

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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House report questions F-35C's range

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON—The Navy's newest fighter jet, the stealthy F-35C, might not have the range it needs to strike enemy targets, the House Armed Services Committee said in a new report, raising troubling questions about whether the multibillion-dollar program is already outpaced by threats.

Critics say the Navy fighter — part of the Joint Strike Fighter initiative, the most expensive weapons program in history — might have been out of date years ago.

The committee's conclusion, buried in the 606-page report on the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill, is confirmation from lawmakers who support the jet program that the aircraft carrier-based version of the F-35 may not have enough effective range without refueling to function well in likely future wars.

"While the introduction of the F-35C will significantly expand stealth capabilities, the F-35C could require increased range to address necessary targets," the report states. The reason, experts say, is that the aircraft carriers from which the F-35Cs would operate may be required to sail too far away from enemies to avoid their increasingly long-range missiles.

The committee does not want to stop buying F-35Cs, but instead wants to start also buying new sorts of warplanes.

"After billions of dollars have been spent on the F-35C, but before the first aircraft are ready to deploy, lawmakers are already looking at the next carrier-based aircraft," said Bryan Clark, a former Navy strategist now at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

Dan Grazier, of the Project on Government Oversight, said the House directive "highlights just

how poorly conceived the Joint Strike Fighter program has been from the very beginning."

"The issue of anti-ship cruise missiles is not a new one," he said. "The complexity of the F-35 program has dragged out the design process to nearly 20 years, which means we are not keeping pace with emerging threats."

The F-35 program is developing and purchasing 2,456 jets in three variants — the F-35C for the Navy, the F-35A for the Air Force and the F-35B for the Marine Corps — with allies expected to purchase hundreds more. The Navy will buy 273 F-35Cs for its carriers and another 67 for the Marine Corps, on top of the Marine Corps' own model, which takes off and lands vertically.

The cost to develop and build all three models is projected to reach \$406.1 billion, with another estimated \$1.1 trillion to

operate them.

If the Navy has to sail its carriers in the neighborhood of 1,000 nautical miles away from increasingly long-range missiles, then its stealthy F-35Cs will have to be refueled by tanker aircraft that are not stealthy.

The F-35Cs have an effective range — known as a combat radius (or the distance from the carrier they can operate) — that is now projected as 670 nautical miles.

The refueling operations would expose the fighter jets and tankers to adversaries, defeating the value of the F-35C's radar-evading materials and sleek silhouette. Lt. Lauren Chatmas, a Navy spokeswoman, said the risk is "acceptable" because the refueling will occur far from enemy threats. But Clark maintains enemy fighters might still find U.S. aircraft even hundreds of miles out if any are not stealthy.

Trump suggests summit with Kim may be delayed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump suggested Tuesday that a planned historic meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un could be delayed. He said, "There's a very substantial chance that it won't work out" for June 12.

Trump raised the possibility that the meeting could be pushed back during a White House meeting with South Korea President Moon Jae-in, trying to coordinate strategy as concerns mounted over ensuring a successful outcome for the North Korea summit.

Trump told reporters: "If it doesn't happen, maybe it happens later," reflecting recent setbacks in efforts to bring about

reconciliation between the two Koreas. The North pulled out of planned peace talks with the South last week, objecting to long-scheduled joint military exercises between U.S. and Republic of Korea forces. The North also threatened to abandon the planned Trump-Kim meeting over U.S. insistence on denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, issuing a harshly worded missive that the White House dismissed as a negotiating ploy.

"There are certain conditions that we want," Trump said Tuesday. He added if they aren't met, "we won't have the meeting." He declined to elaborate on those conditions. Trump said "there's a very substantial chance" that the meeting won't take place on June 12.

"That doesn't mean it won't work out over a period of time," he said. "But it may not work out for June 12. But there is a good chance that we'll have the meeting."

Moon said in the Oval Office that the "fate and the future" of the Korean Peninsula hinged on the talks, telling the U.S. president that they were "one step closer" to the dream of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

Trump said he'd noticed "a little change" in Kim Jong Un's "attitude" after Kim took a second trip to China this month in the run-up to the summit. "I don't like that," Trump said.

Trump said he hoped that Chinese President Xi Jinping was committed to the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Penin-

sula, calling him a world-class poker player. But he said he was displeased by China's softening of border enforcement measures against North Korea.

Trump encouraged Kim to seize the opportunity for the meeting and to make a deal to abandon his nuclear program, pledging not only to guarantee Kim's personal security but also predicting an economic revitalization for the North.

"I will guarantee his safety, yes," Trump said, if Kim agrees to complete verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. He said if an agreement is reached, China, Japan and South Korea would invest large sums to "make North Korea great."

Yokosuka welcomes Milius to 7th Fleet

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy's 7th Fleet welcomed the destroyer USS Milius and its crew of 300 to the ship's new home at Yokosuka on Tuesday.

Cmdr. Jennifer M. Pontius, commander of the Milius, said Tuesday that the ship brings with it a "well-trained team ready for any tasking."

It also brings enhanced missile defense capabilities with its new Aegis Baseline 9 combat system. The ship's arrival date in Yokosuka was pushed out nearly a year as it underwent maintenance and modernization, including upgrades to its air, ballistic-missile defense, surface and undersea warfare capabilities, according to a Navy

statement.

A highlight of the new system, the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense platform, enables the Milius to shoot down short-range ballistic missiles within the atmosphere, and short- to intermediate-range missiles above the atmosphere, according to the Navy.

The Milius' arrival reinforces Navy efforts to place more of its advanced platforms and weaponry in the region. In 2015, the destroyer USS Benfold arrived at Yokosuka with the Aegis Baseline 9 upgrade. The upgraded destroyer USS Barry arrived the following year. Before the 505-foot-long, 8,230-ton Milius came to Japan, it completed qualification trials and multiple live-fire events to test its new weapons, the Navy said.

"Our combat system and our well-trained

crew are ready to support whatever mission we are called to accomplish," Pontius said.

The Milius will help alleviate some of the workload of the forward-deployed fleet, which has undergone a trying year and a half.

Although former Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott Swift told Stars and Stripes in 2017 the Milius is not meant to replace destroyers severely damaged in fatal collisions last year, the 7th Fleet has had a shortage of ships as the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain undergo repairs.

Though Pontius said the ship is "in excellent shape," the Milius will remain in Yokosuka for an undisclosed amount of time as it enters a routine maintenance period, allowing its sailors to settle into their new homes in Japan.

Pacific Partnership kicks off in Thailand for the first time

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Military relations between the United States and Thailand continue to deepen despite the ruling Thai junta's repeated postponement of free elections.

For the first time, Thailand is hosting Pacific Partnership, U.S. Pacific Fleet's annual mission that began in 2006 to assist regional governments with preparedness for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

The 2018 mission kicked off this week aboard the expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Brunswick in Sattahip, Thailand.

More than 130 military personnel from the U.S., United Kingdom and Australia will work with counterparts in the fields of medicine and dentistry at the Queen Sirikit Naval Hospital, the Navy said in a statement.

"We are here because, like our U.S. colleagues, we are committed to increasing multilateral cooperation and partnership across the region," U.K. Royal Navy Capt. Peter Olive, deputy mission commander of Pacific Partnership 2018, said in the Navy statement.

Meanwhile, top officials from

the Royal Thai Air Force spent four days last week in Hawaii at the headquarters of Pacific Air Forces at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Russell Mack, PACAF's deputy commander, and Royal Thai Air Force Air Marshal Tarin Punsri were among the attendees discussing expanding bilateral engagements and regional security efforts, the Air Force said.

Thai Gen. Prayut Chan-ocha led a military coup in 2014 that overthrew the civilian government. U.S. officials quickly began pressing the junta for a speedy return to elected government, but promised elections have been postponed several times.

Elections have now been promised for early 2019, but "there remains a significant chance the military will delay the election again," Joshua Kurlantzick, a senior fellow for Southeast Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in a March blog post.

The junta appears to be delaying elections until its leaders are confident that the political party Pheu Thai could not win a majority, Kurlantzick wrote.

Marines to relocate some Okinawa facilities

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The U.S. and Japanese governments have agreed to move some Marine Corps facilities from a pair of bases in southern Okinawa to Camp Hansen in the northern part of the island prefecture.

The relocation — officially agreed upon during a U.S.-Japan Joint Committee meeting May 11 — is part of a 2013 plan to consolidate U.S. military facilities in the southern half of Okinawa.

About 100 buildings will be constructed at Hansen to relocate 30 buildings from Camps Foster and Kinser, a spokesman from Japan's Ministry of Defense said. Those structures include warehouses from Kinser and a maintenance facility and a community services support center from Foster.

Buildings housing barracks, maintenance facilities and warehouses at Hansen must be moved within the base to make room for the new construction, the spokesman said.

The plan also requires new gates and roads.

The facilities being relocated are spread throughout Foster and Kinser and won't result in any major land returns, the spokesman said. However, an approximately 25-acre facilities and engineering warehouse area along the Shirahi River on Foster's northwestern side will revert to Okinawa control once the move is complete.

The 2013 consolidation pact says the property will be returned during Japanese fiscal year 2019 or later.

Japanese officials were unable to tell when the plan will be completed, but said the Ministry of Defense "will carry out the construction steadily to meet the reversion timeline as shown in the plan on consolidating the bases on Okinawa."

It was also unclear how much the work would cost and who would foot the bill.

"It is difficult to say how much the exact cost of relocation will be as of now since the layout and scale of the facilities shown in the master plan can be changed, as it will be examined carefully between the U.S. and Japan," a spokesman said.

Lawmakers to review Russia probe info

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ratcheting up pressure on the Russia investigation, the White House announced that top FBI and Justice Department officials have agreed to meet with congressional leaders and “review” highly classified information the lawmakers have been seeking on the handling of the probe.

The agreement came after President Donald Trump made an extraordinary demand that the Justice Department investigate whether the FBI infiltrated his presidential campaign. It’s unclear exactly what the members will be allowed to review or if the Justice Department will be providing any documents to Congress.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said

Trump chief of staff John Kelly will broker the meeting between congressional leaders and the FBI, Justice Department and office of the Director of National Intelligence. She said the officials will “review highly classified and other information they have requested” but did not provide additional detail.

During a meeting Monday with Trump, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray also reiterated an announcement late Sunday that the Justice Department’s inspector general will expand an existing investigation into the Russia probe by examining whether there was any improper politically motivated surveillance.

Rep. Devin Nunes, an ardent Trump supporter and head of

the House Intelligence Committee, has been demanding information on an FBI source in the Russia investigation. Trump has taken up the cause as the White House tries to combat the threat posed by special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

On Tuesday, a group of conservative House lawmakers planned to call for the appointment of a second special counsel to investigate whether misconduct took place in the FBI and the Justice Department.

Trump tweeted Sunday: “I hereby demand, and will do so officially tomorrow, that the Department of Justice look into whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump Campaign for Political

Purposes — and if any such demands or requests were made by people within the Obama Administration!”

With the demand, Trump entered into the realm of applying presidential pressure on the Justice Department regarding an investigation into his own campaign — an unprecedented move.

Trump made the demand amid days of public venting about the special counsel investigation, which he has deemed a “witch hunt” that he says has yielded no evidence of collusion between his campaign and Russia. In response, the Justice Department moved to defuse the confrontation by asking its watchdog to investigate whether there was inappropriate surveillance.

Sheriff praises officers’ response to Texas shooting

Los Angeles Times

SANTA FE, Texas — Minutes after a school shooter opened fire in an art class last week, killing 10 people and wounding 13, including a local police officer, fellow officers returned fire in a protracted gunbattle before isolating the suspect, the local sheriff said Monday.

Galveston County Sheriff Henry Trochesset praised first responders as well as Santa Fe Police Officer John Barnes, who was working as a resource officer at the school the day of the shooting and was among the wounded. Their actions, he said, prevented the attack from spreading to other classrooms and potentially claiming additional victims.

As officials continue to probe last Friday’s shooting at Santa Fe High School, students are worried about returning to the scene of the attack when classes resume next week.

Barnes underwent several surgeries and was still in inten-

sive care Monday, Santa Fe Police Chief Walter Braun said.

“He’s had ups and downs. Today was a down day,” Braun said.

Dimitrios Pagourtzis, 17, a junior at the high school, was formally charged with capital murder and aggravated assault against a public servant Monday in connection with the shooting. His case is due to be considered by a grand jury within 90 days, prosecutors said. He was being held at Galveston County jail in solitary confinement under suicide watch, the sheriff said.

Trochesset praised officers’ response to the shooting, which he said they had trained for using a program that allowed them to easily coordinate between agencies. More than 200 officers responded from several counties, he said.

The shooter’s motive remained unclear. Under Texas law, due to his age, Pagourtzis would not be eligible for the death penalty or life without parole.

Kilauea volcano sparks more hazards

Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii — The eruption of Kilauea volcano in Hawaii sparked new safety warnings about toxic gas on the Big Island’s southern coastline after lava began flowing into the ocean and setting off a chemical reaction.

The molten rock started pouring into the sea over the weekend. It’s been generating plumes of lava haze, or “laze,” as it interacts with seawater.

It’s just the latest hazard from a weeks-old eruption that has so far generated earthquakes and featured gushing molten rock, giant ash plumes and sulfur dioxide. The eruption has destroyed more than 40 buildings and forced more than 2,000 people to evacuate.

On Monday, lava entered and then stalled on the property of a geothermal plant near one of Kilauea’s new volcanic vents. Officials earlier this month removed 50,000 gallons of stored flammable gas from the plant to reduce the chance of explosions.

Here are key things to know

about the latest volcanic threat:

■ **What is lava haze?** It is made of dense white clouds of steam, toxic gas and tiny shards of volcanic glass. Janet Babb, a geologist with the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, says the plume “looks innocuous, but it’s not.”

■ **How is it created?** Laze is formed when lava enters the ocean and triggers a series of chemical reactions.

The seawater cools the lava, which forms a glass that shatters. Tiny pieces are picked up by the steam cloud, which contains hydrochloric acid that also is created by the interaction of lava and the ocean.

■ **Why is it dangerous?** The clouds contain hydrochloric acid, which is about as corrosive as diluted battery acid. It can irritate the skin and eyes and cause breathing problems.

Babb says protective masks that officials have been distributing to protect people from volcanic ash will filter particles from lava haze but not the hydrochloric acid.

Experts unveil new details on shipwreck

Associated Press

BOSTON — A Spanish galleon laden with gold that sank to the bottom of the Caribbean off the coast of Colombia more than 300 years ago was found three years ago with the help of an underwater autonomous vehicle operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the agency disclosed for the first time.

New details about the discovery of the San Jose were released on Monday with permission from the agencies involved in the search, including the Colombian government.

"We've been holding this under wraps out of respect for the Colombian government," said Rob Munier, WHOI's vice

president for marine facilities and operations.

The exact location of the wreck of the San Jose, often called the "holy grail of shipwrecks," was long considered one of history's enduring maritime mysteries.

The 62-gun, three-masted galleon went down on June 8, 1708, with 600 people on board as well as a treasure of gold, silver and emeralds during a battle with British ships in the War of Spanish Succession. The treasure is worth as much as \$17 billion by modern standards.

The Massachusetts-based WHOI was invited to join the search because of its recognized expertise in deep water exploration. The institute's autonomous underwater vehicle, REMUS

6000, helped find the wreckage of Air France 447 in 2011, which crashed in 2009 several hundred miles off the coast of Brazil.

It was REMUS 6000 that in November 2015 took some side sonar images that found the San Jose in more than 2,000 feet of water.

The vehicle descended to 30 feet above the wreck to take several photographs, including some of the distinctive dolphin engravings on the San Jose's cannons, a key piece of visual evidence.

"The wreck was partially sediment-covered, but with the camera images from the lower altitude missions, we were able to see new details in the wreckage and the resolution was good

enough to make out the decorative carving on the cannons," said WHOI engineer and expedition leader Mike Purcell.

"It was a pretty strong feeling of gratification to finally find it," said Munier, who was not at the site but learned in a phone call from Purcell. "It was a great moment."

The treasure has been the subject of legal battles between several nations as well as private companies. Several weeks ago, UNESCO, the United Nations cultural agency, called on Colombia not to commercially exploit the wreck, whose exact location remains a state secret.

As for the treasure, that remains on the sea bed — for now.

Interior moves to reverse rules on hunting in Alaska

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is moving to reverse Obama-era rules barring hunters on some public lands in Alaska from baiting brown bears with bacon and doughnuts and using spotlights to shoot mother black bears and cubs hibernating in their dens.

The National Park Service issued a notice Monday of its intent to amend regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves to bring the federal rules in line with Alaska state law.

Under the proposed changes, hunters would also be allowed to hunt black bears with dogs, kill wolves and pups in their

dens, and use motor boats to shoot swimming caribou.

These and other hunting methods — condemned as cruel by wildlife protection advocates — were outlawed on federal lands in 2015. Members of the public have 60 days to provide comment on the proposed new rules.

"The conservation of wildlife and habitat for future generations is a goal we share with Alaska," said Bert Frost, the park service's regional director. "This proposed rule will reconsider NPS efforts in Alaska for improved alignment of hunting regulations on national preserves with State of Alaska regulations, and to enhance consistency with harvest regu-

lations on surrounding nonfederal lands and waters."

Alaska has 10 national preserves covering nearly 37,000 square miles.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game was "pleased to see the National Park Service working to better align federal regulations with State of Alaska hunting and trapping regulations," Maria Gladziszewski, the state agency's deputy director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation, said in an email to The Associated Press.

Gladziszewski said the state doesn't conduct predator control in national preserves. "Predator control could be allowed in preserves only with federal authorization because

such actions are subject to NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review," she said.

Expanding hunting rights on federal lands has been a priority for Secretary Ryan Zinke, a former Montana congressman who displays a taxidermied bear in his Washington office along with mounted heads from a bison and an elk.

Collette Adkins, a lawyer and biologist with the advocacy group Center for Biological Diversity, expressed outrage at the rollback.

"Cruel and harmful hunting methods like killing bear cubs and their mothers near dens have no place on our national preserves," she said.

Palestinians seek 'immediate' ICC probe against Israel

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Calling it a "historic step" toward justice, the Palestinian foreign minister asked the International Criminal Court on Tuesday to open an "immediate investigation" into alleged

Israeli "crimes" committed against the Palestinian people.

The development was sure to worsen the already troubled relations between the internationally backed Palestinian Authority and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

Peace talks have been frozen for more than four years, and contacts between the two sides are minimal.

The referral sought an investigation into Israeli policies in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip since the state

of Palestine accepted the ICC's jurisdiction in 2014, he said.

"There is a culture of impunity in Israel for crimes against Palestinians," Malki said. "This referral is Palestine's test to the international mechanism of accountability and respect for international law."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pig follows man home from train station

OH NORTH RIDGEVILLE — Police in a Cleveland suburb thought they had a drunk on their hands when a man called to report a pig following him home from a train station.

A North Ridgeville officer arrived on the scene early Saturday to find the man was sober and a pig was, in fact, following him.

The officer got the pig into his patrol car and transported it to the station. It eventually was reunited with its owner.

Principal apologizes for prom tickets

NJ CHERRY HILL — The principal of a New Jersey high school has apologized for what he called “insensitive” language on tickets for the upcoming senior prom.

The Courier Post reported that the Cherry Hill High School East senior prom tickets urged students to “party like it’s 1776” during the event at Philadelphia’s National Constitution Center.

Principal Dennis Perry said in a letter to the community posted on his Twitter account Friday that some people were offended, and it was “insensitive and irresponsible” not to recognize that “not all communities can celebrate what life was like in 1776.”

He said he especially wanted to apologize to black students, “who I have let down by not initially recognizing the inappropriateness of this wording.”

Boy, 3, rescued from manure pit on farm

PA HONEYBROOK — Officials said emergency crews rescued a 3-year-old boy

who fell into a manure pit on a farm near Philadelphia.

Emergency responders were called to the Honey Brook Township farm about 6:30 p.m. Saturday after the child fell into the 6- to 10-foot pit inside a large barn.

Fire crews tried to get in to help but quickly became stuck. Two rescuers with rope harnesses worked their way inside and were able to reach the victim.

Officials said the boy was alert when he was removed on a stretcher and was taken to Ephrata Community Hospital with minor injuries.

Girl with knife fends off would-be abductor

MI DETROIT — Detroit police said a 13-year-old girl fended off a would-be abductor by stabbing him with a pocket knife.

The Detroit News reported the girl was near a school on the city’s northwest side when the man approached her Friday evening. She told police that she fought back when he tried to grab her.

Police said she pulled out a pocket knife during the scuffle and stabbed him in the side.

The paper reported that the girl told police the same man attempted to abduct her last year.

Man electrocuted trying to steal copper

CA LOS ANGELES — Authorities said a man was electrocuted in Los Angeles while trying to steal copper from electrical equipment.

It happened shortly before 7:30 p.m. Friday in an industrial area of South Los Angeles.

City News Service said authorities suspect the man broke into a 4.8-kilovolt station that would provide electricity to a home or a small business.

Inmates get a taste of ancient Greece

NY NEW YORK — Some inmates at New York City’s biggest jail got a taste of ancient Greece this past weekend.

A theater company went to Rikers Island on Saturday to perform skits from plays by Sophocles that deal with wounded, traumatized warriors and how they deal with other people off the battleground. It was a perfect fit for the New York audience behind bars — about 20 military veterans living in a new jail unit where even the correction officers are veterans.

Bryan Doerries, head of the Theater of War company, then invited the imprisoned veterans to discuss their personal stories.

Department of Corrections Senior Deputy Commissioner Timothy Farrell said officials are trying to give the veterans, charged with nonviolent crimes, “a sense of camaraderie.”

Dispute spurs brawl at wedding event

PA HELLERTOWN — A brawl at a Pennsylvania wedding reception left several people injured and one man facing charges.

Authorities said the fight began shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday at a fire department banquet hall in Hellertown when a woman was dragged into the parking lot during an apparent domestic dispute.

Numerous guests then ran out to help the woman and several fights broke out in the street.

Authorities said dozens of people were involved overall, including four people who suffered serious injuries and were taken to hospitals. Several other people had minor injuries.

Scott Brockel, 25, was charged with aggravated assault and other counts. Authorities said Brockel assaulted several guests who were trying to help the woman who was dragged.

Officer delivers fawn, performing C-section

NJ WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP — A police officer in New Jersey performed an emergency cesarean section to deliver a fawn after its mother was struck and killed on a road.

Animal control officer Robert Lagonera said the Washington Township police officer arrived on the scene in rural Warren County early Sunday to find the fawn was moving inside the mother’s body. After the officer removed the fawn, Lagonera said he took it home to dry it off and to get it warm.

MOH Museum set to receive redesign

SC MOUNT PLEASANT — Planners of a National Medal of Honor Museum in South Carolina have agreed to start over on the design and get input from the public this time.

The museum would be built at Patriot Point in Mount Pleasant, where the USS Yorktown and other decommissioned military vessels are open to the public.

The Medal of Honor Museum Foundation spent \$3.5 million preparing the initial concept of a pentagon-shaped building 140 feet tall on waterfront property zoned for no more than 50 feet.

The Mount Pleasant Planning Commission overwhelmingly rejected the proposed design in January because of its height and proximity to the water.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Caps pound Lightning to force Game 7

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facing elimination at home, the Washington Capitals looked determined to hit everything that moved in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference final.

The goal was to finish checks on Tampa Bay Lightning players as much as possible, though at one point Devante Smith-Pelly decked Dan Girardi and took teammate Jay Beagle down with him.

"I apologized to him," Smith-Pelly said. "I said sorry. He didn't seem to care."

Sorry, not sorry.

The Capitals made no apologies for taking the body and grinding out a physical 3-0 victory Monday night that tied the playoff series and set up a deciding Game 7. T.J. Oshie had a goal on the power play and into an empty net, Smith-Pelly scored a back-breaker and Braden Holtby stopped all 24 shots, but it was the bruising style that kept the Capitals alive and could still pay more dividends.

"You've got to wear them down," Smith-Pelly said. "Every game, if guys are going to be playing 25, 30 minutes, it's tough when you're getting hit every single shift. We've been on the body all game and all series. If it

shows up in Game 7 where guys are starting to get tired, then it was all worth it."

Game 7 is Wednesday night at Tampa Bay. The winner faces the Vegas Golden Knights, who are in the Stanley Cup Final in their first season.

Alex Ovechkin, Tom Wilson and Brooks Orpik led the charge in the grueling Game 6, throwing their bodies around all night like human wrecking balls. Orpik separated Cedric Paquette from the puck twice on one shift, Ovechkin leveled rookie Yanni Gourde and Wilson was his usual self, dishing out a handful of crushing body checks.

The Capitals outthit the Lightning 39-19 and outshot them 34-24, bruising and battering them all over the ice.

"It's desperation, really," Orpik said. "You try to empty the tank as much as you can. That's probably one area where we have an edge is the size and physical play."

That edge was noticeable in Game 6 when Washington fired up an already-raucous crowd well before Oshie's power-play goal 15:12 into the second period. While Tampa Bay goaltender Andrei Vasilevski was again on top of his game in stopping 31 of 33 shots, Orpik

said the Capitals wanted to give back to fans for their energy and did so by laying out Lightning players.

From Wilson's big hit on Paquette on his first shift through the time Smith-Pelly scored with 9:58 left, the physical play took a toll on the Lightning, who didn't have the energy left to muster a late comeback. Tampa Bay captain Steven Stamkos said simply the Capitals "executed their game plan" and the Lightning didn't respond.

"They played with that desperate hockey and we should have matched it and we didn't," winger Ryan Callahan said. "They played like their lives were on the line, and we played like we had another chance and that's unfortunate, but we've got to change the script now in Game 7."

Tampa Bay had no answer for the physicality with a hit disparity coach Jon Cooper chalked up as, "Somebody was engaged and somebody wasn't." The Lightning also couldn't solve Holtby, who was at his best on a handful of deflection attempts to record his first shutout of these playoffs.

"I was just trying to stay in the moment, focus on one puck at a time," Holtby said. "I try and stay the same level through

the game."

The Lightning missed a chance to close out an opponent for the first time in these playoffs. They eliminated New Jersey and Boston in five games apiece but are now on the brink themselves.

The Capitals improved to 10-2 in the Ovechkin/Nicklas Backstrom era when facing elimination any time before Game 7. They're 3-7 in Game 7 over that time but will obviously take their chances after grinding their way back to 3-3 in the series.

"I think it's great that we're close," Oshie said. "I think both teams for the most part figured out what works against the other team. It's just a matter of who's going to play longer, harder and do more of it."

Notes: Washington improved to 4-5 at home in the playoffs. The Lightning dropped to 5-2 on the road. ... An assist on Oshie's first goal extended Capitals C Evgeny Kuznetsov's point streak to nine games, tied with Backstrom in 2009 for the longest in franchise playoff history. ... F Andre Burakovsky returned to the Capitals lineup after being a healthy scratch for Game 5, replacing Alex Chiasson.

French Open won't give Serena a seeding

Associated Press

PARIS — Serena Williams' return to Grand Slam tennis from maternity leave just got even tougher.

French Open organizers announced on Monday they will not give Williams a seeding.

"This year again, tournament officials will establish the list and ranking of the women's seeds based on the WTA ranking," the French Tennis Federation said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Consequently, [the seeds] will reflect this week's world ranking."

Williams, a three-time French Open champion, is expected to play in her first major since giving birth to her daughter in September.

While Williams can enter Roland Garros under the WTA's protected or "special" ranking rule, it's up to Grand Slam organizers to give her a seed.

While she was No. 1 when she left the tour to give birth, Williams is currently ranked No. 453.

Without a seeding, the 23-time Grand Slam champion risks facing highly ranked players in the early rounds.

The WTA is considering a rule change to add protected seeding for highly ranked players returning from maternity leave but the earliest that could take effect is next year.

Several of Williams' biggest rivals believe she deserves a seeding.

"I would like to see that (rule) change,"

Maria Sharapova said at the Italian Open last week.

"It's such an incredible effort for a woman to come back from physically, emotionally. ... There's just another whole dimension to the travel, to the experiences, to the emotions to the physicality of every single day.

"Tennis is such a selfish sport but I think when there's a child in your life you lose a little bit of that, because there's something that's so much more important," added Sharapova, who has lost three Grand Slam finals to Williams. "So, yeah, I definitely think that would be a nice change."

The French Open draw will be made on Thursday, with the tournament starting on Sunday.

Cavs even series behind LeBron's 44

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James knows the path to the NBA Finals better than anyone in today's game.

And unless the Boston Celtics do something soon, he'll get there again.

James bullied his way to 44 points, surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar atop a post-season list and helped the Cleveland Cavaliers even the Eastern Conference finals at 2-2 on Monday night with a 111-102 victory over the Celtics, who are looking forward to getting home before their adoring fans.

Pushed by a raucous crowd that wasn't so confident a few days ago, the Cavs held off Boston's comeback in the fourth quarter and squared a tight series that is now a best-of-three.

Cleveland is trying to become the 20th team — out of 300 — to overcome a 2-0 deficit and James, who has already orchestrated two such rallies and is seeking his eighth straight finals, is a step closer to a third.

To do it again the Cavs will have to win in Boston, where the Celtics are 9-0 this postseason.

Game 5 is Wednesday night at TD Garden, and Celtics coach Brad Stevens is trying to stay positive with a team that has given up a 2-0 lead and fell to 1-6 on the road in these playoffs.

Kyle Korver added 14 points and Cleveland's sharp-shooting 37-year-old added three

block and several hustle plays, outrunning three Celtics in one sequence and diving for a loose ball.

"I've loved Kyle ever since we made the trade to get him here," James said. "I don't remember Kyle falling too much like that. I've got to keep his body as fresh as possible. But listen, he's doing whatever it takes to try to help us win, with the blocks, with the strips. Obviously his shot making is very key for our team as well, but it's just the intangibles he's doing for us defensively."

Tristan Thompson had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavs, who won despite 19 turnovers and two assists in the second half. Kevin Love had just nine points on 3-for-12 shooting and was in foul trouble, but he made a big three-pointer and follow shot in the fourth quarter.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 and Boston had all five scorers in double figures, but the Celtics fell behind by 19 in the first half and didn't have enough to catch Cleveland.

And, of course, they didn't have James, who moved past Abdul-Jabbar (2,356) for the most field goals in playoff history. James also recorded his 25th career postseason game with at least 40 points — his sixth in this postseason.

The Celtics hung around in the second half and pulled within 100-93 on Marcus Smart's basket with 4:29 left. But Thompson got free for a

dunk, and after a miss by Boston, James recovered after making his seventh turnover by making a steal and layup.

Moments later, James drilled a three-pointer from the left wing to finally put away the young Celtics, who will now feel the immense pressure of trying to hold off the three-time champion.

Stevens considered changing his starting lineup, but decided to stick with the same first five — Brown, Jayson Tatum, Marcus Morris, Al Horford, and Terry Rozier — as the first three games.

Boston's starters held their own, but none of them was able to match James when it mattered most.

"You hope he misses, that's about it," Rozier said. "He's a big body and you've just got to keep him in front, and hope he misses."

Tip-ins: Celtics: Stevens was evasive about his starting lineup during his pregame news conference, not wanting to give the Cavs any advance notice. "We will start five people. I promise," he said, drawing laughs from media members. ... Injured stars Gordon Hayward and Kyrie Irving are not traveling with the team so they can continue their respective rehabs. Both have been sitting on the bench with their teammates in Boston.

Cavaliers: Won their seventh straight playoff game at home. ... Love threw one of his patented "touchdown" passes

in the first quarter to James, who outmaneuvered Smart and Brown like a wide receiver to make the catch and score. ... Browns rookie quarterback Baker Mayfield, the No. 1 pick in last month's NFL draft, attended the game. ... Improved to 9-3 vs. Boston in the playoffs at Quicken Loans Arena.

Amongst giants: James seems to reach a milestone every game and he was honored to pass Abdul-Jabbar's mark.

"To know where I come from, small city 35 miles south of here, and to hear I'm in the same category or talked about and jumping these greats in the playoffs — it's pretty cool," he said. "You hear the scoring, the field goals made, and for a kid that really doesn't care much about scoring."

Old man Korver: Frozen water was Korver's postgame beverage.

"I'm going to be hurting tomorrow," he said. "My back's a little sore, my elbow is a little sore, but this is fun basketball. It's the playoffs. We're at home. The crowd was rocking tonight. And it just kind of takes over you sometimes. So, yeah, whatever it takes."

Slow start: For the second game in a row, the Celtics struggled in the first quarter.

Boston got some open looks, but shot just 27 percent (7-for-26) in the first 12 minutes with both Tatum and Brown missing dunks. Also, Morris picked up three quick fouls.

Favre says he went to rehab three times

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Retired quarterback Brett Favre says he made three trips to rehabilitation centers during his Hall of Fame career to fight his dependence on painkillers and alcohol.

Favre told Sports Illustrated he took as many as 14 Vicodin at one time during the 1995 season in Green Bay. Favre won the first of his three con-

secutive Most Valuable Player awards that season.

"It is really amazing, as I think back, how well I played that year," Favre said. "That was an MVP year for me. But that year, when I woke up in the morning, my first thought was, 'I gotta get more pills.'"

Favre said his issues with pills caused him to spend 28 days at a center in Rayville, Louisiana, in the early 1990s. Favre also says he spent 28 days

in rehab "strictly for drinking" in 1998. The story also mentions a previously reported 72-day stint at a Kansas City rehab center in the mid-1990s to get off Vicodin.

"When I drank, I drank to excess," Favre said. "So when I went in the second time, to the place in Kansas, I remember vividly fighting them in there. They said drinking was the gateway drug for me, and they were right, absolutely right, but

I wouldn't admit it. I will never forget one of the nurses. I had it all figured out. I fought with this nurse all the time. I would not admit the drinking problem. At the end, she said to me, 'You'll be back.'

"I was back. 1998. Guess who was waiting there when I walked in — that same nurse."

Favre played in the NFL from 1991-2010 and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016.

Rockies move atop NL West standings

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers brought a four-game winning streak back home and couldn't get out of their own way.

Three hits, three errors and Matt Kemp getting thrown out diving back into first base to end the game added up to a 2-1 loss to the Colorado Rockies on Monday night.

"It was a kind of cool ending to the game," Rockies catcher Tony Wolters said.

The Dodgers returned home after sweeping three games against Washington. But they fell to 8-14 in Los Angeles after having the best home record in the majors last season.

"We didn't get any offense," manager Dave Roberts said.

Pinch-hitter Carlos Gonzalez drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in the eighth inning, German Marquez pitched seven innings of two-hit ball and Gerardo Parra homered for the Rockies, who moved into first place in the NL West ahead of slumping Arizona. Colorado has

won five in a row at Dodger Stadium.

"Marquez threw a great game and his adjustments out there were pitch to pitch," Wolters said. "He was making really good adjustments and he had his game plan. He executed and threw his curveball, threw his slider, threw a bunch of changeups. He mixed. That's Marquez."

Los Angeles committed two errors in the eighth and another in the ninth in the first of 19 meetings with the Rockies this season.

Dodgers starter Walker Buehler was impressive despite not figuring in the decision. He gave up one run and two hits in a career-high seven innings, striking out six and walking none.

With one out in the eighth, Wolters walked against Pedro Baez (1-3), stole second and went to third on a throwing error by catcher Yasmani Grandal. After Pat Valaika struck out, Gonzalez reached on the infield single to second base, scoring Wolters to put Colorado ahead.

"I got on base. That's the number one goal, I'm trying to get on base," Wolters said. "I got a good walk and Carlos came up clutch. He's the best out there. He's getting hot."

Chase Utley backhanded the ball and threw to first. It bounced once and went over Cody Bellinger, leading to the Dodgers' second error of the inning. Gonzalez took second before Charlie Blackmon popped out to end the inning. Utley's second error of the game came in the ninth.

The Dodgers had just one runner reach base in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings — all on walks.

Marquez (3-5) allowed one run, struck out five and walked two. Wade Davis pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 17th save in 19 chances.

"The key for me was my tempo and my aggressiveness," Marquez said. "I was able to stay in the moment. I was trying to be one pitch at a time and I accomplished that pretty well."

MLB roundup

Teen Soto hits 3-run homer in Nats' win

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Juan Soto, the youngest player in the majors at 19, wasn't sure his towering drive would clear the fence in left-center field. He was the only one.

Soto hit a three-run homer in his first career start as the Washington Nationals defeated the San Diego Padres 10-2 on Monday.

"I didn't think it was going to go out of the park," said Soto, who also singled in four at-bats. "I just run hard, the same what I do in the minor leagues. Then I heard the noise and I know it's gone."

Per Baseball-Reference.com, Soto became the first teenager to hit a home run in a major league game since Washington teammate Bryce Harper on Sept. 30, 2012.

"He's a special player," Harper said.

The home fans roared and rose to their feet following the home run. That is when Nationals manager Dave Martinez really had to coach Soto.

"He didn't know what to do about the standing ovation. We told him, 'Hey, go out there,'" Martinez said. "You can tell he has passion for the game."

Mark Reynolds had two solo home runs for the Nationals, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Harper had a homer and an RBI double.

Soto's drive highlighted a five-run second inning for Washington. The promising outfielder, who played for three minor league teams this season, hit the first pitch from Robbie Erlin (1-3) over the Nationals bullpen. It traveled an estimated 442 feet.

Called up to Washington on Sunday, Soto became the first 19-year-old to make his major league debut since Dodgers pitcher Julio Urias in 2016. He entered that game in the eighth inning as a pinch-hitter and struck out. His parents arrived Sunday from the Dominican Republic but missed the game.

"Maybe it's a blessing," Soto joked. "I strike out. Then they come here and I do my thing."

Yankees 10, Rangers 5: Gleyber Torres hit two of the four Yankees homers off Bartolo Colon and visiting New York denied the Texas starter a milestone victory only three days before his 45th birthday.

Phillies 3, Braves 0: Nick Pivetta struck out seven in seven innings, and Nick Williams and pinch-hitter Aaron Altherr each homered to lead host Philadelphia over Atlanta.

Cardinals 6, Royals 0: Miles Mikolas pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shut-out, and Tyler O'Neill homered for the third straight game and drove in four runs to lead host St. Louis.

Mikolas (6-0) threw 109 pitches and struck out a career-high nine. The Cardinals won for the third time in four games and beat the Royals for the fifth straight time.

Mets 2, Marlins 0: Jason Vargas returned to the rotation with five excellent innings, AJ Ramos pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the sixth and host New York blanked Miami for

its fourth straight victory.

Asdrubal Cabrera had an RBI double and pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores added a run-scoring single for the Mets.

Brewers 4, Diamondbacks 2: Travis Shaw, Domingo Santana and Lorenzo Cain homered off Zack Greinke as host Milwaukee defeated skidding Arizona.

Orioles 3, White Sox 2: Manny Machado, Adam Jones and Mark Trumbo homered, helping Andrew Cashner and Baltimore beat host Chicago.

Machado hit his 15th homer, moving into a tie for the major league lead with Boston's Mookie Betts and J.D. Martinez. Trumbo connected against Hector Santiago, and Jones went deep after leaving Sunday's 5-0 loss to the Red Sox due to an illness.

Twins 4, Tigers 2: Logan Morrison forced in the go-ahead run with a four-pitch walk in the eighth inning after striking out in his first three at-bats, propelling host Minnesota past Detroit.