

# The Washington Post

Photos may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

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Mostly sunny 90/76 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 94/78 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022 • #2

## Push for red-flag laws faces old foes

In GOP legislatures, bills are often defeated by gun groups' campaigns

BY KIMBERLY KINDY

After 17 high school students and staff were killed by a mass shooter in 2018, Pennsylvania state Rep. Todd Stephens watched his GOP cohorts in Florida rally around a new red-flag law.

Such measures, which aim to temporarily remove guns from people at risk of harming themselves or others, found rare bipartisan accord there after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre as a way to reduce gun violence without violating the Second Amendment.

But when Stephens was inspired by Florida's success to propose a similar measure in Pennsylvania, his Republican colleagues stalled it out, arguing that it could infringe gun owners' constitutional rights, spark costly court battles or become a vengeful tool for people to disarm their enemies.

"It was frustrating and disappointing," Stephens said. "I took children dying in Florida and a police officer dying in Indiana before they passed their [red-flag] laws. I pray to God that is not what it will take for us to act in Pennsylvania."

Now, red-flag laws have once again become a focal point, thanks to the bipartisan gun deal signed into law last month by President Biden, which aspires to spark more states to adopt the measures by providing a legisla-

SEE LAWS ON A19

## In a rarity, a massacre is halted by an armed civilian

BY JAMES BIKALES, PAULINA VILLEGAS, PRAVEENA SOMASUNDARAM AND REIS THERAULT

America's latest rampage unfolded like many before it: A gunman entered a bustling public space, armed with high-powered weapons and an abundance of ammunition, and he opened fire into a crowd, killing several people.

But this most recent episode — at a shopping mall in Greenwood, Ind., on Sunday — did not end like the majority of mass shootings in this country, with the assailant's arrest, suicide or death at the hands of police officers.

Instead, an armed bystander engaged the attacker and killed him in a shootout, firing 10 rounds as shoppers fled, authorities said. Three other people were killed and two were injured, including a 12-year-old girl, during the latest spasm of violence in what has been an unrelenting string of

SEE SHOOTING ON A2



Britanya Bays reads to her 3-year-old twins, Craos and Bla, and Apollo Mohn before the children take a nap in Stamford, Tex., on Feb. 21, the day she reopened her child-care business after shutting it down earlier in the pandemic.

A CRISIS OF CARE

## High costs of a broken system

As clients struggle to pay, Texas woman looks for ways to keep child-care business afloat

BY CASEY PARKS

STAMFORD, TEX. — A few minutes before the mayor arrived, Britanya Bays ducked into the bathroom. She had crumbs on her blouse and a light stain she couldn't diagnose, but hey, she told herself: That was the uniform when you worked with children.

She reached to the back of a drawer, pulled out a bottle of foundation she hadn't used in a year and smeared a dab of cocoa-shaded L'Oréal across her cheeks.

"I don't know what I'm trying to do with this look," she said, sighing. "I just really want things to feel better this time."

She'd advertised this morning, a Friday in late February, as the official unveiling of Our Loving Village, a licensed child-care program she planned

to run out of her home. Technically, it was a reopening. Bays had started the business years earlier. She'd never earned much, but her revenue dwindled to nothing during the pandemic, and at the end of 2021, she'd decided to shut down.

The stress of losing her business caused Bays, 26, to develop sleep apnea and a heart arrhythmia. The only way she knew to stay sane was to research the problem, and so Bays had learned that more than 111,000 people left their

child-care jobs during the pandemic — a tenth of the workforce. That exodus had left at least 6.5 million families across the nation without stable child care, census data from the spring of 2021 showed. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation estimated that child-care breakdowns cost Texas \$9.39 billion a year in lost income and tax revenue.

Lawmakers called this a crisis. They agreed to spend tens of billions of federal dollars to stabilize programs like Bays', and President Biden introduced a plan to send out more. The country would fix its child-care problems, Biden promised, and so Bays had decided to give Our Loving Village one more go.

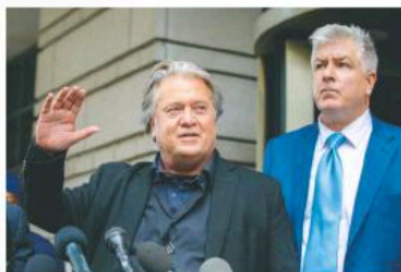
Bays had done all she could to make reopening feel special. She'd filled her living room with red balloons, and she'd depleted her savings to hang a banner

SEE CHILD CARE ON A6

"This is my baby.

I'm the business owner."

Britanya Bays, who's struggling to obtain loans and grants for her child-care business, which she shut down during the pandemic and reopened in February



AMANDA ANDRACI/REUTERS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Ex-Trump adviser's trial expected to open

Stephen K. Bannon, seen with lawyer Matthew Evan Corcoran in D.C., is charged with two counts of contempt of Congress. With its jury nearly seated, the trial should start Tuesday. Story, A19

## Russia enlists teachers in its battle for Ukraine

Moscow offers big money to 'prepare schools' in occupied areas

BY ROBYN DIXON

RIGA, LATVIA — Russia has promised hundreds of teachers big money to go to occupied Ukraine and give students there a "corrected" education — with Russia's take on Ukraine's history — in the coming school year.

For some teachers in Chuvashia, a republic about 400 miles

east of Moscow, the offer seemed tempting. The average monthly salary in the region is about \$550, but the prospective salary posted by a school director on a Chuvashia teachers' chat group was for more than \$2,900 a month.

"Urgent," his June 17 message said. "Teachers needed for [Zaporizhzhia] and Kherson regions for the summer period. \$600 rubles a day. The job is to prepare schools for the new school year. Transportation there and back — free. Accommodation

SEE RUSSIA ON A16

War within a war: Chechens join the fight on opposite sides. A14

## Extreme weather bakes Europe

RECORDS BROKEN, SERVICES STRAINED

As deaths rise, officials warn of 'heat apocalypse'

BY RICK NOACK AND WILLIAM BOOTH

PARIS — An unforgiving heat wave in Western Europe laid bare Monday how extreme temperatures will increasingly challenge everyday life, as dozens of heat records were shattered, key sectors were hobbled, and emergency services confronted spreading wildfires and rising death tolls.

In France, officials warned of a "heat apocalypse" as the temperature soared up to 109 degrees. France's meteorological service placed a stretch of its Atlantic coast under the highest-possible alert level. More than 15,000 people were evacuated amid wildfires in France.

Wales reported a new all-time high, and Ireland registered its highest air temperature in more

SEE HEAT ON A12

The 40C barrier: Heat in Britain may top a centuries-old mark. A13

ANALYSIS

## U.S. heads for default on climate promise

BY CHRIS MOONEY AND HARRY STEVENS

In 101 months, the United States will have achieved President Biden's most important climate promise — or it will have fallen short. Right now it is seriously falling short, and for each month that passes, it becomes harder to succeed until at some point — perhaps very soon — it will become virtually impossible. That's true for the United States, and also true for the planet, as nearly 200 nations strive to tackle climate change with a fast-dwindling timeline for doing so.

This is crucial context for the news late last week that Sen. Joe Manchin III (W.Va.), after months of negotiations with his fellow Democrats, is balking at new climate policies. The stated reason for Manchin's hesitation is raging inflation, a serious concern. But there is always a reason to delay action, and time is not forgiving when it comes to the warming climate.

At the center of the Biden administration's climate policy is a promise, made in 2021, to slash

SEE CLIMATE ON A12