly men, followed Ferench’s casket through the streets of Brooklyn, hugging and crying.

The bloodshed in the city of 270,000 people across the Hudson River from New York City began at a graveyard, where Detective Joseph Seals, a 40-year-old mem-

ber of a unit devoted to taking illegal weapons off the street, was gunned down by the assailants, authorities said. They then drove the van about a mile to the kosher market.

The drawn-out gunbattle with police filled the streets with the sound of high-powered rifle fire as SWAT officers in full tactical gear swarmed the neighborhood. During the shootout, police used an armored vehicle to ram the store entrance.

The prospect of attacks against Jews weighed heavily on the more than 300 people who attended a vigil Wednesday night at a synagogue about a mile from where the shootings took place.

In the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history, 11 people were killed in an October 2018 shooting in a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Last April, a gunman opened fire at a synagogue near San Diego, killing a woman and wounding a rabbi and two others.

The kosher grocery is a central fixture in a growing community of Orthodox Jews who have been moving to Jersey City in recent years and settling in what was a mostly black section of Jersey City, causing some resentment.

## Deceased Korean War vet awarded accrued VA benefits

BY KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Thomas Nielson joined the Air Force when he was 17 and was promptly deployed to South Korea where the war against the communist-backed North was just getting underway. He served on the peninsula in 1950-54.

However, Nielson’s real fight began after he returned home and filed for military medical benefits for health problems that he believed stemmed from severe dental issues and malnutrition during his service.

Five years after he died in 2014 at age 81, his family finally received more than \$720,000 in retroactive benefits after the Department of Veterans Affairs ruled in his favor.

His lawyer, Eric Gang, expressed frustration that Nielson didn’t receive the money before he died, but said the family is “very, very grateful” because it can use it to care for Nielson’s widow, who has Alzheimer’s disease and is in a nursing home.

“It’s costing a lot of money to keep her in the nursing home,” he told Stars and Stripes by telephone Wednesday.

Nielson was awarded \$663,000 for 20 years of back pay, and his wife received \$57,000 in widow’s benefits.

“It’s the largest award I have ever seen,” Gang said.

“What a difference it would have made had the VA granted the benefits way back when he first got this process started, and what a difference it would have made to him to have seen the VA grant his claim while he was still alive.”

The VA declined to comment on Nielson’s case, saying it can’t publicly discuss its interactions with individual veterans due to privacy concerns.

But a spokeswoman said the agency has “modernized the process for appealing disability claims to provide more timely and consistent decisions” under the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017.

“In the last fiscal year, VA completed



Nielson

more than 95,000 appeals decisions, a record high,” spokeswoman Christina Mandreucci said in an email.

Nielson turned to Gang, whose firm specializes in disability appeals for military veterans, in 2012 after exhausting all administrative appeal remedies at the VA. The earlier claims of malnutrition were denied, but doctors had determined he suffered from an autoimmune disease that began manifesting itself during his service.

Gang was armed with journal entries in which then-Airman 1st Class Nielson complains about not being able to eat and weight loss while in South Korea.

“Boy am I in misery,” Nielson wrote in 1952. “I had 6 teeth pulled this morning,” he said, adding that he had gone into shock after the dentist pulled four of them without Novocain.

Medical experts hired by Gang also examined Nielson’s service records and were able to prove the autoimmune disease were symptoms of an autoimmune disease that hindered his ability to work and support his family.

Nielson died on Oct. 6, 2014, at home

in Tucson, Ariz., but Gang continued his claim by adding Nielson’s widow as the substitute claimant.

The Board of Veterans Appeals ruled in Nielson’s favor in April 2017, but the check didn’t appear.

“We wait. A year goes by. We don’t hear anything. Two or three years go by,” Gang said. “Total radio silence from the VA.”

He finally received a VA official who informed him that the department wasn’t going to implement the board’s decision because Mrs. Nielson forgot to sign a form in the right place. Gang filed a writ of mandamus in federal appeals court, which compelled the agency to pay.

Gang, who is an outspoken advocate for a massive overhaul of the VA, said he understands why officials dismissed his client’s claims about malnutrition, but he believes the agency had a responsibility to help determine the actual cause of his problems.

“But the thing that’s most egregious in my opinion is their actions once we had finally been vindicated — to just be vindictive and not want to pay the claim. That’s just unacceptable,” he said.

gamel.kim@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kingamel

## IG: DOD official sexually harassed female staff

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon report has found that a senior Defense Department official sexually harassed several women on his staff, touching them and making inappropriate comments.

The department’s inspector general said in a report Thursday that Guy Roberts, the former

assistant defense secretary for nuclear programs, made “deliberate, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature by hugging, kissing or touching” three female employees and created a hostile work environment.

The complaint was filed in February and Roberts resigned in early April. The report said Rob-

erts’ physical interaction with the women caused them to fear that they would be fired if they complained or rejected his behavior.

According to the report, Roberts said it was not his intent to sexually harass the women and that they didn’t tell him his behavior was inappropriate.

However, the inspector general

said that at least one of the women told him on several occasions that his behavior was not welcome.

“We concluded that he knew or should have known, based on his experience and training, that the physical contact and sexually suggestive comments were completely inappropriate,” the report said.



Joe Gromelski/Stars and Stripes

Then-Assistant Defense Secretary Guy Roberts listens at a Senate hearing in 2017.

## NATION

# Fewer kids report sex abuse in US detention centers

By REBECCA BOONE  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A new federal study has found the number of kids who say they have been sexually victimized in juvenile detention centers has dropped across the U.S. compared with past years. But remarkably high rates of sexual abuse persist in 12 facilities stretching from Oregon to Florida, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics report released Wednesday.

The report analyzed data collected during more than 6,000 anonymous interviews last year at nearly 330 juvenile detention facilities.

Young people were asked about any forced or coerced sexual contact they experienced, whether by staffers or other kids, ranging from rape to unwanted touching to being shown sexual pictures or movies.

Nationwide, an estimated 7.1%

of children in juvenile facilities reported being sexually victimized during the previous 12 months, the report said. That's a drop compared with the last time the survey was done in 2012 when 9.5% of youth reported being victimized.

"Today's report shows that the juvenile detention system is making long-overdue strides in preventing sexual abuse," Lovisa Stannow, executive director of Just Detention International, an organization seeking to end sexual abuse in detention, said in a statement. "But even one sexual assault is too many and, as the report makes clear, this violence remains commonplace in youth facilities across the U.S."

Twelve facilities had dramatically higher rates of sexual victimization, including three juvenile residential centers in Florida, three in Texas and one each in Oregon, Arkansas, Idaho,



TIM REVELL, THE COLUMBUS (OHIO) DISPATCH/AP

**An inmate walks at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility outside Circleville, Ohio, on May 18, 2014. A new report says the number of kids who say they've been sexually victimized in juvenile detention centers has dropped but high rates persist in 12 facilities.**

Georgia, Ohio and New Jersey, according to the report.

At the Liberty Treatment Unit for Specialized Treatment in Florida, just over 26% of youth reported being sexually victimized in the past 12 months. Similarly high rates — about 22% and 21% — were reported at the Hastings Comprehensive Mental Health Treatment Program and Gulf Academy, both in Florida.

Florida officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

At the Juvenile Correctional Center in the small eastern Idaho town of St. Anthony, nearly 13%

of youths reported being sexually victimized within the last 12 months. Roughly 500 miles north in a Lewiston, Idaho, juvenile correctional center, no incidents of sexual victimization were reported.

Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections Director Monty Prow said he was surprised to learn the St. Anthony facility had a high rate of victimization. Calling children's safety the "primary task," he said his department would dig into the data.

"If the kids don't feel safe, they won't move to the treatment aspects of what we're trying to offer," he said.

The report's findings raise concerns about states' level of oversight of each problematic facility and whether enough is being done to uncover and respond to sexual abuse, said Marsha Levick, chief legal officer for the Juvenile Law Center, a rights organization within the child welfare and justice system.

"They need to step it up, quite frankly," she said. "The fact that we see such variability across and within states, of course, heightens the need to ensure that we're asking every child so we really understand what the victimization looks like."

## Report: More are dying at home instead of in hospital

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
Associated Press

For the first time since the early 1900s, more Americans are dying at home rather than in hospitals, a trend that reflects more hospice care and progress toward the kind of end that most people say they want.

Deaths in nursing homes also have declined, according to Wednesday's report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"It's a good thing. Death has become overly medicalized over the last century" and this shows a turn away from that, said the lead author, Dr. Haider Warraich of the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System.

Betsy McNair, a tour guide who now lives in Mexico, is proud of the ending she helped give her father. Robert McNair was 83 when he died at home in Belle Haven,

Va., in 2009, six weeks after learning he had lung cancer.

"I made him exactly what he wanted to eat, whenever he wanted it. He had a scotch every night.

"He had a very high quality of life. If he woke up at 2 o'clock in the morning and wanted to have coffee and pie, that's what we did," she said.

Warraich and Duke University graduate student Sarah Cross used government health statistics on deaths from natural causes, rather than accidents or homicides, from 2003 through 2017. The portion that occurred in hospitals fell from 40% to 30% over that period and in nursing homes from 24% to 21%.

Deaths in homes rose, from 24% to 31%.

Some assisted living centers may have been counted as homes;



THOMAS MARRINSON/AP

**Allison Beach holds the hand of her ailing mother, Kathryn Beach, in 2016 at her home in Hinesburg, Vt., where the elder Beach died, reflecting a growing national trend.**

researchers had no way to tell.

Allison Beach and her husband struggled to figure out how to get help for her mother, Kathryn Beach, who lived with them for three years before dying at their home in Hinesburg, Vt., in 2016. She had lost her vision, had suffered a fall and then succumbed to heart failure at 91.

The experience led Beach, who was a nurse, to seek spe-

cial training in end-of-life care, hoping to help others in such circumstances.

The rise of home hospice services has helped more people spend their last days at home, Warraich said.

"I have met many patients who just want to spend one day at home, around their dog, in their bed, able to eat home food," he said.

## NY seeks to retain ban on flavored e-cigarettes

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York's ban on flavored e-cigarettes is still held up in court but the state may try to keep it alive and expand it to include menthol.

The state's Public Health and Health Planning Council is set to vote Thursday to keep the emergency ban on the books for another 90 days.

The council had approved the ban in September but a state appeals court blocked the state from enforcing it.

Health officials issued the regulations in response to worries that vaping may cause illnesses and that its use is growing among teenagers.

## Harvey Weinstein reaches tentative \$25M deal with his accusers

By LARRY NEUMEISTER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A tentative \$25 million settlement revealed Wednesday to end nearly every sexual misconduct lawsuit brought against Harvey Weinstein and his former film studio's board was praised by a plaintiff

and some lawyers but criticized by others who say those who opt out are punished.

Louise Geiss, a plaintiff in a Manhattan federal court class-action lawsuit, said the settlement was "our way to hold all women up. We are trying to create a new reality where this type of behavior is not accepted."

In a statement, she said the lawsuit was intended as "a wake-up call for all companies that they will be held accountable if they protect predators in their midst."

"Now that The Weinstein Company is in bankruptcy and Harvey is about to stand to trial, this settlement will ensure that all survivors have the chance for

recovery and can move forward without Harvey's damaging lock on their careers," Geiss said.

Attorney Thomas Giuffra said the agreement was the same deal announced several months ago but with more punitive provisions aimed at forcing holdouts to accept it.

"The most troubling aspect of

this settlement is a punitive provision designed to force victims to settle," Giuffra said in a statement.

"Shockingly, any funds that would have been allocated to claims from the settlement fund for non-settling claimants would be turned over to Harvey and Robert Weinstein to defend against their claims in court."

## NATION

# Biden unveils his immigration policy

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Joe Biden has joined his top Democratic presidential rivals in pledging to end for-profit migrant detention centers that existed while he was vice president. He also acknowledged through his campaign the “pain” caused by deportations carried out by the Obama administration.

Those moves, which come amid skepticism about Biden from some immigrant rights activists, are part of a comprehensive immigration policy released Wednesday by the former vice president. The wide-ranging plan positions Biden as a stark contrast to President Donald Trump but not as far to the left as some of his rivals for the Democratic nomination are.

“It’s all about families. It’s all about families to me,” Biden said at a Las Vegas union hall filled with casino workers, including many immigrants.

Position papers released earlier Wednesday went further, with an explicit nod to the criticism Biden has gotten for immigration policy under President Barack Obama.

“Joe Biden understands the pain felt by every family across the U.S. that has had a loved one removed from the country, including under the Obama-Biden administration,” the campaign wrote.

Biden and his campaign outlined priorities that include ending family separations at the border, rolling back Trump’s travel limits on citizens from certain Muslim-majority countries and providing a citizenship path for about 11 million people in the U.S. illegally, including immediately shielding from deportation the immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children.

The former vice president also pledged to enforce existing asy-

lum law by reversing the Trump administration’s moves that have made claiming asylum extremely difficult, while ending the national emergency that Trump has declared to divert Pentagon appropriations to the construction of a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

As a counter to Trump’s wall and asylum limits, Biden calls for increasing the annual cap on refugees from 18,000 to 125,000.

He emphasized a proposal to spend \$4 billion in four years aimed at stabilizing Central American governments and economies. The idea, Biden explained in Nevada, is to address the root causes of mass migration and relieve pressure at the U.S. border, where the scene of migrant detention facilities has drawn international attention.

“We should be engaging and offering our help to organize this hemisphere right now,” Biden said. “I’m going to spend, literally, a billion dollars a year to build up those countries so there’s no reason to leave in the beginning.”

Biden joins progressive Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, along with Mayor Pete Buttigieg, as Democratic White House hopefuls promising to end the for-profit detention centers.

The U.S. government contracted for such facilities under Obama, drawing criticism from civil rights groups at the time. But the practice has gained new scrutiny under Trump’s hardline approach to immigration, especially his administration’s practice of separating families in the facilities.

The Republican president has defended his policies as necessary to protect U.S. security and American workers’ economic interests, and he’s made clear that he will emphasize the issue again in 2020, just as he did to energize his white conservative base in 2016.

## Trump criticizes Thunberg after Time magazine honor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump lashed out at 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg on Thursday, a day after she was named by Time as its Person of the Year, calling her selection “ridiculous.”

The Swedish teen has become a symbol of a growing movement of young climate activists at leading weekly school strikes in Sweden that inspired similar actions in about 100 cities worldwide. She has drawn large crowds with her fiery appearances at protests and conferences over the past year and a half.

In a Thursday morning tweet,

Trump said, “Greta must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend!”

He added: “Chill Greta, Chill!” Thunberg responded Thursday by changing her Twitter profile bio to read: “A teenager working on her anger management problem. Currently chilling and watching a good old fashioned movie with a friend.”

It’s not the first time Trump has lashed out after not being recognized for his influence. In 2015, Trump attacked German Chancellor Angela Merkel for “ruining Germany” after she was named Person of the Year when he was listed as a runner-up.



ANDY BARRON, THE RENO (NEV.) GAZETTE-JOURNAL/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., gives a speech at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nev., on Tuesday.

## Warren ‘wealth tax’ estimates too optimistic, analysis says

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Warren’s signature “wealth tax” would bring in at least \$1 trillion less in new government revenue than the Democratic presidential candidate estimates while ultimately shrinking the economy over the next 30 years, according to a new academic analysis.

The Massachusetts senator wants a 2% tax on fortunes worth \$50 million-plus and a levy three times that on anyone who has a net worth of more than \$1 billion.

She has pledged to use those to dramatically remake government, offering universal child care and free tuition at public universities while wiping out most student debt for 42 million Americans and helping to finance a “Medicare for All” plan providing government-sponsored health care nationwide.

But the piggy bank that Warren wants to use to accomplish her sweeping policy promises won’t be nearly as flush with cash as she believes, the University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Wharton Budget Model, which provides nonpartisan analysis of public policy proposals, found Thursday.

Warren’s campaign pushed back, saying the anal-

ysis was of a “different and worse” plan than what the senator is proposing.

The Penn model says the proposed wealth tax will raise between \$2.5 trillion and \$2.7 trillion over 10 years, or as much as \$1.4 trillion less than Warren’s campaign estimates. It also concludes that the new taxes would cause the economy to contract between 0.9% and 2.1% by 2050 — depending on how the new revenue is spent.

The model says the new tax would reduce “private capital formation” enough to drive the U.S. economy’s average wage down between 0.9% and 2.3%, even affecting households not rich enough to qualify for the tax.

The findings are important because Warren’s proposal has been among the most popular — and most scrutinized — of her campaign. It’s given the senator an economic populist edge that helped vault her among the Democratic primary’s front-runners.

The race’s other top progressive candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proposed an even higher tax on top fortunes — but it’s such a part of Warren rallies that her crowds often break into chants of “2 cents!” in a rallying cry for her wealth tax.

## Bloomberg pledges a ‘war on poverty’

Associated Press

STOCKTON, Calif. — Michael Bloomberg took his Democratic presidential campaign to California on Wednesday, pledging to launch a “war on poverty” at an event in a city once known as the nation’s foreclosure capital.

“As president, my job will be to move all Americans ahead, and that includes committing our country to new and innovative ways to combat poverty. There has to be a war on poverty,” the New York billionaire said while campaigning in Stockton.

His plan includes initiatives to raise the minimum wage and

expand affordable housing. He outlined them after a community discussion with Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs, who endorsed Bloomberg and said he had the “record, resources and relationships” to defeat President Donald Trump.

The trip marked Bloomberg’s first to California since launching his 2020 White House bid. Since he’s bypassing the four early voting states, Bloomberg — a former New York City mayor — is hanging his campaign success on states such as California, which votes on Super Tuesday and offers the biggest delegate haul in the primary contest. He’s already

spent at least \$60 million on television advertisements, though his spokesman wouldn’t say how much he’s spent in California specifically. He said the campaign has hired three staff members in California.

Bloomberg said he thinks his pragmatic message will resonate with Californians, nearly 15 million of whom will be eligible to vote in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary.

“Californians understand nothing’s simple — you have to have real solutions,” he said. “And you have to have the evolutionary rather than revolutionary change.”



NATION

# New sanctions on Iran target transportation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Wednesday hit Iran with new sanctions that target several transportation firms as it continues its “maximum pressure campaign” against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The sanctions target Iran’s state shipping line and a China-based company that has been involved in delivering missile parts to Iran. They also add a layer of new penalties to a previously sanctioned Iranian airline, Mahan Air, which is accused of sending weapons to Iranian proxies in Lebanon and Yemen, and three of its sales agents.

The moves were announced by the Treasury and the State Department and will subject foreign firms and governments that do business with the targeted entities to sanctions themselves, including a freeze on any assets they may have in U.S. jurisdictions.

“Today’s designations put the world on notice that those who engage in illicit transactions with these companies will risk exposure and sanctions themselves,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.

Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesman for Iran’s U.N. Mission, tweeted later Wednesday: “These sanctions are directly targeting or-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

**Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced more sanctions on Iran on Wednesday. At the same time, he added that he hopes for more opportunities to talk with Iran about returning American prisoners.**

inary Iranians’ livelihood, but they will not be cowed by pressures by any foreign power. And another step in the US’ #economicterrorism against Iranians, who are never fooled by the US’s crocodile tears.”

Pompeo announced the sanctions even as he expressed hope that a weekend prisoner swap with Iran could lead to a dialogue between Washington and Tehran over prisoners. He called Saturday’s release of Princeton graduate student Xiyue Wang in exchange for an Iranian jailed in the U.S. a “happier note” that could yield progress.

“I do hope the exchange that took place will lead to a broader discussion on consular affairs. We are working to use this as an oppor-

tunity to continue that effort,” he said.

U.S. authorities say Iran is holding one American national and five dual U.S.-Iranian nationals. They include Navy veteran Michael White, who is serving a 10-year espionage sentence, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, an Iranian with U.S. and British citizenship also initially sentenced to 10 years in prison, and Iranian-American father and son Siamak and Baquer Namazi. Former FBI agent Robert Levinson has been missing for 13 years since disappearing in Iran.

Iran says American authorities are holding about 20 Iranian nationals in jail and on Monday said it was ready for more prisoner swaps with the U.S.

# Trump deserts plan to ax OPM

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has abandoned his administration’s faltering effort to dissolve a key federal agency, a major setback in his three-year battle to keep his campaign promise to make government leaner and more efficient.

The Office of Personnel Management will remain the human resources manager of the civilian workforce of 2.1 million employees and its functions will not — for the foreseeable future at least — be parceled out to the White House and the General Services Administration.

The White House hoped that shuttering the agency of 5,500 employees could serve as a blueprint for eliminating other federal offices as Trump tries to contain the size and scope of a bureaucracy he targeted as duplicative and inefficient — and rein in a workforce he views with skepticism.

An 18-month effort by a top Office of Management and Budget official to eliminate the government personnel office left the plan on life support, despite a bipartisan consensus that the operation is deeply troubled. Congressional Democrats and Republicans whose support was essential to disbanding the agency dismissed the plan as ill-conceived and unlikely to save money or shrink the federal workforce.

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## WORLD

## UK votes in bid to resolve Brexit stalemate

Associated Press

LONDON — Britons who have endured three years of wrangling over their country's messy divorce from the European Union cast ballots Thursday in an election billed as a way out of the Brexit stalemate.

The contest pits Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who says he will take Britain out of the EU by Jan. 31, against opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn, who promises another referendum on Brexit.

All 650 seats in the House of Commons are up for grabs in the election, which is being held

more than two years ahead of schedule.

At a fish market in the eastern port of Grimsby, seafood company owner Nathan Godoff summed up the hopes of many people that — one way or another — the election would provide a pathway to a resolution of Brexit.

"I think we all got a bit weary of the politicians over the last few years really and I think having a government with a majority to give them the clout to actually do what they want is a good thing," he said.

Johnson voted at Methodist Central Hall in London, accom-

panied by his dog, Dilyn. Corbyn was greeted by supporters and an activist dressed as Elmo from "Sesame Street" as he arrived to vote in his north London constituency.

With so much at stake, political parties have pushed the boundaries of truth, transparency and reality during five weeks of campaigning.

Johnson's Conservative Party was criticized for using misleading tactics on social media, while Corbyn's Labour Party promised to tax the rich, boost government spending and nationalize industries such as railroads and water

companies. One of the focal points of the ugly campaign was the National Health Service, a deeply respected institution that has struggled to meet rising demand after nine years of austerity under Conservative-led governments.

The prime minister called early elections in hopes of breaking a logjam in Parliament that stalled approval of his Brexit agreement in October. Johnson didn't have a majority in the last Parliament and was stymied once he lost the support of the Democratic Unionist Party because of concerns about how Northern Ireland would be treated under

his deal with the EU.

Opinion polls have consistently shown the Conservative Party in the lead, but recent surveys suggest the margin may have narrowed in the final days of campaigning.

While Labour is unlikely to win an outright majority, smaller opposition parties hope to win enough seats so they can team up to block Johnson's Brexit plans.

All of the parties are nervous about the verdict of voters who are more willing to abandon long-held party loyalties after three years of wrangling over Brexit.

## Outdated and dangerous childbirth practices persist in parts of Europe

By MARIA CHENG

Associated Press

BARCELONA — When Clara Massons was in labor with her son, a midwife climbed onto her bed and pushed down on Massons' belly, explaining that she was helping to deliver her baby. For the next few hours, the midwife and a doctor took turns pressing down during contractions, using an old, now controversial technique for troubled deliveries.

Masson said her pleas to stop were ignored at the Barcelona hospital where she delivered two years ago, and she later complained to authorities.

The hospital said doctors took "appropriate measures" during her delivery.

"I thought I was going to die," she said. "For one month after, my belly was blue and purple."

The technique is known as the Kristeller maneuver and was first described in an 1867 German textbook. It is sometimes used during the second stage of labor to assist delivery and avoid a cesarean section when complications arise.

But many doctors in developed countries say they have stopped using it because of the potential for broken bones, organ damage and other complications. The World Health Organization does not recommend the technique.

Yet the procedure is still commonly performed in many European countries, highlighting how once-accepted practices can persist even long after they're considered to be unnecessary or even dangerous.

Europe has some of the world's lowest maternal and infant death rates, and assertions of mistreatment during childbirth are more common in Africa, Asia and Latin America. But the Kristeller maneuver and some other medical practices related to childbirth have come under increasing scrutiny in Europe, including complaints about inadequate anesthesia, surgical incisions during vaginal births and failure to seek patient consent for certain procedures.

"Depending on the act, these

practices rise to the level of a human rights violation," said Mindy Roseman, director of a global justice and women's rights program at Yale Law School. "Not obtaining consent from women for medical procedures, not providing pain relief or doing something that is not scientifically justified, that is simply not the standard of care and it's troubling wherever that occurs."

Last year, Croatian lawmaker Ivana Nincevic Lesandric drew attention to the anesthesia issue when she complained to Parliament she did not receive any for an emergency procedure after a miscarriage.

"I don't think I've ever been in (a) much more painful situation in my life," Lesandric said.

In response, the speaker of the House chastised Lesandric for speaking over her allotted time and for publicly sharing such intimate details, saying it put him in an awkward position.

The Ministry of Health, while not directly commenting on her case, said doctors typically use a local anesthetic for such procedures. Officials suggested there may have been a "misunderstanding" on Lesandric's part regarding the type of anesthesia she received.

Dr. Frederick Mercier, chair of obstetrics for the European Society of Anesthesiology, said general anesthesia is "most often used" in procedures like the one Lesandric had. He said local anesthesia isn't used because "it is less effective."

In submissions for a U.N. report presented in October, several European countries or government-appointed experts acknowledged lapses in how informed consent from women during childbirth was obtained. The Czech Republic wrote that women were sometimes given documents to sign "without any explanation or information on the nature or reason for the procedure."

In October, the Council of Europe passed a resolution on "obstetrical and gynecological violence." Among other recommendations, it called on European member countries to implement

laws on informed consent and to create specific reporting and complaint mechanisms, including sanctions for mistreatment.

Dr. Ligita Jokubkiene, of Sweden, said she thinks it is still used because many doctors and midwives aren't aware of the dangers. She learned it in medical school but no longer performs it herself.



EMILIO MORENATTI/AP

Clara Massons holds her 2-year-old son, Jaume, at her home in Barcelona, Spain, on June 19. Massons said a midwife and a doctor used an outdated and dangerous practice during Jaume's birth.

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## FACES

# Reynolds picks up picked-on Peloton actress for gin ad

BY JOHN CARUCCI  
Associated Press

Ryan Reynolds says he relates to the social media criticism heaped on the Peloton ad actress. In fact, that feeling led him to hire her for a commercial promoting his gin company.

Reynolds spoke Tuesday about the uproar while promoting his new action flick, the Michael Bay-directed "6 Underground."

In the Peloton commercial, Monica Ruiz portrays a wife who receives an exercise bike as a Christmas present, and chronicles her yearlong journey to get in shape. The commercial ends with the wife thanking her husband for the gift. After the spot aired, the character was mocked for several reasons: Some noted she was already thin, others mocked her for having a "nervous" expression, and others were angry her husband gave her an exercise gift, as if she needed to lose weight.

Reynolds thought the viral negativity was unfair, and said it's "a situation that I've been in many times before" as an actor.

"You put it out there, and it doesn't quite work, and you feel a little alienated and stuff. So, I had tremendous empathy for her in that moment," Reynolds said at the premiere of his new action flick, "6 Underground."

"Doing the Aviation Gin ad sort of gave her some authorship over some of this conversation, which I loved," he said. "And she's, she's the best. She's really funny, really smart."

In "6 Underground," which is now streaming on Netflix, Reynolds stars as the leader of a group of six warriors, each with their own special set of skills. After faking their own deaths, they take on a number for their names, ranging from One to Six, and go underground to take down a dictator. Reynolds plays One.

The movie also stars French actress Melanie Laurent, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Ben Hardy, Adria Arjona, Dave Franco and Israeli actor Lior Raz.

It was directed by Michael Bay, who is known for the big-screen action movies like "Armageddon," "The Rock" and "Transformers" series. But he says it worked for him to pair with Netflix.

"Here's the thing: I love big cinema. But Netflix is a new voice. It is a big, it's a big name out here right now. And it's doing a lot of interesting content. And it gives it — it's all over the world, you know, access to almost 250 million people," Bay said.

**Ryan Reynolds: Actor, gin producer, friend to misunderstood actresses.**

CHARLES BYRES, INVISION/AP



JESSICA GOW, TH/AP

Rapper A\$AP Rocky performs Dec. 11 in Stockholm.



## Kardashian West sues over 'Vampire Facial'

Reality TV star and businesswoman Kim Kardashian West is suing an Alabama doctor over claims he wrongly used her image to promote a medical procedure called a "Vampire Facial."

West filed suit Tuesday in Los Angeles against Dr. Charles Runels of coastal Fairhope, Ala. The suit claims Runels misused West's image in promotional materials after she posted a photo of herself on social media showing the results of a "Vampire Facial."

West, a reality TV star and successful businesswoman who has a number of beauty and lifestyle enterprises and millions of followers on social media, asked a federal judge to bar Runels from using her name or photo and to make him and any other doctors who benefited pay her profits.

Runels, 59, said in a telephone interview Wednesday that West wrongly used his trademarked name for a medical procedure to promote herself. He called the lawsuit "disappointing."

"We're trying to do good medicine. The last thing we want to do is spend millions of dollars arguing with a celebrity," he said.

The cosmetic procedure involves drawing a patient's blood, spinning it in a centrifuge and then injecting small amounts under the skin using multiple small needles, Runels' website says, and blood also is applied topically on the skin.

## Women in Entertainment gala honors Witherspoon

Reese Witherspoon remembered when she met with several film production studios in 2011 to ask them how many movies were being developed for women.

The studios' responses nearly floored her.

"Of all the major seven studios, the answer was one," Witherspoon said after she received the prestigious Sherry Lansing Leadership Award at The Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment breakfast gala Wednesday in Los Angeles. The Oscar- and Emmy-winning actress said she was grateful to receive the award named after Lansing, the former Paramount Pictures CEO who was the first woman to head a Hollywood studio. The award honors those excelling in film and making philanthropic contributions.

Witherspoon said the moment helped empower her to start her own production company, Hello Sunshine, which has produced Oscar-nominated films "Gone Girl," "Wild" and the HBO drama series "Big Little Lies" with an all-female leading cast.

## Other news

■ The rapper known as Saucy Santana said he was one of three people shot and wounded during a drive-by shooting near Miami early Wednesday morning. At least six shots were fired, striking all three of the occupants of the vehicle in which Santana and his friends were riding. No arrests were immediately reported.

From The Associated Press

## A\$AP Rocky performs in Sweden months after conviction for brawl

Associated Press

A\$AP Rocky is back in Sweden. The American rapper performed Wednesday evening, four months after he was convicted of assault for a violent street brawl.

The curtain raised at Stockholm's Ericsson Globe arena to the sight of a stage-wide metal cage enclosing male dancers. They attempted to break free as soon as the rapper began to perform, a not-so-subtle reference to his nearly monthlong incarceration this summer pending his trial.

But A\$AP Rocky, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, said he wasn't there to talk about his treatment in the hands of the Swedish authorities but to

"spread love and have fun."

However, the performance was peppered with references to his time in a Swedish prison, including a simulated arrest. The rapper joked he felt like "an honored Swede at this point."

Following a visit to a school in the suburbs of the Swedish capital earlier in the day, Mayers posted an open invitation to his concert on Instagram.

"Whoever's from the hood, they get in for free," he said in a video that went viral on social media and has led to lines of youngsters making their way into the capital.

Concert promoter Live Nation said last month that Mayers scheduled the show "after tremendous support from the Swedish fans."



WORLD

# Officials say gunman hanged by angry mob in Baghdad square

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An angry mob killed a 16-year-old and strung up the corpse by its feet from a traffic pole after the teen shot and killed six people Thursday, including four anti-government protesters, Iraqi officials said.

Dozens of people pointed their cellphones at the body dangling high above them in a central Baghdad square. Videos circulating on social media showed the young man being beaten and dragged across the street.

The violence underscored the growing fears and suspicions swirling around the 8-week-old protest movement, which engulfed Iraq on Oct. 1 when thousands took to the streets to decry government corruption, poor services and scarcity of jobs.

A string of mysterious acts of bloodshed by unknown groups has put anti-government protesters on edge and eroded their faith in the ability of state security forces to protect them.

On Dec. 6, 25 protesters were killed when gunmen in pickup trucks opened fire in Baghdad's Khilani Square. That same week, mysterious knife attacks targeted more than a dozen anti-government protesters in Tahrir Square, the hub of the protest movement.

In recent days, abductions and assassinations of high-profile civil activists have stoked paranoia among demonstrators. Protesters largely blame Iran-backed militias for the attacks and see the violence as a campaign to instill fear and weaken their peaceful movement.

Thursday's bloodshed began when the young gunman opened fire in Baghdad's Wathba Square, killing two shop owners and four protesters. Security officials said the teen was wanted by police on drug-related charges and was running from security forces.

An enraged mob beat the young man to death, security and health officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity. At least eight people were wounded, the officials said.

Influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called those who killed the teen "terrorists" and warned that if they were not identified within 48 hours, he would order his militia to leave the square. Members of Saraya Salam, or Peace Brigades, are deployed in the square to protect protesters.

The killing of the teenager was condemned by the wider protest movement in Tahrir Square, which said in a statement that the perpetrators were not part of their peaceful demonstrations.

# Defense of Myanmar army is blasted in genocide case

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Lawyers seeking to halt what they allege is ongoing genocide in Myanmar have slammed leader Aung San Suu Kyi's defense of her country's armed forces, saying Thursday that the Nobel Peace Prize winner and former pro-democracy icon chose to ignore "unspeakable" crimes targeting Muslim civilians.

The United Nation's top court is conducting emergency legal proceedings to determine if military personnel committed genocide against Myanmar's Rohingya minority in 2017. The African nation of Gambia, acting on behalf of a large group of Muslim countries, requested the International Court of Justice hearings and alleges that human rights violations against the Rohingya continue.

With maps, satellite imagery and graphic photos, Myanmar's accusers have detailed what they say is a deliberate campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide — including the killing of civilians, raping of women and torching of houses — that forced more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. Gambia wants the U.N. court

to take "all measures within its power to prevent all acts that amount to or contribute to the crime of genocide."

The U.N. court proceedings in The Hague produced the spectacle Wednesday of Suu Kyi, who was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for championing democracy and rights under Myanmar's then-ruling junta, defending the army that kept her under house arrest for some 15 years.

"We heard nothing about sexual violence from Myanmar yesterday, not a single word about it," lawyer Paul Reicher told the world court Thursday as Suu Kyi watched impassively. "Because it is undeniable and unspeakable, they chose to ignore it completely. I can't really blame them. I would hate having to be the one to defend it."

Suu Kyi testified Wednesday the exodus of Rohingya was a tragic consequence of hostilities initiated by insurgents. The allegations of genocide and other crimes by the army stemmed from "an internal armed conflict started by coordinated and comprehensive armed attacks ... to which Myanmar's defense services responded," she said.

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police pay off layaways at Walmart store

**FL** DADE CITY — A Florida police department gave back this holiday season by paying off all the layaways at a Walmart store, allowing 26 customers to pick up their purchases.

The Dade City Police Department said in a Facebook post that Chief James Walters and his staff walked into the store to pay off 26 layaway accounts totaling more than \$4,300.

The money came from anonymous donors and the Dade City Police Foundation. The buyers were surprised when they received the good news on a phone call from the police chief.

## Man rescued after falling into abandoned well

**CA** VENTURA — Firefighters rescued an 87-year-old man who received minor injuries when he fell into an abandoned well in a southern California neighborhood.

The Ventura County Star reported that the man was apparently mowing the lawn at his home near Simi Valley when he fell into a hole previously covered for more than a decade.

A woman in the area said she was in her car when she kept hearing a sound before following the voice, discovering the man and calling 911.

Ventura County Fire officials said the man was alert and able to communicate with firefighters when they arrived to find him about 25 feet below the surface.

## Man charged with theft in \$10K bingo win

**LA** MONROE — The luck ran out for a Louisiana man allegedly caught rigging bingo games to win more than \$10,000.

John Cook, 43, was booked into the Ouachita Correctional Facility for theft charges and counts for failing to appear multiple times following his June 29 arrest, according to a Monroe Police warrant obtained by news outlets.

Police said Cook was recorded on video at a bingo parlor manipulating a “Bonanza Bingo” game by manipulating the balls he wanted to play and then hiding the winner until he was ready to end the game. The warrant said Cook did that four times and won thousands for three people, including his sister.

## Teen runaway found ‘camping’ inside store

**NC** GREENVILLE — Employees at a Bed, Bath & Beyond in North Carolina discovered an uninvited sleeper guest hiding in the store when they opened up Monday morning.

The Greenville employees called local police around 8:30 a.m. and officers responded to a “breaking and entering in progress,” according to The News & Observer.

The intruder turned out to be



ALAN CAMPBELL, ROCKY MOUNT (N.C.) TELEGRAM/AF

## Give us a kiss

Shelby Waggon receives a nuzzle from Wizard, a 5-year-old alpaca, on Tuesday at Alpaca Bella Fina Ranch in Whitakers, N.C.

a 14-year-old runaway who had “camped out” at the store overnight after leaving home, Greenville police spokeswoman Kristen Hunter said.

## Scientist: Rodent complaints led to firing

**NM** SOCORRO — A New Mexico scientist said she was fired from a New Mexico Tech lab job after complaining about a rodent infestation.

Chemical engineer Glennanne Johnson was terminated from her position as a lab manager at the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center following her complaints about mouse droppings and dead rodents, KOB-TV reported. Johnson said the work environment made her sick and she later tested positive for hantavirus — an infectious disease spread by rodents.

The university would not comment on why she is no longer employed.

## Hail drops on city for 2nd time in 18 days

**AZ** PHOENIX — For the second time in 18 days, large hail coated the desert in parts of the Phoenix metro area, National Weather Service me-

## THE CENSUS

# 30

The number of days a former housekeeper at a hotel was sentenced for stealing a guest’s \$35,000 diamond ring. Chrystal Monique Gregory, 28, pleaded guilty to grand larceny in August. Prosecutors said she used an employee key to break into a couple’s suite at The Cavalier hotel. Once inside, she entered a master code to open a safe where the victims left the 2½-carat diamond engagement ring. The ring was never recovered, prosecutor’s office spokeswoman Macie Allen said.

teorologists said some pop-up thunderstorms dropped hail in some sections of north Phoenix and other areas recently.

It wasn’t as widespread as Nov. 21 when hail fell in parts of Phoenix and the suburbs of Goodyear, Avondale, Tempe, Mesa and Apache Junction — an unusual sight in the desert. Last week, hail blanketed some north Phoenix freeways and made it look like a winter wonderland for a while until rain and warmer temperatures took over.

## Mom surprised at how twin daughters survived

**WA** LANGLEY — The mother of twin 4-year-old girls who survived a car crash that killed their dad north of Seattle said she’s astonished at what they did.

Authorities said that after the car plunged down an embank-

ment and into thick forest and undergrowth, the girls unbuckled themselves from their booster seats, realized their dad wasn’t talking and climbed out a broken rear window.

They made it back up to the road, where they were spotted by a woman who happened to drive by.

The girls’ mother, Esther Cridler, told The Seattle Times they are “independent,” but she was astonished by what they did.

The crash, on Whidbey Island, killed Corey Simmons, 47, of Langley. He was not wearing a seat belt, authorities said.

## State bird’s status changed to threatened

**HI** HONOLULU — The federal government changed the protection status of Hawaii’s state bird from endangered to threatened, officials said.

Federal officials said the nene has been brought back from the brink of extinction through a breeding program and habitat restoration, Hawaii Public Radio reported.

The nene is native to the Hawaiian Islands. In the 1950s the number of nenes fell to about 30 birds in the wild, but long-term efforts restored the population to about 3,000 statewide, wildlife officials said.

## Man arrested after ride on mule deer

**OR** RILEY — Police said a young man was arrested after he was caught on video riding on the back of a mule deer that was trapped in a fenced area in rural eastern Oregon.

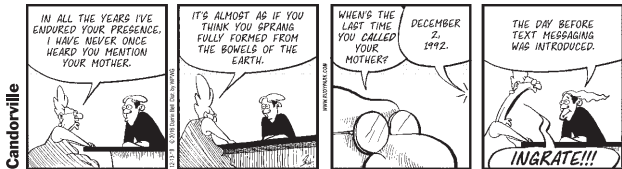
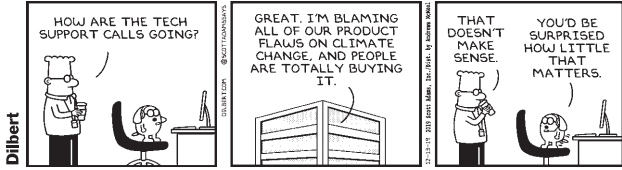
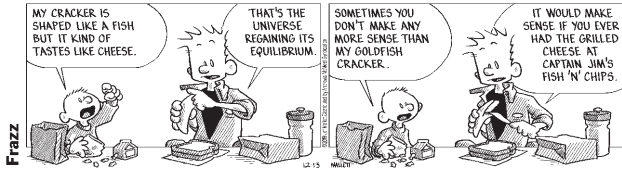
Oregon State Police said Jacob Belcher, 18, of Riley was arrested Dec. 6 and charged with wildlife harassment and animal abuse.

Police said someone sent the state police’s Fish and Wildlife division a video of Belcher climbing onto the young mule deer buck and riding the animal, which appears exhausted.

Troopers said the deer makes grunting or bleating sounds throughout the video.

From wire reports





**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	
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18				19									
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48	49	50	51								52		
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56								57				58	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pouch
  - 4 Compass pt.
  - 7 Marina sights
  - 12 Actor Danson
  - 13 Hooting bird
  - 14 Sound
  - 15 Melody
  - 16 Like upscale designer apparel
  - 18 Cattle call
  - 19 Strainer
  - 20 Cougar
  - 22 Gun lobby org.
  - 23 Big-screen format
  - 27 French article
  - 29 Indigenous
  - 31 Pago Pago's place
  - 34 Walks in water
  - 35 Out of reach, maybe
  - 37 — canto
  - 38 "Born Free" illness
  - 39 Swelled head
  - 41 Tug
  - 45 Pester
  - 47 Floral necklace
  - 48 Nongeneric, as a drug
  - 52 Hanoi holiday
  - 53 Scooter's kin
  - 54 Sawbuck
  - 55 Poem of praise
  - 56 Garden spoilers
- DOWN**
- 57 Soon-to-be grads
  - 58 Sound from a hot wok
  - 72 Ballot marks
  - 28 — Claire, Wisc.
  - 30 Shock partner
  - 31 That lady
  - 32 Have a bug
  - 33 Brit, sports cars
  - 36 Teller's partner
  - 37 Esaiion of football
  - 40 Pesky insects
  - 42 Choir members
  - 43 Essentials
  - 44 Windy day toys
  - 45 Tosses in the lawn
  - 46 Desires
  - 48 Upscale auto
  - 49 Shad product
  - 50 Mimic
  - 51 Nancy Drew's boyfriend

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

F	R	A	B	O	S	C	B	E	E	P
L	O	B	I	T	O	R	U	C	L	A
A	B	S	I	N	T	H	E	I	C	A
			O	J	D	O	P	U	L	E
B	E	L	I	E	F	E	S	T		
L	I	V	R	O	Y	B	U	L	B	S
A	R	E	A	G	A	Y	P	E	R	U
H	E	D	G	E	P	P	F	I	E	
			E	S	Q	P	U	T	T	E
T	E	A	L	E	A	F	R	A	J	
S	A	L	E	T	A	X	I	C	A	B
A	S	P	S	A	M	E	S	B	O	A
R	E	O	S	R	E	S	T	S	O	W

**12-13**

**CRYPTOQUIP**

R B P L A S O L J R Q C B Q F R J P  
 O S M L A S W L L W K R D Z D J  
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 M L F Q J O S R D P S E L F P  
 W E L F O Q S.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A CERTAIN PROLIFIC FILM AND TELEVISION ACTOR'S CHILDREN PROBABLY REFER TO HIM AS DADDY DEVITO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals B

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Sean Klrnek, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander  
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stripes.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stripes.com  
Tina Crowley, Managing Editor for Content  
crowley.tina@stripes.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stripes.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
Eric Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.eric@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350  
**Pacific**  
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
+81-42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380  
**Washington**  
Joseph Cacioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
cacioli.joseph@stripes.com  
(+1)202/886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

**Mideast**  
Robert L. Weisman, Mideast Circulation Manager  
robert.l.weisman.naf@gmail.com  
rweisman@stripes.com  
DSN (314)583-9111  
**Europe**  
Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
lewis.karen@stripes.com  
memberservices@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090  
**Pacific**  
Mar Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
+81-3-6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington  
460-460-0023  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050  
Reader letters  
letters@stripes.com  
Additional contacts  
stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

Ruling on gun case would be unnecessary

By GREG WEINER  
Special to The Washington Post

The Supreme Court's newly reinforced conservative majority is facing a test. It could use a case before the court as an opportunity to expand the scope of Second Amendment protections. Or it could pursue the correct conservative approach: decline the temptation to intervene.

This is a tension as old as the republic. In 1793, the Washington administration asked the Supreme Court to advise it about the interpretation of treaties. The court, under Chief Justice John Jay, demurred. That set a precedent against the court issuing hypothetical opinions, rather than limiting itself to the actual "cases and controversies" over which the Constitution gives it jurisdiction.

Last week, the court heard arguments in a case involving a New York City rule that restricted the ability of law-abiding gun owners to transport their weapons. Many constitutional conservatives are eager for the court, which has not elaborated on the scope of Second Amendment rights since its landmark ruling more than a decade ago, to assert its authority and define the Second Amendment broadly. Jay might reply that they should be more concerned about the Supreme Court defining its own power broadly.

The problem is that the case is moot. New York City repealed the law it issued after the Supreme Court agreed to hear the challenge, and New York state further closed the door by passing a statute that protects the ability of gun owners to transport weapons. This was an effort to prevent the court from issuing an opinion by resolving the controversy in advance.

For the court to rule in the absence of a live controversy — to pronounce on the constitutionality of a law no longer on the books — is not the same as an "advisory opinion" such as the one Jay declined to provide in 1793. But it implicates the same

The court's unwillingness to philosophize about the Constitution in the abstract is one of the most important limits on its power.

principle. The court's unwillingness to philosophize about the Constitution in the abstract is one of the most important limits on its power.

What was alarming about the oral arguments was the seeming willingness of two conservative justices, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch, to ignore this fundamental principle. Alito, for example, suggested the case was not moot because the plaintiffs did not get "a declaration that the old law was unconstitutional, period." But that is exactly why the case is moot: The old rule no longer exists. Gorsuch wondered whether allowing the plaintiffs to seek damages for what they assert was a violation of their Second Amendment rights — something they did not seek in the original case — could render it active again.

Constitutional conservatives should see that eagerness to decide the case less as an opportunity to expand the Second Amendment than as a troubling precedent for expanding the power of the court. That it would occur just as conservatives have solidified a majority on the court would only cynicism, as we know.

Constitutional conservatives have long argued that elected branches of government should more fully consider constitutional questions. Whether the city and state of New York did so with sufficient purity of motive or whether they were simply trying to short-circuit the case before an adverse ruling from the Supreme Court is irrelevant. The fact remains that the rule was repealed in the face of constitutional concerns. Constitutional conservatives should welcome, not ignore, that development.

Honesty about Afghanistan would be a life-saver

By JAY AMBROSE  
Tribune News Service

It's no small thing when grotesque mistakes and lies about them cost 2,300 lives and a trillion dollars, but that's what we got from U.S. officials who have kept us war in Afghanistan for 18 years. A chief culprit is the Pentagon, of course, but also presidents, Congress and the State Department. And the overall picture is powerfully sustained by a Washington Post expose that comes at us at a time when so much else in our republic seems a mess.

After all, we right now have House Democrats atrociously and deceptively abusing their power in an impeachment effort doing more to toss principles out the window than a legitimately elected if fault-filled president who will be saved by the Senate. We likewise have a Justice Department explicitly shown in an official report to have engaged in incompetent, strikingly dishonest practices to prove a nonexistent Russian collusion.

And on top of all of these scandals we once-proud Americans are learning how the military went askew in Afghanistan after an initial attack following the 9/11 tragedy at the hands of al-Qaida. We needed to strike back if we were going to prevent future terrorism on our shores, and we asked the Taliban, then primary enemy in charge of Afghanistan, to let us punish

the al-Qaida conspirators in the neighborhood. The Taliban said no, and we invaded, pushed the Taliban aside and shredded al-Qaida as its terror-struck terrorists fled into Pakistan. We should have then said goodbye with a promise to visit again if necessary.

Instead, our military hung around with no idea of what our mission was or what strategies would work in a land where we understood nothing about the culture. We weren't going to try nation building, but we did, leading to confusion and unspeakable corruption. We were going to stop the opium trade, but saw it blossom. We were going to train the Afghan army, but it's still untrained. We were going to crush al-Qaida, but what was left was gone. We were going to sink the Taliban but it was big and entrenched and we should have negotiated instead of just watching it rise again. We were going to protect civilians but saw thousands killed.

We heard all kinds of positive stories from people named Bush and Obama along with the military bureaucrats and members of Congress even if they all knew how much was amiss. There was then a federal project to get at the truth through hundreds of interviews and its report was hidden away. For several years now, The Post has tried to get access to it, not through leaks but through the Freedom of Information Act, and it has been unsuccessful. What it has come up with is story

The framers of the Constitution were a diverse group, but it is fair to characterize them broadly as believing legislatures and executives should deliberate on constitutional questions. The reason was that the people could not simply outsource constitutional questions to the courts. All of us have a responsibility to consider them because the Constitution is the property of citizens. Leaving such issues solely in the hands of the judiciary would risk a moral hazard by which the elected branches of government feel free to ignore constitutional questions on the grounds that the judiciary will resolve them.

The underlying controversy involves a debate between originalists who seek a more limited judiciary on the model of Robert Bork's and the increasingly ascendant libertarian view of originalism, known as "judicial engagement," that calls on jurists to lean aggressively into the protection of rights.

Yet the Constitution does not belong to the courts alone. In the noblest sense, it is a political instrument. Requiring citizens to debate constitutional questions calls us to our civic duty. Consigning them to the judiciary lets us off the hook. As such, entities such as the New York City Council and state legislature — where citizens are more immediately represented — are exactly where constitutional questions belong. Conservatives may disagree with those bodies' conclusions, but the constitutional design assumes legislatures are the primary forum for constitutional disputes.

Originalists should reject the temptation to push for a ruling on the Second Amendment many of them would celebrate and focus instead on a larger constitutional priority: the limitation of the judiciary to "cases and controversies." The scope of judicial power is a far more fundamental question than the scope of a single constitutional provision.

Greg Weiner is an associate professor of political science at Assumption College and a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

after story of the missteps, the failures, the negative consequences, the pointlessness of so much that has been tried.

I myself recently heard such a story at a gathering spoken to by a brave if fearful soldier who had served as a medic in Afghanistan for four years. He showed us videos of bloody U.S. soldiers being carried into helicopters. He showed pictures of soldiers who were killed in combat. He told of awful incidents. He told of watching horrifying drone attacks on long-distance monitors. He said everyone in Afghanistan knew at least one person killed by the United States. At the same time, and to my surprise, he did not want total withdrawal. He clearly loved the Afghan people and thought the Taliban would return to excruciating power if we left. I have no choice but to respect his view even if I now feel differently.

Our resources extend only so far and there is no way we can keep every place else in the world safe from itself. We need to keep an eye on Afghanistan, especially since we know other terrorist groups are building bases there, and we should be prepared to hit hard and get out if the need arises. But we should quit sacrificing American lives over and meanwhile demand truth from people who are supposedly our public servants.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

# OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### Ban is toothless if Russia's athletes can still compete

#### Chicago Tribune

International anti-doping regulators say they've had it with Russia cheating and have banned the country from international competition for four years. That includes the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo and the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. What does that ban really mean?

A full English and American volleyball team wins gold. The team takes the podium. But because of the ban, the athletes aren't wearing Russian uniforms. Instead, they don whatever drab, understated garb signifies being neutrals from nowhere in this particular. No Russian flag goes up there, no Russian anthem fills up the arena.

Back in Moscow, what do you think Russian President Vladimir Putin's reaction would be? Our guess is a wide, beaming smile and a celebratory swig of the best vodka rubles can buy. Russians still will have won gold, and for a country bent on a scam-at-any-cost approach to winning, bringing home the gold is all that matters.

In issuing its verdict Monday, the World Anti-Doping Agency said that, even after Russia was exposed as a systematic cheater at the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014 and the list of international competitions, Russian officials persisting in their chicanery. They did so most recently by manipulating a database containing test results for Russian athletes.

The agency could have slapped an outright ban on Russia that barred every Russian athlete from Tokyo, Beijing, the World Cup and all other international competitions for four years. Instead, the WADA flinched.

Athletes around the world who rely only on grit, passion and commitment to strive for Olympic glory have every right to feel let down. With stronger action against Russia, the international sports community could have sent a message that cheating is, and will always be, a one-way road to disgrace.

The halfway ban issued by the WADA reinforces the cynicism that much of the world increasingly feels about the Olympics. In the lead-up to the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, there was hope that banning the Russian flag and anthem would be the cudgel that scared Russia straight. Clearly that measure wasn't enough. Why would international sports officials think it would be enough now?

Only a concerted action would force the Kremlin to sit up and take notice — an outright ban on Russian athletes competing.

### Trump served Saudis' interests after naval base attack

#### The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's reaction to the murderous rampage in Pensacola, Fla., on Dec. 6 by an officer of the Royal Air Force of Saudi Arabia was insensitive and grossly insufficient. Three American service members lost their lives and eight were wounded by a Saudi wielding a 9 mm Glock. In the days after the attack, the FBI says is being investigated as terrorism. What does the president say? He finds it "shocking" and conveys the condolences of "very, very devastated" King Salman of Saudi Arabia and his son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and adds that the king and will "help out the families very greatly."



MATTIAS J. OCHER, MIAMI HERALD/AP

**Family and friends gather at Vista Memorial Gardens cemetery in Miami Lakes, Fla., on Tuesday for the burial service of Frank Ordonez, a UPS driver who was taken hostage by armed robbers and killed during a shootout with police on Dec. 5.**

Not a word from Trump about the threat of terrorism, or a shred of curiosity about motives and whether the Saudi officer was radicalized and by whom, or a thought about what Saudi Arabia could do to help investigate the shooter, or perhaps a lament that a pilot, a guest of the United States, would carry out such a horrific assault on his hosts, or even a worry about where the 21-year-old officer got the weapon. Trump quickly pivoted to say there were a lot of countries participating in the aviator training program. He often performs this pivot, a telltale dodge.

Trump heard an inexplicable blind spot for Saudi Arabia. He has no trouble insulting people from other Muslim countries. ... After a terrorist attack in London, he tweeted, "These animals are crazy and must be dealt with through toughness and strength!" But when a Saudi carries out an attack on a U.S. military base, Trump becomes a spokesman and apologist for the king.

King Salman has assured Trump, according to an embassy news release, that he has "directed Saudi security services to cooperate with the relevant American agencies to uncover information that will help determine the cause of this horrific attack." Perhaps Trump thinks Americans have forgotten that when Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi was dismembered in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Trump and members of his administration vowed as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo put it, to pursue "a thorough, transparent and timely investigation, including accountability for those responsible for the killing." That promise remains unfulfilled.

### Real crime is what fed FBI's conduct on FISA warrants

#### The Wall Street Journal

The press corps is portraying Monday's report by Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz as absolution for the FBI, but don't believe it. The report states a trail of terrible mismanagement and violations of process that should shock Americans who thought better of their premier law enforcement agency.

Readers can look at the detailed executive summary and decide for themselves. But our own initial reading confirms the worst of the press coverage: that the case when it was run by James Comey. The FBI corrupted the secret court process for obtaining warrants to spy on former Donald Trump aide Carter Page. And it did so by supplying the court with false information produced by Christopher Steele, an agent of the Hillary Clinton campaign.

How can anyone, most of all civil liber-

arians, pass this off as no big deal? The absolution is supposedly that Horowitz concludes that the FBI decision to open a counterintelligence probe against the Trump campaign in July 2016 "was sufficient to predicate the investigation" under current FBI rules. Yet Horowitz also notes that these rules amount to a "low threshold for predication." John Durham, the U.S. attorney investigating these matters for Attorney General William Barr, said Monday he disagrees with Horowitz's conclusions on predication, albeit without elaboration for now.

Horowitz confirms what the FBI had already leaked to friendly reporters, which is that the bureau's alarm in July 2016 was triggered by a conversation that former Trump aide George Papadopoulos had with Australian Alexander Downer. But we learn for the first time that the FBI initially came up with its counterintelligence probe to include four Trump campaign officials: Page and Papadopoulos, then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort, and former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency Michael Flynn.

The bureau quickly moved to a full-scale investigation it called *Crossfire Hurricane*. The FBI's justification, as related to Horowitz, is that the risk of Russian disruption of the 2016 election was too great to ignore.

Yet the bureau never told anyone in the Trump campaign, or even Donald Trump, whom or what it was investigating so he could reduce the danger or distance himself from those advisers. The FBI was investigating the campaign but wouldn't tell the candidate who would soon be elected.

The FBI abuses escalated when it was presented with the Steele dossier: Steele was hired by Glenn Simpson and Fusion GPS, the opposition research firm hired by law firm for the Clinton campaign. Horowitz confirms that the FBI then used the Steele dossier to trigger its application to the FISA court to spy on Page.

"We determined that the *Crossfire Hurricane* team's receipt of Steele's election reporting on September 19, 2016 played a central and essential role in the FBI's and Department's decision to seek the FISA order," Horowitz says. This confirms what Rep. Devin Nunes and House Republicans first disclosed in February 2018, which was denied by Rep. Adam Schiff and sneered at by the press in the days after the report.

Horowitz also finds that the FBI told the FISA court that Steele was credible without having tried to confirm the details or verify his sources. Horowitz found seven key "errors or omissions" in the FBI's original FISA application and 10 more in the three subsequent applications. The latter were especially egregious because they

ignored information that the FBI's own *Crossfire Hurricane* team had later gathered that cast doubt on the Steele claims.

The omissions include the luncheon that Page had been working as an "operational contact" for what Horowitz calls another U.S. agency from 2008 to 2013. Page has said that it is the CIA, which Horowitz doesn't confirm, though he does say that Page was reporting on his Russian contacts, which the agency deemed credible.

In other words, the FBI was using Page's Russian contacts as evidence against him to the FISA court even as the other agency considered his reports on those Russians to be helpful to the U.S. Horowitz says the FBI never disclosed that information to the FISA judges.

Democrats and the press are making much of Horowitz's conclusion that he "did not find documentary or testimonial evidence that political bias or improper motivation" influenced FBI decisions. But his report does show that political bias was conveyed to the FISA court from the Clinton campaign via the Steele dossier through the FBI. It was conveyed by Bruce Ohr, a senior Justice Department official whose wife, Nellie Ohr, worked for Fusion GPS. Horowitz may not have found a "smoking gun" to prove the "get you" but his evidence shows that getting Trump was the goal of Steele and Fusion GPS. Ohr met 13 times with the FBI to discuss the Steele findings.

Even if you buy the "no bias" line, all of this had major political consequences. Fusion GPS and its media contacts to spread word of the Steele dossier's accusations, and news of the FBI's use of that dossier became a media hook to suggest the accusations were credible. This became another part of the false Russia collusion narrative played up by the press.

Horowitz's report states that the end of this tawdry tale "whether or not there are prosecutions, Barr and Durham should release the entire FISA record to the public. The GOP Senate also needs to call the FISA judges to tell their story under oath.

### Thieves to blame for deaths, but shootout is troubling

#### Miami Herald

A police pursuit of two suspected Coral Gables, Fla., jewelry store robbers ended in shocking violence on Dec. 5 on live TV, for a dead, a jewelry store employee wounded.

The dead included a hostage and an innocent bystander — people you never want to see die in a police operation.

For anyone watching on television as the afternoon rush hour chase of the hijacked UPS truck was reported live on news from Miami-Dade to Broward County, the culmination was surreal and jarring — a sudden gunbattle between the suspects and police, surrounded by drivers trapped at a traffic light. The most tragic scene happened next. The UPS driver, who found himself in the middle of a barrage of bullets, tried to have been better protected. Who else would be better protected? He was fatally wounded, as we watched live.

To their credit, South Florida television stations quickly pulled back or cut the feed to spare the audience of such front seat violence. But we sadly watched a young man fight for his life, and fail.

The bullets kept coming, more than 100 rounds, killing an unsuspecting motorist and also the two armed robbers. Nearly 20 officers opened fire.

Now many more questions must be answered by the FBI. Could the hostage and the other bystander have been better protected? Whose bullets killed the victims? Should officers have approached the truck knowing the suspects were armed and firing?

Clearly, the blame lies with the brazen and reckless thieves who sparked this tragedy. But such a tragic loss of life warrants a careful examination of what went wrong, and how we can do better.



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NBA

# Knicks nip Warriors in OT to end slump

## Marcus Morris puts up season-high 36 points

By JOE STIGLICH  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Warriors coach Steve Kerr liked the comeback attempt he saw Wednesday night from his young Golden State team.

That sort of effort just isn't paying off in the win column.

Marcus Morris scored a season-high 36 points and the New York Knicks held off Golden State 124-122 in overtime to snap a 10-game losing streak.

Golden State (5-21) trailed by 21 in the second quarter but roared back with a second-half rally. The Warriors still lost for the sixth time in seven games and fell behind the Knicks (5-20) for the NBA's worst record.

"At halftime we were down 18, and we were sort of lifeless," Kerr said. "We got back in the game pretty quickly in the third quarter. That's a good lesson for young players in this league. It's a really long game and you have to stay with it."

The Warriors returned from a five-game road trip with optimism, seeing a favorable stretch of schedule ahead that offered seemingly winnable games at home.

Over the past three nights, however, they've dropped games to the Knicks and Memphis Grizzlies, who own a combined record of 13-36.

Julius Randle had 24 points and 13 rebounds, and rookie RJ Barrett scored 22 for New York, which fought off the Warriors' comeback bid and gave Mike Miller his first win as interim coach.

"We had to bounce back again and again and again," Miller said. "(The Warriors) continued to make plays, continued to stretch the game out. We had a lot of guys contribute and play well tonight."

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	6	75%	—
Philadelphia	18	7	72%	—
Toronto	16	8	67%	1½
Brooklyn	13	11	54%	2½
New York	5	20	20%	13
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	18	6	75%	—
Orlando	11	13	46%	7
Charlotte	11	16	40%	8½
Washington	7	16	30%	10½
Detroit	6	19	24%	12½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	22	3	88%	—
Indiana	16	9	64%	6
Atlanta	16	10	61%	7
Chicago	9	17	34%	13
Cleveland	5	19	21%	16½

Western Conference				
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	16	7	69%	—
Houston	16	8	67%	½
San Antonio	9	14	39%	7
Memphis	8	16	33%	8½
New Orleans	5	19	21%	11
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	14	8	63%	—
Utah	11	13	46%	1½
Oklahoma City	11	13	46%	1½
Minnesota	10	14	41%	2
Portland	10	15	40%	2½

Wednesday's games				
Houston 115, Cleveland 119				
Indiana 122, Boston 117				
L.A. Clippers 112, Toronto 92				
L.A. Lakers 96, Orlando 87				
Charlotte 113, Brooklyn 108				
Chicago 136, Atlanta 102				
Utah 127, Minnesota 116				
Memphis 115, Phoenix 108				
Milwaukee 127, New Orleans 112				
Sacramento 94, Oklahoma City 93				
New York 124, Golden State 122, OT				

Thursday's games				
Philadelphia at San Antonio				
Cleveland at San Antonio				
Dallas vs. Detroit at Mexico City				
Portland at Denver				

Friday's games				
Orlando at Houston				
Lakers at Miami				
New Orleans at Philadelphia				
Indiana at Atlanta				
Charlotte at Chicago				
Milwaukee at Memphis				
Golden State at Utah				
L.A. Clippers at Minnesota				
New York at Sacramento				

Saturday's games				
San Antonio vs. Phoenix at Mexico City				
Washington at Toronto				
L.A. Clippers at Chicago				
Washington at Memphis				
Cleveland at Milwaukee				
Miami at Dallas				
Detroit at Houston				
Oklahoma City at Denver				



NATHAN DENETTE/The Canadian Press/AP

Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard stretches for the ball as Toronto Raptors forward OG Anunoby, right, looks on during the Clippers' 112-92 win Wednesday in Toronto.

## Roundup

# Leonard leads Clippers past Raptors in return to Toronto

Associated Press

TORONTO — Kawhi Leonard scored 23 points in his return to Toronto, Lou Williams had 18 and the Clippers won their third straight game Wednesday, beating the slumping Raptors 112-92.

Maurice Harkless scored 14 points and Paul George had 13 as the Clippers evened their road record at 6-6.

Before the game, Leonard received his championship ring from the 2018-19 season, when he helped Toronto beat Golden State in six games for the franchise's first NBA title.

Clippers guard Patrick Beverley scored 11 points in 19 minutes before leaving in the third quarter because of a concussion. Beverley collided with Marc Gasol's shoulder as the Raptors center was setting a screen.

Pascal Siakam scored 24 points, Norman Powell had 22 and OG Anunoby 13 as the Raptors lost for the fourth time in five games and dropped their third straight at home. Toronto set a franchise record with nine straight home victories to begin the season.

**Lakers 96, Magic 87:** LeBron James had 25 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds to help Los Angeles win at Orlando.

Anthony Davis had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who have won 13 of 14. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 15 points for Los Angeles.

Jonathan Isaac led the Magic with 19 points. Evan Fournier had 18 and Aaron Gordon finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

**Pacers 122, Celtics 117:** Malcolm Brogdon scored 29 points and Aaron Holiday scored 11 of his 18 points in the fourth

quarter to help host Indiana rally past Boston.

The Pacers trailed 94-84 after three quarters but took the lead for good on the first of Holiday's two three-pointers with 4:16 left.

Kemba Walker scored a season-high 44 points and had seven assists — not enough to extend the Celtics' four-game winning streak.

Indiana snapped a seven-game losing streak in the series — including Boston's first-round playoff sweep last season.

**Rockets 116, Cavaliers 110:** James Harden scored 55 points — 20 in the fourth quarter — and Russell Westbrook added 23 points as Houston withstood an unexpected scare at Cleveland.

The free-falling Cavaliers have lost eight straight and 14 of 15.

Harden matched Kyrie Irving's arena record for points in a game.

**Hornets 113, Nets 108:** Devonte' Graham scored a career-high 40 points, and Charlotte rallied from a 20-point deficit to win at Brooklyn.

Graham had 27 points in the second half in the Hornets' second straight victory. Miles Bridges added 14 points.

**Jazz 127, Timberwolves 116:** Donovan Mitchell had 30 points and six assists, Joe Ingles pitched in a season-high 23 points and visiting Utah dealt Minnesota its sixth straight loss.

Rudy Gobert added 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Jazz, who won for just the third time in nine games by taking over with a 38-24 advantage in the third quarter.

**Bulls 136, Hawks 102:** Zach LaVine scored 35 points in three quarters, Lauri Markkanen added

22 and host Chicago snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over road-weary Atlanta. LaVine, who sat out the final 14 minutes, was 12-for-15 from the field, including 7-for-7 from three-point range.

**Grizzlies 115, Suns 108:** Dillon Brooks scored 27 points, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 24 points, Memphis earned a win at Phoenix.

The Grizzlies won two games in a row for the first time in nearly a month. Jackson shot 10-for-18 from the field, including 3-for-7 from three-point range, and the Grizzlies improved to 6-0 when Brooks scores at least 20 points.

**Bucks 127, Pelicans 112:** Giannis Antetokounmpo sat out but host Milwaukee kept on rolling, getting 29 points from Eric Bledsoe in a rout of New Orleans that extended the team's winning streak to 16 games.

The Bucks (22-3) tied the second-longest winning streak in franchise history and moved closer to the franchise record of 20, set during the team's 1970-71 championship season.

**Kings 94, Thunder 93:** Bogdan Bogdanovic made a three-pointer with 13.4 seconds remaining, and host Sacramento overcame an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Oklahoma City.

Both teams committed turnovers with the game tied in the final minute before Shaq Gilgeous-Alexander hit two free throws to put the Thunder up 93-91 with 31.6 seconds left.

Bogdanovic got the ball outside the arc as Oklahoma City defender Dennis Schroder went flying past him trying for a block. Bogdanovic then hit a 28-foot jumper to give Sacramento the lead.



BEN MARCOT/AP

The New York Knicks' Julius Randle, right, shoots against Golden State Warriors defender Kevon Looney during the Knicks' 124-122 overtime victory Wednesday in San Francisco.



# COLLEGE BASKETBALL/NHL/GOLF

## College basketball roundup

# Cockburn, Illinois upset No. 5 Michigan

Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Kofi Cockburn had 19 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks to help Illinois upset No. 5 Michigan 71-62 on Wednesday night.

The 7-foot freshman from Jamaica dominated from the opening tip, making two dunks that brought the crowd to its feet.

Ayo Dosunmu added 14 points, Adres Feliz had 13 and Giorgi Bezhanishvili 12 for Illinois (7-3, 1-1 Big Ten).

Jon Teske scored 16 points for Michigan (8-3, 1-1). Eli Brooks and Isaiah Livers each scored 12 points.

With about four minutes left in the game, Cockburn hit a basket and was fouled. While celebrating, he inadvertently hit referee Lewis Garrison in the head and knocked him unconscious. Illinois spokesman Derrick Burson said Garrison was cleared on site by doctors and taken to a hospital as a precaution.

**No. 15 Arizona 99, Nebraska-Omaha 49:** Josh Green and Chase Jeter had 15 points each, helping the host Wildcats bounce back from their first loss of the season.

Arizona (10-1) returned to McKale Center for the first time in 17 days with a dominating performance, jumping on the Mavericks with a big opening run and keeping its foot on the gas. Arizona shot 58%, had 25 assists on 38 field goals and had a 44-20 advantage in the paint.

**Merrimack 69, Army 60:** Juvante Hayes registered 14 points, eight assists and six rebounds as the host Warriors topped the Black Knights.

MIKEY WATKINS had 17 points for Merrimack (6-5). Devin Jensen added 14 points. Jaleel Lord had eight rebounds for the hosts.

Tommy Funk had 18 points for the Black Knights (4-5). Matt Wilson added 18 points and 11 rebounds.



ANDY BROWN/MLA/P

U.S. team player Justin Thomas plays from a bunker on No. 2 Thursday during a Presidents Cup fourball match at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Australia.

## NHL roundup

# Caps retain dominance of Bruins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — T.J. Oshie scored twice in under four minutes and John Carlson got the go-ahead goal to extend the Washington Capitals' long-standing domination of the Boston Bruins with a 3-2 victory Wednesday night in a showdown between the NHL's two best teams.

The Capitals have won 16 of their past 17 games against the Bruins, who have lost four in a row.

Carlson's blast past Jaroslav Halak in the third period fired up a crowd quipped by Sean Kuraly's deflection goal minutes earlier. Earlier, fans in Capitals red and Bruins black and gold got into it when Boston captain Zdeno Chara and Washington forward Tom Wilson threw down the gloves in a heavyweight fight in the first.

**Canadiens 3, Senators 2 (OT):** Ben Chiarot scored in overtime and Cayden Primeau made 35 saves for his first NHL victory in host Montreal's decision over Ottawa. Chiarot scored 1:11 into the extra period on a 2-on-1 with Max Domi.

**Avalanche 3, Flyers 1:** Mikko Rantanen had two goals and Pavel Francouz made 32 saves to lead host Colorado over Philadelphia.

Francouz, the 29-year-old first-year player, did most of his work after the first period, stopping 27 shots in the final 40 minutes.

## NHL scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Boston	32	20	6	6	46	109	81		
Montreal	30	15	11	3	29	104	105		
Buffalo	32	15	11	6	36	101	97		
Florida	32	14	12	4	35	106	101		
Toronto	32	15	13	4	34	104	104		
Tampa Bay	29	15	11	3	33	105	93		
Carolina	32	13	17	2	28	98	100		
Detroit	32	12	17	3	27	67	129		

### Metropolitan Division

Washington	33	23	5	5	51	120	95
N.Y. Islanders	29	20	6	3	45	96	69
Carolina	31	19	11	1	39	103	85
Philadelphia	31	17	11	3	38	97	88
Pittsburgh	31	18	11	2	38	104	85
N.Y. Rangers	30	15	12	3	33	94	94
Columbus	31	14	14	4	28	95	93
New Jersey	30	9	16	5	23	74	111

### Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Colorado	32	18	8	6	42	94	88		
Minnesota	32	18	11	3	42	92	82		
Dallas	32	18	11	3	39	84	94		
Nashville	29	14	10	5	33	98	93		
St. Louis	31	16	12	3	32	92	91		
Chicago	31	12	13	6	30	84	98		

### Pacific Division

Edmonton	33	18	11	4	40	100	99
Arizona	33	18	12	4	39	91	80
Los Angeles	33	17	12	4	38	91	84
Vegas	33	16	12	5	37	98	94
San Jose	33	15	16	2	32	89	114
Anaheim	31	12	14	4	29	82	92
Los Angeles	32	12	18	2	26	80	103

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

### Wednesday's games

Washington 3, Boston 2  
Montreal 3, Ottawa 2, OT  
Colorado 3, Philadelphia 1  
**Thursday's games**  
Boston at Tampa Bay  
Nashville at Pittsburgh  
N.Y. Islanders at Florida  
Columbus at Pittsburgh  
Winnipeg at Detroit  
Vegas at St. Louis  
Edmonton at Minnesota  
Toronto at Calgary  
Colorado at Arizona  
Los Angeles at Anaheim  
San Jose at Columbus  
N.Y. Rangers at San Jose

### Friday's games

Vegas at Colorado  
New Jersey at Chicago

### Calendar

**Dec. 19-27** — Holiday roster freeze.  
**Dec. 24-26** — Holiday break.  
**Jan. 1-3** — NHL Winter Classic, NHL Jr. Championship, Ostrava and Trinec, Czech Republic.  
**Jan. 1** — Winter Classic, San Jose at Dallas (Cotton Bowl).

# Down, down under: US trails International team

## Americans in a rare spot — behind big in Presidents Cup

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Tiger Woods looked good as ever playing in the Presidents Cup.

As captain, his American team found itself in foreign territory — trailing for the first time in 14 years.

An inspired International team shook off an opening fourballs loss to Woods and Justin Thomas by getting big shots and key putts from rookies and veterans alike. It won the other four matches Thursday, never trailing in three of them, and wound up with the start it needed in a bid to win for the first time since 1998.

The International won the opening session 4-1, its best start ever and the first time it led.

"This is the start we needed," Adam Scott said after he recovered from his own nerves in Australia. "We haven't seen this for a while. We've got to try to keep this lead now as long as possible, and hopefully the week runs out."

Woods showed off an exquisite short game, building a 2-up lead after two holes with pitch-and-run shots that set up easy birdies. He chipped in for birdie on the par-5 fifth, and closed out the match with an 8-foot bunker on the par-5 15th, his sixth birdie in the 15 holes he and Thomas needed to beat Marc Leishman and Joaquin Niemann.

Asked what worked well in

their first time playing together, Thomas replied, "Tiger was working well."

Little else did for the Americans, but that was more a product of great play by the International team that Ernie Els assembled to try to win the Presidents Cup for the first time since 1998, its only victory.

The International team walked off the course with arms around shoulders, a most happy occasion after having lost seven in a row since the tie in South Africa in 2003.

Even the normally stoic Hideki Matsuyama showed just how much this week means, fist-pumping his way to victory. Matsuyama held a 25-foot birdie on the 17th for a 1-up lead with C.T. Pan, leading to the final victory of the session over Patrick Reed and Webb Simpson.

"We'll celebrate this little session victory and then we've got a couple more to go," Els said.

Next up is foursomes matches, a U.S. strength in the Presidents Cup.

"We have to earn the cup," Woods said, perhaps a reminder that history only goes so far inside the ropes. "It's a long week. We're not out of it yet."

Woods is the first playing captain since the first Presidents Cup in 1994, and it was his first time playing since 2013. It was his 25th victory in the Presidents Cup, one short of the record held by Phil Mickelson.

## By the numbers

# 4-1

The score in favor of the International team after Thursday's fourballs play in the Presidents Cup.

# 2005

The last time the International squad led the event, then after the second session.

# 6

Birdies by Tiger Woods in the only match of the day the U.S. team won on Thursday, 4 and 3, with Woods and Justin Thomas defeating Marc Leishman and Joaquin Niemann.

MLB

# Source: Rendon, Angels agree on \$245M

## Third baseman gets seven-year contract

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Third baseman Anthony Rendon and the Los Angeles Angels agreed to a \$245 million, seven-year contract Wednesday, a person with direct knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced and was subject to a successful physical.

Rendon gets a \$4 million signing bonus payable by Dec. 31 and salaries of \$25.5 million next season, \$27.5 million in 2021, \$36 million in 2022 and \$38 million each year from 2023-26. He would receive a \$250,000 bonus for World Series MVP, \$150,000 for League Championship Series MVP, \$125,000 for election as an All-Star starter and \$100,000 for selection as a reserve.

Rendon is the third prized free agent to strike a big-money deal at this week's baseball winter meetings. He'll join three-time MVPs Mike Trout and Albert Pujols on a team that's made just one postseason appearance in the past decade.

The Angels had missed out on free agent right-hander Gerrit Cole, who agreed to a record \$324 million, nine-year contract with the New York Yankees on Tuesday night, a person familiar with the deal told the AP.

"With our flexibility, if we miss a big player, there (are) still very talented players that are accessible in the free-agent and trade market right now," Angels general manager Billy Eppler said earlier Wednesday.

Rendon, who has played all seven of his major league seasons with Washington, drove in a career-best 126 runs while helping the Nationals capture the franchise's



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Washington Nationals third baseman Anthony Rendon throws out the Houston Astros' George Springer during the third inning of Game 6 of the World Series. Rendon and the Los Angeles Angels agreed to a \$245 million, seven-year contract Wednesday.

first World Series championship this year. His 19.9 Wins Above Replacement, per FanGraphs, over the past four seasons trails only Trout, Boston's Mookie Betts and Milwaukee's Christian Yelich among position players.

Rendon is the latest big signing by owner Arte Moreno, following Pujols, Shohei Ohtani, Josh Hamilton and C.J. Wilson.

"We're within some structure of a budget and a payroll forecast that you rela-

tively want to be near and then we just take those opportunities to Arte and see if he'll grant us the permission to do those things," Eppler said. "There (are) good players out there and players that warrant some sizeable contracts. I know the players that he likes."

Rendon follows Bryce Harper as a homegrown star in Washington to leave via free agency — Harper signed a \$330 million, 13-year deal with the Philadelphia Phillies

last March. The Nationals had remained in contact with the 29-year-old Rendon's representatives Wednesday, according to general manager Mike Rizzo.

"The third-base market specifically is an active market," Rizzo said. "There are several teams that are in the market for that particular position. I think it will move fairly rapidly, not only in the free-agent market but in the trade market I think we'll see some activity."



DAVID BANKS, GETTY IMAGES/THS

The Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani is greeted by teammates after hitting a three-run home run against the Chicago White Sox on Sept. 7. Ohtani is recovering from Tommy John surgery.

# Ohtani's throwing program at top of franchise's agenda

By JANIE MCCAULEY  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Once Shohei Ohtani completes the final phase of his recovery from Tommy John surgery later this month, the Los Angeles Angels will confer with surgeon Dr. Neal ElAttrache and the team's medical staff to determine how to proceed with the Japanese two-way star's throwing program.

Ohtani threw another bullpen session Wednesday and has worked up to about 50 pitches, general manager Billy Eppler said. The team may decide to keep pushing him from the mound or flat ground, but he may also take time off before ramping up again for spring training.

"The first step is going to be get through what he needs to get through and then talk to Dr. ElAttrache and talk to our medi-

cal personnel and come up with a plan," Eppler said. "He's throwing now at this time of year at more intensity than other pitchers are and other starters."

"So my question that I'm going to ask is going to be: 'What's best for Shohei? Is it to just continue throwing, is it to continue throwing on a mound, continue throwing flat ground? Stop, rest, start back up?' So I'm going to explore that, but I'm going to wait until we get through this and then I'll know a little bit more about how to utilize him."

Ohtani is throwing at 85%, and the Angels would like him to reach about 90%. Eppler said some pitchers on the staff will have their innings monitored — Ohtani likely one of them — without offering specifics at this stage. He does plan to keep Ohtani pitching once a week and hitting four days a week if all goes well.

"If he can do that, then that would be the usage plan," Eppler said. "I don't want to take additional risk on a guy who is right back from a UCL reconstruction. I don't want to introduce additional risk, clearly at the outset of the season. I don't think that's a mindful thing to do."

The 25-year-old Ohtani had surgery on his left kneecap in September, but the reconstructed elbow is most concerning for the Angels.

Ohtani got back on the mound last week and pitched a bullpen session in front of new pitching coach Mickey Callaway in Anaheim on Monday.

The 2018 AL Rookie of the Year finished his second major league season batting .286 with 18 homers and 62 RBIs in 106 games as the Angels' designated hitter.

AP baseball writer Ronald Blum contributed to this report.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



MARCO GARCIA/AP

Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. looks to pass against Hawaii last month in Honolulu.

## Legacy: Hopkins won over West Point with personality

### FROM BACK PAGE

All these years later, Hopkins has memorized one of the most complex offensive playbooks in college football. He is most renowned in West Point for being the first quarterback in program history to rush and pass for 1,000 yards apiece. Among his teammates, though, he may be better known for his genial disposition and winsome smile.

"He's funny," said wide receiver Camden Harrison, whose connection with Hopkins on the field this season has been constant. "He's fun to be around, and you can always count on him to have your back."

If last year was proof that hard work pays off, this season for Hopkins has been a lesson that sometimes playing don't work out as expected. He's been knocked out of multiple games with injuries, missed several contests and fallen short on last-minute game-changing drives. "It's been a challenge for me," Hopkins said.

If he is healthy enough to start in Philadelphia on Saturday when Army tries to four-peat against a superior Navy squad, it will be one final opportunity to leave a lasting legacy on an Army program that reached new heights with Hopkins under center. And despite a senior year that has been far less remarkable than the one before, Hopkins' value as a leader and mentor has only grown.

As a student, Hopkins was the kid who spoke up when something needed to be said, but otherwise tried to avoid the spotlight.

"I flip-flop a lot," he confessed. "I like to be social, but sometimes I like to be by myself off to the side, in the corner, in the background sometimes, too."

Hopkins takes pride in the fact that Charlotte is "a big melting pot of people. All types of races. All types of classes." He said growing up in an area with a wide range of life experiences prepared him to thrive in a place like West Point, where he's in classes with students from places like Honduras and Japan. It also helped him relate to a football team composed of a diverse pool of athletes from all over the country.

Hopkins said he doesn't discriminate, even when it comes to his music preference. "Drake, Florence and the Machine, Maggie Rogers, Pusha T. All that. I love it all."

He also loves talking about food. Hopkins conducted his first interview after spring practice with a bowl of Frosted Mini-Wheats in hand. He spent a day during a bye week driving uninitiated teammates more than 100 miles to introduce them to the glory of Waffle House. It was an adventure, much like the one Hopkins has been on as a cadet.

Fullback Connor Slomka surmises that Hopkins was a sixth-string quarterback when he arrived in West Point, typical just by the sheer number of athletes on Army's roster. What's atypical is Hopkins' gradual rise through the ranks, from afterthought to program-altering star.

"He's been a lot of things," Slomka said, referring to the quarterback's uplifting personality as well as his versatility as a passer in a run-based offense. Slomka calls it "a cinematic story. He's worked his way up."

Much like Hopkins' favorite movie, "The Sixth Sense," the quarterback, if healthy, has the potential to shock the audience with a season finale few may see coming, considering the struggles Army has endured all year. He may not start — said head coach Jeff Monken on Tuesday of his quarterbacks, "We're going to have the guys available that are available" — but if he does, he'll be in a unique position leading the underdog Black Knights (5-7) against a Midshipmen program that has coasted to a 9-2 record.

This week, Hopkins seems unfazed by all of it. The pressure. The expectations. A lesser man might wince and mope through a final collegiate season marred by injury and defeat. Not Hopkins. He sees a bigger picture, the one that began with a kid who never dreamed he could make it here.

"If you would've asked me in second grade where I thought I would be," Hopkins said, "definitely wouldn't have been at a place like West Point."

## Leader: Perry has undergone dramatic evolution

### FROM BACK PAGE

Fast forward five years later and Jasper marvels at the Malcolm Perry he sees on the Navy football sideline. There is Perry exhorting teammates to stop worrying about what went wrong on the previous possession and focus on improving the next. Here is Perry telling Jasper what the defense is doing and suggesting some plays that might work.

"Seeing how far Malcolm has come, both as a player and a person, has been very rewarding for me personally," Jasper said. "Malcolm is so much more commanding on the sideline. He's provided a strong leadership presence and really taken control of the offense. Malcolm has gone from a kid who didn't say much to one that speaks up and is assertive."

Watching from the stands at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Bonny Perry has seen the dramatic evolution as well.

I see Malcolm on the sideline hyping people up and I am just can't believe it. He has never been like that before," Bonny Perry said of her youngest son. "I remember a game this season when Malcolm scored a touchdown, then flipped the ball to the referee. He's never done anything like that before. I agree with Coach Jasper, Malcolm has grown and changed a lot."

Malcolm Perry has always been a fierce competitor who tried to lead by example, but motivating teammates verbally was never his style.

"Malcolm has been playing football since the age of 8 and all his coaches have wanted him to be more vocal, and he just wouldn't do it," Bonny said. "Malcolm knew the other kids weren't as motivated, weren't as serious as he was. Malcolm knew he couldn't instill those traits with words, so he just tried to show the way."

Malcolm Xiomar Perry is the youngest of six children born to parents who were both career military stars. Army's Malcolm Maurice Perry met his future wife because they both worked in logistics at Fort Campbell, which straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

Maurice Perry worked in refueling operations for 21 years, while Malcolm worked in repairs and supply for 19 years. They were both deployed during the Gulf War and have lived in other locales, evidenced by the fact two children were born in North Carolina and one in Germany.

I was very comfortable around the military and knew first-hand what it could do for your future," Perry said. "I saw some of the cool things you can do in the military and the way you could provide for your family."

Perry will forever be part of Navy's history because of the bizarre circumstances of his collegiate debut. Starting quarterback Tago Smith suffered a season-ending injury during the 2016 opener against Fordham and backup Will Worth took over.

Unbeknownst to anyone else in attendance at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium that day, third



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Navy quarterback Malcolm Perry runs against Houston last month. Perry currently ranks third all-time at Navy with 3,842 career rushing yards, trailing record-setting quarterback Keenan Reynolds (4,559, 2012-2015) and Napoleon McCallum (4,179, 1981-85).

string quarterback Zach Abehey had been suspended due to a violation of team rules. Jasper sent word down from the press box for a member of the equipment staff to "find Malcolm" and get him suited up.

Perry marched into the stadium that early September day along with the Brigade of Midshipmen and was sitting in the stands in his dress whites. He wound up getting into the game and directing a touchdown drive.

"It was a pretty amazing way to get my first college playing experience," he admitted. "I was part of an offense that leads the nation in rushing average (360.8 yards per game) and ranks ninth in scoring (39.3 points). He is only the fifth quarterback in Navy history to rush and pass for more than 1,000 yards in a single season."

Perry has accounted for 2,527 yards and 25 touchdowns from scrimmage. He needs 88 yards to break the season record for rushing (1,587 yards), which was set way back in 1983 by legendary tailback Napoleon McCallum.

Perry currently ranks third all-time at Navy with 3,842 career rushing yards, trailing re-

cord-setting quarterback Keenan Reynolds (4,559, 2012-2015) and Napoleon McCallum (4,179, 1981-85).

"Coming here and hearing about all the legends of Navy football like Joe Bellino, Roger Staubach, Napoleon McCallum and Keenan Reynolds... to be put in the same conversation with any of them is a tremendous honor and very humbling," Perry said.

About the only item missing from Perry's impressive résumé is a victory over archrival Army. He was dressed and stood on the sidelines as a plabe when the Black Knights snapped the historic 14-game winning streak the Midshipmen had in the series.

Perry started at quarterback in 2017 when Navy lost a 14-13 heartbreaker, then led the team in rushing from the slotback position in an equally crushing 17-10 defeat in 2018.

"I really can't put into words how huge that would be for the seniors, the entire football team and the Naval Academy as a whole," Perry said of ending a three-game losing streak to Army. "It could change the way I think about my entire career here at the Naval Academy."



NFL

# League executive: Interference rules have caused 'angst'

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
Associated Press

IRVING, TEXAS — Amid the concern and controversy over coaches' challenges and video reviews of pass interference, the NFL plans a hard look at the rules adjustment instituted this season.

The change was for the 2019 season only and the 32 team owners would have to ratify it again — on a temporary or permanent basis — for it to be continued. Thus far, inconsistencies in how the penalties are being called and with decisions made after video reviews have plagued the system.

"There's no question there's been angst," Rich McKay, president of the Atlanta Falcons and head of the NFL's powerful competition committee said Wednesday at the league meetings. "I've felt the angst. I felt the angst with our team, feel the angst of others. But it's a new rule. It's a big change. It's something we haven't done before. So I don't want to prejudice what the outcome could be."

McKay and league football operations chief Troy Vincent said the subject will be "a point of discussion" in the offseason.

"I think from the committee's standpoint, what we typically do is we'll go back and we'll look at every single review and we will look at it from the standpoint as a committee. 'Would we have reversed that? Would we not have reversed that?'" McKay explained. "After you do that, which is what we did last year with use of helmet — I think we looked at 120 use of helmet plays. You get a good sense of, 'Can we do this better? Does this have a path to get better and more efficient and more effective and more predictable? And what are the challenges?'"



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Kansas City Chiefs cornerback Kendall Fuller, left, breaks up a pass intended for New England Patriots wide receiver Phillip Dorsett. League officials said the interference rules will be a point of discussion in the offseason.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said "consistency is the number one thing we're always trying to achieve.

"And we every year have engaged in changes that have been designed to make us more consistent and better," Goodell said. "Obviously, the standard keeps getting higher as we add new elements. But I think what people see nowadays with technology is much greater than it was even five years ago.

"I think our officials do an outstanding job, but we always seek to improve and we will engage in that. We have engaged in that. And I promise you that will continue."

Vincent emphasized that his job is to evaluate all officiating matters.

"My role is to gather all the information and evaluate it, myself included," he said.

In other topics:

■ Goodell said the league wouldn't make any judgments until the investigation is complete into the New England Patriots inappropriately filming the Cincinnati sideline during Sunday's game in Cleveland.

The club has acknowledged that a three-person crew producing a web series titled "Do Your Job" didn't properly inform the Browns. The Patriots said they turned over all the footage to the league after being confronted. New England plays at the Bengals on Sunday.

■ Goodell said owners discussed the ongoing negotiations for a new labor agreement for about an hour but didn't have much else to report. The collective bargaining agreement expires in March 2021.



D. ROSS CAMERON/AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill, top, celebrates with teammates after throwing a touchdown pass to wide receiver A.J. Brown against the Oakland Raiders on Sunday.

## Tipping point: Titans' Tannehill triggers an offensive turnaround

By TERESA M. WALKER  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ryan Tannehill has done exactly what the Tennessee Titans hoped he would when they made him their starting quarterback.

They have scored at least 30 points in four straight games, the franchise's longest streak since 2003. And though the Titans are coming off a game where they averaged more yards per play than any other NFL game this season, they still see plenty of room for improvement.

"There's definitely things we can clean up some games more than others," Tannehill said Wednesday. "You go back and look at the tape, there's always things we can be better at, plays that we missed. Conversions that we should've had, maybe a block on the backside of a run or a throw location could've been better, a route could've been better."

Some might say they're nitpicking, but the Titans (8-5) are working to fix those mistakes — which concern Tannehill. "The same mistake next game could hurt us," he said, "so we definitely want to clean those things up."

Only the Baltimore Ravens (35.1) have scored more points in the NFL over the past eight weeks than the Titans — who are averaging 31.4 points per game in that span. All the scoring has helped Tennessee win four straight and six of its last seven and turn Sunday's game with Houston (8-5) into a shutdown for the top of the AFC South.

Everyone on the Titans' roster is getting into the scoring act, too. The defense has scored a touch-

### By the numbers

# 31.4

Points per game the last eight weeks for the Titans, second only to the Baltimore Ravens over the same period.

# 4

Consecutive games Tennessee has scored 31 or more points this season.

# 118.5

Ryan Tannehill's league-leading passer rating.

SOURCE: Associated Press

down three times this season, the last with linebacker Jayon Brown picking up a fumble and running 46 yards for the clinching TD in last week's 42-21 victory in Oakland. Linebacker Rashawn Evans returned a fumble Nov. 10 in a win over Kansas City.

Brown returned a fumble forced by Tye Smith, who returned a blocked field goal for a touchdown in a win in Indianapolis on Dec. 1.

"We're all feeding off each other," Brown said. "Special teams is feeding off defense, and the defense is feeding off the offense."

The biggest difference for Tennessee in this scoring outburst in recent weeks has been due to the offense. The Titans had scored only one touchdown in 10 quarters when Tennessee benched Marcus Mariota for Tannehill looking for an offensive spark. "The difference in the offense was immediate. The Titans have scored 27 touchdowns in seven games with Tannehill.

"I don't think it's like a secret formula or anything like that," Titans safety Kevin Byard said. "I think guys are just executing a lot better than they were before."

Tannehill not only is second in the NFL completing 73.4% of his passes, he leads the league with a 118.5 passer rating. Derrick Henry ranks second with 1,243 yards rushing, and he's averaging 5 yards a carry to give Tennessee a serious threat on play-action. Rookie wide receiver A.J. Brown leads the team with 39 catches for 779 yards and six touchdowns.

Trying to slow down or stop the Titans has kept the Texans' coaching staff busy the past couple days. Houston coach Bill O'Brien says the Titans are doing a great job with the offense and the design with Tannehill executing.

"He's a good football player," O'Brien said. "He's accurate, very accurate. He's been making his whole career. He's making really good decisions with the ball, he's getting them into the right play, out of a bad play, he can run, he's very athletic. He's playing really well."

NFL

# SACK HUNTER

Vikings' relentless defensive end has blossomed into one of the league's premier pass rushers

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
Associated Press

**A**fter the Minnesota Vikings knocked down passes on Detroit's first two plays, Danielle Hunter crouched down in his three-point stance on third-and-10 with a tight end lined up to try to block him.

The Lions could hardly have found a faster track to punt. Jesse James had little hope of fending off Hunter long enough for quarterback David Blough to escape harm, and Hunter brought down the rookie for a 6-yard loss. On the next one of his three sacks in the first half on Sunday, tight end Logan Thomas was the initial blocker before right tackle Rick Wagner took a turn futilely attempting to prevent the takedown.

**‘Did we know he was going to have 50 sacks at 25 or something? No, but we felt like we could improve him.’**

**Mike Zimmer**  
Vikings coach

“It’s been happening a lot this year, but if you get that, you’ve got to win,” the fifth-year defensive end said after Minnesota’s 20-7 vic-

tory over Detroit that was fueled by a resurgence by the defense.

With 12½ sacks this season, Hunter is tied for fourth in the league, and he leads the league in quarterback pressures. Hunter, at 25 years and 40 days old, became on Sunday the youngest player in NFL history to reach 50 sacks, doing so 127 days ahead of Robert Quinn’s arrival at that milestone in 2015 for the Rams. Hunter has 52½ sacks, already halfway to third place on the franchise’s career list. Carl Eller (130), Jim Marshall

**25-year-old Vikings DE Danielle Hunter is the youngest player in NFL history to reach 50 sacks, doing so 127 days ahead of Robert Quinn’s arrival at that milestone in 2015 for the Rams.**

AP photos

(127) and John Randle (114) have the first three spots. Hunter is already 24th among active players in the league, with Terrell Suggs (138) leading the list.

Drafted by the Vikings in 2015 in the third round out of LSU after an unremarkable college career, Hunter has more than affirmed the team’s projections that an ideal frame, proven work ethic and humble attitude would translate to NFL success for the 6-foot-5, 252-pound physical marvel.

“Did we know he was going to have 50 sacks at 25 or something?” said Zimmer. “No, but we felt like we could improve him as a pass rusher.”

Not many players are blessed with his combination of size, speed and strength, but the preparation and dedication are what has set Hunter apart in the eyes of his appreciative teammates.

“That guy’s a workhorse,” backup defensive end Ifeadi Odenigbo said. “He’s truly a professional. The team would be a lot better if there was more Danielle Hunters around.”

## Mostert earns lead RB role for Niners

By GRANT COHN  
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — When the 49ers’ Raheem Mostert started his NFL career, he was a running back in name only.

He made the final roster primarily to play special teams. He had never been a starting running back, even in college.

Now Mostert is the lead running back on the NFL’s second-ranked rushing offense.

But his self-image hasn’t changed. He always saw himself as a running back by nature. “You can’t look at it as anything other than your position,” Mostert said.

Mostert is an excellent special teams player, and until recently the 49ers didn’t need him to run the ball. But starting running back Tevin Coleman has averaged just 2.1 yards per carry the past four games, and backup Matt Breida missed three weeks with an

### By the numbers

# 7.4

Average yards per carry over the last three games for San Francisco 49ers RB Raheem Mostert.

SOURCE: Associated Press

ankle injury.

So the 49ers turned to Mostert. And the past three games, he has rushed 35 times for 260 yards, averaged 7.4 yards per carry and scored four touchdowns. He has become one of their most potent playmakers.

“Raheem has earned it these last few weeks,” coach Kyle Shanahan said. “We need to give him more opportunities.

He’s given us no choice. I’m happy for him. He’s been extremely impressive.”

Mostert played college football at Purdue, where he carried the ball only 136 times in four years. He primarily was a kick returner and a sprinter on the track team. In 2014, he won gold medals at the Big Ten Indoor Track and Field Championships with a 6.63-second time in the 60-yard dash and a 20.73-second time in the 200-meter dash. He also ran a 4.32 40-yard dash at his pro day.

However, no team drafted Mostert. He signed with the Philadelphia Eagles as an undrafted free agent in 2015, and bounced around the league until he landed with the 49ers in 2016.

“Raheem always has had an impact on special teams,” said Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Quinn, who will face the 49ers on Sunday. “But now, out on the perimeter when he gets the ball in his hands, he’s a real factor. Sometimes, you need the opportunity, and he deftly has taken advantage of his.”



San Francisco 49ers RB Raheem Mostert  
BRETT DUKE/AP



## SPORTS



**Big-time deal**  
Angels land prized free-agent  
third baseman Rendon » **Page 28**

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Leaving a mark

Record-setting runner Perry matured  
into commanding leader for Navy

By **BILL WAGNER**  
*The Capital (Annapolis, Md.)*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — As an offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Ivin Jasper has thoroughly enjoyed watching Malcolm Perry run wild on the football field.

Perry has provided three straight seasons of spectacular highlights, running his way into the Navy football record book in breakout style.

As a teacher and mentor, Jasper's heart has been filled with joy about witnessing Perry's transformation from a boy into a man.

"It's been really neat to watch Malcolm mature. He's grown up so much since we first met at the prep school," Jasper said this week.

That meeting took place at the Naval Academy Prep School when Jasper traveled to Newport, R.I., to spend some time and get to know his future protégé. Perry was shy, reticent and a youngster of very few words in the summer of 2015.

SEE LEADER ON PAGE 29

Army's Hopkins could get one final  
chance to enhance renowned legacy

By **JUSTIN FEDICH**  
*The Times Herald-Record (Middletown, N.Y.)*

WEST POINT — The broad-shouldered quarterback who runs through 250-pound linebackers on Saturdays still has a copy of "The Big Friendly Giant" in his closet.

When Kelvin Hopkins was a second-grader at Trinity Episcopal School in Charlotte, N.C., his imagination didn't take him to West Point. He just wanted to understand what he was reading. It was challenging, frustrating even. Hopkins had the drive, but he lacked the natural ability to comprehend his schoolwork. His teacher that year gifted him a copy of the same book that remains in his house in Charlotte, with a note: "You can do it. Put in the time and effort."

Those words stuck with Hopkins. He learned that though he might not be the most book smart in his class, though he might not be the biggest, tallest football player on his team, it wasn't an excuse. It was a chance to prove himself.

SEE LEGACY ON PAGE 29

Navy  
quarterback  
Malcolm Perry,  
above, and Army's  
Kelvin Hopkins Jr., right

AP, TNS photos

NFL exec: 'Angst' over interference reviews » **Page 30**

