



***1Q 2023***

***Issues Programs Report***



### **Religious Programming**

**Joel Osteen** – *Sunday 10:00AM and 2:00AM*

God is doing amazing things through our television ministry. We are reaching over 100 million homes in the U.S. and tens of millions more in 100 nations. Lives are being changed, relationships are being restored and communities are being transformed by the power of God and the message of hope that is being broadcast through this ministry.

**In Touch Ministries**- *Sunday 6:30AM*

It all began in 1972, when a half-hour program called "The Chapel Hour" was launched on Atlanta-area television stations. Today, "In Touch with Dr. Charles Stanley" can be heard around the world via radio and television broadcasts, podcasts, the handheld In Touch Ministries Messenger, In Touch Apps, and right here on the Web. Our programs are seen and heard around the world on more than 2,600 radio and television outlets in more than 50 languages. In addition to broadcasting, the ministry continues to produce books, studies, discipleship resources, and the award-winning In Touch magazine to more than 1.5 million households every month.

**Discovering The Jewish Jesus (with Rabbi Schneider)** – *Sunday 10:30 AM*

**Rabbi Schneider** imparts revelation of Jesus' Jewish heritage and His fulfillment of Messianic prophecy. Questions of how the Old and New Testaments tie together, and how Yeshua completes the unfolding plan of The Almighty Yahweh, are answered with exceptional clarity.



## BUZZR E/I Programming Descriptions

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### Aqua Kids

*Aqua Kids* is a weekly half-hour series that educates young people about ecology, wildlife, and science and how it relates to them. Viewers learn how eco-systems connect and what young people can do to make a positive difference in the world.

### Dragonfly TV

*Dragonfly TV* is a weekly half-hour science television series that highlights children doing projects with hands-on experience and demonstrates the practical applications of mathematics and science. It introduces young viewers to a variety of scientific disciplines and challenges them in critical thinking and problem solving skills, while providing valuable information to reach answers. Each episode is engaging, entertaining, and educational in structure, allowing children to investigate science on their own.

### Walking Wild

*Walking Wild* is a weekly half-hour reality series showcasing various wild animals at the world famous San Diego Zoo. The series focuses on the dedicated people who look after these spectacular critters. The program also gives teen viewers a unique, up-close examination of each wild animal. *Walking Wild* is a series intended to educate and inform viewers all about life in the animal kingdom.

### Wild Wonders

*Wild Wonders* is a weekly half-hour reality series allowing teen viewers to become familiar with various wild animals at the world famous San Diego Zoo. The series focuses on various critters and examines their differences. The program also provides important information about each animal's living habits and includes interviews with people who care for them. *Wild Wonders* is a series intended to educate and inform viewers all about life in the animal kingdom.



2016-2017 SEASON

## ME-TV NETWORK CHILDREN'S E/I PROGRAMMING

SERIES NAME	SYNOPSIS	RATINGS	TARGET AUDIENCE	E/I or NON
BEAKMAN'S WORLD	This live-action series based on the comic strip by Jok Church stars performance artist Paul Zaloom as the slightly nutty but never boring scientist who leads a journey of discovery while performing experiments that demonstrate how the world works. Topics are addressed with cutting-edge humor and state-of-the-art visuals that make learning fun. Joining Beakman in his quest are Josie (Alanna Ubach), his bright young apprentice, and an oversize, sarcastic rat named Lester (Mark Ritts).	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
BILL NYE, THE SCIENCE GUY	With 28 Emmys and a slew of other prestigious awards, Disney's resident way-cool scientist knows how to get kids fired up about science. From Earth science to complex discussions on genetics, Bill Nye's enthusiasm for all things science is contagious.	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
MYSTERY HUNTERS	Mystery Hunters explores some of the world's greatest myths and mysteries. Combining on-site reporting and exciting adventures, the Mystery Hunters uses science and reasoning to try to uncover the truth. The program teaches children how to gather facts, meet with experts, debunk common myths, and offer explanations for legends. 2006 Winner of a Parents' Choice Award, Mystery Hunters.	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
SAVED BY THE BELL	Saved By The Bell is a television series targeted to teens 13-16 years of age, which explores social themes and coping strategies through the daily school life of six teen-aged friends at Bayside High who help each other make the most of growing up in a complicated world. The multi-ethnic cast members serve as role models for young teen viewers as they deal with such issues as dealing with the death of a loved one, the right to say "no," the meaning of heroism, teenage alcohol use and other issues of particular concern to young teens.	TV-PG	K13-16	E/I



## ON THE HILL

FOX5 News on The Hill is a half hour live political show hosted by Tom Fitzgerald along with The Hill's Editor in Chief Bob Cusack. The show airs each Sunday at 8:30am. The hosts report and analyze the big headlines and stories from the campaign trail, along with political news from the White House and Capitol Hill.

### Episodes 1st Quarter 2023:

- Sunday, Jan 8
- Sunday, Jan 15
- Sunday, Jan 22
- Sunday, Jan 29
- Sunday, Feb 5
- Sunday, Feb 12
- Sunday, Feb 19
- Sunday, Feb 26
- Sunday, March 5
- Sunday, March 12
- Sunday, March 19
- Sunday, March 26



## LIKE IT OR NOT

A new take on the news of the week is coming to FOX 5-- FOX 5's Like It Or Not. "FOX 5's Like It Or Not" will go beyond the headlines and provide edgy, controversial commentary, discussing the news of the week in politics, entertainment and pop culture.

"Buckle up! This isn't your typical traditional news program. It's provocative and intelligent and will present candid opinions and observations on a wide range of news of the day topics and issues," said FOX 5 Vice President and General Manager Patrick Paolini.

Program airs Monday – Friday 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. on WTTG.

From Jan 2 to March 31, 2023.



## **LION LUNCH HOUR**

An extension of the popular local produced news/access Show Like it or Not, Lion Lunch hour is filled with savory conversations with fox 5 personalities and amazing food and recipes.

Program airs Monday – Friday 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. on WTTG.

From Jan 2 to March 31, 2023.



## **DMV ZONE**

Marina Marraco and Contributor Joe Clair – Anchors

“LIVE from the FOX5 Newsroom. We are covering and talking about the issues and stories people are talking about in the DMV (District, Maryland and Virginia). Our anchors talk to contributors, guests, FOX5 reporters, digital team and producers to get their take and perspective on the news we are covering. Viewers weigh in on zoom, live talk backs and from our outdoor FOX5 Plaza. We also have a team of digital news site contributors from around the market who break stories before they get traction. There is little script and a whole lot of action in this original show.

Program airs Monday – Friday LIVE 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on WTTG.

From Jan 2 to March 31, 2023.



WTTG/Channel 5

Program Information Report



*Fox 5 @ 4* *The First 5* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:00 – 4:30 am and covers news headlines, provides sports and weather information and gives updates on local news stories.

*Fox 5 Morning News at 4:30 am* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:30- 5:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

*Fox 5 Morning News at 5* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 5:00- 6:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

*Fox 5 Morning News at 6* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 6:00- 7:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

*Fox 5 Morning News* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 7:00- 9:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

*Fox 5 @ 4* - A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:00-5:00pm and covers news headlines, provides sports and weather information and gives updates on local news stories.

*Fox 5 News at 5* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 5:00-6:00pm and covers news headlines, provides sports and weather information and gives updates on local news stories.

*Fox 5 News at 6* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 6:00-6:30pm and covers news headlines, sports, weather and local news.

*5 @ 6:30pm*- A Monday through Friday rundown news program that airs from 6:30-7:00pm and covers news headlines, politics and local news.

*Fox 5 News at 10* – A daily one-hour news program that airs from 10:00-11:00pm featuring local, national and international news headlines as well as in depth local stories, investigative reports, sports and weather information.

*Fox 5 News at 11* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 11:00-11:30pm featuring local news, weather and sports.

*The Final 5* – A Monday through Friday program that airs 11:30 – 12:00 midnight featuring anchor Jim Lokay and his take on the daily current events.

*In The Courts* – A Sunday program that airs 11:30 – 1200 midnight featuring chief legal correspondent, Katie Barlow.

FOX 5's *In the Courts* takes viewers where cameras are rarely allowed. From headlines out of the United States Supreme Court to Netflix coming after you for password-sharing, host Katie Barlow breaks down the week's major legal stories. Since *In the Courts* launched on May 1, we have covered some of the biggest legal headlines in American history from the leaked-turned-

final Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade to the Johnny Depp trial to a criminal investigation involving the former president.

Katie explains complicated legal concepts -- like a geo-fence warrant used to nab a bank robber or zombie laws that can rise from the dead -- in an entertaining way in the show's most popular segment, "WTF!? Legal Jargon."

We've produced several special episodes on breaking news and delved deeper into important topics like cameras in the courtroom and why statewide elections matter in the courts.

Origination: Local

Issues addressed:

1. Crime
2. Local politics
3. National politics
4. Health
5. Education
6. Community
7. Housing
8. Transportation
9. Environment
10. Children

*Fox News Sunday* – A one-hour weekly program, airing Sundays from 9:00-10:00am that looks at the most pressing issues of the week from the White House, Congress and Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and various government agencies and conducts interviews with political newsmakers. Origination: Network

# First QUARTER

## FOX NEWS SUNDAY GUESTS

### Quarter 1 2023

#### Jan 1, 2023

##### GOP Politics

Rep. Kevin Brady

##### Foreign Policy

Michael Allen

#### Jan 8, 2023

##### GOP Congress:

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)

##### Border:

Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)

#### Jan 15, 2023

##### Congressional Agenda/Border/debt ceiling

Rep. John Garamendi (R-CA)

Rep. Tony Gonzales (D-TX)

##### New Governor:

Gov. Sarah Sanders (R-AR)

##### Civil Discourse:

Dr. Cornel West

Dr. Robert George

#### Jan 22, 2023

##### Problem Solvers Caucus:

Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

##### Roe V. Wade 50<sup>th</sup> Anniv

Penny Nance

Elizabeth Wydra

#### Jan 29, 2023

##### Ukraine/Classified Docs:

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)

##### Legal Panel:

Jonathan Turley

Thomas Dupree

Ted Williams

##### Feature:

Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL)

## **Feb 5, 2023**

### **Chinese Balloon/Debt Ceiling:**

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AZ)

### **Economy:**

Jared Bernstein

## **Feb 12, 2023**

### **AZ Agenda:**

Gov. Katie Hobbs (D-AZ)

### **From NFL to Neurosurgeon:**

Dr. Myron Rolle

## **Feb 19, 2023**

### **Ukraine/China Balloons**

John Kirby

Gen. Jack Keane

### **2024**

Amb. Nikki Haley

## **Feb 26, 2023**

### **2024:**

Sen. Tim Scott

### **Foreign Policy:**

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)

## **March 5, 2023**

### **Foreign Policy:**

Sen. Mark Warner

Former Sec. Mike Pompeo

## **March 12, 2023**

### **Budget:**

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA)

### **NATO:**

Finnish President Sauli Niinistö

### **War Correspondent:**

Benjamin Hall

## **March 19, 2023**

### **China/Russia**

John Kirby

### **Foreign Policy/Collapse of SVB**

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

### **Economy:**

Mohamed El-Erian

## **March 26, 2023**

### **Foreign Policy:**

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

### **Trump Legal Panel**

Brit Hume, Jonathan Turley, Trey Gowdy

### **Feature: Musician**

TobyMac

# **SAMPLE OF ISSUE RESPONSIVE NEWS PROGRAMMING**

## 1st Quarter 2023

*Crime*

*March 24, 2023*

### **Multiple victims dead after 6 shootings across the District in less than 12 hours**

By **FOX 5 DC Digital Team**

Published **March 24, 2023 6:45AM**

Updated **10:02AM**

**Crime and Public Safety**

**FOX 5 DC**

*Link:* <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/man-dead-after-7-shootings-across-the-district-in-less-than-12-hours>



WASHINGTON (FOX 5 DC) - DC Police say they are investigating seven shootings in the District since Thursday afternoon with multiple deaths and injuries.

It has been a violent week in D.C. as five teenage boys were shot in four separate incidents in the span of 36 hours between Tuesday and Wednesday. One has now died, and the other four are expected to survive.

## Congress St. SE

MPD says a call came in at 3:43 p.m. on Thursday for a shooting in the 1300 block of Congress St. SE. The victim is an adult male.

A second victim from the shooting also showed up at the hospital later on in the day, MPD confirms. He is also an adult male.

Police are on the lookout for a white sedan last seen traveling westbound in the 1200 block of Congress St. SE.

## Galveston St. SW

One man is dead after a shooting in the unit block of Galveston St. SW. The call came in around 7:31 p.m. and the adult male victim was pronounced dead a short time later.

Police have no lookout at this time.

## E St. SE

Two adult males were shot around 8:39 p.m. on Thursday in the 4400 block of E St. SE. DC Police have confirmed this is a homicide.

One man was located on the scene and one walked into a local hospital. The shooting happened on E Street, but the victim was located in the 300 block of Anacostia Rd. SE.

Police have no lookout at this time.

## Hamilton St. NW

An adult male was shot in the 600 block of Hamilton St. NW around 8:47 p.m. on Thursday. The victim was injured and taken to the hospital.

Police have not provided suspect information.

## Yuma St. SE

Three adult males were shot, and a juvenile female suffered a laceration after a shooting in the 100 block of Yuma St. SE around 10:09 p.m. on Thursday.

Police have no lookout at this time.

## U St. SE

Police tweeted around 10:45 p.m. on Thursday that they are investigating a shooting in the 1500 block of U St. SE. No lookout has been provided at this time.

*Local Politics*  
*March 12, 2023*

## **West Virginia could ban transgender care**

By **Leah Willingham**  
Published **March 12, 2023**  
**Pride**  
**Associated Press**

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/west-virginia-could-ban-transgender-care>



Preparations for the inauguration of West Virginia governor Jim Justice at the West Va., statehouse. (Photo by Jeremy Hogan/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - A bill that would ban evidence-based health care for transgender minors in West Virginia, the state estimated to have more transgender youth per capita than any other in the nation, is headed to the desk of Gov. Jim Justice.

The Republican governor has not taken a public stance on the measure and it's unclear whether he will sign it into law. A spokesperson said he was unavailable for comment Saturday.

A 2017 [study](#) by UCLA Law's The Williams Institute estimated West Virginia had the highest per capita rate of transgender youth in the country.





### *The history of June being Pride Month*

Every June, the LGBTQ+ community and allies celebrate what has become "Pride Month."

Every major medical organization, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychiatric Association, supports gender-affirming care for youths.

**RELATED: Lawsuit: Transgender Wells Fargo teller says managers ‘laughed’ as customers mocked her**

But lawmakers in West Virginia and other states [advancing bans on transgender health care for youth and young adults](#) often characterize gender-affirming treatments as medically unproven, potentially dangerous in the long term and a symptom of "woke" culture.

The [bill in West Virginia](#) would outlaw those under 18 from being prescribed hormone therapy and fully reversible medication for suspending the physical changes of puberty, allowing patients and parents time to make future decisions about hormone therapy.

The legislation also includes a ban on gender-affirming surgery for minors, something medical professionals emphasize does not happen in West Virginia anyway.

The bill contains significant exemptions to the medication therapy ban for people under the age of 18 at risk for suicide, provisions added in the final week of the 60-day legislative session, which ended Saturday.

The changes, made at the urging of Senate Majority Leader Tom Takubo, who is a physician, would allow some transgender youth to continue receiving medical interventions under certain circumstances, including hormone therapy if they experience severe gender dysphoria.

Gender dysphoria is defined by medical professionals as severe psychological distress experienced by those whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth.

**RELATED: Mormon church shows support for same-sex marriage law, believes act is still unbiblical**

During a speech on the Senate floor late Friday night, Takubo referenced 17 peer-reviewed studies showing a significant decrease in the rates of suicide ideation and suicide attempts among youth with severe gender dysphoria who have access to medication therapy.

"These kids struggle, they have incredible difficulties," he said.

The rate of suicide ideation, or having suicidal thoughts or ideas, for transgender youth in Virginia is three times higher than the rate for all youth in the state, according to research [compiled by West Virginia University Medicine physicians](#) using West Virginia Youth Risk Behavior Survey data.

The version of the bill first passed by West Virginia's Republican supermajority House of Delegates last month contained no exemptions for mental health.

The House on Saturday unanimously approved the Senate's changes. The amended bill then passed 88-10, with all 'no' votes coming from the body's shrinking delegation of Democrats.

Democratic Del. Ric Griffith, who was the only legislator who spoke on the floor about the measure, voiced support for the mental health exemptions and was later one of only two lawmakers in the minority party to vote for the amended bill.

"We talk a lot about, 'Parents know what's best for their children,'" the Wayne County lawmaker said. "This is a fairly narrow allowance when a child could potentially be suicidal."

Under the amended bill, a person below the age of 18 would need to be diagnosed with severe gender dysphoria by at least two medical or mental health providers to gain access to medication therapy, including a mental health provider or adolescent medicine specialist.

The dosage must be the lowest possible necessary to "treat the psychiatric condition and not for purposes of gender alteration," according to the bill.

Providers must be specifically trained to diagnose and treat severe gender dysphoria in adolescents and provide written testimony saying medical interventions are necessary to prevent or limit possible or actual self-harm. The minor's parents or guardians would be required to give written consent to the treatments.

Hormonal therapy could not be provided to minors before the age of puberty, something West Virginia physicians say doesn't happen anyway.

The bill includes exceptions originating in the House version for individuals born with a "medically verifiable disorder," including people with ambiguous "external biological sex characteristics" and for people taking treatments for infection, injury, disease or disorder that has been "caused by or exacerbated by the performance of gender transition procedures."

People also can access treatment if they are in "imminent danger of death, or impairment of a major bodily function unless surgery is performed."

The vote to send the bill to the governor came two days after a crowd of protesters descended on the state Capitol, where cries of "trans kids matter" could be heard from the Senate chamber as lawmakers debated bills.

Democratic Del. Danielle Walker, the Legislature's only openly LGBTQ member, led chants of the state motto: "Mountaineers are always free."

*National Politics*  
*March 23, 2023*

## Trump grand jury investigation: DC intelligence bulletin warns of possible surge in violence

By Tom Fitzgerald , Melanie Alnwick and FOX 5 DC Digital Team

Published March 23, 2023 6:48PM

Updated March 24, 2023 7:52AM

Washington, D.C.

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/trump-grand-jury-investigation-dc-intelligence-bulletin-warns-of-possible-surge-in-violence>



*DC bulletin warns of violence over potential Trump arrest*

D.C.'s Homeland Security agency is warning law enforcement partners that if former President Trump is arrested, there could be trouble. FOX 5's Melanie Alnwick has details.

On Thursday, the Manhattan grand jury investigating Donald Trump over hush money payments met on other matters Thursday, further delaying a vote on whether or not to indict the former president, according to a person familiar with the matter.

As the grand jury weighs an indictment, D.C.'s Homeland Security Agency has put out an intelligence bulletin warning some extremists may consider an indictment and arrest of the former president as a "line in the sand."



*DC intelligence bulletin warns of possible surge in violence over Trump grand jury investigation*

On Thursday, the Manhattan grand jury investigating Donald Trump over hush money payments met on other matters Thursday, further delaying a vote on whether or not to indict the former president. Officials are concerned that an arrest could lead to strong reactions from the former president's supporters and a surge in violence. FOX 5's Tom Fitzgerald spoke with intelligence officials about how they are preparing for the threat.

FOX 5 spoke with Christopher Rodriguez, the director of the agency, who says officials are continuing to monitor the possibility of some supporters using an arrest as an excuse to engage in violence.

The bulletin notes that the Trump's call for protests "was met with an immediate increase in violent online rhetoric and expressed threats toward government and law enforcement targets."

"We do want to make sure that our partners know what the assessment is coming out of the District of Columbia, what our other partners are hearing, what we're hearing across the country, to assure that we have a synchronized analytic assessment of the threat," says Rodriguez. "Unfortunately a lot of the posts that we've also seen do threaten violence, and so as the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, we want to make sure that anyone has the right to express first amendment views in this country freely, but what you can't do is threaten violence."



*Impact of a potential Trump indictment*

Mica Soellner, with Punchbowl News, joins FOX 5 to talk about former President Trump's indictment, and break down its impact.

A retired member of the Secret Service tells FOX 5 that, if the former president is arrested, agents would be on hand to help control crowds.

"It may be something that's been planned already, because we are going to accompany the president wherever he goes, and if it would happen that he's getting fingerprinted and his mugshot taken, there's going to be Secret Service agents there helping out," says retired agent Jeff James.

*Community*  
*March 23, 2023*

## **Maryland Senate debates funding shift from transportation to education in budget**

By **BRIAN WITTE** Associated Press

Published **March 23, 2023 6:20AM**

Updated **6:20AM**

News

**FOX 5 DC**

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/maryland-senate-debates-funding-shift-from-transportation-to-education-in-budget>



ANNAPOLIS, Md. - The Maryland Senate debated a major funding shift in the state budget Wednesday that would set money aside for future K-12 education reforms, rejecting an amendment supported by Republicans that would have steered \$300 million to help pay for tax relief for senior citizens.

The debate came just before the Senate gave initial approval to the state's \$62.5 billion budget for the next fiscal year. A vote is scheduled for this week.



Changes to the budget legislation made by the Senate would transfer \$300 million of \$500 million that Gov. Wes Moore, a Democrat, set aside for transportation to pay for future costs of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. That would be on top of a separate \$500 million Moore allocated for the blueprint for future years. The budget bill now would raise the total amount budgeted for future blueprint costs to \$800 million. The blueprint, which is being phased in, has been vigorously debated between Democrats, who control the legislature, and Republicans, largely because of its rising costs as more of it gets implemented each year.

Republicans questioned why the state was putting so much money aside now that won't even be needed for it in the next fiscal year.

Sen. Steve Hershey, an Eastern Shore Republican who is the Senate minority leader, sponsored an amendment that would set the \$300 million aside to help pay for tax relief for senior citizens that is proposed in a separate bill, called The Retirement Tax Elimination Act of 2023.

Hershey said during debate that "there's still a lot of doubt" about how affordable the education plan will be as it is implemented in future years.

"It's certainly not going to be what our intended use was with the policy we created, but something I believe that's very different and maybe affordable," Hershey said.

But Democrats, who have continued to support the sweeping education reform law that was approved in 2020, contend it's central to the state's future success.

"We made a commitment to education that was multiyear — that was transformational in my mind — provides what I think probably is the best social justice program that we've ever created as a state," said Sen. Guy Guzzone, a Democrat who chairs the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, adding that living up to the commitment was "a critical undertaking and a complicated one."

Guzzone also pointed out that lawmakers approved tax relief for retirees in the state budget last year.

The blueprint focuses on expanding early childhood education, increasing teachers' salaries and providing aid to help struggling schools adequately prepare students for college and careers. It is the product of a state commission that spent three years developing it.

With billions in additional funding when fully implemented, the law also aims to address inequities in schools that serve high numbers of children in poverty.

Guzzone noted that the tax relief proposal supported by Hershey would cost far more than the \$300 million named in his amendment in future years.

"I don't know where we would come up with the rest of that money, quite frankly," Guzzone said. "We wouldn't be able to handle all of the priorities that we have already in the budget — let alone living up to the blueprint."

But Sen. Justin Ready, the Republican minority whip, said lawmakers also are grappling with how they'll pay for the blueprint in future years.

"We should reduce this retirement tax burden to keep our seniors here," Ready, of Carroll County, said. "They will spend money here, they'll pay other types of taxes here, and they will contribute to our community."

Sen. James Rosapepe, a Democrat, said the tax relief amendment would leave the state with a big deficit.

"Secondly, pitting seniors against children is not the kind of approach I think we need to take here," Rosapepe said.

The Maryland House already has approved a budget that would shift \$400 million of the \$500 million in transportation money to the blueprint for a total of \$900 million.

The House and Senate will need to work out the difference in the budget bill before the the General Assembly adjourns April 10.

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*Health*  
*March 10, 2023*

## **DC Health Link data breach: More than 56,000 users affected**

By **FOX 5 DC Digital Team and Associated Press**

Published **March 10, 2023**

Updated **March 11, 2023**

**Data Breaches**

**FOX 5 DC**

**Link:** <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/dc-health-link-data-breach-more-than-56000-users-affected>



WASHINGTON - Members of the House and Senate were informed Wednesday that hackers may have gained access to their sensitive personal data through the breach of DC Health Link.

DC Health Link confirmed to FOX 5 that data for some DC Health Link customers was exposed on a public forum.

"We have initiated a comprehensive investigation and are working with forensic investigators and law enforcement. Concurrently, we are taking action to ensure the security and privacy of our users' personal information," said DC Health Link representative Adam Hudson told FOX 5. "We are in the process of notifying impacted customers and will provide identity and credit monitoring services."

A broker on an online crime forum claimed to have records on 170,000 DC Health Link customers and was offering them for sale for an unspecified amount. The broker claimed they were stolen Monday. The broker told the [Associated Press](#) that they were acting on behalf of the seller, who they identified as "thekilob."

In a statement, DC Health Link said, however, that the number of impacted customers was 56,415. You can read the full statement on the data breach below:

*"The DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority takes the data breach of enrollee information very seriously. On Monday, March 6, 2023 upon becoming aware of the incident, we immediately launched an investigation, began working with law enforcement, and engaged a third-party forensics firm – Mandiant. While our investigation is ongoing, we'd like to provide an update on the current situation. There are 56,415 customers impacted. The data fields include the following, although not all data fields were necessarily included for each enrollee: name, Social Security number, date of birth, gender, health plan information (e.g. plan name, carrier name, premium amounts, employer contribution, and coverage dates), employer information, enrollee information (e.g. address, email, phone number, race, ethnicity, and citizenship status). We recognize the seriousness of this incident and we have reached out to impacted enrollees to provide three years of free identity and credit monitoring for all three major credit bureaus. The three years of monitoring protection includes all enrolled dependents, spouses and children. In addition, and out of an abundance of caution, we are offering the same three years of monitoring to all other customers, who were not impacted. While this remains an ongoing investigation, our services are running normally and we continue to operate in a state of heightened alert."*

Stolen data posted on the forum included Social Security numbers, addresses, names of employers, phone numbers, emails and addresses.

In an emailed statement, Rep. Joe Morelle of New York said [House](#) leadership was informed by Capitol Police that DC Health Link "suffered an extraordinarily large data breach of enrollee information" that posed a "great risk" to members, employees and their family members. "At this time the cause, size, and scope of the data breach impacting the DC Health Link still needs to be determined by the FBI," Morelle said. *The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

*Housing*  
*March 17, 2023*

## **Takoma Park fire causes \$100K in damages, leaves 3 displaced**

By **FOX 5 Digital Team**  
Published **March 17, 2023**  
Updated **8:57AM**  
News  
**FOX 5 DC**

**Link:** <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/takoma-park-fire-causes-100k-in-damages-leaves-3-displaced>



TAKOMA PARK, Md. - Three people are without a home after an early morning fire in Montgomery County caused over \$100,000 in damage.

The fire was reported around 5 a.m. in the 7200 block of Maple Avenue in Takoma Park.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services spokesperson Pete Piringer said the fire appeared to have started in the basement and involved a mattress and bedding.

Piringer said that one person was not accounted for but it is likely they were not home at the time.

The damage to the contents and structure totaled approximately \$100,000. The Red Cross is assisting those displaced.

*Transportation*  
*March 24, 2023*

## **Low-cost airline Play to offer nonstop flights from Dulles to Iceland**

By **FOX 5 DC Digital Team**

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**News**

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**Link:** <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/low-cost-airline-play-to-offer-nonstop-flights-from-dulles-to-iceland>



DULLES, Va. - Low-cost airline Play will begin offering nonstop flights from the Washington, D.C. area to Iceland next month.

The flights will operate daily from Washington Dulles International Airport to Play's hub at Keflavik international Airport in Reykjavik, Iceland beginning April 26.

From Iceland, passengers will be able to grab connecting flights to other destinations in Europe.

"As the international gateway to the Washington, D.C., capital region, Dulles International is committed to offering a wide variety of airline products for our local



community to access global travel," said Paul Bobson, vice president for Airline Business Development for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said in a statement. "As a low-cost airline operating flights to Iceland and the rest of Europe, Play will add significant capacity in the low-cost international market segment."



**PLAY Airlines (Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority)**

Play's new Dulles International flights will add to its existing service at U.S. airports in Baltimore, Boston and New York. Flights to BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport began in the spring.

"Play has had a strong summer since the beginning in the United States this year, and adding IAD is an important move for our growth in the region, said Play's CEO Birgir Jónsson. "Washington, D.C., is a key destination for both European tourists and American travelers, and expanding our service with flights from IAD will strengthen Play's presence while giving passengers convenient and affordable flights."

Play will become Washington Dulles International Airport's 36th airline and its only low-cost carrier flying to Europe.

The airline was founded by executives of the now defunct WOW Airlines.

*Education*  
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## **MCPS revises policy on LGBTQ-friendly books**

By **Stephanie Ramirez**

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**Montgomery County Public Schools**

**FOX 5 DC**

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### *MCPS revises policy on LGBTQ-friendly books*

Montgomery County Public Schools is now revising its policy on LGBTQ-friendly books in elementary schools, and parents' ability to have their kids opt-out from instruction. FOX 5's Adrienne DiPiazza explains from Bethesda.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. - Third grade parents at Damascus Elementary School became frustrated when they found out their kids were being read an LGBTQ-inclusive book. Some allegedly began pulling their children out of the class.

The book, "Uncle Bobby's Wedding," is about a niece concerned she was going to lose her favorite uncle if he got married. The niece comes to learn she is not losing a family member, but gaining one. The book also includes the topic of same-sex marriage as Uncle Bobby marries another man.

Parents involved in the initial complaint were not willing to interview on-camera. FOX 5 spoke with other Montgomery County Public Schools parents on the matter.

Danielle Ibarra, while waiting to pick up her child at Damascus Elementary School, told FOX 5 she's already read the book to her other children.



"I think religion probably plays a big factor. I guess I'm just in the camp of, we're all in this together – so we should try to show that to our children too," Ibarra said.

"I'm neither for nor against," said Shireen Jarrar.

"That's as long as parents give the green light," she added. "I want parents to be aware and just to approve of it."

After FOX 5 reached out to MCPS on the Damascus Elementary School claims, another parent posted to a public forum online that they were upset with a different LGBTQ-inclusive book being read at another MCPS elementary school.

The other book is titled, "Prince and Knight." It's about a prince who finds his significant other: a knight.

*Environment*  
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## Spring's early arrival bad news for allergy sufferers as cherry blossoms near peak bloom

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### *DC's cherry blossoms near peak bloom*

D.C.'s cherry blossoms are nearing peak bloom and FOX 5's Bob Barnard is checking out the conditions at the Tidal Basin in case you want to take in the beauty – but suffer from allergies!

WASHINGTON - D.C.'s famous cherry trees blossoming are a sure sign of spring in the nation's capital. Unfortunately for seasonal allergy sufferers – so is uncontrollable sneezing, itching, and watery eyes!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about 26% of adults and 19% of children in the U.S. suffer from seasonal allergies.

And spring's early arrival doesn't help. According to [FOX Weather](#), earlier spring and longer periods of freeze-free days mean that plants have more time to flower and release allergy-inducing pollen.



"We've been seeing a general trend over the last few decades of pollen seasons getting longer and more potent because of warming," Dr. Purvi Parikh, an allergist and immunologist with the Allergy Asthma Network, told FOX Weather. "We are finding that they're starting earlier and earlier, and there is a much higher pollen count because of rising carbon dioxide levels."



*Bob Barnard crashes photoshoot under cherry blossom trees!*

While reporting on DC's cherry blossoms on Wednesday morning, FOX 5's Bob Barnard spotted a couple having a photoshoot with the blooms and decided to photobomb!



FOX 5's Bob Barnard said that the National Park Service says 45% of the Yoshino Cherry blossoms' buds are open Wednesday. The NPS says they expect the trees to reach peak bloom – about 70% of the buds open – sometime Thursday. Barnard says the cherry trees and blossoms are not known to be common allergy triggers. In 2022, D.C.'s cherry blossoms reached peak bloom on March 21.



*Spring's early arrival bad news for allergy sufferers as cherry blossoms near peak bloom*

D.C.'s famous cherry trees blossoming are a sure sign of spring in the nation's capital. Unfortunately for seasonal allergy sufferers – so is uncontrollable sneezing, itching, and watery eyes!

*Children*

*February 24, 2023*

## **The Grinch visits terminally-ill Fredericksburg child**

By **Jacqueline Matter**

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**Heartwarming News**

**FOX 5 DC**

**Link:** <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/the-grinch-visits-a-terminally-ill-fredericksburg-child>



*Fredericksburg neighborhood transforms into Whoville for terminally ill child*

A home in Virginia transformed into a Whoville wonderland complete with the grinch! All in hopes of creating some happiness for a kindergartner with a terminally ill and rare genetic disease. FOX 5's Jacqueline Matter reports from Fredericksburg with more.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. - A home in [Virginia](#) transformed into a Whoville wonderland complete with the mean one himself — Mr. Grinch — in hopes of creating some happiness for a kindergartner with a terminally ill and rare genetic disease.

On a Friday afternoon, much like the rest, a group known as Ellie's Elves turned out in their holiday best.

Much to one little boy's surprise and without a tear or frown, Liam Jackson realized that Whoville had come to town!

"He loves the Grinch," said Liam's kindergarten teacher Audra Gulick.

With Who houses and crazy hair it seemed to be a cinch until you know who showed up, the greenest of Grinch.



"We went to a Christmas party, and he went to play with the other kids, and he was just so uncoordinated, so we ended up taking him to a doctor," said Stephen Jackson, Liam's father.

"At first, we thought it was a concussion or long COVID," Madeline, Liam's mother added.

"We walked in, and they told us he was terminally ill. It was like a door had been shut in our life," the parents said.

This year, the Grinch stole much more than just Christmas, "They diagnosed him with Cerebral Adrenoleukodystrophy or ADL," Mrs. Jackson said. "They showed us his MRI scan and that the white matter in his brain was basically gone."



For the Who's of Fredericksburg, he stole little Liam's essence. Why that Grinch even took his childhood presents.



"About 1 in 25,000 people get it," Liam's father Stephen said.

"He will slowly lose his sight, his vision, eating abilities, walking, talking until he pretty much goes brain-dead and dies," Mrs. Jackson explained. "He's progressed too far and there are no treatment options. In fact, at this point, it's dangerous to do that. They've also implied to us, they won't give us a number, but that they've told us it's definitely shorter than 5 years."

"It's really hard to see that knowing that he's struggling and to see the decline," Gulick said.

**READ MORE:** [Dr. Seuss classic 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' gets a sequel](#)  
But the Grinch is no match for this town. In fact, together they stand to never back down.

"We just rally around, and he's part of our family, so it's important to let the family and Liam know we're here for them," Gulick said. "He doesn't ride the bus anymore because of his wheelchair but all of his classmates who ride the bus with him all

showed up tonight and came up and said 'hi' to him and 'Hey Liam we're here' and he was so excited for that!"



As people passed through, the tall and the small, standing close together a smile that meant most of all.

As they hugged and cherished the moment the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe, life perhaps means a little bit more.

"[We're] taking in the moments where he's happy and having fun like today and just enjoying and being in that moment," Mrs. Jackson said.

And what happened then? Well in Fredericksburg they say that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day.

"I think the obsession and his diagnosis do go hand in hand," Liam's parents said. "I mean we watched the Grinch in the hospital, he had to have his Grinch stuffed animals in the hospital. He's a superhero because he saves Christmas."



Falmouth Elementary School is partnering with Ellie's Elves to host a Fiesta Fundraiser for the Jackson family on Friday, March 31 at 5:30 p.m. at Stafford High School.

The fundraiser will feature a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, and live music.

The community can also support the family by providing meals. Signup for the meal train [here](#).