

Report advises testing for all near PFAS sites

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

Individuals living near sites contaminated by manufacturing chemicals known as PFAS should be regularly tested, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine recommended in a report released Thursday.

PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a class of chemicals that have been widely used in manufacturing processes since the 1950s. They have been used in thousands of products to aid in repelling water or oil and to reduce friction.

PFAS do not break down into their harmless elements over time after escaping from the original product. They have earned the moniker “forever chemicals” because they “persist in the human body and the environment,” the report said.

Roughly 2,854 locations in the U.S. are contaminated to some degree by PFAS, and about a quarter of those sites are linked to military installations, according to the 300-page report, which was

commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The National Academies study cites data collected by the Environmental Working Group that found 678 U.S. military sites are contaminated by PFAS to varying degrees.

The Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit advocacy group that promotes the use of fewer chemicals in agriculture, said in a 2020 report that tap water or groundwater at 328 military installations showed the presence of PFAS, based on records it obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

“Although not all of the contamination represents exceedances of health advisories, the pervasiveness of the contamination is alarming,” the National Academies report said.

The health risks posed by PFAS are not entirely understood, but the National Academies report concluded there is sufficient evidence that four diseases or conditions were associated with PFAS exposure.

They were decreased antibody

response in children and adults, a cholesterol imbalance called dyslipidemia found in children and adults, decreased growth in fetuses and infants and increased risk of kidney cancer in adults.

There is limited but “suggestive” evidence that the chemicals are linked to increased risk of breast cancer, pregnancy-induced hypertension, testicular cancer and an inflammatory bowel disease.

The report recommends that doctors offer testing to patients likely to have a history of elevated exposure to PFAS, which would seem to include a large swath of the population. Among them are those who have had occupational exposure, such as individuals who worked with fluorochemicals and firefighters.

Also at elevated risk of exposure are those who have lived near “facilities that use or have used fluorochemicals, commercial airports, military bases, wastewater treatment plants, farms where sewage sludge may have been used, or landfills or incinerators that have received PFAS-

containing waste,” the report said.

The report includes input collected from citizens around the U.S. during a series of town hall meetings, some of whom have been grappling with PFAS contamination from military bases.

Cathy Wusterbarth co-founded Need Our Water, a community group in Oscoda, Mich., in response to contamination left by the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base. The area’s groundwater was contaminated by PFAS found in firefighting foam used at the air base. Aqueous film forming foam, or AFFF, accounts for much of the PFAS contamination found at military installations.

Wusterbarth said that improved access to PFAS blood testing was crucial to understanding the links between exposure and poor health outcomes as experienced by many living in Oscoda.

“We’ve tested the fish. We’ve tested the deer. We’ve tested the groundwater, the waterways and the foam,” Wusterbarth said at the town hall. “When are we going to test the people?”

USAF grounds training planes, reviews ejection seat part

By **JENNIFER H. SVAN**
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has temporarily sidelined nearly half of its combat training aircraft and a smaller portion of its primary training aircraft while it reviews the safety of a potentially defective ejection seat part.

It’s the same component the Navy and Marine Corps are replacing in some airplanes, such as Super Hornets and Growlers, the Navy announced last week.

The Air Education and Training Command’s 19th Air Force confirmed the grounding of the

trainers, Air Force Magazine reported Thursday.

The order affects 203 T-38 Talon jets and 76 T-6 Texan IIs, 19th Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Craig Wills told the magazine.

That equates to about 40% of the T-38 fleet and about 15% of the T-6 planes in the Air Force inventory, the San Antonio Express-News reported. Fighter and bomber pilots train on the supersonic T-38, while the turboprop two-seat T-6s are used to teach basic flying skills.

The aircraft are assigned to Air Force undergraduate training

bases and Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., which trains aviators from all branches of the military.

The issue triggering the grounding involves a cartridge-actuated device, or CAD, a component that’s activated when aviators pull the ejection handle or deploy a parachute. The Navy and Marine Corps are replacing the CAD in aircraft equipped with the potentially defective part, the Navy announced Tuesday.

Planes affected include the F/A-18B/C/D Hornet, F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, E/A-18G Growler, T-45 Goshawk and F-5 Tiger II,

the Navy said. But officials would not say how many planes are involved, what the defect is and whether any jets had been grounded.

The Navy said it was notified of the potential defect by vendor Martin-Baker, a British manufacturer of ejection seats.

Martin-Baker began installing new escape systems in Air Force T-38s in 2010. The new seat, called the Mk US16T, provides rapid deployment of the parachute following ejection, an Air Force official was quoted as saying at the time.

Sky Soldiers splash down in exhilarating lake jump

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The Army is rarely this fun.

But there they were, 68 paratroopers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, jumping from the back of C-130J Hercules at 1,250 feet of alpine airspace on a sunny summer day into the blue water of Lake Constance.

"It was almost like standing on the edge of the world," said Sgt. Shannon O'Gara, behavioral health non-commissioned officer in charge with the brigade's 173rd Support Battalion, in a phone call after the jump. "It was so quiet. You see the beautiful lake, the mountains, the town ... It was one of the most amazing things I could ever have imagined."

The Friday jump into the lake that lies between Germany, Switzerland and Austria, after an invitation from the German 26th (Saarland) Airborne Brigade, provided the paratroopers more than their first — and perhaps only — water jump. It was also, for most, the first time exiting the back of an aircraft that gave them minutes to view the scene below, something they don't get with usual side-door exits. And, as their jumpmasters were German, it provided them with the coveted German Parachutist Badge.

But the pleasure of the jump was paramount, said Lt. Col. Tony Newman, com-

mander of the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion. Newman, coming up on his 19th year as a soldier, was on his 61st jump. He said he'd never experienced anything like it. It was his first water jump — and the best jump ever.

"It allowed our troops to hang in awe of the view — Austria, Switzerland, the mountains, towns," he said. "Then all you see is crystal clear water, sailboats, spectators watching you float down."

He said he "plopped" into the water with the same velocity of a kid jumping off a 10-foot roof or after a bounce on a diving board — a far softer landing than often occurs in regular jumps.

The troops were required beforehand to undergo "wet silk training" in a swimming pool and show they could swim 25 meters, 10 underwater, followed by a 10-minute tread. The training also included swimming underneath a parachute. Of 150 paratroopers who tried, "surprisingly," 135 passed, Newman said. "We're in the Army, not the Navy," he said.

None of the paratroopers, all wearing life vests, encountered any difficulties in the water, Newman said. As each grouping of 10 troops jumped, German engineers in Zodiac boats would race out to the presumed landing spots — one boat per jumper — to ensure no one was caught under their canopy.

Code Talker Sandoval dies at 98; 3 are left

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Samuel Sandoval, one of the last remaining Navajo Code Talkers who transmitted messages in World War II using a code based on their native language, has died.

Sandoval died late Friday at a hospital in Shiprock, N.M., his wife, Malula, said Saturday. He was 98.

Hundreds of Navajos were recruited from the vast Navajo Nation to serve as Code Talkers with the U.S. Marine Corps. Only three are still alive today: Peter MacDonald, John Kinsel Sr. and Thomas H. Begay.

The Code Talkers took part in every assault the Marines conducted in the Pacific, sending thousands of messages without error on Japanese troop movements, battlefield tactics and other communications critical to the war's ultimate outcome. The code, based on the then-unwritten Navajo language, confounded Japanese military cryptologists and is credited with helping the U.S. win the war.

Samuel Sandoval was on Okinawa when he got word from another Navajo Code Talker that the Japanese had surrendered and relayed the message to higher-ups.

The Navajo men are celebrated annually on Aug. 14. Sandoval was looking forward to that date and seeing a museum built near the Navajo Nation capital of Window Rock to honor the Code Talkers, she said.

"Sam always said, 'I wanted my Navajo youngsters to learn, they need to know what we did and how this code was used and how it contributed to the world,'" she said Saturday. "That the Navajo language was powerful and always to continue carrying our legacy."

Sandoval was born in Nageezi near Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northwestern New Mexico. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after attending a Methodist school where he was discouraged from speaking Navajo. He helped recruit other Navajos from the school to serve as Code Talkers, expanding on words and an alphabet that an original group of 29 Navajos created.

Sandoval served in five combat tours and was honorably discharged in 1946. The Code Talkers had orders not to discuss their roles — not during the war and not until their mission was declassified in 1968.

The roles later became an immense source of pride for Sandoval and his late brother, Merrill Sandoval, who also was a Code Talker. The two became talented speakers who always hailed their fellow Marines still in action as the heroes, not themselves, said Merrill Sandoval's daughter, Jeannie Sandoval.

Klug to lead Navy base in Greece

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

A naval officer whose roles have included helicopter duty in the Middle East and arms control policy adviser to the State Department took command Friday of Naval Support Activity Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete.

Capt. Odin Klug relieved Capt. Rafael Falcundo, who had led the small but strategically located operational base in the eastern Mediterranean Sea since July 2020, NSA Souda Bay announced in a statement.

Klug, who most recently served as deputy

director of support and technologies at the Joint Information Operations Warfare Center, said the base's mission success depends on the courage of its personnel to communicate honestly and transparently.

He said he aims to leverage the spirit of teamwork among sailors that allows them to "achieve something greater, well beyond what an individual teammate can do alone."

Klug is a 1996 Naval Academy graduate who served with Helicopter Antisubmarine squadrons 11 and 5 supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, according to his Navy biography.

Ukraine war hangs over UN meeting

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — There was already plenty of trouble to talk about when a major U.N. meeting on the landmark Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was originally supposed to happen in 2020.

Now the pandemic-postponed conference finally starts Monday as Russia's war in Ukraine has reanimated fears of nuclear confrontation and cranked up the urgency of trying to reinforce the 50-year-old treaty.

"It is a very, very difficult moment," said Beatrice Fihn, the executive director of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Russia's invasion, accompa-

nied by ominous references to its nuclear arsenal, "is so significant for the treaty and really going to put a lot of pressure on this," she said. "How governments react to the situation is going to shape future nuclear policy."

The four-week meeting aims to generate a consensus on next steps, but expectations are low for a substantial — if any — agreement. Still, Swiss President Ignazio Cassis, prime ministers Fumio Kishida of Japan and Frank Bainimarama of Fiji, and more than a dozen nations' foreign ministers are among attendees expected from at least 116 countries, according to a U.N. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak pub-

licly before the conference.

In force since 1970, the Nonproliferation Treaty has the widest adherence of any arms control agreement. Some 191 countries have joined.

Nations without nuclear weapons promised not to acquire them, while nuclear-armed Britain, China, France, Russia (then the Soviet Union) and the United States agreed to negotiate toward eliminating their arsenals someday. All endorsed everyone's right to develop peaceful nuclear energy.

India and Pakistan, which didn't sign, went on to get the bomb. So did North Korea, which ratified the pact but later announced it was withdrawing. Non-signatory Israel is believed to have a nuclear arsenal

but has neither confirmed nor denied it.

Nonetheless, the Nonproliferation Treaty has been credited with limiting the number of nuclear newcomers (U.S. President John F. Kennedy once foresaw as many as 20 nuclear-armed nations by 1975) and serving as a framework for international cooperation on disarmament.

The total number of nuclear weapons worldwide has shrunk by more than 75% from a mid-1980s peak, largely due to the end of the Cold War between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. But experts have estimated roughly 13,000 warheads remain worldwide, the vast majority in the U.S. and Russia.

Drone explosion hits Russia's Black Sea Fleet HQ

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A small explosive device carried by a makeshift drone blew up Sunday at the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet on the Crimean Peninsula, wounding six people and prompting the cancellation of ceremonies there honoring Russia's navy, authorities said.

Meanwhile, one of Ukraine's richest men, a grain merchant, was killed in what Ukrainian authorities said was a carefully

targeted Russian missile strike on his home.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the drone explosion in a courtyard at the naval headquarters in the city of Sevastopol. But the seemingly improvised, small-scale nature of the attack raised the possibility that it was the work of Ukrainian insurgents trying to drive out Russian forces.

A Russian lawmaker from Crimea, Olga Kovitidi, told Rus-

sian state news agency RIA-Novosti that the drone was launched from Sevastopol itself. She said the incident was being treated as a terrorist act, the news agency said.

Crimean authorities raised the terrorism threat level for the region to "yellow," the second-highest tier.

Sevastopol, which was seized along with the rest of Crimea from Ukraine by Russia in 2014, is about 100 miles south of the

Ukrainian mainland. Russian forces control much of the mainland along the Black Sea.

The Black Sea Fleet's press service said the drone appeared to be homemade. It described the explosive device as "low-power."

Sevastopol Mayor Mikhail Razvozhaev said six people were wounded.

Observances of Russia's Navy Day holiday were canceled in the city.

Biden tests positive for COVID-19 for second time

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden tested positive for COVID-19 again Saturday, slightly more than three days after he was cleared to exit coronavirus isolation, the White House said, in a rare case of "rebound" following treatment with an anti-viral drug.

White House physician Dr. Kevin O'Connor said in a letter that Biden "has experienced no reemergence of symptoms, and continues to feel quite well." O'Connor said

"there is no reason to reinstate treatment at this time."

In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, Biden will reenter isolation for at least five days. He will isolate at the White House until he tests negative. The agency says most rebound cases remain mild and that severe disease during that period has not been reported.

Just as when Biden first tested positive, the White House sought to show he was still

working. The president sent out a picture of himself masked and tieless on Twitter, which showed him signing a declaration that added individual assistance for flood survivors in Kentucky.

The president followed up by tweeting out a 12-second video of him on a White House balcony with his dog, Commander.

"I'm feeling fine, everything is good," said Biden, a pair of aviator sunglasses in his hand. "But Commander and I got a little work to do."

Pelosi confirms Asia trip, no Taiwan mention

Associated Press

BEIJING — The speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, confirmed Sunday that she will visit four Asian countries this week but made no mention of a possible stop in Taiwan that has fueled tension with Beijing, which claims the island democracy as its own territory.

Pelosi said in a statement that she is leading a congressional delegation to Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan to discuss trade, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, security and “democratic governance.”

Pelosi has yet to confirm news reports that she might visit Taiwan. Chinese President Xi Jinping warned against meddling in Beijing’s dealings with the island in a phone call Thursday with President Joe Biden.

Beijing sees official American contact with Taiwan as encouragement to make its decades-old de facto independence permanent, a step U.S. leaders have said they don’t support.

Pelosi, head of one of three branches of the U.S. government, would be the highest-ranking elected American official to visit Taiwan since then-Speaker Newt Gingrich in 1997.

The Biden administration didn’t explicitly urge Pelosi to avoid Taiwan but tried to assure Beijing there was no reason to “come to blows,” and that if such a visit occurred it would signal no change in U.S. policy.

“Under the strong leadership of President Biden, America is firmly committed to smart, strategic engagement in the region, understanding that a free and flourishing Indo-Pacific is crucial to prosperity in our na-

tion and around the globe,” Pelosi’s statement said.

Members of Congress publicly backed Pelosi’s interest in visiting Taiwan despite Chinese opposition, as they want to avoid being seen as yielding to Beijing.

Beijing has given no details of how it might react if Pelosi goes to Taiwan, but the Ministry of Defense warned last week that the military would take “strong measures to thwart any external interference.” The foreign ministry said, “those who play with fire will perish by it.”

The ruling party’s military wing, the People’s Liberation Army, has flown growing numbers of fighter planes and bombers around Taiwan to intimidate the island.

“The Air Force’s multi-type fighter jets fly around the trea-

sured island of the motherland, tempering and enhancing the ability to maintain national sovereignty and territorial integrity,” military spokesman Col. Shen Jinke said on Sunday, referring to Taiwan.

Pelosi said her delegation includes U.S. Reps. Gregory Meeks, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Mark Takano, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; Suzan DelBene, vice chair of the House Ways and Means Committee; Raja Krishnamoorthi, a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and chair of the Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Andy Kim, a member of the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees.

US judge gives life term to Canadian ISIS propagandist

Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — A Canadian citizen who led propaganda efforts for Islamic State and personally executed two Syrian soldiers in widely circulated videos was sentenced to life in prison Friday by a U.S. judge.

Prosecutors sought the life sentence for Mohammed Khalifa, 39, a Saudi-born Canadian who held prominent roles for ISIS from 2013 until his capture in 2019.

In a sentencing memorandum, prosecutors said Khalifa played a key role in the group’s successful efforts to recruit tens of thousands of foreign fighters to defend its self-proclaimed caliphate in Iraq and Syria.

In two notorious propaganda videos titled “Flames of War,” Khalifa can be seen shooting Syrian soldiers in the back of the head after they dug their own

graves. He also narrated the videos.

Khalifa’s defense attorneys had sought a term of just 20 years at Friday’s sentencing hearing in Alexandria, Va. They argued he was less culpable than two British-born ISIS members — Alexandra Kotey and El Shafee Elsheikh, nicknamed the “Beatles” by their captives — who personally beat and tortured Western hostages. Both Kotey and Elsheikh were convicted in Alexandria — one has received a life sentence and the other is expected to get life when he is formally sentenced next month.

They also argued that it’s wrong for the United States to impose such a severe sentence against a Canadian who was not convicted of directly killing or harming any Americans and could have just as easily been extradited to Canada.

Feds: Accused Kavanaugh plotter sought court changes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The California man accused of plotting to kill Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh had an expansive goal to change the makeup of the Supreme Court “for decades to come,” according to a recent court filing that cites discussions the man had online.

Nicholas John Roske, 26, told unidentified internet users that his goal was to reverse the then-leaked draft decision of the since-overturned *Roe v. Wade* decision, according to an affidavit for a search warrant in the case, filed in a Maryland federal court last week.

Killing one jurist could change the decisions of the court “for decades to come,” authorities said that Roske wrote, adding, “I am shooting for three.”

Roske explained that “all of the major decisions for the past

10 years have been along party lines so if there are more liberal than conservative judges, they will have the power.”

The details represent the newest indication that the Simi Valley, Calif., man wasn’t focused solely on Kavanaugh, although it does not identify the other justices.

According to the filing, first reported by The Daily Beast, Roske’s cellphone history in May and June of this year included searches for “quietest semi auto rifle,” “Reagan assassination attempt,” “most effective place to stab someone,” “assassin skills,” “assassin equipment,” “assassinations,” “supreme court” and “how to be stealthy.”

Roske is charged with attempting to murder a justice of the United States. He has pleaded not guilty, and a tentative trial date has been set for next month.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Rescued manatee flown across states on plane

FL CRYSTAL RIVER — An ailing manatee that was found and rehabilitated in Texas late last year was flown to Florida on a cargo plane and released into a bay near a wildlife refuge along the Gulf Coast.

The manatee named TexasTeeMiguel was released into Kings Bay in Crystal River, Fla. TexasTeeMiguel flew on a DHL Express cargo plane in a custom, state-of-the-art container built specifically for manatees.

In the container, the manatee rested on a foam bed and was covered in wool and space blankets to maintain a healthy body temperature. TexasTeeMiguel was misted with water under its blankets throughout the trip. TexasTeeMiguel weighs 1,240 pounds.

It was a 24-hour journey from San Antonio with stops in Austin, Texas, and Cincinnati before reaching Orlando.

TexasTeeMiguel was found in Galveston Bay near Texas City, Texas last December suffering from cold stress, flipper damage and severe weight loss, injuries likely incurred from a boat strike. TexasTeeMiguel was tagged and will be tracked and monitored during the next year.

Cyclists arrested for assault, disrupting traffic

NC CHARLOTTE — Five bicycle riders have been arrested in a North Carolina city for disrupting traffic, and police said one of the cyclists was accused of assault.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Po-

lice said in a tweet the five cyclists — ages 39, 29, 19, 17 and 15 — have been charged with reckless driving. The Charlotte Observer reported.

The 17-year-old was also charged with resisting arrest, according to police. The tweet also said a parent of the 15-year-old was cited for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. It's the second time the teenager has been arrested for driving recklessly and disrupting motorists, CMPD said.

Fire damages well-known cheesesteak spot

PA PHILADELPHIA — A fast-moving fire damaged one of Philadelphia's best-known cheesesteak shops, but authorities said no injuries were reported.

Dozens of firefighters and other emergency responders went to Jim's Steaks on South Street when the fire was reported. Smoke could be seen pouring from the building, but officials said all the employees were able to safely evacuate the structure.

It wasn't immediately known how many people were in the building when the fire broke out.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Jim's Steaks opened its original location in Philadelphia in 1939. The South Street location opened in 1976.

Man fatally shot after road-rage confrontation

WA SEATTLE — Seattle police were investigating a fatal shooting in the SoDo neighborhood that apparently escalated to gunfire af-

ter two motorists had a roadway confrontation, authorities said.

Police were called to the 4100 block of 4th Avenue South at a Costco store after receiving a report of a shooting, KOMO-TV reported.

When officers arrived, they found a 68-year-old man suffering from a gunshot wound to the stomach. The unidentified victim was rushed to Harborview Medical Center, where he died, police said in a written statement.

Witnesses told police the victim and a 38-year-old man had been involved in a road rage confrontation before the man was shot. Police said the younger man called 911 to report the incident and remained at the scene to provide a statement to police.

Police seized the man's gun as evidence.

It was not immediately clear if the suspect would be charged in connection with the shooting.

One-year-old boy in stolen car found after 3 hours

IN SOUTH BEND — A 1-year-old boy who was inside a car that was stolen was found safe inside the vehicle three hours later and about two blocks away, South Bend police said.

Karter Wilson was hot and sweaty, but overall he was OK, his mother, Kayla Van Winkle, said.

Van Winkle said she was "very overwhelmed" to get her son back.

The disappearance of the boy created such alarm that off-duty police officers came in on their own time to search for Karter, WSBT-TV reported.

Police said they were pinging the Van Winkles' cellphone, which was inside the car.

It wasn't clear if the car thief realized there was a child in the back seat at the time the vehicle was taken.

Police said they didn't have any suspects and asked residents of the area to provide doorbell camera video.

Ski resort mistakenly builds in protected tundra

CO KEYSTONE — The U.S. Forest Service has stopped construction of a ski resort expansion in Keystone after contractors mistakenly demolished protected alpine tundra for a temporary road.

Officials raised their concern after seeing crews carving the new path into the protected land, beyond the area that the Forest Service and resort had initially agreed upon, The Colorado Sun reported.

"We were surprised and disappointed to see this for sure," said Scott Fitzwilliams, the supervisor of the White River National Forest for the U.S. Forest Service, adding that the mistake "is not a catastrophic ecological event."

The federal agency issued a cease and desist letter earlier last month, suspending development of Keystone resort's 555-acre expansion until the environmental impacts of the unauthorized road are measured. That could delay the opening of the resort's 16-trail expansion this winter, one of the largest capital investment plans in the resort industry.

— From wire reports

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Celtics great Bill Russell dies at 88

Associated Press

BOSTON — Bill Russell, the NBA great who anchored a Boston Celtics dynasty that won 11 championships in 13 years — the last two as the first Black head coach in any major U.S. sport — and marched for civil rights with Martin Luther King Jr., died Sunday. He was 88.

His family posted the news on social media, saying Russell died with his wife, Jeannine, by his side. The statement did not give the cause of death.

“Bill’s wife, Jeannine, and his many friends and family thank you for keeping Bill in your prayers. Perhaps you’ll relive one or two of the golden moments he gave us, or recall his trademark laugh as he delighted in explaining the real story behind how those moments unfolded,” the family statement said. “And we hope each of us can find a new way to act or speak up with Bill’s uncompromising, dignified and always constructive commitment to principle. That would be one last, and lasting, win for our beloved #6.”

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement that Russell was “the greatest champion in all of team sports.”

“Bill stood for something much bigger than sports: the values of equality, respect and inclusion that he stamped into the DNA of our league. At the height of his athletic career, Bill advocated vigorously for civil rights and social justice, a legacy he passed down to generations of NBA players who followed in his footsteps,” Silver said. “Through the taunts, threats and unthinka-

ble adversity, Bill rose above it all and remained true to his belief that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity.

A Hall of Famer, five-time Most Valuable Player and 12-time All-Star, Russell in 1980 was voted the greatest player in the NBA history by basketball writers. He remains the sport’s most prolific winner and an archetype of selflessness who won with defense and rebounding while leaving the scoring to others. That often meant Wilt Chamberlain, the only player of the era who was a worthy rival for Russell.

But Russell dominated in the only stat he cared about: 11 championships to two.

The Louisiana native also left a lasting mark as a Black athlete in a city — and country — where race is often a flashpoint. He was at the March on Washington in 1963, when Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech, and he backed Muhammad Ali when the boxer was pilloried for refusing induction into the military draft.

In 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Russell the Medal of Freedom alongside Congressman John Lewis, billionaire investor Warren Buffett, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and baseball great Stan Musial.

“Bill Russell, the man, is someone who stood up for the rights and dignity of all men,” Obama said at the ceremony. “He marched with King; he stood by Ali. When a restaurant refused to serve the Black Celtics, he refused to play in the scheduled game. He endured insults and vandalism, but he kept on focusing on making the team-

mates who he loved better players and made possible the success of so many who would follow.”

Russell said that when he was growing up in the segregated South and later California, his parents instilled in him the calm confidence that allowed him to brush off racist taunts.

“Years later, people asked me what I had to go through,” Russell said in 2008. “Unfortunately, or fortunately, I’ve never been through anything. From my first moment of being alive was the notion that my mother and father loved me.”

It was Russell’s mother who would tell him to disregard comments from those who might see him playing in the yard.

“Whatever they say, good or bad, they don’t know you,” he recalled her saying. “They’re wrestling with their own demons.”

But it was Jackie Robinson who gave Russell a road map for dealing with racism in his sport: “Jackie was a hero to us. He always conducted himself as a man. He showed me the way to be a man in professional sports.”

The feeling was mutual, Russell learned, when Robinson’s widow, Rachel, called and asked him to be a pallbearer at her husband’s funeral in 1972.

Russell was born on Feb. 12, 1934, in Monroe, La. His family moved to the West Coast, and he went to high school in Oakland, Calif., and then the University of San Francisco. He led the Dons to NCAA championships in 1955 and 1956 and won a gold medal in 1956 at the Melbourne Olympics.

Cards prepare to play 6 games without Hopkins

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — DeAndre Hopkins darted up the field Saturday at practice, made a quick cut and then a nice catch as Arizona Cardinals fans cheered in approval.

It’s a moment they won’t see again in the near future.

The Cardinals will play their first six games of the season without the three-time All-Pro receiver, who was suspended in May for violating the NFL’s policy on performance-enhancing drugs. He can return Oct. 20 for a Thursday night game against the New Orleans Saints.

“It’s football, it’s life, I’ve been through worse things in life than having to sit out six games,” Hopkins said Saturday. “So for me, mentally, I think I’ve prepared for tough moments like this.”

Hopkins is still not exactly sure what caused him to test positive for a substance that he’s previously said was a small amount of Ostarine.

“I’ve never took a supplement, I’ve never took any of that kind of stuff,” Hopkins said. “Obviously, if you know about what it is, it can be a shampoo, it can be in a lot of different things. The NFL is very black and white, so of course, I

wish the rule wasn’t so black and white, but it is what it is.”

There’s little doubt the suspension is a big blow for Arizona, which has played much better when Hopkins is on the field. The team was 8-2 last season in games that he played and 3-5 in games he missed, including a 34-11 loss to the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC Wild Card round.

He caught 42 passes for 572 yards and eight touchdowns last season, but even more than the numbers, he’s valuable because opposing defenses have to give him so much attention.

“He lifts the entire offense

when he’s out there,” Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury said. “He elevates our level of play. We saw it statistically when he was in, when he was out. The way he competes, the way he talks trash, everybody tends to step up when he’s out there.”

The 30-year-old Hopkins is allowed to practice and play in pre-season games before his suspension begins in September. Kingsbury says it’s good to have him out on the field during camp, but they also want to make sure he stays healthy. He missed the final five games of last season because of a knee injury.

Toro helps Mariners topple Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Abraham Toro pinch-hit for All-Star Julio Rodriguez and delivered a two-run single with two outs in the ninth inning as the Seattle Mariners rallied to a 5-4 defeat of the AL-West leading Houston Astros.

Rodriguez was hit on the hand as he swung at a pitch in the top of the eighth inning. He struck out, but played in the field in the bottom half of the inning before being lifted in the ninth. There was no immediate word on Rodriguez's condition.

Astros closer Ryan Pressly (3-3) had his first blown save since June 23, which came against the New York Yankees.

Yankees 8, Royals 2: Aaron Judge became the second-fastest player in major league history to reach 200 career home runs, and host New York beat the Kansas City.

Judge's 200th homer came in his 671st career game, behind just Philadelphia's Ryan Howard, who achieved the feat in 2009 in 658 games. The 6-foot-7 slugger has 42 homers this season.

DJ LeMahieu homered and had an RBI single, and Matt Carpenter homered for the 15th time in 40 games for the Yankees, who won their third straight after dropping a pair of games to the New York Mets.

Mets 4, Marlins 0: Carlos Carrasco earned his 100th career win, pitching four-hit ball into the eighth inning as visiting New York beat Miami for its fifth straight victory.

Francisco Lindor had three hits, including his 17th homer, while Jeff McNeil and J.D. Davis also went deep for the NL East leaders.

Carrasco (11-4) walked two and struck out seven in 7½ innings, becoming the eighth Venezuelan pitcher to reach 100 ma-

ior league wins. Seth Lugo relieved Carrasco and got four outs to finish the four-hitter.

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 3: Teoscar Hernández hit a go-ahead, three-run home run in the sixth inning, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. scored twice and host Toronto beat Detroit for its 11th win in 14 games.

Guerrero stayed in the game after being hit on the left wrist by a pitch from the Tigers' Derek Law in the Blue Jays' four-run sixth.

Rays 6, Guardians 4: Brandon Lowe and Yandy Díaz homered as host Tampa Bay broke a two-game skid with a win over Cleveland.

Corey Kluber (7-6) allowed four runs and eight hits with a season-high 10 strikeouts in six innings. Pete Fairbanks earned his second save.

Twins 7, Padres 4: All-Star Byron Buxton hit a tying homer in the fourth inning off Joe Musgrove, and Carlos Correa gave visiting Minnesota some breathing room with a two-run shot during a five-run eighth in a win over San Diego.

The Twins handed Musgrove (8-4) his fourth straight loss. Musgrove, who earned his first All-Star selection this year, and the Padres are on the cusp of finalizing a \$100 million, five-year contract that would start next year.

Rockies 5, Dodgers 3: Kyle Freeland outpitched Clayton Kershaw, and Brendan Rodgers had three hits as host Colorado snapped a six-game skid against Los Angeles.

Freeland (6-7) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings. He struck out six without walking a batter. Daniel Bard, who agreed to a two-year contract with the Rockies earlier in the day, gave up a two-out double in the ninth but earned his 22nd save.

Brewers 6, Red Sox 4: Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer over the Green Monster, Eric Lauer pitched five innings of one-run ball for his first victory in over a month and visiting Milwaukee sent Boston to its 13th loss in 16 games.

Omar Narváez and Tyrone Taylor each added a solo shot, and Rowdy Tellez had three hits and drove in a run for the NL Central-leading Brewers, who are 7-1 since the All-Star break.

Reds 8, Orioles 2: Tyler Mahle recovered from a rocky start to pitch well in a potential trade deadline audition and Joey Votto hit one of host Cincinnati's three homers in a win over Baltimore.

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 2: William Contreras homered twice, Ian Anderson allowed one hit in six scoreless innings and host Atlanta beat Arizona.

Phillies 2, Pirates 1 (10): Didi Gregorius raced home when an ambitious throw from first to third by Pittsburgh's Michael Chavis leading off the top of the 10th inning sailed wide of the target, helping visiting Philadelphia win its fourth straight.

White Sox 3, Athletics 2: Gavin Sheets hit a tying, two-run homer in the seventh inning and scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the ninth in host Chicago's win over Oakland.

Nationals 7, Cardinals 6: Josh Bell hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning and host Washington rallied past St. Louis.

Angels 9, Rangers 7: Shohei Ohtani hit an early three-run homer, and Luis Rengifo and David Fletcher each had a two-run double during a five-run eighth inning that rallied host Los Angeles past Texas.

Giants 5, Cubs 4: Luis González and Joey Bart homered on consecutive pitches in the fourth inning and host San Francisco held off a late rally by Chicago.

Anderson suspended for having contact with umpire

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Major League Baseball suspended Chicago White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson for three games and fined the All-Star an undisclosed amount Saturday for making contact with plate umpire Nick Mahrley during an argument.

Anderson was in the White

Sox lineup hitting leadoff Saturday against Oakland after he appealed the suspension, and he'll remain active until his appeal is heard. It's the third time he's been disciplined by MLB in the past year, including a one-game ban overturned on appeal earlier this season.

Anderson and manager Tony La Russa were ejected Friday in

a 7-3 loss to the Athletics after a heated exchange over a called strike from reliever Domingo Acevedo that appeared to be high. The tip of Anderson's helmet appeared to make contact with Mahrley.

Anderson had two singles on Saturday and was at the plate in the ninth when Gavin Sheets scored from third on Zach Jack-

son's wild pitch to give Chicago a 3-2 win. Following the game, Anderson declined to speak to reporters about the suspension.

Before the contest La Russa said he watched video from the incident and said, "I think there's an argument to be made in Tim's favor, so we'll see."

Anderson is batting .310 with six homers and 25 RBIs.

Rossi ends 49-race losing streak with victory on IMS road course

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Alexander Rossi didn't understand the allure of Indianapolis Motor Speedway when he showed up as a rookie IndyCar driver seven years ago and won one of the biggest races in the world.

His win Saturday on the Indy road course didn't rival his 2016 victory in the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500. But it did snap a 49-race losing streak and gave him a perfect bookend for his seven seasons with Andretti Autosport.

And as he's learned since leaving Formula One and transitioning into a career in American motorsports, any win at Indianapolis is incredible.

"Every time I come here, I just appreciate it more and more. It's just such an amazing place for us," said Rossi.

He thought he had a car strong enough at Road America in Wisconsin last month to end his three-year losing streak. Instead, his losing streak lasted 1,133 days — but put him in position to end it at Indy.

"I kind of was hoping on the Road America weekend for it to kind of start and end this drought, but it actually ended here and that's actually kind of a cooler story," said Rossi,

who appreciated celebrating with his No. 27 crew on the elevated victory podium that was built by track owner Roger Penske in 2020.

"To be able to go up on the lift with the guys and let them experience that, because that didn't exist in 2016, there's a lot of special things about this place," Rossi said. "It's just a very special thing for sure."

Rossi's last victory was at Road America in the 10th race of the 2019 season and the losing streak led him to seek a change of scenery: Rossi will drive for Arrow McLaren SP next season.

It was Michael Andretti who gave Rossi a shot in IndyCar when the Californian washed out of F1. Rossi's surprise victory as a rookie in the celebrated 100th running of the Indy 500 made him a star and earned him loyal sponsorship that has weathered his long drought.

"It would have been a pretty sad story if we weren't able to (win)," Rossi said. "I've had the majority of the same group of guys, probably 70% of the same group of guys since 2017. It's been hard for them, as well, so it's great to do it as a unit and as a group on the 27 car to kind of get this behind us. Hopefully, we can have a pretty strong run to the end of the year."

Allmendinger king of Xfinity roads

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — AJ Allmendinger continued his dominance of NASCAR road course racing and set himself up for a sweep at Indianapolis Motor Speedway with a victory Saturday in the Xfinity Series.

Allmendinger has won six of the last 11 road course races — nine in his NASCAR career — and his latest victory is his third of the Xfinity season.

All three wins are on road courses this year as Allmendinger already won at Circuit of the Americas in Texas and Portland, and now the hallowed Brickyard.

Allmendinger is the defending winner of the Cup race and will go for the sweep Sunday.

"God I love this place!" Allmendinger screamed to the crowd. "Indy, baby! Let's go!"

Allmendinger sprayed his crew with beer then dropped to his knees on the Yard of Bricks for the celebratory kiss.

"I love it!" Allmendinger screamed into the live NBC Sports camera.

His win in a Chevrolet was his 11th in the

Xfinity Series since 2019 when he came out of semiretirement to help Kaulig Motorsports build its motorsports practice. Allmendinger was the "trophy hunter" for the team in the Xfinity Series, and now does it in Cup in races with big stakes as Kaulig has expanded.

Allmendinger led 43 of the 62 laps and beat Alex Bowman by 2.084 seconds. Bowman thanked his Hendrick Motorsports team for allowing him to race Saturday to prep for Sunday.

"We obviously struggled really badly today in the Cup car, maybe I learned something that will play out tomorrow on the race track," said Bowman, who qualified 28th for the Cup race.

Justin Allgaier finished third as Chevrolet swept the podium, then added one more with a fourth-place finish for Ross Chastain.

Chase Briscoe and Riley Herbst were fifth and sixth in Fords, and Ty Gibbs was the highest-finishing Toyota driver in eighth. Allmendinger, Bowman, Chastain, Briscoe and Gibbs are all entered in the Cup race Sunday.

Nunes tops Peña, regains her title in bantamweight

Associated Press

DALLAS — Amanda Nunes won a unanimous five-round decision over Julianna Peña in the main event of UFC 277 on Saturday night to regain the women's bantamweight championship that she lost last December.

Nunes (22-5), nicknamed "The Lioness," also holds the featherweight belt. The judges' scoring was 50-45, 50-44 and 50-43.

"Double champ again, baby!" Nunes yelled to the crowd after the fight. "This is the best day ever."

Peña beat Nunes last December at Las Vegas to claim the title in one of the biggest upsets in UFC history.

Saturday's fight was the first title defense for Peña (12-5) in the 135-pound division.

Brandon Moreno won the co-main event with a third-round TKO over Kai Kara-France in a scheduled five-round bout to take possession of the interim men's flyweight championship belt.

Nunes dropped Peña three times in the second round, twice on right hooks and then with a left to the forehead.

Nunes took down Peña midway through the third round and kept her on the mat, punching to the head to open cuts along Peña's hairline that left blood splattered on the mat.

Nunes had Peña on her back again for much of the fourth and fifth rounds. Peña's face was streaked with blood that stained much of the mat.

"I could have finished her, but I wanted to go five rounds with her tonight to prove I was better than her," said Nunes, her right eye swollen nearly shut, using crutches to reach the interview session. "I could have gone six, seven rounds."

Nunes came out and added a left-handed stance to her normal right-handed stance. She believes that confused Peña.

UFC president Dana White said Peña was taken from the arena after the fight to see a plastic surgeon about damage to her forehead.

"Julianna's tough as nails," White said. "Her will to win is second to none."