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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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## Biden: ‘It’s time for this war to end’

Israeli cease-fire plan calls for hostage release, withdrawal from Gaza

BY KAREN DEYOUNG

President Biden on Friday announced what he said was a new Israeli proposal that, if agreed to by Hamas, will lead to a permanent cease-fire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the enclave.

Describing the plan as a path to “a durable end” to the current conflict, Biden said Hamas “is no longer capable of carrying out another Oct. 7,” the day its invasion of Israel began the war. “It’s time for this war to end,” he said.

The White House cautioned that final agreement on the deal would still require some negotiation and an immediate cease-fire is not likely. But administration officials said after months of fitful talks, it was effectively the best offer either side could hope to have.

Both Israel and the United States, as Israel’s primary military and diplomatic backer, have been under growing international pressure to end the Israeli attacks that have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, and to bring home more than 100 remaining Hamas hostages, both living and dead. That pressure, including domestic criticism of Biden’s support for Israel, has intensified as Israel continues the military offensive it launched in densely populated Rafah, the southernmost Gaza city, more than three weeks ago.

As outlined by the president in White House remarks, the three-phase plan echoes previous proposals that died on the negotiating table. It begins with a six-week cease-fire and the return of women, children and other vulnerable hostages; the release of “hundreds” of Palestinian prisoners in Israel; withdrawal of Israeli troops from populated areas of

SEE ISRAEL ON A9



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Donald Trump at a news conference in Trump Tower on Friday, the day after he was found guilty on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in New York. Trump plans to use his conviction to raise money, attract media attention and unite the GOP behind him.

## In swing county, anger on right, nervous celebration on left

BY HANNAH KNOWLES

SAGINAW, MICH. — Hard-right commentators on Real America’s Voice were talking about “the death of America” on the TV in the corner. But Wally Ribble was calm as he walked in, saw the news ticker and learned that Donald Trump was now a felon.

Ribble laughed. “Guilty of 34 counts of nothing,” said Ribble, 65, a retired factory worker who now spends many days here at the Trump Shoppe, a strip mall headquarters for local Republicans that doubles as a gift shop. “Tomorrow we’ll go on. It’s not the end of the world.” The system was unfair, he thought, but Trump would still win in November.

Down the road, Democrat Jessie Dawkins, 67, was shocked to see what she considered justice served. She starts every day reading scripture, and she said she might pray that “Trump’s people” didn’t get violent, as some did on Jan. 6, 2021. She was thrilled to

see Trump punished for his actions but figured Trump’s passionate followers would just say the trial was rigged.

She never watches Fox News. “I can only imagine what they’re talking about ...” she said, trailing off.

For weeks, Ribble and Dawkins had been hearing radically different stories about the first criminal trial of a former U.S. president from radically different news sources. Now — in one of the most hotly contested counties in a pivotal swing state — they seemed to embody Americans’ sharply divided response to the result.

To Trump’s MAGA base, the trial was only the latest underhanded effort to sideline its champion. At the Saginaw Trump Shoppe, the president’s supporters expressed outrage, but little panic. Trump was sure to win in November and set things right.

To most Democrats, the

SEE VERDICT ON A4



EMILY ELCONIN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Jessie Dawkins helps her 8-year-old grandson, Alyjah Williams, with his homework at her home in Saginaw, Mich. To Dawkins, a Democrat, Donald Trump’s conviction was justice served.

Up next: Case turns toward July 11 sentencing — and appeals. A5

Heat for Hogan: “Respect the verdict,” GOP Md. Senate nominee said. B1

Fox News reacts: Pundits stew over a “conviction without a crime.” C1

## In Rafah, a gradual but growing push by Israel

Offensive begun May 6 has altered landscape, displaced over a million

This article is by Joyce Sohyun Lee, Jarrett Ley, Loveday Morris, Samuel Granados, Hazem Balousha and Hajar Harb

Israeli forces are pushing into Rafah’s most populated areas, razing scores of buildings along the way, as they work to dismantle Hamas and establish a line of control along the Egyptian border, according to satellite imagery and videos analyzed by The Washington Post.

The Israeli offensive, launched on May 6, has progressed slowly, but has already radically altered the geography of the Rafah area, displaced more than a million Palestinians and resulted in one of the most horrific strikes of the war — testing the limits of support from Washington, Israel’s main backer.

Israel says that Rafah is home to Hamas’s last intact battalions, and that its war against the mili-

itants cannot be won without a decisive battle there, despite months of warnings from U.S. officials and humanitarian groups that a military operation in the southern border city would be a disaster.

President Biden cautioned Israel on May 8 that he would withhold weapons if troops were to move on “population centers” in Rafah — once home to 1.4 million people — a red line that has appeared to recede amid the chaotic mass flight of civilians. On Friday, for the first time, the Israel Defense Forces said troops were operating in “central” Rafah.

As Israeli troops advance and international outrage grows, the United States now says it does not want to see a “major operation” in the city. Pressed Tuesday on how Washington defines that term, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby described it as “thousands and thousands of troops moving in a maneuvered, concentrated, coordinated way against a variety of targets on the ground.”

Israel sent an additional brigade to Rafah this week and now has six operating in and around

SEE RAFAH ON A8



PETER ZARBA/EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Wild flamingos gather near Tampa, in the fall of 2023, after Hurricane Idalia tore through the region.

## Flocks of flamingos dot Florida’s coastline

Sightings increase as the Sunshine State starts to get some of its pink flamboyance back

BY LORI ROZSA  
IN MERRITT ISLAND, FLA.

When Keith Ramos heard a small flock of American flamingos had landed last fall at the nature preserve he oversees off Florida’s Atlantic coast, he rushed to get a once-in-a-lifetime glimpse of the gangly pink birds in the wild.

“I ran over there, and of course they were gone,” said Ramos, the manager of Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, where a flamingo sighting had last been recorded in 1992. “I figured I missed my chance forever.”

But a month later, they were spotted again. Then a separate and larger flock was seen in nearby Mosquito Lagoon.

The birds seemed to be right at home, preening their bluish-colored feathers and grazing on shrimp near a sandbar.

Indeed, in the past nine months, flamingos have appeared throughout Florida in places where they haven’t been seen in

decades — what scientists hope marks the return of one of the state’s most celebrated symbols.

They’ve been photographed taking a leisurely swim within eyeshot of office buildings in Tampa Bay, hanging out with pelicans near Sanibel Island and sharing a sandspit with great blue herons just a few miles from the Kennedy Space Center.

Researchers believe the new arrivals blew in with Hurricane Idalia last August, probably from Mexico or the Bahamas, where conservation efforts over the past 50 years have helped flamingo populations recover from near extinction. It wasn’t the first time a powerful storm swept the birds to Florida. But in most of those instances, the flamingos left after only a few days.

This time, they stayed. In May, Audubon Florida released the results of a February field study that documented 101 wild American flamingo sightings around the state — with more

SEE FLAMINGOS ON A6

### IN THE NEWS

**Power shift** In initial election returns, South Africa’s ruling African National Congress party was on track to lose the parliamentary majority for the first time in 30 years. A9

**Settlement in U-Va. shooting** The school and state will pay \$9 million after three students were killed and two injured in 2022. B1

**THE NATION** **Skyrocketing** rents and home prices may be a key election issue. A3  
**The Social Security** inspector general quit after a draft report found she attempted to obstruct a probe. A3

**THE WORLD** **As India’s** seven weeks of voting wrap up, reports of irregularities are mounting. A7  
**Defense chiefs** from the U.S. and China met in a bid to de-escalate rising tensions. A10

**THE ECONOMY** **TikTok’s** new rules banning the promotion of obesity medications has influencers feeling light-headed. A11  
**Donald Trump** suggested to oil executives at a closed-door meeting that he would ease scrutiny of their mergers if he is elected. A12

**THE REGION** **Maryland** seeks to open a Key Bridge replacement by Oct. 15, 2028, according to an appeal to private industry for project help. B1  
**Spelling bee** champion Bruhat Soma, a 12-year-old from Tampa, bested nearly 250 other spellers in 14 rounds. B1

**OBITUARIES** **Marian Robinson**, mother of Michelle Obama and the first mother-in-law in years to live in the White House, died at 86. B4

**SPORTS** **In Houston**, cricket is thriving everywhere as a first U.S. World Cup nears. D1

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