

KNTV/NBC Bay Area

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

First Quarter

January - March 2012

January 2012

KNTV/NBC BAY AREA is responsive to the principal issues arising in its community through regularly scheduled public affairs programming, newscasts, public service announcements as well as documentaries and specials. The following is a list of some of the programs that have provided the station's most significant treatment of community issues during the preceding three-month period.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/2/12 REPORTED... DOCTORS SAY THE QUALITY OF MAMMOGRAMS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY WHEN IMAGING DEVICES WENT FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL. NOW MAMMOGRAMS ARE ABOUT TO TAKE ANOTHER BIG STEP FORWARD, MOVING FROM DIGITAL TO 3-D. THE NEW TECHNOLOGY IS CALLED TOMOSYNTHESIS. DOCTORS SAY WITH THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY THEY CAN SEE MORE, WHICH WILL HELP WITH EARLY DETECTION. TOMOSYNTHESIS ALLOWS RADIOLOGISTS TO GET A MORE DETAILED VIEW. INSTEAD OF THE STANDARD FOUR IMAGES FROM THE X-RAY, THEY'RE SEEING ABOUT TWO HUNDRED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/3/12 REPORTED... CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN ON THE BART EXTENSION TO THE OAKLAND AIRPORT DESPITE SOME CONTROVERSY. CRITICS INCLUDING A BART BOARD MEMBER SAY THE 500 MILLION DOLLAR EXTENSION IS UNNECESSARY AND THAT MORE IMPORTANT BART PROJECTS ARE BEING PUT OFF. THE INITIAL COST OF THE EXTENSION WAS 130 MILLION DOLLARS. AND THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO CREATE 10-THOUSAND FEWER JOBS THAN ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ALSO DENIED BART FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT LAST YEAR. THE EXTENSION IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED BY 2014.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/10/12 REPORTED... TWO BIG BAY AREA TECH COMPANIES FIGHTING OVER "SEARCHES". TWITTER IS NOW SLAMMING GOOGLE FOR THEIR NEW SEARCH FEATURE. GOOGLE IS LAUNCHING A NEW FEATURE CALLED "SEARCH-- PLUS YOUR WORLD". TWITTER IS "ATWITTER " AND LASHING OUT SAYING "ITS" REALTIME INFORMATION IS OFTEN THE MOST RELEVANT RESULT ON GOOGLE AND THAT GOOGLES NEW FEATURE WILL MAKE IT "MUCH HARDER FOR EVERYONE." "SERACH-PLUS YOUR WORLD" ALLOWS YOU TO SEE WHAT YOUR FRIENDS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE TOPIC YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR. IF YOU'RE IN 'GOOGLE PLUS CIRCLES'... YOU CAN SEE ANY RELATED IMAGES THAT YOUR FRIENDS HAVE POSTED. THE NEW GOOGLE SEARCH WILL BE ROLLED OUT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND YOU DON'T NEED A GOOGLE PLUS PROFILE TO SEE RESULTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/12/12 REPORTED... CUPERTINO JUST ISN'T BIG ENOUGH -- SO APPLE IS EXPANDING INTO A NEIGHBORING CITY. THE SILICON VALLEY TECH GIANT IS LEASING A LARGE RESEARCH CENTER AND OFFICE SPACE IN SUNNYVALE. REPORTS SAY APPLE HAS RENTED 215-THOUSAND SQUARE FEET OF SPACE IN WHAT'S KNOWN AS THE SUNNYVALE RESEARCH CENTER. THE FOUR-BUILDING COMPLEX IS LOCATED ON EAST ARQUES NEAR LAWRENCE EXPRESSWAY AND SANTA TRINITA AVENUE. AS OF NOW, THE COMPANY HAS NOT SAID HOW MANY EMPLOYEES IT PLANS TO HIRE BUT THE SPACE COULD ACCOMODATE UP TO 900 WORKERS. BUT THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE TECH GIANT IS LOOKING TO LEASE MORE

PROPERTIES IN THE CITY -- TOTALING ABOUT 800-THOUSAND SQUARE FEET AND EMPLOYING ABOUT 32-HUNDRED PEOPLE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/17/12 REPORTED... A GROUP OF SHAREHOLDERS FILED THE SUIT TODAY -- SAYING NETFLIX GAVE FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS ABOUT ITS BUSINESS PRACTICES AND CONTRACTS WITH STUDIOS. THE SUIT ALLEGES THAT NETFLIX STOCK REMAINED AT AN ARTIFICIALLY HIGH PRICE LAST YEAR EVEN THOUGH THE COMPANY KNEW IT WOULD SOON HAVE TO RAISE ITS PRICES DUE TO CHANGES IN SOME OF ITS CONTRACTS. THIS PRICE INCREASE - LED TO A HUGE FALL IN SHARE PRICES. THE STOCK PLUMMETED FROM NEARLY 300 DOLLARS PER SHARE TO EIGHTY DOLLARS IN OCTOBER. TODAY IT CLOSED AT ABOUT 95 DOLLARS PER SHARE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/18/12 REPORTED... 'CAREER BLISS' HAS RELEASED ITS ANNUAL LIST OF THE 'HAPPIEST AND UNHAPPIEST CITIES FOR WORK'. MIAMI FLORIDA WAS VOTED THE HAPPIEST PLACE TO WORK IN THE COUNTRY. SAN JOSE MADE THE LIST AT NUMBER 4 - WITH FOUR OUT OF EVERY 5 WORKERS REPORTING BEING HAPPY WITH THEIR JOBS. LOS ANGELES CAME IN 21ST, AND SAN FRANCISCO 27TH. ON THE OPPOSITE END - WORKERS IN NEW HAVEN CONNECTICUT REPORTED BEING THE UNHAPPIEST WITH THEIR JOBS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/18/12 REPORTED... OAKLAND IS ISSUING NEARLY 2,500 LAYOFF NOTICES TO FULL-TIME AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AHEAD OF THE STATE SUPREME COURT'S FEBRUARY FIRST DEADLINE TO DISSOLVE ALL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN CALIFORNIA. THE STATE'S EIGHTH LARGEST CITY EMPLOYS APPROXIMATELY 5-THOUSAND WORKERS. EMPLOYEES WHO RECEIVE A LAYOFF NOTICE WON'T AUTOMATICALLY LOSE THEIR JOB. TODAY'S ACTION IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEM A 10-DAY NOTICE IN THE EVENT THE CITY COUNCIL DECIDES TO TERMINATE THEIR POSITION DURING A JANUARY 31ST MEETING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/20/12 REPORTED... SOME GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS IN THE GOLDEN STATE. CALIFORNIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DIPPED SLIGHTLY LAST MONTH, TO ITS LOWEST RATE SINCE 2009. IT NOW STANDS AT 11-POINT-ONE PERCENT, WHICH IS STILL HIGH. BUT IT IS DOWN BY TWO-TENTHS OF A PERCENT. THE EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORTS THE STATE ADDED JOBS IN DECEMBER. BUT IT WASN'T IN THE BAY AREA. OVERALL, WE LOST NEARLY THREE-THOUSAND JOBS LAST MONTH. THE EAST BAY TOOK THE BIGGEST HIT, WITH 48-HUNDRED JOBS GONE. THE SOUTH BAY LOST 12-HUNDRED JOBS. BUT THE SAN FRANCISCO METRO AREA GAINED 24-HUNDRED JOBS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... TAKING A BITE AT APPLE. THE CUPERTINO COMPANY IS FACING ANOTHER PATENT LAWSUIT FROM MOTOROLA. THE CELL PHONE COMPANY FILED A LAWSUIT IN FLORIDA DISTRICT COURT TODAY, ASKING FOR AN INJUNCTION AGAINST THE I-PHONE 4-S AND APPLE'S EYE-CLOUD SERVICE. MOTOROLA SAYS APPLE INFRINGED ON SIX OF ITS PATENTS INVOLVING SOFTWARE, DATA FILTERING AND MESSAGING. MOTOROLA ALREADY HAS A LAWSUIT AGAINST APPLE ACCUSING IT OF 18 PATENT INFRINGEMENTS. THAT CASE IS SCHEDULED FOR TRIAL THIS SUMMER. MOTOROLA RUNS ITS PHONES ON GOOGLE'S ANDROID SOFTWARE-- APPLE'S BIGGEST MOBILE COMPETITOR BY THE WAY..GOOGLE IS IN THE PROCESS OF PURCHASING MOTOROLA.

CONSUMER ISSUES

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/3/12 REPORTED... THEY'RE EXPECTING A FULL HOUSE AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN CAMPBELL TONIGHT. THE COUNCIL WILL HEAR AGAIN FROM DEVELOPERS -- WHO WANT TO TURN AN OLD BANK INTO A NIGHTCLUB. THEY WERE DENIED LAST YEAR. THIS IS A FOLLOW UP TO A STORY WE BROUGHT YOU LAST WEEK. APPLICANTS WANT TO TURN THE HISTORIC GROWERS NATIONAL BANK BUILDING INTO A RESTAURANT, BAR AND LOUNGE THAT WILL FEATURE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND BE OPEN UNTIL 2AM SEVERAL NIGHTS A WEEK. OPPONENTS SAY CAMPBELL DOESN'T NEED A QUOTE "LAS VEGAS STYLE NIGHTCLUB DOWNTOWN." THE DEVELOPERS SAY THE PROJECT ISN'T SIMPLY A BAR OR A NIGHTCLUB. IT WOULD BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS LUNCHES DURING THE WEEK AND FOR AFTER HOURS ALCOHOL EVERY NIGHT. THE DEVELOPERS SAY THEY DON'T TAKE THE UNANIMOUS VOTE AGAINST THE PROJECT AS A DEFINITE NO.. THEY TAKE IT AS THE NEXT STAGE OF THE PROCESS

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/12/12 REPORTED... BIG CHANGES COMING FOR BART RIDERS. AFTER YEARS OF PLANNING AND SECURING FUNDS - BART IS NOW READY TO SPEND MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS ON NEW TRAIN CARS. THE CARS WILL SPORT A SLEEKER AND CLEANER LOOK. THEY'LL HAVE NEW SEATS, DIGITAL WALL DISPLAYS, AND AIR CONDITIONING. THE CARS WILL ALSO HAVE 3 DOORS TO SPEED UP THE BOARDING PROCESS AND WILL HAVE MORE SPACE FOR BIKES AND LUGGAGE. A BATCH OF PREMILINARY CARS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN SERVICE BY 2015. IF ALL GOES SMOOTHLY - THE TRANSIT AGENCY WILL ADD A TOTAL OF 775 NEW TRAINS BY 2023.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/12/12 REPORTED... ALAMEDA POLICE ARE LOOKING INTO A RECENT STRING OF IDENTITY THEFT CASES. IN THE PAST WEEK SEVERAL REPORTS HAVE BEEN MADE ALLEGING STOLEN CREDIT CARD INFORMATION WAS USED TO PURCHASE ITEMS ON CRAIGSLIST, AND OPEN NEW ACCOUNTS IN LAS VEGAS AND TEXAS. DON'T DISCLOSE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, UNLESS FOR A LEGITIMATE PURPOSE..SHRED UNWANTED CREDIT CARD APPLICATIONS AND NEVER RESPOND TO PHONE OR ONLINE REQUESTS FOR YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/13/12 REPORTED... NO IPHONE, BIG PROBLEM. APPLE HALTED THE RELEASE OF ITS IPHONE 4-S AT RETAIL STORES IN BEIJING TODAY AFTER A NEAR-RIOT. AN ANGRY MOB OF PEOPLE WHO HAD WAITED OVERNIGHT IN FRIGID TEMPERATURES, PELTED THE STORE WITH EGGS AND ASSAULTED A MALL MANAGER AFTER EMPLOYEES REFUSED TO OPEN AS SCHEDULED. POLICE AND MALL SECURITY CANCELED THE SALE BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONCERNS. THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME AN APPLE RELEASE HAS CAUSED A PUBLIC DISTURBANCE. THE SAME BEIJING STORE HAD ITS GLASS DOOR SHATTERED IN MAY, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE IPAD 2.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/17/12 REPORTED... NOT SURPRISINGLY -- TICKETS FOR SUNDAY'S 49ERS GAME ARE LOOKING TO BE ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE SPORTING EVENT TICKETS EVER IN SAN FRANCISCO, IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. ONLY GAMES 1 AND 2 OF THE 2010 WORLD SERIES WERE MORE EXPENSIVE. ACCORDING TO "SEATGEEK", THE AVERAGE PRICE FOR A TICKET RIGHT NOW, IS 743- DOLLARS, AND IS IN LINE TO BE THE SINGLE MOST EXPENSIVE, NON SUPER BOWL, N-F-L GAME IN THE LAST THREE YEARS. THESE TICKETS ARE MORE THAN THE A-F-C CHAMPIONSHIP GAME BETWEEN THE RAVENS AND THE PATRIOTS. THOSE ARE GOING FOR AN AVERAGE OF 418- DOLLARS. THE MOST EXPENSIVE TICKET OUT THERE IS GOING FOR JUST OVER 33- THOUSAND DOLLARS!

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT IN SAN FRANCISCO'S RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD IS GETTING PERMISSION TO STAY OPEN UNTIL THE WEE HOURS, EVEN THOUGH NEIGHBORS STRONGLY OBJECT. THE JACK-IN-THE-BOX AT GEARY AND 11TH USED TO RUN A 24 HOUR OPERATION ... BUT AFTER A "HIT-AND-RUN" INCIDENT, OUTSIDE THE RESTAURANT LAST MONTH, INVOLVING A FIREFIGHTER, THE CITY DISCOVERED THE RESTAURANT'S LATE NIGHT PERMIT HAD EXPIRED. THE INCIDENT ALSO OUTRAGED NEIGHBORS, WHO HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT NOISE, LOITERING AND DRUNKEN BRAWLS AROUND THE RESTAURANT. IN THE LATEST CASE, THE FIREFIGHTER WAS INTENTIONALLY RUN DOWN AFTER AN ALTERCATION. BUT THE CITY STILL WENT AHEAD, AND APPROVED THE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE RESTAURANT TO STAY-OPEN UNTIL 4 AM.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... ANOTHER BAY AREA CITY SAYS NO TO PLASTIC. MILLBRAE IS CONSIDERING BANNING THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS BY RETAIL BUSINESSES. SHOPPERS WHO DON'T BRING THEIR OWN REUSABLE BAGS WILL HAVE TO PAY A DIME TO GET A PAPER BAG. THE CITY COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE IDEA IN AN INITIAL VOTE. BUSINESSES THAT DON'T FOLLOW THE NEW POLICY COULD BE FINED UP TO 500- DOLLARS. IF APPROVED IN A SECOND VOTE, THE BAN WILL GO INTO EFFECT SEPTEMBER FIRST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/30/12 REPORTED... THOUSANDS OF KAISER HOSPITAL WORKERS ARE WALKING OFF THE JOB TOMORROW OVER CONTRACT DISPUTES. THE ONE DAY STRIKE WILL START AT 7-AM. SEVERAL UNIONS, INCLUDING NURSES, WILL HONOR THE STRIKE CALLED BY THE MENTAL HEALTH AND OPTICAL EMPLOYEES. THIS IS THE UNION'S FOURTH WALK-OUT SINCE 2010 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE THE LARGEST WITH AS MANY AS 22- THOUSAND WORKERS ON STRIKE. ONE WOMAN WE SPOKE WITH SAID HER MOTHER IS HAVING SURGERY TODAY, BUT ISN'T WORRIED IF SHE'S BEING TAKEN CARE OF BY A REPLACEMENT NURSE TOMORROW. KAISER SAYS ITS FIRST PRIORITY IS THE CARE OF THEIR MEMBERS AND PATIENTS AND IS PREPARED FOR THE WORK STOPPAGE. THEY ALSO SAY ALL KAISER HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WILL REMAIN OPEN, BUT SOME PROCEDURES AND APPOINTMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE RESCHEDULED.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILY, ELDERLY, MEN & WOMEN

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/3/12 REPORTED... HISTORY IN THE MAKING IN THE NORTH BAY. SAN RAFAEL'S NEW POLICE CHIEF..THE FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD THE FORCE WILL BE SWORN-IN TONIGHT. 50 YEAR OLD DIANA BISHOP IS COMING OVER FROM THE SANTA CLARA POLICE DEPARTMENT WHERE SHE SERVED FOR 26 YEARS, MOST RECENTLY AS CAPTAIN OF THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION. MORE THAN 60 PEOPLE APPLIED FOR THE JOB. SAN RAFAEL OFFICIALS SAY THEY WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR DECISION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/5/12 REPORTED... A FUNERAL WILL BE HELD TOMORROW FOR A 5-YEAR OLD BOY WHO WAS KILLED IN OAKLAND. JUST A KINDERGARTNER -- HE WAS SHOT OUTSIDE OF HIS FAMILY'S TACO TRUCK LAST WEEK. GABRIEL MARTINEZ JR. TOMORROW MORNING -- THE FUNERAL WILL BE AT ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH IN OAKLAND. TODAY -- FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS GATHERED. HE WAS A STUDENT AT OTIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ALAMEDA -- WHERE HE LIVED. LITTLE GABRIEL WAS THE THIRD CHILD KILLED BY GUNFIRE IN OAKLAND LAST YEAR. SO FAR NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE SHOOTING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/12/12 REPORTED... THIS IS A STORY NOW GETTING NATIONAL ATTENTION. COULD SAN FRANCISCO'S NEW SHERIFF -- SOON BE FORCED OUT? REPORTS SUGGEST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGES COULD BE FILED AS EARLY AS TOMORROW. MEANWHILE, WOMENS' RIGHTS GROUPS ARE CALLING FOR ROSS MIRKARIMI TO STEP DOWN. MEMBERS OF THE "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONSORTIUM" HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT CITY HALL TODAY. THEY WANT MIRKARIMI TO RESIGN FROM HIS POST IN THE WAKE OF ALLEGATIONS THAT HE ABUSED HIS WIFE AND BRUISED HER ARM.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/12/12 REPORTED... SAN JOSE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR A MAN THEY SAY KIDNAPPED A 15- YEAR OLD GIRL FROM HER HIGH SCHOOL. IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED ONE WEEK AGO, BUT POLICE ARE JUST NOW PUTTING OUT AN ALERT. THE GIRL'S NAME IS RAQUEL MENCHACA. OFFICERS SAY SHE GOT IN A CAR WITH HER 19 YEAR OLD BOYFRIEND, LEONEL VARGAS FROM STOCKTON. THE ALLEGED KIDNAPPING TOOK PLACE AT OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL IN SOUTH SAN JOSE. POLICE SAY THE VICTIM'S MOTHER WITNESSED THE KIDNAPPING LAST THURSDAY, AND THAT THE GIRL'S FATHER SPOTTED THE COUPLE JUST DOWN THE STREET A WHILE LATER. WHEN HE TRIED TO GET HIS DAUGHTER, VARGAS APPARENTLY SPED AWAY, RUNNING OVER THE FATHER'S FOOT. THERE IS A 250-THOUSAND DOLLAR ARREST WARRANT FOR VARGAS FOR KIDNAPPING AND ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/16/12 REPORTED... A PINOLE COUPLE ESCAPED AN ARSON FIRE -- STARTED IN THEIR NEW HOME AS THEY SLEPT THIS MORNING. THIS IS HELMET CAM VIDEO FROM THE FIREFIGHTERS. THE COUPLE WOKE UP TO THE SOUND OF WINDOWS BREAKING, AND FOUND THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE ON SARAH COURT IN FLAMES. THE FIRE APPEARED TO HAVE STARTED ON THE FRONT PORCH. THE COUPLE AND THE DOG WAS ABLE TO GET OUT WITHOUT INJURY. THERE'S ABOUT ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN DAMAGE TO THE RENTAL HOME.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/18/12 REPORTED... MEMBERS OF THE RAGING GRANNIES ACTION LEAGUE TARGETED APPLE OUTSIDE ITS FLAGSHIP PALO ALTO STORE TODAY. THEY SAY DESPITE ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE OVER THE LAST COUPLE YEARS, APPLE HAS TERRIBLE WORKING CONDITIONS AT ITS MANUFACTURING PLANTS IN CHINA. THE GRANNIES' PROTEST COMES JUST DAYS AFTER APPLE RELEASED AUDITS ON ITS FACTORIES. THEY SHOWED FIVE FACILITIES HIRED UNDERAGE WORKERS, AND MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF ITS SUPPLIERS FAIL TO COMPLY WITH WORK-HOUR LIMITS. APPLE SAYS IT'S TAKING NEW STEPS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS, DOING SURPRISE INSPECTIONS AT ITS FACILITIES, ALONG WITH JOINING THE FAIR LABOR ASSOCIATION AND FOLLOWING ITS FULL REQUIREMENTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... TWO JEWELS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES -- MIGHT BE TARNISHED. SWEEPING BUDGET CUTS IN OAKLAND COULD TAKE AIM AT "CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND" AND THE "OAKLAND ZOO." THE CITY COUNCIL IS MEETING TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET TONIGHT. BOTH ARE LOOKING AT FUNDING BEING SLASHED BY 40- PERCENT. CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND HAS BEEN AT LAKE MERRIT SINCE 1950. KIDS PAY EIGHT BUCKS TO GET IN AND THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO KEEP IT THAT WAY, AFFORDABLE. THE CITY COUNCIL IS TRYING TO CUT 28 MILLION DOLLARS TO OFFSET MONEY THAT WAS LOST FROM STATE REDEVELOPMENT FUNDS. FOR THE ZOO AND FAIRYLAND IT COULD MEAN A BIG LOSS. THOSE OUTREACH PROGRAMS GO OUT TO ABOUT 5- THOUSAND LOW INCOME KIDS IN OAKLAND. THE LOSS FROM THE CITY WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT 55- THOUSAND DOLLARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/31/12 REPORTED... AN UNSPEAKABLE ACT... AN UNLIKELY SUSPECT; TONIGHT, A TEENAGE BOY FACES MURDER CHARGES AFTER ALLEGEDLY CONFESSING TO THE MURDER OF HIS PARENTS IN OAKLAND. MOSES KAMIN APPEARED IN AN ALAMEDA COUNTY COURTROOM EARLIER TODAY. THE 15-YEAR-OLD BOY FACES TWO COUNTS OF MURDER AND WILL BE PROSECUTED AS AN ADULT. HE'S ACCUSED OF STRANGLING BOTH HIS ADOPTIVE MOTHER AND FATHER TO DEATH AND TRYING TO BURN THEIR BODIES INSIDE THE FAMILY'S PARKED CAR. AN ATTORNEY FOR THE ACCUSED TEEN IS EXPECTED TO ENTER A PLEA FOR HIS CLIENT DURING A HEARING TOMORROW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/31/12 REPORTED... A BAY AREA NURSING HOME IS SLAPPED WITH THE MOST SEVERE PENALTY UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW AFTER THE DEATH OF A PATIENT. SETON MEDICAL CENTER IN DALY CITY HAS RECEIVED A "DOUBLE-A" CITATION AND THE MAXIMUM 100-THOUSAND DOLLAR FINE. THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUED THE PENALTY AFTER CONCLUDING THE HOSPITAL FAILED TO PROVIDE PROPER RESPIRATORY CARE TO AN 81 YEAR OLD WOMAN IN A COMA LAST SUMMER. REPORTS SAY THE NURSE FAILED TO REMOVE THE CAP ON A NEW BREATHING TUBE, CAUSING THE PATIENT TO SUFFOCATE. SETON IS APPEALING THE STATE'S DECISION AND ISSUED THIS RESPONSE TODAY, SAYING QUOTE, "PROVIDING A SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR MISSION AT SETON MEDICAL CENTER AND WE ARE SADDENED ANYTIME THERE IS A LOSS OF A PATIENT."

CRIMES-FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL, LAW & LAW ENFORCEMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/2/12 REPORTED... A KNOWN GANG MEMBER, ACCUSED OF KILLING THREE MEMBERS OF A SAN FRANCISCO FAMILY, WILL GO ON TRIAL THIS WEEK. JURY SELECTION IS SET TO BEGIN TOMORROW IN THE CASE AGAINST EDWIN RAMOS. POLICE SAY HE OPENED FIRE AND KILLED TONY BOLOGNA, AND TWO OF HIS SONS IN JUNE OF 2008, WHEN HE MISTOOK ONE OF THE SONS FOR A RIVAL GANG MEMBER. THE KILLINGS SPARKED PUBLIC OUTRAGE-- OVER THE CITY'S SANCTUARY POLICY WHICH PROHIBITS CITY EMPLOYEES FROM HELPING IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS WITH ARRESTS. RAMOS WHO IS AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT, HAD A CRIMINAL RECORD, BUT HAD NEVER BEEN REPORTED TO IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS WHEN HE WAS A MINOR. HE FACES LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE IF CONVICTED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/5/12 REPORTED... THE WOMAN CHARGED WITH KILLING THE MOTHER OF HER DOMESTIC PARTNER WITH A MACHETE -- WILL PLEAD 'NOT GUILTY.' SAGAL SADIQ WAS IN A SAN JOSE COURTOOM THIS AFTERNOON FOR HER ARRAIGNMENT. SHE WAS WEARING A CAST ON HER LEFT ARM. POLICE SAY SADIQ TOLD THEM AN INTRUDER ATTACKED HER, AND THE MOTHER OF HER DOMESTIC PARTNER IN SADIQ'S HOME LAST WEEK. INVESTIGATORS ARRESTED SADIQ THE NEXT DAY. HER FAMILY HAS HIRED TWO HIGH POWERED DEFENSE

ATTORNEYS. THE D-A TELLS NBC BAY AREA HE BELIEVES THE EVIDENCE SHOWS HER PARTNER WAS TRYING TO END HER 3-YEAR MARRIAGE TO SADIQ BEFORE THE MURDER. WE'RE ALSO TOLD SADIQ HAS MADE UNWANTED CONTACT WITH HER DOMESTIC PARTNER SINCE THE MURDER. THE JUDGE ISSUED A PROTECTIVE ORDER TODAY, TELLING SADIQ TO STOP.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/5/12 REPORTED... DID YOU HEAR THE GUN SHOTS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE? A LOT OF SOUND AND FURY BUT THANKFULLY -- NO DAMAGE. TODAY -- POLICE IN EAST PALO ALTO AND REDWOOD CITY REPORTED THE RESULTS COLLECTED BY ITS 'SHOTSPOTTER DETECTION SYSTEM.' THE SHOTSPOTTER SYSTEM USES MULTIPLE SENSORS PLACED ON ROOFTOPS AND OTHER LOCATIONS TO PICK UP SOUNDS OF GUNSHOTS. ON NEW YEAR'S EVE -- AT LEAST 177 SHOTS WERE RECORDED. ALTHOUGH POLICE PROMISED THE SHOTSPOTTER SYSTEM WOULD HELP CATCH CRIMINALS, NO ONE WAS ARRESTED. REDWOOD CITY POLICE SAY THEY AREN'T DISCOURAGED. THEY SAY THEY'VE SEEN FEWER CELEBRATORY SHOOTINGS. SINCE THE SHOTSPOTTING SYSTEM WAS INSTALLED IN THE 1990'S.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/5/12 REPORTED... A PROMINENT MARINE BIOLOGIST IS FACING CRIMINAL CHARGES - FOR ALLEGEDLY FEEDING KILLER WHALES IN MONTEREY BAY. NANCY BLACK IS CHARGED WITH BREAKING FEDERAL MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION LAWS WHILE RUNNING HER WHALE WATCHING BUSINESS. BLACK'S ATTORNEY SAYS SHE HAD A PERMIT FROM THE GOVERNMENT WHICH ALLOWED HER TO RESEARCH THE WHALES' EATING HABITS. HER LAWYER ALSO SAYS SHE WASN'T FEEDING THE WHALES BUT INSTEAD, WAS SIMPLY USING AN UNDERWATER CAMERA TO WATCH THEM EAT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/12/12 REPORTED... SUSPECTED ALPHABET KILLER JOSEPH NASO IS ACCUSED OF KILLING FOUR WOMEN. LATE TODAY PROSECUTORS INTRODUCED EVIDENCE LINKING HIM TO A FIFTH MURDER --A WOMAN WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1992, ON HER WAY TO A BOB DYLAN CONCERT IN SAN FRANCISCO. SINCE CAMERAS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE COURTROOM, THIS IS VIDEO OF NASO FROM LAST YEAR. A NEVADA INVESTIGATOR TODAY TESTIFIED THAT PHOTOS OF TWO YUBA COUNTY WOMEN MURDERED IN THE 1990s WERE FOUND IN NASO'S SAFE DEPOSIT BOX. ALSO THERE. THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF RENEE SHAPIRO, WHO'D CHANGED HER NAME TO "SARA DYLAN - IN TRIBUTE TO THE SINGER. THE DETECTIVE TOLD THE COURT THAT HER BUSINESS CARDS AND OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS WERE AMONG THE ITEMS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/18/12 REPORTED... POLICE SAY THE VICTIMS-- HAVE BEEN UPGRADED FROM 'CRITICAL' TO 'STABLE' CONDITION. TONIGHT, THEY'RE ASKING FOR THE PUBLIC'S HELP TO TRACK DOWN THE SUSPECT. LAST THURSDAY NIGHT, A MAN WITH A HAMMER AND A KNIFE ATTACKED A 76 YEAR OLD WOMAN IN HER SUNSET DISTRICT HOME. OFFICERS BELIEVE IT WAS A ROBBERY ATTEMPT. A WOMAN WHO WAS DELIVERING FOOD AT THE HOME INTERRUPTED THE SUSPECT. SHE WAS ALSO ATTACKED. THE SUSPECT IS DESCRIBED AS AN ASIAN MAN, DRIVING A BEIGE SEDAN WITH TRIANGULAR REAR TAILLIGHTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/23/12 REPORTED... SAN LEANDRO POLICE THINK THEY'VE PUT A STOP TO A SERIES OF ROBBERIES DONE BY A PURSE-TOTING SUSPECT. POLICE RELEASED A SKETCH OVER THE WEEKEND OF A WOMAN THEY SAY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EIGHT STREET ROBBERIES OVER THE PAST MONTH. THEY SAY THE WOMAN WOULD STRIKE UP CONVERSATIONS WITH VICTIMS AS THEY WALKED DOWN THE STREET. SHE WOULD THEN CLAIM TO HAVE A GUN IN HER PURSE AND ORDER VICTIMS TO HAND OVER THEIR BELONGINGS. LAST NIGHT, POLICE SPOTTED THE SUSPECT AND HER ALLEGED ACCOMPLICE, AND ARRESTED THEM BOTH.

POLICE SAY THEY FOUND STOLEN ITEMS ON THE PAIR THAT LINKED THEM TO THE CRIMES. THEY BOTH FACE ROBBERY CHARGES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/26/12 REPORTED... POLICE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP IN THE SEARCH FOR CRIMINALS WHO HAVE BEEN STEALING COPPER OFF BART TRAIN TRACKS. THE COPPER THEIVES HAVE ALREADY HIT SIX TIMES THIS MONTH ALONE. POLICE SAY THEY STRIKE AT NIGHT WHEN THE TRAINS AREN'T RUNNING - CUTTING THROUGH FENCES, AND THEN TAKING COPPER OFF OF THE TRACKS. BART'S POLICE CHEIF SAYS THE THEIVES ARE RELENTLESS. STOLEN COPPER COST BART OVER 100-THOUSAND DOLLARS LAST YEAR - SOME OF THAT MONEY WAS PUBCLICLY FUNDED. BART TRACKS RUN ACROSS 105-MILIES - A DISTANCE THAT POLICE SAY IS TOO MUCH FOR THEM TO COMPLETELY COVER. CITIZENS ARE BEING ASKED TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS THEY SEE NEAR THE TRACKS ESPECIALLY IF ITS LATE AT NIGHT.

DIVERSITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/2/12 REPORTED...TODAY IS THE LAST DAY YOU CAN TRAVEL THE WORLD IN JUST ONE DAY....SORT OF. AT LEAST YOU CAN SEE ALL THE ICONIC LANDMARKS YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT - AT THE GLOBAL WINTER WONDERLAND IN SANTA CLARA. THIS IS VIDEO OF SET UP FROM A FEW WEEKS AGO. THERE ARE GIGANTIC CHINESE LANTERNS DEPICTING FAMOUS SITES - SUCH AS THE EIFFEL TOWER, TAJ MAHAL AND THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. THERE'S ALSO DANCE AND MUSIC PERFORMANCES AND ARTS AND CRAFTS. GLOBAL WINTER WONDERLAND IS OPEN FROM 4 THIS AFTERNOON UNTIL 10 TONIGHT ON GREAT AMERICA PARKWAY. BUT TODAY IS THE LAST DAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/4/12 REPORTED... THE SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CLAIMS THAT IT HAS BEEN TEACHING ABOUT THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF GAYS AND LESBIANS FOR MANY YEARS NOW. SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO CHANGE ITS CURRICULUM. BUT SOME OTHER DISTRICTS SAY THAT THEY WON'T BE READY TO START TEACHING THIS MATERIAL THIS WEEK OR ANY TIME SOON.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/6/12 REPORTED... ACTIVISTS OPPOSED TO CALIFORNIA'S DREAM ACT HAVE FAILED TO BLOCK IT FROM TAKING FULL EFFECT NEXT YEAR. THE REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLYMAN WHO LED THE EFFORT TO REPEAL THE ACT FELL SHORT OF PUTTING IT ON THE BALLOT BY 57-THOUSAND SIGNATURES. THE LAW WILL ALLOW UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS TO APPLY FOR STATE-FUNDED COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AND AID AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES. A PRIMARY PORTION OF THE DREAM ACT TOOK EFFECT THIS YEAR-- PERMITTING IMMIGRANT STUDENTS TO APPLY FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/6/12 REPORTED...THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY PROPOSED CHANGES TO IMMIGRATION LAW WHICH WILL DO A BETTER JOB OF KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER. RIGHT NOW, MANY UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY BEFORE THEY CAN ASK FOR A WAIVER TO COME BACK. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES ALLOWING CHILDREN AND SPOUSES TO ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE ON THE WAIVER **BEFORE** THEY RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY. IT CURRENTLY TAKES ABOUT SIX-MONTHS TO ISSUE A WAIVER. UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS WOULD STILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY TO FINISH THE VISA PROCESS, BUT GETTING A PROVISIONAL WAIVER IN ADVANCE WOULD REDUCE THE TIME THEY HAVE TO BE AWAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/12/12 REPORTED... THERE'S A LOT GOING ON ON OUR COASTLINE RIGHT NOW BUT THESE GUYS ARE BIG -- AND LOUD. THE ELEPHANT SEALS ARE GATHERING AT ANO NUEVO STATE RESERVE NEAR SANTA CRUZ. AND WHILE SEEING THESE IMMENSE ANIMALS ON THE BEACH IS IMPRESSIVE, THE SURPRISING DETAILS SCIENTISTS ARE LEARNING ABOUT THEIR MYSTERIOUS LIVES AT SEA IS EVEN MORE ASTOUNDING. EACH WINTER ABOUT 10,000 ELEPHANT SEALS RETURN TO ANO NUEVO STATE RESERVE TO GIVE BIRTH AND TO BREED AFTER EPIC VOYAGES AT SEA... AND 175 THOUSAND VISITORS FLOCK TO SEE THEM.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/16/12 REPORTED... HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE MARCHED THROUGH SAN FRANCISCO TODAY, TO HONOR THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. THE ANNUAL M-L-K MARCH GOT UNDERWAY THIS MORNING AT SAN FRANCISCO'S CALTRAIN STATION. PEOPLE WALKED THE MILE AND A HALF ROUTE TO COMMEMORATE THE 1965 CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. PLENTY OF YOUNG STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THE MARCH. AFTER STUDYING IN SCHOOL ABOUT THE SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER. THE MARCH WOUND THROUGH CITY STREETS BEFORE ENDING-UP AT YERBA BUENA GARDENS FOR A NOONTIME RALLY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/27/12 REPORTED... THE *DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT* TAKES ANOTHER HIT IN A BAY AREA COURTROOM. A DISTRICT JUDGE IN OAKLAND IS ALLOWING DOMESTIC PARTNERS TO JOIN A LAWSUIT CHALLENGING THE 1996 FEDERAL LAW. THAT MOVE INDICATES THE JUDGE IS LEANING TOWARD STRIKING DOWN THE *DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT* --- BECAUSE IT DENIES LONG-TERM HEALTH COVERAGE TO SAME-SEX DOMESTIC PARTNERS OF CALIFORNIA'S STATE EMPLOYEES. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAS ARGUED THAT SAME-SEX SPOUSES SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUE OVER THE LACK OF BENEFITS-- BUT THE OAKLAND JUDGE SAYS SINCE SAME-SEX PARTNERS AREN'T ALLOWED TO MARRY IN CALIFORNIA, IT'S UNFAIR TO PUNISH THE DOMESTIC PARTNERS WHO DON'T HAVE A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

EDUCATION

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/2/12 REPORTED... IT SEEMS CALIFORNIA IS IN THE MIDST OF A SCHOOL LIBRARIAN SHORTAGE. A QUARTER OF THE SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA DO NOT HAVE CREDENTIALLED LIBRARIANS, ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. RECENT D-O-E STATISTICS SHOW THERE ARE 900 SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IN THE STATE. THAT'S DOWN FROM 11-HUNDRED TWO YEARS AGO. BUDGET CUTS HAVE FORCED SCHOOLS TO CUT LIBRARIAN POSITIONS...AND IN SOME CASES STAFF LIBRARIES WITH PARENT VOLUNTEERS. LOCAL LIBRARY ADVOCATES SAY STUDENTS SUFFER WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE *TRAINED LIBRARIANS TO TEACH THEM RESEARCH TECHNIQUES AND HELP THEM DEVELOP A LOVE OF READING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/9/12 REPORTED... CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SCHOOLS COULD LOSE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FUNDING FOR LOW INCOME SCHOOLS BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T KEEP UP THEIR END OF A GRANT DEAL. TONIGHT.. THE MOUNT DIABLO SCHOOL BOARD IS EXPECTED TO VOTE ON APPLYING FOR A STATE WAIVER EXPLAINING WHY CLASS SIZE EXCEEDED 27 STUDENTS. SCHOOLS THAT GOT THE LOW INCOME AWARDS HAD TO AGREE TO REDUCE THEIR CLASS SIZE, PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HIRE HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND ADDITIONAL COUNSELORS. THEY HAD THREE YEARS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS, THROUGH THE 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR....OR LOSE THE FUNDING KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL, HARDING ELEMENTARY AND SEVERAL OTHER CONTRA COSTA SCHOOL ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING FUNDING AMOUNTING TO ALMOST 7 MILLION DOLLARS. OTHER DISTRICTS HAVE ALREADY APPLIED FOR THE WAIVERS, WHICH WILL BE DECIDED THIS SPRING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/13/12 REPORTED... THE CHANCELLOR HERE AT CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO SAYS THE STUDENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DISCOURAGED FROM USING THE COMPUTERS HERE FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION. WHEN THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL THIS WEEK, THEY WILL BE REMINDED ONCE AGAIN TO JUST DO HOMEWORK AND THINGS LIKE THAT HERE -- NO PASSWORDS AND ESPECIALLY NO BANKING BECAUSE THESE COMPUTERS ARE DEFINITELY NOT SAFE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/20/12 REPORTED... A GROUP OF SOUTH BAY STUDENTS TURNED THEIR LIVES AROUND THANKS IN PART TO A CHARTER SCHOOL FOR AT-RISK YOUTH. OUR MORNING NEWS ANCHOR JON KELLEY DELIVERED THE KEY NOTE ADDRESS DURING TODAY'S GRADUATION CEREMONY AT 'SAN JOSE CONSERVATION CORPS AND CHARTER SCHOOL.' THE CHARTER SCHOOL HELPS KIDS WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL. STUDENTS TAKE THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM AFTER COMPLETING THE ACADEMIC CREDITS THEY NEED TO GRADUATE. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE GRADUATES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/23/12 REPORTED... STUDENT ACTIVISM COULD HIKE THE MINIMUM WAGE IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE, FROM EIGHT TO TEN-DOLLARS AN HOUR-- NOW THAT SOME COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE SUBMITTED AN INITIATIVE AT CITY HALL. WORKERS IN THE FAST FOOD INDUSTRY ARE AMONG THOSE WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE EFFORTS OF A SOCIOLOGY CLASS AT SAN JOSE STATE. THE STUDENTS ANALYZED SEVERAL SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEY SAW AROUND THEM, AND DECIDED TO FOCUS THEIR POLITICAL EFFORTS ON HELPING TO CREATE A LIVING WAGE. THE CITY ATTORNEY WILL REVIEW THE STUDENTS' INITIATIVE-- AND IF APPROVED, THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO COLLECT THE MORE THAN 19-THOUSAND SIGNATURES NEEDED TO QUALIFY IT FOR THE NOVEMBER BALLOT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... MAKING THE BAY AREA PROUD. THREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM THE SOUTH BAY ARE FINALISTS IN ONE OF THE NATION'S OLDEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS SCIENCE COMPETITIONS. ALL THREE WILL GO TO D-C TO COMPETE IN THE 20-12 "INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH". THE TEENS WERE SELECTED BASED ON THEIR ORIGINAL, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THE PROJECTS ARE ALL VERY IMPRESSIVE. A TOTAL OF 40 FINALISTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY WILL BE COMPETING FOR THE COVETED TITLE. THE WINNER OF THE COMPETITION WILL RECEIVE 100-THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE INTEL FOUNDATION. THE TWO OTHER BAY AREA FINALISTS ARE "JIN PAN" FROM GUNN HIGH SCHOOL IN PALO ALTO AND "ALISSA YUAN ZHANG" FROM SARATOGA HIGH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/26/12 REPORTED... NO FEES IN FREE EDUCATION ...THAT'S THE BASIS OF A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT THAT TODAY GOT THE GREEN LIGHT TO MOVE FORWARD-- A BLOW TO STATE OFFICIALS WHO TRIED TO PAWN OFF THE FEE CONTROVERSY TO LOCAL DISTRICTS. THE LAWSUIT OUT OF LOS ANGELES SUED THE STATE AND OFFICIALS FOR FAILING TO CRACK DOWN ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT ILLEGALLY CHARGE STUDENTS FEES FOR ANYTHING FROM PLAYING SPORTS, FIELD TRIPS AND LAB MATERIALSEXTRA'S MANY LOW INCOME FAMILIES CANT AFFORD.THE GOVERNOR DOESNT DISPUTE ITS HAPPENING BUT SAYS ENFORCING EQUITY IS A DISTRICT PROBLEM. THE -LA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DISAGREED SAYING THE STATE BEARS RESPONSABILITY FOR A FREE AND EQUAL EDUCATION FOR ALL KIDS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/30/12 REPORTED... STANFORD IS GETTING BIG MONEY FOR A FIRST OF ITS KIND PARTNERSHIP WITH COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, THEY'RE CREATING A BI-COASTAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA INNOVATION. HELEN GURLEY BROWN- OF COSMO MAGAZINE FAME, IS DONATING 30 MILLION TO STANFORD AND COLUMBIA'S GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM--FOR THE PROJECT. THE NEW INSTITUTE WILL BE HOUSED ON BOTH CAMPUSES. THE GIFT IS IN HONOR OF

BROWN'S LATE HUSBAND, HOLLYWOOD PRODUCER DAVID BROWN, WHO DIED IN 2010. BROWN GRADUATED FROM STANFORD AND FROM COLUMBIA. THE GOAL OF THE INSTITUTE IS TO CREATE NEW TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN JOURNALISM.

ENVIRONMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/3/12 REPORTED... FROM HONEYBEES TO ZOMBIES. A GROUP OF SAN FRANCISCO SCIENTISTS SAY THEY WISH THEIR DISCOVERY WAS SCIENCE FICTION...BUT IT'S ALL TOO REAL. SCIENTISTS AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE SAY A PARASITE COULD BE PARTLY TO BLAME FOR THE MYSTERIOUS CRASH OF HONEYBEE POPULATIONS. THEY DISCOVERED A FLY THAT LAYS EGGS IN THE BEES, THEN TAKES OVER THEIR BODY. THE BEES GO MAD, ABANDON THEIR HIVES AND FLY TOWARDS BRIGHT LIGHTS IN A SUICIDE RUSH. THE FLIES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN EVERY BAY AREA COUNTY EXCEPT SAN MATEO AND SANTA CLARA. SCIENTISTS SAY THEY DON'T THINK THE PARASITE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TOTAL HIVE COLLAPSE, BUT THEY ARE A THREAT TO INDIVIDUAL BEES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/5/12 REPORTED... THE DEFINITION OF A SUPERFUND SITE IS--A POLLUTED LOCATION REQUIRING A LONG-TERM RESPONSE TO CLEAN-UP HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. NBC BAY AREA FOUND 33 SUPERFUND SITES IN THE BAY AREA. 25 OF THEM ARE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY..THE MOST IN THE STATE.. WITH THE VAST MAJORITY TIED TO TECH COMPANIES. THERE ARE FOUR SUPERFUNDS SITES IN ALAMEDA, THREE IN CONTRA COSTA AND ONE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/9/12 REPORTED... BIRDS OF A FEATHER ARE FLOCKING TOGETHER IN RECORD NUMBERS ACROSS THE BAY AREA. THE ANNUAL VOLUNTEER WINTER BIRD COUNT SHOWS THE LOCAL CROW POPULATION IS PARDON THE PUN IS SOARING.IN THE SOUTH BAY THERE ARE TWELVE-TIMES MORE CROWS THAN THERE WERE JUST 20-YEARS AGO. FARMERS MAY NOT LIKE THEM, BUT EXPERTS SAY CROWS ARE AMONG THE SMARTEST AND MOST SOCIAL OF ALL NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS-- THEY MATE FOR LIFE AND HAVE EVEN BEEN SEEN USING TWIGS AS TOOLS TO CATCH INSECTS.SO DON'T COUNT ON THAT SCARE-CROW IN YOUR GARDEN TO DO ANY GOOD-- THEY'RE PROBABLY TOO SMART FOR THAT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/10/12 REPORTED... AIR DISTRICT OFFICIALS SAY TO FILE A COMPLAINT IF YOU SEE YOUR NEIGHBOR HAVING A FIRE ON A SPARE THE AIR DAY. BUT WE FOUND, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU CALL THEM, CHANCES ARE NOBODY IS GOING TO SHOW UP. IN 2008 THE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MADE IT ILLEGAL TO BURN DURING SPARE THE AIR ALERTS. VIOLATORS ARE SUPPOSED TO GET A WARNING FOR THEIR FIRST OFFENSE AND A FINE FOR ANY THAT FOLLOW. THE AIR DISTRICT EVEN CREATED A SYSTEM SO YOU CAN TELL ON YOUR NEIGHBORS. SINCE NOVEMBER, THE AIR DISTRICT HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN 25 HUNDRED COMPLAINTS ABOUT PEOPLE BURNING ILLEGALLY HOWEVER, NOT A SINGLE CITATION HAS BEEN ISSUED OFFICIALS TELL US THEY ARE STILL INVESTIGATING POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/17/12 REPORTED... THE STATE ENERGY COMMISSION HAS OK'D A PLAN THAT USES STATE BUILDING AND PROPERTY TO GENERATE RENEWABLE ENERGY. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN SACRAMENTO IS AMONG A GROWING NUMBER OF BUILDINGS BEING POWERED BY SOLAR ENERGY PANELS ON THE ROOF. AND THE COMMISSION HAS IDENTIFIED OVER SIX AND A HALF MILLION SQUARE FEET OF CLUSTERED ROOFTOPS AND PARKING LOTS THEY WANT TO ADD SOLAR PANELS TO. THE STATE IS ALSO LOOKING AT OPEN SPACE HOSPITALS-- EVEN THE ROOFTOPS OF PRISONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/20/12 REPORTED...

HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE OCEAN IS THE FUTURISTIC THEME OF A NEW REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. IT CONCLUDES THE WAVES OFF CALIFORNIA'S 11-HUNDRED MILES OF COASTLINE COULD GENERATE ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO POWER 14-MILLION HOMES. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS TESTING WAVE TECHNOLOGY IN OREGON, WASHINGTON, AND MAINE, AND A PRELIMINARY PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR SAN ONOFRE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT SAYS THE DEVICES WHICH GENERATE THE POWER ARE LOCATED A COUPLE MILES OFFSHORE, AND AREN'T VISIBLE FROM LAND.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/23/12 REPORTED... STATE OFFICIALS ARE HEAVING A SIGH OF RELIEF TONIGHT. THEY SAY THE WET WEATHER IS ALREADY HAVING A DRAMATIC IMPACT ON THE STATE'S WATER SUPPLY. THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE DRIEST WINTERS EVER WITH WATER LEVELS LESS THAN 30 PERCENT OF NORMAL. THEY NOW SAY WE'RE ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF WHAT'S NORMAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. AND WE COULD CATCH-UP IN FEBRUARY, WHICH IS GENERALLY, ONE OF THE WETTEST MONTHS. THIS YEAR'S EARLY WEATHER MODELS SHOW IT COULD BE WETTER THAN NORMAL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... A NEW REPORT CARD ON CALIFORNIA'S SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRY RANKS ONE BAY AREA CITY IN THE TOP THREE. SAN JOSE RANKS THIRD BEHIND SAN DIEGO AND LOS ANGELES IN TERMS OF GENERATING MEGAWATTS OF POWER USING SOLAR TECHNOLOGY. EXPERTS SAY WHILE THE NUMBERS ARE IMPRESSIVE, SOLAR POWER FILLS JUST A FRACTION OF THE STATE'S ENERGY NEEDS. CRITICS ARGUE THAT SOLAR ENERGY ISN'T SO CLEAN WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE TOXIC EMISSIONS CREATED BY THE MANUFACTURING OF THE PANELS. BUT SUPPORTERS SAY IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE LONG TERM EFFECTS. FOR EVERY MEGA-WATT OF SOLAR POWER INSTALLED, JOBS ARE CREATED 7 TIMES MORE THAN IN THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/26/12 REPORTED... IF YOU AREN'T ALREADY -- THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU WILL SOON. SWITCHING TO A FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE. THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD MET TODAY IN LOS ANGELES -- TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE NEW RULES. THE AIM IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ELECTRIC CARS ON THE ROAD, BOOST FUEL EFFICIENCY, AND REDUCE AIR POLLUTION. THE NEW CLEAN CAR RULES PARALLEL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S GOAL OF DOUBLING THE NATION'S AUTO FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS FOR NEW CARS FROM THE CURRENT 27 MILES PER GALLON TO 54 MPG BY 2025.

GOVERNMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/2/12 REPORTED... OCCUPY WALL STREET PROTESTERS SHOWED UP TO "OCCUPY" THE ROSE BOWL PARADE IN PASADENA TODAY. HUNDREDS OF DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED THE SAME ROUTE AS THE FLOATS, CARRYING A 250-FOOT LONG BANNER REPRESENTING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. THEY CHANTED BANKS GOT BAILED OUT, WE GOT SOLD OUT. GROUPS OF POLICE OFFICERS WERE IN FRONT AND BEHIND THE MARCHERS-- READY TO KEEP ORDER, BUT THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS. REACTIONS FROM THE CROWD THOUGH, WERE MIXED. PROTESTERS WORKED WITH PASADENA POLICE IN ADVANCE TO AVOID DISRUPTING THE ROSE PARADE WHILE STILL GETTING THEIR MESSAGE ACROSS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/9/12 REPORTED... WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF BILL DALEY OFFICIALLY TURNED-IN HIS RESIGNATION TODAY. DALEY STOOD BY PRESIDENT OBAMA THIS AFTERNOON, ALONG WITH HIS REPLACEMENT, BUDGET DIRECTOR JACK LEW. THE PRESIDENT SAID DALEY WANTS TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIS FAMILY IN THEIR HOMETOWN OF CHICAGO. THE TWO HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR YEARS. PRESIDENT OBAMA SAID THEY DECIDED TOGETHER THAT JACK LEW WAS THE CLEAR CHOICE AS A REPLACEMENT. LEW WILL OFFICIALLY TAKE OVER NEXT MONTH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/9/12 REPORTED... LESS THAN 30 MINUTES REMAINING...ONE OF SAN FRANCISCO'S LONGEST RUNNING MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES IS CLOSING TONIGHT. AND TODAY, MANY PATIENTS AND SUPPORTERS PROTESTED THE CLOSURE OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL BUILDING. THE MARKET STREET COOPERATIVE GOT A THREATENING LETTER FROM THE U-S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SAYING IT NEEDS TO SHUT DOWN.IT'S BEEN AROUND SINCE 1998.THE CO-OP SAYS THE FEDS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH STATE LAW-ABIDING DISPENSARIES. IT SERVES ABOUT 200- PEOPLE A DAY WITH A VARIETY OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS. SOME PATIENTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO NEXT. A LAST RALLY IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW ON MARKET STREET BEFORE IT OFFICIALLY SHUTS DOWN AT 7P.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/10/12 REPORTED... THE STATE SUPREME COURT IS CONSIDERING WHICH DISTRICT MAPS TO USE FOR SENATE ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER. THEY'RE DOING IT IN CASE A REPUBLICAN BACKED REFERENDUM MAKES IT TO THE BALLOT. THE DISTRICTS WERE RE-DRAWN IN 2010 BY A NON PARTISAN CITIZENS COMMISSION. STATE LAW SAYS REDRAWN BOUNDARIES NEED TO BE PUT ON HOLD IF THEY'RE CHALLENGED. AMONG SOME OPTIONS -- THE COURT COULD ALLOW THE TEMPORARY USE OF THE NEW MAPS OR CREATE TEMPORARY SENATE DISTRICTS .

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/12/12 REPORTED... THE BUDGET WAR BEGINS. A DAY AFTER AN INDEPENDENT ANALYST CALLED THE GOVERNORS BUDGET 4-BILLION DOLLARS TOO OPTIMISTIC ANOTHER TOP LAWMAKER IS WEIGHING IN. SENATE PRESIDENT DARRELL STEINBERG IS URGING THE STATE NOT TO ACT TOO QUICKLY.THE GOVERNOR WANTS TO CUT MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS FROM WELFARE AND SERVICES FOR THE POOR AND DISABLED BY MARCH. STEINBERG SAYS THAT TIMETABLE IS PREMATURE AND HE WON'T DO IT. STEINBERG SAYS THE STATE SHOULD MAKE CUTS ONLY AS A LAST RESORT AND NOT AS A PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION. ANOTHER BUDGET NOTE TONIGHT.. CALIFORNIA NO LONGER HAS THE WORST CREDIT RATING FOR A STATE.MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICES SAYS ILLINOIS NOW TAKES THAT SPOT. BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE CALIFORNIA'S FISCAL OUTLOOK IMPROVED RATHER BECAUSE ILLINOIS' SITUATION GOT WORSE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/17/12 REPORTED... TARGETING CRIME ONE BLOCK AT A TIME. IN OCTOBER -- OAKLAND MAYOR JEAN QUAN AND THE CITY ANNOUNCED THE *100 BLOCK INITIATIVE* -- A CRIME FIGHTING PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON OAKLAND'S MOST VIOLENT BLOCKS. TODAY -- QUAN ALONG WITH INTERIM POLICE CHIEF HOWARD JORDAN AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SAID THAT DESPITE BUDGET CUTS -- THE CITY WILL DEVOTE ADDITIONAL POLICE AND RESOURCES TO THE 100 BLOCKS OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. MAYOR QUAN REFUSES TO DISCLOSE THE ACTUAL BLOCKS BUT IT'S NEAR INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD -- THE SAME AREA WHERE THREE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX WERE KILLED BY SENSELESS GUN FIRE LAST YEAR ALONE. QUAN SAYS ABOUT 90-PERCENT OF THE CITY'S MURDERS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS -- HAPPENED IN THIS 100 BLOCK AREA.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/26/12 REPORTED... THERE WILL BE NO NEW MEDICAL MARIJUANA CLUBS IN SAN FRANCISCO. AT LEAST NOT FOR NOW. THE CITY WILL NO LONGER ISSUE NEW PERMITS... NOR APPROVE PENDING ONES THAT HAD BEEN ON HOLD. THE MOVE FOLLOWS AN APPEALS COURT RULING IN DECEMBER THAT HALTED SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE. CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THEY'RE WAITING FOR MORE DIRECTION FROM SACRAMENTO ON THEIR ABILITY TO ISSUE PERMITS UNDER THE 'MEDICAL CANNABIS ACT' WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TARGETS SUCH CLUBS. LAST YEAR, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SHUTTERED FIVE PERMITTED DISPENSARIES IN SAN FRANCISCO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/31/12 REPORTED... IT'S A SIGN OF THE TIMES: BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU TWEET. A RICHMOND POLICE OFFICER IS IN HOT WATER TONIGHT AFTER POSTING A QUESTIONABLE MESSAGE ON TWITTER. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAD TO BLOCK COMMENTS TO ITS FACEBOOK PAGE AFTER BEING FLOODED WITH ANGRY POSTS ABOUT THE OFFICERS' TWEET. RICHMOND POLICE SERGEANT MIKE ROOD WROTE QUOTE "I WOULD GO AFTER THEM WITH BOTH GUNS." THE TWEET WAS DIRECTED TO ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP PRESIDENT DANA WHITE AFTER THE UFC WEBSITE HAD BEEN HACKED. THE DEPARTMENT WON'T CONFIRM THAT ROOD IS THE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE, BUT SAYS THERE IS AN INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY.

HEALTH/NUTRITION & DISEASE

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/2/12 REPORTED... IT IS NOW ILLEGAL TO SMOKE JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE IN PUBLIC IN ALAMEDA. STARTING TODAY, THERE IS NO SMOKING ALLOWED ON SIDEWALKS, AT OUTDOOR CAFES, OR AT THE BEACH. YOU CAN'T SMOKE IN TAXIS, OR ANY OTHER VEHICLE USED AS A WORKPLACE. BECAUSE THE TOXINS IN SMOKE CAN'T BE VENTILATED, SMOKING IS ALSO BANNED FROM NEW MULTI-UNIT RENTAL COMPLEXES --AND IT'S ILLEGAL TO SMOKE WITHIN 20 FEET OF AN OPEN DOOR OR WINDOW IN YOUR OWN APARTMENT. THE LAW IS STRICT, BUT IT'S NOT AS STRICT AS IT WILL BE STARTING IN 2013. THE CITY WILL INSTITUTE EVEN MORE RESTRICTIONS IN MULTI UNIT APARTMENT BUILDINGS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/2/12 REPORTED... THERE IS A CURRENT SHORTAGE OF MEDICATIONS USED TO TREAT ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER... OR A-D-H-D. THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SAYS THE PILLS ARE IN SUCH SHORT SUPPLY THAT SOME PHARMACIES ARE UNABLE TO FILL PRESCRIPTIONS. THE REASON? PATIENT ABUSE... OFTEN BY COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO USE THE PILLS TO GET HIGH OR STAY UP ALL NIGHT. MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS NEED THE MEDICATIONS TO STAY CALM AND FOCUSED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/10/12 REPORTED... NEARLY FORTY MILLION AMERICANS REPORT BINGE DRINKING ONCE A WEEK-- THAT'S ONE OUT OF SIX ADULTS. BINGE DRINKING IS DEFINED AS MORE THAN FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING FOR WOMEN, AND FIVE IN ONE SITTING FOR MEN. RESEARCHERS FROM THE CDC FOUND BINGE DRINKING WAS MOST COMMON AMONG PEOPLE AGES EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY-FOUR. THEY ALSO CONSUMED THE MOST DRINKS EACH TIME THEY BINGED ABOUT NINE DRINKS. HOWEVER, PEOPLE AGE SIXTY-FIVE AND OLDER HAD THE HIGHEST BINGE FREQUENCY -- MORE THAN FIVE TIMES A MONTH. MEN ARE TWICE AS LIKELY AS WOMEN TO BINGE DRINK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/10/12 REPORTED... EATING OUT AND LOSING WEIGHT - A NEW STUDY SAYS IT CAN BE DONE. A STUDY IN THE 'JOURNAL OF NUTRITION AND EDUCATION BEHAVIOR' FINDS THAT LEARNING ABOUT EATING HABITS CAN HELP PEOPLE LOSE WEIGHT EVEN IF THEY FREQUENTLY GO OUT TO EAT. IN THE STUDY - PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED WEEKLY MEETINGS THAT FOCUSED ON MINDFUL EATING HABITS LOST MORE WEIGHT THAN A CONTROL GROUP. THE STUDY SUPPORTS THE IDEA THAT HOW MUCH YOU EAT MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT YOU EAT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/18/12 REPORTED... SOMETIMES IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SUCCESSFULLY LOSE WEIGHT. AND NOW YOU HAVE ONE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS! HEALTH RALLY, BASED IN SAN FRANCISCO, JUST LAUNCHED THIS WEBSITE. IT ALLOWS YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE YOUR WEIGHT LOSS GOALS.THEY OFFER ONLINE ENCOURAGEMENT, ADVICE AND EVEN FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR SPECIFIC GOAL. LEAH NICHOLS USED HEALTH RALLY TO MEET HER GOAL OF SHEDDING TEN POUNDS IN THREE MONTHS. SHE THEN EARNED A WINE COUNTRY GETAWAY PAID FOR BY HER SUPPORTERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... A FIRST FOR CALIFORNIA IN TWO DECADES...STATE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY NO DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH OCCURRED IN 2011.THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SAY THAT SINCE 1991. IN 2010, THE DISEASE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 10 INFANTS AND INFECTED 9-THOUSAND PEOPLE WHEN IT REACHED EPIDEMIC LEVELS. LAST YEAR, THE NUMBER DROPPED DOWN TO 3-THOUSAND INFECTED. HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY FREE VACCINES, PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND A LAW REQUIRING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GET VACCINATED ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE OF WHOOPING COUGH CASES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... IT'S NOT LIKE THE SCHOOL LUNCHES FROM THE OLD DAYS, 32-MILLION CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES BUY SCHOOL LUNCHES - A MEAL THATS ABOUT TO GET A MAKEOVER. TODAY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -- AND FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA ANNOUNCED HIGHER NUTRITION STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES. IT'S THE FIRST MAJOR OVERHAUL OF THE SCHOOL LUNCH SYSTEM IN 15-YEARS. STARTING NEXT SCHOOL YEAR, LUNCHES WILL HAVE MORE FRUITS VEGETABLES AND WHOLE GRAINS. SALT WILL ALSO BE DRASTICALLY LMITED - OVER THE SPAN OF A DECADE TO HELP KIDS' TASTE BUDS MAKE THE TRANSITION. THE CHANGES ARE EXPECTED TO COST OVER 3-BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT 5-YEARS. AND YES, A NEW HEALTHIER PIZZA WILL BE AVAILABLE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/25/12 REPORTED... THERE WILL BE NO NEW MEDICAL MARIJUANA CLUBS IN SAN FRANCISCO. AT LEAST NOT FOR NOW. THE CITY WILL NO LONGER ISSUE NEW PERMITS NOR APPROVE PENDING ONES THAT HAD BEEN ON HOLD.THE MOVE FOLLOWS AN APPEALS COURT RULING IN DECEMBER THAT HALTED SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THEY'RE WAITING FOR MORE DIRECTION FROM SACRAMENTO ON THEIR ABILITY TO ISSUE PERMITS UNDER THE 'MEDICAL CANNABIS ACT' WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TARGETS SUCH CLUBS.LAST YEAR, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SHUTTERED FIVE PERMITTED DISPENSARIES IN SAN FRANCISCO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/30/12 REPORTED... A HIGH PROFILE BAY AREA COMPANY WON FEDERAL APPROVAL FOR A PILL THAT TREATS SKIN CANCER. GENENTECH, BASED IN SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, SAYS ITS' NEW MEDICATION, CALLED ERIVEDGE IS FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE NOT CANDIDATES FOR SURGERY OR RADIATION, AND WHOSE CANCER HAS SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY. THE F-D-A GAVE THE DRUG A FAST SIX-MONTH REVIEW BECAUSE THERE ARE NO OTHER APPROVED TREATMENTS FOR BASAL (BASIL) CELL CARCINOMA, THE MOST COMMON TYPE OF SKIN CANCER. THE DRUG COULD BE AVAILABLE AS SOON AS NEXT WEEK.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS/SAFETY & SECURITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/3/12 REPORTED... A CHEMICAL SCARE IN REDWOOD CITY TODAY WHICH FORCED SOME BUSINESSES TO EVACUATE. THREE GARBAGE COLLECTORS WERE SENT TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER THEIR TRUCK PICKED UP A WHITE CONTAINER THAT RELEASED FUMES WHEN IT WAS CRUSHED. IT HAPPENED AROUND 10-AM ON THE 1500 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET IN REDWOOD CITY -- RIGHT NEAR EL CAMINO AND WOODSIDE ROAD. THE GARBAGE COLLECTORS STARTED EXPERIENCING NAUSEA AND EYE PROBLEMS FROM THE FUMES. FOUR BUSINESSES IN THE AREA WERE EVACUATED AND OTHERS HAD A SHELTER IN PLACE, WHILE HAZMAT CREWS TRIED TO DETERMINE WHAT THE CHEMICAL WAS. ONE OF THE CHEMICALS WAS SAID TO BE AMMONIA.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/9/12 REPORTED... THE MEMORIES OF SAN BRUNO ARE FUELING A PENINSULA LAWMAKER. TODAY HE INTRODUCED THREE NEW BILLS TO HELP ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CALIFORNIA GAS PIPELINES. SAN MATEO ASSEMBLY MEMBER JERRY HILL - SAYS HE NEVER WANTS ANOTHER COMMUNITY TO ENDURE THE HORROR THAN SAN BRUNO DID IN 2010. TODAY, OUTSIDE THE STATE PUC HEADQUARTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO, HE OUTLINED HIS PROPOSED CHANGES. ONE BILL WOULD HELP PROTECT WHISTLEBLOWERS. ANOTHER - WOULD FORCE UTILITIES TO SET GAS-RATES BASED ON THEIR SAFETY RECORDS. THE THIRD WOULD FORCE THE STATE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AND UTILITIES TO FOLLOW FEDERAL SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS-- WHICH HILL CLAIMS HAVE ROUTINELY BEEN IGNORED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/10/12 REPORTED... AS ONE FEDERAL AGENCY LAUNCHES A HIGH-PROFILE INVESTIGATION INTO THE SAFETY AT AIR SHOWS -- A LEADER AT A DIFFERENT AGENCY PREDICTS NOTHING MUCH WILL CHANGE. THE NTSB INVESTIGATION WAS LARGELY PROMPTED BY LAST YEAR'S DEADLY CRASH AT THE RENO AIR RACE, WHEN A VINTAGE PLANE PLUNGED INTO THE STANDS, KILLING ELEVEN AND INJURING DOZENS MORE. BUT AN FAA DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOLD THE HEARING HE FORESEES NO BIG CHANGES TO BE MADE. THE BOARD IS ALSO INVESTIGATING TEN OTHER AIR-SHOW ACCIDENTS, AND ZEROED-IN ON WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS A WEAK LINK IN THE SAFETY CHAIN. AIR SHOWS ARE OVERSEEN BY SO-CALLED AIR BOSSES - WHO HAVE NO OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION - BUT ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/17/12 REPORTED... OFF THE COAST OF ITALY, THE FRANTIC SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS -- AND VICTIMS-- INSIDE THE CAPSIZED HULL OF CRUISELINER COSTA CONCORDIA CONTINUED TODAY. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SEARCH BROUGHT NO SIGNS OF LIFE. THE BODIES OF 5 PEOPLE -- 4 MEN AND A WOMAN ALL WEARING LIFEVESTS -- WERE FOUND IN THE REAR OF THE SHIP. AT LEAST 20 PEOPLE ARE STILL MISSING. AND THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS ON HOUSE ARREST -- FACING CRIMINAL CHARGES. THIS DISASTER IS DRAWING SHARP CRITICISM FROM OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY TONIGHT. INSTRUCTORS AT THE CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY IN VALLEJO ARE WATCHING THE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/27/12 REPORTED... APPLE COMPUTER IS RESPONDING TO YESTERDAY'S FRONT PAGE STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, DETAILING HARSH-- AND EVEN DEADLY CONDITIONS AT APPLE'S FACTORIES IN CHINA. CEO TIM COOK SENT OUT A LETTER TO ALL APPLE EMPLOYEES CALLING ANY SUGGESTION THAT APPLE DOESN'T CARE, OFFENSIVE AND ADDING QUOTE "EVERY YEAR WE INSPECT MORE FACTORIES. WE'VE MADE A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS AND IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS. WE KNOW OF NO ONE IN OUR INDUSTRY DOING AS MUCH AS WE ARE, IN AS MANY PLACES, TOUCHING AS MANY PEOPLE." COOK ALSO PROMISES APPLE WILL CONTINUE TO DIG INTO WORKER ISSUES AND WILL NOT TURN A BLIND EYE TO PROBLEMS

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/30/12 REPORTED... THE DAMAGING PRACTICE KNOWN AS PHISHING IS BRINGING TOGETHER SOME HIGH-TECH COMPANIES WHICH ARE MORE ACCUSTOMED TO BEING COMPETITORS THAN COLLABORATORS. PHISHING IS DONE WITH SCAM EMAILS, TO TRICK PEOPLE INTO GIVING AWAY PASSWORDS AND CREDIT CARD NUMBERS. NOW GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, AND MORE THAN A-DOZEN OTHER TECH COMPANIES ARE WORKING ON A SYSTEM WHICH WILL AUTHENTICATE LEGITIMATE E-MAILS AND WEED-OUT FAKES. THE SYSTEM WILL GO BY A CATCHY NEW NAME-- D-MARC, WHICH STANDS FOR DOMAIN-BASED MESSAGE AUTHENTICATION, REPORTING AND CONFORMANCE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/30/12 REPORTED... THE POPULAR "BRAZILIAN BLOWOUT" HAIR STRAIGHTENING PRODUCT ISN'T AS SAFE AS IT CLAIMS AND NOW THE COMPANY IS PAYING FOR IT. THE NORTH HOLLYWOOD COMPANY MUST NOW WARN CUSTOMERS OF THE DANGERS OF THE PRODUCT AND STOP SAYING THAT IT IS SAFE. TESTING FOUND THAT IT CONTAINED HIGH LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE WHICH CAUSES RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS, SKIN REACTIONS, AND HEADACHES. THE COMPANY WILL ALSO HAVE TO PAY 600- THOUSAND DOLLARS IN FEES AND PENALTIES. STYLISTS CHARGE UP TO 500- DOLLARS FOR THE HAIR SMOOTHING BEAUTY TREATMENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 1/31/12 REPORTED... RIGHT NOW ALL PATENT APPLICATIONS IN THE U-S GO THROUGH THE PATENT OFFICE IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA WHERE THERE'S A BACKLOG OF 700-THOUSAND APPLICATIONS WAITING APPROVAL. WITH THE GOVERNMENT LOOKING TO OPEN SEVERAL SATELLITE PATENT OFFICES IN THE U-S SILICON VALLEY LEADERS ARE MAKING THE PITCH TO OPEN ONE HERE IN THE BAY AREA. THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY PLANS TO OPEN A PATENT OFFICE IN THE HEART OF THE U-S AUTO INDUSTRY IN DETROIT. SAN JOSE MAYOR CHUCK REED SAYS SILICON VALLEY IS PRIME TERRITORY FOR ONE OF THE FINAL TWO LOCATIONS. IN ITS PROPOSAL, SAN JOSE SAYS IT WILL CREATE A NEW CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AT SAN JOSE STATE TO TRAIN PEOPLE TO WORK AS PATENT OFFICE EXAMINERS. REED SAYS IN ADDITION TO CREATING UP TO 200 JOBS, IT WILL HELP THE U.S. STAY COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE. IT'S POSSIBLE THE INVENTOR OF THE NEXT GREAT PHONE OR THE FASTEST COMPUTER CHIP IS SIMPLY WAITING FOR THE PATENT APPLICATION TO MOVE FORWARD. AND MAYBE ONE DAY SOON THOSE IDEAS WON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR FROM HOME FOR THE GREEN LIGHT.

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KNTV/NBC Bay Area

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

First Quarter

February 2012

KNTV/NBC BAY AREA is responsive to the principal issues arising in its community through regularly scheduled public affairs programming, newscasts, public service announcements as well as documentaries and specials. The following is a list of some of the programs that have provided the station's most significant treatment of community issues during the preceding three-month period.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/2/12 REPORTED... 'MISSION MOTORS' ON A GREEN MISSION.THE SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS BEING HONORED AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING WITH A VISIT FROM AN EPA VIP. EPA ADMINISTRATOR LISA JACKSON TOURED MISSION MOTORS TODAY A GREEN BUSINESS THAT PROVIDES PARTS FOR HYBRID VEHICLES. HER VISIT COMES ON THE HEELS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS DISCUSSING JOB GROWTH AND GREEN TECHNOLOGY. JACKSON CALLED MISSION MOTORS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT MORE AMERICAN BUSINESSES NEED TO PUSH TOWARDS. MISSION MOTORS IS PLANNING ON DOUBLING ITS WORKFORCE IN THE BAY AREA THIS YEAR ALONE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/2/12 REPORTED... WHAT RECESSION?

IF YOU WORK FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU EARNED MORE MONEY IN THE PAST YEAR. THE STATE PAYROLL INCREASED BY A HALF-BILLION DOLLARS EVEN AS THE STATE CUT THOUSANDS OF JOBS. FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE STATE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE ALSO SHOW THAT STATE WORKERS GOT THE EQUIVALENT OF A 15-PERCENT PAY INCREASE BECAUSE THEY WORKED MORE DAYS. YOU'LL RECALL BACK WHEN ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER WAS GOVERNOR HE USED THREE-DAY FURLOUGHS TO SAVE MONEY. SO EVEN THOUGH CALIFORNIA CUT ABOUT 75-HUNDRED FULL TIME JOBS LAST YEAR, THE PAYROLL WAS HIGHER. GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN SAYS HE'LL MAKE EVEN MORE JOB CUTS IN COMING MONTHS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/7/12 REPORTED... ANOTHER BIG SHAKEUP AT THE TOP OF YAHOO. THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE CONTINUES FOR THE INTERNET COMPANY, WHICH USED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST DOMINANT IN SILICON VALLEY. THE COMPANY'S LATEST MOVE IS AN ALMOST COMPLETE RE-VAMPING OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.. CO-FOUNDER JERRY YANG RECENTLY LEFT THE BOARD....AND TODAY FOUR MORE DIRECTORS ARE FOLLOWING HIS LEAD, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN ROY BOSTOCK. EXPERTS ARE SAYING THIS CHANGE IS LIKELY BECAUSE YAHOO RECENTLY HIRED A NEW CEO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... BACK TO WALL STREET, AND ANOTHER INVESTOR DARLING JEREMY LIN. IF YOU'VE CHECKED YOUR SPORTS PAGE LATELY, YOU'VE SEEN THE PALO ALTO NATIVE AND NEW YORK KNICK WHO HAS BEEN SO HOT BOTH ON THE COURT AND IN SOCIAL MEDIA, HE'S GETTING CREDIT FOR RAISING THE MADISON SQUARE GARDEN STOCK PRICE, AS WELL AS THE ROOF. LIN JERSEYS ARE SELLING OUT, TICKET PRICES ARE RISING, AND LIN'S TWITTER FOLLOWING HAS NEARLY TRIPLED OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED...

CHOCOLATE ..

STRAWBERRIES .. AND MORE CHOCOLATE ..MOVING THROUGH THE GUITARD CHOCOLATE COMPANY IN BURLINGAME..SURROUNDED BY THE TECH INDUSTRY, BUT LEAVING THE GADGETS TO OTHERS. THIS PLACE IS ALL ABOUT LOVE. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION, CHOCOLATE, ALONG WITH FLOWERS AND OTHER LOVE TOKENS, WILL PULL IN 17 "BILLION" DOLLARS THIS YEAR. WHAT HAD BEEN A DRIZZLE OF SPENDING DURING THE RECESSION IS NOW, IN BETTER TIMES, A CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN WORTH OF SPENDING. AND TALK ABOUT 'SPREADING' THE LOVE. FEDERAL EXPRESS SAYS VALENTINE'S DAY TRAFFIC IS GETTING A BIG BOOST THIS YEAR. THEY'LL DELIVER MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF CHOCOLATES INCREASING DAILY TRAFFIC BY TEN PERCENT FOR THE WEEK OF VALENTINE'S DAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE GOING PUBLIC, ZYNGA REPORTED QUARTERLY EARNINGS TONIGHT. THE SAN FRANCISCO GAME-MAKER IS GROWING QUICKLY, IT NOW HAS 15 MILLION USERS BUT IT IS LOSING MONEY. ZYNGA SHARES DIPPING A BIT IN AFTER HOURS TRADING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/22/12 REPORTED... AS THE VIRTUAL ROAD RUSHES BY VOLKSWAGEN ENGINEERS ARE COLLECTING DATA ON HOW TO MAKE YOUR DRIVING EXPERIENCE BETTER WELCOME TO THE ELECTRONIC RESEARCH LAB OWNED BY VOLKSWAGEN PART OF THE CAR INDUSTRY'S WAY TO MARRY AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY. MAJOR COMPANIES, LIKE GOOGLE .. GOOGLE EARTH MADE IT INTO THE NEW AUDI GPS SYSTEMS, AFTER BEING TESTED IN THIS SILICON VALLEY LAB .. LEADING UNIVERSITIES .. LIKE STANFORD.THAT'S WHERE THESE VW RESEARCH LAB INTERNS - WHO BUILT THIS SOLAR RACECAR - GO TO SCHOOL. IT'S HERE AT THE ERL WHERE VEHICLES AND TECHNOLOGY COME TOGETHER ..EVEN THE MEETING TABLES ARE COOL ..VW, AUDI .. FORD ON THE WAY WITH ITS OWN LAB. YOU CAN CALL THIS THE HIGH-TECH VERSION OF MOTOR CITY. FROM ELECTRIC CARS .. TO SOLAR CARS ..TO CARS THAT DRIVE THEMSELVES ..THIS IS WHERE YOU WANT TO BE, IF YOU WANT TO DRIVE INTO THE FUTURE ... GETTING A GRIP .. ON WHAT'S COMING UP AROUND THE BEND.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/29/12 REPORTED... NETFLIX AND STARZ, A PAY-CABLE NETWORK, HAD A CONTRACT WHERE NETFLIX COULD STREAM STARZ MOVIES.THAT CONTRACT JUST EXPIRED, TAKING SEVERAL STUDIOS' WORTH OF MOVIES WITH IT, INCLUDING MANY POPULAR DISNEY FILMS, LIKE "TANGLED," AND "TOY STORY 3." SHARES OF NETFLIX STOCK FELL ABOUT TWO PERCENT ON THE NEWS.

CONSUMER ISSUES

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/1/12 REPORTED... PG&E CUSTOMERS CAN REFUSE TO HAVE SMART METERS-- BUT IT WILL COST THEM. THAT'S THE DECISION OF STATE REGULATORS, AFTER A STREAM OF CONSUMER COMPLAINTS. OPPONENTS PACKED THE MEETING AT P-U-C HEADQUARTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO TODAY, WITH MEMBERS OF ADVOCACY GROUPS FROM MARIN COUNTY TO SAN LUIS OBISPO LINING UP TO TESTIFY. THEY'VE LONG ARGUED THAT THE METERS EMIT HARMFUL RADIATION-- AND THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY MORE TO KEEP THE OLDER, ANALOG MODELS. PG&E SAYS THE WIRELESS SMART-METERS ARE SAFE, AND THEY SAVE THE UTILITY MONEY. WHILE THE COMMISSION WILL ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO OPT-OUT, IT

ALSO APPROVED ALLOWING THE UTILITY TO CHARGE A FEE OF 75-DOLLARS, PLUS AN EXTRA TEN-DOLLARS PER MONTH TO THOSE WHO DON'T WANT THE NEW METERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/2/12 REPORTED... FACES LIT UP AS PEOPLE WALKED DOWN THE AISLES AT THE CANDY BARREL STORE ON FISHERMAN'S WHARF TODAY. BUT ACCORDING TO A GROUP OF UC SAN FRANCISCO RESEARCHERS WHAT THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO GET THEIR HANDS ON IS TOXIC. A NEW STUDY SUGGESTS THAT SUGAR IS AS TOXIC AND ADDICTIVE AS ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO SHOULD BE REGULATED IN THE SAME WAY. DR. ROBERT LUSTIG OF UCSF SAYS SUGAR IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT IS THE CAUSE OF CHRONIC HEALTH ISSUES RANGING FROM OBESITY TO HEART DISEASE. LUSTIG POINTS OUT THAT SUGAR AND DRUGS HAVE MANY OF THE SAME QUALITIES LIKE THE WAY IT AFFECTS THE LIVER. THE SENSATION IT GIVES PEOPLE WHEN CONSUMED AND THE WAY IT CAN BE ABUSED. ALTHOUGH HE SUGGESTS PLACING TAXES ON SUGARY FOODS AND POSSIBLY CARDING CONSUMERS TO KEEP SUGAR OUT OF THE HANDS OF KIDS HE INSISTS HE'S NOT THE ONE TRYING TO LIMIT CERTAIN FOODS IN THE MARKET PLACE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... SALES ARE PICKING UP AT STEVENS CREEK CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE. THEY'RE AVERAGING 40 SALES A WEEKEND AND HAVE BEEN SINCE LAST SUMMER. DOUBLE WHAT IT WAS IN THE YEAR BEFORE. THE GENERAL MANAGER FEARS ANY SALES TAX INCREASE MIGHT PUT THEM BACK IN THE SLOW LANE. THE CITY IS PROPOSING A QUARTER-PERCENT TAX HIKE ON TOP OF SAN JOSE'S CURRENT SALES TAX RATE OF 8.25% COMPARED TO SAN FRANCISCO'S 8.5% CITY SALES TAX AND OAKLAND'S 8.75% SALES TAX. ON A 20-THOUSAND DOLLAR VEHICLE YOU'D PAY ABOUT 16-THOUSAND-500 IN SALES TAX FIFTY-BUCKS MORE IF SAN JOSE VOTERS PASS THE TAX INCREASE IN JUNE. IN SAN JOSE, THE 83-CENTS YOU SPEND ON A 10-DOLLAR LUNCH WOULD GO UP BY THREE CENTS. SHOP FOR CLOTHES AND YOU'LL PAY 25-CENTS MORE PER HUNDRED DOLLARS YOU SPEND. IN ALL, THE CITY ESTIMATES THAT SMALL INCREASE WOULD GENERATE 32-MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. A SAN JOSE STATE POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR SAYS THAT 65% IS A HEALTHY MAJORITY... AND A SIGN THAT PEOPLE ARE TIRING OF CUTS... AND ARE READY TO PITCH IN. BUT, VOTERS ALSO WANT SPECIFICS ON WHAT THEIR MONEY WOULD BE SPENT ON. AND THAT IS NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN. BECAUSE IF THE CITY WERE TO EARMARK THE FUNDS... IT WOULD TAKE 2/3RDS OF VOTERS TO PASS IT... IF THE FUNDS ARE NOT EARMARKED, IT ONLY TAKES A SIMPLE MAJORITY AND THE MONEY GOES INTO THE GENERAL FUND. AND THAT MAY BE TOO GENERAL FOR SOME VOTERS

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... COULD VALENTINES DAY POSE A PUBLIC HAZARD? PG&E OFFICIALS SAY YES. THE COMPANY IS ISSUING WARNINGS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF HELIUM FILLED MYLAR BALLOONS. THE METTALIC BALLOONS CAN FLOAT UP INTO POWER LINES AND CAUSE ELECTRICAL OUTAGES AND PROPERTY DAMAGE. "WHEN ALL THAT METAL SURFACE AREA THAT BALLOON GETS IN CONTACT WITH A POWER LINE IT CREATES A SHORT. IT CAN CREATE ANY NUMBER OF VOLTAGE ISSUES. THEY GENERALLY MAKE A LOUD NOISE AND SCARE FOLKS. MOST IMPORANTLY THEY CAN CAUSE A POWER OUTAGE THAT EFFECTS HOMES, BUSSINESES, COULD EVEN AFFECT TRAFFIC LIGHTS". JUST THIS MORNING MORE THAN 2-THOUSAND PEOPLE IN SAN FRANCISCO WERE WITHOUT POWER AFTER A BALLOON GOT CAUGHT IN POWER LINES. THE POWER WAS TURNED BACK ON ABOUT AN HOUR LATER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... IT'S NOT A MASS EXODUS, BUT THOUSANDS OF PG&E CUSTOMERS ARE BEGINNING TO OPT-OUT OF HAVING A SMARTMETER ATTACHED TO THEIR HOMES. OFFICIALS WITH THE UTILITY SAY THEY'VE RECEIVED ALMOST 45-hundred REQUESTS SINCE STATE REGULATORS VOTED TO GIVE CUSTOMERS THE RIGHT TO OPT-OUT ON FEBRUARY 1ST. PG&E CUSTOMERS WHO CHOOSE TO STAY WITH TRADITIONAL METERS MUST PAY A ONE-TIME 75-DOLLAR FEE PLUS A 10-DOLLAR MONTHLY CHARGE. LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WILL PAY A FRACTION

OF THE COST. A MAJORITY OF THE OPT-OUT REQUESTS COME FROM CUSTOMERS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND MARIN COUNTY. PG&E WANTS CUSTOMERS TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WILL OPT-OUT BY MAY 1ST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/15/12 REPORTED... SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WANT TO GET THE TIMING RIGHT, WHEN THEY ASK PEOPLE TO FORK OVER HIGHER SALES TAXES. THAT'S WHY THEY PUT OFF A VOTE ON A POTENTIAL JUNE "TAX BALLOT MEASURE" AND DECIDED INSTEAD, TO STUDY THE ISSUE FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS. COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE LOOKING AT OPTIONS LIKE HAVING A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE TAX INCREASE, TO AVOID GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH COMPETING STATE AND LOCAL TAX MEASURES. LAST NIGHT'S DECISION, CAME AFTER A NEW POLL SHOWED PEOPLE IN SAN JOSE WOULD RATHER PAY MORE AT THE CHECKOUT, THAN LOSE CITY SERVICES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/21/12 REPORTED... COMCAST, WHICH IS THE PARENT COMPANY OF THIS T-V STATION, ALSO ANNOUNCED A NEW SERVICE TODAY. SUBSCRIBERS WILL SOON BE ABLE TO STREAM SYNDICATED TV SHOWS SUCH AS "THE OFFICE" -- AND MOVIES TO MOBILE DEVICES AND HOME COMPUTERS. "XFINITY STREAMPIX" IS LAUNCHING THIS WEEK. THE SERVICE WILL ONLY COST 5-BUCKS A MONTH -- 3-DOLLARS LESS THAN NETFLIX'S STREAMING SERVICE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/21/12 REPORTED...EXPENSIVE GARBAGE. BUT IN THIS CASE -- TOO EXPENSIVE. SOME PENINSULA RESIDENTS SAW THEIR GARBAGE BILLS SKYROCKET LAST MONTH. SAN CARLOS CUSTOMERS OF THE *RECOLOGY* COMPANY WERE EXPECTING A FIVE-PERCENT INCREASE ON THEIR MONTHLY BILL, BUT THE COMPANY ACCIDENTALLY SENT BILLS WHICH WERE NEARLY 10-PERCENT HIGHER. RECOLOGY HAS APOLOGIZED AND SENT OUT LETTERS TO ITS CUSTOMERS IN SAN CARLOS, NOTIFYING THEM THEY'LL GET A CREDIT FOR THE EXCESS CHARGE IN NEXT MONTH'S BILL.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILY, ELDERLY, MEN & WOMEN

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/1/12 REPORTED...IT WAS A TROUBLING STORY AND NOW THE TROUBLING ANSWER. WE NOW KNOW THE CAUSE OF DEATH OF A 14-YEAR SANTA ROSA GIRL WHO DIED DURING A SLEEPOVER LAST SUMMER. THE SONOMA COUNTY CORONER SAYS THAT TAKU-EIMI RAO, DIED FROM INGESTING A FATAL DOSE OF G-H-B, A DESIGNER DRUG MOST PEOPLE KNOW AS THE "DATE RAPE DRUG."THE NEW TEST RESULTS EMERGED FROM A NEARLY SEVEN-MONTH INVESTIGATION INTO RAO'S DEATH AT THE JULY 9TH SLEEPOVER. INVESTIGATORS INITIALLY THOUGHT THE TEENAGER MIGHT HAVE DIED FROM ALCOHOL POISONING AFTER DRINKING VODKA WITH THREE FRIENDS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/10/12 REPORTED... ATTORNEY STEVEN CLARK SAYS HIS CLIENT, 43 YEAR OLD TEACHER ALEXIA BOGDIS FEELS AS IF SHE'S ALREADY BEEN CONVICTED FOR CRIMES SHE SAYS SHE DIDN'T COMMIT. BUT ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAREN GUIDOTTI TELLS THE OTHER SIDE SAYING THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT BOGDIS PHYSICALLY ABUSED TWO FOUR YEAR OLD DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED BOYS IN HER CLASS. PROSECUTORS SAY ONE OF THE VICTIMS SUFFERS FROM AUTISM AND THE ABUSE IS ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY. A MOTHER OF ONE OF THE STUDENTS TOLD US EARLIER THIS WEEK SHE WAS SHOCKED WHEN SHE LEARNED OF THE ACCUSATIONS FROM A POLICE DETECTIVE.PROSECUTORS SAY THE EIGHT OTHER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE BEEN

PLACED ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AT ROOSEVELT INCLUDE TEACHER'S AIDES WHO ALLEGEDLY SAW THE ABUSE AND WAITED FOR WEEKS TO REPORT IT. SHELLY MASUR IS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL BOARD.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... A BAY AREA FAMILY DESPERATE TO SAVE THEIR LITTLE GIRL TURNED TO HER BABY BROTHER FOR HELP.

CAROL MULUMBA WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A SEVERE FORM OF SICKLE CELL ANEMIA. DOCTORS TOLD HER MOTHER -- THAT CAROL MIGHT NOT LIVE PAST AGE TEN. SO WHEN THEIR SON MARK WAS BORN, THEY BANKED HIS UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD. A FEW YEARS LATER DOCTORS TRANSPLANTED THE STEM CELLS FROM HIS CORD BLOOD INTO CAROL CURING HER OF HER DISEASE HER MOM SAYS ITS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE. CAROL EVEN WENT TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO TELL PRESIDENT OBAMA ABOUT HER BATTLE WITH SICKLE CELL ANEMIA. CORD BLOOD REGISTRY IN SAN BRUNO SAVED AND STORED MARK'S CORD BLOOD AS PART OF A FREE PROGRAM CALLED NEWBORN POSSIBILITIES. SCIENTISTS AT THE REGISTRY SAYS CORD BLOOD STEM CELLS HAVE BEEN USED TO TREAT 80 DIFFERENT DISEASES INCLUDING LEUKEMIA AND IMMUNE DISORDERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... HUNDREDS OF HEARTS WERE BROKEN ON THE PENINSULA TODAY-- AS THE SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERVISORS VOTED TO CLOSE A LONG-TERM CARE HOME. DOZENS OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE HOME, MANY IN WHEELCHAIRS, ATTENDED TODAY'S MEETING -- BEGGING LAWMAKERS TO RE-NEW THE FACILITY'S LEASE AND KEEP IT OPEN. CLOSING THE COUNTY-RUN BURLINGAME LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY WILL ALSO PUT ABOUT TWO-HUNDRED STAFF MEMBERS OUT OF WORK. BUT CITING THE AGE OF THE 1970-BUILDING AND THE NINE-MILLION DOLLAR OPERATING COSTS, THE SUPERVISORS VOTED TO CLOSE THE FACILITY. THE COUNTY PROMISED TO HELP THE WORKERS FIND ANOTHER JOB.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... THE SEARCH CONTINUES FOR A MAN WHO ATTEMPTED TO KIDNAP AN 8-YEAR-OLD GIRL, AS SHE WAS WALKING TO SAN FRANCISCO'S CARVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EARLIER THIS WEEK. THE MAN APPROACHED THE GIRL ON MONDAY MORNING AT OAKDALE AVENUE AND KEITH STREET, AS SHE WAS WALKING TO CARVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. AFTER A STRUGGLE, THE VICTIM WAS ABLE TO GET AWAY FROM THE MAN AND RUN TO SAFETY INSIDE THE SCHOOL. THIS IS A SKETCH OF THE SUSPECT. HE IS DESCRIBED AS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE IN HIS 30'S, WITH A HEAVY BUILD AND DISTINCTIVE SHORT DREADLOCKS. HE HAS A SCAR ON HIS UPPER RIGHT CHEEK AND WAS WEARING SCARF TO COVER HIS FACE. CARVER ELEMENTARY IS IN THE BAYVIEW DISTRICT. CALL THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/15/12 REPORTED... AN AMAZING MEDICAL FIRST FROM LUCILLE PACKARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TONIGHT. A BAY AREA BABY HAS BECOME THE SMALLEST PACE-MAKER PATIENT EVER. HER HEART -- THE SIZE OF A WALNUT. THIS IS JAYA-WHOSE PARENTS ARE FROM HAYWARD. JAYA WAS BORN NINE WEEKS EARLY AT JUST THREE AND A HALF POUNDS. JUST *15 MINUTES AFTER SHE WAS BORN, DOCTORS GAVE HER A PACEMAKER, THAT SAVED HER LIFE. DOCTORS USED JUST EIGHT STICHES IN THE SURGERY. JAYA WAS DIAGNOSED BEFORE BIRTH WITH A SEVERE HEART DEFECT, AND WAS REGULARLY MONITORED BEFORE SHE WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 22ND. DOCTORS SAY HER PACEMAKER MUST BE REPOSITIONED OCASSIONALLY AS SHE GROWS BUT SHE'LL BE ABLE TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/16/12 REPORTED... AN INGREDIENT USED IN MANY "ORGANIC" FOODS, INCLUDING BABY FORMULAS AND ENERGY BARS COULD BE TOXIC. ORGANIC BROWN RICE SYRUP IS OFTEN USED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP. RESEARCHERS AT DARTMOUTH UNIVERSITY FOUND THAT THE SYRUP HAD HIGH LEVELS OF *ARSENIC. IN FACT, ONE BABY FORMULA THEY TESTED HAD AN ARSENIC CONCENTRATION THAT WAS SIX TIMES HIGHER THAN WHAT THE E-P-A CONSIDERS TO BE SAFE. THE STUDY FOLLOWS A REPORT FROM LAST YEAR SHOWING HIGH ARSENIC LEVELS IN SOME APPLE AND GRAPE JUICES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/21/12 REPORTED... THIS YOUNG CHILD WAS BORN WITH LYMPHATIC MALFORMATIONS OR GROWTHS ON HER BACK...BUT SHE TOOK A PILL AND AMAZINGLY HER GROWTHS STARTED TO SHRINK.THE MEDICATION SHE TOOK IS WIDELY KNOWN....BUT FOR A MUCH DIFFERENT USE. VIAGRA. MARKETING TO SPICE THINGS UP IN THE BEDROOM..BY TREATING ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE A DRUG WITH BIG PAYOFFS FOR ADULTS...CAN HAVE EVEN BIGGER PAYOFFS FOR KIDS. DERMATOLOGIST DR. AL LANE AT LUCILE PACKARD CHILDRENS HOSPITAL FIRST USED VIAGRA ON AN INFANT GIRL WHO HAD SEVERE LYMPHATIC MALFORMATION WITH GROWTHS THAT WRAPPED AROUND HER HEART. IT CAUSED HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE INVOLVING HER LUNGS... A CONDITION VIAGRA....KNOWN GENERICALLY AS SILDEN-AH- FIL....IS KNOWN TO TREAT. BUT IF YOU LOOK AT THE M-R-I OF THE CHILD YOU SEE ANOTHER BENEFIT...THESE PICTURES SHOW A DRAMATIC REDUCTION OF ONE CHILDS GROWTH ON HER BACK. THE FINDINGS ARE SO PROMISING DR. LANE REPORTED HIS FINDINGS IN THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND IS NOW BEGINING CLINICAL TRIALS TO SEE IF OTHER CHILDREN MAY BENEFIT. HE SAYS THE DOSE OF VIAGRA GIVEN TO CHILDREN IS A FRACTION OF WHAT ADULTS TAKE AND SO FAR THE DRUG HAS SHOWN FEW SIDE EFFECTS. BUT MORE TESTING IS NEEDED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/23/12 REPORTED... EVEN VETERAN POLICE OFFICERS SAY THIS IS THE WORST OF THE WORST. THEY'RE DESCRIBING A CHILD PORN BUST TODAY IN MARIN COUNTY. THE VIDEOS THEY SEIZED FEATURED CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS THREE YEARS OLD -- BEING SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY ADULTS. `THE ARRESTS TOOK PLACE IN TERRA LINDA AND FAIRFAX -- WHERE ONE SUSPECT WAS ALSO CHARGED W/ TWO FELONY WEAPONS VIOLATIONS. AT THE MEADOWS APARTMENT COMPLEX IN NOVATO -- POLICE ARRESTED A 16-YEAR OLD BOY. THE TASK FORCE IS CALLED "THE SILICON VALLEY INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN. OFFICIALS SAY CHILD PORN IS THE FASTEST GROWING CRIME IN THE U.S. MORE THAN 20-SUSPECTS IN THE BAY AREA HAVE BEEN ARRESTED SINCE NOVEMBER.

CRIMES-FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL, LAW & LAW ENFORCEMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/1/12 REPORTED...THE MAYOR TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT TERESA REED WILL BE OAKLAND'S NEW FIRE CHIEF. REED HELD THE JOB OF ASSISTANT CHIEF IN SAN JOSE. ALSO TODAY, *HOWARD JORDAN* MOVES FROM INTERIM POLICE CHIEF TO KEEPING THE JOB PERMANENTLY. HE STEPPED- IN LAST OCTOBER AFTER FORMER CHIEF ANTHONY BATTS ABRUPTLY RESIGNED. SO HE'S HAD TIME TO MAKE HIS AGENDA. JORDAN HAS MORE THAN 20-YEARS WITH THE OAKLAND P-D. HIS PROMOTION COMES AT A TUMULTUOUS TIME. THE DEPARTMENT IS DEALING WITH OCCUPY OAKLAND, AND MAJOR COURT-ORDERED RESTRUCTURING PROJECT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/2/12 REPORTED... THE UPSCALE COMMUNITY OF WALNUT CREEK SHOULD BE SAFER TONIGHT. AFTER A RECENT RASH OF LATE NIGHT VIOLENCE MORE POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE ON PATROL.

THE MOVE COMES JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER A STRING OF VIOLENT STREET BRAWLS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA. CITY LAWMAKERS MET WITH BUSINESS LEADERS TODAY - TO DISCUSS ENFORCING STRICTER REGULATIONS AT THEIR BARS AND RESTAURANTS. THIS PAST WEEKEND, POLICE ARRESTED NINE PEOPLE FOLLOWING THREE BRAWLS EARLY SUNDAY MORNING. OFFICERS USED PEPPER SPRAY TO BREAK UP THOSE FIGHTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/7/12 REPORTED... SEVERAL YEARS AGO -- IT WAS A MAJOR LOSS -- FOR THE BAY AREA WINE COMMUNITY. AND TODAY -- A SAUSALITO MAN WAS SENTENCED TO 27 YEARS IN PRISON AND ORDERED TO PAY MORE THAN 70-MILLION DOLLARS. HE'S THE ONE WHO TORCHED AN EAST BAY WINE WAREHOUSE. THIS IS 63-YEAR OLD MARK ANDERSON - CONVICTED OF STARTING THE FIRE BACK IN OCTOBER OF 2005. PROSECUTORS SAY HE SET THE FIRE TO HIDE THE FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN EMBEZZLING WINE FOR YEARS. IN 2009, ANDERSON PLEADED GUILTY TO 19 COUNTS RELATED TO THE FIRE - INCLUDING ARSON. THE UPSCALE WINE WAREHOUSE IN VALLEJO WAS HOME TO MORE THAN 4-MILLION BOTTLES OF PREMIUM WINE. SOME WINERIES LOST ENTIRE VINTAGES AND OTHERS LOST THEIR ENTIRE INVENTORY IN THE BLAZE. TWO FIREFIGHTERS WERE INJURED WHILE BATTLING THAT FIRE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/10/12 REPORTED... FOLLOWING UP NOW ON A STORY WE FIRST BROUGHT YOU YESTERDAY. THE SEARCH FOR MORE HUMAN REMAINS CONTINUES AT TWO SITES WHERE A CONVICTED SERIAL KILLER MAY HAVE DUMPED HIS VICTIMS. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS ANALYZING A PARTIAL HUMAN SKULL AND BONES FOUND IN RURAL CALAVERAS COUNTY THIS MORNING. IT COMES ONE DAY AFTER ANOTHER SKULL WAS DISCOVERED NEAR THE FORMER PROPERTY OF CONVICTED KILLER WESLEY SHERMANTINE. FEDERAL OFFICERS ARE ALSO DIGGING UP A WELL IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY. A BOUNTY HUNTER SAYS SHERMANTINE DUMPED MORE THAN A DOZEN BODIES INSIDE THE WELL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... WHERE IS HE? AN ARMED SUSPECT REMAINS ON THE LOOSE AFTER A DEADLY SHOOTING EARLY THIS MORNING. INVESTIGATORS SAY THEY RECEIVED SEVERAL CALLS OF GUNFIRE JUST BEFORE 4-30 THIS MORNING IN THE AREA OF 7TH AND C STREET. THE VICTIM IS DESCRIBED AS A YOUNG MAN IN HIS MID-20S WHO WAS FOUND DEAD IN A DRIVEWAY OF A HOUSE. NEIGHBORS IN THE AREA TELL US THE HOME IS A KNOWN HAVEN FOR DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITY. THE SUSPECTED SHOOTER DROVE OFF IN A RED-COLORED CAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... JUST A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE LONE TREE GOLF COURSE THIS USUALLY QUIET ANTIOCH NEIGHBORHOOD WITH ITS MODEST HOMES AND MANICURED LAWNS, ERUPTED IN GUNFIRE. POLICE SAY AT ABOUT 8:20 LAST NIGHT, A MAN WAS WITH HIS SEVEN YEAR OLD SON AT THEIR HOME ON WEXLER PEAK WAY WATCHING T-V WHEN A WOULD-BE ROBBER RANG THE DOORBELL. WHEN THE HOMEOWNER DIDN'T ANSWER THE INTRUDER KICKED IN THE DOOR AND CAME INSIDE. INVESTIGATORS SAY, THAT'S WHEN THE HOMEOWNER WRESTLED THE INTRUDER'S GUN AWAY FROM HIM... THEN SHOT HIM SEVERAL TIMES. THE SUSPECT, IDENTIFIED AS 18 YEAR OLD JEREMIAH STOVALL OF ANTIOCH, DIED AS HE STUMBLED OUT ONTO FRONT PORCH. POLICE ARRESTED A 19 YEAR OLD WOMAN SEEN RUNNING FROM THE SCENE WHO IS BELIEVED TO HIS ACCOMPLICE. POLICE SAY THE HOUSE WAS RANDOMLY TARGETTED AND SOME NEIGHBORS SAY THE HOMEOWNER DID THE RIGHT THING. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN RECENT MONTHS A HOMEOWNER IN ANTIOCH HAS KILLED AN INTRUDER. IN NOVEMBER, THE OWNER OF A VACANT HOME SHOT AND KILLED A ROBBER TRYING TO STEAL COPPER WIRE. AND LAST MONTH GUNFIRE AT A "SWEET 16" BIRTHDAY PARTY WOUNDED SIX PEOPLE. RESIDENTS SAY THERE'S A GROWING PROBLEM WITH VIOLENCE HERE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/15/12 REPORTED... PEANUT BUTTER, POT AND AIRPORT SECURITY...IT'S NOT A GOOD COMBINATION. A 47 YEAR OLD MAN MISSED HIS FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES SUNDAY NIGHT, AFTER THE T-S-A DETAINED HIM AT OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL. TSA AGENTS FOUND A JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER IN THE MAN'S CARRY-ON BAG, AND INSIDE THE JAR-- A BAG OF MARIJUANA. THE MAN TOLD OFFICERS HE HID THE POT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HAVE A MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD. THE TSA SAYS THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS AGENTS HAVE FOUND POT IN PEANUT BUTTER IN SOMEONE'S LUGGAGE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/20/12 REPORTED... PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NORMALLY QUIET BERKELEY HILLS ARE STILL TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT LED TO THE FATAL BEATING OF THEIR NEIGHBOR, RIGHT OUTSIDE HIS OWN GARAGE. THE HOME ON PARK GATE ROAD IS BARELY VISIBLE BEHIND THESE WALLS AND TREES...BUT BERKELEY POLICE SAY THE HOMEOWNER CAME OUTSIDE TO CONFRONT A MAN WHO WAS TRESPASSING NEAR THE GARAGE SATURDAY NIGHT. AND THAT'S WHEN THE SUSPECT ATTACKED HIM AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH. POLICE CONFIRM THAT THE VICTIM CALLED TO REPORT THE TRESPASSER FIRST BUT NEIGHBORS SAY NO OFFICERS SHOWED UP UNTIL THE VICTIM'S WIFE CALLED AGAIN ONCE THE VICIOUS ASSAULT BEGAN. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT BERKELEY POLICE COULD NOT RESPOND QUICKLY BECAUSE THEY WERE FOLLOWING OCCUPY PROTESTERS, WHO WERE MARCHING FROM OAKLAND TO THE U-C BERKELEY CAMPUS THAT NIGHT. POLICE ARRESTED 23-YEAR-OLD -- DANIEL JORDAN DEWITT -- IN CONNECTION WITH THE ATTACK...LESS THAN A BLOCK FROM THE CRIME SCENE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/21/12 REPORTED... MOM AS THE GET AWAY DRIVER? THAT'S WHAT POLICE ARE SAYING ABOUT 42-YEAR OLD MARGARET SUAZO, ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF ATTEMPTED MURDER. SUAZO IS THE MOTHER OF THE 15-YEAR OLD BOY WHO POLICE BELIEVE STABBED ANOTHER 13 YEAR-OLD TEEN IN A GANG RELATED ATTACK. THE STABBING TOOK PLACE LAST THURSDAY NEAR MABURY ROAD AND NORTH CAPITOL AVENUE NOT FAR FROM MERRYHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL. POLICE SAY THE TEEN STABBED THE OTHER BOY AND JUMPED BACK IN HIS MOMS CAR. SAN JOSE POLICE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR ANOTHER KID THAT MAY HAVE BEN IN THE CAR

DIVERSITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/7/12 REPORTED... THEY ROLLED INTO TOWN -- WITH SOME AMERICAN HISTORY TODAY. SAN JOSE'S WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE HOSTED A WORLD WAR ONE EXHIBIT. "HONORING OUR HISTORY" IS AN 18- WHEEL TRAVELING MUSEUM THAT IS ON A 75- CITY TOUR ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IT'S AN INTERACTIVE AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH MORE THAN 60- ARTIFACTS FROM THE WAR INCLUDING UNIFORMS, WEAPONS, POSTERS AND FLAGS. VISITORS CAN EVEN EXPERIENCE THE TIGHT TRENCH WARFARE OF THE ERA. THEY CHOSE THE WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE FOR THE EXHIBIT BECAUSE OF ITS OWN HISTORY. THE TOUR CONTINUES WITH A STOP AT THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM IN REDWOOD CITY ON FRIDAY AND THEN MOVES TO NAPA NEXT WEEK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... A CALIFORNIA LAW BANNING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON CAMPUS IS AT THE CENTER OF A COURT FIGHT. STUDENTS FROM U-C BERKELEY AND OTHER STATE SCHOOLS RALLIED

AGAINST PROP 209 OUTSIDE THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS IN SAN FRANCISCO TODAY. THE LAW HAS BEEN CHALLENGED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE VOTERS PASSED IT BACK IN 1996. TWO YEARS AGO A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISMISSED THIS LATEST LAWSUIT. TODAY A PANEL OF THREE JUDGES HEARD THE APPEAL LISTENING TO ARGUMENTS FROM PROP 209 SUPPORTERS WHO SAY IT HAS BROUGHT EQUALITY TO THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS BECAUSE RACE, GENDER AND ETHNICITY CAN NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED. OPPONENTS SAY THE CAUSES CAUSED A DRAMATIC DROP IN THE AMOUNT OF BLACK AND LATINO STUDENTS AT STATE SCHOOLS DESPITE THE INCREASE IN THE PERCENTAGES OF THOSE GROUPS AT CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOLS. LAWYERS ON BOTH SIDES SAY IT WAS UNUSUAL THAT THE JUDGES DIDN'T ASK MANY QUESTIONS DURING TODAY'S HEARING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... NEW DEVELOPMENTS TONIGHT ON A COMPLAINT ACCUSING TOP SAN JOSE CITY OFFICIALS OF ETHICS VIOLATIONS. THIS ON THE HEELS OF AN NBC BAY AREA INVESTIGATION. AN OUTSIDE LAW FIRM THAT REVIEWED THE ELECTION COMMISSION DOES *NOT* HAVE JURISDICTION TO PURSUE AN INVESTIGATION. FIVE UNIONS FILED ETHICS COMPLAINTS AGAINST SAN JOSE MAYOR CHUCK REED, THE RETIREMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR AND A FORMER ACTUARY FOR THE CITY LAST WEEK, ALLEGING THEY MISREPRESENTED PENSION PROJECTIONS. THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION *CAN* NOW REFER THE COMPLAINT TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY. THE CITY COUNCIL CAN ALSO CALL FOR AN INVESTIGATION. THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION WILL MEET TOMORROW NIGHT AT CITY HALL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/20/12 REPORTED... MEMBERS OF THE *OCCUPY MOVEMENT* JOINED FORCES WITH ACTIVISTS FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS TODAY, OUTSIDE SAN QUENTIN. PRISONERS WERE KEPT ON LOCKDOWN, WHILE UP TO SEVEN-HUNDRED DEMONSTRATORS HELD SIGNS AND GATHERED OUTSIDE THE PRISON'S EAST GATE. THEY WANT TO ELIMINATE THE PRACTICE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, THE DEATH PENALTY, AND THE STATE'S THREE-STRIKES LAW. AMONG THE ACTIVISTS WERE THE 3-CAL GRADS IMPRISONED IN IRAN AFTER HIKING NEAR THE BORDER. SARAH SHOURD, SHANE BAUER AND JOSH FATTAL WERE PARTICULARLY OUTSPOKEN ON THE ISSUE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. SIMILAR PROTESTS TOOK PLACE TODAY AT 14 OTHER U-S PRISONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/21/12 REPORTED... PROP-EIGHT IS GOING BACK TO THE COURT-ROOM. OPPONENTS OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE WANT MORE JUDGES ON THE "NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS" TO RECONSIDER THE RULING MADE TWO WEEKS AGO. ON FEBRUARY 7TH, A THREE-JUDGE PANEL VOTED TWO-TO-ONE TO STRIKE-DOWN PROP-EIGHT, WHICH DEFINES MARRIAGE IN CALIFORNIA AS ONLY BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN. BUT NOW SUPPORTERS, WHO PUT PROP-EIGHT ON THE BALLOT FOUR-YEARS AGO, WANT A LARGER PANEL TO REVIEW THE DECISION. THERE ARE MORE THAN TWO-DOZEN ACTIVE JUDGES SERVING ON THE APPEALS COURT. FOR NOW, SAME-SEX MARRIAGES CONTINUE TO REMAIN ON HOLD, AT LEAST UNTIL THE COURT DECIDES TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE RE-HEARING REQUEST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/23/12 REPORTED... THIS IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOUTH BAY'S ROBUST LATINO VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES-- SOMOS MAYFAIR. AND IT'S THAT KIND OF OUTREACH THAT PROMPTED TIME MAGAZINE TO MAKE THIS ITS COVER THE WEEK. IN SPANISH, THE WORDS SAY *I DECIDE*, WITH THE FACES OF WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE 20 REGISTERED LATINO VOTERS. LA MAYOR ANTONIO VILLARAISOGS RECEIVED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE FROM THE NATIONAL HISPANIC UNIVERSITY. HE HADN'T SEEN THE TIME COVER, UNTIL WE SHOWED HIM ON OUR IPHONE. WE ALSO SHOWED THE COVER TO BLANCA ALVARADO. ALVARADO WAS THE FIRST LATINA TO

WIN ELECTED OFFICE IN SAN JOSE IN THE EARLY 80'S. SHE SAYS TODAY, ITS GRASSROOTS EFFORTS IN VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH THAT ARE HELPNG MAKE THIS THEIR YEAR. AND READY TO VOTE, SAYS JOE COTO, A FORMER EDUCATOR AND STATE ASSEMBLYMAN.THEY ALL CREDIT THE WORK OF LATINO GROUPS OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS.GROUPS LIKE SOMOS MAYFAR, SMALL, GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS THAT PLANTED THE SEED, AND ARE NOW BE READY FOR HARVEST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/24/12

REPORTED...CALIFORNIA'S JUDGES ARE BEING ASKED AN INTIMATE QUESTION -- WHETHER THEY'RE GAY OR STRAIGHT.

THE WEEKLY STANDARD HAS OBTAINED AN EMAIL SENT BY THE COURTS' ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, WHICH STATES THAT IN ORDER TO CONFIRM "JUDICIAL BALANCE", ALL JUDGES ARE ASKED TO SUBMIT THEIR ETHNICITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION. NO INDIVIDUAL JUDGE WILL BE *OUTED*, BUT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GAY JUDGES WILL BE REVEALED IN A FORTHCOMING REPORT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/27/12 REPORTED... THE LAWMAKER BEHIND THE *CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT* SAYS IT'S TIME TO SECURE DRIVERS LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS AND THIS TIME HE'S GOT BACKING. ASSEMBLYMAN GIL CEDILLO HAS INTRODUCED TWO NEW BILLS TO ADDRESS UNLICENSED DRIVERS. HE'S TRIED BEFORE, SEVEN TIMES IN FACT, BUT NOW L.A.'S POLICE CHIEF HAS COME OUT IN FAVOR OF IT ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER PROMINENT FIGURES INCLUDING L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF LEE BACA. ASSEMBLYMAN CEDILLO CLAIMS MORE THAN TEN-PERCENT OF DRIVERS IN THE STATE ARE UNLICENSED, UNTESTED AND UNINSURED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/29/12 REPORTED... SUPPORT FOR GAY MARRIAGE IS GROWING FAST IN CALIFORNIA--- ACCORDING TO A NEW FIELD POLL. AT THE STATE CAPITOL, THE NEWS WAS HAILED AS A *GROUND BREAKING MOMENT* AT THIS LUNCH-TIME MEETING OF THE LESBIAN, GAY, BI-SEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CAUCUS. THE SURVEY FINDS 59-PERCENT OF THE STATE'S VOTERS APPROVE OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. THE POLL FOUND 34-PERCENT OF VOTERS OPPOSE IT. RESEARCHERS SAY THE SURVEY DEMONSTRATES HOW VOTERS HAVE BECOME MORE OPEN TO THE ISSUE.

EDUCATION

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/1/12 REPORTED... THEY'RE GETTING COSTLY. COLLEGE STUDENTS PAY MORE THAN A THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR FOR TEXTBOOKS. BUT ON THE HEELS OF APPLE ANNOUNCING IT WOULD PROVIDE DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS ON MAC PRODUCTS -- LAWMAKERS ARE NOW CONSIDERING WAYS TO LOWER COSTS, INCLUDING SWITCHING TO ELECTRONIC OR WEB-BASED BOOKS. A BILL MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE -- WOULD REQUIRE THE TOP 50 BOOKS IN THE TOP 50 COURSES STUDENTS TAKE -- TO BE MADE INTO ELECTRONIC BOOKS *AND* FREE TO ALL STUDENTS ON-LINE. A NEW REPORT SAYS -- TEXTBOOKS CURRENTLY MAKE UP ABOUT 75-PERCENT OF TOTAL STUDENT EXPENSES AT CALIFORNIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES. ON AVERAGE, PUBLISHERS RELEASE NEW EDITIONS OF THEIR BOOKS EVERY THREE YEARS -- WITH EACH ONE COSTING ABOUT 12-PERCENT MORE THAN THE LAST. STUDENTS ARE ASKING FOR RELIEF. THEY NO LONGER CAN AFFORD TO CONTINUE TO OPT OUT OF CLASSES, NOT TAKE CLASSES, OR BUY THE BOOK 5 WEEKS INTO THE COURSE, ALL HURTING THEIR EDUCATION. LAWMAKERS SAY ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS COULD GIVE STUDENTS THAT *RELIEF.* THEY CAN BE UPDATED REGULARLY AND IMMEDIATELY AT NO EXTRA COST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/6/12 REPORTED... AFTER A CAMPUS-WIDE SHUTDOWN FOR THE PAST 5 DAYS -- IT WAS BACK TO SCHOOL TODAY -- IN SAN FRANCISCO. A WELL KNOWN PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL -- REOPENED ITS DOORS -- AFTER A NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK. MORE THAN 60- PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS AND STAFF AT ST. IGNATIUS PREP, IN THE CITY'S SUNSET DISTRICT, WERE SICKENED LAST WEEK. 935- STUDENTS AND 68- TEACHERS CAUGHT THE HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS VIRUS. THE ADMINISTRATION CANCELED CLASSES FOR THREE DAYS TO DISINFECT THE ENTIRE CAMPUS AND ALLOW THE SICK TO GET BETTER. PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL SICK ARE BEING ASKED NOT TO RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS AFTER THEY'RE SYMPTOM-FREE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/7/12 REPORTED... ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE BAY AREA -- SKIPPED SCHOOL TODAY. HE HAD A GOOD EXCUSE. HE WAS INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE -- BY PRESIDENT OBAMA. ERIC BAKAN A SENIOR AT SAN JOSE'S BELLARMINE PREP -- IS THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOLS ROBOTICS TEAM. BAKAN WAS SELECTED TO JOIN A GROUP OF OTHER YOUNG SCIENCE AND MATH WHIZZES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. PRESIDENT OBAMA SPOKE TO THE GROUP ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH. BAKAN SAYS THE OPPORTUNITY WAS A DREAM COME TRUE. THE PRESIDENT ALSO LOOKED AT EXHIBITS BY THE STUDENTS THAT RANGED FROM BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH TO NEW INVENTIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/9/12 REPORTED... ADVANCED BUT AT WHAT COST? ADVANCE PLACEMENT COURSES ARE A COMMON WAY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GET A LEG UP ON COLLEGE. THEY TAKE A-P COURSES TO BOOST THEIR GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND SOMETIMES GET COLLEGE CREDIT. BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE THREE, FOUR OR EVEN FIVE A-P COURSES? YOU GET STRESSED OUT KIDS -- AND CALLS FOR A CAP. A GROWING NUMBER OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE BAY AREA ARE TALKING ABOUT LIMITING THE NUMBER OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES TAKEN BY STUDENTS. IT'S AN EFFORT TO REIGN IN STRESS LEVELS AND THE AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK... AND THE PUSHBACK IS COMING RIGHT FROM THE HEAD OF THE CLASS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/10/12 REPORTED... THEY'RE BACK. OCCUPY CAL PROTESTERS ONCE AGAIN SET UP TENTS AGAIN ON THE U-C BERKELEY CAMPUS. THE GROUP WANTS TO RE-ESTABLISH THE MOVEMENT AT SPROUL PLAZA. THIS IS "DAY TWO" OF THE PROTEST TO BRING ATTENTION TO SKYROCKETING TUITION COSTS. SO FAR THERE ARE ABOUT SIX TENTS SET UP. AND FOR THE TIME BEING, THE UNIVERSITY SAYS IT PLANS ON STAYING HANDS-OFF. THIS IS THE SAME SPOT, WHERE A NOVEMBER PROTEST GOT OUT OF HAND AND POLICE IN RIOT GEAR CLASHED WITH STUDENTS. DEMONSTRATORS SAY THEY'RE BACK TO MARK THE THREE MONTH ANNIVERSARY TODAY. STUDENTS FROM BERKELEY SAY THEY ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING THE TENTS OVER TO THE CHANCELLOR'S RESIDENCE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/16/12 REPORTED... THEY WANT TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE. SAN JOSE STATE STUDENTS ARE TAKING AN IDEA THEY HAD IN A SOCIOLOGY CLASS -- TO THE VOTERS. STUDENTS ARE GATHERING SIGNATURES TO PUSH THE CITY TO BUMP ITS MINIMUM WAGE FROM 8-DOLLARS AN HOUR TO TEN. STUDENT VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO COLLECTING SIGNATURES. EARLIER THIS YEAR, SAN FRANCISCO BECAME THE FIRST CITY IN THE COUNTRY TO TOP TEN DOLLARS AN HOUR. THE STUDENTS FEEL SAN JOSE SHOULD DO THE SAME. THE STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO GET 19 THOUSAND SIGNATURES BY MAY 15TH TO GET THE MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/16/12 REPORTED... THEY COULD BE CONSIDERED THE SOUTH BAY VERSION OF "THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD." AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE HEART OF SILICON VALLEY -- HAS SOME OF THE OLDEST TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE. BUT THE KIDS NEVER USED THAT AS A ROAD BLOCK. TODAY, THEY'RE RECEIVING A NATIONAL AWARD FROM THE FOUNDATION OF NASCAR SUPERSTAR JIMMIE JOHNSON. NBC BAY AREA'S DAMIAN TRUJILLO REPORTS FROM CAMPUS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/16/12 REPORTED... FEDERAL LAWMAKERS ARE PUSHING FOR A NEW LESSON PLAN FOR "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND". TODAY HOUSE REPUBLICANS MOVED FORWARD WITH A PLAN TO UPDATE THE EDUCATION LAW. THEY WANT TO SHIFT MORE CONTROL TO STATES AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, IN DETERMINING WHETHER CHILDREN MEET EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS. TODAY'S HEARING COMES JUST DAYS AFTER THE PRESIDENT FREED 11 STATES, NOT INCLUDING CALIFORNIA, FROM SOME OF THE LAW'S MOST STRICT MANDATES. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SAYS THIS IS JUST A TEMPORARY MEASURE UNTIL CONGRESS UPDATES THE 2002 LAW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/20/12 REPORTED... PROFESSORS AT CAL STATE EAST-BAY WHO MARCHED OUT OF CLASS TO PROTEST STATE BUDGET CUTS LAST NOVEMBER, WON'T SACRIFICE A DAY'S PAY. THE DAY-LONG STRIKE ALSO HAPPENED IN L-A COUNTY, AT CSU DOMINGUEZ HILLS, BUT THOSE TEACHERS HAD A SIGN-IN SYSTEM SO THEY WON'T BE PAID. CSU EAST BAY, HOWEVER, WAS ON THE HONOR SYSTEM, AND MANY REPORTED THE PROTEST DAY AS *PERSONAL TIME OFF*. THE CHANCELLOR SAYS SINCE THE SCHOOL DOESN'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR AN INVESTIGATION, EVERYONE WILL GET PAID AS USUAL.

ENVIRONMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/7/12 REPORTED... THE PLASTIC BAG BAN IN SAN FRANCISCO -- JUST GOT TOUGHER. THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVED A PROPOSAL LATE THIS AFTERNOON THAT IMPOSES A 10-CENT CHARGE FOR ANY TYPE OF BAG, INCLUDING PAPER. THE GOAL IS TO ELIMINATE SINGLE-USE BAGS AND ENCOURAGE CUSTOMERS TO BRING THEIR OWN. THE NEW RULES INCLUDE ANY STORE AND ALL RESTAURANTS. DESPITE BEING THE FIRST CITY IN THE COUNTRY TO BAN PLASTIC BAGS AT GROCERY STORES IN 2007 --- ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAY SAN FRANCISCO NEEDS TO KEEP PACE WITH OTHER BAY AREA CITIES THAT HAVE IMPOSED TOUGHER BAG RESTRICTIONS. THE NEW RULES GO INTO EFFECT IN OCTOBER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... A MODERATE EARTHQUAKE RATTLED NERVES CLOSE TO THE CALIFORNIA-OREGON BORDER TODAY. THE MAGNITUDE 5-POINT-6 QUAKE STRUCK AT AROUND 1-PM. ITS EPICENTER WAS ABOUT 18-MILES EAST OF TRINIDAD A SMALL CITY IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY. DISPATCHERS SAY THERE WERE NO IMMEDIATE REPORTS OF MAJOR INJURY OR DAMAGE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/16/12 REPORTED... A PEACEFUL SLOUGH NEAR THE OAKLAND COLISEUM IS WHERE NORMA NUNEZ TAKES HER DOGS TO ESCAPE URBAN WORLD. BUT EVERYWHERE SHE LOOKS REMINDERS OF THE WORLD SHE LEFT BEHIND. LAST WEEK SHE SAW A DEAD BIRD WITH BOTTLE CAPS PROTUDING FROM ITS STOMACH. THEY ASKED 76 MUNICIPALITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA TO REPORT BACK ON HOW MUCH TRASH ENDS UP IN THEIR STORMDRAINS. GEOFF

BROSSEAU OF THE BAY AREA STORMWATER AGENCIES ASSOCIATION SAYS IT'S NO SURPRISE HIGH DENSITY CITIES LIKE OAKLAND AND SAN JOSE CONTRIBUTED THE MOST TRASH. BROSSEAU SAYS BANS ON PLASTIC BAGS AND STYROFOAM HAVE HELPED REDUCE THE PROBLEM. BUT CITIES WILL HAVE TO DO MORE TO MEET NEW STATE GOALS FOR REDUCING TRASH. CITIES LIKE OAKLAND ARE TAKING STEPS TO TRY AND REIGN IN THEIR TRASH... INCLUDING INSTALLING BARRIERS AROUND STORM DRAINS IN LAKE MERRITT. BUT OFFICIALS SAY IT WILL ALSO TAKE BIG CHANGES IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR TO STEM THE BAY'S LITTER PROBLEM. AND LEAVE NATURE WITHOUT THE HUMAN TOUCH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/16/12 REPORTED... THE EAST BAY HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE EARTHQUAKE ZONE. TWO MINOR EARTHQUAKES IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS. A MAGNITUDE 3.5 QUAKE HIT AT ABOUT 9:15 THIS MORNING, ALONG I-80 NEAR VALLEJO NORTH OF THE CARQUINEZ BRIDGE. IT HIT JUST BLOCKS AWAY FROM ANOTHER THREE POINT FIVE QUAKE THAT SHOOK THE AREA LAST NIGHT AT 6:09. NEITHER QUAKE CAUSED ANY DAMAGE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/20/12 REPORTED... ELYSE SAUGSTAD IS MARRIED TO SANTA CRUZ NATIVE AND PRO-SKIER CODY TOWNSEND. SHE WAS ONE OF ABOUT A DOZEN EXPERT SKIERS YESTERDAY THAT WERE MAKING THEIR WAY TO AN OUT-OF-BOUNDS AREA NEAR STEVENS PASS, WHEN THE SNOW CUT LOOSE SWEEPING THEM DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. SAUGSTAD IMMEDIATELY DEPLOYED HER AVALANCE AIRBAG, SIMILAR TO THIS ONE. IT BASICALLY KEEPS VICTIMS NEAR THE TOP OF THE AVALANCHE, INSTEAD OF BEING COMPLETELY BURIED IN IT. SAUGSTAD SAYS THE DEVICE SAVED HER LIFE. 3 MEN IN THEIR 30'S AND 40'S WERE KILLED IN THE AVALANCHE. THEY WERE ALL EXPERIENCED BACK-COUNTRY SKIERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/24/12 REPORTED... THE WEATHER HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN HELPING FIRE FIGHTERS BATTLE THE LARGE BRUSH-FIRE IN NAPA COUNTY. TONIGHT -- IT'S MORE THAN 50-PERCENT CONTAINED. ABOUT TWO-HUNDRED ACRES WERE SCORCHED IN THE FIRE. CALM WINDS OVERNIGHT HELPED PREVENT THE FIRE FROM SPREADING. FIRE CREWS MANAGED TO SAVE THE HOMES WHICH WERE IN THE PATH OF THE FLAMES. INVESTIGATORS ARE LOOKING INTO A REPORT THE FIRE WAS STARTED BY A RESIDENT BURNING LANDSCAPE DEBRIS. FIRES THIS EARLY IN THE YEAR ARE RARE -- BUT OUR WEATHER IS RARE AS WELL..WARMER TEMPERATURES AND A DRY WINTER -- LEAD TO INCREASED FIRE DANGER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/28/12 REPORTED... TODAY WAS THE STATE'S THIRD WINTER SNOWPACK SURVEY-- A VITAL RITUAL, CONSIDERING SIERRA SNOW IS ONE OF THE STATE'S BIGGEST SOURCES OF WATER. ANALYSTS PUT ON THEIR SKIS TODAY AND HEADED FOR ECHO SUMMIT WITH THEIR MEASURING TOOLS. THE DRIEST WINTER IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1991 HAS LEFT THEM WITHOUT MUCH TO MEASURE. FORTUNATELY -- LAST YEAR SAW A LOT OF RAIN-- 178-PERCENT OF NORMAL. THIS YEAR -- JUST 16-PERCENT OF NORMAL. BUT THERE'S SOME HOPE...A NEW STORM IS ON ITS WAY...

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/28/12 REPORTED... THERE ARE MANY OLD WINERIES IN THE SPRAWLING LIVERMORE VALLEY, SOME DATING BACK

MORE THAN A HUNDRED AND THIRTY YEARS. BUT AMONG THE OLD TIMERS MCGRAIL VINEYARDS IS NOT ONE OF THEM. GINGER MCGRAIL AND HER FAMILY BECAME WINEMAKERS ONLY ABOUT 13 YEARS AGO. BUT THIS YEAR THE FAMILY'S CABERNET SAUVIGNON BEAT OUT THOUSANDS OF OTHER WINERIES IN THE PRESTIGIOUS CHRONICLE WINE COMPETITION. BUT ALONG THE WAY TO BECOMING QUICK STUDIES IN WINE MAKING THE MCGRAIL'S LEARNED ANOTHER FARMING TESTAMENT. AND CURRENTLY THOSE WEATHER GODS ARE PITCHING BAY AREA WINE MAKERS ANOTHER CURVE BALL. THE RUN OF WARM WEATHER IS PREMATURELY BRINGING VINEYARDS TO LIFE BUT AS WINEMAKER MARK CLARIN EXPLAINS THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE BUDS ARE NOW READY TO DEBUT DURING WHAT'S NORMALLY THE FROST SEASON. WHILE WINEMAKERS IN NAPA AND SONOMA WILL TURN TO WIND MACHINES TO FIGHT FROST LIVERMORE WINEMAKERS HAVE MOTHER NATURE'S GUSTS IN THEIR FAVOR. AND A FEW OTHER TRICKS OF THE TRADE. WITH NO FROST IN THE FORECAST WINEMAKERS AREN'T SOUNDING THE ALARM JUST YET. BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING EVERY FARMER LEARNS EARLY IT'S THAT THE WEATHER HAS A WAY OF IGNORING ANY PLANS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/29/12 REPORTED... YES, 12 CONFIRMED DEAD AND OVER A-HUNDRED INJURED. THE STORM IS NOW MOVING INTO THE SOUTHEAST PART OF THE COUNTRY AND FORTUNATELY, LOSING A LITTLE BIT OF STEAM.

THIS MORNING, MULTIPLE TWISTERS REPORTED IN THE PRE-DAWN HOURS IN THE MIDWEST, INCLUDING IN ILLINOIS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA AND KANSAS. HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS WAS THE HARDEST HIT WITH MOST OF THE FATALITIES THERE. WINDS CLOCKED AT 170 MILES PER HOUR.

HOMES COMPLETELY RIPPED-APART. CARS AND TRUCKS FLIPPED OVER. A TORNADO ALSO RIPPED THROUGH BRANSON, MISSOURI ... A POPULAR MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT RESORT. THE STORM DAMAGED HOTELS AND SOME OF THE CITY'S FAMED MUSIC THEATRES.

GOVERNMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/3/12 REPORTED... HOMELESS VETERANS IN SAN FRANCISCO WILL SOON BE GETTING A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN. MAYOR ED LEE AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY "MERCEDES MARQUEZ" VISITED A MISSION DISTRICT BUILDING CONSTRUCTED IN 19-16. IT IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO 75 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS. THEY'LL BE RESERVED FOR HOMELESS VETERANS OVER THE AGE OF 55. THE PROJECT IS BEING FUNDED BY A 2 AND A HALF MILLION DOLLAR GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE KNOWN AS "VETERAN COMMONS."

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/3/12 REPORTED... THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES CONGRESSIONAL OPPONENTS OF CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ARE TRYING TO MAKE SURE NO MORE FEDERAL MONEY GOES TO FUNDING THE PROJECT. THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE APPROVED NEW LEGISLATION TODAY THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE ROAD, BRIDGE AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS TOTALING ABOUT 260-BILLION DOLLARS OVER FOUR-AND-A-HALF YEARS. PART OF THE BILL INCLUDED AN AMENDMENT PREVENTING ANY OF THE MONEY FROM BEING USED ON THE STATE'S PROPOSED HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEM.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/6/12 REPORTED... THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OBJECTS TO A WHITE HOUSE DIRECTIVE, REQUIRING RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO GIVE WOMEN THE SAME HEALTHCARE BENEFITS PRIVATE COMPANIES DO-- INCLUDING ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL. THE OUTCRY HAS BEEN SO LOUD, WHITE HOUSE

SPOKESMAN JAY CARNEY HAS HINTED THE ADMINISTRATION MIGHT COMPROMISE ON THE ISSUE. THE POLICY REQUIRES RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO PAY FINES IF THEY FAIL TO COMPLY, STARTING IN 2013. SAN JOSE'S BISHOP PUT A LETTER IN CHURCH BULLETINS SUNDAY-SAYING IN PART "WE CANNOT COMPLY WITH THIS UNJUST LAW. PEOPLE OF FAITH CANNOT BE MADE SECOND CLASS CITIZENS. WE ARE ALREADY JOINED BY OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ALL FAITHS ...IN THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT TO REGAIN OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM."

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/8/12 REPORTED... SAN FRANCISCO'S 9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS IS TAKING ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OVER IMMIGRATION- WITH A RULING THAT GIVES A GROUP OF CALIFORNIANS MORE TIME TO STAY IN THE U-S WITH THEIR FAMILIES. A THREE JUDGE PANEL FROM THE APPEALS COURT TEMPORARILY HALTED THE DEPORTATION OF SEVEN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS--AND WITH THEIR RULING, THEY GAVE THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL MARCH 19TH TO EXPLAIN IF THE IMMIGRANTS CAN STAY UNDER A NEW ENFORCEMENT POLICY. IN JUNE, U-S IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS SAID AUTHORITIES WOULD STOP DETAINING AND DEPORTING UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE CLOSE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TIES AND NO CRIMINAL RECORDS. DAVID ARANDA FITS THOSE CATEGORIES AND HAS TWO CHILDREN BORN IN THE UNITED STATES. ARANDA LOST HIS CASE IN THE IMMIGRATION COURTS BEFORE APPEALING TO THE 9TH CIRCUIT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN WOULD INCLUDE MAJOR CUTS TO GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY SPENDING AND NEARLY TWO TRILLION DOLLARS IN TAX INCREASES FOR THE NATION'S WEALTHIEST. BUT REPUBLICANS ARGUE TAX HIKES WOULD HURT THE ECONOMY, AND SAID THE PROPOSAL IGNORES CUTS TO THE CULPRITS OF THE DEFICIT: SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE. HOUSE REPUBLICANS PLAN TO UNVEIL THEIR OWN BUDGET PLAN NEXT MONTH. PRESIDENT OBAMA IS VISITING THE BAY AREA THIS THURSDAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... IN SAN FRANCISCO CITY OFFICIALS ARE TAKING THE FEDS TO TASK OVER GAS PIPELINE SAFETY STANDARDS. A LAWSUIT, FILED TODAY BY CITY ATTORNEY DENNIS HERRERA, ALLEGES THE "U-S PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION" FAILED TO OVERSEE A PIPELINE SAFETY PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST A DECADE. TODAY'S FILING CITES THREE GAS PIPELINE EXPLOSIONS IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 2008, INCLUDING THE DEADLY SAN BRUNO EXPLOSION THAT KILLED EIGHT PEOPLE IN 2010. SAN FRANCISCO WANTS THE FEDERAL AGENCY TO BETTER OVERSEE THE C-P-U-C.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... MORE EMOTIONAL TURMOIL FOR STATE TREASURER BILL LOCKYER'S WIFE. FIRST THE ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR WAS ASSAULTED IN AN EAST BAY MOTEL ROOM NOW SHE'S GETTING TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE. 40 YEAR-OLD NADIA LOCKYER HAS BEEN A SUPERVISOR SINCE LAST NOVEMBER, AFTER A LONG CAREER AS A LAWYER. A WEEK-AND-A-HALF AGO, POLICE WERE CALLED TO A NEWARK HOTEL, WHERE LOCKYER CLAIMED SHE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY AN EX-BOYFRIEND. SHE SAYS SHE CHECKED-IN THERE FOLLOWING AN ARGUMENT WITH HER HUSBAND. SO FAR, NO CHARGES ARE FILED AGAINST THE EX. BILL LOCKYER IS NOT COMMENTING ON HIS WIFE'S STATEMENT THAT SHE'S ENTERED A RECOVERY CENTER FOR ALCOHOLISM AND AN UNSPECIFIED ADDICTION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/21/12 REPORTED... THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO CLOSE HUNDREDS OF MAIL PROCESSING FACILITIES IN CALIFORNIA IS ON A COLLISION-COURSE WITH STATE ELECTIONS OFFICIALS. SECRETARY OF STATE DEBRA BOWEN WORRIES THAT THOUSANDS OF MAIL-IN BALLOTS WILL BE DELIVERED LATE, AND WON'T BE COUNTED IN THE PRIMARY AND THE

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. THE U.S. POST OFFICE MIGHT BEGIN CLOSING MAIL FACILITIES AS EARLY AS MAY. BOWEN SAYS FOR YEARS THE STATE HAS ENCOURAGED VOTERS TO CAST BALLOTS BY MAIL. SHE'S URGING THE FEDS TO POSTPONE THE CLOSURES UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER.

HEALTH/NUTRITION & DISEASE

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/1/12 REPORTED... YESTERDAY, LIKE DOZENS OF OTHER PARENTS WITH KIDS AT SAN FRANCISCO'S SAINT IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL BARBARA ARNOLD GOT A CALL HER SON NICHOLAS HAD FALLEN ILL. NICHOLAS DESCRIBED THE SCENE ON CAMPUS. AS DOZENS OF OTHER KIDS FELL ILL AND BEGAN VOMITING. ST. IGNATIUS PRINCIPAL PATRICK RUFF SAYS THE SCHOOL CANCELLED CLASSES TODAY. A DAY AFTER 50 KIDS CALLED IN SICK AND NEARLY A HUNDRED BEGAN FEELING ILL. TODAY, THE SCHOOL DECIDED TO CANCEL CLASSES FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK AFTER THE NUMBERS ROSE. THE SCHOOL SENT MAINTENANCE WORKERS TO SCOUR THE CAMPUS WITH BLEACH AND WERE GETTING READY TO MAKE A SECOND PASS. SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY JUDGING BY THE SUDDEN ONSLAUGHT OF SICKNESS INCLUDING VOMITTING AND DIARRHEA THEY BELIEVE THE CAMPUS WAS HIT BY A NOROVIRUS. HEALTH OFFICIALS TOOK SPECIMENS FROM SOME OF THE STUDENTS WHICH WERE UNDERGOING TESTING THIS AFTERNOON. IN THE MEANTIME SAINT IGNATIUS CANCELLED BASKETBALL AND SOCCER GAMES. THE PRINCIPAL SAYS ONE BASKETBALL PLAYER FELL ILL AFTER PLAYING IN A GAME AGAINST ANOTHER SCHOOL LAST NIGHT. HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY SO FAR NO OTHER SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN HIT AS HARD BY THE VIRUS. PARENT THOMAS ARNOLD SAYS HE'S SATISFIED THE SCHOOL DID THE RIGHT THING BY SHUTTING DOWN UNTIL MONDAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/1/12 REPORTED... THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE PILL. PFIZER IS RECALLING MORE THAN ONE MILLION BIRTH CONTROL PACKS, BECAUSE OF A PACKAGING ERROR. IT TURNS OUT SOME WOMEN MAY HAVE BEEN TAKING SUGAR PILLS WHEN THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE TAKING BIRTH CONTROL. THE PROBLEM AFFECTS LO-OVRAL TABLETS AND THE GENERIC VERSION. PFIZER SAYS SOME PACKETS HAVE TOO MANY ACTIVE PILLS AND OTHERS HAVE TOO FEW. THE AFFECTED PACKETS HAVE EXPIRATION DATES RANGING BETWEEN JULY OF 20-13 AND MARCH OF 20-14. PATIENTS WITH THE AFFECTED PACKETS SHOULD RETURN THEM AND USE ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/9/12 REPORTED... A MAD COW SCARE AFFECTING TWO PEOPLE IN MARIN COUNTY. TONIGHT HEALTH EXPERTS THERE, SAY A WOMAN WHO RECENTLY DIED OF A RARE BRAIN ILLNESS, DIED FROM A DISEASE SIMILAR TO MAD COW NOT MAD COW ITSELF. THE RARE BRAIN DISEASE -- KNOWN AS C-J-D -- HAS TWO FORMS, "CLASSIC" AND VARIANT. "CLASSIC" C-J-D AFFECTS ABOUT 1 IN ONE MILLION ADULTS OR ABOUT 300 PEOPLE A YEAR IN THE U.S. "VARIANT" -- THE TYPE KNOWN AS MAD COW DISEASE -- HAS ONLY BEEN REPORTED IN THREE CASES IN THE COUNTRY. HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN THE WOMAN WHO DIED, AND ANOTHER MARIN COUNTY RESIDENT WHO HAS SIMILAR SYMPTOMS. THEY SAY IT IS NOT CLEAR WHICH FORM OF THE DISEASE THE LIVING VICTIM HAS BECAUSE BRAIN TISSUE HAS TO BE EXAMINED AFTER A PERSON DIES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/10/12 REPORTED... ALCOHOL AND SMOKING ARE OFF-LIMITS DURING PREGNANCY, BUT NEW STUDIES SUGGEST CHEMOTHERAPY MAY HAVE FEWER RISKS THAN DOCTORS THOUGHT. ONLY ABOUT ONE-

IN-A-THOUSAND PREGNANT WOMEN HAVE TO BALANCE THE PROBLEM OF COMBINING PREGNANCY AND CANCER TREATMENT. A STUDY IN BELGIUM FOUND 70 FETUSES EXPOSED TO CHEMOTHERAPY -- WERE AS DEVELOPED AS OTHER CHILDREN. THE STUDY FOLLOWED THOSE CHILDREN UNTIL THEY TURNED 18. THE RESEARCH ADDRESSED PREGNANCIES WHERE THE CHEMOTHERAPY WAS GIVEN TO THE MOTHER **AFTER** THE FIRST TRIMESTER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/10/12 REPORTED... A NEW STUDY SHOWS IT'S REACHING EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS, WITH NEARLY ONE-IN-TWENTY AMERICANS WALKING AROUND ON ARTIFICIAL JOINTS. HARVARD RESEARCHERS SAY IT USED TO BE PEOPLE OVER AGE 80 WHO UNDERWENT THE SURGERY, BUT NOW MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IN THEIR FORTIES AND SIXTIES ARE GETTING NEW KNEES-- AND IT'S EXPENSIVE. THE PROCEDURE COSTS ABOUT 40-THOUSAND DOLLARS. DOCTORS BLAME THE INCREASE ON OBESITY, AND AMATEUR ATHLETES WHO DON'T TAKE PROPER CARE OF THEIR KNEE JOINTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... OBESE PEOPLE HAVING DIFFICULTY LOSING WEIGHT GET SOME WELCOME PERMISSION IN A NEW STUDY. A RESEARCHER AT TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY FOUND THAT THOSE WHO STARTED THE DAY SATISFYING THEIR SWEET TOOTH WERE BETTER ABLE TO STICK WITH THEIR DIET. IN OTHER WORDS, CAKE FOR BREAKFAST? MAYBE. THE STUDY SUGGESTS THAT SATISFYING A CRAVING IN THE MORNING CAN HELP STEM THAT CRAVING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... IN THE NEAR FUTURE, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BREATHE INTO A MACHINE LIKE THIS AND LEARN IF YOU HAVE LUNG CANCER. METAH-BO-LO-MX IN MOUNTAIN VIEW DEVELOPED THIS BREATH TEST WHICH CAN DETECT SPECIFIC BIOMARKERS PRODUCED BY A CANCEROUS TUMOR. DOCTORS AT CLEVELAND CLINIC JUST COMPLETED CLINICAL TRIALS ON THE FIVE MINUTE TEST, AND FOUND IT CAN ALSO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN DIFFERENT TYPES AND STAGES OF LUNG CANCER. THAT EARLY DETECTION IS CRITICAL, BECAUSE LUNG CANCER IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF CANCER DEATH WORLDWIDE, AND IS OFTEN NOT DIAGNOSED UNTIL LATE STAGES WHEN IT'S MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO TREAT. THIS TEST COULD POTENTIALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO NEED TO HAVE A CT SCAN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/20/12 REPORTED... TOPPING OUR HEALTH WATCH YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW YOU HAVE IT. DEATHS FROM LIVER-DESTROYING HEPATITIS-C ARE ON THE RISE, AND NEW DATA SHOWS BABY BOOMERS ARE THE MOST AT RISK. THE PROBLEM IS SO PREVALENT, FEDERAL HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE CONSIDERING ORDERING A **ONE-TIME TEST** -- FOR ANYONE BORN BETWEEN 1945 AND 1965, TO CONFIRM WHETHER THEY HAVE THE VIRUS. IT'S CALLED A *SILENT EPIDEMIC* --BECAUSE AN ESTIMATED TWO-THIRDS OF THOSE WITH THE VIRUS DON'T KNOW THEY HAVE IT. THE MOST COMMON WAY TO CONTRACT HEP-C IS BY SHARING A NEEDLE-- BUT FOR THOSE WHO NEVER INJECTED DRUGS, THE BIGGEST RISK IS HAVING RECEIVED A BLOOD TRANSFUSION BEFORE THE YEAR, 1992. THAT'S WHEN WIDESPREAD TESTING OF THE BLOOD SUPPLY BEGAN. ALSO, THERE ARE NEW DRUGS AVAILABLE WHICH CAN CURE HEPATITIS-C.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/28/12 REPORTED... SANTA CLARA COUNTY NOW HAS SOME OF THE TOUGHEST NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES IN THE COUNTRY. THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTED TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF SUGAR, FAT AND SALT IN THE FOODS THEY SERVE IN THEIR CAFETERIAS, HOSPITALS AND JAILS. THE GOAL IS TO MAKE INROADS AGAINST THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC. VENDING MACHINES

ALREADY REFLECT THE CHANGES WHERE HALF OF THE ITEMS MUST BE HEALTHY OPTIONS. THE HIGHER NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS WILL APPLY TO FOOD SERVED AT MEETINGS AND COUNTY EVENTS STARTING NEXT SUMMER.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS/SAFETY & SECURITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/6/12 REPORTED... THE U.S. CLOSED ITS EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS TODAY ... AND PULLED *ALL* ITS STAFF OUT OF THE COUNTRY. THIS COMES IN THE MIDST OF ONE OF THE BLOODIEST REVOLUTIONS IN THE ARAB REGION. AFTER AN 11 MONTH UPRISING *AND* OVER 5-THOUSAND DEATHS, THE U-S IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON PRESIDENT "BAHSAR AL-ASSAD" TO STEP DOWN. PRESIDENT OBAMA TOLD N-B-C HE DOES NOT WANT TO USE FORCE, LIKE THEY DID IN LIBYA, TO OVERTHROW MOAMMAR KHADDAFY. OVER THE WEEKEND, THE U-N TRIED TO PASS A RESOLUTION TO TIGHTEN SANCTIONS AGAINST SYRIA, BUT IT WAS VETOED BY BOTH RUSSIA AND CHINA ... ANGERING WESTERN NATIONS. THE U-S IS ALSO CONDEMNING EGYPT TONIGHT ... FOR FILING CHARGES AGAINST 19 AMERICANS ... INCLUDING SAM LAHOOD, THE SON OF U-S TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY RAY LAHOOD. EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES SAID IT PLANS TO PROSECUTE THE AMERICANS FOR OPERATING A PRO-DEMOCRACY ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY ... WITH FOREIGN FUNDS WHICH WEREN'T APPROVED. U-S OFFICIALS WARNED TODAY ... THAT IT MAY PULL 1-POINT-5 BILLION DOLLARS IN AID *IF* THIS ISSUE IS NOT RESOLVED QUICKLY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/7/12 REPORTED... A FORMER CALTRANS ENGINEER -- WHO WORKED ON THE NEW BAY BRIDGE -- IS ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING TO EXPORT U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CHINA. PHILIP CHAOU HE ALSO KNOWN AS PHILIP HOPE -- IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN A FEDERAL COURT IN DENVER TOMORROW. HE'S A CHINESE NATIONAL WHO LIVES IN OAKLAND. U.S. PROSECUTORS ALLEGE THE MAN PURCHASED ALMOST 550-THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF COMPUTER MEMORY CIRCUITS USED IN SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS IN COLORADO. HE ALLEGEDLY TRIED TO SHIP THE EQUIPMENT TO CHINA HIDDEN INSIDE BABY FORMULA CONTAINERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/10/12 REPORTED... IN EGYPT, MILITARY RULERS ARE ISSUING STERN WARNINGS ON THE EVE OF THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUSTING OF PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK. EGYPTIANS ARE ANXIOUS AND RESTLESS ABOUT THE PACE OF THE TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN RULE. AND ON THE SINAI PENINSULA, ANOTHER KIDNAPPING. THIS TIME, 3 KOREAN TOURISTS. LAST WEEK, 2 BAY AREA WOMEN WERE KIDNAPPED WHILE TOURING THE AREA, BUT THEN RELEASED UNHARMED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/10/12 REPORTED... FOR THOSE HEADING TO MEXICO A TRAVEL WARNING TONIGHT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS THAT AMERICANS AVOID TRAVEL TO 14 OF THE 31 MEXICO STATES. THAT IS THE WIDEST TRAVEL ADVISORY SINCE THE DRUG WAR EXPLODED IN 2006. THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED THAT AMERICANS HAVE BEEN VICTIMS TO ESCALATING DRUG VIOLENCE, KIDNAPPINGS AND MURDER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... PLASTIC RAIN TARPS WENT UP TODAY OVER THE PILES OF DIRT EXCAVATED FROM AN APPARENT MASS GRAVE IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY. WEATHER FORCED A HALT TO THE SEARCH.

HUNDREDS OF BONE FRAGMENTS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE LAST FOUR-DAYS, IN A WELL, ON AN ABANDONED RANCH NEAR THE TOWN OF LINDEN. THE SEARCH WAS LAUNCHED AFTER A TIP FROM CONVICTED KILLER AND DEATH ROW INMATE, WESLEY SHERMANTINE -- WHO CLAIMS THERE COULD BE MORE THAN 10 BODIES IN THAT WELL FROM A KILLING SPREE IN THE 19-80'S AND 90'S. SHERMANTINE'S PARTNER IN SOME OF THOSE CRIMES COMMITTED SUICIDE LAST MONTH. SEARCHERS WILL RESUME SIFTING THROUGH THE DIRT TOMORROW MORNING, WEATHER PERMITTING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/13/12 REPORTED... THE TENSION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND IRAN OVER IRAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM, REACHED OUTSIDE OF THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY. IN INDIA AND IN THE FORMER SOVIET REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA BOMBS WERE FOUND ON 2 CARS, BELONGING TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSIES. THE ONE IN INDIA EXPLODED. FORTUNATELY, ALL PASSENGERS SURVIVED. AUTHORITIES WERE ABLE TO DIFFUSE THE BOMB IN GEORGIA. ISRAEL BLAMES IRAN FOR BOTH OF TODAY'S ATTACKS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... ELEVEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED DEATHS IS MORE THAN THIS COUNTY'S SEEN SINCE 2003... AND MORE THAN HALF WERE SHOT TO DEATH... INCLUDING THE SON OF A WOMAN WHO SPOKE ABOUT GUN CONTROL JUST FLOORS ABOVE WHERE COUPLES WERE LOVINGLY CELEBRATING THE BEGINNING OF THEIR LIVES TOGETHER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/14/12 REPORTED... SEVERAL BOMBINGS IN BANGKOK TODAY INCLUDING ONE THAT ACCIDENTALLY WENT OFF INSIDE A HOME. WHEN ONE OF THE SUSPECTS FLED, HE THREW A GRENADE AT POLICE, BUT IT BOUNCED BACK AND BLEW-OFF HIS LEGS. HE WAS ARRESTED, ALONG WITH ANOTHER SUSPECT, FOUND AT THE BANGKOK AIRPORT. A 3RD SUSPECT IS ON THE LOOSE. ALL OF THEM ARE IRANIAN, AND IT'S BELIEVED THEY WERE GOING TO TARGET THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BANGKOK. THIS FOLLOW 2 CAR BOMBS YESTERDAY IN INDIA AND THE COUNTRY OF GEORGIA. BOTH TARGETING ISRAELI EMBASSY VEHICLES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 2/21/12 REPORTED... AS THE MASSIVE FIELD OF FLOATING DEBRIS FROM JAPAN DRIFTS SLOWLY TOWARD THE WEST COAST, WE'RE LEARNING TONIGHT OF ANOTHER DANGER IN THE OCEAN, CAUSED BY THE HUGE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI FROM LAST MARCH. A U.S. OCEANOGRAPHER REPORTS HE HAS DETECTED RADIATION IN THE SEA WATER OFF JAPAN-- AS FAR AS FOUR-HUNDRED-MILES OFFSHORE. IT'S FROM THE FUKUSHIMA REACTOR, DAMAGED BY THE TSUNAMI. WHILE SOME OF THOSE MEASUREMENTS FOUND RADIATION LEVELS A-THOUSAND TIMES HIGHER THAN NORMAL, EXPERTS SAY THEY'RE STILL A-TENTH OF THE LEVELS CONSIDERED HARMFUL. APPEARING TONIGHT ON "NBC NIGHTLY NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS," ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT ANNE THOMPSON SAID IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY A BUOY THAT WASHED ASHORE IN WASHINGTON STATE IS PART OF THE DEBRIS FIELD FROM JAPAN. SHE SAYS U.S. EXPERTS ARE DOWNPLAYING THE DEVELOPMENT. DEBRIS CAUSED BY THE TSUNAMI IS EXPECTED TO REACH OUR SHORES EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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KNTV/NBC Bay Area

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

First Quarter

March 2012

KNTV/NBC BAY AREA is responsive to the principal issues arising in its community through regularly scheduled public affairs programming, newscasts, public service announcements as well as documentaries and specials. The following is a list of some of the programs that have provided the station's most significant treatment of community issues during the preceding three-month period.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... ELECTRIC CARS ARE COOL, LARGELY BECAUSE THEY HELP DON'T USE GAS. BUT THEY RUN ON BATTERIES, WHICH ARE VERY EXPENSIVE SO MOST OF US CAN'T AFFORD THEM. ENVIA SYSTEMS IS TRYING TO CHANGE THAT WORKING IN THE LAB WITH CHEMICALS, TO CREATE, FROM SCRATCH, A BETTER, CHEAPER, BATTERY. THAT'S ENVIA'S CEO ATUL KAPATIA, WHO SAYS HIS COMPANY ISN'T JUST BUILDING ON WHAT'S ALREADY OUT THERE .. IT'S DEVELOPING NEW BATTERY CELL TECHNOLOGY. A COMBINATION THE COMPANY HOPES WILL LEAD TO LESS EXPENSIVE BATTERIES, AND THEREFORE LESS EXPENSIVE ELECTRIC CARS. OF THE 35 EMPLOYEES AT ENVIA 30 ARE ENGINEERS. THAT'S A LOT OF TESTING CELL BY CELL AND A LOT OF SCIENCE GOING INTO THE CAR OF 'YOUR' FUTURE. IT'S TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED AND MANUFACTURED HERE IN THE BAY AREA AIMING TO BRING A LONGER-LASTING, CHEAPER CHARGE TO THE NEXT ROUND OF ELECTRIC CARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. SILICON VALLEY HAS DEVELOPED A CAR THAT DRIVES ITSELF. THIS ONE, CREATED BY GOOGLE, DROVE RIGHT UP TO THE WEST STEPS OF THE STATE CAPITOL IN SACRAMENTO TODAY. THE REASON-- A STATE SENATOR FROM L-A WANTS THE CHP TO START TESTING THE ROBOTIC CARS. HE SAYS MOST ACCIDENTS ARE RESULT OF HUMAN ERROR, AND SELF DRIVING CARS COULD IMPROVE SAFETY. HE ALSO DOESN'T WANT CALIFORNIA TO FALL BEHIND IN TECHNOLOGY ON THE ROAD. THIS PROTO-TYPE COST ABOUT 200-THOUSAND DOLLARS, BUT THE CREATORS PROMISE THE CAR WILL GET CHEAPER. SENATOR PADILLA SAYS THESE "SELF DRIVING CARS" COULD BE ON THE ROAD BY 2020.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/2/12 REPORTED... THE AIRLINE THAT WAS ONCE ONE OF THE NATION'S BIGGEST, WILL BE NO MORE, AFTER TODAY. THE LAST CONTINENTAL AIRLINES FLIGHT TAKES OFF AT 11:59 TONIGHT FROM PHOENIX. TOMORROW, UNITED OFFICIALLY TAKES OVER. THE TWO COMPANIES MERGED IN 2010, BUT PASSENGERS HAVEN'T NOTICED ANY CHANGES UNTIL NOW. STARTING TOMORROW, PASSENGER RESERVATION DATA, WEBSITES, AND FREQUENT FLIER PROGRAMS WILL ALL BE UNDER UNITED. THE CONTINENTAL NAME IS ALSO COMING DOWN AT THE GATES AT ALL TEN OF ITS FORMER HUBS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... MORE RUMORS SURROUNDING YAHOO .. AND THESE RUMORS INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT LAYOFFS. SEVERAL ONLINE NEWS AGENCIES REPORTING THAT YAHOO'S NEW CEO -- SCOTT THOMPSON -- IS ON THE VERGE OF ANNOUNCING A LARGE-SCALE LAYOFF. THE SUNNYVALE BASED COMPANY HAS STRUGGLED FOR YEARS TRYING TO FIND A VIABLE DIRECTION. YAHOO IS NOT COMMENTING ON THE LAYOFFS -- BUT THEY ARE SAYING THERE WILL BE SOME 'STRATEGIC CHANGE'.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... NOT AS RICH AS THE OTHER GUYS. FACEBOOK CO-FOUNDER MARK ZUCKERBERG IS WORTH MORE THAN 20-BILLION DOLLARS BUT HE STILL DOESN'T QUALIFY AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S "TOP 20." ANALYSTS SAY ZUCKERBERG'S 25-PERCENT STAKE IN THE MENLO PARK-BASED COMPANY WILL SOON BE WORTH LESS THAN 21-BILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S 7-BILLION LESS THAN PREVIOUS ESTIMATES.

ZUCKERBERG'S STOCK WILL BE DILUTED WHEN FACEBOOK ISSUES ITS CLASS-B STOCK AT ITS UPCOMING I-P-O. NUMBER ONE ON BLOOMBERG'S "BILLIONAIRES INDEX" IS MEXICO'S TELECOM TYCOON CARLOS SLIM. MICROSOFT CHAIRMAN BILL GATES AND BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY CEO WARREN BUFFETT RANK SECOND AND THIRD. THREE OF SAM WALTON'S CHILDREN -- OF THE "WALMART" EMPIRE -- ARE INCLUDED IN THE DAILY "TOP 20" RANKING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... HELP IS ON THE WAY FOR STRUGGLING COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN SAN FRANCISCO.

MAYOR ED LEE INTRODUCED THE "INVEST IN NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE" TODAY. IT'S A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE JOB CREATION...REVITALIZE COMMERCIAL AREAS AND SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES ACROSS SAN FRANCISCO. LEE SAYS THE CITY ALREADY HAS A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE SIMILAR SERVICES....BUT THE NEW INITIATIVE WILL LINK THOSE PROGRAMS TOGETHER AND COORDINATE RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHIN CITY GOVERNMENT, NONPROFITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE MAYOR SAYS THIS IS THE KEY TO TRANSFORMING MANY NEIGHBORHOODS INTO THRIVING COMMERCIAL AREAS AND IT'S PART OF HIS 17-POINT PLAN TO CREATE JOBS AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/15/12 REPORTED... A CHINESE RESTAURANT IN SUNNYVALE IS BEING PUNISHED FOR A LONG LIST OF LABOR VIOLATIONS. THE OWNERS OF "CRAZY BUFFET" -- ON EL CAMINO REAL -- ARE BEING FORCED TO PAY UP. A JUDGE AWARDED 32 EMPLOYEES MORE THAN 400-THOUSAND DOLLARS IN UNPAID WAGES AND DAMAGES. INVESTIGATORS SAY "CRAZY BUFFET" WOULD ISSUE ITS EMPLOYEES PAYCHECKS, BUT WOULD MAKE THEM RETURN THEIR WAGES, KEEPING ONLY TIPS. THEY WERE ALSO NOT PAID OVER-TIME -- AND MOST WORKED AN AVERAGE OF 60 TO 72 HOURS PER WEEK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/23/12 REPORTED... WITH OR WITHOUT PASSWORDS, WE'RE SEEING MORE HIRING HERE IN THE BAY AREA. ACCORDING TO THE EDD, 15 THOUSAND JOBS WERE CREATED HERE IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY BRINGING BAY AREA JOB TOTALS TO THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 2009.

CONSUMER ISSUES

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... 'LESS' MAY SOON COST 'MORE' IF YOU LIVE IN PALO ALTO. PEOPLE WHO TRY TO LIMIT THEIR WASTE BY SWITCHING TO SMALLER TRASH CANS COULD FIND THEIR GARBAGE RATES SPIKE -- DRAMATICALLY. A NEW PROPOSAL FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR A 5.3 PERCENT RATE INCREASE FOR ALL CUSTOMERS STARTING IN JULY. IN ADDITION, CUSTOMERS WHO USE THE MINI-CANS MAY SEE THEIR RATES MORE THAN DOUBLE. AND -- A \$2 FLAT FEE THAT WOULD BE TACKLED ON TO EVERY CUSTOMER -- TO COVER THE COST OF STREET SWEEPING. ALL OF THIS COMES ON THE HEELS OF A 4.62 PERCENT HIKE IN 2010. THE CITY COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS ON TUESDAY NIGHT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... WHETHER YOU USE IT TO COMMUTE TO WORK -- OR GET TO THE GIANTS GAME -- YOUR "TICKET TO RIDE" ON CALTRIAN WILL BE A LITTLE MORE EXPENSIVE. THE "PENINSULA JOINT POWERS BOARD" VOTED ON A PROPOSAL THAT WILL INCREASE ONE-WAY CASH FARES BY 25-CENTS. ROUND TRIP TICKETS WILL GO UP 50 CENTS. THE NEW RATES BEGIN IN JULY. HOWEVER -- IF YOU USE THE 'CLIPPER CARD' -- THERE WON'T BE ANY FARE INCREASES IN AN EFFORT TO GET RIDERS TO SIGN-UP FOR THE CARD.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/2/12 REPORTED... THIS MIGHT PUT SOME EXTRA CASH BACK IN YOUR BUDGET. RECYCLING RATES IN CALIFORNIA HAVE JUST GONE UP. RECYCLING CENTERS WILL NOW PAY A DOLLAR A POUND FOR PLASTIC BOTTLES--A SEVEN CENTS A POUND INCREASE. THE RATE FOR ALUMINUM CANS WENT UP TO \$1.57 A POUND, THAT'S A THREE CENT RAISE. THE STATE INCREASED THE RATES AFTER FINDING BOTH CONSUMERS AND COMPANIES WEREN'T GETTING ENOUGH MONEY FROM THE STATE'S REDEMPTION PROGRAM. STUDIES SHOW THAT 82-PERCENT OF ALL CALIFORNIANS RECYCLE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... GET THOSE SHOVELS READY. IN JUST A COUPLE OF MONTHS -- THE DREAM OF A 49ERS NEW STADIUM WILL START BECOMING A REALITY. A SANTA CLARA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE THREW OUT A BID TO ALLOW THE CITY'S RESIDENTS TO VOTE ON THE PROJECT'S FINANCING. THE RULING MEANS CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN ON THE 68-THOUSAND SEAT STADIUM THIS SUMMER. MOST LIKELY JULY. OPPONENTS OF THE STADIUM ARGUED THE 850-MILLION DOLLAR DEBT FINANCING WAS TOO RISKY FOR THE CITY, AND WAS NEVER APPROVED BY RESIDENTS. THE SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL INSISTS RESIDENTS ARE PROTECTED FROM HAVING TO REPAY THE LOAN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... IF YOU LIVE IN PALO ALTO -- YOU CAN SELL YOUR POWER -- BACK TO THE CITY THANKS TO A UNANIMOUS VOTE BY THE CITY COUNCIL... PALO ALTO RESIDENTS WILL NOW BE ABLE TO SELL ELECTRICITY MADE BY RENEWABLE RESOURCES BACK TO THE CITY UTILITY. THE POLICY IS PART OF THE "CLEAN LOCAL ENERGY ACCESSIBLE NOW" PROGRAM, WHICH BUILDS ON THE CITY'S EXISTING REBATE PROGRAM FOR SOLAR PANEL BUYERS. IN ADDITION TO CREATING AFFORDABLE ENERGY, THE PROGRAM IS EXPECTED TO CREATE JOBS. APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM WILL START BEING ACCEPTED NEXT MONTH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/7/12 REPORTED... VOTERS IN HERCULES WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WEIGH IN ON A SALES TAX HIKE COME JUNE. AFTER HOURS OF INTENSE DEBATE, THE CITY COUNCIL VOTED TO PUT THE HALF-CENT TAX INCREASE ON THE JUNE 5TH BALLOT. THE EXTRA 500-THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR WOULD HELP EASE THE CITY'S FINANCIAL CRISIS. HERCULES WENT INTO THIS CURRENT FISCAL YEAR 1-POINT-6 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE RED. THE CITY HAS ALREADY CUT ITS WORKFORCE BY 37 PERCENT, AND MORE CUTS ARE IN STORE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/19/12 REPORTED... IF YOU LOVE FEASTING ON DEALS HERE'S SOMETHING NEW TO SAMPLE GROUPON CALLS IT "SCHEDULER..."

A WAY TO MAKE IT MORE LIKELY YOU'LL ACTUALLY 'USE' THE DAILY DEAL YOU FIND ON THE DIGITAL COUPON SITE. WITH SCHEDULER, YOU WON'T WONDER WHEN YOU CAN CASH IN THE SAVINGS YOU JUST SNAGGED, OR GET FRUSTRATED IF THE MERCHANT ISN'T OPEN. INSTEAD, YOU MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, ONLINE, TO MAKE SURE THE DEAL GETS DONE. WE VISITED GROUPON'S SILICON VALLEY OFFICES. THE COMPANY IS BASED IN CHICAGO, BUT IS GROWING RAPIDLY HERE AND AS IT BECOMES MORE OF A TECHNOLOGY COMPANY, IT'S AIMING TO HIRE MORE TECHIES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. A

NEW DEAL AND NEW JOB OPENINGS PART OF GROUPON'S PLAN TO BITE INTO SILICON VALLEY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/20/12 REPORTED... TODAY, CONSUMER REPORTS TOOK UP THE CASE. THE AGENCY SAYS IT RAN A BATTERY OF TESTS ON THE NEW IPADS. IT SAYS WHILE THE NEW DEVICES RUN AS MUCH AS THIRTEEN DEGREES HOTTER THAN THE PREVIOUS IPAD "2.." IT DOES 'NOT' GET HOT ENOUGH TO HARM THE DEVICE. CONSUMER REPORTS SAYS IPADS DO NOT REACH TEMPERATURES OF LAPTOPS. APPLE ALSO COMMENTING SAYING THE NEW IPADS RUN, QUOTE, WITHIN THERMAL SPECIFICATIONS.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILY, ELDERLY, MEN & WOMEN

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED...SHE'S ACCUSED OF KICKING AND SLAPPING TWO SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS. BUT A REDWOOD CITY TEACHER SAYS -- SHE DIDN'T DO IT. ALEXIA BOGDIS APPEARED IN COURT TODAY, AND PLEADED 'NOT GUILTY' TO NINE CHARGES OF ABUSING TWO FOUR YEAR OLD STUDENTS AT ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THE STUDENTS WERE IN A SPECIAL NEEDS DAYCARE PROGRAM. THE JUDGE ORDERED HER TO STAY AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL AND THE ALLEGED VICTIMS. HER COURT APPEARANCE COMES A DAY AFTER THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SAID IT WILL PUNISH SIX EMPLOYEES WHO KNEW ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND DIDN'T PROPERLY REPORT IT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... A FORMER YOUTH COUNSELOR IN MARTINEZ HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO 29 YEARS IN PRISON ON CHILD PORN CHARGES. 54-YEAR OLD "THOMAS JEWELL" WAS SENTENCED IN OAKLAND YESTERDAY AFTER PLEADING GUILTY IN NOVEMBER TO ONE COUNT OF PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. POLICE SAY HE MOLESTED TWO TEENAGE BOYS AND HAD IMAGES OF THE ABUSE. IRONICALLY JEWELL WORKED AS A MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR AT JUVENILE HALL IN MARTINEZ BEFORE HIS 2010 ARREST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... SNORING HAS BEEN TIED TO MANY HEALTH PROBLEMS IN ADULTS, BUT NOW A NEW STUDY SAYS IT MAY BE PROBLEMATIC FOR KIDS MENTAL HEALTH AS WELL. THE STUDY PUBLISHED IN "PEDIATRICS" FOUND THAT TODDLERS WHO SNORE ARE MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS ONE THEY REACH SCHOOL-AGE. RESEARCHERS SAY SNORING COULD AFFECT OXYGEN FLOW TO THE BRAIN, DISRUPTING THE RESTORATIVE PROCESS OF SLEEP. PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO HOW THEIR KIDS SLEEP, AND TO TALK TO A PEDIATRICIAN IF THEY NOTICE IRREGULAR BREATHING PATTERNS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... THANKFULLY -- A FIVE YEAR-OLD GIRL IS ALIVE TONIGHT... AFTER BEING HIT BY AN SUV WHEN SHE AND HER MOTHER STEPPED INTO THE STREET FROM BETWEEN PARKED CARS. THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED ON FRANK NORRIS STREET--AN ALLEY IN SAN FRANCISCO'S POLK GULCH. THE GIRL WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL WITH BROKEN BONES. HER INJURIES ARE NOT LIFE THREATENING. THE 40 YEAR OLD WOMAN DRIVING THE SUV WAS NOT CITED. POLICE SAY THE INCIDENT APPEARS TO BE A TRAGIC ACCIDENT. THEY ARE STILL INVESTIGATING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/8/12 REPORTED... THE SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES ARE KICKING IT UP A NOTCH TO HELP CHILDREN IN QUAKE RAVAGED HAITI.

THE TEAM WILL HOST AN EQUIPMENT DRIVE AT THIS SATURDAYS' HOME OPENER AGAINST THE NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION. MIDFIELDER JEAN-MARC ALEXANDRE -- WHO GREW UP IN HAITI -- RUNS A YOUTH ACADEMY THERE -- IN DESPARATE NEED OF SOCCER GEAR. COLLECTION BINS WILL BE PLACED THROUGHT THE STADIUM THIS WEEKEND. SHOES, SHIN GUARDS, CLEATS AND SOCCER BALLS ARE JUST A FEW OF THE ITEMS NEEDED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/9/12 REPORTED... SAN FRANCISCO'S LEADERS ARE WORKING ON STOPPING THE FAMILY SUBURBAN FLEE. THERE ARE THOUSAND FEWER CHILDREN LIVING IN THE CITY THAN 10 YEARS AGO. THE NUMBER OF KIDS FIVE TO 17 HAS BEEN ON A DOWNWARD TREND FOR 20-YEARS. THEY WERE MORE THAN 11-PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IN 1990, BUT BY 2010 THEY MADE UP JUST NINE-PERCENT OF THE CITY'S RESIDENTS. THE ECONOMY IS THE BIGGEST FACTOR IN PROMPTING MIDDLE-CLASS AND LOW-INCOME PARENTS TO MOVE-OUT OF SAN FRANCISCO-- WHICH HAS ALWAYS HAD FEWER CHILDREN THAN OTHER MAJOR CITIES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/12/12 REPORTED... MORE THAN JUST CHILD'S PLAY. UC BERKELEY RESEARCHERS ARE TAPPING THE COGNITIVE SMARTS OF BABIES, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS TO GET COMPUTERS TO THINK MORE LIKE HUMANS. THEY'RE ESSENTIALLY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW WELL AND HOW EARLY IN LIFE WE CAN PERFORM COMPLICATED TASKS AND PROBLEM SOLVE BY IMAGINING POSSIBILITIES. IN ONE TASK- A CHILD WAS SHOWN A BOX THAT ONLY PLAYS MUSIC WHEN A CERTAIN OBJECT IS PLACED ON IT. THE BOX IS THEN REMOVED- AND THE CHILD IS ASKED TO IMAGINE IT'S STILL THERE- AND WHICH OBJECT MEANS MUSIC WILL PLAY. EXPERTS SAY PRETEND PLAY HELPS THE PROCESS. SCIENTISTS ARE HOPING TO MIMIC WHAT GOES ON IN A BABY'S BRAIN IN COMPUTERS. IF COMPUTERS CAN "PRETEND PLAY" AND LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE- THEY MAY HAVE BETTER INTERACTIONS WITH PEOPLE IN TASKS LIKE COMPUTER TUTORING PROGRAMS AND ANSWERING THE PHONE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/14/12 REPORTED... THE TSA IS CUTTING THE ELDERLY A BREAK AT FOUR MAJOR AIRPORTS. STARTING MONDAY, SECURITY SCREENERS WILL BE TESTING OUT NEW PROCEDURES IN CHICAGO, DENVER, ORLANDO AND PORTLAND. AT SELECT CHECKPOINTS, ANYONE OVER 75 CAN KEEP THEIR SHOES AND LIGHT JACKETS ON -- AND THEY CAN ALSO SKIP PAT DOWNS. THE T-S-A IS TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM A "ONE-SIZE FITS ALL" APPROACH AND IS HOPING TO SCREEN LOWER-RISK PASSENGERS -- FASTER. IF IT WORKS WELL, THE T-S-A WILL CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THE NEW RULES ELSEWHERE.

CRIMES-FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL, LAW & LAW ENFORCEMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED...KILLING THE DEATH PENALTY IN CALIFORNIA. THE ORIGINAL AUTHORS OF THE STATES *DEATH PENALTY LAW*, NOW SAY THEY OPPOSE IT AND THAT VOTERS SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY. OPPONENTS OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SAY THEY'VE COLLECTED ENOUGH SIGNATURES TO GET A PROPOSITION ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT. IF PASSED, IT WOULD REPLACE CALIFORNIA'S DEATH SENTENCE WITH *LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE*-- AND APPLY TO THE SEVEN-HUNDRED PEOPLE NOW ON DEATH ROW. ONE OF THOSE WHO WROTE THE 1977 DEATH PENALTY LAW, SAYS HE NOW REGRETS IT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... VALLEJO POLICE HAVE SHUT DOWN ANOTHER POT CLUB AS PART OF A CITY WIDE CRACKDOWN ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES. POLICE ARRESTED THE POT CLUB'S OPERATOR, 24-YEAR OLD "JORGE ESPINOZA". HE HAS BEEN BOOKED ON SUSPICION OF TRAFFICKING POT AND OPERATING AN UNLAWFUL PLACE TO SELL MARIJUANA. POLICE SEIZED 400 MARIJUANA PLANTS AND 340 MARIJUANA LACED PRODUCTS FROM THE "BETTER HEALTH GROUP" DISPENSARY. THEY ALSO CONFISCATED 30-POUNDS OF PROCESSED MARIJUANA. THE BUST COMES ON THE HEELS OF ANOTHER RAID. POLICE TEAMED UP WITH THE D-E-A LAST WEEK TO UNCOVER A SOPHISTICATED GROW OPERATION. VALLEJO POLICE SAY IT'S PART OF AN ONGOING CRACKDOWN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... A FOLLOW UP NOW TO AN NBC BAY AREA INVESTIGATION...MORE FALOUT FROM SAN JOSE'S PENSION PREDICAMENT. TODAY, A LAWSUIT WAS FILED AGAINST THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREMENT SERVICES, RUSSELL CROSBY AND FORMER CITY ACTUARY, MIKE MOEHLE. THE LAWSUIT, FILED BY CURRENT AND FORMER CITY EMPLOYEES, ALLEGES THE RETIREMENT BOARD PAID AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT FOR A REPORT ON FUTURE RETIREMENT COSTS THAT USED OUTDATED AND INACCURATE INFORMATION. THAT REPORT, THEY SAY, PRODUCED A DOLLAR FIGURE OF 431 MILLION BY 2015 A NUMBER USED WHEN NEGOTIATING PENSION REFORM WITH UNIONS. THE LAWSUIT CLAIMS THIS REPORT HAD NO BENEFIT TO THE RETIRMENT BOARD, SO IT WAS A BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY TO REQUEST AND PAY FOR IT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/2/12 REPORTED... THREE MEN ARE IN JAIL TONIGHT -- CONNECTED WITH A TRIPLE MURDER IN SAN LEANDRO. 21-YEAR-OLD ANTHONY PERRY, 19-YEAR-OLD AARON STEWART AND 18-YEAR-OLD STANLEY TURNER ARE IN POLICE CUSTODY. THEY'VE BEEN CHARGED WITH THREE COUNTS OF HOMICIDE AND FOUR COUNTS OF ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE STEMMING FROM A TRIPLE-MURDER LAST OCTOBER. A FOURTH SUSPECT WAS ARRESTED SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT ON ALVARADO STREET -- NEAR THE MARINA BOULEVARD EXIT OFF 880.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... THE FORMER GIANTS EMPLOYEE THAT PLEADED GUILTY TO EMBEZZLING MORE THAN TWO MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE TEAM WILL 'NOT' KNOW HER FATE FOR A FEW MORE WEEKS. ROBIN O'CONNOR WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SENTENCED TODAY AFTER SHE ADMITTED TO TAKING MONEY FROM THE GIANTS FROM JUNE 2010 TO JUNE 2011. HER NEW SENTENCING DATE IS NOW MARCH 26TH. THE 42 YEAR OLD FORMER PAYROLL MANAGER, FACES A MAXIMUM OF 20 YEARS IN PRISON AND A FINE OF AT LEAST 250 THOUSAND DOLLARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... POLICE ARE ON THE HUNT FOR TWO GUNMEN, WHO OPENED FIRE ON A GROUP OF PEOPLE, HANGING OUTSIDE A BERKELEY HOME. TONIGHT -- THREE OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE RECOVERING FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS. THE SHOOTING HAPPENED EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, NEAR THE CORNER OF SEVENTH AND ADDISON STREETS. INVESTIGATORS SAY THE SHOOTERS RAN OFF. THEY FOUND THE VICTIMS A COUPLE BLOCKS AWAY. THEY WERE TREATED AT THE HOSPITAL AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE OKAY. THIS IS SECOND *TRIPLE* SHOOTING IN BERKELEY, IN RECENT DAYS. OFFICERS ARE INVESTIGATING IF THERE'S A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/16/12 REPORTED... THREE PEOPLE ARE BEHIND BARS IN CONNECTION WITH AN AUTO THEFT RING, ACCUSED OF STEALING MORE THAN A DOZEN VEHICLES. POLICE ORIGINALLY FOUND NINE STOLEN VEHICLES IN A PARKING LOT ON THE 500 BLOCK OF EAST CAPITOL AVENUE IN MILPITAS. AN INVESTIGATION LED TO THE ARREST OF THREE SUSPECTS. MARK CAMPBELL, ANGELICA QUINTANA AND MARIO RAMIREZ WERE ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY PULLING

OFF A STRING OF THEFTS. DETECTIVES SAY THEIR INVESTIGATION LED TO THE RECOVERY OF 17 STOLEN VEHICLES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/20/12 REPORTED... THE SHOOTING OF AN UNARMED FLORIDA TEENAGER IS GENERATING NATIONWIDE CONTROVERSY. A WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH VOLUNTEER SAYS HE SHOT THE BLACK TEEN BECAUSE HE FELT THREATENED. BUT THE TEEN'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY DISPUTE THAT CLAIM AND SAY THERE'S PROOF.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/26/12 REPORTED... CAUGHT STEALING. THE FORMER GIANTS EMPLOYEE WILL SPEND ALMOST 2 YEARS IN PRISON. LAST YEAR -- ROBIN O'CONNOR ADMITTED TO EMBEZZLING FROM THE TEAM -- AND TODAY -- SHE WAS SENTENCED TO 21 MONTHS IN PRISON. O'CONNOR ALSO HAS TO PAY NEARLY ONE-POINT-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN RESTITUTION. THE 42 YEAR OLD FORMER PAYROLL MANAGER ADMITTED TO TAKING MONEY FROM THE GIANTS -- INCLUDING SOME PLAYERS -- FROM JUNE 2010 TO JUNE 2011.

DIVERSITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE TONIGHT. MARYLAND'S GOVERNOR SIGNED A MEASURE LEGALIZING SAME SEX MARRIAGE. THE BILL TAKES EFFECT NEXT JANUARY. BUT SOME CONSERVATIVES AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE ALREADY PROMISING A FIGHT. THEY'RE RAMPING UP EFFORTS TO PUT A MEASURE ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER, TO OVERTURN THE LEGISLATION. OPPONENTS HAVE A STRATEGY. THEY'RE RELYING ON RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CONGREGATION WHEN THEY TURN-OUT TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN THAT THEY'LL ALSO VOTE TO OVERTURN THE GAY MARRIAGE BILL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/2/12 REPORTED... TODAY, OVER 100 JANITORS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS RALLIED AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY TO PROTEST AGAINST HIGHER HEALTHCARE COSTS FOR THE SCHOOL'S PROPERTY SERVICE WORKERS.

THE WORKERS SAY THE SCHOOL'S PROPOSED NEW HEALTH CARE POLICY WOULD INCREASE OUT OF POCKET MEDICAL EXPENSES BY UP TO 1-THOUSAND DOLLARS. SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SAYS THE NEW CONTRACT PROVIDES UNION EMPLOYEES WITH THE SAME MEDICAL BENEFITS AS ALL OTHER FACULTY AND STAFF. BUT UNION LEADERS SAY THEY'RE NOT IN THE SAME FINANCIAL POSITION AS PROFESSORS AND RESEARCHERS. THE JANITORS SAY THE MARCH IS PART OF A LARGER SERIES OF PROTESTS STAGED BY JANITORS STATEWIDE THIS YEAR...AS THEY PREPARE TO NEGOTIATE NEW CONTRACTS WITH JANITORIAL COMPANIES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS ARE PUSHING FOR A STATE LAW REQUIRING TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS TO BE TRAINED IN DETECTING DATING VIOLENCE AMONG TEENAGERS. BY EDUCATING STUDENTS AND PROMOTING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, ACTIVISTS SAY THE

SCHOOLS CAN HELP STOP THE CYCLE OF ABUSE-- BEFORE IT BEGINS. SUPPORTERS RALLIED TODAY ON THE STEPS OF THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, MANY TO HONOR A YOUNG GIRL STABBED TO DEATH BY HER EX-BOYFRIEND LAST YEAR-- ON HER SCHOOL CAMPUS. THE ASSEMBLYMAN FOR THAT DISTRICT BELIEVES *CINDI SANTANA'S* DEATH COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF SHE'D HAD MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HER. LARA SAYS HE'S STILL RUNNING THE NUMBERS, TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH MONEY IT WOULD COST THE STATE OR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH TRAINING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/7/12 REPORTED... CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS OFFICIALS HAVE A NEW LAWSUIT ON THEIR HANDS -- THAT CLAIMS THOUSANDS OF CRIMINALS ARE BEING UNFAIRLY BARRED FROM VOTING. THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE STATE'S NEW REALIGNMENT LAW, WHICH TOOK EFFECT IN OCTOBER. IT SENT LOWER-LEVEL OFFENDERS FROM STATE PRISONS, WHERE INMATES ARE "NOT" ALLOWED TO VOTE, TO COUNTY JAILS, WHERE INMATES "ARE" ALLOWED TO VOTE. A MEMO FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAYS INMATES TRANSFERRED UNDER REALIGNMENT STILL DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW. BUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND TWO PRISONERS' RIGHTS GROUPS ARE CHALLENGING THAT WITH A LAWSUIT FILED TODAY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/7/12 REPORTED... WHEN THE NON-PROFIT GROUP "EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION" LAUNCHED IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 2006 IT HAD AN OPERATING BUDGET OF JUST FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. LAST YEAR, THAT FIGURE HAD GROWN TO ABOUT SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS THANKS PRIMARILY TO SOME BIG DONATIONS FROM SILICON VALLEY. THE DONORS INCLUDE PALM PILOT INVENTOR JEFF HAWKINS... MARK LESLIE, THE FORMER CEO OF VERIT-AHS SOFTWARE... INTEL CO-FOUNDER ANDREW GROVE... AND LAURENE POWELL JOBS... THE WIDOW OF APPLE CO-FOUNDER STEVE JOBS. ONE OF THE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS WHO WAS HELPED BY E4FC... IS KRISHNA AVILA. HE'S NOW A U-S CITIZEN, A COLLEGE GRADUATE, AND HEADED TO LAW SCHOOL. HE ALSO HEADS UP THE ORGANIZATION'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT. IT'S ESTIMATED THAT 65 THOUSAND UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN THE U-S EACH YEAR. SOME GO ON TO COLLEGE... AND FACE THE FEAR OF DEPORTATION. THE DREAM ACT, WHICH HAS SPARKED A NATIONAL DEBATE, WOULD OFFER A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS WHO COMPLETE TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE OR SERVE TWO YEARS IN THE MILITARY. BUT SO FAR IT'S A MEASURE CONGRESS HAS FAILED TO PASS. IN THE MEANTIME, E4FC CONNECTS THOSE STUDENTS TO LEGAL SERVICES, PROVIDES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS, AND OFFERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO DREAM ACT STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/8/12 REPORTED... THIS WEEKEND -- UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS WILL BE ON THE MOVE KICKING OFF A 3-THOUSAND MILE WALK -- ACROSS THE COUNTRY -- SUPPORTING THE "DREAM ACT." THE STUDENTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WILL BEGIN THEIR TREK -- SATURDAY AFTERNOON -- FROM THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. THEY PLAN ON WALKING ACROSS 13-STATES, ULTIMATELY ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON D-C JUST BEFORE THE 20-12 ELECTION. THE DREAM ACT' WOULD ALLOW UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS TO CHANGE THEIR RESIDENCY STATUS IF THEY ATTEND COLLEGE OR JOIN THE MILITARY. STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE WALK SAY ITS A HUGE UNDERTAKING, BUT ULTIMATELY WORTH IT. FROM THE GOLDEN GATE, THE WALKERS WILL MAKE THEIR WAY OVER TO BERKELEY, WHERE THEY WILL SPEAK AT SPROUL PLAZA. THE GROUP IS EXPECTED TO PASS THROUGH NEARLY 285 COMMUNITIES TO DISCUSS IMMIGRATION POLICIES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/12/12 REPORTED... FORGET ABOUT THE COMPUTER -- NEW STATISTICS SHOW MORE AND MORE LATINOS ARE GOING MOBILE. THE "HISPANIC CHAMBER OF E-COMMERCE" SAYS ... THEY CAN'T SEEM TO PART WITH THEIR SMART-PHONES. IN FACT LATINO MOBILE USAGE IS GROWING FOUR TIMES

FASTER THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION. THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER REPORTS THE GROUP MAKES UP A QUARTER OF THE I-PHONE OWNERS IN THE U.S. THIS GROWING TREND IS PROMPTING COMPANIES TO DEVELOP NEW APPS -- LIKE "ELWIRI" WHICH MEANS "TO CHIT-CHAT" IN SPANISH.

THE CREATOR OF "ELWIRI" SAYS IT'S THE FIRST LIFESTYLE APP TO BE OFFERED IN SPANISH. YOU CAN NOW GET IT FOR FREE FROM APPLE'S APP STORE AND GOOGLE MARKET.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/15/12 REPORTED... A PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE SOUTH BAY SUSPENDED CLASSES TODAY -- AND GAVE STUDENTS JUST ONE ASSIGNMENT WATCH A MOVIE WITH AN EMPOWERING MESSAGE. PRESENTATION HIGH SCHOOL SHOWED ITS STUDENTS A DOCUMENTARY CALLED "MISS REPRESENTATION". IT PREMIERED AT THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL. JENNIFER SIEBEL NEWSOM -- THE WIFE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM -- WROTE AND DIRECTED THE FILM. IT EXPLORES THE PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA. TODAY, NEWSOM MADE A SPECIAL VISIT TO THE ALL GIRLS SCHOOL IN SAN JOSE. "MISS REPRESENTATION" FEATURES STORIES FROM TEENAGE GIRLS AND PROVOCATIVE INTERVIEWS WITH THE LIKES OF CONDOLEEZZA RICE, NANCY PELOSI, AND KATIE COURIC.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/16/12 REPORTED... MORE LEGAL WRANGLING OVER THE REPORT ON LAST YEAR'S CONTROVERSIAL PEPPER SPRAYING DURING A PROTEST AT U-C DAVIS. AN OAKLAND JUDGE SAYS THE REPORT WILL STAY SEALED-- FOR NOW. A TASK FORCE REVIEWED THE ACTIONS OF UNIVERSITY POLICE AT AN OCCUPY DEMONSTRATION LAST NOVEMBER, WHEN SEATED PROTESTERS WERE SPRAYED IN THE FACE. THE UNION REPRESENTING UNIVERSITY POLICE TRIED TO BLOCK THE REPORT'S RELEASE, BUT THE JUDGE DISAGREED. HOWEVER, HE'S KEEPING THE REPORT PRIVATE UNTIL APRIL SECOND-- WHILE THE POLICE UNION APPEALS HIS RULING.

EDUCATION

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... TENSE MOMENTS AT A SCHOOL IN SOUTH SAN JOSE -- SOMEONE HEARD GUNSHOTS NEARBY, FORCING THE CAMPUS INTO LOCK-DOWN MODE. OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVED A "CODE BLUE" CALL FROM POLICE AROUND LUNCHTIME. STUDENTS WERE ASKED TO STAY INSIDE. POLICE BELIEVE THE GUNSHOTS MIGHT HAVE COME FROM A GROUP OF STUDENTS -- NEAR THE CAMPUS. OFFICERS DID FIND SHELL CASINGS BUT HAVE NOT MADE AN ARREST. THE LOCKDOWN WAS LIFTED AFTER 20 MINUTES. NO ONE WAS HURT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... AN UPDATE NOW TO OUR TOP STORY, THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS CONVERGED ON THE STATE CAPITOL IN A DAY OF ACTION PROTEST AGAINST BUDGET CUTS. THIS IS CHOPPER VIDEO FROM EARLIER, WHERE POLICE WERE OUT IN FULL RIOT GEAR. POLICE AT THE CAPITOL ISSUED THREE DISPERAL ORDERS, WITHIN THE LAST HALF HOUR. BUT THE STUDENTS HAVEN'T BUDGED, AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED STUDENTS REMAIN IN THE CAPITOL. SO, FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRESTS. WE'LL CONTINUE TO UPDATE THIS STORY TONIGHT AT 11, AS WELL AS ONLINE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... HORACE MANN SCHOOL IS SAN JOSE'S OLDEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. FOR FAMILIES HERE AND IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AROUND THE STATE - THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IS CHANGING. PARENTS TOLD US THEY HAVE TO BUY MORE BASIC SUPPLIES, LIKE PAPER AND DO WITHOUT SOME OF THE PROGRAMS THEY HAD WHEN THEY WERE IN SCHOOL. IN THE LAST 4 YEARS PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALONG WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES LOST 20-BILLION DOLLARS IN FUNDING AND ANOTHER ROUND OF MID-YEAR CUTS ARE LOOMING EVEN BEFORE THAT, CALIFORNIA RANKED 46TH IN PER-PUPIL SPENDING. THE CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IS ACTIVE IN TRYING TO HOLD THE FUNDING LINE. THE UNION REPRESENTING PRESCHOOL TEACHERS THROUGH COLLEGE PROFESSORS ALONG WITH JANITORS AND BUS DRIVERS. BUT THEY DON'T JUST RALLY THEY SPEND. 2011 SAW RECORD SPENDING IN LOBBYING \$286.6...6.8% MORE THAN THE YEAR BEFORE THE CTA SPENT \$6.5-MILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN ANY OTHER INDUSTRY OR GOVERNMENT. SOMETHING THEY MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR THROUGH THEIR LOBBYISTS, THE CTA WAS ABLE TO PROTECT TEACHERS FROM MID-YEAR CUTS. PROTECTING JOBS COMES AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES LIKE BUSES BUT THE LOBBYING IS LEGAL AND SOMETHING THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEIR MEMBERS OPT TO FUND THROUGH A \$20 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/7/12 REPORTED... OUT OF SCHOOL -- AND OUT OF LUCK. SEVERAL FORMER STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES ARE SUING THE "INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION", JUST THREE WEEKS AFTER IT WAS CLOSED BY STATE REGULATORS. THE LATEST LAWSUIT CLAIMS STUDENTS WERE MISLED BY THE INSTITUTES OWNERS -- AND ABOUT ITS ACCREDITATION. SINCE THE SAN JOSE SCHOOL WAS CLOSED, STUDENTS WERE LEFT INELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL AID, AND UNABLE TO TAKE SOME STATE LICENSING EXAMS. THE ATTORNEY FOR THE OUSTED OWNERS SAYS HE HAS 'NOT' BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIS CLIENTS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/7/12 REPORTED... DIANA ALBERT IS A THIRD GRADE TEACHER. SHE CAME TO THE CLASSROOM AFTER A FIRST CAREER IN TECH. BUT AS SHE IS ENTERING THE PROFESSION FEWER PEOPLE ARE SEEKING CREDENTIALS. LAST YEAR, THERE WAS A 1-POINT-4 PERCENT DROP IN NEWLY CREDENTIALLED TEACHERS. THE OVERALL NUMBER'S DROPPED BY THIRD SINCE THE 2004-05 SCHOOL YEAR. THAT DROP WAS THE FIRST OF SEVEN STRAIGHT YEARS OF DECLINES. THAT COMES AT THE SAME TIME A LARGE GROUP OF CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ARE APPROACHING RETIREMENT. TWO OUT OF FIVE EDUCATORS WERE OLDER THAN 50 IN THE 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR. ONE OF THEM IS BRIAN WHEATLEY. WHEN HE STARTED TEACHING, HIS JOB WAS STABLE HIS CLASSES WERE SMALL. NOT THE CASE FOR THE NEWEST TEACHERS HIS UNION REPRESENTS. THE PROFESSION CAN DRAW FEWER LIKE DIANA ALBERT INTO A SECOND CAREER... EVEN WITH THE NUMBER OF LAID OFF TEACHERS IN THE JOB MARKET, THAT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH. STILL, UNIVERSITIES LIKE SAN JOSE STATE SAY THEY'LL KEEP TRAINING THE TEACHERS OF TOMORROW... WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAKING SURE THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE IN FOR. THE TEACHER CREDENTIALING NUMBERS WILL BE PRESENTED IN SACRAMENTO TOMORROW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/8/12 REPORTED... AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT A FEW WEEKS AGO -- SAN JOSE STATE IS ONCE AGAIN TRYING TO OVERHAUL ITS ADMISSIONS PROCESS. AND THIS TIME -- THEY'RE ASKING FOR PUBLIC INPUT. STARTING MARCH 19TH, THE UNIVERSITY WILL HOLD A SERIES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL CHANGES TO ADMISSIONS GUIDELINES. THE SCHOOL SAYS CHANGES ARE NECESSARY FOLLOWING CUTS IN STATE FUNDING AND AN INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/13/12 REPORTED... TOUGHER LAWS AND MORE TRANSPARENCY MAY BE FACING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE WAKE OF DISTURBING ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT. REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS GATHERED IN SACRAMENTO TODAY TO ANNOUNCE THE DETAILS OF NEW LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND MOVE FASTER ON OFFENDERS. THE LEGISLATION WOULD INCLUDE: THE ELIMINATION OF UNION CONTRACTS THAT SLOW DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND THE DISMISSAL PROCESS. IT WOULD ALSO REMOVE THE SO-CALLED FOUR YEAR RULE. RIGHT NOW, EVIDENCE OF ANY WRONGDOING IS PULLED FROM A TEACHER'S FILE EVERY FOUR YEARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/19/12 REPORTED... A NATIONAL TREND STARTED IN THE BAY AREA. IT'S AN INTERVENTION PROGRAM TO SLOW THE HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUT RATE. AND IT'S GETTING BIG MONEY. AT&T WILL CONTRIBUTE A-QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS. THAT ANNOUNCEMENT CAME TODAY AT SAN FRANCISCO'S GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL. IT LAUNCHED THE PROGRAM FOR NINTH GRADERS BACK IN 2008. INCOMING STUDENTS GOT EXTRA HELP WITH SCHEDULING, HOMEWORK, AND TUTORING-- LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS. A-T-AND-T SAYS THE MOTIVATION FOR THE GRANTS IS TO BUILD A STRONGER WORKFORCE. IT'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST CORPORATE INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION HISTORY.

ENVIRONMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED...NOW TO LAKE TAHOE, WHERE SNOW AND LOTS OF IT ...CAUGHT SKIERS IN VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION THIS AFTERNOON...AN AVALANCHE. WE JUST LEARNED ONE SKIER IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER HE AND TWO OTHERS WERE SKIING UPHILL OUT OF BOUNDS AND CAUSED AN AVALANCHE. THE SKIERS INJURIES ARE UNKOWN. THE SNOWY LANDSLIDE HAPPENED IN A SECTION OF RUGGED TERRAIN, NEAR STANFORD ROCK --- THAT'S ON THE BACKSIDE OF ALPINE MEADOWS SKI RESORT. EXPERTS SAY WITH ALL THE FRESH SNOW -- THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER IN NON GROOMED SKIING AREAS. AVALANCHE COMES AS PEOPLE ACROSS THE SIERRA ARE DEALING WITH BLOWING SNOW AND LOW VISIBILTY. DRIVERS FINDING TOUGH CONDITIONS ON THE ROADS DURING TODAYS MORNING, AND EVENING COMMUTE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/2/12 REPORTED... A COALITION SEEKS TO "BAG" THE BAN ON PLASTIC-BAGS IN SAN FRANCISCO. THE "SAVE THE PLASTIC BAG COALITION" IS BEHIND A LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST THE CITY THIS WEEK. THE GROUP IS CITING A REPORT THAT SHOWS PLASTIC BAGS USE LESS ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMPARED TO COMPOSTABLE BAGS. THE SAME GROUP SUED THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. IN THAT CASE LAST YEAR, THE STATE SUPREME COURT RULED AN "ENVINRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT" MUST BE PREPARED PRIOR TO A PLASTIC BAG BAN. SAN FRANCISCO HAS NOT YET PREPARED AN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/2/12 REPORTED... BECAUSE OF THE DRY WINTER, WATER OFFICIALS IN THE NORTH BAY ARE HAVING TO DO SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T DONE IN 20 YEARS. THE MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT IS NOW PUMPING WATER OUT OF "PHOENIX LAKE" TO BOOST WATER SUPPLIES. 1992 WAS THE LAST TIME THE LAKE NEEDED TO BE TAPPED INTO AS A WATER SUPPLY SOURCE. BECAUSE OF LAST YEAR'S HIGH RAINFALL, THE DISTRICT DOES NOT EXPECT WATER RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BUT MORE WATER IS NEEDED TO HELP MEET THE DEMAND THIS YEAR. THE MARIN DISTRICT SERVES NEARLY 200-THOUSAND PEOPLE FROM SAN RAFAEL TO SAUSALITO.

THROUGHOUT THE NORTH BAY, THEY ARE RUNNING A DEFICIT BETWEEN 12 TO 14 INCHES FOR THE WATER YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... BEFORE *CLIMATE CHANGE* SENDS RISING OCEAN WATERS OVER THE LAWNS OF CALIFORNIA'S COASTAL RESIDENTS-- A NEW STUDY INDICATES **BIRDS** WILL BE AFFECTED FIRST. A NEW STUDY BY THE STATE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT LOOKED AT BIRDS IN MARIN COUNTY, AND FOUND WETLAND SPECIES ARE MORE VULNERABLE THAN OTHER KINDS OF BIRDS, BECAUSE THEIR HABITATS ARE NEAR THE SHORE OR ON ISLANDS. THE MARIN I-J REPORTS THE BLACK OYSTER-CATCHER, CLAPPER RAIL, AND BROWN PELICAN ARE AMONG THE SPECIES THAT WILL BE THREATENED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... IT TOOK AWHILE FOR THE U-S GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO SORT-OUT THE EARTHQUAKES THAT ROCKED THE EAST BAY THIS MORNING BECAUSE THE FIRST TWO STRUCK SO CLOSE TOGETHER. THE FIRST QUAKE, AT 5-33 THIS MORNING, HAD A MAGNITUDE OF THREE-POINT-FIVE. JUST EIGHT SECONDS LATER, A FOUR-POINT-OH QUAKE STRUCK IN THE SAME PLACE ON THE HAYWARD FAULT, A MILE NORTH OF EL CERRITO. THEN A HALF-HOUR LATER, THE THIRD QUAKE HIT-- MEASURING TWO-POINT-OH. THE QUAKE WERE FELT WIDELY, FROM NAPA COUNTY TO REDWOOD CITY. OUR CHOPPER FLEW OVER THE AREA, BUT NO MAJOR DAMAGE, OR INJURIES WERE REPORTED. BART BRIEFLY STOPPED TRAINS FOR A TRACK INSPECTION, BUT FOUND NO PROBLEMS. STILL, FOLKS WERE RATTLED! WHILE LOTS OF PEOPLE WERE SHAKEN-UP, AGAIN-- NO REPORTS OF DAMAGE OR INJURIES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/7/12 REPORTED... AT SOME POINT IN EVERYONE'S CHILDHOOD SOMEONE WILL WARN THEM NOT TO LOOK AT THE SUN. BUT WHEN YOU'RE BORN WITH A NAME LIKE JIM SOLAR IT'S A RULE THAT BEARS BREAKING. TODAY SOLAR THE AMATEUR ASTRONOMER WAS BUSY KEEPING TABS ON HIS SOLAR NAMESAKE THE SUN. LIKE MANY SOLAR BUZZING ABOUT YESTERDAY'S EXPLOSION ON THE SUN'S SURFACE. THE ERUPTION OF A MASSIVE SOLAR FLARE, HAS IGNITED THE CURIOSITY OF THE SCIENCE WORLD. WHILE SOLAR FLARES HAPPEN EVERY DAY, ASTRONOMER BEN BURRESS OF CHABOT SPACE CENTER SAYS WE'RE ENTERING A PERIOD OF HEIGHTENED SOLAR ACTIVITY THAT OCCURS EVERY ELEVEN YEARS. GASSES BUILD UP ON THE SUN'S SURFACE UNTIL THEY EXPLODE IN SPECTACULAR FASHION. THE EXPLOSION SENDS A BUBBLE OF GAS RACING TOWARD THE EARTH. GAS FROM YESTERDAY'S EXPLOSION IS EXPECTED TO REACH THE EARTH AS EARLY AS TONIGHT. BURRESS SAYS PAST SOLAR FLARES HAVE INTERFERED WITH SATELLITES, GPS AND SENT ASTRONAUTS SCRAMBLING FOR COVER. BUT IN MOST CASES BURRESS SAYS THE FLARES DO LITTLE MORE THAN CAUSE EXCITEMENT WHICH WAS THE SCENE TODAY AS DOZENS OF STUDENTS AT CHABOT USED PROTECTIVE GLASSES TO LOOK AT SUN SPOTS CAUSED BY THE RECENT FLARE. AND CHABOT VOLUNTEER JIM SOLAR DEMONSTRATED WHY HE WAS TRULY WELL NAMED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/8/12 REPORTED... IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER BAY AREA COMMUNITY COULD SOON BAN PLASTIC BAGS. SAN MATEO COUNTY OFFICIALS WILL HIRE A PRIVATE FIRM TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY AHEAD OF A COUNTYWIDE BAN. SAN FRANCISCO IS THE TARGET OF A LAWSUIT SEEKING TO REMOVE THE CITY'S PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCE AFTER IT FAILED TO CONDUCT AN 'E-I-R' IF APPROVED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY -- YOU WOULD ONLY BE OFFERED PLASTIC BAGS IF YOU'RE BUYING MEAT, PRODUCE, PREPARED FOODS AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/13/12 REPORTED... THIS YEAR IS ON TRACK TO BE ONE OF THE DEADLIEST AVALANCHE SEASONS ON RECORD HERE IN THE U.S. 27 PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN AVALANCHES SO FAR THIS WINTER THE AVERAGE PER WINTER OVER THE PAST DECADE -- IS ABOUT 25. EXPERTS SAY THIS YEAR'S ODD SNOW PATTERNS MAY HAVE INCREASED AVALANCHE DANGERS AND A LOT MORE SNOW IS EXPECTED TO FALL THIS WEEK. BETTER SPORTING EQUIPMENT MAY HAVE ALSO PLAYED A ROLE IN THE RISE IN DEATHS - AS THEY NOW EXPLORE THE BACK COUNTRY, BUT DO NOT HAVE THE PROPER AVALANCHE TRAINING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/15/12 REPORTED... HEAVY RAIN IS PROMPTING A FLOOD THREAT, AT THE SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK.

WATER, FROM THE SAN LORENZO RIVER, IS CREEPING UP ON THE SAND AND COULD SEEP UNDER THE BOARDWALK - CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGE. RIGHT NOW, CREWS ARE BUILDING UP PILES OF SAND ON THE BEACH, TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING. A BOARDWALK SPOKESMAN SAYS THE RIVER HAS ALREADY RIPPED APART A WOODEN STAIRCASE, THAT GOES DOWN TO THE BEACH ... CAUSING SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS IN DAMAGE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/20/12 REPORTED... REPORTS OF WIDESPREAD DAMAGE ARE COMING-IN TONIGHT FROM SOUTHERN MEXICO, AT THE EPICENTER OF TODAY'S SEVEN-POINT-FOUR MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE. THE QUAKE WAS CENTERED IN A FAIRLY REMOTE AREA, BETWEEN THE CITIES OF ACAPULCO AND OAXACA SOUTH OF MEXICO CITY. THIS IS VIDEO FROM THE MOMENT THE EARTHQUAKE HIT, FROM A SECURITY CAMERA MOUNTED AT A RESORT IN GUERRERO. WE'RE HEARING SOME EIGHT HUNDRED HOMES NEARBY ARE DAMAGED, AND 60 DESTROYED. PEOPLE FELT THE QUAKE, AS FAR AS 200 MILES AWAY, WHERE LIGHT FIXTURES SWAYED AND WINDOWS BROKE. AND IN ACAPULCO, VACATIONERS WERE SHAKEN. PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ELDEST DAUGHTER, MALIA, IS VISITING THE REGION WITH A SCHOOL GROUP. THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS SHE AND THE OTHER CHILDREN ARE SAFE.

GOVERNMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... A SIGN OF AN ECONOMIC TURN-AROUND TONIGHT IN SAN JOSE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS -- THE BAY AREA'S BIGGEST CITY -- HAS A BUDGET 'SURPLUS'. MORE TAX REVENUES ARE COMING IN AND SICK LEAVE AND WORKERS-COMP COSTS ARE DOWN--GIVING SAN JOSE A 10-MILLION DOLLAR SURPLUS. BUT THIS YEAR'S GOOD NEWS WON'T LAST LONG. MORE DEFICITS ARE EXPECTED IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, PARTLY BECAUSE RETIREMENT COSTS WILL ESCALATE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/2/12 REPORTED... A NEW WRINKLE TO THE ROSS MIRKIRIMI DOMESTIC ABUSE CASE TODAY -- THE SHERIFF'S EX-GIRLFRIEND MET W/ THE JUDGE BUT NO WORD YET -- IF SHE'S BE ALLOWED TESTIFY AGAINST THE EMBATTLED SHERIFF. CHRISTINA FLORES MET WITH THE JUDGE IN A CLOSED DOOR SESSION TODAY.

FLORES CLAIMS MIRKARIMI WAS PHYSICALLY AND VERBALLY ABUSIVE DURING THEIR RELATIONSHIP. FLORES FILED A POLICE REPORT SHORTLY AFTER POLICE CHARGED MIRKARIMI WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE AFTER A NEW YEAR'S DISPUTE WITH HIS WIFE. FLORES IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO COURT ON MONDAY TO CONTINUE THE HEARING BUT FIRST 185 PROSPECTIVE JURORS WILL RETURN TO COURT FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF JURY SELECTION. A TRICKY SELECTION -- BECAUSE MANY OF THEM MIGHT HAVE VOTED FOR MIRKIRIMI OR HAVE HEARD ABOUT THIS PROFILE CASE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... THE BAY AREA MIGHT NOT BE A REPUBLICAN HOTBED -- BUT IT IS FILLED W/ MONEY -- AND

SUPPORT FOR MITT ROMNEY. THE REPUBLICAN FRONT RUNNER IS COMING TO TOWN. SUPPORTERS WILL HOST THE FORMER MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR IN REDWOOD CITY ON MARCH 26TH. AMONG ROMNEY'S PROMINENT SUPPORTERS...HP'S MEG WHITMAN, SUN MICRO SYSTEMS CO-FOUNDER SCOTT MCNEALY AND GOLDMAN SACHS MANAGING DIRECTOR BRAD DEFOOR. TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST-- STARTING AT \$1000.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... THERE'S CALM AT THE STATE CAPITOL -- FOLLOWING HOURS OF CHAOS YESTERDAY . TONIGHT -- THE MAJORITY OF THE PROTESTORS ARRESTED --- HAVE BEEN RELEASED. OFFICERS HANDCUFFED 72 PEOPLE IN ALL, MOST FOR REFUSING TO LEAVE THE STATE CAPITOL AT CLOSING TIME. MANY OF THE PROTESTORS WERE COLLEGE STUDENTS, OUTRAGED BY THE RISING COST OF TUITION. OTHERS IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS OCCUPIERS. THE CHP CITED 66 PEOPLE FOR TRESPASSING, AND RELEASED THEM ABOUT THREE HOURS LATER AT A 24-HOUR WAL-MART. OFFICERS SAY THEY WANTED TO GIVE THE PROTESTORS A CHANCE TO GET A SNACK, AFTER BEING BARRICADED INSIDE THE CAPITOL FOR UP TO 12 HOURS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/9/12 REPORTED... THE FIGHT TO KEEP A CONTROVERSIAL VIDEOTAPE FROM BEING USED AS EVIDENCE IN THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRIAL AGAINST SAN FRANCISCO SHERIFF ROSS MIRKARIMI --IS STILL NOT OVER. A COURT DECIDED THE APPEAL BROUGHT BY THE LAWYER REPRESENTING ELIANA LOPEZ, MIRKARIMI'S WIFE, WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. BUT NOW THE SHERIFF'S DEFENSE TEAM IS CHALLENGING THE VIDEOTAPE ONCE AGAIN. HIS ATTORNEYS WANT THE TAPE EXCLUDED BECAUSE PROSECUTORS ARE ATTEMPTING TO USE LESS THAN ONE MINUTE OF VIDEO TO MAKE UP FOR THE FACT THAT LOPEZ IS REFUSING TESTIFY. THE TEAM'S **LAST** TRY AT BARRING THE VIDEO WAS SHOT-DOWN BY THE JUDGE, WHO ALSO RULED TODAY THAT A U-C BERKELEY PROFESSOR **WILL** BE ALLOWED TO TESTIFY FOR THE PROSECUTION. THE PROFESSOR WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER WRITE A TEXTBOOK ON THE TOPIC OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HAS SERVED AS A CONSULTANT IN 55 OTHER ABUSE TRIALS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/14/12 REPORTED... IN DECISION 2012 -- THE FIGHT FOR DELEGATES IS FAR REACHING. TONIGHT, RICK SANTORUM IS IN PUERTO RICO IN PURSUIT OF ANOTHER GAME-CHANGING VICTORY. HIS RIVAL, MITT ROMNEY, IS HEADED THERE FRIDAY. SANTORUM MET WITH PUERTO RICO'S GOVERNOR AHEAD OF SUNDAY'S PRIMARY THERE. HIS VISIT COMES AFTER KEY VICTORIES LAST NIGHT IN ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI. DESPITE THAT -- ROMNEY IS STILL LEADING IN THE DELEGATE COUNT -- IN FACT -- HE SCORED OVERNIGHT VICTORIES IN HAWAII AND AMERICAN SAMOA. ROMNEY IS CURRENTLY FUNDRAISING IN NEW YORK AND PUT NEARLY ONE-MILLION DOLLARS INTO T-V ADS IN ILLINOIS -- THE NEXT BIG-STATE SHOWDOWN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/20/12 REPORTED... SEXUAL HARRASMENT ACCUSATIONS ARE SURFACING IN THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT. CHIEF "DAVID MUHAMMAD" HAS BEEN SUSPENDED AFTER AN EMPLOYEE FILED A LAWSUIT AGAINST HIM TODAY. THE DEPUTY OFFICER'S ATTORNEY CLAIMS MUHAMMAD HARASSED HER ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS FOR FOUR MONTHS LAST YEAR. SHE ADDS THAT THE BOARD WAS "NEGLIGENT" IN HIRING MUHAMMAD BECAUSE AN EMPLOYEE WHO WORKED FOR HIM IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ALSO HAD SIMILAR COMPLAINTS. THE INVESTIGATION IS BEING HANDLED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL KAMALA HARRIS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/26/12 REPORTED... PROTESTERS ARE GATHERED OUTSIDE A PENINSULA HOTEL RIGHT NOW,

DEMONSTRATING AGAINST REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL, MITT ROMNEY. ROMNEY IS APPEARING AT A FUNDRAISER AT A HOTEL IN REDWOOD SHORES. TICKETS FOR THE EVENT START AT A-THOUSAND DOLLARS PER PERSON. THE ACTIVISTS ARE FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT GROUPS, LATINO, "OCCUPY", AND OTHERS. ROMNEY STARTED HIS CAMPAIGN SWING THIS MORNING IN SAN DIEGO. HE'LL ATTEND THREE MORE CALIFORNIA EVENTS TOMORROW. HIS RIVAL, RICK SANTORUM, JOINED PROTESTORS OPPOSED TO OBAMA-CARE TODAY OUTSIDE THE U-S SUPREME COURT BUILDING. HE'S ALSO HEADED WEST THIS WEEK-- WITH A RALLY AND FUNDRAISER ON THURSDAY AT THE *JELLY BELLY CANDY COMPANY* IN FAIRFIELD -- A TREAT THAT WAS A BIG FAVORITE WITH ANOTHER REPUBLICAN: PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN.

HEALTH/NUTRITION & DISEASE

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... IN HEALTH MATTERS..THE EFFECTS OF A CONCUSSION COULD LAST IN YOUR CHILD FOR UP TO A YEAR. NEW STUDY OUT OF OHIO REVEALS THAT WHILE MOST CHILDREN FULLY RECOVER WITHIN A FEW MONTHS AFTER A CONCUSSION 20-PERCENT DO NOT. THE MOST COMMON PROBLEM WAS FORGETFULNESS ... BUT SOME STILL EXPERIENCED PERSISTENT ATTENTION DIFFICULTIES, HEADACHES AND FATIGUE A YEAR LATER. RESEARCHERS SAY THESE CHILDREN MAY NEED EXTRA TIME TAKING TESTS AT SCHOOL OR BE ALLOWED TO WEAR SUNGLASSES IF BRIGHT LIGHTS CAUSE HEADACHES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/7/12 REPORTED... IN HEALTH MATTERS SCIENTISTS MAY HAVE FOUND A WAY TO TRICK THE IMMUNE SYSTEM INTO ACCEPTING ORGANS FROM UNMATCHED DONORS. A STUDY IN "SCIENCE TRANS-NATIONAL MEDICINE" FOUND THAT TRANSFERRING BONE MARROW CELLS FROM A KIDNEY DONOR TO A PATIENT REDUCED THE NEED FOR THE PATIENT TO TAKE ANTI-REJECTION DRUGS. OUT OF 8 KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PATIENTS TREATED WITH THIS NEW APPROACH, 5 WERE ABLE TO AVOID TAKING ANTI-REJECTION DRUGS A YEAR AFTER THEIR SURGERY. RESEARCHERS SAY THE FINDINGS ARE "PRELIMINARY", BUT BELIEVE THE WORK COULD ONE DAY HELP PATIENTS AVOID TAKING A LIFE TIME OF MEDICATIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/7/12 REPORTED... ANOTHER TWIST IN THE DEBATE OVER HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY. NEW RESEARCH SHOWS IT MAY RELIEVE SYMPTOMS OF MENOPAUSE FOR SOME WOMEN -- AND MAY ALSO LOWER THEIR RISK FOR BREAST CANCER. PREVIOUS STUDIES SUGGESTED THE OPPOSITE. THE NEW STUDY FOUND WOMEN WHO TOOK ESTROGEN-ONLY PILLS HAD A TWENTY PERCENT LOWER RISK FOR DEVELOPING BREAST CANCER, COMPARED TO WOMEN TAKING PLACEBO PILLS. THEY ALSO EXPERIENCED FEWER HOT FLASHES AND NIGHT SWEATS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/9/12 REPORTED... SHERLOCK HOLMES IS KNOWN FOR SMOKING HIS TRADEMARK PIPE BUT ONE BAY AREA GROUP WANTS TO SEE SMOKING SCENES IN MOVIES EXTINGUISHED. BREATHE CALIFORNIA SAYS THERE'S NEW EVIDENCE WHEN KIDS SEE CHARACTERS LIGHTING UP ON THE BIG SCREEN THEY'RE MORE LIKELY TO START SMOKING THEMSELVES. BREATHE GAVE A BIG THUMBS DOWN TO THE MOVIE HUGO FOR ITS SMOKING SCENES. SPECIFICALLY RANGO SHOWED MORE THAN 50 SMOKING SCENES BREATHE'S PRESIDENT SAYS MORE AND MORE ANIMATED BLOCKBUSTERS LIKE RANGO ARE SHOWING CHARACTERS LIGHTING UP. THIS SAN JOSE EIGHTH GRADER BELIEVES SOME KIDS MOVIES HAVE ALREADY CONVINCED SOME OF HER CLASSMATES SMOKING IS COOL SHE SAYS SHE WANTS TO PROTECT HER YOUNGER SISTER WHO WILL WANT TO WATCH MOVIES LIKE RANGO. SHE DOESN'T WANT HER TO START THINKING LIGHTING UP IS COOL. SWAY-THA

ADMITS WE GO TO THE MOVIES TO ESCAPE, BUT SAYS YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE FACT SMOKING IS AN ADDICTIVE HABIT THAT CAN BE DEADLY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/12/12 REPORTED... SUGARY DRINKS NOT SO SWEET WHEN IT COMES TO MEN'S HEART HEALTH. RESEARCHERS AT HARVARD ASKED 40 THOUSAND MEN, QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR DIET IN A 20 YEAR STUDY. THE BAD NEWS: MEN WHO DRANK A SODA OR SWEETENED JUICE DRINK A DAY HAD A 20 PERCENT INCREASED RISK FOR HEART DISEASE. THIS RISK EXISTED EVEN AFTER RESEARCHERS ACCOUNTED FOR OTHER FACTORS LIKE SMOKING AND FAMILY HISTORY. ARTIFICIALLY SWEETENED DRINKS WERE NOT FOUND TO INCREASE THE RISK. THE STUDY WAS PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL "CIRCULATION".

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/13/12 REPORTED... WHAT'S IN THE WATER? SOME STUNNING RESULTS FROM A STUDY OF THE DRINKING WATER IN THE CENTRAL COAST. ONE IN TEN PEOPLE LIVING THERE RISK EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL LEVELS OF NITRATE CONTAMINATION IN THEIR WATER. A NEW STUDY BY UC DAVIS SHOWS HIGH LEVELS OF NITRATE CAN CAUSE THE SKIN TO TURN BLUE, PARTICULARLY AROUND THE EYES AND MOUTH AND REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF OXYGEN GOING TO VITAL ORGANS SUCH AS THE BRAIN. INFANTS AND PREGNANT WOMEN ARE ESPECIALLY SUSCEPTIBLE. NITRATE COMES FROM ANIMAL WASTE AND FERTILIZERS. THE STUDY ALSO FINDS CLOSE TO 250-THOUSAND PEOPLE LIVING IN THE FRESNO, BAKERSFIELD, SALINAS AND MONTEREY AREAS ARE AT RISK OF DRINKING NITRATE-CONTAMINATED WATER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/14/12 REPORTED... FOR THE LAST 60 YEARS, MEDICAL EXPERTS HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT WOMEN GET A PAP SMEAR EVERY YEAR BUT THAT COULD SOON CHANGE. TONIGHT -- NEW, NATIONAL GUIDELINES RELEASED BY THE US PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE SAY MOST WOMEN SHOULD WAIT AT LEAST THREE YEARS BETWEEN PAP SMEARS. THE GUIDELINES ALSO RECOMMEND WOMEN UNDER 21-YEARS OLD AND WOMEN OVER SIXTY-FIVE WITH A CLEAN PAP SMEAR HISTORY -- *NOT* BE TESTED AT ALL. WOMEN IN THEIR THIRTIES, FORTIES, AND FIFTIES HAVE AN OPTION TO WAIT EVERY *FIVE* YEARS -- IF THEY COMBINE THEIR PAP TEST WITH AN H-P-V TEST -- *AND* BOTH COME BACK NEGATIVE. DOCTORS SAY FEWER SCREENINGS WILL MOST LIKELY LEAD TO FEWER FALSE POSITIVES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/15/12 REPORTED... SCHOOL LUNCH WITH OR WITHOUT PINK SLIME? TODAY, THE U-S-D-A ANNOUNCED IT WILL GIVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS A CHOICE ON USING MEAT WITH OR WITHOUT THE CONTROVERSIAL FILLER. THE SO-CALLED PINK SLIME IS AN ADDITIVE... OFTEN FOUND IN GROUND BEEF IN SCHOOL LUNCHES. THE PRODUCT IS MADE OF BEEF TRIM AND TREATED WITH AN AMMONIA WASH TO KILL BACTERIA. PINK SLIME HAS COME UNDER FIRE FOR ITS NUTRITIONAL VALUE AND HOW IT'S MADE BUT THE BEEF INDUSTRY SAYS ITS PERFECTLY SAFE. THE U-S-D-A SAYS THE DECISION WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM DISTRICTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND TAKES EFFECT NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/15/12 REPORTED... IN SAN FRANCISCO TODAY, ORGANIZERS OF A WOMEN'S HEALTH FORUM FOUND THE RECENT CONTROVERSY OVER ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL GAVE THEM LOTS TO DISCUSS. SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY HOSTED THE EVENT, TITLED, "DON'T TURN BACK THE CLOCK" -- IN CONJUNCTION WITH WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH. CONGRESSWOMAN JACKIE SPEIER TOLD THE CROWD PRESERVING WOMEN'S HEALTH IS NOT CHEAP, AND IT'S NOT NEGOTIABLE AND SHE PRAISED CHANGES COMING FOR YOUNG WOMEN UNDER THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S NEW HEALTHCARE LAW, WHICH REQUIRES CHURCH-AFFILIATED EMPLOYERS TO COVER BIRTH CONTROL. STUDENTS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND LAWMAKERS PARTICIPATED IN THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS TODAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/23/12 REPORTED... TWO YEARS AGO TODAY... PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SIGNED THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL INTO LAW. SINCE THAT POINT -- MOST REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS HAVE VOWED TO REPEAL IT. IN LOUISIANA THIS MORNING, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MITT ROMNEY CALLED HEALTH CARE REFORM THE CENTER PIECE OF A "FAILED PRESIDENCY". HE BLASTED THE BILL AS AN ATTACK ON PERSONAL FREEDOM AND FREE MARKETS..AND OUTLINED HIS OWN APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE REFORM. OPPONENTS ARE SCHEDULED TO ARGUE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE LAW BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT NEXT WEEK. MEANWHILE, THE WHITE HOUSE RELEASING A STATEMENT TODAY IN ITS DEFENSE -- SAYING IT HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, AND OVER TIME, IT WILL HELP GIVE EVEN MORE WORKING AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES THE SECURITY THEY DESERVE.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS/SAFETY & SECURITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/1/12 REPORTED... THE ACCUSED KILLER OF THREE STUDENTS IN AN OHIO HIGH SCHOOL, 17- YEAR OLD T-J LANE, WAS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH MURDER TODAY IN JUVENILE COURT. PROSECUTORS SAY THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO TRY LANE AS AN ADULT. THAT MEANS HE WOULD BE FACING THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE IF CONVICTED. HE IS CHARGED WITH THREE COUNTS OF AGGRAVATED MURDER, TWO COUNTS OF ATTEMPTED AGGRAVATED MURDER AND ONE COUNT OF FELONIOUS ASSAULT. MEANWHILE, STUDENTS WENT BACK TO SCHOOL THIS MORNING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE SHOOTING. HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A WALK OF SOLIDARITY IN THE TOWN'S MAIN SQUARE. MANY OF THEM WERE DRESSED IN THEIR SCHOOL COLORS OF RED AND BLACK, WITH THEIR PARENTS WALKING ALONGSIDE THEM. WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVED AT THE SCHOOL, THEY WERE GREETED WITH A HUG FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT. ONE OF THE STUDENTS WOUNDED IN THE SHOOTING IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL, IN SERIOUS CONDITION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/2/12 REPORTED... SOME OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY IN THE WORLD IS AT NASA-- AND YET THE SPACE AGENCY REPORTS HACKERS BROKE INTO ITS COMPUTER SYSTEMS 13-TIMES LAST YEAR. NASA ADMINISTRATORS CLAIM THE CYBER CRIMINALS STOLE EMPLOYEE CREDENTIALS AND GAINED ACCESS TO PROJECTS WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL SECURITY. THE AGENCY'S INSPECTOR GENERAL SAYS THE HACKERS WORKED THROUGH A CHINESE I-P ADDRESS, AND BROKE INTO THE COMPUTER SYSTEM AT THE JET PROPULSION LAB IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. NASA ADMITS IT SPENDS ONLY 58 MILLION DOLLARS OF ITS BILLION-DOLLAR BUDGET ON CYBER SECURITY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/5/12 REPORTED... IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE PARENTS OF TEENAGE GIRLS. VITAMIN-D APPEARS TO BE KEY IN PREVENTING STRESS FRACTURES. RESEARCHERS AT "CHILDRENS HOSPITAL BOSTON" FOUND THAT HIGH IMPACT SPORTS CAN LEAD TO TINY CRACKS IN BONES IN ACTIVE

TEENAGE GIRLS. THESE CRACKS ARE KNOWN AS "STRESS FRACTURES". TO PREVENT THEM, NUTRITIONISTS RECOMMEND THAT GIRLS GET 600-UNITS OF VITAMIN-D A DAY. THAT'S ABOUT TWO TO THREE GLASSES OF MILK, PLUS A SERVING OF YOGURT. CALCIUM BY ITSELF WAS NOT SHOWN TO REDUCE THE RISK THE FRACTURES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... THE STATE PUC WANTS PG&E'S SHAREHOLDERS TO PAY FOR INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS TO REVIEW SAFETY AND SECURITY PROPOSALS MADE BY THE UTILITY. SINCE THE 2010 SAN BRUNO PIPELINE EXPLOSION, PG&E HAS BEEN REVIEWING ITS SAFETY AND SECURITY PROCEDURES, AND MAKING CHANGES. THE UTILITY WANTS CUSTOMERS TO PAY THE LION'S SHARE OF A 5 BILLION DOLLAR PLAN TO BOOST SAFETY. THE CPUC WANTS AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSALS AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO FACTOR SAFETY AND SECURITY INTO THE RATEMAKING PROCESS. NO WORD ON WHO WOULD HIRE THE CONSULTANTS, OR HOW LONG THE ANALYSIS WOULD TAKE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/6/12 REPORTED... THEY KNEW AN EARTHQUAKE WAS GOING TO HIT BEFORE IT HAPPENED. TECHNOLOGY AT STANFORD DETECTED SHAKING FROM MONDAY'S QUAKE 10-SECONDS BEFORE IT HIT THE UNIVERSITY.

STANFORD'S "QUAKE CATCHER NETWORK" USED A SERIES OF SENSORS PLUGGED INTO THE COMPUTERS OF 2-THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS. THE SENSORS ARE RELATIVELY LOW COST AND SEND DATA TO STANFORD THROUGH THE INTERNET. THE SYSTEM CAN BE USED TO ALERT USERS BEFORE THE STRONGER SHAKING HITS. RESEARCHERS SAY THE FEW SECONDS OF ADVANCE NOTICE COULD BE CRITICAL IN SAVING LIVES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/8/12 REPORTED... 'KONY 20-12' - IS AN INTERNET SENSATION. THE FILM'S DIRECTOR SAYS THE FILM IS MOSTLY ACURATE -- HE DOES ADMIT -- HE GENERALIZED MANY OF THE POLITCAL ISSUES. NONETHELESS -- THE MESSAGE HAS GONE VIRAL. "KONY 20-12"...NOW THE FASTEST GROWING VIRAL VIDEO IN HISTORY. MADE BY THE ORGANIZATION "INVISIBLE CHILDREN", THE VIDEO DOCUMENTS THE BRUTALITY OF UGANDAN REBEL LEADER "JOSEPH KONY" AND THE "LORDS RESISTANCE ARMY", KNOWN FOR KIDNAPPING CHILDREN AND TURNING THEM INTO SOLDIERS. POSTED ONLINE MONDAY, THE VIDEO ALREADY HAS OVER 70 MILLION VIEWS ON YOUTUBE AND VIMEO. "INVISIBLE CHILDREN" CREDITS YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL MEDIA. THE VIDEO DOES HAVE CRITICS THOUGH, MOST NOTABLY THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT WHO SAY THE COUNTRY IS SAFE AND KONY FLED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. MANY OF TH EPRBLEMS ARE NOW IN CONGO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/13/12 REPORTED... THERE IS NEW INFORMATION TONIGHT ON THE SOLDIER WHO IS ACCUSED OF KILLING 16 AFGHANISTAN CIVILIANS. U.S. OFFICIALS NOW SAY ON THE NIGHT OF THE SHOOTING A SEARCH PARTY WENT OUT LOOKING FOR THE MISSING 38-YEAR-OLD STAFF SERGEANT WHO STILL HASN'T BEEN IDENTIFIED BY NAME. WHEN THEY ASKED HIM ABOUT THE SHOOTING, HE SAID, "I DID IT."

THE SOLDIERS THEN TOOK HIM INTO CUSTODY. WHATEVER THE CAUSE, AFGHANISTAN IS NOW DEALING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES. TODAY, A FEW HUNDRED STUDENTS FROM AN ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY BURNED A CROSS AND AN EFFIGY OF PRESIDENT OBAMA. JUST MOMENTS AGO, WE'VE LEARNED GUNMEN ATTACKED A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE 16 VICTIMS. MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT OBAMA IS CALLING FOR A SWIFT INVESTIGATION. THE U.S. SOLDIER HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN HAVING MARITAL PROBLEMS AND RECENTLY RECEIVED A BAD LETTER FROM HIS WIFE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 3/20/12 REPORTED... FRENCH PRESIDENT NICOLAS SARKOZY SAYS A "MONSTER" IS ON THE LOOSE. FRANCE REMAINS ON HIGH ALERT, WHILE A MASSIVE MANHUNT IS UNDERWAY, FOR THE PERSON

RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING THREE CHILDREN AND A RABBI, AT A JEWISH SCHOOL IN (TOO-LOOZ) YESTERDAY.

AN EMOTIONAL MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS HELD AT THE SCHOOL TODAY, WHILE MOMENTS OF SILENCE TOOK PLACE THROUGHOUT FRANCE. MEANWHILE, WITNESSES ARE TELLING POLICE THE GUNMAN WHO SPED AWAY ON A MOTORBIKE, WAS WEARING A FILMING DEVICE AT THE TIME, POSSIBLY WANTING TO BROADCAST THE FOOTAGE ON THE INTERNET.

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