

WTTG-TV/Channel 5
Program Information Report
First Quarter 2016

Short-Form Programming

The following contains information on locally produced public service announcements as well as a list of community organizations and government agencies that addressed local issues through public service announcements.

Public service announcements that aired included but were not limited to the following issues:

Community
Crime
Education
Environment
Government
Health
Substance Abuse
Youth

Public service announcements provided by the following organizations:

Air Force Reserve
Al-Anon Family Groups
American Humane Association
America's Diabetes Challenge PSA w/ Tim McGraw
Arbor Day Foundation
Boys Town
Brain Health
Campaign for Female Education
Cancer Prevention
Disabled American Veterans
Doctors Community Hospital
EPA PSA
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Habitat for Humanity
Healthy Birth Day
Help Hospitalized Vets
Kessler Foundation
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Make a Wish Foundation
Men Who Speak Up for Prostate Cancer
National Parks Foundation
NFCC PSA

No Kid Hungry
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
Pneumococcal Pneumonia w/ Tim Daly
Sesame Street w/ Avocados from Mexico
Smile Train
St. Baldrick's Foundation
U.S. Air Force
U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs
U.S. Fire Administration
Volunteers of America
World Wildlife Fund PSA
Wounded Warrior Project

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

Mike Thomas- March 1, 2016- Invited as a Career Day Guest Speaker at DeMatha High School at 9:00am.

Mike Thomas- March 17, 2016- Invited as a Career Day Guest Speaker at DeMatha High School to present the Science Fair Expose at 6:15pm.



BUZZR E/I Programming Descriptions

Animal Rescue

Each episode of *Animal Rescue* shows real life, in-the-field experiences of professional and ordinary people taking care of, treating, and helping various animals, as well as exhibiting good social responsibility and promoting strong personal and community values.

Dog Tales

Each episode of *Dog Tales* includes dog safety and care tips, as well as lessons for teenagers on the responsibility of owning a dog. The show also provides informative segments on various dog breeds and showcases various veterinary experts explaining different issues affecting canines.

Stanley on the Go

Stanley on the Go is a weekly educational program that showcases the importance of learning about various historical places around the world. The series visits museums, castles, monuments and other interesting places across the United States and throughout Asia and Europe.

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 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



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 Aired:

March 13, 2016

March 20, 2016

March 27, 2016

1st Quarter 2016 FOX News Sunday Quarterly Report
January 3, 2016-March 20, 2016

January 3

2016

Gov Chris Christie (R-NJ), Presidential Candidate

2016

Jeb Bush (R), Presidential Candidate

January 10

2016

Donald Trump (R), Presidential Candidate

State of the Union Preview

Denis McDonough, White House Chief of Staff

January 17

2016/Iran

Sen Ted Cruz (R-TX), Presidential Candidate

State of the Union Reaction/GOP

Paul Ryan (R-WI), Speaker of the House

January 24

2016

Sen Marco Rubio (R-FL), Presidential Candidate

Clinton Email Scandal

Rep Adam Schiff (D-CA), Ranking Member, Intelligence Committee

Sen James Lankford (R-OK), Intelligence Committee and Homeland Security Committee

January 31

2016

Sen Ted Cruz (R-TX), Presidential Candidate

2016

Donald Trump, Presidential Candidate

February 7

2016

Gov Chris Christie (R-NJ), Presidential Candidate

2016

Gov John Kasich (R-OH), Presidential Candidate
2016
Jeb Bush, Presidential Candidate

February 14

2016
Sen Marco Rubio (R-FL), Presidential Candidate
2016
Sen Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Presidential Candidate

February 21

2016
Donald Trump (R), Presidential Candidate
2016
Sen Marco Rubio (R-FL), Presidential Candidate

February 28

2016
Donald Trump (R), Presidential Candidate
2016
Sen Ted Cruz (R-TX), Presidential Candidate
2016
Sen Marco Rubio (R-FL), Presidential Candidate

March 6

2016
Rush Limbaugh, Host, "The Rush Limbaugh Show"
2016
Mitt Romney (R), Former Presidential Nominee

March 13

2016
Donald Trump (R), Presidential Candidate
2016
Gov John Kasich (R-OH), Presidential Candidate

March 20

Supreme Court/Terrorism
Denis McDonough, White House Chief of Staff

Supreme Court

Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Majority Leader

2016

Gov John Kasich (R-OH), Presidential Candidate

SAMPLE OF ISSUE RESPONSIVE NEWS PROGRAMMING

1Q 2016

*ENVIRONMENT
MARCH 2016*

Company seeks to test self-driving delivery robots in DC

By: Matt Ackland

WASHINGTON - You could soon be sharing the sidewalk with robots in D.C. A test project will be presented to District leaders to allow delivery robots to operate on city sidewalks.

These robots could be delivering your takeout meal or maybe some fresh groceries. The company that created them say they are safe, smart and conserve energy.

The one we saw roaming around is named 6C7 and it has heads turning.

"It's really cool," said D.C. resident Jessie Cohen. "In the past, they have had the Amazon drones, but this is something completely different, which I think is awesome."

Two co-founders of Skype have created the company Starship Technologies to create these self-delivery robots that is designed to roll down the sidewalk and navigate stop signs and red lights. It even has advanced technology so it doesn't hit pedestrians.

"It has nine cameras, an obstacle detection system," said Alexander Shakeshaft. "For example, if a pedestrian was to walk in front of it, the robot would stop."

The process is easy. You order what you want on your cell phone and then the delivery robot comes to you. You can even track it. Once it arrives to you, you hit a button on your cell phone and the robot opens up and you will be able to get your delivery.

Washington D.C. has been chosen as the first test project city. That is why the company is trying to get city leaders on board.

D.C. Councilmember Mary Cheh, chairman of the Transportation Committee, will present the robot at the Wilson Building this week.

*EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 2016*

Health concerns over Wi-Fi technology exposure in schools

By: Laura Evans

WASHINGTON - When it comes to school, many parents consider it a second home for their kids and when the students go to their classroom, parents expect a safe environment.

But some believe their schools are not doing everything they can to keep their kids safe and it could lead to serious health consequences.

Today's technology is taking kids on a virtual trip to the moon and a myriad of other places in the universe. Montgomery County Public Schools is the first school system in our area to partner with Google to offer the Expeditions Pioneer Program. Smartphones inside cardboard boxes are helping take the kids to the location virtually.

"The first I heard of Google Expeditions is when my 9-year-old came home and told me about the exciting field trip she took in the all-purpose room," said Laura Simon.

But she questioned the safety of the kids putting smartphones to their heads and next to their eyes.

"The kids were complaining of headaches, nausea and dizziness and they had eye strain, and there was a Google rep there that just said, 'Just take a few minutes. This is normal,'" Simon said.

Simon is a member of a parent organization called Safe Tech for Schools Maryland. The group is fighting for the safe use of technology in the classroom.

It's not just Google's Expeditions Pioneer Program that has them concerned. It is the whole technology program in the Montgomery County school system.

Montgomery County Public Schools recently purchased 40,000 laptops and Chromebooks for student from third grade to high school. They upgraded the Wi-Fi by installing routers or access points – some right in the middle of the classroom ceiling over student desks emitting radio frequencies all day long.

Lisa Cline's 8-year-old son has his own school-issued Chromebook.

"I'm concerned that he is getting exposed to radiation, even low levels, without my consent, but mostly without knowing what it's going to do to him long-term," she said.

Neither Cline nor the rest of the parent organization is asking to get rid of the technology. They simply want it used safely.

"This is a health issue, and at MCPS, it's being treated like a technology issue," said Cline.

"They need to teach students how to use their devices safely and there should not be wireless in the schools," said Theodora Scarato of Safe Tech for Schools Maryland.

Sherwin Colette, the chief technology officer for MCPS, declined an interview with FOX 5. But in a Board of Education meeting last September, he said reducing Wi-Fi in his school system makes no sense.

"We cannot live by a precautionary principle on this count that says, 'Ooh, because we may not know something, we must do nothing and we would hardwire all devices.' It makes no sense," said Colette at the September meeting.

"I think that the Montgomery County schools are misinformed and they are making a huge mistake that is compromising the health and safety of the students and the teachers," said Dr. Devra Davis.

She is an expert on bioelectric magnetism and the founder of the Environmental Health Trust, a non-profit working to protect kindergarten and middle school children from health risks of cellphones and Wi-Fi systems. She has done more than 200 studies on the subject and said even relatively low exposure can interrupt normal brain or reproductive development in a child.

"We think that this is going to be related to leukemia and possibly lymphoma later on as well," said Dr. Davis. "The question is do you want to experiment on your children?"

In 2011, the World Health Organization classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, including Wi-Fi and cell phone signals, as possibly carcinogenic to humans.

Some scientists said radiofrequency waves don't cause cancer. But more and more experts in the field are coming forward expressing concern.

The American Academy of Pediatrics along with the Government Accountability Office are urging the FCC to adopt up-to-date radiation standards. The current standards are 20 years old and don't account for a child's use.

More than a dozen scientists and pediatric neurology experts from Harvard to the California Brain Tumor Association have written letters to MCPS, joining the parent organization in urging the school system switch to wired technology.

"To hear people – oncologists and epidemiologists – saying I don't know about this stuff, that's good enough for me," said Cline. "I don't want my child to be the guinea pig in that experiment."

We reached out to the FCC with questions and they also declined our request for an interview. But they released this statement saying:

"The U.S. has among the most conservative standards in the world. As part of our routine review of these standards, we are soliciting input from multiple stakeholder experts, including federal health agencies and others, to guide our assessment."

Russia, Italy, France, Switzerland, China and Belgium are among more than 20 countries have enacted policies to reduce Wi-Fi exposure in schools.

There are communities here in the U.S. that is also taking action to reduce or even ban Wi-Fi exposure.

CHILDREN
MARCH 2016

Protecting your children from cyber dangers

By: Tisha Lewis

WASHINGTON - Kik, Snapchat and Yik Yak are just a few of apps kids are using these days and while you think you know your child, you may have no idea. It turns out everything you have taught your children about online safety may go out the window in a matter of moments.

A D.C. father is putting it all to the test after a scare with his own child. Now, he makes a living exposing parents to stranger dangers online and how quickly their child might expose themselves and their family to a predator.

In a case that rocked the D.C. region, Prince George's County school volunteer Deonte Carraway was charged with sexually abusing several students and producing child pornography through the popular messaging app Kik.

Carraway's alleged predatory behavior has robbed his victims of their innocence and left lasting scars on them and their families.

Reginald Corbitt has experienced this pain and fear first-hand.

"I created Safe Cyber because of my 13-year-old daughter," said Corbitt. "She was having conversations with people she did not know – nor did I know them as well."

But Corbitt said it is time for parents to wake up and stay informed. Safe Cyber is a website he created to help parents do just that.

"Particularly young people, they need help managing that because they don't understand that just because it's social, it doesn't mean that you can be social with anybody on there," he said.

To demonstrate how easily kids let their guard down, he created fake online profiles to popular apps to show parents and educators how quickly children will divulge information.

From there, the conversation can spiral out of control into a danger zone.

Some examples Corbitt described were: "Are you close to me? You know that type of stuff. Then I can say, 'Are you close to me? Where do you live at?'"

Corbitt has seen children respond to that question with their home address, school name and more.

"Sometimes within minutes, sometimes it can take a day or so depending on how often I respond to them," he said.

Corbitt said now more than ever, parents should be armed with information.

"We know the story of the 13-year-old [Nicole Lovell] who lost her life because she met someone on the Kik app," said Corbitt. "It's important that parents monitor. It's important that parents enforce boundaries because at the end of the day, it can bring physical harm to a child."

Corbitt's top three tips to help keep your kids safe:

- Children should use smart devices in common areas of the home and not the bedroom.
- Create settings that require parental permission before children can download apps.
- Take advantage of monitoring software that will flag certain words or inappropriate pictures.

For more information, go to safecyberedu.com

HEALTH
MARCH 2016

Fentanyl overdose deaths on the rise

By: Laura Evans

WASHINGTON - With a spike in overdoses, authorities are very concerned about heroin. But now, another drug is on the scene and this one is even more deadly.

Law enforcement is blaming an increase of lethal overdoses on fentanyl. It is significantly more powerful than heroin, and depending on its purity, it can be 100 times more potent than morphine.

Across the country, drug enforcement is sounding the alarm, including here in our community. This is the club no one wants to belong to – mothers who have lost children to a drug overdose.

But at least two of these mothers we met said autopsies revealed it wasn't heroin as they suspected. It was fentanyl.

"I'm a nurse, I knew it was a surgical anesthesia, but I had not heard anything about that being used in place of heroin or being mixed with heroin," said Nancy Ruffner. "Now I hear about it all the time."

Ruffner was involved in her son's life. She said Danny was creative and artistic. He was your typical boy – active and loved superheroes. Also, he was funny and loving.

"I was a PTA president when my kids were growing up at their school," said Ruffner. "For the most part, a stay-at-home mom thinking I was doing the right thing. Never in my life did I ever believe anything like this would happen to me."

Danny did well in school, but after graduating from the University of Maryland, things changed. He had a job lined up, but never completed the online credentialing. The Ruffners suspected he was depressed.

"My husband had found some syringes in the basement," Ruffner said.

They tried getting help, but the downward spiral was too fast. On June 14, 2015, Danny injected his fatal dose.

Police told Ruffner her son had died of a heroin overdose. The autopsy later revealed it was fentanyl.

"We were completely blown away when we found out it was fentanyl," she said.

Fentanyl use is skyrocketing in D.C., Maryland and Virginia According to the Drug Enforcement Administration; the number of lethal overdoses has tripled in the past three years.

"This is pure poison, it's deadly," said Karl Colder, special agent in charge at the DEA. "When you take it, even the smallest amount can kill you."

It's so deadly that it's dangerous for the investigators combing through evidence at the scene of an overdose. Touching the powder is enough to absorb into the skin.

"it's transdermal," Colder said. "It can kill you right on the spot."

Following an overdose, users will flock to the dealer who provided the deadly dose in search of the most potent stuff.

Fentanyl is cheap to manufacture illicitly. It is often made in China and shipped through Mexico. Now, dealers are making more money by disguising it as oxycodone, percocet or oxycontin, which typically sell for more money. And it is easy to get on the streets or online.

"It's like playing Russian roulette," said Colder. "They don't know what they are getting. They know that it's potent and that's what they want."

Beth Kane Davidson has been drug addiction treatment specialist for decades. She said the problem has reached a fevered pitch.

"We see more and more people coming in for treatment," said Davidson. "They are younger and younger. You can do everything and suddenly find yourself asking, 'What happened?'"

Jimena Ryan lost her son Casey to a fentanyl overdose.

"When I got the autopsy that it was 100 percent fentanyl, I knew in my heart of hearts that Casey had no idea what he was taking," said Ryan.

"Never in my wildest dream did I ever think anything like this would ever happen," said Ruffner.

TRANSPORTATION

MARCH 2016

Metro: Rail service to resume at 5 am after inspections completed

By: Fox5DC Staff

WASHINGTON - Metro said the emergency inspection process that caused the rail system to shut down for an entire day on Wednesday was necessary and over two dozen areas were found where repairs of the system's underground cables were needed.

All 91 Metro stations were closed Wednesday by the transit agency for the inspection of 600 underground jumper cables. The emergency safety check was sparked by a cable fire in a tunnel near the McPherson Square station early Monday morning, causing service disruptions on the Blue, Orange and Silver Lines. Metro General Manager Paul Wiedefeld said on Tuesday that this fire shared commonalities to the deadly smoke incident near the L'Enfant Plaza station in January 2015 that caused a woman to die and sickened at least 80 people.

Metro said as of 10 p.m. Wednesday, inspections of all 600 jumper cables have been completed. Inspectors found 26 areas where these third-rail power cables and connector boots were damaged.

Crews have completed repairs at 22 of the 26 locations as of 9 p.m. Wednesday and repairs are underway for the remaining four locations.

"Metro deployed 22 teams to inspect the third rail power system," the transit agency said in a news release. "Walking through miles of tunnel using 14 prime movers to move supplies and materials, the teams are inspecting 22 underground zones. The teams -- consisting of Metro employees, contractors, and outside electrical engineering experts -- are inspecting jumper cables, cable connecting boots, and the environment around the cables. The teams are looking for damaged cables, damaged boots, and debris near cables that could pose a fire hazard. Behind the inspection teams are 3 cable construction crews who are replacing and repairing any locations that are identified for immediate action."

Wiedefeld said there were three "showstoppers" areas at McPherson Square, Foggy Bottom and Potomac Avenue where it would have been deemed unsafe for trains to run through.

After showing video of one of frayed cables located at the Foggy Bottom station, Wiedefeld said, "As bad as that looks, these do not indicate the cable would catch fire, but they were imminent for fire. But clearly this is the hazardous condition that we cannot accept."

All Metrorail service will resume starting at 5 a.m. Thursday. Trains on the Red, Yellow and Green lines will operate normally.

If repairs are not finished at Foggy Bottom by opening Thursday morning, Metro said trains will single track between Clarendon and Foggy Bottom and will run Orange Line trains between Vienna and New Carrollton and Silver Line trains between Wiehle-Reston and Largo. The Blue line would be rerouted over the Yellow Line Bridge.

COMMUNITY

MARCH 2016

Home renovation project underway for wounded Virginia Marine veteran

By: Fox5DC Staff and Megan Dice

STAFFORD, Va. - A Virginia veteran who was wounded while serving in the Iraq war is getting much-deserved home renovation this weekend, thanks to the generosity of many local volunteers.

Corporal Brandon Burns served as a Marine, and he came under sniper fire in Al Fallujah, Iraq in November 2004. As a result of the incident, Burns lost one-fourth of his brain, and was left paralyzed on the right side of his body.

This weekend, D.C. area construction unions are accepting a challenge from the Wounded Warrior Project, and renovating Burns' Stafford, Va. home. And with right around 24 hours to complete the job, they'll be working fast.

The Wounded Warrior Project hooked up with the group Helmets to Hardhats to fix up the home. While the Wounded Warrior Project made arrangements to get the necessary materials, Helmets to Hardhats recruited volunteers from local construction unions to make the work happen.

Construction started at 8 a.m. Saturday, and within a few minutes, there was already progress to be seen. Electricians were busy changing out lighting inside the house, while carpenters got started on added shelving for storage. Plans are also in the works to add a breakfast bar and a small ramp to help Burns get around. The house will also get some essentials like new insulation, gutter cleanings, and repairs to cracks that have developed inside the home.

Meanwhile, Burns and his family are spending a couple of days on a getaway in Baltimore while the project is underway. They'll be home Sunday, and the big reveal of all the renovations will happen Sunday afternoon.

Brandi Hall of the Wounded Warrior Project tells FOX 5 all of this started with a repair to a fence at Burns' home. While that was taking place, the organization found that his house really needed some additional work, and they reached out to Helmets to Hardhats and program director Rob Schwartz to help make the home renovation project become a reality.

Among those groups participating are Helmets to Hardhats, Community Hub for Opportunities in Construction Employment (C.H.O.I.C.E), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC), International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), and Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA).

For more on Burns' story, click here:

<http://www.marine4christ.com/>

About Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty military service members with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry. The program is designed to help military service members successfully transition back into civilian life by offering them the means to secure a quality career in the construction industry. For more information, follow these links:

www.helmetstohardhats.com

www.facebook.com/HelmetstoHardhats

CRIME

FEBRUARY 2016

Funeral, viewing for slain Prince William Co. police officer begins

By: Fox5DC Staff

WOODBIDGE, Va. - Viewing services have begun for the rookie Prince William County police officer who lost her life just hours into her first shift. Officer Ashley Guindon, 28, was shot and killed Saturday on after responding to a domestic violence call.

Services for Officer Guindon are being held at Hylton Memorial Chapel, located at 14640 Potomac Mills Rd in Woodbridge. Her viewing began at 10 a.m. Tuesday and will be followed by a funeral service at 12 p.m.

Officer Guindon's funeral is open to the general public, but if there are space limitations, the department says priority will be given to her fellow law enforcement officers and government officials. Overflow areas were expected to be available outside the chapel.

LINE THE ROUTE

A touching tribute to the fallen young police officer lit up the night sky on Monday evening. The Prince William County Police Department paid tribute to Officer Guindon with dozens upon dozens of officers escorting her body to the funeral home where she will be remembered on Tuesday.

DONATIONS TO OFFICER GUINDON'S FAMILY:

Prince William County police have also announced they are collection donations for those who would like to help the family of Officer Guindon. Please note these donations are by main, and any online, crowd funding pages that are set up are not able to be verified. If you'd like to donate, please use the information below instead:

Please make checks payable to "PWCPA OFC Guindon."

Mail them to:

PWC Police Association

PO Box 1845

Manassas, VA 20108

MORE ABOUT OFFICER GUINDON:

According to a biography posted by the Prince William County Police Department, Officer Ashley Marie Guindon, who is from Merrimack, New Hampshire, is the only daughter of Sharon Nowack Guindon and the late David Guindon.

Officer Guindon graduated from Merrimack High School in 2005, where she belonged to the cheerleading squad and Jr. ROTC. In 2007, Officer Guindon enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, serving as a Field Radio Operator and in various aeronautical capacities. She earned numerous awards until her tenure ended in 2013.

Officer Guindon attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, graduating in 2011 with an undergraduate degree in Aeronautical Science. She later attended Fort Lee's Mortuary School, where she was awarded a meritorious mast for achieving the highest GPA in her class.

In 2011, Officer Guindon relocated to Virginia to pursue graduate studies. During this time, she interned with Prince William County Police Department's Forensic Services Bureau. She said at that time she wanted to be a crime scene investigator, and her experience there led her to apply to be an officer.

She graduated from the Prince William Police Criminal Justice Academy in June 2015 as a member of Session #36, but resigned for personal reasons before completing the Field Training Program. She later told friends she missed police work from the very day she left. She was rehired in February 2016 and began her Field Officer Training the evening of February 27, 2016.

The department's biography says Ashley was known as a bright, ambitious, and kind hearted "fashionista" by those who knew her best. She loved dancing; reading and traveling, and she also loved her pug, Scout.

Ashley began serving her community began long before she became an officer. She assisted the Marine Corps Mortuary Affairs Office while serving in the Reserves, worked as a pre-hire with Prince William County Police Special Victim's Unit, and volunteered extensively with the Suicide Prevention Program, a cause near to her heart.

She was 28 years old.

NATIONAL POLITICS

MARCH 2016

Obama, presidential candidates react to Brussels attacks

By: Fox5DC Staff

The American people and the world look to the President in times of crisis. And since we are in the heat of the 2016 election, they are also looking to the candidates to see who is best suited to lead the country next after attacks like those on Tuesday in Brussels.

Bombs that exploded at the Brussels airport and one of the city's metro stations on Tuesday killed at least 31 people and wounded dozens, as a European capital was again locked down amid heightened security threats.

President Obama was in the middle of his historic trip to Cuba, and before delivering prepared remarks to the people of Cuba, the President asked those in the audience to please "indulge" him and let him comment on the Brussels terrorist attacks.

"The thoughts and prayers of the American people are with the people of Belgium. We stand in solidarity with them in condemning these outrageous attacks against innocent people," Obama expressed.

He continued to say "this is yet another reminder that the world must unite. We must be together regardless of nationality, or race or faith in fighting against the scourge of terrorism."

The candidates running for President seemed to take much more time to respond to the attacks through statements, tweets and interviews.

"I would have talked more about the battle against the civilized world, clearly I would be coming back home to gather the leaders, the heads of state, and put together teams of people to figure out why we have these vulnerabilities," explained Gov. John Kasich of Ohio.

Ted Cruz weighed in saying "today's attacks in Brussels underscores that this is a war, this is not an isolated incident, and this is not a lone wolf. This is a war with radical Islamic terrorism."

Donald Trump chimed in as well saying "Look at Brussels, Brussels was a beautiful city, a beautiful place, with zero crime and now it's a disaster city, a total disaster."

Bernie Sanders posted a tweet saying: We offer our deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones in this barbaric attack and to the people of Brussels.

And Hillary Clinton tweeted: These terrorists seek to undermine the democratic values that are the foundation of our way of life. They will never succeed.

Hillary also tweeted that she sends her thoughts and prayers to those affected, along with all of the people of Belgium.

LOCAL POLITICS

MARCH 2016

DC mayor focuses on public safety, closing of DC General in State of the District address

By: Tisha Lewis

Scores of D.C. residents came to Arena Stage Tuesday night to hear Mayor Muriel Bowser's State of the District address.

"We had some challenges this past year," she said. "Too many homicides and too many robberies, so we're approaching the challenge in a number ways."

Bowser spoke about public safety.

"We recruited a fire chief from Seattle who is very experienced in the things we need to work on," the mayor said. "We implemented the 500,000 security camera program to keep residents, churches and other buildings safe in our city. We're working towards a 4,000-person police force that looks like the community they serve."

The crowd gave the mayor a standing ovation when she talked about her plans to close the D.C. General family shelter.

"Closing D.C. General is the right thing to do," Bowser said to applause. "And this is what I know. You believe it too."

Also outlined in her speech was the state of the city's schools and city infrastructure.

What the mayor did not address was the media nor did she discuss her newest appointment – James Edward Kyle as the director of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, the city's public psychiatric facility. There are concerns about Kyle being unqualified for the job and a number of resume red flags.

"This person has issues as far as the hospital that he just came from – it's closed down – that is something I heard," said Rhonda Johnson, a certified peer specialist in the District. "That is not what we need right now. Washington D.C. is in a process of rebuilding. We don't want any negativity ... If that is what this person is getting ready to bring, I don't think he's supposed to be there."

Johnson said reports of hospitals shuttered under Kyle's supervision because of negligence are a real concern.

"There is a behavior of movement and we need change in the behavior of the system," said Johnson.

Kyle contacted FOX 5 Tuesday night and said he disputes all claims against him.

We attempted to get a comment from Mayor Bowser about her selection of Kyle, but were told she wouldn't be available for comment.

HOUSING

MARCH 2016

Va. homeowner fighting to keep property from being taken away by eminent domain

By: Alexandra Limon

ASHBURN, Va. - Eminent domain is threatening one family in Loudoun County. They could lose several acres of their land to a new four-lane road.

The homeowner is upset because he says the state is siding with a private investor and claims Virginia will use the so-called "quick-take" power, in which the state doesn't notify the homeowner of when they will seize their property.

Every day, the owners of this Loudoun County home watch as Virginia Department of Transportation crews begin construction of a new road. They wait knowing it is only a matter of time before they cross onto their property and seize part of their land – whether the homeowners agree to it or not.

"I have been trying to protect my home and I have been unsuccessful," said Mehdi Pahlevani.

For years, Pahlevani has been at the center of a battle over the new road that will lead to a new shopping and business center. The problem is the road will go straight through his 11-acre property.

"We worked really hard to reach my American dreams and I did get to that point by working hard and having goals in my life," said Pahlevani.

Now, he feels he could lose part of that American dream because VDOT will seize an acre and a half of his land for the road. But he will actually lose a total of four acres.

In a statement, VDOT told FOX 5:

"When a project is being planned, VDOT works closely with residents and drivers to take public input into consideration, and also closely with homeowners to minimize impacts as much as possible."

At one point, the road was scheduled to run straight through Pahlevani's living room.

"It was like somebody taking a knife and stabbing it in my heart," he said. "They told me you have to move out."

VDOT told FOX 5 they have tried to work with this homeowner and have in fact moved the road so it doesn't impact the house. It will now be 100 feet to the right of his home, but still on his property.

Pahlevani now has a lawyer that is challenging Virginia's "quick-take" power.

"It is hard to believe, but Virginia law allows the state to take an owner's property without telling the owner," said attorney Jeremy Hopkins. "We are simply asking the court to declare those laws are unconstitutional. That the state should be required to tell an owner before the bulldozers roll in."

Originally, this road was supposed to go over an old, abandoned penny toll house. But Loudoun County purchased the property and it was declared a historic site, which meant the road could no longer go that direction and will now go through private property instead.