

## Airports, travelers ready for holiday rush

*Associated Press*

The turbulence caused by the longest government shutdown on record may still be fresh on travelers' minds this Thanksgiving, but experts say preparing for the usual holiday crush of winter weather, heavy traffic and crowded airports can help ease those jitters.

"I think the shutdown at this point is history for air travel. The airlines understand this time of year so well. They know exactly what they need to do," said Sheldon H. Jacobson, an airport and airlines operations expert. "The real challenge is making sure travelers can help themselves."

Here's a guide to navigating the busiest travel week of the year:

### How busy could it be?

Travel forecasts point to packed airports and roads.

A week after lifting the unprecedented flight restrictions it placed on commercial airlines

during the shutdown, the Federal Aviation Administration is preparing for its busiest Thanksgiving week in 15 years, with more than 360,000 flights scheduled between Monday and next Tuesday. That's more than 17.8 million people who will be screened by the Transportation Security Administration.

AAA projects 1.3 million more travelers will be on the roads than last year, pushing the total number of people traveling by car to at least 73 million.

### Winter weather

You can't control the weather, but you can control how prepared you are if a winter storm hits. If your flight is canceled or delayed, will you drive instead or postpone or cancel your trip? Knowing your options ahead of time can reduce stress if a storm leaves you stranded.

James Belanger, vice president of meteorology at the

Weather Company, recommends checking the forecast frequently while planning your trip.

On Tuesday, the FAA's busiest day with more than 52,000 flights scheduled, forecasters say rain could cause problems in the Pacific Northwest and for much of the eastern U.S. Airports in Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle and Washington, D.C., could be impacted, according to the Weather Channel.

### What to pack

Jacobson, whose research contributed to the design of TSA PreCheck, recommends starting your packing by unpacking.

Check every pocket in case TSA-restricted items, like full-sized bottles, were left behind from a previous trip. This simple scan can help you get through security faster, especially when airports are crowded.

If you're traveling with gifts,

Jacobson suggests wrapping them at your destination because TSA agents may need to open them.

When deciding which clothes and shoes to pack, Belanger says to check the "feels like" temperature for a better sense of the weather, especially if you're not used to the cold.

### The best passenger

"...is an informed passenger," Jacobson likes to say.

Download your airline's app to track your flight status, and check it regularly as your travel date approaches. That way, if your flight is canceled the day before, you can quickly look for alternatives.

Driving or flying, leave earlier than you think you need to. Knowing you won't have to rush to your destination can help calm any nerves.

"These are some very simple things to think about, but they're important things to think about," Jacobson said.

## Officials say progress made on Ukraine peace plan

*Associated Press*

Officials on Monday said progress was made in weekend discussions on amending the U.S. peace proposal for Ukraine that many saw as favoring Russia, but they gave no details and the Kremlin said it hadn't seen the changes.

Washington's 28-point plan presented last week caused alarm by heavily aligning with Moscow's demands in the nearly four-year war caused by its invasion. The plan pressed Ukraine to hand over some territory to Russia and reduce its army. It also sought Europe's

agreement that Ukraine will never be admitted into the NATO military alliance.

An adviser to Ukraine's president who attended the talks in Geneva between U.S. and Ukrainian officials told the AP they managed to discuss almost all the plan's points, and one unresolved issue is that of territory, which can only be decided at the head of state level.

Oleksandr Bevez also said the United States showed "great openness and understanding" that security guarantees are the cornerstone of any agreement for Ukraine. He said the U.S.

would continue working on the plan, then the leaders of Ukraine and the U.S. will meet. After that, the plan would be presented to Russia.

Bevez would not say what if any compromises Ukraine made in the talks and added that "everyone arrived stressed."

European officials, who say they were blindsided by the plan and that their own security is at stake, pressed Washington for changes in the Geneva talks between U.S. and Ukraine.

"The negotiations were a step forward, but there are still major issues which remain to be re-

solved," Finnish President Alexander Stubb wrote on social media.

Trump earlier gave Ukraine until Thursday to agree to the plan, but Secretary of State Marco Rubio downplayed the deadline, saying officials could keep negotiating.

But Russian officials still haven't seen the revised peace plan, a Kremlin spokesperson said. Dmitry Peskov added there was currently no plan for U.S. and Russian delegations to meet this week, but the Russian side remained "open for such contacts."

# Fraudster claimed to be decorated vet

By LARA KORTE  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Minnesota man who prosecutors said fraudulently procured more than \$140,000 in benefits by posing as a decorated U.S. Marine veteran is awaiting sentencing on a raft of federal charges.

Mikhail Robin Wicker, 39, was convicted by a jury of wire fraud, mail fraud, using a false

military discharge certificate and fraudulent use of military medals, the Justice Department said in a statement Friday.

He lied about deploying to Iraq in 2005 and about being a recipient of the Purple Heart and Prisoner of War Medal, prosecutors said. In fact, he had never served in any branch of the armed services, according to the DOJ.

Using forged paperwork, including a counterfeit discharge document and fake medal certificates, he managed to obtain health care, disability and education benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the statement said.

The fraud took place between 2015 and 2020, according to the indictment filed in court in April.

Wicker said he had been a

member of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, according to the DOJ. During his trial, former members of that unit testified that he had never served with them.

Records placed Wicker in Michigan during the years that he claimed to be in Iraq, prosecutors said.

The date of his sentencing hearing has not yet been set.

## US carries out its 100th Somalia strike this year

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. Africa Command over the weekend carried out its 100th airstrike of the year in Somalia, showcasing how a campaign against Islamic militants in east Africa now represents one of the American military's most aggressive operations worldwide.

The milestone came with a Saturday airstrike that targeted Islamic State militants in the vicinity of the Golis Mountains in northern Somalia, AFRICOM confirmed Monday.

The number of AFRICOM airstrikes in Somalia this year far exceeds that of all previous years and is on a pace to potentially double the previous one-year high of 63 carried out in 2019.

In addition, the strikes are occurring at a faster clip than the campaign against suspected drug traffickers in the Caribbean Sea.

Since early September, U.S. forces have launched at least 21 separate strikes against suspected traffickers in the Caribbean and in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

By comparison, at least 28 U.S. strikes on militants in Somalia have occurred during

that same time frame.

AFRICOM has long conducted operations against al-Shabab, an Islamic militant group aligned with al-Qaida that has been waging a decades-long insurgency in Somalia.

While al-Shabab remains the largest terrorist group in Somalia and a focus of AFRICOM attention, strikes against ISIS also have surged in 2025.

The targeting of ISIS in Somalia, formed in 2015 by a group of defectors from al-Shabab, comes amid indications the group is expanding its foothold.

In 2019, there were an estimated 300 ISIS militants in Somalia. But as of May, ISIS's Somalia cell had grown to an estimated 1,500 fighters, with roughly 60% being foreign, AFRICOM said.

The uptick in airstrikes in 2025 coincides with a January directive by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that grants more decision-making authority on airstrikes to AFRICOM commanders.

U.S. military personnel in Somalia provide various forms of support to the country's shaky central government as it attempts to keep al-Shabab and ISIS at bay.

## China blasts Japan over Taiwan intervention advice

*Associated Press*

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Japan "crossed a red line" with comments by its new leader suggesting a potential military intervention over Taiwan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Sunday.

Remarks earlier this month by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi that a Chinese naval blockade or other action against Taiwan could be grounds for a Japanese military response were "shocking," Wang said in a statement posted on the Chinese Foreign Ministry's website.

"It is shocking that Japan's current leaders have publicly sent the wrong signal of attempting military intervention in the Taiwan issue, said things they shouldn't have said and crossed a red line that should not have been touched," Wang said.

The most senior Chinese official to address the tensions so far, Wang added that China must "resolutely respond" to Japan's actions and that all countries have the responsibility to "prevent the resurgence of Japanese militarism."

Takaichi's remarks have led to rising tensions between the two countries over the past few weeks. Beijing sent a letter to

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres criticizing Takaichi's "grave violation of international law" and diplomatic norms.

"If Japan dares to attempt an armed intervention in the cross-strait situation, it would be an act of aggression," China's U.N. Ambassador Fu Cong wrote in the letter. "China will resolutely exercise its right of self-defense under the UN Charter and international law and firmly defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Beijing sees self-ruled Taiwan — a former Japanese colony — as its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary.

China objects to the involvement of other countries in Taiwan, notably the U.S., which is the island's main supplier of weapons, as well as U.S. allies in Asia.

Takaichi's stance is seen as more forceful than that of previous Japanese prime ministers, who have expressed concern about China's threat to Taiwan but haven't publicly said how Japan would respond.

The prime minister later refused to formally retract her earlier remarks but said that she planned to avoid talking about any other specific scenarios in the future.

# Comey, James indictments dismissed

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has dismissed the criminal cases against former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James, concluding that the prosecutor who brought the charges at President Donald Trump's urging was illegally appointed by the Justice Department.

The rulings from U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie amount to a stunning rebuke of the Trump administration's efforts to target Trump's political opponents. It also highlights its legal maneuvering to hastily install a loyalist prosecutor willing to file the cases.

The orders make Lindsey Halligan the latest Trump administration prosecutor to be disqualified because of the manner in

which they were appointed. Both defendants had asked for the cases to be dismissed with prejudice, meaning that the Justice Department would not be able to bring them again. But the judge instead dismissed them without prejudice, though it was not immediately clear if or how the Justice Department might attempt to revive the prosecutions.

Monday's order deals exclusively with the mechanism the Trump administration employed to appoint Halligan, a former White House aide with no prior prosecutorial experience, to lead one of the Justice Department's most elite and important offices.

Halligan was named to the job in September after a different interim U.S. attorney, Erik Siebert, was effectively forced out amid pressure from the Trump admin-

istration to file charges against Comey and James.

After Siebert resigned, Comey's lawyers argued, the judges of the federal court district should have had exclusive say over who got to fill the vacancy. Instead, Trump nominated Halligan while publicly imploring Attorney General Pam Bondi in a social media post to take action against his political opponents, saying in a Truth Social post that "JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!"

Comey was indicted days later on charges of making a false statement and obstructing Congress, and James was charged soon after that in a mortgage fraud investigation.

Comey has for years been one of Trump's chief antagonists. Appointed to the job in 2013 by Presi-

dent Barack Obama, Comey, at the time of Trump's 2016 election, was overseeing an investigation into whether his presidential campaign had conspired with Russia to sway the outcome of the race. Furious over that investigation, Trump fired Comey in May 2017 and the two officials have verbally sparred in the years since.

James has also been a frequent target of Trump's ire, especially since she won a staggering judgment against him and the Trump Organization in a lawsuit alleging he defrauded banks by overstating the value of his real estate holdings on financial statements. An appeals court overturned the fine, which had ballooned to more than \$500 million with interest, but upheld a lower court's finding that Trump had committed fraud.

## Order blocks ruling on bias in Texas congressional map

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday temporarily blocked a lower court ruling that found Texas' 2026 congressional redistricting plan pushed by President Donald Trump likely discriminates on the basis of race.

The order signed by Justice Samuel Alito will remain in place at least for the next few days while the court considers whether to allow the new map favorable to Republicans to be used in the mid-term elections.

The court's conservative majority has blocked similar lower court rulings because they have come too close to elections.

The order came about an hour after the state called on the high court to intervene to avoid confusion as congressional primary elections approach in March. The justices have blocked past lower-court rulings in congressional redistricting cases, most recently in

Alabama and Louisiana, that came several months before elections.

The order was signed by Alito because he is the justice who handles emergency appeals from Texas.

Texas redrew its congressional map in the summer as part of Trump's efforts to preserve a slim Republican majority in the House in next year's elections, touching off a nationwide redistricting battle. The new redistricting map was engineered to give Republicans five additional House seats, but a panel of federal judges in El Paso ruled 2-1 Tuesday that the civil rights groups that challenged the map on behalf of Black and Hispanic voters were likely to win their case.

If that ruling eventually holds, Texas could be forced to hold elections next year using the map drawn by the GOP-controlled Legislature in 2021 based on the 2020 census.

## High court weighs Trump's birthright citizenship appeal

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court met in private Friday with a key issue on its agenda — President Donald Trump's birthright citizenship order declaring that children born to parents who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens.

The justices are set to decide whether they will hear Trump's appeal of lower court rulings that have uniformly struck down the citizenship restrictions. They have not taken effect anywhere in the United States.

If the court steps in now, the case would be argued in the spring, with a definitive ruling expected by early summer.

The birthright citizenship order, which Trump signed on the first day of his second term in the White House, is part of his administration's broad immigration crackdown. Other actions include immigration enforcement surges

in several cities and the first peacetime invocation of the 18th century Alien Enemies Act.

Birthright citizenship is the first Trump immigration-related policy to reach the court for a final ruling. Trump's order would upend more than 125 years of understanding that the Constitution's 14th Amendment confers citizenship on everyone born on American soil, with narrow exceptions for the children of foreign diplomats and those born to a foreign occupying force.

In a series of decisions, lower courts have struck down the executive order as unconstitutional, or likely so, even after a Supreme Court ruling that limited judges' use of nationwide injunctions. Every lower court that has looked at the issue has concluded that Trump's order violates or most likely violates the 14th Amendment, which was intended to ensure that Black people, including former slaves, had citizenship.

# US calls Maduro-tied group terror organization

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Donald Trump's administration has ramped up pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro by designating the Cartel de los Soles as a foreign terrorist organization. But the entity that the U.S. government alleges is led by Maduro is not a cartel per se.

The designation, published Monday in the Federal Register, is the latest measure in the Trump administration's escalating campaign to combat drug trafficking into the U.S. In previewing the step about a week ago, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Cartel de los Soles, or Cartel of the Suns,

of being "responsible for terrorist violence" in the Western Hemisphere.

The move comes as Trump evaluates whether to take military action against Venezuela, which he has not ruled out despite bringing up the possibility of talks with Maduro. Land strikes or other actions would be a major expansion of the operation that has included a military buildup in the Caribbean Sea and striking boats accused of trafficking drugs.

Venezuelans began using the term Cartel de los Soles in the 1990s to refer to high-ranking military officers who had grown rich from drug-running. As corruption expanded nationwide,

first under the late President Hugo Chávez and then under Maduro, its use loosely expanded to police and government officials.

The "suns" in the name refer to the epaulettes affixed to the uniforms of high-ranking military officers.

The umbrella term was elevated to a Maduro-led drug-trafficking organization in 2020, when the U.S. Justice Department in Trump's first term announced the indictment of Venezuela's leader and his inner circle on narcoterrorism and other charges.

"It is not a group," said Adam Isaacson, director for defense oversight at the Washington Of-

fice on Latin America organization. "It's not like a group that people would ever identify themselves as members. They don't have regular meetings."

Maduro's government in a statement Monday categorically denied the existence of the cartel, describing the Trump administration's accusation as a "ridiculous fabrication" meant to "justify an illegitimate and illegal intervention against Venezuela."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said last week that the designation of Cartel de los Soles will provide a "whole bunch of new options to the United States" for dealing with Maduro.

## UK intercepts Russian corvette, tanker off coast

Associated Press

LONDON — A U.K. patrol ship has intercepted a Russian corvette and a tanker after shadowing them through the English Channel, the Defense Ministry said Sunday, adding that Russian naval activity around U.K. waters had increased by 30% over the past two years.

With the past two weeks, the patrol ship HMS Severn intercepted the Russian corvette RFN Stoikiy and tanker Yelnya as they sailed through the Eng-

lish Channel, the ministry said. The Severn eventually handed over monitoring duties to an unidentified NATO ally off the coast of Brittany.

In addition to the ships stationed around the U.K. coast, Britain has deployed three Poseidon surveillance aircraft to Iceland as part of a NATO mission patrolling for Russian ships and submarines in the North Atlantic and Arctic, the ministry said.

The news comes just days af-

ter Secretary of State for Defence John Healey told reporters that the Russian spy ship Yantar had aimed lasers at the pilots of surveillance aircraft monitoring its activities off the coast of Scotland.

Britain described the Yantar's actions as "reckless and dangerous," adding that Britain was ready to respond to any incursions into its territory.

"My message to Russia and to Putin is this: We see you. We know what you're doing," Hea-

ley said on Wednesday.

Healey issued the warning as he made the case for increased defense spending a week before the government releases its new budget. Even though Prime Minister Keir Starmer has pledged big military spending increases in light of threats from Russia, China and Iran, the government is facing tough tradeoffs as it eyes tax increases and spending cuts to close a multi-billion-pound shortfall in its finances.

## Takeoff of China's flying taxis hits turbulence

Associated Press

HONG KONG — An unmanned, oval-shaped craft from flying taxi maker EHang hovers, whirring noisily like a mini-helicopter over a riverside innovation zone on the outskirts of the southern Chinese business hub of Guangzhou, part of a trial of a mini-flying taxi that once might have been found only in sci-fi films.

Such businesses are growing quickly with support from the

government, though the take off of the so-called "low-altitude economy" faces obstacles such as strict airspace controls and battery limitations.

Activities in airspace below about 3,280 feet accounted for business turnover worth \$70 billion in 2023, about 0.4% of China's economy. By 2035, it's expected to hit about \$490 billion, said Zhang Xiaolan, a researcher at the State Information Center, a think tank.

Guangdong province, home to drone giant DJI with an estimated 70% of the global commercial drone market, leads in development of the low-altitude economy.

Other big players in Guangdong include EHang, logistics company SF Express's drone arm Phoenix Wings and automaker XPENG's flying car unit ARIDGE.

In October, Guangdong announced it plans to speed up

construction of flight service stations and platforms to facilitate airspace operations and will support locally issued discount vouchers for low-altitude tourism.

In September, two XPENG's eVTOL aircraft collided after a rehearsal for an exhibition and one of them caught fire while landing.

The company said no one was hurt, but another expo canceled demonstrations a week later.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## State believes to have 1st death from bird flu strain

**WA** GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY — A Washington state resident is believed to be the first person to die from a rare strain of bird flu, but state health officials said Friday the risk to the public is low.

The person, an older adult with underlying health conditions, was being treated for a bird flu called H5N5 after becoming seemingly the first known human infected by the strain, according to a statement from the Washington State Department of Health.

The person from Grays Harbor County, about 78 miles southwest of Seattle, had a backyard flock of domestic poultry that had been exposed to wild birds, health officials said.

"The risk to the public remains low," the statement from state health officials said. "No other people involved have tested positive for avian influenza."

## JFK granddaughter shares terminal cancer diagnosis

**NY** NEW YORK — President John F. Kennedy's granddaughter disclosed Saturday that she has terminal cancer, writing in an essay in The New Yorker that one of her doctors said she might live for about another year and criticizing policies pushed by her cousin, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Tatiana Schlossberg, the daughter of Kennedy's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, and Edwin Schlossberg, said she was

diagnosed in May 2024 at 34.

Her essay was published on the 62nd anniversary of her grandfather's assassination.

Schlossberg also said policies backed by RFK Jr. could hurt cancer patients like her. Caroline Kennedy urged senators to reject his confirmation.

"As I spent more and more of my life under the care of doctors, nurses, and researchers striving to improve the lives of others, I watched as Bobby cut nearly a half billion dollars for research into mRNA vaccines, technology that could be used against certain cancers," the essay reads.

## Panel: Professor firing for gender lesson unjustified

**TX** COLLEGE STATION — A Texas A&M committee agreed that the university was wrong to fire a professor earlier this year after a controversy over a classroom video that showed a student objecting to a children's literature lesson about gender identity.

The internal committee ruled that the university didn't follow proper procedures and didn't prove there was good cause to fire Melissa McCoul, who was a senior lecturer in the English department with over a decade of teaching experience. Republican lawmakers, including Gov. Greg Abbott, had called for her termination after seeing the video.

The committee unanimously voted last week that "the summary dismissal of Dr. McCoul was not justified." The university said in a statement that interim President Tommy Williams has received the committee's nonbinding recommendation

and will make a decision in the coming days or weeks after reviewing it.

## Trump: Nicklaus helping to revamp base's golf course

**DC** WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says he's enlisting the help of legendary golfer Jack Nicklaus to spruce up the courses at Joint Base Andrews, Md. — adding a site long known as the "president's golf course" to his long list of construction projects.

The president took an aerial tour of the Courses at Andrews aboard Marine One on Saturday, and promised, "We're going to do some work" there, as well as to other parts of the base.

"We're doing some fix-up of the base, which it needs. We're gonna try and reinstitute the golf courses. I'm meeting with the greatest Jack Nicklaus," Trump told reporters outside the White House before boarding Marine One to head to Andrews. "He's involved in trying to bring their recreational facilities back."

## Ship fire nearly contained after shelter-in-place lifted

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A fire on a container ship docked at the Port of Los Angeles was nearly contained Saturday afternoon, though authorities were still assessing whether enough hazardous material burned to cause significant contamination.

The blaze, which broke out Friday night, prompted a shelter-in-place order for surrounding communities over concerns about hazardous materials in the One Henry Hudson's cargo.

The order was lifted in the

morning, and the ship was moved out to sea.

Fireboats sprayed water on the vessel to tame "a small section" that was still on fire, Los Angeles Fire Department spokesperson Adam Van Gerpen said.

The electrical fire apparently started below deck before spreading to several levels of the ship, leading to an explosion mid-deck, according to the fire department. The cause was under investigation.

## Old ammunition shuts down Fort McHenry

**MD** BALTIMORE — An old and potentially explosive piece of military hardware was found Friday at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, where British bombs famously exploded in the air in an 1814 attack that led to the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Little detail was available late Friday about what was described by authorities as potentially explosive historical ordnance.

Construction workers "unearthed what appears to be an older bomb or explosive device" at the fort, the Baltimore Police Department confirmed in a statement.

A hazardous device unit went to the fort "after a report of a potential explosive device," the Baltimore Police Department said on social media.

The police said the unit was working alongside Air Force explosive ordnance specialists to "render the device safe." A Baltimore fire official reportedly described Friday's find as an old cannonball.

— From wire reports

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# Patriots defeat Bengals with late kick

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Drake Maye passed for 294 yards and a touchdown, Marcus Jones returned an interception 33 yards for a score and the AFC-leading New England Patriots rallied from an early 10-point deficit and extended their winning streak to nine with a 26-20 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday.

Hunter Henry had a career-high 115 receiving yards, including a 28-yard TD catch, on seven receptions for New England (10-2), which has won at least nine straight for the first time since 2015.

The Patriots fell behind 10-0 early in the second quarter before rallying. It was their first double-digit deficit since the second half of their opener against Las Vegas.

Andy Borregales' 52-yard field goal, his fourth of the day, gave New England a 26-20 lead with 1:51 remaining.

Joe Flacco drove Cincinnati to the Patriots 26, but a fourth-down pass with 18 seconds remaining intended for Mike Gesicki was incomplete.

**Cowboys 24, Eagles 21:** Brandon Aubrey kicked a 42-yard field goal as time expired after Dak Prescott rallied Dallas from a 21-point deficit and host Dallas beat Philadelphia in a mistake-filled thriller.

The Cowboys (5-5-1) converted on their third tiebreaking chance of the fourth quarter to extend Prescott's home winning streak against NFC East opponents to 19 in their first game at AT&T Stadium since the death of defensive end Marshawn Kneeland.

**Lions 34, Giants 27 (OT):** Jahmyr Gibbs ran for a 69-yard touchdown on the first snap of overtime after Jake Bates kicked a career-long 59-yard field goal in the final minute of regulation, lifting host Detroit over New York.

The Giants had a chance to ex-

tend the game, but turned it over on downs at the Lions 31 when Aidan Hutchinson sacked Jameis Winston.

Detroit (7-4) entered the game out of the playoff picture, trailed by double digits multiple times and rallied to avoid losing consecutive games for the first time in more than three years.

New York (2-10) lost its sixth straight game and fifth this season after leading in the fourth quarter.

**Chiefs 23, Colts 20 (OT):** Patrick Mahomes threw for a season-high 352 yards, Kareem Hunt ran for 104 yards and a touchdown, and Harrison Butker's fifth field goal of the game gave Kansas City a come-from-behind overtime home victory over the Indianapolis.

Butker ended the game with a 27-yard field goal with just under two minutes left in overtime, potentially keeping the Chiefs' playoff hopes alive. The reigning AFC champions had lost their previous two games, and another defeat against one of the hottest teams in the NFL on Sunday would have left Andy Reid's team needing a whole lot of help to make it back to the postseason.

**Seahawks 30, Titans 24:** Sam Darnold threw for 244 yards and two touchdowns and visiting Seattle beat Tennessee for its fifth win in six games.

Darnold bounced back with a clean game after being picked off four times last week.

The Seahawks (8-3) also improved to 5-1 on the road and made sure to hold onto the first wild-card spot in the NFC playoff chase.

Seattle, tied for the fourth-most sacks in the NFL, added four more against the NFL's most-sacked quarterback in Titans rookie Cam Ward. Linebacker Derick Hall sacked Ward for the fourth one with the Titans at the Seahawks 21, helping Seattle force a turnover on downs two plays later with 6:11

left.

**Jaguars 27, Cardinals 24 (OT):** Trevor Lawrence threw three touchdown passes, Cam Little kicked a 52-yard field goal in overtime and visiting Jacksonville overcame a turnover-filled performance to beat Arizona.

The Jaguars got the ball first in overtime and after a promising drive stalled, Little made his kick with 7:46 left. Earlier this season, he set an NFL record with a 68-yarder.

Jacksonville (7-4) has won three of its last four to improve its standing in the AFC playoff picture. The Cardinals (3-8) have lost eight of their last nine.

**Bears 31, Steelers 28:** Caleb Williams threw for three touchdowns, and host Chicago beat Pittsburgh in a matchup of division leaders with the Bears' old nemesis Aaron Rodgers sidelined by a broken left wrist.

Rodgers is 25-5 against Chicago from his long tenure in Green Bay. He once famously turned to the crowd at Soldier Field and screamed that he still owns the Bears, but the four-time MVP didn't get the chance to show if that's still the case.

NFC North-leading Chicago (8-3) won for the eighth time in nine games. After rallying in the final two minutes the previous three weeks, it held onto a late lead this time.

**Browns 24, Raiders 10:** Cleveland rookie Shedeur Sanders passed for 209 yards and a touchdown in his NFL starting debut and Myles Garrett had three of the visiting Browns' 10 sacks in a victory over Las Vegas, the fifth straight loss for the Raiders.

Cleveland (3-8) ended a three-game skid while starting its 42nd quarterback since the franchise's return in 1999. Sanders replaced fellow rookie Dillon Gabriel, who's in the concussion protocol, and ended a 17-game losing streak by Browns QBs making their first start.

**Falcons 24, Saints 10:** Kirk Cousins passed for 199 yards and two touchdowns in his second start this season, and visiting Atlanta ended a five-game skid with a win over New Orleans.

Taking over under center because of Michael Penix Jr.'s season-ending knee injury, Cousins completed 16 of 23 passes, highlighted by his 49-yard scoring pass deep down the middle to former Tulane standout Darnell Mooney in the fourth quarter.

**Ravens 23, Jets 10:** Derrick Henry scored two third-quarter touchdowns and host Baltimore recovered from a sleepy first half to beat New York for its fifth straight victory.

The Ravens have gone from 1-5 to 6-5, but this was not a particularly convincing performance. Lamar Jackson went 13 of 23 for 153 yards and didn't look as mobile as usual after dealing with knee and ankle issues recently. Henry was held to 64 yards on 21 carries.

**Packers 23, Vikings 6:** Emanuel Wilson rushed for a career-high 107 yards and two touchdowns in his first career start and host Green Bay defeated Minnesota.

The Packers' Micah Parsons and Devonte Wyatt each had two sacks. The Vikings totaled 4 net yards and three turnovers in the second half.

**Rams 34, Buccaneers 7:** Davante Adams caught two of Matthew Stafford's three touchdown passes during host Los Angeles' 31-point first half, and the Rams moved into sole possession of the NFC lead with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Cobie Durant returned an interception 50 yards for a touchdown to kick-start a dominant performance in the sixth consecutive victory by Los Angeles (9-2). Colby Parkinson also caught a TD pass from Stafford, who went 25 of 35 for 273 yards in his eighth consecutive interception-free game.

# Brooks, Booker lead injured Suns over Spurs

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Dillon Brooks scored 25 points, Devin Booker had 24 and the Phoenix Suns won their third straight and ended San Antonio's three-game streak with a 111-102 victory over the Spurs on Sunday night.

Playing without injured regulars Jalen Green, Grayson Allen and Ryan Dunn, Phoenix got big contributions from Jordan Goodwin (15 points, 10 rebounds) and center Mark Williams (14 points, 11 rebounds). Collin Gillespie added 15 points.

De'Aaron Fox led San Antonio, playing without the injured Victor Wembanyama, with 26 points. The Spurs won their previous three games, all without Wembanyama, who will be out at least another week with a left calf strain.

Devin Vassell had 17 points, reserve Kelton Johnson had 14 and Julian Champagnie finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

The Suns trailed by 11 in the second quarter, but outscored San Antonio 37-24 in the third to take an 86-80 lead. Booker had 11 points in the period.

**Hawks 113, Hornets 110:** Jalen Johnson had 28 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds and host Atlanta won for the seventh time in nine games with a victory over Charlotte.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker had 23 points and five rebounds, and Dyson Daniels added 22 points and nine rebounds for the Hawks. Onyeka Okongwu scored 20 points.

The Hornets, who saw their losing streak extended to six games, were led by rookie Kon Knueppel with 28 points. He set a Charlotte rookie record with seven made 3-pointers.

**Heat 127, 76ers 117:** Norman Powell scored 32 points while Kel'el Ware had 20 points and 16 rebounds to help visiting Miami win its fourth in a row with a victory over Philadelphia.

Jaime Jacquez Jr. scored 22 points, and Bam Adebayo contributed 18 for the Heat.

Tyrese Maxey had 27 points to pace the 76ers, who played without former MVP Joel Embiid for the seventh straight game. Embiid (right knee injury management) has missed 10 of 16 contests this season.

**Cavaliers 120, Clippers 105:** Donovan Mitchell scored 37 points and took over when the game got close, leading host Cleveland to a victory over Los Angeles.

Mitchell helped the Cavaliers pull away with a flurry of plays late in the third quarter. He finished with five 3-pointers, eight rebounds and six assists.

Evan Mobley had 18 points

and 10 rebounds and De'Andre Hunter scored 17 points as Cleveland went 4-2 on a six-game homestand.

**Celtics 138, Magic 129:** Jaylen Brown scored 35 points and Josh Minott scored 12 of his 16 points in the second quarter when host Boston shot 81.8% as the Celtics beat short-handed Orlando.

Anfernee Simons added 23 points and Payton Pritchard chipped in with 19 and eight assists for Boston, which was coming off a tough home loss to Brooklyn on Friday. Brown also had eight assists.

The Celtics nearly squandered a 26-point, third-quarter lead, but Brown scored 12 straight points. The Magic whittled away at their deficit and closed within six points in the final minute.

**Thunder 122, Trail Blazers 95:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 37 points in three quarters and host Oklahoma City beat Portland to avenge its only loss of the season.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 13 of 18 attempts from the field and all nine of his free throws.

Ajay Mitchell scored 20 points on 8-for-8 shooting as the defending champion Thunder won their ninth straight after a 121-119 loss to the Trail Blazers in Portland on Nov. 5. They improved to an NBA-best 17-1 and

are 85-15 since the start of last season.

**Raptors 119, Nets 109:** Scottie Barnes scored 17 points, Ja'Kobe Walter added a season-high 16 and host Toronto won for the 11th time in 12 games, beating Brooklyn.

Brandon Ingram had 14 points and Immanuel Quickley scored eight of his 13 in the fourth quarter to help the Raptors extend their winning streak to seven.

Toronto's RJ Barrett scored 16 points before leaving midway through the third because of a sprained right knee. Barrett landed awkwardly after his steal led to a fast break dunk.

**Lakers 108, Jazz 106:** Luka Doncic had 33 points and 11 rebounds and LeBron James scored 17 points in his first road game of the season as visiting Los Angeles beat Utah.

Lauri Markkanen scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and keyed a Jazz comeback. His 3-pointer was the last of a 17-5 run that brought Utah within 107-106. After Doncic made one of two free throws, Keyonte George's contested jumper from the corner glanced off the rim just before the final horn.

George had 27 points and eight assists for the Jazz (5-11), who led Wednesday's game at halftime before falling 140-126.

## Demary's triple-double powers No. 3 UConn past Bryant

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Silas Demary Jr. had 10 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to lead No. 3 UConn to a 72-49 win over Bryant on Sunday night.

Demary completed the triple-double with an assist on an Eric Reibe dunk with 3:01 left. He came out of the game with 2:25 remaining and received an enthusiastic greeting from his teammates.

Reibe led the Huskies (5-1) with 16 points.

UConn got off to a sluggish start offensively, missing six of its first eight lay-

ups, but the Huskies played solid defense. Bryant missed 13 of its first 15 field-goal attempts. The Bulldogs went 12:33 without a field goal in the first half as UConn had runs of 9-0, 8-0 and 7-0 en route to leading 37-21 at halftime.

Solo Ball had the first five points in a 9-0 run that turned a one-point advantage into a 15-5 lead. Ball led the Huskies with eight points in the first half.

**No. 5 Duke 93, Howard 56:** Cameron Boozer's 26 points and 12 rebounds led the host Blue Devils to another lopsided victory over the Bison.

Patrick Ngongba II added 16 points on 8-for-9 shooting and Isaiah Evans had 11 points for Duke (7-0).

The hot-shooting Blue Devils were shooting above 70% from the field 30 minutes into the game, finishing at 67.7%. Boozer, who made two of the team's seven 3-point baskets, shot 10-for-12.

Bryce Harris scored 15 points — seven below his average — and Travelle Bryson added 13 for Howard (3-4), which was trying to win back-to-back games for the first time this season.

# Rangers trade 2B Semien for Mets OF Nimmo

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers have traded Gold Glove second baseman Marcus Semien to the New York Mets in exchange for outfielder Brandon Nimmo and cash.

The deal announced Monday ends Nimmo's 10-year run with the Mets to start his career. A person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press that Nimmo agreed to waive the no-trade provision in the \$162 million, eight-year contract he signed after becoming a free agent for the first time after the 2022 season. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because that detail wasn't released.

Nimmo is due annual salaries of \$20.25 million each season

through 2030, and the 32-year-old left-handed hitter will get an additional \$1 million assignment bonus from New York for waiving the no-trade provision. As part of the trade, the Mets will send the Rangers \$5 million by Sept. 18.

Semien has three seasons with Texas and has \$72 million remaining on the \$175 million, seven-year contract he signed with the Rangers in December 2021. That was at the same time they, also in free agency, added World Series MVP shortstop Corey Seager on a \$325 million, 10-year contract.

That half-billion dollar middle infield helped Texas win its only World Series title in 2023. But that was the only winning record the past nine seasons for the team

that this year finished .500 (81-81) for the first time in franchise history.

Slugging outfielder Adolis García, switch-hitting catcher Jonah Heim and right-handed reliever Josh Sborz, three other players who had significant roles in the World Series championship, all became free agents Friday when the Rangers didn't tender any of them contracts for 2026.

The 35-year-old Semien won his second Gold Glove this season, even though he missed the final 5½ weeks, not playing again after fouling a pitch off his foot Aug. 20. That was only the second time in his 13 big league seasons he has been on the injured list.

He hit .230 with 15 homers, 62 RBIs and 62 runs in 127 games

this year, and .249 with 93 homers and 319 RBIs in his four seasons in Texas.

In 1,629 career games, the three-time All-Star has a .253 batting average with 253 homers and 801 RBIs.

Nimmo was drafted 13th overall out of high school by New York in the 2011 draft. He has a .364 career on-base percentage, including 583 starts as a leadoff hitter. He has scored at least 81 runs in each of the past three seasons since a career-best 102 in 2022.

Most of Nimmo's at-bats this season were from the middle of the batting order, and he hit .262 — the same as his career average — with single-season highs of 25 homers and 92 RBIs in 155 games. He has 135 homers and 463 RBIs in his 1,066 games.

# Surging Sabres holds off East-leading Hurricanes

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Beck Malenstyn scored a spectacular goal, Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen made 28 saves and the Buffalo Sabres beat the Eastern Conference-leading Carolina Hurricanes 4-1 on Sunday.

Malenstyn took a touch pass from Tyson Kozak, made a sweet move to his right to slip past Sebastian Aho and easily beat Frederik Andersen to make it 3-1 with 1:24 left in the second period.

Alex Tuch, Jack Quinn and Tage Thompson also scored for the Sabres, who have won four of five. Ryan McLeod had two assists, and Luukkonen got his second straight victory.

Shayne Gostisbehere scored and Andersen made 17 saves for the Hurricanes, who lost in regulation for the first time since Nov. 11.

Tuch opened the scoring on the power play in the first period. Gostisbehere made it 1-1 later in the first, also on the power play.

Quinn gave Buffalo a 2-1 lead early in the second. Thompson's

empty-netter extended his goal streak to six games.

Carolina captain Jordan Staal missed the game because of illness.

**Islanders 1, Kraken 0 (SO):** Bo Horvat kept host New York alive in the third round of a shootout and Kyle Palmieri scored in the fourth to back David Rittich in the Islanders' victory over Seattle.

Rittich made 19 saves for his first shutout with New York and the eighth of his NHL career, allowing only Freddy Gaudreau's opening goal in the shootout. The 33-year-old goalie is 6-2-0 as the backup to Ilya Sorokin after playing for Los Angeles the past two seasons.

Palmieri scored after Rittich stopped the Kraken's Chandler Stephenson.

**Wild 3, Jets 0:** Jesper Wallstedt made 32 saves for his NHL-leading third shutout — all in the last four games — and visiting Minnesota beat Winnipeg for its fifth straight victory.

The Wild had their second straight shutout and fifth of the

season. On Friday night in Pittsburgh, resurgent starter Filip Gustavsson stopped 19 shots in a 5-0 victory.

Kirill Kaprizov, Brock Faber and Denis Yurov scored. The Wild have nine victories and only one regulation loss in 11 games in November. They had lost nine straight to the Jets.

**Sharks 3, Bruins 1:** Macklin Celebrini scored his team-leading 14th goal of the season, and host San Jose beat Boston.

Shakir Mukhamadullin added his first goal of the season, Collin Graf added an empty-netter and Yaroslav Askarov made 33 saves for the Sharks, who have won three of four.

The No. 1 overall pick in last year's draft, Celebrini scored on a power play 11:45 into the second period. The 19-year-old phenom entered the day third in the NHL with 32 points. The goal came off an assist from Dmitry Orlov.

**Avalanche 1, Blackhawks 0:** Scott Wedgewood made 22 saves for his first shutout and visiting Colorado extended its winning

streak to nine games with a victory over Chicago.

Cale Makar scored late in the second period for the NHL-leading Avalanche, whose run is the team's longest since winning nine straight March 4-24, 2024. Colorado improved to 16-1-5 and has points in 13 straight (11-0-2) since its lone regulation loss at Boston on Oct. 25.

Spencer Knight made 25 saves for the Blackhawks, losers of three straight following a six-game (5-0-1) point streak.

**Flames 5, Canucks 2:** Dustin Wolf made 28 saves, defenseman Rasmus Andersson helped set up three goals and visiting Calgary beat Vancouver for its third straight victory.

Morgan Frost, Connor Zary, Kevin Bahl, Yegor Sharangovich and Blake Coleman scored for the resurgent Flames in the second half of a back-to-back set. Coleman also had an assist, and Mikael Backlund had two.

At 8-13-3, Calgary has 19 points — three more than last-place Nashville, though the Flames have played three more games.