

2 National Guard troops shot in DC

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An Afghan national has been accused of shooting two West Virginia National Guard members just blocks from the White House in a brazen act of violence at a time when the presence of troops in the nation's capital and other cities around the country has become a political flashpoint.

Jeanine Pirro, the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said at a Thursday news briefing that the guard members shot were Spc. Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24. The guard members were hospitalized in critical condition after Wednesday afternoon's shooting.

Pirro said that the suspect, Rahmanullah Lakanwal, drove across the country to launch an "ambush-style" attack with a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver. The suspect currently faces charges of assault with intent to kill while armed and possession of a firearm during a crime of violence. Pirro said that "it's too

soon to say" what the suspect's motives were.

The charges could be upgraded, Pirro said, adding, "We are praying that they survive and that the highest charge will not have to be murder in the first degree. But make no mistake, if they do not, that will certainly be the charge."

The rare shooting of National Guard members on American soil, on the day before Thanksgiving, comes amid court fights and a broader public policy debate about the Trump administration's use of the military to combat what officials cast as an out-of-control crime problem.

The Trump administration quickly ordered 500 more National Guard members to Washington.

The suspect who was in custody also was shot and had wounds that were not believed to be life-threatening, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to AP on condition of ano-

nymity.

The 29-year-old suspect, an Afghan national, entered the U.S. in 2021 through Operation Allies Welcome, a Biden administration program that evacuated and resettled tens of thousands of Afghans after the U.S. withdrawal from the country, officials said.

The initiative brought roughly 76,000 people to the U.S., many of whom had worked alongside U.S. troops and diplomats as interpreters and translators. It has since faced intense scrutiny from President Donald Trump and his allies, congressional Republicans and some government watchdogs over gaps in the vetting process and the speed of admissions, even as advocates say it offered a lifeline to people at risk of Taliban reprisals.

Lakanwal has been living in Bellingham, Wash., about 79 miles north of Seattle, with his wife and five children, said his former landlord, Kristina Widman.

Prior to his 2021 arrival in the United States, the suspect worked with the U.S. government, including the CIA, "as a member of a partner force in Kandahar," John Ratcliffe, the spy agency's director, said in a statement.

He did not specify what work Lakanwal did, but said the relationship "ended shortly following the chaotic evacuation" of U.S. service members from Afghanistan.

Wednesday night, in a video message released on social media, Trump called for the re-investigation of all Afghan refugees who entered under the Biden administration.

"If they can't love our country, we don't want them," he said, adding that the shooting was "a crime against our entire nation."

FBI Director Kash Patel said the shooting is being investigated as an act of terrorism. Agents have served a series of search warrants, with Patel calling it a "coast-to-coast investigation."

Navy plans to end problem-plagued frigate program

By GARY WARNER

Stars and Stripes

The Navy said late Tuesday it plans to cancel the bulk of the \$22 billion Constellation-class guided-missile frigate program dogged by delays and cost overruns.

Navy Secretary John Phelan announced the cut in a short video posted on X.

"From Day 1, I made it clear: I won't spend a dollar if it doesn't strengthen readiness or our ability to win," Phelan said against a backdrop of Ameri-

can, Navy and Marine Corps flags. "To keep that promise, we're reshaping how we build and field the fleet — working with industry to deliver war-fighting advantage, beginning with a strategic shift away from the Constellation-class frigate program."

The American unit of Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri S.p.A. won a 2020 competition to build frigates for the Navy. The ships were to be built at Fincantieri Marinette Marine shipyard on Lake Michigan near Green Bay,

Wis.

The first two ships, the USS Constitution and USS Congress, will be completed. Phelan said an additional four ships planned in the early phase of the class will be cut.

Phelan said the move would free up money and shipyard space for other projects.

Fincantieri said in a statement released Tuesday that it "expects" the Navy to continue supporting its shipyards with orders for as-yet-undetermined new vessels to replace the lost

frigate work.

Phelan's action was backed by Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who called it a "tough, but vital call," in a post on X.

The original Pentagon plan called for building a version of a "European multipurpose frigate" already in service with France and Italy. The original contract called for the French shipbuilder Naval Group to build some later ships of the class.

US gets access to restricted Caribbean bases

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader announced Wednesday that he has authorized the U.S. government to operate inside restricted areas in the Caribbean country to help in its fight against drug trafficking.

For a limited time, the U.S. can refuel aircraft and transport equipment and technical personnel at restricted areas within the San Isidro Air Base and Las Américas International Airport, said Abinader, who made the announcement with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth at his side.

Hegseth was in Santo Domingo Wednesday to meet with the country's top leaders, including Abinader and Minister of Defense Lt. Gen. Carlos Antonio Fernández Onofre.

It is the first major public agreement that the U.S. has struck with a Caribbean nation as it seeks friendly allies to sup-

port its attacks against alleged drug-smuggling boats in the region and beyond. Since the strikes began in early September, at least 83 people have been killed.

Hegseth said the Dominican Republic was a regional leader willing to take on challenges.

"That's why I'm here today. That's why we decided to come here first," he said. "The Dominican Republic has stepped up."

Hegseth said the U.S. would respect the Caribbean country's sovereignty and laws as U.S. service members and aircraft prepare to deploy to the Dominican Republic. He did not provide additional details.

Meanwhile, Abinader said the scope of the agreement is "technical, limited, and temporary."

"The purpose is clear: to strengthen the air and maritime protection ring maintained by our Armed Forces, a decisive reinforcement to prevent the

entry of narcotics and to strike a more decisive blow against transnational organized crime," he said.

After a news conference where no questions were allowed, the office of the president issued a statement with more details, noting that several KC-135 tanker aircraft would be present to support air patrol missions, expanding monitoring and interdiction capabilities over a large portion of the maritime and air domains.

"They would also provide refueling services to aircraft from partner countries, thus ensuring sustained operations for monitoring, detecting, and tracking verified illicit smuggling activities," according to the statement.

Additionally, C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft would facilitate aeromedical evacuations, firefighting, weather reconnaissance, and disaster relief, the office said.

Abinader noted that the Do-

minican Republic has seized nearly 10 times more drugs per year in the past five years than in the previous decade thanks to close collaboration with the U.S.

"Our country faces a real threat, a threat that knows no borders, no flags, that destroys families, and that has been trying to use our territory for decades," he said. "That threat is drug trafficking, and no country can or should confront it without allies."

Hegseth praised Abinader, saying that the Dominican Republic "understands the importance of standing up to narco-terrorists and narco-traffickers who flood our countries with drugs and violence."

"We're deadly serious about this mission," Hegseth said, asserting that the U.S. has the best intelligence, lawyers and process. "We know...where they're leaving from, where they're going, what they're bringing, what their intentions are, who they represent."

Judges allow NC to use GOP-drawn map

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A federal three-judge panel on Wednesday allowed North Carolina to use a redrawn congressional map aimed at flipping a seat to Republicans as part of President Donald Trump's multistate redistricting campaign ahead of the 2026 elections.

The map targets the state's only swing seat, currently held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Don Davis, an African American who represents more than 20 northeast counties.

The 1st District has been represented by Black members of Congress continuously for more than 30 years.

The three-judge panel unani-

mously denied preliminary injunction requests after a hearing in Winston-Salem in mid-November.

The day after the hearing, the same judges separately upheld several other redrawn U.S. House districts that GOP state lawmakers initially enacted in 2023. They were first used in the 2024 elections, helping Republicans gain three more congressional seats.

Trump broke with more than a century of political tradition by directing the GOP in North Carolina and several other states this year to redraw maps at mid-decade to avoid losing control of Congress in next year's midterms.

Democrats need to pick up just a handful of seats to win control of the House and impede Trump's agenda. Besides North Carolina, Republican-led Texas, Missouri and Ohio all have adopted new districts designed to boost Republicans' chances next year.

In California, voters countered by adopting new districts drawn to improve Democrats' chances of winning more seats. And the Democratic-led Virginia General Assembly also has taken a step toward redistricting with a proposed constitutional amendment.

Thus far, many lower courts have blocked Trump's initiatives, only for the conservative

majority on the U.S. Supreme Court to put those rulings on hold. That includes a recent ruling in Texas, where a redrawn U.S. House map was engineered to give Republicans five more House seats.

North Carolina's Republican-controlled General Assembly gave final approval on Oct. 22 to the redrawn map. Democratic Gov. Josh Stein's approval wasn't needed.

North Carolina Republican Senate leader Phil Berger said Wednesday's court decision "thwarts the radical left's latest attempt to circumvent the will of the people" in a state that voted for Trump in 2016, 2020 and 2024.

Feds seek release of Maxwell case info

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As the Justice Department gets ready to release its files on sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and his longtime confidant Ghislaine Maxwell, a court battle over sealed documents in Maxwell's criminal case is offering clues about what could be in those files.

Government lawyers asked a judge on Wednesday to allow the release of a wide range of records from Maxwell's case, including search warrants, financial records, survivor interview notes, electronic device data and material from earlier Epstein investigations in Florida. Those records, among others, are subject to secrecy orders that the Justice Department wants lifted as it works to comply with a new law mandating the public release of Epstein and Maxwell investigative mate-

rials. The Epstein Files Transparency Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump last week.

The Justice Department submitted the list a day after U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer in New York ordered the government to specify what materials it plans to publicly release from Maxwell's case. The government said it is conferring with survivors and their lawyers and that it will redact records to ensure protection of survivors' identities and prevent the dissemination of sexualized images.

"In summary, the Government is in the process of identifying potentially responsive materials" that are required to be disclosed under the law, "categorizing them and processing them for review," the department said.

The four-page filing bears the

names of the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, Jay Clayton, along with Attorney General Pam Bondi and Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

Also Wednesday, a judge weighing a similar request for materials from Epstein's 2019 sex trafficking case gave the department until Monday to provide detailed descriptions of the records it wants made public. U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman said he will review the material in private before deciding.

In August, Berman and Engelmayer denied the department's requests to unseal grand jury transcripts and other material from Epstein and Maxwell's cases, ruling that such disclosures are rarely, if ever, allowed.

The department asked the judges this week to reconsider, arguing in court filings that the

new law requires the government to "publish the grand jury and discovery materials" from the cases. The law requires the release of Epstein-related files in a searchable format by Dec. 19.

Epstein was a millionaire money manager known for socializing with celebrities, politicians and other powerful men. He killed himself in jail a month after his 2019 arrest. Maxwell was convicted in 2021 of sex trafficking for luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by Epstein. She is serving a 20-year prison sentence.

Last year, a Florida judge ordered the release of about 150 pages of transcripts from a state grand jury that investigated Epstein in 2006. Last week, citing the new law, the Justice Department moved to unseal transcripts from a federal grand jury that also investigated Epstein.

Despite tariffs, Black Friday arrives with momentum

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Black Friday may no longer be the retail bacchanalia of years past, when the promise of one-time bargains caused people to leave Thanksgiving tables for malls where some customers got into fist-fights over toys or TVs. But the event still has enough enthusiasts to make it the biggest shopping day in the U.S.

For that reason, the day retains its crown as the official

start of the holiday shopping season. This year's kickoff comes as companies navigate an uncertain economic environment and wrestle with the volatility of President Donald Trump's wide-ranging tariffs on imported goods.

Many have absorbed some of the costs and pulled back on hiring instead of raising prices for customers. Consumer confidence in the U.S. economy fell this month to the lowest since

April — when Trump announced his tariffs — in the aftermath of the government shutdown, weak hiring and stubborn inflation, according to a report The Conference Board issued Tuesday.

Shoppers nonetheless have remained resilient and willing to spend, at least judging by the solid quarterly sales reports from Walmart, Best Buy and other retailers. But many retail executives also say customers are fo-

cusing on deals and have been selective in what they're buying.

A forecast from the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, estimated that shoppers would collectively spend between \$1.01 trillion and \$1.02 trillion in November and December, or 3.7% to 4.2% more than last year. Retailers rung up \$976 billion in holiday sales last year, or a 4.3% increase from 2023, the group said.

Deal less likely for judge accused of aiding immigrant

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A federal judge said Wednesday that the trial for a Wisconsin judge charged with illegally helping an immigrant evade federal agents will go on as planned next month, brushing past talk of a possible plea agreement.

U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman told prosecutors and attorneys representing Milwaukee

County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan during a hearing to assume the trial will begin as planned on Dec. 11 with jury selection. Federal prosecutors charged Dugan in April with obstruction and concealing an individual to prevent arrest. According to court documents, Dugan was set to hear a state battery case in April against 31-year-old Eduardo Flores-Ruiz, an immi-

grant who was in the country illegally. Federal agents learned he was scheduled to appear in her courtroom and traveled to the Milwaukee County Courthouse to apprehend him.

Dugan learned the agents were outside her courtroom and led Flores-Ruiz out through a private door, according to the documents. He found his way outside the courthouse but agents caught

him. The Department of Homeland Security announced this month that he has been deported.

U.S. Attorney Brad Schimel said last week that plea negotiations were underway but Dugan wasn't interested in a deal. Her defense team is preparing for trial, arguing that she was acting in her official capacity as a judge when she led Flores-Ruiz out of her courtroom.

Supreme Court allows head of copyright office to stay in job

Bloomberg

The U.S. Supreme Court declined for now to let President Donald Trump's administration oust the director of the U.S. Copyright Office, deferring a decision in the legal fight until at least January.

The justices said Wednesday they won't act on Trump's bid to remove Shira Perlmutter until they consider two other clashes involving presidential firings, including the case of Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook. The Supreme Court will hear arguments in the Cook case Jan. 21.

Justice Clarence Thomas

said he would have granted the administration's request to remove Perlmutter while that legal fight goes forward.

The Supreme Court in other contexts has let Trump at least temporarily oust top officials at regulatory agencies that Congress set up to be independent from the White House. The justices next month will use a case about the Federal Trade Commission to consider overturning the 1935 ruling that let Congress shield agency leaders from being fired in the absence of wrongdoing.

Perlmutter's job status has been in limbo since May 10,

when she got a letter from a White House official saying she was fired effective immediately. A day earlier, she had issued a draft report questioning the use of copyrighted materials to train generative artificial intelligence models. She has remained in the position since then amid a back-and-forth court battle.

The Copyright Office examines applications for copyrights, handles their registration and records ownership transfers. The director also advises Congress on national and international copyright matters.

Judge sets \$60K bond for accused lawmaker

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A federal judge in Miami set a \$60,000 bond Tuesday for U.S. Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, who made her first appearance in court on charges of conspiring to steal \$5 million in federal disaster funds meant to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

The Florida Democrat is facing 15 federal counts that accuse her of stealing funds that had been overpaid to her family's health care company, Trinity Healthcare Services, prosecutors alleged. The company had a contract to register people for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Cherfilus-McCormick stood with her attorneys as Judge En-joliué Lett read all 15 charges, the South Florida SunSentinel reported. She told the judge she is aware of the charges she faces.

She said in a statement sent to the AP that she plans to fight for her constituents.

"Today I made my initial appearance in a case that is both politically timed and politically motivated," Cherfilus-McCormick said in the statement. "Let me be clear: I am innocent and I look forward to my day in court. This has been a fight not just for my name — it's a fight for my constituents, an attack on the progress we have been making and the movement we have started."

She said she will not be "intimidated or silenced."

In addition to bail, the judge said Cherfilus-McCormick must surrender her personal passport, and she is restricted from traveling to and from Florida from anywhere other than Washington, D.C., Maryland and the Eastern District of Virginia.

X's new location feature shows foreign origins of some US political accounts

Associated Press

They go by names like @TRUMP_ARMY— or @MAGANationX, and their verified accounts proudly display portraits of President Donald Trump, voter rallies and American flags. And they're constantly posting about U.S. politics to their followers, sounding like diehard fans of the president.

But after a weekend update to the social media platform X, it's now clear that the owners of these accounts, and many others, are located in regions such as South Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe.

Elon Musk's X unveiled a feature Saturday that lets users see where an account is based. Online sleuths and experts quickly found that many popular accounts posting in support of the MAGA movement to thousands or hundreds of thousands of followers, are based outside the United States — raising concerns about foreign influence

on U.S. politics.

Researchers at NewsGuard, a firm that tracks online misinformation, identified several popular accounts — purportedly run by Americans interested in politics — that instead were based in Eastern Europe, Asia or Africa.

The accounts were leading disseminators of some misleading and polarizing claims about U.S. politics, including ones that said Democrats bribed the moderators of a 2024 presidential debate.

Nikita Bier, X's head of product, announced Saturday that the social media platform is rolling out an "About This Account" tool, which lets users see the country or region where an account is based. To find an account's location, tap or click the signup date displayed on the profile.

"This is an important first step to securing the integrity of the global town square. We plan to provide many more ways for

users to verify the authenticity of the content they see on X," Bier wrote.

Bier said Sunday that after an update to the tool, it would 99.99% accurate, though this could not be independently verified.

Some of the accounts supported slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk as well as President Donald Trump's children. Many of the accounts were adorned with U.S. flags or made comments suggesting they were American.

An account called "@BaronTNews_" for instance, is shown as being located in "Eastern Europe (Non-EU)," even though the display location on its profile says "Mar A Lago." The account, which has more than 580,000 followers, posted on Tuesday that "This is a FAN account, 100 % independent, run by one guy who loves this country and supports President Trump with everything I've got."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ID rules target vehicle purchases, registrations

TX AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles is implementing more stringent photo identification requirements for vehicle registrations and renewals in an abrupt shift that could shut out immigrants from owning vehicles.

Current photo identification, such as a state driver's license or passport, must be presented when new vehicle registrations or renewals are made, according to the new policy. The DMV said it informed county tax offices on Nov. 18 of the new requirement, which went into effect immediately.

Licensed vehicle dealers in the state also were notified by the DMV on Nov. 19 that a customer's approved photo identification must be presented during sales. A DMV spokesperson said the new guidance is "intended to ensure the validity of identification documents required as part of the state's vehicle registration process."

The move could prevent many immigrants in the country illegally from registering vehicles — and Rep. Brian Harrison, R-Midlothian, said he hopes that's what the new policy will do. Harrison sent a letter to both the DMV and Gov. Greg Abbott's office demanding action be taken in the days before the new policy was announced.

BP finds source of leak in pipeline, restarts flow

WA SEATTLE — Oil company BP has found the source of a leak in a major Pacific Northwest pipeline system, allowing it to re-

start the flow of jet fuel to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Tuesday and help avoid any major disruptions to Thanksgiving travel.

Separately, Washington state regulators announced they were fining the company \$3.8 million for a 2023 spill from the same pipeline system nearby.

The 400-mile-long Olympic Pipeline is the backbone of the region's system for moving gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other petroleum products from refineries near the Canadian border to distribution terminals in the Pacific Northwest west of the Cascades, including major cities in Washington and Oregon.

BP shut down the pipeline system on Nov. 17 following intermittent shutoffs after a farmer discovered a gas sheen in a drainage ditch on a blueberry farm near Everett, north of Seattle, on Nov. 11.

But late Monday, after excavating in an area where two pipes run alongside each other — one that carries gasoline and another that carries jet fuel — BP said it found the leak in the gasoline pipeline. That allowed it to restart the flow of fuel to the airport and to begin devising a repair plan for the gas pipeline.

Officials and BP are still assessing how much gasoline leaked.

Foster children out of hotels after teen's death

MD BALTIMORE — Maryland officials have found new placements for all foster children who previously resided in hotels, officials said Monday, meeting a deadline set after a teen's death by suicide in Baltimore spurred the state to end the decades-

long practice of housing kids in such unlicensed facilities.

"There are no youth in hotels, shelters, or offices," Maryland Department of Human Services spokeswoman Lillian Price told The Washington Post.

The Monday deadline was set in October by Human Services Secretary Rafael López, weeks after 16-year-old Kanaiyah Ward died while staying in a Baltimore hotel. According to a police report, the one-on-one chaperone assigned to supervise Ward went to wake her for school at about 5:45 a.m. on Sept. 22, but the adult could not rouse the teenager. The chaperone, whose employer was redacted in the report, was told by other staff that Ward was a "heavy sleeper."

The chaperone left for several hours before returning to the hotel room at about 10:30 a.m. By then, Ward had stopped breathing, and the chaperone called 911. According to an autopsy report, Ward died by suicide and was found with an empty bottle of diphenhydramine, the active ingredient in Benadryl, nearby.

Jesse Jackson leaves hospital after treatment

IL CHICAGO — The Rev. Jesse Jackson has been released from a Chicago hospital where he was treated for a rare neurological disorder, his son said Tuesday.

The 84-year-old civil rights leader was discharged Monday from Northwestern Memorial Hospital, his son and family spokesperson Yusef Jackson said. In 2013, Jackson, who now receives round-the-clock care at home, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. The diag-

nosis was changed last April to progressive supranuclear palsy, or PSP, a neurodegenerative disorder that can have similar symptoms to Parkinson's.

A protégé of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the two-time presidential candidate and internationally known founder of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition was hospitalized Nov. 14.

His family says that Jackson uses a wheelchair, struggles to keep his eyes open and is unable to speak.

Rescuers find family who went missing

SC CLEVELAND — Rescuers on Tuesday found a grandmother and three grandchildren who reported the prior evening that they had gotten lost while hiking in a South Carolina state park, prompting a massive search with drones, helicopters, off-road vehicles and dogs.

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office said the four parked a vehicle near one trailhead at Caesars Head State Park in Cleveland but were discovered on a different trail. A helicopter evacuated them from rough terrain that was slickened further by rain, said Greenville County Sheriff Hobart Lewis. The hikers had no apparent injuries and were being reunited with family, he said.

A boy called 911 on Monday evening saying he and three family members had been lost for about three hours in the area of the state park, the sheriff's office said in a statement.

The sheriff's office identified the hikers as Tonda Michelin, 53; Melody Bangs, 14; Michael Lawton, 11; and Dale Moser, 9.

— From wire reports

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Michigan routs Gonzaga to win Players Era title

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Yaxel Lendeborg had 20 points and 11 rebounds as No. 7 Michigan routed No. 12 Gonzaga 101-61 on Wednesday night to win the Players Era Championship.

Trey McKenney added 17 points for the impressive Wolverines (7-0), who dominated every one of their opponents in the event. They won their three games by a combined 110 points, beating San Diego State by 40 and No. 21 Auburn by 30 before handing Mark Few his most lopsided loss in 902 games as the Bulldogs' coach.

Lendeborg was selected MVP of the tournament. The 18-team field featured some of the top programs in the country, and Michigan served notice that it's a serious national title contender.

Nimari Burnett had 14 points, Aday Mara scored 13 and Morez Johnson Jr. finished with 11 for the Wolverines. The defense limited Gonzaga to 33.8% shooting from the floor, including 3 of 22 from 3-point range (13.6%).

Tyon Grant-Foster and Braden Huff led the Bulldogs (7-1) with 14 points each. Huff fouled out with 8:42 left.

No. 3 Houston 66, Notre Dame 56: Emanuel Sharp scored 17 points to lead the Cougars over the Fighting Irish in the consolation game of the Players Era Championship.

Houston (7-1), which had its season-opening six-game win streak halted in the tournament's second round against No. 17 Tennessee 76-73, opened with a 26-4 run against Notre Dame (5-3) and withstood a late comeback try by the Irish.

Milos Uzon scored 15 points and Joseph Tugler added 10 before fouling out for the Cougars.

Markus Burton led the Irish with 19 points and Jalen Haralson added 14.

No. 6 Louisville 104, NJIT 47: Ryan Conwell scored 32 points and the host Cardinals hit 20 shots from 3-point distance,

their most in 18 years, while overpowering the Islanders in a victory.

The former Xavier guard had his biggest scoring outburst since finishing with a career-high 38 points for the Musketeers against Marquette in a Big East Tournament quarterfinal eight months ago. It was the senior guard's fourth 20-point performance in the last five games.

Conwell finished with nine rebounds and six assists to go with 9-of-17 shooting. He was 8 of 15 from beyond the arc to lead Louisville (7-0), which went 20 for 48 on 3-pointers.

The Cardinals never trailed as they topped the century mark for the fourth time this season and enjoyed dominant stretches on both sides of the court.

No. 8 Alabama 105, Maryland 72: Labaron Philon scored 20 points, Aden Holloway added 17 points and a career-high 10 assists and the Crimson Tide beat the Terrapins in a consolation game of the Players Era Championship Tournament.

It was the second emphatic win for Alabama (5-2) following a 10-point loss to Gonzaga on Monday. On Tuesday, it routed UNLV 115-76, the second-highest scoring game in program history.

Taylor Bol Bowen and Davion Hannah each had 12 points.

Darius Adams led Maryland (5-3) with 20 points and Pharrell Payne had 14. Gonzaga beat the Terrapins 100-61 on Tuesday.

No. 21 Auburn 85, No. 14 St. John's 74: Tahaad Pettiford scored 27 points and the Tigers defeated the Red Storm in the consolation round of the Players Era Championship.

After falling behind by 11 points, Auburn (6-2) outscored St. John's 55-35 in the second half — including a 30-13 run over the final nine minutes. Pettiford scored 16 points during that stretch.

Keyshawn Hall had 20 points

and eight rebounds for the Tigers, and Kevin Overton scored 12. Auburn shot 55% from the field, including 6 of 14 (43%) from 3-point range.

The Red Storm (4-3), who finished 1-2 in the event, were led by Big East preseason player of the year Zubey Ejiofor, who had 24 points. Joson Sanon finished with 16, but Bryce Hopkins was held to nine on 2-for-11 shooting and Oziyah Sellers managed just four on 1-for-7 shooting.

No. 15 Iowa State 95, Syracuse 64: Milan Momcilovic scored 24 points to lead the Cyclones over the Orange in the final day of the Players Era Championship.

Iowa State (7-0) won all three of its games at the tournament but was playing in the consolation round because of a point differential tiebreaker.

Killyan Toure scored 19 points for the Cyclones alongside three others in double-figures: Josh Jefferson (13 points), Blake Buchanan (12) and Dominic Nelson (12). Iowa State shot 59% (36-of-61) from the field while limiting Syracuse to 39.3% (22-of-56).

Sadiq White Jr. led the Orange (4-3) with 14 points, while J.J. Starling and Tyler Bestey each added 10.

Kansas 81, No. 17 Tennessee 76: Melvin Council Jr. and Elmarko Jackson each scored 17 points and the Jayhawks defeated the previously unbeaten Volunteers in the third-place game of the Players Era Championship.

Tre White added 14 points for Kansas (6-2) before fouling out and Florey Bidunga scored 13.

Nata Ament led Tennessee (7-1) with 20 points. Jaylen Carey and Ja'Kobe Gillespie each scored 11 points and J.P. Estrella added 10.

No. 19 Kentucky 104, Tennessee Tech 54: Denzel Aberdeen, Otega Oweh and Trent Noah each scored 16 points to lead the host Wildcats over the Golden Eagles

Kentucky (5-2) improved to 5-0 at home and reached the 100-point plateau for the second time this season without starters Jaland Lowe (shoulder) and Mouhamed Dioubate (ankle).

The Wildcats missed 10 of their first 11 3-point attempts, but still finished with a season-high 15 3-pointers, making 12 in the second half.

No. 20 Texas Tech 82, New Orleans 50: JT Toppin scored 19 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as the host Red Raiders rebounded from a lopsided loss to beat the Privateers.

Christian Anderson added 23 points with six 3-pointers and five assists for Texas Tech (5-2). Donovan Atwell had 13 points in 23 minutes before fouling out with 8:43 left in the game, and Luke Bamgboye also scored 13 points and LeJuan Watts had 12.

Jakevion Buckley led New Orleans (2-5) with 16 points. The Privateers, who haven't yet played a regular-season game at home, were coming off an overtime loss Monday night at Mississippi State.

Texas 102, No. 23 N.C. State 97: Jordan Pope scored 28 points and the Longhorns held on to beat the Wolfpack to claim fifth place at the Maui Invitational.

Quadir Copeland had 28 points and six assists, Ven-Allen Lubin finished with a season-high 23 points and nine rebounds, and Paul McNeil Jr. scored 20 points for the Wolfpack. Darrion Williams finished with 10 points before fouling out late.

No. 24 Vanderbilt 83, Western Kentucky 78: Duke Miles scored 28 points, including two key free throws with 1.9 seconds left, Devin McGlockton added 22 points and the Commodores held off the Hilltoppers to begin the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Vanderbilt (6-0) was held well under its nation-leading average of 103.0 points per game after shooting just 45% from the field with 17 turnovers.

Celtics snap Pistons' 13-game winning streak

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jaylen Brown, Derrick White and the Boston Celtics ended Detroit's winning streak at a franchise record-tying 13, outlasting Cade Cunningham and the Pistons 117-114 on Wednesday night.

The Eastern Conference-leading Pistons squandered a chance to break the record they share with the 1989-90 and 2003-04 championship teams. They are 15-3 two seasons after losing 28 in a row to break the NBA season record.

Brown had 33 points and 10 rebounds, and White scored 11 of his 27 points in the final 4½ minutes to help the Celtics overcome Cunningham's 42-point night.

With Detroit down 3, Cunningham was fouled near mid-court just as he was about to go up for a 3-pointer. After a review, the officials ruled he was indeed in the act of shooting. Cunningham hit the first two, but missed the third. Payton Pritchard grabbed the rebound for Boston, was fouled and hit two free throws with 2.4 seconds left.

Boston stole a pass before Detroit could attempt a potential tying 3.

Pritchard added 16 points to help the Celtics win for the fifth time in six games.

Knicks 129, Hornets 101: Jalen Brunson scored 33 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 19 points and 10 rebounds and visiting New York handed Charlotte its seventh straight loss.

Josh Hart added 22 points for the Knicks, who made 13 of 26 shots from 3-point range to improve to 3-1 in NBA Cup group play.

Brandon Miller had 18 points in his second game back from a shoulder injury for the Hornets, who've lost 10 straight Cup games over the past three seasons and were eliminated from this year's competition.

Heat 106, Bucks 103: Tyler Herro scored 29 points, Bam Adebayo finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds and host Miami

beat Milwaukee in an NBA Cup game.

The win was the 800th for Heat coach Erik Spoelstra.

Norman Powell, Andrewiggins and Kel'el Ware each scored 11 for Miami, which improved to 3-1 in Cup games and 9-1 at home this season. Miami would win Group C if Milwaukee beats New York on Friday; if the Knicks win that game the Heat would need some help to reach the quarterfinals.

The Bucks have dropped six straight, the last four of those without Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Spoelstra is the 17th coach in NBA history with 800 wins and only the third to reach that total with one franchise in regular-season play, joining Gregg Popovich (1,390 with San Antonio) and Jerry Sloan (1,127 with Utah).

Raptors 97, Pacers 95: Brandon Ingram made a 15-foot jumper with 0.6 seconds left to give host Toronto its ninth straight victory, beating Indiana.

Toronto wrapped up a top-two seed and homecourt in the NBA Cup quarterfinals with the victory and Milwaukee's loss to Miami on Wednesday.

Ingram had 26 points and eight rebounds to help Toronto finish the Cup group stage 4-0 and improve to 14-5 overall. Scottie Barnes had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Immanuel Quickley added 15 points.

Thunder 113, Timberwolves 105: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 40 points despite being ill and host Oklahoma City beat Minnesota in an NBA Cup game. Gilgeous-Alexander made 12 of 19 field goals and 15 of 17 free throws.

Oklahoma City won its 10th straight and became just the fifth team in NBA history to start a season 18-1. The Thunder improved to 4-0 in West Group A and are well-positioned to reach the knockout round.

Gilgeous-Alexander has

scored at least 20 points in 91 consecutive games, the third-longest streak in NBA history behind two streaks by Wilt Chamberlain. Gilgeous-Alexander can match Chamberlain's second-place run of 92 straight on Friday against Phoenix.

Anthony Edwards had 31 points and eight rebounds and kept the Timberwolves in the game by making several difficult shots, but couldn't stop Minnesota from losing its third straight. Minnesota made just 22 of 37 free throws.

Grizzlies 133, Pelicans 128 (OT): Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 27 points, Jaylen Wells added 25 and visiting Memphis outlasted New Orleans in overtime in NBA Cup play.

Zach Edey had 21 points, 15 rebounds and two blocked shots for Memphis, which improved to 2-1 in West Group B, while the Pelicans completed in-season tournament play at 0-4. The Grizzlies outscored New Orleans by 39 points during the 35 minutes Edey was on the court.

Jose Alvarado scored 24 for the Pelicans, who dominated when Edey was on the bench. They went up by 17 in the first half and led for most of regulation. Saddiq Bey had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Zion Williamson scored 17 for New Orleans, which snapped a nine-game skid on Monday night.

Suns 112, Kings 100: Mark Williams had 21 points and 16 rebounds, Collin Gillespie also scored 21 points and visiting Phoenix jumped to a big early lead before beating Sacramento.

The Suns improved to 3-0 in the NBA Cup standings. The Kings fell to 0-3.

The Suns never trailed, jumping to a 41-16 lead in the first quarter after taking advantage of the sloppy Kings, who had seven turnovers. Devin Booker had 12 points while Gillespie — making his first start of the season — scored 11.

Phoenix led by 22 points at halftime, but Sacramento rallied

to cut the deficit to 83-73 entering the fourth quarter. The Suns scored the first seven points of the fourth to regain control.

Spurs 115, Trail Blazers 102: De'Aaron Fox had 37 points and eight assists as visiting San Antonio defeated Portland in an NBA Cup group stage game.

Devin Vassell added 23 points for the Spurs, who kept their NBA Cup hopes alive.

Deni Avdija led Portland with 37 points and eight assists.

The Spurs shot 22 of 25 (88%) from the free-throw line, while the Blazers went 19 for 30 (63%). Portland also connected on only 25% of its attempts from behind the 3-point line, while San Antonio finished at 33%.

A 3-pointer by Toumani Camara cut it to 107-99. After a replay review, Kelly Olynyk picked up a clear-path foul, giving the Blazers two free throws and possession.

But they failed to take advantage of the opportunity. After being nearly perfect at the line, Avdija missed both foul shots and Portland came up empty.

Rockets 104, Warriors 100: Reed Sheppard scored a career-high 31 points to go with nine rebounds and five assists, and visiting Houston rallied from 12 points down at halftime to win in a rematch from the first round of last season's playoffs when Golden State won Game 7 as the seventh seed.

Jimmy Butler had 21 points, five rebounds and five assists, Stephen Curry scored 14 points, and rookie Will Richard 18 for the Warriors.

Moses Moody, who reached 2,000 career points, hit a 3-pointer with six seconds left to pull Golden State within two. Then Moody fouled Sheppard, who converted both free throws to seal it.

Alperen Sengun added 16 points, six rebounds and six assists for Houston, which scored 22 points off Golden State's 16 turnovers to win for the seventh time in eight games.

Flyers rally over Panthers in final minute

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Tyson Foerster scored on a rebound of his own shot with 45.2 seconds left for what became the game-winner, and the Philadelphia Flyers topped the Florida Panthers 4-2 on Wednesday night.

Foerster's shot from just inside the blue line ricocheted off the leg of Florida defenseman Aaron Ekblad and went right back toward the Philadelphia forward. With Ekblad out of the play and writhing in pain, Foerster shot again and beat Florida goalie Sergei Bobrovsky for a 3-2 lead.

Sean Couturier scored on a tip-in about 20 seconds later for the final margin. Dan Vladar stopped 25 shots for the Flyers.

Brad Marchand and Carter Verhaeghe scored early for Florida, which jumped out to a 2-0 lead with Sam Bennett assisting on both goals. Emil Andrae had a goal — just the second of his career — and added an assist for Philadelphia, while Matvei Michkov also scored and Jamie Drysdale added two assists.

Bobrovsky gave up four goals on 17 shots.

Penguins 4, Sabres 2: Bryan Rust and Kevin Hayes scored in the third period and host Pittsburgh beat Buffalo to snap a two-game losing streak.

Hayes tapped in Erik Karlsson's pass from the top of the crease with 7:26 remaining to give Pittsburgh a 3-1 lead. Jack Quinn trimmed the deficit for Buffalo with 4:18 left, and Connor Dewar had an empty-net goal for Pittsburgh in the final minute.

The Penguins have won just three of last 10 games since an 8-2-2 start.

Karlsson had an assist to tie Brad Park for the 12th-most assists by a defenseman in NHL history with 683.

Bruins 3, Islanders 1: Alex Steeves scored twice and Jeremy Swayman made 44 saves as visiting Boston downed New

York.

Tanner Jeannot also scored for the Bruins, who won for just the third time in seven games but completed a three-game sweep over the Islanders this season.

Swayman made 23 saves in the third to improve to 10-6-0. The Bruins — who missed the playoffs last season — have started 14-11-0 under first-year coach Marco Sturm.

Lightning 5, Flames 1: Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 32 shots, Brandon Hagel and Nikita Kucherov each had a goal and assist and host Tampa Bay beat Calgary for its fifth straight victory.

Zemgus Girgensons, Charle-Edouard D'Astous and Declan Carlile also scored and Jake Guentzel had two assists to help the Lightning match their longest streak of the season. They have won 13 of the past 16 games.

Predators 6, Red Wings 3: Ryan O'Reilly and Erik Haula scored 28 seconds apart with less than six minutes remaining as Nashville snapped a three-game losing streak with a road win over Detroit.

Michael Bunting scored his 100th career goal and added an assist for the Predators, who had gone 2-9-2 over their previous 13 games. O'Reilly also contributed two assists, while Haula, Nick Blankenburg and Steven Stamkos each had a goal and an assist.

Rangers 4, Hurricanes 2: Artemi Panarin had a goal and an assist as visiting New York beat Carolina.

Igor Shesterkin made 36 saves, stopping all 13 shots he faced in the first period. Noah Laba, Vincent Trochek and Will Cuyll also scored for the Rangers, who have won two in a row following a four-game skid.

Shayne Gostisbehere had a goal and an assist and Seth Jarvis also scored for the Hurricanes, who were coming off a 2-1-1 trip. Sebastian Aho, skating in his 700th career game, pro-

vided two assists and Frederik Andersen stopped 14 shots.

Maple Leafs 2, Blue Jackets 1 (OT): William Nylander became visiting Toronto's career overtime goals leader with 15, scoring on a wrist shot with 20 seconds remaining in its comeback victory over Columbus.

Nylander got the pass from defenseman Oliver Ekman-Larsson and put it past Columbus goaltender Jet Greaves to give Toronto only its second win in last nine games.

Capitals 4, Jets 3: Alex Ovechkin scored his 908th career NHL goal and host Washington beat Winnipeg.

John Carlson, Jakob Chychrun and Connor McMichael also scored for the Capitals, winners of five of the last six. Charlie Lindgren had 18 saves in the win.

Gabriel Vilardi struck twice and Mark Scheifele also scored for the Jets, who have dropped three straight, and Eric Comrie stopped 30 shots.

Devils 3, Blues 2 (OT): Simon Nemec scored on a wrist shot at 2:58 of overtime to give New Jersey a home win over St. Louis.

New Jersey (15-7-1) has won a franchise-record nine of its first 10 home games.

Wild 4, Blackhawks 3 (OT): Kirill Kaprizov scored a power-play goal 1:38 into overtime, and visiting Minnesota beat Chicago for its sixth consecutive victory.

Brock Faber, Nico Sturm and Matt Boldy also scored for Minnesota, which trailed 2-0 deep into the second period. Filip Gustavsson stopped 34 shots.

Avalanche 6, Sharks 0: Nathan MacKinnon scored his NHL-leading 18th goal, Mackenzie Blackwood stopped all 26 shots he faced and red-hot host Colorado rolled past San Jose for its 10th consecutive victory.

The Avalanche's win streak is the longest by an NHL team this season and is tied for the second-longest in franchise history. They also extended their point streak to an NHL-high 14 games,

with a 12-0-2 record in that time.

Canadiens 4, Mammoth 3: Nick Suzuki and Ivan Demidov scored in a 1:27 span early in the third period and visiting Montreal rallied to beat Utah for just its third victory in 10 games.

Suzuki scored twice, and Zach Bolduc added a goal and two assists as Montreal went 2 of 3 on power plays. Jakub Dobes made 31 saves.

Two of the Canadiens' victories in the last 10 have come against Utah.

Stars 3, Kraken 2: Defenseman Vladislav Kolyachonok broke a tie with 5:44 left with his first goal of the season to help visiting Dallas beat Seattle.

The right-handed shooting Kolyachonok beat goalie Joey Daccord with a long, low wrist shot from near the left boards.

At 15-5-4, Dallas is second in the NHL, five points behind Colorado.

Canucks 5, Ducks 4: Max Sasson and Drew O'Connor scored in a late 2:10 span, Nikita Tolopilo made 37 saves in his first NHL appearance of the season and visiting Vancouver beat Anaheim.

Sasson gave Vancouver the lead with 4:02 remaining on a tip, and O'Connor followed with 1:52 to go on a wrist shot. Cutter Gauthier got one back for the Ducks with seven seconds left, his 14th of the season.

The Canucks had lost three straight and six of seven.

Senators 4, Golden Knights 3 (SO): Jake Sanderson had a goal and two assists and Shane Pinto scored the lone shootout goal to lead visiting Ottawa past Vegas.

The Golden Knights had won six of seven games against Ottawa at T-Mobile Arena and gone 12-1-1 overall. The lone Senators victory in Las Vegas occurred on March 2, 2018, a 5-4 win.

Vegas dropped to 1-8 in overtime games. The Golden Knights have points in seven of eight games, but four were overtime losses.