



4Q 2022

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

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 4th Quarter 2022:

- Sunday, Oct 2
- Sunday, Oct 9
- Sunday, Oct 16
- Sunday, Oct 23
- Sunday, Oct 30
- Sunday, Nov 6
- Sunday, Nov 13
- Sunday, Nov 20
- Sunday, Nov 27
- Sunday, Dec 4
- Sunday, Dec 11



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 Oct 3 to Dec 30, 2022.



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 Oct 3 to Dec 30, 2022.



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 Oct 24 to Dec 30, 2022.

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

**Fourth QUARTER
FOX NEWS SUNDAY GUESTS**

SAMPLE OF ISSUE RESPONSIVE NEWS PROGRAMMING

4th Quarter 2022

Crime

Dec 23, 2022

4 teens arrested in connection with armed carjackings in Prince George's County: police

By **FOX 5 DC Digital Team**

Published **December 23, 2022 9:39AM**

Updated **11:23AM**

News

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/4-teens-arrested-in-connection-with-armed-carjackings-in-prince-georges-county-police>



4 teens arrested in connection with armed carjackings in Prince George's County: police

Authorities in Prince George's County say they have arrested four teenagers in connection with two armed carjackings.

LANDOVER HILLS, Md. - Authorities in [Prince George's County](#) say they have arrested four teenagers in connection with two armed carjackings.

On December 19, police say a driver was carjacked at gunpoint around 8:30 p.m. in the 6500 block of Annapolis Road in [Landover](#) Hills.



Sean Franklin Mills (l) of Capitol Heights and 19-year-old Gregory Parker (r) of Washington, D.C. (Prince George's County Police Department)

Officers located the car they say was used in the carjacking two days later and arrested 19-year-old Sean Franklin Mills of Capitol Heights and 19-year-old Gregory Parker of Washington, D.C. Police say two loaded firearms were recovered, and the car used in the carjacking was stolen. Both were charged with carjacking with additional charges pending, investigators say.



(Prince George's County Police Department)

On December 20, police say a food delivery driver was carjacked at gunpoint around 8:30 p.m. in the 8100 block of Allendale Drive in Landover. The following day police located the vehicle they say was used in the crime and arrested a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old male. Also in the car, police say they found a loaded gun and 76 grams of marijuana.

Both are being charged as adults with firearms offenses and possession of a stolen vehicle. Police say the 16-year-old had been arrested in April 2022 for the carjacking of a food delivery driver and was charged as a juvenile in that case.



(Prince George's County Police Department)

Local Politics
Dec 23, 2022

Transcripts reveal link between Trump, Nevada fake electors

By Gabe Stern and Rio Yamat

Published December 23, 2022

Politics

Associated Press

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/transcripts-reveal-link-between-trump-nevada-fake-electors-2020>



January 6th Committee releases final report on Capitol attack | LiveNow from FOX

The 845-page report released Thursday comes after the panel interviewed more than 1,000 witnesses, held 10 hearings and obtained millions of pages of documents. The final report asserts that Donald Trump criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol.

LAS VEGAS - New transcripts of closed-door testimony to the Jan. 6 House committee show [Donald Trump](#) and his allies had a direct hand in the Nevada Republican Party's scheme to send a phony electoral certificate to Congress in 2020 in a last-ditch attempt to keep the former president in power.

The documents made public Wednesday evening included interviews with state party leader Michael McDonald and Republican National Committeeman Jim

DeGraffenreid in February. Both men served as fake electors in Carson City on Dec. 14, 2020.

That day, six Nevada GOP members signed certificates falsely stating that Trump won Nevada in 2020 and sent them to Congress and the National Archives, where they were ultimately ignored. The House committee investigating the [Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol](#) is digging into the role that these fake electors in key battleground states had in Trump's attempt to cling to power after his 2020 defeat.

RELATED: [Jan. 6 panel unveils final report asserting Trump engaged in 'multi-part conspiracy'](#)

McDonald and DeGraffenreid invoked Fifth Amendment protection hundreds of times in their separate interviews with the Jan. 6 committee, refusing to answer questions about their involvement and the extent to which Trump's top allies had helped in orchestrating the plot.

Still, the transcripts provide an unprecedented view into the Trump team's coordinated efforts in Nevada to overturn the results of the election — efforts that included direct communication between McDonald and the president himself.

On Nov. 4, 2020, for example, the day after the election, McDonald had a conference call with Trump, his then-chief of staff Mark Meadows, attorney Rudy Giuliani and son Eric Trump.

"They want full attack mode," McDonald later wrote in a text message describing that call. "We're gonna have a war room meeting in about an hour."

Both McDonald and DeGraffenreid turned over their communications to the Jan. 6 committee related to the fake elector scheme. The FBI also seized McDonald's cellphone in June as part of an investigation into the scheme.



File: Nevada Republican Party Chairman Michael McDonald speaks to people gathered to protest against the passage of a mail-in voting bill during a Nevada Republican Party demonstration at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building on August 4, 2020 in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Photo by Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

Those documents, detailed at length in the transcripts, included text messages, emails and internal memorandums distributed by the national GOP arm; handwritten charts, templates for press releases and the phony certificate itself; and talking points "explaining the rationale for the electors."

The planning was extensive, the transcripts show, and began as early as four days before the election, when state party officials began discussing whether Nevada's Republican secretary of state, Barbara Cegavske, would sign off on the alternate slate of electors.

DeGraffenreid, in a text conversation with party officials, said Cegavske "might do a lot of things, but sending a slate of Republican electors without them being clearly the winners of the popular vote is not one of them."

Cegavske ultimately certified President Joe Biden's victory in Nevada, defending the results as reliable and accurate despite attacks from Trump and others within her own

party, which led the Nevada Republican Party to censure her. She later conducted an investigation that found no credible evidence of widespread voter fraud throughout the state.

RELATED: Jan. 6 witness says lawyer tried to influence testimony: 'the less you remember, the better'

Meanwhile, the day before the slate of fake electors met, the transcripts show McDonald grew increasingly frustrated with the RNC's direction over how to conduct the certificate signing. It appeared that he had gone back and forth with the RNC about logistics of the ceremony: the location, how they would publicize it and what they would say in their speeches.

"RNC essentially put us in a box on what we can say, but doesn't sound too bad," Shawn Meehan, one of the fake electors, said in a text to DeGraffenreid.

Meehan also told DeGraffenreid that McDonald wanted a smaller group that would plan the final details over breakfast, and that he is "stressing on the optics." It was visible to several of the fake electors — that same day, another fake elector had texted DeGraffenreid that McDonald was upset with "mixed messages and direction on publicity for tomorrow."

"He's very concerned RNC will cut cord if it looks bad and steal credit if we do well," Meehan messaged.

"I know," DeGraffenreid responded. "He's concerned that we look like foolish crybabies."

FROM 2020: Nevada Supreme Court makes Joe Biden's win in state official
Ultimately, the Nevada Republican Party would press forward, and after nearly two months of planning, McDonald, DeGraffenreid and the other fake electors gathered outside the Capitol building in Carson City for a ceremony.

"History made today in Carson City, Nevada," the state party would write on social media after the ceremony, "as @McDonaldNV leads our electors in casting Nevada's 6 electoral votes for the winner of Nevada, @realDonaldTrump and @Mike_Pence!"

McDonald did not immediately respond to requests for comment Thursday evening. A lawyer for DeGraffenreid said he declined to comment.

The nine-member committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot will dissolve when Republicans take over the House next month. The committee on Thursday [released its full 800-plus page report of its 18-month investigation](#), which they hope will lead to criminal charges against Trump and his key allies.

National Politics
Dec 22, 2022

Senate passes \$1.7T spending bill to fund government, aid Ukraine

By **Kevin Freking**

Published **December 22, 2022**

Updated **5:16PM**

Economy

Associated Press

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/senate-federal-spending-bill-pushing-toward-passage>



FILE - Capitol Police walk past the Senate wing of the Capitol as senators discuss their next moves on the omnibus spending bill on Dec. 21, 2022, in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Nathan Howard/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON - The Senate passed a massive \$1.7 trillion spending bill Thursday that finances federal agencies through September and provides another significant round of military and economic aid to Ukraine one day after Ukrainian [President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's dramatic address to a joint meeting of Congress.](#)

The bill, which runs for 4,155 pages, includes about \$772.5 billion for domestic programs and \$858 billion for defense and would finance federal agencies through the fiscal year at the end of September.

The bill passed by a vote of 68-29 and now goes to the House for a final vote before it can be sent to President Joe Biden to be signed into law.

"This is one of the most significant appropriations packages we have done in a very long time," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "The range of people it helps is large and deep."

Community
Dec 7, 2022

Virginia minimum wage to increase to \$12 starting Jan. 1; DC's Initiative 82 going into effect in 2023

By **FOX 5 DC Digital Team**
Published **December 7, 2022**
Updated **December 30, 2022**
Virginia
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/virginia-minimum-wage-to-increase-to-12-starting-jan-1-dcs-initiative-82-goes-into-effect>



The minimum wage in Virginia will increase to \$12 an hour on Jan. 1, and D.C.'s recently passed Initiative 82 will go into effect in 2023, raising the minimum wage for tipped workers to \$6 an hour.

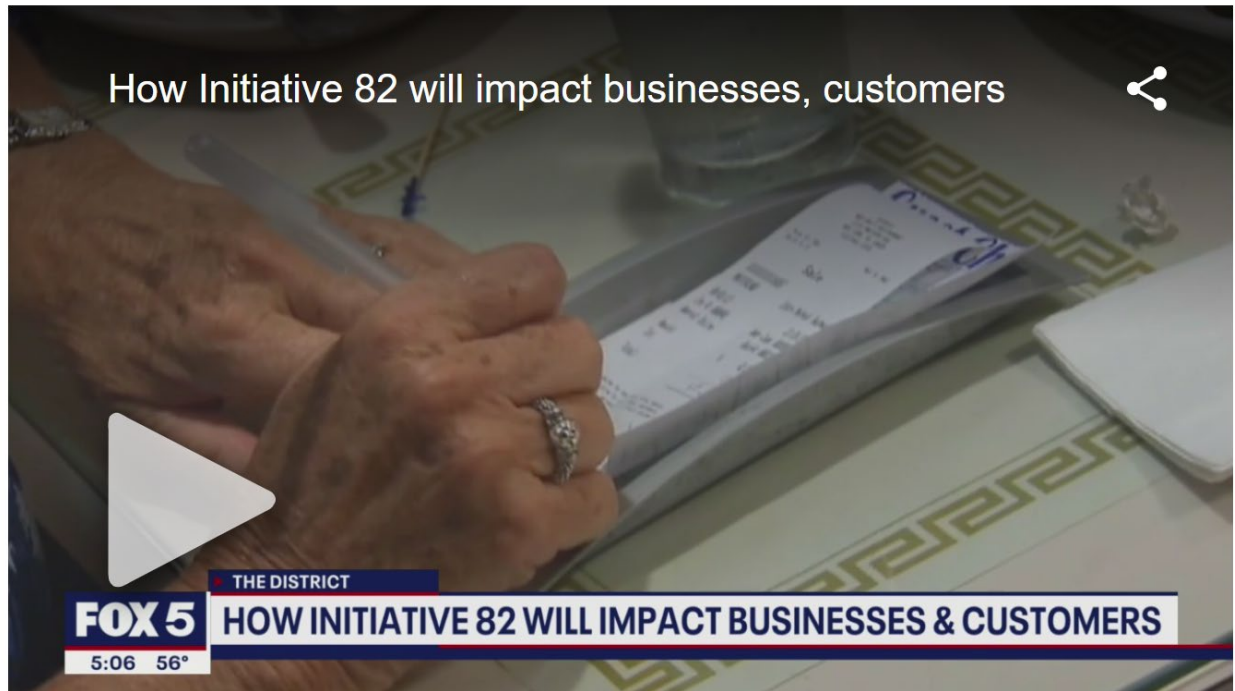
Virginia's minimum wage increase is part of a law passed in 2020 that raises the minimum wage gradually until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2026. The current minimum wage in Virginia is \$11 an hour.

[READ MORE: Nearly 350 antisemitic acts in Virginia so far in 2022](#)

Here is the schedule for Virginia's minimum wage increases:

- From January 2023 to January 2025: \$12
- From January 2025 to January 2026: \$13.50
- From January 2026 to January 2027: \$15

After Jan. 1, 2027, the minimum wage will be \$15 an hour.



How Initiative 82 will impact businesses, customers

On Tuesday, D.C. residents voted overwhelmingly to pass Initiative 82, doing away with the District's tipped minimum wage. So, how will that impact businesses and customers? FOX 5's Stephanie Ramirez explains.

Meanwhile, in D.C., voters passed Initiative 82 in November which will require D.C. employers to pay \$16.10 an hour to tipped employees regardless of how much they earn in gratuity.

Currently, tipped workers make \$5.35 an hour as long as they make enough tips to meet the \$16.10 threshold. The new pay increase will be phased in over five years.

On Jan. 1, 2023, the minimum wage for tipped workers is slated to increase to \$6 an hour. However, the act can only take effect after a 30-day period of congressional review, which has not yet taken place.

READ MORE: Initiative 82 passes: DC tipped workers to be paid minimum wage
Here is the schedule for Initiative 82's minimum wage increases, according to the legislative text:

- \$6 per hour by Jan. 1, 2023

- \$8 per hour by July 1, 2023

- \$10 per hour by July 1, 2024

- \$12 per hour by July 1, 2025

- \$14 per hour by July 1, 2026

- Equal to non-tipped workers by July 1, 2027

Restaurant servers, bartenders, bar backs, nail salon workers and parking attendants are all examples of who could be impacted.

Health
Dec 28, 2022

US to require COVID-19 testing for travelers from China

By Associated Press
Published **December 28, 2022**
Updated **3:27PM**
Coronavirus
Associated Press

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/us-covid-19-testing-requirement-china-travelers>

The U.S. announced new COVID-19 testing requirements Wednesday for all travelers from China, joining other nations imposing restrictions because of a surge of infections.

The increase in cases across China follows the rollback of the nation's strict anti-virus controls. China's "zero COVID" policies had kept China's infection rate low but fueled public frustration and crushed economic growth.

Beginning Jan. 5, all travelers to the U.S. from China will be required to take a COVID-19 test no more than two days before travel and provide a negative test before boarding their flight. The testing applies to anyone 2 years and older.

Other countries have taken similar steps in an effort to keep infections from spreading beyond China's borders. Japan will require a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival for travelers from China, and Malaysia announced new tracking and surveillance measures. India, South Korea and Taiwan are requiring virus tests for visitors from China.

Lunar New Year, which begins Jan. 22, is usually China's busiest travel season, and China announced Tuesday it will resume issuing passports for tourism for the first time since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

The U.S. action is a return to requirements for some international travelers. The [Biden administration lifted the last of such mandates in June](#). At that time, the CDC

continued to recommend that people boarding flights to the U.S. get tested close to departure time and not travel if they are sick.

Early in the pandemic, [the U.S. barred entry to foreigners traveling from China](#), weeks after the virus first emerged there three years ago. Americans were allowed to return home and flights from China were funneled to selected airports where passengers were screened for illness.

But the virus already was spreading in the U.S. among people with no travel history.

Housing
Dec 27, 2022

'This has not stopped:' Migrant buses arrive in DC on Christmas Eve

By **David Kaplan**
Published **December 27, 2022**
U.S. Border Security
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/this-has-not-stopped-migrant-buses-arrive-in-dc-on-christmas-eve>



'This has not stopped:' Migrant buses arrive in DC on Christmas Eve

Three buses of migrant families arrived on Christmas Eve from Texas at the U.S. Naval Observatory, where Vice President Kamala Harris lives.

WASHINGTON - Three buses of migrant families arrived on Christmas Eve from Texas at the U.S. Naval Observatory, where Vice President Kamala Harris lives.

FOX 5's David Kaplan spoke with the aid organization that handled the response to the busloads of migrants.

The migrants were from Texas, according to Tatiana Laborde, the managing director of SAMU First Response.

Laborde told FOX5 her organization was expecting three buses filled with migrants from Texas, but they arrived earlier than expected, on Christmas Eve, causing SAMU First Response to scramble.

"We had all of our logistics, kind of last-minute scramble for Sunday, but yesterday during the day we had to quickly change plans, make sure that food was going to be delivered, that we were going to have enough blankets for families arriving, and be ready for them," Laborde said.

Laborde says these the three buses were originally headed to New York City from Texas, but diverted to D.C. because of weather. Laborde helped organize her staff to come in, buses, food and shelter to be ready for migrants who didn't have clothing for the weather we've had in recent days.

"They were tired. It's a very long trip and the weather conditions, once they step out of the bus, and it's cold, and it's a different cold than they're used to," Laborde says.

Laborde says most of the migrants dropped off are already at or headed to New York City.

A spokesperson for Texas Governor Greg Abbott said in a statement that President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who Biden selected as Border Czar, "need to step up and do their jobs to secure the border."

"The White House is full of a bunch of hypocrites, led by the Hypocrite-in-Chief who has been flying planeloads of migrants across the country and oftentimes in the cover of night. These migrants willingly chose to go to Washington, D.C., having signed a voluntary consent waiver available in multiple languages upon boarding that they agreed on the destination. And they were processed and released by the federal government, who are dumping them at historic levels in Texas border towns like El Paso, which recently declared a state of emergency because of the Biden-made crisis," said spokesperson Renae Eze.



More migrant buses expected in DC as future of Title 42 remains uncertain

Another bus of migrants was expected to arrive in the nation's capital Wednesday, as the future of U.S. immigration restrictions remains uncertain.

Saturday night's busloads represent the seventh, eighth and ninth buses in D.C. over the last five days, according to Laborde.

"This has not stopped," Laborde said, "We have seen slowdowns because of different policies, or weather, but the constant flow of migrants continues to New York, Chicago, DC and our work doesn't stop."

Transportation
Dec 28, 2022

Why is Southwest canceling flights? Expert weighs in as DMV customers deal with delays, lost baggage

By Maureen Umeh and FOX 5 DC Digital Team
Published December 28, 2022
Southwest Airlines
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/why-is-southwest-canceling-flights-expert-weighs-in-as-dmv-customers-deal-with-delays-lost-baggage>



What's happening with Southwest Airlines?

Southwest Airlines has canceled thousands of flights -- more than 2,500 a day for the past three days. Did weather really breed the perfect storm? Was there clear negligence? How do you fix this situation? Former TSA official Keith Jeffries joins FOX 5 to explain.

Southwest Airlines has canceled thousands of flights over the past few days at DCA, IAD, BWI and airports across the country as people struggle to return home this holiday season. So, was weather really to blame, or is there more to the issue?

Southwest canceled 2,909 flights on Monday, which accounts for 71% of the 4,006 flights that were canceled across the country, according to flight tracker FlightAware. On Tuesday, an additional 2,678 flights were canceled by the airline. About 4,300 more flights for Wednesday and Thursday have already been canceled.

[READ MORE: American Airlines says it will cap fares for some cities amid Southwest's high rate of cancellations](#)

Former TSA official Keith Jeffries says bad weather in recent days has certainly had an impact on delays and cancellations, but there's more to it.

"The employee scheduling system appears to have gone down which has created a lot of confusion," says Jeffries.

Keeping the skies safe is every airline's number one priority, Jeffries says, but he believes Southwest still has a PR nightmare on their hands.



Southwest Airlines under fire for flight cancellations

A sea of luggage at BWI Airport illustrates the amount of delays and cancellations customers have been experiencing in the DMV and across the country. FOX 5's Maureen Umeh has the latest.

"They could have done a better job of getting in front of this and communicating to the public," he says. "I've heard reports that passengers traveling had no idea what was going on, [they] didn't know when they could rebook their flight and all of those things. These are minor things that could have been corrected."

FOX 5 spoke to one Southwest passenger at BWI Airport who expressed her frustrations.

"I've traveled about 17 hours from Ft. Lauderdale to here because all of our flights have been delayed, delayed, delayed, canceled, delayed, delayed, delayed, standby, canceled, and now we're back here, and we're still missing, like, five pieces of luggage," says Dominique Walker.

[READ MORE: Flight canceled? Can you get a refund? Here's how to find out if you're owed money](#)

Jeffries says from a security standpoint, lost baggage that has been screened by security doesn't present much of a threat, and picking up the luggage that is rightfully yours is simply an honor system.

Luggage has been piling up at BWI and airports across the country as passengers scramble to figure out where their bags are and how to get them.



Airline headaches continue for DMV travelers

Frustration continues to mount for travelers in the DMV and across the country this holiday season as troubles go beyond canceled flights to lost bags. FOX 5's Maureen Umeh is at BWI Airport speaking with Southwest passengers about their nightmare of an experience.

The federal government has already said it would investigate why the company lagged so far behind other carriers. Jeffries says the main question is: what are we going to do to avoid this in the future?

"What do we need to know, and how come it took so long to get this information into the hands of the traveling public?" he says. "Communication is critical, and we need to make sure that information gets out into the hands of both the employees and the passengers to help de-escalate the stress that these delays have created at airports across the country."

READ MORE: Southwest cancels more flights as Senate, Buttigieg promise investigations

Southwest Airlines CEO Bob Jordan apologized to customers and crew in a video statement saying Southwest plans to "fly a reduced schedule" for the next few days, adding that the company is "optimistic" it will be back on track before next week.

So, what can we learn from this situation to benefit flyers in the future?

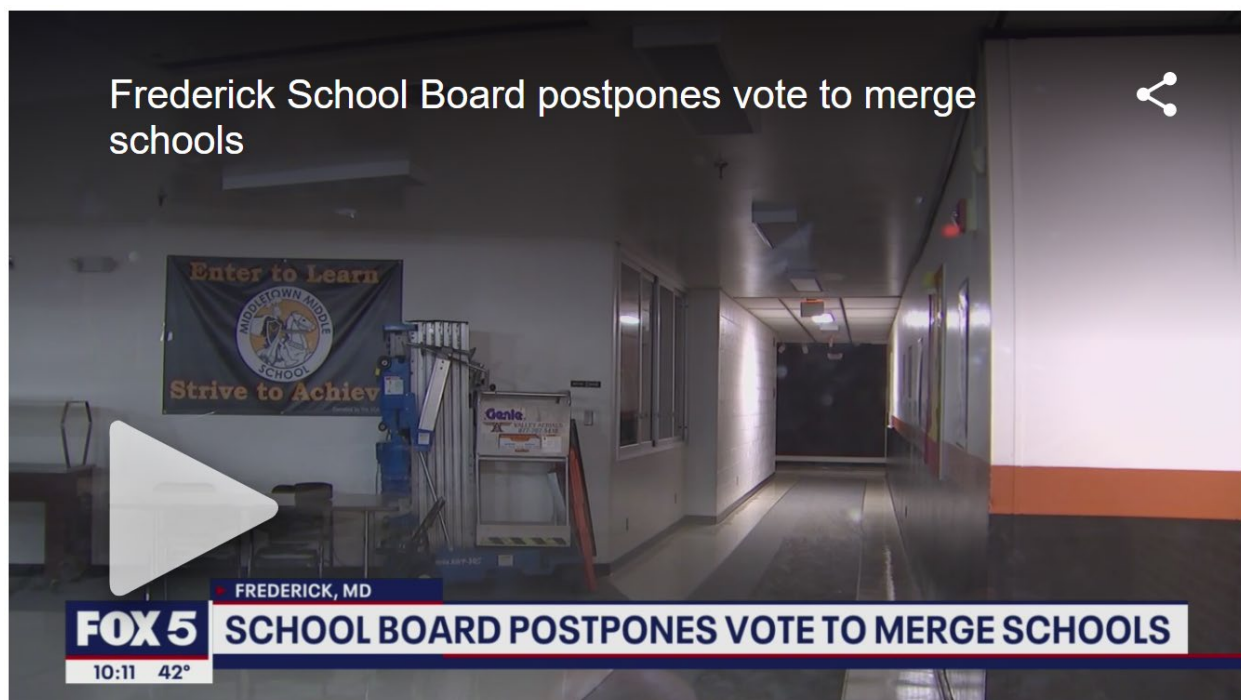
"You should have a contingency plan. What happens if your flight is canceled? What's your backup plan to get to your next destination?" says Jeffries. "Consider having the insurance as well associated with getting a refundable ticket. Make sure you read that fine print, and of course, most importantly, we've got to be patient."

Education
Nov 21, 2022

Frederick County School Board postpones vote to merge schools

By **Lindsay Watts**
Published **November 21, 2022**
Frederick County
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/frederick-county-school-board-postpones-vote-to-merge-schools>



Frederick School Board postpones vote to merge schools

In Frederick County the community will get more time to weigh in on plans to merge two schools. The school board was expected to vote Monday but decided to hold off. FOX 5's Lindsay Watts tells us why.

FREDERICK COUNTY, Md. - The plan to merge two schools in Middletown has been put on hold.

The Frederick County School Board postponed a vote Monday, giving the community more time to weigh in on plans to modernize the school buildings.

After a feasibility study, the recommendation was made to build a new high school and then a second school that would combine the elementary and middle schools. There's been some pushback on the plans, so a letter went out to parents Monday morning notifying them that the school board had postponed the vote.

The school district says the elementary and middle school students would be separate from each other in the building and would not co-mingle.

Still, the atypical arrangement has prompted some concerns.

In a letter to parents, the district says, "Staff will work on additional engagement opportunities and a future date for discussion with the Board of Education will be scheduled at a later date. The additional time will allow for further discussions and exploration of options related to the project. The community will be updated on the revised presentation, once it has been scheduled."

Environment
Dec 28, 2022

2022 ends on a mild, wet note but when will winter return?

By **Mike Thomas**

Published **December 28, 2022 10:27PM**

Updated **December 30, 2022 9:25AM**

Weather

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/weather/2022-ends-on-a-mild-wet-note-but-when-will-winter-return>



BETHESDA, Md. (FOX 5 DC) - Winter officially began on Dec. 21, and the new season certainly lived up to its namesake across much of the United States.

A split in the Polar Vortex led to one of the strongest cold air outbreaks in years, coinciding with one of the biggest storms of the year with winds across the Midwest and Great Lakes that grounded flights and continue to impact travel to this day.



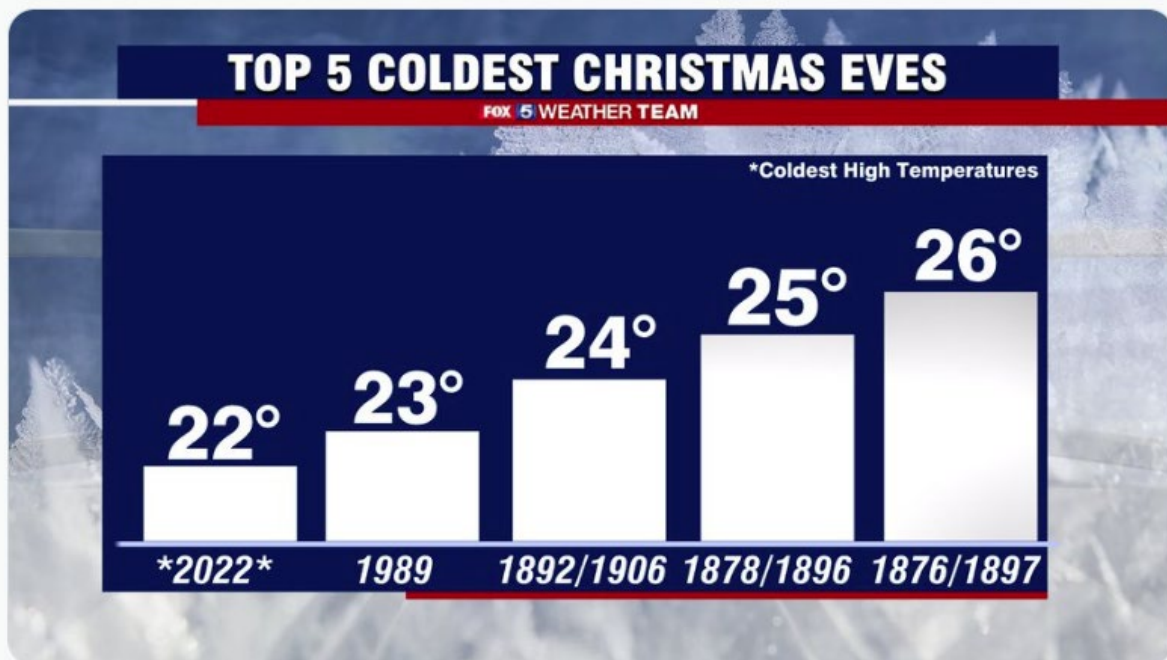
Mike Thomas ✓
@MikeTFox5 · Follow



Back in the office reviewing data and wow was that Christmas Eve cold just beyond impressive for December.

22° is the coldest high for Christmas Eve in DC's recorded history.

Forget measuring temps at DCA...5 of the other 8 coldest were before planes were even invented!



4:38 PM · Dec 27, 2022



27



Reply



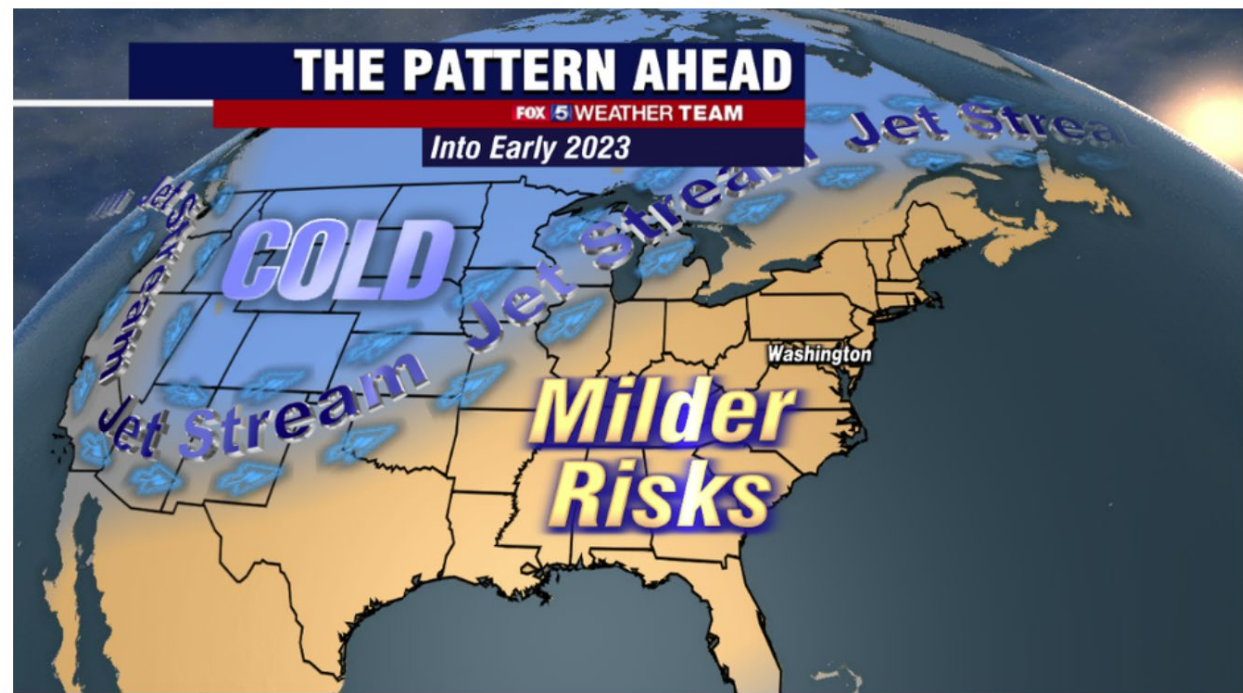
Share

This led to D.C. breaking a long-standing record high minimum for the day. By high-temperature standards, 2022 was the coldest Christmas Eve on record.

Then on Christmas morning, temperatures plummeted to just 9 °F – D.C.'s coldest temperature and the first time in the single digits in just about five years. It was also

the third-coldest Christmas morning on record, coming in just a few degrees above the bitterly cold Christmas of 1983.

There is a legitimate chance that the coldest air mass of this entire winter season will be what we just went through. Although this does not mean that winter is over already by any stretch of the word.



In the short term, temperatures have begun to rebound. On Wednesday afternoon, D.C. crossed the 50 °F threshold for the first time in just about five days, with more sunshine and 50s expected for Thursday.

The reason? The Polar Vortex, responsible for the major cold air outbreak which killed at least five dozen people over the past week, has retreated northward to the polar region.

In its wake, a ridge of high pressure takes hold of the eastern half of the country and is expanding eastward, forcing the jet stream north and inviting warmer air from the tropics to push northward. By New Year's Eve, parts of our region could be pushing 60°.



With the additional moisture, sunshine will eventually give way to clouds throughout the day on Friday, with a warm front expected to push through the region late Friday night into the early morning hours of Saturday, bringing the risk of scattered showers into the forecast.

These should remain in a hit-and-miss variety through the sunset hours when a weak cold front approaching from the west brings an additional slug of moisture into the region. Models are still debating whether this will be in the form of more widespread, but scattered showers or a steady batch of light rain across the Mid-Atlantic region, but models are in general agreement that those waiting up to celebrate the midnight hour, may have to do so with umbrellas.



Even with the rain, temperatures are still expected to be on the mild side. Parts of the region could get close to 60° on New Year's Eve, while many should cross that mark on New Year's Day.

Sunday should bring clearing skies to coincide with those mild temperatures. This is great news for those traveling to FedEx Field to see the Commanders take on the Browns, as the forecast looks dry with partial sunshine. Essentially, the exact opposite pattern of the weekend prior. For those who enjoy their winters on the mild side, the mild weather looks to continue right through at least the first week of 2023. We could have more 60°+ days in the first week of the year than we had in the entire month of December here in the District.

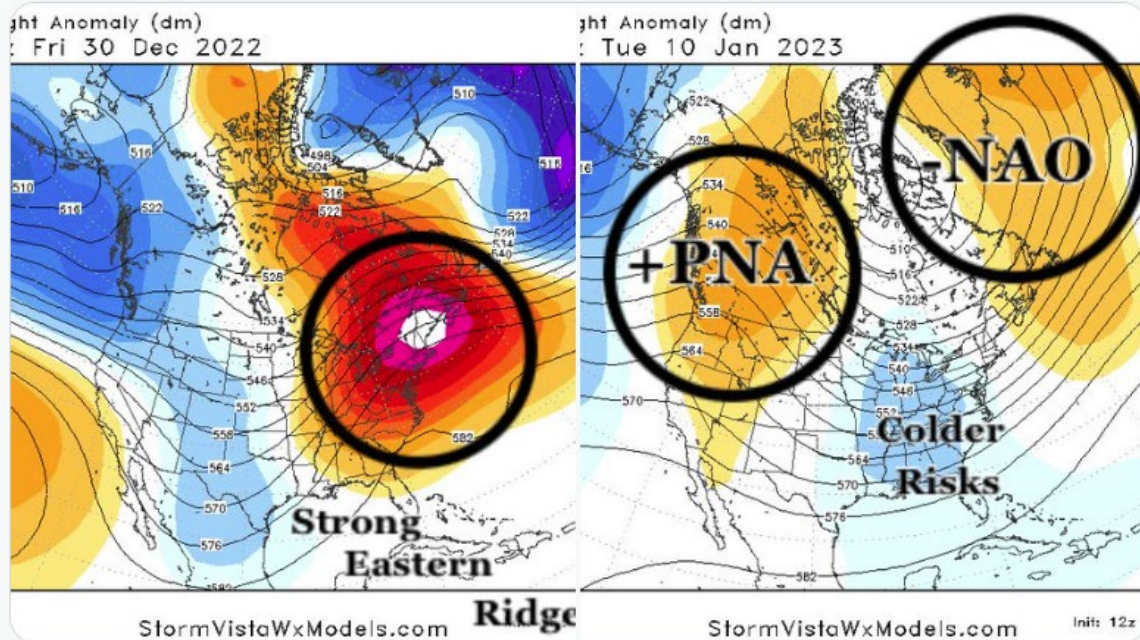


Mike Thomas 
@MikeTFox5 · [Follow](#)



Hope everyone has a fantastic holiday weekend! Looking at the pattern ahead.

1. Isolated flurries Tuesday AM
2. New Years is mild with 50s & 60s for first week at least.
3. Next colder shift modeled around the 10th, but models probably too fast. So more likely 2nd half of month.



9:52 PM · Dec 26, 2022



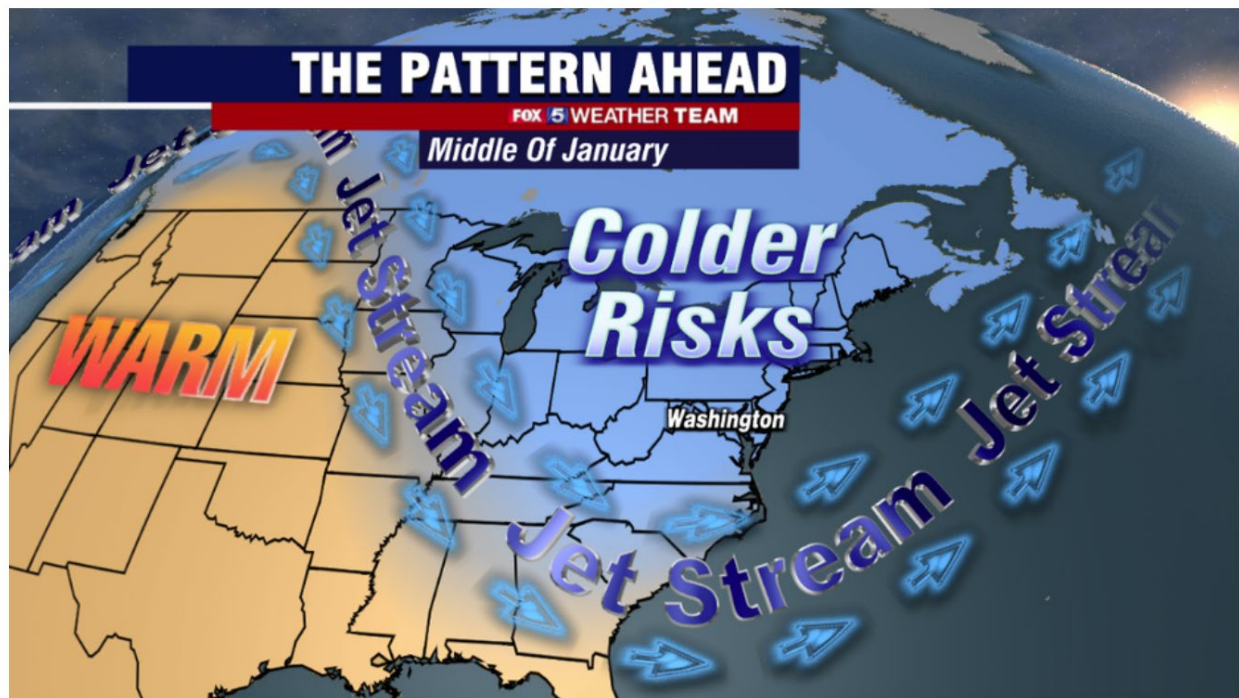
 51  Reply  Share

One thing that seems to be true in every D.C. winter is the wild swings that we go through. It could be 70° one day, with snow seemingly in the forecast the next.

La Niña winters, in particular — especially ones where the expectation is that La Niña will fade through the course of winter — are known for their chaotic weather patterns. After a cold December, the expectation is that January, February, and March

will be a lot of back-and-forth volatility in our temperatures and the pattern as a whole.

The latest model projections show the next Polar Vortex displacement, though not a full breakage, sometime between the second and third weeks of January. This means we should start to see the pattern turn colder again by the middle of the month.



How prolonged it will be and how intense it will be, remains to be seen, however.

The big question, of course, is whether it comes with any snowfall chances. Remember 74% of the annual snowfall for D.C. falls after Jan. 15.

February, despite being the shortest month, is historically the snowiest as well with the city averaging over five inches of snow for the month. While it is impossible to say whether the next cold outbreak will bring better odds for snow, historical data would at least suggest that it could be more favored climatologically. So far this winter, D.C. has not picked up any measurable snowfall, however, despite some warm winters in the past, D.C. has never had a single winter without *any* measurable snowfall. So, we will continue to watch for more chances as the new year progresses. Have a safe and happy New Year!

Children
Dec 21, 2022

Santa uses sign language to spread cheer to deaf, hard of hearing children in the DMV

By Kelly Hayes and Darian Khalilpour

Published December 21, 2022

Updated 2:17PM

Maryland

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/santa-uses-sign-language-to-spread-cheer-to-deaf-hard-of-hearing-children-in-the-dmv>



Deaf Santa Claus spreads Christmas cheer to children in the DMV

Santa Claus arrived last week to the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Maryland, spreading Christmas cheer and fostering a memorable, unique connection with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. (Credit: Gaylord National Resort via Storyful)

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. - Santa Claus arrived last week to the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in [Maryland](#), spreading Christmas cheer and fostering a memorable, unique connection with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Charles Graves, a rare, professional deaf Santa from Texas, visited the Gaylord

National Resort in Fort Washington, Maryland, on Dec. 12. Video shared by the resort showed Santa interacting with children and their families using American Sign Language, as well as interpreters at the resorts holiday shows.

"Often children who are deaf cannot fully interact with Santa and enjoy the holiday festivities," an event spokesperson from Gaylord National Resort told Storyful. "The Washington, DC region has one of the highest concentrations of deaf and hard of hearing people in the nation."

There are more than 20,000 residents in Washington, D.C. alone who are deaf or hard of hearing, many of whom use ASL as their primary language, according to government data. One reason for this may be Gallaudet University, which is also located in D.C. and bills itself as the world's only liberal arts college designed to be "barrier-free for deaf and hard of hearing students," as noted by DCist.



For his part, Graves recently told the Associated Press through an interpreter that he was inspired to grow his beard and put on the Santa suit in part by awkward encounters with hearing Santas as a child.

"As a child, I was very excited to receive a gift, but then you just kind of go away and you're like, there's no connection there. Children look at me now and they're like, wow, you know, there's a connection there with the deaf culture. And I can always connect with the hearing kids as well," Graves explained.

Graves, who has a day job at a school for deaf children, also received training to be Kris Kringle and now works as Santa with interpreters.

He said breaking in has been difficult and expensive, but "this is something really, really important to me."

By mid-November, he had more than a dozen gigs, including a parade in Santa Paula, California, a mall in Austin, Texas, and at Morgan's Wonderland, a nonprofit accessible theme park in San Antonio — as well as several Zoom visits. According to the [Associated Press](#), this part of a growing trend for more inclusive Santas performers.