

Russia strikes targets across Ukraine

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia used strategic bombers, cruise missiles and killer drones in a wave of attacks across Ukraine early Friday, while Moscow's military push that Kyiv says has been brewing for days appeared to pick up pace in eastern areas ahead of the one-year anniversary of its invasion.

Russian forces have launched 71 cruise missiles, 35 S-300 missiles and seven Shahed drones since late Thursday, Ukraine's military chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi said.

Ukrainian forces downed 61 cruise missiles and five drones, he added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has campaigned for more Western support against Russia's military ambitions, said: "This is terror that can and must be stopped."

Meanwhile, the Kremlin's ground forces were focusing on Ukraine's industrial east, especially the Luhansk and Donetsk provinces that make up the industrial Donbas region where recent fighting has been most intense, the Ukrainian military said. Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces there since 2014.

The Kremlin is striving to secure areas it illegally annexed last September — the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions — and where it claims its rule is welcomed, according to Kyiv officials.

Moscow's goals have narrowed since it launched its full-scale invasion on Feb. 24 2022, military analysts say. At that time, the capital, Kyiv, and the installation of a puppet government were among its targets, but numerous battlefield set-

backs, including yielding Donbas areas it had initially captured, have embarrassed Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Kremlin is concentrating its efforts on gaining full control of the Donbas, Kyiv claims, and is pushing at key points on several fronts, though Russian progress is reportedly slow.

In the Donetsk region, local Ukrainian officials reported that the Russian military deployed additional troops and launched offensive operations. "There is a daily escalation and Russian attacks are becoming active throughout the region," Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

In Luhansk province, the Russian army is trying to punch through Ukrainian defenses, according to regional Gov. Serhii Haidai.

"The situation is deteriorating, the enemy is constantly at-

tacking, the Russians are bringing in a large amount of heavy equipment and aircraft," Haidai said.

There has been little change in battlefield positions for weeks amid freezing winter conditions.

Denis Pushilin, the Moscow-appointed head of the Donetsk region, said that Russian forces had secured positions on the southern outskirts of Vuhledar. He added that Ukraine has sent additional reinforcements to the city that slowed the Russian advance.

Vuhledar is a strategically important town that sits next to a railway link crossing the region on the way to Crimea. Capturing the town is important for Russia to secure the safety of the railway connection to Crimea and advance its goal of seizing the entire Donetsk region.

Rescues offer moments of relief in quake aftermath

Associated Press

ISKENDERUN, Turkey — Rescuers pulled several people alive from the shattered remnants of buildings on Friday, some who survived more than 100 hours trapped under crushed concrete in the bitter cold after a catastrophic earthquake slammed Turkey and Syria, killing more than 22,000.

The survivors included six relatives who huddled in a small pocket under the rubble, a teenager who drank his own urine to slake his thirst and a 4-year-old boy offered a jelly bean to calm him down as he was shimmied out.

But the flurry of dramatic rescues — some broadcast live on Turkish television — could not

obscure the overwhelming devastation of what Turkey's president called one of the greatest disasters in his nation's history.

Entire neighborhoods of high-rise buildings have been reduced to twisted metal, pulverized concrete and exposed wires, and the magnitude 7.8 quake has already killed more people than Japan's Fukushima earthquake and tsunami, with many more bodies undoubtedly yet to be recovered and counted.

Four days after the earthquake hammered a sprawling border region that is home to more than 13.5 million people, relatives wept and chanted as rescuers pulled 17-year-old Adnan Muhammed Korkut from a

basement in Turkey's Gaziantep, near the quake's epicenter. He had been trapped there for 94 hours, forced to drink his own urine to survive.

"Thank God you arrived," he said, embracing his mother and others who leaned down to kiss and hug him as he was being loaded into an ambulance.

In Adiyaman, meanwhile, rescue crews pulled 4-year-old Yagiz Komsu from the debris of his home, 105 hours after the quake struck.

They later managed to rescue his mother, Ayfer Komsu, who survived with a fractured rib, according the HaberTurk television, which broadcast the rescue live. The crowd was asked not to cheer or applaud to avoid

scaring the child, who was given a jelly bean, the station reported.

Elsewhere, HaberTurk television said rescuers had identified nine people trapped inside the remains of a high-rise apartment block in Iskenderun and pulled out six of them, including a woman who waved at onlookers as she was being carried away on a stretcher.

The building was only 600 feet from the Mediterranean Sea and narrowly avoided being flooded when the massive earthquake sent water surging into the city center.

Even though experts say trapped people can live for a week or more, the chances of finding survivors are dimming.

Yemen drone strike shrouded in mystery

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Onlookers gathered around a small, four-door car coated in dried mud, peering through its shattered windows and torn-away roof at three dead men inside.

Tribal leaders identified the three — killed in late January near Yemen’s city of Marib — as suspected members of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, long considered one of the extremist group’s most dangerous branches.

They appear to have been killed in a rare drone strike by the U.S., using a weapon that’s been deployed sparingly in the past, typically against high-value targets.

The strike renews questions over the U.S. drone campaign in Yemen, now two decades old and just as secretive as ever despite promises from the Biden administration to put more rules in place to govern them. That secrecy, coupled with a yearslong war ripping at Yemen, makes it even more diffi-

cult to determine and assess the reasons behind suspected American strikes.

The suspected al-Qaida members appear to have been killed by a Hellfire R9X, otherwise known as the “flying Ginsu” or “knife bomb,” based on images of the wreckage analyzed by The Associated Press and weapons experts. The R9X, known only to be used by U.S. forces, has been used in other attacks attributed to America, including the Kabul airstrike last year that killed al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri.

The men killed in the Jan. 30 strike were not prominent members of the extremist group. One was identified as a bomb-maker, with little else known about him.

“The R9X is for high-value target killing and we don’t have any ‘Who is this guy, why does he merit this now?’” said David Sterman, a senior policy analyst at the Washington-based think tank New America, which for years has tracked U.S. drone

strikes in Yemen. “If it is a U.S. strike, it raises substantial questions about what is the state of the U.S. drone war in Yemen.”

The White House declined to answer questions about the apparent strike,

U.S. Air Forces Central, which oversees the Middle East, said it didn’t have any information that its forces carried out any strike in Marib. The CIA, which is believed to have conducted R9X strikes including the one that killed al-Zawahri, declined to comment.

The U.S. government has released few public details about the the R9X Hellfire, which comes from a class of anti-tank missile used across the U.S. military for two decades.

Analysts say that instead of a standard explosive warhead, the R9X has six rotating blades that pop just before the missile hits a target. In theory, this helps direct the weapon at a specific person and prevents wider casualties.

Two local tribal leaders,

speaking on condition of anonymity given the ongoing war and the presence of extremists in Marib, told the AP that those killed were AQAP members. Masked al-Qaida fighters surrounded the area after the strike, they said.

The leaders identified one of the dead as Hassan al-Hadrami. The Houthis, through the state-run SABA news agency they control, had identified al-Hadrami in 2021 as one of several “specialized” explosives experts in the al-Qaida branch. The extremists have been planting roadside explosives.

However, al-Hadrami was otherwise unknown to veteran Yemen watchers.

United Nations experts believe AQAP numbers a few thousand members supplemented by foreign fighters. Marib remains a stronghold for al-Qaida even though Saudi-backed allies of Yemen’s internationally recognized government in exile are nominally in control of the city.

During crises, US-China hotline goes unanswered

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Within hours of an Air Force F-22 downing a giant Chinese balloon that had crossed the U.S., Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin reached out to his Chinese counterpart via a special crisis line, aiming for a quick general-to-general talk that could explain things and ease tensions.

But Austin’s effort Saturday fell flat, when Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe declined to get on the line, the Pentagon says. China’s Defense Ministry says it refused the call from Austin after the balloon was shot down because the U.S. had “not created the proper atmo-

sphere” for dialogue and exchange. The U.S. action had “seriously violated international norms and set a pernicious precedent,” a ministry spokesperson was quoted as saying in a statement issued late Thursday.

It’s been an experience that’s frustrated U.S. commanders for decades, when it comes to getting their Chinese counterparts on a phone or video line as some crisis is sending tensions between the two nations climbing.

From Americans’ perspective, the lack of the kind of reliable crisis communications that helped get the U.S. and Soviet Union through the Cold War without a nuclear exchange is

raising the danger for the U.S.-China relationship at a time when China’s military strength is growing and tensions with the U.S. are on the rise.

Without that ability for generals in opposing capitals to clear things up quickly, Americans worry that misunderstandings, false reports or accidental collisions could cause a minor confrontation to spiral into hostilities.

And it’s not about any technical shortfall with the communication equipment, said Bonnie Glaser, managing director of Indo-Pacific studies at the German Marshall Fund think tank. The issue is a fundamental dif-

ference in the way China and the U.S. view the value and purpose of military hotlines.

U.S. military leaders’ faith in Washington-to-Beijing hotlines as a way to defuse flare-ups with China’s military has been butting up against a sharply different take — a Chinese political system that runs on slow deliberative consultation by political leaders and makes no room for individually directed, real-time talk between rival generals.

And Chinese leaders are suspicious of the whole U.S. notion of a hotline — seeing it as an American channel for trying to talking their way out of repercussions for a U.S. provocation.

Pence subpoenaed by special counsel

Associated Press

Former Vice President Mike Pence has been subpoenaed by the special counsel overseeing investigations into efforts by former President Donald Trump and his allies to overturn the results of the 2020 election, according to a person with direct knowledge of the event.

The subpoena to Pence as part of the investigation by special counsel Jack Smith was served in recent days, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive issue.

The extraordinary scenario of a former vice president potentially testifying against his

former boss in a criminal investigation comes as Pence considers launching a 2024 Republican presidential bid against Trump. The two have been estranged since a mob of Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021, in an attempt to stop Democrat Joe Biden's victory.

The subpoena is an aggressive step from a prosecutor who for years led the Justice Department's public corruption section and who oversaw indictments against major political figures. The move sets the stage for a likely executive privilege fight, given Pence's close proximity to Trump for four years as

major decisions were being contemplated and planned. It is unclear whether efforts to secure voluntary testimony from Pence stalled before the subpoena was issued.

Spokespeople for Pence and Smith declined to comment on the issuance of the subpoena, which was first reported by ABC News.

Pence was a central figure in Trump's efforts to stay in power after losing the 2020 election. Trump falsely insisted that his vice president, who had a ceremonial role in overseeing the certification of the election, could simply reject the results and send them back to the bat-

tleground states he contested.

On Jan. 6, Trump supporters, driven by the lie that the election was stolen, marched to the Capitol building, brutally pushed past the police and smashed through the windows and doors while Pence was presiding over the certification of Biden's victory. The vice president was steered to safety with his staff and family as some in the mob chanted, "Hang Mike Pence!"

While the mob was in the Capitol, Trump tweeted, "Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution."

Russian diplomat: Ties in 'unprecedented crisis'

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia-U.S. relations are in a state of "unprecedented crisis" without any sign of improvement, a senior Russian diplomat said Thursday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov argued that the White House's emphasis on increasing weapons supplies to Ukraine to ensure Russia's defeat leaves no room for diplomacy.

"I don't see any prospect for a productive political and diplomatic process," Ryabkov said at a briefing. "We have a very deep and unprecedented crisis in Russia-U.S. relations. The Biden administration has driven them into a deadlock."

Ryabkov warned that the U.S. and its allies must carefully assess the risks stemming from supplying increasingly powerful Western weapons to Ukraine.

"The Americans need to thoroughly and deeply weigh the risks linked to their unabashedly cavalier course," he said.

Ryabkov noted that Moscow

doesn't trust Western statements about self-imposed restrictions on a range of weapons supplied to Ukraine in order to avoid escalation, adding that such assurances in the past have served as cover for a steady expansion of the assortment of arms deliveries.

He rejected the U.S. argument that Russia's refusal to allow the resumption of inspections of its nuclear facilities represents a breach of the New START treaty, the last remaining nuclear arms control pact between the two countries.

The New START treaty, signed in 2010 by President Barack Obama, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers.

The agreement envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance.

Just days before the treaty was due to expire in February 2021, Russia and the United States agreed to extend it for another five years.

Lawyer: Santos had 2017 theft charge expunged

Associated Press

U.S. Rep. George Santos was charged with criminal theft in Pennsylvania in 2017 in connection with bad checks apparently used to buy puppies from dog breeders, according to a lawyer who said she helped the Republican with the case.

The case was ultimately dismissed after Santos said the nine checks, totaling more than \$15,000, were from a checkbook that had been stolen from him, according to information provided to The Associated Press on Thursday by the attorney, Tiffany Bogosian.

The theft case, first reported by Politico, adds to the controversy surrounding the first-term Long Island congressman, who faces multiple investigations and has acknowledged lying about elements of his life story.

A spokesperson for the York County district attorney's office in Pennsylvania, where the charges were filed, said the office cannot comment on expunged cases. Pennsylvania

state police officials did not return messages seeking comment.

The charges date to a time when Santos claimed to be leading a group, Friends of Pets United, that benefited sick, abandoned or neglected animals.

Some people familiar with the group have questioned what became of the money it raised.

FBI agents recently visited a New Jersey man who complained that Santos had raised \$3,000 for his terminally ill dog, but never delivered the cash or helped the sick animal.

It's not the first time Santos has been linked to a criminal investigation involving checks. Court records in Brazil, first reported by The New York Times, show Santos was the subject of a criminal charge there for using two stolen checks in 2008, when he would have been 19, to buy about \$1,350 worth of items at a clothing shop in the city of Niteroi.

Report: Officer drew gun as he approached Tyre Nichols

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — One of three Memphis Police officers who initially detained Tyre Nichols last month has admitted he did not witness the alleged reckless driving that was the justification for pulling over Nichols but still approached his car while brandishing his gun, according to police documents seeking to bar him from working in law enforcement.

That Jan. 7 traffic stop quickly escalated into a beating, and Nichols died three days later.

Officer Preston Hemphill's own body camera showed that from the very beginning of the traffic stop he and two other officers approached Nichols with force that was disproportionate for the alleged offense of reckless driving, according to a statement from the disci-

plinary hearing that took place before he was fired.

Hemphill was fired last week but has not been charged for his role in Nichols' beating and arrest, which has sparked widespread outrage and reignited a national discussion of police brutality against Black people. Five other officers, who are Black and were caught on video pummeling Nichols with their fists, feet and a baton, have been charged with murder and other offenses.

Hemphill did not take part in the second, more violent encounter, which took place after Nichols ran from police. But the documents highlight that he was heard on his body camera telling his partner: "I hope they stomp his ass!"

The information about Hemphill's actions is contained in supporting documents at-

tached to a Wednesday request from Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis to strip Hemphill, who is white, of his police certification so that he could not work in law enforcement again. Hemphill's lawyer did not immediately comment Thursday because he had not fully read the documents.

The documents help create a fuller picture of the initial encounter with the 29-year-old Nichols that involved Hemphill, Demetrius Haley and Emmitt Martin III.

Haley and Martin were fired last month and charged with second-degree murder in Nichols' death along with Tadarrius Bean, Desmond Mills Jr. and Justin Smith.

The police chief has said she saw no justification in video of the incident for pulling Nichols over in the first place.

New Orleans Mardi Gras parades, parties start

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The lead up to New Orleans' annual Mardi Gras season intensifies Friday with major nighttime parades down historic St. Charles Avenue and animal lovers gathering at a venerable French Quarter restaurant to pay tribute to four-legged faux royalty.

Galatoire's Restaurant, a fine dining fixture on Bourbon Street, will relax its jackets-required dress code and temporarily ditch its no-pets policy to host the king and queen of the Mystic Krewe of Barkus — two silver Labrador retrievers — at a morning event heralding the Sunday pet parade.

On Friday night, three parades with marching brass bands and colorful floats with costumed riders are to step off in the Uptown area.

Other Friday night parades are scheduled in neighboring Metairie, and there will be more than two dozen celebrations almost nightly until Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, which this year falls on Feb. 21.

Complicating that effort has been a rise in crime and a shortage of police officers, which somewhat muted the celebration's comeback last year.

Since parades in 2021 were canceled because of security concerns and the pandemic, some of the routes for the 2022 parades were trimmed.

This year the original routes have been restored and the local police department is bolstered by a contingent of 125 troopers from other parts of the state to help keep order.

By various estimates, the local police force has dwindled to about 900 members, which is hundreds fewer than what local experts say is needed.

Jan. 6 rioter who menaced police with Confederate flag gets 3 years in prison

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Delaware man who threatened a Black police officer with a pole attached to a Confederate battle flag as he stormed the U.S. Capitol was sentenced on Thursday to three years in prison.

Kevin Seefried, 53, tearfully apologized for his participation in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot before U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden sentenced him.

"I never wanted to send a message of hate," Seefried said.

McFadden said it was deeply troubling that Seefried wielded the flagpole as a weapon against the officer.

"Bringing a Confederate flag into one of our nation's most sacred halls was outrageous," the

judge said.

Seefried and his adult son, Hunter, stormed the Capitol together after attending the "Stop the Steal" rally, where then-President Donald Trump addressed thousands of supporters in Washington. Kevin Seefried was the 12th rioter to set foot inside the building that day, according to prosecutors.

In October, McFadden sentenced Hunter Seefried to two years of imprisonment.

Widely published photographs showed Kevin Seefried carrying his Confederate flag inside the Capitol after he and his son, then 22, entered the building through a broken window.

Kevin Seefried told an FBI

agent that he did not view the Confederate flag as a symbol of racist hate.

FBI agents said they did not find any evidence linking him or his son to any far-right extremist groups.

Seefried is embarrassed and ashamed that many may view him as a racist, his lawyers said in a court filing.

"He had brought the flag as a symbol of protest, but had not considered the logic of those who see the flag as a symbol of American racism," they wrote. "Now that photos of him with the flag have become iconic symbols of the horror of January 6, Mr. Seefried completely understands the harm he has caused."

Super Bowl advertisers rely on star power

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Super Bowl is advertising's biggest, glitziest stage.

Big name advertisers are paying as much as \$7 million for a 30-second spot during the big game on Sunday, in order to capture the attention of the roughly 100 million viewers who tune in each year.

In order to get as much of a return on investment for those millions, most advertisers release their ads in the days ahead of the big game to get the most publicity for their spots. In the ads released so far, John Travolta and "Scrubs" stars Donald Faison and Zach Braff sing a T-Mobile-themed version of "Summer Nights" from "Grease," Adam Driver creates multiple versions of himself for Squarespace, and Alicia Silverstone reprises her "Clueless" character for online shopping site Rakuten.

Booking.Com: Actress Melissa McCarthy stars in a musical number for the travel site about her desire to go on a trip "somewhere, anywhere."

Bud Light: Actor Miles Teller ("Top Gun: Maverick") and his wife Keleigh Sperry Teller dance to customer service hold music while drinking a Bud Light.

Busch Light: A mountain man talks about surviving the outdoors in an ad that stars singer Sarah McLachlan spoofing her well-known and oft mocked animal-advocacy ad that uses her song "Angel."

Dexcom: Singer Nick Jonas returns for the second year in an ad that highlights Dexcom's glucose monitoring system.

DoorDash: Celebrity chef Matty Matheson, Wu-Tang Clan's Raekwon The Chef and Nickelodeon's stop-motion-animated Tiny Chef help a DoorDash shopper find the best products.

Doritos: Music stars Jack Harlow, Missy Elliott and Elton John team up in an ad for Doritos Sweet & Tangy BBQ that shows Harlow abandoning his rap career to focus on the triangle — a Doritos-shaped musical instrument.

DraftKings: The online betting site shows stars including skateboard mogul Tony Hawk and singer Ludacris discussing DraftKings' free bet offer at a party at actor Kevin Hart's house.

General Motors and Netflix: Actor and comedian Will Ferrell drives different GM electric vehicles through different Netflix shows, including "Bridgerton" and "Stranger Things," to announce that Netflix will feature electric vehicles in its original shows.

Google: Google promotes its Pixel photo editing tools "Magic Eraser" and "Photo Unblur" with a spot featuring Amy Schumer, Doja Cat and NBA star Giannis Antetokoumpo.

Hellmann's: The mayo brand shows actors Jon Hamm and Brie Larson in a fridge with a jar of Hellmann's mayo — to drive home the point that Hellmann's would go well with a "ham and brie" sandwich.

Rakuten: The online shopping site tapped "Clueless" stars Alicia Silverstone and Elisa Dono-

van to re-create a scene from the 1995 hit and convey that Rakuten gives shoppers cash back on purchases. Designer Christian Siriano also appears as a student.

Skechers: Snoop Dogg wears different Skechers throughout the day with cameos from Martha Stewart and others.

Squarespace: Adam Driver contemplates the fact that "Squarespace is a website that makes websites" and splits into multiple versions of himself.

T-Mobile: To promote its 5G home internet, John Travolta sings a version of "Summer Nights" with "Scrubs" stars Donald Faison and Zach Braff touting its benefits.

Uber One: Uber's ad for its membership program Uber One shows hip hop mogul P. Diddy working to create a hit song for Uber One. The ad features singers of famous hits, including Montell Jordan ("This is How We Do It"), Kelis ("Milkshake"), Donna Lewis ("I Love You Always Forever"), Haddaway ("What is Love") and Ylvis ("What Does the Fox Say").

Moldovan president names candidate for prime minister

Associated Press

CHISINAU, Moldova — Moldova's president named businessman and former minister Dorin Recean as the country's prime minister-designate after the top government position was left vacant Friday when Natalia Gavrilita unexpectedly resigned 18 months into her crisis-racked tenure.

President Maia Sandu told a news conference that members of the ruling Party of Action and

Solidarity, or PAS, accepted her choice of Recean as the new prime minister.

"I know that we need unity and a lot of work to get through the difficult period we are facing. The difficulties of 2022 postponed some of our plans, but they did not stop us," Sandu said, adding that in 2023 she wants to focus on revamping key areas such as Moldova's economy and its justice sector.

Also Friday, The Washington

Post reported that Moldova said a Russian missile crossed into its airspace while heading toward Ukraine, and the government summoned Russia's ambassador to register the "unacceptable violation of our airspace." It condemned the incursion and called on Russia to stop its "military aggression" against Ukraine.

The head of Ukraine's air force said the missiles also crossed into the airspace of

neighboring Romania — a NATO member. However, the Romanian Defense Ministry denied this, saying its air force detected a projectile, probably a cruise missile, launched from the Black Sea but that it did not enter Romanian airspace.

Recean, a 48-year-old economist who served as interior minister between 2012-2015, will have 15 days to form a new government to present to parliament for a vote.

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Patrick Mahomes wins 2nd MVP award

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Patrick Mahomes dominated the voting for the AP NFL Most Valuable Player award. Now, he'll try to break the MVP curse.

Mahomes, who also won in 2018, easily outdistanced Jalen Hurts, receiving 48 of 50 first-place votes from a nationwide panel of media members who regularly cover the league. He earned 490 points to 193 for Hurts, who got one first-place vote, 26 seconds, 11 thirds and 10 fourths.

Mahomes and the Kansas

City Chiefs face Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Mahomes thanked the Chiefs organization and his teammates in a video at NFL Honors on Thursday night.

"I would never be standing here without y'all," Mahomes said. "Every day we've given everything we have together to win the ultimate goal, the Super Bowl. Let's continue to go for that dream this weekend."

The last nine MVPs to play in the Super Bowl that season are 0-9. Kurt Warner was the last to

win both the MVP award and Super Bowl following the 1999 season.

Bills quarterback Josh Allen received the other first-place vote, finishing third with 151 points.

The 27-year-old Mahomes is the third player to win his second MVP before turning 28, joining Brett Favre (27) and Jim Brown (22).

Mahomes was the 2018 NFL MVP in his first full season as a starter. The Chiefs lost the AFC championship game that season but Mahomes led them to a Su-

per Bowl victory over San Francisco the following season.

In the second-closest race Thursday, Brian Daboll won AP Coach of the Year after leading the New York Giants to their first playoff appearance in six years.

Daboll received 16 first-place votes and 123 total points to outpace 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan, who got 12 votes for first and 100 points.

In other awards announced Thursday, Nick Bosa made it a landslide for the AP Defensive Player of the Year award.

Thomas, Revis headline Pro Football Hall of Fame class

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Joe Thomas gave fans of the new version of the Cleveland Browns something they could finally celebrate.

The six-time All-Pro offensive lineman will join lockdown cornerback Darrelle Revis as inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on their first try, becoming the first Browns Hall of Famer from the team's inglorious expansion era.

"It's really special for me because the franchise has endured some really tough times," Thomas said. "But those fans are so loyal and passionate, and they still show up and it still is their identity that they're Browns fans. It's great for all of Browns Nation."

Since returning to the NFL in 1999, the Browns have had two playoff berths, one playoff win and the worst record in the league — including an 0-16 season in Thomas' last year.

Thomas and Revis join a new class of Hall of Famers announced Thursday that also includes return finalists DeMarcus Ware, Zach Thomas and Ronde Barber. Senior candidates Joe Klecko, Chuck Howley and Ken Riley, along with coaching candidate Don Coryell

also got voted into the Hall and will be inducted in Canton, Ohio, this summer.

"I didn't set out to be a Hall of Famer," Barber said. "I was trying to make the team. I was trying to get on the field. All you can do is take your opportunity and run with it. And we all took our opportunities and ran with it."

The headliners of the class are Joe Thomas and Revis — the two first-round picks from the 2007 draft who took far different journeys to this ultimate honor.

Revis bounced around teams seeking his best opportunities to win and thrive financially, while Thomas never moved.

Picked third in the draft by Cleveland, Thomas stepped in as an immediate starter and never moved until a torn triceps ended his final season in 2017.

Thomas played 10,363 consecutive snaps before that injury as one of the only dependable parts on one of the NFL's sorriest franchises.

Thomas was a Pro Bowler in all 10 healthy seasons, a first-team All-Pro six times and a second-team selection two other years. But he never even made it to the playoffs a single time with the Browns.

Ware, Barber and Zach Thomas all had longer waits before getting voted into the Hall. Ware was also a finalist last year, while Barber got in on his third time at this stage and Thomas on his fourth try.

Ware was a four-time All-Pro in Dallas and then helped Denver win a Super Bowl in the 2015 season. He led the NFL in sacks twice and finished with 138 1/2 sacks in his career.

Barber was a key cog to the Tampa-2 defensive scheme as a cornerback for the Buccaneers. He was a three-time All-Pro, led the NFL with 10 interceptions in 2001 and won a Super Bowl the next season.

Zach Thomas was a five-time All-Pro who spent 12 of his 13 seasons with Miami before finishing with one year in Dallas. He won Defensive Rookie of the Year in 1996, and had 100+ tackles in his first 11 seasons.

Coryell didn't have the team success comparable to other coaches to get voted into the Hall, winning 111 regular-season games for the Cardinals and Chargers and never reaching a Super Bowl.

But his impact on the game with his famous "Air Coryell" offense in San Diego was transcendent as he took advantage

of rule changes that opened up the passing game in the late 1970s and put together an offense that still influences the game today.

Howley was a five-time All-Pro in 15 seasons with Chicago and Dallas with his biggest claim being the only player from a losing team ever picked as Super Bowl MVP. Howley won MVP after intercepting two passes in Super Bowl V when Dallas lost to Baltimore 16-13. He ended up on the winning side the following season when he had two takeaways in a 24-3 win over Miami.

Klecko was a mainstay on the Jets' famed "New York Sack Exchange," earning Pro Bowl honors at nose tackle, defensive tackle and defensive end in a 12-year career that ended with one season in Indianapolis.

Klecko was an All-Pro twice, including in 1981 when he unofficially led the NFL with 20 1/2 sacks and finished second to Lawrence Taylor in the Defensive Player of the Year voting.

Riley's 65 career interceptions in 15 seasons with Cincinnati rank fifth highest in NFL history and second to Dick "Night Train" Lane's 68 for players who were exclusively cornerbacks.

Orlando's subs lead in win over Denver

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Reserves Cole Anthony and Bol Bol each scored 17 points to lead the Orlando Magic to a 115-104 win over the Western Conference-leading Denver Nuggets on Thursday night.

Wendell Carter Jr. led seven Magic scorers in double figures with 19 points, and Orlando's bench outscored the Nuggets' reserves 56-10.

Orlando is in 13th place in the Eastern Conference with a record of 23-33.

Aaron Gordon had a season-high 37 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Nuggets.

Nikola Jokic had 29 points, 11 rebounds and six assists, and combined with Gordon to score all 29 of Denver's points in the third quarter.

Nets 116, Bulls 105: Spencer Dinwiddie scored 25 points in his first game

since returning to Brooklyn, and the Nets beat Chicago hours after trading superstar Kevin Durant to Phoenix.

Joe Harris had 18 points, and Yuta Watanabe chipped in 14 points in 22 minutes off the bench.

Dorian Finney-Smith, who came with Dinwiddie from Dallas in the trade for Kyrie Irving, had nine points and nine rebounds in his Nets debut.

It was Dinwiddie's first game in a Nets uniform since Dec. 27, 2020.

He spent five seasons with the team and returned with 18 points in the second half.

Zach LaVine scored 38 points and DeMar DeRozan had 14 for Chicago, which lost its second straight and fell to 10-18 on the road.

Bucks 115, Lakers 106:

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 38 points and 10 rebounds, and Milwaukee rallied in the second half for its ninth consecutive victory, beating Los Angeles without LeBron James.

James sat out to rest his sore left ankle and foot two nights after he passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to become the NBA's career scoring leader.

Khris Middleton scored 22 points and Jrue Holiday added 18 for the Bucks.

The Bucks matched their longest winning streak since their 9-0 start to this season.

Dennis Schröder had 25 points and 12 assists in a standout performance at point guard for the Lakers.

The Lakers were playing with only four reserves after their flurry of trades in the past two days.

Anthony Davis had 23 points and 16 rebounds while battling foul trouble in Los Angeles' third straight loss.

Hawks 116, Suns 107: Trae Young scored 25 of his 36 points in the second half and Atlanta beat short-handed Phoenix, which was awaiting the arrival of newly acquired Kevin Durant.

Josh Okogie had 25 points and Deandre Ayton added 23 points for Phoenix, which had its three-game winning streak end.

The Suns had only nine players available after trading Cam Johnson and Mikal Bridges as part of a package for Durant, the 13-time All-Star, before Thursday's NBA trade deadline.

Durant had not yet joined his new team for the game, but the anticipation for his arrival is growing.

Smith scores 24 as No. 1 Purdue tops Iowa

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Braden Smith scored a career-high 24 points to lead No. 1 Purdue to an 87-73 victory over Iowa on Thursday night.

Smith, a freshman guard, shot 8 of 10 — including 4 of 5 from 3-point range. Zach Edey scored 14 points on 4-of-7 shooting.

Edey, who was averaging 22.4 points entering the game, had just four points until the final 8 1/2 minutes.

Edey grabbed a team-high 14 rebounds, and Caleb Furst added 10 rebounds as Purdue held a 43-23 edge.

Fletcher Loyer scored 17 points, Furst 11 and Mason Gillis 10 for the Boilermakers (23-2, 12-2 Big Ten).

Kris Murray led Iowa with 24 points on 10-of-16 shooting, and Filip Rebraca had 17 for the Hawkeyes (15-9, 7-6).

No. 4 Arizona 85, California

62: Azuolas Tubelis had 23 points, 14 rebounds and four steals for his 11th double-double of the season to lead Arizona.

Pelle Larsson added 16 points to help the Wildcats (22-3, 11-3 Pac-12) to their seventh win in a row and 13th straight over Cal.

Oumar Ballo had 14 points and nine rebounds, and Cedric Henderson Jr. chipped in 11 points and eight boards.

Sam Alajiki scored 12 points to lead the Bears (3-21, 2-11), who dropped their eighth in a row.

Lars Thiemann added 10 points and eight rebounds.

No. 7 UCLA 62, Oregon State 47: Amari Bailey scored a career-high 24 points to lead UCLA past Oregon State.

Bailey, a freshman guard, was 10 of 16 from the field and scored 18 points in the

second half.

Jaylen Clark added 16 points and three steals for the Bruins (20-4, 11-2 Pac-12), who lead the conference in scoring defense.

Jordan Pope led the Beavers (9-16, 3-11) with 17 points.

Loyola Marymount 78, No. 15 St. Mary's 74: Cam Shelton scored all of his career-high 31 points after halftime, enough to overcome him mistakenly taking a timeout late in overtime and lead Loyola Marymount.

Loyola Marymount (17-9, 7-5 West Coast Conference) had lost 21 straight to Saint Mary's and trailed 16-0 less than six minutes into this game.

Shelton scored 24 of the Lions' final 31 points, including a tying layup with two seconds left in regulation.

Alex Merkviladze added 15 points for Loyola Marymount,

three weeks after it won at then-No. 6 Gonzaga.

Logan Johnson scored a career-high 31 points and Aidan Mahaney had 24 for Saint Mary's (21-4, 10-1), which had won 12 in a row.

The Gaels were coming off a win over then-No. 12 Gonzaga on Saturday.

No. 16 Gonzaga 99, San Francisco 81: Rasir Bolton had 23 points and six assists, Drew Timme scored 21 and Gonzaga beat San Francisco.

Gonzaga (20-5, 9-2 West Coast Conference) extended its streak of seasons with at least 20 wins to 26, bouncing back from last weekend's overtime loss at No. 15 Saint Mary's.

Khalil Shabazz led San Francisco (15-12, 4-8) with 25 points and Tyrell Roberts added 16.

The Dons have lost 26 straight to Gonzaga.

Deadline sees Irving, Durant boost West teams

Associated Press

First it was Kyrie Irving to Dallas. Then came Kevin Durant to Phoenix.

The breakup in Brooklyn is rebuilding some contenders in the West.

Trade deadline day in the NBA on Thursday featured plenty of moves, with the Suns making the biggest as they chase the first championship in franchise history.

They acquired Durant by sending Mikal Bridges, Cam Johnson, first-round picks in 2023, 2025, 2027 and 2029, and a first-round pick swap in 2028 to the Nets, who also sent T.J. Warren back to his original team in Phoenix.

New Suns owner Mat Ishbia called it a “transformative day” for the team.

“Not only is Kevin one of the greatest and most accomplished players in the history of the sport, but his character also embodies the world-class commitment to excellence we are instilling across every facet of this organization,” Ishbia said in a statement.

Jae Crowder, who didn’t play this season in Phoenix, was moved to Milwaukee in the four-team trade. The Bucks sent Jordan Nwora, George Hill, Serge Ibaka and three future second-round picks to the Indiana Pacers.

Bridges, Johnson and Crowder helped the Suns reach the NBA Finals in 2021, and a return trip looks possible with Durant in their lineup.

“It’s a close group,” coach Monty Williams said. “You can

imagine that’s a tough blow to the group for the human side of it, but also exciting about what could be.”

A day earlier, the Lakers agreed to send Russell Westbrook to Utah as part of a three-way deal including Minnesota that brought D’Angelo Russell back to Los Angeles.

“Just like that it’s a war in the West!” Sacramento Kings guard Terence Davis II tweeted.

Trying to stay in it, defending champion Golden State reacquired Gary Payton II but dealt 2020 No. 2 overall pick James Wiseman in a four-team trade with Detroit, Portland and Atlanta.

The Lakers stayed busy up until the deadline with a couple more moves as they try to build

a contender around NBA career scoring leader LeBron James.

They added another big man in Mo Bamba from the Orlando Magic for Patrick Beverley, a second-round pick and cash considerations.

The Magic said they would not require Beverley to report to the team.

Phoenix could end up being more powerful than last season’s squad, which won an NBA-best 64 games, then flamed out with a second-round loss to Dallas.

The Suns just got Devin Booker back from a groin injury that had sidelined him since Christmas and soon will add Durant to the lineup when he recovers from a sprained knee ligament. That’s on top of Chris Paul and Deandre Ayton.

Lightning’s Vasilevskiy ends shutout drought, beats Avs

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Andrei Vasilevskiy made 30 saves to stop an 84-game regular-season shutout drought, Branon Hagel had two goals and an assist, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-0 on Thursday night.

Vasilevskiy made a nifty glove save on Matt Nieto’s early second-period breakaway shot en route to his 29th career shutout and first since blanking Seattle on Nov. 26, 2021.

Corey Perry, Brayden Point and Mikhail Sergachev also scored for the Lightning, who had lost two in row. Nikita Kucherov got his 56th assist on Point’s goal to break his own record (2018-19) with a point in his 17th consecutive home game. Alex Killorn had three assists.

Alexandar Georgiev stopped 27 shots as Colorado fell to 7-2-1 in its past 10 games,

Devils 3, Kraken 1: Dougie Hamilton scored two power-play goals and New Jersey con-

tinued to roll despite playing without Jack Hughes for the first time this season, beating Seattle.

Mackenzie Blackwood made 34 saves as New Jersey improved to 10-1-1 in its past 12 games. Ondrej Palat had the primary assist on Hamilton’s goals and defenseman John Marino scored into an empty net.

Defenseman Adam Larsson scored for Seattle and Philipp Grubauer made 24 saves in losing to New Jersey for the first time in six career decisions.

Canucks 6, Islanders 5: Elias Pettersson scored twice in the third period and Vancouver snapped a two-game skid.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Brock Boeser, Nils Aman and Anthony Beauvillier also scored for the Canucks. Collin Delia made 24 saves in the third game of a four-game trip to begin the second half of the season. J.T. Miller and Quinn Hughes each had two assists.

Bo Horvat, picked up in a trade with Vancouver at the end

of January, Kyle Palmieri, Brock Nelson, Mathew Barzal and Noah Dobson scored for the Islanders.

Golden Knights 5, Wild 1: Jack Eichel had a goal and an assist for Vegas to hasten a mid-game meltdown by Minnesota, and the Golden Knights cruised past the sputtering Wild.

Nicolas Roy, Alex Pietrangelo, Paul Cotter and Reilly Smith also scored against former Golden Knights goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, who had little help in front of him and lost his cool after giving up Eichel’s goal that was the fourth of the second period for the visitors.

Kirill Kaprizov scored a power-play goal for the Wild.

Red Wings 2, Flames 1: Filip Zadina made a successful return to Detroit’s lineup, scoring the go-ahead goal at 5:51 of the third period to lift the Red Wings over Calgary.

Zadina had not played since Nov. 5 because of a broken right leg. He passed to Oskar Sundqvist, got the puck right back and

snapped it into the open right side of the net past Dan Vladar for his first goal of the season.

Calgary’s Blake Coleman scored the first goal of the game at 18:54 of the second period.

Red Wings captain Dylan Larkin tied it at 19:46 of the second when he scored on the power play.

Flyers 2, Oilers 1, SO: James van Riemsdyk and Morgan Frost scored in the shootout, and Carter Hart made 34 saves for Philadelphia.

Kevin Hayes scored in regulation for the Flyers.

Evander Kane scored and Connor McDavid had an assist for Edmonton, which lost for just the second time in 10 games.

Panthers 4, Sharks 1: Sam Reinhart and Eric Staal each scored a pair of goals and Florida beat San Jose for its season-high third straight win.

Sergei Bobrovsky made 32 saves in the win.

Alexander Barabanov scored for the Sharks.