

Trump, Hegseth address top commanders

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — “Good morning, and welcome to the War Department because the era of the Department of Defense is over,” Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth told hundreds of generals and admirals gathered Tuesday at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia.

The secretary told the top military brass, summoned at short notice last week, that 10 directives would arrive in the inboxes of commands Tuesday. Some of the initiatives include adding combat field tests for combat arms units, emphasizing “male-level” standards for fitness, and seeing that every member of the joint force, including four-star generals, must take a physical test twice a year and meet height and weight requirements.

“Frankly, it’s tiring to look out at combat formations, or really

any formation, and see fat troops. Likewise, it’s completely unacceptable to see fat generals and admirals in the halls of the Pentagon,” Hegseth said.

The secretary said the military has been held back by “woke” policies.

“Today is another liberation day, the liberation of America’s warriors,” Hegseth said. “You are not politically correct and don’t necessarily always belong in polite society. We are purpose built.”

President Donald Trump, who spoke about 20 minutes later, echoed Hegseth: “The [purpose] of America’s military is not to protect anyone’s feelings. It’s to protect our republic.

“We will not be politically correct when it comes to defending American freedom. And we will be a fighting and winning machine.”

Trump and Hegseth last

month worked together in an effort to refer to the Pentagon as the “Department of War” in official communications and to pursue actions that would permanently rename the Defense Department. Trump said he “loves the name” and thinks it “stops wars.”

Since taking charge of the Pentagon in January, Hegseth has ordered reviews of physical fitness, body composition and grooming, reverting back to the base names of Fort Benning and Fort Bragg and restoring the “warrior ethos.”

Hegseth, a 45-year-old Army National Guard veteran and former Fox News host, said the U.S. military has promoted too many leaders for the wrong reasons based on race, gender quotas and “historic firsts.”

“Political leaders set the wrong heading, and we lost our way. We became the Woke Department but not anymore,” the secretary

said.

Hegseth said he is loosening disciplinary rules and weakening hazing protections.

He said he would order a review of “the department’s definitions of so-called toxic leadership, bullying and hazing to empower leaders to enforce standards without fear of retribution or second guessing.”

The secretary said the Pentagon is empowering drill sergeants to instill “healthy fear in recruits.”

“Yes, they can shark attack. They can toss bunks. They can swear and yes, they can put their hands on recruits,” Hegseth said. “This does not mean they can be reckless or violate the law, but they can use tried and true methods to motivate new recruits to make them warriors.”

The directives would include “gender-neutral” or “male-level” standards for physical fitness.

Fallout from a government shutdown is far-reaching

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington is hours away from another federal government shutdown, with prospects looking bleak for a last-minute compromise in Congress to avoid closures beginning at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday.

Republicans have crafted a short-term measure to fund the government through Nov. 21, but Democrats have insisted the measure address their concerns on health care. They want to reverse the Medicaid cuts in President Donald Trump’s mega-bill passed this summer and extend tax credits that make health insurance premiums more affordable for millions of people who purchase through the market-

places established by the Affordable Care Act. Republicans call the Democratic proposal a non-starter.

Neither side shows any signs of budging, with the House not even expected to have votes this week.

Here’s a look at how a shutdown would occur:

When a lapse in funding occurs, the law requires agencies to cease activity and furlough “non-excepted” employees. Excepted employees include those who work to protect life and property. They stay on the job but don’t get paid until after the shutdown ends.

During the 35-day partial shutdown in Trump’s first term, 340,000 of the 800,000 federal

workers at affected agencies were furloughed. The remainder were “excepted” and required to work.

FBI investigators, CIA officers, air traffic controllers and agents operating airport checkpoints keep working. So do members of the armed forces.

Those programs that rely on mandatory spending also generally continue during a shutdown. Social Security payments continue going out. Seniors relying on Medicare coverage can still see their doctors and health care providers and submit claims for payment and be reimbursed.

Veteran health care also continues during a shutdown. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and outpatient

clinics will be open, and VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered. Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries.

In 2019, Congress passed a bill enshrining into law the requirement that furloughed employees get retroactive pay once operations resume.

While they’ll eventually get paid, the furloughed workers and those who remain on the job may have to go without one or more of their regular paychecks, depending upon how long the shutdown lasts, creating financial stress for many families.

Service members would also receive back pay for any missed paychecks once federal funding resumes.

USS George Washington resumes its patrol

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS George Washington quietly steamed out of Tokyo Bay on Tuesday to resume its annual patrol after an extended mid-deployment stop.

The carrier was initially scheduled to leave Monday, according to the Japan coast guard's website, but delayed its departure until the following morning.

While in port since Aug. 30, the George Washington's crew kept busy with events, including a Sept. 11 memorial, tours for Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan coast guard and trips with Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Meanwhile,

maintenance teams stayed busy aboard the ship.

Aircraft carriers homeported at Yokosuka, home of the U.S. 7th Fleet, typically conduct annual deployments that last about six months with a stop roughly halfway for maintenance on the ship and rest for its crew.

The George Washington's predecessor, the USS Ronald Reagan, typically would remain in Yokosuka several weeks during such stops. The Navy usually refrains from sharing ship schedules due to security concerns, but the Ronald Reagan often concluded its patrols between November and December.

Lt. Cmdr. Mark Langford, spokesman for the George Washington, said the carrier's stop was

"planned and executed in accordance with scheduled operations."

"The George Washington Carrier Strike Group is operating in the Indo-Pacific to maintain regional security and stability, keep sea lanes open and assure a free and open Indo-Pacific," he told Stars and Stripes by email Monday.

Pilots with Carrier Air Wing 5 — the ship's embarked wing — also requalified during field carrier landing practice at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. The practice is normally held on the remote island of Iwo Jima, but volcanic activity there forced the Navy to relocate the drills.

During the first half of its deployment, the George Washing-

ton made multiple port calls, including in the Philippines, Australia and Guam, and took part in the biennial Talisman Sabre exercise in Australia.

In August, it participated in a multicarrier drill alongside the amphibious assault ship USS America, the British aircraft carrier Prince of Wales and the Japanese flattop JS Kaga.

In July, an aviation boatswain's mate, Petty Officer 3rd Class Jose Antonio Rivera Lynch IV, was lost in a presumed overboard incident off Australia's northern coast.

The Navy honored Lynch, 19, of Florida, and 175 other sailors who died this year during a Bells Across America ceremony last week in Yokosuka.

USMC hits recruiting goal, point to enticing 'mystique'

Associated Press

QUANTICO, Va. — The Army, Navy and Air Force, with encouragement from the Trump administration, all announced this summer that they had met their recruiting goals months ahead of schedule.

That is a major shift from the past several years when the military has failed to meet its recruiting goals because of complications from the COVID-19 pandemic, tight job markets and a growing generation of young Americans struggling to meet fitness and academic standards. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth claimed the turnaround as a victory, arguing that recruits had been put off by what he called a weakened military under President Joe Biden.

However, the uptick began well before President Donald Trump won office again in November, and a major driver has been programs the services start-

ed years ago to boost numbers.

While the Marine Corps didn't wade into the fray earlier, it is now claiming success. And the general in charge of the effort says the politics of the moment have had no impact on Marine recruiting.

"The Marines are probably the most inelastic of the services," Lt. Gen. William Bowers told The Associated Press this month. "We appeal to a certain type of young man or woman — that really doesn't change with the economic winds."

"They want to be part of that mystique," he added.

Data provided by the Corps shows that it has recruited 30,536 active duty and reserve enlisted Marines — just one person over its annual goal.

It also recruited 1,792 active duty and reserve officers, beating its goal by two people.

The Marines also beat enlisted recruiting goals by a single person last year.

Troops sue MacDill AFB housing firm, allege harms

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Water pooled near the dryer and in ceiling light fixtures before a bedroom wall cracked apart inside Air Force Tech. Sgt. Dillon Mullins' rented home on MacDill Air Force Base, the special operations airman contended in a new lawsuit.

Extensive mold was growing inside that wall in his child's bedroom, Mullins and his wife discovered after it cracked. But The Michaels Organization, which has owned and operated the privatized military housing on the Florida base since 2021, only covered it with a tarp and some tape that failed to hold because of the high humidity, the Mullinses allege in the lawsuit they filed with dozens of other service members and their families who have lived in Michaels-owned MacDill housing in recent years.

Michaels is accused of breach of contract, gross negligence, in-

flicting emotional distress and medical harm, deception and fraud, including concealing poor conditions of homes, in the 218-page lawsuit filed by 170 service members and family members late Friday in federal court in Tampa, Fla., near MacDill.

They are seeking an unspecified amount of money for damages for losses of property and time during their tenure living on MacDill, other mental and physical injuries suffered while living in Michaels-run housing and other costs and expenses incurred while dealing with housing issues, according to the lawsuit.

The troops and their families are represented by lawyers from the McKee Law Group, Just Well Law and Cooper and Kirk, who filed the suit together.

A spokesperson for Michaels said Monday the company had yet to receive the lawsuit and declined to comment.

What to know about the Gaza peace plan

Associated Press

CAIRO — After Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threw his support behind the U.S. peace plan for Gaza, the question now is whether Hamas will agree.

Hamas faces a bitter tradeoff — the proposal demands that the militant group effectively surrender in return for uncertain gains. But if it rejects the deal, the U.S. could give Israel an even freer hand to continue its punishing campaign in the already devastated territory.

Under the proposal, the militant group would have to disarm in return for an end to fighting, humanitarian aid for Palestinians, and the promise of reconstruction in Gaza — all desperately hoped for by its population.

But the proposal has only a vague promise that some day, perhaps, Palestinian statehood might be possible. For the foreseeable future, Gaza and its more than 2 million Palestinians would be put under international control. An international security force would move in, and a “Board of Peace” headed by President Donald Trump and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair would oversee Gaza’s administration and reconstruction. The territory would remain surrounded by Israeli troops.

Trump and Netanyahu said they agreed on the plan Monday after talks at the White House.

The proposal includes one provision that Netanyahu and his hard-line government most strongly oppose: It says the Palestinian Authority will eventually govern Gaza. But Netanyahu is likely betting that will never come to pass. Israel also rejects any Palestinian state.

The White House issued the text on Monday of its 20-point proposal.

The plan calls for all hostilities to immediately end. Within 72 hours, Hamas would release all hostages it still holds, living or dead. The militants still hold 48 hostages — 20 of whom are believed by Israel to be alive.

In return, Israel would free 250 Palestinians serving life sentences in its prisons as well as 1,700 people detained from Gaza since the war began, including all women and children. Israel would also hand over the bodies of 15 Palestinians for each body of a hostage handed over.

The plan calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal. But it would only take place after Hamas disarms and as the international security force deploys to fill in areas that Israeli forces leave.

Israel would also maintain a “security perimeter presence” — a vague phrasing that could mean it would keep a buffer zone inside Gaza.

Those terms could bring pushback from Hamas, which has said it will not release all its hostages unless it receives a “clear declaration” the war will end and Israel will leave Gaza completely.

Hamas would have no part in administering Gaza, and all its military infrastructure would be dismantled. Members who pledge to live peacefully would be granted amnesty, and those who wish to leave Gaza would be allowed to.

The international security force would ensure Hamas’ disarmament and keep order. It would also train Palestinian police to take over law enforcement. Mediator Egypt has said it is training thousands of Palestinian police to deploy to Gaza.

The plan also specifies Palestinians will not be expelled from Gaza, and that there will be an international effort to rebuild the territory for Palestinians.

Beijing clarifies its intent to remold global norms

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hardly a month after Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed his “Global Governance Initiative,” Beijing made its intent clear at the most global of forums — that it should, and is qualified to, help shape the world order even as the United States tips more inward under Donald Trump.

In a seemingly jargon-filled speech delivered to the U.N. General Assembly on Friday, Chinese Premier Li Qiang told the audience that “a China that bears in mind the greater good of humanity and stands ready to take up responsibilities will bring more positive energy into the world.” His words seized on the retreat by the American president from international organizations and on his apparent disdain toward the United Nations.

Li never once mentioned the U.S. by name. But in not-so-subtle swipes at recent actions by the U.S., he touted his country’s

credentials: lowering tariffs to promote global economy, vowing to cut greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change and committing to safeguarding the authority of the U.N.

It represents a shift in approach to global affairs that experts say reflects a China that sees itself on the ascent.

“Li’s speech confirms that China’s foreign policy posture today is firmly anchored in the ambition of turning a Western-dominant world order into one that is much more conducive to Chinese interests, values, and leadership,” said Olivia Cheung, lecturer in politics at King’s College London. “China’s foreign policy today is notably more confident, strategic, and coherent than how it was in 2017, where Beijing’s presentation of global governance reform lacked content.”

The speech has come amid growing worries in Washington that China might seek to unseat the U.S. as the global leader.

Rain from hurricanes pelts southeast North Carolina

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The outer bands of Hurricane Humberto lashed Bermuda on Tuesday as it approached the tiny British territory, with newly formed Hurricane Imelda following closely behind.

A hurricane warning was in effect for the island located in the north Atlantic as forecasters warned of dangerous seas, strong winds and heavy rain.

Humberto was located about 300 miles west of Bermuda.

The Category 1 storm had maximum sustained winds of 80 mph and was moving north-northwest at 18 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Humberto was a Category 4

storm on Monday, but was quickly losing strength and was forecast to dissipate by Wednesday.

Imelda was located about 735 miles west-southwest of Bermuda. It had maximum sustained winds of 80 mph and was moving northeast at 7 mph.

Humberto is expected to drop up to 2 inches of rain on Bermuda and Imelda up to 4 inches. Imelda also is pelting the coastal area of southeast North Carolina with rain that forecasters say could lead to flash and urban flooding.

Meanwhile, Humberto was generating dangerous swells affecting the northern Caribbean, Bahamas, Bermuda and much of the U.S. East Coast.

Ukraine begins sharing drone expertise

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The Ukrainian military is sharing with European countries its expertise in fighting Russian drones, sending a mission to Denmark for joint exercises, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday.

“Our military has begun deploying a mission in Denmark to disseminate Ukrainian experience in drone defense,” Zelenskyy said.

European defense ministers agreed last week to build what they called a “drone wall” along their borders with Russia and Ukraine to better detect, track and intercept drones violating airspace.

Europe’s readiness and technology are lagging far behind Ukraine and Russia, however,

as cutting-edge drone warfare has become a hallmark of their three-year war since Moscow’s full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

“Ukrainian (drone) experience is the most relevant in Europe right now, and it is our experience, our specialists and our technologies that could become a key element of the future European ‘drone wall’ — a large-scale project that will guarantee safety in the sky,” Zelenskyy added in a post on Telegram.

Denmark has in recent days reported drone sightings at military facilities and over airports.

Danish intelligence officials, though careful not to directly accuse a specific country, said they regarded the risk of Russian sabotage in Denmark as

high.

Poland has also turned to Ukraine for expertise after Russian drones entered Polish airspace.

The NATO military alliance is troubled, too, by European airspace violations by Russia warplanes that are further straining relations with Moscow and fueling fears that the fighting could spill beyond Ukraine’s borders.

At the same time, there is uncertainty about peace negotiations that were set in motion by the United States months ago but appear to be making no headway.

Ahead of two summits in the Danish capital Copenhagen this week, NATO is stepping up aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea, while France, Germany and Sweden are bolstering Den-

mark’s air defenses.

A Russian drone strike killed an entire family of four in a village in Ukraine’s northeastern Sumy region overnight, authorities said. The family was made up of a young married couple and their two sons, aged 4 and 6, regional administration head Oleh Hryhorov wrote on Telegram.

Reacting to European plans to build a “drone wall” to protect itself from Russia, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that “history shows that building walls is always bad.”

“We are continuing to see such militarist approach instead of thinking how to engage in a dialogue and jointly search for security guarantees,” he told reporters.

Rescuers work on collapsed school building in Indonesia

Associated Press

SIDOARJO, Indonesia — Rescuers ran oxygen and water to students trapped in the unstable concrete rubble of a collapsed school building in Indonesia as they desperately worked to free survivors Tuesday a day after the structure fell. At least three students were killed, more than 100 were injured and dozens were presumed buried in the rubble.

Rescue workers, police and soldiers digging through the night pulled out eight weak and injured survivors more than eight hours after the collapse at Al Khoziny Islamic Boarding School in the East Java town of Sidoarjo. Rescuers saw additional bodies, indicating the death toll was likely to rise.

Rescue efforts were temporarily suspended at 10:15 a.m. as the collapsed concrete shook suddenly. People immediately ran for their lives, fearing another collapse, as rescuers

urged everyone in the area to avoid the building, including more than a dozens of ambulances that parked near the scene.

Families anxiously awaited news at hospitals or near the collapsed building. A notice posted at the school complex Tuesday morning listed 65 students as missing. National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari revised the number of people presumed buried in the rubble to 38 by midday.

Several hundred rescuers were involved in the effort and had equipment for breathing, extrication, medical evacuation and other support tools.

The students had been performing afternoon prayers in a building that was undergoing an unauthorized expansion when it suddenly collapsed on top of them, provincial police spokesperson Jules Abraham Abast said.

Tokyo revises response plan for Mount Fuji ashfall

BY HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has laid out detailed procedures to follow in the event of a volcanic eruption near the capital, including specific steps to deal with ash from Mount Fuji.

The metro government this year revised guidelines issued in 2023 to address the threat of major eruptions near Tokyo. The updated plan focuses on volcanic ashfall in the city and covers potential eruptions on remote islands under Tokyo’s jurisdiction.

Mount Fuji — Japan’s tallest mountain and an active volcano — sits less than 62 miles from central Tokyo. The closest point is about 29 miles from Hinohara village on the city’s western edge and about 59 miles from Shinjuku, home to the metro government offices.

The guideline notes that while lava or pyroclastic flows

are unlikely to reach the capital, ash could cause widespread damage if carried by winds from the southwest. In the worst case, accumulations of up to 4 inches are expected in Hachioji and parts of Machida, with 0.75 inches to 4 inches across much of the rest of Tokyo.

Ash is expected to damage transportation, utilities, businesses, buildings and residents’ health, according to the plan. Vehicles could become immobilized with as little as 1.2 inches of wet ash or 4 inches of dry ash.

The guideline includes a priority map for clearing roads to maintain supply routes, focusing on major expressways such as the Tomei and Chuo, and national routes, including Route 16, which connects U.S. military bases in and around Tokyo.

Evacuation rules are also detailed. The plan asks residents to remain at home unless they are cut off from essential services or supplies.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mayor Adams abandons reelection campaign

NY NEW YORK — New York City Mayor Eric Adams ended his struggling reelection campaign Sunday, an acknowledgment that he was no longer a credible contender after a year of scandal and political turmoil.

In a video released on social media, Adams spoke proudly of his tenure as mayor. But he said his now-dismissed federal corruption case left voters wary of him, and “constant media speculation” about his future made it impossible to raise enough money to run a serious campaign.

Adams did not endorse any of the remaining candidates in the race, but he warned of “insidious forces” using local government to “advance divisive agendas.”

Author avoids jail after shooting at officers

CA LOS ANGELES — Bestselling author Jillian Lauren will avoid jail time for her actions in an incident where she shot at Los Angeles police officers who raced into the backyard of her home while chasing suspects.

A judge granted Lauren, 52, diversion on Thursday due to mental health issues, Los Angeles County authorities said.

Lauren — who is married to Weezer bassist Scott Shriner — was arrested in April after she found herself on the wrong end of a high-speed police chase that had nothing to do with her. LAPD officers were aiding the California Highway Patrol in a

search for someone who fled the scene of an accident and wound up in the backyard of Lauren’s home.

Home bakers donate fresh bread to food banks

WA SEATTLE — On a recent Saturday near Seattle, Cheryl Ewaldsen pulled three golden loaves of wheat bread out of her kitchen oven.

The fragrant, oat-topped bread was destined not for her table, but for a local food bank, to be distributed to families increasingly struggling with hunger and the high cost of groceries.

Ewaldsen is a volunteer with Community Loaves, a Seattle-area nonprofit that started pairing home bakers with food pantries during the COVID-19 pandemic — and hasn’t stopped.

Since 2020, the organization headed by Katherine Kehrli, the former dean of a culinary school, has donated more than 200,000 loaves of fresh bread and some 220,000 energy cookies to food banks.

Many food pantries don’t accept or distribute donations of homemade baked goods. But health department rules vary by state, Kehrli learned. In Washington and the other three states where Community Loaves now operates, bread is one of the few foods allowed to be donated from a home kitchen through a program like theirs.

Abrego Garcia transferred to detention facility in Pa.

PA PHILLIPSBURG — Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was wrongfully deported from the United States to his native El Salvador and whose

case became a flashpoint over President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown, has been moved from a Virginia detention center to a facility in Pennsylvania.

Court records show Immigration and Customs Enforcement notified Abrego Garcia’s lawyers Friday that he was transferred to the Moshannon Valley Processing Center in Phillipsburg.

However his attorneys raised concerns about conditions at Moshannon, saying there have been recent reports of “assaults, inadequate medical care, and insufficient food,” according to a federal court filing.

The Trump administration has claimed that Abrego Garcia was a member of the MS-13 gang, an allegation that he denies and for which he was not charged.

The administration returned Abrego Garcia to the U.S. in June, but only to face human smuggling charges. His lawyers have called the case preposterous and vindictive.

Stowaway found dead in plane’s landing gear

NC CHARLOTTE — Airplane maintenance workers at a North Carolina airport found the body of a suspected stowaway in the landing gear compartment of an American Airlines flight that had recently arrived from Europe, police said.

The body was found Sunday morning while the plane was undergoing maintenance at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department said in a statement that it is investi-

gating the death.

Neither the airline nor police have offered information about the person who died, including a possible cause of death, or said where the flight originated.

Superintendent’s license revoked after ICE arrest

IA IOWA CITY — A state agency revoked the professional license of the leader of Iowa’s largest school district on Monday, days after federal agents arrested him on accusations that he was living and working in the country illegally.

The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners said in a letter to Des Moines public schools Superintendent Ian Roberts that he was ineligible to hold a license because “you no longer possess legal presence in the United States.”

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents detained Roberts on Friday, saying that he was subject to a final removal order that a judge issued in May 2024. Roberts is a native of Guyana who entered the United States on a student visa in 1999, according to ICE. He’s being held at an Iowa jail.

ICE said that Roberts fled after a traffic stop in Des Moines, and that he was apprehended with the assistance of the Iowa State Patrol. The agency said that Roberts, 54, had possessed a loaded handgun in his district-issued vehicle, a hunting knife and \$3,000 cash when arrested.

Des Moines school officials said they had known nothing about Roberts being in the country illegally, and that he had signed a form verifying his eligibility to work when he was hired in 2023.

— From wire reports

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Dolphins grab first win but lose Hill

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Moments after Tyreek Hill was injured on Monday night, the Miami Dolphins star receiver flashed a bright smile and told a few jokes to teammates as he was carted off the field at Hard Rock Stadium.

Hill had just dislocated his knee on a scary play in the third quarter of Miami's 27-21 win over the New York Jets, but after seeing their teammate in good spirits, the Dolphins were motivated to close out their first win of the season.

"For him to be able to have that level of, I don't know, peace about it," tight end Darren Waller said. "In the NFL, there's so many things that can happen. You're not really in control of much. It's a high-impact, fast, violent game. Seeing that in him helps a lot of guys on this team, no matter what the situation is."

Waller had a pair of touchdown catches in his first NFL game in nearly two years, and Tua Tagovailoa threw for 177 yards to lead the Dolphins past their AFC East rivals. Hill made a catch and landed awkwardly

on his left leg after being tackled near the Jets' sideline. Players from both teams took a knee while Hill was tended to, and he was taken to a hospital.

Dolphins coach Mike McDaniels said Hill would remain at the hospital overnight for evaluation, and the team expected to learn more details on Tuesday. Hill led Miami with six catches for 67 yards.

Tagovailoa completed 17 of 25 passes and didn't have a turnover for the first time this season as he moved to 7-0 against the Jets as Miami's starter. The Dolphins (1-3) won their 10th straight at home against the Jets (0-4), who are still searching for their first win under coach Aaron Glenn.

The Jets pulled within six with 1:49 left when Garrett Wilson hauled in a 23-yard jump ball from Justin Fields, who ran it in for a 2-point conversion.

After recovering the onside kick, the Dolphins went three-and-out while working the clock to 13 seconds. Miami then pinned the Jets on their own 1, and the game ended on a play where New York tried a series

of laterals, one of which was flagged as an illegal forward pass.

"My confidence is not going to wane not one bit," Glenn said. "We're not going to waver on the things we've been talking about, how we've got to win games. We've just got to do a better job of doing those things. We're going to continue to work to get this thing turned (around)."

Waller, playing his first game since the end of the 2023 season, caught a 4-yard pass in the back of the end zone from Tagovailoa on fourth-and-goal in the second quarter of his Dolphins debut. The 33-year-old scored again on a 9-yard catch in the third that put Miami ahead 17-3. He finished with three receptions for 27 yards.

"It's a lot to process, a lot emotionally, to be honest," Waller said. "Very exciting. Just to be out there the whole day, yeah. A little bit of fear, a little bit of everything."

The Dolphins amassed 123 yards rushing behind De'von Achane's 20 carries for 99 yards. Achane had a 9-yard

scoring run. Fields completed 20 of 27 passes for 226 yards in his return from a concussion that sidelined him in Week 3. He added 81 yards rushing, including a 43-yard scramble for a score on fourth-and-1 that pulled the Jets within a touchdown midway through the third.

The Jets gained 197 of their 404 yards with a highly effective ground game — they averaged 7 yards per carry — but turned the ball over three times and were penalized 13 times, including an offensive pass interference against Wilson that wiped out a touchdown in the third.

On their first drive, which started on their own 14, the Jets ran the ball 10 times for 74 yards before Braelon Allen had the ball punched out by Dolphins cornerback Jack Jones near the goal line. Minkah Fitzpatrick recovered for Miami's first takeaway of the season.

Fields had the ball stripped on a sack the next drive, and Dante Trader recovered receiver Isaiah Williams' fumble on the first play of the third quarter.

Miami WR suffers dislocated knee, likely out for year

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Tyreek Hill's season for the Miami Dolphins potentially came to a sudden end on Monday night, when the standout wide receiver's left knee became badly twisted shortly after he made a catch near the sideline.

Dolphins coach Mike McDaniels said Hill was diagnosed with a dislocated knee. Hill was to remain hospitalized overnight, McDaniels said.

An air cast was placed over his leg before Hill — cheering and clapping, acknowledging the cheers of fans — was taken off the field on a cart. He was then taken to a nearby hospital, the Dolphins

said, "for imaging, evaluation and observation" of the knee injury.

"He was probably in the best spirits of any player that I've ever seen (have) such a terrible experience," McDaniels said. "He immediately had wide eyes and was talking, 'I'm good, just make sure the guys get this win.' He was focused on the team."

The Dolphins expected to learn more details on Tuesday, McDaniels said. Hill was undergoing an MRI exam and a CT scan late Monday night, his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, told Miami television station WSVN.

Members of the Dolphins' medical and athletic training

staff were with Hill at the hospital, Rosenhaus said.

Hill's leg was bent at an ugly angle when medical personnel — who were at his side in a matter of a few seconds — got to him.

Hill was hurt when he made a catch and got tackled near the New York Jets' sideline with 13:21 left in the third quarter. He was running toward the sideline and planted his left foot, and his knee appeared to twist severely as he was getting pulled down.

Players from both teams took a knee at various spots on the field while Hill was tended to, and the cart was immediately summoned. Players gathered briefly around the cart before it was dri-

ven across the field and into the tunnel leading to the Dolphins' locker room.

The laughing and joking from Hill started even before he was carted off, McDaniels said, and he said Hill's reaction helped calm the Dolphins — who went on to beat the Jets 27-21 for their first win in four games this season.

"That's just his personality. That's just who he is," quarterback Tua Tagovailoa said. "Our thoughts and our prayers are with him."

Hill, a five-time All-Pro selection and a Super Bowl champion with the Chiefs in the 2019 season, had matched a season high for catches with six when he got hurt.

Broncos get back on track against Bengals

Associated Press

DENVER — Bo Nix and the Denver Broncos finally justified their head coach's talking them up all offseason.

Nix threw for two touchdowns and ran for another to atone for his end zone interception and the Broncos snapped a two-game skid by sending the Cincinnati Bengals to their second straight blowout loss, 28-3 Monday night.

The Bengals (2-2) never crossed midfield after an opening-drive field goal for a 3-0 lead as Denver's defense limited Cincinnati to a mere 159 yards of offense — to the Broncos' 512 — and two third-down conversions all night.

With 101 yards on 16 carries, J.K. Dobbins recorded Denver's first 100-yard rushing game since Latavius Murray did it against the Chargers in the 2022 season finale, a span of 38 games, including the playoffs.

"Nobody can stop us if we keep doing what we did to-night," Dobbins said.

Nix threw for 326 yards and the Broncos piled up 29 first downs to the Bengals' nine.

"We showed that we're a tough team," Dobbins said. "And we can be even tougher."

Cincinnati lost its second straight game behind backup quarterback Jake Browning, who is filling in with star Joe Burrow recovering from toe surgery. It was coming off its biggest blowout in franchise history, a 48-10 drubbing at Minnesota, and this one wasn't much better.

"The last two weeks just feels like never really had momentum," Browning said, "haven't really been explosive, have one or two good plays and then and then we'll get into the first-and-20. And then you're fighting a hard battle with one arm behind your back when you end up in longer situations, second-and-long, first-and-long, leading to third-and-long. Good offenses don't do that, so we need to clean it up."

Denver (2-2) still hasn't trailed in the fourth quarter and for the first time since the opener, the outcome wasn't decided on a walk-off field goal as time expired.

The Bengals went up 3-0 on Evan McPherson's short field goal, but then gained just two first downs the rest of the first half and committed eight penalties, the franchise's most before halftime in at least 15 years.

Cincinnati punted on all eight possessions after their opening field goal, save for a kneel-down at halftime when Denver led 21-3.

Another flag negated the Bengals' biggest play when PJ Jules snatched the ball from punt returner Marvin Mims Jr. at the Broncos 15-yard line after a bobble. But because Mims had waved for a fair catch, the call was interference and Denver maintained possession.

After a three-and-out to start the game, during which Nix burned a timeout, the Broncos

grabbed control with three touchdown drives. Nix ran it in from 6 yards out, Mims scored on a 16-yard end-around and Courtland Sutton hauled in a 20-yard scoring pass on the drive following Nix's end zone interception.

"If you get into any trouble, just find me," said Sutton, whose TD came with 8 seconds left in the first half.

Denver's only major blemish was Nix throwing the ball right to linebacker Demetrius Knight Jr. on fourth-and-1 from the Cincinnati 2.

Nix's second touchdown throw went to rookie RJ Harvey, a 12-yarder in the fourth quarter. Harvey ran for 58 yards to go with his 40 receiving yards.

Browning threw for just 125 yards on 14 of 25 passing and his big targets had a quiet night — Tee Higgins had 32 yards on three receptions and Ja'Marr Chase managed just 23 yards on five catches.

Brown's cryptic post sparks concern despite Eagles' 4-0 start

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A.J. Brown is not quite ready to be on his way — out of Philadelphia, at least — no matter his cryptic posts on social media after the Eagles' passing attack was absent in yet another win.

Just ask his coach.

"I question nothing about his desire to play great football, his desire to be a good teammate, his desire to be here," Nick Sirianni said Monday.

Perhaps, but Brown made his unhappiness clear enough after the five-time 1,000-yard receiver was held to two catches for 7 yards as Philadelphia beat Tampa Bay on Sunday to move to 4-0. He had just five catches for 27 yards in the Super Bowl rematch against Kansas City and all of one catch — his only target of the game — for 8 yards in the season opener against Dallas.

All this for a player the Eagles signed to a three-year contract extension that included \$84 million guaranteed ahead of last season.

Brown has been irked about his lack of

production this season and hasn't been shy about voicing his need for a bigger role in the offense.

Well, maybe not always voicing. How about posting?

Brown did not speak to reporters after the game but took the time to post these lines on social media: "If you're not welcomed, not listened to, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way."

No, it wasn't a passage from "Inner Excellence," the book he's been known to read on the sideline during games. Rather, Brown quoted a Bible verse.

That was enough to pique Sirianni's interest Monday and prompt the coach to reach out to Brown.

Everything cool?

"Obviously talked to him," Sirianni said. "Somebody I talk to on a daily basis. I try to reach out to all our guys on a daily basis. I won't get into any private conversations that we have with any players about any topic. That's sacred relationship between the head coach and players. We'll always

keep that private, but always in constant communication with all these guys."

Brown and DeVonta Smith had four combined catches for 36 yards against the Buccaneers. They are just two cogs of the offense who have seen their numbers dip under first-year coordinator Kevin Patullo.

Saquon Barkley, a 2,005-yard rusher a season ago, has failed to crack 100 yards in any of the first four games and was held to 43 against Tampa Bay. He has 237 yards rushing and is averaging 3.1 yards per carry.

Barkley averaged 2.6 yards last week against the Rams and 2.3 yards Sunday. He had 435 yards rushing and averaged 6 yards a carry through four games last season. Only once last season was he held under 50 yards in a game.

"We weren't efficient enough and that's going to be something that we we'll do everything we can to make sure we're playing efficient and in the run and the pass because we know when we do that, good things happen for our offense," Sirianni said.

Wild sign Kaprizov to record \$136M extension

Associated Press

The Minnesota Wild signed star left wing Kirill Kaprizov to an eight-year, \$136 million extension Tuesday, giving him the richest contract in NHL history.

Kaprizov will count \$17 million against the salary cap beginning next season. It's the highest annual average salary of any player since the league's cap era began in 2005, surpassing Edmonton's Leon Draisaitl at \$112 million over eight years (\$14 million annual average). Alex Ovechkin's 13-year, \$124 million contract signed with Washington in 2008 was previously the highest total value.

Kaprizov's contract sets a new bar at one of the most intriguing times in hockey. The best player in the world, Connor McDavid, is entering the final year of his contract with Edmonton and could become an unrestricted free agent July 1. Jack Eichel and Artemi Pana-

rin are also pending unrestricted free agents.

Kaprizov will play this season on the final year of a five-year, \$45 million deal he signed in September 2021, when he started that contract by tallying 47 goals and 61 assists in 81 games in the 2021-22 season, all career highs.

Kaprizov won the Calder Trophy with 27 goals and 24 assists in 55 games in the pandemic-shortened 2020-21 season and has been Minnesota's most productive and dynamic player ever since. He received 99 of 100 first-place votes as the league's top rookie, becoming the first Wild player to win the award.

Drafted in the fifth round in 2015, Kaprizov stayed and played in the KHL in his native Russia until finally signing with Minnesota in July 2020. The only snags for the Wild since then have come off the ice. The pan-

demic made negotiations more difficult on his previous deal, which didn't get done until right before training camp.

The following summer, his return to Russia led to a stressful offseason for the entire organization, as Kaprizov ran into several roadblocks in his attempt to travel back to the United States because of political relations between the two countries. Expiration of his work visa and pandemic-related backlogs at foreign consulates made the paperwork process more complicated.

Kaprizov, who has 386 points in 319 regular-season games and 21 points in 25 playoff games, said after Minnesota was eliminated that he wasn't worried about his contract status.

"I love everything here," Kaprizov said. "Should be all good."

There were questions raised

as training camp began about whether the situation was truly all good, considering the absence of a deal when the Wild hit the ice for their first practice. But Kaprizov reiterated to reporters after that session how much he enjoys the Twin Cities area, the fans, his teammates and the organization.

The 28-year-old is beloved in the Minnesota locker room, a frequently smiling, soft-spoken player who has improved his English to the point where he doesn't use an interpreter like he did at the beginning of his career. Only right wing Marian Gaborik, the first player ever drafted by the Wild, who entered the league as an expansion club in 2000, had a skill set and scoring touch that rivaled Kaprizov's in the history of a franchise that has not advanced past the first round of the playoffs in 10 years and never reached the Stanley Cup Final.

Rangers, Giants, Twins fire managers Bochy, Melvin, Baldelli

Associated Press

Three teams that missed the playoffs wasted no time in making big changes, as the Texas Rangers, San Francisco Giants and Minnesota Twins fired Bruce Bochy, Bob Melvin and Rocco Baldelli, respectively, as managers the day after the regular season ended.

Bochy is out after a three-year stint that began with the franchise's first World Series championship in 2023 before missing the playoffs and not having a winning record in both seasons since then.

The Rangers announced Monday night that the team and Bochy mutually agreed to end his managerial tenure in Texas. He has been offered a front office role to stay in an advisory capacity.

The move came a day after the Rangers finished 81-81. That was the first .500 record ever for the franchise that began as the Washington Senators in 1961 before moving to Texas in 1972, and a first for Bochy in 28 seasons overall managing the Padres, Giants and Rangers.

Bochy was at the end of the three-year contract he got when Chris Young, one of his former pitchers, hired him after Texas' sixth consecutive losing season. Bochy went 249-

237 with the Rangers.

San Francisco will also be going through a managerial change, as Bob Melvin was fired Monday after the club missed the playoffs for a fourth straight season.

Buster Posey, the Giants' President of Baseball Operations, announced the decision. He had shown his confidence in Melvin by exercising the veteran manager's contract option for the 2026 season July 1.

"Just looking to find a different voice that can take us in a different direction," Posey said.

Melvin said after Sunday's 4-0 victory against Colorado to conclude his second season that he had received no assurances about managing in 2026.

"It is what it is," he said, "we'll see what the next day brings."

San Francisco finished 81-81 for one more victory than in Melvin's first year. It hasn't reached the postseason since winning the NL West with a franchise-record 107 victories to edge the Dodgers by one game in 2021 under Gabe Kapler.

The Twins' firing of Baldelli ends his seven-year tenure that included three AL Central titles but only one playoff appearance

over his final five seasons.

Baldelli's dismissal came after a second straight dispiriting finish by Minnesota, this one marked by a major selloff leading up to the trade deadline. The Twins went 70-92, including just 19-35 after the July 31 deadline passed following the departure of 10 players from their major league roster, with only the Colorado Rockies faring worse over the final two months.

Minnesota finished with the fourth-worst record in the major leagues and its worst mark since 2016, when they went 59-103 after firing longtime general manager Terry Ryan at midseason. Current team president Derek Falvey was hired to replace Ryan after that.

"Over the past seven years Rocco has been much more than our manager. He has been a trusted partner and teammate to me in leading this organization," Falvey said in a statement. "Together we shared a deep care for the Twins, for our players and staff, and for doing everything in our power to put this club in the best position to succeed. Along the way we experienced some meaningful accomplishments, and I will always be proud of those, even as I wish we had ultimately achieved more."