

Russia pounds Kyiv and outskirts of Lviv

Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin appeared at a huge flag-waving rally at a Moscow stadium Friday and praised his country's troops in biblical terms as they rained lethal fire on Ukraine's cities.

"Shoulder to shoulder, they help and support each other," Putin said of the Kremlin's forces in a rare public appearance since the invasion three weeks ago that made Russia an outcast among nations and triggered antiwar protests at home. "We have not had unity like this for a long time," he added to cheers from the crowd.

Moscow police said more than 200,000 people were in and around the Luzhniki stadium for the celebration marking the eighth anniversary of Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula, seized from Ukraine.

The event included patriotic songs, including a performance of "Made in the U.S.S.R.," with the opening lines "Ukraine and Crimea, Belarus and Moldova, it's all my country."

Seeking to portray the war as just, Putin paraphrased the Bible to say of Russia's troops: "There is no greater love than giving up one's soul for one's friends." And he continued to insist his actions were necessary to prevent "genocide," a claim flatly denied by leaders around the globe.

Video feeds of the event showed a loudly

cheering crowd that broke into chants of "Russia!"

Several Telegram channels critical of the Kremlin reported that students and employees of state institutions in a number of regions were ordered by their superiors to attend rallies and concerts marking the Crimea anniversary. Those reports could not be independently verified.

In the wake of the invasion, the Kremlin has clamped down harder on dissent and the flow of information, arresting thousands of antiwar protesters, banning sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and instituting tough prison sentences for what is deemed to be false reporting on the war, which Moscow refers to as a "special military operation."

The OVD-Info rights group that monitors political arrests reported that at least seven independent journalists had been detained ahead of or while covering the anniversary events in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Standing on stage in a white turtleneck and a blue down jacket, Putin spoke for about five minutes. Some people, including presenters at the event, wore T-shirts or jackets with a "Z" — a symbol seen on Russian tanks and other military vehicles in Ukraine and embraced by supporters of the war.

The rally came as Russian troops continued to pound the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and

launched a barrage of missiles against an aircraft repair installation at an airport on the outskirts of the western city of Lviv, close to the Polish border. One person was reported wounded.

Satellite photos showed the strike destroyed a repair hangar and appeared to damage two other buildings. A row of fighter jets appeared intact, but an apparent impact crater sat in front of them.

Ukraine said it had shot down two of six missiles in the volley, which came from the Black Sea.

The early morning attack was the closest strike yet to the center of Lviv, which has become a crossroads for people fleeing from other parts of Ukraine and for others entering to deliver aid or join the fight. The war has swelled the city's population by some 200,000.

In city after city around Ukraine, hospitals, schools and buildings where people sought safety have been attacked. Rescue workers continued to search for survivors in the ruins of a theater that was being used as a shelter when it was blasted by a Russian airstrike Wednesday in the besieged southern city of Mariupol.

Ludmyla Denisova, the Ukrainian Parliament's human rights commissioner, said at least 130 people had survived the theater bombing.

Possible new names for Army installations revealed

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A congressionally mandated Naming Commission for military assets has revealed 87 potential new names for nine Army installations that now honor Confederate generals from the Civil War, the group announced Thursday.

Former President Dwight Eisenhower, former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell, and abolitionist Harriet Tubman are among the recommendations that the Naming Commission made after "deliberat[ing] extensively over the thousands of possible new names suggested," according to the announcement. The commission received more than 34,000 submissions from the public.

The nine bases in question, all in former Confederate states, were named during the 1910s and 1940s amid the south's Jim Crow era. They are Fort Polk in Louisiana, Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia, Fort Rucker in Alabama, and Fort Hood in Texas.

Congress mandated a commission be formed in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets annual spending and policy priorities for the Defense Department. Army and Pentagon leaders began looking at stripping bases of Confederate-linked names in 2020 amid a nationwide racial reckoning after the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

The list of recommendations also includes

several of the Army's Medal of Honor recipients, such as Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe, 1st Lt. Audie Murphy, Sgt. Alvin York, and the first Black man to receive the honor, Sgt. William Carney. The list also includes George Marshall, who was Army Chief of Staff during World War II and as Secretary of State led the effort to rebuild Europe after the war, and World War II Gen. Omar Bradley, who became the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The commission will now spend the next several months engaging with "installation leaders, personnel and their counterparts in local communities to discuss the names" before making the final decisions, which are due to Congress on Oct. 1, according to the Thursday announcement.

American among dead in Russian attack

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An American man was killed in a Russian attack on the northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv, where he was seeking medical treatment for his partner. The death of Jim Hill was reported Thursday by his sister.

“My brother Jimmy Hill was killed yesterday in Chernihiv, Ukraine. He was waiting in a bread line with several other people when they were gunned down” by Russian military forces, his sister, Cheryl Hill Gordon, wrote on Facebook. “His body was found in the street by the local police.”

Ukrainian officials reported that 10 people were killed Wednesday in Chernihiv while standing in the bread line.

Chernihiv police and the U.S. State De-

partment confirmed the death of an American but did not identify him. Hill was at least the second U.S. citizen to be killed in the conflict, after the killing of journalist and filmmaker Brent Renaud last week.

In poignant posts on Facebook in the weeks before his death, Hill described “indiscriminate bombing” in a city under siege and joked about wanting to appear “feeble-minded” if captured by the Russians.

Under a photo of himself he wrote on March 8: “me unshaven for 10 days. I am actually trying to look as old and feeble-minded (not hard) as possible in case they catch me. I am working on my Rainman accent ‘Oh Boy’...”

Hill, a native of Eveleth, Minn., who was living in Driggs, Idaho, identified himself as

a lecturer at universities in Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, and Warsaw, Poland. He said he was in Chernihiv with his partner for her to receive medical treatment.

“We are staying on 3rd floor in Hospital. Most patients in basement bomb shelter. But cold down there and no internet,” he wrote on Feb. 26, two days after the invasion began.

Four days later, he said: “Nobody in Chernihiv is safe. Indiscriminate bombing. ... Ukrainian forces hold city but are surrounded. It’s a siege here. Nobody in. Nobody out.”

At least 53 people had been brought to morgues over the past 24 hours, killed during Russian air attacks and ground fire in Chernihiv, the local governor, Viacheslav Chaus, told Ukrainian TV on Thursday.

US vet jailed in Iran sues for \$1B, alleges torture

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Navy veteran who was jailed in Iran for nearly two years sued the Iranian government on Thursday for \$1 billion, alleging that he was kidnapped, held hostage and tortured.

The federal lawsuit describes in unsparing detail the “prolonged and continuous” abuse that Michael White says he suffered behind bars, including being beaten and punched, whipped on his feet, deprived of food and drink, and pressured to falsely confess that he was a spy for the U.S. government.

“Mr. White endured this trauma for nearly two years, never knowing if or when he would be released and reunited with his family, repeatedly promised that his conditions would improve soon, only to be crushed psychologically when they did not,” the lawsuit states.

The allegations in the complaint mirror the claims made by White in a 156-page manuscript that he wrote behind bars

and that was later obtained by The Associated Press.

The 31-page complaint traces White’s travel to Iran, saying he was lured there in the summer of 2018 by a woman he considered his girlfriend so that he could be kidnapped by Iranian government agents and put in prison. He was charged with insulting Iran’s Supreme Leader and cooperating with the U.S. government against Iran — charges the lawsuit says were fabricated — and sentenced without a trial to 10 years in prison.

The suit also alleges that White’s imprisonment was an effort by Iran to extract concessions from the Trump administration and to “manufacture additional leverage for diplomacy” in the aftermath of Iran’s withdrawal in 2018 from a landmark nuclear deal with the U.S. Diplomats are currently trying to salvage a deal that would bring Iran back into compliance with limits on its nuclear program.

Taliban released 3 Afghan TV staff detained over ban

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban have released three employees of Afghanistan’s largest television station who were detained over a report that the country’s new rulers had banned all broadcasts of foreign drama series, a channel executive said Friday.

Three staffers from TOLO TV were taken from the station on Thursday evening, according to Khpalkwak Sapai, head of TOLO News department and one of the arrested. Sapai later said that he and Nafay Khaleeq, the station’s legal adviser, were released within hours later Thursday.

Journalist Bahram Aman, a news presenter, was kept in custody overnight and released on Friday evening, the station said.

Moby Group, the media company that owns TOLO TV, said the detentions were the result of the station reporting “about the banning of the foreign drama series” — a decision made by the Taliban-appointed Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue

and Prevention of Vice.

The Taliban gave no explanation for their ban, the latest restriction imposed since their takeover of the country in mid-August.

TOLO TV is an Afghan-owned media company with interests in South and Central Asia as well as the Middle East and Africa.

The United Nations and the Committee to Protect Journalists decried the arrests and demanded the Taliban stop harassing Afghan journalists and stifling free expression through threats, arrests and intimidation.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan expressed “its deep concern about the detentions of journalists and the ever increasing restrictions being placed on media in Afghanistan.” The mission, known as UNAMA, said on Twitter: “Time for the Taliban to stop gagging & banning. Time for a constructive dialogue with the Afghan media community.”

Moderna asks FDA to OK 4th COVID shot

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Drugmaker Moderna asked the Food and Drug Administration on Thursday to authorize a fourth shot of its COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose for all adults.

The request is broader than rival pharmaceutical company Pfizer's request earlier this week for the regulator to approve a booster shot for all seniors.

In a press release, the company said its request for approval for all adults was made "to provide flexibility" to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and medical providers to determine the "ap-

propriate use" of a second booster dose of the mRNA vaccine, "including for those at higher risk of COVID-19 due to age or comorbidities."

U.S. officials have been laying the groundwork to deliver additional booster doses to shore up the vaccines' protection against serious disease and death from COVID-19.

The White House has been sounding the alarm that it needs Congress to "urgently" approve more funding for the federal government to secure more doses of the COVID-19 vaccines, either for additional booster shots or variant-specific immuni-

zations.

U.S. health officials currently recommend a primary series of two doses of the Moderna vaccine and a booster dose months later.

Moderna said its request for an additional dose was based on "recently published data generated in the United States and Israel following the emergence of Omicron."

On Tuesday, Pfizer and its partner BioNTech asked U.S. regulators to authorize an additional booster dose of their COVID-19 vaccine for seniors, saying data from Israel suggests older adults would benefit.

Hong Kong: Infection total passes 1 million

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's cumulative coronavirus infections have exceeded 1 million as the city grapples with a widespread outbreak that has killed more people than the reported COVID-19 deaths in all of mainland China.

Health officials reported 20,079 confirmed infections on Friday, taking the total since the start of the pandemic to 1,016,944. Nearly 97% of those came from Hong Kong's current wave, which began in December.

Since Feb. 9, nearly 5,200 people have died from the virus. The total number of

deaths in Hong Kong — 5,401 — has exceeded the 4,636 fatalities recorded in mainland China. Mainland authorities have reported 126,234 confirmed cases, but unlike most countries, China does not include asymptomatic cases in its confirmed total.

The city of 7.4 million is in the grip of an omicron surge that has strained its health care system as hospitals reached maximum capacity. Coffins are running out and mortuaries are so full that bodies have to be temporarily stored in refrigerated containers.

Most of the deceased were elderly pa-

tients, a majority of whom are not fully vaccinated.

For most of the pandemic, Hong Kong was able to stamp out earlier outbreaks with tough "zero COVID" restrictions that temporarily shuttered businesses, limited public gatherings and imposed entry curbs such as lengthy quarantines for arrivals and flight bans from countries deemed high-risk.

That changed with the highly transmissible omicron variant. Officials have sought assistance from mainland China, which has sent experts and medical resources to help Hong Kong combat the pandemic.

Biden presses China's Xi on support to Russia

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Key figures for a war half a world away, President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping spoke for nearly two hours on Friday as the White House looked to deter Beijing from providing military or economic assistance for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

China's Foreign Ministry was the first to issue a readout of the video conversation, deploring "conflict and confrontation" as "not in anyone's interest," without assigning any blame to Russia.

Ahead of the call, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden would question Xi about Beijing's "rhetorical support" of Putin and an "absence of denunciation" of Russia's invasion.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying pushed back, calling the U.S. administration's suggestions that China risks falling

on the wrong side of history "overbearing."

Planning for the leaders' discussion had been in the works since Biden and Xi held a virtual summit in November, but differences between Washington and Beijing over Russian President Vladimir Putin's prosecution of his 3-week-old war against Ukraine were expected to be at the center of the call.

China on Friday also sought to highlight its calls for negotiations and its donations of humanitarian aid, while accusing the U.S. of provoking Russia and fueling the conflict by shipping arms to Ukraine. Xi also renewed China's criticism of sanctions imposed on Russia over the invasion, according to Chinese State Media. As in past, Xi did not use the terms war or invasion to describe Russia's actions.

"As leaders of major countries, we need to consider properly resolving global hot spot

issues, and more importantly, global stability and the production and life of billions of people," he was quoted as saying.

Earlier this week, the U.S. informed Asian and European allies that American intelligence had determined that China had signaled to Russia that it would be willing to provide both military support for the campaign in Ukraine and financial backing to help stave off the impact of severe sanctions imposed by the West.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday reiterated that the Biden administration remains concerned that China is considering providing military equipment to Russia. He said Biden would make clear to Xi "that China will bear responsibility for any actions it takes to support Russia's aggression, and we will not hesitate to impose costs."

13-year-old was driving in fatal crash

Associated Press

HOBBS, N.M. — The investigation into this week's fiery head-on crash in West Texas now focuses on the revelation that a 13-year-old was driving the pickup truck that struck a van, killing nine people, including six members of a college golf team and their coach.

The young teen, who is still unidentified, and a man traveling in the truck also died.

National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Bruce Landsberg on Thursday revealed the truck was driven by the child. He said the truck's left front tire, which was a spare tire, blew out before im-

pact.

The pickup truck crossed into the opposite lane on the darkened, two-lane highway before colliding head-on with the van. Both vehicles burst into flames.

Although it was unclear how fast the two vehicles were traveling, "this was clearly a high-speed collision," Landsberg said.

Landsberg said investigators hoped to retrieve enough information from the vehicles' recorders, if they survived, to understand what happened. He said many in the van were not wearing seat belts and at least one was ejected from the vehicle.

It's not unusual for young teens to drive in

that region and other more rural parts of the United States. One must be 14 in Texas to start taking classroom courses for a learner's license and 15 to receive that provisional license to drive with an instructor or licensed adult in the vehicle. Department of Public Safety Sgt. Victor Taylor said a 13-year-old driving would be breaking the law.

The University of the Southwest students, including one from Portugal and one from Mexico, and the coach were returning from a golf tournament in Midland, Texas, when the vehicles collided Tuesday night. Two Canadian students were hospitalized in critical condition.

Ark. deputy convicted in teen's 2021 death

Associated Press

CABOT, Ark. — A former Arkansas deputy was convicted Friday of negligent homicide and sentenced to a year in jail for fatally shooting an unarmed white teenager whose death last year drew the attention of national civil rights leaders.

Jurors acquitted Michael Davis of the more serious offense of manslaughter while finding him guilty of the misdemeanor charge in the death of 17-year-old Hunter Brittain during a June 23 traffic stop outside Cabot, a city of about 26,000 people roughly 30 miles northeast of Little Rock.

The maximum jail term that Davis, a former sergeant with the Lonoke County sher-

iff's office, faced was one year. Manslaughter is a felony for which he would have faced between three and 10 years in prison. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that Davis also received a \$1,000 fine.

Davis, who is white, told investigators he shot Brittain once in the neck during the stop outside an auto repair shop after the teen exited his truck and reached into the bed of the pickup while failing to comply with Davis' commands to show his hands, according to the arrest affidavit. A passenger and another witness testified they never heard Davis tell the teen to show his hands.

After the verdict was announced, Brittain's family and friends chanted "justice

for Hunter" outside the Army National Guard facility that was used for the trial, which began Tuesday.

Rebecca Payne, Brittain's grandmother, said family members wanted the deputy convicted of the felony to ensure he could not serve as a law enforcement officer again.

"Now what's going to happen? Are people going to have to fear for their lives again?" she told reporters.

Davis was fired by the Lonoke County sheriff for not turning on his body camera until after shooting Brittain. The footage, presented at the trial, shows only the moments after it happened.

Smollett now out of jail, faces uncertain future

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jussie Smollett walked out of a Chicago jail after serving six days and walked into months, if not years, of uncertainty — from what's next for his career as an actor and performer to whether he'll eventually be back behind bars.

The former star of the TV show "Empire" was sentenced last week to 150 days in jail plus probation and a fine after a jury found him guilty of lying to police about being the victim of a racist, anti-gay attack in downtown Chicago in 2019. His release late Wednesday came hours after an appellate court ordered he could go free during the appeal process, which wouldn't be completed before Smollett had served his full sentence.

Smollett, who is Black and gay, has maintained his innocence. He didn't speak to reporters as he was escorted out of the Cook County Jail surrounded by security, and his attorneys wouldn't say where the 39-year-old may be heading or what he plans to do next.

Under the conditions of the sentence imposed by Cook County Judge James Linn, Smollett must now serve the 30-month probation, though he may leave the state and travel without restrictions. That means he could travel to places like Los Angeles and New York to try to resurrect his career.

But that will be difficult to do, publicists say, and the latest developments may not have done him any favors.

"I think he's actually doing more harm

than good" by fighting the conviction and sentence, said publicist Eric Rose. People can be very forgiving of celebrities who admit wrongdoing and apologize, he said, but instead Smollett is keeping his name and face in the headlines, reminding people of the circumstances of his conviction.

"That's what we call 'death by 1,000 cuts,'" Rose said. "From a reputation perspective, that is horrible."

During his trial, Smollett testified that "I've lost my livelihood" because of the charges against him, including losing his role on "Empire." He has since worked behind the scenes, writing, directing and producing a film, "B-Boy Blues," that recently won the "fan favorite narrative feature" award in the American Black Film Festival.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Drinkable sunscreen' maker resolves dispute

CA LOS ANGELES — A company that marketed and sold a "drinkable sunscreen" has agreed to a legal settlement to resolve allegations of deceptive advertising, California's attorney general announced.

Marketing and sale of the product called UVO stopped during the investigation, Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement.

"We may want a shortcut, but the truth of the matter is: There's no evidence that alternative sunscreen products like UVO's so-called 'drinkable sunscreen' provide protection. You've got to wear your sunscreen, not drink it," Bonta said.

Bill to end marriage for 14-, 15-year-olds OK'd

AK JUNEAU — The Alaska House passed legislation that would repeal a provision of law that allows a court to grant permission for someone as young as 14 to marry.

The repeal provision was adopted as representatives weighed amendments to a bill dealing with witness requirements for marriage. The bill passed 27-13. The measure next goes to the Senate for consideration.

The bill repeals a section of law that spells out a process under which a court can grant permission for someone as young as 14 years old to marry. It leaves in place another provision of law that allows for 16- and 17-year-olds to marry with parental consent.

Bulldog tossed from truck needs new home

CT WOODBRIDGE — An abandoned bulldog who suffered through a botched surgery and was left on a roadside has made a remarkable recovery and is seeking a new home.

Staff at the Woodbridge Regional Animal Control said the pooch, who they named Mary, has been at the shelter since late October after someone tossed her out of a pickup truck.

A woman driving behind the truck saw the dog being discarded and took her to the home of friend who is a volunteer at the shelter. The driver of the pickup hasn't been identified.

Animal Control Officer Karen Lombardi told Hearst Connecticut Media the 3½-year-old animal had had a makeshift cesarean section and was bleeding heavily when she was found, but was given antibiotics and later underwent surgery to remove her uterus. It's possible the dog was being used as a "cash cow," to breed with other dogs such as pit bulls.

Jail time for man over marijuana brownies

SD TYNDALL — A South Dakota man has been ordered to spend 60 days in jail for providing the marijuana in the brownies his mother unknowingly served to seniors at a card game.

Michael Koranda, 46, had earlier pleaded guilty to a felony drug charge. A judge in Bon Homme County also sentenced the Tabor man to two years of probation and ordered him to pay more than \$3,400 in court

costs and restitution. He must also write an apology letter to the seniors who ate the marijuana brownies.

Koranda resigned his position with the Bon Homme school district as its vocal music teacher as a result of his court case.

Charges upgraded after woman hit by car dies

GA ATLANTA — The charges against a 69-year-old Georgia woman have been upgraded after the 78-year-old woman she allegedly pushed into the path of a car, trapping her underneath, died.

Atlanta Police said Gloria Franklin, of Powder Springs, initially was charged with aggravated assault. An additional charge of voluntary manslaughter was added to the case and Franklin was arrested on the new charges, news outlets reported.

The charges stem from a March 1 argument that happened inside the parking deck of Piedmont Hospital. Franklin and Jacqueline Mixon, of Douglasville, Ga., argued and at some point Franklin pushed Mixon hard to the ground in the lane of traffic. While on the ground Mixon was hit by an oncoming vehicle, police said.

Relocation of historic graffiti gets approval

VA STAFFORD — Officials in a Virginia county have agreed to a developer's plan to move parts of a historic rock formation marked with soldiers' graffiti to a Civil War park to make way for warehouses.

The Stafford County Board of

Supervisors voted unanimously to let Peterson Cos. relocate portions of the tall sandstone mass to the Stafford Civil War Park, The Free Lance-Star reported.

The vote also allows the developer to proceed with clearing the area for the project Peterson describes as a 177-acre industrial campus.

More than 213,000 Union Army soldiers occupied Stafford between 1862 and 1864. Etchings left by soldiers standing watch at the remote outpost nearly 160 years ago are visible on rock formations known as Buzzard's Roost deep in the woods near Stafford Regional Airport.

Man pleads guilty to taking 2 bear cubs

CA SACRAMENTO — A Northern California man who admitted to taking two bear cubs from their den and notified officials after he was unable to care for them pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited species, wildlife officials said.

Cody Dylan Setzer, 29, and a co-worker who has not been identified and cooperated with authorities took the month-old bears from their den in a tree that had fallen across a forest road, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said.

Setzer contacted wildlife officers on March 9, 2019, and told them he had found the baby bears along Highway 263 north of Yreka in Siskiyou County, the department said.

But wildlife officers became suspicious of his story after they went out to the site and found no bear tracks or habitat.

-From Associated Press

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Saint Peter's stuns Kentucky in NCAAs

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Saint Peter's acted like it had been there before.

After the 15th-seeded Peacocks bounced storied Kentucky from the NCAA Tournament on Thursday night, they calmly exchanged handshakes with the Wildcats before heading over to the opposite sideline to celebrate with a small contingent of true believers.

The tiny Jesuit school from Jersey City, N.J., got 27 points from Daryl Banks III as it took down basketball royalty, beating second-seeded Kentucky 85-79 in overtime and sending

countless brackets into the digital wastebasket.

"It was an amazing feeling," Banks said. "You grow up you watching March Madness, the tournament, so to let that sink in — knowing the game was over — it felt really good."

The Peacocks became the 10th No. 15 seed to win a first-round game since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985 and handed Kentucky its first opening-round loss under coach John Calipari.

"At the end of the day, every team that made it to the NCAA Tournament deserves to be here. Every team that made it to

the NCAA Tournament believes they can advance. It's about this night," Saint Peter's coach Shaheen Holloway said.

Saint Peter's, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference champion, kept it close throughout and Banks' two free throws with 1:45 left in overtime gave the Peacocks the lead for good. Doug Edert's layup with 24 seconds left in regulation sent the game to overtime. He also made the final two game-sealing free throws for the Peacocks and finished with 20 points.

Saint Peter's (20-11) moves on to face Murray State in Saturday's second round in the East

Region.

Not bad for a school with an enrollment of about 3,500 that's made half as many NCAA Tournament appearances (four) as Kentucky has national titles (eight). Kentucky had nearly 31,800 students enrolled on its 900-acre campus as of last fall and has the second highest-paid coach in college hoops in Calipari (more than \$8 million per year).

"It's huge," Banks said. "We're putting Jersey City on the map. We come from Jersey, a small school, probably a lot of people don't even know who we are."

Saint Mary's ends Indiana's grueling run in 1st round

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Logan Johnson scored 20 points and fifth-seeded Saint Mary's took advantage of No. 12 seed Indiana's grueling recent schedule, rolling to an 82-53 victory in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday.

Tommy Kuhse added 19 points and six assists for the Gaels (26-7), the only team to beat Gonzaga in the West Coast Conference this season.

Trayce Jackson-Davis had 12 points for Indiana (21-14), which arrived in Portland on Wednesday morning after an all-nighter because of flight delays from Dayton following the First Four.

Thursday's game was Indiana's fifth in seven days. Saint Mary's came in fresh from a 10-day layoff after falling to the Bulldogs in the WCC Tournament title game.

Murray State 92, San Francisco 87 (OT): At Indianapolis, KJ Williams scored six of his 18 points in overtime after his team blew an eight-point lead late in regulation, and the seventh-seeded Racers extended their winning streak to 21 games by beating the Dons.

Baylor 85, Norfolk State 49: At Fort Worth, Texas, Matthew Mayer scored a career-high 22 points and the defending national champion Bears beat the Spartans.

North Carolina 95, Marquette 63: At Fort Worth, Texas, Brady Manek scored 28 points, Caleb Love had 21 of his 23 before halftime and the Tar Heels routed the Gold-

en Eagles.

UCLA 57, Akron 53: At Portland, Ore., Tyger Campbell rescued his team from a potential upset, scoring eight straight points late in the second half, and the fourth-seeded Bruins rallied past the No. 13 seed Zips.

South Region

Michigan 75, Colorado State 63: At Indianapolis, Freshman Frankie Collins provided the spark his team needed, helping the 11th-seeded Wolverines rally from a 15-point deficit to beat the sixth-seeded Rams.

Tennessee 88, Longwood 56: At Indianapolis, Santiago Vescovi scored 18 points and the Volunteers pounded the Lancers.

Midwest Region

Creighton 72, San Diego State 69 (OT): At Fort Worth, Texas, Trey Alexander converted a go-ahead, three-point play late in overtime, and the Bluejays rallied past the Aztecs.

Kansas 83, Texas Southern 56: At Fort Worth, Texas, Remy Martin had 15 points and Christian Braun 14 as five players scored in double figures for the top-seeded Jayhawks, who opened their 50th NCAA Tournament by beating the Tigers.

Richmond 67, Iowa 63: At Buffalo, N.Y., Jacob Gilyard scored 24 points, Tyler Burton added 18 points and 11 rebounds, and the No. 12 seed Spider leaned on their experience to defeat the Big Ten tournament

champion Hawkeyes.

Providence 66, South Dakota State 57: At Buffalo, N.Y., Al Durham had 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists and Jared Bynum made three big free throws with 29.9 seconds left as the Friars snapped the longest winning streak in college basketball by beating the Jackrabbits.

South Dakota State (30-6) came in on a 21-game winning streak.

West Region

New Mexico State 70, UConn 63: At Buffalo, N.Y., Teddy Allen scored 37 points and the Aggies won an NCAA Tournament game for the first time almost three decades, upsetting the fifth-seeded Huskies to become the second No. 12 seed to advance out of the first round.

Arkansas 75, Vermont 71: At Buffalo, N.Y., Stanley Umude scored 21 points, JD Notae scored all 17 of his in the second half, and the No. 4 seed Razorbacks hung on to beat the 13th-seeded Catamounts.

Gonzaga 93, Georgia State 72: At Portland, Ore., Drew Timme scored 22 of his 32 points in the second half and the top overall seed Bulldogs struggled to shake the No. 16 seed Panthers for 30 minutes before pulling away late.

Memphis 64, Boise State 53: At Portland, Ore., DeAndre Williams had 14 points, Jalen Duren made a crucial basket down the stretch and the No. 9 seed Tigers held off a second-half rally by the Broncos.

Source: Raiders acquiring Adams from Pack

Associated Press

The Las Vegas Raiders are making a blockbuster move to keep up in the AFC West, acquiring wide receiver Davante Adams from the Green Bay Packers.

A person familiar with the move said Thursday the Raiders are sending the No. 22 overall pick in the April draft and additional compensation to the Packers to reunite Adams with his college quarterback, Derek Carr. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal hadn't been announced.

NFL Network reported that Adams has agreed to a new five-year deal with the Raiders that will pay the All-Pro \$141.25 million in the richest deal ever for a wide receiver.

This was an aggressive move by the Raiders' new regime led by coach Josh McDaniels and general manager Dave Ziegler and the latest in an AFC West arms race as teams try to catch Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs. Denver traded for quarterback Russell Wilson and the

Chargers acquired edge rusher Khalil Mack.

The Raiders are trying to keep pace and build on a 10-win season that sent them to the playoffs for only the second time in the past 19 seasons.

Las Vegas potentially has one of the league's most dynamic offenses and Carr his best set of playmakers with Adams teaming with Pro Bowl slot receiver Hunter Renfrow, tight end Darren Waller and running back Josh Jacobs.

Carr has a strong history with Adams; they played two seasons together in college at Fresno State. In their final year together in 2013, Adams had 131 catches for 1,719 yards and 24 TDs.

The next big move for the Raiders likely will be extending Carr's contract. He is playing on the final year of a five-year, \$125 million deal and is in line for a lucrative extension now that the Raiders appear to be going all-in.

Adams has been one of the most productive receivers in the NFL in recent years. His 432 catches, 5,310 yards receiving

and 47 TD receptions lead the NFL over the past four seasons.

In other news Thursday:

■ The Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams agreed to terms on a three-year contract for receiver Allen Robinson, one of the NFL's most dependable veteran pass catchers during his eight seasons in the league.

Robinson has three 1,000-yard seasons during a productive career split between Jacksonville and Chicago. He caught 38 passes for 410 yards while limited to just 12 games by injuries for the Bears, but he racked up 2,397 yards and 13 TDs in his previous two seasons combined in Chicago.

■ The Buffalo Bills cut Cole Beasley, their top slot receiver, to free up salary cap space a day after making a huge splash by signing two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year Von Miller to a six-year contract.

■ The Detroit Lions signed wide receiver DJ Chark to a \$10 million, one-year contract in a short-term investment for a former Pro Bowl player coming off

an injury-shortened season. A broken ankle limited Chark to four games last season in Jacksonville. He earned Pro Bowl recognition in 2019 after he had 73 receptions for 1,008 yards and eight touchdowns with the Jaguars.

■ Dallas released right tackle La'el Collins in another cost-cutting move involving a starter on offense. Collins will be designated as a post-June 1 cut in a salary cap-saving move netting \$10 million later this year.

■ Others released Thursday as post-June 1 designations were defensive tackle Fletcher Cox of Philadelphia and Cleveland tight end Austin Hooper. The Giants released veteran safety Logan Ryan after he started 30 of 31 games.

■ The Packers signed De'Vondre Campbell to keep their All-Pro linebacker at home.

■ The New York Jets agreed with defensive end Jacob Martin on terms for a three-year deal worth up to \$16.5 million, according to a person with direct knowledge of the contract.

Smith leads Longwood women past Mount St. Mary's

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Akila Smith had 32 points and 13 rebounds, Kyla McMakin added 18 points with four three-pointers and No. 16 seed Longwood led by 22 points before holding off Mount St. Mary's 74-70 on Thursday night in an inaugural First Four game.

Longwood (22-11) will take a 10-game winning streak into a Saturday contest with ACC champion North Carolina State (29-3), the top seed of the Bridgeport Region. The Lancers are making their first NCAA Tournament appearance — three years removed from finishing with a 3-27 record.

Longwood scored the opening 13 points of the game, with

eight from Smith, and led the rest of the way.

It was 36-18 at halftime — with 18 points and eight rebounds from Smith.

Mount St. Mary's was 1-for-13 from three-point range in the first half — nearly getting a second from Kendall Bresee on a half-court shot at the buzzer but it was waved off after a video review.

Longwood had its lead cut to 55-43 entering the fourth quarter. The Mount made six of their first eight three-pointers of the second half and got within 57-50, but Smith scored the next six points for a 13-point lead with 5:07 left. Tra'Dayja Smith made 5 of 6 free throws in the final 30 seconds to help Longwood keep a two-posses-

sion lead.

Mount St. Mary's (16-13), which only had seven available players due to injuries, lost for the first time in seven games.

Bresee, averaging a team-high 17.4 points a game, scored 15 of her 20 points in the third quarter for the Mount. She had just two points in the first half.

Mount St. Mary's missed its first 10 shots of the game, eight coming from three-point range, before ending its scoreless drought with 4:11 remaining on two free throws by Jada Lee. The Mount finished the first quarter shooting just 1-for-16, including 0-for-9 behind the arc.

Mount St. Mary's was making its second straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament

after entering the bubble in San Antonio as a No. 15 seed and falling in the first round to Maryland 98-45.

Missouri State 61, Florida State 50: At Baton Rouge, La., Mya Bhinhar scored 12 points, Mariah White had 11 points and five steals and the Lady Bears beat the Seminoles in a First Four game.

Eleventh-seeded Missouri State (25-7) will face sixth-seeded Ohio State in the Spokane Region on Saturday.

Sydney Wilson also scored 11 points for Missouri State and Ifunanya Nwachukwu had 10. The Lady Bears forced 17 turnovers and held Florida State (17-14) to just 27.4% shooting.

O'Mariah Gordon scored 12 points for Florida State.

Palmieri lifts Islanders over Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kyle Palmieri scored the tiebreaking goal with less than three minutes left in the third period and Ilya Sorokin made 29 saves as the New York Islanders beat the rival New York Rangers 2-1 Thursday night.

Anders Lee also scored for the Islanders, who are 4-0-1 in their past five games.

Chris Kreider scored his 40th goal — and league-best 21st on the power play — and Igor Shesterkin had 26 saves for the Rangers, who had won two straight.

Palmieri got his 11th goal of the season with 2:44 left with assists to defensemen Adam Pelech and Ryan Pulock. Palmieri has points in six consecutive games and in nine of his last 10.

"I ended up at the net front and Pully made a great play," said Palmieri, who has four goals in his last three games. "We're rolling in the right direction."

Sorokin was spectacular from the start as the Isles continued their recent mastery against their rivals at Madison Square Garden. The Islanders are 8-3-0 in their last 11 visits to the Rangers' home ice, winning three of four last season. Both goaltenders were outstanding from the start in a tense game that felt like a playoff clash. Shesterkin made 26 saves, losing in regulation for only the fourth time in his last 21 starts.

Maple Leafs 3, Hurricanes 2: Erik Kallgren made 34 saves as host Toronto beat Carolina for the rookie goalie's second straight victory.

Mitch Marner, Ilya Mikheyev and Ondrej Kase scored for Toronto. The Maple Leafs were again without NHL goals leader Auston Matthews as he served the second of a

two-game suspension.

The Maple Leafs sported their green and white Toronto St. Pats jerseys — a nod to the franchise's moniker from 1919-27 — on St. Patrick's Day.

Golden Knights 5, Panthers 3: Evgenii Dadonov scored twice, Nic Roy had the winner in the third period and host Vegas beat Florida.

Brett Howden and William Karlsson each added a goal for the Golden Knights. Logan Thompson made 33 saves as Vegas snapped a five-game losing streak and moved into eighth place in the Western Conference with 70 points, one point in front of Dallas, with 19 games to play.

Capitals 7, Blue Jackets 2: Anthony Mantha scored twice, Alex Ovechkin and Connor Sheary each had a goal and an assist and visiting Washington beat Columbus for its third straight victory.

Martin Fehervary, Connor McMichael and Evgeny Kuznetsov also scored and Nikolas Backstrom added two assists to help Washington improve to 6-0-1 in its last seven games. Vitek Vanecsek stopped 39 shots.

Penguins 3, Blues 2 (SO): Bryan Rust scored the deciding goal in a shootout and goalie Tristan Jarry picked up his 30th victory in visiting Pittsburgh's win over St. Louis.

The fourth shooter for the Penguins, Rust snapped a wrist shot from the slot past goalie Ville Husso.

Islanders 2, Rangers 1: At New York, Kyle Palmieri scored the tiebreaking goal with less than three minutes left in the third period and Ilya Sorokin made 29 saves in the Islanders victory over the rival Rangers.

Anders Lee also scored for the Islanders.

They are 4-0-1 in their last five games.

Chris Kreider scored his 40th goal — and NHL-best 21st on the power play — and Igor Shesterkin had 26 saves for the Rangers.

Flyers 5, Predators 4: Kevin Hayes scored the late tying goal and assisted on Joel Farabee's winner with 1:19 remaining to lead host Philadelphia past Nashville after honoring captain Claude Giroux for playing in his 1,000th regular-season game.

Travis Sanheim had a goal and an assist, and James van Riemsdyk and Cam York also scored for Philadelphia. The Flyers snapped a three-game losing streak.

Oilers 6, Sabres 1: Connor McDavid, Kailer Yamamoto and Tyson Barrie each had a goal and an assist and host Edmonton beat Buffalo for its fourth victory in a row.

Leon Draisaitl, Darnell Nurse and Devin Shore also scored for the Oilers, and Mike Smith made 27 saves for his first victory since Feb. 17.

Stars 4, Canadiens 3 (OT): John Klingberg scored late in regulation and in overtime to lift visiting Dallas past Montreal.

Klingberg tied it with 4:46 left in regulation and ended it with 10 seconds to go in the five-minute overtime.

Red Wings 1, Canucks 0: Alex Nedeljkovic made 43 saves, Pius Suter scored and visiting Detroit beat Vancouver to end a six-game winless streak.

Nedeljkovic had his second of the season and the fifth of his career. Suter scored midway through the second period.

Kings 3, Sharks 0: Anze Kopitar scored on the power play, Cal Petersen made 29 saves and host Los Angeles beat San Jose.

Phillip Danault and Adrian Kempe also scored for the Kings.

Bey's 51-point performance powers Pistons past Magic

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Saddiq Bey scored a career-high 51 points and the Detroit Pistons beat the Orlando Magic 134-120 on Thursday night to end a four-game losing streak.

Bey tied the franchise record with 10 three-pointers in 14 attempts. He was 17-for-27 overall.

Two nights after being torched for 16 points in the first quarter by Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving on his way to a 60-point game, the Magic gave up 21 points in the first quarter to Bey.

"I saw those highlights and it was just very efficient. It was within the flow of the game," Bey said. "That was a great performance to watch, and I think just throughout the NBA there's been a lot of great performances in the past two weeks. I'm just grateful to be in this league to have the opportunity."

Marvin Bagley III added 20 points and 11 rebounds for Detroit in the matchup of the bottom two teams in the Eastern Conference. Franz Wagner led Orlando with 26 points.

"Rebuilding is always ugly," Detroit

coach Dwane Casey said, "but there's a lot of beautiful moments like tonight."

Bey finished the first half in spectacular fashion, scoring five points in less than five seconds.

He hit a 20-footer while falling out of bounds with 8.8 seconds left, came up with a back-court steal and made a three-pointer with 3.9 seconds left, leaving the Pistons with a 73-62 lead.

"He had 30 points at half so we were definitely expecting 50," said Pistons center Isaiah Stewart, who had 16 points and 10 rebounds.