

KGO-TV
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
QUARTERLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY ISSUES
AND
RELATED PROGRAMMING
FIRST QUARTER 2017
REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

During the First Quarter of 2017, KGO-TV aired the following regularly scheduled local newscasts identified on air as "ABC 7 News" with a total cumulative average of over 100 hours per month:

<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>4:30-7:00AM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>11:00-11:30AM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>4:00-5:00PM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>5:00-5:30PM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>6:00-7:00PM</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>11:00-11:35PM</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday</i>	<i>11:00PM-12:00AM</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday</i>	<i>5:00-6:00AM / 6:00-7:00AM</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>8:00-9:00AM / 4:30-5:00PM</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9:00-10:00AM</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday</i>	<i>5:00-5:30PM & 6:00-6:30PM</i>

THE LIVE WELL NETWORK- KGO-TV / 7.2 HD

KGO-TV's D2 sub-channel airs the "Live Well Network," a single free 24/7 over-the-air digital platform channel providing viewers with original content focusing on home, health and lifestyle.

The "Live Well Network" offers programs entitled- Motion, Mexico: One Plate at a Time, Let's Dish, Sell This House, Knock It Off, The Balancing Act, Fix This Yard, Food Rush and My Family Recipe Rocks, and Fix This Yard along with others.

LAFF TV NETWORK- KGO-TV / 7.3 SD

KGO-TV's D3 sub-channel airs the "LAFF TV Network," a single free 24/7 over-the-air digital platform channel providing viewers with comedy programming content. The "LAFF TV Network," airs vintage sitcoms and theatrical movies with a comedic theme.

KGO-TV'S D2 Live Well Network & KGO-TV'S D3 LAFF TV network signals carry Public Service Announcements and Children's Core Programming as described in the Quarterly FCC 398 Children's Report.

During the first quarter of 2017, KGO-TV also aired the following locally produced programming that addressed the problems and needs of the San Francisco-San Jose-Oakland Market area:

BEYOND THE HEADLINES WITH CHERYL JENNINGS: This locally produced public affairs program consisted of a variety of subjects primarily dealing with issues related to the local community. The program's objective was to go "beyond the headlines" and explore critical issues facing the community. KGO-TV's Cheryl Jennings hosted this program that aired Sundays from 4:30 to 5:00pm.

SEVEN ON YOUR SIDE: Michael Finney headed this consumer affairs unit that provided consumer information / product recalls during local 5:00pm newscasts, and reviewed investigations / resolutions during 6:00pm newscasts. Office staff answered letters, email and hotline telephone calls from viewers seeking help with a wide variety of consumer problems. On the average, the unit received over 500 e-mails / letters, and over 1200 phone calls per month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The following community events were featured on KGO-TV's "Around the Bay," KGO-TV's vehicle for sponsoring upcoming community events hosted or moderated by KGO-TV personnel. Each of these thirty-second spots featured two to three events, and aired for two weeks on a fixed schedule:

AROUND THE BAY CALENDAR:

1/1/17 – 1/14/17

FOG Fair: Design +Art (1/11-1/15) benefiting SF MOMA
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Volunteerism (1/16)

1/15/17 – 1/27/17

Bob Woodruff @SJSU Veterans Resource Center (2/21/17) Dan Ashley moderator
Make a Wish Greater Bay Area: Wine & Wishes (2/4) Ama Daetz MC

1/28/17 – 2/10/17

Calif. Int'l Antiquarian Book Fair: Oakland (2/10/17 to 2/12/17)
San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation: Art of Fire (3/4/17)
Redwood City: Lunar New Year Festival (2/11) Kristen Sze MC

2/11/17 – 2/24/17

Rock the CASA (3/4/17) Dan Ashley's benefit concert: Court Appointed Special Advocates, Friends of Camp Concord
Academy of Friends: HIV/AIDS benefit (2/26)
Center for Asian American Media: CAAMFest (3/9-3/19)

2/25/17 – 3/10/17

Super Stars Literacy (3/4) Mike Nicco MC
30th Street Senior Center/On Lok: Boomers and Beyond (3/16/2017) J. Castro MC
Friends of Children w/ Sp. Needs: Special Needs Talent Showcase (3/18) M. Keller MC
Professional Businesswomen of California Conference (3/28) ABC7 News team

3/11/17 – 3/24/17

PBWC Conference (3/28)
Hospice East Bay (4/8) Michael Finney MC
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Oakland Bay Area: Madam CJ Walker Awards Lunch (4/21)

3/25/17 – 4/7/17

Youth Live (5/6/17) Spencer Christian MC
March of Dimes: March for Babies (4/29, 4/30) 3 locations

In addition to the local news and public affairs programs described in this report, KGO-TV carries all of the ABC Television news & public affairs programs listed and described in the report filed as “Network Programming.”

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KGO-TV applies feedback from the community in determining the key local issues, problems, and needs. Some of the station’s most significant treatments of these issues are described on the following pages:

- ***WINTER STORMS***
- ***ECONOMY / COST OF LIVING***
- ***CRIME & LAW ENFORCEMENT***
- ***CONSUMERISM***
- ***I-TEAM / SPECIAL NEWS REPORTS***
- ***YOUTH***

POST DROUGHT WINTER STORMS

ABC7 NEWS 11:00PM (2:25) – THURSDAY, 2/23/17

TOXIC, DIFFICULT FLOOD CLEANUP BEGINS FOR SAN JOSE FAMILIES

The flood waters may be gone, but the clean-up is just beginning for the thousands of people who were forced from their homes. Late Thursday, the city reduced the scope of the San Jose evacuation area, however; some people are still not allowed back in their homes including residents in the Rock Springs area and the old Oakland Road Area.

Junk piles line 19th Street and continue to grow. They're filled with stuff that can't be saved. Many families are getting help with the overwhelming cleanup. Toxic flood water ruined almost everything it touched. "We started cleaning out the garage and moving the furniture and see what we could salvage and what was not," said Sue Evanicky. She and her friends did as much as they could by themselves, but this can be dangerous work.

"I'm seeing oil, paint, toilets are flooded out so there's tons of sewage," said Jacob Estrada of Environmental Plus and Restoration Specialists. "Personal protective gear is mandatory here, respirators." The company has dozens of workers in the flooded neighborhoods. The first priority is pumping out the water from 12 homes on 19th Street alone. Next, they'll clear out the debris.

"We can still try our best to decontaminate and disinfect, but for the majority of it, it's pretty much a total loss," Estrada told ABC7 News.

The city of San Jose will be providing dumpsters in the William Street and Rock Springs neighborhoods starting Friday morning. "Folks who are within the flooded area can use those dumpsters and we will continue to monitor how that process is going so we can continue to support," said Robert Sapien. In the meantime it's neighbor helping neighbor. "This is all just stuff," said Evanicky. "It can or cannot be replaced. You just got to let go."

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (1:55) – THURSDAY, 2/16/17

FEMA SENDS SUPPLIES TO TRAVIS AFB IN CASE OF OROVILLE DAM EMERGENCY

Some government agencies are preparing for the worst-case scenario at the Oroville Dam as another round of storms pushes toward California. Emergency supplies began arriving by the truckload at Travis Air Force Base Thursday. "Yes, we are an Air Force base but we do so much more here," a Travis Air Force Base spokesman said. 180,000 residents were forced to evacuate when erosion damaged the dam's spillways. As work continues to shore up the crumbling hillside - those supplies began arriving from FEMA's warehouse in Texas.

Dozens of trailers with medical supplies, cots, blankets, meals and water were all being brought in. While most of the supplies are coming from one place, the people who are on standby to put them into action if needed have already begun arriving from all over the country. "We have people that work all over the U.S. that converge on a moment's notice, and it's just a great working environment, and everybody has the same mindset of supporting the survivors on the ground," FEMA Assistant Logistics Chief Michael Hurley said.

FEMA last worked with Travis AFB in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy five years ago, and they do countless drills to prepare for the worst. Officials say they believe the worst threat has passed as the lake's levels continue to drop, but FEMA will continue to bring in trucks packed to the roof with supplies, just in case. "Hopefully we don't have to use this stuff," Hurley said.

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (1:45) – FRIDAY, 2/24/17

SAN JOSE WORKERS HELPING CLEAN UP FLOOD-DAMAGED NEIGHBORHOODS

Dozens of city workers in San Jose are helping to get flood-damaged neighborhoods more livable again. It was a busy day for workers. Parking enforcement made sure curbs were clear of cars early Friday morning. "The city is taking care of it. They're just doing this so they can clean the city up," a parking enforcement officer said.

Groups from several different city departments, including the conservation corps, neighborhood services and environmental services, met up Friday morning to go into the recently flooded neighborhoods. Dumpsters were delivered to the William Street neighborhood at about 9 a.m.

Families have been placing items damaged by the toxic flood waters on the sidewalk. They had a lot of help getting rid of it. "We thought we were going to have to do this all on our own. We've been working for like two days straight. Tired, carrying everything up. But it's really nice to see the city come out and help us," victim Maria Mendoza said. Karen Davis' basement flooded. She didn't realize the city was bringing out dumpsters Friday. She had already ordered her own, along with a call out on social media for some help.

"I've rallied all my friends on Facebook and hopefully tomorrow I'll have a whole boatload of my friends out here to help me clean up," Davis said. This is the first day of the city clean up. They said they'll be out again on Saturday and, if necessary, Sunday. With a few areas of San Jose still under mandatory evacuation orders, some people are still spending their days and nights in a shelter.

On Friday, those who need a place to stay can move to the Alum Rock Youth Center. It's right next door to James Lick High School and will be replacing that shelter, along with the one at Evergreen Valley High School. Both schools need to close to get ready for students returning to class Monday.

On Saturday, San Jose plans to open a flood assistance center at Shirakawa Community Center. It's going to be a multi-agency, one-stop shop for evacuees hoping to get back on their feet. Advocates, insurance providers and emergency experts from the state will all be on hand. The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ABC7 NEWS 5:00PM (2:10) – THURSDAY, 3/9/17

MORE THAN 100 ATTEND SAN JOSE FLOOD VICTIMS' TOWN HALL

The special hearing on San Jose officials' response during last month's flood will be going on until 9 p.m. Thursday night. City staff prepared a preliminary plan on how it can do a better job. Residents hurt by the flood got to ask questions and share their frustration.

Close to 150 people packed inside the council chambers, some of them brought young children with them. They first listened to a long presentation by city staff over its shortcomings and plans to institute changes. Among the issues, of course, that the city failed to provide advance warning for residents to evacuate until it was too late.

The city also acknowledged that it didn't spread any alerts initially in Spanish or Vietnamese. The Rocksprings area, in particular, has a large number of limited and non-English speaking residents. One speaker complained he has still not received any help.

"I had a lot of personal things, too many to list right now, that were gone because of the flood. I'm low income and I haven't actually really received any type of help what so ever," said Isaac Hunter, a San Jose flood victim. Watch the video player above to see the full story. [Click here to download the ABC7 News App to get your weather forecast on the go.](#) And make sure you enable push alerts for immediate notifications and severe weather alerts.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00AM (2:10) – FRIDAY, 3/10/17

SAN JOSE DEVELOPING FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM FOR RESIDENTS

San Jose residents are still facing the huge task of recovering after being hit by a flood, a flood they say they had no idea was coming. Now the city is promising that their new system will make sure this doesn't happen again. Help is still out there for flood victims -- the assistance center has moved, it's now at city hall. But San Jose officials have learned preparation and advanced warning could save a lot of damage and heartache.

The Rock Springs neighborhood in San Jose is like a ghost town. Cars flooded on February 21 are stranded in the street, garage doors left open, the only activity is people working on making the homes livable again, including volunteers from Christian Aid Ministries. "It's real overwhelming, because every house that had a little bit of water in it all the sheetrock needs to come out two feet up to four feet. All the floor coverings need to come off," said Marshall Miller, Christian Aid Ministries

Reuben Lechuga lives at and manages an apartment complex on Nordale Avenue; he has a graveyard of flooded cars in the back and a skeleton left of a home. "What's it been like for the past two weeks?" asked ABC7's Matt Keller. "Like hell," said Lechuga. Advanced notice would've helped Reuben and thousands of others get valuable property and mementos out of their homes, but that call didn't come in time. San Jose wants to learn from this disaster, so the public works department is developing a "flood threat matrix" which would use information related to reservoir levels and river flows to warn residents up to three days ahead of time.

It's a three tiered system: level one is a yellow alert, meaning possible flooding; level two is an orange alert -- that means it's likely to flood; and level three is a red alert that means evacuate because of imminent flooding. "We're hoping with better triggers in place and better understanding how the creek systems work and the conditions that warrant those warnings that we can provide better notice for our residents when the time comes," said David Vossbrink, City of San Jose spokesperson. The city still needs to get more details on what would trigger those alerts they're scheduled to meet with the water district next month.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00AM (2:40) – THURSDAY, 3/16/17

FUNDING APPROVED FOR PLEASANTON EROSION REPAIRS AS NEXT STORM LOOMS

A Pleasanton neighborhood watched their backyards disappear after all the recent rain, and even worse they thought they would be left with the bill. Today, residents say they are feeling a bit of relief after last night's Zone 7 meeting, where they say officials decided to pay for an emergency fix and longtime repairs.

"I couldn't have hoped for a better outcome. I thank the board, it was a very good outcome," said Eddie Belshe, Pleasanton homeowner. "It made my heart feel better last night," said Ginger Belshe, Pleasanton homeowner.

They've lost about 30 feet of land. There are 13 trees that have fallen into the creek; three of them are huge redwoods. The land is finally giving in to all the rain we have had. The residents are worried their homes will be next and they are especially concerned about next week's forecast.

"Because we are talking six days of rain is forecasted and some of it significant. I don't know if our property can survive that," said Belshe. He's wondering if they can get some sandbags or other emergency stops in place before the rain arrives. The emergency work that has been approved still needs permits, materials, and a plan.

"You would love to see equipment going right now. The time frame is not quick enough, let's just say that," said Eddie Belshe. Ginger Belshe doesn't know if she can stick around through next week's weather. "Hopefully we can get out -- that's what I want do. I can't sit here and watch this, I don't want to see anything more go in that creek," said Ginger Belshe. Even in dry weather, residents say pieces of the backyard have been falling into the creek.

ECONOMY

ABC7 NEWS 11:00AM (2:20) - Thursday, 3/2/17

MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL TO MAKE \$40 MILLION IN SNAP IPO

The parent company of Snapchat closed on a high note in its Wall Street debut. Snap opened at \$17 a share and quickly jumped \$24 a share. That's more than a 40 percent hike, making two former Stanford University students multi-billionaires. On Thursday morning, co-founders Evan Spiegel and Bobby Murphy rang the opening bell on the New York Stock Exchange.

They're not the only ones celebrating. A Bay Area school is also expected to get a lot richer. The head of the Saint Francis Growth Fund said they invested \$15,000 in Snapchat very early on, and the school has a little more than 2 million shares. Saint Francis says 2/3 of 2+ million Snapchat shares sold at \$17 IPO price (\$22.5 million.) The remaining 1/3 of the shares is currently worth \$16.2 million.

So how did this happen? .Barry Eggers from the capital venture firm Lightspeed Venture Partners, who's also the head of the Saint Francis growth fund, wrote in a blog that he first discovered the power of Snapchat five years ago. His daughter, a sophomore at Saint Francis at the time, along with some of her friends, explained how popular it was. He made a big investment and it's paying off for his firm and Saint Francis.

Saint Francis officials wouldn't get into specifics about where the money will go, but they did say some of it would go to students scholarships and subsidized tuition along with upgrading the facilities. Students are excited. "I think it's a big opportunity for Saint Francis, I guess, for them to improve upon their facilities," student Jeevan Prakash said. Private schools aren't cheap in the Silicon Valley. It costs \$16,700 a year to send a student to Saint Francis. But the school, through their endowment fund, gave out \$2.75 million in tuition assistance this year. There will be more information about their plans later Thursday afternoon. [Click here for more stories on Snapchat.](#)

ABC7 NEWS 4:00PM (1:25) - Friday, 3/3/17

SILICON VALLEY LEADERS DISCUSS REGION'S ECONOMIC ENGINE

Silicon Valley and Bay Area leaders gathered Friday to figure out how to keep the region's economic engine going strong. Despite high job growth right now, there are signs of a slowdown. Tech executives and political leaders met all day in San Jose to talk partnerships, trends, concerns, and how the region can keep its status as the center of innovation and wealth.

Snap's wildly successful IPO Thursday may have boosted confidence in the valley's outlook, but speakers at the Silicon Valley Competitiveness and Innovation Project warned we need better training of future tech workers. "What I recognize more than ever, it's lifelong learning, it's forever learning. In an on-demand economy, you better have on-demand education," California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom said.

"We've got our work cut out for us. In addition to that work we also have the traditional challenges, and housing costs," San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said. One example cited is the average Silicon Valley worker spends 70 minutes per day commuting, second only to New York City. Another concern is a drop in new entrepreneurs and venture capital over the past few years. Today's speakers and participants agreed that the key is for businesses and policy makers to work together on these challenges and to ensure Silicon Valley keeps its competitive advantage and job opportunities.

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (3:25) – FRIDAY, 3/17/17

WHY EMPTY STOREFRONTS LINE THE CASTRO NEIGHBORHOOD

Although the economy is robust in the Bay Area, one San Francisco neighborhood seems to be falling behind. Our partners at San Francisco-based news site Hoodline found a lot of empty storefronts in the city's Castro District. The retail occupancy rate in this particular neighborhood is 87 percent. Comparatively, citywide, San Francisco's occupancy rate is one of the highest in the country at 97 percent. So what's going on here? It's a neighborhood where rainbows don't just fly from flagpoles. The streets are paved with pride, too. "It's a fun neighborhood, interesting neighborhood," said Castro Merchant's Association President Daniel Bergerac. He owns Mudpuppy's, a successful dog grooming business that's been around for six years on Castro Street. "It was, 'Find a need and fill it,'" he recalled. Not all retailers in the Castro can say the same. If you take a walk around the neighborhood, you'll see the evidence -- empty storefronts that are locked up tight. Some businesses have relocated while others are possibly gone for good. They range from restaurants to retail. "A lot of times it feels like three steps forward, one step back," said Bergerac. "There's always going to be challenges."

There are 53 vacant storefronts in the Castro. Occupancy rates in the neighborhood were 92 percent in 2015. They dropped to 87 percent in 2017. It's not just small businesses that have packed up and gone, even corporate chains have called it quits. A CVS on Market Street closed last week after being open only a year. The company says it under-performed and is 1 of 70 to close nationwide. "CVS is definitely a blow," said Bergerac. So, why are there so many vacancies? High rents have priced many retailers out of business. In the Castro, monthly rents range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per month, depending on the space.

"Rents are getting higher, (it's) tougher to make a buck," said Castro business owner Phil Rennick. He owns "Active Nutrition" on Market Street, where he's noticed foot traffic drop off over the past 10 years as more tech workers, who are not interested in shopping at brick and mortar stores, move in. "It's been a struggle up against the internet like other retailers," said Rennick. "Amazon has taken a big hit." "People really want a Trader Joe's," said neighbor Danny Yadegar. He says many people want better options for grocery shopping, in a neighborhood that's changing. "A lot of people are talking about the transition of the Castro, is it becoming more gay? Less gay? At the end of the day, retail goes through transition," he said.

(Empty Store Fronts Cont.)

Nine new businesses are expected to open in the coming months in the Castro. San Francisco Supervisor Jeff Sheehy wants to make it easier for new business owners by streamlining the permit process, which can take up to a year. "The whole time they're waiting to open their business, they're paying rent," he said. "That can fundamentally change the economics of a business." "What I know is the entrepreneurial spirit will overcome this," said Bergerac, who is hopeful. He'd like to work with landlords on setting realistic rents to allow more small business owners to fill the void in a world famous neighborhood.

ABC7 NEWS 5:00PM (1:55) - Thursday, 3/2/17

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Five years ago, California passed a law allowing undocumented students to receive state financial aid for college through the California Dream Act. The deadline for students to apply is at midnight on Thursday, March 2, 2017. At this time, applications are down in part because of the current political climate. Jessica Magana is a student at City College of San Francisco. She described herself as a "dreamer," meaning she was brought to the United States as a child and has remained here undocumented.

Like thousands of undocumented students in California, she's entitled to apply for the California Dream Act, state financial aid for college. "I actually just recently applied for the Dream Act. I knew about the deadline and I made sure to get it in right away," Magana said. So far, in California there are fewer applicants than last year when 34,000 applications were received. As of Wednesday night, 31,000 "dreamers" had applied. Magana says "dreamers" are afraid any information will be shared with other government agencies, including ICE. "They just fear they'll use this information against them, they'll be knocking down their doors," Magana said.

San Francisco's Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs is helping to reassure them their information is confidential. "If you don't apply, you won't be able to attend school and I feel even though under Trump's administration people shouldn't be afraid to apply," Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs spokesperson Wilfredo Coyotl said.

City College of San Francisco sent out reminders to current students about Thursday's deadline. "We have a task force to support undocumented students on campus, so we're very proactive in trying to let students know that if they are undocumented they are absolutely welcome here at City College of San Francisco," Samuel Santos said. The San Francisco Unified School District has also reached out to "dreamers" in the district to make sure they've applied; otherwise they'll have to wait until next year.

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (2:55) - Wednesday, 2/8/17

INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF HUGE SPIKE IN PG&E BILLS

7 On Your Side is investigating reports of a huge spike in the gas bills of PG&E customers. State Senator Jerry Hill, who represents San Mateo, says his office has also launched an investigation. Some customers in the Bay Area and Sacramento Valley say their gas and electric bills went up significantly in the last few months.

PG&E confirms rates went up 21 percent in the last year alone, with the bulk of the increases coming in August. But the utility says customers didn't notice until they turned on their heaters this winter. The rate increase was originally proposed in 2014 and ultimately approved by the California Public Utilities Commission last year.

The Utility Reform Network says that decision also includes another rate increase in 2018 of at least 5 percent. The commission recently approved an \$850 million fine against PG&E related to the San Bruno fire and explosion in 2010. That fine will be used to negate any rate increase in 2017. The CPUC is holding a meeting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in San Francisco. Those who are concerned about the rate increases can comment during the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

ABC7 NEWS 5:00AM (1:05) - Thursday, 2/16/17

UNION WORKERS RALLY FOR NET PAY INCREASE IN SUNNYVALE

About 120 Sunnyvale union employees rallied Wednesday afternoon across the street from the city council chambers to advocate for fair wages because they haven't had a net wage increase in five years, union officials said. The rally started at noon at 505 Olive Ave. The roughly 120 employees make up about a quarter of the more than 450 employees of the Sunnyvale Employees Association, which are clerical workers, engineers, planners, accountants and parks maintenance workers among others. SEA employees make up roughly half of the full-time employees in the city. "Our employees have experienced a prolonged recession that they've never recovered from," union spokesman Dustin DeRollo said.

Union officials said that cost of living has gone up 14.2 percent and union employees have had one 3 percent increase over the same time period. DeRollo said that has gone to pay the employees pension. Employees are asking for a 20 percent raise through January 2019. Ten percent would be retroactive to July 2015, according to city officials.

City administrators are offering 10 percent through July 2018. City officials said they have to balance the demands for higher wages with city expenses. "And that is the case here," city manager Deanna Santana said. City expenses have gone up more than revenue driven by increased costs for pensions, health care and operational goods and services. City officials said the cost of living in the San Francisco Bay Area jumped 7.5 percent between 2012 and 2015, while SEA employees' wages went up 3 percent as union officials said. But city officials argue that cost of living is only one part of the wage picture.

City spokeswoman Jennifer Garnett said merit increases and promotions should also be taken into account. When that's done, the wages of most employees have exceeded inflation, Garnett said. Santana also argues that employees should consider that the city pays one half of the cost of the employee's pension contribution.

City and union officials met in a fact-finding hearing today where each side will present their case to a third party, who will write a report on the negotiations. The results of the report are sent to the union and city council and are not binding. Should the fact-finding effort fail to result in a new contract, SEA employees could decide to go on strike. "Basically, we're at the end of the bargaining process" before things become more drastic, DeRollo said. Negotiations have been ongoing for about two years.

CRIME ISSUES

ABC7 NEWS 5:00PM (2:55) - Wednesday, 3/15/17

RUSSIAN AGENTS, HACKERS INDICTED IN MASSIVE YAHOO BREACH

An indictment reveals four people face charges which include conspiracy to commit computer fraud, economic espionage, theft and other related counts in connection to a massive Yahoo breach. The FBI San Francisco office has been looking into this case for two years. It seems the hackers were targeting certain individuals. The FBI says this was a cyber breach directed by Russian intelligence agencies using cyber mercenary and they say the indictment is unprecedented.

The indictment charges that two members of the FSB, Dmitry Dokuchaev, Igor Sushchin, hired criminal hackers, Alexsay Belan and Karim Baratov, to break into Yahoo's database. "It is the first time the FBI has indicted Russian FSB officers for committing criminal cyber intrusions," FBI Special Agent in Charge of San Francisco Office John Bennett said. The FSB, Russia's federal security service that replaced the notorious KGB, an arm of its military - an intelligence gathering agency.

It says they stole information on more than 500 million Yahoo user accounts in a massive hacking attack in 2014. The FBI says they were able to do that in part by spear phishing, sending fraudulent emails to extract data from users. "Gift cards, credit cards, trying to reset user accounts and all that stuff that goes along with it," Bennett said. The indictment says they accessed accounts of Russian journalists and politicians critical of the Russian government as well as US government officials and even White House personnel. Baratov was arrested in Canada Tuesday and the FBI says the other three are in Russia.

It'll be hard getting them. "We do not have an extradition treaty with Russia. We would hope they respect our criminal justice system, and respect these charges and what they need to do," Head of National Security at the U.S. Justice Department Mary McCord said. "The FBI has a long reach and a longer memory," Bennett said. Put another way, the world's getting smaller and the FBI's reach longer.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00PM (2:35) - Friday, 3/17/17

MAN HOSPITALIZED IN SHOOTING ON HIGHWAY 101 IN SAN JOSE

The shooting occurred at about 6:45 p.m. on the highway's northbound lanes near Story Road, CHP spokesman Ross Lee said. The victim pulled off of the freeway in a black Acura after being shot at and ended up at the Alum Rock and Highway 101 exit. The passenger, a 17-year-old, was shot twice while the driver was unharmed. Right now, the driver is answering more questions from investigators at CHP headquarters.

He told authorities the suspects were two men, wearing black bandanas, driving a 2015 white Dodge Charger with the words Hemi written on the side. "The victim vehicle northbound on 101 and the suspect vehicle just came alongside on the right side and began shooting at them," CHP Sgt. Oliveros said. "The stretcher was brought out and one of the individuals, the majority of his close were taken off and that revealed there was some type of wound," witness Carlos Diaz said.

The victim was shot on the right side of his body and emergency crews rushed to help him. Officials closed the highway down after the shooting. Right now, four lanes of northbound Highway 101 near Story Road are still closed and traffic is being diverted onto the Interstate 280 and Interstate 680 interchange. It is a small but important portion of the freeway that is still off limits.

It is not clear when the freeway will fully re-open or if it will impact the morning commute. The victim is currently hospitalized at a nearby hospital. It is unknown at this time if his injuries are life threatening. Investigators say they don't know if the victims were targeted or if this was random.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00PM (1:50) - Friday, 3/17/17

BAY AREA MAN ACCUSED OF PRETENDING TO BE A DENTIST

A Bay Area man is accused of pretending to be a dentist and manufacturing drugs. The San Jose Mercury News reports that a 59-year-old man is being held in San Mateo County jail on suspicion of offenses that include manufacturing controlled substances, possessing brass knuckles and possessing ammunition as a felon.

Joseph Hirsch was arrested after a three-month investigation that included officials from the state Department of Dentistry. When law enforcement officials served a search warrant on the suspect, they discovered a crude dentist's office, with dentist's chair, X-ray machine and dental tools. Officials say it isn't clear if any patients were injured as a result of treatment at the makeshift dentist's office, though they believe he was offering services from his office.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00PM (1:55) - Monday, 2/27/17

VIOLENT THREATS CAUSE EVACUATIONS OF BAY AREA ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS

A new wave of threats targeting Jewish community centers and offices across the country has now reached the Bay Area. They forced evacuations of centers in San Rafael and Palo Alto, plus the San Francisco office of the Anti-Defamation League due to a threatening phone call.

"They said that they had a bomb," said Central Pacific Regional Director for the Anti-Defamation League Seth Brysk. "That they had planted a bomb and they had planned to kill us." Police shut down Market Street between Grand Avenue and Kearny Streets. "That's really scary to hear that there was a bomb threat," said Semhar Gebreyesus of San Francisco. Within a half hour, the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto got a call too. Classes were canceled and children were evacuated.

"And to have them to have to be evacuated because of a threat that they may be blown up is terrorizing and fear-inducing," Brysk added. More than 20 Jewish facilities across the country received threats Monday, including the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center in San Rafael. "Oh my gosh, one of 20," said Gebreyesus. "That's very sad news to hear that." "We'd like to see a plan of action put into place and this demands leadership and it demands leadership from the top," Brysk told ABC7 News.

Officials evacuated hundreds of people before a bomb-sniffing dog gave the all-clear. "We just appreciate everyone cooperating," Ewins told ABC7 News. "We had people evacuate and we also had people shelter-in-place." The ADL reports more than 90 threats or incidents of anti-Semitism within the last two months.

ABC7 NEWS 4:00PM (2:10) - Thursday, 3/9/17

FATHER OF ACCUSED STALKER DOESN'T THINK SON TALKED TO UNDERAGE GIRLS

The father of a South Bay man accused of stalking minors is defending him. Rajeev Sanhi, 35, is accused of stalking underage girls. Police say he even had a shrine of some of them. "It's very overwhelming for me," said Sanhi's father Paul. "I could not sleep last night." Paul recalls the knock on his door by police early Wednesday morning, then the search of his Cupertino home.

"They took my son into custody. They took my PC, my other son's PC and I don't understand why," he told ABC7 News. After the search, Paul learned of the charges against his son. Sanhi is accused of stalking at least four underage girls and Santa Clara County detectives believe there could be a total of 19 possible victims. Police collected photos they say were in a sort of shrine on a wall.

"They didn't show us the search warrant," said Paul. "I asked them. I insisted, and they grabbed my shirt and pulled me outside." He says eventually one detective showed him the warrant after the search. "Whatever accusations in that search warrant were, they were false because I know my son," Paul told ABC7 News. Authorities say Sanhi ran a website called JC Makeover where he talked about inner beauty and Jesus. In one excerpt, he tells girls to say not to drugs, alcohol, and hooking-up.

Deputies are following up on new calls and leads. "I am feeling very depressed about this," Paul added. When asked if he thought that behavior was inappropriate, Paul replied, "No, but I don't think he was doing that." Sanhi is in Santa Clara County jail and his bail is set at \$200,000. Investigators are working to locate other potential victims. They ask anyone who has had an inappropriate encounter with Sanhi to contact them and come forward.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00PM (1:50) - Tuesday, 2/14/17

HE WAS A BIG OLD TEDDY BEAR,' FAMILY OF SAN LEANDRO ROAD RAGE VICTIM SPEAKS OUT

A father was gunned down right in front of his family. Police are calling him a victim of road rage. Police have very few leads, so the victim's family is making an emotional plea. "He was a big old teddy bear," said Leilani Millard of her husband Wardell Taliaferro. She only has a few pictures of him. They were focused on growing their family. Their son Luke is just three months old. "As for a husband, provider, family, brother, definitely it--he loved everybody," Millard said. On Sunday the couple, their baby and five-year-old were driving to a friend's house along Marina Boulevard near Verna Court when something happened between Taliaferro and another driver.

"As they were driving they were swerving out of each other's lanes," said Wardell's brother Joe Toro. "Exchanging words and when came to a stop, before you know it they pulled out a gun." The 45-year-old was shot in the head. His wife jumped into the driver's seat and drove the car to a nearby Kaiser, but Wardell was already dead. "I couldn't believe it," said friend Rose Thompson. "It's surreal." No one can believe it. Taliaferro's family is one that sees one another daily. While their mother kept them all connected, Taliaferro kept them smiling. "He always made sure we always laughed," said his niece Carla Bonds. "He always made light of any situation." This situation, however; is one no one ever expected.

CONSUMERISM

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (2:10) - Thursday, 3/16/17

COMPUTER ISSUES SOLVED FOR SOUTH BAY RESIDENT

Many of people have become dependent on our computers for all kinds of tasks. So when a computer dies, it can wreak havoc on people's lives. It happened to a South Bay woman who came to 7 On Your Side's Michael Finney for help. Jan cut no corners when she bought her customized laptop for \$5,000 that she said was worth every penny, at least in the beginning. In less than a year it just stopped working.

She turned it on one day and saw a bunch of error messages then a blank screen. It just stopped booting. Dell took it back for testing, and when she got it back it wouldn't turn on. They took it back again repaired it and when she turned it off it crashed again. Dell took it back for the third time. It got lost in the shuffle and couldn't be found. Jan contacted 7 on Your Side and Dell shipped it out to a repair depot for a hard drive replacement, and then it worked properly.

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (2:50) - Wednesday, 3/1/17

EAST BAY MAN CAN'T ESCAPE NOISY REFRIGERATOR

The old joke goes, "If your refrigerator is running, you better go catch it." Well that wasn't funny for an East Bay man. When his fridge was running, it drove him crazy. The fridge worked perfectly - ice was frozen, food was fresh, but there was one problem he couldn't escape. Steve Land could hear it from his living room. Seven on Your Side's Michael Finney helped Steve finally get a new sound - silence.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00PM (3:20) - Friday, 2/24/17

RESEARCHERS FIND WAYS TO STOP LITHIUM BATTERIES FROM EXPLODING

For months 7 on Your Side has been reporting on the dangers of lithium batteries. They've exploded without warning in some hover boards, smartphones, laptops and E-cigarettes. Two big breakthroughs from Bay Area scientists could make them safe. Cinders crunch under Kathy Galvan's feet. "This is the room where it happened in," she said. ABC7 News was at her San Leandro home in November after flames swept through it. "Everything's gone," she said. "Everything's gone." It all started with a child's toy. "Why would you sell a product if you knew there was even a chance that this would happen," Galvan asked. Somewhere in the charged debris is a remote control toy car. Kathy's grandson was charging the battery when it burst into flames. "Just a little thing and it caught so fast," Galvan recalled. It was a lithium polymer battery similar to ones that have exploded in some models of Samsung phones and hover boards.

"There are defects that we cannot predict," said Stanford Professor Zhenan Bao. Just weeks ago Bao came out with a breakthrough solution; her invention shuts down a battery before it gets hot enough to explode. A metallic film conducts electricity, turning on an LED light, but if Bao blows hot air onto it, the metal expands so it stops conducting electricity. The LED light goes off and the battery shuts down before it can explode.

"Our main goal is to find new materials for batteries," said Stanford doctoral student Austin Sendek. "Lithium Ion Batteries that can make them safer." Across campus, Sendek made another discovery. "It's going to be much more safe, much less likely to blow up," he said. Sendek's team is trying to find a substitute for the flammable liquid that can make lithium batteries explode.

Scientists identified 12,000 materials that might work. Trying them could take decades and millions of dollars. So Sendek invented an algorithm that narrowed it down to just 20 materials. His team will now try them in real batteries. "We invented new ideas," said Bao. "But we still need companies to commercialize it." "You're looking at a decade before they're made on a large scale," said Sendek.

It's too late for Galvan's family. "We're not together anymore," she said. Everything's gone. The family is scattered, living with friends. Galvan is still coughing from the smoke, so thick she was lucky to find her way out of the fire. "It's something you always think is going to happen to somebody else," Galvan added. "Be warned. Be scared. Be very scared." The Rechargeable Battery Association says it has spent billions on research to make the batteries safer and the Consumer Product Safety Commission is exploring possible safety standards that could force companies to adopt inventions like the ones at Stanford.

ABC7 NEWS 5:00PM (1:55) - Thursday, 3/2/17

7 ON YOUR SIDE'S MICHAEL FINNEY EXPLORES GENETIC TESTING

If you could find out whether you might develop certain cancers or heart disease, would you want to know? Genetic testing makes that possible, but Consumer Reports says not everyone benefits from this cutting edge research. After Fran Heller developed a breast tumor, genetic testing showed she had an inherited predisposition to cancer. Subsequent tests showed others in her family also had the same gene mutation. "My sister, she made the decision sort of right away to have a prophylactic bi-lateral mastectomy and also to have her ovaries removed," said Heller.

Consumer Reports medical advisor, Dr. David Seres says if one or more close family members has a disease with a genetic link, testing for the gene may make sense. "In some diseases, genetic testing gives us the ability to detect problems early. It also helps us to potentially decrease the severity of the illness and may even help decrease the risk of developing the illness in the first place," said Dr. Seres. For instance, with breast and colon cancer, or some types of heart disease, there are good strategies for early detection and preventive measures like following a diet and exercise plan to lower your risk. But the same isn't true for Alzheimer's disease.

"We really don't recommend that people get genetic testing for Alzheimer's disease. There's no way to prevent it even if you know that you have the gene. But also not everyone who has the gene will develop the disease and so you may just be causing yourself unnecessary worry and costs," said Seres. It's very important to consult with your doctor to see if you are a good candidate for genetic testing and if getting the results will be helpful. In some cases, the tests may be covered by insurance.

People who have a close relative who developed colon or uterine cancer before age 50 might consider a genetic test for lynch syndrome. About three to five percent of colon cancers stem from this inherited condition. Increased surveillance can help detect any problems early.

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (2:50) - Tuesday, 2/14/17

7 ON YOUR SIDE HELPS BAY AREA WOMAN REPLACE USELESS THEATER TICKETS

When you buy theater tickets, you might wonder if you'll have a good view of the stage. However, for those with disabilities, other factors are far more important. Aileen Weissblum saw Disney's 'The Lion King' when it first opened on Broadway 20 years ago. She was thrilled when the show came to San Francisco. However, she bought expensive seats from an authorized seller only to find out she couldn't possibly use them.

Aileen wanted to take her granddaughter, an aspiring dancer to see the show. "This would be a wonderful show for her to explore the possibilities of dance and theater," Aileen got a friend to help her buy tickets. He found three for sale on [vividseats.com](#), but with all the service fees they cost more than \$600 and even worse, Aileen realized she could never use them. "I'm 92 years old and my ability to walk that far was impossible."

The seats were located way up in the balcony. Aileen uses a walker, cannot climb that many stairs, and the Orpheum Theater has no elevator. "They said there's nothing we can do about it, we've already collected the money from your credit card," Aileen said. "The fine print basically says we don't refund under any circumstances," Aileen's daughter Lynn Smith said. Smith, who lives in Washington State tried to help but says Vivid would not exchange the seats or refund her mom's money. She contacted the theater directly, and Aileen contacted 7 On Your Side.

"I felt I had a legitimate complaint," Aileen said. SHN which operates the theater did come through, exchanging the balcony seats for three seats in the orchestra section. SHN tells us it does provide accessible seating as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Online seating charts identify wheelchair accessible seats. The company also provides discounted orchestra seats for those with limited mobility, like Aileen. Vivid does let you check for wheelchair access by hovering a mouse over the seat selection. It did not say why it did not exchange the seats when she requested it, saying "we were able to secure ADA seating for Ms. Weissblum and we always take care of our customers."

So, in a circle of life happy ending, Aileen, her daughter, and granddaughter headed to the big show, and they say it was spectacular. We found the best way to ensure accessible seating is to book directly with the theater. SHN also stages special performances for the hearing impaired. We should also note that the Lion King is a production of Disney which owns ABC 7.

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (2:55) - Monday, 2/6/17

TRUST FUND KITTIES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T AFFORD PETS

Owning a pet can be expensive. Many, especially those on fixed incomes, just can't adopt a pet. What if you could get a pet that was guaranteed to not have any vet bills? It sounds funny at first - trust fund cats - but it is serious business that is doing some serious good. Lynda Kline adopted her cat, Ayngel, about a year ago. "She loves to cuddle in my lap and the company is great for me," Kline said. Kline lives on a fixed income and never thought she would be able to afford a cat. But she wanted one so badly she would surf the internet and dream. "One day, I couldn't resist going on Pet Finder. Lo and behold, I saw something I have never seen before - a cat with a trust fund," she said. That's right. Ayngel is a trust fund kitty.

"Yeah, people without pets are going to make fun of it. People that adore their pets are going to go, 'Oh my God! I've got to get one,'" Sarah Haynes said. Haynes is famous around Marin. She owns Kitty Charm School, a Mill Valley cat hotel. On the side, she works to find lost cats and place found cats into loving homes. Some of these cats have trust funds. "So I was gifted a cat with a severe bladder condition and potentially bladder cancer, and that family left me \$20,000 because they wanted to make sure that this cat was forever taken care of. And she was young enough that she could live for another 10 years," Kline said.

That cat was Ayngel. Her trust fund has paid for all of her vet bills and even covered the cost of a safety screen in Kline's apartment. No money is paid directly to Kline. There isn't a clearing house for trust fund animals, so if you are interested in adopting one, you need to ask animal advocates and check at local shelters. If you love your pet, Haynes said you should set up a trust. "You want to make sure you have somebody that really understands your feelings, that you've talked to them in advance, and you put your feelings in writing. And then leave them whatever you can," she said.

That takes us back to Kline and Ayngel. "I never knew it existed. I felt like a miracle had happened for me. So I think it's wonderful," Kline said. Want a trust fund cat of your own? Two trust fund kitties, Olive and Sammy, are available for adoption. These two felines have \$3,500, are very social and loving, and would need to be adopted together. You can adopt them by contacting Kitty Charm School in Mill Valley by emailing meow@kittycharmschool.com or by calling 415-389-MEOW.

ABC7 NEWS I TEAM & SPECIAL NEWS REPORTS

ABC7 NEWS 6PM (3:56) - Saturday, 2/18/17

BIG-RIGS KEEP ROLLING OVER AT SAME SPOT IN GILROY

Caltrans tried to fix a busy intersection in Gilroy because of all the fender benders, but the change has led to more serious accidents--big-rigs rolling over. Caltrans thought the changes they made would help that intersection and now they're scrambling to figure out what to do next. This I-Team investigation began in 2015 with a letter from Art Saenz and his son Michael complaining about a new sweeping curve that Caltrans installed near their home in Gilroy at Pachecho Pass/Highway 152 and Ferguson Road. "There's been a lot of loss," said Michael. "A lot have rigs have gone over, I mean a lot."

When Saenz and Michael told us big-rigs kept rolling over on the curve, the I-Team began investigating. First stop--Google Maps. This is the way the intersection looked in 2012. Caltrans tells us there were many fender benders at the two stop signs. "There was a lack of courtesy. As people reach the stop sign they should have been allowing the first car in to get through," said Bernard Walik, a Caltrans spokesman.

At that point, you had to take a 90-degree left turn to remain on Pachecho Pass heading Westbound. Now, after a \$2 Million Caltrans project it's one long sweeping curve that allows traffic to roll on through when the light is green. Some loaded big-rigs can't handle the curve, especially if they're speeding.

"We did not anticipate that when that light was put in that there was going to be many truckers," Walik told ABC7 News. "Big-rig vehicles trying to get to that intersection, let's say to beat the light and going at a higher rate of speed than the curve can handle." Many have landed next to Adriana Espinoza's yard.

When asked if the big-rigs rolling over so close to her home was scary, Espinoza replied, "It is scary, but I think now, we've seen at least 20 accidents." The I-Team filed public records requests with the CHP and Calfire, whose emergency medical crews respond to the injury accidents. These documents confirm more than 20 big-rig rollovers at that spot since the Caltrans project.

One from Nov. 6 woke up Espinoza at 4:40 a.m. she went to help the passenger and the driver. "He was just hanging, holding on to the seat, but he didn't have his leg anymore so he was in pain," Espinoza told the I-Team. "And the other one said his back was hurting and it's just, it's just very sad to see that." Other crashes at the curve made the ABC7 morning news earlier in February. Walik tells the I-Team Caltrans has taken action installing a caution sign at the CHP's request. He says the CHP made contact with him in Aug. 2015.

(BIG RIGS GILROY Cont.)

It could just be a coincidence but the CHP made that call to Caltrans just weeks after the I-Team filed our first public records request about the rollovers. In March 2016 Caltrans ordered another set of signs that were installed just this week. When asked if it took almost a year to put in one sign Walik said, "In some cases, in this case it did, yes. Just fabrication, the design." The residents question whether the signs will make a difference. "I mean once you're driving and you're going a certain limit it's kind of hard to stop that much weight instantly," said Espinoza.

Saenz told us, "I think it was poorly engineered." They both point out to us how flat the road is. There is no bank, no tilt to increase a tire's friction around that curve--nothing to help the big-rigs upright. When asked if there was a thought of putting a bank on the pavement Walik said, "I believe at the very beginning of the design that was taken in consideration, but there were budget constraints to have such a bigger project and take place like that."

Caltrans tells us they are now considering putting a bank on that curve at a cost of \$3.5 million. They call it, "super elevation," but they have to figure out how to pay for it. Clearly it would have been easier when they did the work four years ago, but they didn't realize the big-rigs would roll so easily.

ABC7 NEWS 6PM (2:15) - Tuesday, 3/14/17

PUBLIC EXPULSION HEARINGS BEING HELD IN NAPA HAZING

I-TEAM FOLLOWUP- Napa Valley Unified School District is holding a public expulsion hearing for a football player accused of hazing in 2016. The hearing will be to decide whether or not to expel Johnny Torres, a Napa High School JV football player, for one year.

"I am here because I am concerned there should be a fair process," said Rachel Smith, a parent. "This would never be allowed in the legal world. Never," said Mandy Leigh, the attorney representing Torres. The high school student along with eight other JV football players is facing expulsion after an alleged hazing incident last October.

According to a declaration by one player, they charged and held another player down while a third poked that player through his uniform pants, in the rear end. Torres says it was just horseplay. "When kids are in a locker room horse playing, that may be obnoxious and annoying, but that is not sexual," said Torres' attorney. A student told an administrator, who was required by state law to report it to police, who now continue to investigate.

In the meantime, Johnny Torres, who had been an honor student, has been out of school for 10-weeks, and worries about his future. Torres is said to be a straight-A student, has been suspended for eight weeks, and fears for college consequences. "I need to be in school. I do not want to retake 10th grade, and throw my college education down the drain," said Torres. The school board could vote on Torres as early as Wednesday night.

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (4:20) - Friday, 2/3/17

BAY AREA EXTREME WEIGHT LOSS DOCTOR LOSES LICENSE

"Lose 30 pounds in 30 days," sounds like an amazing diet, but a San Lorenzo doctor has lost his license in connection with the program after a state undercover investigation. The diet involves eating just 500 calories a day and that can be a serious shock to your system. The bottom line--make sure a doctor is directly overseeing your diet if you're going to try something this extreme.

There is a connection between a medical office in San Lorenzo and a spa 400 miles away. People from both locations now have criminal convictions in connection with the A Slim Me Diet Plan. "We had no clue that what we were doing was incorrect," said Maryanne Kuzara who works on the program. "It tells the body to take every single nutrient that's locked in the fat, flush it into the blood stream to be utilized."

HCG is a hormone produced by the placenta during pregnancy, and in prescription form, it's normally used for fertility treatments. The FDA has not approved HCG as a diet aide saying, "There is no substantial evidence that it increases weight loss," and that they've received reports of "pulmonary embolism, depression, cerebrovascular issues, cardiac arrest and death" associated with HCG injections for dieting. "Cause really, if you want to do a self-injection, we'll do one today," said Kuzara's sister Therese Rickard, who was caught treating a patient on hidden camera.

When asked what the worst case scenario is in a situation like this, Cassandra Hockenson of the Medical Board of California said, "Somebody could have died." When the state medical board received a complaint about A Slim Me's HCG program, they sent an undercover investigator. The owner's sister offered prescription HCG injections without a doctor having seen the patient, as required by law.

"An individual could be diabetic and they don't know it and who's checking, you know, I mean who's looking at them to see if there's more that they need, that's why it's so important," Hockenson continued. Investigators learned that the spa's doctor lived 400 miles away in San Lorenzo. Allen Fujimoto, 83, declined to speak with us on camera, citing health issues. In his interview with investigators, he admitted training A Slim Me's owner and her sister once in 2009 and that they purchased HCG using his license.

"They dispense the medication and then I sign it late," he said. Fujimoto also claimed he visited the spa every two months to review charges and that he rarely saw patients at A Slim Me during the past seven years.

(LOSES LICENSE Cont.)

The California medical board took away Fujimoto's license, effective this past New Year's Eve and he pled guilty to aiding and abetting an unlicensed practice of medicine. So did Kuzara. Her sister pled guilty to the unlicensed practice of medicine--all misdemeanors. You would think a criminal conviction that brought a \$1,000 fine, suspended jail sentence and three years of probation, Mary Anne Kuzara would be careful about how she runs her business now.

We asked an orange county woman to call A Slim Me for an HCG appointment just two-and-a-half weeks ago. "And they said, 'Okay, well the doctor will be in at 12.'" When Taylor arrived, no doctor. She tells us it was Kuzara, who described the supposed benefits of HGC and then a physician's assistant offered an injection right then and there. "Other than him telling me he could inject me that was like, the end of our conversation," Taylor said.

Kuzara says she has a new doctor and that his assistant spoke with Taylor that day. If she had decided to go through with the injection the physician's assistant would have done a more thorough medical exam. "And that if they had decided to get on the program, he would have written them a prescription and he would have filed it for them," said Kuzara.

The Medical Board tells us a health care professional should actually do the consultation from the start so they're taking another look at the spa and how it works. Kuzara says she has just sold most of her interest in the business. By the way you can take HCG for weight loss if a doctor approves, but it's considered an off-label use.

ABC7 NEWS 6:00PM (4:15) - Wednesday, 2/15/17

LEADER OF CALEXIT MOVEMENT ALLEGED TIES TO RUSSIA

In It would be easy to dismiss this as some fringe group trying to make California into its own country, but former intelligence officials tell the ABC7 News I-Team the ballot initiative leader's ties to Russia raise serious questions.

Louis Marinelli has received support in Russia from a far-right nationalist group that wants to break up the United States. Former intelligence officials say that association raises serious questions about his intent. "You don't need this to be involved in California's campaign for independence," Marinelli said holding up an American flag. He's the leader of the Yes California campaign, also dubbed Calexit. Marinelli is an American who lives in Russia, but his movement is getting a lot of attention stateside.

A recent Reuters poll found one in three Californians support the idea of withdrawing from the United States. In January, Marinelli's group started collecting signatures for a ballot initiative that would amend the state constitution. When asked by the I-Team if he was a U.S. citizen, Marinelli replied, "Yes." We recently spoke with him from his home in Yekaterinburg. "I'm in Russia for a number of reasons," said Marinelli. "I have personal reasons. I want to be here and I have political goals to achieve while I'm here, one of which is to build a bridge between California and Russia."

He says his personal reasons center on his marriage. "My wife is a foreign national from Russia," he said. "As you can imagine, we've had difficulty and an expensive and difficult time navigating the immigration system."

Marinelli says California's approach to immigration and political ideology no longer mirror the rest of the country and for that reason it should be its own country. The ballot measure would change California's constitution and allow it to begin the process for leaving the U.S. It would force a special election asking Californians if they want to be independent. If yes, then congress would have to agree and so would two-thirds of the state legislatures.

"With that ability we will be able to establish the kind of liberal and progressive republic that we want in California, but often can't have because of congress, because of the White House, because of the Supreme Court." Marinelli told the ABC7 News I-Team. He promoted the idea of an independent California at a conference in Moscow in 2016. Now, that's raising questions about whether Russia is behind the secession campaign.

(CALEXIT LEADER Cont.)

The event was partially funded by a Kremlin-backed charity linked to Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Anti-Globalization Movement of Russia is also providing rent-free office space for what Marinelli calls, "a California embassy in Moscow."

"We're a big state," said Leon Panetta, former secretary of defense "With a tremendous impact in terms of this country's economy and politics." The former CIA chief says Californians should be wary of Russia's involvement. "If you can weaken the leadership of the United States in the world, Russia can be able to get away with a lot more of what they want to do." Panetta says the CIA has long suspected Russia of using political turmoil as a weapon.

When asked if he would move back to the United States, Mainelli responded, "At some point in time I hope to return to California and live under the California flag without the American flag, sure." We reached out to the FBI to see if Marinelli was under investigation, but they wouldn't comment.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00PM (4:30) - Friday, 2/10/17

I-TEAM INVESTIGATES WILD HORSE PROGRAM

The White House is responding to an I-Team investigation into wild horses. They are protected under federal law as "living symbols" of the nation's pioneer spirit. But now, advocates are worried what the Donald Trump presidency could mean for the future of the mustangs. Dan Noyes has a long history reporting on this issue, and he's back with the latest. It's been a problem for decades. Some ranchers have been able to ignore the law and the government's policy, purchasing wild horses and sending them to slaughter for food. Month by month, year after year, this is how the federal government tries to maintain a healthy wild horse population -- using helicopters to scare herds to stampede, so they can capture what they believe are excess mustangs.

BLM Spokesman Jeff Fontana tells the I-Team, "It's all about establishing populations that the range land can support." But the round-ups often kill or injure horses. During the Owyhee round-up in Nevada two months ago, the Bureau of Land Management or BLM reports on its website 18 horses died. But public records show many more died -- a total of 48 -- in the round-up or in government corrals after: broken necks or backs, leg or pelvis fractures, some causes of death listed as "unknown", others as "pre-existing conditions".

"I've seen foals that have died because they have literally run their feet off," says Ellie Phipps Price. She's the American Wild Horse Campaign President, and owns a Sonoma County sanctuary with 240 wild horses. She tells Dan Noyes, the BLM allows many more cattle and sheep owned by private ranchers to graze on public land, compared to wild horses. "The herd sizes are so small in some places, they're not genetically viable," says Phipps Price. "So we are at risk of losing these amazing, iconic animals."

Phipps-Price cites a National Academy of Sciences study from 2013 that criticized the government, saying:

- Its wild horse population numbers are "unsubstantiated estimates,"
- that there's "a lack of evidence that management decisions are informed by science."
- It urged the BLM to use "contraceptives or chemical vasectomies ... to reduce the growth rate."

Phipps Price tells Dan Noyes, "If they embrace birth control, they would be able to manage populations humanely." But, the government currently spends less than one-percent of its wild horse budget on fertility control. \$50 million a year, about 65-percent of the budget, goes to storing 44-thousand wild horses in facilities like this one near Susanville where they're up for adoption. They're fed every day, -- a far different life than freedom on the range where they sometimes run up to 30 miles a day.

(WILD HORSES Cont.)

Dan Noyes asked, "Normally, how high would the horses go, the wild horses go up that mountain?" Jeff Fontana answered, "During the summer, they'd be up the top of that mountain." Now, wild horse advocates are worried a Trump presidency could bring a dangerous change for the mustangs.

Rep. Ryan Zinke, Montana Republican testified, "Clearly the present policy is a disaster." Congressman Zinke from Montana is the president's nominee to head the Interior Department, overseeing the BLM and the wild horse program. As a state lawmaker in 2009, Zinke promoted a bill to kill horses for food. He testified in Montana 2009, "It's a slaughter house for horses that are either abandoned or old or broke from the livestock point of view."

The I-Team asked if Zinke would now favor slaughtering wild horses held in government corrals. His office said Zinke would not comment during his transition to interior secretary. Dan Noyes reported in 1989 for World News Tonight, "With the flick of a finger, another wild horse is on its way to the meat packer. Thousands each year wind up in slaughterhouses, to be exported for human consumption in countries like France where horse meat is popular."

Just last year, a BLM advisory panel recommended changing policy and allowing wild horses to be sold to slaughter. Now, the Trump administration tells Dan Noyes, they have "no plan to move forward" with that. "We are evaluating the best path forward for the health and well-being of the federal horse and burro herd and will follow the highest ethical standards consistent with federal law."

Phipps Price tells the I-Team, "And what I don't want to see is for them to just throw up their hands and say, 'Well, we have made a mess of it, so now we'll just have to slaughter the horses in holding.'" Dan Noyes told the BLM, "We've been doing the same things for decades and it hasn't gotten better." Jeff Fontana answered, "Well, I certainly don't have the answer, but there's a lot of people working on answers to the problem." You can adopt a wild horse for only \$125, but of course, caring for one will cost much more over the years. Adoptions are way down from what they once were, making this problem all the more pressing.

ABC7 NEWS 4:00PM (2:35) - Tuesday, 1/24/17

HAPPY COUPLE' FOUND DEAD IN BERKELEY IDENTIFIED

Berkeley police are investigating the mysterious deaths of a couple and their two cats. Their bodies were found yesterday in their apartment on Deakin Street Monday night. How Roger and Valerie Morash died remains a mystery. "Everyone knew Val was a very generous, kind person and very intelligent," said U.C. Berkeley professor Marty Banks. Morash graduated from MIT, got her masters in statistics and doctorate at U.C. Berkeley.

Banks was her graduate advisory. "She was the go-to person in lab on any statistics problem." Morash and her husband Roger were found by a friend who went in to check on her. Police also found their two cats dead. Fire and PG&E crews were called. Carbon monoxide and radiation poisoning tests came back negative. Police say there were no signs of forced entry or violence.

Professor Gunilla Hagerstrom-Portnoy says Morash was a rising star as a research scientist. "Vale was on a roll, she was hiring people," he said. "She was mentoring graduate students here." Banks tells us they were a happy couple. Roger also had a promising future. "He was a very good programmer," said Hagerstrom-Portnoy. "MIT educated like Val is. He was working on video games." Morash was working in San Francisco at the Smith Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, doing pioneer work in vision science. Portnoy-Hagerstrom says helping the blind was her primary focus. Police are hoping autopsies on the two bodies will determine cause of death.

YOUTH

ABC7 NEWS 6PM (2:10) - Wednesday, 1/25/17

EXPLOITED, ABUSED BAY AREA YOUTH FIND SECURITY AT DREAMCATCHER YOUTH CENTER

ABC7 Stars recognizes local people doing extraordinary things. The kids who come to Dreamcatcher Youth Center haven't had easy lives. Many have been abused, sexually exploited or grew up in homes without enough food. But they do have Dwayne Chenevert. "They need to know who's in charge," said Chenevert with a laugh. He's the shelter coordinator. "And they need to know that it's a structured program. And then to that, that all their basic needs will be taken care of."

Chenevert helped launch Dreamcatcher more than sixteen years ago. It's the only youth shelter in Alameda County. "Family is really important because a lot of times when kids come in, they come in to find out we're kind of like a missing piece that they, that they lacked at home," he explained. The shelter has eight beds and a drop-in center, where teens can do laundry, eat a free dinner or simply relax in a safe place. It also provides health services, job support, therapy and legal help. "So, when they arrive here, we have a youth that's been traumatized. The longer they've been out on the streets, the more they've been exploited in many different ways," explained Amba Johnson, the shelter director. And that means they often have a tough time trusting adults. But in this house, it's different.

"They trust Dwayne when they don't trust anyone else," explained one person. After nearly 5 years of struggling to secure grants and permits, Dreamcatcher is about a month away from opening its new facility next door. Right now, more than 100 teens sleep there each year and another 300 to 400 use the drop-in center. In the new shelter, they hope to double the number of kids they can help. The space may be changing, but the goal is not. They'll continue to provide stability and structure -- a stepping stone for kids who've lost their way. "Dreamcatcher is my calling. This is something I'm passionate about because I know I can... I know that I can help the youth. And the youth know that they can come on and depend on me," said Chenevert.

ABC7 NEWS 6PM (2:10) - Wednesday, 1/25/17

**YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX BRINGS HIGH STAKES, HIGH PRESSURE
BALLET TO SAN MATEO**

Young ballerinas came together under one roof Thursday for what's being called the Olympics of ballet. Their dancing dreams are on the line. Things have become very serious in San Mateo--life or death serious for someone who aspires to dance professionally. When asked if she was nervous, Delizo said, "Sort of, yeah." Her mother says she started working on her routine in September. For dancers, the Youth America Grand Prix is the equivalent of an NFL draft, but more graceful.

The best ballet students in this region get two minutes on stage to prove they belong in New York City competing against others from around the world. Charles Darwin eat your heart out. "It's the crème de la crème," said Judge Karine Plantadit. These kids have come from all of California, Nevada and even Utah. There's a lot at stake. Larissa Saveliev, formerly of the Boshoi Ballet, founded this competition which awards scholarships from 30 ballet companies which train and turn out to be the stars of our future.

Around 7 p.m. Delizo took the stage for her contemporary number with her 10-year dream on the line. She looked good to us, but the judges won't announce who moves on until Sunday. When asked if she'd get homesick going to school away from home Delizo replied, "Yeah, but it's a big opportunity so I would definitely do it."

ABC7 NEWS 11AM (2:10) - Wednesday, 3/15/17

POSSIBLE NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK AT DUBLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

An East Bay school is trying to scrub away a virus that appears to be getting many students ill. There were 35 who stayed home from Dublin Elementary School with symptoms of Norovirus on Monday. There are 46 absent on Wednesday, which is about the same as Tuesday, but they haven't tracked how many might be symptomatic yet. The parents that did bring their kids to school are concerned but pleased with how the school is handling the situation.

"We are taking every precaution out of an abundance of caution. We have doubled our custodial staff. We had people working throughout the weekend to clean the campus. Alameda County Department of Health was here yesterday to guide us and give us feedback on our cleaning practices," school district spokesperson Michelle McDonald said. There is one confirmed case of Norovirus and dozens of others who are sick but haven't officially been tested. When asked if any children have gotten sick at school, McDonald said yes but it gets taken care of quickly.

This all started on Friday. Parents have also kicked into cleaning overdrive. "I'm a little scared for my kids. Obviously I don't want us to get it either as an adult. But I'll just wash the hands and just be more cautious and not share food and things like that," parent Randy Fong said.

The school has sent emails to parents every day since this happened, keeping them updated and reminding them to keep sick kids home.

Parents say they appreciate being armed with the information. "I think they are doing a good job of containing it and the teachers have been really good about enforcing hand washing and all that kid of stuff. Everyone's doing the best they can," parent Shauna Merrill said. One thing they're stressing is that if your child is sick; don't send them back to school until they're symptom-free for 48 hours. They're hoping to eradicate this thing in the next few days. They do have spring break coming up the first week of April, so that will help wipe the slate clean.

ABC7 NEWS 5:00PM (1:40) - Tuesday, 2/14/17

THREE MEN ACCUSED OF VICIOUSLY ATTACKING TEEN WITH SKATEBOARD IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco police are searching for three young men accused of beating an 18-year-old teenager with his own skateboard. The assault happened near the eastern entrance to Golden Gate Park at Haight and Stanyan streets near a busy bike rental stand. The teen is in critical condition. "The medics were on scene and found the victim on the ground, unconscious, unable to speak and he was bleeding profusely from his head," San Francisco Police Department Ofc. Grace Gatpandan said.

It's the latest incident in the area. Last June, a homeless couple was charged with torturing a man whose body was found in the park's Alvord Lake and there have been several stabbings, and shootings over the last couple of years at Haight and Stanyan streets. Billy Martins just moved to the neighborhood and says he knows to be careful. "You don't know who's next to you, you don't know who is walking around, what kind of problems people have," he said.

Since Saturday afternoon's attack on the skateboarder, police have interviewed witnesses and say they now have more officers patrolling this trouble spot. "We have a patrol bureau task force, those officers can be undercover, there are officers who can be doing passing calls, even officers on bikes that you may not see," Gatpandan said. "It's well policed, that's not the problem," Skates owner Carol Sloan said. Skates is located across the street from the park. "That particular entrance to the park is a place where people hang out, sell drugs, and are violent, so it doesn't surprise me something happened there," Sloan said. Investigators believe there may be more witnesses and are asking them to call police.

ABC7 NEWS 11:00AM (:30) - Friday, 3/3/17

FAMILY SUES BART AFTER CHILD ROBBED, CLAIMING SECURITY GAPS

The family of a 12-year-old boy who was robbed at the El Cerrito del Norte BART station is suing the railway system claiming security gaps allowed their son to be robbed. Last April the boy was taking the BART train home, and a robber came up to him from behind, put a gun to his back and demanded the boy walk to an area not covered by surveillance cameras. The suspect then took the boy's wallet. According to The East Bay Times, the boy's family claims the robber took advantage of gaps in the BART station's security. The suspect has not been found yet.

ABC7 NEWS 4:00PM (:42) - Saturday, 3/18/17

SAN FRANCISCO JOB FAIR GIVES TEENS RESUME BOOST

Hundreds of Bay Area students got a boost for their resumes this summer thanks to a special jobs program. Around 60 employers took part in the Mayor's Youth Jobs and Resource Fair Saturday including LinkedIn, Gap, Macy's and Ghirardelli. The fair was set up to help many under-served teenagers get their careers going.

"We've got city jobs available for young people. We've got resume writing. We'll do workshops for them. We're getting them mock interviews. We're doing real interviews. So, some of the young people will actually walk away with jobs today," Hydra Mendoza told ABC7. The program has helped more than 32,000 teenagers connect to jobs and internships since it started five years ago.