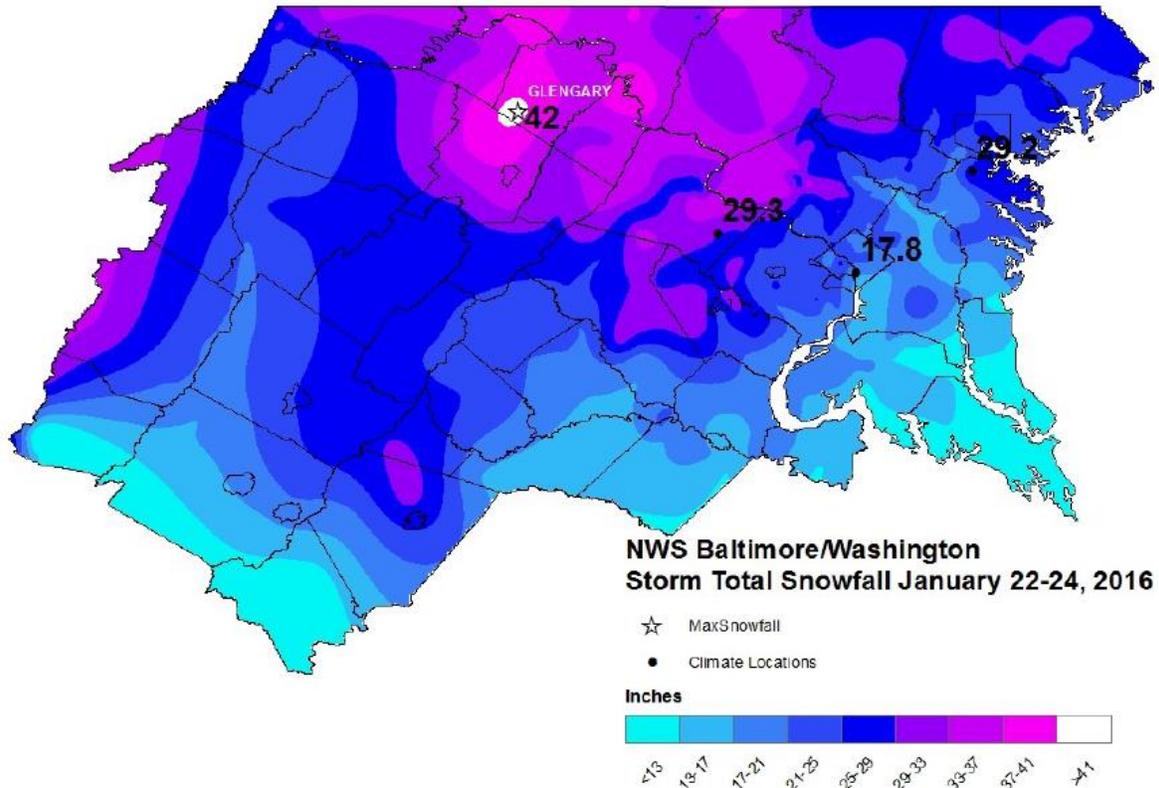


Blizzard of 2016



Jan 22-23, 2016 Blizzard. One of the amazing things about this storm was that one month prior, because of the effects of El Nino, the eastern US experienced one of the warmest end of Decembers on record. On both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Baltimore topped 70 degrees. DCA's four day average temperature for December 24-27 was 61.5 degrees. Perhaps most impressively Dulles broke its low maximum temperature record on December 25 by 21 degrees! The 63 degree reading was also the warmest low temperature ever recorded in December at Dulles.

The weather began to turn January 17th, when a low pressure area brought a mix of snow and rain to the Mid Atlantic. On the 20th a cold front brought an inch of snow to Washington DC metro area and caused temperatures to fall back below freezing leading up to January 23.

Low pressure developed along the Texas-Louisiana border on the afternoon of January 21. At the same time arctic high pressure descended on the eastern US. This provided a feed of cold air into the Mid Atlantic. On the afternoon of the 22nd the low moved off the Georgia coast. Snow began to fall that morning in the central Shenandoah Valley. By mid-afternoon it moved into the DC metro area... becoming extremely heavy across the entire region by early evening, continuing that way throughout the night. On the morning of the 23rd the low was located just east of Cape Hatteras. Snow continued to pile up at 1-2 inch per hour rates. It came to an end during the mid-afternoon in the central Shenandoah

Valley, but not until around midnight in the Washington DC and Baltimore up to the Pennsylvania border as the low tracked northeast of the Delmarva.

Snowfall totals in the NWS Sterling forecast area included...Washington DC: 26" at Delcarlia Reservoir, 22.4" at the National Zoo, and 21" in Adams Morgan. In central Maryland: North Potomac 38.5", Cascade 37.5", Frostburg 34", Point of Rocks 35.2", and Reisterstown 32.1". In eastern West Virginia: Glengary 42", Sheperdstown 40.5", Bayard 34.5", and Smith Crossroads 33.2". In northern Virginia: Round Hill 36.3", Ashburn 36", Berryville 35", Karo and Bull Run both 32.1", and Hightown, Earleysville, Chantilly and Opal all 30".