

Attacks don't destroy Ukraine's resilience

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — When massive, coordinated Russian bombardments shook cities and towns across Ukraine a week ago to trigger a new phase in the Kremlin's war, one strike left a huge crater in a popular Kyiv children's playground and ripped open a central intersection.

The next day, traffic flowed over the newly asphalted road, and life in the capital had returned to near normal. The response to Russia's new wave of attacks was to get back to work, stroll in the warm autumn sun and tend to final harvests from summer vegetable gardens.

A similar scene played out in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro that day, where city workers repaired a road overnight after it was destroyed by shelling in that coordinated attack.

"We worked all night, gritting our teeth," wrote Dnipro Mayor Borys Filatov on Facebook the day after the Oct. 10 attack. The

post included before and after photos of where the strike had hit and the completed repairs.

"We will restore and rebuild everything. But our hatred will live for centuries," he said.

Ukrainians' resilience in the nearly 8-month-old war continues to be unwavering, despite an uptick in attacks that are seen as Russian President Vladimir Putin's response to an explosion that damaged a Moscow-built bridge to the Kremlin-annexed Crimean Peninsula on Oct. 8.

Russian missiles and Iranian-made drones struck at least 10 regions across the country two days later, targeting critical infrastructure such as power plants and waterworks in major urban centers. The barrage left 19 dead and more than 100 wounded in the most extensive attacks since the early days after the Russian invasion began on Feb. 24.

On Monday, explosives-laden suicide drones struck Kyiv, setting buildings ablaze and sending

residents running for cover. City life quickly resumed, though hours later air raid sirens were triggered again, and metro stations filled up with worried but calm residents.

The strikes were an intensified version of what has been a shift in Russian tactics aimed at making life more difficult for Ukrainians, particularly for those far from the front lines.

But the more the Kremlin threatens to make the upcoming winter intolerable, the more Ukrainians seem to unite in their intent to defeat Putin.

"The enemy can attack our cities, but it won't be able to break us," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post.

The government is urging a national reduction of energy consumption. Ukrenergo, the state energy company, reported that on Oct. 15, residents of the Kyiv region had reduced their daily average electricity consumption by

7%, allowing the utility to avoid forced blackouts.

Danylo, 20, a student in Kyiv, said he has reduced his electricity use at home "because we understand that this is a way to protect ourselves from complete loss."

Danylo, who declined to give his last name, added: "Now, it is a trend to work for a common victory," he said.

Similar resilience also can be seen emerging from the devastation and ruins along the front lines in eastern and southern Ukraine.

Of all the Ukrainian areas that have paid a high price in the war, the Saltivka neighborhood on the northeastern edge of Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, has borne some of the greatest burdens.

"Without victory, there is no Ukraine," said Hryhorii Ivanovich, 67, as he rebuilt a brick wall on his balcony that was destroyed by a Russian rocket. "There is no compromise, only Ukrainian victory."

S. Korea on high alert for an expected North nuke test

BY DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — South Korea's presidential office is on an around-the-clock alert amid expectations that the North may soon conduct its seventh nuclear test, a government official told news agencies on Sunday.

"As North Korea's provocations have become more frequent, we're putting all of our effort into maintaining a readiness posture with a sense of alertness," an official said, according to Yonhap News.

Pyongyang's barrage of over 40 missiles in 26 rounds of testing so far this year, along with numer-

ous artillery drills, are believed to be part of preparations for its first nuclear test since 2017, officials have said.

The presidential office's remarks come after South Korean Vice Defense Minister Shin Beom Chul told Yonhap on Friday that North Korea may conduct not just one nuclear test but "two or three ... in a row."

State and national security officials from the United States and South Korea have warned for months that the North has prepared to conduct a nuclear test. Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada issued the same warning to the country's lawmakers Thursday, saying Pyong-

yang's weapons technology has developed at a "rapid pace" and it may be "more difficult to intercept" North Korean missiles.

The communist regime claimed its last nuclear test on Sept. 3, 2017, performed underground in the mountainous northeast region of North Korea, was a hydrogen bomb. The U.S. Geological Survey registered the explosion as a 6.3 magnitude earthquake.

While Seoul has delivered stern warnings and enacted economic sanctions against Pyongyang over its series of missile and artillery tests this year, U.S. and South Korean leaders also warned of new repercussions

should it detonate another nuclear device.

North Korea codified its preemptive use of nuclear weapons during a parliamentary session in September, eight months after the regime suggested it would "immediately" resume weapons tests that were suspended since the summits between then-Presidents Donald Trump and Moon Jae-in of South Korea, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2018 and 2019.

The North said it would launch a nuclear strike "automatically" should its leaders be threatened or attacked, according to a state-run Korean Central News Agency report on Oct. 8.

Japanese officials seek warning system fixes

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Members of the Japanese government questioned how effective their country's early warning system is after it provided flawed messaging when North Korea launched a ballistic missile over Japan earlier this month.

An alert was issued to Hokkaido and Aomori prefecture in northern Japan after the launch Oct. 4, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in the Diet's upper house three days later. But the system caused confusion by also broadcasting an unnecessary alert to islands near Tokyo, he said.

Kishida said he takes the issue "seriously" and that the system has already been fixed.

"We will make efforts in preventative measures, so that this will not happen in the future," he said.

The J-Alert early warning system sends out emergency messages and disseminates emergency information in the event of a missile launch, earthquake, tsunami or other event.

It sent out a first alert to Hokkaido and to

nine towns and villages on islands not far from Tokyo at 7:27 a.m. Oct. 4, urging people to take shelter. The alert mistakenly included Tokyo because data on where to send warnings was not erased after it was used in a previous drill, Yomiuri Shimbun reported Oct. 5.

The newspaper reported that the alert was broadcast over loudspeakers on the islands and some schools delayed their classes.

Aomori prefecture, where the missile passed over, was not warned until a second message went out at 7:29 a.m., when the missile had already gone by. A message that the missile had passed over Japan was sent out 13 minutes later at 7:42 a.m.

"It's hard to secure the time to evacuate with the current J-Alert," Shun Otokita of the Japan Innovation Party said during a meeting of the upper house Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense on Thursday.

A number of Liberal Democratic Party members suggested improving J-Alert during the ruling party's defense committee meeting on Wednesday, Mainichi Shimbun reported that day.

Yokosuka's 1st Friendship Day since pandemic draws 50,000

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — More than 50,000 people poured into the home of the 7th Fleet over the weekend for the first open-base event in nearly three years.

Around 43,000 visitors, along with another 10,000 people from the naval base and the Ikego Housing Area, joined Sunday's festivities, which included a vendor market, live music, street performances and a guided tour of the 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge, the Navy's oldest operational warship.

"I am excited for the base and the community to be hosting this event," base com-

mander Capt. Les Sobol said Sunday in an email to Stars and Stripes. "It is the first time in almost three years we have been able to hold an event like this, and I'm sure there will be many new friendships made and many more renewed."

The crowd gathered at Berkey Field, where the 7th Fleet Band and other music groups performed, or the parking lot of the base's mess hall, where vendors representing various commands sold souvenirs or food.

The day concluded with nearly 40 minutes of fireworks over Tokyo Bay, provided by the city of Yokosuka, with thousands of people gathering along the base's shoreline to watch.

Army to inspect all housing in Europe for mold

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — All Army barracks and family housing units in Europe will be checked for mold as part of the service's effort to eliminate substandard living conditions worldwide.

"Unit leadership will physically inspect all barracks rooms, focusing on mold and assessing any other health, safety or functionality issues that required immediate correction," Capt. Aaron Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Army Europe and Africa, said Friday in a statement.

A USAREUR-AF spokeswoman confirmed Monday that family housing at Army bases in Europe will also be inspected.

The Army in Europe will have a lot of ground to cover when inspections begin. The review will include 10,000 Army family housing units, 15,000 barracks spaces and about 7,500 other buildings, Smith said Monday.

Unit leaders will work with garrison commanders, housing officials and facility managers to determine inspection times, he said. Soldiers and families will then be notified, Smith added.

A Pentagon order requires Army commanders to inspect all quarters and offices of active-duty soldiers by Nov. 18 to check for "unhealthy, unsafe, substandard living conditions," USA Today reported earlier this month.

The directive comes on the heels of the relocation of more than 1,000 soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., due to mold-infested barracks this fall.

Base leaders at Fort Bragg announced in August that about a dozen buildings no longer met standards for heating, ventilation and air conditioning because of mold growth in rooms.

Mold problems have also been reported at Fort Stewart in Georgia and Fort Meade in Maryland.

The inspections in Europe will look at structural conditions of walls, ceilings and doors, Smith said. Electrical and plumbing systems also will be assessed, as will environmental issues such as temperature, insects, mold and mildew.

Government: Bannon should get 6 months

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department said Monday that Steve Bannon should serve six months in prison and pay a \$200,000 fine for defying a congressional subpoena from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

The longtime ally of former President Donald Trump should serve a hefty sentence because he “pursued a bad-faith strategy of defiance and contempt” and he publicly disparaged the committee itself, undermining the effort to get to the bottom of the violent attack and keep anything like it from happening again, federal attorneys wrote. He has not yet provided any documents or answered any questions, they said.

“The rioters who overran the Capitol on January 6 did not just attack a building — they assault-

ed the rule of law upon which this country was built and through which it endures,” federal attorneys wrote in court documents. “By flouting the Select Committee’s subpoena and its authority, the Defendant exacerbated that assault.”

The Justice Department push comes shortly after the committee took the extraordinary step last week to subpoena Trump himself, something the members said was necessary to get the full story of what happened that day. It’s unclear how Trump will respond to the summons, but a refusal to comply could open up a similar path in court — though holding a former president in contempt would be an unprecedented and fraught process.

Bannon’s lawyers, meanwhile, deny he was acting in bad faith. They’re asking for probation, even though the two contempt

convictions each carry a mandatory minimum of one month in prison.

They’re also asking for the sentence to be paused for an appeal.

Bannon is set to be sentenced Friday on two counts of contempt of Congress: one for refusing to sit for a deposition and another for refusing to provide documents. The committee had sought Bannon’s testimony over his involvement in Trump’s efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. Bannon initially argued that his testimony was protected by Trump’s claim of executive privilege, but the committee was skeptical because the adviser had been fired from the White House in 2017 and was thus a private citizen when he was consulting with the then-president in the run-up to the riot on Jan. 6, 2021.

Trump’s lawyer, meanwhile, told Bannon’s lawyer in October

2021 that he didn’t believe there was immunity for him, and he should cooperate with the subpoena, according to Monday’s sentencing memo.

Federal attorneys are also asking for the maximum fine.

Defense attorneys argued during the trial that he didn’t refuse to cooperate and that the deadline dates “were in flux.” They pointed to the fact that Bannon had reversed course shortly before the trial kicked off — after Trump waived his objection — and had offered to testify before the committee.

But that offer came with strings attached, federal attorneys wrote, including the dismissal of the criminal case against him. When it became clear that wasn’t in the cards, the possibility of cooperation faded, court records state.

Bannon was convicted after a four-day trial in July.

Trial set to address Arkansas’ ban on transgender youth care

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The nation’s first trial over a state’s ban on gender-confirming care for children begins in Arkansas this week, the latest fight over restrictions on transgender youth championed by Republican leaders and widely condemned by medical experts.

U.S. District Judge Jay Moody will hear testimony and evidence starting Monday over the law he temporarily blocked last year prohibiting doctors from providing gender-confirming hormone treatment, puberty blockers or surgery to anyone under 18 years old. It also prevents doctors from referring patients elsewhere for such care. If the law takes effect, doctors who violate the ban could lose their licenses or face other professional disciplinary measures and could be sued.

The families of four transgender youth and two doctors who provide gender-confirming care

want Moody to strike down the law, saying it is unconstitutional because it discriminates against transgender youth, intrudes on parents’ rights to make medical decisions for their children and infringes on doctors’ free speech rights.

“As a parent, I never imagined I’d have to fight for my daughter to be able to receive medically necessary health care her doctor says she needs and we know she needs,” said Lacey Jennen, whose 17-year-old daughter has been receiving gender-confirming care.

Arkansas was the first state to enact such a ban on gender-confirming care, with Republican lawmakers in 2021 overriding GOP Gov. Asa Hutchinson’s veto of the legislation. Hutchinson, who had signed other restrictions on transgender youth into law, said the prohibition went too far by cutting off the care for those currently receiving it.

Radioactive contamination found at Missouri school

Associated Press

FLORISSANT, Mo. — There is significant radioactive contamination at an elementary school in suburban St. Louis where nuclear weapons were produced during World War II, according to a new report by environmental investigation consultants.

The report by Boston Chemical Data Corp. confirmed fears about contamination at Jana Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District in Florissant raised by a previous Army Corps of Engineers study.

The new report is based on samples taken in August from the school, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Boston Chemical did not say who or what requested and funded the report.

“I was heartbroken,” said Ashley Bernaugh, president of the Jana parent-teacher association who has a son at the school.

The school sits in the flood

plain of Coldwater Creek, which was contaminated by nuclear waste from weapons production during World War II.

The waste was dumped at sites near the St. Louis Lambert International Airport, next to the creek that flows to the Missouri River.

The Corps has been cleaning up the creek for more than 20 years.

The Corps’ report also found contamination in the area but at much at lower levels, and it didn’t take any samples within 300 feet of the school. The most recent report included samples taken from Jana’s library, kitchen, classrooms, fields and playgrounds.

Levels of the radioactive isotope lead-210, polonium, radium and other toxins were “far in excess” of what Boston Chemical had expected. Dust samples taken inside the school were found to be contaminated.

NATO begins nuke exercises as tensions simmer

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — NATO on Monday began its long-planned annual nuclear exercises in northwestern Europe as tensions simmer over the war in Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin's threat to use any means to defend Russian territory.

Fourteen of NATO's 30 mem-

ber countries were due to take part in the exercises, which the military alliance said would involve around 60 aircraft including fighter jets and surveillance and refueling planes.

The bulk of the war games will be held at least 625 miles from Russia's borders.

U.S. long-range B-52 bombers will also take part in the

maneuvers, dubbed Steadfast Noon, which will run until Oct. 30. NATO is not permitting any media access.

NATO said that training flights will take place over Belgium, which is hosting Steadfast Noon this year, as well as over the North Sea and the United Kingdom. The exercises involve fighter jets capable of car-

rying nuclear warheads, but do not involve any live bombs.

The exercises were planned before Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine in February. Russia usually holds its own annual maneuvers around the same time, and NATO is expecting Moscow to exercise its nuclear forces sometime this month.

Australian floods could isolate, inundate 34,000 homes

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Around 34,000 homes could be inundated or isolated in Victoria state as a flood emergency continues across parts of Australia's southeast, an official said Monday.

Victoria is the worst-affected state with some towns experiencing the highest river peaks in decades. The states of New South Wales and Tasmania were also experiencing flooding in an emergency that began last week. Federal Emergency Management Minister Murray Watt said Victoria faced "some serious flooding" with more rain forecast for late this week.

"It's quite likely we'll see a flood peak happen and waters recede, followed by another peak, as different river systems come together," Watt told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"So this is a very serious situation and the reports I'm getting is we ... could be looking

at up to 9,000 homes inundated in northern Victoria and potentially close to about 34,000 homes in Victoria either inundated or isolated," Watt added.

Two people drowned and two were reported missing in Victoria and New South Wales in the past week.

The latest fatality was a 71-year-old man found dead Saturday in floodwaters in the backyard of his home in Rochester, a central Victorian town about 110 miles north of the state capital Melbourne.

Tim Wiebusch, chief operating officer at Victoria State Emergency Service, estimated 85% of Rochester had been flooded by the overflowing Campaspe River at the weekend.

The northern Victorian town of Kerang is likely to be isolated for up to seven days when the Loddon River peaks on Wednesday or Thursday, Wiebusch said.

"Whilst we have a number of communi-

ties where rivers are starting to recede, there are still many rivers and communities that are under threat of major flooding in these coming days," Wiebusch said.

Many schools and roads were closed across southeast Australia and thousands had evacuated their homes.

October is usually the start of the wildfire season in the three states that are enduring record and near-record flooding.

The landscape usually dries out during the Southern Hemisphere spring and the fire danger escalates during the summer. But the Bureau of Meteorology last month declared a third successive La Niña weather pattern, which is associated with above-average rainfall in eastern Australia, was underway in the Pacific.

The bureau forecast that the La Niña event may peak during the current Southern Hemisphere spring and return to neutral conditions early next year.

Iranian prison damaged from blaze, gunfire amid protests

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A weekend fire at Iran's notorious Evin Prison damaged one of the largest buildings in the complex, according to satellite photos analyzed Monday. Authorities raised to eight the number of inmates killed, doubling the initial toll.

What happened on Saturday night at the prison — for decades the main holding facility for political detainees and a centerpiece of the state's systematic crushing of dissent — remains unclear.

Online videos purport to show chaotic scenes with a prison siren wailing as flames rise from the complex, the apparent crackle

of gunfire and people screaming: "Death to the dictator!"

The fire erupted as nationwide anti-government protests triggered by the death of a young woman in the custody of the country's morality police entered a fifth week. Tensions have escalated to a point unseen since the mass demonstrations that accompanied the country's 2009 Green Movement protests.

The fire at one of Tehran's most heavily guarded facilities potentially raises the stakes for those continuing to rally against the government and the mandatory headscarf, or hijab, for women after the Sept. 16 death of Mahsa Amini.

Satellite photos taken Sunday by Planet Labs PBC and analyzed by The Associated Press show the roof burning away from a large building that's part of the northern section of Evin Prison.

The prison also houses prisoners convicted of criminal charges.

The Iran Prison Atlas, a project by the California-based rights group United for Iran, which collects data on Iranian prisons and prisoners, had previously identified the structure's wards as housing prisoners convicted on fraud and theft cases — not those held on political charges.

However, the Iran Prison Atlas has said that wards have changed over the years.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

1 dead, 12 hurt as car crashes into taco stand

CA POMONA — A car slammed into a crowded sidewalk taco stand in Pomona, killing one person and injuring 12 other people, authorities said.

The sedan veered across the road, jumped a curb and smashed into the tent at about 7:45 p.m. Friday in Pomona, east of Los Angeles, police said. One man, Gilberto Cazares Payan, 52, died at the scene.

Ten other people were taken to the hospital, including three in critical condition, while two others were treated at the scene, authorities said.

The driver ran from the car but surrendered about an hour later. She was identified as a 26-year-old woman from Pomona but her name wasn't immediately released, police said.

Officer suspended for ties to Proud Boys

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago police officer with ties to the Proud Boys, a far-right extremist group, was suspended for 120 days but won't be fired, the city's watchdog agency has announced.

In its latest quarterly report, the Office of Inspector General said a lengthy internal police department investigation was resolved through a "mediation agreement" in which the officer agreed not to dispute the allegations against him, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

The officer was not named in the report, but in previous articles in the newspaper, Officer Robert Bakker has acknowledged that he took part in Proud

Boys group chats, and the police department confirmed that Bakker was, in fact, the subject of the investigation.

The inspector general's office determined that a police department investigation by its internal affairs bureau found Bakker "made a contradictory statement" about his participation in a Proud Boys chat group and lied about attending a Proud Boys-sponsored barbecue, the newspaper reported.

2023 Mardi Gras parade routes to remain short

LA NEW ORLEANS — Fans of New Orleans' Mardi Gras season can expect another year of shortened parade routes.

The Mayor's Mardi Gras Advisory Council said Thursday that the shorter routes of 2022 will continue in 2023, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported.

"Due to the manpower shortage that we're seeing across the country within the law enforcement community, we are going to do the exact same routes that we did last year," said James Reiss III, the advisory council's chairman. "I will add that we're very aware, the city is very aware, that it affects all of us individually parading krewes differently."

The smaller police force and a shortage of other municipal workers led City Hall to cut blocks from the parades routes last year. The continuing surge of retirements and difficulty recruiting new officers has left the police department with the fewest commissioned officers in decades, leading Mayor LaToya Cantrell in August to question

whether Carnival parades would even be possible in 2023, the newspaper reported.

Mardi Gras 2023's parade season begins Jan. 6. Mardi Gras will be celebrated Feb. 21.

Man on trial for bombs found in his townhouse

ND WILLISTON — Trial is scheduled for Feb. 13 for a North Dakota man accused of setting up an explosives manufacturing operation in his townhouse garage, where police reported finding a large stockpile of bomb-making materials.

Police said they seized nearly 1,500 pounds of explosives upon completing the removal and disposal of the materials Friday evening from the townhouse in Williston, in the state's northwest oil patch.

Ross Petrie, 28, of Williston, is charged with a felony called "release of destructive forces." An affidavit of probable cause said Petrie's explosives could have had "catastrophic consequences." A criminal complaint and the probable cause affidavit did not provide a motive for the explosives stockpile.

Teen arrested for loaded gun at high school game

PA BETHLEHEM — A teenager with a loaded firearm was arrested at a high school football stadium during a game in eastern Pennsylvania, police said.

Bethlehem police said in a statement that the arrest was made Friday night at the Bethlehem Area School District stadium, where a game between Easton Area High School and

Liberty High School was going on.

Police said uniformed officers working at the stadium at about 8:20 p.m. Friday spotted a teen who had been reported as a runaway. Police said they tried to talk to the juvenile "and check on his well-being" but he became uncooperative and tried to run, but they stopped him.

Police said officers then found a loaded handgun concealed in the teenager's waistband. They didn't immediately release more details about the weapon.

Hiker pinned under huge boulder rescued

WA LEAVENWORTH — A Montana resident hiking in Washington state was rescued after he became trapped under a refrigerator-sized boulder, officials said.

Ben Delahunty, 28, was hiking last week in the Cascade Mountains, south of Leavenworth, when a boulder he was relaxing on started to slide down a cliff, Chelan County Sheriff Brian Burnett said in a news release.

The boulder was stopped by a tree, pinning Delahunty's wrist and legs. His friend called for help after they were unable to move the rock.

Two helicopters were used to shuttle rescuers and equipment that could move the boulder to the area. Rescuers needed ropes to access Delahunty safely and protect from fall risks, further complicating the rescue, Burnett said. Hours later rescuers were able to free him.

Delahunty has significant injuries to his leg but is expected to recover, the sheriff said.

— From wire reports

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Allen rallies Bills in win over rival Chiefs

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Buffalo Bills were certain of a rematch with the Kansas City Chiefs because of the way the NFL schedule worked out.

The Chiefs believe they'll get another crack at Buffalo because of their talent.

The latest showdown in a burgeoning rivalry between AFC titans went to the Bills on Sunday, when Josh Allen rallied his team for a 24-20 victory at Arrowhead Stadium.

Allen threw for 329 yards and three touchdowns, including the go-ahead toss to Dawson Knox with 1:04 left to exact a measure of revenge for their epic overtime loss to Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs in last year's playoffs.

"Nothing we did last year translates to what we're doing this year," Allen said with a shrug. "What happened in the past, that's where it is. All we can do is focus on the next one. Today was the next one."

It was the fifth meeting of the teams in less than two years, and it came nine months after Kansas City ended Buffalo's season for the second consecutive year in the same building.

"In my opinion, these are the

best two teams in football right now," Chiefs safety Justin Reid said. "When it comes down to the playoffs, we're going to end up seeing each other again. The next time we see them, we are going to have a chip on our shoulder. We're going to need to bring that with us the whole game."

The guys in the other locker room fully expect to see Kansas City again, too.

"I don't want to give those guys any bulletin board material or any of that," Bills pass rusher Von Miller said. "It was a hard-fought game today and it came down to the very end, just like we expected."

The Chiefs (4-2) just made too many mistakes when the game was hanging in the balance.

Mahomes threw for 338 yards and two touchdowns, but he threw an early interception while forcing a throw into double coverage in the end zone, then another with 51 seconds left that effectively ended the game.

There were also penalties, missed blocking assignments and dropped passes at crucial moments of the game.

"There's some good things

we can take out of the game, as tough as it is," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "We made too many mistakes when it was all said and done. They made a few less than we did. It's good to learn from this. It can benefit you down the road if you handle it right. And this team, I think, will definitely do that."

"When two great teams play each other, the smallest of things can get you off course," Reid added, "and the other team can beat you. We've got to clean up a few things and we'll do that."

The Chiefs, who could fall into a tie atop the AFC West if the Chargers beat the Broncos on Monday night, don't have much time for corrections. They have a trip to San Francisco next week in their final game before their bye.

Stefon Diggs had 10 catches for 148 yards and a touchdown, and Gabe Davis also had a TD catch after torching Kansas City for four of them in January.

The Bills (5-1) are headed into their week off with the best record in the AFC.

"We've got a long way to go, but it's nice to get a win. Any win," Bills coach Sean McDermott said with a smile. "It's

hard to sit two weeks on a loss, so like I said, my family will appreciate this win in more ways than one. They don't have to put up with a miserable dad at home this week."

Make no mistake: McDermott knows the value of home-field advantage in the playoffs.

The Bills were forced to visit Kansas City, which has hosted the past four AFC title games, for a spot in the Super Bowl two seasons ago and came up on the losing end. And they had to travel to Arrowhead Stadium again in January for the divisional round, when the riotous atmosphere no doubt contributed to the Chiefs' overtime victory.

Sure, it's only Week 6. But every game matters, and there was a feeling Sunday mattered a little more than most.

"I think you just want to win, just because you're a competitor and you're playing the best of the best, and you feel like you're the best of the best," Mahomes said. "At the end of the day, you've got to redirect the guys in the locker room to the next game."

"You want to win and feel like you could win and didn't. How are you going to respond?"

Hurts helps Eagles top Cowboys, remain undefeated

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Eagles closed out another familiar outcome — their latest victory as they roll unbeaten into an off week — with a recognizable tune: "Dancing On My Own." Yes, the Eagles borrowed the signature anthem for the Philadelphia Phillies that they've blasted in the clubhouse on their way toward a spot in the National League Championship Series.

It's a great time for Philly sports fans. Even better for the athletes who only know how to win around here of late.

"We up! Philly's up right now," cornerback Darius Slay said. "We're going up. Up, up, up. We're going up to that room."

Maybe the Eagles will find a Lombardi Trophy once they get to Slay's room.

Jalen Hurts threw for 155 yards and two touchdowns, C.J. Gardner-Johnson had two of Philadelphia's three interceptions of Cooper Rush, and the Eagles stayed undefeated with a 26-17 victory over the Dallas Cowboys (4-2) on Sunday night.

The Eagles held on after their 20-0 lead shrank to 20-17 early in the fourth quarter, improving to 6-0 for the first time since 2004 — when they won their first seven games and went to the Super Bowl.

"We know we've got to play a complete game," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said. "What's exciting about being 6-0 and not having played a complete game is we know it's coming."

Philly put the game away with an efficient drive that took up more than half the

fourth quarter. The Eagles converted three third downs and Hurts hit DeVonta Smith for a 7-yard touchdown.

Cowboys cornerback Trevon Diggs ripped off his helmet and slammed it in anger after the score, one final blown opportunity to make a stop and wrest the NFC East lead away from the Eagles.

The Eagles failed on the two-point conversion and led 26-17.

Philly sports fans haven't had much chance to settle down this fall. The Eagles are perfect, the Phillies are in the NLCS, the Union host a playoff game this week, the Flyers have won their first two games of the season and the 76ers open the season this week and play their home opener Thursday.

Giants rally in fourth quarter, stun Ravens

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — After five consecutive losing seasons and three coaching changes, the New York Giants are doing the unexpected under first-year coach Brian Daboll. They are finding ways to win.

The Giants (5-1) stunned another opponent as Julian Love's interception and 27-yard return set up Saquon Barkley's 1-yard touchdown dive with 1:43 to play in a 24-20 victory over the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday.

The five wins surpassed the Giants' total from 2021, and New York has rallied from a 10-plus-point deficit in three of those victories. The Ravens (3-3) blew a game late for the third time this season.

"We're not shocked that we find ways to win," said Daniel Jones, who threw for 173 yards and two touchdowns. "I think we're confident in what we can do. And we're confident in our toughness, our ability to compete and find ways to win down the stretch."

There is still a lot to work on. Baltimore outgained New York 406 yards to 238. The difference was the Giants got contributions from all three phases. New York's only

turnover was a meaningless lost fumble on the final play of the first half.

New York's defense, led by Baltimore's former coordinator Wink Martindale, forced two turnovers by Lamar Jackson late in the fourth quarter. After Barkley's go-ahead score, rookie Kayvon Thibodeaux sacked Jackson and forced a fumble that Leonard Williams recovered.

Barkley prevented the Ravens from getting the ball back when he went down after getting a first down instead of walking into the end zone.

Jones threw touchdown passes to two rookies: 5 yards to Wan'Dale Robinson and 8 yards to Daniel Bellinger. The second got New York within 20-17 with 6:53 to go.

Kenyan Drake ran for 119 yards, including a 30-yard TD, and Jackson hit Mark Andrews on a 12-yard TD pass early in the fourth quarter for a 20-10 lead.

Baltimore collapsed against Miami in Week 2, allowing four touchdowns in the fourth quarter of a 42-38 loss.

The Ravens also blew an early 17-point lead against Buffalo in Week 4, when a late interception by Jackson gave the Bills an opportunity to drive for the game-winning field goal.

The Ravens seemed to have a stranglehold on the game when Jackson had a third-down sneak to the Baltimore 46 for an apparent first down. An illegal formation nullified the play and a premature shotgun snap on third-and-5 went past Jackson. He picked up the ball deep behind the line of scrimmage, and his desperation pass was intercepted by Love and returned to the 13.

"It's frustrating because we're losing these games," said Jackson, who threw for 210 yards and had 77 of the Ravens' 211 yards rushing. "It happened. It's over with. We have to move on to the Browns. We just can't keep beating ourselves up because that's what it is. It's not our opponent."

On a third-and 3 from the Baltimore 3, cornerback Marcus Peters was called for pass interference in the end zone, nullifying his interception. Barkley dived over the goal line on the next play.

Jackson appeared to be getting the better of Martindale's defense before the Giants stepped up late, sparked by their first interception of the season.

Justin Tucker kicked two short field goals for Baltimore and Graham Gano added one for New York.

Jets continue surge with convincing win at Green Bay

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Breece Hall, Quinnen Williams and the young New York Jets are making a convincing statement to the rest of the NFL.

They aren't the same old Jets who haven't reached the playoffs since the 2010 season, the league's longest active drought.

Hall ran for 116 yards, including a 34-yard touchdown, and Williams had two of New York's four sacks against Aaron Rodgers as the Jets won their third straight, 27-10 over the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

"It just shows that we're trending upwards," said Hall, a rookie second-rounder who has quickly become a key playmaker in the offense. "I feel like a lot of people expected that it would be a surprise if we won this game, but we expected to come in and win this game."

Their confidence was apparent from their exuberance.

Hall celebrated his fourth-quarter touchdown by doing his own version of a "Lambeau Leap" into a collection of Jets fans.

"We actually had all talked about it before

the game," Hall said. "We were like, whichever one of us scores, we've got to do the 'Lambeau Leap.' Brax (Braxton Berrios) got the first one, but I don't think there were any Jets fans on the side that he scored. So when I scored, I had to do it."

Jets rookie cornerback Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner was seen after the game in one of the cheesehead hats worn by Packers fans as he walked around Lambeau Field.

Gardner said afterward that some Jets fans had given it to him.

"Just being able to play against somebody like Aaron Rodgers, that was a true blessing," Gardner said. "I said I grew up playing Madden and he's always been on Madden since I can remember. Running off the field with that cheesehead thing, with cheese on my head, that was a crazy feeling right there. I'm never going to forget that."

The Jets (4-2) are off to their best six-game start since 2015, when they also were 4-2 before finishing with a 10-6 record.

They're feeding off the mindset of their coach.

"Just keep giving them body blow after

body blow after body blow and just keep hitting them," Jets coach Robert Saleh said. "Just keep hitting them in the mouth. O-line just keep pushing and leaning on them. And we felt like if we could just keep taking them down the deep water, they'll find out they can't swim. It was just a mindset."

Eventually, the Packers sank.

Green Bay (3-3) has lost consecutive regular-season games within the same season for the first time since coach Matt LaFleur's arrival in 2019. The Packers fell 27-22 to the New York Giants in London last week.

The Jets, whose offensive coordinator is LaFleur's younger brother Mike, outrushed Green Bay 179-60 in a game during which Zach Wilson was just 10-for-18 for 110 yards.

"We've got to be realistic of where we're at," said Rodgers, who went 26 of 41 for 246 yards with a touchdown. "We've played a couple of subpar games the last two. We've got to play better. But wobbly? Only if people are breaking rank. I think it'll be interesting to look at the comments from all of our guys and coaches, and hopefully we stick together."

Cole, Yankees force Game 5 with Guardians

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Gerrit Cole brought the Yankees back from the brink. They're Bronx bound, still chasing a championship.

Cole gave New York what it needed, seven solid innings and Harrison Bader hit a two-run homer as the Yankees forced a decisive fifth game in the AL Division Series with a 4-2 win over the Cleveland Guardians in Game 4 on Sunday night.

There was no margin for error, no second chances. Cole, who failed in a similar spot last October, had the weight of New York's season, the one Aaron Judge's home-run swing made historic, on his shoulders.

He handled it. Like an ace should.

"Preparing for this game, there's an opportunity to clinch or an opportunity to go home, I didn't approach the game any different," Cole said. "I just

went out there and did my job."

New York's \$324 million man, Cole allowed two runs and struck out eight in beating the Guardians for the second time in six days. He didn't dominate, but Cole kept Cleveland's hitters off base and off balance.

Bader homered for the third time in the best-of-five series, connecting in the second inning off Cal Quantrill, who came in unbeaten in 44 games at Progressive Field.

After blowing Game 3 on Saturday, when the Yankees' bullpen had its greatest meltdown in the team's storied postseason history, New York recovered and is headed home for a winner-moves-on game.

New York will start Game 2 loser Jameson Taillon against Aaron Civale on Monday night at Yankee Stadium. The winner advances to meet Houston in the AL Championship Series.

Josh Naylor homered for the

Guardians, who are trying to end Major League Baseball's current longest World Series drought in their first year after a franchise name change. Cleveland hasn't won it all since 1948.

With a history of postseason heartbreak, Cleveland teams are 1-7 in winner-take-all games.

"You know if you would have told me back in March, we just signed up to play Game 5 in New York to go to the ALCS, I would have jogged to New York," Guardians manager Terry Francona said. "I'm excited."

Cole was pulled after 110 pitches, and Yankees manager Aaron Boone brought in closer Clay Holmes for the eighth. Holmes didn't pitch in Game 3 after Boone decided to shut him down but didn't tell the right-hander.

Holmes struck out Amed Rosario and All-Star José Ramírez

in the eighth before Wandy Peralta finished for the save. Working his third straight day, Peralta retired three batters on just seven pitches.

"Our guys had that look in their eyes tonight, and it starts with Gerrit," first baseman Anthony Rizzo said. "It's a complete win for us and that's who we are and that's the wins we need to have."

The Guardians weren't supposed to be here. But they won the AL Central, swept Tampa Bay in the wild-card round and had the Yankees on the cusp of elimination. All Cleveland's kids have to do now is beat the Yankees in baseball's most hostile environment.

"It's going to be exciting," Civale said. "Everyone that was there saw what it was like. It's going to be crazy, it's going to be a lot of screaming and a lot of fans. But at the end of the day it's noise."

Logano secures NASCAR title race spot with Vegas win

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Team Penske has a shot at two major championships this year — Joey Logano became the first driver to qualify for NASCAR's title-deciding finale with a win Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

"We're racing for a championship! Let's go!" Logano screamed to the crowd. "All you want to do is get to the championship when the season starts and race for a championship, and we've got the team to do it. I don't see why we can't win at this point."

Logano, who won for the third time this season and third time at Las Vegas, is NASCAR's 2018 champion and advanced to the championship race for the fifth time in his career.

Team Penske last month celebrated the IndyCar championship when driver Will Power won his second title.

Logano used a late pit stop for new tires hoping the new Goodyears would give him a shot. He gained six immediate spots, but his Ford was still in eighth on the final restart with 16 laps remaining.

Chase Briscoe restarted as the leader

ahead of Justin Haley and Ross Chastain, and Chastain used a sweeping three-wide pass on the bottom of the track to take the lead. Logano charged through the field, but Chastain successfully used several blocks to hold him off.

Logano ultimately pulled alongside Chastain on the frontstretch with three laps remaining to claim the first spot in next month's championship race.

"There was a clear difference in tires there, so we fully believed that we could hold him off and win the race on the tires we had, and Joey did a good job of getting through the field," said Chastain, who finished second in a Chevrolet for Trackhouse Racing.

Kyle Busch, who was eliminated from the playoffs in the first round, finished third in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Playoff drivers Briscoe finished fourth in a Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing and Denny Hamlin, in a Toyota from Joe Gibbs Racing, came from 31st to finish fifth.

The race was the first of three in this round of NASCAR's playoffs. The eight remaining drivers will be whittled down to

four for the winner-take-all finale at Phoenix next month.

With the stakes so high, the race was fraught with tension from the start and even included nearly a fight between Bubba Wallace and reigning NASCAR champion Kyle Larson. The dustup between Wallace and Larson collected Christopher Bell, who won last week at Charlotte to advance into this round of the playoffs and is now ranked last in the standings following his 34th-place finish.

"We will see if we can go pull another rabbit out of the hat," Bell said.

Logano is locked in to the finale, while Chastain, Hamlin and regular-season champion Chase Elliott are above the cut line. Elliott finished 21st in an uninspiring showing in his Hendrick Motorsports entry.

"I did a really bad job all weekend," Elliott said. "All-around poor effort on my behalf, and when you perform that poorly, you get poor results. I'm obviously missing something at places like this to compete with the gentlemen that know what they're doing."