



Deal could alter churches' political roles

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Michael Hand, Sales Manager at Stark Auto Mall in Perry Township, cleans snow off lot vehicles on Dec. 2. More frosty temperatures will blanket much of the northern and eastern regions of the country, potentially with some record-breaking lows. KEVIN WHITLOCK/MASSILLON INDEPENDENT

Record lows loom as frosty air sweeps in

Map shows a 'blast of Arctic air' over U.S.

Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

December is off to a chillier than typical start for much of the country. Just in time for a weekend of holiday festivals and parades, more frosty temperatures will blanket much of the northern and eastern regions of the country, potentially with some record-breaking lows. It's all thanks to another of the Arctic blasts forecasters have been talking about, and it's not likely to be the last. Meteorologists with the National Weather Service and AccuWeather said the polar air could linger, keeping things colder than typical for early to mid-December, for many locations outside the Southwest. One Arctic front moved across the Great Lakes on Dec. 3, triggering advisories for snow squalls in New England on Dec. 4. Then over Dec. 6 and 7, "day-time highs and morning lows could be

The pattern of cold waves over Dec. 5 and 6 and those expected afterward are forecast to drop temperatures well below the normal average, said Paul Pastelok, a long-range meteorologist for AccuWeather.

10-15 degrees below normal in the Northern Plains/Upper Midwest," the Weather Prediction Center said. That cold air mass also will move eastward. The Weather Prediction Center said additional winter weather advisories may be needed in coming days and advised paying attention to the weather forecast. To the east and south, a winter storm was forecast to move across an area extending from Texas to Delaware late in the week, the Weather Prediction Center said. Heavy rain and potentially freezing rain are expected to occur along a line from Texas into Georgia on Dec. 5, then move farther northeast Dec. 6. "A fast-moving storm can spread a swath of snow from the Tennessee Valley to the mid-Atlantic late Thursday night (Dec. 4) through Friday night (Dec. 5)," Dan DePodwin, AccuWeather's vice president of forecasting opera-

tions, said in an advisory. "While this does not appear to be a major winter storm, it is certainly enough to cause slippery roads on Friday and Friday night," DePodwin said. "We're most confident that snow will fall in the mountains of Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia. The snow can also spread north toward Washington, DC, potentially causing slick roads Friday." A marginal risk of severe weather is possible in the Florida Panhandle and southern Georgia along the boundary of the system, which could stall and present a flash flood threat, the prediction center said. The pattern of cold waves over Dec. 5 and 6 and those expected afterward are forecast to drop temperatures well below the normal average, said

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Watchdog: Signal chats violated Pentagon policy

However, Hegseth has the authority to declassify info

Francesca Chambers
and Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon watchdog found that Secretary of War Pete Hegseth risked the safety of American troops and their mission when he discussed a covert military operation in Yemen over the commercial messaging app Signal, but that he had the right to declassify the information, according to a person who has seen the report. The investigation by the Pentagon's inspector general was launched after Hegseth, whose formal title is secretary of Defense, shared plans for a U.S. attack on Houthi forces in Yemen on a Signal chat with other administration officials. The messages, which included the times that bombs would be dropped, were published after the fact by The Atlantic, whose editor, Jeffrey Goldberg, was mistakenly added to the group chat. Hegseth has denied that the information he texted was "war plans" and said he had the authority to declassify the messages. Reuters reported the Pentagon said in a statement that the review cleared the defense secretary, comments

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The watchdog found that Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's use of his personal phone violated Defense Department policy but maintained he had the power as Pentagon chief to declassify the information he shared. LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS FILE

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