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President cancels \$92M military parade

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Friday he had canceled plans for a Veterans Day military parade, citing the “ridiculously high” price tag — a day after U.S. officials said the November event could cost \$92 million, more than three times the price first suggested by the White House.

Trump on Twitter accused local Washington, D.C., politicians of price-gouging. But preliminary estimates from the Pentagon showed that roughly \$50 million would cover military aircraft, equipment, personnel and other support. The remainder would be borne by other agencies and largely involve security costs.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser shot back on Twitter on Friday that she was the one who “finally got thru to the reality star in the White House with the realities (\$21.6M) of parades/events/demonstrations in Trump America (sad).”

The Defense Department had announced Thursday there would be no parade in 2018. Trump tweeted that perhaps

something could be scheduled next year when the price “comes WAY DOWN.” He did not explain how the costs would be reduced.

Trump said he would instead attend an event at Joint Base Andrews, Md., on another day and travel to Paris for Nov. 11 events marking the centennial of the end of fighting in World War I.

The president added: “Now we can buy some more jet fighters!”

Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman, said Thursday that the military and the White House had “agreed to explore opportunities in 2019,” an announcement that came several hours after reports about the projected parade price tag.

The Associated Press reported that the parade would cost about \$92 million, according to U.S. officials citing preliminary estimates more than three times the price first suggested by the White House. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss early planning estimates that have not yet been finalized or released publicly.

Officials said the parade plans had not yet been approved by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who said late Thursday that he had seen no such estimate and questioned the media reports.

The Pentagon chief told reporters traveling with him to Bogota, Colombia, that whoever leaked the number to the press was “probably smoking something that is legal in my state but not in most” — a reference to his home state of Washington, where marijuana use is legal.

Mattis, who spoke before the announcement that the parade would not happen in 2018, added: “I’m not dignifying that number (\$92 million) with a reply. I would discount that, and anybody who said (that number), I’ll almost guarantee you one thing: They probably said, ‘I need to stay anonymous.’ No kidding, because you look like an idiot. And No. 2, whoever wrote it needs to get better sources. I’ll just leave it at that.”

The parade’s cost has become a politically charged issue, particularly after the Pentagon canceled a major military exercise planned for August with South

Korea in the wake of Trump’s summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump said the drills were provocative and that dumping them would save the U.S. “a tremendous amount of money.” The Pentagon later said the Korea drills would have cost \$14 million.

Lt. Col. Jamie Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said earlier Thursday that Defense Department planning for the parade “continues, and final details are still being developed. Any cost estimates are predecisional.”

The parade was expected to include troops from all five armed services, as well as units in period uniforms representing earlier times in the nation’s history. It also was expected to involve a number of military aircraft flyovers.

A Pentagon planning memo released in March said the parade would feature a “heavy air component,” likely including older, vintage aircraft. It also said there would be “wheeled vehicles only, no tanks — consideration must be given to minimize damage to local infrastructure.”

In op-ed, McRaven asks Trump to revoke his clearance

The Washington Post

One day after President Donald Trump stripped former CIA Director John Brennan of his security clearance, the commander of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden said it would be an honor if the president would take away his clearance next.

William McRaven, a retired four-star admiral who oversaw the 2011 Navy SEAL raid, directly addressed Trump in a Washington Post op-ed published online Thursday.

In the op-ed, McRaven, who retired from the Navy in 2014, described Brennan as “a man of unparalleled integrity, whose honesty and character have never been in question, except by those who don’t know him.”

“Therefore, I would consider it an honor if you would revoke my security clearance as well, so I can add my name to the list of men and women who have spoken up against your presidency,” McRaven wrote.

In revoking Brennan’s clearance, Trump on Wednesday

accused the former CIA director, one of his most outspoken critics, of making “a series of unfounded and outrageous allegations — wild outbursts on the internet and television — about this Administration.”

Trump said that in addition to Brennan, the security clearances of nine other former officials are under review. All of them have sharply criticized Trump or are in the crosshairs of the president’s congressional allies as they seek to cast doubt on the special counsel

probe led by Robert Mueller.

Experts have described Trump’s move as an unprecedented effort to silence prominent detractors, with some likening it to Sen. Joseph McCarthy’s anti-communist crusade in the 1950s or President Richard Nixon’s targeting of critics on his “enemies list.”

McRaven echoed those sentiments, arguing in his op-ed that Trump has “embarrassed us in the eyes of our children, humiliated us on the world stage and, worst of all, divided us as a nation.”

Defense act impacts troops' pay, benefits

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Servicemembers will see a rash of changes with the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act that could impact their pocketbooks, especially if companion legislation to fund the newly signed law gains congressional approval in the coming weeks.

Among the most significant changes, servicemembers are slated to get a 2.6 percent pay raise, which would mark the biggest increase in nine years. The increase, which is slated to go into effect Jan. 1, means servicemembers could see a change in their first paycheck of the new year on Jan. 15.

"The biggest thing servicemembers will notice is the pay raise, obviously," said James F. Naughton Jr., associate director for government relations for Military Officers Association of America, a nonprofit, national organization. "The increase is due to military pay being tied to private-sector wage growth."

President Donald Trump signed the NDAA into law on Monday; it will direct spending for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1. The legislation was named for Sen. John McCain, the ailing Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee from Arizona.

The Senate kicked off discussions this week of a spending measure that would fund the pay raises and more personnel concerns for servicemembers.

The Defense Department budget moves on two tracks: The annual NDAA sets policy changes, expenditures for the military and how the money will be spent, while a defense appropriations bill, which is now slated to be part of larger labor, health and human services and education spending bill, is what actually moves money over to the Pentagon to support the plan.

In addition to pay, the legislation directs benefit improvements and personnel reforms. For example, it enhances reforms of the Military Health

System and installs the most widespread changes to the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act, or DOPMA, since it was enacted in 1980.

DOPMA, which standardized military promotions across the armed forces, can now become more merit-based and let the services use civilian experience to establish new ranks for entering troops, let officers promote faster and remove expectations of retirement if a servicemember fails to promote twice.

The NDAA also will usher through reforms to reduce child abuse, domestic violence and sexual misconduct among the ranks, such as making domestic violence an offense for the first time under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Here are some provisions of the 2019 NDAA that could impact your wallet.

Basic housing allowance increases

The 2019 NDAA repeals an annual 1 percent increase in out-of-pocket housing costs for active-duty servicemembers living on base.

For the past four years, the Defense Department had limited the amount of Basic Allowance for Housing, or BAH, funding to military housing providers by at least 1 percent annually. In turn, servicemembers had to pay the difference to these providers under Military Housing Privatization Initiative contracts.

BAH, a stipend provided to active-duty servicemembers living on and off base to cover average housing expenses, can be impacted by duty location, pay grade and dependent status.

"To have to pay out of pocket for any portion of housing is a financial nightmare, especially in active-duty ZIP codes where there is a misalignment between BAH and the housing market," said Kent Morrison, a 16-year Navy veteran who is now founder and president of an Austin, Texas-based security company, BSG Security Services.

Per diem rates for long-term travel

Since cost-cutting measures were installed four years ago, active-duty servicemembers and Defense Department workers have seen reduced reimbursement rates for long-term travel that extends beyond 30 days, according to MOAA.

The newly passed NDAA will repeal those per diem decreases.

"In 2014, DOD cut per diem rates on long-term assignments for troops and civilians," while other federal agencies' per diem rates were not reduced," Naughton said. "As a result, people were less likely to volunteer for those types of assignments. For DOD employees on a six-month assignment, they lost out on \$5,400."

For example, a servicemember traveling between 31 and 180 days saw their per diem rate drop by 25 percent, which amounted to \$108 a day. If the travel extended beyond six months, the rate then dropped 45 percent, which amounted to \$79 a day.

By comparison, government workers outside of the Defense Department get \$144 a day, which added up to the \$5,400 gain during a six-month assignment when compared to Defense Department workers and servicemembers traveling for the same amount of time.

Spouse employment and businesses

This year, lawmakers increasingly heard from military families on the challenges facing spouses hunting for employment, such as high unemployment rates and employers who turn away such workers when they learn they are part of a military family.

Previously, federal agencies could use a special authority to hire military spouses without requiring they compete for the job so long as they had relocated for the military within two years.

The 2019 NDAA will expand

that effort on a trial, five-year basis that will let federal agencies hire a military spouse under a so-called "noncompetitive appointments" process even if they haven't recently relocated for the military.

The NDAA also directs the agencies to collect and report data on military spousal hires.

"I am also pleased by the bill's enhancements to the career development and employment assistance program for military spouses, who also sacrifice so much for our country," said Rep. Sanford D. Bishop Jr., D-Ga., who is co-chairman of the Congressional Military Family Caucus on Capitol Hill.

The new law also requires the Defense Department to conduct an assessment and report on the "feasibility and advisability" of allowing military spouses to engage in small-business activities on military bases in partnership with commissaries, exchange stores and other activities under Morale, Welfare and Recreation, a network of military support services. The report is due to Congress by March 2019.

Tricare fees to remain stable

Unlike past years, Tricare, a health care program for military servicemembers, their families and veterans, won't face any new increases that will impact servicemembers, a key win, noted Naughton.

Earlier this year, an MOAA survey found military families are growing more dissatisfied with their Tricare medical insurance. Spouses of enlisted troops using Tricare plans were more likely than all others to cancel or postpone treatment out of cost concerns, according to the survey of 8,500 beneficiaries.

"A Senate proposal would have lumped all Tricare beneficiaries into a new cost-share model, one that would've caused military families to pay more in enrollment fees, higher copays and new non-network deductibles," Naughton said.

Mattis: More Taliban assaults to be expected

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Western-backed Afghan defenses will not break under the weight of Taliban violence in advance of scheduled parliamentary elections in October, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said.

In his most detailed comments on the Taliban's assault on the eastern city of Ghazni since it began Aug. 10, Mattis said the Taliban had six objectives in and around the city and failed to seize any of them. He would not specify the six sites.

In Ghazni, provincial police chief Farid Mashal said Thursday that roads were being cleared of mines planted by Taliban who temporarily held entire neighbor-

hoods of the city that they had besieged. The fighting continued for five days with more than 100 members of the Afghan National Security forces killed and 20 civilians. Scores of Taliban were also killed, according to Afghan officials.

Mattis said Thursday some Taliban fighters were still holed up in houses in the city "trying to get resupplied." He said businesses are reopening, and overall, "it's much more stable" in Ghazni, showing that the Taliban have fallen short.

"They have not endeared themselves, obviously, to the population of Ghazni," Mattis said. "They use terror. They use bombs because they can't win with ballots."

The Taliban operation followed a famil-

iar pattern, Mattis said in remarks to reporters flying with him Thursday evening to Bogota, Colombia, where he was winding up a weeklong tour of South America.

The insurgents likely were trying to gain leverage in advance of an expected cease fire offer by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, he said. And they likely were hoping to sow fear in advance of the October elections, he added.

"They achieved a degree of disquiet," he said, but nothing more.

"So we'll continue to see this sort of thing," he said, even though the Taliban lack the strength to hold territory they seize for brief periods. "They will never hold against the Afghan army."

Republicans divided over Space Force plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two House Republican leaders are backing President Donald Trump's proposed Space Force, but key Republicans in the Senate aren't sold on the idea, setting up a debate over establishing and paying for a new branch of the military.

Majority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy, of California, told The Associated Press the proposal is a "smart way" to address growing investments by China and others in space.

"We'd support that," McCarthy said in a brief interview in Sacramento, Calif.

GOP Whip Steve Scalise, the No. 3 House Republican, also backs Trump's plan, an aide said Thursday.

McCarthy and Scalise are vying to replace House Speaker Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, once he retires at the end of this term, if Republicans keep control of the House in the November midterm elections. Ryan has not commented publicly on the Space Force proposal.

In the Senate, Trump's plan has received a cooler reception.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, has not commented publicly on the Space Force and is awaiting more information from the Pentagon and the committees with jurisdiction, an aide said. The second-ranking Republican, Sen. John Cornyn, of Texas, said he is skeptical of the idea.

"Traditionally, this has been a role played by the Air Force. And I have not yet heard

a compelling case why we need a separate force," Cornyn said, adding he has not yet heard from administration officials about the idea. "I'd like to hear their rationale for creating a separate force."

The Space Force would be the first new branch of the military since the creation of the Air Force in 1947. Congress would need to create and fund the new military service, which is expected to cost billions. The administration is preparing a formal legislative proposal and budget to be presented by the end of the year.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was initially reluctant about creating a new force, concerned about a narrow operation and new layer of bureaucracy, but now is behind the president's approach.

Trump gives military more latitude in cyber operations

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has moved to give the military more latitude to conduct offensive cyber operations against American adversaries, continuing an effort begun last year to grant commanders more leeway to make battlefield decisions.

President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed an order delegating authority to the defense secretary to use cyber tools and techniques to disrupt or degrade an adversary's network or choke off attacks underway, loosening rules established under the Obama administration.

The move comes as the administration is focused on deterring Russian efforts to

disrupt the November election and, more broadly, to undermine U.S. democracy. Although Trump has sent mixed signals on the issue, his administration, from Vice President Mike Pence on down, has warned Russia that it will not tolerate foreign interference in American politics.

The new directive, first reported by The Wall Street Journal, comes as Gen. Paul Nakasone, who heads both the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command, has recommended to Pentagon leaders that the two organizations remain under one head for at least two years. The call to end this "dual-hat" arrangement dates to the Obama administration, but the effort was delayed, and when Nakasone took over, he gave the matter a fresh look.

Nakasone, who submitted his recommendation Aug. 5, believes the 9-year-old CYBERCOM still needs intelligence support from the NSA, according to people familiar with his thinking, and that separate leadership would hinder that effort. This would keep in place the structure that has existed since CYBERCOM's launch. At the same time, Nakasone has set up a "small group" comprising people from both organizations to work together to detect and thwart Russian interference in the midterm elections.

Taken together, these moves show a strengthened focus on military cyber capabilities — and reflect a mounting concern on the part of senior security officials about the severity of the threat from foreign adversaries, especially Russia.

Vatican urged to investigate abuse crisis

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Responding to what it calls a “moral catastrophe,” the leading body of U.S. Catholic leaders said Thursday it would ask the Vatican to investigate the scandal involving a former cardinal who allegedly engaged in sexual misconduct with children and adult seminarians.

The request by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for an investigation into the actions of Theodore McCarrick came as the Vatican expressed “shame and sorrow” over a grand jury investigation this week that found rampant sexual abuse of more than 1,000 children by about 300 priests in six Pennsylvania dioceses over a 70-year period. Vatican spokesman Greg

Burke said victims should know “the pope is on their side.”

The Pennsylvania scandal and the damaging allegations about McCarrick — one of the most influential Catholics in the country — have engulfed the church in scandal reminiscent of what happened in Boston with clergy sex abuse in the 2000s.

The conference president, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, of Galveston-Houston, said a full investigation is necessary “to prevent a recurrence, and so help to protect minors, seminarians and others who are vulnerable in the future.”

Using formal church terminology for high-level Vatican investigations, DiNardo said he would travel to Rome and ask the Vatican to conduct an “apostolic visitation” to address

the McCarrick case, working in concert with a group of predominantly lay experts.

DiNardo also deplored the findings of the grand jury report and said the bishops would work to create a new process to review allegations of misconduct by bishops.

“We are faced with a spiritual crisis that requires not only spiritual conversion but practical changes to avoid repeating the sins and failures of the past,” DiNardo said. “I have no illusions about the degree to which trust in the bishops has been damaged by these past sins and failures.”

Any in-depth investigation of the McCarrick case is likely to shed light on the timetable for when senior Catholic officials in the U.S. and at the Vatican

knew about the multiple allegations against McCarrick. Some U.S. Catholics sought to warn Vatican officials about McCarrick in 2000, but he was still appointed Washington archbishop and made a cardinal in 2001.

If the accusations against McCarrick are substantiated, that could force Pope Francis to make major decisions in terms of possible punishments.

McCarrick, 88, the retired archbishop of Washington and confidante to three popes, was ordered removed from the public ministry by Francis in June. The sanction was issued pending a full investigation into a “credible” allegation that he fondled a teenager more than 40 years ago in New York City.

Burke said Pope Francis is committed to reform.

Trump laments Manafort trial as jury deliberates

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — President Donald Trump on Friday defended Paul Manafort, his former campaign chairman on trial for financial fraud, calling him a “very good person” as a jury entered its second day of deliberations.

Manafort is accused of hiding from the IRS millions that he made advising Russia-backed politicians in Ukraine, and then lying to banks to get loans when the money dried up. He faces 18 felony counts on tax evasion and bank fraud.

“I think the whole Manafort trial is very sad,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

“When you look at what’s going on, I think it’s a very sad day for our country,” he said. “He worked for me for a very short period of time. But you know what, he happens to be a very good person and I think it’s very sad what they’ve done to Paul Manafort.”

The financial fraud trial is the first courtroom test of the ongoing Russia probe led by special counsel Robert Muel-

ler. While allegations of collusion are still being investigated, evidence of bank fraud and tax evasion unearthed during the probe has cast doubt on the integrity of Trump’s closest advisers during the campaign.

But Manafort’s fate was far from clear. The case calls on the dozen jurors to follow the complexities of foreign bank accounts and shell companies, loan regulations and tax rules. It exposed details about the lavish lifestyle of the onetime political insider.

The jury ended its first day of deliberations with a series of questions to the judge, including a request to “redefine” reasonable doubt. The questions came after roughly seven hours of deliberation, delivered in a handwritten note to U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III.

Along with the question on reasonable doubt, the jury asked about the list of exhibits, rules for reporting foreign bank accounts and the definition of “shelf companies,” a term used during the trial to describe some of the foreign companies used by Manafort.

NATO members US, Turkey trade threats of new sanctions

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey and the United States exchanged new threats of sanctions Friday, keeping alive a diplomatic and financial crisis that is threatening the economic stability of the NATO country.

Turkey’s lira fell once again after Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan said Friday that her government would respond to any new trade duties, which U.S. President Donald Trump threatened in an overnight tweet. Trump is taking issue with the continued detention in Turkey of American pastor Andrew Brunson, an evangelical pastor who faces 35 years in prison on charges of espionage and terrorism-related charges.

Trump wrote in a tweet late Thursday: “We will pay nothing for the release of an innocent man, but we are cutting back on Turkey!”

He also urged Brunson to serve as a “great patriot hostage” while he is jailed and criticized Turkey for “holding our wonderful Christian Pastor.”

U.S. Treasury chief Steve

Mnuchin earlier said the U.S. could put more sanctions on Turkey. The United States has already imposed sanctions on two Turkish government ministers and doubled tariffs on Turkish steel and aluminum imports. Turkey retaliated with some \$533 million in tariffs on some U.S. imports — including cars, tobacco and alcoholic drinks — and said it would boycott U.S. electronic goods.

“We have responded to [US sanctions] in accordance to World Trade Organization rules and will continue to do so,” Pekcan said Friday.

Turkey’s currency, which had recovered from record losses against the dollar earlier in the week, was down about 6 percent against the dollar on Friday.

Turkey’s finance chief tried to reassure thousands of international investors on a conference call Thursday in which he pledged to fix the economic troubles. He ruled out any move to limit money flows — which is a possibility that worries investors — or any assistance from the International Monetary Fund.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Melting snow reveals dead herd of elk

OR BEND — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said melting snow east of Bend has revealed the carcasses of 19 elk that it believes were killed by an avalanche.

The Bulletin reported hikers near No Name Lake and Broken Top mountain peak found the carcasses last week.

Wildlife biologist Jamie Bowles said the dead elk included bulls, cows and calves. He said they were noticeably injured in the avalanche.

Biologists are not exactly sure when the avalanche happened, but they suspect it occurred last summer after historic snowfall in the winter of 2016-17.

Man who shot son over wings convicted

AL SELMA — A prosecutor said an Alabama man shot and wounded his adult son during an argument over chicken wings while they were watching football.

District Attorney Michael Jackson told AL.com that John Louis Caver, 77, was convicted by a Dallas County jury of first-degree domestic violence on Tuesday after a one-day trial. Jackson said after Tuesday's verdict that, "this must have been some really good chicken."

The DA said Caver shot his son in the chest as the family was watching an NFL game in 2016.

Police look into video of man spanking hippo

CA LOS ANGELES — Police are investigating after a video showed a man spanking a hippopotamus at

the Los Angeles Zoo.

The video shows the man crossing a railing last week and sneaking up on two hippos, Rosie and Mara. He smacks Rosie on the rear and her mother lifts her head as the man runs off and raises his arms in gesture of victory.

Zoo spokeswoman April Spurlock said state law prohibits entering zoo enclosures.

Police told the newspaper they're investigating the case as trespassing because the hippo didn't appear to be injured.

Man hot-wires dump truck, takes it for spin

MA BROCKTON — Police in Massachusetts were searching for a man who they said hot-wired a dump truck and took it for a joyride.

Brockton police said the suspect stole a truck from Modern Autobody around 2:47 a.m. Monday. Surveillance video from the shop shows the suspect backing over a fence surrounding the lot. The suspect returned to the business about 40 minutes later, parked the dump truck on top of the wrecked fence and casually walked away.

Modern Autobody owner Francis Fistori estimated the thief's ride caused over \$10,000 in damages.

More than 600 birds removed from home

OH COLUMBUS — The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said more than 600 birds were removed from a house in central Ohio after reports of animal neglect and a complaint from the public about living conditions.

The ASPCA said the birds were living in extremely overcrowded conditions in a home in a Columbus neighborhood.

ASPCA and Columbus Humane officials said birds removed from the home Tuesday under a search warrant included parakeets, cockatiels, finches, macaws and cockatoos.

The organizations said the birds have been relocated to a temporary shelter until a court determines custody.

Vandals flood historic sub, plaques stolen

NJ HACKENSACK — Vandals flooded a World War II-era submarine that has been part of the New Jersey Naval Museum since 1972.

Submarine Memorial Association vice president Les Altschuler told The Record locks were cut and hatches were open on the USS Ling between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Four bronze plaques honoring submarines and crews that were lost during the war also were stolen.

Altschuler says the Ling did not sink even though it was flooded with several feet of water. However, artifacts inside were damaged.

Mom who held pricey prom party charged

PA PHILADELPHIA — A Philadelphia mother who made headlines for an elaborate prom send-off and other events has been charged with Social Security benefits fraud.

The U.S. attorney's office in Philadelphia announced wire fraud, theft of government funds and Social Security fraud charges Tuesday against Saudia Shuler, 44. Prosecutors said Shuler applied for Social Security benefits saying she was disabled and unable to work, but continued working — including operating her own restaurant — costing the government more than \$36,700.

Shuler threw a \$25,000 Dubai-themed prom party for her son and other events including hosting a holiday-themed block party last winter.

Police chief defends using Taser on woman

GA CHATSWORTH — A Georgia police chief said an officer was justified in using a Taser to stun an 87-year-old woman after she didn't obey commands to drop a knife in her hand.

Chatsworth Police Chief Josh Etheridge told the Daily Citizen-News of Dalton that "an 87-year-old woman with a knife still has the ability to hurt an officer."

An employee of a Boys and Girls Club called police Friday to report a woman outside had a knife. Etheridge responded along with the officer who used the Taser on Martha Al-Bishara. Police charged Al-Bishara with criminal trespass and obstructing an officer. Relatives say she lives near the club, doesn't speak English and was using a kitchen knife to cut dandelions.

2,000-pound bull escapes, then dies

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Police said a rodeo bull broke free from the Oklahoma City Stockyards and charged through streets and chased people, including one person who jumped into a river to escape the animal's path.

Oklahoma City police spokeswoman Megan Morgan said the animal escaped a pen late Monday and then made it more than 2 miles to downtown, nearing a hospital and bus station. Morgan said cowboys used lassos to help police corral the bull but that the animal collapsed and died after it was captured.

From wire reports

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Urena's plunking of Acuna 'classless'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge saw Jose Urena's plunking of Ronald Acuna Jr. before the Yankees played a day game Thursday, and he felt Acuna's pain. The reigning AL home run leader knows that with so many big flies comes a risk that some disgruntled pitcher may try burying a fastball in your ribs.

"Oh yeah, it's happened before," New York's star slugger said.

Throwing at a batter for hitting home runs? That's what many think Urena did, including Mets broadcaster and former big league first baseman Keith Hernandez, who defended Urena's plunking of Atlanta's breakout rookie. Mostly, though, players and coaches around the game seem to want nothing to do with this murky unwritten rule.

The Miami right-hander sparked a benches-clearing fracas in Atlanta when he drilled Acuna in the elbow with the first pitch of a game Wednes-

day. Acuna had homered leading off three consecutive games and gone deep four times in the first three games of the series against the Marlins.

Acuna had a CT scan that revealed his elbow was normal, and X-rays also were negative. He was back in Atlanta's lineup Thursday night against Colorado.

Urena claimed he was just pitching Acuna inside and missed his spot with a "bad pitch." He was suspended six games and fined an undisclosed amount on Thursday.

The Braves — as well as the game's umpires — believed the plunking was intentional. Braves All-Star Freddie Freeman said it "was just completely classless on Jose Urena's part," and manager Brian Snitker was near the front of a line of Atlanta players charging out of the dugout toward the mound.

"I'm not sure I've ever felt like that in a baseball uniform," Snitker said.

At least one prominent baseball voice thought Urena would be right to intentionally drill

Acuna, though. Hernandez, the 1979 NL co-MVP, said during the Mets broadcast Wednesday night that in this case, "you got to hit him."

"They're killing you," Hernandez said. "You lost three games. He's hit three home runs. You got to hit him. I'm sorry, people aren't going to like that. You know, you got to hit him, knock him down."

Hernandez's words weren't well received by the Braves. Reliever Peter Moylan tweeted that Hernandez was a "clown," and Hall of Famer Chipper Jones tweeted that the comments were "waaay off base!"

"So by this way of thinking, Jacob deGrom should get drilled cuz he's the hottest pitcher on the planet? NO!" Jones wrote.

Players and coaches around the majors were asked about intentional plunkings Thursday, and it's clear that Hernandez's opinion falls among the minority.

Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Urena's pitch "seemed pretty blatant to me."

"It had a bad look to it," he said.

Rays veteran Kevin Kiermaier thinks plunkings have a time and a place. He recalled being a rookie when Tampa Bay unintentionally hit Yankees star Derek Jeter twice in the same game. Kiermaier was the first batter up for Tampa Bay the next inning.

"I knew I was going to get thrown at," Kiermaier said. "Guy ended up missing. I had no problem with it. He got thrown out, whatever."

But Kiermaier also suspects at least one pitcher has thrown at him intentionally because the speedy center fielder tried to bunt for a hit in the first inning of a game, and that experience infuriated him. Kiermaier, who is expecting a child in November, doesn't want any part of pitchers throwing at him for just playing the game. He called Urena's pitch "classless."

"You're hitting good, and they want to hit you to hit you, then I got a problem with that," Kiermaier said.

MLB roundup

Rockies snap Acuna's hitting streak, rally past Braves

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Colorado snapped Ronald Acuna Jr.'s home run streak and Atlanta's five-game winning streak, rallying for three unearned runs in the ninth inning to beat the Braves 5-3 on Thursday night.

David Dahl homered in the third and capped the winning rally with a two-out, two-run single off Brad Brach (1-3). The Rockies took advantage of an error by shortstop Danby Swanson leading off the ninth to win for the fifth time in six games.

One night after being plunked in the left arm by Miami's Jose Urena, Acuna was back in the lineup looking to extend his homer streak to six games. Wearing a red protective guard, the 20-year-old slugger received a standing ovation his

first time up and lined the second pitch into center field for a single, extending his hitting streak to nine games.

Rangers 8, Angels 6: Jurickson Profar started an especially rare triple play and homered to help Texas rally from an early five-run deficit for a victory over visiting Los Angeles.

Texas turned the sixth triple play in franchise history in the fourth. With the bases loaded, David Fletcher hit a low liner toward third base that Profar picked on a short hop. Playing near the bag, Profar stepped on third to force out Eric Young Jr. and then tagged Taylor Ward, who had stumbled off the base into foul territory. Profar then threw to Rougned Odor, and the second baseman tagged Kole Calhoun between first and second.

It was the majors' first triple play without retiring the batter since June 3, 1912, when the Brooklyn Dodgers turned the trick against the Cincinnati Reds.

Nationals 5, Cardinals 4: At St. Louis, Bryce Harper had three hits and drove in three runs, and a beleaguered bullpen held on as Washington snapped a four-game losing streak.

Mets 24-6, Phillies 4-9: Rhys Hoskins hit a three-run homer, Scott Kingery had a solo shot and host Philadelphia beat New York to split their doubleheader.

Cubs 1, Pirates 0: Jon Lester pitched six innings to win for the first time in just over a month and Ian Happ homered as visiting Chicago beat Pittsburgh.

Rays 3, Yankees 1: Rookie left-hander Adam Kolarek pitched out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the ninth inning to lift Tampa Bay to its first series win at Yankee Stadium since 2014.

Twins 15, Tigers 8: Logan Forsythe had a career-high five hits and Jorge Polanco drove in four runs as host Minnesota outslugged Detroit.

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 1: Clay Buchholz pitched a five-hitter, David Peralta hit a three-run homer and visiting Arizona beat San Diego in the opener of a four-game series.

Royals 6, Blue Jays 2: Lucas Duda homered, Rosell Herrera had three hits and host Kansas City beat Toronto after a rain delay to split their four-game series.

NFL preseason roundup

Brady sharp in debut as Pats top Eagles

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady moved the New England Patriots with ease in their Super Bowl rematch against the penalty-prone Eagles, winning 37-20 with a little help from running back James White and fifth-round draft choice Ja'Whaun Bentley.

In his first action since losing in the NFL title game to Philadelphia, Brady completed 19 of 26 passes for 172 yards and two touchdowns on Thursday night to help stake New England (2-0) to a 27-7 halftime lead.

Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles left in the second quarter with a shoulder injury after a strip sack that Bentley recovered and returned 54 yards for a touchdown.

White caught six passes for 61 yards, including a 20-yard touchdown, and also ran for

31 yards in the first half. The Eagles (0-2) had five penalties for 50 yards in the first quarter — including two for lowering the head to initiate contact and one for hitting a defenseless receiver — and 97 penalty yards in all.

After sitting out last week's exhibition season opener, Brady led New England to scores on four of the six series he played.

Redskins 15, Jets 13: Sam Darnold threw an interception and showed some of the growing pains of a rookie quarterback in his first preseason start for visiting New York, which lost to Washington on a last-second field goal by Dustin Hopkins.

In addition to the interception, Darnold took two sacks and had a couple of balls batted out of the air. It was a far cry from the impressive debut

in which the third overall pick went 13-for-18 for 96 yards for the Jets (1-1) and looked like the front-runner to win New York's starting QB competition.

The former USC star played the entire first half before giving way to veteran Teddy Bridgewater. The former Vikings quarterback had his own inconsistencies, going 10-for-15 for 127 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

Alex Smith was 4-for-6 for 48 yards in one series, his only work so far in the preseason for the Redskins (1-1).

Hopkins made all five of his field-goal attempts, including a 40-yarder as time expired to win it.

Packers 51, Steelers 34: Aaron Rodgers needed just one drive to look at home in his first action at Lambeau Field in almost a year.

Rodgers connected with tight end Jimmy Graham for an 8-yard score, and Tramon Williams had a 25-yard interception return for a touchdown on the first play from scrimmage of Green Bay's victory.

Five minutes after throwing the pick, Mason Rudolph found JuJu Smith-Schuster for a 4-yard touchdown pass for Pittsburgh (1-1). Rudolph, who is competing with Joshua Dobbs for a backup job, was just 5-for-12 for 47 yards in playing the first half.

Dobbs didn't look much better after throwing an interception that was returned 22 yards for a touchdown by Green Bay (2-0) rookie cornerback Josh Jackson in the third quarter. But Dobbs finished strong and connected with rookie receiver James Washington for two second-half touchdowns.

Sports briefs

Sauter holds off Friesen to win Truck race at Bristol

Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Johnny Sauter took the lead with five laps left when John Hunter Nemechek slowed because of late fuel pickup issues, then held off Stewart Friesen on Thursday night at Bristol Motor Speedway for his fifth NASCAR Camping World Truck Series victory of the season.

The 40-year-old Sauter wrapped up the series regular-season title by starting the race on the 0.533 oval, and went on to break a tie with Brett Moffitt for the series victory lead heading into the playoffs. Sauter won a week after losing the lead to Moffitt on the final lap at Michigan.

"I've never won at Bristol before, so I was pumped," Sauter said. "I'm so lucky I've got this group of guys. We won at Bristol! This is the ultimate! For a

short-track guy, and I consider myself a short-track guy, to get a win at a place like this is so special. I'm just pumped, and I can't wait to start our championship run."

Friesen finished 0.236 back, missing a chance for his first series victory.

Source: No deal, but Browns talking to Dez

CLEVELAND — A person familiar with the negotiations says free agent Dez Bryant concluded his visit with the Browns without agreeing to a contract, but "conversations continue."

The person spoke Friday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

The former star receiver for the Cowboys and his agent met with Cleveland officials for the

second straight day.

One of the NFL's top receivers the past eight seasons, Bryant was cut by Dallas in April. The Browns, despite coming off a 0-16 season, are intriguing to Bryant.

Cleveland has significantly upgraded its talent. If Bryant signs, the Browns would have three Pro Bowlers — Bryant, Jarvis Landry and Josh Gordon — on their roster.

Salas shoots 62, ties course record

INDIANAPOLIS — Lizette Salas waited 77 minutes to line up her 4-foot putt to take the lead Thursday at the Indy Women in Tech Championship.

She refused to let the weather delay get to her.

When the 29-year-old California player returned to the course, she quickly rolled in the

birdie putt, finished her round with another birdie at No. 18 and took a two-shot lead over Angel Yin and Nasa Hataoka with a course record-tying 10-under 62.

"I didn't even think about it the entire time," Salas said. "I was hanging out with Danielle (Kang) and she was giving me her silly dad jokes. So it definitely kept my mind off of it. I was really excited to be back and to finish off with a birdie, from off the green, was the icing on the cake."

It's the lowest score by a female player at the Brickyard Crossing.

Defending champion Lexi Thompson opened last year's inaugural tournament with a 63, one shot off of Mike McCullough's 62 in the PGA Champions Tour's 1999 Comfort Classic.

Nassar scandal casts shadow over Spartans

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Every now and then, when the Michigan State football team won't be together for a little while, it's a good time for another reminder.

Safety Khari Willis explained the message:

"It's me, Joe [Bachie], Brian [Lewerke], Grayson [Miller], Matt Morrissey reiterating: Make good choices," Willis said. "Be smart, nothing out of character, nothing stupid, and conduct ourselves in the right way."

No matter how many games Michigan State wins this season, it won't change the ugliness of the recent past. The Larry Nassar sex-abuse scandal — plus lingering off-field questions about the basketball and football programs — put the university under the kind of spotlight every school wants to avoid.

Amid that cloud, the leaders of this year's football team can only hope the right lessons have been learned.

"It's hard as young people today to make the right decisions all the time. We see that across the country everywhere," tight end Matt Sokol said. "A player-led team is always better than a coaches-led team, so I

think we've done a good job as the leadership group on our team to really emphasize guys making the right decisions, representing our program the right way, representing your families back at home."

Like with Penn State and Jerry Sandusky, all of Michigan State faces being linked with Nassar for the foreseeable future after the former MSU and USA Gymnastics doctor was sent to prison for molesting women and girls who sought treatment.

And while Nassar's crimes didn't have anything to do with the football team, the program has had its own issues. Before last season, four players were dismissed from the team amid sexual assault allegations and three pleaded guilty to reduced charges.

Early this year, around the time the Nassar scandal caused a shakeup in school leadership, ESPN reported allegations of sexual assault and violence against women involving Michigan State football and basketball players. The report questioned how the athletic department handled those cases over the years.

Athletic director Mark Hollis retired, but football coach Mark Dantonio responded by saying he's always worked with proper authorities when dealing with sexual assault cases. The school gave no indication that it

doubts Dantonio, who is entering his 12th season as Michigan State's coach. University leaders have similarly stuck by basketball coach Tom Izzo.

The Spartans could easily contend for the Big Ten title after winning 10 games last season, but off-field issues never seem too far away. At Big Ten media days last month, Dantonio addressed the return of linebacker Jon Reschke, who left the team following the 2016 season after making an insensitive comment involving a former teammate. Dantonio said Reschke would need the support of the team's African-American players to return. He's currently on the roster.

"The one thing I want our football players to understand and to learn from is that — and to grow as people from — is that they're going to have to handle big, big issues at times," Dantonio said. "Such as standing for the flag or not, things we've endured at Michigan State in this past year, they're going to be a part of that, and they're going to have to weigh in on things."

Players say Dantonio has indeed emphasized off-field behavior.

"The way he worded it is: In critical moments of choice, make good decisions," Willis said.

Penn State's Farmer wants to help fight crime

Associated Press

Koa Farmer's taste in television steers in a very clear direction.

"I liked 'Law and Order.' I liked 'CSI.' I liked 'Bones.' 'Criminal Minds' was a good one," the Penn State linebacker said. "And continuing to college following, 'How to Get Away with Murder,' 'Breaking Bad.' I'm just really into that kind of stuff. Into the competitive field of getting criminals. The whole critical thinking part of how agents handle certain situations or conflicts."

After he is done playing football, Farmer wants in on the action — for real. The senior is a criminology and sociology major at Penn State. In the summer of 2016, a former professor hooked him up with law enforcement organizations in Washington to get a taste of what it's like to solve crimes.

"I shadowed DEA agents, ATF agents," Farmer said. "I

shadowed the forensics unit. I shadowed MPD."

Farmer's former professor is Jenifer Smith, a retired FBI special agent who currently is the director of the Department of Forensic Sciences in Washington. During the summer, Farmer would drive from State College, Pa., once a week and stay at Penn State quarterback Trace McSorley's home in Northern Virginia.

This was no desk job. He was riding along with real agents and officers who were being called in to solve, or at times stop, real crimes.

"With the forensics unit, I had to take an oath. I had to sign something that if I got killed my parents wouldn't sue the government," Farmer said. "I had to put a bullet proof vest on, and I basically was patrolling the city waiting for radio calls of crime activity."

He gathered evidence from an armed robbery while working a crime scene with forensics. With

the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, he went to a training facility where firefighters learn how to determine the cause of fires.

The most fun was riding along with D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, Farmer said.

Farmer was placed with four sergeants working narcotics, riding in an unmarked car.

"Next thing I know they say, 'Move in! Move in!'" Farmer said. "All of sudden I don't have my seat belt on. I'm in the back. They just peeled out. He's driving throughout D.C., like in the middle of D.C., it's crowded. They were going through D.C., like, going 100 miles per hour. Going on the sidewalk."

"Next thing you know they got out the car, they start running. He said, 'Go get him.' So I was running down the middle of the street in D.C. chasing after this dude. We stop him."

"That happened at least eight times that whole day," Farmer

said. "That was a hell of a day."

Farmer's teammates loved to hear his stories. As for Penn State defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Brent Pry?

"He was, like, 'Ahhh, you shouldn't be doing that,'" Farmer said. "We need you to play football."

This summer, Farmer was scheduled to work with Penn State's Red Cell Analytics, using research software that can detect patterns in terrorist attacks, but a lack of funding for the project canceled the class.

Farmer is expected to be one of the leaders of Penn State's inexperienced defense this year, and at 6-foot-1 and 236 pounds with good speed, he should draw interest from NFL teams. After starting his career at Penn State at safety, he is now settled in at linebacker.

"He's going to test extremely well," Penn State coach James Franklin said. "But I think he's got a chance to have a real strong year this year."