

FCC REPORT – KCAL9 News

1st Quarter 2022

1 - COMMUNITY & MINORITY ISSUES:

WHITEMAN AIRPORT

January 26, 4 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Rachel Kim reports that concerned community groups and residents rallied today to try to close Whiteman Airport. After a number of crashes and accidents, they fear it's only a matter of time before innocent people are killed. The most recent incident involved a plane that crashed onto the railroad tracks. Fortunately, the pilot was rescued in time.

1ST AME COVID 19

January 29 10 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Chris Holmstrom reports that LA Care partnered with the historic first African Methodist Episcopal Church to offer Covid-19 vaccines. Organizers say they're trying to make the shots more accessible to minority communities that have higher rates of illness and death.

PACOIMA BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February 25, 12 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Amy Johnson reports that some historians say Pacoima was the first suburban town for black people in the country. Almost 90-percent of its residents are now Hispanic, but Johnson reports that sixty years ago, about 75-percent of Pacoima's residents were African American. What brought most black people to the town were the Joe Louis homes.

CARE HARBOR

February 26, 8 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Chris Holmstrom reports that a massive clinic that serves the most vulnerable members of the community is gearing up. This weekend they have been handing out wristbands for their 12th annual clinic starting in early March. The clinic includes health care providers, volunteer doctors, dentists and nurses, providing free services to those who need them.

EAGLE ROCK TINY HOMES

March 23, 4 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Juan Fernandez reports a ribbon-cutting was held today for another tiny homes community in LA. The "Eagle Rock Tiny Homes Village" has 48 homes, complete with heating, cooling and storage. This makes nearly 100 beds available for people who are currently unhoused.

GIRLS FIRE CAMP

March 26, 10 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Lesley Marin reports that a special opportunity for young women was held in El Segundo today. The South Bay region's first female fire chief, Deena Lee, hosted a fire camp for girls. Young ladies from 12 to 19 got a chance to use real firefighter gear and earn the safety protocols used each day.

2 - CONSUMER & ECONOMICS:

LUXURY CAR SALES

January 10, 4 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Jasmine Viel reports that Rolls-Royce and Bentley posted record sales for their ultra luxury cars in 2021. Rolls-Royce reported it sold its highest number of cars ever in 2021. Bentley also posted record sales, selling 31-percent more cars and SUVs than in 2020.

EMERGENCY SAVINGS

January 19, 8 P.m. newscast

KCAL9's Juan Fernandez reports more than half of all Americans are not ready for an emergency. Bankrate, a financial comparison company, says that only 4 in 10 people have enough savings to cover a one-thousand-dollar unexpected expense, like a trip to the emergency room or an unexpected car repair. Some people would have to scramble to find the means, using a credit card or personal loan.

IRS REFUNDS**February 15, 10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Jeff Vaughn reports that taxpayers are starting to see an extra check in their bank accounts. The IRS says that in the first two weeks of tax filing season, it issued more than nine-point-five billion dollars in returns. The average tax refund is \$2,200.

RISING CHILD CARE COSTS**February 22, 4 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Juan Fernandez reports that parents are digging deeper into their pockets as childcare costs are rising. A new report by Child Care Aware states that the national average topped ten-thousand dollars a year in 2020. That is more than ten-percent of the median income for the average married couple. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends parents cap their costs at seven-percent of their budget.

MEDICAL DEBT**March 22, 8 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Jeff Vaughn reports that the three main credit reporting agencies are preparing to wipe out most medical debt. Experian, Equifax and Trans-union say beginning July 1st paid medical bills that have headed to collections will no longer show up on credit reports. By 2023, the agencies will no longer include medical debt under five-hundred dollars.

CONSUMER TRAVEL**March 29, 10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Jeff Vaughn reports that millions looking to travel again—now that most Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted—should be prepared to pay more. Oil prices are making jet fuel more expensive, and that is causing ticket prices to soar. The average ticket price is around three-hundred-eleven dollar, up nearly 32-percent from the beginning of the year. A new survey finds that 72-percent of Americans plan to travel this year.

3 - CRIME:**LAPD OFFICER KILLED****January 11, 8 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Rachel Kim reports that detectives are trying to track down the killer or killers of off-duty LAPD Officer Fernando Arroyos. Arroyos was shot and killed during an attempted robbery in Boyle Heights. Arroyos worked at a station in Koreatown. He and his girlfriend were looking for homes near Beach Street and 87th Street when he was shot.

NURSE ATTACKED**January 16, 10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Laurie Perez reports that an ER nurse who was attacked while waiting for a bus in downtown LA has died. The death of Sandra Shells has raised questions about the safety of public transportation. Shells worked at LA County USC Medical Center for 38 years. LAPD quickly found the suspect, who was an unhoused man.

49ER FAN ATTACK**February 3, 8 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Lesley Marin reports that there is new information about a possible suspect in the attack on a San Francisco 49er fan outside SoFi Stadium after the NFC Championship game. The fan—James Luna-- was beaten and left in a coma. Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts saw the security video of the incident and said that Luna got into an altercation with a person wearing a Rams jersey. Mayor Butts says Luna pushed the suspect from behind, then the suspect retaliated.

SCHOOL SEX ASSAULT**February 25, 4 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Rina Nakano reports that a family of a teenage girl says she was sexually assaulted at a school in the Inland Empire. Now there are new developments that led to the arrests of two school administrators who allegedly failed to report it. The family says the girl was sexually assaulted multiple times by a 17-year-old boy at Carter High School in Rialto.

FATHER AND DAUGHTER KILLED**March 4, p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Lesley Marin reports that a driver who crashed his truck into a Long Beach apartment building—killing a father and daughter—was seen leaving a nearby bar just moments before the crash. Now investigators are looking into the bar.

POMONA DOUBLE MURDER**March 9, 12 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Kara Finnstrom reports that two men were shot and killed in Pomona overnight, on Ridgeway Street. Detectives says the men may have been acquaintances of each other, but it does not appear they shot each other. Also, their identities are not known because there was no identification on them when they were shot.

4 - EDUCATION & YOUTH:**LAUSD SCHOOL RETURN****January, 12 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Kara Finnstrom reports the Los Angeles United School District kicked off the Spring semester today. Many were happy to be back, but some parents expressed concerns. Also, thousands were absent after testing positive for Covid-19. Before returning to class, LAUSD required students to submit a negative Covid-19 test result. At least 86-percent of students complied.

COLLEGE CORPS**January 18, 9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Jasmine Viel reports that Governor Gavin Newsom announced a historic college service program today. 45 colleges and universities in California will take part. The program—called "Californians For All College Corps" offers tuition subsidies to students who do community service. It starts in the Fall of 2022 with 65-hundred students.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA LOS ANGELES**February 13, 9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Lesley Marin reports that "Youth Orchestra Los Angeles" or YOLA performed with "Mary Mary" at the Super Bowl. The musicians are involved in a program that brings classical music education to children from low-income communities. YOLA provides free instruments, musical training and academic support to nearly eight hundred local students.

DEFUND LAUSD POLICE**February 26, 8 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Chris Holmstrom reports there is a controversial move to defund school police at the LAUSD. A community event was held Saturday morning in Exposition Park with LAUSD students and Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrice Cullors. The group is calling for full defunding of school police in all schools in the district.

LAUSD MASK MANDATE**March 18, 9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Rick Montanez reports that the Los Angeles Unified School District's new mask rules will begin a week and a half after most other districts in California already switched to masks-optional classrooms. LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho says this is the right move, based on the dramatic decline in Covid cases and hospitalizations. However, one parents group says a lot of people are not ready to ditch the masks just yet.

CSU ADMISSIONS**March 24, 12 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Amy Johnson reports the California college system is doing away with the SAT or ACT in its admissions process. The Board of Trustees actually dropped the policy during the height of the pandemic, but on March 23rd they made it final. CSU is following the lead of the University of California system in abandoning the standardized tests.

5 - ENVIRONMENT:

BASKETBALL ARTIST**January 26, 8 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Rachel Kim reports that a local man is using recycled basketballs to help clean up the environment. He turns the recycled balls into artistic planters. It keeps the basketballs out of landfills, while at the same time, bringing more plants into African American households. A tiny gift of a plant in May 2020 led to his idea.

OIL DRILL BAN**January 26, 9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Tom Wait reports that the LA City Council took a major step towards making Los Angeles greener. The Council voted to ban new oil and gas drilling sights and to find ways to close down existing sites in the city. Wait reports there are 26 existing oil and gas fields, embedded in neighborhoods across Los Angeles.

GARCETTI GREEN FLEET**February 16, 12 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Jasmine Viel reports that the city of LA wants to use less gas, to battle climate change and go green. Mayor Garcetti inaugurated "Streets LA's Center For Green Fleet Innovation", which focuses on clean technology. Garcetti says there are over 16-thousand public and commercial charging stations in LA, more than in any other city in the U.S. He says hundreds more are being installed every month.

MACARTHUR PARK CLEANUP**February 25, 4 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Juan Fernandez reports that the city of LA is cleaning up MacArthur Park, and it re-opened today. The city planted 60 new trees, 125 new plants and more than 275-thousand square feet of sod. The city relocated more than 300 homeless people who were living in the park.

ELECTRIC FLIGHT**March 9, 8 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Jasmine Viel reports on the search for jet fuel alternatives at NASA's Armstrong Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base. A new electric aircraft—called the X57—is being developed. NASA is trying to squeeze all the batteries into the belly of the aircraft. They are planning the first flight this summer.

DESALINATION PLAN**MARCH 16, 12 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Amy Johnson reports on chemist Michelle Peters, who is working to make ocean water drinkable. Peters explains the complex process used at the Carlsbad Desalination Plant, north of San Diego. Peters is at the forefront of the effort to convert sea water to tap water, to lessen the effects of California's drought.

6 - HEALTH & MEDICINE:

COVID TESTING DEMANDS

January 4, 12 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Kara Finnstrom reports a local urgent care opened today with its own Covid lab, offering another option to locals trying to get tested. Exer's CEO says that the center checks to see if your insurance will pay for a test. The demand for tests has spiked along with case counts. Appointments have been filling up quickly.

OMICRON SUBVARIANT

January 31, 4 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Suzie Suh reports a new Covid-19 subvariant of Omicron - BA-2 - is more infectious than the original. This is according to health experts. BA-2 was first detected in November. It's now in at least 54 countries and 24 US states, including here in California. BA-2 is also known as "Stealth", because it's harder to detect.

ENDEMIC EXPLAINER

February 18, 4 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Kristine Lazar reports that Governor Newsom has said we are now transitioning from a "pandemic" to an "endemic." But what does that actually mean? Lazar spoke with different doctors. One says it's really about how widespread the problem is and how urgent it is. The doctor says it will be similar to how we deal with the flu, where every year we get a vaccine to try to protect ourselves against the circulating variants.

LA COUNTY USC BLOOD DRIVE

February 15, 4 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Juan Fernandez reports that a local trauma center issued a "call to action" today. They are desperate need of blood donations. Donors showed up at LA County USC Medical Center. Officials say their blood supply has reached critically low levels. The trauma center depends on donated blood because it provides emergency life-saving medical care.

MENTAL ILLNESS**March 21, 4 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Rachel Kim reports that isolation, shame, trauma and marginalization can all be part of the high school experience. But a student-led group in Villa Park is working to solve those problems. More than two dozen students at this Orange County school are hand-painting tote bags for students in need. The students are members of Villa Parks' National Alliance On Mental Illness, or NAMI.

MEN DIABETES DRUG**March 30, 12 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Serene Branson reports that men who take a popular diabetes drug are forty percent more likely to conceive a child with birth defects. A study published in the journal "Annals Of Internal Medicine" looked at men who used the drug "metformin" within three months of fathering a child. Researchers followed more than a million births between 1987 and 2016.

7 - POLITICS:**CA UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE****January 121, 9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Tom Wait reports on Governor Newsom's plan for health care for all Californians. It could mean another tax increase for millions of California residents. The governor's plan for universal health care includes insuring one-point-one million undocumented immigrants. Newsom says the state's multi-billion-dollar surplus will help pay for the plan. State lawmakers would have to vote to raise taxes on people and businesses who earn more than \$149,509 per year. That would raise taxes by 163-billion-dollars a year.

BUSCAINO ENDORSES GASCON RECALL**January 31, 9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9's Pat Harvey reports that LA City Councilman Joe Buscaino is endorsing the new effort to recall LA County District Attorney George Gascon. Buscaino is running for mayor of LA. This is the second recall attempt against Gascon. Buscaino's campaign responded to the latest effort, saying LA voters are more interested in safety than a politically

motivated recall attempt. The LA County Registrar's office has authorized recall organizers may start circulating their petition. Petition signatures must be returned no later than July sixth.

GARCETTI ACCUSATIONS

February 7, 9 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Pat Harvey reports that LA Mayor Garcetti's former communications director is accusing him of perjury for saying he didn't know about alleged sexual harassment by his former senior advisor. Naomi Seligman says she was assaulted by Rick Jacobs, and that Mayor Garcetti knew about the pattern of behavior but ignored it. The group "Whistleblower Aid" sent the perjury complaint to the U-S Department Of Justice, California's attorney general and the L-A County district attorney. The mayor was asked about the accusation when he was questioned as part of his nomination process to become U-S ambassador to India. Garcetti denied any knowledge of the accusations.

MAYORAL DEBATE LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

February 22, 9 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Tom Wait reports that five of the leading candidates for LA mayor debate at Loyola Marymount University. The candidates included Councilman Joe Buscaino, Congresswoman Karen Bass, LA City Attorney Mike Feuer, Councilman Kevin De Leon and Metro Board member Mel Wilson. Businessman Rick Caruso was absent. There was consensus among all the candidates that homelessness was the most important issue facing the city. Karen Bass said she would declare a state of emergency on day one if she is elected. The candidates also debated public safety and the movement to defund the police.

GAS TAX SUSPENSION

March 14, 8 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Rachel Kim reports that in order to reduce the cost of gas, some state lawmakers want to suspend the gas tax. Republican state lawmakers held a news conference, calling for the immediate suspension of California's 51-cents per gallon gas tax. They said this burden is borne only by Californians, and it's not the result of international political events. Lawmakers forced a floor vote today to fast track legislation. Democrats oppose the tax suspension, saying that could endanger many state projects.

NEWSOM GAS RELIEF

March 23, 10 p.m. newscast

KCAL9's Tom Wait reports that Governor Gavin Newsom has unveiled a new plan to help California drivers with the skyrocketing cost of gas. The staggering cost of gas is taking a toll on drivers, and it's become a major political issue statewide. Newsom announced a nine-billion-dollar tax refund. Under the governor's proposed plan, Californians—regardless of income—would receive 400-dollars per vehicle, up to a maximum of eight-hundred-dollars. They would also receive free public transit for three months and a pause on the diesel gas tax. Newsom says this is on top of the ten-plus-billion dollars that the state has distributed over the last year.