

## Leaders pledge arms, path to EU in Kyiv visit

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — The leaders of four European Union nations visited Ukraine on Thursday, vowing to back Kyiv's bid to become an official candidate to join the bloc in a high-profile show of support for the country fending off a Russian invasion.

French President Emmanuel Macron also promised Ukraine six more powerful truck-mounted artillery guns, the latest in a new round of Western arms pledges for Ukraine as the war grinds on in the eastern Donbas region.

The leaders "are doing everything so that Ukraine alone can decide its fate," Macron said during a news conference.

In the face of Kyiv's fears that Western resolve to help it could wane, the visit by Macron and the leaders of Germany, Italy and Romania carried heavy symbolic weight. The three Western European powers have

faced criticism for continuing to engage with Russian President Vladimir Putin — and failing to provide Ukraine with the scale of weaponry that it has said is necessary to fend off the Russians.

After arriving in Kyiv to the sound of air-raid sirens, the leaders headed to Irpin, a suburb of the capital that was the scene of intense fighting early in the war and where many civilians were killed. They decried the destruction there.

While shocking images of such devastation have rallied Western support, officials in Ukraine have expressed fears that "war fatigue" could eventually erode that — particularly as rising prices and upcoming elections in the United States are increasingly dominating people's concerns.

The U.S. and its European allies have given billions of dollars in weaponry to Ukraine, and

Germany and the U.S. recently announced new arms shipments. Such arms have been key to the country's surprising success in preventing the Russians from taking the capital, but officials in Kyiv have said much more will be needed if they are to drive Moscow's forces out.

Many in Ukraine hoped the leaders' visit could mark a turning point by opening the way to significant new arms supplies and it also comes as EU leaders prepare to make a decision next week on Ukraine's request to become a candidate for membership in the bloc.

European allies have sent increasingly muscular weapons and rallied around Ukraine more than many expected, approving wave after wave of unprecedented sanctions against Russia that are badly squeezing Europe's economy.

But Ukrainians have said more is still needed as Russian

forces are pressing their offensive in the eastern Donbas region, slowly but steadily gaining ground on the badly outmanned and outgunned Ukrainian forces.

While hopes were high for the visit, there was also skepticism.

Gov. Serhiy Haidai of Luhansk, which is also part of the Donbas, said the visit would not yield progress if the leaders ask Ukraine to sign a peace treaty with Russia that involves giving up territory.

"I am sure that our president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is not going to make concessions and trade our territories. If someone wants to stop Russia by giving them territories, Germany has Bavaria, Italy has Tuscany, the French can concede Provence, for instance," he said.

"Today it will be one territory, tomorrow another one, the day after tomorrow another," he said.

## GAO: US didn't find if Saudis used arms on Yemen civilians

**By J.P. LAWRENCE**

*Stars and Stripes*

The United States doesn't know whether \$54 billion in military arms sales to allies Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates contributed to the killing of civilians in Yemen, a government watchdog agency found.

State Department officials "could not provide evidence that they conducted any investigations to determine if or how U.S.-origin equipment was misused, and could not provide specific guidance for doing so," according to a Government Accountability Office report released Wednesday.

The report analyzed military aid the U.S. sent from the start of the civil war in Yemen in 2015 through 2021, the last year tracked.

Before a truce was declared, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen was fighting Iran-allied Houthi rebels who took control over much of the north of the country.

Indiscriminate attacks by coalition combat jets led to nearly 9,000 civilian deaths and almost 24,000 overall deaths since the war started, a recent report by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has estimated over 18,000 civilians were killed or injured from about 23,000 airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition from March 2015 to August 2021, the report said.

Reports of civilian casualties led Congress to pass three joint resolutions of disapproval against the sale of air-to-ground munitions to Saudi Arabia and the UAE in 2019, measures which were vetoed by former President Donald Trump.

The GAO said it aimed to examine whether military support to Saudi Arabia and the UAE contributed to civilian injuries and deaths.

State Department officials told investigators they consider whether U.S. equipment will be used to harm civilians when selling arms to foreign militaries, the report said.

The U.S. paused sales of precision-guided munitions to Saudi Arabia in 2016, and at one point a federal investigation was launched into whether vehicles sold to the UAE were being given to militias, the report said.

Defense Department officials also pointed to examples of training and seminars they had given to the Saudi and Emirati militaries on preventing civilian casualties.

But the military's Central Command, whose area of responsibility covers the Middle East, said it does not know how to find out whether U.S.-made weapons were used in Yemen by Saudi Arabia or the UAE against "anything other than legitimate military targets," the report said.

# 2 US veterans from Ala. now missing in Ukraine

*Associated Press*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Two U.S. veterans from Alabama who were in Ukraine assisting in the war against Russia haven't been heard from in days and are missing, members of the state's congressional delegation said Wednesday.

Relatives of Andy Tai Ngoc Huynh, 27, of Trinity, and Alexander Druke, 39, of Tuscaloosa, have been in contact with both Senate and House offices seeking information about the men's whereabouts, press aides said.

Rep. Robert Aderholt said Huynh had volunteered to go fight with the Ukrainian army against Russia, but relatives haven't heard from him since June 8, when he was in the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine, which is near the Russian border. Huynh and Druke were together, an aide to Aderholt said.

"As you can imagine, his loved ones are very concerned about him," Aderholt said in a statement. "My office has placed inquiries with both the United States Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation trying to get any information possible."

Rep. Terri Sewell said Druke's mother reached out to her office earlier this week after she lost contact with her son.

The U.S. State Department said it was looking into reports that Russian or Russian-backed separatist forces in Ukraine had captured at least two American citizens. If confirmed, they would be the first Americans fighting for Ukraine known to have been captured since the war began Feb. 24.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and are in contact with Ukrainian authorities," the department said in a statement emailed to reporters. It declined further comment, citing privacy considerations.

John Kirby, a national security spokesman at the White House, said Wednesday that the administration wasn't able to confirm the reports about missing Americans.

"We'll do the best we can to monitor this and see what we can learn about it," he said.

However, he reiterated his warnings against Americans going to Ukraine.

"Ukraine is not the place for Americans to be traveling," he said. "If you feel passionate about supporting Ukraine, there's any number of ways to do that that are safer and just as effective."

# US: ISIS bomb maker detained in Syria raid

*The Washington Post*

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan — An Islamic State bomb maker who became one of the terrorist organization's most influential figures in Syria was seized during a raid Thursday, according to the U.S. military.

The operation, said Army Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla, head of U.S. Central Command, "demonstrates our commitment to security of the region and to the enduring defeat of ISIS."

U.S. officials identified the suspect as Hani Ahmed Al-Kurdi, whom they said also was known as the "Wali of Raqqa." Wali is another name for governor. Raqqa is a city in northern Syria that, for a time, was ISIS' de facto capital.

The raid took place in northeast Syria, officials said.

Kurilla, confirmed to his post in February, is traveling throughout Central Asia this month, meeting with American diplomats and foreign counterparts as he familiarizes himself with what has been one of the Pentagon's highest-profile assignments.

In a news release announcing Thursday's raid, U.S. officials said no civilians were harmed during the operation and no U.S. personnel suffered casualties.

Although ISIS' command nodule in Syria lacks the potency it once possessed, U.S. forces and their partners in the region have continued to target pockets of the group's fighters and most senior operatives.

A U.S. raid in February killed the group's leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, at his hideout in Atma, Syria. The building had been rigged with explosives, which officials believe were detonated after U.S. troops entered the structure. U.S. officials acknowledged that at least two children were killed in the blast, though local first responders and UNICEF counted at least five children dead.

While military officials cheered the operation to nab Al-Kurdi, they also warned that ISIS continues to pose a challenge in Syria.

"ISIS continues to present a threat to the U.S. and our partners in the region," said Col. Joe Buccino, Central Command's spokesman.

# Navy F/A-18E pilot killed in Calif. crash dreamed of mining in space

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

The fatal crash of Navy Lt. Richard "Max" Bullock's F/A-18E Super Hornet two weeks ago cut short his dream of one day mining asteroids in space, his family said in an obituary published Wednesday.

"He would dream of ideas that seemed crazy to most people but would shock them again when he presented a step-by-step solution to achieving them," the obituary said. "He joined the Navy ... to become a pilot ... to become an astronaut ... to get into space ... to fulfill his dream of mining asteroids."

Bullock crashed on June 3 near Trona, Calif., a remote town in the Mojave Desert,

while flying a routine training mission in his Super Hornet. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Bullock, 29, was working toward degrees in engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida and space mining at the Colorado School of Mines, the obituary said.

A celebration of his life is planned for June 25 at the Montana National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility, 3333 Skyway Drive in Helena, Mont.

Bullock's wingman, Lt. T.J. Hall, in the obituary said his fellow flyer would have wanted a send-off that would be "fast, loud and awesome!"

# Fed rate hike to fight inflation biggest since '94

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve intensified its fight against high inflation on Wednesday, raising its key interest rate by three-quarters of a point — the largest bump since 1994 — and signaling more rate hikes ahead as it tries to cool off the U.S. economy without causing a recession.

The unusually large rate hike came after data released Friday showed U.S. inflation rose last month to a four-decade high of 8.6%—a surprise jump that made financial markets uneasy about how the Fed would respond. The Fed's benchmark short-term rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, will now be pegged to a range of 1.5% to 1.75%—and Fed policymakers forecast a doubling of that range by year's end.

"We thought strong action was warranted at this meeting, and we

delivered that," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said at a news conference in which he stressed the central bank's commitment to do what it takes to bring inflation down to the Fed's target rate of 2%. Getting to that point, he said, might result in a slightly higher unemployment rate as economic growth slows.

Powell said it was imperative to go bigger than the half-point increase the Fed had earlier signaled because inflation was running hotter than anticipated — causing particular hardship on low-income Americans. Another concern is that the public is increasingly expecting higher inflation in the future, which can become a self-fulfilling prophecy by accelerating spending among consumers seeking to avoid rising prices for certain goods.

The central bank revised its policy statement to acknowledge

that its efforts to quell inflation won't be painless, removing previous language that had said Fed officials expect "the labor market to remain strong."

"It's going to be a far bumpier ride to get inflation down than what they had anticipated previously," said Matthew Luzzetti, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank.

Fed officials forecast unemployment ticking up this year and next, reaching 4.1% in 2024 — a level that some economists said would risk a recession. Yet Powell largely stuck to his previous reassurances that — with unemployment near a five-decade low, wages rising, and consumers' finances mostly solid — the economy can withstand higher interest rates and avoid a recession.

"We're not trying to induce a recession now," he said. "Let's be clear about that. We're trying to

achieve 2% inflation."

Powell said that another three-quarter-point hike is possible at the Fed's next meeting in late July if inflation pressures remain high, although he said such increases would not be common.

Some financial analysts suggested Powell struck the right balance to reassure markets, which rallied on Wednesday. "He hit it hard that 'we want to get inflation down' but also hit hard that 'we want a soft landing,'" said Robert Tipp, chief investment strategist at PGIM Fixed Income.

Still, the Fed's action on Wednesday was an acknowledgment that it's struggling to curb the pace and persistence of inflation, which is being fueled by a strong consumer spending, pandemic-related supply disruptions and soaring energy prices that have been aggravated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

## Fewer Americans apply for jobless aid last week

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fewer Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week as the U.S. job market remains strong in the face of rising inflation and interest rates.

Applications for jobless aid fell by 3,000 to 229,000 for the week ending June 11, down from the previous week's 232,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. First-time applications generally represent the number of layoffs.

The four-week average for claims, which evens out some of the week-to-week volatility, rose by 2,750 from the previous week, to 218,500.

The total number of Americans collecting jobless benefits for the week ending June 4 was 1,312,000. That figure has hovered near 50-year lows for months.

While Americans have en-

joyed historically strong job security and higher wages recently, much of that has been offset by four-decade high inflation.

The Labor Department reported last week that consumer prices surged 8.6% last month — even more than in April — from a year earlier.

The Federal Reserve responded by raising its main borrowing rate by three-quarters of a point on Wednesday, its main tool for fighting rising prices.

The increase is on top of a half-point increase in early May.

Earlier this month, the government reported that U.S. employers added 390,000 jobs in May, extending a streak of solid hiring that has bolstered an economy under pressure.

Though the job growth in May was healthy, it was the lowest monthly gain in a year and there have been signs that even more layoffs could be on the horizon.

## Storm halts production at baby formula factory

Associated Press

Severe weather has forced Abbott Nutrition to pause production at a Michigan baby formula factory that had just restarted after being closed for several months, contributing to a national shortage.

Production for Abbott's EleCare specialty formula has been suspended, but there is enough supply to meet demand until production is restarted, the company said. Abbott had prioritized ramping up production of the specialty formula for infants with severe food allergies and digestive problems who have few other options for nutrition.

Abbott says it needs to assess damage and re-sanitize the factory after severe thunderstorms and heavy rains swept through southwestern Michigan late Monday. Spokesman Jonathon Hamilton said flooding hit a few areas of the factory, but he de-

clined to provide more specific details about the severity of the damage.

The storm also brought high winds, hail and power failures to Sturgis, Mich., where the factory is located. The company expects production and distribution to be delayed for a few weeks as it cleans the plant.

Once it restarts, the factory will begin with the production of EleCare and other specialty formulas. Abbott says it also plans to restart production of its Similac formula as soon as possible.

Abbott had initially restarted the factory on June 4 after it had been closed since February due to contamination.

The factory was closed after the Food and Drug Administration began investigating four bacterial infections among infants who consumed powdered formula from the plant. Two of the babies died.

# 1/6 panel: 'Un-American' to reject election

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The 1/6 committee on Thursday plunged into then-President Donald Trump's last-ditch effort to salvage the 2020 election by pressuring Vice President Mike Pence to defy historical precedent and reject the electoral count in the run-up to the U.S. Capitol riot.

With two witnesses, including Pence's counsel, the House panel intended to show that Trump's false claims of a fraudulent election left him grasping for alternatives as courts turned back dozens of lawsuits challenging the vote.

Trump latched onto conservative law professor John Eastman's obscure plan and launched a public and private pressure campaign on Pence days before the vice

president was to preside over the Jan. 6 joint session of Congress to certify Joe Biden's election victory. A federal judge has said it is "more likely than not" Trump committed crimes in his attempt to stop the certification. Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson opened the hearing citing Pence's own words that there is "almost no idea more un-American" than the one he was being asked to do — reject the vote.

"Trump wanted Mike Pence to do something no other vice president has ever done," Thompson said. "Our democracy came dangerously close to catastrophe."

The committee was hearing from Greg Jacob, the vice president's counsel who fended off Eastman's ideas for Pence to carry out the plan; and retired federal judge

Michael Luttig, who called the plan from Eastman, his former law clerk, "incorrect at every turn."

Thompson, D-Miss., also said Thursday the panel will ask Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, for an interview amid disclosures of the conservative activist's communications with people in Trump's orbit ahead of the attack.

"It's time for her to come talk," Thompson told reporters ahead of the hearing.

Thursday's session was expected to divulge new evidence about the danger Pence faced as the mob stormed the Capitol shouting "hang Mike Pence!" with a makeshift gallows on the Capitol grounds as the vice president fled with senators into hiding.

## Yellowstone floods threaten water supplies

*Associated Press*

BILLINGS, Mont. — Montana's largest city restarted its water plant Thursday after shutting it down amid record flooding that's caused widespread damage in Yellowstone National Park and surrounding communities.

Residents in ravaged areas, meanwhile, cleaned up from the mess and braced for the economic fallout while the park remains closed at the height of

tourist season.

The city of Billings had asked residents to conserve water because it was down to a limited supply when the Yellowstone River hit record high levels and triggered the closure of the treatment plant.

"We are aware yesterday's alert to the community caused a panic. That was never our hope," city officials said in a statement Thursday. "We have never witnessed a situation like

the one we saw yesterday ... we did not know how bad it could get or how long it would continue."

The floodwaters continued to move downstream. By Friday morning the flooding was expected to reach Miles City in eastern Montana. Local authorities said low-lying areas along the river could be flooded but there was no immediate risk to the city.

Officials had asked Billings

residents Wednesday to conserve water because it was down to a 24- to 36-hour supply after a combination of heavy rain and rapidly melting mountain snow raised the Yellowstone River to historic levels that forced them to shut down its water treatment plant.

"None of us planned a 500-year flood event on the Yellowstone when we designed these facilities," said Debi Meling, the city's public works director.

## EPA: 'Forever chemicals' risky even at low level

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency is warning that two non-stick and stain-resistant compounds found in drinking water are more dangerous than previously thought and pose health risks even at levels so low they cannot currently be detected.

The two compounds, known as PFOA and PFOS, have been voluntarily phased out by U.S. manufacturers, but there are a limited number of ongoing uses and the chemicals remain in the environment because they do not degrade over time. The compounds are part of a larger cluster of "forever chemicals" known as PFAS that have been used in

consumer products and industry since the 1940s. The EPA on Wednesday issued non-binding health advisories that set health risk thresholds for PFOA and PFOS to near zero, replacing 2016 guidelines that had set them at 70 parts per trillion. The chemicals are found in products including cardboard packaging, carpets and firefighting foam.

At the same time, the agency is inviting states and territories to apply for \$1 billion under the new bipartisan infrastructure law to address PFAS and other contaminants in drinking water. Money can be used for technical assistance, water quality testing, contractor training and installation of centralized treatment, officials said.

Several states have set their own drinking water limits to address PFAS contamination that are far tougher than the federal guidance. The toxic industrial compounds are associated with serious health conditions, including cancer and reduced birth weight.

"People on the front-lines of PFAS contamination have suffered for far too long," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement. "That's why EPA is taking aggressive action as part of a whole-of-government approach to prevent these chemicals from entering the environment and to help protect concerned families from this pervasive challenge."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### School damaged in blaze catches fire again

**ME** BATH — An elementary school that sustained heavy fire damage, forcing the cancellation of classes, caught fire for a second time on Monday.

Flames were seen coming from the roof of the Dike Newell School before firefighters doused the flames on Monday. Part of the roof collapsed, adding to the damage at the school.

The first fire raged late Friday and early Saturday and was deemed to be suspicious. A 30-year-old man was arrested and jailed on burglary and arson charges over the weekend.

The school, which serves pre-kindergarten through second grade, was closed Monday because of the first fire.

### Court nixes suit from woman who rescued dog

**NJ** TRENTON — A woman who says she suffered serious injuries while trying to save her neighbors' dog from a canal can't sue the pooch's owners, New Jersey's Supreme Court ruled on Monday.

The court unanimously rejected Ann Samolyk's claims that laws allowing legal action for injuries suffered while rescuing a person who put themselves in peril should allow her to sue for damages. But the justices acknowledged that the law could apply to property in some cases where protecting human life also is the ultimate aim.

In her lawsuit, Samolyk alleged she suffered neurological and cognitive damage after jumping into the canal in Lacey

Township at the New Jersey shore in 2017 to save the dog after she heard someone call for help. The dog was unharmed.

The court wrote that there could be circumstances in which trying to save property could qualify under the so-called rescue doctrine — for example, if a homeowner is injured trying to put out a fire in a nearby house on a reasonable belief that inhabitants might be in danger — but ruled those circumstances didn't exist in Samolyk's case.

### Teen escapes state custody for 3rd time

**LA** SHREVEPORT — Authorities are searching for a Louisiana teenager serving a sentence of juvenile life who escaped for the third time and is on the run.

The Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office, in a news release, said the 17-year-old escaped Monday while in transport from the Acadiana Center for Youth in Avoyelles Parish to a hospital for treatment of injuries on his hand, when he attacked the driver and fled.

"This is his third escape from Office of Juvenile Justice custody, and his second escape by escaping through hospitals," said Wilbert Pryor, special assistant to District Attorney James E. Stewart Sr.

The teenager was serving time for multiple felonies, including armed robbery, aggravated flight from an officer, illegal carrying of a weapon, escape, burglary of an inhabited dwelling and illegal possession of stolen things. His prison term was scheduled to end Jan. 4, 2026.

He's serving the maximum youth sentence for a 2018 robbery of a gas station and its clerk, using an AK-47 automatic rifle, and for his involvement in the 2018 killing of pizza deliveryman Lester McGee, for which he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

### Fire department saves dog from flooded car in canal

**NC** CURRITUCK — A dog trapped inside a car that was flooded and upside down in a canal in North Carolina survived for 20 minutes before volunteer firefighters rescued it, officials said.

In a Facebook post, the Crawford Township Volunteer Fire Department said it received a call at 12:56 a.m. on Sunday about an overturned vehicle in a canal in Moyock. When firefighters arrived, they found a convertible sports car and the driver, who was out of the vehicle. The dog was said to be missing, according to the post.

The department said firefighters reported hearing a whimpering sound coming from the car. A towing company overturned the car to help the volunteers gain access. The dog was found under the dash floorboard, where the volunteers say there was an air pocket. The dog suffered no apparent injuries.

### Out-of-fuel small plane lands on a city street

**AK** ANCHORAGE — A small airplane made an emergency landing on a street near downtown Anchorage after it ran out of fuel, officials said.

A Cessna 150 on a training flight was attempting to return

to the city's small plane airport when it made the landing in a commercial area Monday at about 9 p.m., the Anchorage Daily News reported.

A flight instructor and a student pilot were on board, said Clint Johnson, head of the Alaska division of the National Transportation Safety Board. There were no injuries, and the plane was not damaged.

The plane pulled into a nearby parking lot after landing. After it was refueled, the plane taxied to the nearby airport under a police escort, said Anchorage Police spokesperson Renee Oistad.

### State sues over how trash bags are marketed

**CT** HARTFORD — Connecticut has filed a lawsuit accusing Reynolds Consumer Products of illegally marketing trash bags as recycling bags, even though the bags themselves cannot be recycled.

The Hefty brand bags are advertised by the company as "perfect for all your recycling needs" and "designed to handle all types of recyclables." But Attorney General William Tong said the bags themselves cannot go into the state's single-stream recycling system and accused the company of false and deceptive marketing practices in violation of the state's Unfair Trade Practices Act.

"Hefty Recycling Bags are not recyclable, and any recyclable items inside them are tossed on the trash heap," Tong said.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday, seeks unspecified monetary damages, as well as an order that would prevent further deception, Tong said.

— From wire reports

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# Avs edge Lightning in OT in Game 1

Associated Press

DENVER — Facing the two-time defending champion Tampa Bay Lightning put the Colorado Avalanche at a sizeable experience disadvantage going into the Stanley Cup Final.

When the puck dropped, the Avalanche showed they could use their speed to offset Tampa Bay's players who have been here, done that. And it doesn't hurt to have a guy who also hoisted the Cup.

Andre Burakovsky scored 1:23 into overtime to give Colorado a 4-3 victory in Game 1 on Wednesday night and put the Avs up in a series that's shaping up to be a classic. Burakovsky is one of only two Colorado players with Stanley Cup rings, and that came in handy.

"I've been there, and I kind of know the situation," said Burakovsky, who also scored two big goals in Game 7 of the East finals against the Lightning in 2018 when he won it all with Washington. "I've been through

it, and I kind of know what to expect and the pace and what's at stake here."

The pace? Furious. The stakes? Either Tampa Bay finishing off the first NHL three-peat in almost four decades or the Avalanche's first championship after years of playoff disappointments.

Colorado, with the fast start, showed how it can use its speed to knock even the most seasoned opponents back on their heels. Backstopped by Darcy Kuemper, the no-doubt after all choice to start in goal now that he's healthy, the penalty kill was aggressive in going 3-for-3 against the Lightning's potent power play.

An early penalty kill built momentum for the Avs, who opened the scoring on captain Gabriel Landeskog's goal 40 seconds after Josh Manson's penalty expired. Manson — one of general manager Joe Sakic's expensive trade deadline pickups — more than made up for a

holding the stick minor with several big hits.

Artturi Lehkonen, the team's other deadline acquisition, also kept up his knack for scoring key goals. He had their third goal of the first period after Valeri Nichuskin scored the second as part of a dominant performance all over the ice.

The Lightning's latest additions also played a major role, with Nick Paul outracing Colorado defenseman Jack Johnson to a loose puck for a goal in the first that limited the damage and kept the defending champs in the game. Brandon Hagel, who has been banged up and was a question mark to play, got beaten to a loose puck by Landeskog, an uncharacteristic goal for reigning playoff MVP Andrei Vasilevskiy to give up by letting the initial shot sneak through under his left arm.

Of course, Tampa Bay counterpunched.

In another example of what

has made the Lightning the NHL's best team over the past three years, they turned the tide in the second period with goals by Ondrej Palat and Mikhail Sergachev 48 seconds apart.

"We're playing a really good team and they're not going to roll over and lay back," Avs coach Jared Bednar said. "They're going to have push-back."

So did his team, clamping down with another big kill in the third period to finish what Landeskog called a "resilient win."

Colorado outshot Tampa Bay 38-23, and there was no argument from the losing side about the result of the series opener between two evenly matched opponents.

"There's some positive signs for us in this game," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "But the right team won the game, so give them credit for pulling it out."

## Tampa Bay looks like the newcomer in opener

Associated Press

DENVER — The Tampa Bay Lightning weren't the ones who looked like the two-time defending champions in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday night.

The Colorado Avalanche, playing for the first time in nine nights, raced to 2-0 and 3-1 leads in the first period by punching pucks past otherworldly goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy, who had allowed just 2.27 goals per game in these playoffs.

"The first 10 minutes, we weren't our best," Lightning forward Patrick Maroon said. "We weren't our best tonight. But I like the finish in our game, though."

Except for the actual ending. Colorado withstood Tampa Bay's rally to improve to 13-2 in

these playoffs and prevail 4-3 on Andre Burakovsky's goal 1:23 into overtime.

The winner came after a turnover by Mikhail Sergachev, whose second-period goal tied it at 3.

Home teams have won 64 consecutive Final games when leading by two or more goals, per ESPN. The last team to blow a two-goal lead and lose was the New York Rangers against Vancouver in 1994.

The Avalanche peppered reigning playoffs MVP Vasilevskiy with pucks in the first period and Ball Arena was rocking, those \$1,000 tickets looking like bargains.

Colorado scored a whopping 65 goals in 14 playoff games to reach the Stanley Cup Final — its 6.46 scoring average the best

in the playoffs in 30 years — and it netted two more goals in the first 10 minutes of the first period.

The two-time defending champions' pedigree showed up with Ondrej Palat and Sergachev scoring goals less than a minute apart in the second period against Darcy Kuemper, who was playing in his first game since May 31 against Edmonton, to knot things at 3.

It stayed that way until 1:23 into overtime.

Lightning coach Jon Cooper insisted Vasilevskiy wasn't to blame for the loss, suggesting nobody in a Tampa Bay sweater played better than his goaltender who stopped 22 straight shots before Burakovsky's winner eluded his left skate.

"Vassy, obviously, is a differ-

ence maker," Sergachev said. "He is the best goalie in the world. He's our best player. So he's a difference-maker and he can steal games, he can win games by himself. He almost did it tonight."

Vasilevskiy allowed three goals in a first period of a playoff game for the first time in his career, according to NHL Stats.

The Avalanche's legs were both fast and fresh in their first game in nine days and their first Stanley Cup appearance in 21 years.

Throw in the altitude and Colorado's attitude, maybe some choppy ice and definitely some uneven play early on from Vasilevskiy, who allowed uncharacteristic goals like the one Valeri Nichuskin put past him in the first period.

# Kerr knows winning as player, coach

*Associated Press*

BOSTON — He hit a championship-winning shot with Michael Jordan. He calls the shots for Stephen Curry.

From clutch to coach, Steve Kerr has done it all for some of basketball's biggest winners. Any team that can claim to be a dynasty across the last 30 years of the NBA has some link to Golden State's coach.

Now back in Boston, the winning Warrior is a victory away from a ninth NBA championship. It used to be that to win that much, you had to be a Celtic.

Kerr just has to beat them.

If Golden State wins Game 6 on Thursday night, forget about another banner being hung in Boston. Instead, Kerr will be celebrating underneath them.

If so, he will credit Curry and Klay Thompson, just as he did as a player with Jordan and Scottie Pippen, or Tim Duncan and David Robinson, when trying to explain his success.

"Just hanging around the right people," he said with a smile. "You hang around superstars long enough, you're going to get some residual success falling your way."

There's more to it than that, of course. Talent may take a team to the top, but staying there — and then getting back again after being knocked down — demands more than that. It requires understanding the

personnel on the court and the personalities in the locker room.

It means thinking the game as well as playing it, and Kerr does that with the best of them.

"The man's knowledge for the game is second to none," Thompson said.

Kerr hasn't won quite like Bill Russell, the Celtics Hall of Fame center who pocketed 11 rings as a player. Nor as much as Phil Jackson, who won 11 of his own as a coach.

Yet, when it comes to combining winning as a player and a coach, few have done it better than Kerr.

He won five titles in uniform with Chicago and San Antonio. Add in three as the Warriors' boss on the bench, and he is the first person in NBA history to win at least three championships as a player and a coach.

Throw in a couple of stints as an analyst for TNT around his time as general manager of the Phoenix Suns, and Kerr has seen NBA basketball from almost every angle.

"I mean, Steve has had such an incredible, unique career, from player to coach, GM. He just knows how to jell talent together," Thompson said. "Then he draws from his playing days, which is really cool to hear and talk about, playing with Mike and Scottie, the Twin Towers in San Antonio."

Kerr wasn't a player like those Hall of Fame talents. A second-round pick in the 1988 draft, he started only 30 games in his career. He never averaged double figures in any of his 15 seasons, sticking around that long by being a good teammate and a better shooter.

Most players aren't superstars, and because he wasn't, Kerr makes it a point of reaching out to players like himself.

Celtics guard Derrick White remembers Kerr helping make him comfortable when he was promoted to the U.S. roster for the 2019 Basketball World Cup after originally only being a player on the team practicing against the Americans.

Being a role player doesn't mean Kerr didn't have a big role.

Curry may be considered the greatest outside shooter ever, but it's Kerr whose 45.4% career mark from three-point range is tops in NBA history. He knocked down the jumper to secure the Bulls' 1997 championship, joking during the victory celebration in Chicago that he stepped up to take the shot because Jordan didn't feel comfortable doing so.

The confidence Kerr showed on the floor then is the same he demonstrates in the huddle now, a resolve that Draymond Green says makes Golden State feel "invincible."

## Source: Rockets deal Wood to Mavs for 4 players, pick

*Associated Press*

A person with direct knowledge of the agreement said the Houston Rockets are trading center Christian Wood, their leading scorer and rebounder this season, to the Dallas Mavericks in exchange for four players and a draft pick.

Boban Marjanovic, Trey Burke, Sterling Brown and Marquese Chriss are going to the Rockets, who will also receive the No. 26 pick this year, according to the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade is not finalized.

It will not be finalized until the June 23 draft, the person said.

It is a major move for the Mavericks, after Wood averaged

17.9 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. He was one of nine players to average at least 17 points and 10 rebounds, joining Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, two-time MVP Nikola Jokic of Denver, Miami's Bam Adebayo, Sacramento's Domantas Sabonis, New Orleans' Jonas Valanciunas, Chicago's Nikola Vucevic and Phoenix's Deandre Ayton.

Wood is entering the final season of a three-year, \$41 million contract. He revealed to reporters in Houston last week that he had preliminary talks with the Rockets on an extension, though it isn't known if one side balked or if it simply became clear that he wasn't going to be in the

team's long-term plans.

Either way, now Dallas star Luka Doncic gets another talented option to surround himself with next season. Wood has become a much better three-point shooter as his career goes along; his 131 makes from beyond the arc this season matched his total from the previous two seasons combined.

Houston also currently has two other first-round picks in the draft — including No. 3, with the most likely selection in that spot being Auburn's Jabari Smith, Gonzaga's Chet Holmgren or Duke's Paolo Banchero. Orlando picks No. 1, followed by Oklahoma City at No. 2, and there has been much speculation that Banchero would fall to

the Rockets.

The Rockets also have the No. 17 selection, acquiring that from Brooklyn as part of the James Harden trade in January 2021.

Wood averaged 50% shooting this season, including 39% from three-point range. Dallas will be the 26-year-old's seventh team in seven NBA seasons, after stints in Philadelphia, Charlotte, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Detroit and Houston.

His breakout started in an eight-game stint with the Pelicans in 2018-19, averaging 16.9 points. He averaged 21.0 points with the Rockets last season, his first as a full-time starter, and appeared in a career-most 68 games with Houston this season.

# Astros throw 2 immaculate innings in win

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Astros starter Luis Garcia and reliever Phil Maton each threw an immaculate inning — nine pitches, three strikeouts — and Martín Maldonado keyed a six-run first inning that sent Houston over the Texas Rangers 9-2 on Wednesday.

Maldonado hit a two-run double in the first and later homered for the AL West-leading Astros.

Garcia (4-5) struck out nine without a walk over six innings while limiting the Rangers to two runs and four hits. He had a span of five consecutive strikeouts that began with an immaculate second inning — when he threw only nine pitches to strike out Nathaniel Lowe, Ezequiel Duran and Brad Miller.

Those were the first three batters Maton faced after replacing Garcia to start the seventh. And Maton also recorded a nine-pitch, three-strikeout inning.

Houston and Texas officials said it was the first time in MLB history to have two nine-pitch, three-strikeout innings in the same game — either both by one team, or each team recording one.

**Dodgers 4, Angels 1:** Tyler Anderson of the Dodgers lost his no-hit bid in the ninth inning against the Angels when he gave up a one-out triple to Shohei Ohtani.

Anderson (8-0) threw a career-high 123 pitches. He struck out eight and walked two in lowering his ERA to 2.82. The left-hander was pulled after Ohtani sent a line drive into right field that eluded a diving Mookie Betts.

**Braves 8, Nationals 2:** Austin Riley homered twice, rookie Spencer Strider allowed one hit over 5⅓ innings and visiting Atlanta beat Washington for its 14th straight victory.

Orlando Arcia had a homer, three singles and a walk for the Braves, who swept a three-game series at the Nationals' home park.

**Yankees 4, Rays 3:** Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 25th home run, No. 9 batter Kyle Higashioka followed an intentional walk with a three-run drive and New York beat Tampa Bay for its 13th straight win at home.

Nestor Cortes (6-2) outpitched Shane McCannahan (7-3) in a matchup of stellar starters with sub-2.00 ERAs, and Clay Holmes matched Mariano Rivera's team record

of 28 consecutive scoreless appearances, remaining perfect in 11 save chances.

**Phillies 3, Marlins 1:** Garrett Stubbs hit a three-run homer with two out in the ninth inning, sending host Philadelphia past Miami.

Alec Bohm sparked the winning rally with a one-out single against Tanner Scott (2-2). Pinch-hitter J.T. Realmuto walked. Two batters later, Stubbs drove a 2-2 fastball deep to right for his third homer.

**White Sox 13, Tigers 0:** Yoán Moncada had five hits and five RBIs, and Chicago completed a three-game sweep of host Detroit.

**Red Sox 10, Athletics 1:** Rafael Devers homered in his fourth straight game and Alex Verdugo hit his first home run in almost two months as host Boston beat Oakland.

**Brewers 10, Mets 2:** Corbin Burnes bounced back from his two shortest outings of the season to pitch six innings of two-run ball, Willy Adames got two of his three hits in a seven-run fifth and Milwaukee rolled at New York.

**Blue Jays 7, Orioles 6 (10):** Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 16th homer, then singled home the winning run in the 10th in-

ning to lift host Toronto over Baltimore.

**Diamondbacks 7, Reds 4:** Zac Gallen pitched seven effective innings despite an early bout of wildness, and host Arizona used a four-run eighth inning to top Cincinnati.

**Twins 5, Mariners 0:** Ryan Jeffers hit an RBI single off the center-field wall to break a scoreless tie in the seventh inning and Minnesota won at Seattle.

**Royals 3, Giants 2:** Whit Merrifield broke a 2-2 tie with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly and Kansas City won at San Francisco to avoid a three-game sweep.

**Pirates 6, Cardinals 4:** Bryan Reynolds hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning and Pittsburgh ended a nine-game skid by winning at St. Louis.

**Guardians 7, Rockies 5:** José Ramírez got four more hits, Steven Kwan made a remarkable diving catch in the seventh inning to preserve the lead and Cleveland topped host Colorado for its 12th win in 15 games.

**Padres 19, Cubs 5:** Manny Machado singled for his 1,500th hit and launched a two-run homer on a four-RBI night to help San Diego romp at Chicago.

# IndyCar watches points leader continually change

Associated Press

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. — Another week, another driver atop the points standings in this extraordinary IndyCar season.

Marcus Ericsson of Chip Ganassi Racing overtook Team Penske's Will Power and moved back into the points lead after a second-place finish Sunday at Road America. The points lead has changed hands after each of the last six events.

"Yeah, I'd like to stop that," Ericsson quipped after the race.

Ericsson is assured of remaining atop the standings for at least a little while longer because the IndyCar Series is taking the next two weeks off before heading to Mid-Ohio

on July 3.

After that, anything's possible this year.

Drivers have said the IndyCar field is as balanced as it's ever been. That's evident from all the shuffling at the top of the standings each week. All that depth makes consistency more important than ever.

"We say every year it's the closest competition we ever had," said Team Penske's Josef Newgarden, the Road America winner. "Somehow it keeps getting tighter. It must be just the development of this car has really hit a fine point. You're just constantly tuning little things now, millimeters of changes. The driving style is getting tighter, with simulators, all this stuff you can analyze. It's

impossible to hide something from the competition. Yeah, it is very difficult to win these races consistently."

Newgarden has won three of the first eight races, yet is only third in the points standings, behind Ericsson and Power. Newgarden's issue is that he has finished 13th or lower in four races, including a low of 25th on the Indianapolis road course.

Other drivers near the top of the standings hurt themselves in that regard Sunday.

Alex Palou, the defending points champion and the 2021 victor at Road America, got knocked out of contention after tangling with Ericsson in the opening laps and finished last in the 27-person field.