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Boeing wins \$805M Navy drone contract

The Washington Post

Chicago-based Boeing has been awarded an \$805 million contract to develop the Navy's MQ-25A unmanned aerial refueling drone, the Navy announced Thursday, handing the company's Arlington, Va.-based defense business a much-needed win.

Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed Martin and San Diego-based General Atomics had also vied for the opportunity. Under the terms of the contract, Boeing is to produce four of the unmanned aircraft by 2024, the first major step in a defense program that is expected to eventually exceed \$7 billion.

Boeing's defense, space and security President and Chief Executive Leanne Caret attributed the company's win to its experience with Navy aircraft and close understanding of the service's needs.

"As a company, we made an

investment in both our team and in an unmanned aircraft system that meets the U.S. Navy's refueling requirements," Caret said in a statement. "The fact that we're already preparing for first flight is thanks to an outstanding team who understands the Navy and their need to have this important asset on carrier decks around the world."

A Lockheed Martin spokeswoman said the company would meet with the Navy to determine next steps. The company has not ruled out protesting the contract win.

"Our team is highly disappointed to learn that the U.S. Navy did not select our offering. We believe our low-risk, purpose-built MQ-25 design offered the premier solution to expand the capability of the Navy's carrier air wing," the Lockheed spokeswoman said. "We await the customer debrief to learn more about why our offering was not selected. Any de-

isions about next steps will be made following that debrief."

The MQ-25 is viewed as an important program for the Navy because it should extend the flying range of deployed fighter jets like the F-18 Super Hornet and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, giving them easier options to refuel in midair.

The contract is likely to be viewed as a major win for Boeing's defense business, which has been smarting from a string of high-profile losses on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which was awarded to Lockheed Martin, and the B-21 Raider, which went to Northrop Grumman. The company is anxiously awaiting a decision from the Air Force on the estimated \$16 billion T-X Trainer program, with an announcement expected by the end of 2018.

Loren Thompson, a defense consultant with the Lexington Institute, a think tank that gets funding from defense contrac-

tors, characterized the contract win as a "breakthrough" for Boeing that tightens the defense giant's grip on the Navy's major aircraft procurements.

Perhaps more importantly, the contract gives Boeing its first substantial foothold in the U.S. military's autonomous aircraft efforts. That market has been largely dominated by General Atomics, the manufacturer of the MQ-9 Reaper drone.

If Boeing were to win both the MQ-25 and the Air Force's TX Trainer, that would be perceived as a major turning point for its defense business," Thompson said.

Richard Aboulafia, an aviation expert with the Teal Group consultancy, said the contract win should solidify the company's grip on the Navy's aviation projects. "What makes this an important win is that the overwhelming majority of Navy carriers will be filled by Boeing planes for decades to come."

Syria's final rebel stronghold braces for regime's wrath

The Washington Post

After seven brutal years of war, all signs are pointing to a final showdown in Syria. The regime of President Bashar Assad, buoyed by support from Russia and Iran, has systematically reclaimed territories once in the hands of insurgents. Now it is preparing an offensive against the last rebel enclave: Idlib, a largely rural province that abuts the country's northwestern border with Turkey.

International observers are warning of a potential humanitarian catastrophe. "There is a perfect storm coming up in front of our eyes," said Staffan de Mistura, the United Nations' envoy to Syria.

Roughly 3 million people

live in Idlib, more than half of whom are Syrians displaced from other parts of the country. As rebel bastions fell to Assad's forces in other parts of the country, tens of thousands of civilians trapped in those areas agreed to be evacuated to Idlib as part of cease-fire deals brokered with the regime.

The province became a hotbed of the Syrian opposition, including a number of Islamist militant factions that dominate the enclave. The most powerful is Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), an Islamist militant group formerly affiliated with al-Qaida that has participated in terrorist attacks and the killing of civilians. Idlib is also home to vast camps of displaced people and

endemic poverty — as many as 1.6 million people in the province rely on food assistance, according to the World Health Organization.

With Turkey leery of welcoming a new wave of refugees — the country already hosts more than 3 million Syrians — there are growing fears that civilians in Idlib may be cornered. Over the years, hundreds of civilians have been killed there in airstrikes by regime and Russian warplanes.

On Thursday, de Mistura urged the creation of a humanitarian corridor and suggested that civilians consider fleeing back to regime-controlled territory, a proposal representatives of the opposition said was

"regrettable." But such pleas echo the desperate appeals made by the United Nations in the past, entreaties that went largely unheeded as the Syrian regime quashed resistance in Homs, Aleppo, Damascus and elsewhere.

Assad and his allies seem in no mood for compromise this time, either. The regime is talking up the "liberation" of Idlib from thousands of "terrorists," and The Washington Post reporter Louisa Loveluck said Thursday that the Syrian army has been dropping leaflets urging rebels and their supporters to surrender. "Until when will you and your families live in fear and anxiety?" read one. "How long will your children remain without hope or future?"

Philippines frigate aground in disputed sea

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines notified China about a Philippine navy frigate that ran aground in the South China Sea to avoid any misunderstanding because the incident happened near a hotly disputed region, three Philippine officials said Friday.

The BRP Gregorio del Pilar ran aground during a routine patrol Wednesday night in the vicinity of Half Moon Shoal, which is called Hasa Hasa in the Philippines, the Philippine military said, adding that its crew was unhurt.

The barren shoal is on the eastern edge of the disputed Spratly archipelago, where tensions have run high in recent years after China transformed seven disputed reefs into islands, including three with run-

ways, and reportedly installed a missile defense system.

The United States and Asian governments which have claims in the region, including the Philippines, raised alarms over China's island-building and militarization of the strategic territory.

The Philippines earlier was one of the most vocal critics of China's assertive moves in the disputed waters. In 2016, it largely won a complaint it lodged before an international tribunal, which invalidated Beijing's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, however, took steps to revive once-frosty ties with China after he took office in 2016 as he sought infrastructure funding and more trade and investment from Beijing.

The three Philippine officials said China was informed of the accident through its military attache at its embassy in Manila. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said China offered to help with the problem but that the Philippines can handle it.

"It was not intentional," military spokesman Col. Noel Detoyato said about the grounding. He said the frigate hit a shallow stretch of coral outcrop sideways.

Two Philippine tugboats were en route to extricate the frigate, Detoyato said, adding that the military deployed an aircraft to monitor the stalled ship.

Half Moon Shoal lies about 68 miles from the southern tip

of the western Philippine island of Palawan and south of Second Thomas Shoal, where a Philippine navy transport ship was intentionally grounded in 1999 and has since served as a Philippine military outpost.

China has repeatedly demanded the removal of the now-rusty BRP Sierra Madre from Second Thomas Shoal, which is claimed by the Philippines and China.

A military report seen by The Associated Press said the propellers of the BRP Gregorio del Pilar, which has more than 100 crewmembers, were damaged by the grounding. The crew checked the frigate after it ran aground and reported that it was not taking in water.

Meghan McCain delivers rebuke of Trump at event

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John McCain's daughter opened his memorial service, her voice rising from tearful to impassioned tribute, by posing her father's legacy as a direct challenge to President Donald Trump.

Meghan McCain said her father was a "great man" and she encouraged others to live up to his example, setting a tone that echoed the senator's own fighting spirit as services began Saturday at the Washington National Cathedral.

"We gather here to mourn the passing of American greatness — the real thing, not cheap rhetoric from men who will never come near the sacrifice he gave so willingly, nor the opportunistic appropriation of those who lived lives of comfort and privilege while he suffered and served," she said, her voice first choking back tears then raising to anger.

She said to applause, "The

America of John McCain has no need to be made great again because America was always great."

Trump was not on hand for the ceremony, after McCain's family made clear he was not invited.

Among those in the front row at the cathedral were Barack and Michelle Obama, George and Laura Bush, Bill and Hillary Clinton, as well as Dick Cheney and Al Gore. McCain's motorcade arrived from the Capitol, where he laid in state overnight, and the procession made a stop at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where McCain's wife, Cindy, placed a wreath.

At McCain's request, Obama, a Democrat, and Bush, a Republican, both former rivals in the senator's bids for the White House, were among those speaking about the six-term senator during Saturday's service.

Papadopoulos seeks leniency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump "nodded with approval" at the suggestion of a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to a court filing Friday night that seeks leniency for a former campaign aide who lied to the FBI.

Lawyers for George Papadopoulos are seeking probation, saying the foreign policy adviser misled agents during a January 2017 interview not to harm an investigation but rather to "save his professional aspirations and preserve a perhaps misguided loyalty to his master."

Papadopoulos is a pivotal figure in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. The revelation that he'd been told by a professor during the campaign that Russia had "dirt" on Democrat Hillary Clinton in the form of emails helped trigger the FBI's counterintelligence investigation in July 2016 into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

The 16-page defense memo paints Papadopoulos as an eager-to-please campaign aide who was just in over his head.

The defense lawyers say Papadopoulos was hired by the campaign in March 2016. That month, he traveled to Italy and connected with a London-based professor who introduced him to a woman described as a Putin relative. That professor, Joseph Mifsud, would later tell him that individuals in Moscow possessed "dirt" on Clinton.

"Eager to show his value to the campaign," defense lawyers say, Papadopoulos suggested during a meeting with Trump and his foreign policy advisers that same month he could leverage his newfound Russian connections to arrange a meeting between Trump and Putin.

"While some in the room rebuffed George's offer, Mr. Trump nodded with approval and deferred to Mr. Sessions who appeared to like the idea and stated that the campaign should look into it," defense lawyers wrote.

Fla. gubernatorial candidate under attack

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Andrew Gillum, who engineered a surprising upset victory in Florida's Democratic primary, is picking up endorsements, money and plenty of national attention in the aftermath of his win.

But as the Tallahassee mayor mounts his bid to become Florida's first black governor, he is already coming under swift attack from Republican opponents who are trying to use a slow-moving corruption investigation into Tallahassee city government to portray Gillum as untrustworthy.

The investigation broke into the open last summer shortly after Gillum joined the race, but it was not extensively debated or discussed by his Democratic opponents before he won Tuesday's primary. But by

Thursday, the Republican Governor's Association launched a digital ad that blasted Gillum. It focused on both the City Hall probe and an earlier incident in which Gillum paid back the city after he used city money to buy software that was used to send out campaign emails. Likewise, the campaign of U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, who won the GOP primary, also trying to draw attention to the investigation.

Gillum, 39 — who had appearances on NBC's "Meet the Press" and CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday — contends he is ready for the onslaught of attacks that have just begun to ramp up.

"A lot of people counted us out. They thought we would completely surrender under all the innuendo and the pressure of the moment," Gillum said last week. "I spoke directly to voters. I answered their

questions. ... It wasn't as if those voters weren't aware of all the issues that were swirling."

Earlier this summer, the FBI asked for thousands of records dealing primarily with The Edison, an upscale restaurant frequented by lawmakers and lobbyists that is located in a city-owned building. The Edison received \$2 million in financial assistance from both the city and the local community redevelopment agency.

One of the owners of the restaurant was lobbyist Adam Corey, who once served as Gillum's campaign treasurer and has known him since college. Gillum says he has talked to the FBI and that he is not the target of an investigation.

He also has told local news outlets that he has broken off his friendship with Corey.

Pressure mounts to reunite families amid abuse claims

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Trump administration is under increasing pressure to speed up the reunification of immigrant families it separated at the Mexican border, following allegations three youngsters were sexually abused while in U.S. custody.

The government of El Salvador said the three, ages 12 to 17, were victimized at shelters in Arizona, and it asked the U.S. to make their return a priority.

"May they leave the shelters as soon as possible, because it is there that they are the most vulnerable," Deputy Foreign Relations Minister Liduvina Magarin said in San Salvador on Thursday.

The U.S. government already is facing heavy criticism over its slow pace in reuniting more than 2,600 children who were separated from their parents last spring before the Trump administration agreed to stop the practice.

Most have since been reunited, but hundreds remain apart more than a month after the deadline set by a judge.

Before the Trump administration reversed course, many of the parents had been deported to their home countries while

their children remained in shelters in the U.S.

Attorneys for the U.S. government and the immigrant families discussed how to accelerate the process at a hearing Friday in San Diego in front of U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw, who set the deadline.

Magarin gave few details on the three cases other than to say they involved "sexual violations, sexual abuses."

More information is needed to investigate, the U.S. Department Health and Human Services said in a statement Friday, adding that "without additional details, we are unable to confirm or deny these allegations took place" at a facility overseen by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. It contracts with nonprofits and other third parties to run shelters for unaccompanied minors arriving at the border.

In trying to reunite families, the Trump administration has put the onus on the American Civil Liberties Union, asking that the organization use its "considerable resources" to find parents in their home countries, mostly Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

5 from NM compound arrested on gun charges

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — The FBI on Friday arrested five former residents of a ramshackle compound in New Mexico on firearms and conspiracy charges as local prosecutors dropped charges in the death of a boy, 3, at the property.

Taos County District Attorney Donald Gallegos said his office will now seek grand jury indictments involving the death.

He said seeking indictments will allow more time to gather and analyze evidence, and enable his office to avoid calling juveniles from the compound as witnesses in court.

Three of the adults from the compound had been released Wednesday after state judges dismissed child neglect charges, noting that prosecutors missed deadlines to present evidence and that charges may have been improperly filed by the sheriff and prosecutors.

Deadlines loomed in state court this week to show evidence backing up charges of child abuse resulting in death against Jany Leveille and Siraj Ibn Wahhaj, the father of the

boy whose body was found in an underground tunnel at the compound near the Colorado border.

Those charges were subsequently dropped Friday in lieu of taking the case to a grand jury set to convene in late September.

"Going to a grand jury allows us to get that information and vet it and not be under the 10-day window, which is quite burdensome," Gallegos said, describing state rules on due process for jailed defendants that require a quick showing of probable cause that a crime was committed.

All five people arrested by the FBI will remain in custody pending a Tuesday hearing in federal court.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Albuquerque said Leveille has been charged with being an alien unlawfully in possession of firearms and ammunition.

The other four people are charged with conspiring with Leveille. They include Lucas Morton; his wife, Subhannah Wahhaj; and her sister Hujrah Wahhaj.

9/11 continues to kill those who aided

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — FBI agent Dave LeValley was driving to work in Manhattan when he saw the first jetliner strike the World Trade Center on a bright September morning 17 years ago. He quickly parked his car and sprinted to the scene, where he scoured for evidence and helped survivors while dodging falling debris and bodies.

When the first tower collapsed, he dove into a bodega, escaping with his life. What he couldn't outrun: the toxic cloud of dust.

"We saw him a couple of hours later, and he looked like a snowman, covered head to toe in that stuff," said Gregory W. Ehrie, a fellow FBI agent who spent several weeks with LeValley digging in the rubble.

LeValley, who joined the FBI in 1996 and rose to lead the bureau's Atlanta office, was diagnosed in 2008 with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. He died in May, age 53, from a different form of cancer that had metastasized to his brain. FBI officials and health experts say both were likely caused by carcinogenic fumes and dust after the Sept. 11 attacks.

In all, 15 FBI agents have died from cancers linked to toxic exposure during the investigation and cleanup, the FBI says. Three of them, including LeValley, have died since March — a rash of deaths that has reopened traumas of the terrorist attacks and sparked fresh anxieties.

"It's like bin Laden is still reaching out from the grave," said FBI agent Thomas O'Connor, who is president of the FBI Agents Association, a service and advocacy group for active and former agents. "It affects us all in serious ways. People are dying, others are sick. Those that are not yet sick wonder: Is that headache, is it really cancer? Is that sore hip really cancer?"

The 15 agents' deaths, which the FBI says occurred in the performance of their duties, are only a tiny part of a much larger tragedy. More than 7,500

emergency responders, recovery and cleanup workers, and volunteers at the three Sept. 11 crash sites have been diagnosed with various forms of cancer, according to the World Trade Center Health Program, which is administered by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

New York City officials say that more than 300 firefighters and police officers already have succumbed to cancers and other diseases related to the attacks.

Alongside police and firefighters, FBI agents combed the rubble for victims and clues at the crash sites — the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville, Pa. Scores of agents also spent 12-hour shifts sorting debris in warehouses and at the Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island.

Most did not wear appropriate safety gear because agencies did not understand the danger in the poisons unleashed by burning jet fuel and other hazardous material, according to O'Connor, who heads the FBI agents' association. More than a dozen current and former agents who responded to the crash sites now have cancer, he added.

O'Connor's organization has urged agents to sign up for the federal health program, which provides medical monitoring and treatment to more than 71,000 former responders and 16,000 other survivors. He began to weep as he described watching his wife, Jean — also an FBI agent, who had rushed to the crash site at the Pentagon — open an envelope containing her test results.

She got good news — she was just fine. "You have no idea the stress this causes," O'Connor said, "every day."

FBI Director Christopher Wray has eulogized the three agents who died this year and said the deaths have profoundly affected him and his agency.

"It breaks my heart even more to see more victims, which is what they are, they're victims of the 9/11 attacks in a different way," Wray said in a

statement, adding he spoke to LeValley and another agent, Brian Crews, before each died.

"The thing that really jumps out to me about the three agents whose memorial services I've been to is how just utterly selfless these people were," Wray said. "They were extraordinary people."

The FBI and the agents' association are working with the Department of Labor to declare the deaths and illnesses of agents who responded to Sept. 11 a result of performance of their duties. That designation would make the victims' families eligible for more federal benefits than the FBI provides by itself.

The Labor Department has so far determined that five FBI agents' deaths were caused by their exposure to Sept. 11 toxins, according to the agents' group. The FBI and the agents' association are seeking the same designation — and benefits — for the other 10 who died. A Labor Department spokesman declined comment on specific cases, citing agency guidelines.

Doctors and experts caution that more research is needed to draw conclusive links between specific diseases and exposure to Sept. 11 sites. Several studies, including two published this year in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, have concluded that emergency teams and other rescue workers at the World Trade Center faced an increased risk of cancer.

"We are now seeing a new wave of cancers coming in," said Dr. Michael Crane, who runs a treatment and monitoring center financed by the federal health program at Mount Sinai Health System in New York. "Most (first responders) just rushed down there and were not protected from the toxins in the air or the dust cloud. They were literally eating and breathing this material. There were known carcinogens in the air."

FBI agent Scott McDonough breathed in those toxins for weeks. A member of an FBI

helicopter crew, he was dispatched to New York and spent several weeks leaning out of a helicopter to take close-up photos of debris.

"We flew through the dust," he said. "It stuck to you. In your nose. In your lungs."

He went to a doctor in 2016 after he spotted blood in his stool. Within weeks, he was undergoing surgery for rectal cancer, which the federal health program determined was related to his Sept. 11 work. Since then, McDonough said, he has been cancer free. He is encouraging his colleagues to get evaluated.

"You have to do this," he said, "for your family."

Relatives of fallen agents described grueling medical battles, painful tests and difficult family transitions as FBI agents dedicated to investigating terrorism suddenly became its hidden victims.

Robert Roth was based in Quantico, Va., on Sept. 11 and drove straight to the Pentagon when he heard the news. He spent days setting up search teams and gathering evidence, said his wife, Tresa Roth.

When he came home, Roth complained of a metallic taste in his mouth and a burning in his nose. But as the months wore on, his wife said, he put the attacks behind him. An athlete, he kept in shape by running and lifting weights and was known for avoiding junk food.

"He was the office health nut," she said. "Only protein and vegetables."

While jogging with his children in 2006, Roth felt pain in his left hip, his wife said. When the pain wouldn't go away, a doctor ordered tests that revealed the father of five was suffering from a serious form of multiple myeloma. He died 18 months later.

"There is a heaviness, especially now, at the FBI," she said of the rash of cancers. "So many agents have it, that it's now to the point where others are wondering when their time is going to come."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man gives girlfriend wet willy, arrested

FL FORT PIERCE — Authorities said a Florida man was arrested for being belligerent and giving his girlfriend a wet willy.

A St. Lucie County sheriff's deputy went to the home after Joseph Sireci's girlfriend told authorities he was drunk on the living room floor when she returned from work last month.

According to an affidavit, she said Sireci accompanied her and her daughter to another home where Sireci continued to be belligerent and on the way home, grabbed her hand, pulled her arm and gave her a wet willy by sticking his wet finger in her ear.

Treasure Coast Newspapers reports Sireci was charged with battery.

Lightning strikes woman in parking lot

FL DELAND — Authority in central Florida said lightning struck a woman who was standing in a restaurant parking lot.

News outlets reported the woman is an employee of a Denny's restaurant in DeLand, which is north of Orlando. She was in the parking lot when a bolt of lightning hit her.

Fire rescue officials said she was in serious condition when she was taken to a hospital.

Sprinting naked man leads cops on pursuit

CA LOS ANGELES — A naked man who sprinted with Los Angeles police officers running after him and a police helicopter overhead is in custody after a lengthy chase.

The pursuit at dawn Friday captured live by TV news he-

licopters began after the man abandoned a suspected stolen truck on a freeway east of downtown.

Illuminated by a police helicopter spotlight, the man sprinted along dirt footpaths, through a homeless encampment and scaled a fence. Officers closed in as he hid under trees, but the man then ran down an embankment and across several busy freeway connector roads, dodging cars.

The man disappeared into a hilly wooded area behind residences but officers caught up with him. He was not immediately identified.

Deadly waterslide can be torn down: Judge

KS KANSAS CITY — A Kansas judge said crews can begin tearing down a 17-story waterslide on which a 10-year-old boy was decapitated when his raft went airborne.

The Kansas City Star reported that Wyandotte County District Court Judge Robert Burns said that the preservation of the Verruckt slide "traumatizes everyone."

The 2016 death of Caleb Schwab at the Schlitterbahn water park in Kansas City led to criminal charges against the company that built the slide and five people, including Schlitterbahn's co-owner.

Mutilated cat found, raising total to 12

WA OLYMPIA — Another cat was found mutilated south of Tacoma in Thurston County.

Thurston County Animal Services Officer Erika Johnson said the cat's body was found Tuesday near the Chehalis Western Trail.

News outlets reported the

killing marks the 12th cat found mutilated since October.

Investigators believe the cases are connected because most of the cats' bodies have been left in public after the animals' spines have been removed.

A reward has been offered for information that leads to an arrest in the case.

Caretaker charged with dumping woman

CT HARTFORD — A Connecticut woman is facing several charges for allegedly dumping an 83-year-old woman she was hired to care for out of her wheelchair.

Christine Christensen posted \$50,000 bail after she was charged with third-degree elder abuse, second-degree reckless endangerment and third-degree assault of an elderly person. She is scheduled to appear in court Sept. 4.

Police said Christensen, 62, of South Windsor was caught on surveillance video July 10 shoving the wheelchair at a Windsor Locks nursing facility. The facility said Christensen does not work for them, but was hired by the victim's family.

The victim slammed face first onto the floor and suffered injuries to the left side of her face and her left arm.

Firetruck used to free skydiver stuck in tree

NE WEEPING WATER — Firefighters rescued a skydiver who landed in a tree in eastern Nebraska after her first solo jump from a plane.

Firefighters and Cass County sheriff's deputies were called to help around 4 p.m. Saturday. Abbey Lacy, 29, was stuck around 60 feet up, hanging from parachute cords attached to her harness. Members of her para-

chute club gathered below and reassured her while she awaited rescue near Weeping Water.

Rare lobster caught off coast, thrown back

ME STONINGTON — A Maine fisherman said he caught a rare, nearly see-through "ghost lobster," then threw the crustacean back into the ocean because it was too small to keep.

Mike Billings hauled in the lobster off the coast of Stonington. The Portland Press Herald reported the lobster's distinct coloration is likely caused by a genetic condition that results in the partial loss of pigmentation.

Billings said he took pictures of the lobster, and then threw it back into the ocean.

This is not Billings' first encounter with odd lobsters, as he previously caught a rare calico lobster in 2014, the same year he caught one with one blue claw.

Women charged with helping kids smoke

NC WINSTON-SALEM — North Carolina police charged two women with helping three children smoke an apparently drug-laced cigar on social media video.

A Winston-Salem Police Department news release said officers arrested the women after numerous reports about the Facebook video. Police also seized drug paraphernalia.

Jail records show Michaela Pearson and Candice Little were held on charges of child abuse and contributing to delinquency of minors.

The children were treated at a hospital and remained there for observation.

From wire reports

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Black Knights take to air in loss to Duke

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke quarterback Daniel Jones was a more efficient passer than Army's quarterback — and that's more impressive than it might seem.

Jones threw for one touchdown and rushed for another score, helping the Blue Devils open with a 34-14 victory over Army on Friday night.

Jones was 13-for-17 for 197 yards with a 1-yard touchdown run and a 25-yard scoring pass to Aaron Young.

"It started with a strong running game. ... The offensive line and their ability to impose their will and open up lanes for the running backs was big," Jones said. "Only 17 pass attempts but when we did, we were efficient with it, and it was good to see."

The biggest surprise of the night was how well his counterpart — Kelvin Hopkins Jr., a junior making his first career start — threw the ball. The passing game has largely been an afterthought at Army, which for years has been known for a triple-option offense that led

the nation in rushing last year.

Hopkins also threw for 197 yards — on 10-for-21 passing — with a 45-yard touchdown pass to Cam Harrison. It was the most yards passing for Army since 2015.

"No, we did not" expect 21 passes from Army, linebacker Joe Giles-Harris said. "It's hard to prepare for something like that from an option team, but at the same time, we did our best. And you've got to be ready for stuff like that. When you go up, you can't run the ball forever. ... All summer, we kind of prepared for a couple of different passes and they ran them today."

Brittain Brown had a 12-yard touchdown run, backup Deon Jackson added a 7-yard score and Collin Wareham kicked two field goals for the Blue Devils, who responded to both Army touchdowns by scoring TDs of their own to win their opener for the seventh straight year and atone for their most recent loss — a 21-16 defeat at Army last November.

"Being able to push the ball down the field and keep the de-

fense on their heels has been an emphasis of ours," Jones said.

Hopkins also had a short rushing touchdown before his long scoring pass in the final minute of the third quarter pulled the Black Knights to 24-14. Jones followed with his TD to Young that restored Duke's 17-point lead, and Ben Humphreys effectively ended it by blocking Landon Salyers' 45-yard field-goal attempt with less than 7 minutes left.

The takeaway

Army: The Black Knights, who led the Bowl Subdivision last season at 362.3 yards rushing per game but are replacing four starting offensive linemen from that team, were more willing to air it out with Hopkins. He threw more passes in the first half (five) than Army did in seven of its games in 2017, and finished with the academy's most yards passing since its 208-yard day against rival Navy three years ago.

"The things we wanted to do didn't turn out how we wanted to," Hopkins said. "They were moving fast laterally, couldn't

get them reach-blocked and things like that. But our pass game was working, O-line was killing it, they were giving us time and things like that. So we just kind of went with what was hot at the moment."

Duke: The good news for Duke's defense: the Blue Devils recovered two fumbles from an Army team that lost just five of them during its 10-win season in 2017. Now, the bad: Duke's secondary was at times lit up by the option-oriented Black Knights, who have pretty much ignored the forward pass over the years.

Great Britain

Brown finished with 75 yards on 11 carries and for most of the night appeared headed for his third career 100-yard performance. He hurt his right knee while going down in the third quarter, then came back but didn't carry the ball in the fourth quarter. Coach David Cutcliffe said Brown's knee was stable but expected it to be sore Saturday. Duke improved to 6-0 in Brown's career when he has more than 10 carries.

Top 25 roundup

Heyward's late TD rallies No. 11 Spartans past Utah St.

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Connor Heyward scored his second touchdown with 2 minutes left to put No. 11 Michigan State ahead and the Spartans held on to beat Utah State 38-31 on Friday night.

The Spartans trailed until the second quarter, built a 13-point lead late in the third and fell behind late in the opener for both teams.

Darwin Thompson put the Aggies ahead with a 1-yard run, his second go-ahead score of the game, with 5:05 remaining. Their defense couldn't make one more stop to beat the highest-ranked team in school history, surpassing the victory

over No. 18 BYU in 2014.

Utah State did have one more chance to send the game to overtime — or possibly pull off the upset — but Joe Bachie tipped and intercepted a pass at midfield with 1:15 remaining.

No. 4 Wisconsin 34, Western Kentucky 3: Jonathan Taylor had two long touchdown runs, Alex Hornibrook threw for 257 yards and two scores and the host Badgers beat the Hilltoppers to open the season.

A young defense working in seven new starters forced two turnovers inside Wisconsin's 5. A.J. Taylor paced the short-handed receiving corps with five catches for 85 yards, while Garrett Groshek turned

a screen pass into a 43-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter for a 31-point lead.

The Badgers finished with a flurry, scoring on five of six drives after punting on three of their first four possessions. Jonathan Taylor finished with 145 yards on 18 carries.

No. 13 Stanford 31, San Diego State 10: JJ Arcega-Whiteside caught three TD passes from K.J. Costello to overcome a slow night by Heisman Trophy runner-up Bryce Love and the host Cardinal beat the Aztecs.

Love was held to 29 yards on 18 carries as the Aztecs focused their defense on stopping the man who led all Power 5

backs with 2,118 yards rushing last season.

After a slow start in the opener for both teams, the Cardinal made San Diego State pay for that decision. Costello connected with Arcega-Whiteside on a 38-yard score in the second quarter and then on plays from 19 and 80 yards in the third quarter as the Aztecs defensive backs struggled to contend with Stanford's big receiver. Arcega-Whiteside finished with six catches for 226 yards.

Costello added a 19-yard TD pass to Colby Parkinson in the fourth quarter to break open what had been a close game for more than a half. Costello finished 21-for-31 for 332 yards and four TDs.

Serena dispatches Venus in straight sets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Serena Williams kept booming big shots for winners, never allowing herself to feel sorry for the overmatched player on the other side.

So what if it happened to be her big sister?

The Williams sisters, long ago in careers that have spanned 20 years and 30 meetings as professionals, learned they had to view each other only as opponents — and in Serena's eyes, Venus is the best one she's ever played.

"Even though it's difficult, especially for me," Serena said, "we just do the best that we can."

On Friday, it was perhaps the best she's ever done against Venus.

Serena equaled her most-lopsided victory against her sister with a 6-1, 6-2 rout in the third round of the U.S. Open.

Serena shook off an early

ankle injury to win seven straight games and seize control in perhaps her most dominant performance since giving birth to her daughter a year ago Saturday.

The sisters' earliest meeting in a Grand Slam tournament in 20 years was over early, with Venus unable to do anything to blunt Serena's power, even after the fans that were part of Friday's single-day record crowd of 70,162 tried desperately to get behind her with pleas of "Come on, Venus!" early in the second set.

"I think it's by far the best match I ever played against her in forever," Serena said. "But I don't know about ever, ever. It probably was. I played much better tonight than I have since I started this journey on my way back."

"It's not easy," Serena said, despite how easy it looked in a match that lasted just 1 hour, 12 minutes.

They hadn't played this early

in a Grand Slam since Venus won in the second round of the 1998 Australian Open in their first meeting as pros, and only once over the next two decades had either won so decisively. Serena won by the same score in a semifinal victory in Charleston, S.C., in 2013.

"I think it's the best match she's ever played against me," Venus said. "I don't think I did a lot wrong. But she just did everything right."

Serena, the No. 17 seed, will face Kaia Kanepi of Estonia, who knocked out top-ranked Simona Halep in the first round.

No. 1-ranked Rafael Nadal overcame a shaky start and used his customary relentless style to wear down No. 27 seed Karen Khachanov physically and mentally, eventually getting to the fourth round with an entertaining and back-and-forth 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3) victory that took 4 hours, 23 minutes.

The man he beat in last year's

final at Flushing Meadows, No. 5 Kevin Anderson, got through his own tough test against an up-and-coming opponent, edging No. 28 Denis Shapovalov 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Earlier, 2017 champion Sloane Stephens betrayed a lot more emotion on Arthur Ashe Court than she usually shows anywhere, all of the double fist pumps making perfectly clear just how tight and tense things had been during her 6-3, 6-4 win against two-time runner-up Victoria Azarenka.

Stephens, the No. 3 seed, grabbed the last three games after returning from a brief break while the Ashe roof was shut because of light rain.

Stephens went from up a set and 3-1 in the second to down 4-3 when Azarenka took three games in a row. That's when rain came.

"The man upstairs," Stephens said, "was looking out for me."

WNBA playoff roundup

Mercury top Storm to force Game 4 in best-of-5 series

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Mercury lost a starter before the ball went in the air. Their best player struggled to get her shots to fall, their opponent went on another big run.

DeWanna Bonner, with a big boost from Yvonne Turner, kept their season going.

Taking over the offensive lead, Bonner had 27 points and 11 points to help the Mercury to an 86-66 win over the Seattle Storm on Friday night to force a Game 4 in the WNBA semifinal series.

"This was our season," Mercury coach Sandy Brondello said. "We knew we were close there (Seattle) and needed to go out and do it for 40 minutes."

The Mercury suffered a blow before the game, learning starting forward Stephanie Talbot would not play due to a

concussion. Phoenix also had to play through a difficult night offensively for Diana Taurasi, who had eight points on 3 of 11 shooting.

The Mercury got off to another good start and had a big rally in the fourth quarter, just like the series' first two games. This time, Phoenix kept it close in the middle quarters before reeling off the first 14 points of the fourth quarter, cutting Seattle's lead to 2-1 in a series that heads to Game 4 on Sunday in Phoenix.

Brittney Griner had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Mercury. Turner was superb in Talbot's place, finishing with 19 points, seven rebounds, six assists and three steals to help Phoenix end a 10-game losing streak in WNBA semifinal games.

"I always make sure I'm

doing what I need to do, knowing what our schemes are and when I need to step up, I have to step up," Turner said. "I was able to do that tonight."

The Storm struggled in the fourth quarter for the third straight game. Unlike the first two games, Seattle did not have a big cushion to fall back on, extending its playoff road losing streak to eight straight games, dating to 2011.

Natasha Howard had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Storm. Breanna Stewart added 15 points and 11 rebounds.

"We were playing catch-up most the game, but never could quite get back in it," Storm coach Larry Hughes said. "We'd kind of get back in, kind of separate, kind of get back in, but never really had control of the game."

Dream, 81, Mystics 76: Tif-

fany Hayes had 23 points and 11 rebounds and Atlanta beat host Washington to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five semifinal series.

Washington played without injured All-Star Elena Delle Donne.

Brittney Sykes scored 17 points, and Elizabeth Williams had 14 for the Dream. Atlanta is one victory away from the franchise's fourth finals appearance and first since 2013.

Delle Donne suffered a bone bruise on her left knee in the closing minutes of Tuesday's 78-75 Game 2 loss at Atlanta. Washington's offense labored without its leading scorer. The Mystics shot 36 percent from the field and 5 of 23 on three-point attempts.

Aerial Powers led Washington with a season-high 18 points.

MLB trades roundup

Giants trade McCutchen to Yankees

Associated Press

Andrew McCutchen is shaving his beard for a possible World Series run. Ryan Madson is switching bullpens, trying to help another team win a title. And Josh Donaldson is hoping he's healthy enough to contribute.

The Milwaukee Brewers? They were a busy bunch, swinging trades to get starter Gio Gonzalez, outfielder Curtis Granderson and reliever Xavier Cedeno.

Several contending teams swung into action Friday, making trades to bolster potential playoff rosters. A player must be on a club by Aug. 31 to be eligible for the postseason.

"I think what happens in September is that the whole calculus of this thing changes,"

Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said.

Counsell spoke after the Brewers acquired Cedeno, and before they beat Washington 4-1 at Nationals Park. After the win, Milwaukee said it had gotten Gonzalez from the Nats and Granderson from Toronto.

All three of the Milwaukee trades were for minor leaguers. So, too, were the swaps that sent Donaldson from Toronto to Cleveland, Madson from Washington to the Los Angeles Dodgers and McCutchen from San Francisco to the New York Yankees.

The Dodgers, who acquired star infielder Manny Machado and Brian Dozier in July, made a late deal to get infielder David Freese from Pittsburgh. The Yankees also added one more

player deep into the night, acquiring shortstop Adeiny Hechavarria from the Pirates.

The Indians' trade for Donaldson might've been the most intriguing of the day. Cleveland is running away with the AL Central, but it's not certain how Donaldson, a third baseman who was the 2015 AL MVP, might be used.

Donaldson hasn't played in the majors since May 28 because of a strained calf and only began a minor league rehab assignment this week. When he's healthy, he's fiery and fearsome.

"I'm going to miss him," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said shortly before the trade was announced. "We had our battles. He is a high-strung player, but he did a lot for us."

Gonzalez simply shifted clubhouses and changed from a Nationals uniform into a Brewers sweat shirt and hat.

"I grew up here. I had my family here, my wife and my kids. It's just sad but I'm happy," Gonzalez said. "I'm really happy. I'm getting a second chance to redeem myself and I think this is a perfect opportunity with a team like the Brewers. I see there's a hopefully a brighter future for me."

The 32-year-old lefty is 7-11 with a 4.57 ERA in 27 starts this season.

The 37-year-old Granderson is batting .245 with 11 home runs and 35 RBIs in 104 games this season. He has reached the playoffs with four teams in his career — Detroit, the Yankees, the Mets and the Dodgers.

MLB roundup

Turner's homer pushes Dodgers past Diamondbacks

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Justin Turner homered on Zack Greinke's first pitch of the eighth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-2 on Friday night.

Los Angeles began the day two games behind Arizona in the NL West and 2½ games back in the wild-card race.

The Dodgers also announced they had acquired third baseman David Freese from the Pirates in exchange for minor league infielder Jesus Manuel Valdez.

Kenley Jansen worked the ninth for his 33rd save. Paul Goldschmidt doubled with one out, but Jansen struck out David Peralta and retired Eduardo Escobar on a grounder to shortstop.

Enrique Hernandez also homered for Los Angeles, and Dylan Floro (5-3) got the win.

Goldschmidt hit his 31st homer for Arizona, and Gre-

inke (13-9) gave up six hits in 7⅓ innings.

White Sox 6, Red Sox 1: Yoan Moncada and Matt Davidson homered for host Chicago, and prized prospect Michael Kopech combined with three relievers on a five-hitter.

Athletics 7, Mariners 5: Stephen Piscotty and Matt Chapman homered for host Oakland, and Matt Olson had three hits.

The Athletics pulled within 1½ games of AL West-leading Houston and extended their lead for the second wild card to 5½ games over Seattle.

Yankees 7, Tigers 5: Gleyber Torres drove in the go-ahead run one batter after a contested check swing loaded the bases in the eighth inning, and New York beat visiting Detroit while awaiting the arrival of 2013 NL MVP Andrew McCutchen.

Brewers 4, Nationals 1: Jhoulys Chacin pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Travis Shaw hit a two-run homer, leading visiting Milwau-

kee to its third straight win.

Indians 3, Rays 0: Corey Kluber pitched seven sparkling innings for host Cleveland, and Edwin Encarnacion hit his 29th homer.

Phillies 2, Cubs 1 (10): Asdrubal Cabrera homered in the 10th, lifting host Philadelphia to the win in a game played through steady rain.

Blue Jays 6, Marlins 5: Justin Smoak connected for a pinch-hit grand slam in the ninth inning, sending visiting Toronto to the victory.

Pirates 3, Braves 2: Gregory Polanco's eighth-inning single drove in Adam Frazier with the tiebreaking run for visiting Pittsburgh.

Twins 10, Rangers 7: Jake Cave hit a tiebreaking homer in visiting Minnesota's eight-run fifth inning.

Angels 3, Astros 0: Andrew Simmons hit a two-run homer in a three-run sixth inning for visiting Los Angeles.

Royals 9, Orioles 2: Ryan

O'Hearn drove in four runs and Whit Merrifield scored three times for host Kansas City in a matchup of the two worst records in the majors.

Cardinals 12, Reds 5: Shortstop Paul DeJong hit a three-run homer and a two-run single for a career-high five RBIs for host St. Louis.

Matt Carpenter hit his NL-best 35th homer as St. Louis pulled within 3½ games of NL Central-leading Chicago.

Padres 7, Rockies 0: Frammil Reyes, Luis Urias and Wil Myers homered for host San Diego, and Brett Kennedy pitched six innings of four-hit ball.

The Rockies dropped into third place in the NL West, but remained 1½ games behind the division-leading Diamondbacks.

Giants 7, Mets 0: Rookie left-hander Andrew Suarez pitched seven crisp innings, leading host San Francisco to the win.