

Shutdown stalls separations for troops

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the government shutdown stretches on, the military services are grappling with an inability to fully discharge active-duty service members, while military advocates are warning of long-lasting effects to National Guard troops and their readiness.

The military is facing a growing number of troops who need to be discharged but no one to generate the formal documents needed to certify the end of their service.

The Air Force is “legally prohibited from obligating the government for costs associated with some voluntary and administrative separations happening in November,” a spokesperson said in a statement.

A Navy official confirmed that a form with details about a

person’s service, including length, job specialties and awards earned, can’t be finalized and final pay can’t be released.

The form is crucial in the process because it signifies the formal end of service and attests to the kind of discharge a service member received — a key factor in determining eligibility for benefits like the GI Bill or Department of Veterans Affairs disability pay.

Both the Navy and Air Force said they were allowing affected service members to opt in to a temporary extension of their service to wait out the shutdown and ensure they don’t experience gaps in pay or benefits.

An Army official said “soldiers in their separation window within 45 days will be affected by the lapse in appropriations and the government shut-

down” but wouldn’t confirm whether the service was offering voluntary or involuntary extensions.

The officials from the three branches spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. The Marine Corps did not respond to questions on the effects from the shutdown, citing the government closure.

Burt Field, head of the Air & Space Forces Association, called for legislation to prevent future shutdowns from affecting military pay. After the government reopens, Congress should “pass a bill that doesn’t allow this to happen again for our military service members, civilians and Americans,” he said.

At the same time, the National Guard is facing difficulties because of the shutdown.

“The shutdown has been uniquely hard on the 433,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen,” Francis McGinn, president of the National Guard Association, said.

The Trump administration has made a public effort of blunting the impact on active duty service members by moving money around to ensure they have received two paychecks since the shutdown began on Oct. 1. But McGinn said more than 30,000 technicians — full-time civilian government employees who also serve in uniform — have not been paid since the end of September.

These technicians, National Guard members who typically carry out training for their units or maintain equipment, “are critical to our day-to-day operations and generating readiness,” McGinn said.

Senate approves bill to end government shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed legislation Monday to reopen the government, bringing the longest shutdown in history closer to an end as a small group of Democrats ratified a deal with Republicans despite searing criticism from within their party.

The 41-day shutdown could last a few more days as members of the House, which has been on recess since mid-September, return to Washington to vote on the legislation. President Donald Trump has signaled support for the bill, saying Monday that “we’re going to be opening up our country very quickly.”

The final Senate vote, 60-40, broke a grueling stalemate that

lasted more than six weeks as Democrats demanded that Republicans negotiate with them to extend health care tax credits that expire Jan. 1. The Republicans never did, and five moderate Democrats eventually switched their votes as federal food aid was delayed, airport delays worsened and hundreds of thousands of federal workers continued to go unpaid.

House Speaker Mike Johnson urged lawmakers to start returning to Washington “right now” given shutdown-related travel delays, but an official notice issued after the Senate vote said the earliest the House will vote is Wednesday afternoon.

After weeks of negotiations, A group of three former governors

—New Hampshire Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of government funding until late January. Republicans promised to hold a vote to extend the subsidies by mid-December, but there was no guarantee of success.

Shaheen said Monday that “this was the option on the table” after Republicans had refused to budge.

“We had reached a point where I think a number of us believed that the shutdown had been very effective in raising the concern about health care,” she said, and the promise for a future

vote “gives us an opportunity to continue to address that going forward.”

The bill includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on Oct. 1. It also protects federal workers against further layoffs through January and guarantees they are paid once the shutdown ends.

Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, home to tens of thousands of federal workers, also voted Sunday in favor of moving forward on the agreement. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat, Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman and Nevada Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen also voted yes.

Sub vets push for more health coverage

By LINDA F. HERSEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A coalition of Navy veterans is seeking an expansion of health care and disability benefits for toxic exposures from gases, chemicals and biological contaminants aboard submarines.

The nonprofit Submariners' Advocacy Group is also pushing for the Navy to release findings from extensive atmospheric studies on submarines' sealed environments conducted more than 20 years ago that remain classified today. David Bozarth, president of the Submariners' Advocacy Group, said his organization documented more than 150 toxins that sailors may come in contact with on submarines. Bozarth, 66, served aboard submarines as a ballistic missile fire control technician from 1978 to 1984.

The coalition published its findings in a 60-page report released Saturday to the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., which represents active, retired and veteran personnel. The report was also posted on the group's website.

The report, "The Unseen Burden: Toxic Exposures and Health Impacts on U.S. Submariners," points to long-term consequences of exposure to chemicals, gases and ionizing radiation that are "unique to submarine service."

"In a sealed environment with continual exposure to multiple chemicals the human body is subjected to a complex interplay of stressors," according to the advocacy group's report.

The Submariners' Advocacy Group formed in April 2024 in response to studies and findings by the National Research Council (NRC) Committee on Toxicity

and the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory. Those findings and others are included in the advocacy group's report.

Submariners are exposed to a "toxic cocktail" of chemicals with a combined effect that may be more potent than a single exposure, according to the NRC. Some of the hazardous exposures may include benzene, ozone and asbestos for sailors who served on submarines before the 1970s.

Many spaces for non-nuclear personnel are close to radiation sources. Certain compartments with high concentrations of hazardous chemicals pose greater risks, including the engine room, auxiliary machinery spaces and missile compartments.

Carbon dioxide levels are higher in a submarine environment. Elevated levels may amplify the toxic effects of contaminants in

the air, according to the NRC.

The oxygen content on board submarines is lower than in the natural environment, Bozarth said. "We have less oxygen available to us on submarines," he said.

There are an estimated 300,000 veterans living today who served since 1947 in the Navy's submarine force, also known as the "silent service," according to the veterans group.

The Department of Veterans Affairs denies veterans' claims for service-connected ailments acquired from serving on submarines at a higher rate than other veterans claims, Bozarth said. But diseases — including cancers, blood disorders and central nervous system conditions — may be diagnosed decades after hazardous exposures on board submarines, he said.

Houthis signal a stop to their attacks on shipping

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Yemen's Houthi rebels are signaling they've stopped their attacks against Israel and shipping in the Red Sea as a shaky ceasefire holds in the Gaza Strip.

In an undated letter to Hamas' Qassam Brigades published online by the group, the Houthis offered their clearest signal that their attacks have halted.

"We are closely monitoring developments and declare that if the enemy resumes its aggression against Gaza, we will return to our military operations deep inside the Zionist entity, and we will reinstate the ban on Israeli navigation in the Red and Arabian Seas," the letter from Maj. Gen. Yusuf Hassan al-Madani, the Houthi military's chief of staff, reads. The Houthis have not offered any formal acknowledgment their cam-

paign in the region has halted.

Israel's military, which has launched attacks killing senior Houthi leaders, declined to comment Tuesday when reached by The Associated Press. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz threatened in September to hit the Houthis "sevenfold" for attacks targeting Israel following a drone attack that wounded 22 people.

The Houthis gained international prominence during the Israel-Hamas war with their attacks on shipping and Israel, which they said were aimed at forcing Israel to stop fighting. Since the ceasefire began on Oct. 10, no attacks have been claimed by the rebel group.

The U.S. launched an intense bombing campaign targeting the rebels earlier this year that President Donald Trump halted just before his trip to the Mideast.

Marine Museum reopens to celebrate Corps' 250th

By KAYLYN BARNHART
BATISTA

Stars and Stripes

TRIANGLE, Va. — More than 1,000 people packed the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., to celebrate the service's 250th birthday with its signature cake-cutting ceremony.

Despite being closed for weeks because of the federal government shutdown, the NMMC opened Monday to celebrate Marine Corps service, sacrifice and tradition.

"It's the 250th birthday of the Marine Corps," said retired Maj. Gen. James Lukeman, president and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. "We couldn't let this occasion pass without celebrating with Marines from everywhere. It was really important for us to be able to have this ceremony here."

Lukeman added that, operating as a nonprofit, the museum was able to hold the ceremony without government expense.

The galleries remained off limits, but the ceremony drew Marines, veterans and supporters from across the state and the country to the museum's Leatherneck Gallery.

Phillip Parsons of Winchester, Va., is the senior vice commandant of Marine Corps League Detachment 890 — Lt. Gen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller. During his 20-year career in the Corps, he has seen many cake-cutting ceremonies, but the one at the museum was a first for him.

"It was cool to do the cake-cutting ceremony in this environment with a lot of Marines here," said Parsons. "It was moving to hear the Marine Corps hymn sung by all of us."

High court to rule on SNAP payments

Associated Press

It's up to the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress to decide when full payments will resume under the SNAP food aid program that helps 1 in 8 Americans buy groceries, as some wonder how they will feed their families without government assistance.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule Tuesday on a request from President Donald Trump's administration to keep blocking states from providing full Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, arguing the money might be needed elsewhere.

The seesawing rulings mean that beneficiaries in some states, including Hawaii and New Jersey, have received their full monthly allocations while in others, such as Nebraska and West Virginia, they have received nothing.

The legal wrangling could be moot if the U.S. House adopts and Trump signs legislation to quickly end the federal government shutdown.

It's not clear how quickly SNAP benefits could reach recipients if the government reopens or the Supreme Court orders full payments.

The cascading legal rulings

— plus the varying responses of each state to the shutoff — means people who rely on SNAP are in vastly different situations. Some have all their benefits, some have none. In states including North Carolina and Texas, beneficiaries have received partial amounts.

In Pennsylvania, full November benefits went out to some people on Friday. But Jim Malliard of Franklin said he had not received anything by Monday.

Malliard is a full-time caretaker for his wife, who is blind and has had several strokes this year, and his teenage daughter, who suffered severe medical complications from surgery.

That stress has only been compounded by the pause in the \$350 monthly SNAP payment he previously received for himself, his wife and daughter. He said he is down to \$10 in his account and is relying on what's left in the pantry — mostly rice and ramen.

"It's kind of been a lot of late nights, making sure I had everything down to the penny to make sure I was right," Malliard said.

An appeals court said Monday that full funding should resume, and that requirement is set to kick in Tuesday night unless the top court takes action.

Hurdles grow as further FAA flight cuts take effect

Associated Press

Air travelers could face more frustration as busy U.S. airports need to meet a higher Federal Aviation Administration target for reducing flights Tuesday after already canceling thousands to scale back demands on the nation's aviation system during the government shutdown.

Absences and signs of stress among traffic controllers, who haven't been paid in over a month, made it imperative to cut flights in the name of public safety, the FAA said, ordering domestic airlines last week to drop 4% of their flights at 40 major U.S. airports. After already canceling more than 7,900 since Friday, the goal for cutting flights rose to 6% on Tuesday and again to 10% on Friday.

Nearly 1,200 flights were canceled Tuesday, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks air travel disruptions. It was unclear exactly how many additional flights would need to be canceled for the day, but there are fewer flights scheduled on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Severe weather is adding to the cancellations.

The average cancellation rate over the last few days already exceeded the FAA's requirement, according to aviation analytics company Cirium. The FAA also expanded its flight restrictions Monday, barring

business jets and many private flights from using a dozen airports already under commercial flight limits.

However, controller shortages continued to lead to flight delays, including one of about five hours for arriving flights Monday evening at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, where wintry weather added to staffing-related disruptions earlier in the day. The FAA warned that staffing at over a dozen towers and control centers could delay planes departing for Phoenix, San Diego, the New York area and Houston, among other cities.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy made clear last week that flight cuts will remain until the FAA sees safety metrics improve after staffing levels stabilize at its air traffic control facilities.

Many planes also aren't where they're supposed to be, which could slow the airlines' return to normal operations even after the FAA lifts the order, said Mike Taylor, who leads research on airports and airlines at J.D. Power.

It's unclear how quickly controllers might be paid once the shutdown ends — it took over two months to receive full back pay after the shutdown in 2019, said Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

Trump: Greene 'lost her way' in foreign policy criticism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday said that key Republican ally Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene had "lost her way" by saying that he's spending too much time on foreign affairs and should be more focused on inflation.

The dispute reflects a fundamental challenge within Trump's coalition after last

week's off-cycle elections, in which voters in the New Jersey and Virginia governor races flocked to Democrats in large part over concerns about the cost of living. The White House has recognized that it needs to do more to sell its efforts to address inflation to the wider public.

But Trump — who is investing significant time in his second term on foreign policy — defended his approach. The presi-

dent has been claiming that he's already beaten high prices.

"I don't know what happened to Marjorie, nice woman," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on a day centered around meeting Syria's leader and swearing in a new ambassador to India. "She's lost her way, I think."

Greene, a Trump advocate in Congress, told NBC News last week that "watching the foreign

leaders come to the White House through a revolving door is not helping Americans." She said prices remain too high and the president needs to focus on that rather than his recent emphasis on foreign affairs.

Trump said he sees the presidency "as a worldwide situation" that requires a broader focus. He said Greene was "catering to the other side" and he was "surprised by her."

Judges rules W.Va. Guard can stay in DC

Associated Press

A judge on Monday allowed the continued deployment of more than 300 West Virginia National Guard members to patrol the streets of Washington, D.C., as part of President Donald Trump's push to send the military into Democratic-run cities.

Kanawha County Circuit Judge Richard D. Lindsay made the ruling after hearing arguments in a lawsuit by a civic organization that argued Republican Gov. Patrick Morrisey exceeded his authority when he authorized the Guard's deployment in August.

"The question before this court is whether or not state law allows West Virginia to do this," Lindsay said. "The court has found that."

The judge added: "This court believes that the federal law allows for the request made by the president to the governor."

West Virginia is among several states that sent National Guard members to the nation's capital. While the state National Guard has said its deployment could last until the end of November, it is consulting with the governor's office and others on the possibility of extending the stay.

Formal orders were issued last week extending the deployment of the District of Columbia's National Guard in the city through the end of February.

"We are pleased with the judge's decision," Jace Goins, the state's chief deputy attorney general, said outside the court in Charleston. "The National

Guard are going nowhere. They're staying in D.C. They're not going to be redeployed to West Virginia.

"The judge made the determination that the governor made a lawful decision deploying the National Guard to D.C. by a lawful request of the president."

The West Virginia Citizen Action Group, which filed the lawsuit, argued that under state law the governor could deploy the National Guard out of state only for certain purposes, such as responding to a natural disaster or another state's emergency request.

The civic group claimed that it was harmed by the deployment by being forced to refocus its resources away from government accountability and trans-

parency. The state attorney general's office sought to reject the case, saying the group has not been harmed and lacked standing to challenge Morrisey's decision.

"It was a simple issue of a broad, lawful request by the president and a lawful deployment by the governor. That's all," Goins said.

Aubrey Sparks, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union's West Virginia chapter, said she didn't believe it was the correct decision.

"I think that West Virginia law is clear," Sparks said. "I think what the state was permitted to do here is to skirt past West Virginia law simply because Trump asked them to. And that's not how the law works."

US asks judge to let it send Abrego Garcia to Liberia

Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. — U.S. government attorneys say they have cleared all the hurdles needed to send Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Liberia and are asking a federal judge to dissolve an order blocking his deportation.

Abrego Garcia's mistaken deportation to his home country of El Salvador earlier this year has helped galvanize opposition to President Donald Trump's immigration policies. His attorneys claim the administration is now manipulating the immigration system in order to punish him for successfully challenging that deportation.

A motion from the government filed in U.S. District Court in Maryland late on Friday says officials have received assurances from Liberia that Abrego Garcia would not face persecution or torture there. Further, it says an immigration officer heard Abrego Garcia's claims that he feared deportation to the

West African nation but ruled against him.

His attorneys argue in a separate Friday filing that Abrego Garcia has already designated Costa Rica as a country where he is willing to be deported. The fact officials continue to pursue deportation to other countries is evidence the process is retaliatory and violates due process protections, they argue.

Abrego Garcia has an American wife and child and has lived in Maryland for years, but he immigrated to the U.S. illegally from El Salvador as a teenager. In 2019, an immigration judge granted him protection from being deported back to his home country. But in March, he was deported to El Salvador anyway in what was called an administrative error. Facing pressure from the courts, the administration brought him back to the U.S. in June but has since been pursuing his deportation to a third country.

Judge adopts map creating Democratic district in Utah

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah judge on Monday rejected a new congressional map drawn by Republican lawmakers, adopting an alternate proposal creating a Democratic-leaning district ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

Republicans hold all four of Utah's U.S. House seats and had advanced a map poised to protect them.

Judge Dianna Gibson ruled just before a midnight deadline that the Legislature's new map "unduly favors Republicans and disfavors Democrats."

She had ordered lawmakers to draw a map that complies with standards established by voters to ensure districts don't deliberately favor a party, a practice known as gerrymandering. If they failed, Gibson warned she may consider other maps submitted by plaintiffs in the lawsuit that led her to throw out Utah's existing map.

Gibson ultimately selected a map drawn by plaintiffs, the League of Women Voters of Utah and Mormon Women for Ethical Government. It keeps Salt Lake County almost entirely within one district, instead of dividing the heavily Democratic population center among all four districts, as was the case previously.

The judge's ruling throws a curveball for Republicans in a state where they expected a clean sweep as they're working to add winnable seats elsewhere.

Nationally, Democrats need to net three U.S. House seats next year to wrest control of the chamber from the GOP, which is trying to buck a historic pattern of the president's party losing seats in the midterms.

The newly approved map gives Democrats a much stronger chance to flip a seat in a state that has not had a Democrat in Congress since early 2021.

80 years ago, US planned to invade Japan

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

There are no rows of white crosses along the Satsuma Peninsula or victory memorials dotting Kagoshima Bay. No markers at beaches on Kyushu bearing names of American car brands — Buick, Cadillac, Stutz, Zephyr. And no aging veterans gather with military and political leaders to recall the grinding battle that would have brought 100,000 troops ashore.

More than 14 U.S. Army and Marine divisions never landed on X-Day of Operation Downfall, the planned invasion of Japan to end World War II.

None of it happened because of two shattering flashes of light and heat: the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. More than 150,000 Japanese citizens died from the blast and radiation; some estimates say the toll is nearly twice that.

Japan announced its surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, and it was made official on Sept. 2, 1945, aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

The invasion scheduled for November 1945 — 80 years ago this month — became just old maps and battle plans to file away, relics of an extended war that never was.

How much longer and more deadly is still debated. The invasion would have meant millions more Americans serving in the war, marching afterward on Veterans Day. Thousands more would be mourned on Memorial Day.

“I think an invasion would have been incredibly bloody and awful,” said historian Jonathan Parshall during a webinar in September hosted by the

National World War II Museum in New Orleans. “American casualties would be horrific. Millions of Japanese civilians would have died. It would have been an absolute bloodbath.”

Guadalcanal, North Africa, Italy, Tarawa, Saipan, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima and Okinawa were all preludes to final victory. Italy and Germany were defeated. But Japan still held a massive swath of Asia and the Pacific.

Until mid-1945, U.S. planners expected the war to continue well into 1946.

The Pentagon estimated it needed 900,000 replacement troops — 600,000 for the Army and Army Air Forces, 300,000 for the Navy and Marines.

Norman Polmar, co-author of “Code-Name Downfall,” about the plans for the invasion, said American military leaders had to deal with an enemy that increasingly used suicide as a strategy.

“Beginning with the American invasion to take back the Philippines in 1944, the Japanese employed a large number of kamikaze aircraft to sink ships and kill large numbers of Americans. The threat was unexpected and difficult to counter,” he said.

As the invasion’s time frame approached, American planners were factoring in higher casualty numbers.

“Kamikaze planes, kamikaze small craft, kamikaze submarines, even kamikaze civilians with explosives or just spears,” Polmar said. “Kill as many Americans as possible, no matter the cost to them.”

Downfall had two phases. Operation Olympic would launch from Okinawa to invade Ky-

ushu in November 1945. Operation Coronet in March 1946 would invade the central island of Honshu and push across the Kanto Plain to capture Tokyo.

In the initial phase, 250,000 American troops supported by land and carrier-based aircraft would face 700,000 Japanese defenders on Kyushu. The U.S. Army’s 25th and 33rd Divisions would land at Miyasaki; the 1st Cavalry and 43rd Divisions at Ariake Bay. The 2nd, 3rd and 5th Marine Divisions would target Kagoshima. The 18 landing beaches all were to be named after American car brands.

By Thanksgiving, 816,000 Americans would be on Kyushu.

Occupying the southern portion of the island would allow Americans to use captured airfields and build new ones. Round-the-clock bombing raids would use both heavy bombers against cities and factories, and tactical aircraft would harass rail lines, command posts and communications centers.

Japan was preparing desperate defenses under Operation Ketsugo, or “Final Battle.” Troops would face fanatical resistance.

Japan planned to replicate Okinawa’s “Operation Ten-Go” — Ten-Go meaning “heaven.” The tactics called for suicide attacks. Japan’s Army and Navy had as many as 10,000 aircraft ready by July 1945, most of which were used for one-way trips.

Suicide attacks would come by sea, too: Shinyo motorboats; Kaiten crewed torpedoes and 400 midget submarines; more than 1,000 Fukuryu — meaning “crouching dragon” — divers trained to swim at landing craft

with contact mines.

Civilians were urged to become “100 million shields of the Emperor.” Official propaganda urged the Japanese that death was preferable to defeat and capture.

The second phase of the invasion, Operation Coronet, would be launched on Y-Day in March. Eight Army divisions, including two armored, would land at Sagami Bay near Kamakura and push past Yokohama. Three Army and three Marine divisions — including the 1st, 4th and 6th — would land at the Boso Peninsula and move east toward Tokyo.

Planners expected to have 1.17 million American and allied troops on Honshu within 60 days.

Even when told of the atomic bomb that had been detonated in July at Alamogordo, N.M., many American planners did not expect the nuclear bomb would push Japan into surrender.

But after the bombs devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the invasion plans became moot. Emperor Hirohito spoke on the radio — his voice heard by citizens for the first time — to announce surrender.

One grim calculation: The U.S. had built up a stockpile of nearly 500,000 Purple Hearts, the medal given to those wounded and the families of those killed. The post-World War II surplus meant there were enough in warehouses run by the Defense Supply Center to last through Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Grenada, Panama, the Gulf War and more minor conflicts. New medals weren’t pressed until 1999, during U.S. operations in Kosovo.

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Eagles defense dominates Packers

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Jaelan Phillips could sense the different mentality that a defending champion exudes as soon as the Philadelphia Eagles added him at the trade deadline.

He wasted no time doing his part to contribute to the Eagles' title defense.

In his first game with the Eagles since they acquired him from the Miami Dolphins, Phillips made two of the biggest plays of the game to help Philadelphia outlast the Green Bay Packers 10-7 on Monday night.

"The biggest thing I noticed was just no panic," Phillips said. "The whole entire time, there was just utmost confidence on both sides of the ball. It felt really good to be in that environment."

Phillips recovered a fumble by Jordan Love to thwart a Packers scoring opportunity in the final minute of the first half and helped make a fourth-and-1 stop late in the fourth quarter.

"He loves football," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said. "He

loves working. You could just see it, the way he was running around in practice. His motor is constantly, constantly running."

Jalen Hurts threw a 36-yard pass to DeVonta Smith with 10:35 remaining for Philadelphia's only touchdown, giving the Eagles (7-2) a 10-0 lead. Green Bay's lone touchdown came on Josh Jacobs' 6-yard run with 5:49 left.

Brandon McManus' attempt at a game-tying, 64-yard field goal as time expired fell several yards short.

"We knew it was going to be a four-quarter fistfight," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. "I thought our defense was outstanding, and unfortunately, just too many mistakes offensively to overcome it."

Green Bay's second straight loss dropped the Packers (5-3-1) to third place in the NFC North, behind the Lions and Bears. Green Bay, which had the NFC's best record before its 16-13 loss to Carolina on Nov. 2, would have the conference's seventh and fi-

nal playoff seed if the regular season ended now.

A defensive struggle that featured the first halftime tie of the season had a serious lack of big plays until Philadelphia delivered a one-two punch early in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles led 3-0 and faced third-and-7 from their own 23 when Saquon Barkley caught a pass 5 yards behind the line of scrimmage, made a spin move past cornerback Carrington Valentine and burst upfield for a 41-yard gain.

On the next play, Smith made a leaping catch in the end zone over safety Evan Williams.

"We have huge sparks," said Barkley, who was limited to 60 yards on 22 carries. "With the type of talent we have on this offense and on this team, two to three plays, it's just crazy. (In) two to three plays, we can go downfield and score."

After cutting the lead to 10-7, the Packers had a couple more opportunities in the closing minutes.

One drive ended when Jacobs fumbled while getting stuffed on fourth-and-1 from Green Bay's 44 with 1½ minutes remaining. Phillips and Reed Blankenship teamed up on the stop.

The Packers had one last chance with 27 seconds left from their own 36 after Philadelphia threw a long incompletion on fourth-and-6 rather than punting or attempting a long field goal into the wind.

An 18-yard completion from Love to Bo Melton got Green Bay beyond midfield, but McManus couldn't convert what would have been the longest field goal in team history.

This was the first NFL game to be scoreless at halftime since Dec. 10, 2023, when both the Minnesota Vikings' 3-0 victory over the Las Vegas Raiders and the New York Jets' 30-6 triumph over the Houston Texans had no first-half points.

The Eagles finally broke through when Jake Elliott's 39-yard field goal capped their opening series of the second half.

Giants coach Daboll fired after 8th loss in 10 games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Giants fired coach Brian Daboll on Monday, moving on from him midway through his fourth season after they dropped to 2-8 with a loss at Chicago.

Offensive coordinator Mike Kafka was named as the interim replacement. The move made by ownership came a day after the Giants blew another late lead and lost 24-20 to the Bears. General manager Joe Schoen remains in his role, and owners John Mara and Steve Tisch said he will lead the search for the next coach.

"We spoke this morning about the direction of our franchise on the field, and we have decided that, at this time, it is in our best interest to make a change at the head coaching position," Mara

and Tisch said in a statement. "The past few seasons have been nothing short of disappointing, and we have not met our expectations for the franchise. We understand the frustrations of our fans, and we will work to deliver a significantly improved product."

The rest of Daboll's staff was kept in place, including defensive coordinator Shane Bowen.

New York has lost four in a row since upsetting defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia at home in prime time early last month.

That included becoming the first team since 2003 to lead by 18 points with six minutes to play and lose, which the Giants did at Denver on Oct. 19.

This is just the Giants' third midseason coaching change over

the past 95 years. It's the first since 2017, when Ben McAdoo and general manager Jerry Reese were fired following a 2-10 start.

Daboll went 20-40-1 in his first head-coaching job in the league. He led the Giants to the playoffs in his first season and was named coach of the year, but has gone 11-33 since. His .336 winning percentage ranks 154th out of 166 coaches with 50-plus games since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger. Daboll is the second coach to be fired this season; Tennessee dismissed Brian Callahan after the Titans started 1-5.

Daboll, who previously served as Buffalo's offensive coordinator from 2018-21, had faced increasing pressure about his job security in recent weeks and repeated-

ly took responsibility for the Giants' woes.

"Look, you put everything you've got into it," Daboll said. "You look at the things that aren't where they need to be and you try to fix them. Whether that's changing things on the schedule, whether that's different periods of practice, whether that's changing little parts of the scheme, again, that's where we're at. We're at where we're at."

Daboll, 50, has extensive experience as an offensive assistant and almost certainly will find a landing spot somewhere in the NFL next season. It won't be immediately back in Buffalo, as Bills coach Sean McDermott backed offensive coordinator Joe Brady on Monday following his team's loss to Miami.

A's Kurtz, Braves' Baldwin named top rookies

Associated Press

Athletics slugger Nick Kurtz was accompanied by a good friend as he joined one exclusive club Monday night.

Kurtz was a unanimous choice for American League Rookie of the Year, and Atlanta Braves catcher Drake Baldwin won the National League award.

"It's a great honor that I'm going to be put up with some of baseball's greats who won the award," Kurtz said. "It puts some finishing touches on the year, look back on it and enjoy what I've done a little bit."

The 22-year-old Kurtz is the 14th unanimous selection for the AL honor and the second from the A's franchise, joining Mark McGwire in 1987. Finishing right behind Kurtz was teammate Jacob Wilson, and Boston Red Sox outfielder Roman Anthony was third.

It was the fifth time in the AL and ninth time overall that teammates finished in the top two spots in Rookie of the Year balloting. The last time it happened in the AL was the Seattle Mariners' Alvin Davis and Mark Langston in 1984.

"It's awesome. He was actually in the same room with me 30 minutes ago or so," Kurtz said of Wilson. "That's something that we really wanted to do together. It shows the kind of teammates we are and how we strive to make each other better."

The 22-year-old Kurtz batted .290 with 36 homers, 86 RBIs and a 1.002 OPS in 117 games this year. The first baseman became the eighth rookie since 1901 to finish with an OPS over 1.000 while making at least 400 plate appearances.

For winning, Kurtz will be credited with a full year of major

league service instead of 159 days, under the collective bargaining agreement. If he isn't sent back to the minor leagues and there isn't a work stoppage that costs him service days, he would become eligible for free agency after the 2030 season.

Baldwin, 24, stepped up for the Braves after No. 1 catcher Sean Murphy was sidelined by a cracked rib in spring training. While Murphy was limited by injuries for much of the year, Baldwin hit .274 with 19 homers, 80 RBIs and an .810 OPS in 124 games.

Baldwin's win secured an extra selection for Atlanta after the first round in next year's amateur draft under the collective bargaining agreement's prospect promotion incentive.

"I was just going into it with an open mind, kind of realizing how cool it is to even be a finalist for

it," Baldwin said. "But I didn't know how it was going to turn out. I know it's tough to rank or try to judge who had a better year between a pitcher and a hitter or a catcher."

Baldwin received 21 of 30 first-place votes. Chicago Cubs right-hander Cade Horton got the other nine first-place votes and finished second, followed by Milwaukee Brewers third baseman Caleb Durbin. The balloting was conducted before the postseason.

Baldwin said Horton had a fantastic year.

"Either way, even if he would've won, I would have had all the respect in the world for him and I'd have understood why," he said.

Baldwin and Kurtz each get \$750,000 from a pre-arbitration bonus pool, and runners-up Horton and Wilson each receive \$500,000.

Ball, No. 3 UConn bury Columbia following slow start

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Solo Ball had 23 points and Alex Karaban added 20 points and six rebounds as third-ranked UConn topped Columbia 89-62 on Monday night.

Tarris Reed Jr. had 19 points and eight rebounds while Jayden Ross scored 10 points off the bench for the Huskies (3-0).

Miles Franklin and Blair Thompson had 10 points each for the Lions (1-1).

UConn missed five of its first six shots, but missed consecutive field-goal attempts only twice for the rest of the first half.

Columbia only trailed by a point with 12:39 left in the first half, but the Lions missed their next 10 shots and the Huskies capitalized by hitting three 3-pointers — two by Ross — in a 16-2 run.

UConn made 10 of its last 12 shots to take a 50-27 lead at halftime. Karaban had 14 points and Ball added 13 in the first half.

Columbia outscored the Huskies for much of the second half before Ball, Karaban and Reed got going. UConn was not seriously challenged, but coach Dan Hurley made frequent substitutions.

No. 15 UCLA 83, West Georgia 62: Tyler Bilodeau scored 21 points and the host Bruins overcame the absence of star guard

Donovan Dent and the Wolves' strong 3-point shooting to beat West Georgia.

Dent was held out in a precautionary move because of a muscle strain. The New Mexico transfer averaged 16.5 points, 6.5 assists and three rebounds in UCLA's first two wins of the season.

Bilodeau shot 7 of 12 from the field and made all six of his free throws. Trent Perry added 17 points, nine assists and five rebounds, and Eric Dailey Jr. had 14 points.

Sheldon Williams-Dryden scored 16 points to lead the Wolves (1-2), who lost to Big Ten opponent Nebraska 86-53 in their season opener. West Georgia shot 13 of 25 from 3-point range, led by Brady Hardewig with four.

The Wolves' first five made baskets were 3-pointers around an 11-0 spurt by the Bruins. From there, West Georgia outscored UCLA 23-17 to trail 37-32 at halftime.

Perry scored five of the Bruins' first seven points in the second half, extending the lead to 44-34. The Wolves hit three 3s in a row — two by Chas Lewless — to close with five.

That's when UCLA scored 10 in a row, including five by Bilodeau and a 3-pointer

from Jamar Brown, for a 58-43 lead. The Bruins picked up their shooting in the second half, making 15 of 25 from the floor.

No. 16 Iowa State 96, Mississippi State 80: Tamin Lipsey scored 14 of his 25 points in the second half to lead the Cyclones over the Bulldogs in the 100th Division I basketball contest played at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Joshua Jefferson scored 18 points and Blake Buchanan had 13 points and six rebounds for Iowa State (3-0).

The game was a homecoming of sorts for Cyclones head coach T.J. Otzelberger, who coached South Dakota State from 2016-19.

Lipsey, a finalist for the Naismith Defensive Player of the Year Award in 2024, also helped Iowa State on the defensive end with a game-leading three steals.

The Cyclones forced 26 Mississippi State turnovers that resulted in 29 points. The Bulldogs committed just seven turnovers in their season-opening win over North Alabama on Nov. 5.

Josh Hubbard led Mississippi State (1-1) with 25 points on 8-for-17 shooting, including 4-for-10 sniping from 3-point distance. Achor Achor finished with nine points and eight rebounds.

Wiggins' dunk at buzzer lifts Heat in OT

Associated Press

MIAMI — Andrew Wiggins made an alley-oop dunk at the buzzer in overtime, and the Miami Heat beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 140-138 in a wild back-and-forth game Monday night.

Norman Powell scored 33 points, and Jaime Jaquez Jr. had 22 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists off the bench for the Heat. Wiggins scored 23 for Miami, which got a 14-point, 20-rebound game from Kel'el Ware.

Donovan Mitchell had 28 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists for Cleveland, including a 3-pointer to tie the game with 0.4 seconds left in overtime — before Wiggins caught a pass from Nikola Jovic for the game-winner.

Cleveland got 23 from De'Andre Hunter and a 21-point, 10-rebound effort from Evan Mobley.

The Heat are 5-0 at home for the third time in franchise history, joining 2012-13 (when Miami won the NBA title) and 2019-20 (when Miami lost in the NBA Finals).

Lakers 121, Hornets 111: Luka Dončić had 38 points, Rui Hachimura scored 13 of his 21 points in a pivotal third quarter and visiting Los Angeles pulled away in the second half to beat Charlotte.

Austin Reaves added 24 points for the Lakers, who have won six of their past seven games.

Charlotte cut the lead to eight with 4½ minutes left behind Miles Bridges (34 points) and rookie Kon Knueppel (19 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists), but Dončić scored on a drive down the right side of the lane and drew a foul to complete a three-point play.

Magic 115, Trail Blazers 112: Desmond Bane hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give host Orlando a win over Portland.

Bane's basket from 27 feet capped a wild finish in which the Trail Blazers overcame a nine-point deficit only to see their comeback nullified as the buzzer sounded. Jeremi Grant scored on an inbound pass from Toumani Camara and added a free throw with 10.6 seconds left to put Portland ahead 112-110.

Paolo Banchero led the Magic with 28 points and nine rebounds. Bane finished with 22 points and seven assists.

Pistons 137, Wizards 135 (OT): Cade Cunningham scored 46 points on a whopping 45 shots, Daniss Jenkins made the tying 3-pointer to force overtime and host Detroit rallied to beat Washington.

Cunningham finished with 12 rebounds, 11 assists and five steals, helping the Eastern Conference-leading Pistons to their seventh straight victory on a night he shot just 14-for-45, by far the most field goal attempts in

the NBA this season.

Spurs 121, Bulls 117: Victor Wembanyama scored 18 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter, and visiting San Antonio beat Chicago for its third consecutive win.

Wembanyama also grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked five shots. The 7-foot-4 center made six 3-pointers and went 11-for-19 from the field in San Antonio's first win at Chicago since March 17, 2021.

He became the first player in NBA history with at least 35 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, five blocked shots and five 3-pointers in a game.

Chicago dropped to 5-1 at home. It has lost four of five overall.

Bucks 116, Mavericks 114: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 15 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and Ryan Rollins put visiting Milwaukee ahead for good with a driving layup with 17.9 seconds left as the Bucks rallied from a 13-point deficit early in the period to beat Dallas.

Kyle Kuzma added a season-high 26 points off the bench for the Bucks, closing with a dunk with 14 seconds left after stealing a Dallas inbound pass when intended recipient Cooper Flagg slipped just beyond the 3-point line.

Timberwolves 120, Jazz 113: Anthony Edwards had 35 points and six assists as visiting Minne-

sota beat Utah for the second time in four days.

Minnesota, which beat Utah 137-97 on Friday and topped Sacramento 144-117 on Sunday, has won three straight games and five of its last six.

Suns 121, Pelicans 98: Grayson Allen made a franchise-record 10 3-pointers and scored a career-high 42 points, leading Phoenix to a home victory over New Orleans.

Allen was 12-for-17 from the field and 10 for 15 from 3-point range to break the record he shared after making nine 3-pointers three previous times. He was 5-for-5 in the third quarter, when he scored 17 points.

Hawks 105, Clippers 102: Vit Krejci scored a career-high 28 points off the bench, Kristaps Porzingis added 20 and Atlanta opened a four-game road trip with a road victory over Los Angeles.

Jalen Johnson had 16 points and 10 rebounds as the Hawks overcame a 17-point deficit to win consecutive games for the second time this season. Krejci made a career-best eight 3-pointers in 10 attempts.

Porzingis (illness) and Johnson (quad) both returned after missing Sunday's 20-point home victory over the Los Angeles Lakers, while Trae Young (knee) and Nickeil Alexander-Walker (back) remained out.

Rangers defeat Predators in their first home victory

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mika Zibanejad scored to end a lengthy goal drought on home ice, Gabriel Perreault picked up his first NHL point and the New York Rangers used an offensive outburst to defeat the Nashville Predators 6-3 on Monday night for their first victory at Madison Square Garden this season.

Perreault assisted on Alexis Lafrenière's goal a little more than 24 hours after getting

called up from Hartford of the American Hockey League. Artemi Panarin had two goals and Vladislav Gavrikov and Will Cuylle also scored, while Lafrenière had three points.

The Rangers matched their entire goal production from their first seven home games, when they were 0-6-1 and got outscored 23-6 before facing the struggling Predators, who lost a fifth consecutive game and the eighth in their past nine.

Panthers 3, Golden Knights 2: Brad Marchand, playing some of his best hockey at age 37, extended his goal streak to five games to lead visiting Florida to a victory over Vegas.

Marchand has scored six goals in five games, inching closer to his personal-best seven-game goal streak in 2016. He also had an assist and now stands at 998 points for his career.

Oilers 5, Blue Jackets 4 (OT): Jack Roslovic scored 56 seconds

into overtime and host Edmonton came from behind for a victory over Columbus.

Jake Walman and Connor McDavid scored two goals for the Oilers.

Islanders 3, Devils 2 (OT): Mathew Barzal scored in overtime, Ilya Sorokin stopped 32 of the 34 shots he faced and host New York bounced back from allowing the tying goal to Simon Nemec with 4.7 seconds left in regulation to beat New Jersey.