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Flynn pleads guilty to lying to FBI agents

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Former national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, and court papers indicate he was acting under instructions from senior Trump transition officials.

Flynn's admission to the charge Friday in federal district court in the District of Columbia is an ominous sign for the White House, as court documents indicate Flynn is cooperating in the ongoing probe of possible coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin to influence the 2016 election. The plea relates to false statements Flynn made to the FBI on Jan. 24 — four days after President Donald Trump was inaugurated — about his conversations with Kislyak during the transition.

Flynn admitted making false statements to the FBI about

asking the ambassador in late December to “refrain from escalating the situation in response to sanctions that the United States had imposed on Russia that same day.” Flynn also told authorities he did not recall the ambassador “subsequently telling him that Russia has chosen to moderate its response to those sanctions as a result of his request,” according to a court filing. That would suggest there was a second, previously unknown contact between Flynn and Kislyak.

Separately, authorities say Flynn lied about asking the ambassador to delay a vote on United Nations Security Council resolutions.

“Guilty, your honor,” Flynn, dressed in a dark blue suit and blue striped tie, told U.S. District Judge Rudolph “Rudy” Contreras.

Flynn is the highest-profile Trump ally — and the first aide

who worked in the White House — to face charges in Mueller's investigation. Trump developed a close rapport with Flynn on the campaign trail, where the general delivered fiery denunciations of Hillary Clinton, including leading a “lock her up” chant at the Republican National Convention, and he gave Trump much-needed national security credentials.

Flynn, however, had a mixed reputation among other Trump aides, who thought he gave the president questionable information and were dubious about some of his business dealings.

Even after Flynn was described as having misled Vice President Mike Pence about the contact with Kislyak, Trump was conflicted over firing him — and even said after Flynn left the White House that he may have made a mistake. Trump's request of former FBI Director James Comey to be lenient with

Flynn also has come under the scrutiny of the special counsel.

In recent weeks, Trump's lawyers have expected Flynn to plead guilty, particularly after one of Flynn's lawyers, Robert Kelner, said he could no longer communicate about the probe with Trump's lawyers.

Flynn's negotiations to cooperate with Mueller's team began early last month, according to two people briefed on the discussions. Days after former campaign chairman Paul Manafort was indicted, Mueller's investigators warned Flynn's lawyers they planned to indict Flynn and also could charge his son, according to the two people who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

Flynn's lawyers, Kelner and Stephen Anthony, provided a proffer of what information Flynn could provide, and then Flynn met with Mueller's team.

Congress seeks Navy, Marine help with funding gaps

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A panel of House lawmakers on Friday asked top Navy and Marine Corps officials for help convincing Congress to stop the flow of unstable military funding measures that have hampered amphibious warfare readiness and training efforts.

Members of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness turned the tables on the usual Capitol Hill conversation of temporary funding bills, known as continuing resolutions, that often lay blame of military budgeting shortfalls on Congress. This time, members said the military can do

more to convince Congress to get full budgets passed.

Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., told a witness panel of top Navy and Marine Corps officials that the military can do a better job exerting influence on Capitol Hill to stop the temporary funding bills that are triggering the deficiencies.

“As long as you ask for a continuing resolution, you are going to get a continuing resolution,” Scott said. “Make us stop this madness. Until you hold Congress' feet to the fire, you are going to have to watch our capabilities further degrade.”

The subcommittee hearing comes on the heels of a federal watchdog's report finding critical readiness and training

deficiencies for Navy and Marine Corps forces launching amphibious operations.

U.S. naval forces officials said Friday that they are doing the best they can with their funding to address the deficiencies, but it will take stable budgets to ultimately address the concerns.

Last month, Congress sent a massive \$700 billion defense bill to President Donald Trump's desk, but a deal to fund the spending plan still isn't clear. For now, the military is operating with a continuing resolution, which will hit a Dec. 8 deadline that some pundits and lawmakers say could bring a government shutdown or another continuing resolution.

The plan surpasses statu-

tory budget caps by about \$80 billion, and if not addressed, it could trigger automatic, across-the-board spending cuts.

“Now is the critical time to get out from under this problem from a budgetary perspective,” Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., told military officials on Friday. “It might seem absurd to put the onus on you, given that we are a separate branch of government which provides you with funding. It's our job. But we really need your help because you guys bring a credibility that Congress does not. Congress is rocking a 12 percent approval rating, I think you guys are a 90 percent approval rating. By the way, (our) approval rating is lower than cockroaches and colonoscopies.”

Former US base worker gets life in prison

Stars and Stripes

NAHA CITY, Okinawa — The former U.S. base worker accused of raping and killing an Okinawan woman last year was sentenced to life in prison with hard labor after being convicted of her murder Friday at Naha District Court.

A panel of three judges and six jurors found Kenneth Franklin Gadson, 33, guilty of murder, rape resulting in death and the illegal disposal of a body in the slaying of Uruma office worker Rina Shimabukuro, 20. He will spend the rest of his life behind bars at Yoko-

suka Prison in Kurihama, barring a successful appeal.

"The life of the victim — who had just celebrated her adulthood — was suddenly taken, and her body was abandoned in the bushes," Chief Judge Toshihiro Shibata said when reading the verdict.

"Her body was not found until it was reduced to bone; her sorrow is immeasurable. ... Even giving consideration to the fact that the body was found by the concession of the defendant and he had no previous criminal record, there is no reason to find a lighter sen-

tence than life imprisonment," he added.

During Gadson's three-day trial last month, the former Marine pleaded guilty to rape resulting in death and the illegal disposal of a body; however, he disputed the murder charge, saying he had "no plans to kill" Shimabukuro.

Gadson — a former civilian employee at a Kadena Air Base cable and internet provider who went by his Japanese wife's surname of Shinzato — arrived for the verdict as he had for each day of his trial, wearing the prisoner's garb of a white T-shirt, blue pants and black plas-

tic sandals. He wasn't given a chance to speak Friday and sat expressionless for most of the proceedings. He stared off into space and, at one point, placed his chin in his left hand.

Panel members concluded that while Gadson may not have intended to kill Shimabukuro when he attacked her, that quickly changed after he struck her from behind and she screamed and fought back. They agreed with the prosecution that his attempts to silence her — choking her with two hands and stabbing her in the neck — were signs that he intended to end her life.

US putting off planned ban on its use of cluster bombs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has put off indefinitely a planned ban on using certain cluster bombs, which release explosive sub-munitions, or bomb-lets. The U.S. military considers them a legitimate and important weapon, although critics say they kill indiscriminately and pose hazards to civilians.

A 2010 international treaty outlaws the use of cluster bombs, but the U.S. is not a signatory.

The George W. Bush administration declared in 2008 that after Jan. 1, 2019, the United States would continue its use of cluster bombs only if they met a performance standard of failing to detonate 1 percent or less of the time. That standard is important because armed and unexploded cluster munitions left on the battlefield pose a long-term hazard to civilians.

Tom Crosson, a Pentagon spokesman, said that despite efforts to develop more reliable, and thus safer, cluster munitions, the U.S. military has been unable to produce bombs with failure rates of 1 percent or less. He said it's unclear how long it might take to achieve that standard, and thus, the Pentagon concluded in a monthslong poli-

cy review that it should set aside the 2019 deadline and allow commanders to authorize the use of the weapons when they deem it necessary.

The new policy drew immediate criticism.

Mary Wareham, arms division director for Human Rights Watch, said there is no compelling reason for the use of cluster munitions.

"The U.S. says it can't produce 'safe' cluster munitions, so it has decided to keep using 'unsafe' ones," she said. "We condemn this decision to reverse the long-held U.S. commitment not to use cluster munitions that fail more than 1 percent of the time, resulting in deadly unexploded sub-munitions." Her organization is chair of the Cluster Munition Coalition, an international campaign seeking to eliminate cluster bombs.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat, called it a shame that the U.S. "will continue to be a global outlier," and she urged President Donald Trump to reverse course.

"Cluster munitions are indiscriminate, and as such, they frequently kill civilians and damage infrastructure long after conflicts end," she said.

AFRICOM to fly armed drones from Niger base

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command will start flying armed drones from its base in Niger, adding more firepower in a country where four U.S. soldiers were killed in an ambush by militants.

Niger and the U.S. this week agreed to arm the military's surveillance mission in the country. Flights could begin within days, The New York Times reported, citing a memorandum between the countries.

For years, the U.S. military has debated the merits of arming Reapers based in Niger. The deadly Oct. 4 ambush in the country added urgency to the deliberations. AFRICOM on Friday declined to go into details of the arrangement.

"Niger and the U.S. stand firm in working together to prevent terrorist organizations from using the region as a safe haven," AFRICOM spokeswoman Robyn Mack said in a statement. "For operational security reasons, I will not comment on specific military authorities or permissions."

An armed fleet of Reapers means the U.S. military will now have access to immediate air

power in western Africa, where the number of American troops has grown in tandem with concerns about the growth of violent extremism in the region.

With 800 troops and construction on a new drone facility now underway, Niger has emerged as the main hub for U.S. operations directed against extremists such as Boko Haram, assorted al-Qaida affiliates and Islamic State militants.

During the past year, U.S. operations in Africa have become increasingly lethal, with some 500 strikes carried out against ISIS targets in late 2016 and a surge of activity this year in Somalia, where 30 strikes have been conducted.

Next year, AFRICOM is expected to shift its Niger drone flights from its post in the southern part of the West African nation to a more central location that will also put its northern neighbor Libya within range.

The new base, situated in the Nigerien city of Agadez, was slated to open this year, but construction delays have pushed its opening to late 2018.

Senate GOP hustles on tax bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Senate Republicans are stepping quickly to meet competing demands of holdout GOP senators for a tax overhaul package expected to add \$1 trillion to the nation's deficit over 10 years.

The Republicans eyed a crucial final vote Friday on the \$1.4 trillion Senate bill carrying the hopes of President Donald Trump and the Republican Party to preserve their majorities in next year's elections.

Amid a whirl of meetings and dramatic votes Thursday evening, the Senate GOP leaders rewrote the bill behind closed doors. They weighed scaling back the tax cuts in the legislation to secure crucial support.

The leaders were making major changes up to the last minute, including one that would roll back some of the tax cuts after six years to appease deficit hawks — notably Sens. Bob Corker, of Tennessee, and Jeff Flake, of Arizona.

Another faction to be reckoned with: senators supporting millions of businesses whose owners report the firms' profits

on their individual tax returns. The vast majority of U.S. businesses, big and small, are taxed this way.

Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., backed the tax legislation Wednesday after securing an increase in the deduction for business income from 17.4 percent to 20 percent.

But Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said Thursday that he is still withholding support for the bill because he'd like the deduction boosted to 25 percent.

The 'triggers'

The scramble to alter the bill came after the Senate's parliamentarian ruled that automatic "triggers" designed to guard against big deficits would violate Senate rules. GOP leaders' main concern was winning over the hawks worried about adding more red ink to the mounting \$20 trillion deficit.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., had expressed confidence early in the day, but he has little margin for error with just a 52-48 Republican majority. He can afford to lose only two votes while counting on Vice President Mike Pence to break the tie.

Sen. John Cornyn, of Texas, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said the bill will have "alternative, frankly, tax increases we don't want to do" to address deficit concerns.

Flake said the "trigger" tax increases would raise about \$350 billion over 10 years, though he didn't specify which taxes would go up.

In a dramatic turn, Democrats forced a vote on whether to return the measure to the Senate Finance Committee so it could be rewritten to ensure smaller deficits.

After holding out for nearly an hour during the vote, Corker, Flake and Johnson eventually joined fellow Republicans to scuttle the Democratic proposal. Corker has pushed to add automatic tax increases in future years if the package doesn't raise as much revenue as projected.

With the provision seemingly dead, Corker said senators would change the bill to roll back some of the tax cuts in future years, regardless of whether tax revenues meet expectations.

Defense chief warns flawed tankers won't be acceptable

Bloomberg

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has bluntly warned Pentagon weapons buyers that he won't let the Air Force accept new refueling tankers from Boeing if they're flawed or don't meet all contract obligations, according to a person familiar with the issue.

The plain-spoken defense chief sent a note to staff last month that he's "unwilling (totally)" to accept deficient planes in the \$44.5 billion KC-46 tanker program, said the person, who asked not to be identified discussing internal deliberations.

Mattis also underscored in his note that Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, a former Boeing executive, is prohibited from involvement in the issue, according to the person.

While Mattis hasn't been deeply involved in weapons programs, he's the latest defense secretary to weigh in on the Air Force's tortuous, 16-year effort to replace the aging KC-135 tanker. Over the years, it's an effort that's been dogged by scandal, overturned contracts and congressional inquiries.

The most serious of three recent flaws with the tanker is multiple instances of its retractable boom scraping aircraft receiving gas during midair refueling.

The KC-46's schedule already has slipped because of earlier technical problems, including with its wiring. Delivery of the first 18 tankers, which was supposed to be completed by August of this year, is now expected by October 2018.

Boeing has absorbed cost overruns exceeding the Air Force's \$4.82 billion liability cap in the tanker's development phase, and the plane has drawn praise from Pentagon officials and the Government Accountability Office.

No lawyer for American detained by US in Iraq

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government acknowledged Thursday that it has detained an American citizen accused of fighting with Islamic State for more than two months without fulfilling his request to see a lawyer.

Responding to a court order, the government said the man picked up on the Syrian battlefield indicated he was willing to talk to FBI agents but "felt he should have an attorney present."

The unidentified American, who has not been charged, surrendered to U.S.-backed fighters in Syria around Sept. 12 and is currently being held in Iraq as an unlawful enemy combatant.

The American Civil Liberties Union recently filed a court petition challenging his detention and asking to act on his behalf

to provide him access to legal counsel.

The detainee was in a legal "black hole," Jonathan Hafetz, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU in New York, told U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan.

The judge repeatedly asked Kathryn Wyer, an attorney in the Justice Department's Civil Division, whether the detainee had requested an attorney or had been advised of his constitutional rights. When Wyer wouldn't answer the questions, the judge ordered the government to respond by 5 p.m.

The government met the deadline with a two-page response.

It said that during questioning, FBI special agents advised the detainee of his right to remain silent even though he might have spoken earlier to other interrogators. That was an apparent reference to intel-

ligence agents who are believed to have questioned the detainee first.

The government said the detainee also was advised of his right to an attorney.

"The individual stated he understood his rights and said he was willing to talk to the agents, but also stated that since he was in a new phase (of questioning), he felt he should have an attorney present," the government said.

When the agents told the detainee it was unclear when he would be able to get an attorney, he "stated that it was OK and that he is a patient man," the government said.

The detainee later said he "did not wish to speak with agents of the FBI" at all, the government said. No further questioning for law enforcement purposes has occurred.

San Francisco trial focused only on shooting

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Though the 2015 shooting death of Kate Steinle became a flashpoint in an intense national debate over immigration, the issue was never addressed in the courtroom where a jury acquitted a Mexican national of murder and manslaughter — a verdict President Donald Trump called a “travesty of justice.”

From the outset, the judge barred any mention of Jose Ines Garcia Zarate’s immigration status or the five times he was arrested and deported to Mexico. The judge said the jury should consider only Garcia Zarate’s intentions on the July evening when Steinle was shot.

“His immigration status had no bearing on whether he purposely pulled the trigger or not,” legal analyst and defense attorney Dan Horowitz said of the immigration issue.

San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia argued the shooting was mur-

der. The jury sided with the defense, which argued that the shooting was an accident, and found him guilty only of being a felon in possession of a firearm. That charge carries a maximum of three years in jail.

Steinle was shot while walking with her father and a family friend on a San Francisco pier popular with tourists. Garcia Zarate said he was sitting on the pier when he found a gun under a chair. He said the gun was wrapped in a T-shirt and accidentally fired when he picked it up.

Before the shooting, Garcia Zarate had finished a federal prison sentence for illegal re-entry into the United States and had been transferred to San Francisco’s jail in March 2015 to face a 20-year-old charge for selling marijuana.

The sheriff’s department released him a few days after prosecutors dropped the marijuana charge, despite a request from immigration officials to detain him.

San Francisco is known as a “sanctuary city” because its policies bar local police

from helping federal authorities identify and deport immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally.

President Barack Obama continued his Republican predecessor’s policy, which allowed federal immigration officials to request local law enforcement detain for up to 48 hours people suspected of living in the country illegally. But in 2014, a federal judge ruled the practice of holding them without a warrant was likely unconstitutional.

At the time of the shooting, then-candidate Trump and others pointed to Steinle’s death as reasons why the country’s immigration laws should be tightened.

Trump called the verdict “disgraceful” on Thursday, and on Friday, he said “the Kate Steinle killer came back and back over the weakly protected Obama border, always committing crimes and being violent, and yet this info was not used in court.”

“His exoneration is a complete travesty of justice. BUILD THE WALL,” Trump tweeted.

President might recognize Jerusalem as Israeli capital

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is considering recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, officials say, a declaration that risks inflaming tensions across the Middle East but would be a way to offset a likely decision delaying moving the U.S. Embassy there.

Trump’s announcement is expected next week and follows months of internal deliberations that grew particularly intense in recent days, officials familiar with the talks said Thursday. They described the president as intent on fulfilling his pledge to move the embassy but also mindful that doing so could set back his aim of forging a long-elusive peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, who claim part of Jerusalem as the capital of an eventual state.

The officials, who weren’t authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the outlines of Trump’s plan emerged from a meeting of his top national security advisers at the White House on Monday. Trump was

expected to drop by the meeting for 15 or 20 minutes but ended up staying for at least an hour and grew increasingly animated during the session, according to two officials briefed on what happened.

Trump is likely to issue a waiver on moving the embassy by Monday, officials said, though they cautioned that the president could always decide otherwise.

The White House also is considering a possible presidential speech or statement on Jerusalem by Wednesday, according to the officials and an outside administration adviser. Another possibility involves Vice President Mike Pence, who is set to travel to Israel in mid-December, making the Jerusalem announcement during his trip, one official said. Pence said Tuesday that Trump is “actively considering when and how” to move the embassy.

The Trump administration insisted the president hasn’t made any decisions on the embassy.

“No decision on this matter has been made yet,” State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Thursday.

Keillor’s firing prompts backlash from his fans

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS—Outraged Garrison Keillor fans deluged Minnesota Public Radio Thursday with complaints about the firing of the humorist over alleged workplace misconduct.

Some say they will no longer support MPR, one of the nation’s largest public radio operations, which depends heavily on financial contributions.

MPR said Wednesday it was cutting ties with Keillor, creator and former host of the popular public radio show, “A Prairie Home Companion,” over an allegation of workplace misconduct. The network did not give details, but Keillor told the Minneapolis Star Tribune that he had put his hand on a woman’s bare back while trying to console her.

On Thursday, MPR repeated that it had received just one formal complaint against Keillor, a day after a statement by him raised questions about the extent of the allegations.

Keillor told MPR’s news department in an email that two employees made allegations. MPR spokeswoman Angie An-

dresen, asked to clear up the discrepancy, said the network has “a formal complaint from an individual that includes multiple allegations related to Garrison’s behavior.”

Keillor told The Associated Press in an email Thursday that one person had brought a claim against MPR and one person had brought a claim against him. He says he hasn’t seen the allegations against him and that his account to the Star Tribune was the only incident he could remember.

Andresen appeared to dispute any claim against MPR in an emailed response, saying: “We have complaints from two individuals formerly associated with A Prairie Home Companion. Both allege inappropriate behavior by Mr. Keillor. Only one claims the behavior was directed at her.”

More than 400 people had expressed themselves through MPR’s Public Insight Network within 24 hours of the news breaking. Discussions on the MPR News Facebook page generated more than 25,000 words, enough to fill a 100-page book.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Robber asks for cookie and cash

PA PITTSBURGH — Police said a robber asked for a cookie then demanded cash at a Subway store in Pittsburgh.

The heist occurred Wednesday afternoon at the store on East Carson Street.

Police said after asking for a cookie, the man placed his hand in his pocket as though he had a gun and told the clerk he wanted money from the cash register.

The bandit fled with an undetermined amount of cash.

Police arrest suspect hiding in port-a-potty

MA REVERE — A bank robbery suspect is in police custody after authorities say he tried to make a smelly escape in a portable toilet.

Police said Steven Spolidoro, 41, of Woburn, walked into a Revere bank around 1 p.m. Wednesday and demanded money. He allegedly fled the bank with about \$1,000 cash.

An off-duty officer in the area reportedly provided authorities with a description of Spolidoro's vehicle. It was spotted in Boston, and, according to police, Spolidoro abandoned his vehicle and ran away.

One officer crashed trying to avoid hitting the man. WCVB-TV reported the officer is expected to be OK.

Authorities eventually located Spolidoro hiding in a port-a-potty near the TD Garden arena.

Man's broadcast of taps ends Thursday

PA GLEN ROCK — A Pennsylvania man whose nightly broadcast of taps

through loudspeakers led to lawsuit threats and complaints from his neighbors played the recording for the last time Thursday night.

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Corney and about two dozen supporters stood for the final playing of the taps outside Corney's Glen Rock home. He had invited the public over to listen to the recording and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate.

Corney had been playing the recording for about two years. He added the loudspeakers last spring.

He reached a compromise with the Glen Rock Borough Council on Nov. 15 after they voted to move the playing to a public park as part of a veteran's memorial.

During chase, man stops to inject heroin

FL SILVER SPRINGS — Florida authorities said a man being chased by deputies for grand theft and burglary made a pit stop to inject heroin.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office said a detective found a wanted John Stephens at his central Florida home Monday. Stephens fled in a vehicle. Another deputy later spotted the vehicle and pursued it. The Ocala Star-Banner reported Stephens got out, jumped a fence and was stopped by a K-9 named Tipster who bit him on the arm.

According to deputies, Stephens told them he injected heroin during the chase and apologized. Deputies said they recovered heroin from the vehicle.

Stephens was originally wanted for grand theft, grand theft of a motor vehicle, fraud and two counts of burglary of a conveyance. After the chase, authorities added several new charges.

Drug smuggling try with zip line at border

AZ DOUGLAS — Border Patrol agents in southern Arizona arrested a man and seized 10 bundles of marijuana after a cross-border zip line smuggling attempt.

Agents using surveillance technology detected a person a few feet from the international border attempting to conceal himself in a vacant lot Wednesday morning in Douglas.

Other agents patrolling the area responded and found the marijuana bundles and an 18-year-old Douglas man.

They also discovered a zip line affixed to a tall building across the Mexico border in Agua Prieta, Sonora. Agents transported the bundles to the Douglas Station for processing.

Authorities said the marijuana had a combined weight of more than 240 pounds and an estimated value of more than \$120,000.

Officials stumped in \$3 million crash case

ME AUGUSTA — Maine officials said they have no clues and have made no progress in the case of a hit-and-run driver who caused \$3 million in damage by cracking a highway overpass.

Department of Transportation spokesman Ted Talbot said the crash on a highway in Augusta left no debris, no witnesses and wasn't caught on camera. The Bangor Daily News reported officials discovered the massive dent and crack in October, and emergency repair work cost about \$3 million.

The department has reached out to social media and to news organizations for help with the investigation. If found, officials want the person responsible

to pay the millions needed for repairs.

Talbot said no outside agencies have been called upon, and won't be contacted without meaningful leads.

Algae beer spotlights Lake Erie threat

OH TOLEDO — A brewery in Ohio is making a batch of green-colored beer called "Algae Blooms" to draw attention to the toxic algae that's been fouling Lake Erie.

Maumee Bay Brewing Co. said water is the main ingredient in its beers and that access to clean water is essential.

The Toledo brewery uses the city's tap water sourced from Lake Erie. Algae outbreaks over the past summers have become an ongoing threat to drinking water.

Maumee Bay brewery Manager Craig Kerr said its new beer looks like algae-contaminated water but doesn't taste like it. He said the brewery used a powdered green tea and kiwi to give the beer its color.

Goodwill workers find grenade in donations

CA PLACENTIA — Authorities said employees at a Goodwill in Southern California found a hand grenade inside a box of donations.

The Los Angeles Times reported an unidentified woman dropped off the box Wednesday at a Placentia store.

The Placentia Police Department said employees discovered the small bomb as they were sifting through the donations.

Officers evacuated nearby businesses as the Orange County Sheriff's Department's bomb squad responded to retrieve the grenade.

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Dallas keeps playoff hopes alive with win

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott was getting X-rays on his swollen right hand when rookie Ryan Switzer scored his first career touchdown on an 83-yard punt return.

The extra time with the Dallas offense on the sideline kept Prescott from missing any plays, and last year's NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year led the Cowboys to their first win after three straight losses without suspended star running back Ezekiel Elliott.

Prescott threw two touchdown passes, including a franchise record-breaker to Dez Bryant, in the Cowboys' 38-14 victory over the Washington Redskins on Thursday night.

The injury happened in the second quarter when Prescott's right hand was hit by linebacker Josh Harvey-Clemons just as he made an option pitch to Rod Smith. Thanks to Switzer's dash to the end zone, Prescott didn't miss a snap. He said the X-rays came back negative.

"I don't know if I've ever broken my hand," Prescott said. "I couldn't grip initially right after because the (hand) swelled up on me so bad. As I said, they wrapped it up, got the swelling down and I was fine."

Bryant's leaping 13-yard catch in the end zone was the 2014 All-Pro's first score in six games and 72nd of his career, one more than Hall of Famer Bob Hayes.

The Cowboys (6-6) never trailed despite a sluggish start to the offense, thanks to three first-half turnovers and four overall by the Redskins (5-7). Dallas kept it going after halftime with a 21-7 scoring edge after getting outscored 72-6 in the second half during the three-game skid.

Alfred Morris, Elliott's replacement during the six-game suspension for alleged domestic violence, had 127 yards rushing and a clinching touchdown.

The Cowboys forced NFL-leading Philadelphia to wait until at least Sunday to clinch the division title. But Dallas still faces a steep climb to playoff contention, and two more games without Elliott.

The Redskins had already been eliminated in the division race and are virtually out of the postseason picture after Kirk Cousins threw two interceptions and lost a fumble while throwing two touchdown passes.

Jamison Crowder let the pass go through his hands on Cousins' first interception and fumbled on a Dallas punt a few plays later in the Redskins' fourth straight loss to the Cowboys, the longest such streak in the series since 2003-04.

"It was just miscues," Cousins said. "A dropped ball here, we had a nice drive down the field the second drive, just a tough turnover, and then it was one thing after another that were just mistakes. They happen, and we have to correct them."

By the time the Redskins answered Switzer's punt return with a 75-yard drive that ended with Cousins' 20-yard scoring pass to Ryan Grant, Prescott was ready to return. He had been holding his right hand in his helmet once he returned to the sideline.

Prescott only threw for 102 yards but didn't have a turnover after throwing five interceptions and losing three fumbles without a touchdown pass during the losing streak.

And the Cowboys looked more like the offense they have when Elliott is around, with Morris picking up big yardage on clock-killing drives with the Cowboys in front.

Cousins moved the Washington offense sporadically because he was consistently harassed behind a patchwork offensive line that had to shuffle some more because of injuries. Cousins, who was 26-for-37 for 251 yards, was replaced by Colt McCoy late in the fourth quarter.

Bryant's impact: Bryant still hasn't had a 100-yard game, his longest drought to start a season since his second year in 2011. But the 61-yard effort included a 24-yarder that set up his record-setting TD on the first play of the fourth quarter.

"I was talking about that demeanor and that attitude that we carried," Prescott said. "I give him credit. He kind of brought it this week and pretty much tonight and you kind of felt it early."

After meeting Leach, another turn in Tennessee search

Associated Press

Just when it seemed Tennessee's tumultuous coaching search might be heading toward a resolution involving Washington State coach Mike Leach, there is again nothing but uncertainty for the Volunteers.

Amid multiple reports Tennessee athletic director John Currie has been forced out, the school has scheduled a news conference for Friday afternoon with Chancellor Beverly Davenport.

Leach met with Currie on Thursday in Los Angeles to discuss the Volunteers' coaching vacancy, according to a person with direct knowledge of the meeting. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither side intended to

make the meeting public.

Leach flew back to Pullman, Wash., when the meeting was done. No deal was completed, the person said.

In a text message to the AP early Friday, Leach said: "Nothing to report. I will be in NY Sunday."

The College Football Hall of Fame banquet takes place in Manhattan next week and typically draws dozens of coaches and athletic administrators to the city, along with agents. Frequently, it is a setting where meetings about coaching jobs take place.

Leach, 56, has been at Washington State for six years and is 38-37, but 26-12 the last three seasons, including 19-8 in the Pac-12. Previously, he coached 10 seasons at Texas Tech and went 84-43.

Tennessee fired Butch Jones

earlier this month and was close to hiring Ohio State defensive coordinator Greg Schiano last Sunday, but the deal fell through due to backlash from Vols fans and supporters stemming from an unproven claim in court documents that Schiano might have known about Jerry Sandusky's sexual abuse of boys while Schiano was an assistant at Penn State. Schiano has denied the claim.

The Volunteers' search has since stumbled forward rather publicly. There were reports of contact with Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy and Purdue's Jeff Brohm. Earlier Thursday, North Carolina State coach Dave Doeren agreed to a contract extension after he had discussions with Tennessee.

Another person familiar with the meeting told the AP that Currie flew from Raleigh,

N.C., to Los Angeles on Thursday, where he met one-on-one with Leach. Currie flew back to Knoxville after the meeting.

One of college football's more unusual characters, Leach's interests are wide-ranging — he co-authored a book about Native American leader Geronimo — and he is quick to go off on subjects far removed from football.

He has never been a head coach at a place where the expectations are as high and the scrutiny is as intense as Tennessee.

He has also been one of the most consistent winners in college football over the last 17 years and would likely help Tennessee salvage a search that has had Volunteers fans calling for his job.

Men's college basketball roundup

No. 22 Seton Hall overpowers Texas Tech

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Willard's words could be construed as both his belief and a warning to those teams who will come across Seton Hall's path.

The Pirates are not a one-man team.

"(Angel Delgado) understands that he has so many weapons around him," Willard said after Seton Hall's 89-79 victory over No. 22 Texas Tech on Thursday night. "Eventually teams are going to have to stop double-teaming him. ... I just think the guys around him are working with him to make it easier (for him)."

Look no further than what transpired on the Madison Square Garden court. Myles Powell scored seven of his 19 points in a span of 45 seconds late in the second half to salt away Seton Hall's sixth win in seven games.

Powell was one of four Pirates (6-1) to finish in double figures. Desi Rodriguez finished with 24 points while Khadeen Carrington had 16 and Delgado, who led the nation in rebounding last season, added 12.

"We never stay down," Carrington said. "We did a great job."

Whereas Seton Hall left on

a high, Texas Tech viewed its first loss as a mixed bag.

"There (were) some positives," Texas Tech coach Chris Beard said.

Keenan Evans led the Red Raiders (6-1) with 21 points while Jarrett Culver added 17, Zach Smith 12, Zhaire Smith 11, and Niem Stevenson 10.

"Wish we would have played better," Beard said.

The Red Raiders entered the game fourth in the nation allowing 55 points per game.

"Without watching the film, Seton Hall was more aggressive than Texas Tech," he said.

Trailing by three at halftime, Seton Hall outscored Texas Tech 31-22 in the first 12:42 of the second half to take a 70-64 lead.

For a team possessing an interior presence in Delgado, Seton Hall was able to take a lead not by dumping the ball into the post but with its perimeter attack. The Pirates made four three-pointers and knocked down seven jump shots in all during that stretch.

"We talk a lot about getting inside-out threes. I have the best shooter in the country on my team. Anytime he shoots it looks like it's going in," Willard said. "Angel gets us a lot of easy

looks. That's one of the reasons we have open threes."

No. 3 Michigan State 81, No. 5 Notre Dame 63: Joshua Langford scored 12 of his 17 points in the first half to help the host Spartans take a huge lead they were able to restore in the second half in a rout of the Fighting Irish.

Michigan State (6-1) has won five straight, including a rout against then-No. 9 North Carolina, since losing to top-ranked Duke.

The Fighting Irish (6-1) trailed by 20 at halftime and cut their deficit to seven with 13:09 left, but couldn't get closer.

Michigan State's Cassius Winston had 17 points and seven assists, Miles Bridges scored 14 points and Nick Ward added 12.

Notre Dame's Bonzie Colson had 11 of his 17 points in the second half and Rex Pflueger scored 15.

No. 9 Texas A&M 78, Texas-Rio Grande Valley 60: Junior guards D.J. Hogg and Admon Gilder scored 17 points each and the host Aggies opened the game on a 16-0 run.

Texas A&M (7-0) only led UTRGV (3-6) by seven points with more than 7 minutes remaining before pulling away

and staying undefeated on the season. UTRGV kept the game close through 3½ quarters based on the Aggies' struggles from the free-throw line. Texas A&M made 18 of 30 from the free-throw line compared to 11 of 13 for the Vaqueros.

The Vaqueros cut the Aggies' lead to 57-50 on a short jumper by Mike Hoffman with 7:30 remaining, but the Aggies quickly responded on the other end when Tyler Davis found Tonny Trocha-Morelos wide open under the basket for a dunk and the start of a 9-0 run.

No. 19 West Virginia 102, NJIT 69: Jevon Carter scored 25 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the host Mountaineers.

Carter had his five steals that made him WVU's all-time leader with 255, passing Greg Jones' record set in 1983.

West Virginia (7-1) started the game sluggish, allowing NJIT to lead throughout the first 10 minutes of the game.

The Mountaineers then outscored NJIT (4-3) 31-14 to close out the first half and opened the second half with a 15-2 run to cruise to victory.

Teddy Allen added a career-high 16 points for the Mountaineers.

Holloway says he's going to beat Aldo, add to legacy

Associated Press

DETROIT — Max Holloway respects Jose Aldo, saying he's one of the greatest ever in mixed martial arts.

Holloway, though, is hoping to play a part in beginning to end Aldo's career.

The Hawaiian fighter beat Aldo in his native Brazil in June, earning the featherweight title, and he is aiming to do it again in a rematch at UFC 218 in Detroit.

"It's kind of like passing the torch," Holloway said. "This is my time. I'm here to build a leg-

acy, and I think I can cement it Saturday night."

Holloway (18-3) has won 11 straight fights since losing to Conor McGregor in 2013. He was scheduled to headline the card against Frankie Edgar, but Edgar broke an orbital bone a few weeks ago while training. That gave Aldo another shot.

Aldo (26-3) plans to take full advantage.

"It was a faster rematch than I expected, but I am ready because I was training to fight in a couple weeks," he said through an interpreter. "I will

show that I'm still a champion and I'm still the best."

Eddie Alvarez (28-5) vs. Justin Gaethje (18-0)

Even though three matchups will follow the American lightweights, this might be the most intriguing one.

"I predict that is the fight of the night," UFC President Dana White said in a telephone interview Thursday night.

Alvarez is ranked No. 4 and Gaethje is right behind him in the 155-pound division in limbo because its champion, McGregor, hasn't fought

in the UFC since he knocked out Alvarez nearly 13 months ago. McGregor made about \$100 million for boxing Floyd Mayweather Jr. in August, and White doesn't think he's in a rush to compete.

Some, including White, are saying Alvarez and Gaethje may brawl and grapple in the sport's most violent fight ever.

Gaethje grew up in Safford, Ariz., and believes his experience as a high school quarterback and pitcher helped him learn how to throw a punch. He has plenty of experience on the ground, drawing from his wrestling career as an All-American at Northern Colorado.

NBA roundup

Cavs top Hawks for 10th straight win

Associated Press

ATLANTA — LeBron James had yet another double-double, took command of a challenging defensive assignment and stuck around to see the end of the Cleveland Cavaliers' 10th straight victory, 121-114 over the Atlanta Hawks on Thursday night.

James had 24 points and 12 assists, and Kevin Love had 25 points and 16 rebounds to help Cleveland hold off Atlanta to extend the NBA's longest active winning streak. It was James' 14th double-double in

22 games.

Dennis Schroder led Atlanta with 27 points.

Celtics 108, 76ers 97: Kyrie Irving scored 36 points and host Boston held off weary and short-handed Philadelphia to improve its NBA-best record to 19-4.

Irving has five games this season with 30 or more points. Al Horford added 21 points and eight rebounds, and Marcus Morris had 17 points to help Boston rebound from a home loss Monday night to Detroit.

Nuggets 111, Bulls 110:

Will Barton capped a career-high 37 points with a driving layup with 3.2 seconds left and Denver overcame the loss of Nikola Jokic to beat visiting Chicago.

Gary Harris added 21 points, and Kenneth Faried had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Denver.

Jokic went down with 44 seconds left in the second quarter when he drove to the basket and stepped on Jerian Grant's foot. Jokic hit two free throws before heading to the locker room with an obvious limp. He didn't return in the second half.

Bucks 103, Trail Blazers 91: Khris Middleton had 26 points, Eric Bledsoe added 25 and Milwaukee snapped host Portland's three-game winning streak.

Giannis Antetokounmpo added 20 points, nine rebounds, and three blocked shots for the Bucks.

Jazz 126, Clippers 107: At Los Angeles, Utah had seven players score in double figures and went on a 21-4 run in the fourth quarter.

Austin Rivers led the Clippers with 25 points, and Lou Williams had 20.

NHL roundup

Two quick second-period goals lift Kings over Caps

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Plenty of thoughts raced through Jussi Jokinen's mind before taking the ice, from his daughter's birthday to his success on the road against the Capitals.

Not much went through his mind when he scored the Los Angeles Kings' second goal in a span of nine seconds, the key stretch in a 5-2 victory at Washington on Thursday night. The quick-strike, second-period goals by Jonny Brodzinski and Jokinen helped the Kings win their third in a row.

"It kind of changed the whole hockey game," Jokinen said. "It gave a big lift to our hockey team, and we didn't have to chase the game anymore, and they had to chase the game."

Jokinen's goal was his first in 21 games this season after starting with the Edmonton Oilers before a trade to Los Angeles on Nov. 14. In the midst of a challenging year that included being bought out by the Florida Panthers in June, the 34-year-old was beaming at being able to celebrate daughter Sandra's sixth birthday with his first goal since March 17.

"She hasn't seen her dad score a goal in a long time," said Jokinen, who has eight goals and seven assists in 22 games at Washington. "It was fun to get one on her birthday. It feels good."

The Kings are finally back to feeling good after losing seven of eight from Nov. 9-24. This one wasn't easy, as they had to rally and withstand two goals from Washington's Evgeny Kuznetsov, but the Kings got 27 saves from Jonathan Quick and two goals from Marian Gaborik to get the job done.

"They're so hard to play against," said defenseman Drew Doughty, who played a big part in shutting down the Capitals' top line of Alex Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom and Tom Wilson. "I've never been so tired in my whole entire life. I felt like I spent the entire game in my own zone playing against that Ovechkin line."

Stars 4, Blackhawks 3 (OT): Mattias Janmark scored his second goal of the game 51 seconds into overtime to lift visiting Dallas over Chicago.

Radek Faksa had a goal and an assist and Remi Elie also

scored for the Stars, who have won three straight and five of six. Ben Bishop made 19 saves.

Wild 4, Golden Knights 2: Eric Staal scored the go-ahead goal with 7:55 left and tacked on an empty-netter to give host Minnesota a win over Vegas.

Mikael Granlund and Jonas Brodin also scored for the Wild, who wrapped up the month with a 4-0-1 record in their last five home games despite a series of sloppy and sluggish performances throughout November.

Canadiens 6, Red Wings 3: Brendan Gallagher scored twice, and his visiting Montreal teammates added three goals in the second period against struggling Detroit.

Charles Hudon and Andrew Shaw scored 43 seconds apart for the Canadiens, who have won four games in a row. Alex Galchenyuk also scored for Montreal in the second, and Max Pacioretty added a goal in the third to help Claude Julien to his 100th win as Canadiens coach.

Canucks 5, Predators 3: Brock Boeser had two goals and an assist, Daniel Sedin surpassed 1,000 career points

and visiting Vancouver beat Nashville.

Loui Eriksson also scored twice and Sedin had a goal and two assists for the Canucks, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Henrik Sedin added three assists and Anders Nilsson made 29 saves for the win.

Flames 3, Coyotes 0: Mike Smith stopped 28 shots against his former team, Mark Jankowski scored twice and host Calgary blanked Arizona.

Smith earned his second shutout of the season and the 35th of his career. The 35-year-old goalie was making his first start against the Coyotes since being acquired by the Flames in a June trade.

Maple Leafs 6, Oilers 4: Edmonton defenseman Kris Russell accidentally fired the puck into his own net late in the third period, handing visiting Toronto the go-ahead goal.

William Nylander had a goal and two assists for Toronto. Auston Matthews, Dominic Moore, Matt Martin, Patrick Marleau and Nazem Kadri also scored for the Maple Leafs (17-9-1). Frederik Andersen stopped 41 shots for the win.