

## History weighs on U.S. effort to ‘fix’ Haiti

Critics question how this attempt to establish stability will be different

BY WIDLORE MÉRANCOURT, AMANDA COLETTA AND JOHN HUDSON

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — Heavily armed gangs are sowing mayhem, killing indiscriminately, breaking open prisons and blocking aid. Nearly half the country is hungry; 1 million people are starving. The country’s leader has announced plans to resign.

Haiti has been here before — several times, in fact, since the ouster of the Duvalier dictatorship in 1986: Its government has fallen or been chased out, the streets have erupted, and the United States has stepped in to lead international efforts to stand up new leaders who can be seen as legitimate and will be friendly to Washington.

It has yet to work. Haiti’s presidency has been vacant since the 2021 assassination of Jovenel Moïse. Its National Assembly has been empty since the last lawmakers’ terms expired last year. Prime Minister Ariel Henry has been unwilling or unable to bring new elections.

When Henry left the country this month to build support for a U.N. security force to restore order, the gangs rampaged, shutting down the international airport and the main seaport and attacking at least a dozen police stations. They haven’t let him back in.

Now U.S. officials see a way forward.

SEE HAITI ON A20

**Timeline:** How decades of tumult brought the nation to crisis. **A17**

## As thousands go missing in Gaza, loved ones agonize

BY MIRIAM BERGER AND HAJAR HARB

JERUSALEM — A teenager who sold cigarettes. A singer on the rise. An engineer at a local bottling plant.

They are among thousands who have been reported missing in Gaza.

Many disappeared under the rubble after airstrikes. Others are believed to have been detained at Israeli checkpoints while fleeing south or trying to return to the north. Some simply left one day and never came back.

Their desperate families search hospitals and contact hotlines set up by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). They scour photos of bodies in the streets and of blindfolded men detained by Israeli forces. They share pictures of relatives online, pleading for leads.

From October through February, the ICRC received reports of 5,118 Palestinians missing in Gaza. The Washington Post interviewed 15 people who lost contact with friends and family in Gaza since Oct. 7 — in only two cases were they able to find them. The most painful part, many said, was being in the dark about their fate.

“We hoped that we would suc-

SEE GAZA ON A19

**Ramadan:** War has sapped the joy of the season for U.S. Muslims. **A8**

She wanted to take America back to its biblical roots. Then she won a local school board seat.



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE GUSTAFSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## The education of a true believer

BY GREG JAFFE IN BETHLEHEM, PA.

Linda Wenhold closed her eyes, bowed her head and offered a prayer. “Lord, let us see that the further we move from biblical truth, the further we move from our liberty and freedom,” she began.

The 60-year-old grandmother stood at the front of a modest stone church in this former steel town just beyond the exurban sprawl of Philadelphia. About a dozen people had turned out on a cold February night for the fourth week of a 10-week course she was leading on the Constitution and America’s Christian roots, one of 500 that were underway at churches and community centers across the country. Radiators clanked. The attendees sipped coffee from foam cups.

Wenhold hit play on a video that opened with soaring music and scenes of Philadelphia’s Independence Hall. The classes were the product of the Patriot Academy, a Texas-based nonprofit whose mission is to “restore our Constitutional Republic” and the “Biblical principles that cause” the United States “to thrive.”

SEE BIBLE ON A10



**TOP:** Linda Wenhold, left, helps prepare her twin sister, Brenda Hendricks, to teach a class on the Constitution at her home in Coopersburg, Pa., on Feb. 5. Wenhold was inspired to run for office by the Patriot Academy and now serves on her local school board. **ABOVE:** A view of nearby Bethlehem, Pa.

### ELECTION 2024

## Biden’s mind for detail

The president’s speech prep impresses his aides, even as it creates concern about his reelection bid

BY TYLER PAGER

One day when Jen Psaki was serving as White House press secretary, she was asked to introduce President Biden at a virtual event commemorating Greek Independence Day. It was no big deal, Psaki thought — she would join the Zoom session from her office, briefly discuss her Greek ancestry, then turn it over to the president.

But shortly before the event, she was surprised to receive a summons to the Oval Office. Biden wanted to go over the session — at length. He interrogated Psaki on what she was going to say. He asked how she was going to talk about her family. He told her to be specific about her ancestors.

Biden then personally called the head of a Greek church to get his take on what he himself should say. He phoned a second Greek

priest, asking for more advice.

All this for a brief, informal event of the kind that presidents host hundreds of times during their tenure. “It became a longer adventure,” Psaki said, recounting the episode. “It shows how much he cares about every single event and every single interaction he has.”

It also shows, some Biden aides worry, a skewed approach to communication that has hurt his presidency and puts his reelection at risk.

Many Biden aides appreciate his attention to detail and his focus on substance over performance, which they find a welcome contrast to his bombastic, truth-challenged likely opponent, former president Donald Trump.

But they also note that Biden spends an enormous amount of

SEE BIDEN ON A12

**How Biden Leads** This story is part of a three-part series scrutinizing Biden’s leadership style, and how he has run the most complex government in the world, as he asks voters to return him to the White House for a second term.

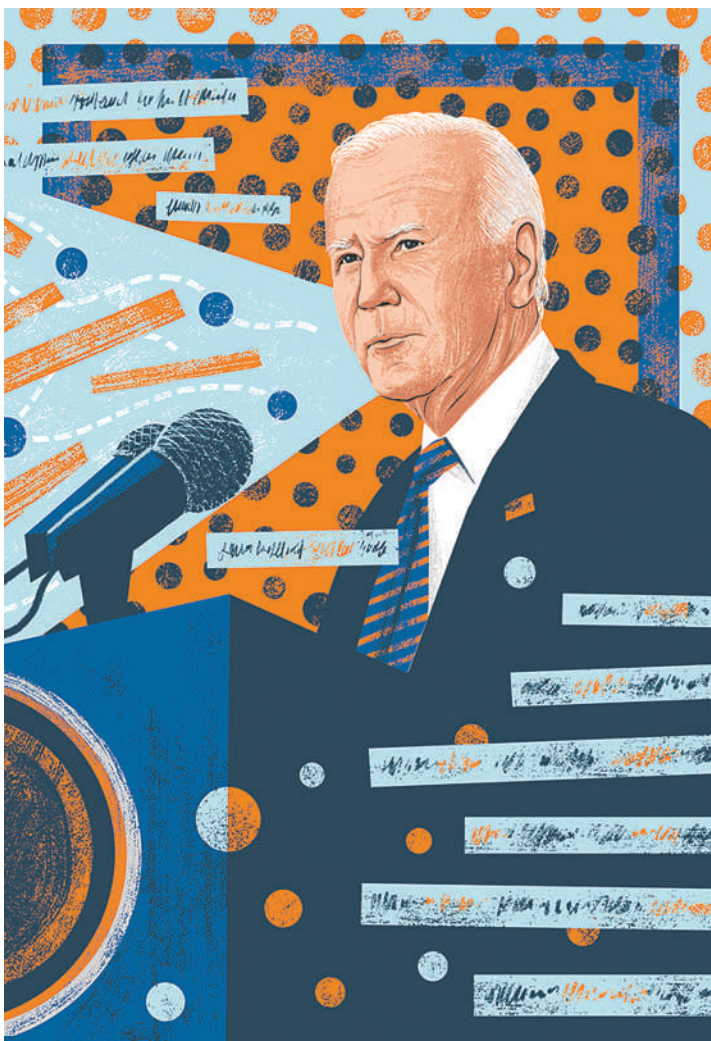


ILLUSTRATION BY CHLOE CUSHMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## How a rumor damaged Ga. case

TOOK FOCUS OFF TRUMP CHARGES

Sleuth defense attorney looked into Willis, Wade

BY AMY GARDNER AND HOLLY BAILEY

In early September, a lawyer for one of former president Donald Trump’s co-defendants in the Georgia election interference case scheduled a call with the other defense attorneys to share what he thought could be a game-changing allegation.

Nathan Wade, the lead prosecutor on the case, did not seem qualified for a job that was paying him hundreds of thousands of dollars, Manny Arora told his colleagues. And he’d heard that Wade was in a romantic relationship with Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis (D), potential grounds for Willis’s disqualification from the case.

The reaction was muted. Some of the lawyers didn’t even participate in the call. It was just three weeks after their clients had been indicted, and they were busy preparing their cases.

“Truthfully, I thought it was too salacious, and I thought it would irritate the judge,” said one defense lawyer, who like several other individuals spoke

SEE FULTON ON A14

**Trump prosecutions:** Case delays play into his campaign strategy. **A5**

**@PKCapitol:** Fed-up members of the House are quitting midterm. **A6**

## Flexible FDA approach in spotlight after ALS drug fails

BY DANIEL GILBERT

Justin Klee and Josh Cohen had pulled off an improbable success, turning an idea they hashed out as undergraduates into a drug that aimed to slow one of the world’s most implacable and deadly neurological diseases.

On the strength of a single clinical trial, they’d won U.S. regulatory approval for their drug to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS. They expected that a larger trial would cement the effectiveness of their treatment. Instead, the trial showed that their drug, Relyvrio, doesn’t work.

The co-CEOs of Cambridge, Mass.-based Amylyx Pharmaceuticals said this month they would voluntarily stop promoting Relyvrio — which brought in more than \$380 million last year — and consider pulling it from the market. Amylyx instantly lost 80 percent of its \$1 billion stock market value. The failure dealt a blow to the community of those suffering from ALS, a disease with no cure that kills by progressively shutting down the body’s ability to move, speak and ultimately breathe.

The episode highlights the agonizing choices facing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on drugs that could give desperate patients a shot at living longer

SEE ALS ON A2

**METRO**  
Big Tech wouldn’t be able to track children’s data under a Maryland bill.

**SPORTS**  
Much like American football, English soccer sidelines Black coaches.



**BUSINESS**  
If you drive a car, you’re using Formula One technology already.

**TRAVEL**  
In Vermont, Babes serves as both a blue-collar dive and an LGBTQ+ bar.



**ARTS & STYLE**  
Julio Torres’s comedy is surreal, singular and “slightly delusional.”

**BOOK WORLD**  
Secret-police files help a novelist depict Ukraine’s takeover by the Soviets.

COMICS.....INSERT  
OPINION PAGES.....A22  
OBITUARIES.....C5  
WORLD NEWS.....A17

CONTENT © 2024  
The Washington Post / Year 147, No. 53793

