



1Q 2024

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.

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 1st Quarter 2024:

- Sunday, Jan 1
- Sunday, Jan 7
- Sunday, Jan 14
- Sunday, Jan 21
- Sunday, Jan 28
- Sunday, Feb 4
- Sunday, Feb 11
- Sunday, Feb 18
- Sunday, Feb 25
- Sunday, March 3
- Sunday, March 10
- Sunday, March 17
- Sunday, March 24
- Sunday, March 31



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 1 to March 30, 2024.



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 1 to March 30, 2024.



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 1 to March 30, 2024.

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

1st QUARTER

FOX NEWS SUNDAY GUESTS

Quarter 1 2024

Jan 7, 2024

Border Crisis:

Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX)

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston (D)

Border Negotiations/Budget:

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)

Jan 14, 2024

2024

Amb. Nikki Haley

Gov. Ron DeSantis

Third Party:

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)

Jan 21, 2024

Trump Campaign:

Sen. JD Vance (R-OH)

Haley Campaign:

Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC)

DeSantis Campaign:

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY)

Jan 28, 2024

Border Negotiations:

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)

Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)

Foreign Policy:

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

NATO:

Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

February 4, 2024

US Strikes in the Middle East:

John Kirby

Sen. Lindsey Graham

Legal Panel:

Tom Dupree

Jonathan Turley

February 11, 2024

Israel War

Benjamin Netanyahu

Foreign Policy:

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)

February 18, 2024

2024/Ukraine funding/Russia

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)

Gov. Chris Sununu (R-NH)

Legal Panel:

Tom Dupree

Jonathan Turley

February 25, 2024

Ukraine

Jake Sullivan

Funding:

Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC)

NGA Meeting in DC/Border

Gov. Kevin Stitt (R-OK)

Gov. Jared Polis (D-CO)

Ukraine Funding

Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC)

March 3, 2024

Foreign Policy:

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)

Biden Campaign:

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)

Trump Campaign:

Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL)

March 10, 2024

Economy/Transportation:

Sec. Pete Buttigieg

SOTU response:

Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL)

March 17, 2024

Foreign Policy:

Adm. John Kirby

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

Haiti:

Mitch Albom

SAMPLE OF ISSUE RESPONSIVE NEWS PROGRAMMING

1st Quarter 2024

Crime

March 29, 2024

12-year-old girl shot overnight in northwest DC

By Sam Kosmas

Updated March 29, 2024 8:34am EDT

News

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/12-year-old-girl-shot-overnight-in-northwest-dc>



12-year-old girl shot overnight in northwest DC

A 12-year-old girl remains hospitalized after she was shot overnight in northwest D.C.

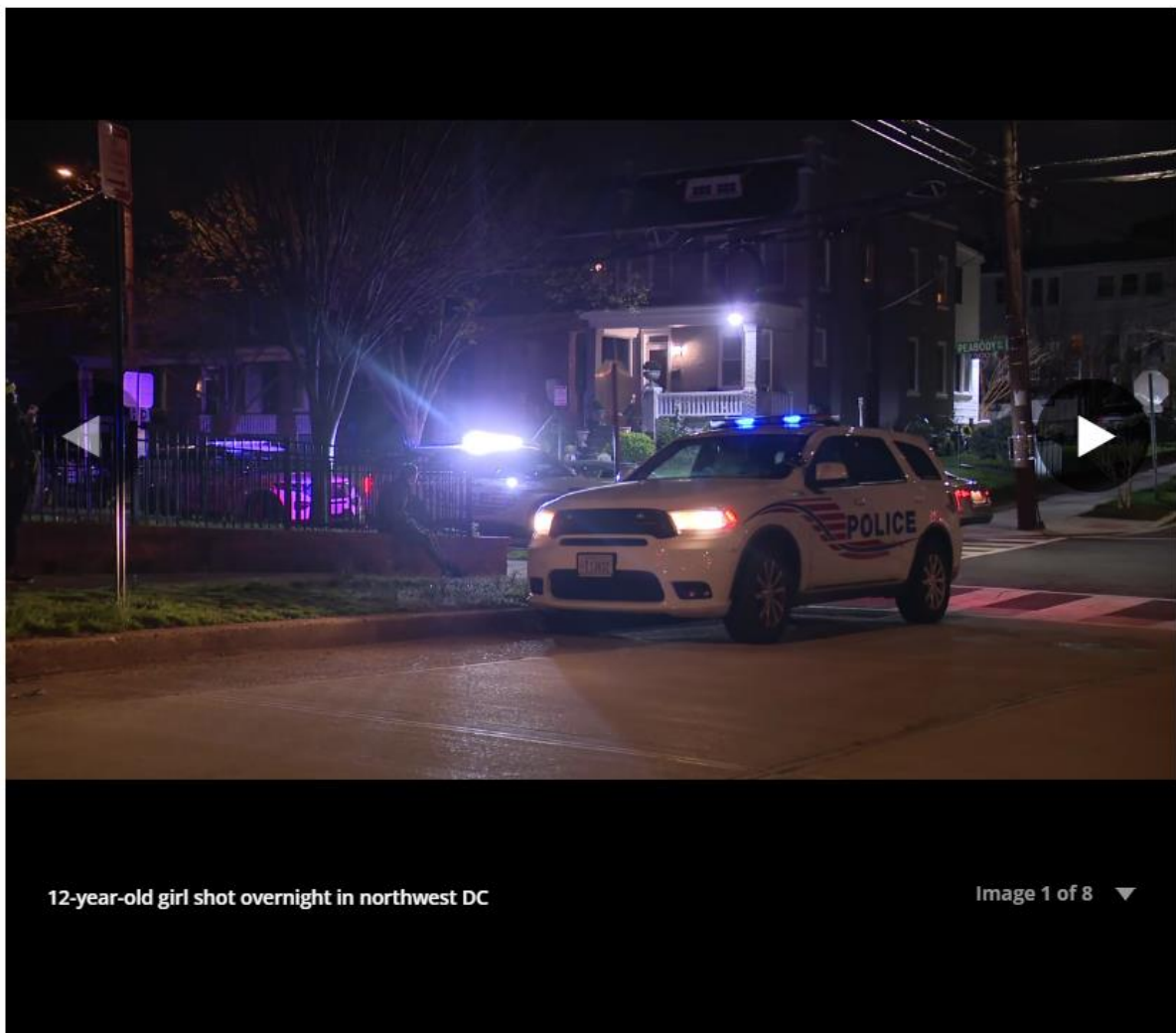
WASHINGTON - A 12-year-old girl remains hospitalized after she was shot overnight in northwest D.C.

D.C. police reported the shooting just after 4 a.m. on X.

They say officers responded to the 500 block of Peabody Street where the girl was found suffering from a gunshot wound. She was conscious and breathing when they arrived.

Detectives are looking for an armed suspect wearing a mask and all black clothing.

This is a developing story. Stay with us for updates.





DC Police Department

@DCPoliceDept · [Follow](#)



Alert: Shooting Investigation in the 500 block of Peabody Street NW. Lookout for a suspect wearing a mask and all black clothing while armed with a gun.

DO NOT TAKE ACTION CALL 911 W/ EVENT

[#I20240152716](#)

4:05 AM · Mar 29, 2024



7



See the latest COVID-19 information on X

[Read more on X](#)

Local Politics
March 27, 2024

Maryland Senate proposes 'PORT Act' to aid thousands of jobless workers amid port shutdown

By **Homa Bash**
Published **March 27, 2024 4:51pm EDT**
Maryland
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/maryland-senate-proposes-port-act-to-aid-thousands-of-jobless-workers-amid-port-shutdown>



Emergency legislation offers hope for displaced workers amid Baltimore Port shutdown

With the port of Baltimore shut down and ship traffic halted - thousands of port workers are out of a job. Tuesday, Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson announced that his office is drafting emergency legislation for an income replacement program for impacted workers and businesses. FOX 5's Homa Bash has the story.

BETHESDA, Md. (FOX 5 DC) - With the port of [Baltimore](#) shut down and ship traffic halted - thousands of port workers are out of a job.

Tuesday, [Maryland Senate](#) President Bill Ferguson announced that his office is drafting emergency legislation for an income replacement program for impacted workers and businesses.

Called the PORT Act, which stands for Protecting Opportunities and Regional Trade, Ferguson said that the money would come from Maryland's rainy day fund, which has seen a surplus over the last several years from federal pandemic dollars.

"We have over \$2 billion in rainy day funds right now, and I would say with the Key Bridge into the Patapsco River, there is nothing more rainy than that," Ferguson, who has represented the port district for the last 14 years, said.

Once the bill passes both chambers and is signed by [Maryland Governor Wes Moore](#), Ferguson said he hopes funds would be accessible to workers within the next couple of weeks.

According to Ferguson, the port of Baltimore directly employs 15,000 workers and, indirectly, 100,000 workers.

That's everyone from truckers and cleaning crews, to ship maintenance, loading and unloading, clerical positions, and a wide variety of jobs in between.



BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY - MARCH 26: Cranes stand over shipping containers at the Port of Newark on March 26, 2024 as seen from Bayonne, New Jersey. Supply chains at ports up and down the East Coast are expected to be affected after a cargo ship hit and collapsed the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland. The Port of Baltimore, which has the highest volume of auto imports in the U.S., is now temporarily closed.. Six workers who were on the bridge at the time of the impact are still missing. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Leaders representing the longshoremen and women who work on the port say they have been in contact with local, state, and federal officials, trying to navigate what comes next in such an unprecedented situation.

"They have families, it's how they pay their bills and put their food on the table. There's the 2,400 ILA members, there's also about 15,000 to 20,000 direct jobs - truckers, warehouses - these ILA workers, they worked all through the pandemic, we never missed a beat," said Scott Cowan, president of the International Longshoreman's Association Local 333.

National Politics
March 23, 2024

President Biden signs \$1.2 trillion funding bill, after Senate averts government shutdown

By Associated Press

Published March 23, 2024 2:14pm EDT

Politics

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/president-biden-signs-1-2-trillion-funding-bill-after-senate-averts-government-shutdown>



WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden on Saturday signed a [\\$1.2 trillion package of spending bills](#) after [Congress had passed](#) the long overdue legislation just hours earlier, ending the threat of a partial government shutdown.

"This agreement represents a compromise, which means neither side got everything it wanted," Biden said in a statement. "But it rejects extreme cuts from House Republicans and expands access to child care, invests in cancer research, funds mental health and substance use care, advances

American leadership abroad, and provides resources to secure the border. ... That's good news for the American people."

It took lawmakers six months into the current budget year to get near the finish line on government funding, the process slowed by conservatives who pushed for more policy mandates and steeper spending cuts than a Democratic-led Senate or White House would consider. The impasse required several short-term spending bills to keep agencies funded.

The White House said Biden signed the legislation at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, where he was spending the weekend. It had cleared the Senate by a 74-24 vote shortly after funding had expired for the agencies at midnight.

But the White House had sent out a notice shortly after the deadline announcing that the Office of Management and Budget had ceased shutdown preparations because there was a high degree of confidence that Congress would pass the legislation and the Democratic president would sign it Saturday.

The first package of full-year spending bills, which funded the departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture and the Interior, among others, [cleared Congress](#) two weeks ago with just hours to spare before funding expired for those agencies. The second covered the departments of Defense, Homeland Security and State, as well as other aspects of general government.

When combining the two packages, discretionary spending for the budget year will come to about \$1.66 trillion. That does not include programs such as Social Security and Medicare, or financing the country's rising debt.

On Ukraine aid, which Biden and his administration have argued was critical and necessary to help stop Russia's invasion, the package provided \$300 million under the defense spending umbrella. That funding [is](#)

separate from a large assistance package for Ukraine and Israel that is bogged down on Capitol Hill.

Biden, in his statement, again pressed Congress to pass additional aid.

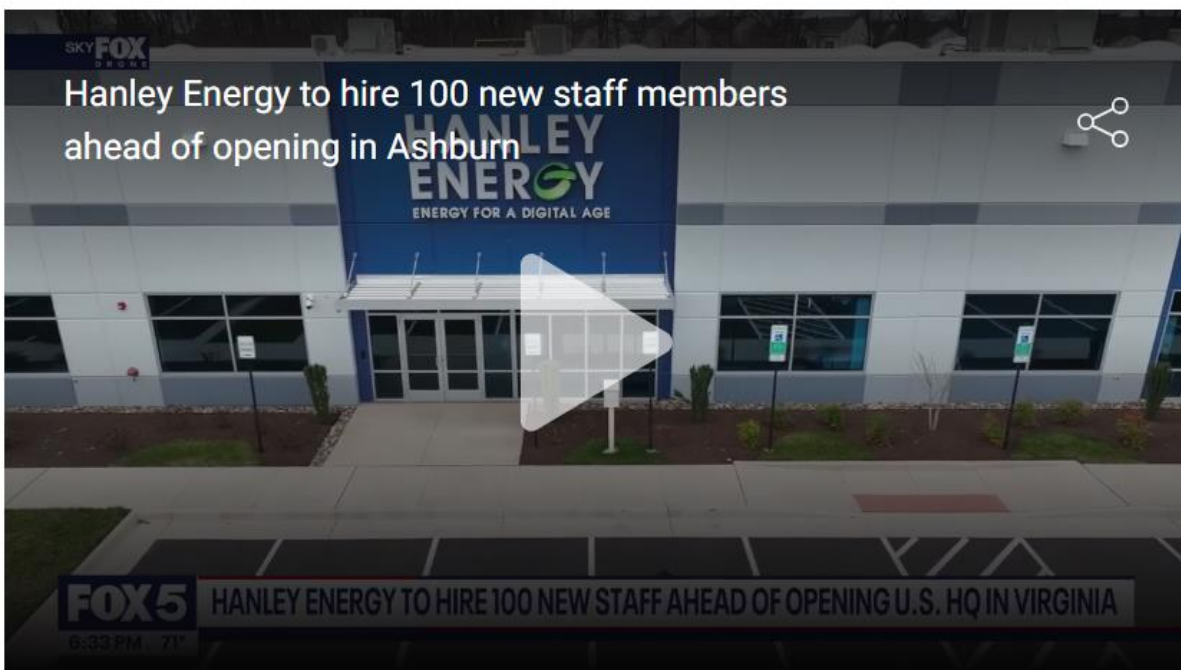
"The House must pass the bipartisan national security supplemental to advance our national security interests. And Congress must pass the bipartisan border security agreement — the toughest and fairest reforms in decades — to ensure we have the policies and funding needed to secure the border. It's time to get this done."

Community
March 15, 2024

Irish company opens global HQ in Northern Virginia, hiring for 100 jobs

By **Homa Bash**
Published **March 15, 2024 7:25pm EDT**
Loudoun County
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/irish-company-opens-global-hq-in-northern-virginia-hiring-for-100-jobs>



Hanley Energy to hire 100 new staff members ahead of opening in Ashburn

Hanley Energy unveiled its global headquarters on Friday, and it's a 40,000-square-foot facility in Ashburn in the heart of data center alley. FOX 5's Homa Bash has the story.

Just days from St. Patrick's Day, an Irish company is making its mark on Northern Virginia.

Hanley Energy unveiled its global headquarters on Friday, a 40,000-square-foot facility in Ashburn in the heart of data center alley.

The company is not a data center itself - rather, it provides the energy and power management for data centers and technology such as Amazon Web Services.



Irish company opens global HQ in Northern Virginia, hiring for 100 jobs

The move brings 100 jobs to Loudon County, with Hanley executives telling FOX 5 they are seeking highly-skilled professionals and hiring for positions including engineers, electricians, finance, and more.

"The data center sector in Northern Virginia is no secret, and it was important for us to be close to our customers in data center alley," said Niall Franklin, U.S. country manager for Hanley.

While the economic impact of data centers is clear, they have been controversial in Loudon County these past few years.

FOX 5 has reported extensively on protests and rallies from homeowners in these communities, concerned about their home values and quality of life.

But Hanley executives and Irish economic development officials say this won't be the same.



Irish company opens global HQ in Northern Virginia, hiring for 100 jobs

"This is the opposite actually, this is good news. So lots of people object to data centers because they're big and there aren't a lot of people directly employed. These are the people who build them and the center in Loudon County that Hanley Energy has established is hiring people to do business across the United States," said Leo Clancy, chief executive of Enterprise Ireland. "So in this case, it's the business of building data centers. Not just for Loudon County but the entire country."

And despite tech jobs being slashed nationally over the last year, the forecast for data center growth is trending up.

Health
March 21, 2024

Mental health workers shortage has created a growing healthcare crisis

By Joy Addison

Published March 21, 2023 3:47pm EDT

Mental Health

FOX Business

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/mental-health-workers-shortage-has-created-a-growing-healthcare-crisis>



What's driving the worsening mental health in teens?

Aja Chavez, executive director of adolescent services at AMFM Healthcare in Southern California, spoke to FOX Television Stations about the 2023 CDC report that showed a dire look at the state of teens' mental health in America.

Gayle Fisher is a mother of two, navigating her Texas communities the mental health resources space. She says she's always struggled to find resources, but her struggle has become worse in recent years.

"Texas is dying for extra help to the family.. Even in the county in which we live, there not enough resources. I have mom friends, and we just get

together ourselves and we debrief, and we share our resources" Fisher said.

Fisher and her friends are among tens of thousands of Texans [struggling to find help](#). Jamie Freeny with Mental Health America of Greater Houston says the need for mental health resources in her community far outweighs the availability.

"Texas, according to Mental Health America, ranks last when it comes to [children's mental health services](#)" Dr. Freeny said.

Texas isn't alone. There is a nationwide shortage of mental health professionals, but it's worse for children and teenagers. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry says nearly 1 in 5 children experience a mental health issue, but only about 20% receive care.

Across the nation, every state either faces a high or severe shortage of mental health workers.

"Some families will have to travel 1 or 2 hours just to meet in person with a mental health professional, which means there are other barriers and challenges that they have to overcome such as childcare, taking off of work, and transportation" Dr. Freeny said.

Melissa Whitson, PH.D studies behavioral health. She says the pandemic worsened the shortage because mental health workers experienced burnout as their caseloads increased. She says if this shortage continues, it may put families at risk.

"It increases the risk that we get mental health, health issues, challenges, behavioral challenges, substance abuse, juvenile justice involvement, all those negative outcomes that we want to avoid and prevent," Dr. Whitson said.

Last Friday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced about \$25 million would be used to expand primary

healthcare, including [mental health services in schools](#). For the first time, applicants will be required to add or expand mental health services to receive school-based funding.

Housing
March 27, 2024

Baltimore sells \$1 houses in effort to combat vacant home crisis

By Sarah Rumpf-Whitten

Published March 27, 2024 7:20pm EDT

Housing

FOX Business

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/money/baltimore-sells-1-houses-in-effort-to-combat-vacant-home-crisis>



The charred front of a vacant rowhouse is seen on Furrow Street in the Carrollton Ridge neighborhood in West Baltimore. (Jerry Jackson/Baltimore Sun/Tribune News Service via Getty Images)

BALTIMORE - Baltimore, Maryland, city officials approved a program that would sell city-owned vacant homes for next to nothing at \$1 for some applicable residents.

According to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the Fixed Pricing Program was created to combat the more than 13,500 homes in Baltimore that are vacant.

City officials said Tuesday that just over 200 homes are currently in the program.

According to [the DHCD](#), the homes would only be sold to individuals who are willing to invest their money in fixing the dilapidated homes.

[AMERICANS ARE MAKING A MASS EXODUS FROM BIG CITIES](#)

[ACCORDING TO CENSUS BUREAU DATA](#)

Applicants must provide proof that they have at least \$90,000 to complete a renovation, as well as pass through an application vetting process.

Interested parties can apply beginning April 1.

[US HOMEBUILDER SENTIMENT UNEXPECTEDLY RISES TO HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE JULY](#)

The applicants will be vetted by the funds they have available for rehabilitation, their criminal history and if they have any open [federal or state](#) liens or judgments.

Officials said that the city would prioritize city residents by giving them a 90-day window for priority buying.

Developers would have to pay \$3,000 per home, and so [would large nonprofits](#) with 51 or more employees.

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Nonprofits with fewer employees could pay \$1,000.

Fox News has reached out to Mayor Brandon Scott for comment.

Read more of this story from [FOX Business](#).

Transportation
March 19, 2024

Montgomery County leaders hope to reduce impact of summer Metro red line closures

By Maureen Umeh
Published March 19, 2024 1:02pm EDT
News
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/montgomery-county-leaders-hope-to-reduce-impact-of-summer-metro-red-line-closures>



Montgomery County leaders hope to reduce impact of summer Metro red line closures

Montgomery County leaders are hoping to reduce the impact on commuters when scheduled repairs temporarily close five Metro red line stations.

SILVER SPRING, Md. - [Montgomery County](#) leaders are hoping to reduce the impact on commuters when scheduled repairs [temporarily close five Metro red line stations](#).

The county leaders sent a letter to WMATA and MDOT officials asking them to come up with a plan on how to lessen the disruption for commuters.

In early June, WMATA will temporarily close the Silver Spring, Glenmont, Wheaton, Forest Glen and Takoma stations.

The closures are slated to last through early September and WMATA says they will offer free shuttle and express buses.

But several county leaders, including Montgomery County Executive Mark Elrich and Council President Andrew Friedson are among the officials who signed a letter asking Metro General Manager Randy Clarke and Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul Wiedefeld to consider a number of ways to alleviate problems for commuters.

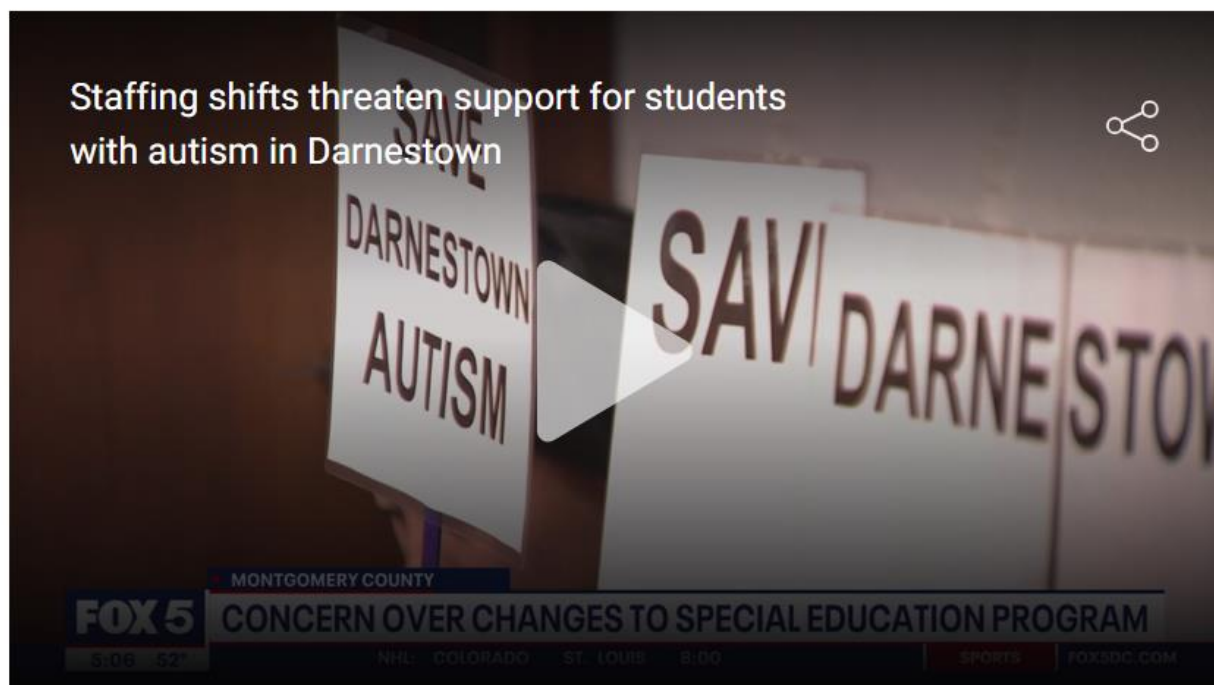
They include things like Increasing MARC commuter rail service between Rockville and the District and considering reduced or fare-free service on transportation alternatives.

Education
March 19, 2024

Montgomery County parents slam plan to cut staff for autistic students

By **Lili Zheng**
Published **March 19, 2024 5:31pm EDT**
Montgomery County Public Schools
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/montgomery-county-parents-slam-plan-to-cut-staff-for-autistic-students>



Staffing shifts threaten support for students with autism in Darnestown

Parents in Montgomery County are expressing major concerns over a planned staffing change in the upcoming school year impacting students with autism. FOX 5's Lili Zheng has the story.

DARNESTOWN, Md. - Parents in [Montgomery County](#) are expressing major concerns over a planned staffing change in the upcoming school year impacting students with autism.

Currently, 60 students attend the Darnestown Learning Center at [Darnestown](#) Elementary School. The center has 12 paraeducators,

which are school employees who work under the supervision of teachers or other professional practitioners.

Half of them will be reassigned to other locations in the next school year, a [Montgomery County Public Schools](#) spokesperson confirmed Tuesday.

"6.125 paraeducator positions will be re-assigned next year due to reduced enrollment projections. Bottom line, an IEP is a legal document that lays out required services that must be provided. These services will be provided at Darnestown despite this change," a spokesperson emailed FOX 5 Tuesday.



Montgomery County parents slam plan to cut staff for autistic students

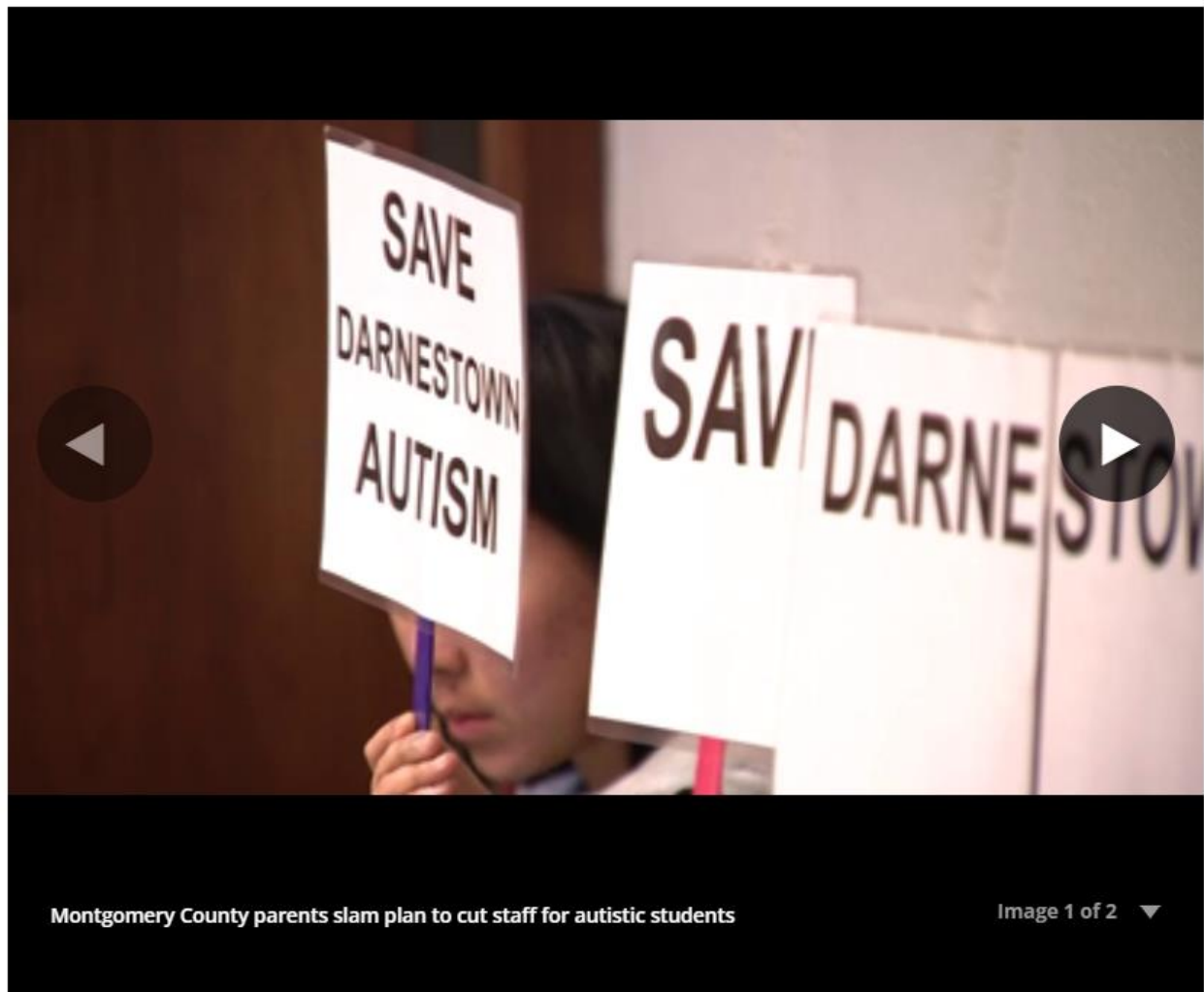
Eugene Kim is the father of a student at the learning center and was among the parents who offered statements during the public comment portion of Tuesday's school board meeting.

"A para, if you have a ratio of one para to one teacher to two kids, three kids ... Then that para's ability to maintain the kid in position to stay - not

disciplined - but to keep them on track becomes far more beneficial than allowing a kid to just run around," Kim said. "If you look at Darnestown, there are classrooms upwards of 12 kids and two paras. There have been elopement issues. I mean, I don't want to say who or what grade level, but there have been cases where a kid has escaped through the window."

Jamie Doyle also urged the school board not to reduce the staffing level.

"With Autism Awareness Month approaching, I respectfully request that you continue the program in its current form and consider expanding it to other sites to accommodate the deluge of autistic children that will be coming," Doyle said.



According to the school district, the paraeducators are being reassigned to other locations to service increasing special education needs countywide. Parents, however, say they have been told the needs will continue to increase at Darnestown.

Silvia Hou, a parent of a Darnestown student, said parents were not consulted about the process.

"These children's IEP's placement made them eligible for Darnestown because a traditional learning center could not meet their needs. The special education staff does not realize they have created a ripple effect," Hou told the board. "Board of Education, Dr. Felder, ask those special education staff in this building, are you absolutely sure we are not going to increase costs elsewhere? I respectfully ask that you return the paraeducators to Darnestown Elementary and do not eliminate this much-needed program, which serves a huge autism need and population in our county."

Environment
March 19, 2024

Solar eclipse 2024: 5 cities in path of totality just a drive away from DC

By Elissa Salamy
Published **March 19, 2024 2:19pm EDT**
Things To Do in the DMV
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/solar-eclipse-2024-5-cities-in-path-of-totality-just-a-drive-away-from-dc>



Partial lunar eclipse glows over DMV

A partial lunar eclipse could be seen across D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

WASHINGTON - Washington, D.C. is not in the path of the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8 – but it's not too far of a trip to these cities that are.

Erie, PA: 5.5 hours from D.C.

Erie is less than six hours from Washington, D.C. and is in the path of totality. Totality is expected to begin around 3:16 for Erie and surrounding areas, lasting around three minutes.

[Several locations in Erie County](#) are distributing "The Ultimate Sunblock" eclipse glasses ahead of the solar eclipse, including the I-90 Pennsylvania Welcome Center, the I-79 Rest Stop, the Erie Visitor Center as well as at County Fair locations throughout northwestern Pennsylvania.

Cleveland, OH: 6 hours from D.C.

Totality in Cleveland, Ohio, is expected to begin at 3:13 p.m. and end at 3:17 p.m. Just a six hour drive from D.C., Cleveland has a few things going on to mark the occasion.

[Great Lakes Science Center](#) is throwing a Total Eclipse Fest April 6 - 8 at North Coast Harbor in downtown Cleveland. The event is free and will feature free concerts, performances, speakers, and hands-on science activities with community partners.

[The Cleveland Museum of Natural History](#) is also celebrating the total solar eclipse with a weekend of activities.

Akron, OH

Akron will be in the dark for just under three minutes at around 3:15 p.m. on April 8.

Nine of Akron's community centers will be open for viewing, with eclipse glasses on hand to distribute. Four of the city's parks and one downtown location will also be available as a viewing site.

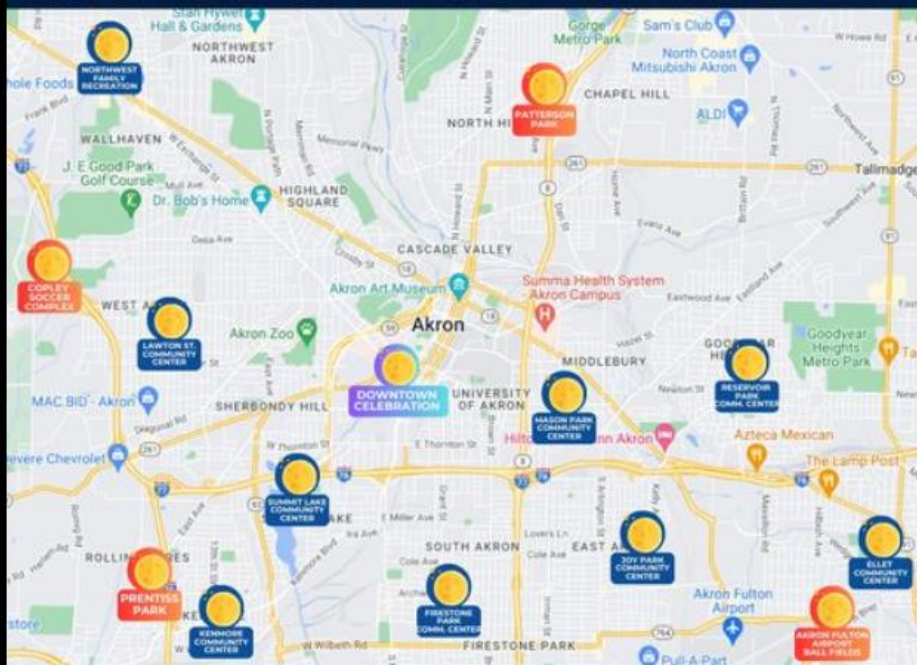


City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office

about 2 weeks ago



CITY-SPONSORED ECLIPSE VIEWING LOCATIONS



- = Community Center Celebration, approx. 200 glasses available
- = Park Celebration, 300 person limit - **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- = Downtown Viewing Party, 2,500 person limit - **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Today, I'm announcing the City of Akron's plans for the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8. The city will have a mix of 9 community centers, 4 parks and 1 downtown location available as viewing sites to help folks enjoy the eclipse no matter where they are in the city. Eclipse glasses will be available on a limited basis at each location, as well. Learn more: <https://ayr.app/l/8x8w>

Columbus, OH: 7 hours from D.C.

Columbus, Ohio, will experience near totality (99.6%) for about two and a half minutes on April 8. Peak totality will be around 3:12 p.m.

The Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in downtown Columbus is hosting a viewing party, as well as the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Land-Grant Brewing Co is debuting their "Totaity" beer in collaboration with COSI, which will be on tap during their viewing part on April 8.

Buffalo, NY: 7 hours from D.C.

Buffalo sits directly in the path of totality, and will see three minutes and 38 seconds of complete totality.

The full eclipse is expected to begin around 3:18 p.m. and last until 3:22 p.m.

The Buffalo area could draw up to a million tourists over four days around the eclipse.

The city is hosting a [number of exhibitions and events ahead of and during the eclipse.](#)

Eclipse 2024 in Washington, D.C.

Can't make it out of town and into the path of totality?

D.C. will reach 87.3% lunar coverage, so will look more like an overcast day rather than full cover of night you may see in parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania. But that doesn't mean you can't mark the occasion and celebrate the partial eclipse closer to home.

The National Air and Space Museum is hosting a [festival on the National Mall](#) on April 8, featuring telescopes and educational activities. You could also see the eclipse from the telescopes at the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly.

Ahead of the celestial event, [DC9](#) is hosting speakers to discuss the eclipse, and the [DC Public Library](#) is holding film screenings, showing movies like *The Martian* and *Arrival*.

Children
March 11, 2024

Texting kids at school: Why teachers say parents should stop

By Austin Williams

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Education

Fox TV Stations

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/texting-kids-at-school-why-teachers-say-parents-should-stop>



Florida votes on kids' social media access

Florida State Representative Berny Jacques joins LiveNOW's Lexie Petrovic to discuss an effort by state lawmakers to restrict children's access to social media.

LOS ANGELES - It's no secret that smartphones are a big distraction for kids at school.

Now, teachers are saying the stream-of-consciousness texts their students receive while at school contribute to a climate of constant interruption and distraction from learning.

Virginia high school teacher Joe Clement shared some examples of the text messages parents have sent students sitting in his classes with the Associated Press on March 9.

- "What did you get on your test?"
- "Did you get the field trip form signed?"
- "Do you want chicken or hamburgers for dinner tonight?"

Clement says just a few changes in parents' behavior can help make phones less distracting at school.

"We call it the digital umbilical cord. Parents can't let go. And they need to," Clement said.

Here are some tips on how you can help your child stay focused while in school.

If the message isn't urgent, it can probably wait

It's normal for parents to want to keep in touch with their children by texting, especially in an era where school shootings and other mental health problems continue to overwhelm kids.

Teachers say you can still reach your child if you have a plan change or a family emergency. Just contact the front office.

Think of it this way: "If you came to school and said, 'Can you pull my child out of calculus so I can tell them something not important?' we would say no," Central Virginia school counselor Erin Rettig said.

"When your children are texting you stuff that can wait — like, 'Can I go to Brett's house five days from now?' — don't respond," said Sabine Polak,

one of three mothers who co-founded the Phone-Free Schools Movement. "You have to stop engaging. That's just feeding the problem."

Cut the cord during school hours

Many parents got used to being in constant contact during the COVID-19 pandemic when kids were home doing online school. They have kept that communication going as life has otherwise returned to normal.

Parents might expect their kids to respond after a period of time to texts (though many do). However, when students pull out their phones to reply, it opens the door to other social media distractions.

How phones distract students

Educators nationwide [report](#) that students frequently engage in activities like sending Snapchat messages, listening to music, and browsing online stores during class, highlighting the myriad ways smartphones detract from the educational experience.

While the [pervasive influence of phones](#) on kids is widely acknowledged, teachers note that parents are often unaware of how much their children use them during class. Consequently, educators and experts are increasingly advocating for a unified approach: implementing phone bans during class time.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 77% of U.S. schools prohibit cellphone use for non-academic purposes.

But that number is misleading. It does not mean students are following those bans or all those schools are enforcing them.

The Associated Press contributed to this story. It was reported from Los Angeles.