



WTOP 103.5FM WASHINGTON, DC
AND SIMULCAST STATIONS
WTLP 103.9FM BRADDOCK HEIGHTS, MD
WWWT 107.7FM MANASSAS, VA

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LISTS
SECOND QUARTER 2019
APRIL 1 • JUNE 30

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Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WTOP 2nd Quarter 2019 • April 1 – June 30

WTOP Radio is Washington's top news, traffic and weather station. Listeners in the Washington, D.C. community and surrounding area rely on WTOP for timely and accurate news and information that affects their daily lives. WTOP has identified the following as significant issues facing our community this quarter:

- 1. Government** – The balance of political power in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of governments; national and local debates on public funding, border wall security, Russia probe and Supreme Court Rulings on local issues.
- 2. Local Government** – Scandals and investigations mired top officials in all three of WTOP's listening jurisdictions, overshadowing legislative efforts. Maryland elected a new House Speaker. Voters concerns emerge during primary day in Virginia.
- 3. National Security** – Reports on international security, intelligence, foreign policy, terrorism and cyber developments; a local man arrested for plotting to kill pedestrians at National Harbor; "City of Secrets" series focuses on spies in D.C.
- 4. Roads and Transportation** – The latest information on Metro, road closures, construction, parking restrictions and transportation projects that affect area commuters; REAL ID driver's license recall in Maryland.
- 5. Crime and Public Safety** – Incidents of recent crimes and how local law enforcement and community officials are responding to issues including gun violence and hate crimes.
- 6. Health** – Local cases of measles were identified, prompting public concern; two health related deaths, including an adenovirus outbreak, has officials looking into how UMD handles emergencies; a form of strep that attacks the brain.
- 7. School Safety and Education**– Issues related to local public schools and universities, including administrative challenges, curriculum changes, tuition, and creating a safe environment for students.
- 8. Business** – Covers stories related to the local economy, jobs, consumer information and real estate.
- 9. Weather Alerts** – Severe weather alerts help listeners stay safe; WTOP kept listeners informed about approaching storms and dangerous conditions that included tornado and flood warnings.

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MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUE - RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

WTOP is the go-to news source for the Washington, D.C. region, providing listeners with 24-hour news and information, and traffic and weather every 10 minutes on the 8's. As part of our continuing effort to serve our listeners, WTOP has talked to elected officials and community leaders about the issues facing our area. Programming dealing with each issue listed is outlined below:

GOVERNMENT



House will sue to block Trump on border wall money

April 5 • 5:31a/ every hour through 11:31a • 1:00

Speaker Nancy Pelosi has announced that the House will file a lawsuit challenging President Trump's emergency declaration, which he announced earlier this year so he could get billions in border wall funding. The House and Senate both recently approved legislation aimed at blocking the emergency declaration for the wall. However, the president issued his first veto, and the House last week was unable to override it. Republicans, as well as Democrats, have expressed unease about the declaration. The decision to authorize the legal action was made by the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group, which is made up of the congressional leadership. Pelosi, in her statement, charged that the president's action amounts to "stealing from appropriated funds," and that it is unconstitutional.



AG Barr plans to investigate 'improper surveillance' during 2016 Campaign

April 10 • 11:31a/ every hour through 11:31p and overnight • 59 seconds

Attorney General William Barr told a Senate panel Wednesday "spying did occur" during the 2016 presidential campaign as he testified about the Mueller report and the origin of the Russia probe. Barr's disclosure came as Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., was questioning him about his plans to investigate how the probe began into Russian meddling in the campaign. "I think spying on a political campaign is a big deal," Barr told the Senate appropriations subcommittee, noting that he grew up in a Vietnam War generation that included a lot of concern about the government spying on anti-war activists. When he stated he didn't think rules were necessarily violated during the campaign, Shaheen then said: "So you're not suggesting, though, that spying occurred?" Barr clarified his comments later in the hearing, referring to possible "improper surveillance."



Bottom Line: The Gap between William Barr and Robert Mueller

May 1 • 1:32p/ every hour through 11:31p and overnight • 59 seconds

May 2 • 5:31ap/ every hour through 11:32p and overnight • 1:00

The high legal and political stakes surrounding Attorney General William Barr's handling of Robert Mueller's Russia probe were on full display Wednesday, during a contentious hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Barr battled back over suggestions that he mischaracterized the Mueller report, as Democrats peppered him with questions about his differences with the special counsel. Barr didn't back down from his decision to issue a four-page summary when the report was initially completed. Barr stated he felt a responsibility to present the bottom line conclusions

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from the report when he received it, adding that he was surprised it didn't include a firm conclusion on the issue of obstruction of justice and President Donald Trump. The tension between Mueller's staff and the attorney general has become more evident in the weeks since the report was completed, then released last month. Nevertheless, the report has become a highly volatile political document. During Wednesday's hearing, Republicans repeatedly noted how exhaustive the investigation was and that it didn't find criminal wrongdoing against the president. On Thursday, a politically explosive moment as the House Judiciary Committee held a brief hearing without Attorney General William Barr.

Va. Sen. Warner: Park repair an issue even 'dysfunctional Washington' should agree on May 16 • 6:03a/ 7:03a/ 8:03a/ 9:03a/ 10:10a • 59 seconds

A bipartisan coalition in Congress is renewing a call to address billions of dollars in needed repairs to the nation's deteriorating national parks, including the Grand Canyon, Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, and the National Mall. The lawmakers support legislation aimed at addressing a maintenance backlog at hundreds of national parks that's estimated to be close to \$12 billion. The needs in Virginia alone are estimated to be more than \$1 billion. Warner said that the George Washington Memorial Parkway, which runs through Northern Virginia and the District, could use hundreds of millions of dollars in maintenance and repairs. He noted the recent 10-foot-deep sinkhole that caused a closure of the northbound lanes of the parkway for several days would require another shutdown to fix completely. In Maryland, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway closed earlier this year after an unprecedented number of potholes turned it into a virtual moonscape.

DC the 51st state? Congress edges closer to first vote in decades May 30 • 5:05p/ 6:05p/ 7:34p/ 8:12p/ 10:11p and overnight • 51 seconds

A legislative push to make D.C. the nation's 51st state has moved a bit closer to a possible vote in the House - something that hasn't happened in more than 25 years. D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton and Mayor Muriel Bowser announced Thursday that the House Committee on Oversight and Reform would hold a hearing on D.C. statehood on July 24. Norton said she was grateful to the chairman of the committee, Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., for agreeing to hold "the hearing necessary to take H.R. 51 to the floor of the House of Representatives." Norton, a Democrat, and statehood supporters, has long sought the hearing. The shift in power to Democrats in the House has made it more likely that a floor vote could eventually be taken. In another development, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, the veteran Democratic lawmaker from Maryland, announced he would support statehood. Hoyer is the last congressional Democrat from the Washington area to drop his opposition

High Court lets Virginia voting go ahead under redrawn map June 17 • 11:20a/ 12:10p/ 1:31p/ every half hour through 11:03p and overnight • 50 seconds

Virginians will elect members of the House of Delegates this year using a map seen as favorable to Democrats as a result of a ruling Monday by the U.S. Supreme Court. The political boundaries are important because Republicans currently control the House by a slim majority. In a 5-4 decision, the justices dismissed claims by Republicans that some districts were gerrymandered by race. But in essence, the justices actually ruled Republicans could not challenge the lower

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court decision because they did not represent the commonwealth. Democratic Attorney General Mark Herring had opted not to continue the case. It's a ruling that could give Democrats an edge in November. The GOP currently has a 2-seat majority in the House. Moreover, the party that controls the General Assembly in 2021 will get to re-draw the NEW electoral map. The ruling had an unusual majority alignment with conservative justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch on one end and liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the other.

Supreme Court upholds cross on public land in Maryland

June 20 • 10:20a/ 11:03a/ 12:03p every hour through 11:04p and overnight • 1:00

The U.S. Supreme Court in the Bladensburg Peace Cross case has handed down a decision. The justices have ruled, in effect, that the 40-foot-tall World War I Monument can stay. The decision was 7-2 with justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonya Sotomayor dissenting. The justices said preserving a long-standing religious monument is very different from allowing the building of a new one. And the court concluded that the nearly 100-year-old memorial's presence on a grassy highway median doesn't violate the Constitution's prohibition on the government favoring one religion over others. Seven of the court's nine justices sided with the cross' backers, a lineup that crossed ideological lines. In all, seven justices wrote to explain their views in opinions that totaled some 80 pages, an indication of the depth of feeling the case provoked but also differences in the justices' positions.

Supreme Court says federal courts have no role in policing partisan redistricting

June 27 • Live 11:03a • 1:45 / 12:03p/ every hour through 11:11p and overnight • 53 seconds

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that political gerrymandering is outside of the judiciary's review as it comes to redistricting, essentially overturning a lower court's order to redraw Maryland's sixth district. The 5-4 decision was written by chief justice John Roberts, who said essentially that the judiciary isn't the proper venue to determine if partisan gerrymandering is or isn't fair -- even if they don't like the practice of it. It means a lower court ruling that ordered Maryland to redraw Maryland's sixth district seat, held by Democrat David Trone, has been vacated and will stand though perhaps for just one more election. In a dissenting opinion, Elena Kagan, writing for the four liberal justices said partisan gerrymandering deprives citizens of the rights to participate equally in the political process, asking is this how American democracy is supposed to work. She says no one would say yes. Kagan also says the majority won't dispute that partisan gerrymandering undermines democracy. In the census case, the court said the Trump administration's explanation for wanting to add the question was "more of a distraction" than an explanation. The administration had cited the need to improve enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

Public Service Announcement: Congressional Baseball for Charity

May 20 – June 26 • Broadcast 27 times at various times of day • 30 seconds

Members of Congress play the annual Congressional Baseball for Charity every summer. The bipartisan event raises money for D.C. area charities including The Washington Literacy Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. It also supports the U.S. Capitol Police Memorial Fund.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT



FBI raids Baltimore mayor's homes, Hogan calls for Pugh to resign

April 25 • 10:05a/ 11:11a/ 12:11p/ 1:05p/ 2:02p/ 3:02p/ 4:02p/ 5:13p • 54 seconds

Live update 2:10p • 3:00

Agents with the FBI and the IRS criminal division searched both of Mayor Catherine Pugh's homes on Thursday amid dramatically widening investigations to determine whether she used bulk sales of her obscure self-published children's books to disguise kickbacks. Pugh has faced mounting calls for her to resign over the scandal. The politically isolated first-term mayor, who has long been an avid runner, slipped out of sight April 1, citing deteriorating health, just as the governor called on the state prosecutor to investigate allegations of "self-dealing" by the embattled Democrat. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan joined calls for her immediate resignation "for the good of the city" after news broke of the Thursday morning raids, as agents with the FBI and the IRS criminal division carried boxes of evidence out of City Hall. Agents also scoured the home of an aide and a nonprofit organization she once led. (Pugh resigned on May 2.)



Changes for Va. driving rules signed into law, other bills vetoed

April 30 • 12:11p/ 1:02p/ 2:03p/ 3:04p/ 4:42p/ 5:05p/ 6:05p/ 7:06p/ 8:06p • 45 seconds

Holding a cellphone while driving in a work zone will now be against the law in Virginia. Violators will face a \$250 fine. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam signed the bill Monday, adding the new, broader anti-distracted driving restriction to Virginia's existing ban on texting while driving anywhere in the state. That existing ban has proved difficult to enforce. Another new rule of the road effective July 1 just signed into law by Northam significantly toughens penalties for drivers who fail to slow down or move over for police or firefighters stopped on the side of the road with flashing lights. Failing to move over or slow down for police, fire, EMS and similar vehicles stopped with flashing lights will now be reckless driving, similar to speeding over 80 mph. Northam vetoed a bill meant to limit access of registered sex offenders to emergency shelters. Northam vetoed a number of bills Monday related to elections and local government. One of the vetoed bills would have overhauled the State Board of Elections by adding two additional members while also taking power over the Department of Elections away from the governor. Other bills would have set redistricting criteria that supporters said was an improvement, but opponents worried could loosen current rules, and would have allowed changes to legislative lines outside the regular once-a-decade redistricting process. For development projects or changes to homes, Northam vetoed another bill that would reduce the number of votes needed for a Board of Zoning Appeals to approve a variance or reverse zoning decisions by localities.



Adrienne Jones makes history as 1st woman speaker of Md. House of Delegates

May 1 • 3:03p/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 58 seconds

May 2 • 5:03a/ 6:03a/ 7:03a/ 8:03a • 58 seconds

House Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne Jones last week dropped out of the race to become the next speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, saying it was in the interest of party unity. On Wednesday afternoon in a special session in Annapolis, she got it - just not the way she thought. Jones was elected and sworn in as speaker on Wednesday after the two remaining candidates

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couldn't piece together the requisite number of votes. She becomes Maryland's first African-American speaker and first woman speaker. Jones succeeds Michael Busch, Maryland's longest-serving speaker, who died April 7, one day before the end of the last legislative session.



Baltimore's new mayor is sworn in, gets pledges of support from other officials

May 9 • 12:06p/ 1:06p/ 2:06p/ 3:03p/ 4:20p/ 5:02p/ 6:02p/ 7:02p/ 8:02p/ 9:02p • 50 seconds

Just a week after former Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh stepped down amid scandal, Bernard C. "Jack" Young was sworn in as the city's 51st mayor. When Pugh took leave for what her lawyer said was poor health after a bout of pneumonia, Young stepped in as Baltimore's interim leader in early April. Pugh then resigned May 2. At the ceremony Thursday in Baltimore, Young introduced himself, saying, "To the people of Baltimore, thank you so much for providing me with strength and encouragement. We're in this together!" Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan told the crowd that Young's elevation to mayor provides a new opportunity for Baltimore. U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin referred to "Team Baltimore" in his speech, telling the crowd, "Mayor Young is the right person to lead Baltimore! We are all on Team Baltimore." Cardin added that the partnership ran from federal to state leaders. Newly elected state House Speaker Adrienne Jones got a standing ovation as she stood to speak. Young has been active in Baltimore politics for decades, most recently serving as the Baltimore City Council president. (Live feed of ceremony on WTOP.com)



Was it Gov. Northam in racist yearbook photo? Investigation results released

May 22 • 11:03a / every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 56 seconds

The conclusions are inconclusive. An investigation ordered up by a Virginia medical school failed to determine whether Governor Ralph Northam is in a 1984 yearbook photo of a man in blackface next to someone in a Ku Klux Klan hood. Investigators with a law firm hired by Eastern Virginia Medical School say they cannot "conclusively determine" the identities of either person in the 35-year-old photo. They also say they can't tell how the picture was placed, but found no evidence it was put there by mistake or as a prank. Northam initially issued two apologies, but soon reversed course saying he was convinced it was not him in the picture. The governor hasn't been the only Virginia Democrat rocked by scandal this year. Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring began his own public apology efforts in March after also admitting in February to once wearing blackface in the 1980s and Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax has been pushing back against accusations of sexual assault, insisting his interactions with two accusers were "100%" consensual.



Jack Evans to leave role as Metro board chairman

May 23 • 11:04a/ 12:03p/ 1:03p/ 2:03p/ 3:04p/ 4:12p/ 5:12p/ 6:12p/ 7:06p/ 8:06p • 56 seconds

Jack Evans, who has been under federal investigation, will not seek reelection to another term as chairman of the Metro board but will remain on the board. Evans, who is a D.C. Council member, made the announcement at a Metro board meeting. The eight voting members and eight alternate members of the board oversee the funding, operation and expansion of Metro. The next term of the board starts July 1. Evans has been immersed in controversy over whether he violated ethics rules while on the Metro board. He said the decision was simply because it is time for a transition to a new leader, not because of anything to do with the investigation.

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Primary day 2019: Who's on the Virginia ballot and how to vote

June 11 • 5:03a/ every hour through 5:05p • 56 seconds

Primary elections are underway in Virginia, and throughout the commonwealth, voters are deciding who will appear on the ballot this fall. Voter turnout has been low so far, but interest in specific issues driving people to the polls is high. WTOP is talking to voters at the polls about those issues. Those who made it out have a wide range of candidates to choose from in certain races. Voters are determining party nominees for General Assembly seats as well as local offices, including an unprecedented battle for the top spot in Fairfax County. The polls opened at 6 a.m. and so long as you're in line by closing time at 7 p.m., you can vote. By law, voters will need to provide a photo ID. If you can't provide one immediately, you can still cast a provisional ballot that will count if an ID is provided in the following days.



Va. Primary results: McKay wins not for Fairfax Co. chair; pair of upsets in area prosecutors' races

June 11 • 6:03p/ live results updates every hour through 11:03p/ overnight • 2:00

June 12 • 5:03a / every hour through 12:05p • 50 seconds

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay won the “unprecedented” Democratic primary for chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Incumbents of both parties were unseated in races for supervisors and the Virginia General Assembly, and challengers looking to change the criminal justice system unseated two-area commonwealth's attorneys. The Democratic primary in Fairfax County and Fairfax City saw Steve Descano oust incumbent Ray Morrogh. In Arlington County and Falls Church, Parisa Dehghani-Tafti unseated incumbent Theo Stamos; she had about a 400-vote margin, before provisional ballots were counted. In Prince William County, Democrats are picking their candidate to replace long-time prosecutor Paul Ebert. Amy Ashworth topped Tracey Lenox by about a 2-to-1 margin. Another race drawing significant attention in Richmond is former Del. Joe Morrissey's challenge to incumbent Sen. Rosalyn Dance. Morrissey has about 56% of the vote. Morrissey commuted to the General Assembly from jail after being convicted of contributing to the delinquency of a minor for his apparent relationship with his 17-year-old receptionist, who is now his wife.



FBI searches Georgetown home of DC Councilman Jack Evans

DC Council to launch investigation into Jack Evans, remove him as finance chair

June 21 • 9:03a/ 10:03a • 50 seconds / 11:03a/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 1:30

Months after the D.C. Council voted to reprimand Jack Evans over ethics issues, council Chairman Phil Mendelson is launching an internal investigation and plans to strip Evans of his committee chair. The council declined to act until a federal raid on Evans' Georgetown home Friday morning that followed the release this week of details of a Metro investigation that found Evans tried to help a parking company he had contracted with. In a statement, Mendelson said he was appointing an ad hoc council committee to investigate Evans' ethical violations. Mendelson said the council would strip Evans of his role as Finance Committee chair next month. Other D.C. Council members have called for the investigation, or for Evans to consider resigning. On Thursday, Evans said he planned to resign from the Metro Board next week. Evans had already agreed not to seek another year as chairman due to the violation.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

Md. man inspired by Islamic State charged in plot to kill pedestrians at National Harbor

April 8 • 4:05p/ 5:02p/ 6:03p/ 7:03p/ 8:03p • 42 seconds

April 9 • 5:04a/ every hour through 12:04p / 2:03p/ every hour through 11:04p • 1:30

April 10 • 9:02p/ 10:02p/ 11:02p and overnight • 30 seconds

April 11 • 5:02a/ every hour through 11:05a • 45 seconds

A Germantown, Maryland man is charged with plotting to drive a truck into a crowd of people at National Harbor in Prince George's County. Rondell Henry, 28, allegedly intended to drive a stolen U-Haul into pedestrians at the tourist spot, federal prosecutors said in a statement. Inspired by the Islamic State, Henry planned to use the truck as a weapon against "disbelievers," authorities said. At 5 a.m. on March 27, Henry drove the van to Dulles International Airport in Virginia and attempted to find a way through security, said prosecutors, who alleged Henry was looking to kill pedestrians "in a way designed for maximum publicity." After two hours of failing to get past security at Dulles, Henry took the van to National Harbor, where they said he parked it and walked around. Henry then broke into a boat to hide in overnight, according to the charging document. The following morning, police found the stolen U-Haul parked at National Harbor. Prince George's police officers saw Henry jumping over a security fence and arrested him.

The Hunt: The National Harbor terror plot

April 10 • 7:35p / April 13 • 12:35p • 2:00

A major terror plot was broken up in the D.C. area. On this week's edition of The Hunt, WTOP's national security correspondent J.J. Green discusses the case of Rondell Henry, who allegedly planned to kill pedestrians at National Harbor with a U-Haul. Reporter Meghan Cloherty was in the courtroom for Henry's hearing and Prince George's Co. police chief Hank Stawinski outlines how they are combating terror threats.

The Mueller Report Released

April 18 • 11:10a • 30 seconds / 11:30a • 3:35/ 12:31p/ every hour through 11:31p / overnight

After nearly two years, a two-volume, 448 page-redacted version of the long awaited Mueller Report, which was an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential Election, was released. WTOP poured through the copy and provided live interviews and reports with local officials at the bottom of every hour throughout the day. We continued to report comments by all the parties involved over the next several days, including remarks from Attorney General Barr, President Trump and members of Congress. The report said that the President tried to seize control of the Russia probe and force Mueller's removal to stop him from investigating potential obstruction of justice. Mueller laid out multiple episodes in which President Trump directed others to influence or curtail the Russia investigation after the special counsel's appointment in May 2017. Mueller said that charging President Trump with a crime was "not an option" because of federal rules, but he used his first public remarks on the Russia investigation to emphasize that he did not exonerate the president. (Live feed of Attorney General Barr's remarks on WTOP.com)

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Russian gun-rights activist Butina gets 18 months for conspiracy

April 26 • 11:10a • 30 seconds / 11:22a • 2:00/ 12:10p/ 1:10 • 30 seconds
2:33p every hour through 11:31p and overnight • 46 seconds

In a quivering voice, Maria Butina begged for leniency Friday as she awaited sentencing on charges of being a secret agent for Russia. She cast herself as an innocent caught up in a massive geopolitical power game. But a federal judge sentenced her to 18 months in prison followed by deportation. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan sided with prosecutors, who said the 30-year-old Russian deliberately obscured her true purposes while developing backdoor contacts inside the American conservative movement to advance the interests of Russia. The sentence can be appealed and Butina will get credit for her time in jail since her high-profile arrest in July 2018. The case garnered intense media coverage amid speculation over the extent of Russian interference in American politics. Butina admitted last year to covertly gathering intelligence on the National Rifle Association and other groups at the direction of a former Russian lawmaker. Her guilty plea to a single charge of conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent came as part of a deal with prosecutors.



American Taliban fighter released after 17 years

May 23 • 6:40a • 2:15

He has served 17-years of a 20-year sentence for providing support to the Taliban and today the so-called "American Taliban," John Walker Lindh is being released on probation. Conditions imposed recently on Lindh's release make clear that authorities remain concerned about the threat he could pose once free. Lindh, now 38, converted to Islam as a teenager after seeing the film "Malcolm X" and went overseas to study Arabic and the Quran. In November 2000, he went to Pakistan and from there made his way to Afghanistan. He joined the Taliban and was with them on Sept. 11, 2001, when al-Qaida terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. His release is sparking renewed controversy and, in a live morning interview, WTOP National Security Correspondent J.J. Green explains what happens now.



City of Secrets:

June 17 • 5:40a/ 9:42a/ 11:12a/ 1:12p/ 3:33p/ 6:11p/ 8:51p / June 22 • 11:10a/ 7:10p • 2:45

June 18 • 5:40a/ 8:41a/ 10:41a/ 12:10p/ 2:34p / June 22 • 8:10p • 2:38

June 19 • 9:40a/ 11:12a/ 1:12p/ 3:34p/ 5:41p/ 9:50p / June 22 • 9:10p • 2:00

June 20 • 5:40a/ 7:41a/ 10:11a/ 3:11p/6:41p / June 22 • 10:10p • 2:00

June 21 • 5:40a/ 8:11a/ 10:40a/ 12:11p/ 3:11p/ 7:12p / June 22 • 11:10p • 2:00

According to the International Spy Museum in D.C., an educational and historical center of U.S. intelligence documentation and artifacts, there are "more than 10,000 spies in Washington." While there may be some quibbling about the actual numbers, the FBI agrees with the premise. In WTOP's series "City of Secrets," WTOP National Security Correspondent J.J. Green talks to some of the best in the espionage game to find how spies have infiltrated Washington, D.C., and what can be done to catch them.

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ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION



Dozens of homes would need to be torn down under plan to widen Capital Beltway

April 12 • 5:10a/ 6:11a/ 7:11a/ 8:11a/ 9:06a/ 10:02a/ 11:02a • 45 seconds

Dozens of homes would need to be torn down under a plan from Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's administration to widen major highways in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. According to a new report released by the administration this week, 34 homes and four businesses along the Capital Beltway would need to be demolished. In all, around 1,500 properties along the Beltway and Interstate 270 would be "directly affected" in some way. Adding four lanes to both of the highways could reduce delays in the area by more than 30%, according to the report unveiled as the Maryland State Highway Administration launched a series of public workshops during which people can share their opinions and learn more. In all, the administration is considering seven various proposals that include plans for express toll lanes or high occupancy/toll lanes on the highways.



Purple Line construction endangers 66-inch water main in Prince George's Co.

April 16 • 3:03p/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 45 seconds

April 17 • 5:06a/ every hour through 10:06a • 45 seconds

The Purple Line light rail project is being asked to "cease and desist" construction near a major water main in Maryland's Prince George's County. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission says that some of the work is dangerously close to a massive, 66-inch water main along Veterans Parkway that brings water to southern Prince George's County. The WSSC says it has repeatedly told the Maryland Transit Administration to include moving the water main in its plans, but the MTA has ignored them. WSSC said the pipe must be relocated around the rail yard because the utility needs immediate and unfettered access to the critical pipe. WSSC says the main is highly pressurized and would cause significant damage if broken.






Beach Drive reconstruction enters final phase with road closure

April 26 • 12:50p/ 1:33p/2:06p/ 4:22p/5:04p/ 7:40p/ every hour through overnight • 40 seconds

The last phase of the final segment of the years-long rehabilitation of Beach Drive is finally here. Starting 6 a.m. Saturday, Wise Road between Oregon Avenue NW and Beach Drive NW, is closed and will remain closed until the project nears completion this fall, according to the National Park Service. See all the updates and information about the Beach Drive project here. The closure of Beach Drive in northern Rock Creek Park between Joyce Road near Military Road and the Maryland line will remain in place through the completion of the project this fall. The last push of work to repair the scenic byway entails the closure of Wise Road and a small section of Beach Drive within the broader closure, left open as a cut-through for eastbound and westbound traffic. Drivers will need to use Military Road or East-West Highway in Silver Spring, Maryland, instead.

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-  **Rock Creek Parkway shutdown for Kennedy Center work to affect rush hours**
May 7 • 12:03p/ every hour through 10:04p/ 11:11p and overnight • 48 seconds
Part of Rock Creek Parkway will be closed for all of Friday and Monday's rush hours, as well as the weekend. Work to place a pedestrian bridge connecting the Kennedy Center expansion to the riverfront trail will shut down the parkway and trail there from 8 p.m. Thursday to as late as 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, the Kennedy Center and National Park Service said.
The closure Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday will stretch from Virginia Avenue Northwest to near the volleyball courts by the Lincoln Memorial. People driving, biking, running or walking will be diverted along Virginia Avenue Northwest and 23rd Street Northwest, or along the ramps to Interstate 66/Potomac River Freeway.
-  **Maryland drivers warned of license recall, confiscation risk**
May 9 • 2:03p/ every hour through 11:06p and overnight • 54 seconds
May 13 • 1:04p/ every hour through 8:04p/ 9:10p/10:10p/ 11:10p and overnight • 57 seconds
More than 66,000 Maryland drivers could have their licenses confiscated if they don't quickly provide documentation to make them compliant with the federally-mandated REAL ID process. According to Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration, 66,300 are in possession of the newly-designed license, which include a REAL ID star near the upper-right corner, but haven't brought required documents to the MVA by June to complete the process. According to the agency, affected drivers have received three notices by email since December that warn of the June 2019 deadline. They will receive three notices in coming weeks by email and U.S. mail.
-  **Northbound GW Parkway to remain closed for several days while sinkhole repair continues**
May 12 • 11:04a/ every hour through 11:04p • 36 seconds/ 54 seconds
May 13 • 5:03a/ every hour through 11:03p • 39 seconds
May 14 • 1:03p/ every hour through 10:04p/ 11:10p and overnight • 46 seconds
Both northbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway from Virginia 123, Chain Bridge Road, to Interstate 495 will remain closed Sunday. The National Park Service hopes to have at least one northbound lane open in time for the Monday evening rush hour, weather dependent. The National Park Service said on Saturday that they hoped at least one northbound lane would be reopened by Monday, but Sunday's rain slowed efforts to repair the damage. Engineers on Saturday surveyed the scene and said a 60-year-old, 40-foot deep brick inlet appeared to have failed, causing the 10-foot deep, 30-foot long and 20-foot wide sinkhole. After stabilization work is done, one northbound lane will reopen and one lane will remain closed until a long-term fix can be made.

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WTOP Track Work Guide: Summer 2019 Blue and Yellow Line Shutdown

May 21 • 12:04p/ every hour through 8:06p/ 9:12p/ 10:11p/ 11:11p and overnight • 47 seconds

May 23 • 5:03a/ every hour through 11:04a • 48 seconds

May 24 • 5:04a/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 40 seconds

May 25 • 5:04a/ every hour through 5:04p • 40 seconds

All Blue and Yellow Line stations south of Reagan National Airport are closing from May 25 through Sept. 8 in Metro's largest round-the-clock shutdown yet. The closure of the Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn Street, Huntington, Eisenhower Avenue, King Street and Braddock Road stations will provide time to repair platforms and make other upgrades at the stations. After the stations reopen, Metro expects additional single tracking for Blue Line trains to complete platform repair work at Van Dorn Street. During the shutdown, trains will end at Reagan National Airport. There will be rail service between the airport and Pentagon, Rosslyn and downtown D.C. with Blue Line trains running between Largo Town Center and Reagan National Airport and Yellow Line trains running from Reagan National Airport to Mt. Vernon Square or Fort Totten.



Metro tweaks shuttle bus service between Huntington and Pentagon/ Riders react to shuttle changes as Alexandria shutdown continues

June 2 • 7:05p/ every hour through 11:06p and overnight • 47 seconds

June 3 • 5:03a/ every hour through 11:03a • 1:20

June 3 • 12:03p/ every hour through 11:03p • 49 seconds

Looking to recover from a less-than-stellar start to the summer-long Blue and Yellow Line Metro shutdown, Metro announced changes starting Monday to the shuttle buses that run during peak service periods between the Huntington and Pentagon stations. The Huntington-Pentagon Express shuttle will run directly to Pentagon Station from both the south and north sides of Huntington Station. Monday morning was the first time Metro riders could get a feel for changes the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has made to its Huntington-Pentagon express shuttles after a rough start for the Blue and Yellow Line shutdown between the Huntington and Pentagon stations. Riders expressed a range of feelings toward the changes. For some, the sting of last week's debacles are still fresh in their minds.



43K Maryland drivers could have licenses recalled soon

June 6 • 5:05a/ every hour through 10:05a/ 11:10a • 49 seconds

Tens of thousands of Maryland drivers are on the verge of having their driver's licenses recalled and potentially confiscated by the police if they don't provide the state with required documentation that makes their licenses Real ID compliant. In all, 80,000 people were warned about looming deadlines this month, but fewer than half have actually followed through with the state. Roughly, 43,000 still need to provide Maryland with needed information. Now, those who haven't reached out to the Motor Vehicle Administration with the proper documents required by the federal government have until July 3 to do so before their licenses are recalled. If you are pulled over by the police with a recalled license, it will be confiscated immediately.

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Not all Metro's 'free' shutdown parking is actually free

June 26 • 12:10p /1:03p /2:05p/3:04p /4:05p /5:05p /6:05p /7:05p /8:20p/ 9:05p • 46 seconds
Not all parking spots at the Metro stations closed into September are free, despite the announcement from Metro in the run-up to the closure. A WTOP listener got a \$50 ticket June 10 for parking in a Franconia-Springfield spot that normally is reserved during the morning rush for people who pay an extra \$45 per month. (She said she has seen others get similar tickets.) Metro told WTOP Tuesday that the rules for those spaces are still being enforced, even though all stations south of Reagan National Airport are shut down. And if you didn't cancel a recurring reserved pass, you're still being charged. The permits reserve a good spot that you can enter between 2 and 10 a.m. Reserved spaces at Huntington and Van Dorn Street cost \$65 per month, and the same rules apply.

CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Driver charged in crash that killed 6, including 5 children, in Bowie

April 23 • 4:10p/ 5:03p/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 55 seconds

April 24 • 5:03a/ 6:03a/ 7:03a/ 8:03a/ 9:03a • 55 seconds

A 32-year-old mother has been indicted months after a fatal crash in Bowie, Maryland, that killed her six passengers - including five children, two of which were hers. Dominique Taylor was charged with six counts of vehicular manslaughter and six counts of vehicular homicide under the influence in the accident in the predawn hours of Feb. 2, when her SUV veered off Route 301 near Pointer Ridge Drive, in Bowie, and crashed into a tree. Taylor is facing up to 60 years in prison, Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy said Tuesday afternoon. Braveboy said that Taylor's blood alcohol level was at least twice the legal limit of .08.

Man accused in deadly Capital Gazette shooting now enters insanity defense

April 29 • 6:03p/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 46 seconds

After pleading NOT GUILTY, the man accused of killing five people in last year's deadly attack of the Capital Gazette newsroom in Annapolis, Maryland, pleaded not criminally responsible by reason of insanity on Monday. Jarrod Ramos, 38, of Laurel, Maryland, entered a plea of not guilty and not criminally responsible. The state will conduct its own evaluation to determine whether Ramos was not criminally responsible. A doctor independent from the prosecution will write a report with recommendations, and that report will then be sent to defense attorneys, prosecutors and the court. Trial is tentatively scheduled for November, and the Capital Gazette reported Monday that there could in fact be two trials - one focused on guilt, the other focused on criminal responsibility.

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Release conditions set for Coast Guard officer accused of plotting attack

May 7 • 3:34p/ 4:03p/ every hour through 11:04p • 53 seconds

A judge has agreed on conditions for the pretrial release of the Silver Spring Coast Guard lieutenant accused of drafting a hit list of prominent Democrats and stockpiling weapons. U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Day stopped short of ordering 50-year-old Christopher Hasson's immediate release after a hearing in Greenbelt, Maryland. The magistrate is giving prosecutors time to appeal his decision to a district court judge. Day said Hasson must be subject to 24-hour home detention at one of two Virginia homes: either his mother-in-law's rental home or a house owned by his father-in-law. The magistrate also agreed to use global positioning equipment to monitor Hasson. Prosecutors have portrayed Hasson as a domestic terrorist and a racist extremist intent on carrying out massive killings. Hasson's attorney says prosecutors haven't filed terrorism-related charges since his Feb. 15 arrest because they haven't found any evidence to back up those allegations.



Federal Judge blocks release of Coast Guard officer

May 13 • 4:03p/ 5:03p/ 6:10p/ 7:06p/ every hour through 11:04p • 44 seconds

A federal judge in Maryland on Monday blocked the release of a Coast Guard lieutenant accused of stockpiling combat gear and compiling a hit list of prominent Democrats and TV journalists. U.S. District Judge George Hazel agreed to revoke a magistrate's order to free 50-year-old Christopher Hasson from custody while he awaits trial on firearms and drug charges. Prosecutors had appealed and asked Hazel to review the magistrate's order. U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Day decided last Tuesday that Hasson could be released from custody and supervised by relatives in Virginia. But Day didn't order Hasson's immediate release. Instead, he gave prosecutors time to appeal.



DC drug kingpin Rayful Edmond to appear at sentence reduction hearing

May 21 • 7:10a/ 8:05a/ every hour through 12:05p • 53 seconds

May 21 • 7:03p/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 51 seconds

Rayful Edmond III - who oversaw a massive D.C. cocaine ring in the 1980s - is scheduled to appear by video hookup or telephone Tuesday in a hearing in which a federal judge will consider reducing Edmond's life sentence. The 54-year-old Edmond is serving life without parole for drug distribution, with an extra 30 years tacked on for selling drugs behind bars. In February, federal prosecutors in the District filed a motion in court requesting early release for Edmond because of the help he's provided in the government's fight against illegal drugs since he's been in prison. Edmond was arrested in 1989, and sentenced the following year. In the 1980s, Edmond was making as much as \$2 million a week, according to law enforcement. His enforcers were linked to 30 murders, though Edmond was never convicted of any. According to prosecutors, Edmond began cooperating with the government in 1997 and continued until 2014. In those 17 years, Edmond contributed to the prosecution of more than 100 dealers. *UPDATE: A federal judge has set an October sentence reduction hearing for an infamous DC drug kingpin. And the judge has asked the city to determine the potential impact on the people of the District if the man is set free.

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Shooting at Virginia Beach municipal center kills 12

May 31 • Live coverage and status updates 3 times per hour • 1:00 -1:30

5:03p/5:10p/5:31p/6:03p/6:31p/6:50p/7:03p/7:10p/7:31p/8:03p/8:10p/8:31p thru overnight
June 1 • coverage continued 5:04a through the day • 38 seconds

A longtime city employee opened fire in a municipal building in Virginia Beach on Friday, killing 12 people on three floors and sending terrified co-workers scrambling for cover before police shot and killed him following a “long gun-battle,” authorities said. Four other people were wounded in the shooting, including a police officer whose bulletproof vest saved his life, said Virginia Beach Police Chief James Cervera. The city’s visibly shaken mayor, Bobby Dyer, called it “the most devastating day in the history of Virginia Beach.” The shooting happened shortly after 4 p.m. when civil engineer DeWayne Craddock, an employee of the Public Utilities Department, entered a building in the city’s Municipal Center and immediately began to indiscriminately fire upon all of the victims.



Man must serve 9 years for murder, manslaughter in Bethesda tunnel fire death

June 17 • 3:04p/ every hour through 11:05p and overnight • 53 seconds

A Montgomery County man convicted in the 2017 fire death of a 21-year-old who was helping him secretly dig tunnels under his Bethesda, Maryland, home must serve nine years in prison. In April, a jury found Daniel Beckwitt, 28, guilty of second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter in the September 2017 death of Askia Khafra. The 21-year-old had been digging tunnels under Beckwitt’s house for an underground bunker - intended for surviving a nuclear attack - when a fire broke out in the home, which was littered with garbage. Khafra was unable to escape. The victim had worked in the tunnels for days at a time, eating and sleeping in there. The tunnels had lights, an air circulation system and a heater. The judge indicated that the case was closer to an involuntary manslaughter than a murder, but said she couldn’t ignore the jury’s verdict.




Life sentence for killing at Charlottesville protest



June 28 • 3:03p/ every hour through 11:05p and overnight • 1:00

Life in prison, with no chance of parole. That’s the sentence a federal judge in Charlottesville gave James Fields Jr today - almost two years after Fields drove his car into a crowd of counter-protestors at a White Nationalist rally, killing Heather Heyer and injuring more than two dozen others. Fields, a white supremacist, pleaded guilty to 29 hate crimes, in exchange for taking the death penalty off the table. Fields apologized before the sentence was read saying “I apologize for the hurt and loss I’ve caused,” adding, “Every day I think about how things could have gone differently and how I regret my actions. I’m sorry.” Fields’ comment came after more than a dozen survivors, and witnesses delivered emotional testimony about the physical and psychological wounds they had received because of the events that day. Federal judge Michael Urbanski said Field committed a “heinous crime, fueled by hate” and called it an “act of domestic terrorism.” He will be sentenced next month on separate state charges. A jury has recommended life plus 419 years.

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-  **DC residents weigh in on possible sentence reduction of 1980s drug kingpin**
June 29 • 2:06p/ 3:06p/ every hour through 11:21p and overnight • 51 seconds
D.C. drug kingpin Rayful Edmond, whose illegal dealings involved a massive cocaine and crack cocaine ring, could have his prison sentence reduced by a federal judge. At the third and final public comment period Saturday afternoon, D.C. residents shared what they think about that possibility. The opinions of the two dozen or so residents who gathered Saturday range from those who say he should be released, to those who won't mind his release - if he is a changed man - to those who say releasing Edmond from prison is the last thing that should happen. There is still time for residents to weigh in with their comments and concerns. Attorney General Karl Racine says they'll be collecting information until July 12th.

HEALTH

-  **When strep triggers attack on brain, kids see 'terrifying' symptoms**
April 10 • 11:21a/ 4:21p/ 6:21p/ 8:22p/ 10:22p • 2:36
About two years ago, Laura Murdock noticed a sudden change in her son's behavior. Almost overnight, her 8-year-old became anxious, obsessive-compulsive, and in some instances, irrationally angry. What she didn't know at the time, and didn't find out until October 2018, was that a strep infection was causing her son's strange symptoms. And she's not alone. The condition PANDAS, or Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections. According to the NIMH, it occurs when the strep bacteria cause cross-reactive "anti-brain" antibodies to target the basal ganglia, thus provoking neuropsychiatric symptoms. PANDAS Network, an organization that provides support and raises awareness for PANDAS, estimates the disorder affects 1 in 200 children, and most get it before they reach 13.
-  **Confirmed cases of measles in Maryland**
April 15 • 10:22a/ 12:22p/ 1:22p • 1:36
The number of Measles cases continues to rise and extend beyond the hundreds of cases reported in New York. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 465 cases this year. That's the second-highest total since measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. almost two decades ago. We talked about the current outbreak with Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
Second case of measles reported in Maryland, related to first.
April 16 • 5:03p/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 38 seconds
The state of Maryland announced Wednesday that it confirmed two cases of measles among residents this month.
Third case of measles confirmed
April 17 • 5:02p/ every hour through 11:03p and overnight • 51 seconds
April 18 • 5:04a/ every hour through 11:02a • 51 seconds

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Fourth measles case confirmed in MD; possible public exposure

April 19 • 3:04p/ every hour through 11:04p and overnight • 45 seconds

The outbreak is localized to a small area within ZIP codes 21208, 21209 and 21215. People who may have been exposed at other locations are being notified directly. A fifth measles case in Maryland was confirmed in May. The person identified lived in one of the areas already mentioned and officials stressed there were no public exposure concerns.

Hogan calls for investigation of U.Md. handling of adenovirus outbreak

May 30 • 1:03p/ 2:04p/ 3:04p/ 4:05p/ 5:06p/ 6:05p/ 7:05p/ 8:06p/ 10:04p • 51 seconds

Maryland's governor has called for the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to investigate the handling of the adenovirus outbreak at the College Park campus that led to the death of a student. The office of Gov. Larry Hogan said in a statement that the action was prompted by a Washington Post report that campus leadership waited 18 days to tell students and parents about the virus. The virus led to the death of student Olivia Paregol, 18, last November. In a letter to the Board of Regents, Hogan brought up the heat-related death of another U.Md. student, football player Jordan McNair, 19, after a workout last year.

“Unfortunately, I am deeply concerned that the university learned nothing from that troubling and tragic episode.” Hogan cited media reports saying that officials held onto information about adenovirus cases to students and families for weeks.

Virginia investigates possible measles exposure at Dulles, Inova

June 6 • 10:03a/ every hour through 6:03p/ 7:05p/ 8:05p/ 9:05p • 1:01

In the midst of a 27-year high for measles cases in the U.S., health officials in Northern Virginia are warning people that they may have been exposed to a person with measles. The individual visited multiple locations this past weekend: Dulles International Airport in Terminal A and Baggage Claim level; Novant Health UVA Health System Haymarket Medical Center, emergency department; Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Fairfax, Virginia, emergency department, including the waiting area. If you were at one of these locations, the Virginia Department of Health says contact your local department of health or care provider for possible intervention. Measles cases have spiked this year in the U.S. A decade ago, there were less than 100 measles cases a year. Now, just six months into 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report there are nearly 1,000. That is the highest tally since 1992.




Public Service: WTOP Charity of the Month – Tracy's Kids

June 1 – 30 • Broadcast 33 times at various times of day • 20 seconds


The WTOP Charity of the Month is a public service program that highlights a charity's service to our community and raises awareness about a local issue or need the featured charity fulfills. Every month, WTOP broadcasts a 20 second announcement about 8 times per week and provides additional information and support on WTOP.com. The WTOP Charity of the Month of June is Tracy's Kids, a nonprofit organization that uses art therapy to help young cancer patients in the DC metropolitan area cope with the emotional toll imposed by the disease and its treatment. The charity provides individual art therapy sessions with inpatients who might be confined to their rooms, as well as “open studio” sessions where outpatients sit side-by-side as they work on art projects.


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SCHOOL SAFETY AND EDUCATION


-  **After 3 student arrests, backpack policy to change in Charles Co. schools**
April 17 • 5:05a / every hour through 11:05a • 48 seconds
Charles County Public Schools is making a change to improve security. Starting next Wednesday, April 24, all middle and high school students will have to keep their backpacks in their lockers during the entire school day. They won't be able to carry them from class to class or to lunch and principals will make sure students have enough time to get to their lockers between classes. The rule is already in place at several middle and high schools. The change in backpack policy comes after the recent arrests of three La Plata high school students for separate incidents. A 14-year-old and a 16-year-old were charged with bringing loaded guns to school, and a 17-year-old is accused of posting on social media that a school shooting would happen last Friday. It was false rumor, but caused a lot of fear.
-  **Fairfax Co. Schools tackling 'seclusion and restraint' practices**
May 3 • 1:06p/ 2:06p/ 3:21p/ 4:21p/ 5:24p/ 6:21p/ 7:22p • 41 seconds
School officials in Fairfax County, Virginia, are working to address "seclusion and restraint" disciplinary techniques for students with disabilities as they face increasing scrutiny over the issue. During ongoing budget talks this week, the Fairfax County School Board discussed a number of potential changes aimed at improving the way teachers handle children who have disabilities. Restraint and seclusion refers to the practice of physically restraining students, who often have a disability. To limit the practice, board members are considering adding more behavior management teachers, more training for current educators and a special education specialist who would work in the school system's ombudsman's office.
-  **Damascus High School principal resigns from position over JV football rape scandal**
May 7 • 8:03p/ 9:03p/ 10:03p/ 11:03p/ overnight • 38 seconds
May 8 • 5:06a/ every hour through 10:12a • 39 seconds
The principal of Damascus High School in Maryland has announced her resignation effective immediately as a result of the alleged hazing and rape of members of the junior varsity football team at the school in October 2018. Casey Crouse announced her resignation Tuesday in a letter to staff members, students and their families. Crouse has been principal of Damascus High since 2017. She announced that she will be taking another position in Montgomery County Public Schools, but did not specify what it would be. Kevin Yates, the current principal intern at Julius West Middle School, will take over as acting principal on May 13. Before Crouse announced her departure, it was confirmed Monday that Damascus High's JV football coach was placed on leave as part of the ongoing investigation into the alleged rapes. Then, later Tuesday night, a letter to coaches announced that Damascus High athletic director Joe Doody was also put on administrative leave.


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 **Interim Prince George's Schools CEO Goldson named to permanent job**
June 18 • Every hour from 12:03p to 11:03p and overnight • 47 seconds
Dr. Monica Goldson, the interim CEO of the Prince George's County Public Schools, will take the job permanently, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced Tuesday. She has served as the interim CEO since last July, following the departure of Dr. Kevin Maxwell whose tenure was mired in controversy. Alsobrooks made the announcement at a news conference shortly after noon. She called Goldson "a clear-cut choice and a very easy decision." Members of the School Board, County Council and school labor boards joined in the announcement, praising Goldson's selection. Prince George's County is Maryland's second-largest school system. Goldson will have oversight of PGCPs' 208 schools and centers, more than 130,000 students and nearly 19,000 employees.





 **Public Service Announcement: Newseum Free School Admission**
April 1 – May 26 • Broadcast 86 times at various times of day • 30 seconds
WTOP supports and broadcast announcements for the Newseum's free admission for schools program, where students learn about the importance of a free press and the First Amendment, the role of the free press in major historical events, and how the core freedoms of the First Amendment apply to their lives.

BUSINESS


 **Washington Gas wants Maryland rate increase**
April 23 • 9:55a/ 12:55p/ 3:55p/ 4:55p/ 6:25p/ overnight • 15 Seconds
Washington Gas has filed with the Maryland Public Service Commission to increase base rates and charges for its natural gas customers in Maryland. If approved, it would be the second Maryland rate increase in a year. Washington Gas raised residential rates for Virginia customers in January. In its most recent filing, Washington Gas says the rate increase is necessary to cover operational costs and to allow the company to earn its allowed rate of return. If approved, it would raise residential rates in Maryland by 4.6%, adding an average of \$3.51 a month in Maryland residential bills. The new rates would become effective in the December 2019 billing cycle. A year ago, the Maryland PSC approved a 3% increase that went into effect in December 2018.

 **Dulles Greenway Drive 14th Annual Drive for Charity**
April 29 - May 16 • Broadcast 40 times at various times of day • 20 Seconds
WTOP collaborated with The Dulles Greenway for the 14th annual Drive for Charity on Thursday, May 16, 2019, which raised almost \$327k. On this day, 100% of tolls collected are donated to seven local charities and the Dulles Greenway Scholarship Program. The Dulles Greenway has contributed over \$3.3 million in the previous thirteen years. This year's nonprofit beneficiaries were Loudoun Hunger Relief, Loudoun Free Clinic, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, ECHO, Fresh Air/Full Care and the March of Dimes.


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-  **Dominion Energy requests rates changes, plans customer credit in Virginia**
May 8 • 10:55a/ 1:25p/ 3:55p/ 5:25p/ 6:55p/ overnight • 15 Seconds
Dominion Energy customers in Virginia can expect a one-time credit on their bill and two potential rate changes that could result in a net increase of monthly bills. Dominion Energy's one-time bill credit for residential customers in June is the result of savings from federal corporate income tax changes. The typical residential customer will see a credit of about \$33, though the size of the credit depends on a customer's historical energy use. Dominion has also asked the State Corporation Commission to approve two other rate changes this summer. It is seeking a reduction in its fuel rate, which, if approved, would lower a typical residential bill by almost \$3 a month starting in July.
-  **DC-Area home prices hit 10-year high**
May 13 • 9:25a/ 10:25a/ 12:25p/ 3:55p/ 4:55p/ 5:55p/ overnight • 18 Seconds
The median price of a house or condo sold in the D.C. metro area in April was \$475,000, up 5.6% from a year ago, and the highest overall monthly median sales price in the last decade. It was also the 31st consecutive month of year-over-year price appreciation. Listing service Bright MLS says falling sales have reversed course as well. Total volume was \$2.8 billion in April, up 5.9% from a year ago. Closed sales were up 3.3%, the first time year-over-year they rose since last July, and closed sales throughout the D.C. metro region in April were the highest that month has seen in a decade. Even so, with more sales and fewer new listings, the D.C. area ended April with just 7,535 active listings, down 12.9% from last year.
-  **Target's tech trouble clogs stores with long checkout lines**
June 15 • 5:20p/ 6:05p/ every hour from 7:31p to 11:32p/ overnight • 40 Seconds
Right smack in the middle of the last-minute Father's Day shopping, Target stores experienced a technology glitch that stalled checkout lines worldwide for about two hours today -- exasperating shoppers and eating into the retailer's sales numbers. The outage periodically prevented Target's cashiers from scanning merchandise or processing transactions. At times, self-checkout registers were also out of service, causing massive lines in some stores. Rather than risk aggravating its customers, Target temporarily closed some of its stores. The cashiers were back up and running by 6 pm Eastern time. In a statement, the company said a thorough review confirms this was not a data breach or security-related issue, and no guest information was compromised at any time.
-  **George Mason University to consider adding a medical school**
June 20 • 9:55a/ 11:55a/ 1:25p/ 4:25p/ 5:55p/ 6:25p/ overnight • 15 Seconds
George Mason University, the largest four-year public university in Virginia, does not have a medical school, but it might soon. GMU will study the feasibility of adding a medical school to its Science and Technology campus in Prince William County, called Innovation Park, the only university-anchored corporate park in Northern Virginia. Prince William County is providing a \$50,000 grant to support GMU's Medical School Feasibility and Planning Study. The Claude Moore Foundation is also contributing \$200,000 to fund the study. GMU will cover the remaining costs. Preliminary results of the study are expected this fall.

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 **Where are the sellers? Arlington and Alexandria real estate inventory cut in half**
June 28 • 11:55a/12:25p/ 2:55p/ 3:25p/ 4:55p/ 5:25p/ 5:55p/ 6:25p/ 6:55p • 21 Seconds
The housing inventory squeeze continues in Northern Virginia, and nowhere is it more pronounced than in Amazon HQ2's new backyard. Long & Foster's May market snapshot shows that the number of homes on the market in Arlington County in May was down 51% from a year ago. Active listings in Alexandria are down 59% from last May. With considerably less to look at, combined with rising prices, home sales throughout Northern Virginia were universally lower last month. Prices were also generally higher, again in Arlington County. Long & Foster said the median price of what sold in Arlington in May was \$615,500, up 9% from last May. Sellers in Arlington also got, on average, 100.5% of list price.

WEATHER

 **Overnight storms bring heavy rain, high winds to DC area**
April 15 • 5:05a/ 5:31a/ every half hour through 10:31a • 1:00
Drivers during the Monday morning commute may have to dodge some debris from damaging wind gusts and some localized flooding, as severe weather and a tornado watch swept through the D.C. area overnight. Thousands of people are without power as powerful winds pummeled the D.C. region, downing trees and power lines - and may even have spawned a few tornadoes. The area was battered by two rounds of storms in less than 10 hours. Between 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., areas northwest of Interstate 95 experienced the first round of storms. The second storm raked through from west to east between midnight and 3 a.m. The storms initiated a tornado warning in Prince George's, Calvert and Charles counties in Maryland and a slew of severe thunderstorm warnings for most of the region; a tornado watch issued for most of the area was canceled just before 3 a.m.

 **Confirmed tornado in Fairfax County damages homes, cars**
April 20 • 5:04a/ every hour through 11:05p • 1:06
Two storms battered the D.C. area Friday and brought heavy rain, high winds and a tornado. A tornado touched down in Fairfax County, Virginia, on Friday evening, officials confirmed, bringing down trees and power lines in the Reston area - where severe damage led to a home being condemned. On Saturday, the National Weather Service confirmed that the tornado produced a "discontinuous line of damage" along a 4-mile path for about five minutes shortly before 9 p.m. Friday. The tornado was rated as an EF0 tornado, which is relatively weak on the Enhanced Fujita scale, which rates tornadoes on their peak intensity. With peak winds of 70 mph and a maximum wind paths of 100 yards, the tornado traveled from north to northeast. Even though considered weak on the scale, the tornado still left damage in its path.

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-  **Say sneeze! High pollen count plagues DC area**
April 24 • 12:02p/ 1:02/ 2:22p/ 4:22p/ 5:22p/ 6:22p/ 7:22p/ overnight • 45 seconds
It may be a beautiful spring day, but not for those with allergies. The D.C. area experienced an exceptionally high pollen count Wednesday with little relief in sight until rain Thursday or Friday. The worst of the pollen is coming from trees, according to an April pollen and spore report from the U.S. Army Centralized Allergen Extract Laboratory. Pollen from grass is at a moderate level for the D.C. area, while weed pollen is low.
-  **As climate changes, frequent flooding on Md. 450 will only get worse**
May 13 • 5:04a/ 6:04a/ 7:04a/ 8:04a/ 9:04a • 50 seconds
The motto “turn around, don’t drown” is used to dissuade drivers from dangerously forging through floodwaters. Drivers on a highway in Maryland have been doing a lot of turning around in recent years. Maryland Route 450, or Defense Highway, courses through a low-lying, marshy area between Crofton and Annapolis. A portion of the highway near the confluence of three South River tributaries is often submerged after periods of rain. State officials say the flooding is getting worse and indicate that climate change may be playing a role. Over the last year, records from the WTOP Traffic Center database show that the road was closed on at least 60 nonconsecutive days because of flooding. The highway was impassable for multiple days in a row after heavy rainfall events in late July, early August and again in late September.
-  **DC cherry trees damaged during Thursday’s Storms**
May 23 • 5:05a/ every hour through 10:05a • 39 seconds
Strong storms damaged several different kinds of trees on and near the National Mall, including the nation’s capital’s most famous trees. “We saw widespread damage, the heaviest damage from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument grounds and then around the Tidal Basin,” said National Park Service spokesperson Mike Litterst, who walked around the area after the bad weather moved out. Damage seemed to be especially severe in East Potomac Park down to Hains Point. Elsewhere, the National Weather Service confirmed that an EF-1 tornado touched down in Howard County, Maryland. A strong line of strong thunderstorms passed through the D.C. area Thursday afternoon, bringing downed power lines and outages.
-  **Md. tornado was ‘worst thing I’ve ever experienced’**
May 31 • 5:03a/ every hour through 1:03p • 52 Seconds
The National Weather Service confirmed Thursday that a tornado touched down in Howard County, the second one in seven days. A friend warned Angela Butler, of Dayton, Maryland, of a storm headed toward her area in Howard County on Thursday. Then, she looked out the window and saw the sheets of rain and swirling winds, prompting her to head toward her home’s basement. Though her home’s roof was damaged only slightly with a few shingles being blown away, Butler said she couldn’t see her driveway Friday morning. Power lines and trees were toppled over most of her driveway as well as her neighbor’s backyard. On Friday, crews with the National Weather Service continue to determine the extent of the damage in Howard County and assess other areas that may have been affected.

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In Baltimore County, the tornado caused a tree to fall onto a vehicle, critically injuring one person, according to The Baltimore Sun. This is the second tornado in Howard County in a week. An EF-1 twister left damages to houses and uprooted trees last Thursday.



A look at DC hail history after Sunday's storms, from pennies to softballs

June 3 • 3:12p/ 4:11p/ 5:21p/ every hour through 11:22p and overnight • 47 Seconds

Parts of the D.C. region received a rare dose of large and loud hailfall Sunday afternoon. The hail that fell parts of Bethesda, Rockville, and Northwest DC was loud and large, but it was NOT the biggest hail we've ever seen here. The National Weather Service in a swath from Great Falls to Northwest Washington, and from Rockville to Aspen Hill, Maryland received reports of ping-pong ball and golf ball sized hail. The last time golf ball sized hail fell in D.C. was on Capitol Hill in July 2016. Photos posted on social media platforms showed hailstones bigger than quarters shredding leaves off trees and leaving dents in vehicles.



Major Hurricane could cost Virginia \$40 billion

June 18 • 1:20p /3:06p/ 5:21p/ 7:22p/ 8:43p/ 9:12p/10:53p and overnight • 27seconds

If a major hurricane hits southeastern Virginia, it could cause 40-BILLION dollars in losses. Professors at Old Dominion University said in a report that the damage could equate to 40-percent of Hampton Roads' gross domestic product. The puncture to the regional economy could cost 175-thousand jobs and a decline in economic activity if the region's infrastructure and military installations suffer major damage. The Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency compiled the report.



DC area's code orange air quality forecast leads to call for action

June 27 • 2:05p/ every hour through 11:05p and overnight • 51seconds

Code orange air quality is in the forecast Thursday and Friday for the area, which means the air is considered unhealthy for vulnerable groups. Sensitive groups most likely to be affected by code orange days include children and older adults, people with respiratory and heart ailments, and people who are active outdoors. It's recommended that those groups limit time on "prolonged outdoor exertion," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. During the hot summer months of ozone season when there's the greatest likelihood of unhealthy air days, David Snyder, chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Clean Air Committee, said you should do everything you can to keep cars parked. Other tips include: don't gas up during daylight hours; don't use gas-powered lawn mowers; use gas or electric grills vs. charcoal; maintain an energy efficient home.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WTOP broadcast 40 public service campaigns 2,100 times between April 1 and June 30 at various times of day. Each announcement was 30 or 60 seconds.

- 🔊 Al Anon
- 🔊 Alzheimer's Foundation of America
- 🔊 American Red Cross
- 🔊 Carried to Full Term
- 🔊 CASA of Prince George's County
- 🔊 Casey Cares
- 🔊 Code of Support
- 🔊 Congressional Baseball for Charity
- 🔊 Easterseals – Cohen Clinic
- 🔊 Fair Elections (DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer)
- 🔊 First time homebuyer class (Va. Housing Dev. Authority)
- 🔊 Geico Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
- 🔊 Grid Alternatives
- 🔊 Innovations in Flight
- 🔊 Hydrocephalus Association
- 🔊 Kars 4 Kids Hot Cars Safety App
- 🔊 Lupus Awareness
- 🔊 Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic Walk for Wishes
- 🔊 March of Dimes March for Babies
- 🔊 March of Dimes Heroines of Washington
- 🔊 Math Festival (Mathematical Sciences Research Institute)
- 🔊 National Cryptologic Museum
- 🔊 National Federation of the Blind
- 🔊 National Memorial Day Parade
- 🔊 Newseum Free School Admission Program
- 🔊 NOVA Veterans Association
- 🔊 Opioid abuse
- 🔊 Opioid safe drug disposal
- 🔊 Poison Help Line
- 🔊 Sisters 4 Fitness 5k Run/Walk
- 🔊 Smoking cessation
- 🔊 Swim safety
- 🔊 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- 🔊 The First Tee of Greater Washington
- 🔊 Toyota – Takota Airbag recall
- 🔊 TSC National Walk on the Mall (Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance)
- 🔊 Veterans History Project (Library of Congress)
- 🔊 Washington Literacy Center
- 🔊 Women Can Fly
- 🔊 #Without News (Newseum)