

Chinese ships near Senkakus after warning

By BRIAN McELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA

Stars and Stripes

The Chinese coast guard entered waters Japan claims as its territorial limit around the Senkaku Islands over the weekend, less than 10 days after Japan's prime minister warned Tokyo would use military force if China attacked Taiwan.

Four Chinese vessels crossed into the 12-mile zone east of the Senkakus around 10:15 a.m. Sunday, according to a Japan coast guard statement released the same day. The uninhabited Senkakus — five islets and three rocky outcrops — lie about 105 miles east of Taiwan and 254 miles west of Okinawa. They are administered by Japan but also claimed by China and Taiwan.

The Japan coast guard said the Chinese vessels, which carried deck-mounted machine guns,

were warned to leave the area. The ships exited after about two hours, moving south, according to a second news release.

A "larger contingent of Japanese coast guard vessels" blocked the Chinese vessels and used radio and electronic message boards to warn them to leave, a Japan coast guard spokesman said Monday. He declined to specify how many Japanese vessels were sent.

China announced its activity on social media. "This was a rights protection cruise carried out by the China Coast Guard in accordance with the law," the service said Sunday on its official Weibo account.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara on Monday called the intrusion "a violation of international law" and "unacceptable." Japan has lodged a complaint through diplomatic chan-

nels, he said at his regular press briefing in Tokyo.

The incident is the first in the Senkakus since Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said during a Nov. 7 parliamentary session that a Chinese attack on Taiwan would constitute "an existential threat" requiring Japan to use military force. The comments triggered a sharp response from China's consul general in Osaka, Xue Jian, who wrote on X that "we have no choice but cut off that dirty neck that has been lunged at us without hesitation," according to The Associated Press. The post was later deleted.

On Friday, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Takehiro Funakoshi summoned Chinese Ambassador Wu Jiahao to lodge a complaint about Xue's remarks, the Foreign Ministry said. China's Ministry of Defense said Wu, in turn, filed a complaint over Ta-

ikaichi's comments.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed to unify self-governing Taiwan with the mainland, by force if necessary.

U.S. Ambassador to Japan George Glass voiced support for Tokyo in a Sunday post on X, saying, "the U.S.-Japan alliance is steadfast in its resolve to preserve peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait" and tagging Wu and Xue.

"We strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo of the region through force or coercion," Glass wrote.

Chinese vessels have entered Japanese territorial waters near the Senkakus 25 times this year, the Japan coast guard spokesman said. The previous intrusion occurred on Oct. 15.

Some Japanese government officials can speak to the press only on condition of anonymity.

CNO: S. Korean nuclear sub deal 'extremely nascent'

By ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The day South Korea obtains nuclear-powered submarines will change the security picture on the Korean Peninsula, but that day is years away, the chief of naval operations said Monday.

A nuclear-powered submarine is a "fundamentally different level of capability," Adm. Daryl Caudle told reporters during a media roundtable at the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo. Its ability to patrol for long periods at sea without refueling makes it a "global asset."

Washington has given its approval for Seoul to build an unspecified number of nuclear-powered attack submarines, according to a fact sheet posted Thursday on the White House

website.

"The United States will work closely with [South Korea] to advance requirements for this shipbuilding project, including avenues to source fuel," the fact sheet states.

But the project is still "extremely nascent," Caudle said.

"It's in the future quite a bit, but you can imagine that that's going to be more robust if that comes to fruition," he said.

How South Korea puts submarines to use, and in partnership with the U.S. and Japan, "is yet to be seen," he added.

Caudle — on the second leg of a 10-day trip across the region — answered a wide-ranging series of questions over an hourlong session with reporters.

He said he's already reduced

the number of Navy sailors living on their ships from approximately 7,000 to just 3,000, and he thinks he can get that to zero in the next few years.

"I've been able to pull sailors off ships and, in a prioritized way, move them to the barracks and then move the more senior folks that are in the barracks out into town," he said. "And, so, that's continuing to go on."

Caudle also said that U.S. naval deployments to Latin America will not impact ship numbers or naval strength in the Indo-Pacific, where countering China remains a top U.S. priority.

"I think there will be a persistent presence of naval forces in the Western Hemisphere to combat illicit trafficking — including [narcotics] trafficking — but it

should not in any way take away from any of the forces we have here in the Western Pacific to do that," he said.

Caudle said he was both impressed and concerned by Beijing's shipbuilding capacity and military advancements, including the Nov. 5 commissioning of its most advanced aircraft carrier, the Fujian.

Caudle said he and Secretary of the Navy John Phelan hope to bridge the gap between Chinese and American shipbuilding capacity by forging partnerships with Japan and South Korea.

Caudle first stopped in South Korea, where he visited HD Hyundai Heavy Industries and Hanwha Ocean shipyards to explore joint shipbuilding initiatives with Seoul.

Trump considers next moves in Venezuela

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump was vague when pressed by reporters. Aboard Air Force One, Trump said he had “sort of made up my mind” after a series of meetings last week with top advisers, who

ANALYSIS

had briefed the president on potential plans of action against the regime of President Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela.

Army Secretary Dan Driscoll said the Army “would be ready to act on whatever the president and the Sec. War needed,” on Sunday on “Face the Nation.” The White House’s campaign of military pressure seems to be intensifying, yet there’s little clarity on its end goal. Does it seek regime change? Will it consider even mounting a full-blown invasion?

Trump officials say U.S. operations are targeting “narcoterrorists” and have destroyed numerous vessels off Venezuela’s coast carrying alleged drug traffickers. A recent poll found that only a minority of Americans support Trump’s killing of these supposed criminals without a judicial or court order. Undeterred, Trump has floated the possibility of expanding the mission and hitting targets on

Venezuelan soil. Congressional attempts to restrain the White House’s ability to launch these strikes failed in the Senate last week.

The United States has amassed its biggest military presence in the Caribbean in decades, a surge of assets that now includes the USS Gerald R. Ford, the world’s largest aircraft carrier. Its arrival takes the number of U.S. troops in the region to about 15,000, a deployment that suggests far more ambition than undermining criminal networks or launching isolated strikes on small boats.

Maduro, who is deeply unpopular and widely considered to have stolen his country’s presidential election in 2024, has sounded the alarm, mobilizing some 200,000 Venezuelan military personnel in response to the U.S. threat. He has cast his country as the next potential victim in Washington’s history of imperialist meddling.

“No more forever wars. No more unjust wars,” Maduro said Thursday, recounting the missteps of the U.S. war on terror. “No more Libya. No more Afghanistan.”

That’s a specter Trump explicitly sought to dispel this year. During a speech in May in Saudi Arabia, he rejected the agendas

of a previous generation of Republican policymakers.

“The so-called ‘nation builders’ wrecked far more nations than they built — and the interventionists were intervening in complex societies that they did not even understand themselves,” he said.

Maybe that thinking disappears closer to home. Last week, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth insisted that “the Western Hemisphere is America’s neighborhood,” a statement that echoes Trump’s expansionist claims over territories as disparate as Greenland and the Panama Canal and dovetails with the administration’s apparent shift to prioritize its security posture closer to home.

“Beyond the ongoing attacks, the administration has moved toward a more permanent U.S. military presence in the region with plans for an air base in Ecuador, robust temporary troop rotations in Panama, newly active use of an airport in El Salvador with which U.S. Southern Command has a long-standing cooperative agreement and the reopening of a mothballed naval base in Puerto Rico,” my colleague Karen DeYoung detailed.

The moves are drawing the concern of other leaders in the

region. “We are a zone of peace. We don’t need war here,” said Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who is in the midst of a complicated negotiation with the Trump administration over the latter’s bullying use of tariffs on Brazilian exports. “The problem in Venezuela is a political one, and it must be resolved through politics.”

Colombian President Gustavo Petro, a leftist more vocally at odds with the White House, suspended his government’s intelligence sharing with the United States over the bombings of the boats, describing Trump as a “barbarian.”

There’s a suggestion that Trump is calling Maduro’s bluff and may see the pressure campaign as a tactic to force an implosion in Caracas. “The United States is very plugged into what’s going on in Venezuela, the chatter among Maduro’s people and the highest levels of his regime,” a Trump administration official told Washington Post reporters.

“Maduro is very scared, and he should be scared. The president has options on the table that are very bad for Maduro and his illegitimate regime. ... We view this regime as illegitimate, and it’s not serving the Western Hemisphere well.”

National Guard troops to leave Chicago, Portland

New York Daily News

The 400 out-of-state National Guard troops deployed to Chicago and Portland, Ore., will be sent home in the coming days, according to multiple reports.

In Chicago, 200 Texas National Guard troops were sent to the city in early October, but their deployment to the streets was stalled by multiple court rulings. In Portland, 200 California National Guard troops have

been sitting through a similar situation.

“In the coming days, the Department will be shifting and/or rightsizing our Title 10 footprint in Portland, Los Angeles and Chicago,” U.S. Northern Command wrote on social media.

That “rightsizing” will involve removing the hundreds of National Guard members from Chicago and Portland, sources told CNN.

President Donald Trump’s deployment of National Guard troops to various cities has been met with a host of legal challenges. The cases focus on federal versus state power and the legality of using military troops on U.S. soil.

Federal judges have largely ruled against the deployments. When the Trump administration sent Guard troops and Marines into Los Angeles in June, a

judge ruled months later the deployment had violated federal law.

The administration has claimed the National Guard troops are necessary to enforce immigration law in cities that have seen pro-immigrant protests. However, several judges have ruled the demonstrations do not represent an “insurrection” that would be required to justify sending in the Guard.

FAA lifts flight cuts, preps for normal flow

The Washington Post

Flight reductions ordered by the Trump administration will end Monday, the Transportation Department and Federal Aviation Administration said after mandating cuts during the shutdown that caused more than 9,500 flight cancellations and tens of thousands of delays.

"Today's decision to rescind the order reflects the steady decline in staffing concerns across the [National Airspace System] and allows us to return to normal operations," FAA administrator Bryan Bedford said late Sunday in a statement. The latest order followed a review of safety trends and a steady decline in staffing issues at air

traffic control facilities, the statement said.

The disruptions had fueled worries about the impact on travel around the Thanksgiving holiday, when an estimated 31 million people are expected to fly. But now that the government shutdown has ended, airline executives say they are in position to have their operations ready for the surge.

The phased cuts at 40 "high-traffic" airports — aimed at easing the strain on the aviation system during the shutdown — went into effect Nov. 7 following an emergency order issued by the Transportation Department. They were originally scheduled to grow as high as

10% but were frozen at 6% on Wednesday after the travel authorities cited a "rapid decline" in air traffic controllers reporting absences.

The FAA also said Sunday it is reviewing reports of noncompliant carriers while the order was in effect and "assessing enforcement options."

Air travel disruptions peaked Nov. 9, with nearly 3,000 flight cancellations and 10,000 delays, according to FlightAware. The situation has since stabilized, with more than 150 flights canceled and 4,700 others delayed on Sunday.

The disruptions highlighted deficiencies in the U.S. aviation system that still need to be fixed

— in particular a shortage of certified air traffic controllers, whose work is essential to keeping flights safe and on schedule.

Most of them worked mandatory overtime six days a week during the shutdown without pay, missing two paychecks. Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, said last week that the missed wages meant some members were driving for DoorDash or donating plasma so they could pay bills.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said last week that air traffic controllers had received 70% of their paychecks and the rest of the backpay is being processed.

Trump reverses course on release of Epstein files

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said House Republicans should vote to release the files in the Jeffrey Epstein case, a startling reversal after previously fighting the proposal as a growing number of those in his own party supported it.

"We have nothing to hide, and it's time to move on from this Democrat Hoax perpetrated by Radical Left Lunatics in order to deflect from the Great Success of the Republican Party,"

Trump wrote on social media late Sunday after landing at Joint Base Andrews following a weekend in Florida.

Trump's statement followed a fierce fight within the GOP over the files, including an increasingly nasty split with Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who had long been one of his fiercest supporters.

The president's shift is an implicit acknowledgment that supporters of the measure have enough votes to pass it the

House, although it has an unclear future in the Senate.

It is a rare example of Trump backtracking because of opposition within the GOP. In his return to office, Trump has largely consolidated power in the Republican Party.

Lawmakers who support the bill have been predicting a big win in the House this week with a "deluge of Republicans" voting for it, bucking the GOP leadership and the president.

In his opposition to the pro-

posal, Trump even reached out to two of the Republican lawmakers who signed it. One met last week with administration officials to discuss it.

The bill would force the Justice Department to release all files and communications related to Epstein, as well as any information about the investigation into his death in federal prison. Information about Epstein's victims or ongoing federal investigations would be allowed to be redacted.

Man who had murder conviction tossed elected court clerk

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A New Orleans man who spent three decades in prison before his murder conviction was vacated won election Saturday to serve as the city's chief criminal court record keeper, despite the state challenging his past.

The city's newly elected clerk of criminal court, Calvin Duncan, fought for decades to clear his name after being convicted of carrying out a 1981 fatal

shooting.

Duncan, a Democrat, later uncovered evidence that police officers lied in court and had his conviction tossed by a judge in 2021.

Duncan won with 68% of the vote, according to the Louisiana secretary of state's office.

"Tonight is a dream that's been forty years in the making," Duncan said in a statement Saturday night. "I hope that all those people who died in prison

because we couldn't get their records are looking down now. I hope they're proud of me. We never stopped fighting for each other's rights, and I will never stop fighting for yours."

Duncan is listed in the National Registry of Exonerations.

Duncan, 62, became a legal expert while still in prison, helping other inmates challenge unconstitutional practices. He later became a lawyer.

In 2020, Duncan's legal advo-

cacy drove the U.S. Supreme Court to end non-unanimous jury convictions in Louisiana and Oregon, the only two states still allowing a practice rooted in the Jim Crow era.

Duncan, who recalls that it took years for incarcerated people to get access to basic court documents, says he sought the clerk position to ensure fair treatment for all and that records are treated with greater care and respect.

Railway explosion in Poland deemed an 'act of sabotage'

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — A railway line linking Warsaw to south-eastern Poland was damaged by a weekend explosion that the prime minister on Monday called an act of sabotage.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who visited the site, said that the line is "crucially important for delivering aid to Ukraine."

"Unfortunately, the worst fears have been confirmed," Tusk said in a statement. "An act of sabotage has occurred on the Warsaw-Lublin route (in the village of Mika). An explosion has destroyed the railway track."

A train driver on the line between the capital, Warsaw and Lublin, reported track irregularities around 7:40 a.m. Sunday. Further inspection determined there

was damage near the village of Mika, about 62 miles southeast of Warsaw, officials said.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the explosion and damage occurred late Saturday or early Sunday. Two passengers and several staff members were on the train, but no injuries were reported, officials said.

Defense Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz said Monday that the army plans to examine about 75 miles of the Warsaw-Lublin-Hrubieszow line, which links the capital to Ukraine by rail and road.

A second train was damaged separately Sunday and the incident is under investigation, Interior Minister Marcin Kierwinski said.

A train on the Swinoujscie-

Rzeszow route was forced to stop Sunday night about 31 miles from Lublin after the overhead electrical cables that powered the train were damaged, Kierwinski said in a statement Monday. There were 475 passengers on board but no injuries were reported.

Polish authorities have detained dozens of people over suspected sabotage and espionage since Russia launched all-out war on Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Poland has accused Russia of being behind some of these acts.

Deputy Interior Minister Maciej Duszczyk appealed against jumping to conclusions about the identity of the perpetrators "because Russia isn't so powerful that every arson, every situation of this kind, is provoked by Russia."

Seoul seeks talks with North for DMZ safety

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea proposed talks with North Korea to clarify the rivals' border line and ease military tensions, saying Monday that North Korean soldiers' repeated border intrusions have raised worries about an armed clash.

South Korea's military says it has been firing warning shots to repel North Korean troops who violated the border's military demarcation line numerous times since they began works to boost front-line defenses last year. North Korea has denied its soldiers' alleged border breaches and threatened unspecified responses.

Kim Hong-Cheol, South Korea's deputy minister for national defense policy, said Monday that the country was offering military talks to prevent an accidental armed clash and lower tensions with North Korea.

He said that the North's border intrusions were likely caused by the rivals' different views on the border line, because many of the military demarcation line posts established at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War have been lost.

It's unclear if North Korea would accept South Korea's calls for talks, because it's been shunning all forms of dialogue with South Korea and the U.S. since its leader Kim Jong Un's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with President Donald Trump fell apart in 2019. Trump has repeatedly expressed his desire to resume diplomacy with Kim, but the North Korean leader has suggested that he could meet Trump again only if Washington withdraws the de-nuclearization of North Korea as a precondition for talks.

Israelis decry inquiry into Oct. 7 attack by government 'cover-up commission'

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — After repeated delays, Israel's government has agreed to launch an investigation into the government failures that led to the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that triggered the war in Gaza.

But questions about the investigation's independence drew accusations Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to evade personal responsibility in the worst attack in Israel's history.

Israel has traditionally appointed an independent state commission of inquiry, led by a retired judge, following major governmental failures.

Netanyahu has resisted calls for such an investigation into the Oct. 7 failures, saying only that he would answer all questions when the war is over. In Sunday's decision, he said the

ceasefire that went into effect on Oct. 10 allows the government to start the investigation.

His Cabinet approved the formation of a watered-down "government committee." Netanyahu will oversee the makeup of the team governing the inquiry, in effect putting him in charge of the probe. More details about the inquiry are to be announced in 45 days.

Israel's opposition leader, Yair Lapid, called the decision insulting to the victims of Oct. 7 and to the hundreds of soldiers who have died in the war.

"The government is doing everything it can to run from the truth and evade responsibility," Lapid said.

The government is "establishing a commission that will investigate itself," noted the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, which is critical

of Netanyahu. "This is not an investigative commission, this is a cover-up commission."

In the Oct. 7 attack, Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people and took over 250 others hostage. Nearly 500 soldiers have been killed in fighting since then, while Palestinian health officials say over 69,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's retaliatory offensive against Hamas.

According to a poll by the Jerusalem-based think tank Israel Democracy Institute last month, nearly three-quarters of the public support a fully independent commission of inquiry. The survey questioned 1,000 people and had a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

Thousands of people demonstrated on Saturday night in Tel Aviv, many calling for an independent probe.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man accused of sneaking parakeets in underwear

CA SAN DIEGO — When U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers asked Jesse Agus Martinez about the suspicious bulge in his pants, he claimed that the protrusion was natural — using a Spanish word for a male appendage. But on further inspection, officers say they found two heavily sedated parakeets in his underwear.

Martinez, a 35-year-old U.S. citizen residing in Tijuana, Mexico, was indicted Friday after authorities say he attempted to smuggle a protected species — orange-fronted parakeets — into the United States last month without following proper quarantine and clearance procedures.

Border agents found the two juvenile birds “breathing but heavily sedated” inside brown sacks that were then tucked into Martinez’s crotch, the U.S. attorney’s office for the Southern District of California said. Martinez had repeatedly claimed that the bulge was his “pirrin,” a Spanish word for penis.

The birds were confirmed to be in “stable condition” after receiving care from border veterinarians.

Anonymous donor gives \$20M to help with math

DC WASHINGTON — A D.C. education nonprofit will use a \$20 million gift to tutor 6,000 children in math and train more than 2,000 teachers on the best ways to teach the subject.

The donation, from an anonymous

national foundation, will support what leaders have dubbed the “Capital Math Collective,” a citywide effort to boost math scores and make D.C. the first urban school district to outperform the national average by 2030, officials said.

In 2024, D.C. fourth-graders scored six points lower than the national average for public school students in math, while eighth-graders scored 10 points behind their peers on a national standardized test.

Leaders plan to open two math centers — one at Ballou High School in Southeast Washington and another at a yet-to-be-determined site — to serve as in-person hubs for tutoring and training.

4 dead after boat thought to have migrants capsizes

CA SAN DIEGO — A wooden skiff believed to have been ferrying migrants toward the U.S. capsized in stormy seas near San Diego, leaving at least four people dead and four hospitalized, the Coast Guard said Saturday.

The U.S. Border Patrol found the vessel in the surf off Imperial Beach late Friday night. Six people were found on the beach just before midnight, one of whom was pronounced dead and another who was rescued after being found under the boat.

About two hours later, authorities received a report of someone in the water near Imperial Beach Pier. A Coast Guard crew responded and found three people in the ocean, all dead.

The Coast Guard said Saturday that it was continuing to

search for others who may have been on board.

Several of the survivors claimed Mexican nationality, while others remained unidentified, the agency said. One person was turned over to the Department of Homeland Security.

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson hospitalized

IL CHICAGO — The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who has been receiving around-the-clock care at home, has been hospitalized with a rare neurological disorder, according to his Chicago-based organization.

The civil rights leader was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease about a decade ago. But his Rainbow/PUSH organization said Thursday that the 84-year-old remained under observation at a Chicago hospital for progressive supranuclear palsy, or PSP, a neurodegenerative disorder he has been “managing for more than a decade” and received a diagnosis for in April. He was reported in stable condition.

“The family is grateful for all the well-wishes and prayers,” the organization said.

Report says fatigue crack led to pipeline’s oil spill

ND BISMARCK — A fatigue crack in the Keystone Pipeline led to an oil spill in North Dakota earlier this year that released thousands of barrels of oil onto farmland, according to the pipeline operator.

In a quarterly report released Thursday, South Bow said initial findings show, “the failure resulted from a fatigue crack

that originated along the pipe’s manufactured long-seam weld.” A fatigue crack is a crack that grows larger with changes in pressure over time, Pipeline Safety Trust Executive Director Bill Caram said.

A mechanical and metallurgical analysis found the pipe and welds met industry standards, the company said.

Spill-related costs total around \$55 million, which the company said it expects to recover through insurance early next year.

4 cops shot responding to domestic violence call

KS CARBONDALE — Four law enforcement officers were shot Saturday morning while responding to a domestic violence call at a home in a rural area south of Topeka, Kan., and a 22-year-old male suspect died of gunshot wounds at the scene.

The suspect’s 77-year-old grandfather also was wounded in the gunfire, but he and the law enforcement officers are all expected to recover, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation said.

The shooting occurred around 10:30 a.m. Three Osage County sheriff’s deputies and one Kansas Highway Patrol trooper were shot, the KBI’s director and the patrol’s superintendent said.

Two deputies underwent surgery at a Topeka hospital and were in good condition, the KBI said, and the third deputy was discharged. The trooper was transferred from the same hospital to the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan.

— From wire reports

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Rams defeat NFC West rival Seahawks

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — The Rams made four interceptions and kept the Seahawks out of the end zone for the first 57½ minutes. Los Angeles' offense scored three touchdowns against Seattle's vaunted defense.

This meeting of streaking NFC West powers still came down to a long field goal attempt as time expired.

When Jason Myers came up short and wide right from 61 yards, the Rams (8-2) celebrated a messy victory — but one with season-defining potential.

"We're never going to apologize for being able to find ways to win," LA coach Sean McVay said.

Kamren Kinchens had two of the Rams' four picks, Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes and Los Angeles hung on to beat the Seahawks 21-19 on Sunday for its fifth consecutive win.

Davante Adams had his 10th touchdown catch and Kyren Williams rushed for 91 yards and a score for the Rams, who made up for an uncharacteristically tepid offensive performance by forcing Sam Darnold into his first four-interception game since 2019.

Eagles 16, Lions 9: Jalen Hurts scored the only touchdown in an otherwise feeble effort from host Philadelphia's offense, and it was enough to lead it to a win over Detroit, which failed on every fourth-down try Sunday night.

The Eagles (8-2) are the only team in the NFC East with more than three wins and the second one in the conference to eight victories, putting them in contention to take the top seed and earn home-field advantage as the Super Bowl champions go for a repeat.

Hurts threw for only 135 yards, reigning Offensive Player of the Year Saquon Barkley ran for 83 and former 1,000-yard receivers A.J. Brown

and DeVonta Smith combined for nine catches for 57 yards.

Yet those struggles didn't matter much against a Lions team that seemed happy to try and give the game away. The Detroit, which entered averaging 31.4 points per game, failed to convert on five fourth-down attempts and were 3 of 13 on third down.

Bills 44, Buccaneers 32: Josh Allen threw for three touchdowns and rushed for three more, the last on a rugged 9-yard run with 2:35 left that secured host Buffalo's win over Tampa Bay.

The eighth-year starter and reigning MVP became the first player with two games of three TDs passing and rushing. He did it last year in a 44-42 loss at the Los Angeles Rams.

This time, Allen outdueled fellow 2018 first-round draft pick Baker Mayfield in a shootout that featured nine lead changes.

The Bills benched struggling receiver Keon Coleman in a bid to spark their passing game, and each of Allen's three touchdown passes went for 25 yards or more. Running back Ty Johnson scored on a 52-yard catch-and-run, Allen found Tyrell Shavers open deep for a 43-yard touchdown, and James Cook scored on a 25-yard reception.

Panthers 30, Falcons 27 (OT): Bryce Young passed for a career-high and franchise-record 448 yards and Ryan Fitzgerald kicked a 28-yard field goal in overtime to lift visiting Carolina to a win over Atlanta.

Young's 54-yard pass to Tommy Tremble set up the winning kick for the Panthers (6-5), who completed their sweep of the NFC South rival Falcons.

Young completed 31 of 45 passes with three touchdowns. He threw a go-ahead 12-yard touchdown pass to Tetairoa McMillan with 1:08 remaining to give Carolina a 27-24 lead. But Zane Gonzalez kicked a 45-yard field goal for Atlanta with

16 seconds remaining to force overtime.

Packers 27, Giants 20: Jordan Love returned from a shoulder injury to throw two touchdown passes, backup Malik Willis had one of his own while filling in and visiting Green Bay ended its losing streak at two by defeating New York.

Love provided some heroics on the go-ahead drive in the fourth quarter, connecting with rookie Savion Williams on a 32-yard gain under pressure on third-and-10 and finding Christian Watson in the end zone with 4:02 left to take the lead.

The victory came at a cost, though, with starting running back Josh Jacobs exiting early in the second quarter with a knee injury. Jacobs was ruled out just after halftime.

Texans 16, Titans 13: Davis Mills threw for 274 yards and a touchdown, Matthew Wright kicked a 35-yard field goal as time expired and visiting Houston beat Tennessee to sweep the season series with its AFC South rivals.

Led by their backup quarterback, the Texans (5-5) reached .500 for the first time this season with their third win in four games. They also won their fifth straight over the Titans in Nashville despite playing without quarterback CJ Stroud, safety Jalen Pitre and kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn.

Steelers 34, Bengals 12: Mason Rudolph guided a pair of long second-half scoring drives after taking over for the injured Aaron Rodgers, and host Pittsburgh surged past Cincinnati.

Rodgers, the NFL's oldest active player at 41, injured his left hand during a Steelers drive late in the first half. It was unclear exactly when he was hurt. Rodgers was hit illegally twice during the drive, both of which resulted in roughing-the-passer penalties against the Bengals.

Ravens 23, Browns 16: Tight end Mark Andrews ran 35 yards for the go-ahead touch-

down with 2:31 remaining, and visiting Baltimore rallied for a victory over Cleveland to spoil Shedeur Sanders' NFL debut.

Sanders made his much-anticipated debut with 12:43 remaining in the third quarter after Dillon Gabriel suffered a concussion. He went 4-for-16 for 47 yards with an interception and was sacked twice.

Jaguars 35, Chargers 6: Jacksonville bounced back from the worst collapse in franchise history by thumping visiting Los Angeles behind rushing touchdowns from Travis Etienne, Trevor Lawrence and rookie Bhaysul Tuten.

Coming off a 36-29 debacle at Houston during which they blew a 19-point lead in the fourth quarter, the Jaguars (6-4) showed no lingering effects from the crushing setback against a division rival.

Bears 19, Vikings 17: Devin Duvernay's 56-yard kickoff return in the final minute for visiting Chicago set up Cairo Santos for his fourth field goal of the game, a 48-yarder as time expired, to push the Bears past Minnesota after the Vikings scored the go-ahead touchdown with 50 seconds left.

After J.J. McCarthy ended another erratic performance with five straight completions that culminated with a 15-yard scoring strike to Jordan Addison, Duvernay delivered the clutch response for Chicago (7-3) after nearly blowing a 13-point lead it took into the fourth quarter.

49ers 41, Cardinals 22: Brock Purdy threw three touchdown passes in his return from a toe injury, Christian McCaffrey had two rushing touchdowns and a receiving score, and visiting San Francisco beat Arizona.

McCaffrey extended his NFL record with his 17th career game with at least one running touchdown and a touchdown catch. Purdy completed 19 of 26 passes for 200 yards.

Broncos win 8th straight on last-play FG

Associated Press

DENVER — Wil Lutz lined up for a 35-yard field goal to beat the Chiefs on Sunday and couldn't help but think back to last year at Kansas City, when his kick was blocked as time expired in the same situation.

"I was kind of like, shoot, here we are," said Lutz, who nailed the game-winner this time, his fifth field goal of the day, pushing the Broncos to their eighth straight victory, 22-19. "I've been waiting for a game like that."

Denver coach Sean Payton said last November's 16-14 heartbreaker at Arrowhead Stadium galvanized his team, which went on a 5-2 run to reach the playoffs, and Lutz concurred: "If you look back at the last year-and-a-half since that game, this team has come together and found ways to win close games."

The Broncos (9-2) all but bur-

ied the Chiefs (5-5) in the AFC West, which Kansas City has won every year since 2016. Chiefs coach Andy Reid fell to 27-5 following a bye week, counting the playoffs and his time with Philadelphia.

"We've just got a resilient team that believes we're going to win, and at the end of the game when it's close, that belief goes a long way," QB Bo Nix said after Denver improved to 7-2 in one-score games this season.

Nix set up the game-winning kick with a 32-yard strike to Troy Franklin that got the Broncos to the KC 15 with under a minute remaining.

Patrick Mahomes gave the Chiefs their only lead on a 21-yard touchdown toss to Travis Kelce — the veteran tight end's 84th career TD, one more than previous Kansas City franchise record-holder Priest Holmes. That put the Chiefs up 19-16, but Harrison Butker's extra point

was blocked by Frank Crum.

Denver tied it at 19-all on Lutz's 54-yarder with 4:10 remaining.

The Broncos' defense forced the Chiefs to go three-and-out when Ja'Quan McMillian sacked Mahomes on third-and-10 from the KC 36. That was the second sack by McMillian, who also had six tackles, including two for loss, two quarterback hits, a pass breakup and an interception.

"Game ball," Payton said.

Denver chewed up the final 2:59 by driving 58 yards in 10 plays. It won its 11th straight game at Empower Field, where it hasn't lost since October 2024, and it beat the Chiefs there for the third consecutive time.

Kelce's TD followed a 46-yard pass-interference flag at the Broncos 29 on cornerback Riley Moss on an underthrown pass from Mahomes to Hollywood Brown. That came on third-

and-19. Moss said afterward that he's going to wear boxing gloves at practice to break what's become his bad habit of grabbing defenders on deep throws.

Denver's eight-game winning streak is its longest since 2012, when Peyton Manning led the Broncos to 11 consecutive victories. As a result, Kansas City's nine-year reign atop the AFC West is in jeopardy.

Jaleel McLaughlin, playing in place of injured starter J.K. Dobbins, who underwent season-ending foot surgery last week, bullied his way in from 4 yards out to break a 6-6 tie in the third quarter.

The Chiefs seized the momentum, however, when Mahomes found Tyquan Thornton for a 61-yard gain to the Denver 11. That set up Kareem Hunt's 2-yard run that tied it at 13. That was KC's first touchdown at Empower Field in 11 quarters.

Penguins blank Predators, splitting Global Series

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin scored a little over two minutes apart in the first period to help the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Nashville Predators 4-0 on Sunday to split their NHL's Global Series in Sweden's capital.

The Penguins bounced back from a 2-1 loss to the Predators in the opener of the two-game series Friday and snapped a three-game skid. Rookie goaltender Sergei Murashov stopped 21 shots for his first victory in his second NHL start.

After Parker Wotherspoon put Pittsburgh up 1-0, Malkin doubled the lead 8:08 in when his pass from behind the goal line was deflected into the net by Nashville defenseman Nicolas Hague. The 39-year-old Malkin scored his team's only goal Friday.

Crosby, 38, one-timed a shot from the left circle past the midway point of the first to make it 3-0, scoring his 12th goal of the season and 637th of his career. Blake Lizotte finished it off with an empty netter with 2:48 left.

Canucks 6, Lightning 2: Kiefer Sherwood, Linus Karlsson and Drew O'Connor scored in a 1:40 span in visiting Vancouver's five-goal third period, and the Canucks overcame an early deficit to beat Tampa Bay.

Sherwood tied it at 2 on a power play at 4:11, with his shot deflecting in off Lightning defender J.J. Moser's skate. Sherwood has 12 goals this season.

Karlsson put Vancouver ahead at 4:54 with a backhander, and O'Connor added his fifth of the season at 5:51 on a tip. Mackenzie MacEachern scored his first of the season with 6:08 remaining, and Marcus Pettersson added his first of the season

into an empty net with 3:03 to go.

Wild 3, Golden Knights 2 (OT): Kirill Kaprizov scored on a one-timer from the right side on a power play at 4:50 of overtime to give host Minnesota a victory over Vegas.

With Shea Theodore off for hooking Matt Boldy near center ice on a call that angered Golden Knights coach Bruce Cassidy, Kaprizov took a feed from Mats Zuccarello and beat Carl Lindbom between the pads for his 11th goal of the season.

Joel Eriksson Ek and Yakov Trenin also scored and Filip Gustavsson made 23 saves to help the Wild win for the fourth time in five games.

Red Wings 2, Rangers 1: Lucas Raymond scored the tie-breaking goal late in the third period and visiting Detroit beat New York.

Alex DeBrincat also scored and Cam Talbot had 18 saves as

the Red Wings rebounded from a 5-4 overtime loss to Buffalo at home on Saturday.

Mika Zibanejad scored for the Rangers, who snapped a three-game win streak and fell to 1-7-1 at home to go along with their league-best 9-1-1 road mark. Jonathan Quick finished with 40 saves.

Avalanche 4, Islanders 1: Ross Colton and Victor Olofsson scored in a 1:19 span in the second period to help streaking Colorado beat visiting New York.

Brock Nelson had a goal and an assist and Martin Necas had an empty-netter for the NHL-leading Avalanche. Colorado has won six in a row to improve to 13-1-5.

Scott Wedgewood made 28 saves for the Avalanche while Nathan MacKinnon, the NHL scoring leader, was held without a point for the first time in 12 games.

Durant helps Rockets to win in OT

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Kevin Durant scored 35 points and Alperen Sengun had 30 points and 12 rebounds to help the Houston Rockets rally for a 117-113 overtime victory over the Orlando Magic on Sunday night.

Orlando led by a point when Amen Thompson put the Rockets on top on a dunk with an assist from Durant with less than a minute left in overtime. Jabari Smith Jr. blocked a layup by Franz Wagner and Durant's step-back jumper made it 113-110 with 9.2 seconds left.

Wagner made two free throws with 8.7 seconds to go, pulling the Magic within 1. But Reed Sheppard made two free throws for Houston to extend the lead to 115-112 with 4.1 seconds left.

Wendell Carter Jr. made one free throw but was called for a lane violation on the second attempt, trimming Houston's lead to 115-113. Thompson made two free throws after that to seal the Rockets' fourth straight victory.

Wagner scored a season-high

29 points and Desmond Bane also set his season high with 26 points to lead the Magic on a night they were missing both Paolo Banchero and Jalen Suggs because of groin injuries.

The Rockets trailed by as many as 11 in the fourth quarter before using a big run to get back in it.

Durant made a 3-pointer with 21.4 seconds in regulation to tie it at 100.

Jazz 150, Bulls 147 (2OT): Keyonte George made a 3-pointer with 2 seconds remaining in the second overtime, Lauri Markkanen scored 47 points and host Utah beat Chicago in the NBA's highest-scoring game of the season.

Utah led 136-132 in the final minute of the first OT, before Matas Buzelis had a dunk with 27 seconds to go and White made his tying layup to send it to a second OT.

Mavericks 138, Trail Blazers 133 (OT): P.J. Washington Jr. and Cooper Flagg scored 21 points apiece and teamed up on a crucial basket late in overtime

to help Dallas to a home victory over Portland.

Dallas led 130-129 with 1:39 remaining when Flagg grabbed the rebound of a missed 3-pointer by Portland's Shaedon Sharpe and delivered an outlet pass to Washington for a jam during a 6-0 Dallas run.

Dallas (4-10) snapped a three-game skid with the win.

Spurs 123, Kings 110: De'Aaron Fox had a season-high 28 points along with 11 assists and host San Antonio beat Sacramento with Victor Wembanyama missing his first game of the season with a calf injury.

Harrison Barnes added 20 points and Devin Vassell had 16 points as San Antonio snapped a two-game skid.

Celtics 121, Clippers 118: Jaylen Brown scored 33 points and had 13 rebounds, Payton Pritchard added 30 points and Boston held off Los Angeles for a home victory.

Derrick White scored 22 points with nine assists and seven rebounds for Boston.

Nets 129, Wizards 106: Mi-

chael Porter Jr. scored 34 points and Tyrese Martin scored seven straight points late in the third quarter and finished with 20 as visiting Brooklyn sent Washington to their 11th straight loss, in a matchup of one-win teams.

The Nets snapped a four-game skid and won for the first time since beating Indiana 112-103 in the first week of November, a victory that ended a run of seven straight losses to open the season. Both of Brooklyn's victories have come on the road, where they are 2-5.

Warriors 124, Pelicans 106: Moses Moody hit a career-high eight 3-pointers and scored 32 points, and visiting Golden State beat New Orleans in what was also James Borrego's debut as Pelicans interim coach.

Hawks 124, Suns 122: Onyeka Okongwu had 27 points and visiting Atlanta overcame a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter to stun Phoenix.

Atlanta won its fifth straight and ended Phoenix's winning streak at five. The Hawks finished 4-0 on a western trip.

Flemings, Cenac lead No. 1 Houston over No. 22 Auburn

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Freshman point guard Kingston Flemings scored 22 points, Chris Cenac Jr. had 18 points and nine rebounds and top-ranked Houston held on for a 73-72 victory over No. 22 Auburn on Sunday.

In a matchup of Final Four teams from last season, the Cougars (4-0) led throughout the second half, building multiple eight-point margins. The Tigers (3-1) rallied behind a raucous neutral-site home crowd and had two chances to take the lead on the final possession. Two driving attempts by Tahaad Pettiford were nixed by Houston's defense, including a block by Flemings. Auburn's out-of-bounds lob play with 1 second left was batted

away at the rim.

Keyshawn Hall led the Tigers with 20 points and 11 rebounds though he made only 6 of 16 shots. Hall wasn't around for the climactic possession, as he injured his right foot after being fouled with 4:14 left. He sank two free throws before hobbling to the bench.

Steven Pearl lost his first game since taking over Auburn's program after his father, Bruce, retired in September.

Auburn held a massive edge in free-throw attempts, but didn't fully capitalize, making 21 of 33 to Houston's 10 of 12.

No. 2 Purdue 97, Akron 79: Trey Kaufman-Renn had 17 points and Oscar Cluff added 14 to power the host Boilermakers

over the Zips.

Kaufman-Renn also had 15 rebounds while Cluff had 14 for Purdue. Braden Smith and Fletcher Loyer each scored 16 points and Omer Mayer had 14 points.

The Boilermakers held a 45-26 rebounding edge, including a 19 offensive rebounds. That helped Purdue to a 46-18 edge in points in the paint.

Tavari Johnson led Akron with 20 points. Evan Mahaffey had 12 points and Eric Mahaffey 10 for Akron. Shammah Scott, who was averaging 14.3 points per game for the Zips, was held to nine points on 4-of-13 shooting.

No. 10 Florida 82, Miami 68: Alex Condon scored 19 points, Thomas Haugh added 17 and the

visiting Gators held on to beat the rival Hurricanes.

Condon and fellow big man Rueben Chinyelu fouled out with more than five minutes to play, but Florida (3-1) had enough cushion to close it out with the two starters on the bench.

Chinyelu finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds for the defending national champion Gators (3-1), who swept in-state foes Florida State and Miami for the first time in two decades.

Condon did his part before fouling out. He made 8 of 12 shot. And after turning the ball over 13 times in Florida's first three games, the 6-foot-11 Australian was determined to play cleaner and finished with just two giveaways.