

Navy nabs attackers of tanker off Yemen

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Armed assailants seized and later let go of a tanker linked to Israel off the coast of Yemen on Sunday before being apprehended by the United States Navy, officials said. In addition, two ballistic missiles were fired from Houthi-controlled Yemen and landed near a U.S. warship aiding the tanker in the Gulf of Aden.

Yemen's internationally recognized government blamed the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels for the attack. However, the group of five militants were likely Somali and not Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, Pentagon press secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder told reporters on Monday.

The Pentagon has not ruled out that the Houthis were somehow linked to the Somali-conducted attack.

The attackers seized the Li-

berian-flagged Central Park, managed by Zodiac Maritime, in the Gulf of Aden, the company, the U.S. and British militaries and private intelligence firm Ambrey said.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement early Monday that its forces and allies, including the destroyer USS Mason, responded to the seizure and demanded the armed assailants release the tanker.

"Subsequently, five armed individuals debarked the ship and attempted to flee via their small boat," Central Command said. "The Mason pursued the attackers resulting in their eventual surrender."

CENTCOM said the missile launch from Houthi-controlled Yemen followed early Monday morning.

"The missiles landed in the Gulf of Aden approximately 10 nautical miles from the ships," the statement said. "The USS

Mason ... was concluding its response to the M/V Central Park distress call at the time of the missile launches. There was no damage or reported injuries from either vessel during this incident."

Early Monday, Zodiac said the vessel carrying phosphoric acid and its crew of 22 sailors from Bulgaria, Georgia, India, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey and Vietnam were unharmed.

"We would like to thank the coalition forces who responded quickly, protecting assets in the area and upholding international maritime law," the company said.

Zodiac described the vessel as being owned by Clumvez Shipping Inc., though other records directly linked Zodiac as the owner. London-based Zodiac Maritime is part of Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer's Zodiac Group. British corporate records listed two men with the last

name Ofer as a current and former director of Clumvez Shipping, including Daniel Guy Ofer, who is also a director at Zodiac Maritime.

Yemen's internationally recognized government, which is based out of nearby Aden, blamed the rebels for the seizure in a statement carried by their state-run news agency.

"The Yemeni government has renewed its denunciation of the acts of maritime piracy carried out by the terrorist Houthi militias with the support of the Iranian regime, the most recent of which was the hijacking of the Central Park," the statement read.

The attack happened in a part of the Gulf of Aden that is in the territory under the control of that government's forces and is fairly distant from Houthi-controlled territory in the country. Somali pirates are not known to operate in that area.

Israel and Hamas agree to extend truce 2 more days

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their cease-fire for two more days past Monday, the Qatari government said, bringing the prospect of a longer halt to their deadliest and most destructive war and further exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

The announcement, made by Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majid Al Ansary in a post on X, came on the final day of the original four-day truce between the warring sides. A fourth swap of hostages for prisoners under that deal was expected later Monday. Qatar, along with the United States and Egypt, has been the key mediator in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Israel has said it would extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hos-

tages released. After the Qatari announcement, Hamas confirmed it had agreed to a two-day extension "under the same terms."

But Israel says it remains committed to crushing Hamas' military capabilities and ending its 16-year rule over Gaza after its Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel. That would likely mean expanding a ground offensive from devastated northern Gaza to the south, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have crammed into United Nations shelters, and where dire conditions persist despite the increased delivery of aid under the truce.

Israel will resume its operations with "full force" as soon as the current deal expires if Hamas does not agree to further hostage releases, with the goal of eliminating the group and freeing the rest of the captives, government spokesperson Eylon

Levy told reporters on Monday.

So far, 58 hostages have been released during the current truce, including 39 Israelis. Before the truce, four hostages were freed, another rescued and two were found dead inside Gaza.

After weeks of national trauma over the around 240 people abducted by Hamas and other militants, scenes of the women and children reuniting with families have rallied Israelis behind calls to return those who remain in captivity.

"We can get all hostages back home. We have to keep pushing," two relatives of Abigail Edan, a 4-year-old girl and dual Israeli-American citizen who was released Sunday, said in a statement.

Hamas and other militants could still be holding up to 175 hostages, enough to potentially extend the cease-fire for two and a half weeks.

DOD's AI push boosts autonomous arms choice

Associated Press

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — Artificial intelligence employed by the U.S. military has piloted pint-sized surveillance drones in special operations forces' missions and helped Ukraine in its war against Russia. It tracks soldiers' fitness, predicts when Air Force planes need maintenance and helps keep tabs on rivals in space.

Now, the Pentagon is intent on fielding multiple thousands of relatively inexpensive, expendable AI-enabled autonomous vehicles by 2026 to keep pace with China. The ambitious initiative — dubbed Replicator — seeks to “galvanize progress in the too-slow shift of U.S. military innovation to leverage platforms that are small, smart, cheap and many,” Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks said in August.

While its funding is uncertain and details vague, Replicator is expected to accelerate hard decisions on what AI tech is mature and trustworthy enough to deploy — including on weaponized systems.

There is little dispute among scientists, industry experts and Pentagon officials that the United States will have fully autonomous lethal weapons within the next few years. And though officials have insisted humans will always be in control, experts have said advances in data-processing speed and machine-to-machine communications will inevitably relegate people to supervisory roles.

That's especially true if, as expected, lethal weapons are deployed en masse in drone swarms. Many countries are working on them — and neither China, Russia, Iran, India or Pakistan have signed a U.S.-initiated pledge to use military AI responsibly.

Paradigm shifts

Replicator highlights immense technological and personnel challenges for Pentagon procurement and development as the AI revolution promises to transform how wars are fought.

“The Department of Defense is struggling to adopt the AI developments from the last machine-learning breakthrough,” said Gregory Allen, a former top Pentagon AI official now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

The Pentagon's portfolio boasts more than 800 AI-related unclassified projects, much still in testing. Typically, machine-learning and neural networks are helping humans gain

insights and create efficiencies.

“The AI that we've got in the Department of Defense right now is heavily leveraged and augments people,” said Missy Cummings, director of George Mason University's robotics center and a former Navy fighter pilot. “There's no AI running around on its own. People are using it to try to understand the fog of war better.”

Space, war's new frontier

One domain where AI-assisted tools are tracking potential threats is space, the latest frontier in military competition.

China envisions using AI, including on satellites, to “make decisions on who is and isn't an adversary,” U.S. Space Force chief technology and innovation officer Lisa Costa, told an online conference this month.

An operational prototype called Machina used by Space Force keeps tabs autonomously on more than 40,000 objects in space, orchestrating thousands of data collections nightly with a global telescope network.

Machina's algorithms guide telescope sensors. Computer vision and large language models tell them what objects to track. And AI choreographs drawing instantly on astrodynamics and physics datasets, Col. Wallace ‘Rhet’ Turnbull of Space Systems Command told a conference in August.

Another AI project at Space Force analyzes radar data to detect imminent adversary missile launches, he said.

Maintenance help

Elsewhere, AI's predictive powers help the Air Force keep its fleet aloft, anticipating the maintenance needs of more than 2,600 aircraft including B-1 bombers and Black Hawk helicopters.

Machine-learning models identify possible failures dozens of hours before they happen, said Tom Siebel, CEO of Silicon Valley-based C3 AI, which has the contract. C3's tech also models the trajectories of missiles for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency and identifies insider threats in the federal workforce for the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency.

Among health-related efforts is a pilot project tracking the fitness of the Army's entire 3rd Infantry Division — more than 13,000 soldiers. Predictive modeling and AI help reduce injuries and increase performance, said Maj. Matt Visser.

Aiding Ukraine

In Ukraine, AI provided by the Pentagon and its NATO allies helps thwart Russian aggression.

NATO allies share intelligence from data gathered by satellites, drones and humans, some aggregated with software from U.S. contractor Palantir. Some data comes from Maven, the Pentagon's pathfinding AI project now mostly managed by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, say officials including retired Air Force Gen. Jack Shanahan, the inaugural Pentagon AI director.

Maven began in 2017 as an effort to process video from drones in the Middle East — spurred by U.S. Special Operations forces fighting ISIS and al-Qaida — and now aggregates and analyzes a wide array of sensor- and human-derived data.

AI has also helped the U.S.-created Security Assistance Group-Ukraine help organize logistics for military assistance from a coalition of 40 countries, Pentagon officials have said.

Battle networks

To survive on the battlefield these days, military units must be small, mostly invisible and move quickly because exponentially growing networks of sensors let anyone “see anywhere on the globe at any moment,” then-Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Mark Milley observed in a June speech. “And what you can see, you can shoot.”

To more quickly connect combatants, the Pentagon has prioritized the development of intertwined battle networks — called Joint All-Domain Command and Control — to automate the processing of optical, infrared, radar and other data across the armed services. But the challenge is huge and fraught with bureaucracy.

Christian Brose, a former Senate Armed Services Committee staff director now at the defense tech firm Anduril, is among military reform advocates who nevertheless believe they “may be winning here to a certain extent.”

“The argument may be less about whether this is the right thing to do, and increasingly more about how do we actually do it — and on the rapid timelines required,” he said. Brose's 2020 book, “The Kill Chain,” argues for urgent retooling to match China in the race to develop smarter and cheaper networked weapons systems.

Authentic is named word of the year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In an age of deepfakes and post-truth, as artificial intelligence rose and Elon Musk turned Twitter into X, the Merriam-Webster word of the year for 2023 is “authentic.”

Authentic cuisine. Authentic voice. Authentic self. Authenticity as artifice. Lookups for the word are routinely heavy on the dictionary company’s site but were boosted to new heights throughout the year, editor at large Peter Sokolow-

ski told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview.

“We see in 2023 a kind of crisis of authenticity,” he said ahead of Monday’s announcement of this year’s word. “What we realize is that when we question authenticity, we value it even more.”

Sokolowski and his team don’t delve into the reasons people head for dictionaries and websites in search of specific words. Rather, they chase the data on lookup spikes and world events that correlate.

This time around, there was no particularly huge boost at any given time but a constancy to the increased interest in “authentic.”

This was the year of artificial intelligence, for sure, but also a moment when ChatGPT-maker OpenAI suffered a leadership crisis. Taylor Swift and Prince Harry chased after authenticity in their words and deeds. Musk himself, at February’s World Government Summit in Dubai, urged the heads of companies, politicians, ministers and other

leaders to “speak authentically” on social media by running their own accounts.

“Can we trust whether a student wrote this paper? Can we trust whether a politician made this statement? We don’t always trust what we see anymore,” Sokolowski said. “We sometimes don’t believe our own eyes or our own ears. We are now recognizing that authenticity is a performance itself.”

“Authentic” follows 2022’s choice of “gaslighting.”

Chauvin stabbed while in prison for Floyd’s killing

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — An attorney for Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer convicted of murdering George Floyd, said Saturday that Chauvin’s family has been kept in the dark by federal prison officials after he was stabbed in prison.

The lawyer, Gregory M. Erickson, slammed the lack of transparency by the Federal Bureau of Prisons a day after his client was stabbed on Friday by another inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson, Ariz., a prison that has been

plagued by security lapses and staffing shortages.

A person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Friday that Chauvin was seriously injured in the stabbing. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the attack.

On Saturday, Brian Evans, a spokesperson for the Minnesota attorney general’s office, said: “We have heard that he is expected to survive.”

Erickson said Chauvin’s family and his attorneys have hit a

wall trying to obtain information about the attack from Bureau of Prisons officials.

He said Chauvin’s family has been forced to assume he is in stable condition, based only on news accounts, and has been contacting the prison repeatedly seeking updates but have been provided with no information.

“As an outsider, I view this lack of communication with his attorneys and family members as completely outrageous,” Erickson said in a statement to the AP. “It appears to be indicative of a poorly run facility and indi-

cates how Derek’s assault was allowed to happen.”

Erickson’s comments highlight concerns raised for years that federal prison officials provide little to no information to the loved ones of incarcerated people who are seriously injured or ill in federal custody.

The AP has previously reported the Bureau of Prisons ignored its internal guidelines and failed to notify the families of inmates who were seriously ill with COVID-19 as the virus raged through federal prisons across the U.S.

Yokota airmen depart for Operation Christmas Drop

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Defense Department’s longest-running humanitarian aid mission will be a novelty — Canadian airlifters in Santa hats — when it officially kicks off on Tuesday.

This will be the first time Canada has participated in Operation Christmas Drop, an annual, two-week mission to airdrop essential supplies to far-flung and isolated islands in the Federated States of Micronesia

and Republic of Palau, Capt. Miranda Bapty said Monday at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo.

The C-130J Super Hercules pilot from Yokota’s 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron was preparing to take off for Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, home base of the massive operation, which runs through Dec. 13.

Three C-130Js from Yokota will help with this year’s mission. The other two airlifters are slated to link up with Bapty’s

crew at Andersen later this week.

“We do these (airdrop missions) all the time,” she said. “But this is the one time we get to see the impact of all that training coming to a head.”

Now in its 72nd year, the tradition began during the Christmas season of 1952, when the crew of a B-29 Superfortress saw islanders waving at them from Kapingamarangi, Micronesia, according to a writeup on Andersen’s website.

“In the spirit of Christmas the

aircrew dropped a bundle of supplies attached to a parachute to the islanders below, giving the operation its name,” the writeup said. “Today, airdrop operations include more than 50 islands throughout the Pacific.”

This year’s mission will serve 20,000 people, 374th Airlift Wing spokesman Lt. Danny Rangel said in an email Monday.

Each dropped bundle contains myriad provisions and amenities, including food, water, medical supplies, fishing gear, clothing and toys.

Man pleads not guilty in shooting of 3 Palestinians

Associated Press

A Vermont man pleaded not guilty to attempted murder Monday in connection with the shooting of three college students of Palestinian descent who were spending their Thanksgiving break in Burlington.

Jason J. Eaton, 48, was arrested Sunday, a day after the shooting outside his apartment building near the University of Vermont campus.

He appeared in court Monday by video from jail, speaking only to confirm his identity.

His attorney entered pleas of not guilty on his behalf, and a judge ordered him held without bail pending a hearing that likely will be held in the next few days.

According to a police affidavit, federal agents found a shotgun in Eaton's apartment.

He refused to identify himself but told the officers he had been waiting for them.

Attorney General Merrick

Garland said Monday the Justice Department is investigating whether the shooting was a hate crime.

The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are assisting Vermont authorities in the investigation.

There has been a sharp increase in threats directed against Jewish, Muslim, and Arab communities across the U.S. since the Israel-Hamas war began, he said. "There is understandable fear in communities across the country," Garland said.

The three men, all age 20, were walking during a visit to the home of one of the victims' relatives when they were confronted by a white man with a handgun, police said.

"Without speaking, he discharged at least four rounds from the pistol and is believed to have fled," Murad said.

"All three victims were struck, two in their torsos and

one in the lower extremities."

Two of the men were in stable condition and the other suffered "much more serious injuries," Burlington Police Chief Jon Murad said in a statement Sunday.

Two of the victims are U.S. citizens and the third is in the country with legal permission.

Two of the men were wearing the black-and-white Palestinian keffiyeh scarves, Murad said.

The Institute for Middle East Understanding, in a statement from victims' families on X, formerly known as Twitter, identified the men as Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Ali Ahmad.

"We are extremely concerned about the safety and well-being of our children," the statement said.

"We call on law enforcement to conduct a thorough investigation, including treating this as a hate crime. We will not be comfortable until the shooter is brought to justice."

Biden to skip annual UN climate discussions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden plans to skip the annual climate talks in Dubai this week, an event that is expected to draw heads of state and diplomats from roughly 200 nations and the Vatican. He has attended twice before.

The White House said it was sending a climate team, including Special Envoy John Kerry, climate adviser Ali Zaidi and clean energy adviser John Podesta.

"Although we don't have any travel updates to share for the president at this time, the administration looks forward to a robust and productive COP28," said White House spokesman Angelo Fernández Hernández, adding that Biden's team would continue to build on the administration actions "to tackle the climate crisis."

Biden had also pledged to visit Africa before the end of the year, but that trip doesn't appear to be happening, either. The White House offered no reasons, but the president has been deeply engaged in both the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict, as well as domestic battles with Congress over government funding.

The two-week COP28 conference begins Thursday and is convened annually by the United Nations. COP stands for "Conference of the Parties" — the nations that agreed to a climate change framework drafted by the U.N. in 1992. It's been held 28 times, so this year it's called "COP28."

Countries that signed the agreement promise to work to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions and prevent "dangerous" human interference with the climate system.

Papers: Meta knowingly designed social platforms to hook children

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook parent Meta Platforms deliberately engineered its social platforms to hook kids and knew — but never disclosed — it had received millions of complaints about underage users on Instagram but only disabled a fraction of those accounts, according to a newly unsealed legal complaint described in reports from The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.

The complaint, originally made public in redacted form, was the opening salvo in a law-

suit filed in late October by the attorneys general of 33 states.

Company documents cited in the complaint described several Meta officials acknowledging the company designed its products to exploit shortcomings in youthful psychology such as impulsive behavior, susceptibility to peer pressure and the underestimation of risks, according to the reports.

Others acknowledged Facebook and Instagram were popular with children under age 13 who, per company policy, were not allowed to use the service.

Meta said in a statement that the complaint misrepresents its work over the past decade to make the online experience safe for teens.

With respect to barring younger users from the service, Meta argued age verification is a "complex industry challenge."

Instead, Meta said it favors shifting the burden of policing underage usage to app stores and parents, specifically by supporting legislation that would require app stores to obtain parental approval whenever youths under 16 download apps.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Crooked cop's request for early release denied

MD BALTIMORE — A federal judge has denied a compassionate release request filed by a former Baltimore police officer convicted in 2018 as part of the department's Gun Trace Task Force corruption scandal.

Daniel Hersl, the oldest member of the deeply corrupt and now-disbanded Baltimore police unit, was sentenced to 18 years behind bars after a jury found him guilty of racketeering and robbery.

Last month, he filed the request for release, saying he was recently diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer that has spread to his lymph nodes, liver, lungs and more. He said a prison doctor concluded he has less than 18 months to live, and asked for home detention.

Hersl, 53, was one of eight indicted members of the Gun Trace Task Force, which was created to get illegal guns off the streets. But instead, members robbed drug dealers, planted narcotics and firearms on innocent people and assaulted random civilians. More than a dozen officers have been convicted in the scandal since 2017. Hundreds of cases that hinged on their testimony were dropped.

Governor seeks to help Japanese travelers visit

HI HONOLULU — Hawaii leaders want to make it easier for tourists from Japan to visit the U.S. state by creating a pre-clearance program allowing travelers from the country to save time at the Honolulu airport by completing

immigration, customs and agricultural inspections before departure.

Gov. Josh Green and other state officials proposed the idea during a recent visit to Tokyo. Green hopes the program will help boost tourism to the islands, Hawaii News Now reported last week.

Tourism from Japan, Hawaii's top international visitor market, has been sluggish since the COVID-19 pandemic.

A pre-clearance program, which has been discussed for many years, could open direct routes to other islands, including Maui, Green said.

City elects 1st GOP mayor since 1800s

SC COLUMBIA — The historic South Carolina city of Charleston has elected its first Republican mayor since the Reconstruction Era.

William Cogswell, formerly a Republican state lawmaker, defeated incumbent Democratic Mayor John Tecklenburg by about 2 percentage points in last week's runoff, according to the South Carolina Election Commission. Results posted online by the commission showed a 569-vote margin separating the two.

Cogswell, 48, had secured the most votes in the Nov. 7 general election but not a majority, meaning that he and Tecklenburg headed to a runoff.

Charleston's municipal elections are technically nonpartisan. But Tecklenburg is a well-known figure in the state's Democratic politics.

Charleston last elected a Republican mayor in the 1870s.

Jail extended for 2 held in high-end sex ring

MA WORCESTER — Two people accused of operating a high-end brothel network with wealthy and prominent clients in Massachusetts and the Washington, D.C., suburbs will remain behind bars for now, a judge said.

Lawyers for Han Lee and Junmyung Lee agreed to a voluntary order of detention last week during a brief court hearing two weeks after their arrest. Magistrate Judge David Hennessy in Worcester, Mass., entered the order without prejudice, which means defense lawyers can move for their release at a later date.

Prosecutors have not publicly named any of the buyers and they have not been charged. But acting Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Josh Levy has said the investigation is ongoing and that prosecutors are committed to holding accountable both those who ran the scheme and those who fueled the demand.

Cosby sued for alleged abuse dating to 1980s

NY NEW YORK — A woman who worked as a stand-in at "The Cosby Show" in the 1980s said in a lawsuit last week that Bill Cosby drugged and sexually abused her after offering to mentor her in her acting career.

It is the latest in a string of lawsuits filed against Cosby under New York's expiring Adult Survivors Act, which has given victims of sexual abuse a one-year window for claims that would otherwise be barred by

time limits. That window closed on Thanksgiving.

The anonymous accuser said that soon after meeting Cosby while working on his show, he started offering style tips and performing acting exercises with her in his dressing room. When he invited her to his home, she accepted, she said, in part because of "Cosby's wholesome image as 'America's Dad,'" according to the lawsuit.

Once there, she said she blacked out during an acting exercise after drinking wine apparently laced with an intoxicant. She awoke "partially undressed and vomiting into a toilet," according to the lawsuit.

Cosby, 86, has been accused of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment by more than 60 women, including several who have filed lawsuits over the past year under the Adult Survivors Act. He has denied all allegations involving sex crimes.

Wolf trapping season shortened to help bears

MT HELENA — A federal judge in Montana has significantly shortened the state's wolf trapping season to protect grizzly bears that have not yet begun hibernating from being injured by traps.

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy in Missoula granted a preliminary injunction last week saying Montana's wolf trapping season can only run from Jan. 1 through Feb. 15, the time during which he said it is reasonably certain that almost all grizzly bears will be in dens. The order applies to basically the western two-thirds of the state.

— From Associated Press

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Hurts rallies Eagles past Bills in OT

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jalen Hurts walked off the Linc field with his arms extended in celebration as the Eagles crowd — which had booed the team off the field at halftime — went wild in appreciation for one more comeback, one more series of stupefying plays their franchise quarterback has made routine.

Consider one in the fourth quarter, when Hurts rolled to his left and almost seemed out of options. He stopped, spotted Olanive Zaccheaus through a crowd of defenders and threw a pass on the money for a go-ahead score.

Or even the winner, a designed run from a QB who played through a bruised knee this season and yet still dashed virtually untouched for a TD — only his fifth scoring play of the game.

“He made a lot of really clutch

plays in that second half,” Philadelphia coach Nick Sirianni said. “Then the big one, obviously, at the end.”

Obviously, yes. It was Hurts, after all. He zipped into the end zone from 12 yards out with 2:37 left in overtime, and the Eagles beat the Buffalo Bills 37-34 on a cold, rainy Sunday.

Hurts threw for three touchdowns and ran for two more, out-dueling Buffalo’s Josh Allen while rallying the Eagles from a 17-7 halftime deficit for the second straight game.

“You know he’s clutch,” Sirianni said. “He’s been clutch for us, clutch for this city and clutch for this team for the last three years now. He just kept going, put his head down and worked.”

Hurts needed some help, though. Philadelphia’s Jake Elliott tied the game with a 59-yard field goal in swirling wind with 20 seconds remaining.

“Given the conditions, that was probably the toughest one I had to hit,” Elliott said.

The Bills (6-6) still had 20 seconds left and a chance to at least try a desperation heave or a quick play to set up a field-goal try. Coach Sean McDermott instead elected to have Allen take a knee.

After the Bills went ahead with a field goal on the first possession of OT, Hurts scooted for the score that made the Eagles the only 10-1 team in the NFL.

He hit DeVonta Smith for 17- and 11-yard receptions in OT, and D’Andre Swift had a 16-yard run to help set up the walk-off TD.

The Eagles trailed by 10 at the half, 10 in the third quarter and by three points late in regulation and early in OT.

“We found a way at the end and made it happen,” Hurts said.

Allen threw for 339 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 81 yards and two scores for the Bills, who are in danger of missing the playoffs after winning the AFC East the past three years. But he was intercepted in the fourth quarter by James Bradbury, setting up Hurts’ 29-yard TD pass to Zaccheaus for a 28-24 Philly lead.

Allen used a 15-yard scramble and a 15-yard roughing the passer penalty on the first drive of OT to put the Bills in position for the win. Tyler Bass — who had missed two field goals — nailed the go-ahead kick from 40 yards with 5:52 left in the extra period.

Hurts finished 18-for-31 for 200 yards with an interception in a matchup of two of the NFL’s most dynamic QBs. He also rushed 14 times for 65 yards.

Hurts played a miserable first half, throwing for 33 yards while the Eagles had 99 yards overall.

Jaguars top Texans for breathing room in AFC South

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Trevor Lawrence and the Jacksonville Jaguars tried not to make too much of their win over the Houston Texans with plenty of football left this season.

They couldn’t deny, however, that Sunday’s 24-21 victory was important.

“For us to be able to continue to control our own destiny, it’s up to us and how we play,” Lawrence said. “If we keep winning, we don’t have anything to worry about. We’re going to find ourselves in a good spot. In that sense, it’s a huge game.”

Lawrence threw for 364 yards and a touchdown, and the AFC South-leading Jaguars escaped with the victory over their division rival when Matt Ammendola’s 58-yard field goal attempt bounced off the crossbar with 34 seconds left.

The Jaguars (8-3) avenged their 37-17 home loss to Houston (6-5) in Week 3 and created some separation at the top of the division. They also improved to 6-0 away from home, including two wins in London.

C.J. Stroud, the second overall pick in the draft, threw for 304 yards and two touchdowns as Houston’s three-game

winning streak was snapped. He has 3,266 yards passing this season to move past Justin Herbert (3,224) for most in NFL history by a rookie in his first 11 games.

He also became the first rookie in NFL history to throw for 300 yards in four consecutive games.

Ravens 20, Chargers 10: Rookie Zay Flowers had a touchdown catch and ran for a game-sealing score late in the fourth quarter, and visiting Baltimore’s defense forced four turnovers to beat Los Angeles.

Steelers 16, Bengals 10: Kenny Pickett threw for a season-high 278 yards and visiting Pittsburgh found new life on offense days after firing offensive coordinator Matt Canada, beating Joe Burrow-less Cincinnati.

Broncos 29, Browns 12: Russell Wilson accounted for two touchdowns and host Denver’s defense produced three more takeaways and a safety to beat injury-riddled Cleveland.

Falcons 24, Saints 15: Desmond Ridder overcame two interceptions by throwing a touchdown pass to Bijan Robinson in

the fourth quarter, and host Atlanta beat New Orleans to move into a tie for first place in the woeful NFC South.

Chiefs 31, Raiders 17: Patrick Mahomes passed for 298 yards and two touchdowns, and visiting Kansas City ended its three-game second-half scoring drought to rally past Las Vegas.

Colts 27, Buccaneers 20: Jonathan Taylor ran for two scores, quarterback Gardner Minshew also had a rushing TD and host Indianapolis beat Tampa Bay.

Giants 10, Patriots 7: Xavier McKinney’s interception set up Randy Bullock’s go-ahead 42-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter, and host New York beat New England to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

Rams 37, Cardinals 14: Matthew Stafford threw a season-high four touchdown passes, two each to Tyler Higbee and Kyren Williams, as visiting Los Angeles rolled past Arizona.

Titans 17, Panthers 10: Derrick Henry ran for two touchdowns and 76 yards as host Tennessee beat Carolina to snap a three-game skid.

Bucks overcome 26-point deficit to win

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Damian Lillard acknowledged his first game against his former team felt a little bit different at first.

For much of the day, it was also shaping up as an embarrassing loss for the Milwaukee Bucks. It ended up with their biggest comeback in more than a decade.

Giannis Antetokounmpo made a tie-breaking tip-in with 18.5 seconds left and had 33 points, 16 rebounds and six assists and the Bucks overcame a 26-point deficit to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 108-102 on Sunday.

Lillard added 31 points and sealed the victory by making four free throws in the final 10½ seconds. The seven-time all-NBA guard played the first 11 seasons of his career with the Trail Blazers before requesting a trade over the summer and eventually landing in Milwaukee.

Leading up to the game, Lillard downplayed the prospect of facing his old team for the first time and noted it would be different Jan. 31, when the Bucks visit Portland.

“Once I walked in, I saw a lot of familiar faces,” Lillard said after the game. “I

thought about going to the visitors’ locker room for a second. I was like, ‘Man, this is a little bit different.’ Then when we got to the court, I saw everybody, and it was a weird feeling. But once we started playing, I kind of got over it quick. Just like before, I didn’t think it would be a big thing or a crazy thing, and it wasn’t.”

The Bucks trailed 81-55 early in the third quarter, the largest deficit overcome by a winning team in the NBA this season. It represented the Bucks’ largest come-from-behind victory since Nov. 26, 2012, when they came back from 27 points down in a 93-92 victory over Chicago.

Portland overhauled its roster to such an extent during the offseason that only a handful of Blazers had played alongside Lillard last season. Even so, the Blazers seemed inspired early on.

The Blazers entered the day ranked last in the NBA in 3-point percentage (.324).

Jerami Grant led Portland with 22 points, and Malcolm Brogdon had 18 points and 12 assists.

Suns 116, Knicks 113: Devin Booker made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 1.7 seconds remaining and finished with 28 points

and 11 assists to lead visiting Phoenix past New York for its seventh straight victory.

Nets 118, Bulls 106: Spencer Dinwiddie scored 24 points and host Brooklyn made an NBA season-best 25 3-pointers to beat Chicago.

Nuggets 132, Spurs 120: Nikola Jokic had a season-high 39 points to go with 11 rebounds and nine assists, and host Denver sent San Antonio to its 12th straight loss.

Celtics 113, Hawks 103: Jayson Tatum scored 34 points, Jaylen Brown had 21 and injury-depleted, NBA-leading Boston beat visiting Atlanta.

Magic 130, Hornets 117: Franz Wagner and Cole Anthony each scored 30 points and host Orlando beat Charlotte for its seventh straight victory.

Timberwolves 119, Grizzlies 97: Anthony Edwards scored 24 points, Karl-Anthony Towns and Mike Conley each had 18 and visiting Minnesota routed Memphis.

Cavaliers 105, Raptors 102: Darius Garland had 24 points and eight assists and Max Strus scored all 20 of his points in the third quarter, helping host Cleveland beat Toronto.

Texas A&M rallies from 21 points down to beat Iowa St.

Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Solomon Washington had 18 points, Wade Taylor IV scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half and No. 12 Texas A&M rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat Iowa State 73-69 in the third-place game at the ESPN Events Invitational on Sunday night.

Taylor, who averaged 29 points in the first two games of the tourney, hit a jumper from the foul line to make it 66-60 with 1:18 to play.

“I just admire our guys so much,” Texas A&M coach Buzz Williams said. “I knew we were bad in the first half in many respects. I did not completely realize we were down 21.”

Texas A&M forward Henry Coleman III, who left Friday’s loss to No. 19 Florida Atlantic late in the first half with an ankle injury, didn’t play. Guard

Tyrece Radford, limited to 18 minutes against the Owls due to breathing issues, also sat out.

Iowa State (5-2) got 15 points from Milan Momcilovic. Keshon Gilbert scored 14 points and Tamin Lipsey had 10 points, 14 rebounds and four assists.

No. 15 Texas 86, Wyoming 63: Max Abmas scored a season-best 23 points to lead the host Longhorns past the Cowboys for their fifth win in six games.

Abmas, a former star at Oral Roberts, shot 8-for-14 from the field, 3-for-6 from long distance and hit all four of his free throws.

Kadin Shedrick added 17 points, two blocks and two steals for the Longhorns (5-1). Tyrese Hunter and Dillon Mitchell scored 12 apiece and Mitchell had nine rebounds.

Texas, which was coming off a loss to No. 5 UConn on Mon-

day at the Empire Classic at Madison Square Garden, was 12-for-13 from the line and shot 55.7% overall, while Wyoming shot 39%.

Brendan Wenzel, Sam Griffin, who averages 20.4 points, and Cam Manuawu each scored 12 points to lead Wyoming (4-2). Manyawu had 10 rebounds.

No. 18 Colorado 85, Iona 68: Tristan da Silva scored 17 points to go over the 1,000-point mark for his career and the host Buffaloes shook free in the second half from the relentless pressure of the Gaels.

Da Silva scored 14 of his points in the first half as he became the 39th member of the school’s 1,000-point club.

KJ Simpson had 15 points for Colorado (5-1), which used an 11-0 run midway through the final half to pull away.

Greg Gordon led Iona with 19

points while Idan Tretout finished with 18. Freshman Jeremiah Quigley had 11 points. Wheza Panzo, the Gaels’ second-leading scorer, was held to three points.

No. 19 Florida Atlantic 84, Virginia Tech 50: At Kissimmee, Fla., Alijah Martin scored 17 points, Vladislav Goldin had 14, and the Owls beat the Hokies to win the ESPN Events Invitational championship.

Johnell Davis had 12 points for FAU (5-1). Martin (eight) and Davis (seven) combined for 15 rebounds.

Virginia Tech (5-2) got 11 points from both Hunter Cattoor and Sean Pedulla. Lynn Kidd had nine points and seven rebounds.

FAU broke the game open late in the first half and early in the second with a 19-0 run to go up 44-24 with 16½ minutes remaining.

McDavid has 5-point game as Oilers rout Ducks

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Connor McDavid had a goal and four assists to give him nine points in two games and help the Edmonton Oilers rout the Anaheim Ducks 8-2 on Sunday night.

In a week, McDavid jumped from 108th in the NHL scoring race with 13 points into a tie for 13th with 25 points. He had four assists Friday in a 5-0 victory at Washington.

“Confidence is obviously a big part of it,” said McDavid, Edmonton’s captain who has led the NHL in scoring the last three years and five times in his career. “Our whole team is playing better, and I think that’s why you’re seeing guys start to have success.”

The five-point game was the ninth of his career, the most of any active NHL player.

Zach Hyman had two goals and an assist, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Evander Kane, James Hamblin, Leon Draisaitl and Mattias Ekholm also scored and Stuart Skinner stopped 21 shots. The Oilers have won two straight to improve to 7-12-1.

Max Jones scored for Anaheim. The Ducks have lost six in a row to fall to 9-12-0.

Blues 4, Blackhawks 2: Jake Neighbours, Pavel Buchnevich and Kevin Hayes scored in the first period and visiting St. Louis beat Chicago.

Neighbours also scored in the third and Jordan Binnington made 32 saves to help St. Louis bounce back nicely after an 8-3 loss to Nashville on Friday.

Binnington went the distance in his sixth win after the Blues used two goaltenders in their previous two games and three of their last five overall.

Ryan Donato and Boris Katchouk scored for the Blackhawks, and Arvid Soderblom made 24 stops. Chicago lost for the sixth time in seven games. It was coming off a 4-3 overtime victory over Toronto on Friday.

Hurricanes 3, Blue Jackets 2: Andrei Svechnikov scored with 1:55 left for host Carolina’s third goal in an 8:04 span in a comeback victory over Columbus.

After Columbus scored twice early in the third, Jesperi Kotkaniemi cut it to 2-1 at 9:59 and Brady Skjei tied it with 3:09 to go. Svechnikov also had an assist.

Pyotr Kochetkov stopped 21 shots. He made his third start in four games with Frederik Andersen out with blood-clotting issues.

Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and assist for Columbus. Kirill Marchenko also scored.

Predators 3, Jets 2: Roman Josi had a goal and two assists to help host Nashville beat Winnipeg, extending its winning streak to five.

Yakov Trenin and Gustav Nyquist also scored and Juuse Saros made 33 saves.

Josh Morrissey and Cole Perfetti scored for Winnipeg, which had won five straight. Laurent Brossoit made 24 saves.

Red Wings 4, Wild 1: David Perron scored twice on the power play, including his 300th career goal, and host Detroit beat Minnesota for its third straight victory.

Dylan Larkin added a goal and an assist, Shayne Gostisbehere had an empty-net goal and two assists and Alex Lyon made 37 saves.

Joel Eriksson Ek had a power-play goal for the Wild. They are 0-5-2 in their last seven.

Verstappen’s record 19th F1 win underlines fierce drive

Associated Press

Although Max Verstappen clinched his third straight Formula One title almost two months ago at the Qatar GP, there was never any chance of him easing up.

He’s won every race since and capped off an outstanding year with a record-extending 19th victory of the season at the Abu Dhabi GP on Sunday.

“I think that is just something how I grew up, I just can’t come into a race weekend not giving my all,” Verstappen said. “I would just get annoyed with myself and then I know people around me get annoyed with me. My mindset didn’t change after winning the championship. I come to the race weekends and always try to do the best I can, and winning is great. Why would I not want to win?”

To round off a remarkable season, he also passed the landmark of 1,000 laps led in a season.

“I knew it was on the cards going into the race,” said Verstappen, who moved onto 54 wins overall and into third on the all-time list.

Verstappen finished ahead of Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc and Mercedes driver George Russell in Abu Dhabi and also collected a bonus point for the fastest lap. The

win moved him one ahead of former Red Bull great Sebastian Vettel, with only Michael Schumacher (91) and Lewis Hamilton (103) ahead of him.

“What an incredible year,” Verstappen said after crossing the line. “It was a bit emotional on the in-lap.”

Red Bull won 21 of 22 races this season, with Sergio Perez claiming two wins.

“It will be very hard to have another season like this, we know that,” Verstappen said. “We will see, we are working hard for next year to have a very competitive car.”

After winning two of the first four races, Perez fell quickly behind his star teammate.

“You’ve smashed it out of the park this year,” Red Bull team principal Christian Horner told Verstappen on the radio. “We’re all incredibly proud of you.”

Perez crossed the line in second place but dropped to fourth because of a five-second time penalty following an incident with McLaren’s Lando Norris late on.

Leclerc let Perez go past him on the final lap in the hope that Perez would finish more than five seconds ahead of Russell, with Mercedes and Ferrari both fighting for second place in the constructors’ championship.

With Russell’s teammate Hamilton finishing ninth for two points and Ferrari’s Carlos Sainz Jr. out of the points, Mercedes clinched second behind Red Bull in the constructors’ table.

“Unfortunately it wasn’t enough,” said Leclerc, after his third podium in the past four races. “It’s just a shame we finished third in constructors, that’s all that mattered to me, we didn’t achieve that but I want to thank the team for doing such incredible work.”

Mercedes beat Ferrari by just three points, and while Sainz is the only other driver to win a race this season — in Singapore — his failure to score in Abu Dhabi proved costly for Ferrari.

At the end, it was Russell who delivered.

“It means a huge amount, there’s so many people back at the factory who have worked so hard to achieve this, it’s been a really challenging season,” Russell said after only his second podium this season.

Norris finished the race in fifth place ahead of his teammate Oscar Piastri, with Aston Martin’s Fernando Alonso in seventh. AlphaTauri’s Yuki Tsunoda, Hamilton and Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) completed the top 10.