

Russia warns West for arming Ukraine

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The speaker of the lower house of Russia's parliament warned Sunday that countries supplying Ukraine with more powerful weapons risked their own destruction, a message that followed new pledges of armored vehicles, air defense systems and other equipment but not the battle tanks Kyiv requested.

Ukraine's supporters pledged billions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine during a meeting at Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Friday, though the new commitments were overshadowed by a failure to agree on Ukraine's urgent request for German-made Leopard 2 battle tanks.

State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin said that governments giving more powerful weapons to Ukraine could cause a "global tragedy that would destroy their countries."

"Supplies of offensive weapons to the Kyiv regime would lead to a global catastrophe," he said. "If Washington and NATO supply weapons that would be used for striking peaceful cities and making attempts to seize our territory as they threaten to do, it would trigger a retaliation with more powerful weapons."

Germany is one of the main donors of weapons to Ukraine, and it ordered a review

of its Leopard 2 stocks in preparation for a possible green light. Nonetheless, the government in Berlin has shown caution at each step of increasing its commitments to Ukraine, a hesitancy seen as rooted in its history and political culture.

French President Emmanuel Macron, meanwhile, said Sunday that he does not rule out sending Leclerc battle tanks to Ukraine and had asked his defense minister to "work on" the idea.

Macron spoke during a news conference in Paris with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz as their countries commemorated the 60th anniversary of their post-World War II friendship treaty.

In a joint declaration, France and Germany committed to their "unwavering support" for Ukraine.

France will make its tank decision based on three criteria, Macron said: that sharing the equipment does not lead to an escalation of the conflict, that it would provide efficient and workable help when training time is taken into account, and that it wouldn't weaken France's own military.

Scholz did not respond when asked about the Leopard 2 tanks Sunday, but stressed that his country already has made sizable military contributions to Ukraine.

"The U.S. is doing a lot, Germany is doing

a lot, too," he said. "We have constantly expanded our deliveries with very effective weapons that are already available today. And we have always coordinated all these decisions closely with our important allies and friends."

Germany's tentativeness has drawn criticism, particularly from Poland and the Baltic states, countries on NATO's eastern flank that feel especially threatened by Russia's renewed aggression.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said that if Germany does not consent to transferring Leopard tanks to Ukraine, his country was prepared to build a "smaller coalition" of countries that would send theirs anyway.

"Almost a year had passed since the outbreak of war," Morawiecki said in an interview with Polish state news agency PAP published Sunday. "Evidence of the Russian army's war crimes can be seen on television and on YouTube. What more does Germany need to open its eyes and start to act in line with the potential of the German state?"

In Washington, two leading lawmakers urged the U.S. on Sunday to send some of its Abrams tanks to Ukraine in the interests of overcoming Germany's reluctance to share its own, more suitable tanks.

2 Navy commanders fired over 'loss of confidence'

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

The Navy on Wednesday fired the commanders of two East Coast-based vessels, a guided-missile destroyer and an amphibious transport dock, due to unspecified performance issues.

Cmdr. Alexa Jenkins of the destroyer USS Carney was relieved "due to loss of confidence in her ability to command," the Navy said in a Thursday news release. The ship is homeported in Mayport, Fla.

Capt. Aaron Anderson will take command temporarily until a permanent replacement is found, the Navy said.

"There is no impact to the command's mission or schedule due to the relief," the release said.

Jenkins took command of the destroyer in June, and prior to that she was the ship's executive officer. She has been temporarily reassigned to the staff of Commander, Naval Surface Squadron 14, the Navy said.

Capt. Michael Nordeen of the San Antonio-class amphibious

transport dock USS Mesa Verde was also relieved on Wednesday due to loss of confidence, the Navy said in a separate news release.

Nordeen, who took command of Mesa Verda in August, has been temporarily reassigned to Naval Force Atlantic in Norfolk, Va., the Navy said.

Nordeen, a naval aviator, had previously served as executive officer on the aircraft carrier USS George Washington. He has flown more than 2,000 hours in F-14 and FA-18 fighter jets and made almost 500 land-

ings on carriers, according to his official Navy biography.

Capt. Gregory Baker, chief of staff for Expeditionary Strike Group Two, has been temporarily assigned to command the Mesa Verda, a warship used to deliver landing-force elements to support amphibious, special operations and expeditionary warfare missions.

Mesa Verde is homeported in Norfolk.

The Navy offered no further details on the nature of the loss of confidence in the pair of commanders.

Soldier charged with murder at Fort Rucker

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

A 21-year-old soldier has been charged with murder in the death of another soldier at Fort Rucker, officials at the Army post in Alabama said Thursday.

Pvt. Brian Jones Jr. faces one count of murder in the Jan. 10 death of Pvt. Abdul N. Latifu, said David C. Agan Jr., a Fort Rucker spokesman. A military judge ordered Jones held in pre-trial confinement until he faces a

court-martial for the charge, Agan said.

No date has been set for Jones' trial.

Jones and Latifu, also 21, were students at Fort Rucker's Advanced Individual Training course for air traffic control operators at the time of the altercation. AIT is the second stage of initial military training for enlisted soldiers.

Officials have not provided information about the motivation

for the altercation. Agan said Thursday that he could not provide further details about the case.

Latifu was from the Bronx in New York City. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade at Fort Rucker's AIT program, which is part of its Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

Latifu was described last week as a "promising young soldier" by Maj. Gen. Michael C.

McCurry, the commander of Fort Rucker and the aviation center.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Division led the probe into the altercation. Latifu was killed with an Army-issued entrenching tool — a small, steel folding shovel known as an e-tool — according to Army Times, which cited an unnamed source "with knowledge of the incident." Agan declined to confirm an e-tool was used in the attack.

3 Marines arrested for part in Jan. 6 riot still on duty

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Three active-duty Marines were arrested last week on charges they illegally entered the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot more than two years ago with a throng of then-President Donald Trump's supporters, according to federal court documents.

The Marines — Sgt. Joshua Abate, Sgt. Dodge Dale Hellonen and Cpl. Micah Coomer — spent about an hour inside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, as the mob sought to halt certification of Joe Biden's presidential victory by Congress, according to the court documents dated Jan. 17. The three Marines face four misdemeanor charges each — two counts of disorderly conduct, one count of knowingly entering a restricted building, and one count of parading, demonstrating or picketing in the Capitol.

FBI investigators identified the three Marines using public and private social media posts and phone and military records, according to the court documents. Coomer posted images showing them participating in the insurrection, in which he wrote he was "Glad to be a part of history," federal investigators said. In private

social media posts obtained via a search warrant, Coomer voiced support for a "Civil War 2," investigators said.

Abate admitted last year during a security clearance interview that he entered the Capitol during the riot with two "buddies," according to the court documents. He said that he "heard how the event was being portrayed negatively and decided that he should not tell anybody about going into the U.S. Capitol Building," according to the documents.

A Marine spokesperson said the service was "aware of an investigation and the allegations" and confirmed all three remained on active duty. All three work in intelligence-related fields, according to their military records.

"The Marine Corps is fully cooperating with the appropriate authorities in support of the investigation," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Military records show Abate is a special communications signals analyst at Fort Meade, Md. Coomer is an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems engineer at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Hellonen works as a special communications signals analyst at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

IG: DOD official uttered slur, other offensive comments

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

A former Defense Department senior executive still employed by the federal government used the N-word inside the Pentagon, made sexually suggestive remarks to staff and drank alcohol in the office without authorization, the military's inspector general said in a new report.

Douglas A. Glenn, who in 2021 served as the principal adviser to the secretary of defense for budgetary and fiscal matters, made racially insensitive remarks on multiple occasions, according to IG findings released Thursday.

"We concluded that Mr. Glenn engaged in an overall course of conduct that failed to treat subordinates with dignity and respect by making sexually suggestive and racially insensitive comments in the workplace, resulting in the creation of an offensive work environment for his subordinates," the Defense Department Inspector General said in a statement.

The IG said it forwarded its findings to Glenn's current employer, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Investigators launched their probe after anonymous complaints from staff about a hostile

work environment.

Glenn, when interviewed by the IG, acknowledged using the N-word twice during one conversation, but said it was not his intent to cause offense.

The incident happened during a February 2021 meeting in which Glenn said he wanted to have an all hands discussion on diversity and inclusion. A staff member tried to dissuade Glenn from holding such a meeting because a similar session earlier in the month went poorly, the IG said.

During the discussion, Glenn described a misunderstanding with a former co-worker.

"Specifically, I recited an occasion where I misheard a coworker," he told investigators. Instead of "negative attitude," Glenn said he thought the former colleague said "(N-word) attitude."

"I was completely mortified, and apologized for the misunderstanding," he told investigators.

Other awkward office moments included an instance when Glenn made sexually suggestive comments, including "all balls, no bush," the IG said.

The IG also concluded that Glenn drank alcohol in his office with subordinates without required written authorization on at least two occasions.

Several shot, killed near Lunar New Year fest

Associated Press

MONTEREY PARK, Calif. — A gunman killed 10 people at a ballroom dance studio amid a day of Lunar New Year celebrations and then may have tried — but failed — to target a second dance hall, authorities said Sunday. An urgent search was underway across the Los Angeles area for the suspect.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said that 20 to 30 minutes after the shooting at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park late Saturday — which left five women and five

men dead and another 10 people injured — a man with a gun entered the Lai Lai Ballroom in nearby Alhambra. Luna said it's still unclear whether the events are connected.

"We believe that there's an incident that may be related," said Luna of the incident in Alhambra. "We're not quite there yet, but it's definitely on our radar screen."

Luna said that a "male Asian suspect" entered the Alhambra club with a "firearm" and that people wrestled the gun away from him before he fled. Investi-

gators are interested in a white cargo van that was seen in the area and that police have the gun from Alhambra.

Luna declined to say what type of gun was recovered in Alhambra, and said that investigators believe the fire arm used Monterey Park was not an "assault rifle."

The massacre — which derailed Lunar New Year celebrations and sent fear through Monterey Park and Alhambra's large Asian American communities — was the nation's fifth mass killing this month.

Monterey Park is a city of about 60,000 people on the eastern edge of Los Angeles and is composed mostly of Asian immigrants from China or first-generation Asian Americans. The shooting happened in the heart of its downtown where red lanterns decorated the streets for the Lunar New Year festivities. A police car was parked near a large banner that proclaimed "Happy Year of the Rabbit!"

The celebration in Monterey Park is one of California's largest and had attracted tens of thousands throughout the day.

White House chief of staff Klain set to resign from job

The Washington Post

Ron Klain, President Biden's chief of staff, plans to step down in the coming weeks after playing a central role in steering the administration through its first two years, according to two people familiar with his plans, depriving the president of his top adviser as he enters a challenging new phase of his presidency.

During his tenure, Klain helped Biden navigate a closely divided Washington, a polarized country and a predecessor who falsely insisted he was the election's rightful winner. The experienced insider was key to Biden's success in winning a string of legislative victories, but he also oversaw the sometimes-rocky effort to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and a drop in the president's popularity ratings.

Klain's successor, who is likely to be named imminently, could face even bigger challenges. Klain would become the first member of the president's inner circle to leave the White House, and his exit would come just as Republicans take control of the House of Representatives — determined to investigate the president and block his agenda

— and as Biden is expected to launch his reelection campaign.

Klain, whose plans were first reported by the New York Times, has not set an official exit date for leaving. He has told colleagues he will stay on through the State of the Union address on Feb. 7 and will assist with the transition to his successor, the people said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Among the top candidates to succeed Klain are Jeff Zients, who coordinated the administration's coronavirus response; Anita Dunn, a senior adviser to the president; and Steve Ricchetti, who was Biden's chief of staff as vice president and now serves as a counselor to Biden. Other potential candidates include Tom Vilsack, the agriculture secretary, and Susan Rice, the president's chief domestic policy adviser.

Chris Whipple, who wrote a book about White House chiefs of staff, said Klain ranks among "the best chiefs in recent history," putting him in the same category as James Baker, one of Ronald Reagan's chiefs of staff, and Leon Panetta, who held the job under Bill Clinton.

Violent protest in downtown Atlanta over activist's killing

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A protest turned violent in downtown Atlanta on Saturday night in the wake of the death of an environmental activist who was killed by authorities this week after officials said the 26-year-old shot a state trooper.

Masked activists dressed in all black threw rocks and lit fireworks in front of a skyscraper that houses the Atlanta Police Foundation, shattering large glass windows. They then lit a police cruiser on fire, smashed more windows and vandalized walls with anti-police graffiti as stunned tourists scattered.

The violent protesters were a subsection of hundreds of demonstrators who had gathered and marched up Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street to mourn the death of the protester, a nonbinary person who went by the name Tortuguita and used they/it pronouns.

Tortuguita was killed Wednesday as authorities cleared a small group of protesters from the site of a planned Atlanta-area public safety training center that activists have dubbed "Cop City."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has said Tortuguita was killed by officers after shooting and wounding a state trooper, but

activists have questioned officials' version of events, calling it a "murder" and demanding an independent investigation.

According to the GBI, the incident was not recorded on body cameras. The bureau said Friday that it determined the trooper was shot in the abdomen by a bullet from a handgun that was in Tortuguita's possession.

Word of Saturday's protest had been widely circulated ahead of time on social media and among leftist activists, with some passing out flyers that read, "Police killed a protester. Stand up. Fight back."

Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum said during a news conference that authorities made six arrests Saturday and recovered explosive devices after the protesters damaged property along Peachtree Street, a corridor of hotels and restaurants. He said authorities halted the violence within two blocks and no citizens or law enforcement officers were injured.

"We can tell now, early in this investigation, this was not the focus tonight just to damage the windows of three buildings and set a police car on fire," Schierbaum said. "The intent was to continue to do harm, and that did not happen."

FBI finds more classified items at Biden home

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI searched President Joe Biden's home in Wilmington, Del., on Friday and located additional documents with classified markings and also took possession of some of his handwritten notes, the president's lawyer said Saturday.

The president voluntarily allowed the FBI into his home, but the lack of a search warrant did not dim the extraordinary nature of the search. It compounded the embarrassment to Biden that started with the disclosure Jan. 12 that the president's attorneys had found a "small number" of classified records at a former office at the Penn Biden Center in Washington shortly before the midterm elections. Since then, attorneys found six classified documents in Biden's

Wilmington home library from his time as vice president.

Though Biden has maintained "there's no there there," the discoveries have become a political liability as he prepares to launch a reelection bid, and they undercut his efforts to portray an image of propriety to the American public after the tumultuous presidency of his predecessor, Donald Trump.

During Friday's search, which lasted nearly 13 hours, the FBI took six items that contained documents with classified markings, said Bob Bauer, the president's personal lawyer. The items spanned Biden's time in the Senate and the vice presidency, while the notes dated to his time as vice president, he said. The level of classification, and whether the documents removed by the FBI remained

classified, was not immediately clear as the Justice Department reviews the records.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Fitzpatrick confirmed Saturday that the FBI had executed "a planned, consensual search" of the president's residence in Wilmington.

The president and first lady Jill Biden were not at the home when it was searched. They were spending the weekend at their home in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

Speaking to reporters during a trip to California on Thursday, Biden said he was "fully cooperating and looking forward to getting this resolved quickly."

"We found a handful of documents were filed in the wrong place," Biden said. "We immediately turned them over to the Archives and the Justice De-

partment."

It remained to be seen whether additional searches by federal officials of other locations might be conducted. Biden's personal attorneys previously conducted a search of the Rehoboth Beach residence and said they did not find any official documents or classified records.

The Biden investigation has also complicated the Justice Department's probe into Trump's retention of classified documents and official records after he left office. The Justice Department has said Trump took hundreds of records marked classified with him upon leaving the White House in early 2021 and resisted months of requests to return them to the government, and that it had to obtain a search warrant to retrieve them.

China rings in Year of Rabbit with most COVID rules lifted

Associated Press

BEIJING — People across China rang in the Lunar New Year on Sunday with large family gatherings and crowds visiting temples after the government lifted its strict "zero-COVID" policy, marking the biggest festive celebration since the pandemic began three years ago.

The Lunar New Year is the most important annual holiday in China. Each year is named after one of the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac in a repeating cycle, with this year being the Year of the Rabbit. For the past three years, celebrations were muted in the shadow of the pandemic.

With the easing of most COVID-19 restrictions that had confined millions to their homes, people could finally make their first trip back to their hometowns to reunite with their families without worrying about the hassles of quarantine, potential lockdowns and suspension of travel. Larger public celebrations also returned for what is known as the Spring Festival in China, with the capital hosting thousands of cultural events on a larger scale than a year ago.

"He has never experienced what a traditional new year is like because he was too young three years ago and he had no mem-

ory of that," said Si Jia, who brought her 7-year-old son to the Qianmen area near Beijing's Tiananmen Square to experience the festive vibe and learn about traditional Chinese culture.

The mass movement of people may cause the virus to spread in certain areas, said Wu Zunyou, the chief epidemiologist at China's Center for Disease Control. But a large-scale COVID-19 surge will be unlikely in the next two or three months because about 80% of the country's 1.4 billion people have been infected during the recent wave, he wrote on the social media platform Weibo on Saturday.

Israel's Netanyahu fires key Cabinet ally, heeding court ruling

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired a key Cabinet ally on Sunday, heeding a Supreme Court ruling commanding him to do so and deepening a rift over the power of the courts.

Netanyahu announced he was firing Aryeh Deri, who serves as Interior and Health Minister, at

a meeting of his Cabinet. Israel's Supreme Court decided last week that Deri could not serve as a Cabinet minister because of a conviction last year over tax offenses.

The court ruling came as Israel is mired in a dispute over the power of the judiciary. Netanyahu's far-right government wants to weaken the Supreme

Court, limit judicial oversight and grant more power to politicians. Critics have said the move upends the country's system of checks and balances and imperils Israel's democratic fundamentals.

According to his office, Netanyahu told Deri he was removing him from his post with "a heavy heart and great sorrow."

"This unfortunate decision ignores the people's will," Netanyahu told Deri. "I intend to find any legal way for you to continue to contribute to the state of Israel."

Deri said he would continue to lead his party and assist the government in advancing its agenda, including the legal overhaul.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Marshmallows with nails, hooks found

M I FARMINGTON HILLS — Marshmallows embedded with tack nails and fishing hooks have been left in a suburban Detroit neighborhood.

The marshmallows were found by pet owners on four occasions since last spring, police in Farmington Hills said.

“At this time, it is suspected that these marshmallows are being placed on the ground to attract and cause harm to area pets and or wildlife,” police said in a release. “To date, the department is not aware of any animals or individuals being harmed by these marshmallows.”

Marshmallows have been found twice since Jan. 15. They were also found in December. The first was discovered last May.

Erika Hatcher’s dog, Diesel, put one in his mouth, she told WXYZ-TV.

“He is OK, but it was a close call,” Hatcher said. “Those nails going through your intestines would kill you. A child or dog.”

Ban of ‘sexually explicit’ library books considered

ND BISMARCK — Books containing “sexually explicit” content — including depictions of sexual or gender identity — would be banned from North Dakota public libraries under legislation that state lawmakers are considering.

The GOP-dominated state House Judiciary Committee heard arguments but did not take a vote on the measure, which applies to visual depictions of “sexually explicit” con-

tent and proposes up to 30 days imprisonment for librarians who refuse to remove the offending books.

The proposal comes amid a national wave of Republican-backed laws to ban books that feature LGBTQ subject matter — though usually those bills have been limited to school libraries, not public ones.

Supporters of the bill said it would preserve children’s innocence and reduce their exposure to pornography. But critics said the measure is “steeped in discrimination” and would allow government censorship of material that is not actually obscene.

Lawsuits challenge recent semiautomatic gun ban

IL SPRINGFIELD — Legal challenges to Illinois’ semiautomatic weapons ban began Wednesday with a federal complaint that the 8-day-old law prohibits “commonly possessed” and constitutionally protected guns. A state court pleading was also filed, questioning the law’s exemptions based on a person’s employment.

The state lawsuit seeks a temporary restraining order to stop enforcement of the law, which was inspired by the mass shooting that killed seven and injured 30 at the Highland Park July Fourth parade. The lawsuit was filed by Accuracy Firearms of Effingham and other plaintiffs. The law bans dozens of specific types of rapid-fire handguns and rifles, .50-caliber guns, attachments and limits cartridges to 10 rounds for long guns and 15 rounds for pistols.

Attorney Thomas DeVore, last fall’s unsuccessful Republican candidate for Illinois attor-

ney general, said the law is unconstitutional because of its exemptions.

The ban on semiautomatic weapons does not apply to people in certain positions, such as prison guards or other law enforcement officers.

Bigger fine for left lane slowpokes touted

SC COLUMBIA — A bill allowing police to charge a bigger fine for people driving slow in the left lane of interstates and other multilane highways is one of the first to be taken up at the South Carolina Statehouse in 2023.

A Senate subcommittee approved increasing the fine from \$25 to up to \$100 and giving most of the increased amount to the state Highway Patrol. The full Senate Transportation Committee is scheduled to take up the bill.

Lawmakers passed the so-called “slowpoke” bill in 2021. Over roughly a year, state troopers wrote nearly 500 tickets. It requires drivers in the left lane to move over if a car comes up behind them and the right lane is clear.

The fine is not a criminal penalty and is not reported to a driving record.

Porn actor found unable to stand trial for rape

CA LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles judge declared that porn performer Ron Jeremy is mentally incompetent to stand trial on dozens of rape and sexual assault counts.

Superior Court Judge Ronald S. Harris said in a hearing that after reviewing reports from both prosecutors and Jeremy’s defense that he is in “incurable neurocognitive decline” from

which he is unlikely to recover.

Prosecutors asked that he be periodically reevaluated.

A hearing on placing the 69-year-old Jeremy, whose legal name is Ronald Hyatt, in a state hospital will be held next month.

Jeremy pleaded not guilty after a grand jury indicted him on 34 counts of sexual assault, including 12 counts of rape.

Girl, 13, arrested after 100 mph highway chase

NE KEARNEY — Nebraska state troopers arrested a 13-year-old driver from Colorado after a chase that topped 100 mph along an interstate highway.

A state trooper spotted an SUV driving about 35 mph on Interstate 80 near the city of Kearney on Monday night, but the driver sped up and fled east when the trooper tried to pull her over.

The chase continued at speeds over 100 mph until another state trooper put out stop sticks, the Nebraska State Patrol said in a news release. But the Nissan Pathfinder took an exit off the highway and kept driving, although at slower speeds, until a state trooper used a tactical maneuver to bring the vehicle to a stop, the authorities said. The entire chase lasted about 15 minutes.

The 13-year-old girl who was driving the SUV and an 11-year-old boy riding with her were both arrested, and troopers said they found a gun and a small amount of marijuana in the vehicle.

The State Patrol said both the girl and boy are from Colorado but didn’t release their names. They were placed in protective custody.

— From wire reports



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Hobbled Mahomes, Chiefs oust Jaguars

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes pleaded with Chiefs coach Andy Reid to let him stay in the game on Saturday.

He argued with trainers, assistant coaches and anyone else within earshot on the Kansas City sideline to let him play through an injured right ankle.

"I'm not coming out of a playoff game," Mahomes would say later, "unless they take me out."

Well, the Chiefs did, forcing him to get X-rays late in the first half of their divisional game against Jacksonville.

But when they came back negative, and Mahomes proved he could protect himself in the halftime locker room, Reid decided to let his All-Pro quarterback back on the field — and he gamely led them to victory.

Mahomes finished with 195 yards passing and two touchdowns, the second capping a 75-yard drive late in the fourth quarter, and lifted Kansas City

to a 27-20 victory over the Jaguars and a spot in a fifth straight AFC championship game.

Mahomes also vowed to be ready for next week against the winner of Sunday's game between Cincinnati and Buffalo. If the Bengals win, they will be back at Arrowhead Stadium; if the Bills win, they're headed to Atlanta.

Chad Henne led a 98-yard touchdown drive while Mahomes was out. Travis Kelce had a career-high 14 catches for 98 yards and two scores. Marquez Valdes-Scantling hauled in the eventual clinching TD pass with about 7 minutes left in the game.

"It's a credit to the team I have around me, the coaches around me and the organization in general," Mahomes said. "We try to do whatever we can to be in this position, to get to the AFC championship game and find a way to the Super Bowl."

The Jaguars, who rallied from a 27-0 deficit to beat the Chargers in the wild-card

round, squandered two chances to mount another late rally. The first ended when Jamal Agnew had the ball pop loose inside the Chiefs' 5-yard line with about 5½ minutes to go, and the second when Jaylen Watson made a leaping, one-handed interception near midfield.

The Jaguars' last-gasp chance ended when Kansas City recovered an inside kick with 24 seconds to go.

Trevor Lawrence finished with 217 yards passing with a touchdown toss to Christian Kirk, who was briefly hurt midway through the fourth quarter but returned to finish the game. Travis Etienne added 62 yards rushing and a touchdown.

"When you get this far you don't want to only go this far," the Jaguars' Foyesade Oluokun said. "You want to keep going."

"I don't really have the words right now," Lawrence added. "The Chiefs did more today than we did."

Long before Mahomes hobbled to the sideline in pain, he

was at his creative best, driving the Chiefs downfield on their opening possession.

There was a shortstop-style sidearm sling to JuJu Smith-Schuster, a key third-down pass to Kelce as he was being dragged to the turf, and the flip pass to his tight end that gave Kansas City a 7-0 lead.

The Jaguars came right back, taking advantage of a big kickoff return and a short field.

Lawrence, whose four touchdown throws helped to stun the Chargers last week, proceeded to hit Kirk for the matching touchdown.

Then, the complexion of the game changed.

Mahomes was moving up in the pocket when Arden Key brought the full weight of his body down on the quarterback's ankle. Mahomes hobbled to the huddle and managed to get through three more plays to end the first quarter, then was on the field two more plays before Harrison Butker kicked a 50-yard field goal.

Hurts, Eagles have easy time dispatching Giants

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — All it took was one throw. Jalen Hurts let it fly on his first pass attempt of the game and suddenly the unease that crept into that often worrisome Philly sports psyche — yeah, but how is his banged-up right shoulder, really? — seemed to dissipate.

Hurts' shoulder was fine. No doubt about that.

With Hurts in complete control, the Philadelphia Eagles once again look like the team that was rarely challenged during an NFL-best 13-1 start.

Hurts threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score during a dominant first half, and the Eagles overwhelmed the New York Giants 38-7 on Saturday night in an NFC divisional playoff game.

"To have him out there, I know this is high praise, it's like having Michael Jordan out there," coach Nick Sirianni said. "He's your leader. He's your guy. That's the biggest respect I can pay to him."

Top-seeded Philadelphia will host the NFC championship game next Sunday against either Dallas or San Francisco.

Hurts missed two late-season losses with a sprained right shoulder and then showed the Giants nothing in the season finale when the Eagles ran a vanilla offense designed to protect the Pro Bowl QB.

Under bright postseason lights at Lincoln Financial Field, the Eagles unleashed an offense designed to clobber the Giants. Hurts dazzled early with his arm and Philadelphia's

offensive line opened big holes for Miles Sanders and Kenneth Gainwell as the Eagles finished with 268 yards on the ground. Hurts finished 16-for-24 for 154 yards.

"Seemed like the old Jalen to me," Sanders said.

Hurts showed he was fine when he aired out a pass on the second play of the game and hit DeVonta Smith in stride for a 40-yard reception. The fun was just starting in Philly.

Hurts was flawless on the drive, completing passes of 9 yards, 5 yards, and then — boom — a 16-yard TD pass on a one-handed grab by tight end Dallas Goedert.

Second drive, more of the same. Hurts had completions of 12 yards and 9 yards en route to a 9-yard TD pass to Smith.

It was 14-0 in the first quarter and the Giants already needed a standing eight count. New York turned the ball over on downs on its first possession, and Daniel Jones was intercepted by James Bradberry on its second.

The Linc was bonkers with full-throated chants of "E-A-G-L-E-S!" filling the air and Sirianni went wild chest-bumping assistants on the sideline.

"Philly's been drinking since 8 a.m.," Goedert cracked of the raucous atmosphere.

Hurts' shoulder may not have been 100%.

But his passing was: He went 7-for-7 for 89 yards in the first quarter.

"This guy leads, he brings this calmness to the entire team," Sirianni said. "He's as tough as they come."

TCU goes on road, blows out No. 2 Kansas

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Shahada Wells scored 17 points as No. 14 TCU beat No. 2 Kansas 83-60 on Saturday in one of the worst losses in Bill Self's 20-year coaching career with the Jayhawks.

It was Kansas' second-largest loss at home under Self. The Jayhawks fell 84-59 to Texas on Jan. 2, 2021.

"Obviously it was a great win for our program," TCU coach Jamie Dixon said. "What I'm most proud of (was) how we responded. We didn't play very well the other day (in a 74-65 loss at West Virginia). But we responded.

The loss snapped a 16-game winning streak at home for Kansas. The Jayhawks (15-3, 5-2 Big 12), who lost 83-82 in overtime at Kansas State on Tuesday, had not lost consecutive games in the state since 1989, when it had home losses on Jan. 28 to K-State and on Feb. 1 to Missouri.

No. 4 Alabama 85, Missouri 64: Noah Clowney and Mark Sears each scored 17 points, and the visiting Crimson Tide remained undefeated against unranked teams this season.

No. 11 Arizona 58, No. 5 UCLA 52: Oumar Ballo scored 16 points, Azuolas Tubelis had a double-double and host Arizona withstood a late rally to end UCLA's 14-game winning streak.

No. 6 Gonzaga 99, Pacific 90: Drew Timme scored 24 of his career-high 38 points in the second half, including 18 straight points during one stretch, and the

visiting Bulldogs pulled away in the closing minutes.

No. 7 Texas 69, West Virginia 61: Marcus Carr scored 19 of his 23 points in the second half to lead the visiting Longhorns.

No. 8 Xavier 95, Georgetown 82: Zach Freemantle tied a career-high with 30 points and Colby Jones had 20 as the host Musketeers handed the Hoyas their 29th straight Big East loss.

No. 9 Tennessee 77, LSU 56: Josiah-Jordan James scored a season-high 22 points and the visiting Vols defeated the Tigers, who have lost six straight.

No. 10 Virginia 76, Wake Forest 67: Armaan Franklin scored 18 of his 25 points during the first half and the visiting Cavaliers survived blowing nearly all of a 19-point lead to beat the Demon Deacons.

Oklahoma State 61, No. 12 Iowa State 59: Avery Anderson scored 18 points, including the go-ahead free throws, and the host Cowboys defeated the Cyclones for their first win over a ranked team this season.

No. 13 Kansas State 68, Texas Tech 58: Markquis Nowell had 23 points, eight rebounds and five assists in the host Wildcats' win over the Red Raiders.

No. 16 Auburn 81, South Carolina 66: Johni Broome had a season-high 27 points and 11 rebounds as the visiting Tigers took control late in the opening half to run past the struggling Gamecocks.

Duke 68, No. 17 Miami 66: Kyle Fili-

powski had 17 points and 14 rebounds and Jeremy Roach scored 14 points in his first game in more than two weeks to lift the host Blue Devils over the Hurricanes.

No. 18 Charleston 87, Northeastern 61: Ben Burnham scored 15 points, Pat Robinson III added 14 and Ryan Larson had 12 to lead the visiting Cougars to their 20th win in a row.

No. 19 Clemson 51, Virginia Tech 50: Hunter Tyson's three-pointer with 12 seconds left lifted the host Tigers to a dramatic victory over the Hokies.

No. 20 Marquette 74, Seton Hall 53: Kam Jones scored 22 points, Oso Ighodaro had 18 on 7-for-7 shooting and the visiting Golden Eagles beat the Pirates.

No. 21 Baylor 62, Oklahoma 60: Jalen Bridges scored 11 points and hit a trio of game-turning three-pointers in the final five minutes as the visiting Bears rallied to hold off the Sooners.

No. 22 Providence 75, DePaul 64: Noah Locke had a career-high 29 points, including seven three-pointers, to help the host Friars fend off the Blue Demons.

No. 24 Florida Atlantic 67, UTEP 59: Johnell Davis scored 20 points on 6-for-9 shooting and the visiting Owls extended their program record for consecutive wins to 18.

No. 25 Arkansas 69, Ole Miss 57: Anthony Black scored 17 points, reserve Joseph Pinion had 13 and the host Razorbacks snapped a four-game losing streak by topping the Tigers.

Celtics top Raptors, extend winning streak to nine

Associated Press

TORONTO — Grant Williams scored a career-high 25 points, Jaylen Brown had 27 and the Boston Celtics overcame the absence of leading scorer Jayson Tatum to extend their winning streak to nine games by beating the Toronto Raptors 106-104 on Saturday.

Already without Tatum, Boston's injury woes worsened when guard Marcus Smart hurt his right ankle in the final minute of the first half and had to be helped to the locker room. He did not return.

Center Robert Williams stayed in the game after

Brown collided with his left knee in the opening quarter. At halftime, Williams was ruled out for the second half because of a hyperextended knee.

Williams had left knee surgery last March but returned in the playoffs.

Malcolm Brogdon scored 23 points and Payton Pritchard scored all of his 12 in the fourth quarter. The Celtics are unbeaten since a Jan. 3 defeat at Oklahoma City.

Cavaliers 114, Bucks 102: Evan Mobley scored a career-high 38 points, Darius Garland added 21 and host Cleveland bounced back from an embar-

assing loss with a win over Milwaukee, which was again without injured star Giannis Antetokounmpo.

76ers 129, Kings 127: Tyrese Maxey scored 15 of his 32 points in the third quarter and Philadelphia, playing without Joel Embiid and James Harden, completed a perfect five-game road trip by beating Sacramento.

Suns 112, Pacers 107: Josh Okogie had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Mikal Bridges added 22 points and short-handed Phoenix beat visiting Indiana for its second straight win.

Hornets 122, Hawks 118: Terry Rozier hit three throws with 1.1 seconds remaining, and undermanned Charlotte overcame a 19-point, third-quarter deficit to end host Atlanta's five-game winning streak.

Wizards 138, Magic 118: Rui Hachimura equaled a career high with 30 points and Kyle Kuzma added 25 to lift host Washington over Orlando.

Timberwolves 113, Rockets 104: Anthony Edwards scored a season-high 44 points, D'Angelo Russell added 23 and host Minnesota handed Houston its 13th straight loss.

Swiatek, Gauff upset in Australian Open

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — It all came so seemingly easy for Iga Swiatek last season — two Grand Slam trophies, eight titles overall, a 37-match winning streak and a lengthy stay at No. 1 in the rankings.

Those accomplishments made everyone else expect constant greatness from Swiatek, which she can't do anything about. They also changed the way she approached big moments, and a 6-4, 6-4 loss to Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina in the Australian Open's fourth round Sunday made Swiatek wonder whether she needs to reassess her outlook.

"I felt like I took a step back in terms of how I approach these tournaments, and I maybe wanted it a little bit too hard. So I'm going to try to chill out a little bit more," Swiatek said. "I

felt the pressure, and I felt that 'I don't want to lose' instead of 'I want to win.'"

So there will not be a showdown between Swiatek and No. 7 seed Coco Gauff in the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park. Instead, it will be Rybakina taking on 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, a 7-5, 6-3 winner against Gauff, with a semifinal berth at stake.

"I kept her under so much pressure," Ostapenko said.

Add Swiatek's loss to Week 1 exits by Ons Jabeur, Rafael Nadal and Casper Ruud, and this Australian Open marks the first Grand Slam tournament in the Open era with the top two women's seeds and top two men's seeds all gone before the quarterfinals.

In other women's action Sunday, No. 3 Jessica Pegula got to the quarterfinals in Australia for the third year in a row by de-

feating 2021 French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková 7-5, 6-2. Pegula now plays 2012-13 Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, who returned to the final eight at Melbourne Park for the first time since 2016 by grabbing the last three games of a 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over 87th-ranked Zhu Lin that ended at nearly 2:20 a.m. on Monday.

Both the 22nd-seeded Rybakina, a 23-year-old who represents Kazakhstan, and the 17th-seeded Ostapenko, a 25-year-old from Latvia, made it this far in Melbourne for the first time.

"There was moments in the match where I was getting frustrated, because I normally can problem-solve, but today I feel like I didn't have much answers to what she was doing," said Gauff, an 18-year-old from Florida who was the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open last

June.

"There was balls I was hitting deep, and she was hitting them on the line and hitting them back deep, over and over again," said Gauff, who wiped away tears during her news conference. "It's just one of those days that just didn't go my way and went her way."

One key: Ostapenko went 3-for-3 converting her break chances, and Gauff was just 1-for-8 in such situations.

In men's results, 22-year-old American Sebastian Korda reached his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by edging No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7).

Korda is one of four American men to get to the fourth round, along with Ben Shelton, J.J. Wolf and Tommy Paul — who all play Monday — the most for the country in Australia since four made it in 2004.

Olofsson, Krebs each score 2 as Sabres top Ducks

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Victor Olofsson and Peyton Krebs each scored two goals to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 6-3 win against the Anaheim Ducks on Saturday.

Olofsson gave the Sabres a 4-3 lead at 2:12 of the third period when he finished off a 2-on-1 break with defenseman Ilya Lyubushkin. His second goal of the game made it 5-3 at 8:07 and he set a career high with 21 goals. He's also scored in three straight games.

"I feel like I had a great start (to the season) and that helped me a lot," Olofsson said. "And then I had a small dip and I feel like these last 10 games we've been really clicking as a line, too, with (Casey Mittelstadt) and (Tyson) Jost."

Dylan Cozens and Jeff Skinner also scored. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen made 34 saves for Buffalo.

Trevor Zegras had two goals and Simon Benoit also scored for Anaheim. John Gibson made 33 saves for Anaheim, which is 1-5-1 in its past seven games.

Hurricanes 5, Islanders 2: Sebastian Aho had three goals for his sixth career hat trick and visiting Carolina beat slumping New York.

Jordan Staal and Jesper Fast also scored to help the Metropolitan Division-leading Hurricanes win for the fourth time in five games.

Flyers 2, Red Wings 1: Scott Laughton and Noah Cates scored in the third period and visiting Philadelphia beat Detroit.

Avalanche 2, Kraken 1 (SO): Nathan MacKinnon scored the only goal of the shootout and visiting Colorado got its season-high fifth straight win.

Canadiens 3, Maple Leafs 2 (OT): Rem Pitlick whipped a

wrist shot past goalie Ilya Samsonov 2:14 into overtime to lift host Montreal.

Oilers 4, Canucks 2: Zach Hyman had a goal and three assists and visiting Edmonton won its sixth straight.

Hyman has a career-high 56 points with 24 goals and 32 assists.

Blue Jackets 5, Sharks 3: Gustav Nyquist scored in the third period, and host Columbus rallied from two goals down to beat San Jose and snap a two-game losing streak.

Panthers 5, Wild 3: Alex Lyon made 29 saves for his second consecutive victory, and host Florida beat Minnesota.

Blackhawks 5, Blues 3: Rookie Jaxson Stauber recorded 28 saves in his NHL debut, and Jason Dickinson had a goal and two assists to lead visiting Chicago, which has won six of its past seven games.

Predators 5, Kings 3: Matt

Duchene broke a tie with 6:26 left with his second goal of the game and host Nashville beat Los Angeles.

Flames 6, Lightning 3: Rasmus Andersson had a goal and two assists, leading host Calgary to the victory over Tampa Bay.

Stars 4, Coyotes 0: Radek Faksa had his first two-goal game in more than three years, captain Jamie Benn added a power-play goal and host Dallas beat hapless Arizona to stay atop the Western Conference.

Jets 5, Senators 1: Mark Scheifele scored twice and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 25 shots to lead visiting Winnipeg.

Ehlers, who missed 36 games with an abdominal injury, has four goals and eight assists in nine games since returning.

Golden Knights 6, Capitals 2: Paul Cotter scored twice and host Vegas ended a three-game losing streak.