

# The Washington Post

Photos may vary in size outside metropolitan Washington.

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Showers 72/65 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 84/67 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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## Biden plan to halt gas tax has few believers

Even administration officials doubt proposal would greatly curb prices

BY TYLER PAGER, JEFF STERN, TONY ROMM AND CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.

President Biden appealed to Congress on Wednesday to suspend the federal gas tax, saying it was critical to reduce the pain Americans are feeling at the pump. "I promise you I'm doing everything possible to bring the price of energy down," Biden said, as images of oil pumps and gas stations flickered on the wall behind him.

But the notion of a gas tax holiday was met with instant criticism — not only from members of both parties on Capitol Hill, but even from many officials within the administration who said privately that it would probably do little to significantly lower gas prices.

Top Treasury Department officials expressed doubts about the gas tax holiday, and at least two top White House economists also privately conveyed reservations, according to two people familiar with the internal deliberations who spoke on the condition of

SEE INFLATION ON A17

**Powell on Hill:** Fed chief says rate hikes could cause a recession. A16

## In D.C. area, shootings stoke fears of going out

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL AND EMILY DAVIES

Ben Forrest and his girlfriend were dancing one moment, he said. The next, they were running for their lives.

A loud bang spooked the crowd at Sunday's Moechella concert in D.C., sending hundreds of people fleeing on U Street Northwest. Forrest and his girlfriend ducked around a corner, sheltering with a group. He said mothers were holding their children tight, while others had looks of terror on their faces.

He wondered if a mass shooting was underway and it was clear others did, too. Four people would later be shot at the event, including a 15-year-old boy who was killed and a D.C. police officer who was wounded.

The mayhem came at a time when the threat of gun violence feels increasingly close to home for people in the D.C. area and across the country.

Reeling from high-profile mass shootings at a Buffalo supermarket and Uvalde, Tex., elementary school, some have expressed heightened concern that they could be the next victim of random

SEE SHOOTINGS ON A9



Afghans evacuate the injured in the country's eastern Paktika province after Wednesday's 5.9-magnitude earthquake, the first major natural disaster since the Taliban took power last summer. The government said it would welcome international aid.

## Toll mounts in killer Afghan quake

This article is by Susannah George, Karina Tint, Adela Sultan, Haq Nawaz Khan and Shafiq Hussain

SHARANA, AFGHANISTAN — Heavy rain and strong winds were frustrating search and rescue efforts late Wednesday after a massive earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan, killing more than 1,000 and injuring more than 1,600, government officials said.

A sudden downpour washed away roads leading to some of the hardest-hit areas in Paktika province, according to doctors at the main hospital in the capital city of Sharana. "There are hundreds injured still in their villages without aid or shelter, but they cannot leave because of the flooded roads," said one of the doctors.

Over 1,000 lost as bad weather hinders rescues in one of the deadliest tremors in decades

Kamran Khan.

Khan added that 10 ambulances are stuck in a district where hundreds of homes were flattened. The storms also grounded rescue helicopters for several hours Wednesday.

Safia, a 2-year-old being treated for a concussion at the Sharana hospital, lost 18 members of her family in the village of Bermal. Only her mother and grandfather survived.

The quake brought the roof of their home crashing down, but one of the beams fell at an angle, shielding Safia from the falling rubble.

"When I climbed out, I saw my village destroyed," said Abdulhaman Wazir, Safia's grandfather. Crowds quickly formed to help dig families out. "The mosques in neighboring villages made announcements telling people where to go to help," he said.

As he buried his relatives, he said he counted more than a hundred other families laying entire households to rest.

"My village is finished," he said. The earthquake's epicenter was in the mountainous area near the country's border with Pakistan — about 27 miles from

SEE EARTHQUAKE ON A13

## DOJ's probe of Jan. 6 widens

AGENTS DELIVER FRESH SUBPOENAS

Apparent new focus on issue of invalid electors

BY SPENCER S. HSU, JOSH DAWSEY AND DEVLIN BARRETT

Federal agents investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday dropped subpoenas on people in at least two states, in what appeared to be a widening probe of how political activists supporting President Donald Trump tried to use invalid electors to thwart Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory.

Agents conducted court-authorized law enforcement activity Wednesday morning at two locations, FBI officials confirmed to The Washington Post. One was the home of Brad Carver, a Georgia lawyer who allegedly signed a document claiming to be a Trump elector. The other was the Virginia home of Thomas Lane, who worked on the Trump campaign's efforts in Arizona and New Mexico. The FBI officials did not identify the people associated with those addresses, but public records list each of the locations as the home addresses of the men.

Separately, at least some of the would-be Trump electors in Michigan also received subpoenas on Wednesday, according to a person

SEE INVESTIGATION ON A4

**Ron Johnson:** Senator criticized over disclosure of fake electors. A2

**Jeffrey Clark:** House panel will examine DOJ official's actions. A6

**Proud Boys' trial delayed:** Judge cites forthcoming Jan. 6 report. B1

## A rush to train abortion providers

End of Roe could lead to upheaval in reproductive health education

BY NICK ANDERSON

KNOXVILLE, TENN. — As he aborted 11 pregnancies at a clinic here one busy Friday this month, Aaron Campbell also was training a medical student in a procedure that soon could be outlawed in this state and many others. Case by case, he narrated the nuances of pelvic examination, pain-blocking injections, cervical dilation and, ultimately, the removal of embryonic or fetal tissue.

Lindsey Gorman observed throughout and participated when appropriate, under Campbell's guidance. With her hands she checked the size and tilt of the uterus. She also practiced ultrasound techniques and used speculums, swabs and local anesthetic to prepare patients. The student from Lake Erie College of Osteopath-



Tennessee abortion provider Aaron Campbell simulates how a speculum is used as medical student Lindsey Gorman looks on.

ic Medicine in Pennsylvania was the seventh trainee to work with Campbell in the past year, following medical residents from East Tennessee

State University and the University of Tennessee's teaching hospital in Knoxville.

Campbell and other abortion

SEE ABORTIONS ON A8

## Committee to subpoena Commanders' Snyder

Owner avoids hearing on workplace culture; Goodell faces scrutiny

BY LIZ CLARKE, MARK MASKE AND PAUL KANE

An empty chair designated for "Mr. Snyder" faced members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform at Wednesday's hearing on the Washington Commanders' hostile workplace culture, and in short order Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY.) made the symbolism clear, announcing plans to issue a subpoena to compel owner Daniel Snyder to provide sworn testimony next week.

"Rather than show up and take responsibility for his actions, he

chose to skip town," Maloney said during the hearing, noting that Snyder's yacht was in France, with the owner presumably aboard rather than on Capitol Hill. "That should tell you just how much respect he has for women in the workplace."

With Snyder absent, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell fielded questions for 2½ hours about his understanding of allegations of widespread sexual harassment in the team workplace under Snyder, as well as the league's response to them. Asked to characterize what he had learned about the Commanders' environment, Goodell, testifying remotely from New York, affirmed he had not seen a culture "anywhere near" as bad as Washington's during his four decades in the NFL.

SEE COMMANDERS ON A18

**'Shadow' probe:** Snyder targeted ex-employees, panel finds. D1