

Israel, Hamas weigh deal on hostages

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Hamas militant group on Tuesday appeared close to a temporary cease-fire deal that could bring the first pause in fighting in a devastating six-week war and result in the release of dozens of hostages held captive in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas predicted a Qatari-mediated deal could be reached in “the coming hours,” while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was set to convene top decision-makers to discuss the matter.

“We are advancing,” Netanyahu told troops during a visit to a training base. “I hope there will be good news soon.”

The announcement came as Israeli troops battled Palestinian militants in an urban refugee camp in northern Gaza and around hospitals overcrowded with patients and sheltering families.

Netanyahu’s office said the special three-member War Cabinet met Tuesday and would be followed by meetings of his Security Cabinet, a forum of senior security officials, and the full Cabinet.

There was no word on whether a vote would take place, and details of a deal were not released. Israeli media reports said an agreement would include a five-day halt in Israel’s offensive in Gaza and the release of 50 hostages held by Hamas in exchange for some 150 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Israel’s Channel 12 TV said the first releases would take place Thursday or Friday.

Talks have repeatedly stalled. But even if a deal is reached, it would not mean an end to the war, which erupted on Oct. 7 after Hamas militants stormed across the border into southern Israel and killed at least 1,200 people, most of them civilians,

and kidnapped some 240 others.

An Israeli offensive, including weeks of airstrikes and a ground invasion, has left over 12,000 people dead, caused widespread destruction and displaced over 1.7 million people, according to Palestinian health authorities.

Inside Gaza, the front line of the war has shifted to the Jabaliya refugee camp, a dense warren of concrete buildings near Gaza City that houses families displaced in the 1948 war surrounding Israel’s creation. Israel has bombarded the area for weeks, and the military said Hamas fighters have regrouped there and in other eastern districts after being pushed out of much of Gaza City.

The fighting in Jabaliya raged around two nearby hospitals, trapping hundreds of patients and displaced people sheltering inside. A strike Tuesday hit inside one of the facilities, al-Awda, killing four people, including

three doctors, the hospital director told Al-Jazeera TV. The director, Ahmed Mahna, blamed the strike on Israel, a claim that AP could not independently confirm.

Israel, the United States and Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, have negotiated for weeks over a hostage release that would be paired with a temporary cease-fire and the entry of more aid.

In Washington, President Joe Biden said Tuesday that a deal on releasing some hostages was “very close.”

“We could bring some of these hostages home very soon,” he said at the White House.

Qatar’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari expressed optimism, telling reporters that “we are at the closest point we ever had been in reaching an agreement.” He added that negotiations were at a “critical and final stage.”

N. Korea claims to have placed spy satellite in orbit

Staff and wire reports

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea claimed Wednesday to have successfully placed a spy satellite into orbit with its third launch attempt this year, demonstrating the nation’s determination to build a space-based surveillance system during protracted tensions with the United States.

The North’s claim could not immediately be independently confirmed. But the launch was certain to invite strong condemnation from the United States and its partners because the U.N. bans North Korea from conducting satellite launches, calling them covers for tests of

missile technology.

The North’s space authorities said in a statement that its space launch vehicle placed the Malligyong-1 satellite into orbit on Tuesday night following liftoff from the country’s main launch center and an intended flight.

The statement said that leader Kim Jong Un observed the launch. It said the fired spy satellite would enhance North Korea’s war readiness in response to its rivals’ hostile military moves and that more would be launched at an early date.

South Korea and Japan said earlier that they detected the North Korean launch. The Japanese government briefly issued

a J-Alert missile warning for Okinawa, urging residents to take shelter inside buildings or underground.

South Korea’s military said it maintains its readiness in close coordination with the U.S. and Japan.

“Even if North Korea calls it a satellite, the firing that uses ballistic missile technology is a clear violation to related United Nations Security Council resolutions,” Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said. “It is also a serious threat that affects the safety of the people.”

A spy satellite is among the key military assets coveted by Kim, who wants to modernize

his weapons systems to cope with what he calls escalating U.S. threats. North Korea attempted to launch a spy satellite twice earlier this year, but both launches ended in failure due to technical issues.

Also Tuesday, a U.S. aircraft carrier steamed into South Korea’s largest port.

The USS Carl Vinson — the third Navy carrier to visit the peninsula so far this year — arrived at Busan as part of an agreement between Washington and Seoul to promote the “regular visibility” of American military assets in the country, the Ministry of Defense said in a news release Tuesday.

Rising risks to ships in the Red Sea

Iran-backed Yemen rebels' raid on cargo vessel highlights threat in region

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The helicopter-borne Houthi attack on an Israel-linked ship in the Red Sea highlights the danger now lurking in one of the world's key shipping routes as the Israel-Hamas war rages, as well as the rebels' tactics mirroring those of its chief sponsor, Iran.

While Tehran has denied aiding the Yemen rebel group in launching their attack Sunday, the targeted ship before the assault passed by an American-sanc-
ANALYSIS tioned Iranian cargo vessel suspected as serving as a forward spying base in the Red Sea.

The rebels, dressed commando-style in bulletproof vests carrying assault rifles, covered each other and moved in military formation before quickly seizing control of the bridge of the *Galaxy Leader*.

While their body-camera footage serves as a propaganda coup to bolster their own position in Yemen amid some protests against their rule, it also signals a new maritime front has opened in a region long focused on the Persian Gulf and its narrow mouth at the Strait of Hormuz.

It also puts new pressure on commercial shippers traveling through those waters, threatens to increase insurance costs that will get passed onto consumers and likely further stretches the U.S. Navy as it tries to serve as the region's security guarantor.

"This has all the signs these people were trained by a professional military, which could clearly be Iran," an American defense official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters. "This looks like something we haven't seen before."

It's not just the U.S. and Israel suspecting Iranian involvement, however.

The risk intelligence firm RANE referred to the tactics employed by the Houthis as reminiscent of those used by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard when seizing vessels in the past over years of tensions regarding Tehran's collapsed nuclear deal with world powers.

Ambrey, a private intelligence firm, similarly referred to the operation as an "Iranian-style vessel seizure" that "provides the Houthis with a negotiation lever" in much the same way Hamas' taking of some 240 hostages in their Oct. 7 attack on Israel did.

"The incident displayed a significant increase in the Houthis' capability to disrupt merchant shipping," Ambrey said. "In the past, the Houthis had only used sea mines, missiles and remote-controlled improvised explosive devices in the Red Sea."

It added: "The sophistication of the operation suggests that Iranian involvement is highly likely."

The *Galaxy Leader*, linked to Israeli billionaire Abraham "Rami" Ungar, also passed by the Iranian cargo vessel *Behshad* before the attack Sunday, according to satellite imagery first reported by the firm Tanker Trackers.

The *Behshad* has been in the Red Sea since 2021 off Eritrea's Dahlak archipelago. It arrived there after Iran removed the *Saviz*, another suspected spy base in the Red Sea that had suffered damage in an attack that analysts attributed to Israel amid a wider shadow war of ship attacks in the region.

Iran, for its part, denied Monday having anything to do with the attacks.

"Those accusations are void, and a result of the complicated situation the Zionist regime is struggling with," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said. "We have said many times that resistance groups in the region represent their own countries and people, and they make decisions based on the interests of their own countries and nations."

However, Hamas has Iran as one of its main sponsors. The Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah, another Iranian-backed group, has engaged in cross-border fire for weeks with Israel. Iraqi militias have claimed drone attacks on U.S. bases there. Syria, another Iranian beneficiary, has launched sporadic attacks too.

It remains unclear just how much control the Iranians exert over the Houthis.

However, the rebel group has seen its

ballistic missile and drone program rapidly advance despite being targeted by a yearslong United Nations arms embargo.

Analysts attribute that to Iranian weapons shipments, of which some have been previously seized by the U.S. and allied navies.

Houthi weapon sophistication has grown in other ways as well.

The Houthis have been able to fly this year a Soviet-era MiG-29 fighter jet over the capital, Sanaa, during a military parade, along with a Northrop F-5 Tiger combat aircraft at another.

A Houthi parade also saw Soviet-era Mil Mi-17 helicopters flying through the sky — the same helicopter used in Sunday's attack. A Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis had targeted Yemen's air force with airstrikes at the start of the war and the Houthis have yet to explain how they got these aircraft flying again.

The Houthis also have shot down an American MQ-9 Reaper drone during the Israel-Hamas war with a surface-to-air missile, as well as have fired drones and missiles toward Israel.

All of this makes the Red Sea, which stretches from Egypt's Suez Canal down to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait separating East Africa from the Arabian Peninsula, increasingly dangerous for shipping.

That narrow strait, some 18 miles across at its tightest point, is crucial for cargo and energy shipments.

The U.S. has sent more vessels into and through the Red Sea, including the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier and its strike group. The Eisenhower is now in the Gulf of Oman, according to satellite images, meaning there are fewer U.S. Navy assets in the Red Sea to deter any possible new attacks.

And if the next attack sees fatalities — particularly of U.S. or Israeli nationals — that raises the risk of a wider war breaking out on the seas.

"Significant Houthi interference with commercial shipping through the Strait is almost certain to trigger U.S. intervention due to the political and potentially economic implications," the New York-based Soufan Center warned.

P-8A overshoots runway, ends up in bay

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A Navy plane flying in rainy weather overshoot a runway Monday at a military base in Hawaii and splashed into Kaneohe Bay, but all nine aboard were uninjured, authorities said.

The Coast Guard responded, but rescue operations were quickly called off, said Petty Officer Ryan Fisher, a Coast Guard spokesperson. “It sounds like all parties involved were rescued,” he said.

Marine Corps spokesperson Gunnery Sgt. Orlando Perez had no information about what caused the P-8A aircraft to go off the runway at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

A photo taken by witness

Diane Dircks showed the plane in water just offshore, a sight reminiscent of the 2009 “Miracle on the Hudson” when a passenger jet piloted by Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger made an emergency landing on the New York river. All 155 people aboard survived.

The P-8A and the Airbus A320 that Sullenberger piloted are roughly the same size.

Dircks and her family had just returned to the dock after rainy weather cut their pontoon boat trip short when her daughter noticed the plane in the water.

“We went running over to the end of the dock, and I took some pictures,” she said.

Dircks, who is visiting from Illinois, said her daughter keeps a

pair of binoculars on her for bird-watching, so she was able to see the plane and the rescue boats arriving.

“It was unbelievable,” she said.

The Honolulu Fire Department received a 911 call for a downed aircraft shortly after 2 p.m., spokesperson Malcolm K. Medrano said in an email. It was cloudy and rainy at the time. Visibility was about 1 mile, said Thomas Vaughan, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Honolulu.

The P-8A is often used to hunt for submarines and for reconnaissance and intelligence gathering. It is manufactured by Boeing and shares many parts with

the 737 commercial jet.

The plane belongs to the Skinny Dragons of Patrol Squadron 4 stationed at Whidbey Island in Washington state. Patrol squadrons were once based at Kaneohe Bay, but now deploy to Hawaii on a rotational basis.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii is about 10 miles from Honolulu on Oahu. The base houses about 9,300 military personnel and 5,100 family members. It's one of several key military installations on Oahu.

The base sits on Kaneohe Bay, which is home to coral reefs, a breeding ground for hammerhead sharks and a University of Hawaii marine biology research institute.

Australia's leader criticizes China over sonar incident

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday criticized China for a “dangerous” encounter between Chinese and Australian warships but declined to say whether he had raised the issue in recent talks with President Xi Jinping.

He said one Australian diver was injured when a Chinese destroyer used sonar while near an Australian frigate in international waters last Tuesday. Defense Minister Richard Marles said Saturday he had raised serious concerns with Beijing about the destroyer's unsafe and unprofessional behavior.

China's Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian on Monday dismissed Australia's allegations as “completely untrue.”

Between the encounter and Marles' statement, Albanese spoke to Xi on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific leaders' summit in San Francisco.

Albanese said on Monday his discussions with Xi were private, rather than a formal bilateral

meeting in which content summaries are made public.

“It's something that is a regrettable incident. That's why we have put our very strong objections to China very clearly, very directly through all of the appropriate channels in all the forums that are available to us,” Albanese told Sky News in his Parliament House office.

He said the incident “does do damage” to Australia's relationship with China. “This was dangerous, it was unsafe and unprofessional from the Chinese forces,” he said.

Australia said the Chinese destroyer CNS Ningbo operated its sonar while Australian naval divers were underwater trying to clear fishing nets that tangled the propellers of their ship HMAS Toowoomba.

Albanese said one diver was injured. Defense officials have not specified the injuries or number of divers, but media have reported the divers' ears were injured.

Analysts say sonar pulses can cause extensive soft tissue damage to divers at close range.

NATO mulls more peacekeepers for decades-old Kosovo mission

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO is considering a permanent increase to its peacekeeping force in Kosovo, where tensions have been high in recent months, the alliance's top official said Tuesday during a visit to Serbia.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg also warned Serbia to avoid another military buildup near its administrative border with Kosovo. Similar actions have contributed to elevated hostilities over the years.

The alliance's multinational Kosovo Force mission began in 1999 and includes about 4,500 troops, including about 600 Americans, mostly from the National Guard. The mission typically rotates among Guard units every nine to 12 months.

Stoltenberg's comments came during a swing through the Balkans, where a day earlier he was in Kosovo to meet with officials and alliance military members.

“We are now reviewing whether we should have a more permanent increase to ensure that this doesn't spiral out of con-

trol and create a new violent conflict in Kosovo or the wider region,” Stoltenberg said Monday.

He reiterated that point again Tuesday, speaking alongside Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic. While no final decisions have been made, NATO is looking at a “more enduring increased presence” for its mission in Kosovo, known as KFOR, Stoltenberg said.

Already, NATO has boosted the number of peacekeepers to its highest level in at least a decade in Kosovo, with about 1,000 additional troops now part of the KFOR mission. Those increases came after a Sept. 24 clash between Kosovo police and armed Serbs at a monastery in northern Kosovo.

While Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority declared independence from Serbia in 2008, tens of thousands of Serbs live in north Kosovo and align with Serbia, which does not recognize Kosovo's declaration.

That has led to repeated clashes over the years with Kosovo authorities and sometimes NATO peacekeepers.

Age in spotlight as Biden celebrates 81st birthday

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden celebrated his 81st birthday on Monday by joking repeatedly about his advanced age, even as the White House strongly defended his stamina and batted away polling — and one prominent Democrat — suggesting that the issue could cost him votes in next year's election.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the president's age should not be a primary focus.

“Our perspective is, it's not about age, it's about the president's experience,” she said while highlighting that Biden had successfully championed through Congress several major pieces of legislation — including a sweeping public works package and initiative on public health and combating climate change — and visited active war zones not controlled by the U.S. military in Ukraine and Israel.

“What we say is we have to judge him by what he's done, not by his numbers,” Jean-Pierre said. “I would put the president's stamina, the president's wisdom, ability to get this done on behalf of the American people, against anyone. Anyone, any day of the week.”

Biden, for his part, went for humor.

“By the way, it's my birthday today,” Biden told a crowd on the White House South Lawn as he pardoned Thanksgiving turkeys Liberty and Bell.

“I just want you to know, it's difficult turning 60,” the president added with a chuckle. “Difficult.”

Noting that the pre-Thanksgiving pardoning ceremony dated back 76 years, Biden also said, “I want you to know I wasn't there — for the first one.”

The oldest president in U.S. history, Biden for months has used humor to try to defuse the issue — even as polls suggest it's no laughing matter. An August

poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 77% of U.S. adults, including 69% of Democrats, viewed Biden as too old to be effective for four more years.

As he seeks a second term, Biden could be headed for a rematch with former President Donald Trump, who is 77 and was the oldest person elected to a first term until Biden was. Trump has himself made some recent, notable gaffes. Yet the same AP-NORC poll found that 51% of adults — and just 28% of Republicans — said Trump was too old for a second term. To coincide with Biden's birthday, Trump released a new letter from his physician reporting that the former president's “overall health is excellent.”

“His physical exams were well within the normal range and his cognitive exams were exceptional,” wrote New Jersey Dr. Bruce A. Aronwald, who said he has been Trump's doctor since 2001.

Ruling deals blow to Voting Rights Act

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A divided federal appeals court on Monday ruled that private individuals and groups such as the NAACP do not have the ability to sue under a key section of the federal Voting Rights Act, a decision that contradicts decades of precedent and could further erode protections under the landmark 1965 law.

The 2-1 decision by a panel of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals based in St. Louis found that only the U.S. attorney general can enforce Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires political maps to include districts where minority populations' preferred candidates can win elections. The majority said other federal laws, including the 1964 Civil Rights Act, make it clear when private groups can sue but said similar wording is not found in the voting law.

“When those details are missing, it is not our place to fill in the gaps, except when ‘text and structure’ require it,” U.S. Circuit Judge David R. Stras wrote for the majority in an opinion joined by Judge Raymond W. Gruender. Stras was nominated by former President Donald Trump and Gruender by former President George W. Bush.

The decision affirmed a lower judge's decision to dismiss a case brought by the Arkansas State Conference NAACP and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel after giving U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland five days to join the lawsuit.

Chief Judge Lavenski R. Smith noted in a dissenting opinion that the court should follow “existing precedent that permits a judicial remedy” unless the Supreme Court decides differently.

Panel subpoenas social media CEOs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee has issued bipartisan subpoenas to the CEOs of Discord, Snap and X, demanding that the heads of the three companies testify at a December hearing on protecting children online.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, the top Republican on the panel, announced Monday that they had issued the subpoenas to Discord CEO Jason Citron, Snap CEO Evan Spiegel and Linda Yaccarino, the CEO of X, formerly known

as Twitter, “after repeated refusals to appear” during weeks of negotiations.

“Big Tech's failure to police itself at the expense of our kids cannot go unanswered,” the two senators said in a statement about the Dec. 6 hearing, which will focus on child sexual exploitation online.

The committee said that “in a remarkable departure from typical practice,” Discord and X refused to accept service of the subpoenas and the panel was forced to enlist the U.S. Marshals Service to personally subpoena the CEOs.

In response to the subpoenas,

all three companies said that they will work with the committee.

But none committed to the Dec. 6 hearing.

“Snap's CEO has already agreed to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee, and our team is coordinating with committee staff on potential dates,” Snap said in a statement.

Discord said that “keeping our users safe, especially young people, is central to everything we do at Discord. We have been actively engaging with the committee on how we can best contribute to this important industry discussion.”

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Schools, Satanic Temple reach agreement on club

PA HELLERTOWN — An eastern Pennsylvania school district has reached a settlement with The Satanic Temple in a lawsuit that alleged the district discriminated against students by barring one of the group’s After School Satan clubs from using a school building earlier this year.

The American Civil Liberties Union said that the Saucon Valley School District had agreed to pay \$200,000 in attorney’s fees and to provide The Satanic Temple and the After School Satan Club it sponsors the same access to school facilities as is provided to other organizations.

The ACLU filed the lawsuit in March after the district rescinded its earlier approval to allow the club to meet following criticism. The After School Satan Club, with the motto “Educatin’ with Satan,” had drawn protests and even a threat in February that prompted closure of district schools for a day and the later arrest of a person in another state.

4 killed when vehicle hits ‘The Widowmaker’ tree

SC CHARLESTON — Four people were killed when a vehicle veered off a narrow South Carolina road and crashed into a tree known locally as “The Widowmaker,” police said.

The crash occurred shortly after 1 a.m. on James Island in southeastern South Carolina, according to media reports.

The four passengers in a Cadillac SUV were not wearing seat belts and died after being ejected from the vehicle, police

said. They were not immediately identified.

The crash occurred south of James Island County Park on a narrow, two-lane road surrounded by trees, including one known as “The Widowmaker.” That tree stands just off the road at the beginning of a bend for vehicles traveling south, according to media reports. The speed limit is 40 mph.

The tree is covered in reflectors as well as a sign that reads, “The Widowmaker,” The State reported.

Methodists OK split with 261 congregations

GA ATHENS — The North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to allow 261 congregations to break from the denomination amid a schism over theological differences and the role of LGBTQ+ people in the church.

The conference ratified the disaffiliation requests from the congregations during a special session, allowing the churches to leave the denomination, news outlets reported. The exit marked a “solemn day,” the North Georgia Conference of the UMC said in a news release.

The United Methodist Church has long debated its bans on same-sex marriages and the ordination of openly LGBTQ+ clergy. The denomination forbids the marriage or ordination of “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals,” but some U.S. churches and clergy have defied the bans. Many conservatives have chosen to leave amid a growing defiance of those bans.

So far 7,286 congregations,

many in the South and Midwest, have received approval to disaffiliate from the denomination since 2019, according to an unofficial tally by United Methodist News Service.

Park University lays off faculty, cuts programs

MO PARKVILLE — The private Park University in Missouri is laying off faculty, cutting programs and closing campuses after a sharp drop in enrollment that echoes what is happening nationally.

The school, which is based in the Kansas City area, said it planned to cut 16 faculty positions, mostly in low enrollment areas, KCUR-FM reported. The university also said it will eliminate three graduate degree programs and about a dozen total majors, certificates, concentrations and minors. Students already enrolled in those programs will get time to finish, however.

Spokesman Brad Biles provided no information about which campuses are closing. A map on the school’s website listed 24 campuses in 16 states, down from 39 in 21 states in September.

Train crash investigation eyes ‘design problem’

IL CHICAGO — Federal safety officials investigating a Chicago commuter train crash that injured nearly 40 people when it slammed into snow-removal equipment are focusing on a “design problem” with its braking system.

National Transportation Safety Board Chairperson Jen-

nifer Homendy said the Chicago Transit Authority train was traveling at 26.9 mph when it struck the snow-removal equipment, which was on the tracks conducting training for the winter season.

She said that based on preliminary information she believes that equipment, with six CTA workers onboard, was stopped when the train crashed into it.

Homendy said NTSB’s initial calculations based on the train’s speed and other factors such as the number of passengers on board indicate it was designed to stop within 1,780 feet to avoid something its path. But that didn’t happen, and it crashed into the snow-removal equipment.

Republicans secure all elected statewide offices

LA BATON ROUGE — Come January, the GOP will control every elected statewide office in Louisiana after Republicans swept three runoff races for attorney general, secretary of state and treasurer.

The GOP success, in a state that has had a Democrat in the governor’s office for the past eight years, means that Republicans secured all of Louisiana’s statewide offices for the first time since 2015. In addition, the GOP holds a two-thirds supermajority in the House and Senate.

Liz Murrill was elected as attorney general, Nancy Landry as secretary of state and John Fleming as treasurer. The results also mean Louisiana will have its first female attorney general and first woman elected as secretary of state.

— From wire reports



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Eagles rally to beat Chiefs in rematch

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Philadelphia Eagles insisted that their Super Bowl rematch with the Kansas City Chiefs had nothing to do with revenge.

They got a little bit of it anyway.

After allowing the Chiefs to methodically build a 10-point halftime lead Monday night, the Eagles shut out Patrick Mahomes and Co. over the final 30 minutes. Jalen Hurts overcame a poor start in a cold, driving rain to run for a pair of touchdowns, and his go-ahead tush-push in the fourth quarter allowed the Eagles to walk away with a 21-17 victory.

“We weren’t thinking, ‘Hey, we’re coming up here to avenge a loss,’” Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said afterward. “That’s a different magnitude of game. That was for everything. So we’re just pleased to get the win tonight.”

Besides, Sirianni said, “they ain’t giving us the rings back. I know that.”

Still, the Eagles (9-1) became the first team to win at least nine of their first 10 games in consecutive seasons since the Colts in 2005-06, and they did it by beating former coach Andy Reid for the first time in five tries since

he landed in Kansas City.

Eagles center Jason Kelce also got the best of little brother Travis Kelce for the first time. The Chiefs tight end could have used some luck from pop star and love interest Taylor Swift, who had to miss the game — he fumbled the ball away in the red zone in the fourth quarter, when Kansas City was trying to extend a 17-14 lead.

The Chiefs still had a chance with less than 2 minutes to go, converting on fourth down and getting help from a roughing-the-passer penalty. But a perfectly placed ball from Mahomes went right through the hands of Marquez Valdes-Scantling for a would-be 51-yard touchdown, and the Eagles stopped Kansas City on fourth down to put the game away.

“This is a growing moment for us as a team, overall,” Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said.

Hurts threw for just 150 yards with a pick, but he made the plays Mahomes could not in the second half. He also got some help from D’Andre Swift, who ran for 76 yards and a score, and DeVonta Smith, who caught six balls for 99 yards.

“I don’t think we played clean tonight. I don’t think we played to our standard,” Hurts said.

“But I think the one thing you can’t quantify is the resilience that a team has, and the ability to see through things, and this team has that.”

It was only the ninth time that two teams that played in the Super Bowl met in the regular season the following year, and the champion had won the previous four matchups. The last to lose was Dallas against Buffalo during the 1993 season.

Mahomes was held to 177 yards passing with two touchdowns and an interception in the end zone. Isiah Pacheco added 89 yards rushing for the Chiefs, who couldn’t overcome their two red-zone turnovers and a plethora of penalties.

“I think offensively,” Mahomes said, “I’m just not where I want to be at this point in the season.”

Unlike the Super Bowl, when the Eagles blew a 10-point halftime lead, the Chiefs took a 17-7 lead to the break Monday night.

It was knotted 7-all after Hurts and Mahomes traded first-quarter touchdown throws, and it was still tied when Mahomes hit Kelce on third down for the go-ahead TD with 1:45 left. And when the Eagles got the ball back, sacks by Trent McDuffie and George Karlaftis

made them give it right back with 44 seconds remaining.

Plenty of time for Mahomes to get the Chiefs within range for Harrison Butker to add a 43-yard field goal.

But for all the praise the Chiefs get for their prolific offense, they’ve been abysmal in the second half this season, scoring a league-low 53 points entering Monday night. And after two quick punts to start the half, Philadelphia finally capitalized on the good field position, marching downfield before Hurts finished the drive with a 10-yard touchdown run.

The Chiefs kept beating themselves — and the Eagles kept taking advantage.

Along with penalties that derailed their first two drives of the second half, Kelce fumbled the ball away at the Philadelphia 8 early in the fourth quarter. And when the Chiefs got the ball back and had to punt a few minutes later, Justin Watson was unable to down the ball at the Philadelphia 1, resulting in a touchback that gave Hurts and Co. some breathing room.

They proceeded to go 80 yards the other way, and Hurts’ sneak gave Philadelphia the lead for good in the fourth quarter.

Padres name Shildt manager 2 years after Cards’ exit

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Mike Shildt has been hired as manager of the San Diego Padres, returning to the dugout two years after he was suddenly fired by the St. Louis Cardinals following a third straight playoff appearance.

The Padres announced Tuesday that Shildt had been given a two-year contract.

Shildt replaces Bob Melvin, who was hired away by the San Francisco Giants on Oct. 25 with a year left on his contract with the Padres. That ended a frac-

tured two-year relationship with general manager A.J. Preller.

Shildt was voted NL Manager of the Year in 2019 while with the Cardinals. He takes over a big-spending team that flopped dramatically in 2023, a year after making a stirring run to the NLCS and after increasing its opening day payroll to \$258 million, third highest in the majors.

Shildt has been a senior advisor to the major league staff and player development department with the Padres since 2022. His familiarity with the

team’s top minor league prospects could be an added bonus in guiding a big-league roster led by stars Fernando Tatis Jr., Juan Soto, Manny Machado and Xander Bogaerts.

Shildt filled in as third base coach early in the 2023 season after Matt Williams had colon cancer surgery. The previous season, Shildt also stepped in as third base coach, first base coach and bench coach due to various medical situations.

He is San Diego’s third manager in four seasons and the fifth full-time manager under Preller

since midway through the 2015 season. Preller’s teams have never won a division title, and Melvin was the only manager to guide the Padres to consecutive winning seasons under the GM.

The Cardinals had a franchise-record 17-game winning streak in 2021 and reached the wild-card game before losing to the Los Angeles Dodgers on a walk-off homer. A week later, he was fired for what Cardinals president John Mozeliak said were “philosophical differences” between Shildt, the coaching staff and the front office.

Giannis helps Bucks extend streak to 5

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Giannis Antetokounmpo described it as “random basketball” — which is ironic since so many of his points came from the same area of the court.

Antetokounmpo scored 42 points on 20-for-23 shooting, and the Milwaukee Bucks won their fifth consecutive game, 142-129 over the Washington Wizards on Monday night. Almost all of Antetokounmpo’s field goals came from close to the rim on the type of shooting night the NBA hadn’t seen in over 40 years.

Antetokounmpo shot 87.0% from the field, the highest mark in a game by a player with at least 20 attempts since Mike Woodson of the Kansas City Kings went 22-for-24 (91.7%) in a 48-point effort against the Houston Rockets on Feb. 20, 1983.

Washington (2-11) dropped its sixth straight, but not without putting up a decent fight against the star-studded Bucks. The Wizards led by a point in

the fourth after Corey Kispert’s layup with 10:02 remaining, but Antetokounmpo scored at the other end to start a 15-3 run by Milwaukee.

Nuggets 107, Pistons 103: Reggie Jackson scored 21 points and carried his team in the fourth quarter after two-time MVP Nikola Jokic was ejected in the first half, and visiting Denver handed Detroit its 12th straight loss.

Jackson had eight points and three assists in the final period as he and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (20 points) shined against their former team. Michael Porter Jr. finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds for the defending NBA champion Nuggets (10-4).

Hornets 121, Celtics 118 (OT): Miles Bridges hit a 3-pointer with 6.6 seconds left in overtime and Charlotte beat Boston to snap a six-game home losing streak.

LaMelo Ball finished with 36 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, and Gordon Hayward added 20 points for the Hor-

nets, who rallied from an 18-point deficit.

Clippers 124, Spurs 99: Paul George scored 28 points, Kawhi Leonard added 21 and visiting Los Angeles rolled past Victor Wembanyama and San Antonio, which saw its losing streak reach nine games.

James Harden added 13 points and 10 assists as Los Angeles won its sixth straight over San Antonio.

Heat 118, Bulls 100: Bam Adebayo had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and visiting Miami topped Chicago, two nights after blowing a 21-point lead in the same building.

Jimmy Butler scored 16 points against his former team, while Adebayo earned his eighth double-double of the season.

Timberwolves 117, Knicks 100: Anthony Edwards had 23 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 20 points, and Western Conference-leading Minnesota beat visiting New York.

Minnesota (10-3) is 6-0 at

home — tying a franchise record to start a season — and has won nine of its past 10 games.

Pelicans 129, Kings 93: Brandon Ingram hit all five of his 3-pointers and led all scorers with 31 points, and Zion Williamson dominated the paint by scoring 26 points on 12-for-16 shooting to power host New Orleans over Sacramento.

The Pelicans trailed 47-43 midway through the second quarter and used a 44-10 scoring outburst spanning the second and third quarters to build an 87-57 lead.

Warriors 121, Rockets 116: Stephen Curry scored 32 points with five 3-pointers to extend his latest NBA record, Klay Thompson broke out of his shooting slump with a season-high 20 points, and host Golden State snapped a six-game losing streak with a win over Houston.

Already the league’s all-time leader in made 3-pointers, Curry is the first player in league history to have four or more in his first 13 games.

Edey leads second-ranked Purdue past No. 11 Gonzaga

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Zach Edey scored 15 of his game-high 25 points in the first half and No. 2 Purdue rallied to beat No. 11 Gonzaga 73-63 in a Maui Invitational quarterfinal game on Monday.

The Boilermakers (4-0) trailed by as many as nine points late in the first half, but outscored the Bulldogs (2-1) 43-28 in the second half to remain unbeaten.

Edey, a 7-foot-4 senior center, shot 8-for-16 from the field and made 9 of 10 shots from the free-throw line. He also grabbed 14 rebounds and blocked three shots in 33 minutes.

Lance Jones and Braden Smith added 13 points apiece for Purdue, which shot 54.5% from

the field (18-for-33) in the second half.

Graham Ike led Gonzaga with 14 points and seven rebounds. Ryan Nembhard had 11 points, six assists and three steals, and Nolan Hickman added 11 points and three steals.

No. 1 Kansas 83, Chaminade 56: Hunter Dickinson had 31 points and 11 rebounds and the Jayhawks beat the Silverswords at the Maui Invitational.

Kevin McCullar had 22 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists, three steals and two blocks for the Jayhawks (4-0), who led throughout and shot a blistering 60% from the field.

No. 5 UConn 81, No. 15 Texas 71: Alex Karaban scored 20 points, including three clutch jumpers down the stretch, and

the Huskies turned back the Longhorns to win the Empire Classic at Madison Square Garden.

Cam Spencer had 16 points and Samson Johnson set career highs with 15 points and eight rebounds off the bench for defending national champion UConn (5-0).

No. 7 Tennessee 73, Syracuse 56: Dalton Knecht scored 17 points to lead the Volunteers past the Orange in the Maui Invitational.

Josiah-Jordan James had 15 points and 12 rebounds, and Jonas Aidoo had 14 points and 11 boards for Tennessee (4-0).

No. 16 Kentucky 96, Saint Joseph’s 88 (OT): Tre Mitchell scored nine of his season-high 22 points in overtime as the host

Wildcats got past the Hawks.

Mitchell hit back-to-back 3-pointers to open Kentucky’s scoring in overtime, and the Wildcats outscored the Hawks 19-11 in the extra period.

No. 18 Colorado 64, Richmond 59: KJ Simpson scored 23 points to lead the Buffaloes past the Spiders at the Sunshine Slam in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Simpson made 6 of 11 field goals and 9 of 10 from the line for Colorado (4-0).

Wisconsin 65, No. 24 Virginia 41: Steven Crawl had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and the Badgers beat the Cavaliers in the Fort Myers Tip-Off.

John Blackwell added 10 points for Wisconsin (3-2), which had 30 points inside against Virginia’s vaunted defense.

Dest ejected during US loss to Trinidad

Associated Press

Sergiño Dest lost his composure in a needless dispute with the referee, getting a pair of yellow cards for dissent in a 30-second span that endangered the United States' berth in next year's Copa América.

Trinidad won 2-1 on Monday night in Port-of-Spain, overcoming a deficit by scoring twice after Dest's 39th-minute ejection left the U.S. a man short. The Americans held on to win the total-goals series 4-2 and earn spots in the 16-nation Copa América and the CONCACAF Nations League semifinals.

U.S. captain Tim Ream revealed there were "choice words" for Dest at halftime.

"There's not too many things that I can say here publicly that we said privately," Ream said. "It's a complete lack of respect for the guys that are playing, for the guys that are on the bench, feeling of lack of respect

for the game itself, for the referees."

Following a 3-0 win last week at Austin, Texas, Antonee Robinson scored in the 25th minute off Dest's cross to give the 11th-ranked U.S. a four-goal series lead in the Nations League quarterfinal.

Reon Moore tied the score in the 43rd off a long ball from Alvin Jones, getting past defender Cameron Carter-Vickers and beating goalkeeper Matt Turner to the near post. Jones put the 99th-ranked Soca Warriors ahead in the 57th with a 30-yard free kick off the hands of Turner, who tried to parry the swerving shot. Jones scored a similar long-range goal in October 2017 against Tim Howard in a 2-1 win at Couva, about 20 miles south, that ended the Americans' streak of World Cup appearances at seven.

The U.S. was in control until Dest, upset officials ruled he

didn't keep a ball from going out near midfield, punted the ball away toward the far end. That earned the first yellow from Guatemalan referee Walter López, and the 23-year-old defender then pointed toward where no foul was called moments earlier when Andre Rampersad pushed him over.

"It's inexcusable," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "It was surreal."

Dest argued with López as Gio Reyna and Ream tried to keep him away, Reyna trying to cover Dest's mouth. López raised two fingers and showed a second yellow and a red. Ream and Turner screamed at Dest as he walked off the field.

"It is concerning because that's not what we represent, that's not who we are as a group," Berhalter said. "We pride ourselves in staying mentally disciplined, battling through any type of conditions. Whether they're good deci-

sions or bad decisions, we're supposed to keep going and respond in an appropriate way, and that obviously wasn't the right response from Sergiño. He apologized to the group. He said it's not going to happen again. As a team, the players, the staff, we need to hold him accountable."

Dest will be suspended for the Nations League semifinal in March. He missed this year's Nations League final after getting a red card and a three-game ban for scuffling in the semifinal against Mexico.

The U.S. finished the year with 11 wins, four losses and three draws, going 4-2 in the start of Berhalter's second term as coach.

The feeling was similar to the one at Costa Rica in March 2022, when the U.S. qualified for the World Cup despite a 2-0 defeat.

"It's obviously bittersweet," Robinson said.

Hagel's overtime goal lifts Lightning over Bruins

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Steven Stamkos scored the tying goal with 4.8 seconds left in regulation and Brandon Hagel got the winner on a breakaway 1:19 into overtime as the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Eastern Conference-leading Boston Bruins 5-4 on Monday night.

Tanner Jeannot, Nicholas Paul and Austin Watson also scored for the Lightning. Jonas Johansson turned aside 22 shots.

"We're a good team, too," Stamkos said. "We don't have the same record because we've played a little reckless at times."

Stamkos' goal came after Victor Hedman kept a clearing attempt in the Boston zone. Hedman also set up Hagel's goal.

Stamkos tied Pat Verbeek for 38th place with 522 goals.

Pavel Zacha, David Pastrnak, John Beecher and Charlie Coyle scored for Boston. Jeremy Swayman stopped 41 shots as the Bruins dropped to 13-1-3 on the season.

Stars 6, Rangers 3: Mason Marchment scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period following a successful coach's challenge

as host Dallas rallied from two-goal deficit and beat surging New York.

Jamie Benn, Joe Pavelski, Tyler Seguin, Sam Steel and Roope Hintz also scored for the Stars, who trailed 2-0 midway through the second period before scoring six consecutive goals — five in the third. Scott Wedgewood, in his fifth start of the season, made 30 saves.

Panthers 5, Oilers 3: Niko Mikkola had the first two-goal game of his career, Kevin Stenlund had a three-point effort and host Florida rallied to defeat Edmonton.

Stenlund had a goal and two assists for the Panthers, who have won six consecutive games at home and are 7-1-0 in their last eight games. Carter Verhaeghe and Sam Bennett also scored for Florida, and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 25 shots.

Kings 4, Coyotes 1: Trevor Moore scored two goals and visiting Los Angeles extended its season-opening road winning streak to eight games.

Anze Kopitar and Phillip Danault also scored and Pheonix Copley made 30 saves for the Kings, who are tied for the third-

longest such streak in NHL history. Buffalo holds the record by winning its first 10 road games in 2006-07.

Predators 4, Avalanche 3: Filip Forsberg scored twice and Yakov Trenin got the tie-breaking goal with 21.6 seconds remaining to lift host Nashville over Colorado.

Jeremy Lauzon also scored and Juuse Saros made 25 saves for Nashville, winner of two straight.

Flames 4, Kraken 3 (OT): Andrew Mangiapane scored the tying goal with 4:07 left in regulation, and Rasmus Andersson scored the winner 3:28 into overtime to rally visiting Calgary.

Elias Lindholm scored his fourth of the season 1:16 into the game and Jonathan Huberdeau scored on the power play midway through the first period.

Canucks 3, Sharks 1: Quinn Hughes had a goal and an assist, leading host Vancouver past San Jose.

J.T. Miller and Sam Lafferty also scored to help the Canucks end their second two-game skid of the season. Thatcher Demko finished with 27 saves.