

## Air Force reaches missile milestone

By DOUG G. WARE

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Air Force on Monday carried out the first live-fire test of its first hypersonic weapon, which can travel at least five times the speed of sound, according to service officials.

The Air Force and contractor Lockheed Martin have been developing the AGM-183A air-to-ground missile system — better known as the ARRW — since 2018.

“The ARRW team successfully designed and tested an air-launched hypersonic missile in five years,” said Brig. Gen. Jason Bartolomei, the program executive officer for weapons and director of the Armament Directorate.

The “all-up-round” test was done off the

coast of Southern California, and it appears “all objectives were met,” the Air Force said. An all-up-round test is one that evaluates the weapon in its fully assembled condition. The end-to-end test succeeded when the live warhead struck and detonated in a previously designated area in the Pacific.

Last week, the Air Force cleared the initial hurdle in this late-stage testing process — loading the system onto a B-52 bomber and taking it back off.

Making that step allowed the Air Force to move on to live-fire testing. Lockheed has said the ARRW should become operational within a year.

The live-fire test marked the first launch of a full prototype operational ARRW missile, Air Force officials said.

Test earlier this year focused on evaluating the booster — a rocket-powered vehicle that carries the warhead to hypersonic speeds before releasing it to strike a target.

“With this test, we are on the cusp of an operational capability that can be deployed to the men and women in uniform,” Lockheed Vice President of Air Dominance and Strike Weapons Jay Pitman said in a statement.

The Pentagon has been focused on adding modern hypersonic components for years, particularly when it became known that military competitors such as Russia and China were also racing toward the technology.

Claims by Moscow that Russian forces have already used a hypersonic missile in Ukraine this year have not been confirmed by U.S. defense or intelligence officials.

## GAO finds career counseling attendance falling short

By ALISON BATH

*Stars and Stripes*

More than half of all service members leaving active duty don’t attend a mandatory class designed to help them prepare for civilian life, according to a recent report by a government watchdog agency.

The military services collectively waived the attendance requirement 53% of the time for a two-day course under the Transition Assistance Program, the Government Accountability Office found.

The Air Force and Navy, at 92% and 86% respectively, had the highest percentage of waivers for the course granted during a study period lasting from April 1, 2021, to March 30, 2022.

Service members’ readiness for civilian life is assessed using a three-tier ranking system based on the level of help needed. Service members in the third tier require maximum support. They’re typically younger, lack a college education and have fewer skills, the report stated.

Of the 119,261 active-duty service members rated over the study period, about 41,000 were assigned to tier 3, according to the study. The GAO found that 22% of those in the third tier, or nearly 11,000, received waivers for the class.

“TAP staff we interviewed at two installations expressed concern that 2-day class attendance was waived for too many service members, which could undermine their successful transition,” the report stated.

Most TAP counseling pathways participants did not start the program at least a year before their separation as required, potentially impacting their chances of a successful transition, according to the study.

The study included interviews with program officials and participants at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii; Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina; Scott Air Force Base in Illinois; and U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria in Germany.

Researchers found that although the services and TAP policy office collected and reviewed data related to the two-day classes, officials did not fully use that information to understand or improve results.

But the study also showed that more than 90% of transitioning service members participated in the overarching program and that attendance of the 2-day class had increased over previous years.

TAP services include a self-assessment, initial counseling and an analysis of preparedness. All transitioning service members

must attend a three-day class covering topics such as financial readiness, translating military skills to a civilian environment, veterans benefits and services, and employment.

Two-day classes designed specifically to meet service members’ interests and goals cover topics such as employment, higher education, vocational training and entrepreneurship.

The report noted there are some exceptions, such as if there is compelling belief that a service member will not face major challenges or has been deployed, that allow waiving the requirement. The secretary of defense may waive the participation requirement or delegate that authority, the study noted.

The GAO made several recommendations. One urged the services to better analyze TAP performance information “on when service members begin initial and pre-separation counseling to develop and implement a corrective action plan to improve timeliness.”

“Such analyses could help (DOD) officials better understand which tier 3 service members are at greatest risk of not attending a 2-day class,” the report stated. “It could also help them develop effective corrective action plans.”

# US poised to OK Patriots for Ukraine amid urgency

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The United States is poised to approve sending a Patriot missile battery to Ukraine, finally agreeing to an urgent request from Ukrainian leaders desperate for more robust weapons to shoot down incoming Russian attacks, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

The approval is likely to come later this week and could be announced as early as Thursday, said three officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision is not final and has not been made public.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pressed Western leaders as recently as Monday to provide more advanced weapons to help his country.

Providing Patriot surface-to-air missiles would advance the kinds of defense systems the West is sending to help Ukraine repel Russian aerial attacks, and could mark an escalation.

During a video conference on Monday, Zelenskyy told host Germany and other leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers that his country needed long-range missiles, modern tanks, artillery and missile batteries and other high-tech air defense systems to counter Russian attacks that have knocked out electricity and water supplies for millions of Ukrainians.

He acknowledged that, “Unfortunately, Russia still has an advantage in artillery and missiles.”

And he said that protecting Ukraine’s energy facilities from Russian missiles and Iranian drones “will be the protection of the whole of Europe, since with these strikes Russia is provoking a humanitarian and migration catastrophe not only for Ukraine, but also for the entire EU.”

White House and Pentagon leaders have said consistently that providing Ukraine with additional air defenses is a priority, and Patriot missiles have been under consideration for some time.

In other Ukraine war developments Tuesday:

■ Dozens of countries and international organizations threw their weight and more than 1 billion dollars in aid pledges behind an urgent new push to keep Ukrainians powered, fed, warmed and moving as winter approaches.

An international donor conference in Paris quickly racked up substantial promises of financial and in-kind support, a defiant response to sustained Russian aerial bombardment of critical infrastructure that has plunged millions of Ukrainian civilians into deepening cold and dark.

# Future of key US Navy hub hinges on talks

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Negotiations now underway between the United Kingdom and a tiny Indian Ocean nation could have significant repercussions for a strategically located U.S. Navy installation on the island of Diego Garcia.

The British Indian Ocean Territory, which includes Diego Garcia, has been mired in controversy since the late 1960s when the British expelled the roughly 2,000 island inhabitants to clear the way for construction of a joint U.K.-U.S. military base.

Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia hosts units from the U.S. Navy, Air Force and Space Force and the U.K. Royal Navy. Located in the center of the Indian Ocean, the island’s airfield can accommodate bombers, which are in relatively close range of Middle Eastern and South Asian hotspots.

The original 50-year agreement between the United States and U.K. was extended in 2016 and is set to expire in 2036.

Most of the locals forced out 50 years ago ended up in Mauritius and the Seychelles, where many have petitioned to return.

Mauritius has also maintained it holds rightful sovereignty over the entire British Indian Ocean Territory. The U.K. has consistently rejected Mauritius’ claims and insisted that returning the original inhabitants would not be feasible.

Last month, the U.K. and Mauritian governments announced they would begin negotiations to resolve “all outstanding issues” on the territory, according to a brief published by The House of Commons Library.

U.S. officials have shown no inclination to abandon the island, a position highlighted last week during a visit to Diego Garcia by the head of U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Adm. Samuel Paparo spent Thursday and Friday meeting with the installation’s leadership, uniformed personnel and contract workers to discuss the importance of the facility for supporting operational forces deployed to the Indian Ocean, the Navy said in a news release Friday.

“The visit underscored the strategic importance of Diego Garcia to an enduring free and open Indo-Pacific by enabling presence, assured access and defense to the global commons,” the news release said.

# China urges its citizens to leave Afghanistan after Kabul attack

*Associated Press*

ISLAMABAD — China on Tuesday advised its citizens in Afghanistan to leave the country “as soon as possible,” following a coordinated attack by Islamic State militants the previous day on a Chinese-owned hotel in the heart of Kabul.

The Chinese advisory appeared to be a setback for Afghanistan’s Taliban rulers who seek foreign investments in hopes of halting the downward spiral of the Afghan economy since their takeover of the country more than a year ago.

The militant ISIS — a key rival of the Taliban — claimed responsibility for the at-

tack Monday afternoon on Kabul Longan Hotel, which left three assailants dead and at least two hotel guests injured as they tried to escape by jumping out of a window.

Plumes of smoke rose from the 10-story building in the central Shar-e Naw neighborhood, according to images posted on social media as the attack unfolded. Residents reported explosions and gunfire. Taliban forces rushed to the area and blocked all roads leading to the site. Khalid Zadran, the Taliban-appointed spokesman for the Kabul police chief, said the attack lasted several hours, followed by a clean-up operation.

# Scientists tout fusion energy breakthrough

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm announced a “major scientific breakthrough” Tuesday in the decadeslong quest to harness fusion, the energy that powers the sun and stars.

Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California for the first time produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, something called net energy gain, the Energy Department said.

The achievement will pave the way for advancements in national defense and the future of clean power, Granholm and other officials said.

Granholm was appearing alongside Livermore researchers at a news conference in Washington.

“This is a landmark achievement for the researchers and staff at the National Ignition Facility who have dedicated their careers to seeing fusion ignition become a reality, and this milestone will undoubtedly

spark even more discovery,” Granholm said, adding that the breakthrough “will go down in the history books.”

White House science adviser Arati Prabhakar, appearing with Granholm, called the fusion ignition “a tremendous example of what persistence can achieve” and “an engineering marvel beyond belief.”

Proponents of fusion hope that it could one day produce nearly limitless, carbon-free energy, displacing fossil fuels and other traditional energy sources. Producing energy that powers homes and businesses from fusion is still decades away. But researchers said it was a significant step nonetheless.

“It’s almost like it’s a starting gun going off,” said professor Dennis Whyte, director of the Plasma Science and Fusion Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a leader in fusion research. “We should be pushing towards making fusion energy systems available to tackle climate change and energy security.”

Net energy gain has been an elusive goal because fusion happens at such high temperatures and pressures that it is incredibly difficult to control.

Fusion works by pressing hydrogen atoms into each other with such force that they combine into helium, releasing enormous amounts of energy and heat. Unlike other nuclear reactions, it doesn’t create radioactive waste.

Billions of dollars and decades of work have gone into fusion research that has produced exhilarating results — for fractions of a second. Previously, researchers at the National Ignition Facility, the division of Lawrence Livermore where the success took place, used 192 lasers and temperatures multiple times hotter than the center of the sun to create an extremely brief fusion reaction.

The lasers focus an enormous amount of heat on a small metal can. The result is a superheated plasma environment where fusion may occur.

## Students OK to study from home amid COVID fears in China

Associated Press

BEIJING — Some Chinese universities say they will allow students to finish the semester from home in hopes of reducing the potential of a bigger COVID-19 outbreak during the January Lunar New Year travel rush.

It wasn’t clear how many schools were taking part, but universities in Shanghai and

nearby cities said students would be given the option of either returning home early or staying on campus and undergoing testing every 48 hours. The Lunar New Year, which falls on Jan. 22 this year, is traditionally China’s busiest travel season.

Universities have been the scene of frequent lockdowns over the past three years, occa-

sionally leading to clashes between the authorities and students confined to campus or even their dorm rooms.

Tuesday’s announcements came as China begins relaxing its strict “zero-COVID” policy, allowing people with mild symptoms to stay home rather than be sent to a quarantine center, among other changes that followed widespread protests.

Starting from Tuesday, China has stopped tracking some travel, potentially reducing the likelihood people will be forced into quarantine for visiting COVID-19 hot spots. Despite that, China’s international borders remain largely shut and there has been no word on when restrictions on inbound travelers and Chinese wishing to go overseas will be eased.

## Former FTX CEO faces charges for financial crimes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. prosecutors charged Sam Bankman-Fried, the founder and former CEO of cryptocurrency exchange FTX, with a host of financial crimes and campaign finance violations on Tuesday, alleging he played a central role in the rapid collapse of FTX and hid its problems from the public and investors.

The indictment says Bankman-Fried allegedly committed a yearslong fraud by diverting investors’ funds to his private hedge fund and using the money to make venture investments, lavish real estate purchases and large political donations.

Bankman-Fried, who was arrested Monday by Bahamian authorities at the request of the U.S. government, was charged with eight counts, ranging from wire fraud to money laundering to conspiracy to commit fraud on the United States. He was also charged with making more than \$25,000 in illegal campaign contributions, a notable charge as Bankman-Fried was one of the largest political donors this year.

The indictment is on top of civil charges announced earlier Tuesday by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which also alleged Bankman-Fried defrauded investors and used proceeds from investors to

buy real estate on behalf of himself and family.

Along with the charges, U.S. authorities will seek to have Bankman-Fried forfeit all financial gains he might have received as part of the scheme. They are expected to request his extradition to the U.S., although the timing of that request is unclear. FTX filed for bankruptcy on Nov. 11, when it ran out of money after the cryptocurrency equivalent of a bank run.

The maximum potential prison exposure from these charges is 115 years, according to Nicholas Biase, a prosecutors spokesperson.



# Inflation slowed to 7.1% over past year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Inflation in the United States slowed again last month in the latest sign that price increases are gradually cooling despite the pressures they continue to inflict on American households.

Consumer prices rose 7.1% in November from a year ago, the government said Tuesday. That was down from 7.7% in October and a recent peak of 9.1% in June. It was the fifth straight slowdown.

On a month-to-month basis, the consumer price index rose just 0.1% in November, down from 0.4% in October.

Even with last month's further easing of inflation, the Federal Reserve plans to keep raising interest rates. On Wednesday, the Fed is set to boost its benchmark rate for a seventh time this year, a move that will

further raise borrowing costs for consumers and businesses. Economists have warned that in continuing to tighten credit to fight inflation, the Fed is likely to cause a recession next year.

Tuesday's government report showed that inflation in November was slowed by less expensive gasoline, electricity and used cars, among other items.

Several trends have started to reduce price pressures, though they won't likely be enough to bring overall inflation back down to levels that Americans were used to anytime soon. The national average for a gallon of regular gas has sunk from \$5 a gallon in June to \$3.26 as of Monday. Many supply chains have also unsnarled, helping reduce the costs of imported goods and parts. Prices for lumber, copper, wheat and other commodities have fallen steadily,

which tends to lead to lower construction and food costs.

To some economists and Fed officials, such figures are a sign of improvement, even though inflation remains far above the central bank's annual 2% target and might not reach it until 2024.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said he is tracking price trends in three different categories to best understand the likely path of inflation: Goods, excluding volatile food and energy costs; housing, which includes rents and the cost of homeownership; and services excluding housing, such as auto insurance, pet services and education.

In a speech two weeks ago, Powell noted that there had been some progress in easing inflation in goods and housing but not so in most services. Physical goods like used cars, furniture,

clothing and appliances have become steadily less expensive since the summer.

Used car prices, which had skyrocketed 45% in June 2021 compared with a year earlier, have fallen for most of this year.

Housing costs, which make up nearly a third of the consumer price index, are still rising. But real-time measures of apartment rents and home prices are starting to drop after having posted sizzling price acceleration at the height of the pandemic. Powell said those declines will likely emerge in government data next year and should help reduce overall inflation.

Still, services costs are likely to stay persistently high, Powell suggested. In part, that's because sharp increases in wages are becoming a key contributor to inflation.

## Massive storm in US brings tornadoes, blizzard threat

Associated Press

DALLAS — A massive storm blowing across the country spawned tornadoes in parts of Oklahoma and Texas, as much of the United States from the Rocky Mountains to the Midwest braced Tuesday for blizzardlike conditions.

An area stretching from Montana into western Nebraska and Colorado was under blizzard warnings, and the National Weather Service said that as much as 2 feet of snow was possible in some areas of western South Dakota and northwestern Nebraska. Ice and sleet were expected in the eastern Great Plains.

Meanwhile, damage was reported in the Oklahoma town of Wayne after the weather service warned of a "confirmed tornado" shortly after 5 a.m. Tuesday. There were no deaths or injuries due to the tornado, McClain

County Sheriff's Capt. Bryan Murrell said. But as authorities began assessing its impact, it was clear there was widespread damage to Wayne, which is about 45 miles south of Oklahoma City.

"We've got multiple family structures with significant damage... barns, power lines down" in and around the town, Murrell said.

National Weather Service meteorologist Doug Speheger said wind speeds reached 111-135 mph and the tornado was rated EF-2.

In parts of Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, the National Weather Service warned that up to about half an inch of ice could form and winds could gust up to 45 mph.

All of western Nebraska was under a blizzard warning from Tuesday through Thursday, and the National Weather Service said up to 20 inches of snow was expected in the northwest.

## Twitter disbands its Trust and Safety advisory group

Associated Press

Elon Musk's Twitter has dissolved its Trust and Safety Council, the advisory group of around 100 independent civil, human rights and other organizations that the company formed in 2016 to address hate speech, child exploitation, suicide, self-harm and other problems on the platform.

The council had been scheduled to meet with Twitter representatives Monday. But Twitter informed the group via email that it was disbanding it shortly before the meeting was to take place, according to multiple members.

The council members, who provided images of the email from Twitter to The Associated Press, spoke on the condition of anonymity due to fears of retaliation. The email said Twitter was "reevaluating how best to bring external insights" and the council is "not the best structure to do this."

"Our work to make Twitter a safe, informative place will be moving faster and more aggressively than ever before," said the email. It was signed "Twitter."

The volunteer group provided expertise and guidance on how Twitter could better combat hate, harassment and other harms but didn't have any decision-making authority and didn't review content disputes. Shortly after buying Twitter for \$44 billion in late October, Musk said he would form a new "content moderation council" to help make major decisions but later changed his mind.

"Twitter's Trust and Safety Council was a group of volunteers who over many years gave up their time when consulted by Twitter staff to offer advice on a wide range of online harms and safety issues," tweeted council member Alex Holmes. "At no point was it a governing body or decision making."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Rogue iguana causes widespread power outage

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — Iguanas are skilled saboteurs when it comes to the electric grid, a power outage in Lake Worth Beach revealed.

A large green iguana ended up on a transformer at the city's Sixth Avenue substation, causing over 1,400 customers in the area east of Dixie Highway and south of Lake Avenue to lose power for about 35 minutes, the time it took for a team from the city, which provides its own utilities, to arrive on scene with safety equipment and extricate the reptile before starting the system up again. The iguana died.

"Nothing is going to survive that situation," said Ben Kerr, a spokesperson for the city of Lake Worth Beach who lives a block away from the affected area. "The pictures are horrible every time this happens."

It happens frequently. So much so that the city has instituted several "hardening" measures to protect critical infrastructure from iguanas, such as making utility poles more difficult to climb.

### Over 200 guns collected at city's buyback event

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Community organizers in Albuquerque said they have collected more than 200 unwanted guns at the latest buyback event.

It was the event's 17th year and organizers said their goal is to help curb gun violence across the region.

Of the guns collected, 18 were assault rifles.

People traded in guns for a gift card.

"We ran out of cards after the first two hours. We went through \$26,000 worth of cards," Miranda Viscoli, co-president of New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence, told Albuquerque TV station KOB. "We ran out and people were still showing up with guns and they say, 'I don't care about the gift card. I just don't want to have this gun in my home anymore.'"

Organizers said they plan to donate the dismantled guns to an Albuquerque charter school where students will learn how to forge the parts into gardening tools.

### State sues gun shop over high-capacity mag sales

**WA** SEATTLE — Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson is suing a Federal Way gun shop, saying it unlawfully sold high-capacity magazines to investigators during a compliance operation.

Federal Way Discount Guns was one of just two gun stores — out of 25 tested across the state — that failed to comply with the law, Ferguson said. The store did not immediately return an email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Lawmakers adopted the ban on high-capacity magazines this year at Ferguson's request, and the sting was the first effort by his office to enforce compliance.

According to the attorney general's office, investigators visited Federal Way Discount Guns four times from August to November, observing a wall of high-capacity magazines for sale. A clerk or the store's owner, Mohammed Reza Baghai,

sold investigators nine such magazines — including a 50-round drum magazine, two 30-round magazines for an AR-15 style rifle and a 33-round magazine for a Glock 17 pistol, Ferguson said.

During each sale, a store representative destroyed the record of sale or made comments suggesting they knew the sale was illegal, he said.

### 12-year-old boy charged with murder in fatal crash

**TX** DALLAS — A 12-year-old boy has been arrested and charged with murder in a hit-and-run car crash that killed an 82-year-old woman last month, Dallas police said.

Police said the boy was behind the wheel of a gray sedan that struck Florence Kelly as she was driving in north Dallas. Police did not identify the child by name.

Kelly's car was struck by the speeding Toyota Avalon as she was pulling into an intersection on her way to get groceries, according to WFAA-TV. Kelly was taken to a hospital after the crash and died of her injuries.

Doorbell-camera footage released by investigators showed a group of people leaving the Toyota after the crash. Kelly's daughter, Rebekka Kelly, told the Dallas television station that the group did not call 911 after the collision.

### Ex-warden convicted of sexually abusing inmates

**CA** DUBLIN — The former warden of a federal women's prison in California where inmates said they were subjected to rampant sexual abuse was convicted of mo-

lesting inmates and forcing them to pose naked in their cells.

Ray Garcia was found guilty of all eight charges and faces up to 15 years in prison. He was among five workers charged with abusing inmates at the federal correctional institution in Dublin, Calif., and the first to go to trial.

Garcia, 55, retired from his post last year after the FBI found nude photos of inmates on his government-issued phone. Garcia was charged with abusing three inmates between December 2019 and July 2021.

"Instead of ensuring the proper functioning of FCI Dublin, he used his authority to sexually prey upon multiple female inmates under his control," U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hinds said, calling Garcia's crimes a betrayal of the public trust and his obligations as a warden.

### National park finishes rules for air tours

**TN** GATLINBURG — Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials said they have finished a plan that establishes rules for touring the park by air.

A news release said the plan allows up to 946 air tours annually on six routes over the park and up to a half-mile outside the park's boundary at an altitude above 2,600 feet.

The park averaged 946 air tours annually from 2017 to 2019.

Park officials said commercial air tours have flown over the Smokies for years without defined operating parameters.

The requirements begin within 90 days of the plan's signing.

— From wire reports

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# Pats rally for win over Cards; Murray hurt

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Patriots linebacker Raekwon McMillan was simply trying to do his job, running over to make sure that teammate Kyle Dugger made the tackle on a routine play.

Suddenly, he saw a football on the ground.

McMillan scooped it up and ran 23 yards for the touchdown, giving the Patriots the go-ahead score in a 27-13 win on Monday night over the Arizona Cardinals, who lost starting quarterback Kyler Murray in the first quarter to a potentially serious knee injury.

"I looked back, saw it was just me and a lineman," McMillan said of his mindset when scooping the fumble. "I said, 'If I can't beat a lineman, then I don't deserve to be out here.'"

New England trailed 13-10 at the break but tied the game at 13-all early in the third quarter after a short field goal. A few minutes later, the Patriots got their game-changing play and a 20-13 lead when McMillan scored his touchdown, snatching the loose ball off the grass

and sprinting toward the end zone.

Kyle Dugger forced the turnover by stripping Cardinals three-time All-Pro receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who had just caught a pass.

"I try to be perfect. I let myself down," Hopkins said. "Let coach down, let the guys down. I haven't fumbled all year. It is definitely a reminder to protect the ball."

The Patriots pushed their advantage to 27-13 early in the fourth quarter on Pierre Strong Jr.'s 3-yard run, then leaned on their defense to complete the much-needed win. New England's defense had six sacks, including three by linebacker Josh Uche.

Mac Jones threw for 235 yards and finished 24-for-35 with an interception as New England (7-6) snapped a two-game losing skid to strengthen their AFC playoff positioning.

"There's going to be a lot of change over these next four weeks for everybody, that's just how it goes," center David Andrews said. "You start looking at [playoffs] and you'll let some-

thing slip away."

Arizona (4-9) has lost five of six games, including the last three.

Murray was hurt on the third play of the game, immediately changing the complexion of the evening. The fourth-year quarterback was flushed out of the pocket and running to his right when he tried to juke past a Patriots defender, but tumbled to the grass in obvious pain.

Players from both teams surrounded the quarterback before he was carted off the field with a towel draped over his head.

The 36-year-old Colt McCoy has proven a capable replacement for Murray over the past two seasons, coming into Monday's game with a 3-2 mark when Murray was injured. He worked his magic again — at least for a while — leading the Cardinals to a 13-10 halftime lead.

"We've battled injuries all year long," McCoy said. "The guys that are going to go in there are going to fight until the very end. I don't think there is any more you can ask for and I will be proud to go lead them."

The Cardinals took a 3-0 lead early in the second quarter after a 33-yard field goal by Matt Prater. They had good field position for the drive after Isaiah Simmons intercepted a pass from Jones, who was hit on the arm by rookie Cam Thomas as he was throwing.

James Conner bulldozed his way forward for a 10-yard touchdown late in the second quarter, breaking multiple tackles to give the Cardinals a 13-7 lead late in the second quarter. Conner finished with a team-high 85 yards rushing.

The Patriots scored their lone touchdown of the first half when rookie Kevin Harris ran 14 yards to the end zone.

Arizona's recent hopes as a franchise have revolved around the development of Murray, who was taken with the No. 1 overall pick out of Oklahoma in 2019.

He now has to deal with what could be the most serious injury of his professional career. He had thrown for 2,359 yards, 14 touchdowns and seven interceptions through 10 games before Monday's injury.

# US almost sent Reyna back home from World Cup

Associated Press

NEW YORK — American midfielder Gio Reyna was almost sent home from the World Cup because of a lack of hustle in training, for which he later apologized.

U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter revealed the team's concerns about a player when he spoke last week at the HOW Institute for Society's Summit on Moral Leadership in New York. Excerpts of his remarks were later published in a newsletter by Charter Works, which analyzes management and workplace trends.

"In this last World Cup, we had a player that was clearly not meeting expectations on and off the field," Berhalter was quoted as saying. "One of 26 players, so it stood out. As a staff, we sat together for hours deliberating what we were going to do with this player. We were ready to book a plane ticket home, that's how extreme it was. And what it came down

to was, we're going to have one more conversation with him, and part of the conversation was how we're going to behave from here out. There aren't going to be any more infractions.

"But the other thing we said to him was, you're going to have to apologize to the group, but it's going to have to say why you're apologizing. It's going to have to go deeper than just 'Guys, I'm sorry,'" Berhalter went on. "And I prepped the leadership group with this. I said, 'OK, this guy's going to apologize to you as a group, to the whole team.' And what was fantastic in this whole thing is that after he apologized, they stood up one by one and said: 'Listen, it hasn't been good enough. You haven't been meeting our expectations of a teammate and we want to see change.' They really took ownership of that process. And from that day on there were no issues with this player."

While Berhalter didn't identify the player,

media outlets reported Sunday that it was Reyna, and a person familiar with the matter confirmed the identity to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity since no announcement was made.

"Just before the World Cup, coach Berhalter told me that my role at the tournament would be very limited. I was devastated," Reyna said in a statement Monday. "I fully expected and desperately wanted to contribute to the play of a talented group as we tried to make a statement at the World Cup.

"I am also a very emotional person, and I fully acknowledge that I let my emotions get the best of me and affect my training and behavior for a few days after learning about my limited role," Reyna said. "I apologized to my teammates and coach for this, and I was told I was forgiven. Thereafter, I shook off my disappointment and gave everything I had on and off the field."



# Air Raid offense master Leach dies

*Associated Press*

Mike Leach, the gruff, pioneering and unfiltered college football coach who helped revolutionize the game with the Air Raid offense, has died following complications from a heart condition, Mississippi State said Tuesday. He was 61.

Leach, who was in his third season as head coach at Mississippi State, fell ill Sunday at his home in Starkville, Miss. He was treated at a local hospital before being airlifted to University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, about 120 miles away. He died Monday night.

"Mike was a giving and attentive husband, father and grandfather. He was able to participate in organ donation at UMMC as a final act of charity," the family said in a statement issued by Mississippi State. "We are supported and uplifted by the outpouring of love and prayers from family, friends, Mississippi State University, the hospital staff, and football fans around the world. Thank you for sharing in the joy of our beloved husband and father's life."

In 21 seasons as a head coach at Texas Tech, Washington State and Mississippi State, Leach went 158-107.

Leach fought through a bout with pneumonia late in this season, coughing uncontrollably at times during news conferences,

but seemed to be improving, according to those who worked with him.

News of him falling gravely ill swept through college football the past few days and left many who knew him stunned, hoping and praying for Leach's recovery under grim circumstances.

His impact on all levels of football — from high school to the NFL — over the last two decades runs deep and will continue for years to come.

"Mike's keen intellect and unvarnished candor made him one of the nation's true coaching legends," Mississippi State President Mark Keenum said. "His passing brings great sadness to our university, to the Southeastern Conference, and to all who loved college football. I will miss Mike's profound curiosity, his honesty, and his wide-open approach to pursuing excellence in all things."

Leach was known for his pass-happy offense, wide-ranging interests — he wrote a book about Native American leader Geronimo, had a passion for pirates and taught a class about insurgent warfare — and rambling, off-the-cuff news conferences.

An interview with Leach was as likely to veer off into politics, wedding planning or hypothetical mascot fights as it was to stick to football. He considered Donald Trump a

friend before the billionaire businessman ran for president and then campaigned for him in 2016.

Leach's teams were consistent winners at programs where success did not come easy. And his quarterbacks put up massive passing statistics, running a relatively simple offense called the Air Raid that he did not invent but certainly mastered.

As much as Leach enjoyed digging into topics other than football, he was excellent at the X's and O's.

Six of the 20 best passing seasons in major college football history were by quarterbacks who played for Leach, including four of the top six.

Leach also had a penchant for butting heads with authority, and he wasn't shy about criticizing players he felt were not playing with enough toughness.

A convergence of those traits cost Leach his first head coaching job. He went 84-43 with the Red Raiders, never having a losing season at the Big 12 school and reaching No. 2 in the country in 2008.

But he was fired by Texas Tech in December 2009 after being accused of mistreating a player, Adam James — the son of former ESPN announcer and NFL player Craig James — who had suffered a concussion.

## No. 7 Texas tops Rice after coach Beard suspended

*Associated Press*

AUSTIN, Texas — No. 7 Texas had already been through a long, bewildering day, and there was still a game to play.

Coach Chris Beard was arrested on a felony domestic violence charge early Monday. Assistant Rodney Terry called the players together to talk, urging them to rally to each other and stay focused on their matchup with Rice.

By tipoff, Beard was out of jail but suspended indefinitely without pay. That left Terry to direct the Longhorns to a tough 87-81 overtime win over Rice.

Terry summed up Monday as a "difficult day."

"I took our older guys ... and really just had a really good talk in terms of there's going to be things like this the rest of your life. It's how you deal with them, adapt and adjust. At the end of the day, we have a job to do," Terry said. "I thought they responded to that well."

Marcus Carr, a sixth-year guard, scored 28 points for Texas. The school did not make the players available after the game.

Texas has not yet publicly committed to Terry as the acting coach beyond Monday night's game. Texas doesn't play again until Sunday in Dallas against Stanford. Terry said the school had not yet talked to him about any future games.

Beard is in his second season of a seven-year contract that pays him more than \$5 million per year. His contract includes a provision that he could be fired for cause if arrested on a felony charge. The formal charge is assault by strangulation/suffocation — family violence and carries a possible prison sentence of two to 10 years if convicted.

Beard had Texas (8-1) humming in his second season. After starting 6-0, the Longhorns were No. 2, the program's highest ranking in more than a decade.

According to the arrest affidavit, the

woman told police she is Beard's fiancée and they have been in a relationship for six years. She said they had been in an argument where she broke his glasses before he "just snapped on me and became super violent."

According to the affidavit, the woman told police "he choked me, bit me, bruises all over my leg, throwing me around and going nuts."

Terry said he has not read the specific allegations against Beard or talked to him since his arrest but said, "I love Beard like my own brother."

**No. 15 Gonzaga 88, Northern Illinois 67:** Drew Timme scored 26 points, and Gonzaga extended the nation's longest home win streak to 71 games.

Ben Gregg had 18 points and seven rebounds for the Zags (8-3), and fellow reserve Malachi Smith finished with 14 points. Timme went 9-for-15 from the field and 8-for-9 at the line.

# Durant, Irving push rested Nets past Wizards

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Brooklyn Nets are rolling, and Kyrie Irving is only talking about their commitment to playing hard and stacking up wins.

That's hardly a coincidence.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points, Irving had 24 and the well-rested Nets methodically pulled away for a 112-100 win against the overmatched Washington Wizards on Monday night.

The Nets were the talk of the NBA for their early-season turmoil that included the ouster of coach Steve Nash and Irving's eight-game suspension for tweeting a link to an antisemitic documentary, an action for which he ultimately apologized.

Now, Brooklyn is coming together under new coach Jacque Vaughn and has won eight of nine.

"Man, let's just go win ballgames. That's it, that's really what the attitude is," Irving

said. "We know the talent we have. This is our group. No more excuses, no more distractions."

The Nets, who won at Indiana on Saturday night with their top seven scorers sitting out, matched a season best with their fourth straight victory. All those players were back in action Monday except Royce O'Neale, who missed a second consecutive game for personal reasons.

"I thought you saw our guys look extremely fresh," Vaughn said. "We had a lot of juice to start the game, and plenty to finish."

Will Barton scored a season-high 22 points for the Wizards, who lost their season-worst seventh game in a row and now face a six-game trip out West that could bury them in the Eastern Conference standings. Washington was missing leading scorer Bradley Beal for the fourth straight game because of a right hamstring strain.

"Hopefully we start getting

some guys back. Hopefully, that's the plan," said Kyle Kuzma, who scored 20 points. "Tough stretch, we've lost a lot in a row, now we're going to the West playing all playoff teams. So if we don't figure it out, it's going to be a long trip."

**Clippers 113, Celtics 93:** Paul George scored 26 points, Kawhi Leonard had season highs of 25 points and nine rebounds, and host Los Angeles beat NBA-leading Boston.

Leonard also had six assists in one of his best all-around games of a young season that has been interrupted at times while he eases his way back from ACL surgery that cost him all of last season.

**Mavericks 121, Thunder 114:** Luka Doncic had 38 points and 11 rebounds in his return from a one-game absence, and Spencer Dinwiddie added 20 points and 10 assists as host Dallas defeated Oklahoma City.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 20 for the Mavericks, who ended a

two-game skid.

**Heat 87, Pacers 82:** Bam Adebayo had 22 points and 17 rebounds, and Jimmy Butler scored seven straight points late in the fourth quarter to help visiting Miami hold off Indiana.

Butler finished with 20 points. The Heat had lost three of their previous four but evened the season series with Indiana by pulling away late.

**Grizzlies 128, Hawks 103:** Tyus Jones had 22 points and 11 assists, Dillon Brooks added 18 points and streaking host Memphis beat shorthanded Atlanta with both teams minus key starters.

**Spurs 112, Cavaliers 111:** Keldon Johnson scored 21 points and blocked a late shot by Donovan Mitchell as host San Antonio held off Cleveland.

**Trail Blazers 133, Timberwolves 112:** Damian Lillard tied his own franchise record by making 11 three-pointers and finished with 38 points, leading host Portland past Minnesota.

## Chytil helps Rangers end Devils' road winning streak

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Filip Chytil scored 2:15 into overtime and the New York Rangers rallied to beat New Jersey 4-3 on Monday night, snapping the Devils' 11-game road win streak.

Vincent Trochek had a goal and an assist, Kaapo Kakko and Chris Kreider also scored, and K'Andre Miller had two assists for the Rangers, who came back from two two-goal deficits to get their fourth straight win. Igor Shesterkin stopped 26 shots. The Rangers are 5-1-1 in their last seven games.

In the extra period, Chytil won it with his sixth of the season and first career overtime goal.

"Nice pass from Artemi (Panarin), I just shoot, score goal," Chytil said. "A great comeback from the team. We showed our character, a good two points. We just have to keep going like that."

Nico Hischier, Dawson Mercer and Jack Hughes scored for the Devils, who had not lost on the road since dropping the season opener at Philadelphia and finished one

win shy of tying the NHL record. Vitek Vanecek had 19 saves for New Jersey, losing for only the fourth time in 16 decisions.

"We had the opportunity to put the nail in the coffin with the penalty shot but we didn't," Devils coach Lindy Ruff said. "That probably gave them momentum."

**Penguins 2, Stars 1:** Evgeni Malkin scored with 35 seconds remaining to lift host Pittsburgh to its sixth straight win.

Malkin's ninth goal of the year came after Bryan Rust's shot attempt from in close was poke-checked away. While Rust's momentum carried him into Dallas goaltender Jake Oettinger, Malkin flipped the puck into the open net.

**Senators 3, Ducks 0:** Cam Talbot had 32 saves for his first shutout with host Ottawa in a costly win for the Senators.

Ottawa's Tim Stutzle went awkwardly into the boards after being hit by Brett Leason midway through the first period and did not return, and Tyler Motte missed the final two periods after going down hard late in the first period and suffering an upper-

body injury.

**Canadiens 2, Flames 1 (SO):** Nick Suzuki and Kirby Dach scored in the shootout to lift host Montreal over Calgary.

Josh Anderson tied the score for Montreal in the third period and Jake Allen made 34 saves to help the Canadiens snap a three-game home losing skid.

**Wild 2, Oilers 1:** Matt Boldy had a goal and an assist, Freddy Gaudreau also scored, and host Minnesota beat Edmonton.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 20 shots for his 10th win of the season for the Wild, who have won eight of 11. It's the 18th time in his career that Fleury has reached double-digit wins, tying Patrick Roy and Terry Sawchuk for second all-time behind Martin Brodeur (20).

**Blues 1, Predators 0 (OT):** Brayden Schenn scored at 2:23 of overtime to lead host St. Louis over Nashville.

Jordan Binnington made 25 saves in his second shutout of the season and the 12th of his career.