

Quarterly Community Issues

2019: April – June

KXPR 6:04 – 6:06 pm Weekdays

April

01: PEERSUPPORT

Across California, people who've been through a mental health crisis and come out the other side are using their experiences to help others in that situation - but often without rigorous training.

01: CAPSCHOLAR

A Sacramento program that works to increase the number of minority students who are prepared for college has received a grant of more than a million dollars.

02: WATERMETERS

As of this spring, the city of Sacramento has installed water meters at 89 percent of customers homes and locations. It expects its longstanding water meter program to be completed by the end of 2020 ... which is later than most cities in California, but still ahead of the state's deadline of 2025.

02: ADOPTAROAD

Adopt-A-Road is patterned after the state's Adopt-A-Highway program. Signs will be placed along county roads with the name of the group volunteering to keep them clear of litter. County Supervisor Miguel Villapudua says last year the county spent over one million dollars on cleaning up illegal dumping.

03: CASNOWPACK

California got some good news today [Tuesday] for the state's water supply. The snowpack is well above average. Statewide the snowpack is 162 percent of average. That's thanks to more than 30 atmospheric rivers that brought storms this winter and now spring. The snowpack provides about 30 percent of the state's water supply as it melts and is released from reservoirs. Chris Orrock is with the California Department of Water Resources. He says the April results are usually a sign of what to expect in spring and summer.

03: ELECTROCUTED

We're learning more about the deaths of two Dixon High students who were apparently electrocuted yesterday [Monday] while attempting to rescue a dog from an irrigation district canal.

04: CAPDMV

A California lawmaker wants to close a special DMV office that only serves people connected to the state Legislature or other elected and appointed officials.

04: PFAVOCADO

Avocados are just one of many foods America imports from Mexico.

But with worries about a possible border closure this week, news outlets whipped up fears that this high-demand fruit could run out.

05: FORCEAMENDS

Just days before a showdown in the California Legislature over when police can use deadly force, law enforcement groups are embracing reforms recommended by Attorney General Xavier Becerra after the Sacramento police shooting of Stephon Clark.

05: GUIDELINES

California's Office of Emergency Services has created guidelines for cities and counties to follow when creating or updating their emergency notification systems.

08: SKIBIZ

Heavenly Valley Ski Resort in South Lake Tahoe is sitting on almost 40 feet of snow this month. This year the snow has been plentiful, and so too the number of people coming up the mountain and skiing down the hill. Normally, the ski season here ends in late March, but Stephanie Myers with Heavenly says not this year.

08: ROBOTSURGERY

That's UC Davis Medical Center's Da Vinci surgical robot - the latest model. It's white and metallic, with cameras and surgical tools attached to its mechanical arms. It works like this: a surgeon sits at a console and controls the instruments while looking at the open patient on a screen. The console manipulates the robot a few feet away.

09: KEVINS

The plan to build a 252 million dollar soccer stadium in Sacramento has brought together two people who were on opposite sides of the downtown arena project.

09: BIRDSTREATY

Should protecting California's birds take place at the federal or state level? Democratic Assemblymember Ash Kalra aims to break the link between state regulations and the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act with a new bill.

10: DOGSMF

The next time you fly out of Sacramento International Airport, you and your luggage might first have to pass the inspection of a bomb-sniffing dog.

10: FORCEHEARING

Every year, it seems, there's a bill or two in the California Legislature that grips the Capitol in a way other measures don't. For example: a vaccine mandate for school children in 2015... and the 2017 "sanctuary state" bill. This year, it's the debate over when police can use deadly force.

11: CANNA_DELIVERY

California now allows businesses to deliver cannabis pretty much anywhere in the state. But some local governments are pushing back.

11: JOERGER

The team was actually in playoff contention with a third of the season to go, but then fell flat. They lost 17 of their last 26 and sometimes in spectacular fashion.

12: PELLET

Sacramento Police are saying little about a Sacramento State college student who died this morning after he was shot with a pellet gun.

12: NEWFIRE

Governor Gavin Newsom said today [Friday] he wants the Legislature to find a way to pay for California's devastating wildfires without bankrupting utilities.

15: FIRECARE

With Paradise's hospital still closed due to fire damage, former patients are piecing together medical care at clinics and driving long distances for treatment.

15: EVSINCA

Electric car ownership in California is growing faster than ever according to a new report.

16: PHANTOM

Remote-controlled cars are being demonstrated on the streets of Sacramento this week.

16: GASPRICES

That's industry analyst Dan McTeague [mick-TIG] with gas price tracking firm GasBuddy. If the prediction holds true, it would bring the average price for a gallon of gas in the Sacramento area to around \$4.00. Right now, the average is \$3.87.

17: CAD-GAVIN100DAYS

He's had an eventful start: near-constant battles with President Trump ... and unexpected events like PG&E's bankruptcy.

17: CALIFORNIADREAM

Thompson says maybe that's because of a little thing called the U.S. Constitution: Schwarzenegger couldn't run for president. But it likely won't be the big splashes that make or break Newsom's governorship. It'll be whether he can convince voters that he followed through on his promises.

18: FLAVSMOKE

Sacramento is the latest California location to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, with the passage of a new ordinance by the city council on Tuesday.

18: BEACHBLANK

You only have until the end of the year to see the longest running musical revue in the world. CapRadio's Drew Sandsor says San Francisco's Beach Blanket Babylon is set to close on New Year's Eve.

19: I5CHARGE

These are the providers if you want to localize the copy: Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, Northern California Power Agency, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Public Power Authority.

19: CENSUS

The golden state's population is inching closer and closer to 40 million. All but 15 of the state's 58 counties grew between 2017 and 2018. Riverside County saw an influx of more than 33,000 people. The jump keeps it in the top ten most populous counties nationwide. Los Angeles county still tops that list, despite losing roughly 13-thousand residents.

22: GARAGEDOOR

Some of those who lost their lives in the Camp Fire were trapped when they lost power and couldn't open their automatic garage door.

22: PFKAMALACOST

California Senator Kamala Harris recently claimed that an unanticipated cost of four hundred dollars would mean "complete upheaval" for almost half of American families.

23: POTFELON

Fifty-three hundred people in Sacramento County will likely have their criminal records either expunged or have their felony convictions reduced to misdemeanors.

23: CABFORCE

A police use of force bill backed by law enforcement groups is moving forward at the California Capitol.

24: VAXBILL

The debate over whether California parents should have to vaccinate their children raged on at the Capitol Wednesday. A new bill that could make it harder to skip shots just passed the senate health committee.

24: ORGANICSCHOOLLUNCHBILL

Organic food isn't served in most California school districts...because it costs more. But a bill moving through the legislature would launch a pilot to help schools buy organic food.

25: CANNARETAIL

A California lawmaker has a plan to take on so-called "pot deserts"—areas where cannabis sales are banned by local governments.

25: LGBTSENIORS

Older LGBT adults are more likely to be single and childless than straight seniors. California advocates are pushing for supportive options for this group, including more LGBT-friendly housing complexes to help stave off loneliness.

26: SOLBLUME

The music festival business is booming ... which means smaller, "boutique" festivals are making their way to the Sacramento region.

26: MUSIC

The second annual Sol Blume [soul bloom] festival will return to downtown's Cesar Chavez Park on Saturday ... it's an intimate gathering that the founders say belies the city's rock and roll reputation.

29: BETOCA

Former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke is hoping the Golden State will bring a fresh spark to his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

29: NEWOLDSAC

The city of Sacramento says it has at least 35 million dollars to pay for major changes to the waterfront in Old Sacramento and the city now has artist renderings to give the public an idea of what the new old town might look like.

30: WOLVES

The Trump Administration wants to strip federal endangered species protections from gray wolves, even though a state judge ruled earlier this year that the gray wolf should remain protected in California.

30: FARMLABOR

The survey showed that almost 6 out of every 10 farmers were unable to hire enough workers at some point in the last 5 years. And many of those farmers said shortages were worse in 2017 and 2018 even though 86 percent of farmers said they had raised wages.

May

01: STOCKEVICT

People with shopping carts, laundry baskets, and the occasional pickup...all overflowing with blankets, furniture, tarps and clothes. As they struggle to remove what they can, county garbage trucks roll in to empty garbage bins and sheriff's work crews in orange jumpsuits arrive to begin picking up trash.

01: MAYDAY

California Governor Gavin Newsom is creating a new commission to study the future of work ... and prepare the state for fundamental economic changes such as automation.

02: FIREYEAR

Fire season this year in California is expected to be more active than average. Experts with the National Interagency Fire Center say the state's wet winter is to blame.

02: PFSWALWELL

California Congressman Eric Swalwell qualified this week for the Democratic presidential primary debates.

03: HSRFEDS

The Trump administration has cut off all communication and cooperation with the California High-Speed Rail Authority — including freezing all environmental review, engineering and safety work dating back to last year.

03: THEATERREVIEW

The Sacramento Theater Company is staging a campy parody of 1970s disaster films.

06: BREASTPUMP

Advocacy groups say Medi-Cal should be providing women with better breastfeeding pumps. They're asking for \$7 million dollars in the governor's next budget.

06: FOODWASTEFUNDS

CalRecycle announced this week [THURS] it's granting 11 million dollars to food banks, agencies and companies working to keep surplus food out of landfills. Local: CapRadio's JM says Sacramento and Yolo food banks will see some of those funds.

07: JAILBIRDS

Life inside the Sacramento County Main Jail for women inmates is the premise of "Jailbirds," a new documentary series debuting on Netflix this week.

07: GOVWOMEN

Governor Gavin Newsom was flanked by stacked boxes of diapers and tampons. He wants to eliminate the sales tax on both items, to make life a little easier for parents, especially women.

08: LAYOFFS

The Sacramento City Unified School District is laying off more than 170 teachers and other certified employees.

08: DYNAMEXRETRO

The California Supreme Court's Dynamex [Die-NAM-ics] ruling narrows the definition of who is an independent contractor.

09: MAYREVISE

More emergency homelessness aid for cities and counties ... and a new focus for money intended to spur housing growth.

09: PESTICIDEBAN

California Governor Gavin Newsom's administration is moving to ban a contentious pesticide that's widely used in agriculture.

10: HEALTHBUDGET

People who buy insurance through Covered California could get more financial help under Governor Gavin Newsom's latest budget.

10: MOTHERSDAY

More phone calls are made to moms on Mother's Day than any other day of the year, according to AT&T, ringing up 152 million times. And Americans will spend 25 billion dollars on mom with the most popular gift being a Mother's Day card...a whopping 152 million greetings. And of course, there're flowers...one-fourth of all flowers during the year are purchased for Mother's Day.

13: NVOPENPOT

The new law makes public the identity of marijuana license applicants...and the method the state uses to score and rank the bids. Nevada's licensing process has faced complaints from companies who say it is not clear what criteria officials use during the process. In lawsuits, the companies accuse the state of unconstitutionally picking winners and losers.

13: HEALTHPREPARE

When it comes to natural disasters, disease outbreaks and terrorism attacks, California may be slightly less prepared than the rest of the nation.

14: SCOOTERDATA

With shared bikes and e-scooters cropping up across California, a recent proposal could expand the number of cities that collect ride data from those companies.

14: TINYBOTTLES

An Assembly bill could expand this practice. Under the proposal, cities could require companies to hand over ride data if they want to do business there. The proposal has drawn criticism from privacy advocates, like the Electronic Frontier Foundation. In response, the bill was recently amended: Cities could request only aggregate data that has been scrubbed of identifying information.

15: ALMONDCROP

California's almond crop is expected to set a new record of two and a half billion pounds...almost a 10 percent increase from last year.

15: CANNABISTAX

Recreational marijuana was supposed to be a cash cow for California. But the state expects to bring in less cannabis tax revenue than anticipated—a lot less.

16: PARCEL

The Sacramento City Unified School District announced today it has reduced its deficit for next year from 35 million dollars to less than 20 million dollars and could pay for that out of the district's reserve fund. But that still leaves a growing deficit in future years.

16: HSRTRUMPED

The Trump administration says it's terminating a federal agreement with California's high-speed rail project and taking away nearly a billion dollars in funding.

17: STEMGRANT

The National Science Foundation has awarded almost 1 and a half million dollars to University of the Pacific to recruit and prepare students majoring in STEM which stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. The goal is train 20 new teachers over the next 5 years.

17: RADIOBIZ

A co-working space in midtown Sacramento could be in legal trouble. The Sacramento Business Journal's Sonya Sorich joins us now to talk about that story and more business news.

21: SILVAPLEA

Former Stockton Mayor Anthony Silva has pleaded no contest to a single felony in a plea deal involving an investigation into his role as city leader and director of a kids club.

21: GOLDSOX-SS

A summer league baseball team for college players was a fixture in the Yuba-Sutter community. It folded last year...but has been brought back to life in part by the family that ran it during its heyday.

22: RECIPIENT

In February, 125 families in Stockton started receiving 500-dollars a month as part of a controversial guaranteed basic income program.

22: HRSUIT

California is responding to the federal government terminating cooperation and funding for the state's high-speed rail project with yet another lawsuit against the Trump administration.

23: BILLROUNDUPTRAX

Democratic Senator Jerry Hill withdrew his bill to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products in California, citing hostile amendments, such as exemptions for hookah lounges. Public health officials worry these products entice kids and teens, and several cities have tried to ban them.

23: PFKAMALAFLOP

As the state's attorney general, Harris repeatedly said she favored local prosecutors keeping their authority to investigate police shootings ... She also did not support a bill at the Capitol that would have required her office to appoint a special prosecutor for those cases.

24: VIDEO

Sacramento Police are dealing with another accusation of police brutality. It comes after the release of video showing officers arresting a 12-year-old African American boy.

24: TAHOECLARITY

Lake Tahoe's clarity measured 70-point-nine feet last year...that's ten-and-a-half feet better than the all time low set in 2017.

28: EMPLOYEE TRAIN

California law will require sexual harassment training for nearly every employee across the state, starting next year. But this may pose challenges for large institutions—including state government.

28: DIRTY PARKS

Dirty air in several of California's most popular national parks is causing health problems and obscuring scenic views.

29: AS GOES CALIFORNIA

Fourteen Democratic presidential candidates will campaign in the same state this weekend. Not Iowa, or New Hampshire ... but California. The state moved its primary up to early March, and starting tomorrow [FRIDAY], California Democrats will gather at their party's convention in San Francisco.

29: HANSEN

For this week's council meeting, there were four possible scenarios of how the city could pay for housing, job, and youth programs and how much debt that would incur in the future. But then came a new proposal from Councilman Steve Hansen. "I am recommending here mayor that we look at \$125 million in bonding, broken into three categories." The sale of bonds would put 50 million each toward affordable housing and economic development and \$25 million for facilities and parks. Under Hansen's plan a second year of bond offerings could also take place.

30: GAGATEENS

Lady Gaga wants teens in California — and nationwide — to get better access to mental health help.

30: PRECADEM

For one weekend, at least, the 2020 presidential campaign is coming to California. Fourteen Democratic candidates are scheduled to address the state party convention in San Francisco this weekend.

31: STEINBUX

The mayor's list of 21 projects includes expansions of existing city collaborations like Summer Night Lights and the Thousand Strong workforce development program. It also includes a new sports complex in Del Paso Heights and free Sac RT bus rides for kids. The money would come from a \$50 million pot of mostly Measure U money, even though a citizen's advisory panel for the spending of Measure U has not made recommendations as to how it should be spent.

31: CHARTER BILL VOICER

Efforts by the California teachers union to curb charter school growth have stalled in at the Capitol this week. This comes after Governor Gavin Newsom indicated a willingness to explore charter school reforms.

Jun

03: CADEMKAMALA

California Democrats have wrapped up their state party convention in San Francisco, where they heard from 14 of the 23 declared presidential candidates.

03: CHAIRELECT

California progressives saw the vote for a new state party chair as a chance to push the party to the left—and increase diversity in leadership.

04: PRIDE

Organizers of Sacramento's L-G-B-T Pride event are banning uniformed police officers from taking part in this weekend's parade and other festivities.

04: UPATIENCE

Voters in the city of Sacramento approved a half cent sales tax hike last year, and already, there are complaints the 47 million dollars in new revenue isn't being spent fast enough or where it should be.

05: OPEDIBLEPARK

There are 6 thousand vacant lots in the city of Sacramento. In Oak Park, neighbors and community groups are slowly transforming one into an "edible art garden."

05: GQINTERNMENT

In 1942, the federal government forced more than 7,000 Japanese Americans in Sacramento area to leave their homes and move to incarceration centers.

06: IMPOSSIBLE2FIND

If you haven't tried one, it's hard to impress just how much the latest version of the Impossible Burger mimics ground beef. But it's entirely plant based. California restaurants were among first to adopt the burger and remain its top retailers.

06: PPICIMPEACH

When House Speaker Nancy Pelosi addressed the California Democratic Party convention over the weekend, delegates interrupted her with shouts of "IMPEACH!" But a new poll shows that calls for President Trump's impeachment are out of step with a majority of Californians.

07: PGEWILDFIRE

Forecasters have issued a fire weather warning through Sunday, predicting hot, dry, and windy conditions starting today [FRI]. Gusts could hit 45 miles-an-hour in some areas ... and humidity levels could drop to just 10 percent. PG&E says it may turn off power over the weekend to some areas in an effort to reduce the risk of sparking a wildfire.

07: JUNEFIRE-WRAP

A new fire season officially began this weekend with several fires in northern California. P-G-and-E also turned off electricity in communities that experienced high fire conditions.

10: PFTARIFF

California Senator Kamala Harris recently claimed President Trump's tariffs are taking more than a billion dollars, every month, from America's working class.

10: PRIDEPOLICE

It's Pride Month, and celebrations are happening all over the country, a lot of them also marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, when New York police raided a gay bar. The patrons resisted, and a movement was born. In Sacramento, there was a heated debate over whether to allow police officers in uniform to participate in this past weekend's Pride events.

11: SCUSDPROBS

On Thursday, the Sacramento City Unified School District board is scheduled to approve a new budget for the next school year, but none of the parties involved are celebrating.

11: MERGER

T-Mobile wants to acquire Sprint. California Attorney General Xavier Bererra and A-Gs from 9 other states filed a lawsuit today [Tuesday] to block the proposed merger.

12: CALGANG

California's Department of Justice is preparing to take over the database that tracks potential gang members. Some civil rights groups say the move could perpetuate biased policing.

12: BURTON

The city renamed Richfield park after the Star Trek and Reading Rainbow star, who once lived in Meadowview. City leaders touted the actor as an example of how folks from less affluent neighborhoods can live happy, successful lives. But Burton said people also need a clean environment and family support to thrive.

13: BGTSUBSIDIES

California lawmakers are expected to approve a state budget tomorrow [THURSDAY]. It would make the state the first in the nation to help middle-class consumers purchase health insurance on Covered California. That's the state's health insurance exchange created under the Affordable Care Act.

13: PRISONPOTRULING

A California court has ruled state prison inmates can possess a small amount of marijuana without fear of prosecution...as long as they don't consume it.

14: HOPECLOSET

Thousands of students in Sacramento don't have access to nutritious food, clothing and stable housing. The city's main school district has 28 support centers that aim to connect students with social services and other resources. But now that the district has eliminated the job of a key coordinator, those efforts may suffer.

14: GALLOTOPS

Gallo of Modesto tops the list of employers in the Central Valley. Gallo came in at number seven statewide ... among California-based companies ... with In-N-Out Burger taking the top spot.

17: POSTMATES

Gig companies and labor unions have long had a contentious relationship. But legislation in California that could reshape the gig workforce is bringing the two sides to the negotiating table.

17: EARLYMONEY

California will subsidize preschool and childcare for thousands of additional low-income families in the next fiscal year.

18: WNVIRUS

West Nile Virus can bring on symptoms like the flu, but it can also be fatal and last year 11 people in California died from the disease. Also, over 200 people in the state were diagnosed with the virus which was actually the lowest figure since 2011. But Aaron Devencenzi with the San Joaquin County Mosquito Control District says the infection rate can vary quite a bit from year to year.

18: SACPANIC

Hotel workers in the city of Sacramento may soon have the ability to hit a panic button if they feel threatened on the job.

19: DIVERSITYPROB

California's Attorney General is responsible for representing the people in court. But the office isn't nearly as diverse as the state it represents, and this may leave the legal needs of some Californians ignored.

19: PFRAINBOWFLAG

A rainbow flag celebrating L-G-B-T-Q Pride is flying above California's Capitol all this month. Governor Gavin Newsom said this week it was raised for the "first time in our state's history."

20: DIMPLE

Sacramento-based retail chain Dimple Records has announced its closing all 7 of its stores ... including sites in Roseville, Folsom and Citrus Heights.

20: MOREBIKES

Starting next month, as many as two-thousand shared electric bicycles and scooters will be available on Sacramento streets.

21: RAMOSCHARGE

The Sacramento District Attorney's Office has filed felony murder charges against the man arrested for killing a Sacramento Police officer Wednesday.

21: SCHOOLBUDGET2

Sacramento City school board members were up late last night passing a budget plan for next year.

24: NOPLASTIC

The big idea is to stop companies from making single-use plastic products in the first place. Ashley Blacow-Draeger of the environmental group Oceana says doing so could help improve the health of waterways and humans.

24: KINGTHIEF

A former Sacramento Kings executive was sentenced to seven years in federal prison today [Monday] for embezzling more than thirteen million dollars from the N-B-A team.

25: BGTHEALTH

California is poised to reinstate the individual mandate to purchase health insurance that President Trump and congressional Republicans ended two years ago.

25: DELEGATEBILL

The California Democratic Party could soon let undocumented immigrants serve as delegates.

26: NUHOMESCOUNT

A study of Sacramento County's homeless population shows nearly 56 hundred people were on the streets or in shelters at the end of January.

26: FINALBGT

California Governor Gavin Newsom has until midnight to act on his first state budget.

27: RESILIENCE

A worldwide brewery campaign to support survivors of California's deadliest and most destructive wildfire ... has raised more than 8-million dollars.

27: PTSDSONG

Today is Post-Traumatic Stress-Disorder Awareness Day. Cap Radio's Rich Ibarra tells us a Lodi man appears in a YouTube video with a song that speaks to the problem.

28: BGTTHOUSDEAL

Governor Gavin Newsom has reached an agreement with Democratic legislative leaders on how to incentivize local governments to build more housing.

28: ADMISSIONPLEA

A Folsom accountant at the center of a college admissions scandal in which wealthy parents paid to get their kids into elite colleges has pleaded guilty to a racketeering charge.