

## **Quarterly Community Issues**

2013: January- March

KQNC 6:04 – 6:06 pm Weekdays

### ***January***

#### **MAVS**

01: Two dozen of the best surfers in the world...including 11-time world champion Kelly Slater are headed to the big wave break called Mavericks off the coast at Half Moon Bay. This year's contest is scheduled for Sunday, at the dangerous, rocky break a half mile out. Two surfers are known to have died at Mavericks.

#### **PIPE TALK**

01: A San Mateo County Superior Court judge earlier this week ordered all parties to meet...hoping to avoid an expensive trial. PG&E already has settled dozens of suits and is eager to resolve the outstanding 100 or so lawsuits. If the company went to trial it could face huge punitive damage awards.

#### **CITRUS**

02: Citrus growers in the Central Valley of California appear to have escaped the first cold snap of the season with little or no damage to crops...despite a series of unusually cold nights. The growers' group California Citrus Mutual says temperatures didn't stay low enough, long enough to cause significant crop damage.

#### **TEXT**

02: A state law passed in 2011 bans cell phone use while driving and covers texting or reading from a cell phone, even while stopped in traffic or at a light. The ban carries a 112 dollar fine for the first ticket, with a second offense costing 192 dollars, and a third or subsequent violation costing 352 dollars. Repeat offenders also face demerits on their driving record.

#### **SNOW**

03: A snowy December that kept Sierra ski resorts busy also has California's water managers hopeful. The first official measurement of the Sierra Nevada snowpack yesterday showed four-feet of accumulation, above normal for this time of year. Manual and electronic readings showed the water content of the snow at Echo Summit in eastern El Dorado County at 134 percent of average.

#### **CLIFF**

03: The deal to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff in Washington will bring a reprieve to California's slowly rebounding economy, but uncertainty remains in part because Congress delayed action on federal spending cuts. H-D Palmer, Governor Jerry Brown's finance spokesman, says the agreement helps California avoid sliding back into recession.

## TAHOME

04: The volume of home sales in the Lake Tahoe region went up by 40-percent in 2012. Tahoe City and Incline Village saw the biggest jumps in sales – up 77-percent and 62-percent respectively. Susan Lowe (low) is with the Lake Tahoe-based real estate company Chase International...which released the numbers. She points out – the median price of a home in Lake Tahoe was 315-thousand dollars in 2012. That was down six-percent from 2011.

## FIREBUX

04: The Tahoe-Douglas Fire District is getting federal money to hire firefighters and improve emergency preparedness. The Douglas County agency includes parts of the Lake Tahoe region. It has been awarded \$2.7 million in a grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

## GUNS

07: A California lawmaker has introduced a bill that would regulate ammunition sales. It's among a number of bills designed to reduce gun violence. Democratic Assembly member Nancy Skinner's bill would require ammunition sellers be licensed and report sales to the Department of Justice. It would also require purchasers to show identification. Skinner says the bill would enforce the same control on bullet sales that the state already exercises with guns.

## FREAKS

07: The F-B-I is set to offer an update on its plans to excavate a well site in Central California linked to two serial murderers known as the "Speed Freak Killers." The agency has scheduled a briefing in Sacramento for 10 o'clock this morning. Among other issues, the agency is expected to explain how it would handle any remains and other material it uncovers once it begins excavating the well in the San Joaquin County city of Linden.

## YOCROWDS

08: There's a new draft plan to limit crowding in Yosemite National Park to protect a river that runs through it. The number of daily visitors would be held to approximately current levels. The preferred options for the Merced River Plan were posted on the Yosemite website today. Under the plan, the number of daily visitors would be capped at 19,900. Mule rentals and commercial rafting would be banned.

## ANTHEM

08: Anthem Blue Cross of California is proposing an increase in health insurance rates for small employers. As Capital Public Radio's Amy Quinton reports, the state's Insurance Commissioner says the increase is unreasonable. Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones says the rate increase proposed by Anthem Blue Cross would amount to 10-point-6 percent a year and ultimately affect more than a quarter of a million Californians. But Anthem's Darrell Ng says it amounts to a 7-point-5 percent increase and would initially affect 52-thousand members.

## KINGS

09: Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson says he is convinced the Sacramento Kings are on the market and he wants to put a Sacramento group together to buy the team. Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports. The mayor says *if* the Maloof family is willing to sell the team, then Sacramento needs to have an ownership group ready to buy it.

## UCSPRAY

09: A federal judge has approved a million dollar settlement of the class action suit filed by demonstrators who were pepper sprayed during a protest on the UC Davis campus in 2011. Under the settlement, UC has agreed to pay \$30,000 to each of the 21 plaintiffs...\$100,000 to be divided among 15 other people...and \$250,000 in attorney fees.

## TAFT

10: Police in the Kern County town of Taft say they arrived at Taft Union High School this morning within 60 seconds of reports of gunfire on the campus. A 16-year-old student was shot in a classroom...by another student with a shotgun. Another round was fired at a second student. The blast missed its target, but a teacher was struck the head with a pellet. The wounded student is in critical but stable condition.

## FLU

10: Health officials say there have been two flu deaths in the Sacramento area...and influenza cases are increasing throughout the region. A young man and an elderly patient died in late December. The Sacramento Bee says doctors are beginning to see signs that a flu outbreak is taking hold. Much of the nation is already gripped in an outbreak.

## HITLIST

11: Kern County sheriff's investigators are looking into the possibility that a 16-year-old high school student arrested for a classroom shooting yesterday had been suspended last year for having a "hit list". The boy was reportedly suspended from Taft Union High School when existence of the list was discovered.

## PALMS

11: Nevada gambling regulators are fining the Palms Casino in Las Vegas a million dollars for providing undercover agents with prostitutes and drugs...including cocaine and the prescription painkiller oxycodone. The Nevada Gaming Control Board outlined the transactions today...after agents conducted more than a dozen stings last March.

## NORAPE

14: Some California lawmakers are outraged over a recent appeals court ruling overturning a rape conviction based on the victim's marital status. The case involved a man who impersonated his victim's boyfriend to have sex with her while she was sleeping. An archaic statute says that person is guilty of rape only if the victim was married and the perpetrator was pretending to be her spouse.

## BULLIED

14: 16-year-old student who had been teased by high school classmates over his red hair and social awkwardness has pleaded Not Guilty to two counts of attempted murder. Bryan Oliver appeared in Kern County Superior Court today. On Thursday morning, he opened fire with a shotgun in a classroom at Taft Union High School. One student was critically injured. A teacher sustained a minor pellet wound.

## GALTSHOT

15: A Galt police officer has been killed in the line of duty. Officer Kevin Tonn was responding to a report of a burglary in progress. The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department says the officer saw a suspect about a block from the reported crime scene and confronted him. The two struggled. A second officer responded to the call. The suspect pulled a handgun and shot Officer Tonn, who was taken to a hospital where he died.

## CHARTER

15: A new study finds California leads the nation in charter school growth. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools says California added 81 charters in the academic year that started last fall. That pushed the state's total number of publicly funded autonomous schools to more than 1,000. The study notes that 109 new charters opened in California in the fall, but 28 closed.

## YOGAS

16: Madera County sheriff's detectives are investigating a credit card skimming operation that took place at a gas station on Highway 41 into Yosemite National Park. So far, investigators have found 15 thefts, but they suspect there may have been more...and that travelers who were cheated might not know it yet.

## AIR

16: Sacramento gets an overall grade of "C" for tobacco control and prevention efforts...in a new report from the American Lung Association. For "reducing sales of tobacco products" – the association gives Sacramento an "A" grade...but the city gets an "F" for "smokefree housing."

## AGLAND

17: A new report suggests the most productive agricultural region in California is on track to lose 570,000 of its 6 million acres to development by 2050.

The report from the American Farmland Trust says the loss could drain \$100 billion to \$190 billion from the San Joaquin Valley economy. It projects a doubling of the "urban footprint" created by cities.

## RENOGOF

17: The Nevada Highway Patrol says freezing fog that settled over the Reno-Sparks area early this morning was a contributing factor in more than a dozen traffic accidents during the morning commute. One of the accidents involved a Highway Patrol car. There were 17 crashes between 7:15 and 9:30 and three people were injured.

## SURFSUP

18: The Coast Guard and the National Park Service are advising extra caution if you're headed to coastal beaches this week-end. The weather is expected to be mild...and the waves are expected to be powerful. There's a high surf advisory for much of the Coast through Monday night...and that includes the area around Half Moon Bay, where the Mavericks big surf competition is planned for Sunday.

## NEVTAX

18: Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval is willing to extend some taxes to balance his six-and-a-half Billion dollar budget proposal but says he'll oppose any new taxes in the upcoming Legislature. But Democrats say the Republican governor's initiatives to expand full-day kindergarten and English language learner programs don't go far enough.

## SEATTLE

21: Only a vote by the N-B-A Board of Governors would stop the Sacramento Kings from moving to Seattle. The Kings' majority owners have agreed to sell the team to a group led by Seattle investor Chris Hansen. Art Thiel (TEAL) is a columnist with "sports-press-n-w-dot-com" in Seattle. He says it's an exciting time for basketball fans there who have lamented the departure of the SuperSonics since 2008.

## LEGARREST

21: A Nevada lawmaker has been arrested on suspicion of threatening to harm a fellow legislator in a case that has prompted security for two top legislative leaders. Police say they began a search for Assemblyman Steven Brooks of North Las Vegas on Saturday afternoon after receiving corroborating witness statements supporting the victim's report of a threat.

## CSUBUX

22: California State University officials say they need more money than Governor Jerry Brown's proposed budget offers. They say they need nearly \$250 million more than the Governor has committed to state funding for the next academic year. Assistant Vice Chancellor Robert Turnage told CSU trustees today that the system needs \$371 million to pay for everything from salary increases to maintenance and equipment.

## 49ERS

22: San Francisco police say a dozen people have been cited or arrested following a celebration marking the win that sent the 49ers to the Super Bowl. Officer Gordon Shyy says nine of the 12 incidents in the city's Mission District on Sunday involved public drunkenness. One person was arrested on an outstanding warrant, another for driving under the influence and a third for assault with a deadly weapon.

## PELICAN

23: The California Court of Appeal today ruled that the state's Pelican Bay State Prison must stop race-based punishments, except during riots and other dire emergencies.

The court ruled prison managers were wrong to deprive certain ethnic groups privileges, such as family visits, outside exercise and religious services during long periods of racial tensions.

## ICE

23: The ice on Donner Lake in the Sierra Nevada may look sturdy, but authorities say it's unstable and are warning skaters of the dangers. Fire and rescue officials in Truckee say while it was bitterly cold over the past month, temperatures have warmed and the ice is fragile. They say conditions are similar to five years ago when a skater fell through the ice and drowned.

## TUNNELS

24: In his State of the State address today (Thursday), the Governor said his tunnel project to send Delta water south would serve California for hundreds of years. But, Capital Public Radio's Rich Ibarra, reports Delta farmers say it would only serve water interests in the south. Governor Brown said his proposed twin tunnel plan would avert a disaster in the Delta by ensuring a reliable water supply to the south. But Delta growers and politicians say they intend to fight the governor. Dante Nomellini with the Central Delta Water Agency says the governor's proposal robs Peter to pay Paul.

## SOS

24: California Governor Jerry Brown is coming off a year of political success in which he delivered on a promise to persuade voters to raise taxes and made headway on other long-standing problems, such as runaway public pension liabilities. The Democratic governor's State of the State address today gives him an opportunity to focus on his vision for the state. With tax hikes helping the budget, Brown can turn his attention to other priorities.

## FRESHOSP

25: The second-largest hospital in Fresno plans to lay off 75 people because of continuing economic problems and a declining patient load. St. Agnes Medical Center started notifying employees who will lose their jobs this week. The hospital would not specify where the layoffs would occur. St. Agnes has a staff of more than 2700. This will be the third wave of layoffs in the past four years for the hospital, which is owned by Trinity Health of Michigan.

## CRASH

25: Hawaii Island police say a Sacramento man, his son and grandson were among the five people killed in a head-on collision this week. Police say an autopsy conducted yesterday indicated 73-year-old David Ing-og-lia suffered a medical condition. Police believe this caused him to lose control of the Nissan sedan he was driving, cross the centerline and crash head-on into a Ford pickup truck.

## GAS

28: Average retail gas prices in Sacramento have risen six cents per gallon in the past week. The average cost is now \$3.52, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 720 gas outlets in Sacramento. This compares with the national average that has increased 4.5 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.31.

## VETS

28: Nevada lawmakers are being asked to approve money to build a northern Nevada nursing home for veterans, veterans' spouses and parents whose children have died in combat. Republican Governor Brian Sandoval is proposing a three million dollar feasibility and design study for a veterans nursing facility in the Reno-Sparks area.

## NOSNOW

29: California snow surveyors have confirmed the expected... Winter snowpack in the Sierra has dropped to slightly below average after a relatively dry January. Manual measurements show the water content is 93 per cent of normal. Early-season storms in November and December dropped as much as 44 inches of snow around Echo Summit off Highway 50. Very little has fallen since.

## SFNAKED

29: You're running out of time to skip and go naked in San Francisco. A federal judge has cleared the way for the city's ban on public nudity to take effect on Friday. Judge Edward Chen ruled today that the city's new ordinance prohibiting adults from displaying their genitals does not violate free speech rights.

## CHVFINE

30: The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health has fined the Chevron Corporation a million dollars in connection with the fire at the company's Richmond refinery last August. The fire sent a pall of black smoke and gas over neighborhoods, and sickened hundreds of people.

## SKULGUN2

30: A California lawmaker says a bill he's introducing would protect school children and safeguard the constitutional right to own a gun. As Capital Public Radio's Amy Quinton reports, he's calling the legislation the California School Marshal Plan.

## CALPOP

31: California's Hispanic population is growing. Fast. State demographers say California's Hispanic population will equal the white population in six months...and exceed it early next year. Numbers released today project the state's population will increase to 50 million by 2049. The four-county Sacramento region will increase by about 450,000 to just over 2.6 million by 2030.

## SFBAY

31: The San Francisco Bay estuary has been added to a list of protected wetlands under a 1971 international treaty signed by 163 nations. The designation is meant to limit damaging development along important waterways. It doesn't come with any new regulations, but is intended to increase conservation efforts through international pressure.

## *February*

## CARDS

01: Today, Oakland rolls out a new municipal I-D card that's a debit card too. You can use it to deposit checks, pay bills online and transfer money. It's the first card of its kind in the nation though other cities like L-A are following close behind. The program is designed to solve banking problems common to immigrants and people living on the financial edge.

## LATIN

01: State demographers say California's Hispanic population will equal that of whites within six months and exceed it early next year — a milestone in the country's racial and ethnic shifts. Population projections released by the state Department of Finance show that Hispanics will become the dominant ethnic group in California for the first time. By 2020, demographers say Hispanics will be about 41 percent of California's population, with whites less than 37 percent.

## BROOKS

04: A Nevada assemblyman who's facing criminal charges has been sworn in and seated with his colleagues as the 120 day legislative session begins. Democratic Assemblyman Steven Brooks faces charges that he threatened Assembly Speaker Marilyn Kirkpatrick. He took his oath of office this morning with the other 42 members of the Assembly, but, under a deal worked out with legislative leaders, he will take a leave of absence.

## 49ERS

04: San Francisco police say 25 people have been arrested for public intoxication as the city mourned the 49ers' Super Bowl loss. Police say the number of arrests was from a preliminary count, and a final count wouldn't be available until today.

## BADBROOKS

05: Nevada Democratic Assemblyman Steven Brooks is staying in Carson City longer than he'd promised. Brooks faces criminal charges for making threats against Democratic Assembly Speaker Marilyn Kirkpatrick. After that, he was hospitalized for a mental evaluation. He had reached a deal with Assembly leaders to be sworn in when the Legislature convened yesterday, then take a leave of absence. Today, Brooks pulled out of the deal.

## GUNSURE

05: Democratic lawmakers are proposing legislation that would require California gun owners to buy liability insurance to cover any damages or injuries caused by their weapons. The National Conference of State Legislatures says similar bills have been introduced in other states after the Newtown, Connecticut, school massacre. They include Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New York.

## CABLE

06: Five people were hurt today when a cable car in San Francisco came to a sudden stop in the Nob Hill neighborhood. One of the injuries – an elderly man who sustained a head injury – is considered life-threatening. Four other people were taken to hospitals with less serious injuries.

## CAWATER

06: A new report finds more than half the people of California rely on drinking water contaminated with arsenic, nitrates and other contaminants... but most communities treat or blend their water to make it safe. The report from the State Water Resources Control Board was ordered by the Legislature.



## CAGUNS

07: Democratic legislative leaders today announced 10 new bills they say would make California the most restrictive state for firearms possession. They were joined at the Capitol by the mayors of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

## SEARCHLIGHT

07: The tiny Nevada town where U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was born is up for sale. The most important part of the town of Searchlight went on the market this week with a sticker price of just under \$5 million. The 88-year-old woman who owns the Searchlight Nugget Casino, a motel and a former brothel says she's going to retire to Montana.

## BACKPAY

08: The California Supreme Court says poor performing workers won't get back pay even if discrimination plays a role in firings. The Los Angeles Times says yesterday's 6-0 ruling will likely change the way most bias cases are handled in the state. Previously, employees could receive back pay and other compensation and get their jobs back if they could prove discrimination was a motivating factor in a firing.

## CASINOS

08: December was a good month for Nevada casinos...especially South Lake Tahoe. State gambling regulators report casinos statewide took in a little over 10 percent more in gambling revenues during the month than they did in the same period a year ago. The Nevada Gaming Control Board says casinos won about 943 million dollars during the month, and the state collected more than 39 million dollars based on that amount.

## CHICKENS

11: Andy Cheung and Lien Diep have been charged with felony animal cruelty. They face up to three years in prison and fines of \$20,000 under California penal codes that make it a crime to deprive animals of food and water in a way that inflicts suffering or cruelty.

## PRISONS

11: Governor Jerry Brown has begun aggressively challenging federal court oversight of California's prison system by highlighting what he claims is a costly conflict of interest: The private law firms representing inmates and the judges' own hand-picked authorities benefit financially by keeping the cases alive.

## NVGAS

12: Nevada's average gas price has shot up 38 cents in a single month. AAA statistics released today show the average price was \$3.54 per gallon, slightly lower than the national mark of \$3.60. AAA officials say the dramatic spike in prices comes from more expensive crude oil, regional refinery issues, and a move toward summer-blend gasoline

## QUAKE

12: It's not often that Sacramento feels anything seismic... but it happened this afternoon. The U.S. Geological Survey reports a 5.2 magnitude earthquake this afternoon. It was centered about 45 miles west of Tonopah, Nevada.

## BADBROOKS

13: The state agency that regulates workplace safety says embattled Assemblyman Steven Brooks could be a hazard in the Nevada Legislature. A letter from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to legislative staff says the agency received a complaint of an "unstable and dangerous employee." It asked how legislative officials were handling the situation to ensure a "workplace free of recognized hazards."

## SMEAR

13: A federal judge says he is "dismayed" that California Governor Jerry Brown's administration is questioning the objectivity of the court-appointed master who's overseeing the treatment of mentally-ill prison inmates. Brown has been criticizing what he calls "the prison lobby" that profits from lawsuits filed over substandard conditions in state prisons.

## DICKLEE

14: Dick Lee Pastry restaurant in San Francisco's Chinatown will pay \$525,000 in back wages and penalties...for forcing its employees to work for less than \$4 an hour. Employees there worked 11 hour days, six days a week...and were paid about \$1,100 a month.

## BALLOTS

14: Sacramento County elections officials say they've found more than 400 uncounted ballots cast in last November's election. Registrar of Voters Jill LaVine (luh-VINE) says her "stomach dropped" after the ballots were found in a sealed bag on a warehouse shelf. She says the ballots were placed in a red bag on Election Day instead of the designated pink ones ... because workers at the Natomas Community Center ran out of pink bags.

## DMV

15: The state of California is walking away from a half-finished upgrade of the technology for vehicle registration at the Department of Motor Vehicle. HP Enterprises has been paid nearly \$50 million to date on the project that was expected to cost \$208 million. The Los Angeles Times reports the DMV registration part of the project was stopped because there was little progress.

## DEPOSE

15: A lawyer representing a person claiming abuse by a priest said Friday that an agreement will allow him to question Cardinal Roger Mahony about his handling of the case. The date of the deposition: February 23<sup>rd</sup> ... just before the cardinal leaves for Rome to help select a new pope.

## PUMP

18: Sacramento gas prices continue to go up. The tracking firm gas-buddy-dot-com says they rose nearly 7 cents in the past week to average 3-95 a gallon. Prices at the pump are now about 50 cents higher than a month ago – but right about where they were at this time last year.

## SEAL

18: Some Southern California Drivers had reason to tone down their road rage today (MONDAY) when they realized the thing stopping traffic was a baby seal on city streets several miles from the ocean. Sheriff's deputies did their best to keep the seal out of the street until representatives from Marine Animal Rescue arrived.

## COLD

19: Authorities say a California teen who went missing in South Lake Tahoe on New Year's Eve and was found near a snow bank died of hypothermia, but also had drugs in her system. The El Dorado County Sheriff released autopsy results Monday in the death of 19-year-old Petaluma resident Alyssa Byrne. Officials listed her cause of death as probable hypothermia, and said they found evidence of methamphetamine and multiple psycho-active drugs.

## DEFECTS

19: S-B 161 introduced Monday by Senate Minority Leader Michael Roberson of Las Vegas redefines what constitutes a construction defect, reduces the time in which lawsuits can be filed; and removes automatic awarding of attorney fees. Roberson says existing law has hurt homeowners, homebuilders and the state's housing market because it invites lawsuits.