

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## House OKs \$738B defense policy bill

*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 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 "back-fill" \$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.

## Judiciary panel debates impeachment; vote approaches

*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 Con-

stitution 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.

"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.

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."

# DOD keeps food supplier despite charges

*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 "review and continue to strengthen" its internal compliance programs and cooperate with future investigations.

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

## 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.

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

## Australia's \$715M upgrades will benefit US warships

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 Pa-

triot 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.

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.



# NJ attackers tied to fringe group

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 investigating,” New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir 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 livery driver found dead in a car trunk in nearby Bayonne over the weekend, Grewal said.

Anderson used a rifle in the grocery attack. The attorney general wouldn’t confirm if Graham also had a weapon when she followed Anderson into the market. Several weapons were recovered from the store.

The victims killed in the store were Mindel Ferencz, 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 Ferencz and Deutsch. Thousands of people, mostly men, followed Ferencz’s casket through the streets of Brooklyn, hugging and crying.

# Massive 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 Investigative Committee, the nation’s top state investigative agency, has opened a probe into a possible violation of safety rules.

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.

# DOD watchdog probes border wall deal

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 priced.

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.

# 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 Godley 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, accompanied 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 criti-

cized 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.

## Officials: Gunman hanged 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.

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

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.

Louissette 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 agree-

ment 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."



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Police pay 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.

### Teen runaway found 'camping' inside store

**NC** GREENVILLE — Employees at a Bed, Bath & Beyond in North Carolina discovered an uninvited sleepover 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 a 14-year-old runaway who had "camped out" at the store overnight after leaving home, Greenville police spokeswoman Kristen Hunter said.

### Man rescued after fall 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 \$10K theft in bingo

**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 on a felony theft charge and two 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 handpicking 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.

### Scientist: Rodent complaints cost job

**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 Glenanne 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.

### 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 meteorologists 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.

### Mom surprised at how 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 embankment 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 Crider, 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.

### 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.

From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Perry matured into leader for Navy

*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 breakaway 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.

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 almost can't believe it. He has never been like that before," Bonny Perry said of her youngest son. "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."

Perry will forever be part of Navy football folklore 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 string quarterback Zach Abey 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.

Perry has been the catalyst 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 record-setting quarterback Keenan Reynolds (4,559, 2012-2015) and Napoleon McCallum (4,179, 1981-85).

About the only item missing from Perry's impressive résumé is a victory over archrival Army. Perry started at quarterback in 2017 when Navy lost a 14-13 heartbreaker, then led the team in rushing from the slot-back 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."

## Army's Hopkins won over West Point with play, personality

*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.

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 pro-

gram 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 plans 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-tying 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.

"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."



# Rendon, Angels agree on \$245M deal

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 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 relatively 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.

## Angels figuring out program for Ohtani

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 medical 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.

# Cockburn, Illinois knock off fifth-ranked 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.

Arizona suffered its first loss Saturday, fighting back from a shaky first half before losing 63-58 to No. 11 Baylor.

Nico Mannion had 13 points and 11 assists for the Wildcats. Dylan Smith scored all 14 of his

points in the first half.

Omaha's KJ Robinson had 15 points for the Mavericks (5-7).

**Merrimack 69, Army 60:** Juvaris 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. Lonnie Grayson had seven assists.

## NBA roundup

## Leonard powers Clippers past Raptors

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.

**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.

**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.

**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 Mark-

kanen added 22 and host Chicago snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over road-weary Atlanta.

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

**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.

**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.

**Knicks 124, Warriors 122 (OT):** Marcus Morris scored a season-high 36 points and visiting New York held off Golden State in overtime to snap a 10-game losing streak.

## NHL roundup

## Oshie, Carlson help league-leading Caps top 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 quieted by Sean Kuraly's deflection goal minutes earlier. Earlier, fans in Capitals red and Bruins black and gold got into it when Bos-

ton captain Zdeno Chara and Washington forward Tom Wilson threw down the gloves in a heavyweight fight in the first.

David Pastrnak ripped a perfect shot over Braden Holtby's left shoulder midway through the first for his league-best 26th of the season. It looked as if the Bruins had a two-goal lead on a Patrice Bergeron power-play goal, but Capitals coach Todd Reirden challenged for offside and video review showed Jake DeBrusk was into the zone just before the puck.

Oshie made the most of nothing but empty ice around him to score off his own rebound on the power play early in the second. Soon after, he turned defenseman Connor Clifton into

a human pylon and beat Halak with a backhand.

Kuraly and Carlson traded goals, and these two rivals traded shoves and unpleasanties plenty before the final buzzer.

**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.

Nick Cousins and Tomas Tatar scored in regulation for the Canadiens. They improved to 15-11-6, winning for the third straight time after losing four of five.

Brady Tkachuk and Connor Brown scored for the Senators.

**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. He came within 5:12 of his first career shutout, but Claude Giroux scored on a rebound to spoil it.

It was Giroux's 10th of the season.

Matt Calvert also scored, and Nathan MacKinnon had an assist for his 48th point of the season, good for third in the NHL in scoring.

Carter Hart had 25 saves for Philadelphia.