

FBI: Trump targeted, gunman charged

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Donald Trump was the target of what the FBI said “appears to be an attempted assassination” at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Fla., on Sunday, just nine weeks after the Republican presidential nominee survived another attempt on his life.

The former president said he was safe and well, and authorities held a man in custody.

Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, faces charges of possessing a firearm despite being a convicted felon and possessing a firearm with an obliterated serial number. Additional and more serious charges are possible as the investigation continues and prosecutors seek an indictment from a grand jury.

U.S. Secret Service agents stationed a few holes up from where Trump was playing noticed the muzzle of an AK-style rifle sticking through the shrub-

bery that lines the course, roughly 400 yards away.

An agent fired and the gunman dropped the rifle and fled in an SUV, leaving the firearm behind along with two backpacks, a scope used for aiming and a GoPro camera, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said. The man was later stopped by law enforcement in a neighboring county.

It was the latest jarring moment in a campaign year marked by unprecedented upheaval. On July 13, Trump was shot during a rally in Butler, Pa., and a bullet grazed his ear. Eight days later, Democratic President Joe Biden withdrew from the race, giving way for Vice President Kamala Harris to become the party’s nominee.

And it spawned new questions about Secret Service protective operations after the agency’s admitted failures in preventing the assassination at-

tempt this summer.

Routh had a calm, flat demeanor and showed little emotion when he was stopped, according to Martin County Sheriff William Snyder.

“He never asked, ‘What is this about?’ Obviously, law enforcement with long rifles, blue lights, a lot going on. He never questioned it,” Snyder said.

In an email to supporters, Trump said: “There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL!” He wrote: “Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER!”

He returned to Mar-a-Lago, his private club in Palm Beach where he lives, according to a person familiar with Trump’s movements who was not authorized to discuss them publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately clear how the development would affect his schedule or campaign dynamics. Trump was set to speak from Florida about cryptocurrency live on Monday night on X and had stops planned Tuesday and Wednesday in Michigan and on New York’s Long Island.

An email to Trump campaign staffers obtained by AP said, “We ask that you remain vigilant in your daily comings and goings.”

“As we enter the last 50 days of President Trump’s campaign, we must remember that we will only be able save America from those who seek to destroy it by working together as one team.”

Biden and Harris were briefed on the matter and each issued a statement condemning political violence. Harris’ added that she was “deeply disturbed” by the day’s events.

Navy to have a chaplain on every destroyer by 2025

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy is poised to meet its goal of having a chaplain serving aboard each of its destroyers by 2025, culminating a yearslong effort to have dedicated emotional and spiritual counselors aboard the warships to help sailors battle the struggles that can arise during long missions at sea.

The service set a goal in 2023 to assign one chaplain per destroyer by 2025 in hopes of filling a shortage of emotional, mental and spiritual counselors aboard those ships. The goal meant creating 48 new perma-

nent billets.

As of September, the Navy had a dedicated chaplain serving aboard 29 of 31 East Coast-based destroyers and 27 of 45 West Coast-based destroyers, leaving 20 billets to be created in the coming year.

“But they will all be filled in fiscal year 2025. That is when the funding comes online for the unfilled billets,” said Rear Adm. Gregory Todd, chief of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps.

The Navy began focusing on mental health resources and quality-of-life initiatives in 2022 after a spate of 10 suicides and at least two suicide attempts

aboard the aircraft carriers USS Ronald Reagan, USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS George Washington. The service documented 71 suicides in 2022 and another 69 suicides in 2023, according to the Defense Suicide Prevention Office.

While the Navy Chaplain Corps already has permanent positions aboard larger vessels such as aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships and guided-missile cruisers, chaplains have historically supported destroyers at the squadron level, with two assigned to accommodate multiple warships spread across an area of responsibility.

The difference between a squadron level chaplain and a dedicated destroyer chaplain, Todd said, is all about accessibility.

“If you have two chaplains per squadron, they are always a visitor,” he said. “They are somebody that is not part of the crew, not part of the ebb and flow of the ship’s life.”

Putting a chaplain onboard a ship full time, Todd said, fosters better relationships between the chaplains and the crew. Chaplains serve as religious advisers and routinely assist sailors with operational stress, family problems and coping with life at sea.

Naval Academy's admissions policy on race focus of trial

The Baltimore Sun

Whether the U.S. Naval Academy's interests in a more diverse student body are distinct enough to allow it to continue considering race and ethnicity in admissions is at issue in a trial that begins Monday in U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

A footnote in last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the use of racial and ethnic preferences in college admissions noted that the ruling didn't address military academies because of their "potentially distinct interests." The academy in Annapolis, Md., was sued by the same group of activists, Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA), who had sued Harvard and the University of North Carolina, leading to the Supreme Court decision rejecting affirmative action in the college selection process.

The founder of the Virginia-based group, Edward Blum, declined to comment Friday, citing the upcoming trial. "Students for Fair Admissions looks forward to presenting our case to the district court," said the longtime activist against affirmative action.

Shortly after its July 2023 victory at the Supreme Court, SFFA turned its attention to the military academies, first suing West Point in September and then the Naval Academy in October.

"The Supreme Court said military academies might be different," University of Baltimore law professor Michael Meyerson said. "That's really the bottom line."

The footnote in the high court's Harvard and North Carolina ruling noted a brief filed by federal officials contending that using race as a factor in admissions to the service academies furthered "compelling interests." U.S. officials argued that the nation's military strength and readiness required a "pipeline" of highly qualified and racially diverse officers to lead forces that themselves are diverse.

"Indeed, history teaches that racial diversity is a national security imperative," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in her dissent. She went on to note how during the Vietnam War, there were perceptions that racial and ethnic minorities were serving as "cannon fodder" for a white military leadership.

Meyerson, who specializes in constitutional law and American legal history, said the fact

that the Supreme Court addressed the issue of the service academies in its rulings could signal that it may consider the military's needs compelling enough to warrant an exemption from the ban on using race as a factor.

"Traditionally, the courts have given tremendous deference to the military when it says what it needs," he said. "It is very possible the Supreme Court will uphold the use of race as one of the criteria for admissions."

"The fact that they left the door open may have meant that they intended for the door to stay open," Meyerson said.

The case will be heard by U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett, whose official biography notes he served over 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and Maryland National Guard. That could figure into the case, Meyerson said, given that those with a military background "understand the importance of discipline and unity" within the leadership and ranks. He was appointed to the federal bench in 2003 by President George W. Bush.

In its lawsuit, SFFA argued that "instead of admitting midshipmen solely on leadership potential and objective metrics — the Academy stopped requiring applicants to submit standardized scores three years ago — the Academy focuses on race." The lawsuit seeks to have the academy's admissions process declared a violation of the equal protection clause of the constitution and for a ban on using race as a factor in deciding who to admit.

In December, Bennett ruled against SFFA's request for a preliminary injunction and allowed the Naval Academy to continue using race as part of its admissions process.

"Simply stated, it is unclear whether SFFA is likely to succeed on the merits at this stage," he said in his ruling.

Bennett said he was "clearly guided" by the decision in the Harvard case, and noted that "great focus must be placed" on the footnote that "suggests that compelling government interests may justify affirmative action at military academies."

He wrote that he was not convinced that SFFA "had met its burden in demonstrating that it is likely to succeed in showing that the Naval Academy's consideration of race and ethnicity in admissions does not serve a compelling national security interest."

Quad nations eye joint patrols amid China provocations

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

The United States, Australia, India and Japan are planning joint coast guard and maritime police patrols amid growing Chinese activity in the region, according to unnamed diplomatic sources cited Monday by Japan's Kyodo News.

The plan aims to stem illegal fishing and may be included in a joint statement issued at a summit of the four nations, known as the Quad, for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, on Saturday in Delaware, the agency reported.

It comes as clashes grow in number between Manila and Beijing over territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The Philippine navy reported 203 Chinese ships in disputed waters between Aug. 27 and Sept. 2.

Public affairs officials at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, which hosts U.S. Coast Guard Activities Far East, referred questions to U.S. Forces Japan on Monday. USFJ did not immediately respond to an email query.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command chief Adm. Samuel Paparo spoke Sept. 9 via video conference with Gen. Wu Yanan, commander of China's Southern Theater Command, which oversees the South China Sea.

Discussions between senior leaders reduce the risk of misperception or miscalculation, Paparo said, according to a readout of the call from the command.

He cited recent "unsafe interactions" between China and U.S. allies and reinforced Beijing's obligation to comply with international laws and norms to ensure operational safety.

Paparo urged China to reconsider its use of "dangerous, coercive, and potentially escalatory tactics in the South China Sea and beyond."

On Thursday, Lt. Gen. He Lei, a former vice president of the Chinese army's Academy of Military Sciences, sharply critiqued U.S. plans.

"If the United States insists on being a plotter that pushes others to stand on the front line to confront China, or if it has no other choice but to challenge us by itself, the Chinese people and the [army] will never waver," he told reporters at a security forum in Beijing, according to a New York Times report Sunday.

Admiral's diversity report draws questions

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Sen. Eric Schmitt on Thursday challenged President Joe Biden's nominee to lead Southern Command over a report that the flag officer authored about improving diversity and inclusion in the Navy following the 2020 killing of George Floyd by a police officer.

Vice Adm. Alvin Holsey, who would be the first Black person to lead SOUTHCOM if he is confirmed by the Senate, distanced himself from the report and said it merely offered recommendations for the Navy to review and consider for building readiness and preparing sailors for war.

"We are a nation of immigrants. We are a nation of people serving together. There's so many of us today who are looking for an opportunity to serve. They want to serve our nation and do what's best for all of us. The Navy was looking for a way to find out who people were," Holsey said. "After two years in carrier strike group command, I was asked to lead this effort. I did not ask for it. I didn't want to do it, but I think I was selected to do it because of my character [and] my reputation."

"Listen, I admire your career," said Schmitt, a Missouri

Republican. "This is not the first time I've asked on this kind of topic when people came before [to testify] and their name has been associated with some of these ideas."

The exchange was the only opposition that arose during the nearly two-hour Senate Armed Services Committee hearing to discuss Holsey to lead SOUTHCOM and Air Force Lt. Gen. Steven Nordhaus to lead the National Guard Bureau.

Most questions focused on the specific missions of each organization and the related national security and readiness concerns, and the officers' willingness to combat aggression from Russia and China.

Beyond Schmitt, the senators asked little about the men's history of service.

The Task Force One Navy report published in February 2021 at the direction of Adm. Michael Gilday, who was then chief of naval operations, was done with the intention of recommending how to make the Navy an organization where sailors "feel included, respected and empowered," according to the report.

The Defense Department and other service branches released similar reports, as did many other government and private enti-

ties, as the country grappled with racial injustice laid bare in the death of Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes. Derek Chauvin, the officer and an Army Reserve veteran, was convicted and sentenced to prison in Floyd's death.

Holsey, who is also nominated for promotion to admiral, served as director of Task Force One Navy, and the report offered 56 recommendations focused on recruiting, retention, professional development and innovation. Schmitt focused on two recommendations: offering applicants of the Navy ROTC and the U.S. Naval Academy a cultural questionnaire tailored to individual minority candidates, and labeling minority sailors and officers with a "diversity stamp" during promotion boards.

"I do think it's incredibly divisive," Schmitt said. "It's just dividing the room by immutable characteristics. ... It has no place in our military. I do think we should be active in reaching out to a broad group of people to serve. I don't disagree with that at all."

While Schmitt did not say whether his concerns would affect his willingness to confirm

Holsey, he did conclude the line of questioning with a promise to send along additional questions.

"There's just a lot of questions about this report that I have, which I hope you can appreciate. I'm not alone in this. I think we need to do everything we can to ensure that our armed services, our military, is the great meritocracy should be," he said. "This obsession with race is not good for us. I don't think gets us further down the road. I think it's hurting recruiting."

Committee Chairman Jack Reed, D-R.I., closed the hearing soon after by telling Holsey and Nordhaus that he looked forward to their confirmation.

"We'll try to do it with some diligence and speed," he said.

Earlier last week, Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., put a hold on the confirmation of another military officer, Lt. Gen. Ronald Clark, who was nominated to lead the Army's Pacific Command. He is now serving as the top military aide to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

If confirmed, Holsey would take over SOUTHCOM from Army Gen. Laura Richardson, who will retire. Holsey now serves as Richardson's deputy commander.

Houthis say they downed another drone made in US

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed Monday that they shot down another American-made MQ-9 Reaper drone, with video circulating online showing what appeared to be a surface-to-air missile strike and flaming wreckage strewn across the ground.

The U.S. military said it was aware of the Houthis' claimed downing of a drone over the country's southwestern Dharmar province, without elaborating. The Houthis have exagger-

ated claims in the past in their ongoing campaign targeting shipping in the Red Sea over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The online video bolstered the claim, however, particularly after two recent claims by the Houthis included no evidence.

Other videos showed armed rebels gathered around the flaming wreckage, a propeller similar to those used by the armed drone visible in the flames.

One attempted to pick up a piece of the metal before dropping

it due to the heat.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesperson, identified the drone as an MQ-9, without elaborating on how he came to the determination.

He said it was the third downed by the group in a week, though the other two claims did not include similar video or other evidence.

The U.S. military similarly has not acknowledged losing any aircraft.

Saree said the Houthis used a locally produced missile. Iran, however, has armed the rebels

with a surface-to-air missile known as the 358 for years. Iran has denied arming the rebels, though Tehran-manufactured weaponry has been found on the battlefield and in seaborne shipments heading to Yemen despite a United Nations arms embargo.

Reapers, which cost around \$30 million apiece, can fly at altitudes up to 50,000 feet and have an endurance of up to 24 hours before needing to land. The aircraft have been flown by both the U.S. military and the CIA over Yemen for years.

Deadly flooding swamps Central Europe

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Exceptionally heavy rainfall pounding Central Europe has prompted deadly flooding in the region, with four new deaths reported Monday in Poland, three in Czech Republic and one in Romania.

The flooding has swamped parts of Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania as a low-pressure system crossing the region has unleashed record-high rains for days, and it was expected to affect Slovakia

and Hungary later in the week. So far 16 people have been reported killed — seven people in Romania, five in Poland, three in the Czech Republic and one in Austria.

In Poland, Prime Minister Donald Tusk held an emergency meeting and later declared a disaster in flooded areas, a government measure to facilitate evacuation and rescues.

He also said the government would provide \$258,000 in immediate payouts to victims.

The flooding in Poland has

burst dams and embankments, while receding waters have left streets covered in piles of debris and mud. It prompted a hospital in the southwestern Polish city of Nysa to evacuate about 40 patients.

Schools and offices in the affected areas were closed Monday and drinking water and food were being delivered by trucks. Many Polish cities, including Warsaw, have called for food donations for flood survivors.

Experts warned of flood

threats due to cresting Oder River in Opole, a city of some 130,000 residents, and Wroclaw, home to about 640,000 residents and where disastrous flooding happened in 1997.

Firefighters in southwestern Poland said flood victims included a surgeon whose body was found Monday morning in Nysa after he was returning from hospital duty.

The bodies of two women and two other men have been found in other communities in the region.

Ig Nobel Prizes reward comical science achievement

Associated Press

BOSTON — A study that explores the feasibility of using pigeons to guide missiles and one that looks at the swimming abilities of dead fish were among the winners Thursday of this year's Ig Nobels, the prize for comical scientific achievement.

Held less than a month before the actual Nobel Prizes are announced, the 34th annual Ig Nobel Prize ceremony at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was organized by the Annals of Improbable Research magazine's website to make people laugh and think. Winners received a transparent box containing historic items related to Murphy's Law — the

theme of the night — and a nearly worthless Zimbabwean \$10 trillion bill. Actual Nobel laureates handed the winners their prizes.

"While some politicians were trying to make sensible things sound crazy, scientists discovered some crazy-sounding things that make a lot of sense," Marc Abrahams, master of ceremonies and editor of the magazine, said in an email interview.

The ceremony started with Kees Moliker, winner of 2003 Ig Nobel for biology, giving out safety instructions. His prize was for a study that documented the existence of homosexual necrophilia in mallard ducks.

"This is the duck," he said,

holding up a duck. "This is the dead one."

After that, someone came on stage wearing a yellow target on their chest and a plastic face mask. Soon, they were inundated with people in the audience throwing paper airplanes at them.

Then, the awards began — several dry presentations that were interrupted by a girl coming on stage and repeatedly yelling "Please stop. I'm bored." The awards ceremony was also broken up by an international song competition inspired by Murphy's Law, including one about coleslaw and another about the legal system.

The winners were honored in

10 categories, including for peace and anatomy. Among them were scientists who showed a vine from Chile imitating the shapes of artificial plants nearby and another study that examined whether the hair on people's heads in the Northern Hemisphere swirled in the same direction as someone's hair in the Southern Hemisphere.

Other winners include a group of scientists who showed that fake medicine that causes side effects can be more effective than fake medicine that doesn't cause side effects and one showing that some mammals are capable of breathing through their anus.

Last text from Titan submersible was 'all good here'

Associated Press

Among the last words heard from the crew of an experimental submersible headed for the wreck of the Titanic were "all good here," according to a visual re-creation of the journey of the Titan before it imploded, killing all five on board.

The U.S. Coast Guard presented the animation Monday on the first day of what is expected to be a two-week hear-

ing on the causes of the implosion. Crew aboard the Titan were communicating with staff aboard the support ship Polar Prince via text messages, according to the presentation.

The crew lost contact after an exchange of texts about the submersible's depth and weight as it descended. The Polar Prince then sent repeated messages asking if the Titan could still see the ship on its

onboard display. One of Titan's final responses, which became spotty as it descended, was "all good here."

The Titan imploded on June 18, 2023, killing all five on board and setting off a worldwide debate about the future of private undersea exploration.

In other testimony Monday, Coast Guard officials said the Titan was left exposed to weather and elements while in

storage for seven months in 2022 and 2023. The hull was also never reviewed by any third parties as is standard procedure, they said.

The ongoing Marine Board of Investigation is the highest level of marine casualty investigation conducted by the Coast Guard. When the hearing concludes, recommendations will be submitted to the Coast Guard's commandant.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man sentenced for killing wife during Bible study

MN ST. PAUL — A Minnesota man was sentenced to more than 33 years in prison for stabbing his wife to death during a Bible study session.

Robert Castillo, 41, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, apologized in court for killing his wife, Corinna Woodhull, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported.

Castillo's sister told police she hosted a weekly Bible study at her St. Paul home. On the night of March 21, 2023, the couple was sitting on a couch when Castillo whispered something in Woodhull's ear. After she shook her head "no," Castillo pulled out a hunting knife and stabbed her multiple times, until his own family disarmed him.

His attorney, Mark Austin, told the court that Castillo's last memory as a free man was from early that morning when he got high with a friend and ingested so much he didn't recall what happened afterward.

Police recruit dies after 'medical crisis' at training

MA NEW BRAintree — A Massachusetts State Police recruit died a day after he became unresponsive and suffered a "medical crisis" during a defensive tactics training exercise, authorities said.

Enrique Delgado-Garcia, 25, died at a hospital, a day after the exercise at the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree, department spokesperson Tim McGuirk said in a statement.

McGuirk said the academy's

on-site medical team responded immediately after Delgado-Garcia became unresponsive. They determined that he required urgent medical care and took him to the hospital, where he died.

Delgado-Garcia's mother told reporters with NBC10 Boston and Telemundo Nueva Inglaterra that he was hit and injured.

Such police training can cover a range of physical encounters to defend against tackles, punches and other attacks. McGuirk did not specify the type of exercise Delgado-Garcia took part in.

Hunter discovers remains of missing 3-year-old

WI TWO RIVERS — A hunter in northeastern Wisconsin discovered the skeletal remains of a 3-year-old boy who vanished in February, police confirmed.

Elijah Vue was last seen at the home of his mother's boyfriend in Two Rivers, police said.

A hunter preparing his property in the town of Two Rivers, a rural municipality that encircles the city, for deer season discovered the skeletal remains on Sept. 7, Two Rivers Police Chief Benjamin Meinnert said. A forensic anthropologist at the state crime lab identified them as Elijah.

Elijah's mother, Katrina Baur, 31, of Wisconsin Dells, was charged in February with one felony count of being a party to child neglect and two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer. She has pleaded not guilty. Her boyfriend, Jesse Vang, 39, of Two Rivers, was charged the same day with one felony count of be-

ing a party to child neglect. He also pleaded not guilty.

According to a criminal complaint, Baur had left her son with Vang because she wanted Vang to teach him "to be a man." Vang reported the boy missing, telling police he had taken a nap. When he woke up three hours later he was gone.

River otter attacks child, drags into the water

WA BREMERTON — A river otter attacked a child at a Seattle-area marina, dragging the youngster from a dock and into the water before the mother rescued her child, wildlife officials said.

The child was pulled underwater and resurfaced after a few moments during the encounter at the Bremerton Marina in Kitsap County, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officers said in a news release.

The otter continued to bite and scratch as the mother pulled the child out of the water. The animal chased them as they left the dock, wildlife officials said. The child was treated at a hospital.

Officers trapped the otter and took it to a disease diagnostic lab for testing, including for rabies, the release said.

Over 300 non-citizens mistakenly set up to vote

OR PORTLAND — Oregon officials acknowledged that the state mistakenly registered more than 300 non-citizens as voters since 2021 in what they described as a "data entry issue" that happened when people applied for driver's licenses.

An analysis by the Oregon De-

partment of Transportation, which oversees the state's Driver and Motor Vehicle Services, revealed that 306 non-citizens were registered to vote, said Kevin Glenn, a department spokesperson.

"It's basically a data entry issue," Glenn said, explaining that when a DMV worker enters information about a person applying for a driver's license or state ID, they can incorrectly code that the person has a U.S. birth certificate or passport when they don't.

Oregon Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade said the 306 people involved "will be notified by mail that they will not receive a ballot unless they demonstrate that they are eligible to vote."

Change-of-plea hearings set in funeral home case

CO DENVER — A federal judge has canceled an October trial date and set a change-of-plea hearing in a fraud case involving the owners of a Colorado funeral home where authorities discovered 190 decaying bodies.

Jon and Carie Hallford were indicted on fraud charges, accused of mispending nearly \$900,000 in pandemic relief funds on vacations, jewelry and other personal expenses. They own the Return to Nature Funeral Home based in Colorado Springs and in Penrose, where the bodies were found.

The 15 charges brought by the federal grand jury are separate from the more than 200 criminal counts pending against the Hallfords in state court for corpse abuse, money laundering, theft and forgery.

— From wire reports

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Raiders stage late rally to upset Ravens

Associated Press

Gardner Minshew and the Raiders brushed aside years of frustration and criticism with a memorable performance on a splendid afternoon for underdogs.

Minshew led three scoring drives in the fourth quarter, Daniel Carlson kicked a go-ahead 38-yard field goal with 27 seconds left and Las Vegas rallied to beat the Baltimore Ravens 26-23 on Sunday.

Baltimore appeared headed toward its first win of the season after Derrick Henry plowed into the end zone for a 23-13 lead with 12 minutes left. But the Raiders (1-1) stormed back behind Minshew.

After Carlson kicked a 25-yarder to cut Las Vegas' deficit, Minshew connected with Davante Adams on a 1-yard TD pass to tie it with 3:54 to go.

The Raiders quickly got the ball back and Minshew moved Las Vegas downfield before Carlson kicked his fourth field goal of the game.

The comeback defied logic given that Minshew came in with a 15-23 career record as a starter. Not only that, but Las Vegas scored only 10 points last week in a loss to the Chargers.

Not to mention, the Raiders haven't had a winning season since 2021 and were on the road against a team that forged the best record in the NFL just one year ago.

"I look forward to continue to build on that momentum," Minshew said. "Everybody feels pretty great about it. There's a ton of tape to clean up. We're going to do that, but I think everyone feels and believes what we can be as an offense."

Saints 44, Cowboys 19: Alvin Kamara scored four touchdowns, including a 57-yarder on a screen pass, and New Orleans ended Dallas' 16-game home winning streak in the regular season with a victory over the Cowboys.

Derek Carr threw for 243

yards and two TDs to go along with a 1-yard sneak for a score, and the Saints (2-0) got touchdowns on their first six drives a week after setting a franchise record by starting the season with points on nine consecutive possessions in a 47-10 rout of Carolina.

Chiefs 26, Bengals 25: Harrison Butker kicked a 51-yard field goal as time expired and host Kansas City, kept alive by a pass interference call on Bengals safety Daijahn Anthony on fourth down in the final minute, rallied to beat Cincinnati.

Patrick Mahomes threw for 151 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions, but it was his incomplete pass to Rashee Rice on fourth-and-16 from the Kansas City 35 that turned out to be decisive. Anthony arrived a split-second early and hit Rice from behind with his body, and flags flew with 38 seconds remaining as the crowd in Arrowhead Stadium erupted.

Texans 19, Bears 13: C.J. Stroud threw for 260 yards and a touchdown and Ka'imi Fairbairn kicked four field goals to help host Houston top Chicago.

Fairbairn connected from 56, 47, 59 and 53 yards, and Houston's defense put heavy pressure on Caleb Williams for much of the game.

Buccaneers 20, Lions 16: Baker Mayfield had an 11-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter, and visiting Tampa Bay beat Detroit in a playoff rematch.

Tampa Bay (2-0) fell behind only once in the closely contested game, and it stopped Detroit (1-1) when it had two chances to drive for a go-ahead touchdown in the final minutes.

Steelers 13, Broncos 6: T.J. Watt and visiting Pittsburgh's stingy defense throttled rookie Bo Nix on Sunday and Justin Fields, subbing again for an injured Russell Wilson, led the Steelers to a win over sputtering Denver.

Fields threw a touchdown pass and finished 13 for 20 for 117

yards with no interceptions to help Pittsburgh (2-0) beat the Broncos (0-2) for the third consecutive time, something that never happened in the teams' 35-game all-time series.

Chargers 26, Panthers 3: Justin Herbert threw two touchdown passes to Quentin Johnston, J.K. Dobbins ran for 131 yards, including a 43-yard touchdown, and visiting Los Angeles drubbed Carolina.

The Chargers (2-0) methodically wore down the Panthers, piling up 219 yards on the ground while holding Carolina to just 159 total yards and seven first downs.

Browns 18, Jaguars 13: Deshaun Watson ran for a touchdown, Dustin Hopkins kicked three field goals and stingy Cleveland did just enough to hold off host Jacksonville.

The Browns (1-1) dominated much of the rainy day, sacking Trevor Lawrence four times and holding Jacksonville in check for nearly three quarters.

Vikings 23, 49ers 17: Sam Darnold passed for 268 yards and two touchdowns against his former team, including a 97-yard strike in the second quarter to Justin Jefferson, and an attacking defense again fueled host Minnesota in a victory over San Francisco.

Darnold went 17-for-26 with one interception to win his second straight start for the Vikings (2-0), who used the last of three field goals by rookie Will Reichard to give themselves a bigger cushion midway through the fourth quarter.

Seahawks 23, Patriots 20 (OT): Jason Myers hit a 31-yard field goal in overtime to lift visiting Seattle to a win over New England.

The game-winner capped a three-for-three day for Myers, who ensured the game went into OT with a 38-yard field goal with less than a minute left in regulation. Myers also hit from 44 yards in the second quarter.

Jets 24, Titans 17: Braelton Allen, the NFL's youngest player,

ran for a 20-yard touchdown with 4:31 left to put Aaron Rodgers and visiting New York ahead to stay as they beat Tennessee.

Rodgers threw for 176 yards and two TDs and got to kneel down for his first victory with the Jets that he started and finished. One of those TD passes by the 40-year-old Rodgers was to the 20-year-old Allen, marking a score by the NFL's oldest and youngest players.

Packers 16, Colts 10: Malik Willis threw his first career touchdown pass, Josh Jacobs had 151 of his team's 261 yards rushing and host Green Bay withstood the absence of injured quarterback Jordan Love to beat Indianapolis.

Indianapolis (0-2) cut the Packers' lead to 16-10 on Anthony Richardson's 4-yard touchdown pass to Alec Pierce with 1:47 left, but Green Bay's Evan Williams recovered the ensuing onside kick. The Colts got the ball back at their own 5-yard line with 43 seconds left, but Williams intercepted a Hail Mary attempt from the Indianapolis 41 to end the game.

Commanders 21, Giants 18: Jayden Daniels picked up his first win as an NFL quarterback, leading host Washington past New York thanks to a franchise-record seven field goals from new kicker Austin Seibert.

Daniels engineered the go-ahead, 65-yard drive in the final minutes to get the ball into the red zone, setting up Seibert's 30-yard field goal that won it as the clock expired. Seibert's 7-for-7 performance came days after he replaced Cade York, who missed each of his two attempts in the season opener.

Cardinals 41, Rams 10: Kyler Murray threw for 266 yards and three touchdowns, rookie receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. caught his first two NFL touchdown passes and host Arizona rolled past Los Angeles.

The Cardinals' offense—highlighted by the Murray-to-Harrison combo—dazzled on the way to a 24-3 halftime lead.

Buescher plays spoiler at Watkins Glen

Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — William Byron's Chevy skidded down the track and came to rest tilted against the wall with a tire jammed into Brad Keselowski's driver-side window in a late fight for position between two NASCAR playoff drivers.

Ryan Blaney never got so lucky to remain in the second playoff race long enough to gobble playoff points. The 2023 NASCAR champion was knocked out at Watkins Glen International on the opening lap Sunday, his Ford towed to the garage against his wishes.

Denny Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr., Harrison Burton. The list of playoff drivers that took a beating on the track — and in the standings — dwarfed the ones that escaped the road course unscathed.

Already set to retire from full-time racing at the end of the season, Truex had seen enough of the demolition derby that sabotaged his championship push.

"I just don't understand how

guys can call themselves the best in the world when they just drive through everyone on restarts at the end of the races," Truex said. "It is what it is, these days. I'm out of here."

With championship contenders succumbing to late wrecks, shredded tires and aggressive driving, Chris Buescher played spoiler and won Sunday at Watkins Glen International, leading a string of five non-playoff drivers to the finish.

"We would have liked to have won a couple of weeks ago, but this is huge," Buescher said.

The chaos on the 2.45-mile course at The Glen — in the playoffs for the first time before it returns to an August date next year — shook up the playoff standings heading into the cut-off race.

Buescher held off Shane van Gisbergen in the thrilling two final overtime laps and won for the first time this season for RFK Racing. The 31-year-old Texan, who started 24th, has six career victories.

Chase Briscoe, who entered 16th in the playoff standings and 21 points behind the cut line, was sixth and the highest-finishing playoff driver in the field in the second race in NASCAR's postseason. Four drivers will be cut from the field Saturday night at Bristol Motor Speedway.

"I did what we needed to do," Briscoe said. "Just need to go do that same thing next week. Just hit singles and doubles. Don't do anything crazy."

Briscoe shot to 11th in the standings, six points above the cut line. Hamlin, Keselowski, Truex and Burton are the bottom four drivers.

Austin Cindric was 10th, only the second playoff driver in the top 10. Want to find the contenders? Look all the way to the bottom of the race results. Ten playoff drivers were dumped in the bottom 21 finishers.

The race was bedlam for the contenders from the start, when a wreck on the opening lap that knocked out Blaney also slowed fellow playoff drivers and Joe

Gibbs Racing teammates Hamlin and Christopher Bell.

At least 11 playoff drivers ran into some sort of issue, including a rough scene late in the race where Keselowski and Byron crashed battling for position. Byron's Chevrolet landed on top of Keselowski's Ford with six laps left in the scheduled 90-lap race.

There was no way this thriller was going to end in regulation.

Joey Logano raced his way into the second round of NASCAR's playoffs by winning the opener last week at Atlanta Motor Speedway. He finished 15th. There was no automatic qualifier at The Glen into the second round.

Standings

Bell finished 14th and holds a 46-point lead in the standings.

Kyle Larson, Byron, Briscoe and Ty Gibbs are the final four drivers above the cutline. Hamlin is six points out, Keselowski 12, Truex 14 and Burton is 20 points out of the final spot.

Palou cruises to his third IndyCar championship

Associated Press

LEBANON, Tenn. — Alex Palou easily drove to his third IndyCar championship in four years when challenger Will Power's seat belt came loose minutes into the season-deciding finale Sunday at Nashville Superspeedway.

"When I saw (Power) going to pit lane, at first I was like, 'Oh, what strategy are they going to do?'" Palou said. "Unfortunately, that's not the way. Obviously, you don't want your biggest competitor to go down that way in the season finale. It was very dangerous what happened to him."

Colton Herta, who earlier this year moved to Nashville, won the Music City Grand Prix for his first career victory on an

oval and second win of the season for Andretti Global. Herta topped Pato O'Ward in a wheel-to-wheel battle in the closing laps.

"I couldn't ask for a better ending to the year," Herta said.

But all attention was on the championship race as Palou, a Spaniard who won his first title in 2021 in his first season driving for Chip Ganassi Racing, won back-to-back IndyCar titles.

"He never broke a sweat," said team owner Ganassi, who celebrated his 16th IndyCar title in 29 years.

"I don't know too many guys who have three championships, not that many, but he's in pretty rarified air right now," Ganassi continued. "His name has cer-

tainly got to be in the conversation of great drivers."

Palou became just the 13th driver in IndyCar history to win at least three championships. He's the seventh to win three titles in four years with Dario Franchitti — also for Ganassi — the last to do so from 2009 through 2011.

"I had no idea it would be this much fun or he would be this successful," Ganassi said about signing Palou before the 2021 season.

At 27 years, 5 months, 14 days, Palou became the second-youngest driver to win three championships. Only Sam Hornish Jr. was younger at 27 years, 2 months, 8 days when he won his third title in 2006.

Palou, who has 11 career vic-

tories that include two this season, has never won on an oval and still collected three championships. This title came in the year he became the father to a young daughter, which he has called life-changing, as well as the opportunity to race in the Rolex 24 at Daytona and the 24 Hours of Le Mans with Ganassi.

Final standings

Scott Dixon finished 17th in the race, which dropped him to sixth in the overall standings. The six-time IndyCar champion had not finished lower than fifth in the standings since 2016.

Santino Ferrucci finished sixth in the race to end up ninth in the final standings — the highest an AJ Foyt Racing car has ranked since 2002.

Judge hits 53rd HR in Yankees' victory

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge hit his major league-best 53rd homer as the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 5-2 on Sunday to open a three-game AL East lead over second-place Baltimore.

Judge, whose 132 RBIs also top the major leagues, homered twice in three games following a career-high 16-game homerless streak and helped Carlos Rodón get his career-best 15th win.

New York took three of four from the Red Sox and headed on the road for a seven-game trip to Seattle and Oakland on the verge of clinching a postseason berth after failing to reach the playoffs last year for the first time since 2016.

Tyler O'Neill hit a two-run homer for the Red Sox, who dropped 4½ games behind Minnesota for the final AL wild card spot.

After Boston manager Alex Cora admitted before the game Brayan Bello tried hitting Judge on purpose Saturday on a pitch that was behind the slugger, Judge carried his bat about halfway down the line before dropping it as he approached first base.

"It's a big homer," Judge said. "We're playing the Red Sox. This is a big rival, big games, big moment. So I'm just having some fun with the moment."

Judge joined Babe Ruth (1921, 1927), Roger Maris (1961), Mickey Mantle (1961) as Yankees with at least 53 homers through New York's first 150 games.

Dodgers 9, Braves 2: Mo'nie Betts had a tiebreaking RBI single with two outs in a seven-run ninth inning as NL West-leading Los Angeles beat host Atlanta.

The loss again dropped the Braves into a tie with the Mets for the third wild-card spot in the NL with 13 games to play.

Shohei Ohtani was 2 for 4 with two doubles, an RBI and a run scored, but he did not homer or

steal a base in his pursuit of MLB's first 50-50 season.

Tigers 4, Orioles 2: Riley Greene homered twice and drove in three runs as host Detroit beat Baltimore to take two of three from the Orioles.

Detroit, which went into Monday 2½ games behind Minnesota for the last AL wild card, has won six of eight. Baltimore dropped to three games back of the AL East-leading Yankees but remain in position for the top AL wild card.

Twins 9, Reds 2: Rookie Brooks Lee drove had five RBIs, Carlos Santana went 3 for 4 with a two-run homer and host Minnesota rallied to beat Cincinnati for just its fourth win in 12 games.

Minnesota maintained a 2½-game lead over Detroit for the last AL wild card spot. The Twins play at first-place Cleveland on Monday, starting a seven-game trip that ends in Boston.

Pirates 4, Royals 3: Isiah Kiner-Falefa had three hits, including a go-ahead single in the fifth inning, as host Pittsburgh avoided a three-game sweep.

Kansas City has the second AL wild-card spot, though its lead over Minnesota dropped to 2½ games. The Royals are also four games behind Cleveland for first place in the AL Central.

Phillies 2, Mets 1: J.T. Realmuto hit an RBI single off Edwin Díaz with two outs in the ninth inning as NL East-leading Philadelphia rallied late for the second straight day to beat visiting New York.

New York remained tied for the final NL wild card spot with Atlanta, which lost to the Dodgers later Sunday. The Mets, who wasted a 4-0 lead Saturday, lost for just the fourth time in their past 16 games.

Nationals 4, Marlins 3: Rookie James Wood homered twice and MacKenzie Gore pitched six innings of two-hit ball as host Washington defeated Miami.

Jonah Bride homered for the

Marlins, who are now guaranteed a last-place finish in the NL East for the first time since 2019. Miami dropped six of seven on its trip to Pittsburgh and Washington.

Blue Jays 3, Cardinals 2: Nathan Lukes drove in the winning run with a double in the eighth inning as host Toronto beat St. Louis to complete a three-game sweep.

Davis Schneider hit a two-run home run, his second homer in two games, to help Toronto sweep its fifth series of the season.

Guardians 2, Rays 0: Ben Lively and four relievers combined on a four-hitter, Brayan Rocchio had an RBI single for the go-ahead run and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat visiting Tampa Bay.

Cade Smith, Tim Herrin, Hunter Gaddis and Emmanuel Clase wrapped up Cleveland's 12th shutout. Clase finished for his career-high 45th save, taking the MLB lead from St. Louis' Ryan Helsley and moving within one of tying Jose Mesa's franchise record.

White Sox 4, Athletics 3: Chicago won back-to-back games for the first time in nearly three months, beating visiting Oakland behind homers from Gavin Sheets and Bryan Ramos to end a streak of 20 consecutive series losses.

A day after scoring in the ninth to win 7-6 and stop a 16-game home losing streak, the White Sox took a 3-0 first-inning lead and strung together wins for the first time since three in a row against Atlanta and Colorado from June 27-29. Chicago hadn't won a series since taking two of three from the Rockies.

Cubs 6, Rockies 2: Michael Busch had his first big league multi-homer game, helping Chicago beat host Colorado to stop a three-game losing streak.

Chicago, which had lost seven of 11, moved to five games behind the Braves and Mets for the final NL wild card.

Padres 4, Giants 3 (10): Joe Musgrove struck out eight in six innings, Manny Machado and Jackson Merrill both drove in two runs and visiting San Diego beat San Francisco to hand the Giants their third straight shutout.

Donovan Solano had four of San Diego's 17 hits and Xander Bogaerts homered for the Padres, who hold the top NL wild card. They clawed within 3½ games of the first-place Dodgers in the NL West.

Astros 6, Angels 4: Ronel Blanco threw six scoreless innings, Jason Heyward had a home run among his three hits and visiting Houston finished a three-game sweep of Los Angeles.

Jeremy Peña had two hits and two runs scored as the Astros won their fourth consecutive game and remained 4½ games ahead of the Seattle Mariners in the AL West.

Mariners 7, Rangers 0: George Kirby faced the minimum number of batters and gave up one hit in seven sparkling innings, and host Seattle shut out Texas to earn a series victory and keep pace in the AL West and wild-card races.

Mitch Garver hit a three-run home run against his former team in the first inning and Randy Arozarena added a solo shot in the seventh. The homers helped Seattle remain 4½ games behind the Astros in the AL West with 12 left to play. The Mariners remained 2½ games behind the Minnesota Twins in the AL wild-card race.

Diamondbacks 11, Brewers 10 (10): Eugenio Suárez hit a game-ending single off the right-field wall, just a few feet shy of a grand slam, capping a three-run 10th inning that led host Arizona over Milwaukee to avoid a sweep.

Arizona wasted a 5-0, fifth-inning lead, then overcame an 8-5 deficit with two runs in the seventh and Suárez's sacrifice fly in the eighth.