

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## House Dems file 2 articles of impeachment

Associated Press

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

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

“He endangers our democracy; he endangers our national security,” said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., the Judiciary chairman, announcing the charges before a portrait of George Washington. “Our next election is at risk. ... That is why we must act now.”

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

The outcome, though, appears increasingly set as the House prepares for voting, as it has only three times in history against a U.S. president. Approval of the charges would send them to the Senate in January, where the Republican majority would be unlikely to convict Trump.

Democratic leaders say

Trump put his political interests above those of the nation when he asked Ukraine to investigate his rivals, including Democrat Joe Biden, and then withheld \$400 million in military aid as the U.S. ally faced an aggressive Russia. They say he then obstructed Congress by stonewalling the House investigation.

In drafting the articles of impeachment, Pelosi faced a legal and political challenge of balancing the views of her majority while hitting the Constitution’s bar of “treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Some liberal lawmakers wanted more expansive charges encompassing the findings from former special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe of Russian interference in the 2016

election. Centrist Democrats preferred to keep the impeachment articles more focused on Trump’s actions toward Ukraine.

Trump, who has declined to mount a defense in the actual House hearings, tweeted Tuesday just as the six Democratic House committee chairmen prepared to make their announcement.

“To Impeach a President who has proven through results, including producing perhaps the strongest economy in our country’s history, to have one of the most successful presidencies ever, and most importantly, who has done NOTHING wrong, is sheer Political Madness! #2020Election,” he wrote on Twitter.

## After sailor feedback, Navy unveils uniform updates

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

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

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

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

The gaiter is worn from the neck up, covering the sailor’s nose and face to just under their eyes. They can be purchased commercially and worn only with the following cold weather outer garments: cold

weather parka, Navy working uniform type II and III parka, pea coat, reefer coat and all-weather coat.

Sailors who swim for their semi-annual physical readiness test now have the option to wear two-piece swimwear that must cover the entire torso. The swimwear can be purchased off the shelf, “navy blue or black in color, conservative in design and appearance and must not prohibit the swimmer from swimming freely,” according to the Navy.

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

hair down to their ankles.

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

The summer white/service dress maternity shirt is being redesigned to improve its look and function, according to the Navy. The improvements include adjustable side tabs with three buttons, epaulettes and two side-seam hidden pockets. The chest pockets are also being removed to match the current service khaki and Navy service uniform maternity shirt.

The Navy is also developing improvements to the Navy working uniform and cold weather parka’s black fleece liner to be a stand-alone jacket

with a weather-resistant fabric for rain and wind and two side pockets with zippers.

An announcement will be made regarding when the maternity shirt and fleece will be available.

Testing is underway for the next version of the black leather safety boot, the I-Boot 5, that is worn with Navy working uniforms.

Feedback from participant evaluators has been “overwhelmingly positive,” according to the Navy. Evaluators said they are a major improvement to the boot’s overall fit, comfort and performance.

The final report and recommendation for the boot is due by the first quarter of 2020, according to the service. If approved, sailors could start receiving the boot in fiscal year 2021.

# GOP embraces compromise defense bill

*The Washington Post*

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

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

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

In a major deal struck late last week, the White House and congressional Democrats agreed to create Space Force as the sixth branch of the U.S. military in exchange for

new parental leave benefits for the federal workforce as part of the must-pass defense package. If approved, it would be the biggest victory for federal employees in nearly 30 years.

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

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

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

expect to be able to stop it.

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

He added of the leave benefit: "I think it's unfortunate. I think it sets a very dangerous precedent."

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

"I don't think it stops the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) from passing. I'm certainly supportive of it," said Blunt, a member of Senate Republican leadership.

Still, some new opposition to the plan materialized from the left on Monday. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., almost immediately announced their opposition to the legislation, saying they would vote against it because it fails to restrict America's ability to help the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

## Friends: Gunman's behavior changed after Saudi trip

*The Washington Post*

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

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

While the FBI has not yet determined a motive for the shooting, investigators are building a profile of the gunman from interviews with acquaintances, including fellow Saudi students, as well as from a Twitter account that authorities now believe belonged to Alshamrani. The suspect is thought to have authored a "will" that was posted to the account a few hours be-

fore the shootings began in which he blasts U.S. policies in Muslim countries.

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

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

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

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

familiar with the matter said.

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

"What I see from America is the supporting of Israel, which is [sic] invasion of Muslim countries," the letter states. "I see invasion of many countries by its troops. I see Guantanamo Bay. I see cruise missiles, cluster bombs and UAV."

The posting has been widely circulated on Islamist websites, though no group has issued a credible claim of sponsoring or encouraging Alshamrani's actions.

Also Monday, a senior defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the Navy was beginning to discuss the possibility that the sailors killed and wounded in Pensacola could merit Purple Heart medals, and that some of them could be eligible for some sort of valor award.

The issue will depend on what determination the FBI makes about the case, the official said.

# Okinawa town sets military 'no fly zone'

BY AYA ICHIHASHI

*Stars and Stripes*

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

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

"This is permanent signage and we had allocated the budget to paint five locations, including the town hall," a Kin town

official told Stars and Stripes on Dec. 2. The official said the messages will also be painted at Kin Chuo Community Center, Nakagawa Elementary School, Kin Elementary School and Kin Middle School.

Some government officials in Japan customarily speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

"Our residents constantly asked us to do something about the noise" from U.S. helicopters, the Kin official said. "We had asked numerous times to the U.S. officials, but nothing has changed, so we had to do something within our ability."

The Ryukyu Shinpo newspaper reported Dec. 1 that noise levels attributed to military

aircraft and measured after 10 p.m. near Camp Hansen in 2017 and 2018 frequently exceeded limits.

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

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

The Okinawa Defense Bureau installed six meters to measure noise in Kin at the

town's request. Four meters were installed in August 2013 and two in March 2018. The bureau gives a monthly noise report to Kin officials and the media.

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

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

## Wis. Guard leader resigns in wake of assault review

*Associated Press*

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

The report from the National Guard Bureau in Washington found the Guard allowed internal investigations in defiance of

federal law as well as Department of Defense and bureau policy; investigators falsely presented themselves as working for the federal bureau; case records were mismanaged; and Guard sexual assault response policies were not in compliance with federal regulations for more than five years.

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

down Dec. 31.

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

Dunbar is the nation's longest-serving state National Guard commander. He was appointed in 2007 by then-Gov. Jim Doyle, a Democrat. He has earned numerous commenda-

tions, including the Legion of Merit award for exceptional command performance.

But the Guard has been shaken by recent allegations of officers brushing off sexual assault complaints and retaliating against victims for reporting incidents.

Evers and Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin asked the National Guard Bureau in March to review the Wisconsin National Guard's sexual assault reporting and investigative protocols.

## Drunken American misguided by GPS ends up in field

BY MARCUS KLOECKNER

*Stars and Stripes*

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

The man, who was not identified by German authorities, had a blood alcohol content of .10

— twice the legal limit in Germany — and a drug test found marijuana in his system sometime after police woke him up Sunday, about 30 miles east of Kaiserslautern, police said.

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

stuhl and Stuttgart Airport.

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

Scraping the car along the side of a concrete wall didn't deter the driver. He continued

on his way until he came to the village of Geinsheim, near Neustadt an der Weinstrasse.

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

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

# IG: No political bias in FBI Russia probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI was justified in opening its investigation into ties between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia and did not act with political bias, the Justice Department's internal watchdog declared, undercutting President Donald Trump's repeated claims that he has been the target of a "witch hunt."

The long-awaited report, issued Monday, rejected theories and criticism spread by Trump and his supporters, though it also found "serious performance failures" up the bureau's chain of command that Republicans are citing as evidence that Trump was targeted by an unfair investigation.

The affirmation of the investigation's legitimacy, balanced by criticism of the way it was conducted, ensured that partisan battles would persist over one of the most politically sensitive investigations in FBI history. Another review of the origins of the probe continues, and the prosecutor picked by Attorney General William Barr

to lead that effort hinted Monday he'll take a harder view of the FBI's actions.

Monday's review by Inspector General Michael Horowitz knocked down multiple lines of attack against the Russia investigation, finding that it was properly opened and that law enforcement leaders were not motivated by political bias. Contrary to the claims of Trump and other critics, it said that opposition research compiled by an ex-British spy named Christopher Steele had no bearing on the decision to open the investigation known as Crossfire Hurricane. And it rejected allegations that a former Trump campaign aide at the center of the probe was set up by the FBI.

It found that the FBI had an "authorized purpose" when it opened its investigation in July 2016 into whether the Trump campaign was coordinating with Russia to tip the election in his favor. The report said the FBI had cause to investigate a potential national security threat.

FBI Director Chris Wray, in an inter-

view with The Associated Press, noted that the report did not find political bias but did find problems that are "unacceptable and unrepresentative of who we are as an institution."

The FBI is implementing more than 40 actions aimed at fixing some of the bureau's most fundamental operations, such as applying for surveillance warrants and interacting with confidential sources.

Those changes are in response to some of the report's criticisms. They largely centered on how agents and prosecutors set about eavesdropping on a former Trump campaign aide who they said they feared was being targeted for Russian government recruitment.

The report's release, coming as a House Judiciary Committee impeachment hearing centers on the president's interactions with Ukraine, brought fresh attention to the legal and political investigations that have entangled the White House from the moment Trump took office.

## Walmart removes offensive sweaters

The Washington Post

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

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

For those who weren't quite sure what the sweater might be suggesting, its product description read:

"We all know how snow works. It's white, powdery and the best snow comes straight from South America. That's bad news for jolly old St. Nick, who lives far away in the North Pole. That's why Santa really likes to savor the moment when he gets his hands on some quality, grade A, Colombian snow."

Walmart said in a statement,

"These sweaters, sold by a third-party seller on Walmart.ca, do not represent Walmart's values and have no place on our website.

"We apologize for any unintended offence this may have caused," it said.

The other items depicted the famous Christmas couple in compromising positions, according to Canada's Global News. On one, a pantsless Santa Claus was seen "roasting his chestnuts" atop a burning fireplace. On another, captioned "Santa has been naughty," a lingerie-clad Mrs. Claus was depicted holding a whip and preparing to strike her husband's bare behind.

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

Amazon recently halted the sale of Auschwitz-themed holiday decorations, including a Christmas tree ornament and a bottle opener described as a "memorable gift, perfect for every festival."

## Phone app looks to avert military assaults, crimes

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

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

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

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

In its simplest form, UrSafe costs users \$3 each month.

They're instructed to create a safe word, which can be activated in an emergency by opening the app and saying the word aloud. The app is trained to activate only at the user's voice, Oyogoa said.

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

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

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

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

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man allegedly tries to steal wheelchair

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

They said Austin Shurbutt, 26, reportedly pushed the woman out of a light rail car on Nov. 30.

The victim began to scream for help, but Shurbutt is accused of forcibly grabbing the wheelchair and causing the victim to fall from it during the struggle.

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

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

### Police: Man wielded sword in argument

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana State Police arrested a man accused of aggressively brandishing a sword toward another man during an argument, the agency said in a statement over the weekend.

State Police charged Travis Fisher, 42, with aggravated assault, officials said in a Facebook post Sunday.

Troopers arrived at a New Orleans home Saturday night and heard screaming and yelling from inside, the statement said. Troopers reported they saw Fisher waving a sword around in an “aggressive manner” toward another man who was trying to back away. When troopers ordered Fisher to drop the weapon, he complied and

was arrested without incident, police said.

In a photo posted by the agency, the sword is shown to be more than a foot long with a thin blade.

### Burglar hits officer in head with pliers

**FL** TAMPA — Authorities said a Tampa police officer is recovering after a suspected burglar threw a pair of pliers through a glass door early Monday and hit her in the head.

The officer was responding to a reported break-in at an auto parts store when the attack happened. The Tampa Bay Times reported she received eight stitches over her left eye.

Tampa police said Leonard Henry, 37, tried to hide in some of the store’s shelving but was sniffed out by K-9 Jagger. Henry was charged with burglary, battery of a law enforcement officer, criminal mischief and possession of a controlled substance.

The officer’s name hasn’t been released.

### Imperiled fish is making comeback

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — An imperiled fish found only in Utah Lake is starting to make a recovery after 18 years.

The June sucker increased in population from only 300 to 2,000 at last count, prompting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to propose changing the species status from endangered to threatened, the Desert News reported.

The change is a major milestone, said Chris Keleher, Utah Department of Natural Resources recovery program director. It means the federal agency no longer believes the

species is in immediate danger of extinction.

Still, “we will remain committed to the ultimate goal — the recovery of the June sucker,” Keleher said.

### 7 sickened by leak during boat parade

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

Authorities responded to a parading 32-foot boat Saturday night after someone aboard fell unconscious and others became ill, fire spokesman Vito Maggiolo told The Washington Post.

The person who fell unconscious was a child, according to WUSA-TV.

Of the 16 people on the boat, eight were taken to hospitals in conditions not considered to be life-threatening. That number includes an adult who didn’t require treatment but wanted to accompany a child, according to The Post.

The cause of the leak is unclear, news outlets reported. The boat was towed ashore and an investigation is ongoing.

### Police seize air fryer containing meth

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

Narcotics officers intercepted the parcel containing about \$100,000 worth of drugs, Louisville Metro police said in a Facebook post Saturday. The

package was delivered to a home where officers obtained a search warrant to collect it, the Major Case Unit confirmed to news outlets.

### Dozens of neglected horses rescued

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

KIRO reported that detectives have an arrest warrant for a woman they said is known to hoard horses and neglect them. The woman runs a nonprofit horse rescue.

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

### Mud snail halts trout hatchery deliveries

**AZ** CORNVILLE — An invasive mud snail that can disrupt the food chain has been found at a state fish hatchery in Cornville.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department said it won’t stock trout from the Page Springs Fish Hatchery until it can be sure the mud snail won’t travel with the fish.

Officials said they’re sampling more areas of the hatchery and trying to eradicate the tiny New Zealand mud snails that can compete with native snails, mussels and aquatic insects. The mud snails reproduce quickly and have no natural predators in the U.S. Officials said the mud snails could have been introduced to the hatchery through wildlife around Oak Creek.

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# Strasburg, Nats agree to \$245M deal

Associated Press

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

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

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

"For me, it was an early Christmas present," Washington manager Dave Martinez said. "Just watching his whole career, to think that he's going

to end it here with the team he started with is awesome for him and his family."

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

Cole, like Strasburg represented by agent Scott Boras, is expected to shatter Strasburg's salary standards sometime soon. Cole is two years younger, and while he made five trips to the disabled list from 2014-16, he has not been sidelined since.

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

"Right now, it seems like the dominoes are falling more quickly than they have in the past," said new Los Angeles Angels manager Joe Maddon, whose team is thought to be competing with the New York Yankees for Cole. "We some-

how have to grab some of these dominoes right now and figure it out."

In the other big contract announced Monday, Philadelphia finalized a \$118 million, five-year agreement with Zack Wheeler that was reached last week subject to a successful physical.

Strasburg was drafted first overall by Washington in 2009 and has spent his entire career with the Nationals. He'll stay in a rotation that also features All-Stars Max Scherzer and Patrick Corbin.

"He's a wonderful person, a wonderful player and a true champion," Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said at a news conference. "We know this person, we know his character, we know his work ethic."

After helping win the first World Series title in the 51-season history of the Montreal/Washington franchise, Strasburg gave up \$100 million he had been guaranteed from 2020-23 as part of a \$175 million, seven-year contract he agreed to in May 2016 and became a free agent.

He was 18-6 with a 3.32 ERA this season, topping 30 starts for the second time in his career and leading the NL with 209 innings. He went 5-0 with a 1.98 ERA in five postseason starts and one relief appearance, including wins in Games 2 and 6 of the World Series against Houston.

In a career interrupted by Tommy John surgery shortly after his spectacular major league debut in 2010, Strasburg is 112-58 with a 3.17 ERA and 1,695 strikeouts in parts of 10 seasons. He's made 10 trips to the disabled list over seven of those years.

Strasburg's average annual value is second among all players behind outfielder Mike Trout's \$35.5 million in a \$426.5 million, 12-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels that started last season.

Washington has invested heavily in starting pitching. Scherzer, also a Boras client, agreed to a \$210 million, seven-year contract before the 2015 season. Corbin reached a \$140 million, six-year deal last offseason.

## LSU's Burrow heads list of four Heisman finalists

Associated Press

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

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

Burrow is the clear front-runner to win the Heisman on Saturday night in New York after a record-breaking season, leading the Tigers (13-0) to the top seed in the College Football Playoff. He would be LSU's second Heisman winner and first since running back Billy

Cannon in 1959. The 60-year gap between Heisman winners would be the longest for any school with multiple recipients.

The other finalists were not so obvious even after all the games had been played. Ohio State had three players worthy of consideration in Fields, Young and running back J.K. Dobbins. Fields and Young are the first teammates to be finalists since Oklahoma had quarterback Baker Mayfield and receiver Dede Westbrook at the Heisman ceremony in 2016.

Hurts is the third Oklahoma quarterback in the last four seasons to be a Heisman finalist, including the last two winners in Kyler Murray and Mayfield.

Burrow is just the second Heisman finalist for LSU since candidates began being invited

to New York for the presentation ceremony in 1982, and the first offensive player from the Tigers. The last finalist from LSU was defensive back Tyrann Mathieu, who finished fifth in the voting in 2011.

Quarterbacks have dominated the Heisman over the last two decades, winning 16 of the last 19 trophies, dating back to 2000. The last two winning quarterbacks, Murray and Mayfield, were both transfers, and this year will likely make it three straight transfer QBs to win the Heisman.

Burrow left Ohio State and joined LSU in 2018 as a graduate transfer. He had a breakout season this year in the Tigers' new spread offense. Burrow has already set a Southeastern Conference record with

48 touchdown passes and is on pace to set an NCAA record for completion percentage at 77.9%.

Hurts played for three seasons at Alabama, reaching the playoff each year before joining the Sooners and leading them to the final four. He has passed for 3,634 yards and 32 touchdowns and run for 1,255 yards and 18 touchdowns.

Fields played his freshman season last year at Georgia, but transferred to Ohio State and was granted immediate eligibility by the NCAA to play this season. The sophomore has the Buckeyes (13-0) unbeaten and seeded second entering the playoff. He has thrown 40 touchdown passes and just one interception and has run for 10 more touchdowns.

# Eagles rally past Manning, Giants in OT

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wentz threw for 325 yards and a pair of TDs, including a 5-yard toss to Ertz to tie it at 17 with 1:53 left.

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

They went three-and-out on five straight possessions before Boston Scott caught a 10-yard

pass on third-and-5 in the third quarter. Scott then ran 4 yards to the 2 on third-and-3 and scored on the next play to cut it to 17-10.

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

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

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

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

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

Ertz had nine catches for 91 yards.

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

Manning hit Slayton for a 55-

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

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

## Eli as a backup

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

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

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

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

# Patriots' Belichick says he was unaware of filming

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick says neither he nor his coaching staff has watched any video footage shot by an in-house production team now at the center of an NFL investigation for inappropriately filming the Cincinnati Bengals' sideline at a recent game.

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

"I personally have never viewed any video footage at all, anything that those production people have done, other than what's shown on public televi-

sion or something like that," Belichick said.

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

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

The Patriots' statement also said that while they were granted credentials for the crew from the Browns, "our fail-

ure to inform the Bengals and the league was an unintended oversight." When confronted, the team said the crew "immediately turned over all footage to the league and cooperated fully."

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

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

Spygate fueled a distrust of the Patriots that persisted when the team was accused of

illegally deflating the footballs used in the 2015 AFC championship game.

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

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

## NBA roundup

## Hayward scores 14 in return to Celtics

Associated Press

BOSTON — Kemba Walker led Boston's balanced scoring with 22 points, Gordon Hayward had 14 points in his return from a broken hand and the Celtics remained unbeaten at home with a 110-88 victory over the sinking Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night.

Jaylen Brown had 20 points and seven rebounds, Jayson Tatum added 19 points with 11 boards and Daniel Theis scored 10 for Boston, which improved to 10-0 at TD Garden.

Jordan Clarkson led Cleveland with 19 points, and Tristan Thompson had 17 points with 11 rebounds. The Cavaliers have lost seven straight games and 13 of 14.

Hayward returned exactly a month after breaking his left hand when he collided with San Antonio's LaMarcus Aldridge as the Spurs' big man was setting a screen. Hayward played 26 minutes, finishing with five rebounds and four assists.

**Kings 119, Rockets 118:**

Nemanja Bjelica made a three-pointer at the buzzer to lift visiting Sacramento over Houston.

The game was tied when Russell Westbrook drove into the lane for a layup that put Houston on top with a second to go. After a timeout, Cory Joseph inbounded the ball to Bjelica and his three-pointer swished through the net to give the Kings the win and send the entire bench onto the court to celebrate.

**Bucks 110, Magic 101:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 15 rebounds to lead host Milwaukee to its 15th straight victory.

Khris Middleton scored 20 points for Milwaukee and Dante DiVincenzo added 12 points off the bench.

**Raptors 93, Bulls 92:** Pascal Siakam scored 22 points, and visiting Toronto held on to beat Chicago when Zach LaVine missed a runner in the closing seconds.

The defending NBA champions ended their first three-

game skid since last November and beat Chicago for the 11th straight time.

**Clippers 110, Pacers 99:** Paul George scored 36 points in his first trip to Indianapolis with the Clippers and Montrezl Harrell added 26 to power short-handed Los Angeles past Indiana.

Booed repeatedly early in the game, George finished with a season-high seven three-pointers as the Clippers won for the fourth time in five games.

**Pistons 105, Pelicans 103:** Derrick Rose hit a 14-foot jumper in the lane with 0.3 seconds left and scored 17 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter to lift visiting Detroit over New Orleans.

With the game tied, Detroit worked an isolation play for Rose, who dribbled the ball out top against Jrue Holiday. Rose drove into the lane, spun to the right and hit the jumper over Holiday's outstretched arms.

**Thunder 104, Jazz 90:** Dennis Schroder scored 27 points

off the bench and visiting Oklahoma City beat Utah.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 20 points and Chris Paul added 16 points and seven assists for the Thunder, who got a big lift from their bench and outscored the Utah reserves 45-23. The Thunder shot 47% from the field.

**Suns 125, Timberwolves 109:** Devin Booker scored 26 points, Kelly Oubre Jr. added 24 on his 24th birthday and host Phoenix beat Minnesota.

Oubre shot 8-for-15 from the field and made all six free throws, while Ricky Rubio finished with 16 points and 14 assists. The Suns won at home for the first time since Nov. 14.

**Grizzlies 110, Warriors 102:** Ja Morant returned to the lineup and scored 26 points to lead visiting Memphis over Golden State.

The No. 2 pick in the draft added seven assists, two rebounds and a steal in 29 minutes after missing the previous four games with a sore back.

## NHL roundup

## Varlamov stops 31 shots as Islanders down Lightning

Associated Press

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

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

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

Ross Johnston, Josh Bailey and Anders Lee also scored for the Islanders, who are 18-

0-1 when scoring three or more goals.

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

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

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

The Lightning have lost four of five at home.

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

**Blue Jackets 5, Capitals 2:** Cam Atkinson scored twice, including a late empty-netter, and Joonas Korpisalo stopped 37 shots to help visiting Columbus beat Washington.

Ryan Murray, Riley Nash and Oliver Bjorkstrand also scored for the Blue Jackets, who snapped their four-game skid. Columbus won for just the third time in nine games.

**Senators 5, Bruins 2:** Anthony Duclair had two goals and an assist and host Ottawa beat Boston.

Chris Tierney, Artem Anisi-

mov and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored for the Senators, who were playing their first home game following a five-game trip (1-4-0). Anders Nilsson made 38 saves in Ottawa's first win over the Bruins (20-5-6) since April 6, 2017.

**Flames 5, Avalanche 4 (OT):** Sean Monahan scored 2:09 into overtime to lift visiting Calgary past Colorado.

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