

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

M2 V1 V2 V3 V4



Mosly sunny 93/79 • Tomorrow: T-storm 95/75 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022 • B2

## Biden studies declaring climate emergency

### Global leaders remain split on science behind heat

BY DARRYL FEARS AND ANDREA EGER

As summer temperatures spiked in Oklahoma — heading toward at least 110 degrees Fahrenheit on Tuesday — the city of Tulsa pondered what to do about its 36-hole municipal golf course. Should it replace the fescue turf with Bermuda grass that's resistant to heat and drought? The cost of showering it nightly with 1 million gallons of water had gotten pricey, at \$5,000 a pop.

"There is a point where we may have to start prioritizing tees and greens and fairways and not as much on the rough," said Randy Heckenkemper, a golf course architect based in the city, in an interview.

But for now, officials were lashing water on the city's Page Belcher course, as Oklahoma baked in a massive heat wave that is also scorching parts of Texas, Kansas and South Dakota. Residents are cranking up their air conditioners, putting pressure on the power grid, and farmers are using more water at a time when the region could slide into drought.

But across the Atlantic, as the same weather pattern broke centuries-old records in Europe, political leaders seized on the heat wave as a call to action.

"This is the consequence of climate change," London Mayor Sadiq Khan said in a tweet Monday. "Tackling the climate emergency must be at the top of the to-do list for the next Prime Minister."

The sharp policy divergence could have profound implications for the planet, as the world's biggest historic emitters of greenhouse gases grapple with how to

SEE HEAT ON A13



BERNARD ANIMANCIA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Their hottest day: Britons struggle to keep cool, carry on

BY KARLA ADAM AND WILLIAM BOOTH

LONDON — On the hottest day ever in Britain, with temperatures soaring above 104 degrees Fahrenheit, we found Earthlings huddled beside the refrigerated section at the Marks & Spencer grocery at Marylebone train station.

"I've been standing here for like 10 minutes," said Andy Martin, 28, a video technician. "Don't tell anyone."

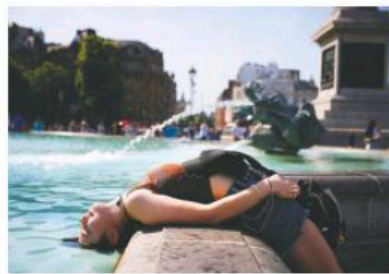
This is not normal here. This

kind of heat. This heat wave.

The Meteorological Office, the nation's weather service, reported that at least 34 locations in Britain exceeded the previous high temperature, with a broad swath of southeast and central England topping 40 degrees Celsius. That's a hellish 104 Fahrenheit.

Britain is not designed for this. The country's homes and shops, train stations and Tube carriages, its schools and offices — very, very few of them have air

SEE LONDON ON A12



DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: A man uses a shovel to fight a wildfire in Tàbara, Spain, on Tuesday. Huge fires have consumed parts of the nation. ABOVE: A student cools off in London's Trafalgar Square on Tuesday, the hottest day ever recorded in Britain.

### DEMOCRATS DEMAND AGGRESSIVE ACTION

#### White House scrambles after Manchin setback

BY TONY ROMM, JEFF STEIN AND ASHLEY PARKER

President Biden is considering whether to declare a national climate emergency in the coming weeks, as he seeks to salvage his stalled environmental agenda and satisfy Democrats on Capitol Hill, who demanded on Tuesday a swift, aggressive response to global warming.

The new calls for action came as Biden prepared to speak Wednesday about the increasingly evident consequences of a rapidly changing planet. Another punishing heat wave descended on the central United States this week, as a similar weather pattern spread wildfires and broke temperature records in the United Kingdom and across Europe.

At the White House, top officials contemplated issuing a new emergency declaration, hoping it might aid the government's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and foster cleaner energy, according to three people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private deliberations.

Biden does not plan to declare a climate emergency when he delivers his speech Wednesday in Somerset, Mass., the White House later confirmed, acknowledging it has not ruled out issuing such a declaration at another time. But those familiar with the president's thinking said that other executive action may be imminent. Administration officials have emphasized in recent days that all options are on the table as Biden seeks to meet his ambitious climate goals.

The internal scramble reflected

SEE CLIMATE ON A14

Europe's burden: Heat worsens energy crisis from Ukraine war. A13

## House passes protection for same-sex marriages

### Forty-seven Republicans give bipartisan support to a historic moment

BY MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR, LEIGH ANN CALDWELL AND PAUL KANE

A bill that would federally protect same-sex marriages sailed through the House on Tuesday with bipartisan support, a historic moment that marks a capstone to the nation's quarter-century evolution on LGBTQ rights and a response to fears that an emboldened Supreme Court was poised to take away hard-won civil rights.

Forty-seven Republicans joined all Democrats in support of the Respect for Marriage Act that also would protect interracial marriage and repeal the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman. House Republican

Conference Chairwoman Elise Stefanik (N.Y.) and National Republican Congressional Committee Chair Tom Emmer (Minn.) were among those who voted in support, a signal that at least a portion of the party believes marriage equality is settled law.

Tuesday's bipartisan vote proves a striking evolution on the issue of same-sex marriage for members of both parties. Just a decade ago, Vice President Joe Biden got castigated for announcing his support for gay marriage before the sitting Democratic president, Barack Obama, had announced his own views on the issue. More than a decade before that, Biden helped pass the Defense of Marriage Act in the Senate, while House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) and Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.) joined 116 Democrats supporting it in the House.

Now, on the cusp of seizing the majority of the House, Republicans split into competing camps

SEE VOTES ON A9

### CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

## A model for monumental change

### Richmond tore down its statues — and revealed a new angle on history

BY PHILIP KENNICOTT IN RICHMOND



THE VALENTINE

The Jefferson Davis statue that used to stand on Richmond's Monument Avenue is displayed at the Valentine. This history museum and others are recontextualizing racist symbols.

SEE RICHMOND ON A8

### ELECTION 2022

## Cox wins GOP governor nod as Democratic count goes on

BY ERIN COX, OVETTA WIGGINS AND ANTONIO OLIVO

Maryland Republicans picked Del. Dan Cox, a first-term delegate who embraced Donald Trump's rhetoric and tried to impeach Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, as their nominee for governor Tuesday, according to an Associated Press projection, elevating him into a contentious fight to keep control of the governor's mansion in a deeply Democratic state.

The Republican primary race for governor tested the potency of the former president's influence in a state that's also backed the pragmatic conservatism of term-limit

SEE MARYLAND ON A16

Pr. George's: Alsbrooks poised to win second term as executive. A19