

Senators take step in ending shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Speaker Mike Johnson said Monday that House lawmakers should start returning to Washington “right now” after a small group of Senate Democrats broke a 40-day stalemate late Sunday evening and voted with Republicans to move forward with legislation that would end the government shutdown.

It is unclear when the Senate will hold final votes on the legislation. But Johnson said the “nightmare is finally coming to an end” after the Senate voted 60-40 to consider a compromise bill to fund the government.

“We have to do this as quickly as possible,” Johnson said at a news conference Monday morning. He has kept the House out of session since mid-September, when the House passed a bill to continue government funding.

After weeks of negotiations,

the moderate Senate Democrats agreed to reopen the government without a guaranteed extension of health care subsidies, angering many in their caucus who have demanded for more than six weeks that Republicans negotiate with them on the Affordable Care Act tax credits that expire Jan. 1. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., promised a mid-December vote on the subsidies, but there was no guarantee of success.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York voted against moving ahead with the package, along with all but eight of his Democratic colleagues.

“We will not give up the fight,” Schumer said, adding that Democrats have now “sounded the alarm” on health care.

An end to the shutdown could still be days away if any senators object and drag out the

process. Thune said Sunday evening that he was still working out concerns within his Republican conference about individual provisions in the underlying spending bills.

One of those Republicans, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, had threatened to object to a provision championed by his home state colleague, Sen. Mitch McConnell, to prevent the sale of some hemp-based products.

On Monday, Thune said he hopes final passage of the Senate bill will be “hours not days.”

“The American people have suffered for long enough. Let’s not pointlessly drag this bill out,” he said.

President Donald Trump has not said whether he will sign it, but told reporters at the White House on Sunday evening that it “looks like we’re getting close to the shutdown ending.”

A group of three former governors — New Hampshire Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and

Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — broke the six-week stalemate on Sunday when they agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of government funding until late January in exchange for the mid-December vote on extending the health care tax credits.

The agreement also includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on Oct. 1 and would ensure that federal workers receive back pay.

Thune quickly endorsed the deal and called an immediate vote to begin the process of approving it as the shutdown continued to disrupt flights nationwide, threaten food assistance for millions of Americans and leave federal workers without pay.

“The time to act is now,” Thune said.

Hegseth wants to prioritize speed over cost for weapons

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday the Pentagon is revamping how the military buys weapons, shifting the focus away from producing advanced and complex technology and toward products that can be made and delivered quickly.

Hegseth, speaking to military leaders and defense contractors in Washington, said the “objective is simple: transform the entire acquisition system to operate on a wartime footing, to rapidly accelerate the fielding of capabilities and focus on results.”

Hegseth gave his address,

which ran for more than an hour, at the National War College.

The defense secretary argued his changes are meant to move the military away from the more traditional process that prioritized delivering a perfect, if expensive and late, product in favor of something that is less ideal but delivered quickly. Some experts say the changes could mean less transparency and the military ending up with systems that may not function as expected.

“An 85% solution in the hands of our armed forces today is infinitely better than an unachievable 100% solution ... endlessly

undergoing testing or awaiting additional technological development,” he said. He asserted that what used to take several years could happen within one.

The shift is coming as Russia’s grinding war has seen an underfunded Ukraine using cheap, mass-produced drones to effectively hold off a technologically superior Moscow.

Todd Harrison, a defense budget and acquisition expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said Hegseth’s ideas represent a significant shift in how the military would buy arms.

But he warned if contractors aren’t incentivized “to check all

the boxes” for everything the military wants in a product, “they may deliver something faster, but it may not do what you want it to do.”

Mississippi Republican Sen. Roger Wicker praised Hegseth’s changes as “a game changer for U.S. defense, ensuring our military has the advanced equipment needed to deter adversaries like China and Russia.”

Wicker, who heads the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he was looking forward to “implementing these priorities in the next National Defense Authorization Act.”

US conducts more anti-drug strikes on boats

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. struck two alleged drug boats in the eastern Pacific Ocean on Sunday, killing six people, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Monday morning.

No U.S. forces were harmed in the strikes, Hegseth said in a post on X.

The secretary posted a 36-second clip of the boats being struck. One boat is seen as being stationary in the ocean before being struck; the other boat, containing a large parcel or bundle of sup-

plies, is seen moving through the water at high speed.

“Under President [Donald] Trump, we are protecting the homeland and killing these cartel terrorists who wish to harm our country and its people,” Hegseth said.

Shortly after taking office, Trump designated several drug cartels as terrorist organizations, including Venezuela’s Tren de Aragua. His administration has asserted that the U.S. is in an “armed conflict” with cartels and will treat their members as “unlawful combatants.”

Hegseth’s post came after attending the Washington Commanders NFL game with Trump on Sunday. The president at the game swore in new military enlistees.

The latest incident marks the Trump administration’s 18th and 19th known strikes against alleged drug traffickers at sea, which have killed at least 75 people.

The U.S. has conducted operations in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility since September.

Most strikes have taken place

in the Caribbean, near Venezuela, though an increasing number are happening in the eastern Pacific.

The Senate last week rejected a bipartisan resolution to block Trump from conducting strikes against Venezuela as the U.S. continued to send troops and military assets to the region.

The looming arrival of the Ford Carrier Strike Group in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility would concentrate nearly 20% of the Navy’s deployed warships in the region. Hegseth announced the carrier group’s deployment last month.

Protein bar with hemp found at Navy exchange

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — A Navy detachment in Italy is warning sailors that eating a popular protein bar recently found at a Navy Exchange store could lead to a failed drug test and unwanted scrutiny.

Dave’s Killer Bread Amped-Up Organic Protein Bars contain hemp, a substance banned by the Navy, U.S. Naval Support Activity Naples detachment Gaeta said in a Facebook post Wednesday.

Service member use of hemp or cannabidiol products also is prohibited by the Army and Air Force.

The bars, which are made with hemp protein powder, recently were found for sale at the Navy Exchange and are commonly available at grocery stores in the U.S., the detachment said in the post, which included screenshots of the ingredient labels of three varieties of the bars.

The hemp plant is a cousin to marijuana. Hemp contains no more than 0.3% THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana that gives users a high, according to Scientific American.

Cannabidiol, or CBD, is derived from hemp or manufactured in a laboratory. CBD does not cause a high by itself.

Navy regulations prohibit “the use of hemp products, including CBD, regardless of THC concentration,” the detachment said. “Carefully check labels.”

It wasn’t clear what exchange store referenced in the detachment’s post potentially was involved.

“The product in question — Dave’s Killer Bread ‘Amped-Up Protein Bars’ (hemp seed ingredient) — is not currently available for sale at any Navy Exchange location worldwide, including retail stores, vending machines and micro markets,” Josie Anderson, a spokeswoman for Navy Exchange Service Command, said in a statement on Friday.

Exchange officials in Naples confirmed that the bars were never stocked at exchange locations on the installation, Lt. j.g. Valentine Mulango, a base spokesman, said in a statement Friday.

“The post was made to amplify an earlier Navy-wide notice about the product,” Mulango said.

Philippines’ anti-ship missile force hopes to deter China

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The Philippine marine corps has unveiled a new anti-ship missile unit equipped with Indian-made BrahMos cruise missiles, a move that could strengthen Manila’s defenses in the disputed South China Sea but is likely to draw attention from Beijing.

A BrahMos missile unit debuted during the corps’ 75th anniversary celebration, according to a video released Friday by the Philippine government.

The missile can be launched from air, land, sea and underwater carrying conventional warheads weighing up to 660 pounds. It has a range of 180 miles and there is no known weapons system that can intercept it, according to BrahMos Aerospace.

It has a top speed of about 2,100 mph, according to the state-run Philippine News Agency.

The Philippines purchased three BrahMos batteries for \$320 million in January 2022, and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has said the country plans to acquire more, according to an Aug. 8 report by the agency.

Scarborough Shoal — a flashpoint in the South China Sea where Chinese and Philippine vessels have repeatedly clashed — lies about 140 miles from Luzon, the Philippines’ main island.

Satellite imagery and analysis by Naval News last year indicated construction of possible BrahMos bases on Luzon, including at Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui in Zambales and Camp Cape Bojeador in Burgos, Ilocos Norte. U.S. forces have trained at both locations.

In April 2023, Marcos observed a U.S. Army High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, firing at a target ship of Zambales during the annual Balikatan drills. U.S. Marines trained at Camp Cape Bojeador during the Kamandag exercise in October 2024.

The BrahMos unveiling came a week after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and his Philippine counterpart, Gilbert Teodoro, announced the formation of a new military task force, to be led by a general or admiral, to deter aggression in the South China Sea.

States face SNAP payment uncertainty

Associated Press

President Donald Trump's administration returned to the Supreme Court on Monday in a push to keep full payments in the SNAP federal food aid program frozen while the government is shut down.

The request is the latest in a flurry of legal activity over how a program that helps buy groceries for 42 million Americans should proceed during the historic U.S. government shutdown. Lower courts have ruled that the government must keep full payments flowing, and the Supreme Court asked the administration to respond after an appeals court ruled against it again late Sunday.

Solicitor General D. John Sauer confirmed that the federal government still wants those lower-court orders put on hold, though in a letter to the justices he also pointed to reports that Congress could soon end the shutdown with a compromise that would fund SNAP.

Once passed, the government

funding package would refill funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as well as ensuring that states that spent their own funds to keep it running during the shutdown will be reimbursed.

States administering SNAP payments continue to face uncertainty over whether they can — and should — provide full monthly benefits during the ongoing legal battles.

The Trump administration over the weekend demanded that states “undo” full benefits that were paid under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program during a one-day window between when a federal judge ordered full funding and a Supreme Court justice put a temporary pause on that order.

A federal appeals court in Boston left the full benefits order in place late on Sunday, though the Supreme Court order ensures the government won't have to pay out for at least 48 hours.

“The record here shows that

the government sat on its hands for nearly a month, unprepared to make partial payments, while people who rely on SNAP received no benefits a week into November and counting,” Judge Julie Riklemann of the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals wrote.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani, presiding over a case filed in Boston by Democratic state officials, on Monday paused the U.S. Department of Agriculture's request from Saturday that states “immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits.” The USDA administers SNAP.

Talwani scheduled a hearing for later Monday on that request.

The Supreme Court has allowed the government to pause full payments so far, and is expected to decide late Tuesday whether to extend the freeze. Congress could also decide this week to fund SNAP through the end of the fiscal year under a proposal to end the government shutdown.

Some states are warning of

“catastrophic operational disruptions” if the Trump administration does not reimburse them for those SNAP benefits they already authorized.

Meanwhile, other states are providing partial monthly SNAP benefits with federal money or using their own funds to load electronic benefit cards for SNAP recipients.

Trump's administration initially said SNAP benefits would not be available in November because of the government shutdown. After some states and non-profit groups sued, judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island each ruled the administration could not skip November's benefits entirely.

The administration then said it would use an emergency reserve fund to provide 65% of the maximum monthly benefit. On Thursday, Rhode Island-based U.S. District Judge John J. McConnell said that wasn't good enough, and ordered full funding for SNAP benefits by Friday.

Flight cancellations, delays grow worse across US

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Air travelers should expect worsening cancellations and delays this week even if the government shutdown ends, as the Federal Aviation Administration moves ahead with deeper cuts to flights at 40 of the busiest U.S. airports, officials said Monday.

After a weekend that saw thousands of flights canceled, airlines canceled another 1,700 flights by early Monday afternoon and nearly 1,000 for Tuesday. Some air traffic controllers — unpaid for nearly a month — have stopped showing up, citing the added stress and need to take second jobs.

President Donald Trump pressured controllers on Monday to “get back to work, NOW!!!”

The president posted on social

media that he wants to give a \$10,000 bonus to controllers who've stayed on the job every day and dock the pay of those who didn't.

The head of the controllers union said they are being used as a “political pawn” in the fight over the shutdown.

The Senate took a first step Sunday toward reopening the federal government, but final passage could still be several days away. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy made clear last week that flight cuts will remain in place until the FAA sees safety metrics improve.

Over the weekend, airlines canceled thousands of flights to comply with the order to eliminate 4% of flights. The cancellations are scheduled to rise to 6% of all flights at 40 of the nation's busi-

est airports on Tuesday. By the end of the week, cancellations are set to reach 10% of all flights at those airports.

About 10% of all flights nationwide were canceled Sunday, making it the fourth worst day for cancellations since January 2024, according to data from aviation analytics firm Cirium. Even though the airlines only set out to cut 4% of flights at these 40 airports, there are ripple effects throughout the system when planes and crews are out of position for their next flights.

The FAA issued more flight restrictions starting Monday, barring business jets and many private flights from using a dozen of the airports where restrictions on commercial flights are already in place.

The shutdown has made a de-

manding job even more stressful, leading to fatigue and increased risks, said Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

“This is the erosion of the safety margin the public never sees, but the American public relies upon every day,” the union chief said at a news conference Monday.

Some controllers can't afford child care to come to work while others are moonlighting as food delivery drivers or even selling plasma to pay their bills, Daniels said. The number who are retiring or quitting is “growing by the day,” he said.

Tuesday will be the second missed payday for air traffic controllers and other FAA employees. It's unclear how quickly they might be paid once the shutdown ends.

Trump pardons 2020 election deniers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has pardoned his former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, his former chief of staff Mark Meadows and others accused of backing efforts to overturn the 2020 election, a Justice Department official says.

Ed Martin, the government's pardon attorney, posted on social media a signed proclamation of the "full, complete, and unconditional" pardon, which also names Sidney Powell, an attorney who promoted baseless conspiracy theories about a stolen election, and John Eastman, another lawyer who pushed a plan to keep Trump in power. The proclamation, posted

online late Sunday, explicitly says the pardon does not apply to Trump.

Presidential pardons apply only to federal crimes, and none of the Trump allies named were charged in federal cases over the 2020 election. But the move underscores Trump's continued efforts to promote the idea that the 2020 election was stolen from him even though courts around the country and U.S. officials found no evidence of fraud that could have affected the outcome. It follows the sweeping pardons of the hundreds of Trump supporters charged in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, including those convicted of attacking law enforcement.

Also pardoned were Republicans who acted as fake electors for Trump in 2020 and were charged in state cases accusing them of submitting false certificates that confirmed they were legitimate electors despite Democrat Joe Biden's victory in those states. Another key figure on the list is Jeffrey Clark, a former Justice Department official who championed Trump's efforts to challenge his election loss.

Trump himself was indicted on felony charges accusing him of working to overturn his 2020 election defeat, but the case brought by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith was abandoned in November after Trump's victory over Democrat

Kamala Harris because of the department's policy against prosecuting sitting presidents. Giuliani, Powell, Eastman and Clark were alleged co-conspirators in the federal case brought against Trump but were never charged with federal crimes.

Giuliani, Meadows and others named in the proclamation had been charged by prosecutors in Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin over the 2020 election, but the cases have hit a dead end or are just limping along. A judge in September dismissed the Michigan case against 15 Republicans accused of attempting to falsely certify Trump as the winner of the election in that battleground state.

Supreme Court upholds same-sex marriage

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a call to overturn its landmark decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

The justices, without comment, turned away an appeal from Kim Davis, the former Kentucky court clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples after the high court's 2015 ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

Davis had been trying to get the court to overturn a lower-court order for her to pay \$360,000 in damages and attorney's fees to a couple denied a marriage license.

Her lawyers repeatedly invoked the words of Justice Clarence Thomas, who alone among the justices has called for erasing the same-sex marriage ruling.

Thomas was among four dissenting justices in 2015. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito are the other

dissenters who are on the court today.

Roberts has been silent on the subject since he wrote a dissenting opinion in the case. Alito has continued to criticize the decision, but he said recently he was not advocating that it be overturned.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was not on the court in 2015, has said that there are times when the court should correct mistakes and overturn decisions. But Barrett has suggested recently that same-sex marriage might be in a different category than abortion because people have relied on the decision when they married and had children.

Human Rights Campaign president Kelley Robinson praised the justices' decision not to intervene. "The Supreme Court made clear today that refusing to respect the constitutional rights of others does not come without consequences," Robinson said in a statement.

Ukraine eyes Patriots to defend power grids

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday he wants to order 25 Patriot air defense systems from the United States, as Ukraine desperately tries to fend off relentless Russian aerial attacks that have brought rolling blackouts across Ukraine on the brink of winter.

Zelenskyy acknowledged that the Patriot systems are expensive and that such a large batch could take years to manufacture. But he said European countries could give their Patriots to Ukraine and await replacements, stressing that "we would not like to wait."

Combined missile and drone strikes on the power grid have coincided with Ukraine's frantic efforts to hold back a Russian battlefield push aimed at capturing the eastern stronghold of Pokrovsk. Meanwhile, international peace efforts appear to have dissipated, nearly four

years after Russia invaded its neighbor.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine recently received more Patriot systems from Germany. It is not known how many Patriot systems are in Ukraine. But on the whole, air defenses remain stretched thin across wide expanses of Ukrainian territory, and the threat to the provision of heating and running water in the bitter winter is acute.

NATO is coordinating regular deliveries of large weapons packages to Ukraine. European allies and Canada are buying much of the equipment from the U.S. The Trump administration is not giving any arms to Ukraine.

Russia's attacks on energy infrastructure have grown more effective. It launches hundreds of drones, some equipped with cameras to improve targeting, that overwhelm Ukraine's air defenses, especially in regions where protection is weaker.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hospital officer killed in emergency lobby struggle

NC GARNER — A police officer was shot and killed during a struggle in the emergency department lobby at a North Carolina hospital Saturday.

The shooting happened around 9 a.m. at the WakeMed Garner Healthplex, killing WakeMed Campus Police Officer Roger Smith, according to a WakeMed statement.

A “person of interest” in the shooting was in custody, said a Garner Police Department statement. The emergency department lobby was closed, and hospital officials were working with local police and state investigators.

“Law enforcement officers put themselves in harm’s way to keep us safe, and we are forever grateful for Officer Smith’s sacrifice,” North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein said in a statement on X.

‘Suspicious package’ left several ill at joint base

MD JOINT BASE ANDREWS — Multiple people have fallen ill after a “suspicious package” containing white powder and political propaganda was delivered to a U.S. military base in Maryland, according to a report.

“As a precaution, the building and connecting building were evacuated, and a cordon was established around the area,” CNN reported, citing a statement from Joint Base Andrews, which is located outside Washington, D.C.

“Joint Base Andrews first responders were dispatched to the

scene, determined there were no immediate threats, and have turned the scene over to Office of Special Investigations.”

An individual received and opened the delivery on Thursday, inside a building that houses the Air National Guard Readiness Center. Sources close to the investigation said it contained a white powder, though what the substance was still remains unclear.

An initial field test from the HAZMAT team did not detect anything hazardous.

The exact conditions of those in proximity to the package were not provided.

Infant botulism linked to formula being recalled

DC WASHINGTON — Federal and state health officials are investigating 13 cases in 10 states of infant botulism linked to baby formula that was being recalled, authorities said Saturday.

ByHeart Inc. agreed to begin recalling two lots of the company’s Whole Nutrition Infant Formula, the Food and Drug Administration said in a statement.

All 13 infants were hospitalized after consuming formula from two lots: 206VABP/251261P2 and 206VABP/251131P2.

The cases occurred in Arizona, California, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Washington.

No deaths were reported. The FDA said it was investigating how the contamination happened and whether it affected any other products.

Available online and through major retailers, the product ac-

counted for an estimated 1% of national formula sales, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Authorities probe death of passenger on cruise ship

FL MIAMI — Authorities in Miami were investigating the death of a passenger traveling on a Carnival cruise ship that returned to the city Saturday.

Carnival Cruise Line said the passenger was traveling aboard the Carnival Horizon, a ship holding up to nearly 4,000 guests that sails to the Caribbean. The ship returned to Port-Miami on Saturday morning as planned, the company said.

Carnival Cruise Line said it was working with the FBI Miami office to investigate the incident.

“Our focus is on supporting the family of our guest and cooperating with the FBI,” the company said in a statement.

House cleaner killed after arriving at wrong address

IN WHITESTOWN — A woman was shot dead after she arrived at the wrong address for a cleaning job, police in Whitestown, Ind., said.

Police said they found Maria Florinda Ríos Pérez, 32, dead on the front porch of the property with a gunshot wound, accompanied by her husband, on Wednesday morning, after responding to a call about a “possible home invasion.”

It was “later determined” that the couple attempting to enter the property were “members of a cleaning crew who had mistakenly arrived at the wrong address,” the Whitestown Met-

ropolitan Police Department said, adding that the facts “do not support” that the couple gained entry to the home.

Whitestown Police Capt. John Jurkash said the gunshot had come from “inside the home” while photos taken by local media showed a bullet hole visible in the front door. “There were several people both inside the home and at the scene at the time,” Jurkash said in a press briefing.

In a statement, police said they were “interviewing all individuals involved” and urged people to refrain from speculation about the case, saying: “Misinformation can be harmful to those involved and to the integrity of the investigation.”

1 killed and 2 injured in medical helicopter crash

TN LEBANON — A medical helicopter crashed Saturday east of Nashville, Tenn., killing one crew member and critically injuring two other crew members, authorities said. No patients were on board.

The Vanderbilt LifeFlight helicopter went down around 1:45 p.m. in a field east of Nashville, between Lebanon and Gallatin, about 22 miles east of Nashville, the Wilson County Sheriff’s Office said.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it is investigating.

According to the aviation tracking websites FlightAware and Flightradar24, the helicopter took off from the emergency operations center at 1:33 p.m. and flew for eight minutes before crashing.

— From wire reports

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Texans rally from 19 down, stun Jags

Associated Press

HOUSTON — In a team meeting Saturday night, coach DeMeco Ryans showed the Houston Texans a video of a boxer who dislocated his shoulder and still managed to knock out his opponent.

Down 19 entering the fourth quarter of their matchup against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday, the Texans remembered that scrappy fighter.

“Keep showing up. Keep fighting and never quit,” defensive end Will Anderson Jr. said.

The defense did exactly that before backup Davis Mills delivered the knockout blow.

Mills threw two touchdown passes in the final quarter and scrambled 14 yards for the go-ahead score with 31 seconds left, and Houston rallied for the 36-29 win.

Mills threw for 292 yards and shook off a forgettable three quarters to lead the remarkable comeback while filling in for C.J. Stroud, who was out after suffering a concussion last week.

It was the second-largest comeback in franchise history behind a 21-point comeback in a 31-28 win over the Chargers in 2013.

The Jaguars (5-4) were trying to get into field-goal range after the score by Mills, but Trevor Lawrence was sacked by Anderson and fumbled. Sheldon Rankins recovered the ball and ran 32 yards for a TD to seal the victory.

“The reality is we gave up a 19-point lead to lose the game,” Jacksonville coach Liam Coen said. “Part of winning in the National Football League is sustaining a lead. We just needed one stop and didn’t get one. You score 29 and you feel like you’re going to have a chance to go get a win, but we didn’t get it done.”

Seahawks 44, Cardinals 22: DeMarcus Lawrence returned two fumbles for touchdowns during a dominant first half for host Seattle, which beat Arizona.

The NFC West-leading Seahawks (7-2) beat their division rival for the ninth straight time dating to 2021, and this one was hardly competitive.

On the Cardinals’ first possession, Tyrice Knight walloped quarterback Jacoby Brissett and jarred the ball loose. Lawrence scooped it up off a bounce and ran untouched 34 yards for a touchdown.

On the Cardinals’ first drive of the second quarter, Knight again knocked the ball out of Brissett’s hand, and Lawrence caught it in stride as it bounced off the turf. The 254-pound defensive end cruised to the end zone for a 22-yard touchdown that gave Seattle a commanding 28-0 lead.

Bears 24, Giants 20: Caleb Williams threw a touchdown pass and scrambled for a go-ahead score in the fourth quarter, helping host Chicago beat Jaxson Dart and New York.

Led by Williams, the Bears scored the last 14 points after Younghoe Koo’s 19-yard field goal gave the Giants a 20-10 lead with 10:19 left. C.J. Gardner-Johnson had two sacks for Chicago, including one on Russell Wilson on a key third down in the final period.

Dart rushed for two touchdowns for New York in its fourth consecutive loss. The rookie became the first quarterback in NFL history with at least one rushing TD in five straight games.

Jets 27, Browns 20: Host New York got touchdowns on a kickoff return and a punt return in the same game for the first time in franchise history. Breece Hall took a screen pass from Justin Fields 42 yards for the go-ahead score and the Jets held on to defeat Cleveland.

Five days after trading cornerback Sauce Gardner and defensive tackle Quinnen Williams in stunning moves, New York came off its bye week break to win its second game in a row.

Kene Nwangwu returned a

kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter and moments later, Isaiah Williams brought back a punt 74 yards for a score.

Ravens 27, Vikings 19: Lamar Jackson played it patient and smart in his second game back from injury, and visiting Baltimore continued its defensive resurgence to beat Minnesota.

Baltimore turned three takeaways, including a fumbled kickoff return early in the third quarter by rookie Myles Price, into 13 points to keep their climb back into the AFC North race going after a 1-5 start.

Patriots 28, Buccaneers 23: TreVeyon Henderson had touchdown runs of 69 and 55 yards, Drake Maye threw two TD passes, and visiting New England beat Tampa Bay for its seventh straight win.

After Maye threw an interception in the end zone, the Patriots (8-2) made a big stop on fourth-and-3 at their own 27. Henderson then sealed the win with his 69-yard TD run.

The Buccaneers (6-3) were the first team in NFL history to have each of their first four wins of the season come on a game-winning score in the final minute of regulation.

Rams 42, 49ers 26: Los Angeles quarterback Matthew Stafford threw four touchdown passes to give him the most in a three-game span in franchise history, and the visiting Rams beat San Francisco for their fourth straight victory.

Kyren Williams added two touchdown runs for LA, which avenged a home loss in overtime to the 49ers (6-4) in Week 5 to remain in a tie for first with Seattle in the NFC West.

Stafford’s 13 touchdown passes the past three games are the most in franchise history and he became the first player in NFL history with at least four TD passes and no interceptions in three consecutive games.

Lions 44, Commanders 22:

Jared Goff threw three TD passes and Jahmyr Gibbs found the end zone three times in a bounce-back win for visiting Detroit over Washington in front of President Donald Trump.

The Commanders (3-7), playing without injured quarterback Jayden Daniels and wideout Terry McLaurin, lost their fifth game in a row, one season after going 12-5 in the regular season and beating Detroit in the playoffs en route to the NFC championship game.

Chargers 25, Steelers 10: Justin Herbert threw for 220 yards and a touchdown while Aaron Rodgers stumbled to his worst game of the season as host Los Angeles beat Pittsburgh for its third straight win.

After opening the season with three consecutive victories over AFC West rivals, the Chargers lost three of four to drop out of first. But they bounced back with wins over Minnesota and Tennessee before humbling Rodgers in prime time.

The LA defense kept Rodgers without a touchdown until he hit Roman Wilson for a 27-yard score with 2:57 left in the game. The four-time MVP was 16-for-31 for 161 yards, got sacked three times and was intercepted twice.

Saints 17, Panthers 7: Tyler Shough threw for 282 yards and two touchdowns, and visiting New Orleans defeated Carolina to snap a four-game skid.

Shough — a rookie who began the season as the Saints’ backup QB — connected on a 62-yard scoring strike to Chris Olave and a 30-yard TD pass to Juwan Johnson to earn his first win as a starter. Alvin Kamara ran for 83 yards.

Dolphins 30, Bills 13: Tua Tagovailoa threw for 173 yards and two touchdowns, De’Von Achane added a pair of rushing scores and host Miami beat Buffalo.

The Bills (6-3) had not lost to the Dolphins since Week 3 of the 2022 season but came out flat on Sunday.

Guardians duo charged with taking bribes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cleveland Guardians pitchers Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz have been indicted on charges they took bribes from sports bettors to throw certain types of pitches, including tossing balls in the dirt instead of strikes, to ensure successful bets.

According to the indictment unsealed Sunday in federal court in Brooklyn, the highly paid hurlers took several thousand dollars in payoffs to help two unnamed gamblers from their native Dominican Republic win at least \$460,000 on in-game prop bets on the speed and outcome of certain pitches.

Clase, the Guardians' former closer, and Ortiz, a starter, have been on non-disciplinary paid leave since July, when MLB started investigating what it said was unusually high in-game bet-

ting activity when they pitched. Some of the games in question were in April, May and June.

Ortiz, 26, was arrested Sunday by the FBI at Boston Logan International Airport. He is expected to appear in federal court in Boston on Monday. Clase, 27, was not in custody, officials said.

Ortiz and Clase "betrayed America's pastime," U.S. Attorney Joseph Nocella Jr. said. "Integrity, honesty and fair play are part of the DNA of professional sports. When corruption infiltrates the sport, it brings disgrace not only to the participants, but damages the public trust in an institution that is vital and dear to all of us."

Ortiz's lawyer, Chris Georgalis, said in a statement that his client is innocent and "has never, and would never, improperly influence a game — not for

anyone and not for anything."

Georgalis said Ortiz's defense team had previously documented for prosecutors that the payments and money transfers between him and individuals in the Dominican Republic were for lawful activities.

"There is no credible evidence Luis knowingly did anything other than try to win games, with every pitch and in every inning. Luis looks forward to fighting these charges in court," Georgalis said.

A lawyer for Clase, Michael J. Ferrara, said his client "has devoted his life to baseball and doing everything in his power to help his team win. Emmanuel is innocent of all charges and looks forward to clearing his name in court."

The Major League Baseball Players Association had no comment.

MLB said it contacted federal law enforcement when it began investigating unusual betting activity and has fully cooperated with authorities. "We are aware of the indictment and today's arrest, and our investigation is ongoing," a league statement said.

In a statement, the Guardians said: "We are aware of the recent law enforcement action. We will continue to fully cooperate with both law enforcement and Major League Baseball as their investigations continue."

Clase and Ortiz are both charged with wire fraud conspiracy, honest services wire fraud conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy and conspiracy to influence sporting contests by bribery. The top charges carry a potential punishment of up to 20 years in prison.

Kings' Fiala nets 500th point in win over Penguins

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Kevin Fiala broke a tie with 8:08 left with his 500th NHL point to help the Los Angeles Kings beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-2 on Sunday to open a six-game trip.

Fiala got around defenseman Erik Karlsson and shot over goalie Sergei Murashov. Fiala also had an assist. The 29-year-old Swiss winger has 218 goals and 282 assists in 667 regular-season games with Nashville, Minnesota and Los Angeles.

Corey Perry tied it at 2 for the Kings at 4:49 of the third. He also had an assist.

Anze Kopitar also scored for Los Angeles, and Darcy Kuemper stopped 31 shots. The Kings improved to 7-5-4. They had lost three of four.

Avalanche 5, Canucks 4 (OT): Gavin Brindley scored 1:08 into overtime and visiting Colorado beat Vancouver.

Nathan MacKinnon had two goals and three assists to take over the NHL scoring lead, Artturi Lehkonen also scored twice and Valeri Nichushkin and Cale Makar each had two assists for the Avalanche. Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 29 shots as Colorado won its third straight game and extended its point streak to 5-0-2.

In the extra period, Brindley scored on the rebound of his own shot to give the Avalanche the win. MacKinnon got an assist on the play after he had left the ice, giving him five points on the night and an NHL-leading 29 on the season.

Wild 2, Flames 0: Jesper Wallstedt made 36 saves for his second career NHL shutout, Matt Boldy had a goal and an assist and host Minnesota beat Calgary.

Making consecutive starts for the first time in his career, Wallstedt backstopped the Wild to their fourth victory in five games. The 22-year-old Swede is the backup to Filip Gustavsson, who signed a five-year, \$34 million extension Oct. 4.

Ducks 4, Jets 1: Rookie Beckett Sennecke had his first two-goal game, Leo Carlsson extended his scoring streak to 10 games with two power-play goals and host Anaheim beat Winnipeg for its seventh straight victory.

Cutter Gauthier and Chris Kreider had two assists apiece and Lukas Dostal made 23 saves for the first-place Ducks, who have scored 33 goals during their longest winning streak in two years.

Blackhawks 5, Red Wings 1: Connor Bedard had a goal and two assists to lead visiting Chicago to a win over Detroit.

Teuvo Teravainen, Tyler Bertuzzi and Oliver Moore also scored and Andre Burakovsky added an empty-net goal for the Blackhawks, who have won three straight. Arvid Soderblom made 45 saves and Artyom Levshunov had two assists, giving him four assists in his last three games.

Stars 2, Kraken 1: Tyler Seguin's goal in the closing seconds of the first period held up as the winner and Casey DeSmith stopped 30 of 31 shots as host Dallas beat Seattle.

Wyatt Johnston also scored for the Stars with his league-leading seventh power-play goal.

Senators 4, Mammoth 2: Leevi Merilainen made 29 saves in his third NHL start and host Ottawa beat Utah, with both teams completing a back-to-back set.

Nick Cousins, Ridly Greig, Jordan Spence and Michael Amadio scored for the Senators in the opener of a four-game homestand. Amadio has goals in his past four games.

Hurricanes 5, Maple Leafs 4: Taylor Hall and Logan Stankoven scored in the third period, and visiting Carolina rallied to beat Toronto for its fourth straight win.

Sebastian Aho, Seth Jarvis, and Shawn Walker also scored for the Hurricanes, who trailed by two midway through the second period. Brandon Bussi had 16 saves.

Rockets defeat Bucks in clutch finish

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Kevin Durant scored 31 points and made a tiebreaking basket with 1:42 remaining to put the Houston Rockets ahead for good in a 122-115 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Sunday.

Houston bounced back from a 121-110 loss against San Antonio two nights earlier as it ended a three-game trip. The Rockets, who have won six of their last seven, are now at home for their next three games.

Durant shot 11 of 15 from the floor and had a season-high seven assists. Alperen Sengun had 23 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Jabari Smith and Reed Sheppard added 16 points each.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 37 points and eight rebounds for Milwaukee but went 1 of 4 from the foul line in the game's final 89 seconds. Rollins scored 19 for Milwaukee.

Houston trailed most of the way before outscoring the Bucks 22-7 over the last 4 minutes, 33 seconds.

Celtics 111, Magic 107: Jaylen Brown scored 27 points, and Derrick White and Jordan Walsh hit 3-pointers in the final minute to lift visiting Boston over Orlando.

White, who finished with 21 points, hit a 3-pointer with 45 seconds left to give the Celtics a four-point lead. Walsh made a 3 with 13 seconds remaining to extend Boston's lead to 110-105.

The Magic pulled even by half-time and led 85-83 when Suggs scored on an inside runner early in the fourth quarter. Luka Garza (16 points, eight rebounds in 17 minutes) and Hugo Gonzalez then combined for nine points as part of a 13-0 bench surge, giving the Celtics an 11-point edge with 5:58 left.

Thunder 114, Grizzlies 100: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, including a nine-point outburst in the fourth quarter, to help visiting Oklahoma City beat Memphis.

The Thunder improved to 6-1 on the road and 10-1 overall, with their only loss coming Wednesday at Portland.

OKC overcame poor shooting and a 19-point deficit in the first half by outscoring Memphis 34-18 in the third and erase the Grizzlies' advantage. The Thunder went on to outscore Memphis 63-38 in the second half.

Knicks 134, Nets 98: Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 12 rebounds, and host New York routed Brooklyn to win its fourth straight and improve to 6-0 at home.

Jalen Brunson and OG Anunoby each added 19 points for the Knicks, who matched the longest winning streak in series history at 11 games.

Michael Porter Jr. scored 25 for the Nets, who have dropped two straight since their lone victory and fell to 1-9.

Pistons 111, 76ers 108: Cade Cunningham made two clutch baskets down the stretch and finished with 26 points, Jalen Duren had 21 points and 16 rebounds and Eastern Conference-leading Detroit extended its winning streak to six games with a win over host Philadelphia.

Tyrese Maxey scored 33 points for the 76ers, who played without Joel Embiid. Andre Drummond, starting for Embiid, had 17 points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia.

Warriors 114, Pacers 83: Jimmy Butler had 21 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, Quinten Post contributed 14 points and seven rebounds, and host San Francisco beat short-handed Indiana.

Stephen Curry missed his third straight game with a bad cold and had been listed as questionable with an illness. He was set to go through a workout Sunday and again Monday then travel with the team in hopes he would return Tuesday at Oklahoma City.

Timberwolves 144, Kings 117: Anthony Edwards had 26 points, four rebounds, five assists, two steals and led visiting Minnesota over Sacramento.

Edwards shot 7 for 16 from the field, 5 for 11 from 3-point range and made 7 of 8 shots from the line. He was coming off a 37-point effort in a 137-97 victory over Utah on Friday.

League shares tales to mourn death of Hall of Famer Wilkens

Associated Press

Sacramento coach Doug Christie was born and raised in Seattle. The SuperSonics meant everything to him as a kid. And when he heard the news about the death of Lenny Wilkens, who meant the world to basketball fans in that city, Christie couldn't hold back the tears.

"Without him," Christie said, "I'm not here."

The tributes began being offered quickly Sunday as the NBA world mourned the death of Wilkens, a three-time enshrinee into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame for what he did first as a silky-smooth player and then as a soft-spoken coach who not only coached Seattle to an NBA title in 1979 but also guided his country to an Olympic gold medal in 1996.

"An unbelievable man," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "Just an incredible man."

Kerr played for Wilkens in Cleveland and told the story Sunday of how those Cavaliers were once missing a slew of players because of injuries. So Wilkens—who was in his 50s at the time and on his way to becoming the NBA's all-time coaching wins leader—decided to take part in a scrimmage. Kerr never saw Wilkens play during his official career, one that included nine All-Star selections and was good enough to earn him spots on both the NBA's 50th anniversary and 75th anniversary teams. But that day, he learned that his middle-aged coach still had tons of game.

"I think he's the only guy I know who's a Hall of Fame player and Hall of Fame coach,"

Kerr said. "Two different ways, maybe there's one or two others. I didn't watch him play, I wasn't old enough to see him play but reading about his game and how talented he was and that he ends up breaking the all-time wins record as a coach. What a career."

Wilkens eventually saw Don Nelson pass his record for coaching victories, and then Gregg Popovich eclipsed Nelson's total. But Wilkens' impact on coaches, even now, cannot be argued, Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. Wilkens was president of the National Basketball Coaches Association for 17 years, which was a record. It has since been eclipsed by Carlisle, who has been in that role for two decades. And he was pleased with the decision by Golden State to have a moment of

silence during which Wilkens could be remembered before the Pacers-Warriors game Sunday.

"He did a lot of things to further the profession," Carlisle said. "The pension, benefits, coaching salaries rose significantly during his time. He was a great representative to the league office, advocating for coaches and the things that coaches experience that a lot of people didn't know about. Lenny was a great communicator with things like that."

The Portland Trail Blazers said he was a "Pacific Northwest legend" who "helped grow the game of basketball in Rip City." Cleveland, noting he remains its all-time regular season coaching wins leader, said Wilkens "will forever be part of the history of this franchise."