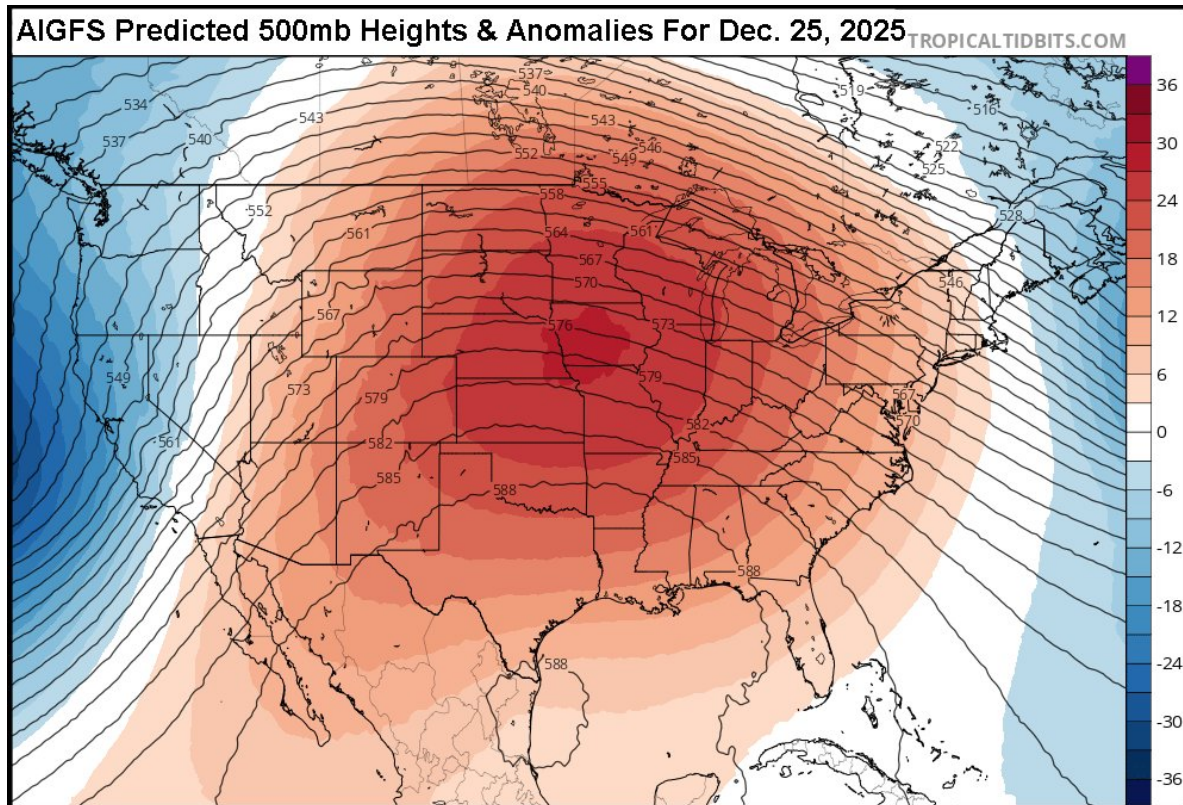


# Christmas High Pressure Ridge To Dramatically Heat Up U.S.

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, December 18 (World Weather Inc.) – *Dramatic changes in North America weather during the coming week will remove threats of bitter cold from the central and eastern United States and replace them with the potential for unseasonable warmth. Temperatures will be far enough above normal in the central and southern parts of the nation to raise the potential for outdoor grilling of Christmas dinners instead of oven baked goods that usually are more traditional for the holiday.*



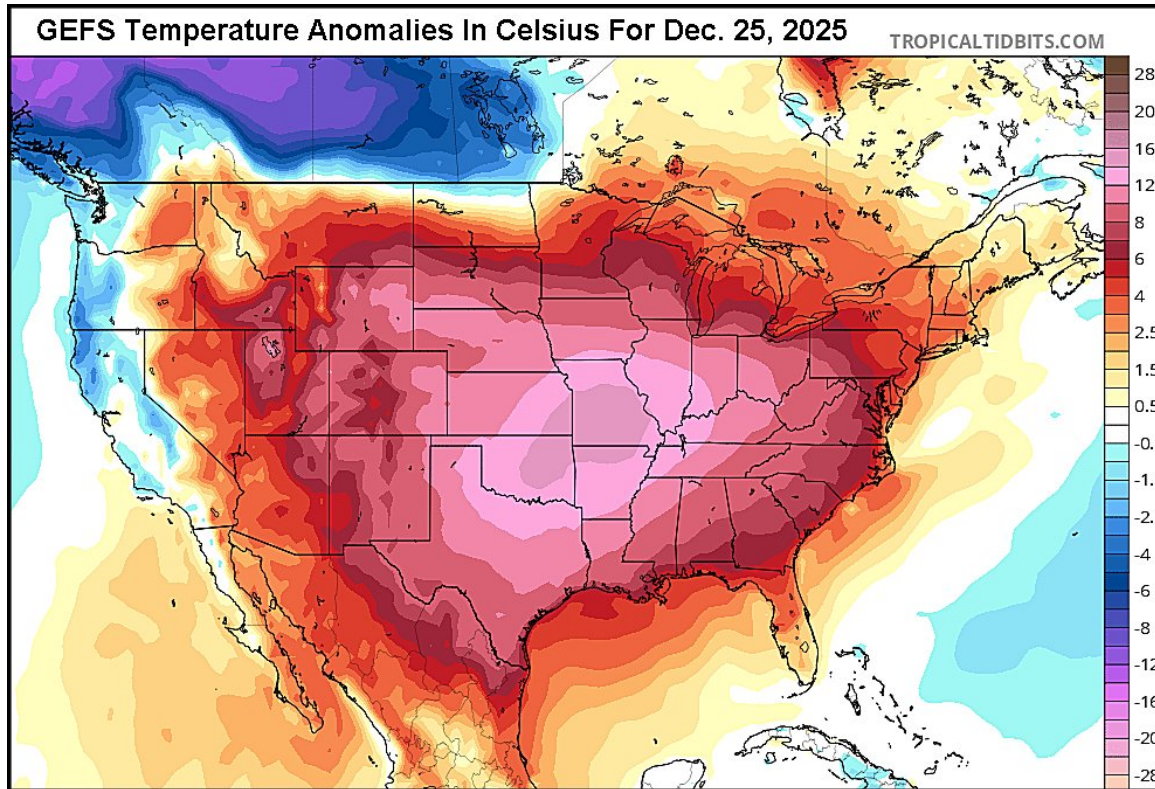
A massive high pressure ridge is advertised to be over central North America during the Christmas Holiday possibly setting the stage for some record breaking warmth in the central parts of the continent. This change contrasts greatly with recent bitter cold that brought subzero degree Fahrenheit (-18C) temperatures to the Midwest and northern Great Plains and readings to around -30 in Canada's Prairies. Freezes were noted earlier this week as far south as Georgia, northern Florida and Louisiana coastal areas. *Temperatures a week from now, during the holiday, are likely to be 15-30 degrees Fahrenheit above normal in the Great Plains and western Midwest while a little less anomalously warm to the east and west.*

*High temperatures will be in the 70s and lower to a few middle 80s Fahrenheit on Christmas Day in the southern Great Plains and Delta while in the 60s and 70s in the southeastern states and southwestern desert region.* Highs in the central Plains will be in the upper 50s and 60s with a good chance for a few 70s in Colorado, Kansas and a few central Missouri locations. Fifty- and 60-degree highs will occur farther north into the

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western Midwest and interior northern Plains while 40s and 50s occur in the far northern Plains. Temperatures in the eastern and western thirds of the nation will not be quite so warm and there will be a good chance for rain and mountain snow in the western United States while dry conditions dominate the eastern half of the nation.

The environment suggests that Christmas cooks may be able to take their turkeys and hams to the grill outside and, better yet, sacrifice the turkey and ham for grilled steak and pork.



Getting to the Christmas heatwave will require a little patience for parts of the nation with bouts of colder air still expected to come and go across the central and eastern portions of the nation through early next week. There will also be a few bouts of rain and snow to deal with in the changing temperature environment. By the time the holiday officially begins the warm up will be evident in most of the nation favoring the middle two-thirds of the country where precipitation should be limited for a while as well.

Some stormy weather in the western United States during mid-week next week will eventually attempt to move up the backside of the developing high pressure ridge and that may bring some unsettled weather to portions of the central United States during the weekend that follows Christmas. There may also be some light precipitation in the northeastern part of the nation during the holiday.

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