



## Cease-fire set back by Hamas demands

Biden’s push to end Gaza war while in office looks even further out of reach

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB

President Joe Biden’s months-long push for a cease-fire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas has been upended again in recent days, putting the deal on life support as U.S. officials say they are reassessing next steps after they initially hoped to present the two sides with a “take it or leave it” proposal in the coming days.

The latest obstacle — the abrupt introduction by Hamas of new demands surrounding which prisoners Israel would release — underscores the frustrating, often excruciating process that has preoccupied top U.S. officials, and Biden himself, for nine months. At several recent points the United States, along with Qatar and Egypt, believed a deal was within reach, only for Israel or Hamas to derail the talks with new demands that set negotiators back weeks or months.

Overall, Biden’s chances of ending the war in Gaza and bringing home the remaining hostages before he leaves office appear ever more remote, making it more likely that he will end his presidency without resolving the bitter conflict that engulfed his final year in office and threatens to tarnish his legacy.

Negotiators increasingly fear that neither Israel nor Hamas is truly motivated to reach a deal to halt the 11-month war. White House officials, lawmakers and diplomats say a cease-fire is key not only to addressing the tragic humanitarian situation in Gaza and releasing the remaining hostages, but also to avoiding a broader regional war.

“Most days, it’s pretty clear the Americans are working much harder than the Israeli government is working at this,” said Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. “I think [a cease-fire] has been not a terribly likely outcome because of the political calculations that both [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and Hamas make. I give a lot of credit to the Biden team for persevering and trying to restart and re-energize these talks, even as both sides seem to throw up significant obstacles.”

SEE CEASE-FIRE ON A19

**West Bank:** Authorities investigate shooting death of a U.S. citizen. **A19**

The nation’s immigration crisis comes to a small Massachusetts town

## THE SHELTER



## AND THE STORM

STORY BY RUBY CRAMER AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JODI HILTON IN NORFOLK, MASS.

Here was the town where Kevin Roche grew up: empty sidewalks, a coffee shop, a pharmacy, two pizza parlors, two ambulances, two roundabouts and no grocery store. A small, quiet town, people in Norfolk said. Pleasant. Safe. Nothing much to do, and that meant nothing much changed from one morning to the next or the next, until this morning, when Kevin woke up and knew that the town would be different by the time the day was over.

He got in his car and drove toward Main Street just before 7 a.m. Main Street ran from one end of Norfolk to the other, four miles in all, and it led to the auto repair shop where Kevin, 60, had worked since he was 12 years old, first for his father, and now alongside his own son. He passed the line of houses he saw every morning, which were the same, except for the ones that had new signs in the yard. “NORFOLK PRISON-SHELTER,” they read. “NOT SAFE FOR ANYONE.”

At the east end of Main Street, razor wire was being removed from a chain-link fence around Bay State Correctional Center, an unused low-security state prison half a mile from Kevin’s shop. At the foot of the fence, rows of thick coil lay in the grass. Security guards stood at the front gates. Cribs and diaper kits sat on the floor of the prison gym. Clean, white sheets lay on the beds.

Later that day, the state would reopen the prison as an emergency shelter for pregnant women and families with children, most of them migrants who had been granted parole at the border to legally enter the country and who were in the process of applying for asylum or temporary protected status. Twenty-four families, or about 75 people, would be the first to arrive.

“There’s only 24 of ‘em,” Kevin told his son, Adam, when he got to the shop. “Today?” Adam asked.

SEE SHELTER ON A14

**Clouds gather over Norfolk, Mass. Residents had mixed feelings when the state proposed a shelter for pregnant women and families with children in an unused prison.**

## Before shooting, a frantic warning

MOTHER CALLED GA. SCHOOL, LOGS SHOW

‘Extreme emergency’ with her 14-year-old son

BY SARAH BLASKEY AND TEO ARMUS

The mother of the suspected Apalachee High School gunman told family members that she called the school on the morning of the shooting and warned a counselor about an “extreme emergency” involving her 14-year-old son, according to text messages obtained by The Washington Post and an interview with a family member.

That account is supported by a call log from the family’s shared phone plan, which shows a 10-minute call from the mother’s phone to the school starting at 9:50 a.m. — about a half-hour before witnesses have said the gunman opened fire.

“I was the one that notified the school counselor at the high school,” Marcee Gray texted her sister following the shooting on Sept. 4, according to a screenshot of the exchange. “I told them it was an extreme emergency and for them to go immediately and find [my son] to check on him.”

A counselor told Gray during the call that her son had been talking about a school shooting that morning, according to Gray’s sister, Annie Brown, who described family discussions of the events to The Post.

Around the same time, a school administrator went to the son’s math classroom, according to Lye-la Sayarath, a student in the class. Sayarath said there seemed to be confusion involving another student in the class with a name similar to that of Gray’s son. Neither student was in the room, and the official left with a backpack belonging to the similarly named student, she said. The shooting began minutes later.

The phone log, texts and interviews provide the strongest indications yet that officials at Apalachee High were alerted to concerns about the suspect on the morning of the shooting and may have been looking for him in the minutes before he allegedly killed four people and injured nine with an AR-15-style rifle. The texts also show that the school and family

SEE SHOOTING ON A12

**Cultural shift:** Charging parents of shooters may be a new normal. **A11**

## Is Daniels the answer to the Commanders’ QB question?

The rookie has thrived everywhere he has played. But winning in Washington is different.

BY SAM FORTIER

The fans behind the rope had wide eyes and high-pitched voices. “The future is here, baby!” a man with a gray beard shouted. “You’re going to save us!” a middle-aged woman screamed. “I love you SO MUCH!” a young girl gushed, and when the Washington Commanders quarterback signed her shirt, she turned away in tears. A crowd of teenage boys brawled over one of his sweaty towels, and after a handshake, a disabled, nonverbal man with shining eyes touched his chin. *Thank you.*

Down the length of the field, outstretched arms held jerseys, posters, trading cards, water bottles, bucket hats, burgundy-and-



JOHN McDONNELL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Jayden Daniels learned to stay even-keeled at a young age in San Bernardino, Calif. From Pop Warner to the Heisman, it has paid off.**

gold Nikes and, in one case, a freaked-out newborn baby. Once, the rookie started to walk away and someone hurled a football at his chest. He caught it instinctively, signed it and tossed it back. He started to walk away again, and out flew two more footballs.

The fans begged for selfies. They jockeyed with one another, yelling things such as, “For my son!” or “Service member!” The white plastic fences began to buckle.

“You’re squeezing the kids up

SEE DANIELS ON A6

**Commanders at Buccaneers** 4:25 p.m., Fox

**Barry Svrluga:** Daniels and Crews, fellow Tigers, find way to D.C. **D1**

ELECTION 2024

## Harris, known as demanding boss, built staff up to the task

BY DAN DIAMOND AND CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.

On the day after President Joe Biden decided to end his reelection bid in July, more than 300 former staffers for Vice President Kamala Harris publicly endorsed her candidacy — a flurry of alumni support with little precedent in this already unusual campaign.

“We were able to witness her leadership firsthand,” the former staffers wrote in a letter, attesting to Harris’s behavior on and off camera. “She is an extraordinary leader of great character.”

The rapidly assembled letter was a spontaneous outpouring of affection for Harris, said Rachel

Palermo, who worked for Harris for three years in the vice president’s office and coordinated the effort.

But in interviews, former staff who signed the letter acknowledged it also addressed one of Harris’s perceived weaknesses as a candidate and elected official: her demanding management style. People who have worked for Harris say her interactions with staff can resemble a prosecutor

SEE HARRIS ON A8

**The Sunday Take:** Debate will show whether Trump has adapted. **A2**

**Jimmy Carter:** Turning 100 soon, he’s buoyed by the Harris ticket. **A3**

### OPINION

These are the asteroids that scare scientists. Are we prepared for them?

### BOOK WORLD

“Fierce Desires” explores sex, and its repression, in America since 1600.

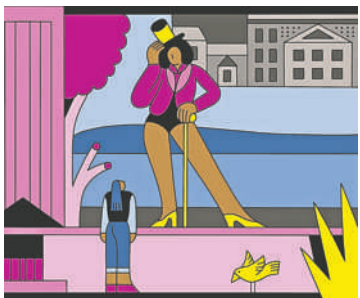


### METRO

Photo essay captures moments of love and bonding in the D.C. area.

### BUSINESS

Do you spend money more like a millennial or a boomer? Take a quiz.



### ARTS & STYLE

Fall preview: The best in theater, music, dance, movies, TV and more.

### TRAVEL

Influencers hyped Italy’s Amalfi Coast for years. Now it’s a “theme park.”

\$122

SUNDAY COUPON INSERTS

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