

## Milley says China threat grows

*Associated Press*

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The Chinese military has become significantly more aggressive and dangerous over the past five years, the top U.S. military officer said during a trip to the Indo-Pacific that included a stop Sunday in Indonesia.

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the number of intercepts by Chinese aircraft and ships in the Pacific region with U.S. and other partner forces has increased significantly over that time, and the number of unsafe interactions has risen by similar proportions.

“The message is the Chinese military, in the air and at sea, have become significantly more and noticeably more aggressive in this particular region,” said Milley, who recently asked his staff to compile details about interactions

between China and the U.S. and others in the region.

His comments came as the U.S. redoubles its efforts to strengthen its relationships with Pacific nations as a counterbalance to China, which is trying to expand its presence and influence in the region. The Biden administration considers China its “pacing threat” and America’s primary long-term security challenge.

Milley’s trip to the region is sharply focused on the China threat. He will attend a meeting of Indo-Pacific chiefs of defense this week in Sydney, Australia, where key topics will be China’s escalating military growth and the need to maintain a free, open and peaceful Pacific.

U.S. military officials have also raised alarms about the possibility that China could

invade Taiwan, the democratic, self-ruled island that Beijing views as a breakaway province. China has stepped up its military provocations against Taiwan as it looks to intimidate it into unifying with the communist mainland.

China’s top military officer, Gen. Li Zuo-cheng, told Milley in a July 7 call that Beijing had “no room for compromise” on issues such as Taiwan. He said he told Milley that the U.S. must “cease U.S.-Taiwan military collusion and avoid impacting China-U.S. ties and stability in the Taiwan Strait.”

Milley’s visit to Indonesia is the first by a U.S. joint chiefs chairman since Adm. Mike Mullen in 2008. But U.S. leaders have crisscrossed the Asia-Pacific in recent months, including high-profile visits by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

## Fight brews over DOD push to curb extremism

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — Democrats in both chambers are vowing to resist GOP attempts to halt Defense Department training aimed at countering extremist groups’ attempts to influence service members.

The Senate Armed Services Committee report accompanying its fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act calls on the Pentagon to “immediately” halt the counter-extremism programs. The committee approved the bill in June, but the legislative text and the report weren’t made public until this week.

The language has no legal effect, but its adoption shows the political strength of conservative arguments that even modest amounts of training to equip military personnel to resist extremist recruiting is a distraction from military preparedness.

Every Democrat on the Senate committee voted against the provision, and every Republican voted for it. Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine who caucuses with Democrats, sided with the GOP on the vote, giving it a 14-12 majority.

### ■ Democratic pushback

Democrats said in written replies to queries this week that they would push to make sure the final NDAA clearly supports counter-extremism initiatives in the military.

On the House Armed Services Committee, Maryland Democratic Rep. Anthony G. Brown has been one of the most vocal advocates of Defense Department work to counter extremist narratives. Brown said he intends to redouble such efforts in the remainder of this year, his last in Congress.

“Our military cannot become

a training ground for extremist individuals and organizations seeking to use the skills gained in our armed forces to attack our democracy,” said Brown, who is running for Maryland attorney general. “The alarm bells have been ringing for years, which is why this move by the Senate to halt counter-extremism programs within the Department of Defense is so misguided.”

### ■ Small numbers, big problem

The University of Maryland National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, or START, has found that 17% of those charged with crimes during the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, had military ties, and most of those were veterans, according to Bill Braniff, START’S director.

In the past 31 years, domestic violent extremist attacks by vet-

erans and active-duty service members have killed more than 300 people and injured nearly 2,000 more, House Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Mark Takano, D-Calif., said at a March hearing of his committee.

### ■ Reinforcing rules

For more than half a century, the Pentagon has had guidance barring certain extremist activities. These include the advocacy of, or participation in, certain actions, including those that are violent or that seek to overthrow the government, commit terrorism or deny fellow citizens their rights.

Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III has prioritized countering extremism. Earlier this year, he ordered a department-wide “stand down” to allow uniformed leaders to discuss with troops matters such as which activities are barred and how to report them.

# US, S. Korea to resume field military exercises

By DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — South Korea and the United States are resuming large-scale field military exercises suspended for four years when the two nations tried to negotiate North Korea away from its nuclear weapons, according to an official announcement Friday.

Combined exercises by battalions and larger units of the U.S. and South Korean militar-

ies will commence in August and again in early 2023, the South Korean Ministry of Defense said in a news release. The exercises will also be rebranded as Ulchi Freedom Shield in August and Freedom Shield next year.

The exercises will be defensive in nature, according to the ministry.

Another 11 separate field exercises, such as bridge construction, explosive disposal, attack helicopter fire and special war-

fare are also scheduled with U.S. troops in the coming months, according to the Defense Ministry.

The Defense Ministry is also trying to stage naval drills with U.S. carrier strike groups. South Korea's navy has been taking part in Rim of the Pacific, a multinational maritime exercise in Hawaii and California, since June 29.

The large-scale field exercises were suspended during President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in's

administrations. Trump and Moon, who were in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to dismantle his nuclear program in 2018, agreed to limit the scale of the exercises and focus on computerized simulations.

That pause appeared to have ended following the inauguration of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in May. After meeting later that month with President Joe Biden, Yoon said the two countries would "step up" their military training.

## Japan: Russian aggression may alter world's balance

By HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Japan's Ministry of Defense outlined its priorities, and deepest concerns, in its annual white paper that devotes twice as many pages to Taiwan as last year's outlook.

"Defense of Japan 2022," released Friday, also adds a chapter dedicated to Russia's 5-month-old war against Ukraine.

Russia's aggression against its neighbor is "a serious violation of international law prohibiting the use of force and of the UN Charter," according to this year's paper.

"Such unilateral changes to the status quo by force have shaken the very foundation of the whole international order, not only in Europe, but in Asia, as well," the paper states.

Russian national power in the medium- to long-term may decline, altering the relationship between China and the United States and the regional balance of power, but to do nothing would likewise imperil the existing order, according to the ministry.

"Tolerating Russia's aggres-

sion may imply that unilateral changes to the status quo by force are acceptable in Asia and other regions," the paper states. "These trends warrant concern and must continue to be closely watched in the future."

On Taiwan, the paper predicts a widening gap in military strength will continue to favor China. A stable environment surrounding Taiwan is "critical" to Japan's security, the white paper states, but the island democracy about 300 miles southwest of Okinawa figures prominently in the competition between the U.S. and China.

The U.S. under President Joe Biden continues to identify China as its "most serious competitor" that challenges U.S. security, prosperity and democratic values.

Biden in May said the U.S. would defend Taiwan from an attack by China, although the "One China" policy acknowledges Beijing's view that it has sovereignty over the island. China has said Taiwan must be reunited with the mainland, by force if necessary.

## Hawaii officials scold Navy for Red Hill defueling delays

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Hawaii lawmakers and health officials have chided Navy officials for delays in providing complete plans for defueling the Red Hill underground fuel storage facility that is the source of drinking water contamination on Oahu.

"[T]he Navy doesn't seem to have the same sense of urgency that my constituents have and that the state of Hawaii has," Hawaii Rep. Sonny Ganaden said at a briefing by Navy officials at the statehouse Tuesday.

The Navy submitted a required defueling plan to the Hawaii Department of Health on June 30, a deadline the state agency had mandated in an emergency order issued early this year calling for the facility's closure. The deadline for submitting a plan for the facility's closure is Nov. 1.

Kathleen Ho, director for environmental health at the Health Department, described the Navy's defueling plan as "disappointing."

"The Department of Health

does not approve the current defueling plan," Ho said.

Fuel spills in May and November from the facility on the outskirts of Honolulu seeped into the groundwater. Jet fuel contaminated one of three wells used by the Navy in supplying water to thousands of homes on military communities near and on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Thousands of residents were displaced for months this winter, with some experiencing a host of symptoms such as rashes, diarrhea, headaches and fatigue.

"The highly anticipated defueling plan was disappointing," Ho told the three Navy officials providing the briefing, which included Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, who assumed command of Navy Region Hawaii in June.

"It lacked substance, specific detail and dates," Ho said.

"We need the Navy to feel the same sense of urgency that we feel and that safely defueling and decommissioning the tanks would be in the best interest of everyone," she said.

# Calif. kennel used by troops shut down

By KELLY AGEE  
*Stars and Stripes*

Authorities in California alleging animal cruelty recently shut down a kennel that boarded dogs for military members, leaving 21 animals unclaimed.

Military Mutts Ranch on Cowboy Country Trail, south of Highway 371, in Aguanga, Calif., was closed by Riverside County Animal Services on July 14, according to animal services spokesman John Welsh.

“This property came to our attention for a few different reasons,” Welsh told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday. “We received a tip that there was a horse that was deceased on the property, there was also a malnourished horse. So, that opened up an animal cruelty investigation.”

Some of the 21 impounded dogs have chips, but the owners cannot

be reached, Welsh said.

“It’s terrible to think that this is happening to somebody who’s putting their life on the line for our country,” he said. “It’s important for folks that are going on these long deployments to do a good job of searching for a good facility because there’s nothing worse than them going on deployment and then coming back and finding their dog has been injured or lost.”

Felony cruelty charges stemming from the dead horse and alleged mistreatment of a dog are pending in Riverside County against the kennel owner, Charlotte Orrin, CBS Los Angeles reported on July 15. The county in May denied her application to renew her kennel license.

Navy spouse Grace Turner, 21, said she boarded her three dogs — a German shepherd, an Australian shepherd and a mini-Aus-

tralian shepherd — at the kennel so that she and her husband, Dylan Benson, who is stationed at Naval Base San Diego, could spend four days at a country music festival in Palm Springs.

Turner said she dropped the dogs off April 28 and picked them up May 2, but her mini-Australian shepherd, Kylo, was missing.

“[Orrin] wasn’t even there, I think she was too afraid to see my face,” Turner said by phone Wednesday. “Her employee told me there was a burglary and they think Kylo was stolen with two Belgian Malinois puppies. I was like, ‘Who would break into a boarding facility and only take three dogs?’ I didn’t believe any of it.”

Turner said she called the police, who showed up immediately and searched the property.

“What I saw on that property was absolutely horrible,” Turner

said. “There were feces and urine everywhere you stepped. In the kennels there were multiple dogs shoved into cages with scratch marks, bite marks and wounds. All the dogs looked stressed out because they were all shoved into cages.”

The kennel failed an inspection late last year when a large buildup of animal waste was found, Welsh said. He said Orrin had 70 dogs in a facility licensed for 30.

Meanwhile, Orrin did nothing to help Turner find Kylo, Turner said. Turner reported her missing dog to Orrin’s neighbors, because she said she believed Kylo might still be in the area. On May 6, a neighbor found Kylo sitting beside the property’s fence and called Turner.

Turner said police through a Craigslist ad found the Belgian Malinois that Orrin said were stolen from her property.

## USS Essex 1st ship to deploy with an upgraded 3D printer

By KELLY AGEE  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy deployed an updated 3D printer on the amphibious assault ship USS Essex recently, an upgrade that promises wider capability and a safer work environment.

The Essex became the first to operate a Xerox ElemX 3D printer while underway when it took the machine aboard July 8, said Lt. Cmdr. Nicolas Batista, the Essex’s aircraft intermediate maintenance department officer. The printer was installed in time for the multinational Rim of the Pacific exercise underway in Hawaii and California.

The Navy and Department of Defense are focusing on implementing new technologies, a Xerox manager told Stars and Stripes.

“The advantage of the ElemX is that, unlike other metal 3D printing technologies that use hazardous, and potentially explo-

sive metal powders, we use aluminum wire as a material input,” Tali Rosman, general manager of Xerox Elem Additive, said by email Wednesday. “This means there is no need for personal protective equipment or special facility modifications, making our technology more easily deployable on board a naval ship.”

The Essex had a uPrint Polymer 3D Printer onboard during its July 2018 to January 2019 deployment, Batista said. The ElemX, unlike the uPrint, uses 4008 aluminum standards that can withstand higher loads and is more rigid.

Also, the ElemX requires minimal post-processing, providing a finished part in hours, as opposed to several days with other 3D metal technologies, Rosman said.

Batista said the crew has printed numerous items, including small hydraulic valve hand wheels, fire hose spanner wrenches and light brackets.

## Nearly \$2 billion in US weapons sales approved

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

More than \$1 billion worth of enhanced Patriot missiles and related equipment has been cleared for sale to the Netherlands, in a move the U.S. says will give a boost to allied security in Europe, the State Department announced Thursday.

Washington also green-lighted a \$397 million sale of fighter jet missile systems to Kuwait intended to help the country deal with regional threats like Iran. Australia, meanwhile, is poised to acquire \$235 million in joint air-to-surface standoff missiles with extended range. Collectively, the weapons sales, which still need formal approval from Congress, go to countries playing roles in countering the U.S.’s primary adversaries: Russia, China and Iran.

In the case of the Dutch, the pending \$1.2 billion sale includes 96 enhanced guidance Patriot

missiles along with various tools and equipment to support the systems. Within NATO, the Netherlands is one of a handful of allied countries that possess the Patriot missile system. The Dutch, along with Germany, have dispatched Patriot teams to Slovakia to bolster defenses along NATO’s eastern flank. The deployment was needed to provide backup air defense support for Slovakia, which donated its S-300 air defense system to Ukraine.

In Kuwait, the proposed sale involved 60 advanced medium-range, air-to-air missiles and various other bombs and munitions that can be used by the country’s fleet of Eurofighter Typhoon jets.

Australia’s government requested to buy 80 long-range standoff missiles and supporting gear that the U.S. says will help a key ally in the Pacific, where concerns over China’s military ambitions are a U.S. focal point.



# Biden feeling better after COVID diagnosis

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is feeling “much, much better” after testing positive for the coronavirus, the White House COVID-19 response coordinator said Sunday, confirming that the 79-year-old U.S. leader was infected with a highly contagious variant spreading throughout the country.

“It is the BA.5 variant ... but thank goodness our vaccines and therapeutics work well against it, which is why I think the president’s doing well,” Dr. Ashish Jha told CBS’ “Face the Nation.”

“I checked in with his team

late last night. He was feeling well. He had a good day yesterday. He’s got ... an upper respiratory infection and he’s doing just fine. We haven’t gotten any updates this morning, but throughout the night he was feeling much, much better.”

That variant is an offshoot of the omicron strain that emerged late last year. It is believed responsible for the vast majority of coronavirus cases in the country.

Biden tested positive for the virus Thursday morning.

He has been isolating in the White House residence since then.

Administration officials have

emphasized that his symptoms are mild because he has received four vaccine doses, and he started taking the antiviral drug Paxlovid after becoming infected.

Dr. Kevin O’Connor, the president’s physician, wrote in his latest update Saturday on Biden’s condition that Biden’s earlier symptoms, including a runny nose and a cough, have become “less troublesome,” but that the president now had body aches and a sore throat.

Jha pledged that the White House would keep giving updates on the president’s condition and whether he might have long-term symptoms.

“We think it’s really important for the American people to know how well their president is doing,” he said.

“Obviously if he has persistent symptoms, obviously if any of them interfere with his ability to carry out his duties, we will disclose that early and often with the American people. But I suspect that this is going to be a course of COVID that we’ve seen in many Americans who have been fully vaccinated, double boosted, getting treated with those tools in hand,” Jha said.

“The president’s been doing well and we’re going to expect that he’s going to continue to do so.”

## Russia says Ukraine port strike hit military targets

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian defense ministry officials on Sunday insisted that an airstrike on the port of Odesa — less than a day after Russia and Ukraine signed an agreement on resuming grain shipments from there — had hit only military targets.

“In the seaport in the city of Odesa, on the territory of a shipyard, sea-based high-precision long-range missiles destroyed a docked Ukrainian warship and a warehouse with Harpoon anti-ship missiles supplied

by the U.S. to the Kyiv regime,” ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said at a daily briefing.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly televised address Saturday evening that the attack on Odesa “destroyed the very possibility” of dialogue with Russia.

The Ukrainian military said on Saturday that Moscow had attacked Odesa’s sea port with four cruise missiles, two of which had been shot down by Ukrainian air defense.

Command spokeswoman Nataliya Humenyuk said that no grain storage facilities were hit. Turkey’s defense minister, however, said he had had reports from Ukrainian authorities that one missile struck a grain silo while another landed nearby, although neither affected loading at Odesa’s docks.

It was not immediately clear how the airstrike would affect plans to resume shipping Ukrainian grain by sea in safe corridors out of three Ukrainian Black Sea ports: Odesa, Chernomorsk and Yuzhny.

## 6-year-old girl, parents fatally shot at Iowa park

Associated Press

A 9-year-old boy who was camping at an Iowa state park with his parents and 6-year-old sister survived a shooting that killed the rest of his family.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety identified the victims as Tyler Schmidt, 42; his 42-year-old wife, Sarah Schmidt; and their 6-year-old daughter, Lula Schmidt, all of Cedar Falls, Iowa. Their bodies were found in their tent early Friday at the Maquoketa Caves State Park Campground, about 180 miles east of Des Moines.

Authorities said the suspected gunman, 23-year-old Anthony Sherwin, was found dead Friday in a wooded area of the park with a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Mitch Mortvedt, assistant director of the

Department of Public Safety’s division of criminal investigation, told The Associated Press on Saturday that the motive for the attack was still unknown.

“We don’t know what led up to this, what precipitated it,” he said, adding that so far, “the investigation has not revealed any early interaction between the Schmidt family and him.”

Adam Morehouse, Sarah Schmidt’s brother, said the family had no connection to Sherwin and he believed it was a “completely random act.”

Cedar Falls Mayor Rob Green, who said he is a neighbor of the Schmidts, posted on Facebook on Friday that the couple’s 9-year-old son, Arlo, “survived the attack, and is safe.” The post did not say whether Arlo

was in the tent or even at the campsite when the shootings happened, and the mayor told the AP he didn’t have those details.

Morehouse confirmed Arlo was on the family’s camping trip, but said he did not know exactly where the boy was at the time of the shooting or know specifics about how it unfolded.

“He is with family and he is OK, but I have not had any interaction with him,” Morehouse said Saturday. “As far as I know, he was uninjured physically.”

By Saturday evening, more than \$75,000 had flowed into a GoFundMe page created for Arlo. The page, organized by a cousin, Beth Shapiro, said: “Arlo is a strong boy, surrounded by family and friends who are supporting him as best we can.”

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Man's hand severed by sword at a 7-Eleven**

**H** HONOLULU — Police in Hawaii were investigating after a man's left hand was severed by a sword at a Waikiki 7-Eleven.

They found the man at the entrance to the parking lot with "multiple lacerations, puncture wounds and a severed hand," Shayne Enright, spokesperson for Honolulu Emergency Medical Services told The Associated Press. "Left hand."

Michael Suissa, a tourist from Switzerland, told Hawaii News Now he witnessed the attack.

"The victim started to shout and to cry and then I look at him on the floor and I saw that half his hand was on the floor," Suissa said.

According to Suissa, the man wielding the sword is a worker he has interacted with in recent days at the store.

The Honolulu TV station reported that police didn't confirm the 46-year-old man they arrested is a 7-Eleven employee.

**Police force resigns over work environment**

**NC** KENLY — An entire police department in a North Carolina town has resigned over what it called a hostile work environment, and local leaders scheduled a meeting to determine how to protect residents.

Kenly Police Chief Josh Gibson said he and four other officers turned in their two-week notices, news outlets reported. Gibson said utilities clerk Christy Jones and assistant town manager Sharon Evans also re-

signed.

WRAL reported that the police force normally has eight officers, but only had five on the force when the resignations occurred.

Gibson, who had been with the department for 21 years, said officers couldn't perform their duties due to the environment that was created by town manager Justine Jones, who took the job at the beginning of June. In their resignation letters, the employees cited a "hostile," "toxic" and stressful work environment.

Jones declined comment on the resignations.

**Ex-cop guilty of damaging family's decorations**

**OR** PORTLAND — A former police officer has been found guilty of damaging a family's Halloween decorations outside their home west of Portland, Ore., in 2020.

The Washington County District Attorney's Office said Steven Teets was found guilty of second-degree criminal mischief and sentenced to 24 months of probation, KOIN-TV reported.

Just before the night of the incident, the Forest Grove homeowners heard their car alarms in their driveway.

When the homeowners looked outside, they said saw a man hit their Black Lives Matter sign. The District Attorney's Office said Teets approached the family aggressively at their door so they shut the door and locked it.

When they told him to leave, Teets broke items on their porch and pounded on their door, the DA's office said.

The Washington County

Sheriff's Office reported that Teets appeared to be intoxicated after the incident.

**Man guilty for casting missing wife's ballot**

**CO** DENVER — A Colorado man who had been charged in the presumed death of his missing wife has pleaded guilty to forgery for casting her 2020 election ballot for then-President Donald Trump.

Barry Morphew pleaded guilty and was fined and assessed court costs of \$600, The Denver Post reported. He avoids jail time as part of a plea agreement.

Suzanne Morphew was reported missing on Mother's Day in 2020 after she did not return from a bike ride near her home in the Salida area in southern Colorado. Barry Morphew, who pleaded for help finding his wife, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder and other crimes in 2021, but prosecutors dropped the charges in April.

Suzanne Morphew's body has not been found.

**\$6.3M deal reached over dump site fire**

**AR** BELLA VISTA — A \$6.3 million settlement has been reached in a lawsuit that claimed smoke from an underground fire at a dumping site in northwest Arkansas harmed nearby residents.

The Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that an attorney in the case confirmed the settlement, which involves 85 households with 150 people.

An underground fire burned

at the dump site in Bella Vista, located 164 miles northwest of Little Rock, for 11 months before the Bella Vista Property Owners Association hired firms to put it out. City firefighters discovered the fire in late July 2018.

The fire was put out June 2019.

The lawsuit had sought compensation for the harm residents said they suffered from the smoke and noxious fumes.

**Man dead after charged for trying to kill sister**

**WV** CHARLESTON — A West Virginia man charged with trying to kill his sister, who recently awakened from a two-year coma and identified him as her attacker, has died, authorities said.

Daniel J. Palmer III, of Cottageville, was pronounced dead at a Charleston hospital, a day after he was taken there following an evaluation by jail medical staff, the state Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the Division of Corrections, said in a news release.

The statement didn't indicate a cause of death.

Palmer, 55, was uncooperative while in custody and during booking procedures at the South Central Regional Jail, where he was taken after being charged with the attempted murder and malicious wounding of his sister, the statement said.

Palmer's sister, Wanda Palmer, was in a coma in a nursing home for two years. She was found unconscious with serious head injuries at her home in Jackson County on June 10, 2020.

— From wire reports



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**Reporting World, National and Military News**

# SEC, ACC benefit from transfers between leagues

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The plan wasn't for Georgia Tech to lose top running back Jahmyr Gibbs as a transfer to Alabama in the Southeastern Conference. Yet the Atlantic Coast Conference school has found its share of help from the SEC, too, in the form of seven transfers.

It's a common theme for schools in those leagues amid freer movement through the transfer portal: players shifting from one power conference to the other, often to stay close to home and within an overlapping Southern footprint.

"I think it is kind of a natural move," said Virginia receiver Keytaon Thompson, who has played two seasons for the ACC's Cavaliers after spending three seasons at Mississippi State in the SEC.

Gibbs offers a high-profile example for the upcoming season in his move from the Yellow Jackets to the Crimson Tide after ranking third in the Bowl Subdivision ranks by averaging better than 150 all-purpose yards per game.

He's one of seven players to do so this year among 247sports' Top 150 ranking of transfers for the upcoming season. That list includes:

Alabama receiver Tyler Harrell (from Louisville), Louisville running back Tiyon Evans (from Tennessee), Ole Miss defensive end Jared Ivey (from Georgia Tech), Miami running back Henry Parrish Jr. (from Ole Miss) and Kentucky receiver Tayvion Robinson (from Virginia Tech).

The movement has been fruitful for both leagues.

Last year's Associated Press all-ACC football honors included SEC transfers in

Florida State defensive end Jermaine Johnson II (from Georgia) as defensive player of the year and North Carolina running back Ty Chandler (from Tennessee) as a second-team pick. On the SEC side, Georgia defensive back Derion Kendrick was a second-team selection after transferring from Clemson.

Florida State defensive back Jammie Robinson started his career at South Carolina in the SEC. He said he saw differences in style, but not in competition, between the leagues after earning AP all-ACC second-team honors last year.

SEC teams "are going to ground and pound and run the ball down your throat," Robinson said during the ACC's preseason media days in Charlotte, N.C. "In the ACC it's kind of different. They're going to more spread and more (run-pass options) and stuff like that. When I got to the ACC, that's how I was trying to better my man coverage skills."

More broadly though, the leagues offer logical landing spots for players seeking to move closer to home.

That was a factor for quarterback Hendon Hooker as he left Virginia Tech after the 2020 season marred by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ultimately, the Greensboro, N.C., native opted for another neighboring-state program in Tennessee — an example of why second-year Volunteers coach Josh Heupel called that regional footprint "extremely critical to us at all times."

"I definitely had some options to go a little further away from home," Hooker said during the SEC's preseason media days in Atlanta. "Me being the family man I am, I

would want my family to be at every game. So being four hours away from home is a blessing."

Fourth-year Georgia Tech coach Geoff Collins has an up-close view of the inter-league movement from Atlanta in territory both leagues claim as their own.

While losing Gibbs and Ivey, the Yellow Jackets added defensive back Ahmari Harvey (Auburn) and offensive lineman Pierce Quick (Alabama) as midyear enrollees. In addition, Kentucky offensive lineman R.J. Adams and Auburn defensive back Eric Reed Jr. have joined the program.

"There's a (base of) about five, five-and-a-half-hour radius of your campus that you focus on in recruiting," Collins said. "I think the same thing happens in the transfer portal as well, but then you expand that because they might have gone at a distance and now they want to come back home for whatever reason. I don't think that's too uncommon."

It also goes back to those years-ago recruiting battles for North Carolina coach Mack Brown. The leagues have four overlapping states in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Kentucky.

That creates plenty of battles for high school recruits as both leagues mine that fertile territory, and those ties linger when a player decides later to transfer. "What I'm seeing more is (coaches) are really looking at guys they lose in recruiting, that they think they could've gotten because they were very interested," Brown said. "And then when they leave their other school because they're unhappy, they're going to come back home."

And no one seems to expect the moves to slow anytime soon.

## Newgarden continues Penske dominance in Iowa

Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — Josef Newgarden was furious when he was beaten by his teammate for the pole at Iowa Speedway.

He overcame his fury by winning the race.

Newgarden extended the Team Penske dominance at Iowa by winning the first race of a weekend doubleheader Saturday. It was the American's fourth victory at the shortest track on the IndyCar schedule.

"Unfortunately I get so annoyed these days when I miss it. It's not that I want to be a sore loser, But I just am so compet-

itive that it is frustrating to me when we don't execute perfectly," Newgarden said.

"That's the way my mind works. So I was very motivated to get the race win."

Newgarden raced to his series-best fourth victory of the season and moved from fourth to second in the tight IndyCar championship fight. Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson finished eighth and had his lead in the standings sliced to 15 points over Newgarden.

Newgarden had been 44 points out of the championship lead going into the race on the 0.894-mile oval and can make up

even more ground when IndyCar completes its doubleheader Sunday.

In other auto racing news:

■ In Le Castellet, France, Max Verstappen won the French Grand Prix on Sunday after Charles Leclerc crashed out while leading, a mistake that dropped the Ferrari driver 63 points behind the defending Formula One champion.

Verstappen's seventh win through 12 races this season upped his career total to 27 victories, all with Red Bull. He said his lead in the title race is misleading because Red Bull and Ferrari have been fairly even this season.



# US women get gold, men falter in relays

*Associated Press*

EUGENE, Ore. — For the U.S. women's relay team, this was a shock.

For the men — more of the same.

The women pulled a stunner over Jamaica in the 4x100 relay at world championships Saturday, while the favored men finished second after the latest sloppy baton exchange in what has been a ritual since before anyone on this team was born.

Andre De Grasse beat American Marvin Bracy to the line by .07 seconds to lift Canada to the victory in the men's race in 37.48 seconds.

Bracy fell behind in the anchor leg after twice reaching back and whiffing on the exchange from Elijah Hall, who went tumbling to the ground after he finally got the stick into his teammate's hand.

"Not being clean cost us the race," Bracy had posted on Twitter before he'd even made it through the interview area. "No excuses. We let y'all down, my apologies."

The U.S. women felt nothing but love. A clear underdog to a Jamaican team that had won all but one of the six sprint medals at this meet, the U.S. pulled the upset when Twanisha Terry held off 200 gold medalist Shericka Jackson for a .04-second victory.

She celebrated by doing her "dirtbike dance," hopping on one foot while revving the handlebars of her pretend, superfast bike.

"I just felt the crowd go crazy. It was very

electrifying," Terry said.

The American team, which also included Melissa Jefferson, Abby Steiner and Jenna Prandini, finished in 41.14.

Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce kept her streak alive. She's won gold or silver in every world relay she's been part of, dating to 2007. Nobody on Jamaica came into the relay thinking about second place this year, though.

Jamaica's lineup included all three sprinters from its 100-meter sweep last weekend and both members of the 1-2 finish in the 200. Its fate might have been sealed on a messy first pass between Kemba Nelson and Elaine Thompson-Herah.

"I don't think there's any medal that is designated just for Jamaica," Fraser-Pryce said. "We have to go out there and we have to work like everybody else."

The U.S. men, meanwhile, had taken all six medals in the 100 and 200.

The relays proved, yet again, that pure speed is not all that matters in these races.

"You can have the fastest runner but if there's no chemistry and there's no trust, and the baton isn't moving through the exchange, you aren't going to produce that fast of a time," Terry explained.

Though the U.S. men will walk away with a medal this time — they'd been shut out in six of the last 13 worlds and three of the last four Olympics — this can't be framed as anything but an unsatisfactory result.

"You could come out of here with nothing," Bracy said. "But we've got to clean it up. We've got a lot of work to do to continue to get better."

De Grasse, the Olympic champion at 200 meters, could barely walk up his stairs four weeks ago while recovering from COVID-19.

He didn't make it through 100-meter heats last weekend and pulled out of the 200 altogether.

He won the gold medal with a team that also included Aaron Brown, who finished seventh in the 200 and eighth in the 100; Jerome Blake, who didn't make the final in either; and Brendon Rodney, who was part of Canada's relay pool.

"Once I got the baton, I was like 'OK, I'm neck and neck with the U.S. and now I've just got to do what I can do,'" De Grasse said. "It felt great to spoil the party for them."

The U.S. put out the same lineup as it did the day before for prelims, thus leaving a passel of medalists, and speed — Trayvon Bromell, Erriyon Knighton, Kenny Bednarek and the injured Fred Kerley — on the bench.

The relay medals gave the U.S. 28 for the meet, just three shy of setting a record for a world championships. They'll be favored for medals in the men's and women's 4x400 and the women's 800 with Olympic champion Athing Mu.

## Rams starting over in quest for repeat championship

*Associated Press*

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — The Los Angeles Rams threw the last of their lavish offseason parties Thursday night so they could hand out their massive Super Bowl championship rings to their current and former players.

Sean McVay sees the Friday morning after that soirée as the dividing line between the success of last season and the formidable task in front of the Rams this fall as they attempt to become the NFL's first repeat champions in 18 years.

"It was kind of good timing, because now it represents, 'Let's turn the page,'" McVay said outside the Rams' training camp headquarters in balmy Orange County. "Let's not minimize what a great year last year was, but that's not going to have anything to do with this year."

Most successful coaches repeat some version of this philosophy after a title, but McVay believes the Rams have the talent and the leadership to stay in the race for a second ring. Even if the Rams fall short, McVay is determined to make sure it isn't because of complacency.

"So many things have to go right," McVay said. "We could be a better team this year, and I think we've got a chance to do that, and it might not mean we win a Super Bowl, because there are a lot of things that take place throughout the course of a game — the bounce of a ball here — certain things that are out of your control."

The Rams got several of those bounces during their playoff run while winning consecutive thrillers over Tampa Bay, San Francisco and Cincinnati with late-game surges. Those breaks meant the difference

between an excellent season and a title-winning campaign, so McVay plans to make sure only that his team is prepared to get in the position to have another chance.

After the Rams made their first Super Bowl under McVay three seasons ago, they went 9-7 the following year while missing the playoffs for the only time in McVay's career. The coach credits that slight decline to those bad bounces, not to any post-Super Bowl hangover or preparation flaws.

"A hangover, to me, what that entails is guys think they're better than they are," McVay said. "They stop working the right way, complacency sets in and the previous success you think is going to have anything to do with your future success. We've got the right kind of guys in our locker room, the right kind of coaches that are intrinsically motivated."

# Verlander is MLB's 1st 13-game winner

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Justin Verlander became the major leagues' first 13-game winner, striking out nine and topping 99 mph in his final inning to lead the Houston Astros over the Seattle Mariners 3-1 on Saturday.

Verlander (13-3) allowed four hits in seven innings to win his fifth straight start and lower his ERA to 1.86, second in the American League to Shane Bieber's 1.71 for Tampa Bay.

The 39-year-old right-hander, who missed last season while recovering from Tommy John surgery, averaged 96.3 mph with his fastball, 1.4 mph above his season average coming in.

"I feel like I haven't been able to let it go like that in a long time," Verlander said.

Verlander retired 15 straight between Adam Frazier's second-inning single and Carlos Santana's ninth home run, which cut the lead to 2-1 in the seventh. Seattle loaded the bases on walks by Eugenio Suárez and pinch-hitter Kyle Lewis around Frazier's single, and Verlander struck out No. 9 hitter Sam Haggerty on his 101st and final pitch, clocked at 97.4 mph.

Verlander has allowed one earned run or fewer in seven of his past eight starts.

**Blue Jays 4, Red Sox 1:** Alek Manoah (11-4) allowed one run and six hits in six innings as he lowered his ERA to 2.24 and sent host Boston to its eighth loss in nine games.

Toronto improved to 9-3 against the Red Sox this year. The Blue Jays are 3½ games ahead of Boston for the AL's final wild-card spot.

**Dodgers 4, Giants 2:** Mookie Betts hit his 200th career home run, Julio Urías tossed six innings of two-hit ball and host Los Angeles beat San Francisco to extend its winning streak to seven games.

Trea Turner and Freddie Freeman also homered for the Dodgers, who have won 14 of their last 15. It was the first time this season Betts, Turner and Freeman have homered in the same game.

**Guardians 7-4, White Sox 4-5:** AJ Pollock hit a two-run single with two outs in the eighth inning and host Chicago beat Cleveland to split their day-night doubleheader.

Eloy Jiménez homered and Yoán Moncada drove in two runs as the White Sox improved to 9-9 in a stretch of 19 straight games against AL Central opponents. Chicago won the division last year, but is going to need a strong second half to secure a third straight postseason appearance.

The Guardians had their five-game win-

ning streak snapped.

In the opener, Josh Naylor snapped a ninth-inning tie with a pinch-hit single. Steven Kwan had three hits and José Ramírez drove in two runs with a pair of sacrifice flies.

**Padres 2, Mets 1:** Manny Machado hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning off Chris Bassitt, and visiting San Diego held off slumping New York.

Taylor Rogers allowed a bloop RBI single to J.D. Davis in the ninth before retiring Tomás Nido on a pop up with runners at the corners for his major league-leading 28th save in 33 opportunities.

**Braves 7, Angels 2:** Austin Riley homered among his three hits, Kyle Wright won his 12th game to take the NL lead, and host Atlanta beat Los Angeles.

Riley, an NL All-Star reserve earlier this week, has a 15-game hitting streak and is batting .439 in his past 20 games.

The Braves, who moved one-half game behind the New York Mets for the lead in the NL East, are 35-11 since June 1 — the best record in the majors over that span. They are 19-6 at home during the stretch and have outscored opponents 131-78 in those 25 games.

**Orioles 6, Yankees 3:** Gerrit Cole failed to hold a three-run lead, reliever Albert Abreu's wild pickoff throw led to Cedric Mullins' go-ahead sacrifice fly and host Baltimore rallied past New York.

Ramón Urías added a two-run homer in the eighth inning off Shane Greene, who made his first appearance for the Yankees since he was a rookie in 2014.

New York went 1-for-14 with runners in scoring position and has lost three of four and eight of 12 in its poorest stretch this year and at 65-31 dropped just behind the Los Angeles Dodgers (63-30) for best record in the majors.

**Royals 6, Rays 3:** Brady Singer struck out a career-high 12, Michael A. Taylor and Bobby Witt Jr. homered off Ryan Yarbrough in a three-run eighth inning and host Kansas City defeated Tampa Bay.

Singer, a 25-year-old right-hander in his third major league season, allowed two runs — one earned — and three hits in six innings.

**Twins 8, Tigers 4:** Luis Arraez had three hits to raise his major league-leading batting average to .342, Carlos Correa homered and visiting Minnesota scored six late runs to beat Detroit for just its fourth win in 12 games.

Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera had a run-

scoring single in a three-run eighth inning and with 1,839 RBIs passed Ted Williams on the career list and tied Al Simmons for 13th place.

**Brewers 9, Rockies 4:** Brandon Woodruff pitched six strong innings, Hunter Renfroe hit a three-run homer and host Milwaukee beat Colorado.

Woodruff (8-3) improved to 3-0 with a 2.20 ERA in five starts since coming off the injured list June 27. The right-hander allowed a run on six hits, struck out eight and walked one.

**Pirates 1, Marlins 0:** Jose Quintana pitched seven strong innings and combined with two relievers on a five-hitter to lead host Pittsburgh over Miami.

Yoshi Tsutsugo knocked in the lone run with a sixth-inning single off Tanner Scott (4-4) as the Pirates won for just the second time in seven games.

**Diamondbacks 7, Nationals 2:** Madison Bumgarner pitched eight effective innings, Carson Kelly hit a solo homer and host Arizona handed Washington its 17th loss in 19 games.

Victor Robles connected for a solo homer for the Nationals. Juan Soto was hitless in four at-bats and had his on-base streak snapped at 28 games.

**Cubs 6, Phillies 2 (10):** Nico Hoerner homered early and scored the tiebreaking run in a five-run 10th inning as visiting Chicago defeated Philadelphia.

Hoerner began the 10th as the automatic runner on second base. He stole third with one out and scored on Frank Schwindel's fielder's choice. Schwindel hit a high chopper off José Alvarado (3-2), and third baseman Alec Bohm's throw home was off target.

**Athletics 3, Rangers 1:** Vimal Machin scored on first baseman Nathaniel Lowe's fielding error to snap a scoreless tie in the sixth inning of host Oakland's victory over Texas.

Machin and Chad Pinder each had a sacrifice fly for the Athletics, who took advantage of three Texas errors and scored two unearned runs.

**Cardinals 6, Reds 3:** Paul Goldschmidt drove in three runs to reach 1,002 career RBIs, combining with Tyler O'Neill to hit consecutive fourth-inning homers and lead visiting St. Louis over Cincinnati.

Nolan Arenado had three hits, including two of the Cardinals' six doubles. St. Louis tied its season high with eight extra-base hits and won for the sixth time in nine games.