

Trump: Scrap filibuster to end shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Back from a week abroad, President Donald Trump is calling on the Senate to scrap the filibuster and reopen the government after a monthlong shutdown, breaking with majority Republicans who have long opposed such a move.

Trump said in a post on his social media site Thursday that “THE CHOICE IS CLEAR — INITIATE THE ‘NUCLEAR OPTION,’ GET RID OF THE FILIBUSTER.”

Trump’s sudden decision to assert himself into the shutdown debate — bringing the highly charged demand to end the filibuster — is certain to set the Senate on edge. It could spur senators toward their own compromise or send the chamber spiraling toward a new sense of crisis.

Trump has long called for Republicans to get rid of the Senate rule that requires 60 votes to overcome objections, dating all the way back to his first term in office. The rule gives Demo-

crats a check on the 53-seat Republican majority and enough votes to keep the government closed while they demand an extension of health care subsidies.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune and most members of his Republican conference have strongly opposed changing the filibuster, arguing that it is vital to the institution of the Senate and has allowed them to halt Democratic policies when they are in the minority. Thune has repeatedly said he is not considering changing the rules to end the shutdown, and there would not be enough votes to do so, for now, even if he tried.

“The filibuster forces us to find common ground in the Senate,” Republican Sen. John Curtis of Utah posted on X Friday morning, responding to Trump’s comments. “Power changes hands, but principles shouldn’t. I’m a firm no on eliminating it.”

Debate has swirled around the legislative filibuster for years. Many Democrats pushed

to eliminate it when they had full power in Washington, as the Republicans do now. But they ultimately didn’t have the votes after enough Democratic senators opposed the move, predicting such an action would come back to haunt them.

Trump’s call comes as the two parties have made little progress toward resolving the shutdown standoff while he was away for a week in Asia. He said in his post that he gave a “great deal” of thought to his choice on his flight home and that one question that kept coming up during his trip was why “powerful Republicans allow” the Democrats to shut down parts of the government.

While quiet talks are underway, particularly among bipartisan senators, the shutdown is not expected to end before next week, as both the House and Senate are out of session. Democrats say they won’t vote to reopen the government until Republicans negotiate an extension to the health care subsidies while Republicans say they

won’t negotiate until the government is reopened.

As the shutdown drags on, from coast to coast, fallout from the dysfunction of the shuttered federal government is hitting home: Alaskans are stockpiling moose, caribou and fish for winter, even before SNAP food aid is scheduled to shut off. Mainers are filling up their home-heating oil tanks, but waiting on the federal subsidies that are nowhere in sight.

Flights are being delayed with holiday travel around the corner. Workers are going without paychecks. And Americans are getting a first glimpse of the skyrocketing health care insurance costs that are at the center of the stalemate on Capitol Hill. Money for food aid — the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP — will start to run out this weekend.

“People are stressing,” said Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, as food options in her state grow scarce.

“We are well past time to have this behind us.”

Hegseth vows to ‘stoutly defend’ Indo-Pacific interests

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday he told his Chinese counterpart during talks in Malaysia that Washington would “stoutly defend” its interests in the Indo-Pacific. He also signed a new agreement aimed at strengthening security ties with India.

Hegseth described as “good and constructive” his meeting with Chinese Adm. Dong Jun, held on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Na-

tions defense ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur. He said he raised U.S. concerns over Chinese activities in the South China Sea, around Taiwan and toward U.S. allies and partners in the region.

“I highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific,” Hegseth wrote on social media platform X. “United States does not seek conflict (but) it will continue to stoutly defend its interests and ensure it has the capabilities in the region to do so.”

China’s defense ministry issued a cautious response, emphasizing its long-standing positions. Dong Jun stressed the reunification of China and Taiwan is an “unstoppable historical trend” and urged the U.S. to be cautious in its words and actions on the Taiwan issue, the statement said.

“We hope the U.S. will translate its statements of not containing China and not seeking conflict into action, and work with China to inject positive energy into regional and global

peace and security,” according to the statement.

Their meeting follows a Sept. 9 video call between Hegseth and Dong and reflects ongoing efforts to manage tensions in the Indo-Pacific even as strategic differences, particularly over Taiwan and freedom of navigation, remain pronounced.

Hegseth also met with India’s Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and they signed a 10-year defense framework aimed at expanding military and technological cooperation.

Hegseth sending military lawyers to DOJ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the military to provide dozens of lawyers to the Justice Department for temporary assignments in Memphis and near the U.S.-Mexico border that could run through next fall, according to a memo released this week.

“I am directing you to collectively identify 48 attorneys and 4 paralegals from within your Military Department who may be suitable for detail” to the Justice Department to act as special assistant U.S. attorneys, Hegseth wrote in a memo dated Monday that was sent to all four services and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The memo appears to be the latest effort to send military and civilian attorneys working for the Pentagon to the Justice Department, this time to staff offices based along the U.S. southern border or where federal immigration enforcement operations are taking place.

Last month, the Pentagon also approved sending up to 600 military lawyers to the Justice Department to serve as temporary immigration judges in a separate effort. The Trump administration increasingly has tapped the military to bolster its immigration crackdown, from deploying to the southern border and a series of American cities.

This week’s memo says the Justice Department asked for 20 lawyers to help support its offices in Memphis, where the National Guard has been deployed by President Donald Trump; 12 for West Texas — specifically for the cities of El Paso, Del Rio and Midland — and three lawyers and two paralegals for Las Cruces, N.M.

The memo does not specify what kind of litigation the volunteers would be asked to do, but it says that, ideally, attorneys would have “significant experience” in immigration and administrative law in addition to general prosecution and litigation experience.

The Pentagon said in a statement that it was “proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our law enforcement partners, bringing the skill and dedication of America’s service members to deliver justice, restore order, and protect the American people.”

The Justice Department also confirmed the memo’s authenticity but did not provide additional details on the reason for its request or what the attorneys would be doing.

As with the prior request for hundreds of military attorneys to work as immigration judges, it is not immediately clear what impact removing a growing number of lawyers would have on the armed forces’ justice system. The attorneys, called judge advocates, have a range of duties much like civilian lawyers, from carrying out prosecutions, acting as defense attorneys or offering legal advice to service members.

The new request follows a Sept. 26 ask from the Justice

Department for 35 attorneys and two paralegals from the military, according to the memo. It wasn’t immediately clear if that number was in addition to the 48 attorneys requested this week.

The AP also reviewed an email that was sent to military attorneys on Sept. 12 that said the Pentagon was looking for volunteers to become special assistant U.S. attorneys in West Texas and New Mexico without mentioning a total figure.

It is not clear how successful the Pentagon has been at finding volunteers, but at least some of the services have been making the case to their attorneys through messages like the one sent by the Army’s top lawyer.

“These roles offer unparalleled opportunity to refine your advocacy, courtroom procedure, and functional knowledge of the federal legal system for future use in our military justice system or civil litigation,” Major Gen. Bobby Christine said in an email reviewed by the AP.

Activists allege ‘inhumane’ conditions at ICE facility

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Illinois advocates sued federal authorities Friday over alleged “inhumane” conditions at a Chicago-area federal immigration facility.

Attorneys with the ACLU of Illinois and the MacArthur Justice Center say U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have denied people being held at the Broadview facility private calls with attorneys and have blocked members of Congress, faith leaders and journalists from entering the building, creating a “black box” they say has allowed authorities

to act “with impunity.”

Agents have also allegedly coerced people held at the processing center to sign paperwork they don’t understand, leading them to unknowingly relinquish their rights and face deportation, according to the lawsuit.

Alexa Van Brunt, director of the MacArthur Justice Center’s Illinois office and lead attorney for the lawsuit, said community members are “being kidnapped off the streets, packed in hold cells, denied food, medical care and basic necessities, and forced to sign away their legal rights.”

Suspects arrested in Mich. in a Halloween attack plot

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Multiple people who are suspected of plotting a violent attack over the Halloween weekend were arrested Friday morning in Michigan, FBI Director Kash Patel said in a social media post.

Patel didn’t release further information about the arrests, but said more information would be coming.

Dearborn Police said in a social media post that the department was made aware that the FBI conducted operations in the city on Friday and assured residents that there is no threat

to the community.

Separately, in May, the FBI said it arrested a man who had spent months planning an attack against a U.S. Army site in suburban Detroit on behalf of the Islamic State. The man, Ammar Said, didn’t know that his supposed allies in the alleged plot were undercover FBI employees.

Said remains in custody, charged with attempting to provide support to a terrorist organization. The criminal complaint was replaced in September with a criminal “information” document, signaling that a guilty plea is likely.

Judge questions plan to halt SNAP benefits for millions

Associated Press

BOSTON — A federal judge in Boston on Thursday seemed skeptical of the Trump's administration's argument that SNAP benefits could be suspended for the first time in the food aid program's history because of the government shutdown.

During a hearing over a request by 25 Democratic-led states to keep the funding flowing, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani told lawyers that if the government can't afford to cover the cost, there's a process to follow rather than simply suspending all benefits. "The steps involve finding an equitable way of reducing benefits," said Talwani, who was nominated to the court by then-President Barack Obama.

Talwani said she expected to issue a ruling later Thursday and seemed to be leaning toward requiring the government

to put billions of dollars in emergency funds toward SNAP. That, she said, is her interpretation of what Congress intended when an agency's funding runs out.

"If you don't have money, you tighten your belt," she said in court. "You are not going to make everyone drop dead because it's a political game someplace."

Talwani acknowledged that even ordering emergency funds to pay for SNAP might still be painful for some SNAP recipients because it could mean they get less money and that the money they do get could be delayed. "We are dealing with a reality that absent a 100% win for you, the benefits aren't going to be there on Nov. 1," she told the plaintiffs.

The hearing came two days before the U.S. Department of Agriculture planned to freeze

payments to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program because it said it can't continue funding it due to the shutdown.

SNAP, which costs about \$8 billion per month, serves about 1 in 8 Americans and is a major piece of the nation's social safety net.

Word in October that it would be a Nov. 1 casualty of the shutdown sent states, food banks and SNAP recipients scrambling to figure out how to secure food. Some states said they would spend their own funds to keep versions of the program going.

President Donald Trump's administration said it wasn't allowed to use a contingency fund with about \$5 billion in it for the program, which reversed a USDA plan from before the shutdown that said that money would be tapped to keep SNAP running.

Medical neglect cited in detention centers

Associated Press

A U.S. Senate investigation has uncovered dozens of credible reports of medical neglect and poor conditions in immigration detention centers nationwide — with detainees denied insulin, left without medical attention for days and forced to compete for clean water — raising scrutiny about how the government oversees its vast detention system.

The report released by Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., is the second in a series of inquiries examining alleged human rights abuses in the immigration detention system. It builds on an August review that detailed mistreatment of children and pregnant women and draws from more than 500 reports of abuse and neglect collected between January and August.

The latest findings document more than 80 credible cases of medical neglect and widespread complaints of inadequate food and water. Senate investigators say that points to systemic failures in federal detention oversight.

The report cites accounts from detainees, attorneys, advocates, news reports and at least one Department of Homeland Security employee, describing delays in medical care that, in some cases, proved life-threatening.

One detainee reportedly suffered a heart attack after complaining of chest pain for days without treatment. Others said inhalers and asthma medication were withheld, or that detainees waited weeks for prescriptions to be filled.

A Homeland Security staff member assigned to one detention site told investigators that "ambulances have to come almost every day," according to the report.

Justice Department investigating fraud allegations involving Black Lives Matter

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is investigating whether leaders in the Black Lives Matter movement defrauded donors who contributed tens of millions of dollars during racial justice protests in 2020, according to multiple people familiar with the matter.

In recent weeks, federal law enforcement officials have issued subpoenas and served at least one search warrant as part of an investigation into the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, Inc. and other Black-led organizations that helped spark a national reckoning on systemic racism, said the people, who spoke on condition

of anonymity.

It was not clear if the investigation would result in criminal charges, but its mere existence invites fresh scrutiny to a movement that in recent years has faced criticism about its public accounting of donations it has received.

The recent burst of investigative activity is also unfolding at a time when civil rights organizations have raised concerns about the potential for the Trump administration to target a variety of progressive and left-leaning groups that have been critical of him, including those affiliated with BLM, the transgender rights movement and anti-ICE protesters.

Spokespeople for the Justice Department declined to comment on Thursday.

One of the people said the investigation had been initiated during the Biden administration but is getting renewed attention during the Trump administration. A second person confirmed that allegations were examined in the Biden administration.

The foundation said it took in over \$90 million in donations following the 2020 murder of George Floyd, a Black man whose last breaths under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer sparked protests across the U.S. and around the world.

Ohio panel approves new House districts

Associated Press

A Republican-dominated Ohio panel adopted new U.S. House districts on Friday that could boost the GOP's chances of winning two additional seats in next year's elections and aid President Donald Trump's efforts to hold on to a slim congressional majority.

The action by the Ohio Redistricting Commission comes as Trump has been urging Republican-led states to reshape their U.S. House districts in an attempt to win more seats. But unlike in other states, Ohio's redistricting was required by the state constitution because the current districts were adopted after the 2020 census without bipartisan support.

Ohio joins Texas, Missouri and North Carolina, where Republican lawmakers already

have revised their congressional districts.

Meanwhile, senators in the Democrat-led Virginia General Assembly were expected to vote Friday on advancing a proposed constitutional amendment that would let them temporarily bypass a bipartisan commission and redraw congressional districts to their advantage. That scheduled vote comes after the Virginia House passed the same resolution Wednesday.

Trump kicked off the redistricting fray this summer by urging Republican-led states to redraw voting districts ahead of next year's congressional elections. Republicans in Texas, Missouri and North Carolina already have done so. Voters in Democratic-led California are deciding on new districts.

The political parties are in an

intense battle, because Democrats need to gain just three seats in next year's election to win control of the House and gain the power to impede Trump's agenda.

Republicans already hold 10 of the 15 congressional seats in Ohio. The new map could boost Republican chances in districts currently held by Democratic Reps. Greg Landsman in Cincinnati and Marcy Kaptur near Toledo, an area that voted for Trump in last year's presidential election. Kaptur won a 22nd term last fall by about 2,400 votes, or less than 1 percentage point, while Landsman was re-elected with more than 54% of the vote.

In Virginia, the proposed constitutional amendment being considered by senators is in its early stages. After Friday, the

resolution would need to pass the General Assembly again next year, then go before voters by way of a referendum.

Along with California, Virginia would be one of the few states with a Democratic-led legislature to enter the national redistricting battle.

"There's a double standard for Democrats in authority that somehow we have to lay down while Donald Trump seizes power that we've never seen, and the Republicans run the play," Virginia House Speaker Don Scott said this week.

Through the constitutional amendment, Virginia's General Assembly would have the power to create a new congressional map only when other states do so between now and 2030. Democrats have not unveiled their planned map.

Hospital: Israel hands over bodies of 30 Palestinians

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel has handed over the bodies of 30 Palestinians, according to the Red Cross and hospital officials in Gaza, a day after Palestinian militants returned the remains of two hostages to Israel.

A doctor at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis confirmed receiving the bodies and said they were all unidentified. The Red Cross said that its teams had facilitated the transfer.

The exchange is the latest indication that the fraught Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement is moving forward, despite Israeli strikes on Gaza this week that killed more than 100 people following the killing of an Israeli soldier.

The return brings the number of Palestinian bodies returned by Israel to 225, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It is unclear if the bodies returned by

Israel were killed in Israel during the Oct. 7, 2023, attack, died in Israeli custody as detainees or were recovered from Gaza by troops during the war.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said late Thursday that the remains returned by Palestinian militants had been confirmed as those of Sahar Baruch and Amiram Cooper, both taken hostage during the 2023 attack by Hamas that set off the war.

Hamas has now returned the remains of 17 hostages since the start of the ceasefire, with 11 others still in Gaza and set to be turned over under the terms of the agreement.

On Friday, Shifa hospital director Mohamed Abu Selmiya said that one person had been killed by Israeli gunfire in northern Gaza. Israel's military said its troops had fired after the person approached troops in a way that posed a threat.

King strips Andrew of titles, evicts him from residence

Associated Press

LONDON — King Charles III on Thursday stripped his disgraced brother Prince Andrew of his remaining titles and evicted him from his royal residence after weeks of pressure to act over his relationship with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, Buckingham Palace said.

After the king's rare move, which follows years of shameful scandals, he will be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor and not as a prince, and he will have to vacate his Royal Lodge mansion near Windsor Castle.

Demand had been growing on the palace to oust the prince from Royal Lodge after he surrendered his use of the title Duke of York a few weeks ago over new revelations about his friendship with Epstein and renewed sexual abuse allegations by one of Epstein's victims, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, whose posthumous memoir hit books-

tores last week.

But the king went even further to punish him for serious lapses of judgment by removing the title of prince that he has held since birth as a child of a monarch, the late Queen Elizabeth II.

"These censures are deemed necessary, notwithstanding the fact that he continues to deny the allegations against him," the palace said. "Their Majesties wish to make clear that their thoughts and utmost sympathies have been, and will remain with, the victims and survivors of any and all forms of abuse."

It is almost unprecedented for a British prince or princess to be stripped of that title.

It last happened in 1919, when Prince Ernest Augustus, who was a U.K. royal and also a prince of Hanover, had his British title removed for siding with Germany during World War I.

Jackson torches Miami with 4 TD passes

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Lamar Jackson returned for the Baltimore Ravens, and so did the chants of “M-V-P!”

Jackson threw for 204 yards and four touchdowns, showing little rust in his return from a right hamstring strain, and the Ravens routed the Miami Dolphins 28-6.

The two-time MVP completed 18 of 23 passes in his first start since Week 4 against Kansas City, and the Ravens (3-5) won their second straight as they hope to make a run in the wide-open AFC North.

“It felt great,” Jackson said. “I didn’t have any problems. I was feeling good out there.”

Tight end Mark Andrews made two touchdown catches. Jackson’s other TD passes went to tight end Charlie Kolar and receiver Rashod Bateman.

Derrick Henry rushed 119 yards on 19 carries. Jackson ran the ball five times for 14 yards.

Jackson connected on his first nine passes of the second half before he finally missed

DeAndre Hopkins on a deep throw in the final minute of the third quarter. The game was out of reach by then, and Jackson had already thrown for his fourth TD — a 9-yard toss to Bateman that put Baltimore up 28-6.

“It’s do or die,” Jackson said. “Win or go home. Usually we start off winning games. But right now we’re behind, and we’ve all got to step it up.”

The Ravens were 1-5 just five days ago but have put together impressive wins after Tyler Huntley led them to a 30-16 victory over Chicago last Sunday.

“We had two games that we needed to win in four days,” Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said. “And they were absolute must-wins. And for our guys to step up the way they did ... is commendable. And it just means we’re two games under .500. That’s all it means. But we’re two games under .500, right? We were four games under .500.”

Tua Tagovailoa, who completed 25 of 40 passes for 261

yards with an interception, led the Dolphins 80 yards down the field early in the fourth, a promising drive that included two fourth-down conversions. But receiver Malik Washington fumbled at the 10, and Dolphins fans began to exit Hard Rock Stadium en masse with more than 10 minutes remaining.

“You want to dictate the terms. You want to fix stuff,” Dolphins coach Mike McDaniels said. “That sucks. All of that does. But it’s a pretty consistent formula of — fans enjoy winning. Our expectation is that we have to do that work and do the right things for fans to enjoy the experience. Unfortunately we didn’t do that tonight, so we’ve got to get back to work to give them something to cheer about.”

De’Von Achane had 14 carries for 67 yards. Jaylen Waddle caught six passes for 82 yards.

The Dolphins (2-7) outgained the Ravens 226 yards to 109 and held them to 1 of 6 on third down in the first half, but Miami trailed 14-6 because of a slew of

mistakes.

On Miami’s second drive, rookie Tahj Washington fumbled at the Dolphins 4, and Andrews caught a 2-yard TD from Jackson on fourth down on the Ravens’ ensuing possession.

Achane led the Dolphins back down the field with runs of 19 and 22 yards, but a false start by offensive lineman Larry Borom on fourth-and-1 forced Miami to kick a field goal, which Riley Patterson missed from 35 yards out.

The Ravens’ offense answered again. Jackson escaped the grasp of linebacker Jaelan Phillips and connected with Isaiah Likely for a 35-yard pickup, which set up Andrews’ 20-yard score — aided by two Dolphins defenders running into each other in coverage — that put Baltimore ahead 14-3.

“Against a good team like that, you just can’t give them an inch,” Phillips said, “or they’ll take a mile.”

Miami’s only points were Patterson’s field goals of 49 and 43 yards.

Hendrickson, Hall could be moved before trade deadline

Associated Press

Christian McCaffrey, Roquan Smith and Von Miller were the best trade deadline acquisitions over the past four years.

NFL teams looking to bolster their playoff hopes for a run at the Super Bowl have until 4 p.m. ET on Tuesday to make a trade. Of course, it takes two to make a deal.

Several moves already were made. The Bengals acquired Joe Flacco. The Rams got cornerback Roger McCreary. The

Eagles added cornerback Michael Carter II. Defensive end Keion White went to the 49ers. Safety Kyle Dugger was traded to the Steelers. The Jaguars and Browns swapped cornerbacks Greg Newsome II and Tyson Campbell a few weeks ago.

None of those were blockbuster trades like McCaffrey going from Carolina to San Francisco for four draft picks in 2022. Or cornerback Jalen Ramsey going from Jacksonville to the Rams for two first-round picks

and a fourth in 2019.

The Ravens got Smith from the Bears for a second-round pick, a fifth-rounder and linebacker A.J. Klein in 2022.

Miller was traded from Denver to the Rams in 2021 for two Day 2 picks.

Bengals All-Pro edge rusher Trey Hendrickson and Jets running back Breece Hall are among the biggest names being mentioned in trade speculation along with quarterback Kirk Cousins. Dolphins edge rushers

Jaelan Phillips and Bradley Chubb, as well as Seahawks cornerback Riq Woolen, also have been discussed in rumors.

Rumors and speculation don’t mean much. It’s just talk. The Eagles aren’t moving wide-out A.J. Brown by Tuesday despite endless speculation about the mercurial star.

Raiders wide receiver Jakobi Meyers and Bengals linebacker Logan Wilson have requested trades so those rumors have merit.

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Splitter in spotlight with Gausman, Yamamoto

Associated Press

TORONTO — Mr. Splitty has returned.

Showcased by World Series Game 6 starters Kevin Gausman and Yoshinobu Yamamoto, split-finger fastballs have been used for 6.8% of postseason pitches this year, more than double last year's 2.4% and up from 1.5% when pitch tracking started in 2008.

"There's so many good pitches in today's game — there's so many good sweepers and sliders and cutters," Gausman said. "I think the split is almost kind of a just a little bit different of an animal. You can recognize the spin and you can still have a pretty ugly swing on it if the metrics are right."

Splitters are thrown with index and middle fingers spread wide, intended to have substantial downward break.

Toronto used splitters a big league-high 9.3% of the time during the regular season, according to MLB Statcast. That was the highest percentage of any team since pitch tracking started in 2008, topping 7.8% by Minnesota in 2023 and Baltimore this year.

Gausman has thrown his splitter 41.4% of the time in the

postseason, followed on the Blue Jays by fellow starter Trey Yesavage (27.7%), closer Jeff Hoffman (25.9%) and relievers Seranthony Domínguez (16.7%) and Yariel Rodríguez (8.6%).

Roki Sasaki, shifted from rotation to relief, tops the Dodgers at 45.9%, followed by Yamamoto at 24.7% and Shohei Ohtani at 7.4%.

"Roger Craig is smiling somewhere," New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said, referring to the late pitching coach and manager, among the splitter's most prominent proponents. "With all these cameras and technology and stuff, you're really able to outfit guys with what they should be doing based on how their body moves."

Bruce Sutter, Jack Morris and John Smoltz utilized the splitter during careers that earned induction into the Hall of Fame. Sutter credited his reaching the Hall to learning the splitter from Fred Martin, a big leaguer from 1946-50 who became a Chicago Cubs minor-league instructor.

"He told me to spread my fingers apart and throw it just like a fastball," Sutter said during his Hall induction speech in

2006. "There were players throwing forkballs at the time and a few guys were using it for a changeup, but nobody was throwing what he called the split finger. It was a pitch that didn't change how the game was played but developed a new way to get hitters out."

Craig taught the splitter to Morris as pitching coach of the Detroit Tigers and to Mike Scott when he was with the Houston Astros. Roger Clemens learned how to throw it from Scott at a charity golf event in 1986 and started calling the pitch "Mr. Splitty."

Usage dropped after the pitch gained a reputation for causing elbow injuries. Just 1.4% of regular-season pitches were splitters when tracking started. The percentage climbed to 2.2% in 2023, 3.1% in 2024 and 3.3% this year.

"Going back a few years, I think certain people thought they couldn't throw it, they couldn't actually get their fingers wide enough," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said. "Pitch design has changed, and I think guys have figured out different ways to grip it, like, Gaus' is different than Trey's, Trey's is different than Seran-

thony's, Yariel's is different than — they all hold it a little bit differently. So I think pitchers have just gotten to the point where they understand that pitch works against certain swing types that are pretty prevalent in the league and they figured out ways to kind of manipulate to get the same action."

Gausman's 37.6% splitter usage during the season was third behind Detroit's Rafael Montero (46.9%) and Philadelphia's Jhoan Duran (39.7%) among those who threw at least 1,000 pitches.

Among starting pitchers who threw at least 100 splitters, Yamamoto held batters to a .136 average, third behind Seattle's Logan Gilbert (.119) and Atlanta's Spencer Schwellenbach (.132).

Batters had a .181 average against Gausman's splitter, down from .230 vs. his fastball and .342 against his slider.

"One of the few pitches I thoroughly believe a hitter can know it's coming and still get out," Gausman said. "I've always felt like the changeup is the best pitch in the game because it looks like a fastball, and anything that looks like a fastball and isn't is really good."

LSU athletic director ousted 4 days after firing of coach

Associated Press

LSU athletic director Scott Woodward resigned under pressure from the post he's held for six years on Thursday night, four days after the firing of football coach Brian Kelly and a day after Republican Gov. Jeff Landry said Woodward would not hire Kelly's replacement.

Woodward, a Baton Rouge native and LSU graduate, was hired as athletic director at his alma mater in April 2019. Since then, LSU has won national championships in football, baseball (twice), women's basketball and gymnastics.

"We thank Scott for the last six years of service as athletic director," LSU Board of Supervisors chairman Scott Ballard said. "He had a lot of success at LSU."

"Our focus now is on moving the athletic department forward and best positioning LSU to achieve its full potential."

Among the coaches hired by Woodward was Kim Mulkey, who led LSU to its first women's basketball national title in 2023. Her team played an exhibition game on Thursday night, and Mulkey declined to attend a postgame news conference,

sending assistant Bob Starkey instead.

"She's heartbroken," Starkey told reporters.

"In 40 years of coaching, I've worked with two phenomenal athletic directors," Starkey added. "One was Skip Bertman (at LSU). The other one was Scott Woodward."

Verge Ausberry, LSU's executive deputy athletic director, will replace Woodward on an interim basis and lead the search for a football coach, the university announced.

In an open letter to LSU fans, Woodward said, "Our Universi-

ty will always hold a special place in my heart and I will never be too far from LSU."

"Others can recap or opine on my tenure and on my decisions over the last six years as Director of Athletics, but I will not," Woodward said. "Rather, I will focus on the absolute joy that LSU Athletics brings to our state's residents and to the Baton Rouge community."

According to Woodward's contract, he is owed more than \$5 million through 2029. LSU has not yet announced the financial terms of his separation agreement.

Magic snap 4-game skid in win over Hornets

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Franz Wagner scored 21 points and the Orlando Magic snapped a four-game losing streak with a 123-107 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Thursday night.

Paolo Banchero had 18 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the Magic, who led by as many as 20 points in their second win of the season. Wagner was questionable with a left heel contusion going into the game but started.

LaMelo Ball had 17 points and 13 assists for the Hornets, his third double-double of the season.

The Magic were playing the second of a back-to-back, after falling 135-116 to the Pistons on Wednesday.

Bucks 120, Warriors 110: Ryan Rollins set a career scoring high for a second straight game with 32 points as Milwaukee withstood Giannis Antetokounmpo's absence to beat

Golden State.

Antetokounmpo, who entered Thursday ranked second in the league in scoring (36.3) and rebounding (14.0), was dealing with left knee soreness that had him listed as probable in the Bucks' injury report. The Bucks announced about an hour before the opening tip that the two-time MVP had been ruled out, and he watched the game from the bench.

Rollins shot 13 of 21 from the floor and 5 of 7 from 3-point range just two nights after scoring 25 points in a 121-111 victory over the New York Knicks. Rollins, who began his NBA career with Golden State in 2022-23, also had eight assists.

Myles Turner added 17 points for the Bucks. Cole Anthony had 16 before fouling out with 7:34 left to lead a Milwaukee bench that outscored Golden State's reserves 38-29.

Stephen Curry scored 27, Jonathan Kuminga 24 and Jimmy

Butler 23 for Golden State. Butler also had 11 rebounds.

Thunder 127, Wizards 108: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points, and Oklahoma City improved to 6-0 by beating Washington.

Reserve Ajay Mitchell added 20 points for the Thunder. He made all six of his free throws and has been perfect on 19 attempts from the line this season.

Isaiah Joe, who missed Oklahoma City's first five games with a knee bruise, scored 20 points and made five 3-pointers for a team that entered the night last in the league in 3-point percentage at 28.6%.

Oklahoma City forced 22 turnovers and had only six. Cason Wallace led the Thunder with four steals and Alex Caruso had three.

CJ McCollum had 19 points and Bilal Coulibaly added 16 for Washington, which lost its third straight and fell to 1-4.

Spurs 107, Heat 101: Victor

Wembanyama had 27 points, 18 rebounds, six assists and five blocked shots, and San Antonio Spurs improved to 5-0 for the first time in franchise history by beating Miami.

San Antonio won four straight to open a season on three previous occasions, most recently 2017. The Spurs, Heat and Sacramento Kings were the only franchises never to open a season 5-0. Miami couldn't prevent San Antonio from exiting that club despite a determined effort.

Bam Adebayo had 31 points, 10 rebounds and three assists for the Heat in a matchup of All-Star centers.

The Heat were without Norman Powell (strained groin), Tyler Herro (ankle), Kasparas Jakucionis (strained groin) and Nikola Jovic (bruised hip), but the depleted roster made a strong push in the fourth quarter before Miami's three-game winning streak was snapped.

Rozier, Billups will not get NBA salaries while on leave

Associated Press

NBA guard Terry Rozier and coach Chauncey Billups will not receive their salaries while on leave for their arrests on federal gambling-related charges, two people with knowledge of the matters told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Rozier had been due to receive the first installment of a \$26.6 million annual salary with the Miami Heat later this week. That, and future installments, will be held pending resolution of his legal case, said the people, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the details were not released publicly.

If Rozier is cleared and allowed to return to the NBA, which placed him on leave hours after his Oct. 23 arrest, he could receive the held payments in full, one of the sources

said.

The Heat will not receive any immediate salary cap relief by the NBA's decision, one of the sources said.

There are provisions in the NBA's collective bargaining agreement that allow the league, in certain situations, to place salary withheld from a player in an interest-bearing account.

Billups, the Portland coach who has also been placed on leave by the league after his arrest last week, is having his salary held by the Trail Blazers, one of the sources said. Billups is under contract into at least the 2026-27 season; the team announced that he agreed to a multiyear extension in April.

There was no immediate comment from either the Heat or the Trail Blazers.

The National Basketball

Players Association indicated it would file a grievance on Rozier's behalf.

"While we are in agreement with the league that upholding the integrity of the game is of the utmost importance, their decision to place Terry on leave without pay is counter to the presumption of innocence and inconsistent with the terms of our Collective Bargaining Agreement," said an NBPA spokesperson. "We plan to challenge their decision via the proper channels."

Meanwhile, Rozier's attorney said Wednesday that a federal lien filed with regard to the player's tax bill in 2021 was satisfied.

The Internal Revenue Service filed that lien against Rozier in November 2023, showing an "unpaid balance of assessment" of \$8,218,211.70 for the

2021 tax year. But Rozier's attorney, Jim Trusty, said in an email to the AP that the actual amount owed to the IRS at that time was a sliver of that total.

"There was never a debt of \$8 million," Trusty wrote. "Out of his total taxes owed in 2021 (\$8m) he actually owed \$9000. That was paid but the now-defunct lien still needs to be pulled from the local courthouse."

ESPN first reported the lien's existence. The lien is a public record, and there is no publicly available document showing it has been removed.

Officials in Broward County, Fla. — where the lien was filed — did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A call seeking information from an IRS revenue officer was unanswered. Revenue officers work for the IRS to collect delinquent taxes.

Cirelli's OT goal lifts Lightning over Stars

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Anthony Cirelli scored 2:36 into overtime to lift the Tampa Bay Lightning to their fourth straight win, 2-1 over the Dallas Stars on Thursday night.

Brandon Hagel scored his first power-play goal in nearly 18 months for the Lightning and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 20 shots for the victory.

Adam Erne scored for Dallas, which had its three-game winning streak snapped, though the Stars still have points in five straight. Jake Oettinger finished with 30 saves.

Dallas alternate captain Tyler Seguin, the second overall pick in the 2010 draft by Boston, played in his 1,000th career game to become the 406th player in NHL history to reach that milestone.

With the game tied at 1, Cirelli was able to skate in alone on Oettinger, pull the puck to his backhand and push it past the Dallas goaltender for his sixth goal of the season.

Hagel put the Lightning, who had just one win in their first seven games, in front at 15:02 of the second period on the power play.

Flyers 4, Predators 1: Trevor Zegras scored twice and added an assist to continue his home ice hot streak and Philadelphia beat Nashville.

Zegras, who leads the Flyers with 12 points, has at least one point in each of the team's seven home games this season, becoming just the third Flyer to do so in his first seven home games with the organization.

After a scoreless first period, Zegras snapped a wrist shot past Nashville goalie Juuse Saros 12:45 into the second period.

Zegras scored his fourth goal this season on the power play in the third period, one-timing a pass from Cam York past Saros.

Zegras also picked up an assist on Jamie Drysdale's first goal of the season in the second period.

Dan Vladar made 32 saves for the Flyers. Vladar has not allowed more than two goals in any of his six starts for Philadelphia this season.

Bruins 4, Sabres 3, OT: Marat Khushnutdinov scored 2:07 into overtime and Boston beat Buffalo.

Alex Tuch's goal with 5:35 left in regulation tied it, wiping out Buffalo's two-goal deficit in the third period.

Morgan Geekie scored for the sixth straight game, David Pastrnak had a goal and an assist and Mark Kastelic also scored for Boston. Joonas Korpisalo made 37 saves as the Bruins won for the third time in four games.

Khushnutdinov scored on a wrister from the right circle, slipping the puck inside the right post.

Rasmus Dahlin and Josh Doan also scored for the Sabres, who dropped their third straight overtime game. Alex Lyon stopped 18 shots.

Hurricanes 6, Islanders 2: Andrei Svechnikov had a goal and an assist, Brandon Bussi had 26 saves and Carolina beat New York.

Mike Reilly, Bradley Nadeau, Jordan Martinook and Jackson Blake also scored and Logan Stankoven also had a goal and an assist for Carolina. The Hurricanes snapped a two-game skid and got the second win in five games.

Matthew Schaefer and Simon Holmstrom scored for the Islanders in their third straight loss (0-2-1) after winning four in a row. David Rittich had 27 saves.

Senators 4, Flames 3, SO: Drake Batherson and Tim Stutzle scored in the shootout and Ottawa beat Calgary.

Ottawa's Jake Sanderson redeemed himself for an earlier mistake by tying the game 3-all with 2:49 remaining with a shot from the top of the faceoff circle.

The Flames benefited from Sanderson's giveaway with Nazem Kadri and Jonathan Hu-

berdeau playing a give-and-go before Kadri beat Linus Ullmark, who stopped 27 shots, at 8:16 of the third.

Penguins 4, Wild 1: Bryan Rust had a goal and an assist, Tristan Jarry made 26 saves and Pittsburgh beat Minnesota to hand the Wild their fifth straight loss.

Rust's tip-in of Ryan Shea's long pass from the point broke a 1-1 tie 6:29 into the third. Ben Kindel added an insurance goal a minute later.

Shea also scored and Anthony Mantha had an empty-net goal for Pittsburgh, which improved to 5-1-1 on the road. Jarry improved to 13-5-2 since returning from an AHL stint late last season. The 30-year-old goalie held the Wild scoreless on four power plays after they entered leading the Western Conference with 14 goals with the man advantage.

Kirill Kaprizov had the lone goal for Minnesota, which has lost eight of nine, including four straight to start a six-game homestand. Filip Gustavsson made 30 saves.

Jets 6, Blackhawks 3: Gabriel Villardi had two goals and an assist, and linemates Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor each had a goal and two assists as Winnipeg beat Chicago.

Vladislav Namestnikov and Josh Morrissey also scored for Winnipeg and Dylan DeMelo had two assists. Connor Hellebuyck stopped 21 shots.

Teuvo Teravainen, Alex Vlasic and Andre Burakovsky scored for Chicago, and Spencer Knight finished with 26 saves in the opener of a six-game trip.

Canucks 4, Blues 3, SO: Keifer Sherwood had a hat trick, Jake DeBrusk scored the only goal in a shootout and Vancouver beat St. Louis.

DeBrusk beat Jordan Binnington in the third round of the shootout to give the Canucks their second win in six games.

Sherwood's third goal came

with 12:56 remaining in the third period. He picked up a loose puck in the right circle after a stick was broken and whistled the puck over the shoulder of Binnington, who finished with 15 saves.

Rangers 4, Oilers 3, OT: J.T. Miller scored 2:49 into overtime and New York erased a two-goal deficit to beat Edmonton.

Johnny Brodzinski, Braden Schneider and Taylor Raddysh also scored for the Rangers, who improved to 5-1-1 on the road this season.

Darnell Nurse had a pair of goals and Matt Savoie had his first career goal for the Oilers, who have lost three of their last four.

Sharks 5, Devils 2: William Eklund scored in the opening minute to set the tone for San Jose and the Sharks earned their first home win of the season by beating New Jersey.

Eklund scored on a breakaway just 42 seconds into the game, with linemates Philipp Kurashev and Alex Wennberg adding goals later in the first period for San Jose.

Will Smith and Tyler Toffoli then scored late in the second period to break the game open and give San Jose its first win in six games at the Shark Tank this season.

Red Wings 4, Kings 3, SO: Lucas Raymond scored in the shootout and Detroit beat Los Angeles.

Marco Kasper scored two goals, and Alex DeBrincat had a goal and an assist for Detroit. Cam Talbot stopped 35 shots through overtime and denied all three attempts in the tiebreaker as the Red Wings got their third straight win and eighth in the last 10 games.

Quinton Byfield had a goal and an assist, and Alex Laferriere and Corey Perry also scored for Los Angeles, which snapped a two-game win streak and a six-game point streak (4-0-2). Darcy Kuemper had 24 saves.