

Quarterly Community Issues

2020: October - December

KXPR 6:04 am– 6:06 pm Weekdays

October

01: 16POLL

More than two decades after banning it, Californians will have the opportunity to vote on affirmative action this year. But even amid protests for racial justice, the measure is struggling.

01: PFC_2WAY

A photo making the rounds on social media falsely claimed that more than a-thousand California ballots were recently found in a dumpster.

02: RECSPORTS

Nevadans will be able to compete in rec league sports again starting this Saturday, after months of being shut down due to COVID-19.

02: SCHOOLSUICIDE

Some California schools are not taking the necessary steps to prevent youth suicide. That's according to a new report from the state auditor.

05: FEDFIRE

The National Prescribed Fire Act of 2020 would do three things. It would give \$300 million dollars to the Forest Service and the Department of Interior for controlled burns on federal, state and private land. It would also provide \$10 million dollars to help prevent high-severity burns and incentivizes prescribed burns at 50,000 acres or larger.

05: RECSPORTS

Governor Steve Sisolak announced Friday that youth and adult teams will be allowed to play again -- But the new policy comes with some new restrictions. Leagues will have to provide screening and temperature checks for athletes and spectators. But Sisolak also appealed to non-players to demonstrate safe behavior at sporting events.

06: VIOLENCE

Three different shootings in Sacramento this weekend left several people injured. Two people were killed, including a 9-year-old girl. Neighborhood leaders say the pandemic has made existing problems with gun violence worse.

06: BUDGETSTIMULUS

Don't expect another stimulus check or another boost to unemployment benefits — at least until after the election. That was the message from President Donald Trump after another round of spending negotiations failed. In California, the pandemic led to a 54-billion-dollar budget shortfall.

07: NEWSOMSUIT

Two Republican state lawmakers argue Newsom is abusing his power during the pandemic. Their lawsuit focuses on an executive order which expanded mail-in-voting to every registered voter. The state's Justice Department is defending Newsom and argues that since the executive order was replaced by legislation, the case is moot.

07: NURSESTRIKE

Eight hundred nurses are expected to walk the picket line outside San Joaquin General Hospital. This follows a 2-day strike in early March in which the issues ranged from salary hikes to working conditions. The strike will not only affect the hospital but also outreach clinics in the county and the jail. Nurse Kelly Mertz says since the earlier strike, there has been no contact by the county in renewing bargaining.

08: GOVCOVID

A staff member in Governor Gavin Newsom's office has tested positive for the coronavirus. The governor's office learned of the positive test earlier this week.

08: SHASTACOVIDSPIKE

Shasta County will soon face more restrictions after confirming 167 new cases of COVID-19 over the weekend... a spike the county has never seen before.

09: EDDMESS

California's Employment Development Department has made some progress on its backlog of unemployment filings...but lawmakers say it's not enough.

09: CLIMEMERG

Yolo and Sacramento counties are neighbors but approach the climate crisis differently. While both counties have climate action plans, CapRadio's Ezra David Romero reports youth activists want Sacramento County to do more.

12: RENTRATES

San Francisco and San Jose saw the biggest drop nationwide in rent prices over the last year...down roughly 10 to 11 percent. That's according to the data firm Real Page...which tracks real estate trends. California cities also topped the list for annual rent increases...with Sacramento and the San Bernardino/Riverside metro area seeing a jump of roughly four percent.

12: NEWHELVEITALAWSUIT

A group of organizers has filed a claim against Sacramento regarding the city's plan to redevelop a historic housing project formerly known as New Helvetia and Seavey Circle.

13: BALLOTBOXES

California's top election official is demanding the state Republican Party remove unauthorized ballot boxes that have appeared in at least three counties.

13: UOPPARTD

In previous years, UOP students helped elderly residents look through plans face-to-face. Now those consultations will be virtual. Between October 17th and November 22nd, seniors can set up a video or phone meeting. UOP Pharmacy Professor Rajul Patel says it's important for people to find the right plan at the right price.

14: CANNABISPROGUPDATE

As soon as next year, 10 new cannabis storefronts may be owned and operated by people of color in the city. The council adopted the measure as a way to increase diversity in the cannabis retail industry which is now overwhelmingly white. Currently, less than five of the city's 30 cannabis storefronts are owned by people of color, and none of those owners are African American.

14: RURALWATER

The situation is particularly rough for California's small water systems and the people who rely on them. Those tend to operate on smaller margins and don't have deep cash reserves. Michael Prado is the president of a utility that provides water in northern Tulare County. He spoke at the State Water Resources Control Board last week.

15: OUTDOORCARDS

The familiar sounds of chips clinking and cards shuffling returned to Sacramento's Capitol Casino and Limelight Cardrooms in recent weeks ...by inviting customers to gamble outside. Patrons visiting Capitol Casino pass through the mostly empty indoor space to reach a massive decked out tent in the back. At the Limelight, they've transformed an existing patio into an outdoor casino.

15: STATEBUDGETCUTS

Eleven billion dollars in cuts to California's budget are here to stay...for now...since Congress hasn't passed another pandemic stimulus package.

16: GATHERINGS

After seven months of telling people not to get together due to COVID-19, California health officials have released guidelines for how to safely socialize in small groups.

16: NVEARLYVOTE

According to the Nevada Native Vote Project, there are about 60,000 eligible Native American voters in the state -- which could be enough to sway the final result in a hotly-contested election year. Ethan Doig is the Strategy Coordinator for the project. He says tribal communities are burdened by a history of voter disenfranchisement. Some residents have to drive hours to get to the polls. But there's also a critical lack of understanding about their voting behavior.

19: VVFOODINSECURITY

Nearly half of African American and over a third of Latinx survey respondents say they can not afford to pay rent. Meanwhile, over a third of respondents in both groups say they can't afford food. Monica Ruelas Mares, an organizer in South Sacramento says her community is in survival mode.

19: BEECLICK_2WAY

The guild that represents Sacramento Bee newsroom and advertising employees says the paper's owners are trying to tie compensation to the number of website clicks their stories generate online. The Pacific Media Workers Guild sent an open letter to McClatchy arguing that the plan “would negatively affect newsgathering, employee morale and The Bee’s reputation.”

20: EARLYVOTE

It’s two weeks before Election Day, and more than three and a half million Californians have already returned their ballots. That’s three times what turnout was at this point in 2016. Election observers like Paul Mitchell were expecting a bump this year because every voter was mailed a ballot due to the pandemic.

20: RURALDEMS

The northern and eastern-most regions of California have been represented by Republicans for the past several years -- from the statehouse to Washington D-C. This year, a slate of women are running on the Democratic ticket in hopes of flipping those seats.

21: PROP24

California’s new Consumer Privacy Act has been in effect for less than a year, but already its backers want to strengthen it. Prop 24 would create a new state agency to enforce that act and would triple fines for companies that violate children’s online privacy. It would also give consumers more control over the data companies collect. Some advocates — like Consumer Watchdog President Jamie Court — say these are good things.

21: REDEFINEPUBLICSAFETY

Sacramento has never had a formal definition of what “public safety” means. Organizers led by the nonprofit Public Health Advocates want the city to make one, and to include not just police and fire, but also youth violence prevention and mental health interventions. DeAngelo Mack with Public Health Advocates says while the gesture is mostly symbolic, he hopes it can eventually pave the way for tangible change.

22: FIRERETHINK

With the worst wildfire season on record in California still raging, experts from across the state are calling for California to invest \$2 billion dollars next year in prevention tactics like prescribed burns.

22: SACCOUNTYEXEC

Sacramento County’s C-E-O is being asked to resign after hosting a department head meeting last week where few of the 40-plus attendees wore masks.

23: GOVTRUST

As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, Sacramento-area residents are losing faith in government at all levels, but especially in the federal government.

23: REOPEN

School districts in the Sacramento area are in the process of deciding how and when to re-open for in-person instruction. And as Cap Radio's Pauline Bartolone found, there's wide variation in their plans so far.

26: MEASURE A-STEINBERG

Cap Radio spoke with Mayor Darrell Steinberg recently about one of the city's most discussed ballot items — Measure A. The proposal, which voters will decide on next month, would change the city's governing system. Cap Radio's Sarah Mizes-Tan interviewed the Mayor, who put forth the measure to change the city's charter, and joined afternoon anchor Mike Hagerty to talk about their conversation.

26: FAMILYFIGHTS

Fifty-four percent of survey-takers were concerned about being physically or emotionally harmed by other members of their households. Joyce Bilyeu [bill-oo] works with the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center. She says they went from seeing 10 clients a day to 30 or 40.

27: ENROLLMENTDROP

Analysts say it may be because students want the in-person classroom experience and don't want to pay for online courses. It's a different story for four-year colleges, however. Nationwide, the numbers are relatively unchanged. And they're actually up for the California State University system. CSU enrolled its largest-ever student body for the fall 2020 term: 485,549 students.

27: CLASSROOMS

College enrollment numbers are mixed as the pandemic continues to keep campuses closed and classes online.

28: SACFARRIGHT

The Sacramento region has at times been a flash point for far right extremist groups. Now, in the wake of President Trump's refusal to denounce them, and even potentially encouraging these groups, many are concerned that they'll be a threat during the election.

28: CALEG

The traditional GOP stronghold has been trending bluer and bluer, and Democrats see an opening. Republicans still hold many legislative seats, but incumbents like State Senators John Moorlach and Ling Chang are locked in tight races this cycle — and their Democratic opponents have a huge cash advantage.

29: JEFFERSONELECTIONS-SSPOT

A vast swath of far northern California - reaching into Oregon - has been working to create a 51st State in the West for decades ... And this year ... the so-called State of Jefferson is turning attention to local elections.

29: CAVACCINE

The previous record for a quickly-developed vaccine was four years---for the mumps, in the 1960s. Dr. Otto Young, a professor of medicine at UCLA, says we are way ahead of that pace.

30: NVBALLOTCOUNT

Election workers in Northern Nevada are dealing with a flood of ballots.

30: EDDBIZZLE

California's Employment Development Department's massive pandemic fraud problem has landed a rapper in jail, but as CapRadio's Ed Fletcher explains the state's budget isn't the only one under attack.

November

02: EMILY

Election Day is going to look different for Californians this year, as more people vote early or by mail due to the pandemic. Cap Radio is working to bring you the context to help you understand how this will impact results on Election night and the days and weeks after. Data Reporter Emily Zentner joins us now to talk through what you can expect from our election night results.

02: OHSNAP

Food insecurity remains stubbornly high among California college students. Cap Radio's Scott Rodd reports few are taking advantage of available benefits.

03: MASKLESSVOTERS

California's top election official says voters can't be denied the ability to vote if they don't wear a mask.

03: HOMELESSVOTE

Sacramento non-profits are working to get one often-overlooked group to the polls: unhoused voters. Cap Radio's Sammy Caiola reports from the First Step Communities center north of downtown.

04: LOLOLEELEAD

It's possible just about half of Sacramento City's ballots have been counted by this point, but with preliminary results, newcomer and local business owner Sean Loloee has rallied 55 percent of the vote. Results from the March primary had Warren as the top vote getter. But early results from Tuesday show that Loloee had a majority with Warren at 45 percent of the votes.

04: MIKEANDSCOTTELECTION

There is no evidence to suggest public health officials are inflating covid #s; just about all voters taking covid precautions seriously in Placer but also heard from voters who wanted to see expanded immigrant rights and were concerned about things like racial inequality and climate change.

05: PARISCALIF

Three years ago the Trump Administration announced its intent to remove America from the international agreement with a goal to prevent the globe from warming beyond 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Cara Horowitz is with the UCLA School of Law.

05: NVDAYAFTER

Polling suggested Joe Biden could win Nevada with a wider margin than Hillary Clinton had in 2016. She only beat President Donald Trump in the state by about two percentage points. But early returns this year show Biden just barely ahead of Trump.

09: 911ALTERNATIVES

Some Sacramento County officials say they're ready to change the protocols for who responds when someone is in mental health crisis. Activists who support shrinking police budgets say social workers and community members should show up, NOT law enforcement.

09: LATINOVOTE

President Donald Trump won more of the so-called "Latino" vote than many Democrats predicted. But as CapRadio's Sarah Mizes-Tan reports, people who are often lumped into this category say there shouldn't be an expectation that this group would vote in any particular way.

10: ACADEFENSE

A group of Republican Attorneys general says the ACA, sometimes called Obamacare, is unconstitutional because the Trump Administration zeroed out the law's penalty for not carrying insurance.

If the Supreme Court strikes down all or even some of the policy, millions of low-income Americans, including those in California and Nevada, could lose their insurance.

10: VICTORY

San Joaquin County is getting 27-million dollars to build a housing project for homeless veterans. Cap Radio's Rich Ibarra reports, about 140 vets in the county are living on the street or in shelters.

11: PFCALNEVADA

Conservative groups continue to make unproven claims about voter fraud in Nevada's presidential election. Some have even suggested that Californians unlawfully helped President-elect Joe Biden win that state.

11: UCNURSES

As coronavirus infections continue to rise nationally and in California, health care workers are sounding the alarm about the ability for hospitals to handle a surge.

12: NVCVIDSPIKE

COVID-19 cases are trending upward in Northern Nevada, as cold weather and the holidays threaten to bring people together indoors.

12: PFCA2WAY

Election misinformation continues to spread a week after Americans cast their ballots. This includes some false claims about California's election.

13: CATRAVE

California surpassed its millionth coronavirus case in recent days...and states around the country are seeing their numbers spike as well. Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly cautioned against traveling outside California, or hosting out-of-state visitors.

13: COVIDFLU

Point-of-care tests can produce results immediately after a screening — right now, they're mostly available in hospital settings. Doctors at UC Davis Health started using them last week in the emergency room and in some clinics ... but only for patients showing symptoms. COVID-19 and the flu can present similarly.

16: FLUEFFORTS

Sacramento County is pushing everyone to get a flu shot this year, and they're making extra efforts to tell hard-to-reach people why it's so important.

16: RESULTSUPDATE

That update is scheduled to come on Tuesday. Only some 51-thousand ballots are left to count, according to the registrar. [In the City ... Mai Vang is at 51% in the race to represent South Sacramento's district 3 on city council. And pastor Les Simmons is at 48%. But look: It is going to be very difficult for Les Simmons to make up the votes needed to overtake Mai Vang, given how few ballots remain to count.

17: NEWRESTRICTIONS

Newsom says he's alarmed by how fast the virus is spreading. He says the number of new cases in California has nearly doubled over the past week. On Saturday the state reported nearly 11,000 new cases. We haven't seen those numbers since a big surge over the summer. Throughout the pandemic, the governor has said he will pull the emergency break and stop reopenings if necessary. So he says that's exactly what he's doing here.

17: COLDWINTER-1

If you're like me the idea of a cold winter sounds terrible, But because of moderate La Niña forming over the Pacific Ocean that probably will be the case. As opposed to El Niño's La Niña's typically bring colder and drier weather. In Southern California La Nina's are typically drier, but it's a mixed bag for the Northern part of the state. That's according to Michelle Mead with the National Weather Service in Sacramento.

18: FIVENAV

Sacramento Supervisors have voted "no confidence" in its top executive. They also announced today [Wednesday] that CEO Nav Gill will be put on paid administrative leave.

18: WARMINGSHORTER

Haynes says the county is not considering any changes at this point. She added that the region has limited resources and is focused on providing more comprehensive support at Sacramento homeless shelters.

19: LAOBUDGET

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office projects the state will have a one-time windfall of around 26 billion next year. They say the money is coming from better-than-expected tax revenues from higher earners. They also say this year's budget was a bit of an overcorrection to the projected 54-billion-dollar deficit.

19: RURALCAPANDEMIC-SPARRING

15 elected officials from northern California counties like Shasta and Sutter met at a conference several weeks ago. It was the first step in a plan to assert more local control over the pandemic, something they say has largely been dictated by the governor. Assembly member Kevin Kiley helped coordinate the conference.

20: CACURFEW

The order requires residents to stay in their homes from 10 PM to 5 AM starting Saturday. It doesn't apply to essential workers...and there are exceptions for leaving the house...such as grocery shopping.

California Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly says the state wants to avoid a broader shutdown...similar to the one that took effect in March.

20: HOSPITALSURGE

California hospitals are expecting a flood of COVID-19 patients in the coming weeks. They say they're applying lessons learned at the beginning of the pandemic to the coming winter surge.

23: SEASAT

With more than 800 miles of California coastline there's a lot at risk as temperatures warm and seas rise. As CapRadio's Ezra David Romero reports a NASA satellite launching Saturday [11/21] aims to help communities better understand how to adapt to rising seas.

23: CAREGIVERS

Even before the pandemic, California was facing a shortage of in-home caregivers for the state's growing number of seniors. Now families are hesitant to keep their loved ones in nursing homes, and demand for caregiving is up But supply is down.

24: NEWSOMQUARANTINE

The Newsom family is under a two-week quarantine after three of the governor's children were exposed to a CHP officer who later tested positive for the coronavirus. The family all tested negative but are quarantining in compliance with local guidelines and will be tested regularly.

24: APIRESPONSE

Community leaders in the Asian Pacific Islander communities are demanding action after Sacramento County's top health official used a racial slur.

25: MOBILEHOMES-SPARLING

El Dorado County may soon consider creating new protections for some of its most vulnerable residents: people living in mobile home parks.

25: TURKEYGIVEAWAY

In Sacramento neighborhoods hardest-hit by the pandemic, Thanksgiving is a crucial time to reach hungry families. But nonprofits have had to rethink their turkey giveaways — and meet higher than usual demand.

27: SACHOUSING

The pandemic is driving people out of the Bay Area and pushing Sacramento home prices much higher.

27: HOLIDAYSTRESS

Mental health professionals say it's an important time to take care of yourself, and to check in with people you might be worried about.

30: NVCLIMATEGOALS

Under state law, total greenhouse gas emissions should be zero -- or at least close to zero -- by the year 2050. But in order to meet that goal, experts say half of all new cars sold in Nevada will need to be electric by 2030. Dylan Sullivan is a senior scientist for the Natural Resources Defense Council. He says that may sound ambitious, but he expects market forces to help with the transition.

30: HERNANDEZ

Astronaut Jose Hernandez launched into space in 2009 spending 14 days orbiting the earth. He was the first person to tweet in Spanish from space...fitting since he didn't learn to speak English until he was 12.

His story will be a forthcoming movie based partly on his books "From Farmworker to Astronaut" and "The Boy Who Touched the Stars." Hernandez was born in French Camp, grew up in Stockton, and worked the fields with his parents. But he had a dream ever since he fixed the TV set to watch the Apollo 17 mission.

December

01: DROUGHT

Government climatologists say two-thirds of California is in some degree of drought. With little rain in the forecast, scientists say those drought conditions could get a lot worse.

01: XMASTREES

The US Forest Service is encouraging Californians to cut down their Christmas trees in national forests...with a permit, of course.

02: SACDEISURVEY

For the first time since Sacramento started tracking employee diversity, the city auditor has released a survey giving a glimpse of the employee culture in the city's workforce.

02: WARMINGFOLO

The mayor's comments come after advocates for the homeless made numerous calls in recent weeks to open the facilities — and after one homeless man died in the cold last month.

03: COVIDORDERCA

The stay-at-home order is similar to one that took effect in March. Businesses including hair salons and bars must close. Retail stores can remain open at 20 percent capacity and restaurants can offer takeout only...though residents are encouraged to stay home at much as possible.

03: PFCA2WAY

ANCHOR: Chris, on Tuesday we learned the Justice Department is investigating a possible secret scheme involving a bribe in exchange for a presidential pardon. And even before that I understand some readers asked PolitiFact about whether President Trump can actually pardon himself? What did PolitiFact find out on that? CHRIS: Hey, Mike. To add some background here, two years ago Trump tweeted about this. He claimed he has. Quote 'the absolute right to PARDON myself,' adding 'but why would I do that when I have done nothing wrong?' end quote. PolitiFact asked legal scholars about this. And one of the major takeaways is that the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit presidents from pardoning themselves. There are some legal arguments against it.

04: MIKEWSAMMY

Governor Gavin Newsom says he's pulling the emergency brake as ICU capacities shrink across the state---breaking California into five regions and preparing to implement a modified stay-at-home order.

04: STOCKTON

A man was shot this morning near Monte Diablo and Interstate 5...he was the latest of 4 victims murdered within a week. On Monday, a 17-year old boy was fatally shot in central Stockton. Stockton Police Chief Eric Jones says, in spite of the increase in homicides, overall crime is down, from property crimes to non-fatal shootings. But he says the type of homicides have changed.

07: STAYATHOMEWORKERS

The governor's new orders would signal slowed or closed operations for businesses like restaurants, casinos and hair salons. And for the workers likely to lose their main source of income, federal pandemic unemployment programs may not be there to help. One program in particular for low-wage earners who wouldn't otherwise qualify for benefits is set to end on December 26. URBAN: It's been a very grim few weeks already.

07: PARLER

The social media app Parler [PAR-lur] caught on with supporters of President Donald Trump, because it promised non-censorship. But researchers say freedom of speech is beside the point.

08: NEWSOM-1-WRAP

California hospitals are strained under a surge of COVID-19 patients, but Governor Gavin Newsom says more health care workers are on the way.

08: MAYORHOMELESSPLAN

Mayor Steinberg says the city should pre-approve specific locations for housing the homeless to streamline the process of finding shelter for people. He says the city's previous homeless response efforts have been piecemeal.

09: KINDER

Hundreds of fewer kindergartners are enrolled in Sacramento City schools this year. As Cap Radio's Pauline Bartolone reports, that's giving the school district one more thing to worry about.

09: SAHLOCALS

33-million Californians are under a stay-at-home order. But some cities and counties are trying to forge their own path ... resulting in a patchwork of restrictions across the state.

10: SACSTAYHOME

Sacramento Region residents will join many other Californians under a new, more restrictive stay-at-home order. The order was announced by state health officials yesterday.

10: RODDSTAY

People who live in 13 Northern California counties will face new COVID-19 restrictions. The counties are part of the state-designated Greater Sacramento region and the order was activated when the area's hospital I-C-U capacity went under 15 percent. The stay-at-home order kicks in at midnight, or technically - 11:59 P-M. It will last at least 3 weeks.

11: VACCINEDOCS

As distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine draws closer, California doctors are preparing to talk with patients about it ... and they're expecting some resistance.

11: PLACERVILLEHATE

The Placerville Police Department is facing a wave of criticism after a far-right group founded by white nationalists posed for pictures next to a patrol car at a recent charity event. The blowback began when photos and video surfaced from an early December Marine Corps Toys for Tots event.

14: 21BUDGET

This year's budget deficit forced lawmakers to make deep cuts to health programs and skip payments to schools. Assembly budget chairman Phil Ting says he wants to restore that funding for the fiscal year starting next summer. The San Francisco Democrat also proposes using some of the windfall to get money into the pockets of Californians who need it most.

14: FIRESEQUOIA

A few years ago, drought threatened giant sequoias. This year, wildfire killed hundreds of the enormous trees.

15: CAELECTORS

California's electors included a litany of elected officials and Democratic party leaders, as well as a former Super Bowl Champion and the executive producer of the sitcom 'Big Bang Theory.' San Diego Assemblywoman Shirley Weber was also an elector and served as chair of the gathering.

15: MANTECAFOOD

Manteca's food trucks are restricted to an area in central Manteca. But the city council could change that and allow food trucks to set up outside bars, wineries, and brewpubs to serve food thus satisfying the state's guideline of serving food with alcoholic beverages.

16: DRUGMINS

Democratic state lawmakers are renewing a push to end mandatory prison sentences for certain drug crimes.

16: SJDEATHS

Scientist Chuck Davis with Bayesian studies statistical data to show the spread and the effect of the pandemic. Davis found that COVID deaths were at 8 percent and that was more than fatalities caused by heart disease, Alzheimer's, or homicides. Davis points out that the flu also claims lives but it's no comparison to COVID.

17: CZISIERRAHEALTH

Facebook C-E-O Mark Zuckerberg's philanthropic organization has given a Sacramento-based foundation 1-and-a-half-million dollars to create mental health programs for young men of color

17: 1217CN PFCA2WAY

There's been strong debate about whether government imposed shutdowns during the pandemic go too far and unnecessarily harm society and the economy. But some G-O-P lawmakers in California oppose the shutdowns for another reason: Because they say there's no evidence they reduce COVID-19 cases or spikes.

18: CAPITOLCOVIDSPIKE

State Senate and Assembly employees have received more than half-a-dozen memos about workers in the Capitol testing positive for COVID-19. Last week...the Senate sent one every day. The two chambers could not immediately confirm the total number of COVID-19 cases since the start of session last Monday.

18: PROTESTRESPONSE

Police use of crowd control weapons at demonstrations in California have caused physical harm to some protestors. Now...as CapRadio's Scott Rodd reports...state leaders are proposing ways to restrict their use.

21: VACCINEHESITANCY

The first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have arrived in California but polling shows many people of color, especially Black Californians, are hesitant about getting inoculated against the disease that is devastating their communities.

21: EDUCATION

McClendon is African American and he's not the only member of his community who doesn't trust the new vaccine. A recent survey by the Public Policy Institute of California found that less than 30 percent of Black people in the state said they'd want to be inoculated. Denise Herd is a public health professor at UC Berkeley, and says this hesitancy goes way back.

22: CASTIMULUS

Governor Gavin Newsom estimates a little more than 50 billion of that package will directly help people in California. That includes money for stimulus checks, expanded unemployment, and other programs like rental assistance.

22: FARMVACCINE

While farmworkers may be part of an earlier wave of vaccinations against COVID-19, a new poll of field workers in California's Central Valley suggests many may be wary of getting inoculated.

23: PADILLAPICK

First, Newsom named Secretary of State Alex Padilla to fill the Senate seat soon to be left open by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Padilla is the son of Mexican immigrants and will be the first Latino to represent California in the U.S. Senate. Latino lawmakers and advocacy groups cheered the appointment as long overdue.

23: WORKERIMPACT

The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year for small businesses, but due to stay-at-home orders, sales are down, and many Sacramento-area businesses are closing out a grim year.

28: PLACERORDER

Placer County's board of supervisors terminated its emergency order in September...when positive cases began to stabilize after the summer surge. Now...with cases four times what they were in the summer...county leadership says it won't bring it back.

28: HOMELESSVIGIL

Those names belong to some of the 90-plus people who died on the streets and in homeless shelters in Sacramento County in 2020. Advocacy groups around the state honored hundreds of Californians on National Homeless Memorial Day. The event is held on the longest night of the year.

29: SADTREES

Pine trees and other conifers are less likely to regenerate after a wildfire in areas that are drier now because of climate change, that's according to a new study by UC Davis and US Geological Survey.

29: NURSINGVAC

Residents and staff members at facilities in Fresno, Southern California and the Bay Area will be some of the first in line for the immunization. CVS Health and Walgreens are partnering with the federal government to administer the shots. And CVS expects to help inoculate nearly 700,000 people over the next 12 weeks.

30: CALTRANSBATS

I'm standing beneath an overpass for U.S. 50 in downtown Sacramento---the stretch called the W-X Freeway---looking at orange cones on the underside that started showing up in mid-December. Each of them covers what's known as a "weep hole" ---a place moisture can drain out of the roadway. When they're dry, though, birds and bats fly into them to nests hidden elsewhere in the structure.

30: DODMEDICAL

Two medical teams with a total of 35 members including physicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists will go to Dameron Hospital in Stockton and Adventist Health Lodi Memorial. Hospitalized COVID patients in the county number 342 and make up almost 60 percent of the ICU patients. Brooke McCullough with Dameron and Adventist says those two hospitals have the room to accept more patients but not the ICU staff, so the military medical teams will fill that void.

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As always during live coverage, we recommend that stations have a board op present to engineer. We do not recommend automating this coverage.

DIGITAL COVERAGE:

VIDEO:

NPR is also offering a live video stream of the funeral for George Floyd in the form of an embed for your website. This is a separate stream and not a part of Houston Public Media's coverage. Please see this link for more details: https://www.nprstations.org/programinfo/feature_series/17_embeds.cfm

CONTACT:

Questions? Contact ProgramServices@npr.org.

Or call 800-329-5380 during the hours of 9:00 am - 6:00pm, Monday through Friday.

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