



4Q 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.

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 2023:

- Sunday, Oct 1
- Sunday, Oct 8
- Sunday, Oct 15
- Sunday, Oct 22
- Sunday, Oct 29
- Sunday, Nov 5
- Sunday, Nov 12
- Sunday, Nov 19
- Sunday, Nov 26
- Sunday, Dec 3
- Sunday, Dec 10
- Sunday, Dec 17
- Sunday, Dec 24
- Sunday, Dec 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 Oct 2 to Dec 29, 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 Oct 2 to Dec 29, 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 Oct 2 to Dec 29, 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

4th QUARTER

FOX NEWS SUNDAY GUESTS

Oct 1, 2023

Government Shutdown:

Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL)

Rep. French Hill (R-AR)

Spending/Sen. Feinstein/Third Party

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)

2024

Nikki Haley

Oct 8, 2023

Israel:

Jon Finer

Mike Pompeo

2024

Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL)

Casey DeSantis

Oct 15, 2023

Israel:

John Kirby

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Israeli Lt. Col. Peter Lerner

Former Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE)

Oct 22, 2023

Israel:

Gen. Jack Keane

Congress:

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

Israel:

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)

Speaker Race:

Newt Gingrich

Oct 29, 2023

Middle East:

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)

Crime in America

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson

Crime Legal Panel:

Ted Williams

Cully Stimson

Crime Law Enforcement Panel

Mayor James Butts
Chuck Marino

November 5, 2023

New Speaker:

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)

Middle East:

Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)

Abortion/Ohio Vote

Gov. Mike DeWine (R-OH)

Nov 12, 2023

Israel War:

Amb. Michael Herzog

Mid East/Government Funding:

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

2024:

Nikki Haley

November 19, 2023

Middle East:

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)

Fmr. State Dept Sec. Mike Pompeo

Nov 26, 2023

Economy

Jared Bernstein

Middle East

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Rep. Jake Auchincloss (D-MA)

Dec 3, 2023—Live from the Regan Library

Middle East:

John Kirby

National Defense:

Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.

Vets Panel:

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)

Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL)

December 10, 2023

Hamas atrocities/Antisemitism on campus

Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC)

NATO:

Pal Jonson, Swedish Foreign Defense Minister

VA Lt. Gov Profile:

Winsome Earle-Sears

December 17, 2023

Border/Ukraine/Israel Funding

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)

Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)

December 24, 2023

Spending Bills/Middle East/Asia-Pacific

Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-TN)

Keeping the Faith Special with:

Zach Williams

TobyMac

Scott Hamilton

CeCe Winans

Michael W. Smith

December 31, 2023

Economy:

Jared Bernstein

Border/Immigration:

Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)

Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX)

SAMPLE OF ISSUE RESPONSIVE NEWS PROGRAMMING

4TH Quarter 2023

Crime

Dec 27, 2023

DC police ID woman found dead after report of suspicious package: police

By FOX 5 DC Digital Team

Published December 27, 2023 2:24PM

Washington, D.C.

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/dc-police-id-woman-found-dead-after-report-of-suspicious-package-police>



WASHINGTON - The Metropolitan Police Department continues to investigate a woman that was found dead after the report of a suspicious package in Northeast.

Police arrived in the 1500 block of 45th Street, for the report of a suspicious package and a woman down on Sunday, November 5 around 9:54 p.m.

When news breaks, stream FOX 5 DC anytime. Get the FOX Local app on your smart TV.

The deceased has been identified as 24-year-old Nicole Ann Young, of no known address. Upon arrival, officers located the body of a woman.

The body was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to identify the decedent and determine the circumstances surrounding the death. The cause and manner of death remains under investigation.

Local Politics
Dec 21, 2023

End of the road for Virginia's car tax? Gov. Youngkin introduces bold plan

By **Tom Fitzgerald**
Published **December 21, 2023**
Virginia Politics
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/end-of-the-road-for-virginias-car-tax-governor-youngkins-bold-plan>



End of the road for Virginia's car tax? Gov. Glenn Youngkin introduces bold plan

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin has his eye on something many governors have tried to do but failed at — eliminating the state's car tax.

ARLINGTON, Va. - [Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin](#) has his eye on something many governors have tried to do but failed at — eliminating the state's car tax.

It's been around for years and with popular support for the idea, Youngkin says it's time for the car tax to hit the road.

It's a little bit like that saying about the weather – politicians in [Virginia](#) always talk about the car tax, but they don't do anything about

it. And while Governor Youngkin says it's time for the practice of Virginia taxing car owners – for the life of a car – should end. It's not clear if Democrats will go along with him.

Now, this car tax isn't cheap. In Northern Virginia, the car tax rate for most vehicles is \$4.57 per \$100 of assessed value in [Fairfax County](#), \$5 in [Arlington County](#), and \$5.33 in the [City of Alexandria](#).



Honda Pilot vehicles at a dealership in Manassas, Virginia on April 12, 2009. AFP PHOTO/Karen BLEIER (Photo credit should read KAREN BLEIER/AFP via Getty Images)

Folks didn't hold back on this one in talking to FOX 5 – most people told us it costs them hundreds of dollars every year, and they want the car tax gone.

In an address to state lawmakers in Richmond, Governor Youngkin says he's open to alternative ideas to make up the money that would be lost by eliminating the car tax, perhaps even giving a bump to local jurisdictions in their sales taxes. But David Ramadahn, a political science professor at George Mason University's Schlar Center, says it's a promise that won't be easy to deliver.

"Replace it with a further increase in local sales taxes because the car tax belongs in the trash and can not be in your mailbox," Governor Youngkin said.

"Because of its popularity, every governor throws it out there in order to gain headlines, to gain popularity, especially in a tough atmosphere," Ramadan said.

Even without [the car tax debate](#), Virginia is already facing a challenging budget season.

With Democrats having won the majority in the General Assembly, the big question is would Democrats be interested in making the state's Republican governor achieve a goal that many governors before him have been unable to achieve?

National Politics
Dec 29, 2023

Abortion issue creates 'new era' for state supreme court races in 2024

By **Christine Fernando and Andrew DeMillo**
Published **December 29, 2023 2:22PM**
Abortion Laws
Associated Press

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/abortion-debate-state-supreme-court-races-2024>



Demonstrators rally in support of abortion rights at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on April 15, 2023. (Photo by ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP via Getty Images)

CHICAGO - The 2024 elections will be dominated by the presidential contest and the battle for control of Congress, but another series of races is shaping up to be just as consequential.

Crucial battles over abortion, gerrymandering, voting rights and other issues will take center stage in next year's elections for state supreme court seats — 80 of them in 33 states.

The races have emerged as some of the most hotly contested and costliest contests on the ballot since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, eliminating the constitutional right to an abortion. The decision shifted the abortion debate to states, creating a "new era" in state supreme court elections, said Douglas Keith, senior counsel in the judiciary program at the Brennan Center for Justice, which tracks spending in judicial races.

RELATED: [Judge to decide on abortion laws in Wyoming, including first explicit abortion pills ban](#)

"We have seen attention on state supreme court elections like never before and money in these races like never before," Keith said.

Heated court races in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania in 2023 handed victories to Democrats and saw tens of millions of dollars in TV ads, offering a preview of 2024. They're also prompting groups to consider investing in states they would not previously have considered.

Abortion and gerrymandering top issues

At least 38 lawsuits have been filed challenging abortion bans in 23 states, according to the Brennan Center. Many of those are expected to end up before state supreme courts.

The ACLU is watching cases challenging abortion restrictions in Wyoming, Kentucky, Ohio, Utah, Florida, Nevada, Arizona, Nebraska, Georgia and Montana.

RELATED: [South Carolina judge halts new stricter abortion law until state Supreme Court review](#)

"After *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, we had to turn to state courts and state constitutions as the critical backstop to protecting access to abortion," said Brigitte Amiri, deputy director at the ACLU's Reproductive

Freedom Project. "And the stakes are unbelievably high in each of these cases in each of these states."

The ACLU was among major spenders on behalf of Democrats in this year's state supreme court contests in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Another big player in recent court races has been the Republican State Leadership Committee, which has said its focus is mainly on redistricting, or the drawing of political district boundaries. The group called state supreme courts the "last line of defense against far-left national groups," but didn't say how much it intends to spend on next year's races or which states it's focusing on.

In Ohio, Democrats are expected to cast state supreme court races as an extension of the November election in which voters enshrined the right to abortion in the state constitution. The state has more than 30 abortion restrictions in place that could be challenged now that the amendment has passed.

RELATED: [North Carolina governor signs bill revising state's abortion law before it takes effect](#)

"The state supreme court is going to be the ultimate arbiter of the meaning of the new constitutional amendment that the people voted for and organized around," said Jessie Hill, law professor at Case Western Reserve University and a consultant for Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights. "That is a huge amount of power."

With three seats up for a vote and a current Republican majority of 4-3, Democrats have an opportunity to flip the majority of the court while Republicans will try to expand their control. Hill said the "very high-stakes election" will serve as another test of the salience of the abortion issue in turning out voters.

"We saw an incredible number of voters come out to vote on that amendment and an incredible amount of investment in those campaigns," Hill added. "I think we'll see a similar attention and investment in Ohio come next year."

Redistricting also is likely to be a main focus in the state's supreme court races, given the court will have realigned politically since it issued a series of rulings finding Ohio's congressional and legislative maps unconstitutionally gerrymandered to favor Republicans, said David Niven, political science professor at the University of Cincinnati. He expects millions of dollars to be spent on those campaigns.

"There's often little conversation about these races, but they are just so utterly consequential in very tangible, practical ways that touch voters' everyday lives," he said.

Map broadens for consequential races

Pending legislative and congressional redistricting cases also could play a role in North Carolina.

Republicans in North Carolina are looking to expand their majority two years after the court flipped from Democratic control in the 2022 election. That flip to a 5-2 GOP majority led to dramatic reversals in 2023 on rulings made by the previous court, which had struck down a 2018 photo voter identification law as well as district maps for the General Assembly and the state's congressional delegation.

Groups on both sides also are expected to focus on Michigan, where Democrats hold a 4-3 majority on the state Supreme Court. Candidates run without political affiliations listed on the ballot, though they're nominated by political parties.

Two incumbents — one Democrat, one Republican — will be up for election in 2024. The court recently kept former President Donald Trump on the state's ballot, denying a liberal group's request to kick him off. It is currently weighing a high-profile case over a Republican legislative maneuver that gutted a minimum wage hike backed by voters.

2023 races a preview

In Wisconsin, abortion played a dominant role in the 2023 court race, with Democrats flipping the court to a 4-3 majority in a campaign that shattered previous national records for spending in state supreme court elections.

Liberal-leaning Justice Janet Protasiewicz defeated former Justice Dan Kelly, who previously worked for Republicans and had support from the state's leading anti-abortion groups.

Protasiewicz was targeted with impeachment threats this year over comments she made on the campaign trail about redistricting as Republicans argued she had prejudged what then was an expected case on the state's heavily gerrymandered state legislative districts. Experts say the controversy is an example of how more money and attention have changed the dynamics of many state supreme court races to be increasingly partisan.

Democrats in Pennsylvania added to their majority on the court after a race with tens of millions of dollars in spending. Democrat Dan McCaffery won after positioning himself as a strong defender of abortion rights.

Contested seats even in deep red states

It remains to be seen whether abortion rights will play a factor in states where party control isn't at stake. That includes Arkansas, where the court is expected to maintain its 4-3 conservative majority. The seats up next

year include the chief justice position, which has drawn three sitting justices.

A fight over abortion could wind up before the court, with a group trying to put a measure on the ballot next year that would scale back a state ban on the procedure that took effect once Roe was overturned.

Abortion rights supporters also aren't writing off longshot states such as Texas and its all-Republican high court, which rejected the request from a pregnant woman whose fetus had a fatal condition to be exempted from the state's strict abortion ban.

In Montana, Republicans have spent huge sums to try to push the court in a more conservative direction. The liberal-leaning court is expected to hear cases related to restrictions on transgender youth and abortion. A landmark climate change case also is pending before the court, which will have two of its seven seats up for election.

Jeremiah Lynch, a former federal magistrate running for the open chief justice position, has cast himself as a defender of the court's independence and has warned voters to expect a barrage of negative advertising. Cory Swanson, a county attorney also running for the post, announced his bid on a conservative talk show and recently vowed to weed out any "radicalized" applicants for law clerks in response to antisemitism on college campuses.

In West Virginia, where conservatives have a current 5-4 majority on the court and two seats will be up for grabs, GOP chair Elgine McArdle said Republicans aim to focus more on judicial races than in years past.

"One area the state party has never really engaged much in is nonpartisan races, including the judicial races," McArdle said. "That won't be the case this time around."

DeMillo reported from Little Rock, Arkansas. Associated Press statehouse reporters from across the country contributed.

The Associated Press receives support from several private foundations to enhance its explanatory coverage of elections and democracy. See more about AP's democracy initiative [here](#). The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Community
Dec 26, 2023

New year, new laws: From speed cameras to gender-neutral toys, here's what's changing in 2024

By **Chris Williams**

Published **December 26, 2023 3:54PM**

Crime and Public Safety

Fox TV Stations

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/new-laws-year-2024-january-first-california-pennsylvania-texas-georgia-virginia-weed>



Forecasting 2024 presidential race

Politico reporter Daniel Lippman joins LiveNOW's Andrew Craft to discuss where the 2024 presidential race stands before the start of the new year.

With the new year comes new laws taking effect in several jurisdictions.

From speed cameras coming to several California cities, including Los Angeles, to Florida drivers being required to move over a lane for disabled vehicles, here are the new laws taking effect come New Year's Day.

Minimum wages to increase in Delaware, New Jersey

New Jersey's statewide minimum wage will increase by \$1 to \$15.13 per hour for most employees.

The minimum wage in Delaware will increase to \$13.25 an hour.

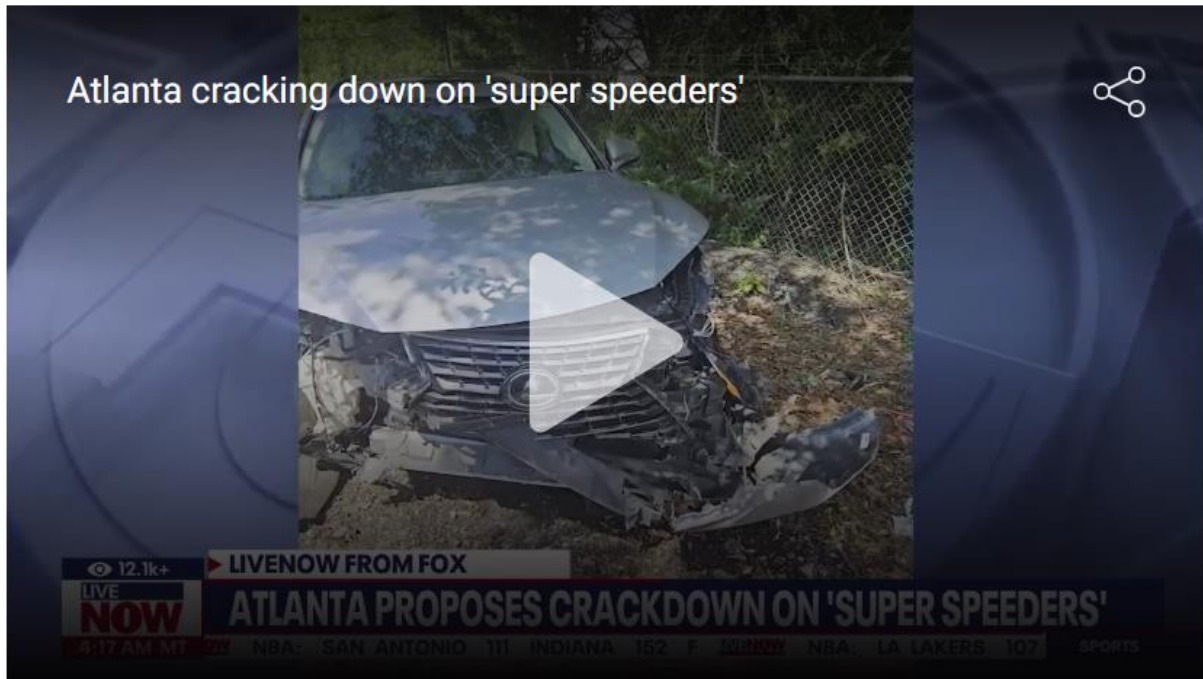
California adds speed cameras, gender-neutral toys

Speed cameras (AB 645)

The law allows the installation of cameras on a trial basis in the following cities: [Los Angeles](#), [Glendale](#), [Long Beach](#), San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland. Speed cameras will issue automatic tickets for drivers going at least 11 mph over the speed limit.

RELATED COVERAGE: [Newsom signs bill approving speed cameras in these California cities](#)

The cameras would be prioritized in areas around schools, high-injury intersections, and known street racing corridors, to reduce speeding and traffic fatalities. Civil penalties would be \$50, \$100, \$200 or \$500 for exceeding the speed limit by 11 mph, 16 mph, 26 mph and over 100 mph.



Atlanta cracking down on 'super speeders'

An Atlanta city council member is proposing stiffer penalties after her colleague was seriously injured after being hit by another driver. The driver who was allegedly speeding was only slapped with a ticket. The council member is calling for more, Brooke Zauner has the latest.

Gender-neutral toys (AB 1084)

The law requires some retail stores in California to offer a gender-neutral section for children "regardless of whether they have been traditionally marketed for either girls or for boys."

RELATED COVERAGE: [New California laws 2024: Gender-neutral toy sections required at stores](#)

Stores that do not comply with this law will be "liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$250 for a first violation or \$500 for a subsequent violation, as provided."

Hate symbols penalties increase (AB 2282)

This law expands the definition of "hate symbols" to include additional symbols and locations. This includes any symbols or marks "with the intent to terrorize another person," such as Nazi symbols and nooses. The bill also emphasizes the need to address hate crimes with symbols against certain minority groups.

Florida requires some elected officials to be more transparent with finances

Senate Bill 774, or the Ethics Requirements for Public Officials Act, is perhaps one of the most controversial laws coming into effect.

It requires a more in-depth financial disclosure form, forcing small town council members to share their net worth and the dollar amount of every asset they have over a thousand dollars.

RELATED: [Several new Florida laws going into effect on January 1](#)

Another new piece of legislation, House Bill 425, expands Florida's Move Over Law. It requires drivers to move over a lane for disabled vehicles displaying warning or hazard lights or if there's somebody outside the vehicle while it's stopped.

The law already applies to emergency, sanitation, utility, construction and road maintenance vehicles.



Harvard Law student raises money for janitors, support staff

Rehan Staton of Maryland talks with FOX Television Stations about his journey to law school after being employed as a sanitation worker.

If drivers can't move, then they have to slow down to 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit.

House Bill 109, or the "Protect Our Loved Ones Act," allows law enforcement to create a "special needs registry" of people who have developmental or psychological conditions including autism spectrum disorder, Alzheimer's disease and Down syndrome to help better respond to calls and improve interactions.

Adults can enroll themselves in the registry and a parent or guardian can enroll a minor.

Georgia takes aim at healthcare

A new year often means new laws. However, the majority of new laws that were signed by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp after the last legislative session [went into effect on July 1](#). The most significant law to go into effect

on Jan. 1 is related to healthcare. The other laws taking effect in 2024 are tweaks to various laws or regulations that were already on the books. The CATCH Act ensures consumer access to quality healthcare by setting adequacy standards for network plans offered by insurers and guarantees that everyone with insurance has access to primary and specialty care; mental healthcare; pharmacies and laboratories; and substance abuse treatment programs.

RELATED: These new laws go into effect in Georgia on Jan. 1, 2024

The purpose of House Bill 120 is to provide standards related to limited driving permits for certain offenders; to provide for fees, duration, renewal, and replacement of such permits; to provide standards for revocation; and other purposes.

Pennsylvania helps farmers, consumers

In Pennsylvania, farmers will have an easier time identifying which products come from them in local grocery stores.

"Products that earn the PA Preferred Organic brand will give consumers confidence they are getting a quality product that meets the high standards they expect."

RELATED: New laws taking effect in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware in 2024

Also, a new bill will help homeowners acquire flood insurance, which is now required by the state.

"The task force would issue recommendations regarding potential programs that provide premium discounts, programs that incentivize local governments to support flood mitigation efforts and the implementation of any necessary changes to state statute or policy regarding the administration of flood insurance."

Recreational weed legal in Virginia

Thanks to the Virginia Cannabis Control Act, retail marijuana sales are legal as of January 1, 2024. Well, sort of.

The CCA was passed in 2021 under Democratic Governor Ralph Northam. However, several parts of the legislation still needed to be ratified by the General Assembly.



Several students treated for possible 'cannabis overdose' at California middle school

Ten students were treated for a possible overdose at a middle school in the San Fernando Valley, according to investigators. FOX 11 LA's Gigi Graciette spoke live from the scene with LiveNOW from FOX's Josh Breslow.

Three years later, there's still no framework for cannabis retail sales in the Commonwealth, and many of the provisions in the Act are just lofty plans that need to be hashed out by state lawmakers.

[HB 1598/SB 788](#) does transfer oversight of Virginia's medical cannabis program from the Board of Pharmacy to the [Virginia Cannabis Control Authority](#). The Authority will be responsible for creating a regulatory structure for the sale of retail marijuana and marijuana products. When they will take up the task is still unclear. According to its site, the CCA is currently focused on "implementing a health, safety, and safe driving

campaign and developing guidance to ensure compliant home cultivation of marijuana plants that protects minors and discourages the creation of a public nuisance."

Texas adjusts cost of living for retired teachers

The Texas legislature passed [Senate Bill 10](#) earlier this year to give members of the Texas Teacher Retirement System a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

There is a 2 percent COLA for eligible retirees who retired between September 1, 2013, through August 31, 2020, a 4 percent COLA for eligible retirees who retired between September 1, 2001, through August 31, 2013 and a 6 percent COLA for eligible retirees who retired on or before August 31, 2001.

The new law also called for a one-time payment of \$2,400 for TRS retirees and beneficiaries who are at least 70 years old.

The payment for people 75 and older was \$7,500.

The one-time stipends were paid in Sept. 2023.

According to the [Texas Retired Teachers Association](#), 186,000 TRS retirees will get \$7,500 and 104,000 TRS retirees pocketed \$2,400.

The total cost of the payments is believed to cost \$1.636 billion, [according to the Legislative Budget Board](#).

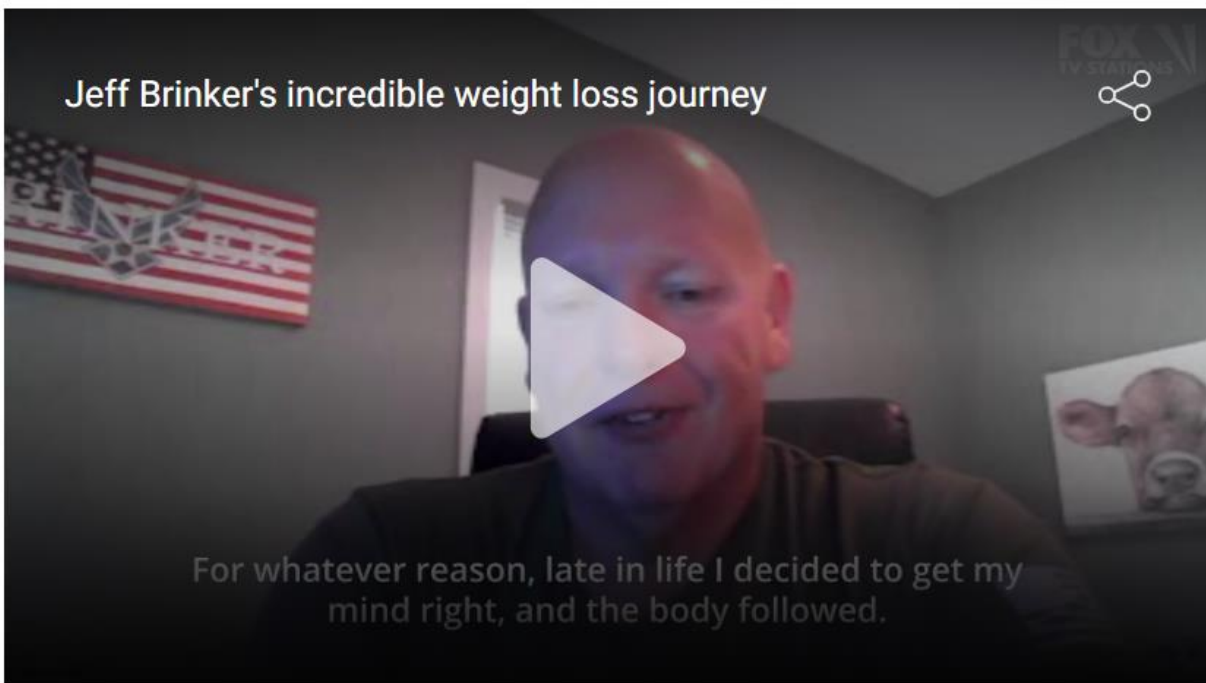
This story was reported from Los Angeles.

Health
Dec 22, 2023

Fake Ozempic shots are being sold through legitimate sources, FDA warns

By AP Staff
Published **December 22, 2023**
Health Care
Associated Press

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/fake-ozempic-shots-are-being-sold-through-legitimate-sources-fda-warns>



Jeff Brinker's incredible weight loss journey

Once 540 pounds, Jeff Brinker is now half that weight and feeling better than he's felt in decades. Here's how he did it.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it has seized "thousands of units" of counterfeit Ozempic, the diabetes drug widely used for weight loss, that had been distributed through legitimate drug supply sources.

The FDA and the drug's maker, [Novo Nordisk](#), are testing the shots. They do not yet have information about the drugs' identity, quality or safety, according to a statement. Five illnesses have been linked to the fake shots, but none have been serious, the FDA said Thursday.

Some of the fake 1 milligram semaglutide shots may still be for sale, FDA said. In addition to the drug itself, the needles, pen labels, carton and accompanying health care information are also counterfeit, the agency said.



Novo Nordisk A/S Ozempic brand semaglutide medication Photographer: George Frey/Bloomberg via Getty Images

It said the counterfeits were labeled with the lot number NAR0074 and serial number 430834149057.

MORE: FDA warns against unapproved spa treatments for fat loss

FDA advised retail pharmacies to buy authentic Ozempic only through authorized distributors and for patients to get it only through state-licensed pharmacies.

MORE: Popular weight loss drugs linked to severe stomach problems: 'Critical information for patients'

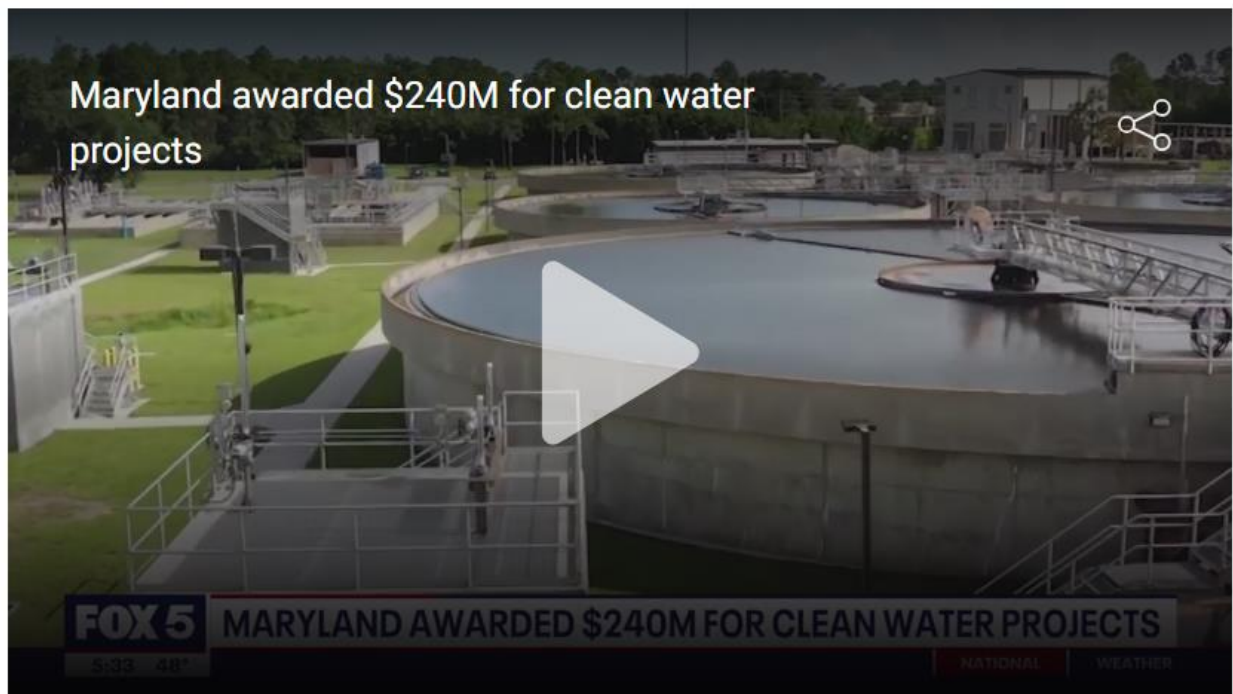
Consumers can report suspect Ozempic packages by calling 800-332-1088 or by contacting a state complaint coordinator.

Housing
Dec 22, 2023

Maryland receives over \$240 Million for clean water infrastructure

By **FOX 5 DC Digital Team**
Published **December 22, 2023**
News
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/maryland-receives-over-240-million-for-clean-water-infrastructure>



Maryland awarded \$240M for clean water projects

Maryland U.S. Senators announced the state will be receiving \$240,451,000 to modernize clean water infrastructure.

MARYLAND - Maryland U.S. Senators announced the state will be receiving \$240,451,000 to modernize clean water infrastructure. This award was funded in large part by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which lawmakers and the Biden-Harris Administration fought to enact to deliver historic federal investments in the country's water infrastructure. This funding will supplement the \$28,589,000 in federal funding appropriated to Maryland's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds that the lawmakers secured through annual

appropriations for fiscal year 2023.

"Modernizing our water infrastructure is a critical public health priority. That's one of the reasons why we fought to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – to advance our progress in communities across our state and improve their access to clean and safe drinking water. With these funds, we're delivering on that objective for Marylanders," said the lawmakers.

Transportation

Dec 26, 2023

Metro extends its hours for New Year's Eve

By Sylvia Mphofe

Published **December 26, 2023**

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/metro-extends-its-hours-for-new-years-eve-virginia-maryland-dc-transportation>



Metro extending its hours for New Year's Eve

Metrorail will stay open until 2 a.m. on New Year's Eve, an extra two hours of service to help revelers get home safely.

WASHINGTON - [Metrorail](#) will stay open until 2 a.m. on New Year's Eve, an extra two hours of service to help passengers bring in the new year safely across the D.C. region.

Be sure to check the [Metrorail schedule](#) to help map out your travel ahead of time.

All other Metrorail lines will be running on a regular [Sunday schedule](#) for the holidays, including New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Customers are encouraged to take advantage of Metro's [new 24-hour bus service in D.C.](#) Parking will be free at all Metro-owned parking garages and lots on holidays.

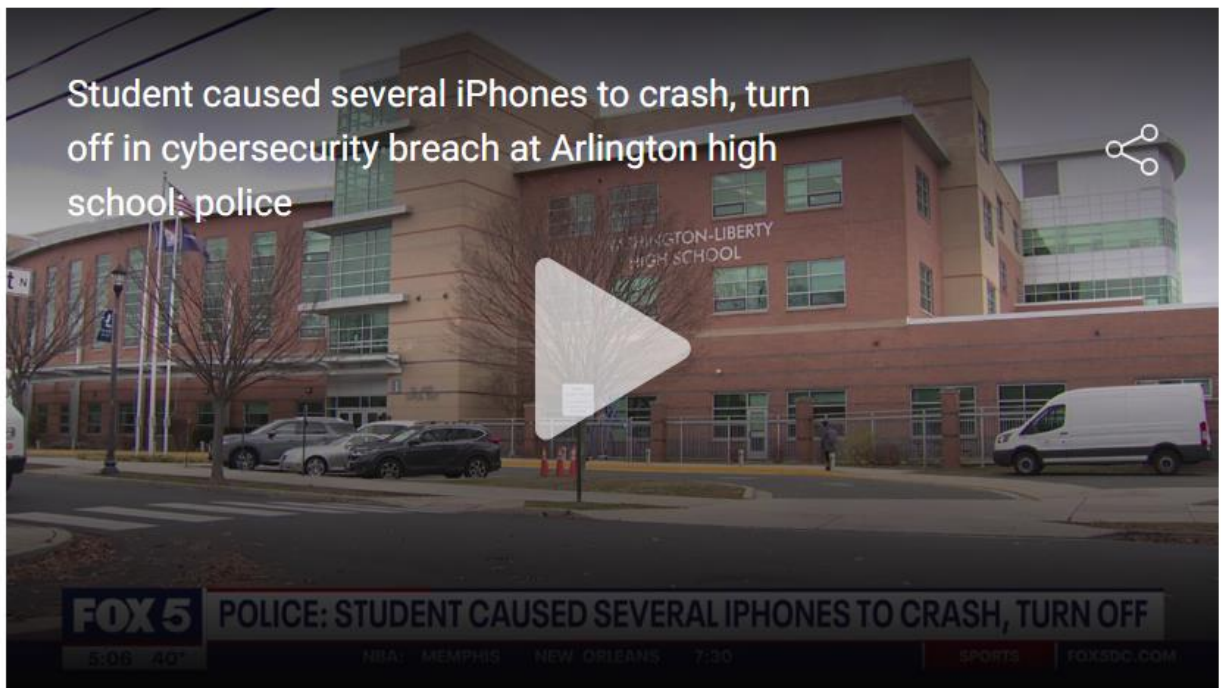
Travelers are advised that [red Line construction](#) will continue through the holidays.

Education
Dec 19, 2023

Student caused several iPhones to crash, turn off in cybersecurity breach at Arlington high school: police

By **Lili Zheng**
Published **December 19, 2023**
Updated **6:26PM**
News
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/student-caused-several-iphones-to-crash-shut-off-cybersecurity-breach-at-arlington-high-school-police-say>



Student caused several iPhones to crash, turn off in cybersecurity breach at Arlington high school: police

Police in Arlington County continue to investigate a cybersecurity incident that caused cell phones to turn off at a high school.

ARLINGTON COUNTY, Va. - Police in [Arlington County](#) continue to investigate a cybersecurity incident that caused cell phones to turn off at a high school.

The incident happened on Nov. 29, when police said a student at Washington Liberty High School used an electronic device between 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. that caused nearby iPhones to turn off.

"Police identified the involved student and the manner of intrusion that impacted the iPhones. Based on the preliminary investigation, there is no ongoing threat to the community related to this incident," a press release from Arlington County police Tuesday states. "The Arlington County Police Department has investigated cybersecurity incidents in the past and is not currently investigating any similar incidents."

It's unclear how many phones were impacted, but a spokesperson for Arlington County police told FOX 5 Tuesday the incident is believed to have only impacted phones at the school. Police have identified victims and efforts to identify additional potential victims are ongoing.

Darren Mott, a retired FBI special agent who specialized in cybersecurity for 20 years, said it's likely the student used a Flipper Zero device. The device, which Mott said came out a few months ago, is typically used to test radio frequency signals and can control TVs.

"Like with any technology, people have figured out ways to add stuff to it. So, a third party created a little program that allowed users of this little tool to connect to Bluetooth-open devices. In this case, iPhones," Mott said.



FILE - Apple iPhone screen. (Gabby Jones/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

"So what this kid does, ran this program and it sent pop-ups to all of the local iPhones and the number of pop-ups it created caused it to crash. iPhone has corrected this capability in 17.2, so if you updated to 17.2, it won't happen, but we know people don't update their phones unless someone tells them or goes in and does it for them," he continued.

Gary Duncan is the father of a sophomore at Washington Liberty High School. Parents were alerted of the incident, Duncan said.

"My personal thought is, kids have too much freedom as it is, as you can see, when it comes to distractions in school. So my personal belief is electronic devices are optional, not mandatory," Duncan said.

Arlington Public Schools and the Arlington County Police are asking anyone from the Washington Liberty community whose cell phone turned off while at the school on Nov. 29 to file an online police report or contact the tip line at 703-228-4180 or ACPDTipline@arlingtonva.us.

Mott said this should serve as a cautionary tale to make sure all electronic devices are up-to-date with the latest software updates.

"Bad guys are looking for these vulnerabilities to do bad things. In this case, the kid was more of a nuisance. Didn't really damage anything, didn't break the iPhones," he said. "It was just a pain in the butt but you're going to have other devices that bad guys will look for vulnerabilities and know exist and if you don't update the devices, they're going to have ways to get into your home networks."

The investigation remains active as of Tuesday and no charges have been sought at this time, according to Arlington County police.

Environment
Dec 29, 2023

Snow possible on New Year's Day in DC area after weekend of sun and mild temperatures

By Mike Thomas

Published December 29, 2023 8:43AM

Holidays

FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/weather/new-years-eve-forecast-snow-possible-on-new-years-day-in-dc-area-after-weekend-of-sun-and-mild-temperatures>



Weather forecast for Friday, December 29

Expect a slightly cooler day Friday ahead of a mild weekend.

WASHINGTON - Clouds will mix with sun as the year comes to the close, with colder weather and perhaps a few snowflakes to kick off 2024.

Expect a mixture of clouds and sunshine Friday, with highs expected to be in the upper 40s or lower 50s heading into the weekend.

Saturday we'll see a system pull away to the northeast and deepen as it exits the coastline. Light snow is possible around sunrise, with the highest

risk for the area northwest of D.C. Saturday afternoon will be partly sunny, cool and a little breezy with highs in the upper 40s and lower 50s.

READ MORE: DMV Winter 2023-2024 Outlook: Why we're expecting more snow, chance for blizzards in DC this winter

The sun will continue into New Year's Eve, which is expected to see temperatures in the lower 50s throughout the day. Temperatures will drop to the 40s and 30s by midnight, so bring a jacket – but it looks dry, so maybe leave the umbrella at home if you're hitting the town.

The first day of 2024 could bring us some flurries, as a storm system developing off the coastline could kick up enough moisture to give us some scattered showers or perhaps even a little light sleet or snow on Monday.

When news breaks, stream FOX 5 DC anytime. Get the [FOX Local app](#) on your smart TV.

Children
Dec 25, 2023

10-year-old girl dies in Christmas morning fire in Maryland home

By **FOX 5 DC Digital Team**
Published **December 25, 2023**
Updated **December 28, 2023**
News
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/10-year-old-dies-in-christmas-morning-fire-in-maryland-home>



CECIL COUNTY, Md. - Authorities continue to investigate a Christmas morning fire in Elkton that killed a young girl.

The victim has been identified as 10-year-old Kyleigh Treadway.

Authorities responded around 7:30 a.m. to a reported dwelling fire at 317 Willow Drive. Upon arrival, firefighters found the family standing outside their home, stating a young girl was still inside. Five other family members lived in the home, including four adults and a 13-year-old.

Firefighters entered the home and located Kyleigh. However, she was later pronounced deceased on the scene. The fire was upgraded to two alarms, bringing nearly 75 firefighters to the scene. It took almost one hour to control the fire.

The fire's origin and cause remain under investigation, and investigators have been unable to locate working smoke alarms in the home.

Six people were displaced from the home at 319 Willow Drive due to the fire and are being assisted by the American Red Cross.