



Religious Programming

Joel Osteen – *Sunday 10:00AM and Saturday 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.

Peter Popoff Ministries- *Tuesday and Thursday 1:00AM*

Although the means are different, today the ministry goal is the same: "To Minister the Good News of the Gospel around the world, to use every means possible to proclaim to the world that Jesus is Savior, Baptizer, Healer and soon-coming King. To inspire faith and love into action..." This is accomplished using several mediums of media including the Internet and Television. Peter and his family are in Crusades around the globe nearly every month and spends hours in prayer and meditation over the requests that come into this ministry. He strongly believes in prayer, healing, deliverance, prosperity, and communicating God's love for the broken hearted. He proclaims that, "God is touching hurting people around the world, and now he wants to touch you with his miracle working power." Thousands of testimonies come in each month telling how God is touching people and working in their lives. God is amazing and Peter Popoff Ministries is a vessel that is used to show God's transforming miracle-working power!

In Touch Ministries- *Sunday 6:30AM*

It all began in 1972, when a half-hour program called "The Chapel Hour" was launched on Atlanta-area television stations. Today, "In Touch with Dr. Charles Stanley" can be heard around the world via radio and television broadcasts, podcasts, the handheld In Touch Ministries Messenger, In Touch Apps, and right here on the Web. Our programs are seen and heard around the world on more than 2,600 radio and television outlets in more than 50 languages. In addition to broadcasting, the ministry continues to produce books, studies, discipleship resources, and the award-winning In Touch magazine to more than 1.5 million households every month.



BUZZR E/I Programming Descriptions

Animal Outtakes

Animal Outtakes is a weekly half-hour series presenting teen viewers with amazing, unusual, and informative stories from the animal kingdom. Host Marsha Panuce visits zoos and animal sanctuaries across the United States to explore how animals are being cared for, and explain the differences between the various critters. Zoo keepers and animal experts share their stories about each animal as we follow their daily routines at each facility.

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.



ME-TV NETWORK CHILDREN'S E/I PROGRAMMING

2016-2017 SEASON

SERIES NAME	SYNOPSIS	RATINGS	TARGET AUDIENCE	E/I or NON
BEAKMAN'S WORLD	<p>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 Josic (Alanna Ubach), his bright young apprentice, and an oversize, sarcastic rat named Lester (Mark Ritts).</p>	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
BILL NYE, THE SCIENCE GUY	<p>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.</p>	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
MYSTERY HUNTERS	<p><i>Mystery Hunters</i> explores some of the world's greatest myths and mysteries. Combining on-site reporting and exciting adventures, the <i>Mystery Hunters</i> 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 <i>Parents' Choice Award</i>, <i>Mystery Hunters</i>.</p>	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
SAVED BY THE BELL	<p><i>Saved By The Bell</i> 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.</p>	TV-PG	K13-16	E/I



ON THE HILL

FOX5 News on The Hill is a ½ live political show featuring FOX5 Political Reporters Tom Fitzgerald & Ronica Cleary, along with The Hill's Editor in Chief Bob Cusack as hosts. 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 2nd Quarter 2016:

- Sunday, April 3
- Sunday, April 10
- Sunday, April 17
- Sunday, April 24
- Sunday, May 1
- Sunday, May 8
- Sunday, May 15
- Sunday, May 22
- Sunday, May 29
- Sunday, June 6
- Sunday, June 12
- Sunday, June 19
- Sunday, June 26

2nd Quarter 2017 FOX News Sunday Quarterly Report

April 2-June 25, 2017

April 2

Gorsuch Confirmation/Healthcare/Russia

Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader

Climate Policy

Scott Pruitt, EPA Administrator

April 9

Syria/Foreign Relations

Lt Gen H.R. McMaster, National Security Advisor

Syria/Foreign Relations/Gorsuch

Sen John Cornyn (R-TX), Majority Whip/Intelligence Committee

Sen Ben Cardin (D-MD), Foreign Relations Committee

Syria/Foreign Relations/Book

Former Commander of U.S. Special Ops/Admiral William H McRaven (ret), Chancellor of the University of Texas System/Author, "Make Your Bed"

April 16

Syria/Russia/Afghanistan

KT McFarland, Deputy National Security Advisor

Syria/Russia/Afghanistan

Rep Mac Thornberry (R-TX), Chair, Armed Services Committee

April 23

Trump 100 Days/Tax Plan

Mick Mulvaney, OMB Director

Trump/Healthcare/Government Shutdown/Congress Returns

Sen James Lankford (R-OK), Appropriations Committee/Intelligence Committee

April 30

Trump 100 Days/Foreign Policy

Lt Gen H.R. McMaster, National Security Advisor

Trump 100 Days

Charles Schumer (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader

May 7

Health Care

Reince Priebus, White House Chief of Staff

Health Care

Karl Rove, Former WH Chief of Staff/Fox News Contributor

Jonathan Gruber, MIT Economics Professor/Obamacare Architect

May 14

Comey

Sen Mark Warner (D-VA), Ranking Member, Intel Committee

Comey

Sen Mike Lee (R-UT), Judiciary Committee

May 21

Trump Trip

Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State

Trump Trip/Russia

Sen John McCain (R-AZ), Chairman Armed Services Committee

May 28

Terrorism

John Kelly, DHS Secretary

Budget/Health Care

Sen Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senate Minority Whip

Sen Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Health and Finance Committees

June 4

London Terror Attack

Sen Roy Blunt (R-MI), Intelligence Committee

Climate Change/Paris Climate Accord

Scott Pruitt, EPA Administrator

Al Gore, Former VP/Environmentalist

June 11

Comey Hearing

Ronna McDaniel, RNC Chairwoman

Sen Jack Reed (D-RI), Armed Services Committee Ranking Member

June 18

GOP Baseball Shooting / Political Unity

Rep Rodney Davis (R-IL), Congressman survived GOP attack

Sen Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

Trump Investigation

Jay Sekulow, Trump Legal Team member

June 25

New GOP Health Care Bill

Tom Price, Health and Human Services Secretary

Sen Dick Durbin (D-IL), Minority Whip

Sen John Barrasso (R-WY)

WTTG/Channel 5

Program Information Report



Fox 5 Morning News at 4:25am – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:25-5:00am 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 4:30-10:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

Fox 5 News at Five – 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 Edge at Six – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 6:00-6:30pm and covers news headlines, sports, weather and local news.

Fox 5 News at 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 Ten – 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 Edge at Eleven – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 11:00-11:30pm featuring local news, weather and sports.

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

SAMPLE OF ISSUE RESPONSIVE NEWS PROGRAMMING

2Q 2017

CRIME

JUNE 2017

Police investigating if Muslim teen killed in attack near Virginia mosque was sexually assaulted

By: fox5dc.com staff

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/262709971-story>

STERLING, Va. - Police are investigating whether a teenage girl who was killed near a Virginia mosque was sexually assaulted.

Authorities said 17-year-old Nabra Hassanen was assaulted twice before her death - once in Loudoun and once in Fairfax - and confirmed they were investigating whether she was sexually assaulted during one of those attacks.

Investigators said Nabra was killed in a suspected road rage incident as she walked to a Virginia mosque in Fairfax County early Sunday morning. Muslim leaders and the family of Hassanen held a news conference Tuesday evening to thank the community for their support and stated they have complete confidence in the police investigation. Fairfax County police issued a news release saying:

Our homicide detectives will continue to be the lead on the murder investigation of Nabra Hassanen. The Fairfax County Police Department has partnered closely with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office with the common goal of justice for Nabra as well as for her family, friends, and community. Our department will continue to work alongside the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney as this case moves forward.

We know this is an incredibly difficult time, especially for our Muslim community. Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. met today with leaders from the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS Center) including Imam Mohamed Magid and Chaplain Joshua Salaam. The Chief assured them we will continue to diligently investigate the case and provide our support. We have a long-standing relationship with the ADAMS Center, and our hearts go out to everyone in our Muslim community and beyond for this tragic crime.

A community vigil for Nabra is planned for tomorrow night at 6:30 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Chief Roessler and Imam Magid will be available beforehand at 5:45 to talk with members of the media and community.

Nabra was with a group of about 15 teenagers in the Sterling-area as they made their way back to the All Dulles Area Muslim Society at about 3 a.m., according to police.

Officials said the group had stopped at a McDonald's between Ramadan prayers.

The suspect, 22-year-old Darwin Martinez Torres, became enraged during a traffic argument with a teen in the group who was riding a bicycle, according to officials.

Police said the argument escalated and Torres pulled over, chased the group with a baseball bat and attacked Nabra.

After hitting her with the bat, authorities said Torres took Nabra in his car to another nearby location and assaulted her again. Her body was later found in a pond.

Funeral service for Hassanen will be held at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center Wednesday afternoon in Sterling.

At least 10 vigils were planned for Nabra throughout the country Tuesday evening. A donation page was established to help Nabra's family. To learn how to donate, click here.

LOCAL POLITICS

MAY 2017

EXCLUSIVE: Ken Cuccinelli relieved to hear about FBI raid at Republican consulting firm

By: Marina Marraco

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/254154574-story>

WASHINGTON - Former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli told FOX 5 that he is encouraged to hear about the FBI raid that took place at the offices of a GOP consulting firm his campaign sued three years ago.

The search that was conducted Thursday at the offices of the Strategic Campaign Group in Annapolis, Maryland, was initiated by the FBI Washington Field Office and is connected to an investigation into campaign funds for Cuccinelli's 2013 run for the governor of Virginia. It is a race he lost to current Democrat governor Terry McAuliffe.

Cuccinelli sued Strategic Campaign Group for forming a political action committee that was taking donations said to be used to help fund the Republican gubernatorial candidate's campaign. However, Cuccinelli said his campaign did not see a dollar from that PAC, leading to the lawsuit which was settled for roughly \$85,000.

"They raised all this money on my name, my campaign and my picture, and they used all these pieces," the former Virginia attorney general said. "A lot of people who donated thought they were donating to the campaign and they raised hundreds of thousands of dollars we identified just on that basis. Much less than the \$2-plus million they raised just in 2013 carrying on similarly false activities."

Cuccinelli told FOX 5 that he is relieved the FBI is investigating the group, which he referred to as a scam.

“This is a political fundraising swamp,” he said. “The scam PACs are real and they exist all over the country and they prey on people's intense feelings about politics.”

He added, “They go out and ride the back of [Wisconsin Gov.] Scott Walker, Mitt Romney when he was running for president, Allen West for Congress, our race for the governorship. They pick whatever does the best for fundraising that year and they ride it. They pay themselves consultant fees, they spend single-digit percentages on politics – donating to candidates, doing A, B, or C that might actually move the political ball forward – and all the rest of it is just to run the system, to raise the money and to pay themselves and their vendors and so forth.”

Cuccinelli said had his campaign received any of this money, he does not believe that that would have tipped the scale in favor of a win in the 2013 race.

Cuccinelli said the FBI has not made contact with his office.

NATIONAL POLITICS

JANUARY 2017

Politics, economy, terrorism: Stress on the rise for Americans

By: Tisha Lewis

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/health/263558632-story>

WASHINGTON - Stressed out? You're not alone and it could be impacting your health and more.

Some of the headlines in the news this week alone may feel like people are losing control and preparing to go over the edge. An apparent road-rage crash was caught on video in California after a motorcyclist kicks another car with his leg, which then leads that car and another vehicle to wreck.

In the District, a Giant Food worker stabbed his co-worker in the produce section with a knife she was using to cut watermelon. Her co-worker was taken to the hospital while he was taken to jail.

Dentist George Kesten said the high stress levels are impacting people's health.

“The stress level is higher and I really don't think that I have been treating this many cases of people grinding their teeth than probably the same period of time right after 9/11,” he said.

Kesten is talking about people who grind their teeth in their sleep. They have no idea.

“People are very stressed,” Kesten said. “Patients are coming in with lists of medications. A lot of them are psychotropics. They are just anxious and a lot of people take it out on their poor teeth.”

The search is on for outlets to alleviate stress. Some are turning to yoga.

“I notice more first [timers],” said a volunteer a Yoga District named Santiago. “The teachers every class, they usually ask if there are any new students just to get a sense of the level of the class that they are going to deliver. I have been hearing a lot of newcomers.”

Time and time again, we have heard many blame their stress on the politics. More than half of Americans reportedly say the current political climate is a very or somewhat significant source of stress.

Bars across the district are filled with people who have plenty to say about it all on both sides. For Paul Spence of Civil Cigar Lounge in Northwest D.C., stress is good for business.

“It’s a stressful city in which we live right now simply because of the political times, but I think people are a little stressed out, and I think they love to come here and just relax,” said Paul Spence of Civil Cigar Lounge in Northwest D.C. “The beautiful thing about cigars is it takes time. You sit down and relax to smoke the cigar so that stress just rolls off the body.”

Just a few months ago, the American Psychological Association reported the first significant increase in the overall average stress level among Americans since they began surveying ten years ago. It is not just politics fueling stress. Terrorist, police violence and personal safety were also concerns.

COMMUNITY

APRIL 2017

Despite rain, thousands march for science in DC

By: fox5dc.com staff

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/250220926-story>

Despite dreary weather and rain, thousands of people rallied in D.C. for Saturday's March for Science. Many brought their sense of humor with signs reading: "So Severe Even the Nerds Are Here," "Grab 'Em By the Data," and "Make Earth Cool Again."

Science enthusiast Bill Nye was co-host of a rally before the march.

"We are marching today to remind people everywhere, our lawmakers especially, the significance of science for our health and prosperity," Nye told the crowd.

He went on to say: "Our numbers here today show the world that science is for all. Our lawmakers must know and accept that science serves every one of us."

Marches were held in more than 500 cities across the U.S. and around the globe. Organizers say this is an effort to defend the vital role of science, especially in this political climate. The Trump administration's

skepticism on climate change and proposed cuts to agencies like the National Institutes of Health and Environmental Protection Agency were of particular concern to demonstrators.

The march is the first of its kind. While the science community traditionally stays out of politics, some felt it's time to speak up.

"The fact that we don't have Polio and Small Pox is all because of science," said Deb Aronson, who was in D.C. from New York. "And it's not something to believe in, it's something that's real. We need to do a better job of communicating that to people who may not understand that. I think we're getting too far from really speaking to each other across the aisle, across the country."

President Trump did not address the march by name in a statement issued Saturday.

"We can and must protect our environment without harming America's working families," reads the statement. "That is why my administration is reducing unnecessary burdens on American workers and American companies, while being mindful that our actions must also protect the environment."

He added, "Rigorous science is critical to my Administration's efforts to achieve the twin goals of economic growth and environmental protection."

HEALTH

JUNE 2017

23 Kaiser Permanente patients at risk for illness after equipment may not have been disinfected

By: fox5dc.com staff, Lauren DeMarco

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/263003142-story>

LARGO, Md. - Kaiser Permanente says a piece of equipment may not have been thoroughly disinfected and sterilized during the colonoscopy or upper endoscopy of 23 people at its medical facility in Largo.

The patients were all contacted by their doctors this week after the health care provider discovered a defect in its equipment, which may have affected the effectiveness of the sterilization process.

All 23 patients are being asked by Kaiser Permanente to return to undergo screening tests for possible risks of illnesses such as HIV and hepatitis C after the equipment was used for their procedures in April.

"We are reaching out to 23 patients to let them know that a piece of endoscopy equipment at our Largo Medical Center had a defect that might have kept it from being thoroughly disinfected. Kaiser Permanente follows nationally recommended protocols for the cleaning and disinfection of all equipment used during procedures to ensure the safety of our patients and that all potentially transmissible infectious agents have been removed. The scope in question was disinfected following the recommended protocols before its use. However, after discovering the defect and conducting subsequent analysis, we determined that we cannot guarantee that the sterilization process was fully effective.

“Even though our physicians believe the risk of illness in this situation is minimal, gastroenterologists are contacting the 23 members who underwent a colonoscopy/upper endoscopy at the Largo Endoscopy Unit to explain the situation and ask them to come in for some screening tests. Each member’s primary care physician will work closely with them to ensure appropriate care is provided. All potentially affected members will also receive a letter from Kaiser Permanente. Concerned Kaiser Permanente members should call 1-800-777-7904.

“At Kaiser Permanente, the health and safety of our members is our absolute top priority. We are reaching out to all potentially impacted members and are committed to ensuring that this does not happen again.”

FOX 5 spoke to Alan Lipschultz of HealthCare Technology Consulting about how this could have been avoided and whether there is anything patients can do to protect themselves.

“There are certifications out there in terms of the joint commission and reviews that are done through reputable sources as how the institution does, but that still doesn't prevent even reputable institutions from having problems like this,” he said. “There are a lot of human factors that go into the cleaning of a scope, but the fact that the defect or at least they are saying that there is a defect, is a complication nobody is expecting. Was there an adequate examination of the device beforehand to find the defect? That is the kind of thing that they need to be doing, and probably working with the manufacturer of the device also to see how should this defect have been caught.”

Lipschultz also said there is a risk you take at any medical facility, but the risk of not undergoing these procedures outweigh the risk of something like this happening.

HOUSING JUNE 2017

Neighbors unhappy with homeowner running Airbnb in Fairfax County neighborhood

By: Kristyn Leon

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/263478307-story>

MOUNT VERNON, Va. - There is a big debate going on between some neighbors in Fairfax County. They say for months, they have seen a number of Airbnb tenants come in and out of one of the homes in their community. They say not only is it illegal in the county, it also compromises their safety.

Residents say this neighborhood is a family-friendly community and everybody pretty much knows everybody. There are a lot of children that live on this block and safety for them is the biggest priority here.

That is why most of the neighbors we spoke with are against short-term rental companies like Airbnb.

“We don't know who they are,” said Dan Berger. “There is no vetting. You don't know if there are sexual predators down there, you don't know if there are ex-convicts, you don't know if there are criminals. We

have no idea. We all know each other in this neighborhood. We all have children. There are two dozen children that live within a hundred yards of this home, and we have no idea what is going on."

According to the current ordinance in Fairfax County, it is illegal to have short-term rentals for a period of less than 30 days.

John McEwan, the owner of the rental property, admitted that what he was doing was illegal. However, he also says Airbnb is a legitimate company and he believes it will eventually be implemented in the county.

"Uber is to transportation as Airbnb is to houses," McEwan said. "Both of these models, the reason why they are so successful and they are taking the world by storm is because they vet. That means they check out, they do the background of both sides of transaction – the buyer and seller. So when you going to do an Uber car, you know that this is not some stranger giving you a lift. You know he is in the system and you are going to be rating this guy, and the same thing with Airbnb."

Right now, there is a county survey going around asking residents what they think about allowing and or accommodating Airbnb into their communities. We are told by county leaders that they are looking into making exceptions to the current ordinance because of Virginia law that allows short-term rentals.

TRANSPORTATION

JUNE 2017

Advocacy group demands Montgomery County Council call for restoration of Metro service

By: Kristyn Leon

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/263916544-story>

ROCKVILLE, Md. - An advocacy group has demanded the Montgomery County Council call for the restoration of Metrorail and Metrobus service before Tuesday's vote on the county's transportation policies.

The Action Committee for Transit (ACT) said Metro users in Montgomery County were being negatively impacted by higher fares and service cuts implemented over the weekend.

"Before this week the Red Line came every six minutes," Dan Reed with the Action Committee for Transit said. "It's been cut to eight minutes. It may not seem like a big difference, but the difference between a couple of extra minutes on the platform can mean more crowds, more waiting to get on the train, fewer seats on the train itself and a much-reduced quality of the commute reliability for the rider."

"Giving up on the Metro means giving up on this county's future. Hundreds of thousands of people depend on this service every day and millions and billions of dollars of development and economic investment depend on Metro," Reed continued.

he Montgomery County Council is sending a letter to the state of Maryland asking for more transportation funds, but the letter doesn't mention the Metrorail or Metrobus.

"We're astonished that the county council would consider a transportation priorities letter that ignores Metro riders," Action Committee for Transit President Ronit Aviva Dancis said in a written release.

The letter also ends the county's support for the Metrobus Priority Corridors Initiative, which the ACT said would improve bus service throughout the area.

The draft of the letter was approved Thursday by the council's Transportation and Environment Committee.

FOX 5 reached out to the council for comment and has not yet heard back.

EDUCATION

JUNE 2017

PGCPS board members claim graduation rate 'fraudulently' elevated, call for state investigation

By: Lindsay Watts

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/262078409-story>

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. - Several Prince George's County school board members are calling for a state investigation into what they say is "widespread systemic corruption" in the school district.

"Specifically, the altering of student credit counts and the changing (of) student grades in order to fraudulently boost the high school graduation rate from school year 2014 to present," reads to the letter sent to Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan.

The letter, signed by board members Edward Burroughs, David Murray, Raaheela Ahmed and student member Juwan Blocker, goes on to say that whistleblowers at almost every level in Prince George's County Public Schools "have clear and convincing evidence that PGCPS has graduated hundreds of students who did not meet the Maryland State Department of Education graduation requirements."

Raising graduation rates has been a top priority for PGCPS CEO Dr. Kevin Maxwell. The district celebrated significant gains earlier this year with more than 81 percent of seniors graduating in 2016, the highest number since 2010.

OX 5 has spoken to multiple school employees including teachers, guidance counselors and record keepers. They say there is pressure to graduate students regardless of whether they have earned a diploma. Three employees, who work at different high schools, spoke to us on the condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

"They are banking everything on graduation rates and things of that nature," one teacher said. "So there is incredible pressure coming from the central office onto all of the principals at all the schools to push kids through whether they really earned the credits or not."

"It comes down from the county, that comes down to the principals, that comes down to the staff," said a guidance counselor.

"It's, 'What are you going to do to make sure that they pass,' rather than, 'What are you going to do to make sure that they learn,'" said another teacher.

Dr. Maxwell declined an interview, but said in a statement:

"I am aware that four Board of Education members sent a politically-motivated letter to the Governor regarding Prince George's County Public Schools' (PGCPS) graduation rate. These claims are an affront to the hard work of our teachers, administrators, students and parents over the last few years. I categorically deny any systemic effort to promote students who did not meet state graduation requirements.

Prince George's County schools have much to celebrate this graduation season: more than \$151 million in scholarship awards, acceptances to our nation's finest colleges and universities, certifications to help students embark on challenging careers. We remain focused on improving students' lives and preparing them for opportunities beyond high school. We welcome the Maryland State Department of Education to fully explore this matter."

Gov. Hogan's office confirmed the letter was received.

"The allegations are very concerning and they have been forwarded to the Maryland State Department of Education," said Amelia Chasse, a spokeswoman for Hogan, in an email.

Stay with FOX 5 for our full investigation Monday night at 10 and 11 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT

JUNE 2017

Record heat possible; tips for staying safe

By: fox5dc.com staff

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/260485853-story>

WASHINGTON - The potential for record heat is possible today and tomorrow in the District. Monday's anticipated high of 95 degrees would tie a D.C. record last set in 2002. Tomorrow's expected high is 95 degrees. But if we get to 96 on Tuesday, we would tie a record from 1954.

The heat index on Monday will be near 100 degrees in the metro area. The heat and humidity are teaming up to bring, not only uncomfortable temperatures, but possible life-threatening dangers.

Here is what you need to know to stay safe in the heat wave:

AIR QUALITY

CODE ORANGE: A Code Orange Air Quality Alert is in place for MONDAY. This means that air pollution concentrations within the region may become unhealthy for sensitive groups. Sensitive groups include children, people suffering from asthma, heart disease or other lung diseases and the elderly. The effects of air pollution can be minimized by avoiding strenuous activity or exercise outdoors.

COMMON HEAT RELATED ILLNESSES

During extremely hot and humid weather, your body's ability to cool itself is challenged. When the body heats too rapidly to cool itself properly, or when too much fluid or salt is lost through dehydration or sweating, body temperature rises and you or someone you care about may experience a heat-related illness.

Heat Exhaustion Symptoms:

- Feeling faint or dizzy
- Excessive Sweating
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Muscle cramps

What to Do:

- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

Heat Stroke Symptoms:

- Throbbing headache
- No sweating
- Body temperature above 103 degrees
- Red, hot, and dry skin

- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid, strong pulse
- May lose consciousness

What to Do:

- CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY
- Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

It is important to know the symptoms of excessive heat exposure and the appropriate responses.

More info online: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/heat-illness.shtml>

CHILDREN
JUNE 2017

Staff members speak out about pressure from Prince George's Co. Public Schools to graduate students

By: fox5dc.com staff

Link: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/262559308-story>

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. - Some teachers and staff members in Prince George's County Public Schools say intense pressure to boost the graduation rate has caused students to be pushed through the system whether they earned their diploma or not.

It has several Prince George's County school board members calling for a state investigation into allegations of fraud. Board members Edward Burroughs, David Murray, Raaheela Ahmed and student member Juwan Blocker sent a letter to Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan saying that whistleblowers at almost every level in the school system "have clear and convincing evidence that PGCPS has graduated hundreds of students who did not meet the Maryland State Department of Education graduation requirements."

Schools CEO Dr. Kevin Maxwell has denied the claims and said they are politically motivated.

The school district celebrated significant gains in its graduation rate earlier this year with 81 percent of seniors graduating in 2016, the highest number since 2010. Dr. Maxwell and his team made surprise visits at high schools with graduation rates over 90 percent.

"When Maxwell came up to our school with an entourage to celebrate our high graduation rates, we all howled with laughter," a teacher told FOX 5. "Because we knew that they were completely fraudulent."

“Most of the counselors laugh at it,” said a high school guidance counselor. “Because we know that it's not real.”

The staff we spoke to wanted their identities concealed for fear of retaliation. They work at different high schools but tell the same story.

“There is incredible pressure coming from the central office onto all of the principals at all the schools to push kids through whether they really earned the credits or not,” a teacher said.

“It's, ‘What are you going to do to make sure that they pass,’ rather than, ‘What are you going to do to make sure that they learn,’” another teacher told FOX 5.

Boosting the graduation rate has been a top priority for Dr. Maxwell since he was appointed in 2013. The county had been lagging behind the state average before making gains.

Along with the spike in graduates, there have been changes in policy. For example, a new grading procedure says that students will get a minimum of 50 percent for making a “good faith” effort on an assignment or assessment.

“As long as 50 percent of the work is done,” a teacher said. “It doesn't have to be correct, just has to be complete – which makes no sense.”

Staff members say that is the just the beginning.

“Either outright asking the teacher to change the grade, I've seen them just change the grade,” the guidance counselor said of administrators at her school.

She says her principal told her to contact the teachers of failing seniors and see if more could be done to help them pass. She says when some students were still failing, she was told to contact those teachers again.

“Email them all and tell them, ‘Change all the grades.’ Whether it was a 30 or 50, change it all to passing,” she says she was told by the principal.

FOX 5 obtained an email from a guidance counselor and assistant principal at DuVal High School, one of the schools where Maxwell was celebrating the 92 percent graduation rate. It was sent to staff and read in part, “Below are a list of our seniors who need one last intervention with your assistance.”

It goes on to say, “If there is any last minute, (rub a genie in a bottle), assistance you can help our future scholars, please assist (yes one more time)!”

The email was sent about a month before graduation and lists the names of 141 seniors and their teachers.

FOX 5 spoke to a mother who has an 11th grader at DuVal. She says she learned he was failing a class with a 29 percent and talked to the teacher.

“She had nothing else to justify a higher grade,” said Randa, who opted not to give her last name. “The guidance counselor for that grade said, ‘Do not worry he will pass with a 65.’”

She says her son indeed passed the class, and that he is very aware of why.

“When I try to challenge him and say, ‘You need to give more with that essay, you need to study a little bit more,’ (he says), ‘Well what for? They’re going to pass me anyway,’” Randa said. “He is passing, no problem. Does he know the material? No idea. Am I going to be tasked to teach him that over the summer? I’ve already begun that process.”

Dr. Maxwell declined our request for an interview, but provided this statement:

“I am aware that four Board of Education members sent a politically-motivated letter to the Governor regarding Prince George’s County Public Schools’ (PGCPS) graduation rate. These claims are an affront to the hard work of our teachers, administrators, students and parents over the last few years. I categorically deny any systemic effort to promote students who did not meet state graduation requirements. Prince George’s County schools have much to celebrate this graduation season: more than \$151 million in scholarship awards, acceptances to our nation’s finest colleges and universities, certifications to help students embark on challenging careers. We remain focused on improving students’ lives and preparing them for opportunities beyond high school. We welcome the Maryland State Department of Education to fully explore this matter.”

On Monday, nine school board members wrote their own letter opposing the allegations, and demanding their colleagues apologize and resign if an investigation fails to provide clear evidence of systemic corruption or no investigation is warranted at all. They blasted the board members for contacting the state instead of bringing the claims to the attention of the board and county first.

“The claim that folks are pushing students out is false,” said board member K. Alexander Wallace. “We’re pushing our students to be the best that they can be.”

Board Chair Segun Eubanks said he was confident the state would find no evidence of wrongdoing if there is an investigation.

“If there is any clear and compelling evidence from legitimate authorities about this, we’re very anxious to see it,” Eubanks.

FOX 5 asked if he had requested to see the evidence referenced in the board members letter to the governor.

“We have not asked them for any evidence,” Eubanks said. “We have gone to our administration and said we want to make sure that everything they have told us is correct and that there is absolutely no systemic corruption going on. And we are confident they will give us that.”

“I’m confident we will be vindicated in this,” added board member Sonya Williams.

The three board members also referenced a prior investigation by the Maryland State Department of Education into an anonymous tip that educators were being forced to change grades.

According to a report provided by a PGCPS spokeswoman, the state looked into the issue in January after the tip was sent to the U.S. Department of Education.

In a letter, the academic officer assigned to the case says she spoke to Dr. Maxwell and “asked him to identify others with whom I could talk.” The letter goes on to say that she spoke to an Instructional Director, a Data Management and Strategy Analyst, a Special Project Officer, a Deputy Superintendent as well as Maxwell and concluded there was no wrongdoing. The U.S. Department of Education said they found the state response “satisfactory” and considered the matter closed.

A spokesperson for the Maryland State Department of Education said she had no comment at this time.

Gov. Hogan’s office confirmed it has received the board members letter saying, “The allegations are very concerning and they have been forwarded to the Maryland State Department of Education.”

Staff we spoke to say they hope to see an investigation by the state.

“You’re cheating the students,” a teacher said. “They’re not learning good work ethics. They’re pretty much being led to believe that entitlement is the norm, and it’s not.

“If they go to college, they are going to be in a great deficit because they didn’t learn that content,” said the guidance counselor. “And so I feel like we’re setting them up to fail.”

Stay with FOX 5 for the latest on this developing story. Contact the reporter at Lindsay.Watts@foxtv.com.