



MEMORANDUM

**TO: KNVA Public Files
Licensee: 54 Broadcasting, Inc.**

**RE: Issues and Programs Report – First Quarter 2016
January 1 – March 31, 2016**

DATE: April 6, 2016

The major significant problems and needs of the Austin community are:

Crime
Education & Family Values
Government & Politics
Health & Safety

Attached are examples of local news reports, public service efforts, local programming, and syndicated programs that have addressed these issues.

PROGRAMS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

NAME OF PROGRAM	DAYS AIRED	TIME AIRED
Austin News	Monday - Friday	7:00 – 9:00 AM
Austin News @ 9	Monday - Sunday	9:00 – 9:30 PM

This program is produced locally and is a mix of news, weather and sports. All stories generally air for between 30 seconds and two minutes. All stories aired during KNVA's 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. newscast.

CRIME

1/12/16 Dripping Springs Break-in

Duration 1:10

"She is a mother of three. She's got a nine year old son and two teenage daughters, ages 14 and 17. Her husband was not home at the time, but all of the kids were. She told me "He wasn't going to get past me to my children." Out in the country, and off the beaten path Randall Dorsett decided to pull into their driveway Monday night. The family who lives here says it should be very clear now that these signs on the property are no joke. One of the 14-year-old daughter's is the first one who spotted him. The mother called 9-1-1 and said he tried to get in the front door, but it was locked. So he busted out the window in the garage and walked into the kitchen. The mother was waiting in the dark with a phone in one hand and a 44-magnum handgun in the other. At least twice she told the man "identify yourself and then said "Get out of my house. I have a gun. I will shoot you." She kept saying "get out" over and over, and when he wouldn't leave took one shot with one hand hitting him in the stomach. Taylor Tatsch, a neighbor said "she was very brave and did exactly what you should do in that situation." And it is still a mystery as to why this man picked this house. Today the sheriff says investigators have no clue and the family has no idea either.

1/18/16 ATX Sex Assault

Duration 1:00

Just a few hundred yards away from where the attack happened early in the morning stands a playground. Carlos Gonzales and his son ride their bikes here. "It's usually not packed. It's always comfortable." "Many parents say they like the quiet and seclusion of this park. But they're also concerned it's next to this wooded area with little light and much to hide behind." With kids around, Gonzales has noticed. "Well the kids section is always next to the brush back there. I'm always wondering what could be in there whether a person or an animal. What could be back there?" And the daylight attack ramps up nerves here at the park. "It makes me nervous to bring the kids out here for sure." "I'm really surprised for that at ten in the morning the sun's out. But like I said, this park is usually kind of empty." Police do have this surveillance footage to go off of. It's from the northeast side of the ACC Riverside campus. Here the suspect is seen running away from the park through campus. And these parents hope he's caught.

1/20/16 Gas Station Raper

Duration 30

Austin Police say DNA led them to a sex assault suspect who was not legally in the country. 34-year-old Jose Carranza-Rubio was arrested by border patrol agents three months after an assault he's accused of. Police say Rubio grabbed a woman near a gas station at I-35 and St. Johns, and then raped her in a nearby wooded area. Neighbors say that corner is where a lot of people looking for work come and go and that the wooded area has long been a problem spot. Larry Johnson, a neighbor, says that he thinks it is a safety issue. It is bad for their business. "Carranza-Rubio" is already in federal prison serving his time for illegal entry. He's expected to be released next month.

1/22/16 ATX Rock Throwing

Duration 25

We are still working to learn more about a new rock throwing case on Interstate 35. Austin police say it happened just before 11 this morning. Officers say a rock damaged the windshield of a car going southbound on eye-35 near the Dean Keeton exit. Luckily - nobody was hurt. Ten days ago, Austin's Police Chief Art Acevedo offered a ten-thousand dollar reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in these rock throwing cases along I-35.

1/31/16 Man Arrested After Chasing Car with Knife

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One man was arrested on Saturday after victims say he threatened them with a knife and chased their car. Marvin Cortez, 32, has been charged with Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, a 2nd Degree Felony. According to an Austin Police Department arrest affidavit an APD officer was dispatched to the 830 block of Fairfield Drive on Saturday for a hotshot call, with the caller stating that a man was threatening his wife with a folding knife. When the officer arrived on scene he spoke with the caller who identified the suspect at the scene. The caller told the officer that they were driving to an apartment complex when they noticed Cortez walking in the middle of the road. After visiting a family member's apartment they returned to their car to find Cortez taking photos of the vehicle. After a brief argument the caller and his wife entered their car as Cortez walked away. As they were sitting, Cortez returned to the scene holding a knife and yelling at the wife to get out of the car, before making stabbing motions at the car and trying to open the passenger door. The couple then began to drive away and call police. They noticed Cortez running after their car. As they reached the entrance of the parking lot they noticed the responding officer arriving on scene who they then identified Cortez too and explained what had happened. Cortez, who identified himself as Marvin Guzman, told police that the couple had almost hit him as they drove by. He then went to take photos of the car when they returned and began arguing for a moment. After questioning Cortez about his history and finding no records of a Marvin Guzman, Cortez finally admitted his real name to the officer and did not answer to why he lied about his name. Cortez then stated that he had brought a rock, not a knife, to the vehicle, and that he had been returning from the grocery store when the car almost hit him. Officers then spoke to the couple again, after which they questioned Cortez about his grocery story as he did not have a wallet or other items on his person at the time. After more questions the officer claimed Cortez became frantic and uncooperative before finally saying "JUST TAKE ME", and that he did not want to talk anymore. According to APD Cortez had previously been arrested in 2014 for assaulting someone with a box cutter knife.

2/23/16 Colton Turner Murder Trial

Duration 1:20

It's a memory Diane Battles will never erase which is the last time she babysat Colton Turner. "He was playing under my kitchen sink because that was his favorite place to play. We'll never get to hear about his first day of school, never get to see him ride a bike, they stole a lot from us."

Diane was Colton's great aunt on his biological father's side. She's been at every court appearance for Meagan Work and Michael Turner. "We were told they both were going

to go to a jury trial, and then my sister got a phone call today from the DA saying Mike had been offered a plea deal of 20 years and he accepted it." Twenty years in prison, and he will be eligible for parole. Diane says her family told the DA if it came down to a deal they wanted 50 years without parole. "We want people to know that it's not ok to kill your children and throw them away. They need to pay for what they did to Colton." Police say Turner is the one who told the truth about Colton's death, and led investigators to his body. A local defense attorney, not connected to the case, says that could explain a lot. According to Amber Vazquez Bode a Criminal Defense Attorney "It is very common for that defendant to be offered the best deal out of multiple co-defendants in the case." While it's out of their hands at this point, Colton's family is counting on someone else to take it from here. "We do know one day he's going to have to face the real judge and he's gonna pay. Colton will then get his justice."

2/24/16 Shooting at APD Chopper

Duration 40

For the first time we're hearing from an Austin Police helicopter pilot who was able to minimize the threat against him and bring everyone on board home safely. APD SWAT Officer Luke Serrato fired the shot that dropped the suspect as he took shots at police helicopter Air 1. That shooter was identified as 27-year-old Sawyer Flache. Flache was reportedly sitting in the middle of the street with a rifle in his lap and other weapons on him. APD decided to dispatch the chopper after officers close to Flache heard gunfire as he shot out street lights. And not long after that, the man turned his ammo on the chopper. At that point, it was in the pilot's hands. It is believed to be the first attack ever on an APD chopper. Pilot Ryan Miller began moving about, changing his speed and altitude. The fiberglass composite chopper skin doesn't offer much protection. It ended after more than an hour, a very long hour. Pilot Miller says he is glad Officer Serrato was cleared and with that prepared for his next shift, patrolling our skies.

2/26/16 Westlake Investigation

Duration 30

There are new developments tonight in a sexual assault investigation involving West Lake High School students. Today Westlake Hills Police said they're awaiting test results from the Department of Public Safety before making their next move. Officers say the investigation is on hold until those test results are returned which could take months. Police also say they've conducted a thorough investigation into the incident. In December, we told you about an alleged sex assault at a home in Westlake Hills. The Eanes Superintendent also sent out a letter warning parents about an incident that may have jeopardized student safety.

3/3/16 Alexander Ross Abuse Case

Duration 45

A dentist who sexually assaulted child patients, 17 years ago will finally spend time in prison for his crimes. Alexander Ross was charged back in 1998 for sexual assault and indecency with some of his patients. Ross avoided prosecution until the FBI found him in Panama in 2013. Even though he faced a maximum of 99 years- he reached a deal to plead guilty to aggravated sexual assault. In exchange, he got a seven year sentence. His attorney said factors like the age of the case, victims moving on in their lives and Ross'

failing health are some of the reasons for the short sentence. Mindy Montford, his Defense Attorney said "Mr Ross has had health issues over the years and has been sent to the hospital on two occasions while in custody. He's also had two heart attacks so his health is very severe. A charge for practicing dentistry without a license was dropped as part of Ross' plea deal.

3/9/16 Immigrant Crime

Duration 40

Many people cite the risk of violent criminals as a reason for more resources on the border. The case of Juan de Luna Vasquez is one example. Police in Laredo say he beat and strangled his former wife last July killing her. Vasquez had a record of violent crime and had been deported four times. But police say he was still able to cross the border and was in the country illegally when he killed his ex-wife. Still, statistics show people in this country illegally commit fewer crimes than U.S. citizens. According to the Pew research center, 1.7 million people are here illegally in Texas. That's 6.3 percent of the total population. Numbers compiled by our media partner the Texas Tribune show only 4.6 percent of people in Texas jails are here illegally.

3/9/16 APD Shooting Guidelines

Duration 40

Supporters of "David Joseph" are calling on the officer who killed him to be fired. It's been a month since the deadly shooting. Police say 17-year-old Joseph was naked and charged the officer. Tomorrow the investigation advances to the Citizen Review Panel that will examine what happened. The co-founder of the Austin Justice Coalition says he also wants to see more widespread change. "Whatever we need to get better as a community and fix the relationship between the community and cops." Tonight at ten, we look at new national recommendations for police use of force. And KXAN Investigator Kevin Schwaller shows us why critics say it could lead to officers getting hurt.

EDUCATION & FAMILY VALUES

1/10/16 Rachel Cooke Vigil

Duration 40

Today makes fourteen years and still no trace of a missing Georgetown teenager. At this hour family and friends are gathering to remember Rachel Cooke. They are meeting around a tree planted in her memory, at the Georgetown High School Annex. Rachel was last seen in January of 2002, jogging near her parents' home in rural Georgetown. The Williamson County Sheriff's Office says this is an open case, and they'll continue to follow up on all leads. Family members hope someone who knows what happened to Rachel will see this report and call police. Coming up tonight at KXAN News at 10, we speak to the mother of another Central Texas woman who disappeared years ago, and who still hasn't been found.

1/12/16 Two Free Years of College Awarded Teacher

Duration 30

A woman from Austin was in the spotlight tonight at the President's State of the Union address to Congress. When the President was talking about pushing for two free years of Community College for responsible students, NBC cameras panned to the crowd. ACC student Jennifer Bragdon was invited by Dr. Jill Biden the wife of the Vice President to attend the address. She's studying to be a middle school teacher after going back to college. As Steve Handelsman reports, that was just one of the points the President wants to push in his final year in office.

1/13/16 Homeless Issues

Duration 20

You may see them on your way to work, or in parks, homeless people panhandling, or sleeping under overpasses. People in a South Austin neighborhood say they're concerned the problem is getting worse in their backyards specifically the Ben White Corridor. While Austin Police tell KXAN's Amanda Brandeis they believe the problem has improved over the years, it's clear a lot more work needs to be done.

1/17/16 Wimberley Tree Planting

Duration 1:00

"We're going to grab tools." Reminders of a deadly flood still stand along the Blanco River in Wimberley. "Something of this magnitude so close to home, of course we have to get involved." They're all volunteers about 80 of them with the organization RETREET re-planting more than 200 trees that have been washed away. "We've lived through other floods, the Blanco flood, and this Halloween flood was devastating." Volunteers started with a group planting along the river. "This is going to be a challenging day." Then the volunteers split up to replant trees at more than 35 homes. "In an effort to bring life back to the community so that people don't just see devastation when they walk out of their front door." It will take years for these trees to mature and hover over the Blanco once again, but for people who live in Wimberley a little dirt goes a long way. "This is part of a healing process to see that normalcy is returning." They have dozens of helping hands to speed up the recovery.

1/18/16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Duration 35

This was a day of remembrance and honor that calls for unity to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Spirits were high on the University of Texas campus. There was a march from the statue of Dr. King to the state capitol and then over to Huston-Tillotson University. Those marching were encouraged to bring donations for the Capital Area Food Bank. This was the day to march with camaraderie to honor the legacy of the Civil Rights leader. "As I was driving here, I was listening to Martin Luther King's I have a dream speech, and I was just thinking about all the things he was saying. Then I said "Lord look at this. We are getting there. It still is a struggle today. This isn't just something from the past. It's not some old thing to forget about, but it's something that each one of us needs to keep as a part of our lives" one of the marchers expressed. This would have been King's 87th birthday.

2/9/16 Katy TX Slavery Case

Duration 20

A Houston area woman is accused of forcing a Nigerian woman to care for her five children and home without pay for two years. She also physically abused the nanny and has been granted a bond by a federal magistrate judge. This is the first look at the woman investigators say held the Nigerian woman captive for years promising to pay her \$100 a month to cook, clean and take care of her five children. The woman in Orange TX is Sandra Nsobundu, and according to special agents with the human trafficking task force, her Katy home doubled as a prison. Prosecutors say that during a period of several years Sandra and her husband beat the woman and at one point dragged her down to the ground in the hallway by her hair. Mrs Nsobundu then took her slipper off one of her feet and hit her across the face, and she said that she would shoot her and kill her for not taking care of her babies the way she wanted them to be cared for. The couple racked up a list of charges ranging from visa fraud to forced labor. Somehow the survivor managed to escape and called the National Human Trafficking Hotline. She was rescued and now her alleged captors are the ones behind bars. Sandra's husband was set to appear in court later Tuesday afternoon.

2/10/16 Shooting Death of Teen

Duration 1:15

Robyn Oswald said, "He became like one of my brothers, one of my best friends." Robyn voiced, "He was just such an optimistic person." Looking back at pictures and picking out her favorite ones to honor her neighbor and childhood friend, David Joseph. Robyn Oswald said, ""We would always put the peace sign over our faces almost every single picture that we had that's what we did." Pflugerville ISD says he was a student at Connally High School until May 2015. Friends believe he was enrolled in a charter school for his senior year. People who knew David describe him as smart, ambitious, athletic and peaceful which is why they're having a tough time understanding what happened Monday morning. Robyn exclaimed, "Like when I first heard it I was like, there's no way. That has to be somebody else like that's not David. That's not his character to act like that." Police say the 17-year-old was nude and acting aggressively when he charged an officer in a neighborhood. APD later revealed David did not have a weapon on him. Robyn Oswald cried, "Out of this I just want justice for David because I know that he didn't deserve that." A memorial surrounded by candles, pictures and a football now sits where the shooting happened. It is a place where David's friends and family now come to remember a life gone too soon. "It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday."

2/12/16 Blanco Middle School Threat

Duration 1:00

Thankfully there were no injuries here at Blanco Middle School. We learned it was the school principal who helped assure that safety. "I'm shocked that this has happened" "It was pretty scary, I can tell you that." "Literally they were running down the hall to ask for help and to tell us that there was a bomb in the dressing room" Principal Keitha St. Clair quickly learned the severity of the situation when she ran into her 8th grade student that the police believe was responsible. "He came to me immediately and said Mrs. St. Clair I've made a big mistake." According to Principal St. Clair "one looked about the

size of a prescription bottle that was wrapped in duct tape and the other was about a half a foot long PVC pipe wrapped in duct tape," It's what the Principal did next that had Lt. Ben Ablon fighting back tears. "The school principal, out of concern for her students, picked them up and carried them outside." She put herself in harm's way to protect others. She said "I was worried about my kids." Many will call her a hero. The Principal simply says "When it comes to protecting students, that's what we do." And that's exactly what she did in Blanco.

2/12/16 Baylor Sexual Assault

Duration 45

Faced with mounting criticism, Baylor University regents tonight said they've taken steps to improve response to sexual assault incidents on campus. The private Waco University says this includes hiring more counselors. Faculty and staff will also undergo additional training. Just two weeks ago, ESPN ran a new report claiming campus police, academic services, the "Title Nine" office and the health center all made mistakes while looking into alleged rapes. Those allegations involved a member of the football team. The player, Tevin Elliott, was convicted of two counts of sexual assault and sentenced to 20-years in prison in 2014. As far as information goes involving other alleged victims, the state attorney general stated this week the university can keep police records involving student's privacy.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

1/7/16 FDA Seizes Drug Kratom

Duration 40

A dietary supplement which is legal here in Texas was picked up by federal agents in a major seizure. It happened in Illinois with 90-thousand bottles of the supplement labeled RelaKzpro contains Kratom. The Food and Drug Administration tallies the products worth more than 400-thousand dollars. The plant has opioid-like effects and is currently legal and available in the Austin area. The FDA is warning against people using Kratom saying it could pose a health risk. Advocates of Kratom say it is a pain killer and can help with opiate withdrawal symptoms. You can learn more about both sides of the debate with investigator David Barer's story on kxan.com.

1/17/16 Obama on Iran

Duration 45

President Obama is celebrating the hostages for criminals swap. Despite criticism of his nuclear deal with Iran, he believes it is that type of arrangement that can lead to diplomatic success. "As I've said many times, the nuclear deal was never designed to solve all our differences with Iran, but still, engaging directly with the Iranian government on a sustained basis for the first time in decades has created a unique opportunity. This is a window to try to resolve important issues." Mr. Obama insists sanctions will remain against Iran for violations of human rights, support of terrorism and testing of ballistic missiles...even though this week the U.S.- Iran nuke deal will free up more than \$100-billion in frozen assets for that regime.

1/21/16 EPA Resignation

Duration 20

A regional director of the U-S Environmental Protection Agency has resigned in connection to the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Sarah Hedman the head of the EPA regional office in Chicago whose jurisdiction included Michigan resigned earlier tonight. Hedman's last day will be February first. Lead was discovered in the city's drinking water several months ago, but authorities just started handling the crisis recently.

1/31/16 Most Powerful Man in Texas Goes to Iowa for Cruz www.kxan.com

Monday is the much anticipated Iowa caucuses, where New York billionaire Donald Trump and Texas Senator Ted Cruz are tangling. Many Texans have traveled to the snowy corn state to help Cruz out. He's known as the most powerful man in Texas, but today, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick is in Iowa, before the caucus. He works the phones like any of the other volunteers at Cruz Iowa Headquarters "The conservative fervor has hit because people have been waiting for a conservative leader," said Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. Patrick is the chair of the Cruz Texas campaign He's hoping to convince Iowans that Cruz should survive until Texans get a shot to vote March 1. "If you look at the ground game, Ted is here, and whoever is second is way down here. You have 10 candidates in the race, 10 or 12, however many are left. If you went to their headquarters tonight you might see two people, literally, four people," said Patrick. Patrick leads hundreds of volunteers from Texas, including 13-year old Alexandra from Lubbock. "Made the second highest number of calls yesterday, 833," said Patrick, pointing at Alexandra. The Cruz campaign in Iowa has 1,800 volunteers on the ground in the final stretch. 260 precinct chairs and co-chairs for the 99 counties of Iowa. Volunteers make 25,000 calls a day and average knocking on 2,500 doors a day. In the big picture, this race shows the split between the GOP establishment and the Tea Party and hundreds of Texans, and the Lt. Governor hope their Tea Party side prevails. "We have not had an authentic conservative in the White House since Reagan" said Patrick.

1/22/16 Oil Plays Major Role in Some City's Employment Rate

Duration 26

Oil is a major factor when it comes to the state's unemployment rate. Cities where oil is a big part of the economy have higher unemployment rates. More people have lost jobs along the Texas coast and in the oil-rich western part of the state. That includes cities like Houston, Corpus Christi, and the Midland-Odessa area. Compare that to other parts of Texas. Austin, the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and the San Antonio area have all seen their unemployment numbers drop. It is affecting other states and the U.S. economy with oil prices being so low though people enjoy gas at the pumps being below two dollars a gallon.

2/10/16 Police Investigation of Shooting Verses Taser

Duration 45

The Austin Police Association is answering questions about the use of police force in the field as many wonder why a Taser was not used in this case instead. Association President Ken Casady points to this video from 10 years ago. A naked, unarmed man trying to break into a daycare center was tased instead of shot. But he pulls the Taser prongs out and then attacks the officer, punching her to the ground and trying to take

something off her belt. Backup arrives seconds later and the man is arrested, but Casady said the officer could have been killed without that backup. He hopes people will stop second guessing in this case until more is known. Ken Casady with the Austin Police Association said "Until you know what happened in the investigation, withhold your criticism and we will see what it reveals." Casady says the officer involved in this week's shooting, Geoffrey Freeman is a ten year veteran who previously worked in the Austin library administration and served his country in Iraq.

2/10/16 Mental Health Officer

Duration 1:00

What happened here in seconds ended a 17-year-old's life. "Like most families in these situations, they are devastated about losing their son." Austin NAACP President, Nelson Linder says he's working with David Joseph's family. Linder says he is not aware of any mental health history in this case. Still he believes police officers specialized in mental health training are key in situations like this "What was the circumstance? If a person is naked in the street something is going on mentally, I think we can all assume that." We checked concerning the education of police officers. All APD officers get a baseline of 40 hours in mental health training. But the 162 officers with the Crisis Intervention Team get even more training with 40 additional hours. APD policy states the specialized Crisis Intervention Team Officers are required for "Any situation where the responding officer believes that a person's mental health is adversely affecting the person's behavior" "In situations like that, it requires a certain level of expertise. And sure if you've got one on staff and they're available, you'd want one at the scene." Police say, this time, there was simply too little time for Officer Freeman to make a call for more help from the Crisis Intervention Team. "What is captured on the in-car camera when Officer Freeman gives his initial commands to Mr. Joseph and the time in which Mr. Joseph charges towards Officer Freeman was a matter of seconds."

2/20/16 After Scalia's death, a constitutional clash with Congress

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It only took one man's death to give Congress an opening to spread its dysfunction to the rest of government. Republican opposition to letting President Barack Obama replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia quickly sparked a constitutional clash over the president's right to fill Supreme Court vacancies. Democrats, who have their own history of boxing out Republicans over court nominees, are up in arms, but begrudgingly concede that Obama's pick is unlikely to be confirmed. So as both parties prepare for political brawling, the eight remaining justices could spend the next year hearing critical cases alongside an empty chair, unable to break a tie in the event of a four to four split. The standoff raises a scenario that Washington long has dreaded: that bitter partisanship in Congress, mixed with obstructive tactics like the filibuster, would eventually jeopardize another branch's basic ability to function. "If Republicans do what they suggest, I think we're headed not only for a constitutional crisis but also for big problems for the legislative process," said Jim Manley, a former aide to Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada. "This is the natural reaction to the continued Senate breakdown we've seen for years." Supreme Court nominees have been rejected before. Yet Democrats accuse Republicans of taking obstructionism to a new level by insisting Obama not even name a nominee with 11 months left in his term and refusing to hold a

confirmation vote if he does. Though the Constitution is clear that the president nominates candidates, Republicans say the Founding Fathers never required the Senate to grant them a vote. With a vast majority of Americans already disillusioned by Congress, the White House hopes the GOP gambit will backfire. "It's a little bit like saying, God forbid something happen to the president and the vice president, 'We're not going to fill the presidency for another year and a half,'" said Vice President Joe Biden, who attended Scalia's funeral Mass on Saturday. Republicans are unimpressed by those appeals to the Constitution. After all, many of the leading cases now before the Supreme Court question Obama's unilateral actions. Opponents argue Obama exceeded his legal authority with climate change and immigration policies that he tried but failed to persuade Congress to enact. "There is a significant portion of the country that watches the pretty egregious constitutional liberties the president has taken over the years and views with a sense of humor his newfound respect for the document," said Josh Holmes, former chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. The prospect of a protracted Supreme Court vacancy sounded alarms for those who worry that metastatic congressional gridlock will ultimately grind government to a halt. Three years ago, a quarrel over Obama's health care law led to a partial 16-day government shutdown. Obama has faced repeated nail-biting moments in which it appeared Congress might allow the U.S. to default on its debt or refuse to fund the government. Obama acknowledges that he and his party aren't blameless. The White House says Obama regrets that as a senator, he joined a filibuster against Samuel Alito's nomination to the high court. Alito was confirmed anyway. Less than three years ago, when Democrats ran the Senate, they invoked the "nuclear option," unilaterally changing practices so that the minority party couldn't use a filibuster to block presidential nominees for key appellate judgeships. The change did not apply to Supreme Court picks, but it infuriated Republicans who warned that Democrats would eventually lose Senate control and rue the day they had raided the minority's rights. Obama and his aides have said he will nominate an "indisputably" qualified candidate who can win GOP support. But to defeat a threatened filibuster, Obama would have to peel away 14 Republicans, a feat that looks impossible now. Former Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., said that in past confirmation tussles, power was concentrated in the Senate Judiciary Committee, where the Republican and Democrat leaders worked closely together. Since then, power has shifted to Senate leaders, he said, making the process more ideological and conflicts harder to resolve. He warned that lawmakers are on a slippery slope. "For the next president, it will be, 'Well, is it 11 months? Fifteen months? Eighteen months?' If someone announces they're going to leave the Senate, do they lose the right to vote?" Kerrey said. "You can argue, 'Well, let's let the people decide.'" But Sara Fagen, President George W. Bush's former political director, said Senate Republicans would pay no political penalty. "The Republican base doesn't want a liberal justice, and they're completely fine with the court having a vacancy for as long as is required to get a justice they believe is right," Fagen said.

3/10/16 Obama and Trudeau Meeting

Duration 40

President Obama hosted the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a state dinner tonight. His visit honored the diplomatic ties between Canada and the U-S for the first time in nearly two decades. The two promised a more open U-S/Canada border. President

Obama also weighed in on the Republican race for the white house saying Republicans alone are to blame for the success of Donald Trump. Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau said he won't pick a fight with Donald Trump for now.

3/10/16 SXSW President Obama Start

Duration 55

We will have complete coverage of President Obama's trip to Austin tomorrow. We will be live on air at one o'clock Friday as people prepare for the arrival of Air Force One. He's set to kick off the South by Southwest interactive with a keynote interview at the Long Center. We will cover the traffic impact across town as the president arrives. Then flip over to www.KXAN.com where we will be streaming the President's keynote speech. We wanted to know about traffic issues for you. So we talked to the local Secret Service. Thomas Edwards says "Obviously the closures around this festival are always going to present problems for us, but if you're thinking about the major routes, I-35, 290, Mopac we should be able to navigate those pretty well with the support from the police. Austin Police will provide rolling blockades and extra protection for the President, and next week for the First Lady's visit. Those security assignments are paid for out of APD's general operations budget.

3/11/16 Trump Political Rally

Duration 1:15

Tonight in Chicago, crowds took to the streets after a rally for Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump was postponed. Hundreds of demonstrators had gathered earlier in the day around the pavilion at the University of Illinois Chicago campus protesting the planned appearance by the G.O.P. front-runner inside the venue with an audience packed with Trump supporters and their opponents. The Trump campaign decided to postpone the event because of safety concerns. A Trump Campaign Official stated that "for the safety of all the tens of thousands of people that have gathered in and around for tonight's rally will be postponed until another day. Thank you very much for your attendance and please go in peace." There was an immediate uproar from the crowd with punches thrown, signs torn with protesters and supporters clashing inside the arena. In a phone interview with MSNBC'S Chris Matthews, Trump said that the protests highlight America's anger with the current state of the country. Donald Trump, Republican Presidential Candidate says "You have so much anger in the country. It's just anger in the country. I don't think it's directed at me, or anything. It's just directed in what has been going on for years." The unrest in Chicago came just hours after protests at the Trump Rally in St. Louis lead to 32 arrests. One protester was led away bloodied days before a key primary test. An increasingly heated presidential campaign season seems to be reaching the boiling point. This report was covered by Brian Moorar, NBC News.

HEALTH & SAFETY

1/14/16 Flood Gauges Installed

Duration 40

While officials work on that report, other authorities are installing two new river gauges along the Blanco River.. After the deadly Memorial weekend flood in Wimberley,

KXAN discovered the Blanco flowed for miles without any kind of gauge to measure water levels. But now, KXAN Investigator Kevin Schwaller found crews are installing a gauge upriver from Wimberley at the little Blanco River. The U.S. Geological Survey is planning to install a second gauge soon. The Edwards Aquifer Authority is also making a third gauge possible at the Fischer Store Bridge, which was destroyed in the flood. Crews are working to rebuild it. KXAN's Kevin Schwaller was in Wimberley today where he saw first-hand just how much these changes mean to people who live along the river.

1/15/16 Old Home Depot

Duration 30

So what happens to these big company locations after they shut down? The Home Depot off I-35 and St. John's has been empty for years. Taxpayers approved funding to use the land for police and court purposes, but there's still no plan for the site. The land is in Council Member Greg Caesar's district. He wants to work with the community to revitalize the area. Now that we have district representation, I'm going to be working with the community to make sure that Home Depot site is something we can be proud of and something the whole community can appreciate having in the neighborhood." Caesar believes we'll continue to see a decline in traditional retail, due to the popularity of online shopping.

1/15/16 On Demand Delivery

Duration 1:00

We filed an open records request and got this copy of the email the health department sent out. It simply asks for more information to make sure companies are following the rules meant to keep you from getting sick. Our request also showed this notice went to eight services. We reported on Demand Food, Nimble Foods, and Uber Eats. Also on the list businesses called Blue Apron, Fresh n' Lean, Home Chef, Hello Fresh and My Table. The notice says in part: "Please contact this Department immediately to verify that your business and its operating practices do not violate these important food safety regulations." Kevin Schwaller asks "So that just keeps it cold?" "Yeah, we've got ice packs in here." Our original story looked at the model of "on-demand" delivery companies. Drivers said they picked up multiple meals before delivering them to customers like us. "Now, we don't allow storage of food in vehicles, long term or prolonged storage of those types of foods in a delivery vehicle and that would be a concern of ours." The health department verified Nimble Foods works in a permitted kitchen. Uber EATS also works with permitted restaurants. Since our original story the department confirmed Demand Food is also permitted.

1/21/16 TX I-35 Warning System

Duration 25

Big rigs will soon get a big warning if they're about to go under a bridge they can't fit under. The Texas Department of Transportation is installing a new alert system on I-35 to detect trucks that are too tall. The system will send a signal to road signs with flashing beacons at three locations between Airport Boulevard and Riverside Drive. TXDOT says this will help prevent crashes and keep the interstate moving. The 400-thousand dollar project is funded by a federal grant.

2/9/16 Body Camera Update

Duration 55

This comes as the Austin Police Department is preparing to choose which body camera technology to use for the entire police department. That decision is expected shortly after February 15. The department has spent the past month looking at different camera manufacturers. In addition to technology to show video has been unedited. The department wants a software system to allow them to redact portions when releasing video to the public. Some of the features APD hopes to include would be a real-time GPS tracking feature for officers. The cameras would also need to be able to record for ten hours straight and file of body cameras in use, brand in the date of the file show another department in our area such as Lakeway. Other police departments in our viewing area already use department-wide body cameras. The City Council budgeted more than two-and-a-half million dollars to get cameras for 500 officers by summer. Austin and more than a dozen other local departments are also splitting 750-thousand dollars in grant money to help offset costs.

2/9/16 Sexual Assaults Meeting

Duration 1:00

A string of sexual assaults in North Austin has the attention of a lot of people. The latest reported case happened just last night. Police say a woman called 911 around 9:30 saying a man tried to sexually assault her on Santa Cruz Drive near 183. Police are looking at six different cases in five locations in North Austin. Tonight, many gathered for a forum at Spicewood Springs Library where law enforcement officers addressed their concerns. They shared the tactics used by this attacker so people can protect themselves. "What he does with these attacks, he approaches from behind and either pushes the females down or he grabs them. The incidences where they scream, he runs off. If you are attacked, do everything you can to scream, be as loud as you can." Police say the man covers his face so most of the descriptions are pretty generic including the race and age of the attacker. We have details at KXAN-dot-com.

2/12/16 Deadly Accidents Become More Frequent

Duration 45

The deadly carnage on our roads sadly continues authorities are investigating three deadly crashes from early this morning. The first accident happened around 1:30am in Southeast Travis County. Austin Travis County EMS says a man in his 40's was killed after crashing his motorcycle on Shivey Lane. DPS is investigating what led to the crash. Half an hour later, another motorcyclist slammed into a car stopped at a light at Burleson and McKinney Falls Parkway. The driver of the car stayed at the scene and was questioned by police. And then around 3 am, a woman in her 20's was killed when the car she was in rolled over on West William Cannon Drive near South 1st Street. The driver was taken to UMC Brackenridge in critical condition.

3/10/16 Louisiana Flooding Evacuations

Duration 15

The Flooding is terrible in some places historic, along our border with Louisiana. There has been 20 inches of rain, and water is pouring from the gates at the Toledo Bend Dam

as the rising water of the Sabine River reaches record-breaking levels. Those living in low lying areas are under mandatory evacuation as the National Weather Service is calling this a life-threatening event.

3/10/16 Ballot wording on Uber and Lyft Drivers Background Check

Duration 40

The fight over regulating drivers for companies such as *Uber* and *Lyft* in Austin could go to the state's highest court. We've been following the developments for a while. On May seventh, voters will decide whether to approve new rules for these companies that deal with background checks on drivers. Now an Austin voter, backed by Uber, is challenging the ballot language approved by city council. An Uber spokesperson calls the ballot wording confusing and inaccurate. The city is sticking by the language and says the council did its best to fairly represent the issue. KXAN Investigator Kevin Schwaller looks at how much power the people who write the language ballots have and if ballot wording can change an election.

3/11/16 Southern Storms Bring Flooding

Duration 30

From East Texas to Tennessee all of this rain has been making for record flooding in some communities. The Louisiana National Guard is being called out in the streets and in the air. Some places are preparing sandbags for temporary barricades in the event water once again heads their way. Tom Hall a Hattiesburg Resident says that "You can't argue with mother nature. If she wants it to rain for four days, you know it will? Now if it keeps up for four more days, we may as well start building a boat, you know," People in low lying areas are being told to pack up what they can and be prepared to leave at a moment's notice.