

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, June 29, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Miller confirmed to lead in Afghanistan

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Army Gen. Austin “Scott” Miller was confirmed by the Senate as the new commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan in a voice vote late Thursday.

Miller, 57, who currently serves as commander of Joint Special Operations Command, also received his fourth star as part of the confirmation. Miller is expected to take over both NATO’s train, advise and assist mission and the U.S. counterterrorism mission in Afghanistan in the fall.

He replaces Army Gen. John Nicholson,

who after more than two years in charge became the longest-serving U.S. commander of the 17-year war.

During his confirmation hearing, Miller endorsed the revamped war strategy — which has allowed for more airstrikes against Taliban targets — but said he didn’t foresee an end to the conflict anytime soon.

“I can’t guarantee you any timeline or an end date,” he told the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier in June, adding that withdrawal from Afghanistan could allow extremist groups like Islamic State to strengthen and carry out attacks on U.S.

soil.

Miller’s confirmation was one of several military and diplomatic approvals Thursday.

The Senate also confirmed Harry Harris as U.S. ambassador to South Korea. Harris, a former admiral, recently retired following his stint in charge of forces in the Pacific.

Air Force Gen. Charles Brown Jr., who was confirmed as the next commander of Pacific Air Forces, led the air war against ISIS in Iraq before becoming deputy commander for U.S. Central Command, a post he’s held for the past two years.

## Officer is first female commander of Marine Corps ground combat unit

*The Orange County Register*

CAMP PENDLETON — For the first time, a female Marine has been named commander of a ground combat arms unit, military officials announced Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Michelle Macander took over command of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion on June 22 at Camp Pendleton.

“It is a privilege to carry on the legacy of this storied battalion, and continue to provide support to the largest and most decorated division in the Marine Corps,” Macander said in a statement. “I’m honored to be a part of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion team.”

Macander took over command of the battalion from Lt. Col. Christopher M. Haar. The transfer-of-authority ceremony included a speech by Maj. Gen. Eric M. Smith, commanding general of 1st Marine Division.

The appointment is the latest in a series of history-making firsts for women in the Marine Corps and at Camp Pendleton.

In September, a female Marine became the first to graduate from the grueling, 13-week Marine Corps Infantry Officer Course. In October, 2nd Lt. Mariah Klenke became the first female Marine to graduate from the Assault Amphibian Officer Course and was assigned to Camp Pendleton’s 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion. And in March, a group of female Marines

became the first to enter Camp Pendleton’s combat Training Battalion.

On June 23, a second female Marine graduated from the Marine Corps’ Infantry Officer Course. Thirty other Marines, including two women, did not make it through, said Capt. Joshua Pena.

The 1st Combat Engineer Battalion is based on Camp Pendleton’s north end, at Camp San Mateo. It provides tactical and logistical engineer support to the 1st Marine Division. The battalion was part of the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force’s march into Baghdad and followed up with numerous deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Macander, of Clifton Park, N.Y., graduated from Georgia Technical University in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in international affairs. She first was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron at Camp Pendleton and deployed to Iraq in 2003.

In 2004, she transferred to the 9th Engineer Support Battalion and deployed again to Iraq as a liaison to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Macander completed Expeditionary Warfare School in Quantico, Va., in 2009. She deployed again to the Helmand Province in Afghanistan and in 2014 served as the Central Command’s counter narcotics officer in Kabul. She transferred to the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton in 2013 and was promoted to lieutenant colonel in October.

## As troops march south, UN warns of Syria ‘catastrophe’

*Associated Press*

BEIRUT — The United Nations’ human rights chief warned Friday of a “catastrophe” in southern Syria, where government forces are on the offensive against insurgents, forcing more people to flee their homes and to live in miserable conditions in open areas close to the border with Jordan.

Syrian state TV said troops entered the main village of Ibtah in the southern province of Daraa after opposition gunmen handed over their weapons and asked to be included in an amnesty. They aired live footage showing government troops entering the village.

Syrian troops have been marching in the country’s south, one of the last rebel-held areas in the country, under the cover of airstrikes and intense shelling.

The government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media said that besides Ibtah, rebels surrendered their weapons in the nearby villages of Tafas and Dael. Rebels in the villages of Umm al-Mayadeen, Naseeb, Saida and Tiba have also agreed to surrender, it said.

Opposition activists reported violence, even during a 12-hour truce that reportedly was brokered by Russia and Jordan and went into effect at midnight Thursday.

# Event highlights employment for military spouses

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump recently has touted jobs numbers among African-Americans, veterans and women. Now his administration is turning its attention toward a population that lags far behind in employment: military spouses.

The unemployment rate for military spouses is about 16 percent — quadruple the overall unemployment rate in the U.S., according to estimates from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Experts cite challenges such as frequent moves, often with little notice, as well as barriers created by differences in professional licensing requirements from state to state.

White House officials Jennifer Korn and Kellyanne Conway promised Thursday the administration was focused on the problem.

“You have some people in the White House who really care and are championing this issue,” said Korn, a special assistant to Trump.

Korn and Conway spoke Thursday at a summit held by Hiring Our Heroes, supported by the Chamber of Commerce, to rally the private sector and the federal government to hire more military spouses.

In May, Trump signed an executive order to encourage federal agencies to hire more military spouses. The order pushes agencies to put to use a federal law that gives preference to military spouses for government jobs.

Conway acknowledged the order was merely a first step aimed at raising awareness of

the issue. In order to push the private sector to hire more military spouses, the federal government first needed to show it would do the same, Korn said.

“We couldn’t ask the private sector to do something if the federal government didn’t,” she said. “That’s why we have this executive order. We want to lead by example.”

Len Litton, part of the White House National Security Council, said the Trump administration expected the number of military spouses working in the federal government to increase once the order was implemented fully. The order requires agencies to report the number of spouses they hire starting in fiscal 2019.

“We believe it will increase the opportunities for military spouses,” Litton said.

Following the summit, attendees walked across the street to the White House, where the Department of Labor unveiled a new website intended to be a resource for military spouses who are moving stations and are seeking employment.

The site, at [veterans.gov/militaryspouses](http://veterans.gov/militaryspouses), includes a U.S. map that shows how professional licenses can transfer to different states, based on state laws. According to a report released last month from Trump’s Council of Economic Advisers, 35 percent of military spouses in the labor market work in occupations that require licenses or certifications — meaning they must navigate varying licensing laws when they move across state lines.

Labor officials lauded the site as a resource that could cut down spouses’ research time from hours to minutes.

## Navy shipbuilder plans to hire 7,000 workers

*Associated Press*

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The Virginia company that builds the nation’s aircraft carriers and some of its submarines plans to hire nearly 7,000 people in the next five years and will partner with the state to recruit and train those workers, officials said Tuesday.

The announcement reflects the growing need for skilled workers at shipyards that serve the U.S. Navy. It hopes to significantly expand its fleet of ships, from 284 to 355, in the coming decades.

The new jobs will support existing contracts to build and maintain subs and aircraft carriers at Newport News Shipbuilding, a sprawling facility that sits along the James River, not far from the world’s largest Navy base in Norfolk.

But the need for more spe-

cially trained workers could grow. The company that owns the shipyard, Huntington Ingalls Industries, has been in talks with the Navy about it possibly ordering two aircraft carriers at once to save costs. The vessels are using increasingly advanced technologies.

“Our mission is to be able to train our youth for these 21st Century jobs, such as shipbuilding,” Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam said at a park adjacent to the shipyard.

The Democratic governor said his Secretary of Commerce and Trade will lead the partnership to ensure the shipyard and other companies get the skilled workers they need. The shipyard and the state will work with the Navy, schools and technical programs. Efforts also will be made to recruit veterans.

## Putin: Russian weapons decades ahead of rivals’

*Associated Press*

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin boasted about his country’s prospective nuclear weapons, saying they are years and even decades ahead of foreign designs.

Speaking before the graduates of Russian military academies Thursday, Putin said the new weapons represent a quantum leap in the nation’s military capability.

“A number of our weapons systems are years, and, perhaps, decades ahead of foreign analogues,” Putin told young military officers who gathered in an ornate Kremlin hall. “Modern weapons contribute to a multifold increase in the Russian military potential.”

The tough statement comes as Putin is preparing for a summit with U.S. President Donald Trump set for July 16 in Helsin-

ki, Finland. Russia-U.S. relations have plunged to post-Cold War lows over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria, the allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and differences over nuclear arms control issues.

“We have achieved a real breakthrough thanks to the colossal efforts by science and design bureaus and industries, a real feat by workers, engineers and scientists,” Putin told the officers.

The Russian leader singled out the new Avangard hypersonic vehicle and the new Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, which are set to enter service in the next few years.

Putin also mentioned the Kinzhal hypersonic missile that already has been put on duty with the units of Russia’s Southern Military District.

# Police: Man with grudge kills 5 at newspaper

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — First-degree murder charges were filed Friday against a man with a grudge against Maryland's capital newspaper after police said he shot his way into the newsroom, killing four journalists and a staffer and wounding two others.

Jarrod Warren Ramos was swiftly arrested, interrogated and jailed pending a 10:30 a.m. hearing in Annapolis. A court document classifies him as "recalcitrant." Investigators said earlier that he was uncooperative.

A spokeswoman for the public defender's office said she had no comment.

Acting Police Chief William Krampf of Anne Arundel County said the gunman "looked for his victims" Thursday in the newsroom of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis. "This person was prepared today to come in, this person was prepared to shoot people," Krampf said.

Ramos, 38, has a well-documented history of harassing the paper's journalists that began years ago after the Gazette reported about his criminal conviction in a harassment case.

The attack began with a shotgun blast that shattered the glass entrance of the open newsroom. Journalists crawled under desks and sought other hiding places, describing agonizing minutes of terror as they heard his footsteps and the repeated blasts of the weapon.

Officers responded in about

## Reporter with ties to Naval Academy slain

The Washington Post

One of the journalists killed in the Maryland newspaper shooting was the daughter of a Naval Academy graduate and the mother of three children currently serving in the U.S. Navy.

Wendi Winters, 65, an editor and community reporter for the Capital Gazette, was one of five people killed when a man with a vendetta against the Annapolis newspaper fired a shotgun through the newsroom's glass doors and at its employees in a targeted shooting Thursday, according to police. She wrote weekly columns, hundreds of feature articles and oversaw editing of the local's special editions.

The mother of four dedicated more than two decades of her career to covering the community where she raised her children and saw some of them become Navy

officers. It was the place where her father, a Naval Academy graduate, met and proposed to her mother. And it was the place she started over with a new career and passion.

Winters was never too far removed from Navy life. She married a military officer and son of another naval commander in 1987. Three of her adult children, Winters Leigh Geimer, Phoenix Winters Geimer and Montana Geimer, currently serve in the U.S. Navy, and either graduated or teach at the Naval Academy, where her father became an officer in 1940. Her youngest daughter, Summer Leigh Geimer, graduated from Annapolis High School in 2015, where she participated in the Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps with the intention of following her siblings into service.

60 seconds and arrested him without firing a shot as he, too, "attempted to conceal himself under a desk," according to his charging documents. They recovered a "long gun firearm" and said he also carried smoke grenades.

Ramos routinely has harassed the newspaper's writers in scores of profanity-laced tweets. One said he'd enjoy seeing the paper stop publishing, but "it would be nicer" to see two journalists "cease breathing." Investigators were review-

ing his postings and searching his apartment in Laurel, Md., for evidence on what prompted him to take deadly action.

"The shooter has not been very forthcoming, so we don't have any information yet on motive," Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh said.

Those killed included Rob Hiaasen, 59, the paper's assistant managing editor and brother of novelist Carl Hiaasen. Carl Hiaasen said he was "devastated and heartsick" at losing his brother, "one of the most gentle and funny people I've ever known." Also slain were Gerald Fischman, the editorial page editor; features reporter Wendi Winters; reporter John McNamara; and sales assistant Rebecca Smith. The newspaper said two other employees were treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

"There is nothing more terrifying than hearing multiple people get shot while you're under your desk and then hear the gunman reload," tweeted Phil Davis, the paper's courts and crime reporter. In a later interview appearing on the paper's online site, Davis likened the newspaper office to a "war zone."

"I'm a police reporter. I write about this stuff — not necessarily to this extent, but shootings and death — all the time," he said. "But as much as I'm going to try to articulate how traumatizing it is to be hiding under your desk, you don't know until you're there and you feel helpless."

## Autopsy confirms Texas church gunman died by suicide

Associated Press

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas — The gunman responsible for the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound and also had drugs in his system, according to an autopsy report released Thursday.

Devin Patrick Kelley, 26,

opened fire during church services on the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs last November, killing more than two dozen people. He later was found dead in a vehicle after he was shot and chased by two men who heard the gunfire at the church.

The autopsy released by the Travis County Medical Exam-

iner's Office said Kelley's cause of death is suicide from a single gunshot wound to the head. The autopsy, first reported on by San Antonio TV station KENS, also says toxicology tests detected marijuana and anti-anxiety drugs in his system.

Dressed all in black and wearing tactical gear, Kelley burst into the church and

opened fire on worshippers as he walked down the center aisle, authorities and witnesses said. The autopsy noted that Kelley was wearing a vest, a utility belt and all-black clothing, including his undergarments, socks and boots.

Among the dead were several children, the pastor's daughter and a pregnant woman.

# Immigrant activists get newfound support

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Immigrants who have spent years fighting to change the country's immigration system are getting newfound support from liberal activists, moms and first-time protesters motivated by a visceral narrative: President Donald Trump's administration's separation of children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Groups that pulled off massive women's marches the past two years and other left-leaning rallies are throwing their weight behind migrant families Saturday. More than 600 marches could draw hundreds of thousands of people nation-

wide, from immigrant-friendly cities like Los Angeles and New York City to conservative Appalachia and Wyoming.

Though many are seasoned anti-Trump demonstrators, others are new to immigration activism, including parents who say they feel compelled to show up after heart-wrenching accounts of children forcibly taken from their families as they crossed the border illegally. In Portland, Ore., for example, several stay-at-home moms are organizing their first rally while caring for young kids.

"I'm not a radical, and I'm not an activist," said Kate Sharaf, a co-organizer in Portland's event. "I just reached a point where I felt I had to do more."

She and her co-organizers are undaunted after nearly 600 women wearing white and railing against the now-abandoned separation policy were arrested Thursday in Washington, D.C. With demonstrations emerging nationwide, immigrant advocacy groups say they're thrilled — and surprised — to see the issue gaining traction among those not tied to immigration.

"Honestly, I am blown away. I have literally never seen Americans show up for immigrants like this," said Jess Morales Rocketto, political director at the National Domestic Workers Alliance, which represents nannies, housekeepers and caregivers, many of whom are immigrants. "We just kept

hearing over and over again, 'If it was my child, I would want someone to do something.'"

Saturday's rallies are getting funding and support from the American Civil Liberties Union, MoveOn.org, the National Domestic Workers Alliance and The Leadership Conference. But local organizers are shouldering on-the-ground planning, many of them women relying on informal networks established during worldwide women's marches on Trump's inauguration and its anniversary.

Tyler Houlton, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, welcomed interest in the immigration system and said only Congress has the power to change the law.

## Pence says exodus to US must end

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence had a blunt message for three Central American governments: You must do more to stop migrants who enter the U.S. illegally.

"This exodus must end," Pence told the leaders of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador late Thursday in a meeting in Guatemala City.

Pence said U.S. officials were working to keep families together and welcomed legal immigration from their countries, but he urged the presidents to "tell your people that coming to the United States illegally will only result in a hard journey and a harder life."

He made the comments to Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales, Salvadoran President Salvador Sanchez Ceren and Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez, leaders of countries where economic struggles and violent crime have pushed many people to try to sneak into the U.S. in hopes of finding better lives.

The U.S. vice president said the Trump administration "will always welcome" immigrants who follow the rules in getting permission to enter the U.S.

But, he added, the U.S. is determined to act strongly against those who don't.

"It is a threat to the security of the United States, and just as we respect your borders and your sovereignty, we insist that you respect ours," he said.

The three Central American countries are the home nations of most of the migrants detained and separated in recent weeks amid Trump administration policies that led to the separations of more than 2,000 children. Pence noted the White House's decision to reverse the policies.

Sanchez Ceren, of El Salvador, said one of his ministers had confirmed that the minors in the shelters had their basic needs covered, but he emphasized that "it's vital for their psychological health and their emotional health to reunite them immediately with their families."

Honduras' president said it is essential for his government to tackle the roots of migration and insecurity in a way that is not only good for the U.S. but good for the people of the Central American countries.

Earlier in the day, Pence was in Ecuador, whose leader he praised for improving relations with the U.S. He also urged

President Lenin Moreno to hold a firm line against neighboring Venezuela, which has been crumbling into economic and political crises.

"The Ecuadorean people have shown remarkable compassion," Pence said, noting that 350,000 Venezuelans have fled to Ecuador, a country of a little more than 16 million people. "We must all take strong action to restore democracy in Venezuela."

Moreno said a solution to Venezuela's crisis is ultimately up to its own people but added that he and Pence agreed to work together in coordination with the Organization of American States to promote citizen rights and fundamental freedoms throughout Latin America.

Winning back trade privileges rejected by Ecuador's former President Rafael Correa were a central part of the talks for Moreno. He was elected last year with Correa's backing but has since broken with his mentor in adopting a more business- and press-friendly stance that has earned him bipartisan praise in Washington as something of a bridge-builder in ideologically polarized Latin America.

## Thailand PM visits cave where boys disappeared

Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand — Thailand's prime minister on Friday visited a flooded cave complex where rescuers have been searching for 12 boys and their soccer coach missing for six days, and he urged their relatives not to give up hope.

"There has to be faith. Faith makes everything a success," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the country's military ruler, told families waiting outside the cave. "Faith in the actions of officials; faith in our children who are strong and vigorous. Everything will go back to normal."

The boys, ages 11 to 16, and their coach entered the sprawling Tham Luang Nang Non cave after a soccer game on June 23, but near-constant rains since then have thwarted the search for them. Authorities have nevertheless expressed hope the group has found a dry place within the cave to wait and that they are healthy enough to stay alive.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man fakes will, has dead tenant cremated

**NY** OYSTER BAY — A New York man has pleaded guilty to forging a dead tenant's will and having her cremated in a scheme to steal \$1.2 million.

Newsday.com reported that John Derounian, 53, pleaded guilty to mail fraud in connection with the theft Monday.

Prosecutors said the man found the body of Marilyn Mosberg-Shapiro, 77, in November 2015. Prosecutors said that sometime between her death and his arrest in June 2016, Derounian forged her will and named himself the sole beneficiary of her assets, except for a \$30,000 donation to charity.

Court records show Derounian had the woman cremated and sold her house in June 2016 for \$1 million. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

### Officials: Fake doctor accused of sex assault

**UT** PROVO — A trial has been scheduled for a former Provo restaurant owner accused of posing as a doctor to sexually assault women.

The Daily Herald reported that Borzin Mottaghian, 34, pleaded not guilty in February to 17 felony charges, including 12 counts of object rape and two counts of forcible sexual abuse.

According to court documents, a four-day trial for Mottaghian has been scheduled for early December.

Authorities said Mottaghian posted advertisements online offering to pay \$200 to women for their help in developing a "medical device." Authorities said he met with two women separately under false pretenses and assaulted them.

Mottaghian was arrested in October after an undercover officer set up an appointment with him.

### Plane's banner gets tangled, pilot killed

**NC** MANTEO — Authorities say the pilot of a single-engine plane has died after a banner it was about to tow became tangled in some trees.

The state's highway patrol told local news outlets the pilot had circled around to pick up a pull-behind banner on Wednesday, and as the plane was gaining altitude on takeoff, the banner became tangled. Sgt. Michael Baker said the crash occurred at about 10:35 a.m. at Dare County Regional Airport.

According to The Outer Banks Voice, emergency personnel reached the scene in minutes, but the pilot died shortly after he was removed from the wreckage.

### Model sues porn actor, claims assault

**WA** TACOMA — A model is suing porn actor Ron Jeremy, claiming he sexually assaulted her while they were promoting an adult store event in Washington state.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported that Kristin Brodie, 22, filed the lawsuit on Friday in King County Superior Court against the porn actor, whose real name is Ronald Jeremy Hyatt, after Tacoma city and Pierce County prosecutors declined to file criminal charges.

The lawsuit claims that Brodie was working for a Seattle radio station at a Tacoma sex shop promotional event in September 2017 when Hyatt, 65, assaulted her four times.

Hyatt, a self-proclaimed "groper," was accused recent-

ly by others in media reports of sexual assault. His lawyer, Stuart Goldfarb, denied that he touched Brodie's genitals and suggested that his appearances often include consensual touching.

### Man, 95, beats fox to death with plank

**ME** BRUNSWICK — Police said a 95-year-old Maine man beat an attacking rabid fox to death with a wooden plank.

Brunswick police said he is the third person to be attacked by a rabid fox in the past 10 days.

The Times Record reported Robert Galen was working on his deck Monday when he encountered the 10-pound fox.

He said he picked up a split wooden plank when he saw the fox "looking me right in the eye."

Galen said it took him about 10 minutes to beat the fox to death, and he injured his back after falling during the struggle. Animal control officials tested the animal and found it had rabies. Galen said he didn't contract the virus.

### Man shot in head drives 20 miles

**GA** MILLEDGEVILLE — Authorities said a central Georgia man who was shot in the head drove nearly 20 miles in the wrong direction to a hospital for help.

The Telegraph, of Macon, reported that Shasta Richardson, 36, was shot in the head by another man after trying to retrieve his belongings from a Milledgeville home Wednesday night. Instead of going to the nearby hospital in Milledgeville, he drove about 20 miles to a hospital in Eatonton.

Baldwin County Sheriff's Of-

fice Capt. Brad King believes Richardson drove to Eatonton because he had been living in that area lately. King said Richardson was taken to a Macon hospital.

### Video shows lightning strike behind officer

**FL** APOPKA — A Florida police officer loading his vehicle got quite a shock when lightning struck in the parking lot behind him.

Surveillance video released by the Apopka Police Department shows the bolt lighting up the parking lot Tuesday evening. A canine officer seen placing equipment in the back seat of his police SUV appears startled by the flash and hastily gets into the vehicle's front seat.

### People steal from unconscious man

**NY** NEW YORK — New York City police said a man was lying unconscious in the street after being punched when other people came by and stole from him.

Surveillance video aired by WCBS shows the victim being approached by two men in a Bronx intersection on June 18.

One of the men hit him, knocking him down.

After the two men left, several other people started going through the victim's pockets, stealing his phone and other items.

Police said the man who threw the punch then returned and took pictures of the motionless victim.

The victim was taken to a hospital in critical condition with a fractured skull.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Oregon State blanks Arkansas for title

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Arkansas missed a chance to win the College World Series when a foul pop dropped between three players. Oregon State made the Razorbacks pay for it a day later behind one of the best pitching performances in a title game.

Freshman Kevin Abel threw a two-hitter for his record fourth victory in the CWS, and Oregon State — a night after escaping on the ninth-inning, two-out foul ball fiasco — beat Arkansas 5-0 on Thursday night for its third title.

Abel was the fourth pitcher in the CWS' 71-year history to throw a shutout in a title game, and the first to do it allowing so few hits.

He retired the last 20 batters, catching Luke Bonfield looking on a 3-2 pitch to end it.

Oregon State (55-12-1) capped a two-year run in which it won 111 of 130 games.

Oregon State, which came from behind for three of its six CWS wins, was in control all the way in the winner-take-all Game 3. Arkansas (48-21) was shut out for the first

time in 100 games.

Abel (8-1) ran into trouble in the third when Arkansas loaded the bases with one out. He struck out Heston Kjerstad and got Bonfield to fly out to end the inning, and the Razorbacks had no base runners the rest of the night. Abel struck out 10 and walked two in a 129-pitch outing.

Adley Rutschman, who set a CWS record with 17 hits, went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs. He was 17-for-30 (.567) with 13 RBIs in eight games and was named the CWS Most Outstanding Player.

## Blue bloods take center stage for knockout round

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The thunder-clapping Icelanders have gone home, along with the Egyptians and Peruvians. Now comes the business end of the World Cup, a European- and South American-dominated club that rejects most new applicants as unwanted hoi polloi.

The group stage is the crossroads of cultures, a mixture of multitudes filled with happiness and hope.

Then comes the knockout stage, where soccer's powers pump their pecs and the blue bloods almost always prevail.

Ten European nations reached the round of 16, matching 1998 and 2006 for the most since 11 in 1990, the record since the current format began in 1986.

Four South American teams have advanced, plus Mexico and Japan. For the first time since 1982, no African team made it past the first round.

History is instructive: Europe earned 41 of 64 quarterfinal berths and South America took 16 since 1986. Among the other regions, Africa and CONCACAF got three apiece and Asia one.

Winnowing to the inner sanctum becomes even more pronounced after that: Europe filled 23 of 32 semifinal spots and South America eight, with South Korea in 2002 at home becoming the only outsider to reach the final four.

Among 20 previous World Cups, Europe has lifted the trophy 11 times and South America nine.

A look at the Round of 16:

### Saturday

**France vs. Argentina:** Lionel Messi & Co. was on the verge of elimination before Marco Rojos' 86th-minute goal against Nigeria. With an average age of 26, France is among the youngest teams, led by dynamic 19-year-old striker Kylian Mbappe. At 31, this likely is Messi's last chance for the World Cup title he needs to match Diego Maradona in the minds of many Argentinians. While Argentina struggled, France must awaken from a somnambulant group-stage finale against Denmark.

**Uruguay vs. Portugal:** Cristiano Ronaldo, like Messi a five-time FIFA Player of the Year, has four goals in the tournament and leads the European champions against a Uruguay team known foremost for the bite marks Luis Suarez left in Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini four years ago. Uruguay is the least-populous of the round of 16 teams.

### Sunday

**Spain vs. Russia:** World Cup hosts outside the soccer powers usually perform better than expected. Russia should have huge support at Luzhniki Stadium, making it closer than

the 10th vs 70th matchup in the rankings. Andres Iniesta, who scored the goal that won Spain's first World Cup title in 2010, remains on a rebuilt roster that struggled defensively in the group stage.

**Croatia vs. Denmark:** Tottenham past vs. Spurs present, with Luka Modric leading Croatia and Christian Eriksen sparking Denmark. Croatia was among the most impressive group-stage teams, beating Nigeria, Argentina and Iceland by a combined 7-1.

### Monday

**Brazil vs. Mexico:** El Tri fans hope for the elusive "quinto partido" — to reach a World Cup quarterfinal for the first time since 1986, which was on home soil. This is their best chance in years, with an attack led by Javier Hernandez and Carlos Vela. Center back Hector Moreno is suspended for yellow-card accumulation. Brazilian players are trying to atone for the 7-1 humiliation against Germany in the semifinals at home four years ago. Philippe Coutinho has become as important to the Seleção attack as Neymar.

**Belgium vs. Japan:** Belgium was among three teams to go 3-0 in group play, joining Croatia and Uruguay, and No. 61 Japan will be a heavy underdog against the third-ranked Red Devils. Star forward Romelu Lukaku started the World Cup with consecutive two-goal games but missed Belgium's

group-stage finale with an ankle injury. If Belgium advances, it would be in what appears to be the more difficult part of the bracket, lined up against Brazil or Mexico in the quarterfinals, then France, Argentina, Uruguay or Portugal in the semifinals.

### Tuesday

**Sweden vs. Switzerland:** In its first World Cup in the post-Zlatan Ibrahimovic era, Sweden is looking to get past the round of 16 for the first time since finishing third in 1994. Swedish midfielder Sebastian Larsson is suspended, as are Swiss defenders Stephan Lichtsteiner and Fabian Schar. Switzerland is led by midfielders Xherdan Shaqiri and Granit Xhaka.

**Colombia vs. England:** Harry Kane, whose five goals lead the World Cup, heads a young England team that finished group play without a shutout for the first time. Los Cafeteros, led by James Rodriguez and Radamel Falcao, advanced over Senegal on a fair play tiebreaker based on fewer yellow cards and were the only team to reach the round of 16 after losing their opener. Rodriguez's calf injury is a concern after it forced him out in the first half Thursday. By losing to Belgium, England faces what appears to be an easier path: Sweden or Switzerland in the quarterfinals, and Spain, Russia, Croatia or Denmark in the semifinals.

# Belgium blanks England, wins Group G

Associated Press

KALININGRAD, Russia — England barely seemed troubled by losing. Belgium appeared to be a reluctant winner.

Such was the curious conclusion to the group stage at the World Cup on Thursday. Neither team needed to win and there was good reason for neither to even want to win.

Belgium did collect the three points, beating England 1-0, and secured first place in the group on Adnan Januzaj's curling shot. But that might not turn out to be the desirable outcome because the victory diverted Belgium onto the tougher potential path to the final.

Although Belgium gets what appears to be an easier match against Japan in the round of 16, it could get trickier with a victory in Rostov-on-Don on Monday. Brazil, Portugal, France and Argentina are possible future opponents.

"I don't think you can plan the ideal scenario," Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said.

"You have seen big nations coming very close to elimination, or already eliminated."

Thanks to a pair of opening victories for both, England and Belgium entered the Group G match knowing they were already in the second round. Belgium made nine changes and still won. England lost the top spot after dropping Harry Kane, the tournament's leading scorer, and seven others.

England coach Gareth Southgate could barely contain his delight in finding himself on the less challenging side of the draw. His team will face Colombia on Tuesday in Moscow, followed by possible matchups against Spain, Russia, Croatia, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

"We don't suffer for (the loss)," Southgate said. "When you are a leader and a manager you have to make decisions that are right for your group and your primary objectives. Sometimes those decisions will be criticized ... but you have to think about the bigger picture."

For Southgate, it was as much about ensuring players like Kane did not pick up injuries in a game that wasn't essential. The leading scorer in Russia with five goals watched the match from the bench. So did Romelu Lukaku, who has scored four for Belgium.

"We don't like to lose, but tonight there were other factors that were more important," Southgate said. "We know our strongest 11, but what's pleasing is that there are guys that have put their hand up tonight to really push for a place."

**Key to success:** What could have been a tantalizing match between two strong European teams turned out to be a bit of a letdown.

England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford made an early save on a shot from Yuri Tielemans. And after a fumble by Pickford, Gary Cahill made a goal-line clearance.

On the other end, Kane's replacement up front for England, Jamie Vardy, tried his luck with a header. Marcus Rashford came closest for England at the

start of the second half but his low shot was tipped around the post by Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

If the script was to avoid winning, Januzaj didn't read it. Picking up possession on the edge of the penalty area, he shifted the ball around Danny Rose and curled it into the corner of the net in the 51st minute.

**Januzaj's re-emergence:**

Januzaj was briefly one of the most talked about players in the world when he scored twice in his Manchester United debut in 2013. There was even talk of him becoming eligible to play for England on residency grounds.

Januzaj opted for Belgium, but his career faltered. After a detour at Borussia Dortmund and Sunderland, he found a new home last year at Real Sociedad.

"In England I had a lot of criticism. Now I wanted to show people I'm here," the 23-year-old Januzaj said. "I've been putting in a lot of work."

## Khazri, Tunisia end tournament by beating Panama

Associated Press

SARANSK, Russia — Tunisia captain Wahbi Khazri and Fakhreddine Ben Youssef ensured their nation's World Cup slump wouldn't enter a fifth decade.

Khazri's hard, rising shot in the 66th minute lifted Tunisia to a 2-1 triumph over Panama on Thursday night. It came about 15 minutes after the Rennes striker's pinpoint pass produced Ben Youssef's equalizer on a redirection off of his right instep.

"We wanted to snatch the victory and I wanted to score and I did," Ben Youssef said. "This is great day for Tunisia."

Panama is still looking for a maiden World Cup victory — or draw, for that matter. But it took its first ever lead in World Cup play in the 33rd minute through

an own-goal when Jose Luis Rodriguez's hard, left-footed shot deflected off of Tunisia's Yassine Meriah.

Both Group G teams were already eliminated going into the match. Tunisia hadn't won a World Cup game since a 3-1 victory over Mexico in 1978. The Carthage Eagles then failed to win any of their next 13 World Cup matches, a streak that ended in somewhat expected fashion.

"When we landed in this group we knew very well that our best hope was to come third in this group," Tunisia coach Nabil Maaloul said.

Tunisia looked more competitive in losses to England and Belgium than Panama. Tunisia nearly earned a draw with England, but lost on a late goal by Harry Kane.

Tunisia also has more ac-

complished club professionals in its squad, but it was missing several players because of injuries.

In addition to dealing with the absence of defender Dylan Bronn, Tunisia had to start 33-year-old third-choice goalkeeper Aymen Mathlouthi because its other keepers were injured.

"Thanks to our goalkeeper, we didn't concede many goals and we got the three points," Maaloul said. "This is what matters."

Statistically, Panama was the worst performer in this World Cup, but coach Hernan Gomez took issue with one reporter suggesting his team was the worst in tournament.

"Please don't call us the worst team. We are not the worst team. We are a team that is learning and growing," Gomez said. "You need to respect our

team much more. You cannot call us the worst team. That is a lack of respect."

**Milestone goals:** The first two goals of the match were milestones of sorts in the World Cup, which dates to 1930.

The goal that gave Panama a 1-0 halftime lead was the 50th own-goal in all World Cups.

Meriah had turned his body to block Rodriguez's shot and ended up sending it inside the far post after Mathlouthi had already started moving the other way.

The goal came against the run of play. Tunisia dominated the match with 64-percent possession and finished with 15 shots to Panama's nine.

But it didn't take long for Tunisia to equalize on what was somewhat of a World Cup milestone, the 2,500th goal in the history of the tournament.

# Cubs' hitters erupt after Kershaw exits

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Once Clayton Kershaw exited, the Chicago Cubs put a positive ending on a 2-6 road trip.

Anthony Rizzo's three-run double and Addison Russell's two-run homer highlighted a seven-run seventh inning as Chicago broke loose late and beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 11-5 on Thursday.

The Cubs pounded out 15 hits, including a season-best four by Rizzo. Russell drove in a season-high four runs in the final regular-season meeting between the teams that played each other in the NL Championship Series the last two years.

"Over the course of this road trip everyone has been fine-tuning their approaches," Russell said. "Today you see a clear example of it being executed. It's nice to see the ball fly."

The teams met seven times in 10 days, with the Cubs winning four games over the two series.

"We're doing this without everybody right now, too, and that's the even better part," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "We have part of our bullpen but not everybody. I give these guys a lot of credit. During this little stretch they've been above and beyond."

The Dodgers staked Kershaw to a 3-1 lead before he departed after five innings because of a pitch limit.

"He's that good where he can rehab in the big leagues," Rizzo said. "It's amazing."

The Cubs jumped on reliever Walker Buehler (4-2), who arrived earlier in the morning from Triple-A Oklahoma City, where he had been set for a rehab assignment. Albert Almora Jr. homered on Buehler's second pitch and Russell's sacrifice fly tied it at 3 in the sixth.

"Some bad pitches to good hitters," Buehler lamented.

The Cubs didn't let up in the seventh when they batted around.

Jason Heyward's pinch-hit RBI double gave them the lead for good, 4-3.

Almora followed with a popup to first base. Max Muncy used his glove as a shield against the sun in a cloudless sky, but the ball dropped for a single and scored Kyle Schwarber, who reached on a walk.

Rizzo stroked a double to right-center field off Erik Goeddel, extending the lead to 8-3. Russell followed with a two-run shot on an 0-2 pitch that made it 10-3. The Cubs' seven runs were the most by a Dodgers' opponent in an inning this season.

"I just want to stay consistent," said Rizzo, who has 53 RBIs this season. "That's what I've shown over the last few years and that's what I want to get back to."

Steve Cishek (2-0) got the win with 1 2/3 innings of relief.

Muncy hit his team-leading 17th homer in the third and Justin Turner added a two-run shot in the ninth, giving

the Dodgers a major league-leading 53 homers in June and tying the franchise record set last year. Enrique Hernandez drove in a pair of two-out runs with a single in the second and a double in the fourth.

Kershaw tossed five innings of one-run ball in his second start since coming off the disabled list with a lower back strain. He allowed four hits, struck out six and didn't walk anyone while restricted to 68 pitches.

"Today was a good step and hopefully next time the restrictions should be off," Kershaw said. "I kept the pitch count down and didn't walk anybody. There's definitely some things to be positive about."

Cubs starter Jose Quintana gave up three runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings, the fourth time in five starts this month he hasn't completed six innings. The left-hander struck out four and walked three.

## MLB roundup

### McCullers, Astros top Rays for 11th straight road win

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Lance McCullers pitched seven strong innings, Jake Marisnick homered and the Houston Astros beat the Tampa Bay Rays 1-0 on Thursday night to tie a franchise record with their 11th straight road win.

McCullers (9-3) gave up three hits while striking out seven. The Astros have won his last six starts and have won 18 of 21 overall. Their 11th straight road win matched the club record set last May 14-June 5 on the way to winning the franchise's first World Series title.

The Rays, who had won five straight overall and eight straight at home, had runners on first and third with none out in the eighth against reliever Chris Devenski, but Matt

Duffy lined into a double play and Jake Bauers grounded out.

Hector Rondon pitched the ninth for his fifth save in seven opportunities.

**Red Sox 4, Angels 2:** Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a two-run homer and Rafael Devers had a solo shot to help host Boston beat Los Angeles.

Boston completed a season sweep of the Angels for the first time since they joined the American League as an expansion club in 1961.

**Rockies 9, Giants 8:** DJ LeMahieu hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning and set a career best with five RBIs, rallying visiting Colorado past San Francisco.

Nolan Arenado hit his 19th home run, tying him for the NL lead with Washington's Bryce Harper. Trevor Story added

three hits for Colorado, which had lost four straight at San Francisco.

**Diamondbacks 4, Marlins 0:** Zack Greinke (8-5) pitched seven innings and was an offensive dynamo, too, helping visiting Arizona beat Miami.

Greinke singled twice, drove in a run, stole a base and scored. He leads Arizona pitchers this year with four RBIs and four runs, raised his season average to .300, and is now 7-for-7 lifetime in steal attempts.

**Phillies 4, Nationals 3:** Aaron Nola (10-2) pitched into the eighth inning to win his 10th game of the season, Rhys Hoskins homered again and host Philadelphia started a pivotal division series by beating Washington.

**Brewers 6, Reds 4:** Eric Thames hit a three-run homer

in the seventh inning and visiting Milwaukee slowed Cincinnati's best surge of the season.

The last-place Reds were the hottest team in the NL Central heading into the game, winning nine of their last 10 games.

**Mariners 4, Orioles 2:** Nelson Cruz homered and drove in three runs, and visiting Seattle utilized two errors in the 10th inning to complete its first four-game sweep at Baltimore in franchise history.

**Athletics 4, Tigers 2:** Jed Lowrie had two more hits, Sean Manaea (8-6) pitched six strong innings and visiting Oakland beat Detroit to sweep the four-game series.

**Twins 2, White Sox 1 (13):** Max Kepler drew a two-out walk with the bases loaded in the 13th inning to push visiting Minnesota past Chicago.