

## Expert: China's mock-ups a message to US

By ALEX WILSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Chinese-built mock-ups of U.S. warships and aircraft meant for target practice send a clear message to the United States military, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College said recently.

Satellite imagery released Nov. 7 by the U.S. Naval Institute through Maxar Technologies shows targets built in the shape of a U.S. aircraft carrier and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers at a complex of target ranges in the Taklamakan Desert in China's Xinjiang province.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby at a Nov. 8 news conference said China is obviously developing capabilities meant to prevent the U.S. from reaching certain areas in the Indo-Pacific region.

Also speaking at a news confer-

ence Nov. 8, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, Wang Wenbin, said he was not aware of those target mock-ups.

Subsequent satellite imagery shows what appear to be more targets in the shape of U.S. assets. A second, smaller carrier target was built approximately 300 miles away from the first, according to a Nov. 9 report from the U.S. Naval Institute.

Likewise, images of four mock F-35 Lightning II fighter jets in Xinjiang were released by Canada-based military magazine *Kanwa International Journal* in its latest monthly issue, according to the *South China Morning Post* on Thursday.

Building targets to simulate real-world combat is routine but the scale and effort demonstrated by China's target ranges reflects

Beijing's determination to outclass American naval power, according to professor Lyle Goldstein of the China Maritime Studies Institute. Goldstein is founding director of the institute at the Naval War College in Rhode Island, his online biography says.

"The Chinese know very well that U.S. satellites are monitoring and would eventually see these efforts," Goldstein said in a Tuesday email to *Stars and Stripes*. "The Chinese leadership has made it clear in a variety of ways that they are developing the military capabilities to severely damage the U.S. Navy if it came to a military conflict."

Goldstein said the satellite images could be interpreted as "political-military messaging," or it may be that Beijing doesn't intend to convey such a message

and the Chinese military is merely training as a matter of course.

However, he said, it's clear that China is preparing for potential engagement with U.S. warships.

The satellite imagery comes after months of escalating tension in the Indo-Pacific between the U.S., its allies and China.

Goldstein said the U.S. and China should tone down their saber-rattling and instead prioritize cooperation and dialogue between the two superpowers.

"Both China and the U.S. have taken provocative steps that have escalated the situation over a period that goes back more than a decade now," he said.

"China must recognize that it cannot push the U.S. out of the region. However, the U.S. also must realize that it has to adjust to China's growing power."

## Pararescuers score a 1st in landing craft drills off Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WHITE BEACH NAVAL FACILITY, Okinawa — Exercising off the Okinawa coast recently, Air Force pararescue specialists from Kadena Air Base for the first time successfully evacuated simulated casualties from the deck of an Army landing craft.

Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters from the 33rd Rescue Squadron descended upon the USAV Calabozza and USAV Fort McHenry well into Wednesday evening, lowering and raising pararescue jumpers, or PJs, to and from the slick, salt-sprayed decks.

The training was designed to streamline communications between the services and introduce the Runnymede-class large landing craft to airmen as the Army carves out a larger role for itself in the Indo-Pacific region.

"We have a medic, but we're not equipped to do prolonged treatment of an emergency," Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sean Meenan, captain of the Fort McHenry, told *Stars and Stripes* during a lull in the exercise. "This allows us to rehearse, prepare our vessel and our crew to be in a better position to relay the state of emergency and get the patient off our vessel."

The landing craft cast off from the pier at White Beach Naval Facility just after noon. About an hour later a simulated distress call was sent to the Joint Reception Coordination Center. Within 15 minutes two Pave Hawks had reached the landing craft, which were situated just shy of one nautical mile apart.

"One of the challenges is going to be the communications between us and the helicopter, making sure we're on the same head-

ing as well as the speed," Meenan said.

The landing craft—with masts on the bow and stern—has to be positioned properly to accept the PJs. The sea state is also a factor, Meenan said.

The 33rd Rescue Squadron worked through its checklist, lowering a single PJ, then a pair at the same time, then one carrying the casualty collection basket, then hoisting them all back into the Pave Hawk.

Air Force Master Sgt. Uwemediimo Essien watched the helicopter blades and the masts and made sure the lowered PJs didn't get tangled up.

"It progressively got better," Essien said. "Overall, I'm satisfied."

Air Force Master Sgt. Keon Miller watched as the Pave Hawks arrived and slowly adjusted their angles to more easily low-

er and raise their PJs.

"This was the first time seeing that and they had to adjust on the fly," Miller said.

Meenan said he was amazed at how the downwash moved his vessel. He had to rev engines almost full tilt to keep the vessel on course.

"When the bird came over the ship, it just wanted to continuously turn the vessel to starboard," said McHenry first mate Staff Sgt. Spencer Grimes. "Myself and the skipper were doing a very good job of keeping it on the same heading and maintaining a speed of 4 or 5 knots."

The Pave Hawks returned to Kadena to onboard a new crew for its turn. They practiced into the night using night vision goggles.

Miller called the Army sailors "phenomenal" to work with.

"Working with the Army is a big success for us," Miller said.

# Analysts: US actions in Ukraine backfiring

By JOHN VANDIVER  
AND ALISON BATH

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. military's stepped-up activities around Ukraine have turned into a new "red line" for Moscow that could increase the risk of a large-scale Russian invasion of the country, some military analysts are cautioning as Russian troops mass on Ukraine's border.

But Pentagon brass could be missing the signal Moscow is sending on what it's willing to fight over, as the movement of Russian forces sparks concerns in Washington and European capitals of a possible military offensive in the months ahead.

"There are very, very dark clouds on the horizon," said Michael Kofman, director of Russia studies at the Center for Naval Analyses.

The problem the U.S. military needs to solve is how to demonstrate solidarity with Ukraine and show a willingness to stand up to possible Russian aggression without provoking the escalation it seeks to avoid in the first place, Kofman said.

"We may be pushing too far, too fast," he said of U.S. military efforts around Ukraine, saying U.S. European Command will need to avoid "running on autopilot" as the security landscape shifts.

In recent weeks, Russian units have been moving into the border region around eastern Ukraine, much like they did in the spring, when fears rose of a new Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Some of the Russian troops deployed there never left, and now more are arriving.

The deployments have been more covert this time, analysts say, and appear unconnected to any training exercises.

That has added to concerns

that a larger threat looms in Ukraine's east, where a separatist war has raged for the past seven years.

Retired Marine Corps officer and Russia expert Rob Lee, in an analysis of Russia's spring buildup, said the most likely explanation for that movement was an attempt to signal to the U.S. and NATO that it should avoid accelerating Ukraine's path into NATO, selling arms to the country or imposing new sanctions on Russia.

"This was a demonstration that Russia could respond asymmetrically to anti-Russian policies adopted by the US and NATO by employing military force against Ukraine," Lee wrote in an analysis for the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Research Institute.

The motives this time are much the same, Kofman said, adding that angst in Russia over what it regards as persistent U.S. and NATO activity in Ukraine has shifted Moscow's red lines over the past year.

For Moscow, a possible attempt by Ukraine to join NATO has been long regarded as provocative.

"That position has changed to ... it's now about (Western) defense cooperation in Ukraine, which can amount to the same de facto outcome," of NATO membership in Russia's view, Kofman said. "This is the red line. It is not just formal membership."

In western Ukraine, the U.S. Army has been training Ukrainian troops since 2015, the year after Russia seized the Crimean Peninsula and backed separatist fighters in the east.

The U.S. also has increased military sales and aid to Ukraine and expanded its naval presence in the Black Sea along with other NATO allies.

Retired U.S. Navy Adm. James Foggo III, who led U.S.

Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Forces Command, Naples, says a clearer allied military strategy in the Black Sea region would help deter Russia.

"There needs to be a strategy that addresses the key areas where you want to operate where there is a potential for heightened tensions as we are seeing in the Black Sea and in the Ukraine," said Foggo, who doesn't regard U.S. military actions in the Black Sea as escalation.

Allies also need to find a way to keep lines of communication open with Moscow to reduce the risks of miscalculation, said Foggo, now serving as dean of the newly established Center for Maritime Strategy in Arlington, Va.

Moscow has repeatedly denied accusations that it is stoking tensions in the region with its belligerent actions around Ukraine and in the Black Sea region.

The Russian Defense Ministry on Friday complained about air surveillance in the Black Sea region in what the agency termed increasing "aggressive U.S. military" action. U.S. 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet acknowledged Navy aircraft were engaged by Russian planes over international waters, calling the interactions "safe and professional."

Also on Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed Western media reports that Moscow has intentions to invade Ukraine as a "hollow and unfounded attempt to incite tensions."

"Russia doesn't threaten anyone," Peskov said, as cited by The Associated Press. "The movement of troops on our territory shouldn't be a cause for anyone's concern."

Still, some security experts and former U.S. military offi-

cials say Russian President Vladimir Putin's military buildup near Ukraine and more vocal complaints in recent weeks about NATO navies operating in the Black Sea are attempts to intimidate allies from bringing Ukraine into the fold.

Retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, who led U.S. Army Europe until 2017, said he believes Russia's actions over the last year, including the troop buildup along the Ukrainian border in March and alleged involvement in fostering a migrant crisis at the Polish-Belarusian border, are strategic in nature.

"This is part of an ongoing process to undermine Ukrainian government, to present Ukraine to the West as a failed state so that there is no further effort to integrate Ukraine into the West, into the EU ... or NATO," Hodges said.

Russia is being further emboldened by the European Union's failure to apply more political pressure on Moscow, he said.

"If Putin is confident that the West would not actually do anything if they pushed their forces further into Ukraine to take over more actual territory, I think they would do it," said Hodges, adding that allies are in position to create a deterrent.

One factor that complicates security matters is Europe's dependence on Russian gas pipelines to heat homes in the winter, giving Moscow significant leverage on issues such as sanctions.

In the event of a winter offensive, allied resolve would be tested by the reality that Russia "has it over a barrel" on energy, Kofman said.

"They have full control over how they deliver gas supplies to Europe," he said. "Winter is perfect time for a military operation."

# Austria orders lockdown for unvaccinated

Associated Press

BERLIN—The Austrian government ordered a nationwide lockdown for unvaccinated people starting midnight Sunday to slow the fast spread of the coronavirus in the country.

The move prohibits unvaccinated individuals older than age 12 from leaving their homes except for basic activities such as working, grocery shopping, going for a walk—or getting vaccinated.

Authorities are concerned about rising deaths and that hospital staff will no longer be able to handle the growing influx of

COVID-19 patients.

“It’s our job as the government of Austria to protect the people,” Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg told reporters in Vienna on Sunday. “Therefore we decided that starting Monday ... there will be a lockdown for the unvaccinated.”

The lockdown affects about 2 million people in the Alpine country of 8.9 million people, news agency APA reported. It doesn’t apply to children under the age of 12 because they cannot yet officially get vaccinated.

The lockdown will initially last for 10 days and police have

been asked to check people outside to make sure they are vaccinated, Schallenberg said, adding that additional officers would go on patrol to control the lockdown.

Unvaccinated people can be fined up to \$1,660 if they do not adhere to the restrictions.

Austria has one of the lowest vaccination rates in western Europe: only around 65% of the total population is fully vaccinated. In recent weeks, the country has faced a worrying trend in infections. The country reported 11,552 new cases on Sunday; a week ago, there were 8,554 new

infections.

The seven-day infection rate stands at 775.5 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants. In comparison, the rate is at 289 in neighboring Germany, which has already also sounded the alarm over the rising numbers.

Schallenberg pointed out that while the seven-day infection rate for vaccinated people has been falling in recent days, the same rate is rising quickly for the unvaccinated.

“The rate for the unvaccinated is at over 1,700, while for the vaccinated it is at 383,” the chancellor said.

## Sailor saves Marine from rip current off Okinawa

By FRANK ANDREWS

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Navy sailor, an experienced scuba diver, dragged a drowning Marine to safety through a strong rip current at a popular Okinawa beach in September.

It’s at least the fourth rescue involving a rip current and U.S. service members in Okinawa since October 2020. Rip current encounters often end tragically; they have killed five service members this year in the waters surrounding Okinawa, Shawn Curtis, director of the Marine Corps Installations Pacific Safety Office, told Stars and Stripes by phone Nov. 3.

In this case, Aviation Electrician’s Mate Airman Ian Olney earned praise Nov. 1 for “saving a fellow service member’s life,” according to the official Facebook page for the Navy command on Okinawa.

Olney, a certified dive instructor, was in the right place at the right time.

Staff Sgt. Marshall King, of 3rd Intelligence Battalion at Camp Hansen, was snorkeling midafternoon Sept. 21 in shallow water about 50 yards from Akuna

Beach, he told Stars and Stripes during an interview Wednesday. He realized a current had carried him farther from shore and found himself alone after a half-hour, about 200 yards from shore and moving farther into open water.

“That’s when I started really panicking,” King said. “I started screaming and that’s when airman Olney, he heard me, thank God!”

Olney, 21, from North Captiva Island, Fla., was spearfishing nearby with his Japanese dive buddy Yuuki Watanabe when he heard King calling. That call for help began a 45-minute-long endurance test for both men against a stubborn current.

Olney dove to the ocean bottom and rode the current out to King, whom he found sinking and swallowing water.

He grasped King by his torso, instructed him to relax, stay on his back and backstroke toward shore. He pulled the Marine for a half-hour to calmer water, where King rested on a rock.

Olney put King on his back, grabbed the coral reef hand-over-hand and got closer to shore. Olney and Watanabe each took an arm and swam King to the beach.

## Coal compromise leads to deal on climate agreement

Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland — Almost 200 nations accepted a compromise deal Saturday aimed at keeping a key global warming target alive, but it contained a last-minute change that watered down crucial language about coal.

Several countries, including small island states, said they were deeply disappointed by the change promoted by India to “phase down,” rather than “phase out” coal power, the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

“Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread,” United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. “We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe.”

Nation after nation had complained after two weeks of U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, about how the deal did not go far or fast enough. But they said it was better than nothing and provided incremental progress, if not success.

In the end, the summit broke ground by singling out coal, however weakly, by setting the rules for international trading of car-

bon credits, and by telling big polluters to come back next year with improved pledges for cutting emissions.

But domestic priorities both political and economic again kept nations from committing to the fast, big cuts that scientists have said are needed to keep warming below dangerous levels which would produce extreme weather and rising seas capable of erasing some island nations.

Ahead of the Glasgow talks, the United Nations had set three criteria for success, and none of them were achieved. The U.N.’s criteria included pledges to cut carbon dioxide emissions in half by 2030, \$100 billion in financial aid from rich nations to poor and ensuring that half of that money went to helping the developing world adapt to the worst effects of climate change.

“We did not achieve these goals at this conference,” Guterres said. “But we have some building blocks for progress.”

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry said governments had no choice but to accept India’s coal language change: “If we hadn’t done that, we wouldn’t have had an agreement.”



# Americans quit jobs in record numbers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans quit their jobs at a record pace for the second straight month in September, in many cases for more money elsewhere as companies bump up pay to fill job openings that are close to an all-time high.

The Labor Department said Friday that 4.4 million people quit their jobs in September, or about 3% of the nation's workforce. That's up from 4.3 million in August and far above the pre-pandemic level of 3.6 million. There were 10.4 million job openings, down from 10.6 million in August, which was revised higher.

The figures point to a historic level of turmoil in the job market as newly-empowered workers quit jobs, often for higher pay or better working conditions. Incomes are rising, Americans are spending more and the economy is growing, and employers have ramped up hiring to keep pace. Rising inflation, however, is offsetting much of the pay gains for workers.

Friday's report follows last week's jobs report, which showed that employers stepped up their hiring in October, adding 531,000

jobs, while the unemployment rate fell to 4.6%, from 4.8%. Hiring rebounded as the delta wave, which had restrained job gains in August and September, faded.

It is typically perceived as a signal of worker confidence when people leave the jobs they hold. The vast majority of people quit for a new position.

The number of available jobs has topped 10 million for four consecutive months. The record before the pandemic was 7.5 million. There were more job openings in September than the 7.7 million unemployed, illustrating the difficulties so many companies have had finding workers.

In addition to the number of unemployed, there are about 5 million fewer people looking for jobs compared with pre-pandemic trends, making it much harder for employers to hire. Economists cite many reasons for that decline: Some are mothers unable to find or afford child care, while others are avoiding taking jobs out of fear of contracting COVID-19. Stimulus checks this year and in 2020, as well as extra unemployment aid that has since expired, has given some families more savings and enabled them to

hold off from looking for work.

Quitting has risen particularly sharply in industries that are mostly made up of in-person service jobs, such as restaurants, hotels, and retail, and factories where people work in close proximity. That suggests that at least some people quitting are doing so out of fear of COVID-19 and may be leaving the workforce.

Businesses in other countries are facing similar challenges, leading to pay gains and higher inflation in countries like Canada and the United Kingdom.

Competition for U.S. workers is intense for retailers and delivery companies, particularly as they staff up for what is expected to be a healthy winter holiday shopping season.

Online giant Amazon is hiring 125,000 permanent drivers and warehouse workers and offer pay between \$18 and \$22 an hour. It's also paying sign-on bonuses of up to \$3,000.

Seasonal hiring is also ramping up. Package delivery company UPS is seeking to add 100,000 workers to help with the crush of holiday orders, and plans to make job offers to some applicants within 30 minutes.

# SpaceX sends out 53 Starlink satellites

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX expanded its constellation of low Earth orbit satellites on Saturday with the launch of 53 Starlink satellites from Florida.

A Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station at 7:19 a.m. EST and deployed the satellites about 16 minutes after launch.

The rocket's reusable first stage, which has been used for multiple launches, including the first crewed test flight of SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft, successfully re-

turned and landed on the "Just Read the Instructions" dronship in the Atlantic Ocean.

Starlink is a satellite-based global internet system that SpaceX has been building for years to bring internet access to underserved areas of the world.

Last week, SpaceX launched four astronauts to the International Space Station, including the 600th person to reach space in 60 years.

It took 21 hours for the flight from NASA's Kennedy Space Center to reach the glittering outpost.

The astronauts got emotional when they first spotted the space station from 20 miles out, calling it "a pretty glorious sight."

Three astronauts welcomed the crew instead of the preferred seven.

That's because SpaceX brought four of them back on Monday, after the launch of their replacements kept getting delayed.

The new crew will spend the next six months at the space station and, during that time, host two groups of visiting tourists.

Russia will launch the first group in December and SpaceX the second in February.

# Home for the holidays: Rockefeller tree arrives in NYC

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City ushered in the holiday season Saturday with the arrival of a 79-foot Norway spruce that will serve as one of the world's most famous Christmas trees, in Rockefeller Center.

The 12-ton tree was trucked in from the Price family home in

Elkton, Md., — the first time the tree has come from that state since the tradition began eight decades ago. The lighting ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 1.

The spruce will be adorned with more than 50,000 multicolored lights and topped with a 900-pound star with 70 spikes covered in 3 million crystals.

The tree was cut down Thursday and removed by a crane on the Price property. The spruce, about 85 years old, had stood near the family's house. Devon and Julie Price told NBC's "Today" that they had worried about it falling down during a storm.

"So we're very excited to have it go to New York City," Devon

Price said.

Erik Pauze, Rockefeller Center's chief gardener, found this year's tree in March after going to a nursery to buy plants in southern New Jersey and deciding to take a drive in the area, he told The Baltimore Sun.

The tree is expected to remain up through early January.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### 2 boys rescued from a storm drain in heavy rain

**WA** FEDERAL WAY — Two 12-year-old boys sucked into a storm drain by a current of rainwater were rescued by Federal Way police who found them clinging to a ladder in the drain's concrete basin.

The boys were playing in a whirlpool of storm water runoff in a wooded area northeast of the Kitts Corner Apartments, according to a police news release. The heavy rain created streams with strong currents that flowed downhill into a basin, Cmdr. Cary Murphy said.

Two officers and a Kitts Corner maintenance worker removed a heavy iron cover over the concrete basin that had prevented the boys from getting out on their own, the Seattle Times reported.

Maintenance crews continue to investigate the incident, according to the news release.

### Man charged with death of man rammed with car

**MO** DEXTER — A man has been charged with ramming another man with a vehicle at a southeast Missouri truck repair business and killing him.

Boyd Lippoldt, 41, of Dexter, was charged with first-degree murder, armed criminal action, DWI death and possession of a controlled substance.

The investigation began after 32-year-old Franklin Morris was found dead.

Chief deputy Andy Holden with the Stoddard County Sheriff's Department said in a news release that Lippoldt intentionally struck Morris with a vehicle, causing his injuries.

### Woman loses over \$700K in 'grandparent scam'

**FL** TAMPA — Investigators are asking Uber for records as they investigate the theft of more than \$700,000 from an 82-year-old Florida woman who apparently fell for a "grandparent scam."

Over the summer, the scammers convinced the woman that her granddaughter was in legal trouble and needed her help. They told her to make withdrawals from her bank and hand the money over to a courier, according to court records in the case.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's investigators have asked Uber about rideshare pickups at the woman's home between April and August. They want the name of the Uber account holder, and credit card information, along with the history of pickups and drop-offs at various locations, the Tampa Bay Times reported.

A detective wrote in court records that these details "will assist with providing information to who purchased the rideshares and where the victim's funds actually went," a detective wrote in court records.

### Stolen car with baby inside hits power pole

**CA** AUBURN — A stolen car with a baby inside crashed into a power pole in Northern California but the infant wasn't seriously hurt and two women were arrested, authorities said.

The car with the 7-month-old inside was stolen in Auburn as the baby's parents were dropping off another child at a day care center, the Placer County

Sheriff's Office said.

The parents left the baby in the car for "just a moment" but it was long enough for the women to steal it, sheriff's Lt. Nelson Resendes told the Sacramento Bee.

It wasn't clear whether the women knew the infant was in the back of the car, he said.

### 2 teens accused of throwing rocks at cars

**AZ** TUCSON — Two teenagers have been arrested for allegedly throwing large rocks at moving cars on Interstate 10 in Tucson, according to authorities.

Arizona Department of Public Safety officials said the two teens — aged 15 and 16 — were taken into custody. They said the teens have since been released to the custody of their parents and could face criminal charges.

Tucson TV station KGUN reported that a car being driven on I-10 had a block of cement smash through its windshield. A female passenger was hit in the face, briefly knocked unconscious and suffered a broken cheek and jaw.

### Roadside zoo cited by federal officials again

**NC** WILMINGTON — A roadside zoo in North Carolina has been cited for the second time this year by federal agricultural officials, this time for failing to monitor injured animals properly.

The citation issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture stems from an inspection, WECT reported. Specifically, the citation mentions a tiger with a 1-inch open wound on her ear and a camel with a closed eye.

According to the newly released report, Tregembo Animal Park failed to refer health problems with the tiger named Sasha and the camel to a veterinarian, noting that regular communication with a vet and daily observation of the animals are needed in "minimizing pain."

Tregembo also received a citation after an inspector observed a serval cat "exhibiting distress" over the number of flies in the enclosure and around the animal's body, repeatedly flicking his or her ears and biting at the insects.

Following an inspection in February, Tregembo was cited for failing to call a veterinarian about a pig who was lame in its rear legs even though staff knew of her condition.

### State opens first medical cannabis dispensary

**WV** MORGANTOWN — West Virginia's first medical cannabis dispensary is opening more than four years after state lawmakers allowed a regulatory system for those products to be established.

Trulieve Cannabis Corp. debuted a retail location in Morgantown on Friday with a second shop opening in Weston on Monday.

"We're thrilled to be first to market in West Virginia and to continue building the foundation for West Virginia's emerging medical cannabis market," Trulieve CEO Kim Rivers said in a statement.

She said the company's goal is to "bolster local economies by creating sustainable jobs and investing in marginalized communities."

— From wire reports

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# Sooners' loss likely to benefit Bearcats

Associated Press

The College Football Playoff selection committee's assessment of Oklahoma ended up looking spot on.

The number of unbeaten teams in major college football dropped to three after the Sooners were manhandled by No. 18 Baylor, one of two victories Saturday for remaining Big 12 teams over its Southeastern Conference-bound flagship schools.

No. 1 Georgia, No. 2 Cincinnati and No. 15 UTSA have not yet lost.

While fans and the committee nitpick the Bearcats for futz around with the soft underbelly of the American Athletic Conference, everything else continues to fall into place for Cincinnati to become the first non-Power Five playoff team.

The No. 4 Sooners were 9-0 coming off their open date, but ranked only eighth by the committee, which wasn't overly impressed by the quality of those victories. There were too many close calls against unranked teams.

The skepticism proved warranted. An offense that looked as if it had kicked into another gear since Caleb Williams took over couldn't run it against the Bears, and the freshman quarterback made a bunch of freshman mistakes. Williams seemed to be dealing with an issue to his throwing hand and even gave way to Spencer Rattler (remember him?) for a few series.

Oklahoma has surged from outside playoff position to make the semifinals several times, and its closing schedule this season seemed built to slingshot the Sooners past Cincinnati — and possibly others.

"We'll bounce back like we always do and like we fully expect to," Sooners coach Lincoln Riley said.

This time one loss might be too many for OU.

The Sooners remain in control of their path to the Big 12 title game, but there are currently no unbeaten teams in the conference and the two teams best situated to make the playoff — Oklahoma and Oklahoma State — still have to play. Maybe twice. And the Cowboys currently look like the better team.

As for the Bearcats (CFP No. 5), they were never truly threatened Friday night at South Florida, but it was a 10-point game against the lowly Bulls in the fourth quarter.

Cincinnati's last four opponents have a combined record of 9-30. The Bearcats were favored by at least 20 points in each game and won by an average margin of 12.7 points. Not great.

But maybe Cincinnati doesn't need so many style points as that road victory against No. 7 Notre Dame continues hold its value.

Past results have created the assumption that a one-loss Power Five conference champ would finish ahead of an unbeaten team from a Group of Five conference. That was the case when UCF never cracked the top four.

Cincinnati, though, seems positioned to hold off a one-loss champion from either the Big 12 or the Atlantic Coast Conference if it wins out.

That leaves only three Power Five conferences. One of them is the Pac-12, where Oregon (9-1) is the conference's only hope.

Unless the SEC or Big Ten puts two in the CFP, who else gets the fourth spot over the unbeaten Bearcats?

## Not-so-hot commodity?

Is the coach who Penn State fans haven't become increasingly frustrated with still

viewed as a hot commodity to other blue blood programs?

James Franklin's team has lost four of five after falling to No. 9 Michigan on Saturday and heads into the final two weeks of the season with a 6-4 record.

There is nothing more difficult to find in college football right now than a coach with a long track record of high level success who is willing to switch jobs.

Franklin is 66-32 with the Nittany Lions, including three double-digit win campaigns and a Big Ten championship in eight seasons since taking over a program that was still digging out of NCAA sanctions. He also went an unheard of 24-15 in three seasons at Vanderbilt.

If Franklin doesn't qualify as a good college football coach, then the list of who does is shorter than a fourth-and-inches. But how much does what he has done lately (10-9 over the last two seasons) change the perception of his body of work in the eyes of potential suitors such as Southern California and LSU?

## Around the country

The unraveling of coach Dan Mullen's tenure at Florida took another turn against Samford. The Gators allowed 52 points and 530 yards to the so-so FCS team in the first game after Mullen fired defensive coordinator Todd Grantham. The Gators scored 70 to avoid the ultimate embarrassment. "Calling a win disappointing is disrespectful to the game," Mullen said.

Meanwhile, Wake Forest needs to beat either Clemson or Boston College on the road to clinch a spot in the ACC title game for the first time since 2006 after knocking off No. 21 North Carolina State.

# No. 18 Baylor ends No. 4 Oklahoma's 17-game streak

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Gerry Bohanon had a hard time finding the words to describe just how he felt after 18th-ranked Baylor ran over Oklahoma, ending the fourth-ranked Sooners' nation's-best 17-game winning streak.

The hard-nosed quarterback does know what it means going forward for the resurgent Bears.

"I know we'll keep going,"

Bohanon said. "I know that was just motivation for what we can do, and we can be as a team."

Bohanon threw a touchdown pass and ran for two scores in the fourth quarter, and Baylor's defense harassed both Oklahoma quarterbacks in a 27-14 win Saturday that kept the Bears in contention for a spot in the Big 12 championship game, a week after an unexpected loss at struggling TCU.

"It's controlled confidence.

You know, we put in the work and we expected results," said linebacker Terrel Bernard, who had nine tackles and two sacks for Baylor (8-2, 5-2 Big 12, CFP No. 13). "We didn't play up to our standard last week. And we corrected some things on tape. We put in a great game plan and came out here and executed."

The Sooners (9-1, 6-1, CFP No. 8) were held to 260 total yards, their fewest ever with coach Lincoln Riley in his five

seasons as head coach and two seasons as offensive coordinator before that. It was their fewest points in a regular-season game since a 48-14 home loss to Baylor in 2014, which came weeks before they ended that season with a 40-6 loss to Clemson in the Russell Athletic Bowl.

Oklahoma lost in November under Riley for the first time.

"Disappointing, no other way to put it," Riley said.



## 8 Black Knights run for TDs in rout of Bucknell

*Associated Press*

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Jabari Laws passed for a score, Tyson Riley was one of eight Black Knights to rush for a touchdown, and Army rolled over Bucknell 63-10 on Saturday.

Army (6-4) became bowl-eligible for a second consecutive season and for the fifth time in six seasons. The Black Knights scored 21 points in each of the first two quarters to lead 42-0 at halftime. The second half was delayed significantly because of lightning around Michie Stadium.

Laws completed the only three passes he threw for 58 yards, including a 22-yard score to Ay'Jaun Marshall.

Riley was the only Black Knight to reach double figures in carries with 10 and finished with a game-high 70 yards, including a 4-yard TD run. Eighteen Army ballcarriers turned in positive rushing yards, nine gained at least 23 yards, and 15 had at least 10 yards. According to Sportradar, it's the only game this century that has had so

many different players on the same team have at least one carry.

"The offensive line, they did their job," said senior running back Markens Pierre, who scored his first career touchdown in the third quarter. "It's amazing when you know everyone can complete their job throughout the week. At practice, everybody got a chance to get in there. It's amazing when you see it all work out together."

The Black Knights outgained the Bison 486-175, including 428-39 on the ground.

"We were glad to get those guys in there," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "We like to get all those guys a chance to take some reps. I'm particularly happy for Markens because he's a senior and he has worked so hard. He's invested so much into this program."

"The young guys that got some significant reps, obviously, we'll be counting on them next year and the years to follow. For them to get those reps is really important."

## Daniels throws Air Force record 92-yard TD pass

*Associated Press*

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Haaziq Daniels threw for two touchdowns, including a 92-yarder for the longest pass in school history, and Air Force turned back Colorado State 35-21 on Saturday night for its fifth straight win.

The Falcons (7-3, 4-2 Mountain West Conference) grabbed the lead on their first possession on John Lee Eldridge III's only carry — a 16-yard TD run. Milton Bugg III picked off a Todd Centeio pass on Colorado State's ensuing drive and Brad Roberts carried seven times, scoring on a 6-yard run for a 14-0 lead and accounting for 40

of the 42 yards on the drive.

After Centeio scored on a 15-yard run to get the Rams within 14-7 with 59 seconds left in the first quarter, Daniels needed just one play — the school-record scoring strike to Brandon Lewis — for a 21-7 lead.

Daniel Bailey's 1-yard TD run was the only scoring in the third quarter and left CSU trailing 21-14. Daniels gave Air Force a two-possession lead with a 20-yard TD pass to Dane Kinamon midway through the third quarter before the Rams answered with Bailey's 14-yard TD run to make it 28-21. Roberts' 4-yard TD run with 7 seconds left in the quarter capped the scoring.

## Timme's 37 points put No. 1 Gonzaga past No. 5 Texas

*Associated Press*

SPOKANE, Wash. — Drew Timme scored a career-high 37 points and made it look easy as he sank 15 of 19 shots to lead top-ranked Gonzaga over No. 5 Texas 86-74 on Saturday.

"That's a great team win, man," said Timme, a leading candidate for player of the year. "That's a tough team."

Timme played nearly 38 minutes and added seven rebounds and three assists while carrying the bulk of the offensive load.

"I always have fun when I play," the junior forward said. "It's a joy to play this game." He added that "being able to be in a pressure situation is a privilege. We are grateful to play high-level games."

Coach Mark Few said Timme was "arguably the best player in college basketball."

"He played like it tonight," said Few, who returned to the sidelines Saturday after serving a three-game suspension for a DUI. He sat out two exhibition games and the season-opening win over Dixie State.

"He's an off-the-charts competitor" and brings a competitive swagger, Few said of Timme.

Rasir Bolton added 16 points for Gonzaga (2-0), which won a school-record 53rd consecutive home game. The Bulldogs' last home loss was in 2018.

Timmy Allen scored 18 points for Texas (1-1), which was trying to beat a top-ranked team for the first time in program history. Instead, the Longhorns fell to 0-12 against No. 1 teams.

"I wish we'd played better," Texas coach Chris Beard said. "It wasn't for lack of effort."

Texas fell behind early and was down 20 at halftime. The Longhorns outscored the Zags 47-39 in the second half, but it wasn't enough.

Beard noted that he had recruited Timme, a Texas native, while he was at Texas Tech.

"He's a load," Beard said. "A true 6-10, strong. He plays his angles really well."

Timme exceeded his previous high of 30 points. Anton Watson had 10 points for Gonzaga.

The Bulldogs started fast, as Timme had 11 points on 5-for-5 shooting less than five minutes into the game. Gonzaga shot 59% in the first half, while the Longhorns shot just 36% and made nine fewer field goals.

Texas chipped away at the deficit as Gonzaga's shooting cooled off in the second half. Allen had a pair of baskets during an 8-2 run that cut Gonzaga's lead to 60-49 with 10 minutes left.

A three-pointer by Bolton and five straight points by Timme pushed Gonzaga's lead to 72-53 with 6:47 left. But Texas put together a 13-5 run, including consecutive three-pointers by Allen and Marcus Carr, to cut Gonzaga's lead to 77-66.

Gonzaga scored the next seven points for an 84-66 lead with 2:36 left, and the Longhorns could not come back.

The Longhorns are the highest-ranked opponent to visit the McCarthy Athletic Center since it opened in 2004.

Beard said more top teams should schedule early-season games against each other. Gonzaga will play at Texas next year.

# Pacers deal with Embiid-less 76ers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — For Indiana Pacers coach Rick Carlisle, Justin Holiday is a nice luxury to have in the second unit.

Holiday came off the bench to score a season-high 27 points in the Indiana Pacers' 118-113 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday night.

"Justin is a very good player as a started in this league but it's better for us if he can come off the bench," Carlisle said. "He's a real professional at doing that. He knows how to get into the game with his mindset. He's just a total team guy. He's a guy that said to me 'anything you need from me, I will do. I just want to win. I'm for the team.' He's been completely a man of his word. A guy who shoots the ball the way he does, when he gets on roll like he did in the first half, it's a beautiful thing to watch."

Philadelphia center Joel Embiid missed his fourth consecutive game after testing positive for COVID-19 on Monday. The 76ers have lost all four games.

Holiday was 9-for-11 from the field. Malcolm Brogdon had a triple-double with 13 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Myles Turner added 20 points, and Domantas Sabonis had 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Tobias Harris led the 76ers with a season-high 32 points on 10-for-22 shooting and 11 rebounds. Tyrese Maxey added 24 points. Andre Drummond contributed 11 points and a team-high 16 rebounds.

Philadelphia cut it to 107-102 with 2:57 on Maxey's basket. The Pacers pushed the lead to 115-104 with three big baskets by T.J. McConnell.

The Pacers shot 67.4% to take a 70-60 halftime lead. Indiana used a 15-0 spurt to push a 28-25 lead to 43-25. Indiana led by 20

points in the first half.

"The second group helped us get on a great run, but we gave some of it back before halftime," Carlisle said. "Our third quarter was sold and we were able to finish. We just have to keep building trust together and building a level of respect for each other. To win games in the NBA this year is as difficult as I've ever seen from top to bottom."

**Heat 111, Jazz 105:** Tyler Herro had 27 points and eight rebounds to help visiting Miami beat Utah.

Duncan Robinson made six three-pointers and added 22 points. Kyle Lowry had 21. Miami swept the season series with the Jazz and snapped a three-game losing streak.

**Cavaliers 91, Celtics 89:** Darius Garland made two free throws with 9.4 seconds left and host Cleveland rallied from 19 points down in the third quarter to beat Boston to open a two-game set.

**Clippers 129, Timberwolves 102:** Paul George scored 23 points, Reggie Jackson added 21 points and host Los Angeles routed Minnesota for its seventh victory in a row.

**Pelicans 112, Grizzlies 101:** Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 21 points, Brandon Ingram returned from a seven-game absence to add 19 and host New Orleans beat Memphis to snap a nine-game losing streak.

**Wizards 104, Magic 92:** Spencer Dinwiddie scored 23 points, Montrezl Harrell added 20 and visiting Washington used a 20-0 first-half run to beat Orlando.

**Pistons 127, Raptors 121:** Jerami Grant scored 24 points, Isaiah Stewart had 20 and visiting Detroit used a big fourth quarter to beat short-handed Toronto.

# Leafs stun Sabres

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Joseph Woll has another splendid memory from Buffalo, thanks to Morgan Rielly.

Despite allowing the Buffalo Sabres to score twice in 59 seconds to tie the game midway through the third period, Woll won in his NHL debut after Rielly scored with 12 seconds left to secure a 5-4 win on Saturday night.

**Lightning 3, Panthers 2:** Brayden Point scored a backhand breakaway goal in overtime to give host Tampa Bay a win over Florida.

Pat Maroon and Victor Hedman scored for the Lightning, who are 5-0-2 over the last seven games. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 26 saves.

**Red Wings 3, Canadiens 2 (OT):** Dylan Larkin scored the game-winning goal in overtime — his second goal of the night — to give host Detroit a win over Montreal.

Larkin scored his seventh goal of the season, giving him 300 career points.

**Jets 3, Kings 2 (OT):** Mark Scheifele scored 32 seconds into overtime to give host Winnipeg a victory over Los Angeles.

Carl Grundstrom and Brendan Lemieux scored for the Kings, who snapped a seven-game winning streak.

**Golden Knights 7, Canucks 4:** Evgenii Dadonov and Jonathan Marchessault each scored twice in host Las Vegas' win over Vancouver.

Vegas extended its win streak to 8-2-0 since Oct. 26 after opening the season 1-4-0.

**Wild 4, Kraken 2:** Rem Pitlick scored his first three NHL goals and visiting Minnesota beat Seattle for its fifth win in six games.

Marcus Johansson had a power-play goal for Seattle, which has lost six of seven since a 4-1 win over the Wild on Oct. 28.

**Rangers 5, Blue Jackets 3:** Artemi Panarin and Chris Kreid-

er each scored twice and visiting New York beat Columbus.

Jacob Trouba had a goal and an assist to help the Rangers win their second straight.

**Hurricanes 3, Blues 2:** Brendan Smith scored his first goal of the season with 2:57 remaining as host Carolina beat St. Louis.

Brady Skjei and Sebastian Aho also scored for the Hurricanes, who avoided a second straight loss after holding a lead in third period.

**Avalanche 6, Sharks 2:** Colorado overcame a slow start to beat visiting San Jose.

Colorado has outscored its past two opponents 13-3.

**Stars 5, Flyers 2:** Roope Hintz scored for the second game in a row after no goals in his first 11 games, and host Dallas beat Philadelphia for its first win in regulation this season.

Hintz also had the primary assist when Joe Pavelski scored a power-play goal in the third period to put Dallas ahead 4-1.

**Predators 4, Coyotes 1:** Roman Josi had two goals and two assists to lead host Nashville over Arizona.

Matt Duchene and Mikael Granlund also scored for Nashville, which has won three straight and four of five.

**Senators 6, Penguins 3:** Drake Batherson had two goals and two assists, and host Ottawa defeated Pittsburgh to end a four-game losing streak.

Zach Sanford, Michael Del Zotto, Parker Kelly and Tim Stutzle also scored for the Senators, while Jacob Bernard-Docker and Lassi Thomson each picked up their first points in the NHL with assists.

**Bruins 5, Devils 2:** Brad Marchand scored twice and Jeremy Swayman made 27 saves for visiting Boston, which beat New Jersey and ended the Devils' three-game winning streak.

Erik Hauula, Patrice Bergeron and Jake DeBrusk also scored as the Bruins ended a three-game losing streak on the road.