

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## 8 Afghan civilians killed; cause disputed

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least eight Afghan civilians, including four children, were killed in an attack late Friday night in western Farah province, according to Afghan officials. However there is disagreement over what exactly caused the deaths.

Mohammad Naser Mehri, spokesman for the provincial governor, said Saturday that the incident was a roadside bomb explosion which took place in the Bala Buluk district. But family members of the victims are claiming they were hit by an airstrike.

Gen. Dawlat Waziri, a De-

fense Ministry spokesman, told The Associated Press that an investigation of the incident is underway.

“We are aware of the allegations made by the local people, right now an investigation is going on into the incident in Farah,” Waziri said.

Dr. Abdul Hakim Rasouli, director of Farah Hospital, said that 22 others were wounded in the attack. Three of the wounded are in critical condition and will be transferred to another hospital in neighboring Herat province for treatment, he said.

Farah’s Bala Buluk district has been the site of several recent clashes between Afghan security forces and armed in-

surgents. One resident, a 30-year-old mother of four named Salima, said two of her children were killed and a third was wounded. In a phone interview with The Associated Press, Salima, who like many Afghans goes by only one name, said her family was attacked by a helicopter.

“I don’t want to be alive anymore while I don’t have my children with me,” she said, crying.

The Afghan security forces operate helicopter gunships, as does the U.S.-led military coalition in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile a parliamentarian from Helmand province was wounded after he was attacked by gunmen in neighboring Kan-

dahar province, said Samim Khpolwak, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Khpolwak said that the lawmaker, Mir Wali, was shot by two attackers on a motorcycle who escaped afterward.

Qari Yusouf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying Wali is a close ally of the U.S.

This was the second attack on Wali in recent months. In December, three gunmen stormed Wali’s home in the capital, Kabul. Eight people were killed in the attack and Wali was wounded.

## UN: Mosul chemical attack would be war crime

Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — The United Nations warned that the alleged use of chemical weapons in Mosul, if confirmed, would be a war crime and a serious violation of international humanitarian law, according to a statement released Saturday.

“This is horrible,” Lise Grande, the humanitarian coordinator in Iraq said in the statement, “there is never justification — none whatsoever — for the use of chemical weapons.”

The alleged attack occurred this week in eastern Mosul, an area declared fully liberated by Iraqi forces in January. The attack hit a neighborhood along the Tigris river — which roughly divides the city in two.

Doctors in an urgent-care hospital in the nearby city of Irbil say they began receiving patients showing symptoms of

chemical weapons exposure on Thursday.

“The mortar hit our house, right inside the living room where we were sitting,” said Nazim Hamid, whose children had burns to their faces, arms and legs. The family was being treated in the Irbil hospital.

“There was a very bad smell, it was some kind of gas,” he said. “My kids were affected, some of them were burned and some of them had difficulty breathing.”

Hussein Qader, the deputy director of the hospital, said all 10 patients admitted for exposure are in stable condition and will be discharged in the coming days.

Most of western Mosul is still under Islamic State group control despite a handful of recent gains on the city’s southwestern edge by Iraqi forces over the past two weeks.

The Islamic State group has

used chemical weapons in Iraq and Syria at least 52 times, according to a report published late last year by IHS conflict monitor, a London-based research and intelligence-gathering group.

The report said at least 19 of the 52 attacks took place in and around Mosul.

Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition officials repeatedly have expressed concern regarding Islamic State chemical weapons attacks.

However, Islamic State-claimed insurgent attacks in Iraq and attacks targeting civilians attempting to flee Mosul cause far greater numbers of injuries and deaths to civilians.

Iraqi forces launched the operation to retake Mosul in October and began a push to retake the city’s western half last month.

## No more Navy funeral processions in district

CORONADO, Calif. — A California school district will no longer take part in funeral processions for sailors and Navy SEALs killed overseas that have drawn thousands of students.

The San Diego Union-Tribune says the Coronado Unified School District and the Navy agreed on the move out of concern for children with parents serving overseas.

Officials say some young participants have been traumatized by thoughts of their parents dying. The city near San Diego is home to a sprawling naval base. Processions wind from there to national cemeteries. At a November procession, some 2,000 students lined a street.

Coronado officials say they’re also pulling out of the processions, which have morphed from informal affairs to mass media events that draw thousands of outsiders, strain police resources and increase the risk of terrorism.

From The Associated Press

# Bill looks at foam pollution on bases

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A House budget bill unveiled this week requires the Defense Department to submit a report to Congress on how potentially dangerous fire-fighting foam has affected drinking water around its former and current military bases.

The legislation also directs the department to devise a plan to notify communities around bases whose drinking water might be contaminated with the perfluorinated chemicals, known as PFCs, which are ingredients in the foam that is used to put out fuel fires, douse crash sites and train servicemembers.

The fire-fighting foam, which is widely used by civilian fire authorities as well, recently sparked concerns around Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado over drinking water that is contaminated by PFCs, which have been linked to organ damage and developmental problems in children.

The provision in the military funding bill could shed new light on the extent of the pollution but must still be passed by Congress. The Air Force and the Navy are already working on measures to reduce the danger.

"The secretary of defense is encouraged to require all services to establish procedures for prompt and cost-effective remediation," according to a released statement on the bill by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The appropriations legis-

lation is leftover congressional business from December and will fund the military for 2017. The bill must be passed by the end of April when current funding runs out, or members of Congress will again face the prospect of another government shutdown.

If the bill passes, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis would be required to turn over the foam report to Congress within four months.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord shut down three of its base drinking wells on Thursday due to levels of PFCs that exceeded health standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Tacoma News Tribune newspaper reported.

The discovery of two PFC-contaminated water wells at Wright-Patterson last year was linked to the fire-fighting substance, called aqueous film-forming foam, and led to a local drinking water advisory for pregnant women and bottle-fed infants, according to the Dayton Daily News.

In October, the Air Force acknowledged it dumped 150,000 gallons of PFC-laced water from a firefighting training area at Peterson Air Force Base into the local Colorado Springs sewer system, according to The Denver Post.

The Air Force is eliminating the use of the PFC-laden foam in favor of a more environmentally friendly mixture and is testing soil and water at bases where it might have been used, according to a statement by Maj. Bryan Lewis, an Air Force spokesman.

"Our goal is to protect human health and ensure mission activities do not impact installation and supporting communities' access to safe drinking water," the written statement said.

## Authorities approve Calif. tortoise removal

*Associated Press*

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Federal authorities have approved a plan to move nearly 1,500 desert tortoises from a California Marine base.

The Riverside Press-Enterprise said the Navy and the Bureau of Land Management have signed off on the proposal.

The Marines want to remove the tortoises from about 88,000 acres of land at the Twenty-

nine Palms base in the Mojave Desert, so it can use the area for training.

Exercises with tanks and live ammunition are scheduled to begin in August.

The removal could begin at the end of this month or in April after the reptiles emerge from their underground winter hibernation.

The tortoises would be flown by helicopter to BLM land near Barstow.

Critics say the move will devastate the threatened species.

## Five charged in scheme to inflate Humvee parts prices

*Associated Press*

PITTSBURGH — Two brothers who own a military-supply business, a civilian Army employee and two others have been charged with a \$6 million scheme to overcharge the Defense Department for Humvee window frames, federal prosecutors said Friday.

Thomas Buckner, 65, of Gibsonia, and John Buckner, 67, of Lyndora, scammed the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command out of the money with the help of a shell company and kickbacks, according to court documents filed Friday by federal prosecutors in Pittsburgh.

The Army agency, also known as TACOM, is based in Warren, Mich. A civilian employee there, Anthony Shaw, is accused of accepting over \$1 million for helping the scheme, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors filed the charges in criminal informations, documents that are typically used when defendants have agreed to plead guilty to the charges.

The scheme worked this way, according to prosecutors' court filing:

The Buckners co-own Ibis Tek, a Butler company that had

contracts to supply aluminum window frames for Humvees.

The brothers created another company called Alloy America that was supposed to be manufacturing the window frames that Ibis Tek would then sell to TACOM. But instead of doing that, the Buckners had Alloy American purchase the frames for \$20 each from a Chinese firm, then created records to make it appear Ibis Tek paid Alloy America \$70 for each frame.

Ibis Tek then passed on the \$70-per-frame cost to TACOM. The Buckner brothers also sold scrap aluminum relating to the manufacture of the frames but kept the money. The Buckners and Ibis Tek were supposed to credit the scrap revenue to TACOM.

The payments to Shaw were funneled through a Michigan motorcycle business, D & B Cycle Parts and Accessories. That business is owned by David Buckner, of Warren, Mich., who is not related to the Pennsylvania brothers.

It was not immediately clear if Ibis Tek remains a government contractor. Nobody returned a call to the company Friday.



# Veteran volunteers patching up wounded

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

MOSUL, Iraq — Veterans of the U.S. and foreign militaries are drawn to the front lines here in the fight for Iraq's second-largest city. Besides military experience, they bring medical skills, part of a toolkit they use to save the lives of Mosul's "most vulnerable."

What they find, on the edge of a battle now in its fifth month, is a familiar camaraderie — born of adrenaline-pumping action and mind-numbing boredom.

One of them is Austin Howe, a Marine infantry veteran who went from firefights in Afghanistan six years ago to working in a California warehouse. He said he volunteered as a medic because he "needed more chaos in my life."

"I felt useless in a warehouse," he said. "This is where I needed to be."

On Tuesday, Howe, together with a dozen other volunteers working with a Slovak charity known as the Academy of Emergency Medicine, set up a field clinic — several cots and crates of medical supplies — near a blockaded road.

The Iraqi army's Counter Terrorism Service, a U.S.-trained special operations force also known as the "Golden Division," were waiting here to enter Wadi Hajar, a neighborhood on the city's southwest side.

Troops had recently met with fierce resistance from Islamic State militants there, and the medics wanted to be closer to the casualties to have the best chance of saving lives.

On a visit to the area the same day, Iraqi army Maj. Gen. Najim al Jabouri said Iraqi forces working from several axes were advancing north toward the city's center.

"The morale of (Islamic State) fighters is down," he said.

As a result, he said, the western offensive has been easier than the fight to claim the half of Mosul on the eastern bank of the Tigris River, which began in mid-October and lasted about 100 days.

The medics near the front line said they'd seen fewer military casualties on the western side, so far, but that it was because the fighting was still largely in open areas where troops were traveling in armored Humvees and mine-resistant vehicles.

Suddenly, a trio of mortar rounds landed on the hillsides flanking the road. An Iraqi soldier yelled to a group of reporters to stay back because the fighting was close.

Soon, a woman wailed from just beyond a wall, and the medics hopped into action as a man carried a limp, injured boy through a gap in the wall sections.

"Luckily, it was one casualty," said Katrine Mathisen, a Norwegian doctor and army veteran who volunteers on the front line. "It could have been 15."

Medical services are limited south of Mosul, where the Iraqis are now focusing their efforts on taking the western half of the city still occupied by Islamic State fighters and some 750,000 civilians. The seriously injured must be taken to hospitals in Irbil, hours away.

The group consists of five full-time staff members from the Academy of Emergency Medicine and eight volunteers from Slovakia, the United States, Norway, Sweden, Italy and Germany. Many of them have military or law enforcement backgrounds, said Oliver Valentovic, one of the Slovak medics. The group is

supported by donors from Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Mathisen is a veteran of the Norwegian army and a member of the country's national guard. Since last summer, she has been using vacation time to volunteer off and on in Iraq, mostly to train Kurdish forces in first aid.

For Howe, the Marine vet, it's an opportunity worth selling a few of his prized rifles to fund. To sponsor his six-month mission, he also started a crowdfunding campaign, and his family held a Tupperware party. He arrived 10 days before the offensive for western Mosul began on Feb. 19, accompanied by another Marine veteran, Chris Lint, who he met in an online chatroom for volunteer medics.

"I sold my Harley-Davidson just to volunteer," said Lint, who trained as an EMT before shuttering his cabinet shop near Santa Cruz, Calif., to spend six months volunteering here. "This is exactly what I wanted."

The volunteers come from different countries and different militaries, Howe said, but they share "the same humor ... the same brotherhood."

## Ex-NBA star Rodman on defense at West Point

*Los Angeles Times*

WEST POINT, N.Y. — So here's an out-of-the-box suggestion for dealing with the North Korea conundrum.

Send Dennis Rodman to negotiate a meeting between President Donald Trump and dictator Kim Jong Un.

Only half-kidding, the idea was raised at an unusual panel held Friday at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in which the former NBA star discussed his many visits to North Korea.

It is hard to imagine a more improbable guest at West Point than the tattooed, body-pierced, bad-boy sports celebrity, but the irrepressible Rodman has a way of wriggling himself into unlikely situations. This out-of-

control celebrity got invited to visit the world's most controlled country in 2013 at the behest of Vice News.

Rodman helped arrange an exhibition basketball game with the Harlem Globetrotters for Kim, who happens to be a basketball fan. That visit was followed by others in which Rodman ate and drank, smoked cigars, played basketball and sailed on a yacht with Kim. He even held Kim's baby daughter, to whom he gave a jersey emblazoned with 91, his number with the Chicago Bulls.

He ended up calling Kim a "friend for life."

"To me, he is just a normal guy. He told me, 'I would love to come to America to go to a New York Knicks game.' He actually said that to me," Rodman said

Friday, speaking from the podium of an auditorium in front of uniformed cadets. "Obviously, he can't come here, or he would be dead."

Rodman, 55, said he was awed by the adulation that North Koreans have for their leader.

Rodman probably has spent more time with Kim Jong Un than any other American, making his North Korea experiences of keen public interest.

Rodman seldom speaks in public or to the media about his North Korea experiences because the trips engendered so much criticism.

Liam Collins, the director of the Modern War Institute at West Point, who had issued the invitation to Rodman, asked directly whether Rodman

thought he had a role to play as an emissary between the U.S. and North Korea in the same way that "ping-pong diplomacy" opened doors with China.

His agent, Chris Volo, was enthusiastic. "Dennis would do anything for President Trump. He would go back there in a second, if it ended up helping our nation, helping our president," said Volo.

Rodman, himself, was non-committal about returning to North Korea. "Sports is the one thing on the planet that could actually heal things at least for a day, two days or a week."

The cadets listened respectfully, rushing up afterward to pose for photographs and to get autographed basketballs.

# Rising concerns about Russia may put military deal on shelf

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facing a new wave of questions about his ties to Russia, President Donald Trump is telling advisers and allies that he may shelve — at least temporarily — his plan to pursue a deal with Moscow on the Islamic State group and other national security matters, according to administration officials and Western diplomats.

In conversations with diplomats and other officials, Trump and his aides have ascribed the new thinking to Moscow's recent provocations. But the reconsideration underscores the growing political risks in forging closer relations with Russia, as long as the FBI investigates his campaign associates' connections to Moscow and congressional committees ramp up their probe of Russia's meddling in the 2016 election.

Trump's new skepticism about a deal with Moscow also suggests the rising influence of a new crop of advisers who have taken a tougher stance on Russia, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and new na-

tional security adviser Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster.

European allies also have been pushing the Trump administration not to make any early concessions to Russia. To bolster their case, European officials have been tailoring their rhetoric to appeal to Trump's business background, including emphasizing the risks of negotiating a bad deal rather than more nuanced arguments, according to one Western diplomat.

Given Trump's "America First" mantra, foreign officials emphasize how U.S. standing in the world could be diminished by making concessions to Russia instead of focusing on the importance of the U.S. and Europe countering Moscow.

Trump, who spoke favorably about President Vladimir Putin throughout the campaign, is said to have shown interest in a broad deal with Russia that could address cooperation in fighting the Islamic State group, nuclear arms-control agreements and Russia's provocations in Ukraine. But in recent days, the administration has signaled that the moment for such a deal

may not be right.

The president and his advisers have yet to settle on a formal approach to Russia, and discussions about how to proceed are still in early phases, a second White House official said.

While Trump has continued to talk about a detente with Russia, there have been some signs of his administration taking a more traditional approach.

U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley hit Russia hard last month over its actions in Ukraine, saying U.S. sanctions imposed after Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 will remain in place until the peninsula is returned to Ukraine.

Trump has insisted that he has no nefarious connections or financial ties to Russia. He's also said he's not aware of any contacts his campaign advisers had with Russia during the 2016 campaign, a period in which U.S. intelligence agencies assess Russia was interfering with the election to help Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

# Trump accuses Obama of wiretap

Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump on Saturday accused former President Barack Obama of having Trump Tower telephone lines "wire tapped" during last year's election, but Trump didn't offer any evidence.

Trump, whose administration has been under siege over campaign contacts with Russian officials, said in a series of early morning tweets that he "just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!"

Trump, who ran the presidential transition largely out of Trump Tower in New York, said the wiretapping occurred in October.

The White House did not immediately reply to inquiries about what led to the president's tweets. A spokesman for Obama did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia influenced the November election to help Trump win. The FBI has investigated Trump associates' ties to Russian officials. Trump has blamed Democrats for leaks of information about the investigation and the contacts.

In recent days, the Breitbart News website has published reports citing other anonymously sourced or unconfirmed reports about the Obama administration's attempts to investigate Trump campaign ties to Moscow.

The Associated Press has not confirmed those reports.

After tweeting Saturday about Obama, as well as about Arnold Schwarzenegger's decision to leave "The New Celebrity Apprentice," Trump, who is spending the weekend at his estate in Palm Beach, Fla., went to his golf club in nearby West Palm Beach.

# White House mum on future of Gitmo

Miami Herald

MIAMI — It's been more than a month since President Donald Trump took office, and the tweeter-in-chief has not once mentioned one of his most popular campaign promises: Loading up Guantanamo with more "bad dudes."

In fact, the president's last known public word on it was on Jan. 3, when as president-elect, he tweeted for a cessation of Guantanamo prisoner releases. The Obama administration went on to transfer 18 captives for resettlement.

Now, the detention center has 41 captives and a staff of about 1,650 troops and civilians. And while the commander, Rear Adm. Peter J. Clarke, has not yet been given a formal order to plan for the first new captives since March 2008, they are certainly thinking about how to handle it.

Outstanding questions range from whether the Trump administration will seek to lock up U.S. citizens or suspected terrorists captured on U.S. soil, whether the White House plans to send members of the Islamic State group and whether

new captives will include women.

Trump has neither repeated nor expanded upon one of his most popular campaign soundbites: "We're gonna load it up with some bad dudes, believe me. We're gonna load it up."

A White House official confirmed that the president hasn't mentioned the prison or base since moving into the White House. But, the official said on background that the president is still committed to keeping it open.

At Guantanamo, Clarke said at his most recent press conference that nobody has consulted him on any new, coming policies. He added that he neither wants nor needs a say on any future executive order — just clarity on how to implement whatever the White House and Pentagon decide.

Of the 41 captives held at the detention center, 10 are charged with crimes and 26 are held as "forever prisoners," indefinite detainee. Five more are cleared for release to other countries with security assurances that satisfy Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Zoo welcomes rare baby clouded leopard

**TN** NASHVILLE — A rare clouded leopard's birth at the Nashville Zoo marks a milestone that could help rebuild the mysterious Asian cat's population, officials said Thursday.

The male cub is the first clouded leopard conceived through artificial insemination with frozen sperm, zoo officials said.

The birth is the result of a project between the Nashville Zoo and Smithsonian's National Zoo. The father, named Hannibal, lives at the National Zoo in Washington. The mother, named Tula, was born and raised at the Nashville Zoo.

Clouded leopards are among the rarest of the world's cat species and have proved notoriously difficult to breed in captivity.

"It's been successful in other species," Rick Schwartz, president of the Nashville Zoo, said of method of conception. "But for some reason, clouded leopards just don't play by the same rules that other species do."

The cub, which was born Wednesday, is yet to be named. Nashville officials say the lead researchers at the National Zoo will name it.

The animal will be hand-raised by zookeepers in Nashville to ensure that it survives.

## Man pleads guilty in IRS refund scam

**NJ** NEWARK — A New Jersey man has pleaded guilty to manipulating a fraudulent \$170,000 refund out of the IRS.

NJ.com reported that Derrick Madison, 39, of Jersey City, admitted to making fake payments to an account on the

Internal Revenue Service's telephone system from December 2010 to April 2014. The U.S. Department of Justice says Madison used frozen and closed bank accounts.

Officials said Madison then collected a \$170,681 refund check after completing the fake overpayments.

Madison pleaded guilty to theft of public money. He will serve up to 10 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for June 12.

## Man caught defrauding Home Depot yet again

**MA** BOSTON — A Massachusetts man who served time in prison for defrauding Home Depot has been sentenced to more than a year behind bars for doing it again.

Robert Dooley pleaded guilty to 10 counts of wire fraud. The Salem News reported he was sentenced on Thursday in Boston federal court to 18 months in prison.

Authorities said he took items off the shelves and brought them to the return desk in exchange for store credit.

Prosecutors say Dooley, of Salem, carried out the scheme at least 40 times at stores in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts. He received more than \$45,000 in fraudulent returns.

Dooley was convicted in 2007 of defrauding Home Depot out of more than \$330,000 in a similar scheme and received a five-year prison sentence.

## Doctor wrote bogus painkiller prescriptions

**VA** CHESTERFIELD — A former Chesterfield County physician has been convicted of fraudulently writing dozens of painkiller prescriptions from his home.

News outlets report that Dr. Kyle Douglas Compton, 40, was given a five-year suspended prison term after entering an Alford plea Wednesday to one count of conspiring to violate the Drug Control Act by engaging in prescription fraud. In an Alford plea, the defendant doesn't admit guilt but acknowledges there's enough evidence for a conviction.

Authorities say Compton issued 53 unlawful prescriptions for hydrocodone or oxycodone from his former home-based practice in Midlothian to people not under his care in exchange for a cut of the highly addictive narcotics. His license has been suspended.

## Hawk stuck in vehicle grille is euthanized

**MA** GRAFTON — Veterinarians say a red-tailed hawk that got stuck in the grille of a vehicle in Massachusetts last weekend sustained such severe injuries that it had to be euthanized.

Police said the bird got stuck after swooping in front of an SUV on Interstate 495 in Milford on Saturday.

The hawk was taken to the wildlife clinic at Tufts University's Cummings Veterinary Medical Center in Grafton, where veterinarians determined it had suffered eye injuries, as well as fractures to both wings and tail. It was unable to stand.

It was euthanized Tuesday.

## Driver survives 5 days down embankment

**WA** SEQUIM — Police say a 69-year-old man survived five nights trapped in his car before he was found down an embankment on the northern end of the Olympic Peninsula.

The Peninsula Daily News reported Richard Jones was found by a man walking his dog Monday off Sequim-Dungeness Way.

Clallam County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Randy Pieper said Jones had been missing since he left home Wednesday night to get his wife a bottle of wine.

Jones told police he was driving home when a car coming over a hill blinded him. He swerved, over-corrected and went off the road.

The car hit a tree in a brushy area, blocking his doors and making the car difficult to see from the roadway.

He told police he drank his urine to survive.

He was home Monday after being treated for dehydration and hypothermia.

## Star Trek Klingon beer is released

**OH** CLEVELAND — Shmaltz Brewing Co. is launching Star Trek Klingon Imperial Porter, the first of a trio of beers themed to the science-fiction show, this year.

The porter is 7.3 percent alcohol and brewed with Columbus and Vanguard hops. It comes in four-packs of 12-ounce bottles.

The brewery suggests the ale's ruby undertones "pay homage to Klingon Bloodwine and fallen warriors who hold honor above life."

Last year, the Clifton Park, New York-based brewery released a pair of ales to commemorate the show's 50th anniversary.

A rep says Ohio is among the states receiving the beer, though its distribution will be fairly limited.

Shmaltz is known for its crazy beer names. It has made He'Brew ("The Chosen Beer"), Funky Jewbelation and others.

From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Rockies' Arenado stacks up to the best

Associated Press

Every once in a while, Nolan Arenado runs across a story that mentions his name and makes him shake his head.

"I don't know where some of it comes from," the Colorado Rockies All-Star third baseman laughed.

Being the face of a franchise and doing so many cool things, facts sometimes get intermingled with good fiction.

Fact: He did go to Cuba this offseason to visit his roots.

Fiction: The four-time Gold Glover didn't demand the Rockies switch to a lighter shade of purple on their uniforms this season.

Fact: He contemplated playing for Puerto Rico in the upcoming World Baseball Classic before joining Team USA.

Undisputed fact: He stacks up with baseball's best.

Arenado is coming off a season in which he led the majors in RBIs (133) and tied for the NL lead in homers (41). Those are lofty stats, but Arenado feels confident he can replicate them.

"If I stay on the field, the numbers will be there," said Arenado, who played in a ca-

reer-high 160 games last season as he finished fifth in the NL MVP voting. "I believe I can do some good things. I want to be better with at-bats, be better on the road, be better against better pitching. I believe I'm very capable of doing those things."

No matter how good he hits, there will always be a faction of fans that thinks of him as a fielder first. He appreciates that sentiment and is typically good for at least one highlight-reel play a game at third base. It's been that way since he came up in 2013 and captured his first Gold Glove — an award he's never relinquished.

"I take a lot of pride in helping my pitchers out," Arenado said. "I work extremely hard to be good in the field."

This eased his mind in the offseason: A \$29.5 million, two-year contract to avoid arbitration.

"Now all I have to worry about is going out there and getting ready to play," said Arenado, who turns 26 on April 16.

This spring, the Rockies headed into camp with something that's been a little foreign to them lately — expectations. With the arrival of manager Bud Black, another powerful

bat in the lineup with first-baseman-in-training Ian Desmond, and a bona fide closer in Greg Holland — he's returning from elbow surgery — the Rockies are a trendy pick to challenge for a playoff spot.

"It's definitely a different vibe," Arenado said. "When you have new things, new people around, you can't wait to come to the ballpark."

Recently, the Rockies unveiled jerseys featuring a different shade of purple. There were internet rumors that Arenado was the impetus for the color swap, that he didn't like the darker version.

"Extremely false, honestly," Arenado good-naturedly said. "I would never sit here and say, 'We better change the color of purple or I won't be happy.' Whatever has more wins, that's the jersey I want."

One more fact: He approached legendary Dodgers announcer Vin Scully to sign his bat after hitting his 40th homer at Dodger Stadium last season. It's a cherished memento.

"That shows what kind of person he is, that he takes the time for me — a Rockies player," Arenado said. "It meant a lot to me, especially being from

California."

Arenado had quite an adventurous offseason. He attended the Rose Bowl game — he's a big Southern California fan — and played tons of backyard Wiffle Ball with his family. He also visited Cuba with his parents, Millie and Fernando. His father is of Cuban descent and his mother of Puerto Rican lineage. While there, Arenado even squeezed in some softball.

"The people are amazing, beautiful and loving," Arenado said of his trip. "I can't wait to go back."

Although he has Cuban lineage, he said the nation wouldn't allow him to play for them at the World Baseball Classic. So he was torn between suiting up for Puerto Rico or Team USA. In the end, he didn't feel right about taking a possible spot from a Puerto Rican-born player when he was raised in California.

"It was a tough decision, but I thought it was the right thing to do," said Arenado, whose U.S. squad opens pool play on March 10 against Colombia in Miami. "It means a lot and I will do whatever I have to do to help us win this thing."

## Red Sox ace Price doesn't need surgery or injection

Associated Press

After David Price consulted two renowned orthopedic doctors, the Boston Red Sox said Friday the left-hander will not need surgery or an injection in his ailing left arm.

Price traveled to Indianapolis on Thursday for consultation with Dr. James Andrews and Dr. Neal ElAttrache, who were at the NFL Combine. Price is expected to return Saturday to Boston's spring training complex in Fort Myers, Fla.

"Indy is a little chilly right now so I'm gonna head back to fort myers! My 40 time was 4.11...ill let one of you name my island," Price tweeted Friday.

Manager John Farrell said

the findings represented a best-case scenario for Price, who will rest and receive treatment for the next seven to 10 days. It is uncertain when Price will resume throwing.

"A very positive exam given the concern a couple days ago," Farrell said after Boston's 9-1 win over Atlanta in Kissimmee. "The approach we're going to take with him is he'll receive medication and treatment in the next seven to 10 days. We'll re-evaluate him at that time."

Price felt discomfort in his left elbow and forearm on Wednesday, a day after a two-inning, 38-pitch simulated game. He was scratched from his first scheduled spring train-

ing start, on Sunday.

Price had an MRI on Wednesday, which showed swelling and fluid near the ulnar collateral ligament.

Farrell said the initial exam was inconclusive, leading to the additional opinions.

"Even talking with David on his way up there, he felt with each passing hour he was becoming more free," Farrell said. "As we talked about him experiencing the type of forearm issue in spring training, it may be a little more intensified this year, but still, this is the spring training arm he goes through. A very positive exam given the concern a couple days ago."

**Starsburg's first outing:** Stephen Strasburg avoided a wind-up for all 23 of his pitches in a 2-1, 10-inning loss by a Washington Nationals split squad to the St. Louis Cardinals, his first appearance of spring training.

"I'm not trying to reinvent myself, but just trying to simplify things as much as I can and be able to repeat my mechanics," Strasburg said. "I feel like as I've gotten older, for whatever reason, the windup's just been an issue as far as getting that right feeling of staying on the mound, not drifting too much toward first- or third-base side on my leg kick, and sticking the landing a little bit better."



# No. 10 WVU tops No. 24 Iowa State 87-76

Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Daxter Miles Jr. was determined to give West Virginia's five seniors a proper send-off in their final home game.

He also boosted the Mountaineers' mindset heading into the Big 12 Tournament.

Miles tied a career high with 23 points to lead No. 10 West Virginia to an 87-76 victory over No. 24 Iowa State on Friday night.

Miles scored 16 of his team's 18 points during an eight-minute stretch spanning both halves to help the Mountaineers jump ahead by double digits.

"It was just for the seniors tonight, man. Just for the seniors," said Miles, a junior. "My teammates were passing me the ball. Momentum man, feeding off each other."

Iowa State coach Steve Prohm singled out Miles' play but said it was his hustle going after missed shots that stood out.

"I mean, six offensive rebounds," Prohm

said. "That's what really hurt us."

The Mountaineers (24-7, 12-6 Big 12) clinched the second seed in next week's conference tournament behind top-ranked Kansas.

Iowa State (20-10, 12-6) can earn the third seed if No. 11 Baylor loses at Texas on Saturday.

"We've got to focus now," Miles said. "It's time to focus."

Nathan Adrian added 16 points, Jevon Carter had 13 and Elijah Macon scored 10 for West Virginia.

Naz Mitrou-Long led the Cyclones with 22 points. Monte Morris and Deonte Burton scored 17 apiece, and Matt Thomas had 16.

Iowa State had its six-game winning streak snapped and fell to 2-5 against ranked teams this season.

The Mountaineers got some needed momentum back after a pair of lackluster performances in Texas. They shot a season-low

37 percent in a one-point win at TCU on Feb. 25 and lost at Baylor on Monday.

"This is the best we've done in a while of trying to execute a defensive game plan," coach Bob Huggins said.

**No. 21 Wichita State 82, Bradley 56:** At St. Louis, Darral Willis Jr. scored 17 points and Rashard Kelly added 14 as the Shockers overpowered the Braves in the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament quarterfinals.

Second-seeded Wichita State (28-4) shook off a slow start to beat Bradley (13-20) for the 16th straight time. The No. 7 seeded Braves haven't beaten the Shockers since Feb. 24, 2010.

Darrell Brown led the Braves with 18 points, and Antoine Pittman had 13.

Wichita State shot 37.1 percent from the field (23-for-62) but outrebounded Bradley 51-37. The Shockers closed the first half with a 28-6 run and led 42-16 at the break.

## Silver: Changes coming to NBA All-Star format

Associated Press

Change is coming to the defense-optional All-Star Game, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver wants to hear ideas.

Silver and players' union President Chris Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers have spoken about how to make the game more competitive. No decisions have been made, but the Western Conference's 192-182 win over the Eastern Conference last month in New Orleans underlined such a need.

Some All-Stars said that night they would like to see a more authentic game, and the league apparently agrees.

"We will change it by next year," Silver said. "It shouldn't be playoff intensity, but the guys should be playing."

Next year's game is in Los Angeles.

"You hear people talking about four-point shots, something that's not about to happen in the NBA, but maybe in an All-Star Game," Silver said. "Maybe there's a few spots on the floor where it's a 4-point shot. Maybe there's a halfcourt shot in the last minute that's 10 points. I don't know. Those are crazy ideas."

### Eagles get No. 14 pick after coin flip

INDIANAPOLIS — The Philadelphia Eagles will have the No. 14 pick in the NFL Draft in April after a coin flip determined a tiebreaker with the Indianapolis Colts.

The coin toss took place at the NFL combine Friday.

Minnesota, which traded its first-round pick to Philadelphia last year for Sam Bradford, and Indianapolis finished the season with 8-8 records and had matching strength of schedules, the first tiebreaker. A flip was the second tiebreaker, and the coin came up with the Vikings logo — giving the 14th spot in the draft to the Eagles.

The NFL Draft will be held April 27-29 in Philadelphia.

### NCAA committee: No hurdling to block kicks

The NCAA rules committee has proposed making hurdling over linemen to block a kick illegal and expanding what constitutes a horse-collar tackle. It decided against tinkering with the targeting rule to eliminate

the ejection penalty for some of the fouls.

The rules committee also proposed requiring players to wear knee pads and pants that cover the knees. All proposals still need approval from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

In other college football news: ■ A person with knowledge of the move says Lane Kiffin is hiring his father Monte Kiffin to join his staff at Florida Atlantic.

The move will give FAU three Kiffins: Lane Kiffin is the new head coach, and his younger brother Chris Kiffin is the Owls' defensive coordinator.

Monte Kiffin worked on the staffs at Tennessee and USC when his son had head-coaching stints at those schools. The 77-year-old assisted the Jacksonville Jaguars last season.

### Harvick wins Atlanta Motor Speedway pole

HAMPTON, Ga. — Kevin Harvick won the pole for the second race of the NASCAR Monster Energy NASCAR Cup season at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Friday.

Harvick turned a lap of 190.398 mph in the third round of qualifying, edging out Ryan Newman for the top spot. Newman will start on the outside of the front row on Sunday with a speed of 189.870.

They were followed by Kyle Busch (189.850), Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (188.854) and Brad Keselowski (188.783).

### Vonn finishes second in World Cup race

JEONGSEON, South Korea — Italy's Sofia Goggia beat Lindsey Vonn by just 0.07 seconds on Saturday to win a World Cup downhill race, a test event ahead of the 2018 Olympics.

Vonn, who had finished first in both practice runs at the venue that will be used for the Pyeongchang Games, went first out of the gate.

The American clocked what looked like a winning time of 1 minute, 38.87 seconds on the Jeongseon course.

Goggia, who has nine World Cup podiums this season but had never finished first, produced a near-flawless run to deny the American her 78th World Cup win.

# Panarin propels Blackhawks past Isles

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Artemi Panarin and the Chicago Blackhawks had very little room to maneuver against the New York Islanders all the way to the very end.

Fortunately for Panarin and company, a little space for a few precious moments is more than enough.

Panarin scored with 1:14 left in regulation and then had the clinching goal in the shootout, helping the Blackhawks beat the Islanders 2-1 on Friday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

Chicago was held in check by Thomas Greiss and New York after scoring at least four goals in each of its previous five games. Greiss finished with 30 stops, and the Islanders helped the goaltender by blocking 23 shots.

But Panarin drove a one-timer from the top of the left circle past Greiss on his right side late in the third, and Jonathan Toews also scored in the shootout to help Chicago get the win in its first tiebreaker since Nov. 29 against Florida.

"Showed some character there," said Corey Crawford, who had 31 saves in his first start since Feb. 23.

After Toews beat Greiss with a wrist shot in the shootout, Crawford turned away Joshua Ho-Sang. Patrick Kane was stopped by Greiss and Nikolay Kulemin shot it off the right post before Panarin finished off the Blackhawks' 11th win in 12 games.

"We played a pretty patient game, pretty tight, too, but at the end they just pressed

hard down," Greiss said.

The Islanders had won four of five, including a 5-4 victory at Dallas on Thursday night. Brock Nelson scored in the second, but that was it for New York against Crawford.

"It was a greatly goaltended game by both guys," Islanders interim coach Doug Weight said. "He saved their bacon just as much as Thomas saved ours."

Chicago (41-18-5) pulled within one point of Western Conference-leading Minnesota despite playing without center Artem Anisimov and rookie forward Nick Schmaltz. Anisimov was shelved by a lower-body injury, and Schmaltz was scratched with an illness.

**Penguins 5, Lightning 2:** Mark Streit made an instant impact in his debut with host Pittsburgh, beating Peter Budaj early in the third period to lift his team over Tampa Bay.

Evgeni Malkin scored twice off assists from Phil Kessel and added an assist of his own in his 700th career game as Pittsburgh snapped a two-game losing streak. Justin Schultz had a goal and an assist and Tom Kuhnhackl put in an empty-netter for the Penguins as they swept the season series from the Lightning.

**Flames 3, Red Wings 2 (OT):** Mikael Backlund scored in overtime after Detroit's Tomas Tatar tied it with 1.8 seconds left in the third period, and host Calgary won its sixth straight.

After Michael Frolik and Johnny Gaudreau nearly scored earlier in OT, Backlund blasted a shot past Petr Mrazek 3:56 into the extra session.

**Ducks 5, Maple Leafs 2:** Rickard Rakell scored twice, Jonathan Bernier made 37 saves and host Anaheim returned from its bye week with a win over Toronto.

Sami Vatanen and Jakob Silfverberg also scored to help the Ducks get their third straight win at home and maintain a two-point lead over Calgary for third in the Pacific Division. Patrick Eaves added an empty-net goal with 1:14 remaining for his first since being acquired from Dallas.

**Jets 3, Blues 0:** Connor Hellebuyck stopped 29 shots for his fourth shutout of the season and host Winnipeg beat St. Louis.

Blake Wheeler scored twice, including on a first-period power play, and the Jets handed the Blues their fifth consecutive loss. Bryan Little added an empty-netter for his 18th of the season with 2:16 remaining in regulation, and Wheeler added another empty-net goal about a minute later.

**Coyotes 4, Hurricanes 2:** Jordan Martynok scored midway through the third period to lift visiting Arizona over Carolina.

Shane Doan added a power-play empty-net goal with 58 seconds left and also had two assists. Christian Dvorak and Alex Goligoski also scored for Arizona, which snapped a five game skid against Carolina and a two-game slide overall. Louis Domingue made 32 saves.

# Cavs set new mark for threes in win

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Kyrie Irving scored 43 points, LeBron James had 38 and the Cleveland Cavaliers set an NBA regular-season record with 25 three-pointers in a 135-130 victory over Atlanta on Friday night.

After Paul Millsap's baseline jumper over James cut Cleveland's lead to 124-123, Kyle Korver — who was traded from Atlanta to the Cavaliers on Jan. 7 — hit the record-breaking three-pointer to pad the lead.

Cleveland made 25 of 46 threes to break a record that stood less than three months. Houston made 24 treys in a 122-100 win over New Orleans on Dec. 16.

**Raptors 114, Wizards 106:** DeMar DeRozan scored 32 points, including a key three-pointer late, and grabbed 13 rebounds in visiting Toronto's victory over Washington.

Norman Powell added a season-high 21 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, to help the Raptors pull back into a tie with the Wizards for third place in the Eastern Conference.

**Spurs 101, Pelicans 98 (OT):** Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points, Patty Mills hit a pair of pivotal threes in overtime, and visiting San Antonio outlasted New Orleans.

LeMarcus Aldridge had 21 points and 15 rebounds for San Antonio. The Spurs won their

sixth straight while dropping New Orleans to 0-4 with DeMarcus Cousins in the lineup.

**Celtics 115, Lakers 95:** At Los Angeles, Isaiah Thomas scored 18 points and Boston rode a 70-point first half.

**76ers 105, Knicks 102:** Justin Anderson made the go-ahead basket with 24.3 seconds left and matched his career high with 19 points in host Philadelphia's victory over New York.

**Mavericks 104, Grizzlies 100:** Seth Curry scored 24 points, and Nerlens Noel had 15 points and tied a career high with 17 rebounds in his first start since coming to host Dallas in a trade.

**Bucks 112, Clippers 101:**

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 24 points and eight assists, and host Milwaukee squandered an early 23-point lead before finishing strong to hold off turnover-prone Los Angeles.

**Jazz 112, Nets 97:** George Hill scored a season-high 34 points and Utah beat visiting Brooklyn.

**Magic 110, Heat 99:** Nikola Vucevic scored 25 points and Aaron Gordon had 21 points and 10 rebounds to help host Orlando beat Miami.

**Suns 118, Thunder 111:** Eric Bledsoe had 18 points and host Phoenix helped celebrate broadcaster Al McCoy's induction into the team's Ring of Honor with a victory over Oklahoma City.