

QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAM LIST 4TH QUARTER 2016

KRON-TV
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ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

KRON-TV programs that regularly address issues of community concern include (but are not limited to) the following:

KRON 4 Morning News, a weekday news/informational program aired 4 am to 10 am, includes reports and indepth features, typically of 30 seconds to 2 minutes in duration, dealing with community issues in addition to the day's major news stories.

KRON 4 News @ 5, a weekday news/informational program aired 5 pm to 6 pm, includes reports and features, typically of 30 seconds to 2 minutes in duration, dealing with community issues, and the day's major news stories.

KRON 4 News @ 6, a weekday news/informational program aired 6 pm to 7 pm, includes reports and features, typically of 30 seconds to 2 minutes, dealing with community issues, and the day's major news stories.

KRON 4 News @ 8, a daily prime time news/informational program aired from 8 pm to 9 pm, includes reports and features, typically 30 seconds to 2 minutes long, dealing with community issues, and the day's major news stories.

KRON 4 News @ 10, a daily prime time news/informational program aired from 10 pm to 11 pm, includes reports and features, typically 30 seconds to 2 minutes long, dealing with community issues and the day's major news stories.

KRON 4 News @ 11, a daily news/informational program aired 11 pm to 11:15 pm, providing a summary of the day's headlines, featuring both community issues and major news stories.

KRON 4 Morning News Weekend, a weekend news/informational program aired Saturdays and Sundays 7 am to 10 am, includes reports and in-depth features, dealing with community issues and major news stories.

The following pages summarize program and program segments that provided the most significant treatment of community issues during the past quarter. Programming frequently deals with more than one issue.

KRON-TV has presented programs addressing these issues:

CRIME
DIVERSITY
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENT
HEALTH
HOUSING
TRANSPORTATION

Listed in the following pages are a sampling of typical and illustrative programs used to meet those problems and needs. These programs were broadcast during the preceding three-month period.

4Q16 CRIME

CRIME

10/4/16 KRON 4 Evening News Creepy clown phenomenon

NOW AT FIVE. HEIGHTENED SECURITY AT SEVERAL BAY AREA SCHOOLS TONIGHT AFTER A SOCIAL MEDIA THREAT INVOLVING CLOWNS. THESE MESSAGES ARE THREATING VIOLENCE. IT'S NOT JUST HAPPENING HERE IN THE BAY AREA BUT ACROSS THE NATION. CLOWN THREATS AND EVEN SIGHTINGS IN SOME PLACES IN THE U.S. HAVE PARENTS ON EDGE AFTER THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF THESE CLOWNS ACTUALLY CHASING CHILDREN.

IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER. AS KRON 4'S TERISA ESTACIO REPORTS THE FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVED ONE OF THESE THREATS THIS MORNING AND IS NOW DOING EVEYTHING IT CAN TO KEEP THE STUDENTS SAFE.

AT GRANGE MIDDLE SCHOOL, A POLICE CAR SITS OUT FRONT AND OTHER PATROL CARS ARE CLOSE BY, ALL BECAUSE OF THIS – A SOCIAL MEDIA THREAT WITH A CLOWN REFERENCE, WARNING TWO SCHOOLS TO GET READY. IT IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF THREATS INVOLVING SCHOOLS AND CLOWNS AND NOW THIS ONE IS RIGHT HERE IN THE BAY AREA.

Jeff Osgood, Fairfield Police Department: "It appears that it is an anonymous posting and it involves a viral video posting involving osme clowns across the country."

THE THREAT DIRECTLY MENTIONS TWO SCHOOLS, GRANGE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BOTH IN FAIRFIELD.

Osgood: "So far, we do not believe they are credible threats."

Andrew Ownby, Fairfield USD spokesperson; "Safety is number one."

SOT/TC: SO FAR WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE CREDIBLE THREATS.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS SAY A STAFF MEMBER FIRST NOTICED THE POST MONDAY NIGHT. THE DISTRICT HAS PUT UP POSTINGS FOR PARENTS TO REASSURE THEIR FEARS, BUT THAT DID NOT PREVENT THIS PERSON FROM COMING DOWN TO SCHOOL.

Eula Anderson, grandmother; "We are taking him out."

OTHER PARENTS ARE ALSO ALARMED.

ERICA Ojeda, parent: "I hope they catch whoever it is."

Ownby: "It is a felony. Threats are not protected speech."

LATE TUESDAY, HOWEVER, THE POST WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

POLICE SAY THEY PLAN TO CONTACT OTHER CITIES IN OTHER STATES WHERE THEY HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR CLOWN RELATED THREATS. POLICE ARE ALSO OFFERING THIS WARNING TO PARENTS, ASKING THEM TO MAKE SURE CHILDREN DO NOT COMMUNICATE ONLINE WITH THE PERSON WHOEVER IT IS AND WHEREVER THEY MAY BE.

TERISA ESTACIO KRON 4 NEWS

CRIME

10/5/16 KRON 4 Evening News Creepy clown gets worse

NOW AT FIVE. A MOTHER VISIBLY SHAKEN AFTER HER ENCOUNTER AT A CONCORD BUS STOP WITH SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE A CLOWN. IT'S NOT HALLOWEEN YET-, BUT CLOWNS ARE ALREADY MAKING HEADLINES ALL ACROSS THE NATION. AND NOT IN A GOOD WAY.

YESTERDAY WE TOLD YOU ABOUT SEVERAL BAY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS RECEIVING THREATS FROM PEOPLE DRESSED AS CLOWNS THREATENING VIOLENCE. THOSE THREATS HAVE SINCE BEEN DEEMED A HOAX.

HOWEVER TONIGHT, A CONCORD MOTHER SAYS A CLOWN ACTUALLY TRIED TO GRAB HER CHILD. KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN WAS THERE WHEN CONCORD POLICE GOT THE CALL. HE BRINGS US THE STORY.

Corporal Chris Blakely, Concord Police Dept.: "So we just got a call about one of these evil clowns."

Tiffany Martin, victim "When we get to the bus stop it's a clown there."

Concord police dispatch: "Have we been in contact with the complainant in the clown caper?"

IT WAS SCARY SITUATION FOR TIFFANY MARTIN AND HER ONE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER KISSANNI. MARTIN SAYS SHE AND HER DAUGHTER WERE HERE AT THIS BUS STOP ON WILLOW PASS ROAD AT WATERWORLD PARKWAY IN CONCORD, JUST AFTER 1PM, WHEN A MAN DRESSED IN A CLOWN SUIT ATTEMPTED TO SNATCH KISSANNI OUT OF HER HANDS. SHE SAYS INITIALLY THE CLOWN APPEARED TO BE NICE...

Martin: "He was smiling at her, sitting there with us and then he grabbed her hand. Then he tried to pull, once he grabbed and I pulled back and I kicked the #\$&*^ out of him."

AFTER SHE KICKED HIM THE CLOWN TOOK OFF RUNNING DOWN WILLOW PASS ROAD.

Martin: "This man didn't have clown shoes on, just a blue wig, with curly hair."

I WAS RIDING ALONG WITH CONCORD POLICE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER BLAKELY, WORKING ON ANOTHER STORY, WHEN THE CALL ABOUT THE CLOWN CAME IN.

Cpl. Blakely: "You know, you keep hearing this discussion about scary clowns at schools and the threats and now you have people on the streets dressed up in clown costumes trying to grab kids."

CONCORD POLICE CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH OF THE AREA BUT DID NOT FIND THE MAN IN THE CLOWN SUIT.

Martin: "But that's what happened." Cpl. Blakely: "How scary."

Martin: "So I'm just saying that I am not comfortable in this area, at all, because what if I would have lost my child, I am not comfortable at all."

TIFFANY MARTIN DESCRIBES THE SUSPECT AS A WHITE MAN WITH BLUE EYES, WEARING A CURLY BLUE WIG AND A BLUE POLKADOT CLOWN SUIT. CONCORD POLICE ARE CONTINUNING THEIR PATROLS IN THE AREA, TRYING TO TRACK THIS PERSON DOWN BEFORE HE STRIKES AGAIN.

IN CONCORD HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

AND IN ANTIOCH TODAY, INVESTIGATORS ARE SEARCHING FOR WHO IS BEHIND A SERIES OF THREATENING CLOWN POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA TARGETING A MIDDLE SCHOOL. DAN KERMAN IS LIVE IN ANTIOCH TONIGHT WITH MORE ON THOSE THREATENING POSTS.

"Antioch isn't safe anymore. Never has been. Targeting Black Diamond Middle School, Dallas Ranch Middle School, Antioch High School, Deer Valley High School..."

IT'S INSTAGRAM POSTS LIKE THIS FROM "SCARY ANTIOCH CLOWN" THAT HAS STUDENTS AT DALLAS RANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL ON EDGE.

Deanna Hammons, 7th grader: "Oh yeah, there's posts on Instagram saying we're coming, we're going to shoot the teachers in the head."

THIS POST INSTRUCTS STUDENTS WHO WANT TO BE SAFE TO WEAR BLUE. EIGHTH GRADER DARELLE TROTTER SAYS THAT'S ONE REASON HE WAS WEARING BLUE TODAY AND ALSO

Darelle Trotter, 8th grader: "Because the Warriors won yesterday."

STUDENTS SAY ON TUESDAY PEOPLE DRESSED AS CLOWNS WERE SPOTTED ON CAMPUS.

Angel Romoero, 8th grader: "We've seen them getting out of a white van

Trotter: I seen one of them in the hallway. Then he made his way outside.

Hammons: "There were people in clown masks."

Trotter: "I was scared. Me and my friends just ran."

STUDENTS AREN'T SURE IF THE THREAT IS REAL OR A HOAX.

Rainer Yutuc, 8th grader: "Probably high school students playing around. Or maybe even students at this school."

Romero: "I know this is fake, but you never know so you always have to be cautious.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS SAY THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO INDEPENDENTLY CONIRM ANY OF THIS BUT ANTIOCH POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TRACK DOWN ANY OF THE INSTAGRAM POSTS.

DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

CRIME

10/6/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Update on freeway shootings

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME 30 FREEWAY SHOOTINGS IN THE BAY AREA OVER THE PAST YEAR. AS BULLETS SPRAY ACROSS MAIN ARTERY ROADWAYS, COMMUTERS HAVE BEEN CONCERENED FOR THEIR SAFETY. ONE CITY TOOK MATTERS INTO THEIR HANDS AND INSTALLED CAMERAS ALONG A MAIN CORRIDOR IN THE EAST BAY. KRON 4'S ELLA SOGOMONIAN IS LIVE IN PITTSBURG WHERE POLICE SAY THE EYE IN THE SKY SEEMS TO BE WORKING.

PITTSBURG POLICE REPORT SINCE THEIR LAST SHOOTING BACK IN JUNE THERE HAVE BEEN NO SHOOTINGS ALONG HIGHWAY FOUR AND THEY ARE GIVING THE CREDIT TO HIGH RESOLUTION CAMERAS.

THIS SPRING TWO FATAL SHOOTINGS LEFT HIGHWAY FOUR CORRIDOR COMMUTERS ON EDGE...

Captain Ron Raman, Pittsburg Police Department: "The community around here is very close so you never know who it could be. It could be your neighbor, your coworker, your friend. So you hope everyone comes home safe."

...FORCING POLICE TO COME UP WITH A PLAN.

Capt. Raman: "Our chief went to the City Council and requested funds to put cameras on the freeway."

THE COUNCIL APPROVED 100 THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BE REDIRECTED TO PURCHASING AND INSTALLING CAMERAS ALONG THE FREEWAY. THE HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES AND AUDIO CAN BE ACCESSED FROM ALL OFFICER'S CELL PHONES AND HAVE HIGH POWER ZOOM AND TILT OPTIONS TO BETTER CATCH DETAILS AND HOPEFULLY DETER CRIMINALS FROM COMMITTING VIOLENT CRIMES ON THE HIGHWAY.

Capt. Raman: "And if there was a violent crime committed on a freeway, we would have the means and resources to arrest the suspect involved in it."

BUT THERE HASN'T BEEN A NEED YET AS A QUICK FREEWAY GETAWAY SEEMS TO BE A THING OF THE PAST. PITTSBURG POLICE REPORT NO SHOOTINGS ON HIGHWAY 4 SINCE THE LAST INCIDENT IN JUNE. BUT THE CAMERAS HAVE ALSO COME IN HANDY FOR RETURNING STOLEN CARS TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS.

Capt. Raman: "Because we have automated license plate readers, at least 30 stolen vehicles have been recovered and over 30 people have been arrested in the past three months."

DESPITE THE BENEFITS THERE ARE SOME CONCERNED FOR INVASION OF PRIVACY BY HAVING THIS EYE IN THE SKY ON HIGHWAY 4.

Commuter: "You know cameras these days they can zoom in and see what's going on, but I mean you're out there on the road. It's public. You're being recorded everywhere you go."

Commuter: "Moneywise I think it could be funded for other things. And I think it also does breach privacy in its own way, but it is public."

LIVE IN PITTSBURG ELLA SOGOMONIAN KRON 4 NEWS

CRIME

10/20/16 KRON 4 Evening News How one local town is dealing with increased crime

THE DANVILLE AREA HAS SEEN A RECENT SPIKE IN CRIME. NOW, DANVILLE'S POLICE DEPARTMENT IS INSTALLING MORE THAN A DOZEN LICENSE PLATE READERS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. KRON4 'S TERESISA ESTACIO TELLS US FINGERS THERE ARE CROSSED THAT THIS WILL DETER SOME CRIMINALS AND PUT THE BRAZEN CROOKS BEHIND BARS.

COMING SOON TO THIS INTERSECTION IN DANVILLE AND 12 OTHERS – LICENSE PLATE READERS LIKE THIS ONE WILL BE INSTALLED.

Lt. Allen Shields, Danville police: "The goal is to put the cameras at the entry and exit points to town so that as cars come and go we'll be able to look bck and determine which cars were in an area where a cdrime has been committed

THIS IS LT. ALLAN SHIELDS WITH THE DANVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT HE TELLS KRON FOUR NEWS - THE CITY COUNCIL RECENTLY VOTED TO FUND THE PROJECT.

Shields: "We'd seen an increase in property crimes over a two year period and it was about a ten percent increase year over year and we wanted to come up with a creative and innovative way to combat the uptick that we'd seen."

SEE THESE PICTURES - THESE TWO ARE WANTED INTO CONNECTION WITH A HOME INVASTION ON MONDAY NIGHT IN DANVILLE. POLICE SAY AT LEAST ONE WAS ABLE TO SLIP INTO THE HOME WHILE THE RESDIENTS WERE SLEEPING AND STEAL SEVERAL ITEMS, INCLUDING A PURSE, CREDIT CARDS AND A LAPTOP. LT. SHIELDS SAYS WITH THE LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM - IT COULD HELP OUT IN CATCHING CRIMINALS LIKE THESE.

Shields: "It's another tool that we could have added to the information that we already have to try to located the suspects."

IN ADDITION TO INTERSECTIONS AROUND TOWN, SIX POLICE CARS WILL ALSO HAVE LICENSE PLATE READERS. THEY CAN SEE IF IT IS A STOLEN CAR. WHILE SOME PEOPLE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT CAMERAS, MOST RESIDENTS I SPOKE WITH WERE SUPPORTIVE.

Sandy Lanoire, Danville resident: "I like the idea. I think it's a good idea. We want to be safe heare and if hopefully the criminals aren't going to be around here because they'll think okay this town has cameras because everyone will know about it and that will help us be safe."

AS FOR WHEN THESE DEVICES ARE GOING TO BE UP AND RUNNING, THE PLAN IS TO HAVE THEM OPERATIONAL AT THOSE INTERSECTIONS BY THE END FO THE YEAR.

TE K4N

CRIME

10/25/16 KRON 4 Evening News Follow up on restaurant wallet thieves story

IT IS THE BIG BREAK THAT POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR. TWO WOMEN SEEN ON SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS STEALING WALLETS HAVE NOW BEEN IDENTIFIED. KRON4 WAS FIRST THE FIRST TO BREAK THIS STORY. OUR HAAZIQ MADYUN TALKS WITH POLICE WHO ARE HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO NAME NAMES.

Lt. Lanny Edwards, Walnut Creek Police Department: "The younger one was Crystal Pratt, a 32-year-old female out of Oakland. Her accomplice, the one that was the lookout has been identified as Ava Coleman, 47-years old with previous addresses in Fairfield."

THESE TWO WOMEN HAVE NOW BEEN IDENTIFIED AS SUSPECTS IN THREE WALLET THEFT INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED IN RESTAURANTS IN DOWNTOWN WALNUT CREEK OVER THE SUMMER. THIS VIDEO IS FROM THE ROOFTOP RESTAURANT. IT WAS RECORDED BACK IN AUGUST. INVESTIGATORS SAY IT SHOWS THE TWO SUSPECTS TAKING A WALLET FROM A VICTIM'S PURSE ON THE FLOOR. WE AIRED THIS VIDEO ON KRON4.

Lt. Edwards: "It's a big break! If it wasn't for your viewers and other police agencies that watch the news, we might still be on a fishing expedition."

WALNUT CREEK POLICE LT. LANNY EDWARDS SAYS TIPS FROM THE COMMUNITY LED INVESTIGATORS TO THESE SUSPECTS.

Lt. Edwards: "We have been actively looking for them. We did a probation search on Pratt's residence in Oakland. We recovered additional stolen property from other restaurants where credit cards were stolen."

INVESTIGATORS HAVE CONNECTED PRATT AND COLEMAN TO SIMILAR WALLET THEFT CRIMES IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, ALAMEDA COUNTY AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY.

Lt. Edwards: "We have arrest warrants for both subjects and we're hoping your viewers can help us track them down."

INVESTIGATORS SAY EVA COLEMAN MAY HAVE LEFT THE BAY AREA FOR OXNARD CALIFORNIA WHERE SHE IS KNOWN TO HAVE ANOTHER ADDRESS. POLICE SUSPECT CRYSTAL PRATT IS POSSIBLY WITH HER. IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW THEIR WHEREABOUTS, WALNUT CREEK POLICE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

IN WALNUT CREEK HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

CRIME

10/28/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm IRS impersonators

PROSECUTORS SAY IRS IMPERSONATORS HAVE SCAMMED PEOPLE OUT OF MORE THAN 300 MILLION DOLLARS. INVESTIGATORS SAY THE PERPETRATORS WERE WORKING FOR CALL CENTERS OUT OF INDIA. THE SCAMMERS APPARENTLY POSED AS GOVERNMENT AGENTS AND THREATENED PEOPLE WITH ARRESTS, FINES, OR DEPORTATIONS IF THEY DIDN'T PAY UP. SOME VICTIMS ARE SPEAKING OUT NOW HOPING OTHERS CAN LEARN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE.

Scam Victim: "Just stop and think. I don't think there's any government entity out there that demands some sort of immediate action, that you've always got time. They prey on... they make you feel desperate and you've always got time to respond."

Scam victim: "I would just tell people to stop, think for a moment, 'what does this sound like' and perhaps ask for a supervisor or say 'thank you very much' hang up and then maybe call the IRS and ask them, query them about your tax situation."

SIXTY-ONE ALLEGED SCAMMERS ARE NOW FACING CHARGES.

CRIME

11/2/16 KRON 4 Evening News Local city takes step to authorize body cameras

BODY CAMERAS WILL SOON BE ADDED TO UNIFORMS OF POLICE OFFICERS IN AN EAST BAY CITY. THE POLICE CHIEF MADE THE RECOMMEDATION LAST NIGHT AND THE CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BODY WORN CAMERAS. HOWEVER ONE CITY COUNCILMEMBER TELLS KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN WHY HE WAS INITIALLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE IDEA.

BODY CAMERAS ARE COMING TO WALNUT CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT. THIS IS VIDEO OF POLICE CHIEF TOM CHAPLIN MAKING HIS PITCH FOR THE NEW TECHNOLOGY AT TUESDAY NIGHT'S CITY COUNCIL MEETTING. THE CHIEF'S RECOMMEDATION FOR THE CAMERAS RECEIVED UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Bob Simmons, member Walnut Creek City Council: "There were those of us who expressed some concerns and I did as well."

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BOB SIMMONS SAYS INITIALLY HE WASN'T QUITE SURE THERE WAS A NEED FOR WALNUT CREEK OFFICERS TO WEAR BODY CAMERAS IN THIS RELATIVELY QUITE EAST BAY TOWN.

Simmons: "Our police department has a very high level of trust within the community. We have a very low level use of force rate, so some of us were saying do we really need this?"

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE WALNUT CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT LT. LANNY EDWARDS VIEWS BODY CAMERAS AS A PART OF 21ST CENTURY POLICING.

Lt. Lanny Edwards, Walnut Creek Police Department: "It is a part of modern day policing. It's getting to the point that those who don't have cameras are the exception instead of the rule."

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED THE AQUISTION OF 100 CAMERAS.

Simmons: "It is really a 3 phase plan and they start to roll it out slowly, with about 15 people at the beginning and they will expand it out in about a year, year and a half."

THE BODY WORN CAMERA PROGRAM INCLUDES COSTS FOR STORAGE, HIRING A FULLTIME ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST AND A PART-TIME PUBLIC RECORDS TECHNICIAN AMONG OTHER THINGS BRINGING THE TOTAL COST FOR A 3-YEAR CONTRACT TO 500-THOUSAND DOLLARS.

IN WALNUT CREEK HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4 NEWS

CRIME

11/4/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Warnings about skimmers at local gas stations

OFFICERS IN MILL VALLEY WANT TO HELP PEOPLE THERE IDENTIFY SKIMMING DEVICES ON GAS PUMP CREDIT CARD MACHINES. THIS HEADS UP COMES AFTER A SKIMMER DEVICE WAS FOUND AT A GAS STATION IN THAT AREA. OFFICERS SAY SOME OF THESE THINGS ARE NOT VISIBLE UNLESS THE GAS PUMP KEY PAD IS OPENED. SOME USE BLUETOOTH TECHNOLOGY TO STEAL CREDIT CARD INFORMATION. POLICE ARE TELLING PEOPLE TO LOOK FOR SIGNS OF A SKIMMER BEFORE PAYING FOR GAS. THOSE SIGNS CAN INCLUDE MORE THAN ONE CREDIT CARD READER, VISIBLE WIRES OUTSIDE THE MACHINE, AND TAPE HOLDING OBJECTS ON THE PUMP. AUTHORITIES ADVISE CUSTOMERS TO CHECK CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS REGULARLY FOR UNUSUAL CHARGES.

CRIME

11/17/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Local crime spree halted

A SERIES OF STRONG ARMED ROBBERIES TAKING PLACE IN AN EAST BAY CITY MAY HAVE COME TO AN END. POLICE INVESTIGATORS SAY, THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE THE PRIMARY SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY. AS KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN REPORTS, POLICE SAY THE ROBBERS WERE ALL FEMALES AND WERE ALL MINORS.

FIVE TEENAGE GIRLS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO ROB IN OAKLAND. THEIR TARGETS – WOMEN WALKING ALONE IN SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOODS

Officer Marco Maquez: "What we had here were five female suspects, ages 14 to 16, who were involved in robberies. These robberies took place in the area of the West Oakland BART station and the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as the Rockridge BART station and the surrounding neighborhoods."

SOME WOMEN IN ROCKRIDGE WERE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT THEY WERE BEING TARGETED BY THIEVES IN THIS NORTH OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD

Resident: "I'm very concerned, especially because I have a 2 year old toddler. Two or three days in a row there has been a lot of crime"

Resident: "I supposed here we are lulled into a false since of security because it's so lovely and it's so beautiful and there are all these lovely nice things, but I suppose there are security considerations that we forget about."

HOWEVER TEENAGE GIRLS BEING A SECURITY THREAT IS NOT THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND FOR THESE WOMEN.

Resident: "I mean that's not really who we usually picture as a hardened criminal."

Resident: "I'm wondering where their parents are? I think that's where it starts"

OAKLAND POLICE INVESTIGATORS SAY THE FIVE TEENAGE FEMALE SUSPECTS WERE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN A SERIES OF SIMILAR ROBBERIES.

Officer Marquez: "Right now we have connected with them to approximately ten other robberies that happened within the period October 25th to November 14th.

THE ROBBERY SPREE CAME TO END ON MONDAY WHEN PIEDMONT POLICE SPOTTED A STOLEN VEHICLE IN THEIR TOWN OCCUPIED BY WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE FEMALE ROBBERY CREW. OPD WAS CALLED IN TO MAKE THE ARRESTS.

Officer Maquez: "This case is a collaborative effort with the Piedmont Police Department and the BART Police Department."

OPD INVESTIGATORS SAY AT THE TIME OF THE ARRESTS THE SUSPECTS WERE IN POSSESSION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY REPORTED STOLEN BY SOME OF THE ROBBERY VICTIMS. IN OAKLAND HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

CRIME

11/17&19/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Residents warned of car burglary activity

POLICE IN HERCULES ARE WARNING PEOPLE TO BE ON HIGH ALERT AFTER A RASH IN CAR BREAK-INS. THERE WERE THREE JUST YESTERDAY. FIRST, AROUND EIGHT O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, A CAR STOLEN AND LATER FOUND CRASHED ON NEWBURY STREET. THEN, RIGHT BEFORE NOON, A CAR BURGLARY ON FRANKLIN CANYON GOLF COURSE WHERE A CAMERA WAS STOLEN. AND TEN MINUTES AFTER THAT, ANOTHER BURGLARY IN THE LOWER PARKING LOT OF THE FRANKLIN CANYON GOLF COURSE. MORE CAMERA EQUIPMENT WAS STOLEN.

SINCE OCTOBER FIRST, HERCULES POLICE HAVE RESPONDED TO AT LEAST 41 CASES OF AUTO BURGLARIES. THE MAJORITY OF THE CASES WERE WINDOW SMASHES, AND ELECTRONICS, BRIEF CASES, AND PURSES WERE TAKEN. THE CRIMES TYPICALLY HAPPEN IN THE EARLY MORNING.

SOME RESIDENTS ARE NOT SURPRISED.

Leah Conyers, resident: "I know that crime has risen here in Hercules. I don't know if it's people from the neighborhood that are doing this or form wherever."

Gianni Audieri, resident: "My assumption, and it's just an assumption, is they are not people from Hercules. They must be from the surrounding areas somehow."

POLICE SAY THE COMMON THREAD IS VALUABLES LEFT IN THE VEHICLE AND THEY ARE ADVISING RESIDENTS TO AVOID DOING THAT.

GIANNI AUDIERI KEEPS HIS CAR UNLOCKED.

Audieri: "You know what, if they break in I have to replace the window. If the car is open, they can just take whatever is inside, which is hardly anything,"

ANOTHER TIP FROM POLICE... IF YOU'RE GOING TO HIDE VALUABLE IN YOUR TRUNK, DO IT BEFOR YOU GET TO YOUR DESTINATION.

CRIME

11/17/18 KRON 4 News New canine deputies sworn in

San Francisco District Attorney: "Aren't you the sweetest!"

MOST OFFICERS OF THE COURT DON'T GET SWEET TALK WHEN THEY GET THEIR BADGES, BUT THEN MOST AREN'T THIS CUTE EITHER. MEET RED, A 14 MONTH OLD COURTHOUSE FACILITY DOG AND THIS IS HIS PARTNER, 19 MONTH OLD PINK.

THEIR NEW JOB WILL BE TO HELP CRIME VICTIMS WHO HAVE UNDERGONE TRAUMA DEAL WITH THE ADDITIONAL STRESS OF THE COURT SYSTEM.

Court spokesperson: "They can provide emotional support, help lower the heart rate, release oxytocin."

RED AND PINK WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THAT CALMING SUPPORT DURING MANY DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Court spokesperson: "We are working with the judges so they can be in the courts also."

THEIR FIRST CLIENTS WILL BE THE ONES WHO NEED THE MOST COMFORT, CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND THE ELDERLY WHO HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED.

BUT RIGHT NOW THEY ARE MEETING AND GREETING THEIR NEW CO WORKERS AND GETTING COMFORTABLE IN THEIR NEW SURROUNDINGS. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN ADMINSTERING LICKS AND TAIL WAGS STARTING NEXT MONTH.

MAUREEN KELLY KRON4 NEWS

CRIME

12/2/16 KRON Evening News East Bay city responding to upturn in crime rates

IN THE EAST BAY, AN ESCALATION IN VIOLENCE INCLUDING THE DOUBLE HOMICIDE OF TWO CHILDHOOD FRIENDS IS CREATING FEAR IN SOME RESIDENTS AND AN ACTION PLAN FROM POLICE. KRON 4'S TERISA ESTACIO RODE ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT AS THEY INCREASE PATROLS TO TRY AND STOP THIS CRIME WAVE CASTING A PALL ON THE CITY.

THE HOMICIDES AND VIOLENT SHOOTINGS THIS WEEK, ARE WEIGHING ON THE MINDS OF MANY, INCLUDING THE OFFICERS PATROLLING THE STREETS OF OAKLAND.

Officer Jonathan Cairo, OPD: "It is not good."

IT HAS BEEN A VERY DEADLY AND BRUTAL WEEK IN OAKLAND. SINCE MONDAY, THREE HOMICIDES, INCLUDING TWO CHILDHOOD FRIENDS GUNNED DOWN NEAR THEIR HOME IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE VICIOUS SHOOTINGS.

ON THIS DAY, I RODE ALONG WITH OFFICERS CAIRO AND LORENZE AS THEY HIT THE STREETS TRYING TO GATHER UP INFORMATION TO HELP DETECTIVES CRACK CASES, AS WELL AS BE A PART OF AN EFFORT TO INCREASE PATROLS TO STEM THE VIOLENCE.

Officer Cairo: "We are here to do what we can."

AT A MEMORIAL, WHERE THE TWO 19 YEAR OLDS LOST THEIR LIVE, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS GATHERED.

Tanzania Moore, friend of victims: "I am just scared."

THAT FEAR RESONATES WITH THE OFFICERS.

Officer Cairo: "I am not that much older than the kid that died. It is really heartbreaking."

SO FAR THIS YEAR, THERE AS BEEN 73 HOMICIDES. IN 2015 THERE WERE 79. THE MAYOR HAS SAID THAT THEY ARE MAKING PROGRESS CITING NUMBERS THAT SHOW VIOLENT CRIME IS DOWN. BUT FOR THOSE THAT LIVE AND WORK OUT HERE, IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH LIVES CUT SHORT.

Yana Gordon, friend of victims: "It is a lot harder than we thought it was going to be. It's just awful. They died to young. It's heartbreaking."

IN OAKLAND, TERISA ESTACIO KRON 4 NEWS

CRIME

12/2/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm East Bay cities still struggle with freeway shooting problem

NEW TONIGHT, AN EAST BAY MAYOR IS RENEWING CALLS FOR HIGH RESOLUTION CAMERAS AND LICENSE PLATE READERS TO BE INSTALLED ALONG ROADWAYS PLAGUED BY VIOLENCE.

OVER THE PAST TWO YERS, THERE HAVE BEEN DOZENS OF SHOOTINGS ALONG BAY AREA HIGHWAYS AND INTERSTATES. JUST THIS WEEK, TWO PEOPLE WERE SHOT ALONG 580 IN OAKLAND.

KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD IS IN HERCULES TONIGHT WITH DETAILS ON WHAT THAT CITY'S MAYOR IS ASKING FOR:

THIS PAST WEDNESDAY, SHOTS RANG OUT ALONG INTERSTATE 580 IN OAKLAND. TWO PEOPLE WERE INJURED. THIS IS VIDEO OF THE AFTERMATH. BACK ON NOVEMBER 11TH, A 26 YEAR OLD MAN WAS SHOT WHILE DRIVING ALONG INTERSTATE 80 IN VALLELLJO. THESE TWO MOST RECENT ATTACKS ARE JUST THE LATEST OF MORE THAN TWO DOZEN HIGHWAY SHOOTINGS ACROSS THE BAY AREA IN RECENT MONTHS.

Dan Romero, mayor of Hercules: "I think for anyone who travels on freeways in the Bay Area it's an issue."

DAN ROMERO IS THE MAYOR OF HERCULES WHICH SITS AT THE CROSSROADS OF INTERSTATE 80 AND HIGHWAY 4. THEY'VE SEEN THEIR FAIR SHARE OF PROBLEMS. HE SAYS HERCULES, ALONG WITH OTHER CITIES IN WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO STOP THE VIOLENCE.

Romero: "I want safety along our freeways."

AS AN EXAMPLE OF A POSSIBLE SOLUTION, ROMERO POINTS TO THE CITY OF PITTSBURG WHICH INSTALLED HIGH RESOLUTION CAMERAS AND LICENSE PLATE READERS ALONG HIGHWAY 4 THIS PAST SUMMER. SINCE THEN, THINGS HAVE BEEN QUIET ALONG THAT STRETCH OF ROADWAY.

Romero: "It's a deterrent and that's what we want."

ROMERO WANTS TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE AND HE SAYS THE STATE HAS OFFERED TO HELP PAY FOR THE QUIPMENT IF THEY CAN FIND SOMEONE TO MANAGE IT.

Romero: "The state is still willing to give us some money for license plate readers and high resolution cameras and shot spotters. That is still on the table. They have not taken that off. We just need to find a law enforcement agency in West County willing to accept that information."

ROMERO ALSO HOPES THAT ANY CITY THAT INSTALLS SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY WILL INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE PROCESS.

Romero: "I would also ask that any city that comes along and wants to put license plate readers along the highway to have an open meeting, invite the ACLU and let's have an open process so all our residents can participate."

CRIME

12/2/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Richmond is dangerous after all

TONIGHT, AN EMBARASSING OMISSION FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND. THE MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF ARE NOW EXPLAINING THEMSELVES AFTER THE MAYOR RECENTLY BRAGGED ABOUT NOT BEING INCLUDED ON A LIST OF 'MOST DANGEROUS CITIES.' TURNS OUT, THERE WAS A LITTLE PROBLEM. GRANT LODES IS HERE TO EXLAIN:

RICHMOND WASN'T ON THAT LIST BECAUSE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT SENT THE FBI ITS MOST RECENT CRIME STATISTICS. THE RICHMOND POLICE CHIEF SAYS THE DEPARTMENT "suffered a significant data loss in November 2015 as a result of a combination of human neglect and software failure."

MAKING MATTERS WORSE, RICHMOND MAYOR TOM BUTT RECENTLY SENT OUT A MASS EMAIL TOUTING THE FACT THAT THE CITY WAS NOT ON THE LIST OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S MOST DANGEORUS CITIES. A SANTA ROSA LAW FIRM COMPLILED THE LIST AND RICHMOND WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE RANKED FIFTH ON THAT LIST HAD ALL THE DATA BEEN SENT IN.

OAKLAND WAS LISTED AT THE MOST DANEROUS CITY, FOLLOWED BY STOCKTON, MODESTON AND MERCED. ACCORDING TO CRIME TRACKING WEBSITE NEIGHBORHOOD SCOUT.COM, OAKLAND IS NEAR THE TOP ONE PERCENT OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CITIES NATIONWIDE. IN 2015, THERE WERE 85 MUDERS, 285 RAPES, MORE THAN 23 HUNDRED ASSAULTS, AND MORE THAN SIX THOUSAND PEOPLE HAD THEIR CARS STOLEN IN OAKLAND.

THOUGH RICHMOND'S OVERALL CRIME WAS DOWN ABOUT ONE PERCENT FROM 2014 TO 2015, ITS VIOLENT CRIME WAS UP NEARLY 13 PERCENT AND HOMICIDES WERE UP A STUNNING 91 PERCENT. POLICE SAY THE HUGE SPIKE IN MURDERS IS LARGELY A RESULT OF GANG ON GANG SHOOTINGS.

CRIME

12/9/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm High tech car theft

A MYSTERY DEVICE IS HELPING CAR THIEVES EASILY BREAK INTO AND STEAL CARS. WITH THIS GADGET CRIMINALS CAN OPEN THE DOOR, START THE VEHICLE, DRIVE IT AWAY AND TURN OFF AND RESTART THE ENGINE WITHOUT THE ORIGINAL KEY FOB PRESENT. THIS IS ACCORDING TO THE NICB, OR NATIONAL

INSURANCE CRIME BUREAU, A NON-PROFFIT ORGANIZATION. KRON 4'S TECH REPORTER GABE SLATE TALKED TO THEM TO FIND OUT HOW THIS DEVICE WORKS.

Roger Morris, National Insurance Crime Bureau: "Criminals will always try to find a way to beat the cat and mouse game. Just like hackers on the computers. Today's cars are basically computers and if they can find a way to circumvent the anti-theft technology they certainly will try to do that."

ROGER MORRIS WITH THE NICB SAYS THIS DEVICE WHICH THEY JUST ACQUIRED FROM A THIRD PARTY SELLER OVERSEAS IS SIMILAR TO ONE DISCOVERED BACK IN 2013 THAT STUMPED LAW ENFORCEMENT. AT THE TIME, THIEVES WERE BEING SEEN ON SECURITY CAMERAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY USING AN UNKNOWN DEVICE TO UNLOCK VEHICLES AND STEAL VALUABLES INSIDE.

NOW THE NICB SAYS THE MYSTERY GADGET HAS EVOLVED INTO SOMETHING WORSE. NOW THE DEVICE CAN BE USED TO START VEHICLES ALLOWING THEM TO BE EASILY STOLEN AND DRIVEN OFF.

IT WORKS ON CARS WITH A KEYLESS REMOTE AND PUSH BUTTON IGNITION SUCH AS A PRIUS. NICB TESTED THE DEVICE.

Morris: "We gathered together 35 different vehicles that have the keyless remote and the pushbutton start, the kind that this device works on, and we were able to open 19 of them and drive off in 18 of them, which is kind of frightening.

THEY SHARED THIS VIDEO WITH ME EXPLAINING HOW IT WORKS. THE DRIVER LEAVES A VEHICLE AND LOCKS IT WITH THEIR FOB. STANDING AND WORKING WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE DRIVER, THE BURGLAR USES A COMPONENT RELAY BOX WHICH STEALS THE CODE FROM THE UNSUSPECTING DRIVER'S FOB. THAT CODE IS THEN RELAYED TO A SECOND BOX WHICH IS PLACED NEAR THE DOOR. WHEN THE THIEF PULLS ON THE HANDLE, THE CAR THINKS IT'S RECEIVING THE FOB'S SIGNAL AND UNLOCKS. AND THEN THE IGNITAN CAN BE TURNED ON.

I ASKED ROGER HIS ADVICE FOR HOW TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING.

Morris: "There's not much you can do right now that's going to stop this other than be aware, look out for anybody that might be suspicious in the neighborhood because they have to literally approach you and go by you within a few feet to capture the signal and then approach your car and unlock it to drive away.:

GABE SLATE KRON 4 NEWS

CRIME

12/24/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Protect yourself from holiday burglars

MANY OF YOU TRAVELING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WILL BE LEAVING YOUR HOMES UNATTENDED. POLICE HAVE SOME TIPS ON HOW TO KEEP THEIVES AWAY FROM YOUR PROPERTY.

IN ADDITION TO TELLING YOUR NEIGHBORS YOU'LL BE GONE, YOU SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER SETTING YOUR LIGHTS AND TVS ON TIMERS.

CRIME PREVENTION TEAMS IN THE BAY AREA ARE POSTING ON NEXTDOOR DOT COM, A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHDOG WEBSITE. BUT WITH APPLICATIONS ALL THE CRAZE THESE DAYS, WHAT YOU SAY ONLINE COULD BE AN UNINTENDED "WELCOME" SIGN TO POTENTIAL BURGLARS.

Police spokesperson: "Facebook and social media is the main tipoff for a lot of thieves. If you're going to post something, make sure it's discreet."

STILL, THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE IS TO HAVE A HOUSE SITTER. IT'LL PRETTY MUCH ELIMINATE ALL OF THE OTHER STEPS.

CRIME

12/28/16 KRON 4 Evening News Oakland crime stats down in 2016

THE CITY OF OAKLAND HAS SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. DESPITE A YEAR OF SCANDALS AND REVOLVING POLICE CHIEFS, THE CITY HAS SEEN A DECREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN IS LIVE AT POLICE HEADQUARTRERS WITH MORE ON THE NUMBERS:

WITH EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO SOME. BUT POLICE SAY THEY HAVE BEEN STICKING TO THEIR FOCUS ON REDUCTION OF VIOLENT CRIME AND NOW IT SEEMS, IF SLIGHTLY, TO BE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

FOR OAKLAND POLICE IT WAS A YEAR OF SCANDAL TIED TO THIS WOMAN AND A REVOLVING DOOR OF POLICE CHIEFS, YET IN SPITE OF THAT... VIOLENT CRIMES AND PROPERTY CRIMES ARE DOWN

Officer Johnna Watson, OPD spokesperson: "Anytime we can see a reduction in crime, that's always encouraging. We still recognize there's a lot of work to be done."

OAKLAND POLICE SAY COMPARING THIS YEAR TO LAST THROUGH CHRISTMAS DAY, OAKLAND HAS SEEN SLIGHT DROPS IN Homicides, Assaults And Shootings And Significant Drops In Residential Burglaries... BUT CITY OFFICIALS SAY WHILE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, IT'S STILL A FAR CRY FROM WHERE THE CITY NEEDS TO BE.

Noel Gallo, Oakland City Councilmember: "While certainly we have moved in a better direction, we're far away from rejoicing or celebrating anything because really when it comes of East Oakland, we're still being challenged tremendously."

GOING BACK TO 2012 THE NUMBERS ARE MORE IMPRESSIVE WITH HOMICIDES DOWN 36 PERCENT, OVERALL VIOLENT CRIME DOWN 26 PERCENT AND BURGLARIES DOWN 21 PERCENT. THIS DECLINE IN CRIME POLICE SAY IS DUE TO SEVERAL FACTORS: GREATER ANALYSIS OF WHERE AND HOW CRIME IS HAPPENING AND REFOCUSING RESOURCES BASED ON THAT INFORMATION; ITS CEASEFIRE PROGRAM, GIVING KNOWN CRIMINALS A WAY OUT; AND FINALLY A BETTER WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PUBLIC.

Watson: "We continue to build our trust with the community. That is absolutely paramount. We have seen cases solved and closures to families because we have our community engaging and helping us to solve crimes. We have to have those community relationships. That is key."

Gallo: "I do see more neighbors coming forward reporting fires, crime and other negative activity. That's the way I believe Oakland will change. So we have to get engaged, involved, to call it in, report it in, and hold each other accountable."

OAKLAND MAYOR LIBBY SCHAAF IS OUT OF TOWN BUT I SPOKE WITH HER BY PHONE TODAY. SHE SAYS SHE IS PLEASED THE TREND IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO AND SHE IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THESE NUMBERS EVEN MORE.

LIVE IN OAKLAND, DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

4Q2016 DIVERSITY

DIVERSITY

10/7/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Hate crime in East Bay

IN A STORY YOU WILL ONLY SEE HERE ON KRON4 NEWS, AN LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER IS THE TARGET OF HATE CRIMES IN THE EAST BAY. ANTI-GAY GRAFFITI WAS FOUND WRITTEN ON THE PROPERTY DURING AN INVESTIGATION OF ANOTHER CRIME THERE.

IT HAPPENED EARLIER THIS WEEK AT THE RAINBOW COMMUNITY CENTER IN CONCORD. A BURGLAR BROKE IN AND STOLE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. THE RAINBOW COMMUNITY CENTER HAS BEEN BURGALRIZED 4 TIMES IN THE LAST 10 DAYS. DURING THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT, THE BURGLAR LEFT HATE-FILLED GRAFFITI TARGETING THE LGBT COMMUNITY.

Ryan Beaver, Rainbow Community Center: "You know hate speech is something our community is sadly accustomed to. It happens. There is shame and stigma around sexuality and gender identity, but we've done a good job of building a sanctuary here."

CONCORD POLICE SAY THIS RECENT BREAK-IN IS MORE THAN A SIMPLE BURGLARY.

Cpl. Chris Blakely, Concord Police Department: "Yes! It's being investigated as a hate crime. We're looking at surveillance video in the area. This is something that's a priority to us so we are going to investigate this."

THE RAINBOW CENTER HAS BEEN A SANCTUARY THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

Ben-David Barr, executive director of the Rainbow Community Center: "We have programs for youths, for seniors, for people with HIV. More than anything we just need this to stop. We need to make sure people feel safe coming to the center and that our employees feel safe being here."

DIVERSITY

10/10/16 KRON 4 Evening News Hate crime attack on local Sikh resident

A RICHMOND MAN IDENTIFYING AS SIKH WAS ATTACKED IN WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS A VIOLENT HATE CRIME. THESE ARE PICTURES OF 41 YEAR OLD MAHAN SINGH KHALSA'S INJURIES. TWO WEEKS AGO- HE WAS DRIVING HOME FROM WORK AT 9 P.M. WHEN HE WAS STOPPED AT A RED LIGHT NEAR HILLTOP MALL DRIVE IN RICHMOND. ACCORDING TO THE SIKH COALITION, A MAN IN A WHITE FORD F-150 THREW A BEER CAN AT KHALSA'S CAR.

KHALSA ROLLED DOWN HIS WINDOW AND SAW FIVE OR SIX MEN INSIDE THE TRUCK. THE MEN BEGAN SWEARING AT HIM, AND KHALSA CALLED 911. THE MEN THEN ASSUALTED HIM AND CUT HIS HAIR WITH A KNIFE. SIKHS DO NOT CUT THEIR HAIR AS A RELIGIOUS MANDATE. IN ADDITION TO A BLACK EYE, KHALSA NEEDED STITCHES ON HIS FINGERS AND HANDS.

RICHMOND MAYOR TOM BUTT RELEASED A STATEMENT ABOUT THE ATTACK.

Mayor Butt: "No one should have eto experience the fear of beting targeted or attacked based on their identity or for practicing their religion. I regret that this violence has penetrated our community and it underscores the importance of working towards establishing more connections and compassion in our society."

DIVERSITY

10/11/16 KRON 4 Evening News Follow up on Sikh hate crime

AN EAST BAY MAN WHO WAS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO WORK FOR QUITE SOME TIME. DOCTORS ARE STILL TRYING TO DETERMINE IF THEY'LL HAVE TO AMPUTATE HIS FINGER WHICH WAS INJURED IN THE CRIME.

KRON FOUR'S TERISA ESTACIO HAS AN UPDATE ON THE VICTIM'S CONDITION, HOW HE IS GETTING SOME HELP FROM THE COMMUNITY AND THE LATEST ON THE SEARCH FOR THE SUSPECTS.

RICHMOND POLICE SAY THEY ARE LOOKING FOR POSSIBLY THREE MORE MEN IN THE BRUTAL BEATING OF THIS VICTIM, MAHAN SINGH KHALSA.

THE ATTACK AGAINST HIM WAS SO VICIOUS KHALSA MAY NOW LOSE HIS FINGER. KRON 4 NEWS HAS LEARNED THAT THE CONTRA COSTA DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IS CONSIDERING FILING HATE CRIME CHARGES AGAINST TWO SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY – THESE TWO: CHASE LITTLE AND DUSTIN ALBARDO, BOTH FROM OUT OF STATE.

KHALSA TOLD POLICE HE WAS DRIVING HOME WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN SOMEONE THREW A BEER CAN AT HIS WINDOW AT THIS INTERSECTION NEAR HILLTOP MALL IN RICHMOND. THEN AT THE NEXT LIGHT HE WAS ATTACKED, WITH HIS ASSAILANTS PULLING OFF HIS TURBAN AND CUTTING SOME OF HIS HAIR. SIKH'S GROW THEIR HAIR LONG FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS.

SUPPORT FOR THE SIKH HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING. LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS, INCLUDING U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARK DESAULNIER WHO SAID "I JOIN THE PEOPLE OF RICHMOND AND THE SIKH COMMUNITY IN EXPRESSING MY DEEP CONCERN OVER THE ATTACK ON MR. KHALSA... ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION AND HATRED HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY."

A FRIEND AND SOMEONE WHO PRAYS WITH KHALSA SET UP A GO FUND ME WHICH HAS GROWN TO SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THE TWO SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY WERE CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WITH CHEVRON. A SPOKESPERSON THERE SAYS THEY REGRET THE UNFORTUNATE CRIME AND SAY THE TWO SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED.

AGAIN, POLICE CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR AT LEAST ONE OTHER ASSAILANT AND POSSIBLY TWO ACCOMPLICES IN THE CRIME. THE DA IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE CHARGES INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENT OF HATE CRIME OFFENSES ON WEDNESDAY,

IN RICHMOND TERISA ESTACIO KRON 4 NEWS

DIVERSITY

10/13/116 KRON 4 News at 8pm & 10pm Ballot measure would okay cleanout of homeless camps

THE NOVEMBER ELECTION IS FAST APPROACHING. TONIGHT, WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT MEASURE 'Q'. IT IS AIMED AT CLEARING OUT ALL HOMELESS TENT ENCAMPMENTS IN THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO. THE MEASURE HAS FINANCIAL BACKING FROM BAY AREA TECH LEADERS

WHO SAY THEY WANT TO CLEAN UP THE STREETS. KRON 4'S ELLA SOGOMONIAN IS LIVE AT CITY HALL. SHE TALKED TO OPPONENTS OF THE MEASURE. ELLA, WHAT DID THEY SAY?

THEY SAY THERE ARE ALREADY LAWS IN PLACE FOR YEARS THAT ALLOW POLICE TO CLEAR OUT TENT CITIES AND CLEARLY THAT HASN'T BEEN WORKING AS THE PROBLEM CONTINUES, SO MORE PERMANENT HOUSING SHOULD BE THE FOCUS.

Jennifer Firedenbach, Coalition on Homelessness: "Homeless need to be taken care of. That's our responsibility."

CONCERN CONTINUES FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY AS MORE PEOPLE MAKE THE CITY STREETS THEIR HOME. THE CITY REPORTED CLOSE TO 7 THOUSAND HOMELESS PEOPLE LAST YEAR. SO SUPERVISOR MARK FARRELL PENNED MEASURE Q WHICH IS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT, TARGETING THE REMOVAL OF ALL TENT ENCAMPMENTS.

Supervisor Farrell: "These are some of the most dangerous living conditions we've ever seen in the history of San Francisco. From rape to violence to fires to incredible amount of waste. We should not be encouraging people to live on sidewalks. I believe it should be our policy to encourage shelter and housing for these individuals."

MEASURE Q WOULD REQUIRE AUTHORITES TO GIVE A 24 HOUR NOTICE AND PROVIDE SHELTER INFORMATION BEFORE FORCING HOMELESS PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR TENTS.

THE OPPOSITION SAYS IT'S EASY TO PROMISE A SAFE HAVEN BUT MEASURE Q DOESN'T ADDRESS WHERE MONEY FOR THAT WILL COME FROM.

Friedenbach: "That's a process this would make it a lot harder for that to happen. It would actually exacerbate homelessness because the only way this would work is hold shelter beds empty and give them to people in camps."

Farrell: "Proposition Q is not a funding measure. It's a policy measure. What we've done is through the budget process which I have chaired for years inside of City Hall to allocate a significant amount of more resources towards housing shelter and navigation centers."

FRIEDENBACH SAYS EXISTING SHELTERS ARE AT CAPACITY WITH MASSIVE WAITING LISTS WHERE MOST OFTEN PEOPLE ARE ONLY HOUSED FOR ONE DAY. HER GROUP PROTESTED THE PROP AT HARVEY MILK PLAZA THURSDAY NIGHT, CALLING MEASURE Q A SHORT SIGHTED PLATFORM MADE TO ENHANCE FARRELL'S POLITICAL CAREER.

Friedenbach: "Getting people who are frustrated to just vote for anything. It's basically a way for a politician to get their name known to get contributions from billionaires who want to take tents away from homeless."

Farrell: "Couldn't be further from the truth. I've been working on homeless issues for the past four years. This is just one measure I've put forward."

TWO OTHER BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SHARED THEIR OPPOSITION ON MEASURE Q. JOHN AVALOS SAID THE CITY WAS DOING WELL THIS SPRING UNITING ON A NEW DEPARTMENT AND DIRECTION ON HOMELESSNESS. BUT THE AUTHORS OF PROP Q CAME ALONG WITH AN UNNECESSARY AND PURELY POLITICAL MEASURE THAT DESTROYED GOODWILL NECESSARY TO CREATE REAL EXITS FROM HOMELESSNESS. WE'LL HEAR FROM VOTERS TONIGHT AT 10.

LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO ELLA SOGOMONIAN KRON 4 NEWS.

(10 PM PART 2 – COMMENTS FROM PROTESTORS)

Protester: "This is another attempt to criminalize and demonize a segment of the community."

Protester: "We need to allow the city and the homelessness department to do its job. And to very methodically move people off of the streets instead of this measure that just moves people from block to block to block to block."

Protester: "That's just a quick fix without much integrity. To just sweep people away."

Protester: "This measure sounds like another thinly veiled attempt to criminalize homelessness."

Protester: "I think they need to be held accountable and they need to be given some money and always be there for them at all times like AA. We need an AA for people, a PA."

DIVERSITY

10/19/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Oakland's new approach to homelessness

Oakland official: "How would we change how we delivered government services if we saw our unsheltered residents as a constituency to be served as opposed to as a problem to be solved?"

SOME OAKLAND CITY OFFICIALS ARE TAKING A NEW APPROACH TO HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS. THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY MAKING THE ENCAMPMENTS NEIGHBORHOODS, BUT NOT EVERYONE IS HAPPY ABOUT IT. KRON 4'S HERMELA AREGAWI SPOKE TO RESIDENTS WHO SAY THIS APPROACH IS NOT ONLY UNSANITARY BUT DANGEROUS.

RESIDENTS IN THIS WEST OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD ARE FRUSTRATED BY THE GROWING NUMBER OF HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS. THEY SAY THEY BEGAN TO POP UP SIX MONTHS AGO AND NOW DOZENS LINE THIS BLOCK AT MAGNOLIA AND 35TH STREET. THOSE WHO LIVE NEARBY SAY IT'S MADE THEM FEEL A LOT LESS SAFE.

Resident: "There's evidence of a lot of drug use. I've seen quite a number of people actually dealing drugs out of their cars and out of their tents."

Resident: "We keep finding them inside of our yard. They go through everything, cars, anything they can find."

RESIDENTS SAY THE TENTS ARE NOW BLOCKING THE ROAD UNDER THE BRIDGE.

UNTIL THIS WEEK YOU COULD GO THROUGH THIS ROAD WHERE YOU NOW SEE WHITE BARRICADES. RESIDENS SAY THEY NOW HAVE TO GET IN THE CAR BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS OR THEY HAVE TO TAKE A ROUNDABOUT WAY TO GET TO THE STORES ON THE OTHER SIDE.

THIS DISTRICT IS HOME TO THE MAJORITY OF THOSE LIVING ON THE STREETS IN OAKLAND. SO CITY OFFICIALS HAVE STARTED A PILOT PROGRAM HERE THAT AIMS TO TREAT THE ENCAMPMENTS AS CITIES OF SORTS. IN JUNE, 190 THOUSAND DOLLARS WERE ALLOCATED FOR THE PROGRAM.

Oakland City Councilmember: "What does sanitation service look like? What does it mean to bring in that basic modicum of care, how to get social workers to come to where they are so that you can get them into housing? The theory suggests it will cost us less money and that we'll get people housed more quickly."

BUT RESIDENTS ARE SKEPTICAL AND FEAR THE EXPERIMENT WILL COME AT THE COST OF THEIR SAFETY.

Resident: "I don't want anybody to be evicted or thrown out of their living space, but I don't think the solution is to have people camping in tents without any responsibility for the impact they're having on the neighborhood in terms of general health and safety."

Resident: "We watch cops pull up and talk to the drug dealers that we just watched sell 30 pre-packaged heroin needles that are full with heroin to a bunch of people. Then the cop comes down shakes their hand and talks to them."

THE PILOT WILL LAST SIX MONTHS.

IN OAKLAND, HERMELA AREGAWI, KRON 4 NEWS.

DIVERSITY

10/21/16 KRON 4 Evening News Interest in new museum exceeds expectations

THE LONG AWAITED NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE IS SOLD OUT THROUGH MARCH OF 2017. THOUGH THE MUSEUM IS FREE, YOU NEED A DATED TICKET TO ENTER. THE EXHIBITION HOLDS OVER 3 THOUSAND ARTIFACTS FROM ACROSS THE NATION.

OFFICIALS EXPECTED 75 HUNDRED VISITORS DAILY, BUT THE MUSEUM HAS BEEN ATTRACTING MORE THAN 30 THOUSAND PEOPLE MOST DAYS.

PRESIDENT OBAMA OPENED THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM ON SEPTEMBER 24TH. IN HIS CEREMONIAL SPEECH, HE SAID HE HOPED THE INSTALLATION WILL HELP AMERICANS UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

DIVERSITY

11/4/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Homeless camp broken up

Homeless person: "They don't want to have to kill me, did you hear that? They don't want to have to kill me, but they will if they have to!"

DRAMATIC MOMENTS IN BERKELEY EARLY THIS MORNING AS A FIGHT ENSUES OVER A HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT. BERKELEY POLICE REMOVED ABOUT THREE DOZEN PEOPLE WHO WERE LIVING IN TENTS NEAR ADELINE AND FAIRVIEW. KRON 4'S HERMELA AREGAWI HAS THE STORY.

THIS IS WHAT FAIRVIEW AND ADELINE LOOKS LIKE ALL CLEANED UP. NEIGHBORS TELL ME LESS THAN 24 HOURS AGO, THERE WERE ABOUT A DOZEN TENTS SET UP ON THIS CORNER. AROUND 5 THIS MORNING, BERKLEY POLICE BROKE UP THE CAMP.

Homeless person: "I'm trying man. Ii live here. It's a little hard to pack up your life in 5 seconds."

THE CONFRONTATION ENDED IN AT LEAST 2 PEOPLE BEING ARRESTED. ONE OF THEM IS BERKLEY CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE NANCI TEMPLE-ARMSTRONG WHO IS BEING ARRESTED IN THIS VIDEO.

Nanci: "They're trying to break my arm. They're trying to break my arm."

YOU CAN HEAR POLICE TELLING TEMPLE ARMSTRONG THAT SHE BLOCKED THE JAIL VAN DURING THE ARREST OF ONE OF THE CAMPERS.

Nanci: "You were taking a disabled sernior into a van that she did not want to go into."

Police: "Because she was under arrest."

IT CONTINUES LIKE THIS FOR SEVERAL MORE MINUTES UNTIL SHE'S HAULED OFF TO JAIL.

BENJAMIN ROYER IS DISABLED AND HAD ONLY BEEN AT THE CAMP FOR FOUR DAYS.

Royer: "I was woken up with the cops actually yanking on the tarp that I was sleeping on, They were grabbing stuff left and right without really giving us a chance to break it down or get it in vehicles."

NOW HE'S CAMPED OUT AT CITY HALL WITH OTHERS WHO FROM ADELINE AND FAIRVIEW.

Royer: "I'm going to stick with the group. Wherever they go, I will go."

RICHIE SMITH HAS LIVED IN THE BAY AREA SINCE 1949. SHE SAYS THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A LOT WORSE FOR THE HOMELESS IN RECENT YEARS.

Smith: "I would like for them to find some place where they could camp out and if it's set up right, they can cultivate vegetables and do things to improve themselves and the community. That's what I would like to see. Rather than keep moving em around and then complaining about how much money it costs to move them around."

NOW THERE IS CERTAINLY SOME DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER BERKELEY POLICER WERE OVERLY AGGRESSIVE IN BREAKING UP THE CAMP, BUT THE BIGGER QUESTION IS WHETHER THIS STRATEGY THE CITY IS TAKING OF SHUTTING DOWN THES CAMPS IS EFFECTIVE BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENS, AS WAS THE CASE TODAY, IS THE PEOPLE LMOVE TO ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY.

IN BERKELEY HERMELA AREGAWI KRON 4 NEWS

DIVERSITY

11/11/16 KRON 4 Evening News Safety Pin movement in Bay Area

AFTER BRITISH VOTERS RECENTLY CHOSE TO EXIT THE EUROPEAN UNION, THREATS AGAINST MINORITIES HAVE PROMPTED SUPPORTERS TO BEGIN WEARING SAFETY PINS AS A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY. NOW THAT TREND HAS CROSSED THE POND TO THE U.S. KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN IS LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO WITH MORE...

THE SAFETY PIN TELLS OTHERS THAT YOU ARE SAFE WITH ME, I AM IN SOLIDARITY WITH YOU, I AM YOUR ALLY. AND WHILE WE'RE NOT SEEING A LOT OF THEM ON THE STREETS IN SAN FRANCISCO YET, THEY ARE POPPING UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND THEY ARE STARTING TO BE SEEN SCATTERED AROUND THE BAY AREA.

BE IT ON FACEBOOK OR TWITTER, THE TERM SAFETY PIN IS TRENDING, WITH THOUSANDS TALKING ABOUT IT OR POSTING PICTURES OF THEMSELVES WEARING ONE ...

Kelly Engel, immigration attorney: "I'm wearing it in solidarity with all the communities that are being marginalized right now, that have been maligned by Donald Trump..

SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY KELLY ENGEL WELLS SAYS THOSE MALIGNED COMMUNITIES INCLUDE LATINOS, BLACKS, MUSLIMS, AND GAYS... AND THEY ARE NOW IN FEAR OF WHAT A TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MEANS FOR THEM

Francies Kreimer, deportation defense attorney: "I think that thre is a real despair that someone who spoke with such hatred was endorsed by so many of our fellow-citizens and I think there is this sense of pending doom of what's coming."

SAN FRANCISCO DEPORTATION DEFENSE ATTORNEY FRANCES KREIMER SAYS WHILE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES HAVE NOT YET COME.... THE SO-CALLED LICENSE TO HATE HAS BEGUN

Engel: "We're already seeing hate crimes. We're seeing Nazi graffiti. We're seeing kids getting bullied in school."

THOSE WEARING THE SAFETY PIN SAYS THAT MAKES SHOWING THIS SYMBOL OF SOLIDARITY EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, AND THOSE WITH SAN FARNCISCO'S ARAB RESOURCE CENTER AGREE.

Lara Kiswani, Arab Resource Center: "I'm always hopeful when we see communities building resistance to violence, state violence in particular. And it's hopeful to see that there's ways people can illustrate that through symbolic efforts like the safety pin but also community organizing efforts as we're seeing across the country."

THOSE INVOLVED SAY WE'RE GOING TO SEE MORE PROTESTS AND MORE SAFETY PINS GOING FORWARD.

DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

DIVERSITY

11/15/16 KRON 4 Evening News Local pastor calls for unity

AS THE ANTI-TRUMP PROTESTS CONTINUE, SOME MEMBERS OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY ARE CALLING ON THE NATION TO EMBRACE UNITY. KRON 4'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL SPOKE WITH A LOCAL PASTOR WHO SAYS HE HOPES TRUMP WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND SO SHOULD THE REST OF US.

Pastor Kirkland Smith: "I really believe that everything that's happened recently is a precursor to something happening greater later."

OVER THE WEEKEND, SENIOR PASTOR KIRKLAND SMITH SAYS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DOMINATED HIS SERMON.

Pastor Smith: "We spoke Sunday morning about unity. We talked about being one body."

PASTOR SMITH FOUNDED THE GRACE BIBLE FELLOWESHIP OF ANITOCH MORE THAN 14 YEARS AGO. A NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH, HIS CONGREGATION IS A MELTING POT OF AMERICA, MADE UP OF DIFFERENT RACES AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS. HE SAYS MANY OF HIS MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP RAN HIS CAMPAIGN, BUT SAYS DESPITE THE DIVISIVE TALK, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE PRESIDENT OBAMA'S LEAD AND WISH THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION WELL..

Pastor Smith: "How can we judge someone that's never had a day in office? We can judge him as a business man. We can judge him as a husband and father, we can judge him as a man. But it's very difficult to judge him as a politician. So, I think it's only fair to give people an opportunity to show you, demonstrate who they are -- you know, they all say things to get into office, but lets give him an opportunity and see what he does."

PASTOR SMITH SAYS HE SUPPORTS PEACEFUL PROTESTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CARRIED OUT BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE MARCHING IN THE STREETS BUT THAT THEY SHOULD ALSO STAY INVOVLED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, AFTER THEIR ANGER AND FEAR SUBSIDES.

Pastor Smith: "Ultimately, what it will do is it will put those young people in positions that they're going to be more concerned about the decisions they're going to make when they're old enough to have an opportunity to vote. I'm not crazy about the missing school, but I do think that it's important that every voice is heard."

AND PASTOR SMITH SAYS THE HOPE IS THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP IS LISTENING.

IN ANTIOCH, PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON FOUR NEWS

DIVERSITY

11/15/16 KRON 4 Evening News Fighting back against hate speech on social media

TWITTER MADE A BIG MOVE TODAY, ANNOUNCING NEW ANTI-HARRASSMENT TOOLS FOR ITS USERS. THE GOAL IS TO CUT DOWN ON TROLLS, HATE SPEECH, AND CYBER BULLYING THAT HAS PLAGUED THE SOCIAL NETWORK. OUR TECH REPORTER GABE SLATE IS HERE TO FILL US IN HOW THIS WORK AND HOW IT WILL BENEFIT USERS:

YEAH, IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR TWITTER USERS. THIS WILL IMPROVE THE EXPERIENCE ON THE NETWORK. TWITTER HAS ALWAYS STRUGGLED WITH THIS ISSUE – THE BALANCE BETWEEN FREE SPEECH AND HATE SPEECH. THIS TROLL PROBLEM HAS HURT THEIR GROWTH, AND FROM WHAT INDUSTRY ANALYSTS TELL ME, IT'S KEPT THEM FROM BEING ABLE TO FIND A BUYER/

Dan Galagher, Wall Street Journal: "They have developed what I consider is a reputational problem. You know, being on twitter means you might be susceptible to abuse."

DAN GALAGHER IS A TECH COLUMINIST FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. HE SAYS TWITTER IS LOOKING FOR A BUYER AND CLEANING UP THEIR TROLL ISSUE COULD HELP. GOOGLE, SALESFORCE, AND DISNEY ARE JUST A HANDFUL OF COMPANIES THAT CONSIDERED THEM BUT THEN PASSED.

Galagher: "Disney is a such a family business and very mindful of its image. That must have weighed on their minds for sure."

WITH THESE TOOLS TWITTER USERS WILL GAIN MORE CONTROL AND BE ABLE TO MUTE USERS, NOTIFICATIONS, CONVERSATIONS, EVEN MUTE SPECIFIC WORDS OR HASHTAGS. WHEN YOU MUTE SOMETHING THE IDEA IS YOU WON'T SEE THAT AGAIN. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE HOW WELL THE FEATURE ACTUALLY WORKS.

THIS NEW TOOL WILL BE ROLLED OUT TO USERS IN A FEW DAYS, BUT I GOT A SNEAK PEAK WHEN THEY TURNED IT ON FOR ME.

IT'S EASY TO ACTIVATE THIS MUTE FEATURE. YOU GO INTO YOUR SETTINGS AND THEN LOOK FOR THE "MUTED WORDS" TAB. IN THERE YOU TYPE OUT WHAT YOU WANT TO MUTE, WHATEVER IT IS, A WORD, A HASHTAG. AND THAT'S IT. YOU CAN UNMUTE ANYTIME.

DIVERSITY

11/15/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Hate crimes on the rise

FOLLOWING A WEEK OF ANTI-TRUMP PROTESTS AND MULTIPLE REPORTS OF HATE CRIMES, THE FBI HAS RELEASED NEW NUMBERS. REPORTER MARY MALONEY HAS THE BREAKDOWN.

IT'S BEEN ONE WEEK SINCE ELECTION DAY 2016 AND IN THAT TIME REPORTS OF HATE CRIMES HAVE STREAMED IN FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER, MORE THAN 400 CASES OF HARRASSMENT OR INTIMIDATION HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE LAST 7 DAYS. HATEFUL WORDS AND SYMBOLS HAVE BEEN SPRAY-PAINTED ON CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS. IN ONE SCHOOL, STUDENTS STOOD UP AT LUNCH AND CHANTED "BUILD THE WALL."

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST DONALD TRUMP SUPPORTERS. ONE MAN SAYS HE WAS ATTACKED IN CHICAGO AFTER A CAR ACCIDENT, ACCUSED OF VOTING FOR THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE.

Victim: "I heard a lady say something about 'that guy's one of those Trump supporters.' I turned and said to her that has nothing to do with this."

THIS ISN'T JUST A RECENT PHENOMENON. THE INCREASE IN HATE CRIMES TRACES BACK TO BEFORE THE ELECTION. ACCORDING TO A REPORT ISSUED BY THE FBI THIS WEEK, HATE CRIMES IN THE U.S. ROSE 6.8% BETWEEN 2014 AND 2015. ATTACKS AGAINST MUSLIMS ROSE 67% COMPARED TO THE YEAR BEFORE – 257 ATTACKS IN 2015. THAT'S THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ATTACKS ON MUSLIMS SINCE 2001 FOLLOWING THE AL QUEDA ATTACKS ON 9/11, ACCORDING TO THE SOUTHERN POVERYTY LAW CENTER.

WHILE PRESIDENT ELECT TRUMP ADDRESSED THE ISSUE AND IMPLORED PEOPLEL TO STOP THE VIOLENCE DURING AN INTERVIEW ON 60 MINUTES, OUTGOING SENATE MINORITY LEADER HARRY REID SAYS TRUMP NEEDS TO DO MORE

Reid: "Stop hiding behind your Twitter account and show America that racism, bullying and bigotry have no place in the White House or in America."

MARY MALONEY KRON 4 NEWS

DIVERSITY

11/15/16 KRON 4 Evening News Feeding hungry over the holidays

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. THE HOLIDAYS, SPENDING TIME WITH THE FAMILY, ENJOYING GREAT HOLIDAY MEALS.

FOR MANY BAY AREA RESIDENTS, THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS A TIME FOR HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, MAKING SURE THEY HAVE FOOD ON THE TABLE AS WELL. TODAY, KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN SPENT TIME WITH SOME FOLKS WHO ARE DOING JUST THAT.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND VOLUNTEERS ARE BUSY HERE AT THE FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO IN CONCORD.

Lisa Sherrill, food bank spokesperson: "Almost 40% of the food bank's donations come in during the holiday season."

THE FOOD BANK'S COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR LISA SHERRILL SAYS EVEN THOUGH SOME SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY HAVE IMPROVED, THERE ARE STILL FAMILIES IN NEED OUT THERE.

Sherrill: "The food bank is still serving 1 in 8 people in Contra Costa and Solano counties. The need has not decreased since the recession has been over. We are still serving as many as we were two years ago."

SHE SAYS THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEN AND NOW IS PEOPLE ARE WORKING AND STILL NEEDING HELP.

Sherrill: "There are still so many people in need. I've talked to clients at distributions who are working but not making enough to make ends meet, so they turn to the food bank to help stretch their food budgets."

THE FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO IS AWLAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS. THESE FOLKS LENDING A HAND ARE FROM MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE IN ANTIOCH

Volunteer: "You know it's the holidays and some people aren't as fortunate as we are and it's a wonderful way to contribute back to the community."

THESE VOLUNTEERS SEEM TO BE HAVING A LOT OF FUN, TOO!

IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT HELPING THIS YEAR, NOW IS THE TIME. YOU WILL FIND THESE FOOD COLLECTION BARRELS AT SAFEWAY AND WHOLE FOODS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER YOU CAN CONTACT THE FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO

Sherrill: "We always need help."

IN CONCORD HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

DIVERSITY

11/16/16 KRON 4 Evening News Local hate crimes

WITH RACIAL TENSIONS SOARING ACROSS THE NATION, HATE SPEECH HITS THE CITY OF NOVATO. PEOPLE FOUND RACIALLY CHARGED GRAFFITI ON A VACANT BUILDING IN A HISTORIC PART OF TOWN AND, AS KRON 4'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL REPORTS CITY LEADERS SAY THIS KIND OF ACT WON'T BE TOLERATED.

Novato official: "This is not normal. This is not who we are and it will not be tolerated."

WE'VE BLURRED THE RACIST GRAFFITI CAPTURED BY A PASSERBY IN THIS PHOTO. THE HATEFUL LANGUAGE INCLUDED THE N-WORD. THE NOVATO POLICE DEPARTMENT SAYS THE GRAFFITI WAS DISCOVERED BY OFFICERS MAKING THE ROUNDS MONDAY MORNING. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PAINTED OVER IT THE NEXT DAY.

Novato official: "I think our whole community is saddened and outraged by this."

THE SPRAY PAINTED SLURS WERE FOUND AT HAMILTON FIELD ON THE OLD OFFICER'S CLUB ACROSS FROM THE POOL. CITY COUNCILMEMBER JOSH FRYDAY LIVES DOWN THE STREET.

Fryday: "We're in a unique time where our values are going to be tested, and it's now important than ever that we stand up and make it very loud and very clear that any sort of intimidation or targeting of anyone is just not going to be tolerated."

LIEUTENANT OLIVER COLLINS SAYS ITS UNCLEAR IF THE GRAFFITI IS RELATED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, POLARZING RESULTS THAT HAVE SINCE ELEVATED RACIAL TENSIONS NATIONWIDE.

Lt. Collins: "However, the timing is rather close and it could be perceived that way."

IF CAUGHT, LIEUTENANT COLLINS SAYS THAT THE TAGGERS COULD FACE VANDALISM CHARGES. AS FOR A HATE CRIME.

Lt. Collins: "There's no specific victim, so it does not meet the requirement for a hate crime, but it appears to be some hate motivation involved in it."

ACTIONS CONDEMNED BY CITY MANAGER REGAN CANDELARIO.

Candelario: "it's not something that's normal here in Novato and it's definitely not something that reflects our society or our community."

NEVERTHELESS, AN ISSUE, COUNCILMAN FRYDAY SAYS REQUIRES THE PUBLIC'S FULL ATTENTION.

Fryday: "People know that we are so much better than this."

IN NOVATO, PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON FOUR NEWS.>

AND IN THE EAST BAY, A WOMAN WHO DESCRIBES HER RELIGION AS LOVE AND PEACE IS THE VICTIM OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A HATE CRIME. THE MILPITAS WOMAN SAYS SHE RETUNED FROM A HIKE ONLY TO FIND HER CAR HAD BEEN BURGLARIZED AND THE CROOK LEFT A HATE-FILLED NOTE ON THE WINDSHIELD. KRON 4'S ROB FLADEBOE IS LIVE IN FREMONT WITH MORE ON THIS DISTURBING STORY.

SOLONICA 'NICKI' PANCHOLY, OF MILPITAS, WAS HIKING HERE AT MISSION PEAK IN FREMONT WHEN SOMEONE, THINKING HER HEAD SCARF WAS A HIJAB, SMASHED THE WINDOWS OF HER CAR, STOLE HER PURSE AND LEFT A NASTY NOTE ON THE WINDSHIELD.

PANCHOLY IS NOT A MUSLIM. KRON 4 NEWS HAS LEARNED THAT THE AUTHOR OF THE NOTE, NOW IN THE HANDS OF EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS, SPOKE ABOUT HOW AMERICA IS QUOTE 'OUR NATION NOW,' AND THAT MUSLIMS SHOULD GET OUT.'

SHOCKED AND SADDENED BY WHAT IS BEING INVESTIGATED AS A HATE CRIME, PANCHOLI, SOMEWHAT IRONICALLY, HAS HIKED MISSION PEAK EVERY DAY FOR THE PAST MONTH AND A HALF IN WHAT SHE SAYS IS A 'MISSION OF PEACE AND LOVE,' A MISSION DEDICATED TO HER AILING GRANDFATHER AND NOW TO ENDING IGNORANCE.

DIVERSITY

11/16/16 KRON 4 Evening News New surge of undocumented immigrants

A BIG STORY IS UNFOLDING ALONG THE UNITED STATES BORDER. OFFICIALS SAY A NEW WAVE OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS, MOSTLY FROM CENTRAL AMERICA, ARE ARRIVING ON AMERICA'S DOORSTEP.

THE MAYOR OF A BORDER CITY IN TEXAS SAYS HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH RECENT ARRIVALS REVEAL TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN PROMISES HAVE A LOT TO DO WITH IT.

BUT POLO SANDOVAL, WITH OUR PARNTERS AT C-N-N, FOUND OUT SOME IMMIGRANTS SAY THEIR ARRIVAL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PRESIDENT-ELECT:

IT'S A SECOND SOUTH TEXAS BORDER SURGE AND THERE ARE HARDLY ANY EMPTY SEATS ON THE UNMARKED BUSSES THAT PULL INTO MCALLEN'S CENTRAL STATION.

THOUSANDS OF UNDOCUMENTED CENTRAL AMERICAN FAMILIES FLEEING CRIME AND POVERTY ARE AGAIN SATURATING AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM.

THEY TURN THEMSELVES INTO AUTHORITIES AT THE BORDER, ARE PROCESSED, THEN RELEASED WEARING AN ANKLE MONITOR AND THE PROMISE OF RETURNING FOR A COURT DATE.

(Polo Sandoval/ Reporting) "What is it that brings you to the United States?

(Carlos Cardona/ Undocumented Immigrant) "La delincuencia en mi país?"

(Polo Sandoval/ Reporting) "He says the level of crime in his country is what brings him and his son Juan Carlos here."

BEFORE HEADING NORTH, CARLOS CARDONA AND HIS FOUR-YEAR-OLD SON MADE A BRIEF STOP AT A SHELTER THAT OPENED IT'S DOORS DURING THE IMMIGRATION SURGE OF 2014.

IT'S RUN BY SISTER NORMA PIMENTEL.

(Sister Norma Pimentel/ Humanitarian Respite Center) "The violence instead of diminishing is escalating. And so we have families that fear for their lives, especially of their kids."

(Polo Sandoval/ Reporting) "Volunteers have been walking these families from the bus station, to the shelter and back for already two years now. But what's new are the numbers that we are seeing lately. You hear from some of the officials here in south Texas they will also tell you there's another reason why so many people are rushing to the U.S."

(Mayor Jim Darling/ McAllen, TX) "They all know about President Trump, they all know about a wall. When you talk to them they know that."

MAYOR JIM DARLING SUSPECTS IT'S NO LONGER JUST VIOLENCE AND POVERTY IN CENTRAL AMERICA FUELING THIS NEW WAVE.

(Mayor Jim Darling/ McAllen, TX) "If you are talking about building a fence and we are not going to let a lot of people in, you better get over here now before January and the swearing-in ceremony."

BACK IN THE SHELTER, THESE NEW ARRIVALS WEIGH IN.

(Polo Sandoval/ Reporting) "So who comes here fearing that Donald Trump plans to build a massive border wall? Quicn vino con el temor que Donald Trump tiene planes de construir un muro fronterizo?"

AMONG THE CROWDS WE FOUND 17-YEAR-OLD DIRIAM FUENTES AND HER FATHER NERI.

(Polo Sandoval/ Reporting) "Now that you're here in the US, are you afraid of the idea of mass deportations?"

(Diriam Fuentes/ Undocumented Immigrant) "Si da temor. Nosotros los menores queremos venir a superarnos....

FUENTES TELLS ME SHE FEARS BEING RETURNED TO HER NATIVE HONDURAS.

ON THE BANKS OF THE RIO GRANDE, MORE MIGRANTS EMERGE OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND TURN THEMSELVES INTO AUTHORITIES.

IT'S A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS FLOW OF FAMILIES ARRIVING NIGHT AND DAY.

(Sister Norma Pimentel/ Humanitarian Respite Center) "There is a big fear in our community about what is going to happen. Ultimately, we have to respond is to the fact that they're human beings."

CARLOS CARDONA AND HIS SON ARE STARTING THE U.S. STRETCH OF HIS JOURNEY.

LIKE SO MANY OTHERS WHO ARE NOW IN THEIR SHOES, THEY FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

DIVERSITY

11/18/16 KRON 4 Evening News Response to rise in Bay Area hate crimes

THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO IS RESPONDING TO THE RISE IN HATE CRIME INCIDENTS IN THE BAY AREA. TODAY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCON ANNOUNCED THE REACTIVATION OF THE CITY'S HATE CRIME HOTLINE. THAT HOTLINE WILL BE IN OPERATION 24 HOURS A DAY.

ANYONE WHO BELIEVES THEY ARE A VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME OR HAS WITNESSED A HATE CRIME CAN USE THE NUMBER TO CONTACT INVESTIGATORS.

Gascon: "If you look at social media, all the stuff that is going on. There are families who are terrorized there are people who are afraid to send their kids to school in many parts of our nation, and San Francisco is impacted by that as well"

THE HOTLINE NUMBER IS 415 -575-4444. AGAIN, IT IS OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY.

DIVERSITY

11/20/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Local community stages unity rally

ANTI-TRUMP DEMONSTRATIONS ARE STILL HAPPENING AROUND THE BAY AREA. ONE OF THEM IN SAN JOSE TODAY HAD A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT APPROACH. KRON 4'S SPENCER BLAKE IS LIVE AT SAN JOSE CITY HALL WHERE IT TOOK PLACE:

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IN JEWISH TRADITION, THE SOUNDING OF A SHOFAR IS LIKE A WAKE-UP CALL, OR A CALL TO ACTION. THAT'S WHAT ELECTED LEADERS, RELIGIOUS CLERGY, AND NONPROFITS GATHERED FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

Dave Cortese: "We're the shining light for the rest of the country in terms of engagement, in terms of the community coming together."

REFERRING TO PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP'S PROPOSED POLICIES REGARDING IMMIGRANTS AND MUSLIMS, COUNTY SUPERVISOR DAVE CORTESE ANNOUNCED THE BOARD'S PLANS FOR A LEGAL DEFENSE FUND THAT WOULD HELP FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS.

Cortese: "The campaign for inclusiveness - we need to start it right here, right now in Santa Clara County. Are we ready to do that? Yeah!"

THOUGH EVERYONE TRIED TO SQUEEZE UNDER AN ALCOVE, THE RAIN DIDN'T KEEP 150 OR MORE AWAY.

Omar Vasquez: "Right now there's a lot of hateful things going on, and we're not going to stand for it. I think with the people that we have some power, that we can stop Trump's intentions - what he promised."

OMAR VASQUEZ IS WORRIED ABOUT TRUMP'S PLAN TO BUILD A BORDER WALL, AND REGISTER MUSLIMS. VASQUEZ IS ALREADY PLANNING A WALKOUT AT SAN JOSE CITY COLLEGE NEXT MONTH.

THE ASIAN LAW ALLIANCE, WHICH PROVIDES LEGAL HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS, WAS ONE OF DOZENS OF CO-SPONSORS OF THE RALLY.

Asian Law Alliance directore: "We're looking to try to decide how we can move forward and advance these issues."

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THINKS THERE MAY BE MORE EVENTS LIKE THIS TO COME.

THE RALLY FEATURED HUGE POSTERS LABELED:

- · PROTECT IMMIGRANTS
- · PROTECT HEALTHCARE
- · STOP HATE CRIMES.

PEOPLE SIGNED THEIR NAMES TO THEM TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN CIVIL ACTION.

LIVE IN SAN JOSE, SPENCER BLAKE, KRON 4 NEWS.

ANCHOR: UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS FACING THREATS OF DEPORTATION MAY SOON HAVE MORE LEGAL HELP IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY. IN A BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING ON

DECEMBER SIXTH, MEMBERS WILL PROMOTE A PLAN TO EXPAND LEGAL SERVICES. IT WILL PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FOR HEARINGS AND HELP PREPARING DOCUMENTS. THE PLAN WILL ALSO ENSURE IMMIGRANTS ARE INFORMED ABOUT CHANGES IN FEDERAL IMMIGRATION POLICIES THAT MAY AFFECT THEM.

DIVERSITY

12/1/16 KROn 4 Evening News UC System speaks up to defend immigrant students

DONALD TRUMP'S PLAN TO DEPORT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IS BEING MET WITH MORE RESISTANCE. UC PRESIDENT JANET NAPOLITANO SAYS THE UC SYSTEM WILL PROTECT STUDENTS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY. IN A "STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES", NAPOLITANO SAID THE TEN CAMPUSES WILL NOT RELEASE ANY CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT RECORDS WITHOUT COURT ORDERS. NAPOLITANO HAS MADE A BOLD PLEDGE TO ENSURE THAT UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS FEEL SAFE ON UC CAMPUSES. SHE SAYS THE UC SYSTEM WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH ANY FEDERAL EFFORT TO CREATE A NATIONAL REGISTRY BASED ON RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. AND ALL STUDENT RECORDS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. NAPOLITANO HAS BEEN VOCAL ON THE SUBJECT SINCE THE ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP. SHE WANTS TO ENSURE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS THEY CAN FEEL SAFE ON UC CAMPUSES. THIS MARKS THE FIRST FORMAL "SYSTEM-WIDE POLICY" APPROACH TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ISSUES

DIVERSITY

12/2/16 KRON 4 Evening News Local cities seeks to allay immigrant fears

TODAY SAN JOSE CITY LEADERS ADDRESSED SOME COMPLAINTS COMING FROM RESIDENTS OF THE CITY AFTER THE ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP.

POLICE CHIEF EDDIE GARICIA ALONG WITH MAYOR SAM LICCARDO SAY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT ENFORCE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS. THE CITY HAS NOT DEEMED ITSELF A SANCTUARY CITY, BUT THE CHIEF SAYS DEPORTATION IS NOT THE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE. GARCIA ALSO SAYS HE DOES NOT WANT MINORITY RESIDENTS TO HESITATE TO REPORT CRIMES OUT OF FEAR OF GETTING DEPORTED.

GARCIA SAYS THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ASK VICTIMS OR WITNESSES OF CRIMES ABOUT THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS AND IT WILL STAY THAT WAY.

IN SAN FRANCISCO TODAY, TAKING A STAND AGAINST HATE TODAY, SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCON VISITED A MOSQUE AND, AS KRON 4'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL REPORTS, GASCON REASSURED MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO THAT ISLAMPHOBIA IS UNACCEPTABLE.

DA George Gascon: "Here in San Francisco, we will not tolerate hate."

THAT'S THE CENTRAL MESSAGE FROM SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCON AFTER SPENDING AN HOUR INSIDE THE MOSQUE AT THE ISLAMIC SOCEITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, OBSERVING THE PRAYER SERVICE, THEN ADDRESSING THE CROWD, TELLING THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY DIRECTLY THAT THEY HAVE HIS OFFICE'S SUPPORT. HE SAYS HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS, WHILE ALSO ENCOURAGING VICTIMS OF HATE TO REPORT CRIMES AND NOT STAY IN THE SHADOWS. A MESSAGE WELL RECEIVED.

Attendee: "This is a tough time we're going through right now, um, but I think it's going to get better from here and I think um, I really appreciate the District Attorney come out here and supporting us as a community."

GASCON WAS JOINED BY OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS IN A SHOW OF UNITY, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY NOTING THAT SINCE LAST YEAR, HATE CRIMES ARE UP...

Gascon: "Seven percent nationwide against all groups and 67 percent against Muslim Americans and that is nationwide, that's correct. We saw a small uptick in San Francisco as well, um, but it has been more generalized."

GASCON SAYS FALLOUT FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HAS EMBOLDENED RACISTS AND HE VOWS TO FIGHT AGAINST THAT.

Gascon: "We're seeing people that before even if they harbor some level of hate or intolerance they kept it to themselves, now they feel very comfortable articulating that very publicly and we want to make sure that we do not make people believe that that's okay."

IN SAN FRANCISCO, PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON 4 NEWS.

DIVERSITY

12/2/16 KRON 4 Evening News School creates a playground accessible to all

MANY EDUCATORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE MARKING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK NEXT WEEK. THE EVENT CELEBRATES THE PROGRESS SCHOOLS HAVE MADE IN PROVIDING A SUPPORTIVE, QUALITY EDUCATION TO A DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION. IN ATLANTA, ONE TEACHER HAS BROUGHT TO LIFE A PLAYGROUND WHERE ALL STUDENTS CAN PLAY, REGARDLESS OF PHYSICAL ABILITIES. CNN'S KIM HUTCHERSON HAS MORE.

IT'S RECESS TIME AT TOOMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ATLANTA...

BUT THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT HERE -- YOU LIKELY HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE.

IT'S THE RESULT OF SOME CREATIVE THINKING BY KINDERGARTEN TEACHER EMILY MAX --

SHE WANTED A PLAYSPACE FOR BOTH SPECIAL NEEDS AND NON-SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS.

Emily Max/Teacher--ALT--designed Inclusive Playground: "I feel very strongly that if all kids can play together, all kids can live together."

CHECK OUT SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT MAX DEVELOPED --

CHILDREN WITH LIMITED LOWER BODY STRENGTH CAN USE THE "ROLLER TABLE".

Emily Max/Teacher--ALT--Designed Inclusive Playground: "Kids can be transferred on -- but you roll through and you can pull yourself a long --- and then out onto the other side."//This is our sensory panel.//It's got different textures and sensations not just for kids with sensory needs but also students with visual impairments."

MAX WON A 100 THOUSAND DOLLAR GRANT TO BUILD THE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND.

SHE SAYS SINCE HER STUDENTS HAVE BEEN USING IT THEY'VE BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT AND HAVE LEARNED COOPERATION SKILLS.

AND ONCE IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THE PLAYGROUND, MAX HOPES HER STUDENTS WILL HAVE LEARNED SOME VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS.

Emily Max/Teacher--ALT--Designed Inclusive Playground: "How to play safely, how to play within those boundaries and making sure that everyone feels accepted and included."

FOR TODAY'S HEALTH MINUTE I'M KIM HUTCHERSON

ANCHOR: THERE ARE SIMILAR PLAYGROUNDS RIGHT HERE IN THE BAY AREA, INCLUDING THE MAGICAL BRIDGE PLAYGROUND IN PALO ALTO WHICH IS DESIGNED FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. THE PLAYGROUND WAS BUILT WITH SEED MONEY AND LAND FROM THE CITY OF PALO ALTO, AS WELL AS ABOUT FOUR MILLION DOLLARS IN PRIVATE DONATIONS. IT HAS HAD PHENOMENAL SUCCESS SINCE OPENING IN 2015.

DIVERSITY

12/2/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Anti-bigotry messages appear in BART stations

SOME BART COMMUTERS GOT MORE THAN A RIDE TODAY AND IT WAS A LESSON AGAINST RACISM. A POSTER WAS PUT UP ACROSS BAY AREA STATIONS STATING XENOPHOBIA AMONG OTHER ISSUES IS PROHIBITED IN THE BART SYSTEM AT ALL TIMES. BUT IT TURNS OUT BART WAS NOT BEHIND THE STRONG MESSAGE. KRON 4'S ELLA SOGOMONIAN IS LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO WITH MORE:.

BART COMMUTERS WERE SHOCKED AND OTHERS AMUSED BY THE BRAZEN MESSAGE THAT WE'VE HAD TO BLUR OUT. BUT WERE EVEN MORE SURPRISED TO FIND IT WASN'T AN OFFICIAL BART POSTER BUT AN ACTIVIST.

THERE ARE MANY POSTERS PLASTERED ALONG BART STATION WALLS. NO SMOKING, NO DRINKING, NO GRAFFITI. BUT NONE LIKE THIS....

A NO BIGOTRY POSTER POPPED UP ACROSS BAY AREA BART STATIONS FRIDAY MORNING - ADDRESSING RIDERS SAYING QUOTE: RACISM, SEXISM, ISLAMOPHOBIA, HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA, AND XENOPHOBIA ARE PROHIBITED IN THE BART SYSTEM AT ALL TIMES. GET YOUR SH*T TOGETHER.

Rajan Patel, BART rider: "I like it it's being talked about on the news right now so I think it works."

Karli Woodard, BART rider: "Well it took me a second to read it but once I got to the bottom I had a little laugh. But I think it's an important topic to talk about."

IT'S CLEAR THE POSTERS ARE A TACTIC TO BRING AWARENESS TO A SENSITIVE TOPIC - AND MAY INTEND TO BE A BIT HUMOROUS- BUT THE LAST CRUDE LINE WAS A TURN OFF TO OTHER COMMUTERS.

Eric Mun, BART rider: "Shocked and taken aback to see the message on a BART train especially the S word what if there were kids or families around?"

DESPITE THE LOGO, IT TURNS OUT BART WASN'T BEHIND THE STRONG LANGUAGE. THEIR COMMUNICATION TEAM REVEALED THEY DON'T KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THE UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS POSING AS OFFICIAL BART MATERIALS. BART RELEASED A STATEMENT SAYING "THOUGH WE CAN APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF GUERILLA ART, MISREPRESENTING THE DISTRICT SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AND IS NOT ALLOWED ON THE SYSTEM."

BART rider: "Maybe they had good intentions but I don't think it was a right way to present it in a public forum."

AND BECAUSE THEY LOOKED SO OFFICIAL, SOME PEOPLE IGNORED THEM ALTOGETHER.

BART rider: "Maybe it didn't get as much attention because it looked so official. I didn't notice them at all."

BUT BART AUTHORITIES SURE NOTICED.

IN GENERAL RIDERS WE SPOKE WITH SAID THEY DIDN'T THINK THE DIVERSE BAY AREA HAS A BIG PROBLEM WITH THE LISTED ISSUES DESCRIBING THE REGION AS ACCEPTING. ALL AGREED THIS STAEMENT MUST HAVE BEEN A PRODUCT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. ALL POSTERS WERE TAKEN DOWN BY THE END OF THE DAY.

LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO ELLA SOGOMONIAN KRON 4 NEWS.

DIVERSITY

12/7/16 KRON 4 Evening News Homeless outreach program in peril

PASTOR SCOTT WAGERS OF THE SAN JOSE-BASED C.H.A.M. MINISTRIES HAS DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS LIFE TO HELPING THE HOMELESS BUT NOW HE'S THE ONE WHO COULD USE A LITTLE HELP.

Pastor Wagers: "We need a place to park this. If anybody watching knows of a place, a big lot, we'll take care of it..."

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR NOW, WAGERS HAS BEEN USING HIS MOTOR HOME, KNOWN AS THE 'MERCY MOBILE,' TO DELIVER FOOD AND CLOTHING TO HOMELESS CAMPS AROUND TOWN. BUT PARKING THE 37 FOOT R-V ON CITY STREETS AT NIGHT HAS LED TO COMPLAINTS FROM NEIGHBORS, SOME OF WHOM FEEL THE MERCY MOBILE IS AN EYESORE AND MAY BE DRAWING MORE HOMELESS PEOPLE INTO THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

Pastor Wagers: "Every time we go to a homeless camp now – and they're very close to the neighborhoods; there's one that's adjacent to a neighborhood that's really congested, so people came out yesterday, they came outdoors and they were very upset with me and say they see what the problem is now."

ONLY LAST WEEK, SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE MERCY MOBILE AND STOLE NOT ONLY ALL FOOD AND BLANKETS INSIDE BUT SOME OF WAGERS' PERSONAL ITEMS AS WELL. A DAY LATER, CHURCH GROUPS AND OTHERS STEPPED UP AND REPLACED ALL OF IT.

Pastor Wagers: "...lotions, toothpaste, toiletry items we got a lot of stuff like this that was just donated and of course we have here some nice comforters and blankets. This is really essential."

WAGERS SAYS THE POLICE ARE ON HIM TO PARK THE MERCY MOBILE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. HE'S HAD SEVERAL TICKETS AND THERE WAS ANOTHER VISIT FROM TRAFFIC CONTROL THIS AFTERNOON WHICH RESULTED IN A 72 HOUR WARNING TO MOVE ON OR BE TOWED.

Pastor Wagers: "Help us find a place to park the Mercy Mobile. Help us find a place to park the homeless! Let's look for something that's compassionate and not fight each other and be at cross-purposes. That's crippling the problem and making it more difficult for everybody. I can tell you that. I'm on the front lines of this. And there's all kinds of people lashing out in anger. It reminds me of what's going on in our country, frankly. It's just not rational."

PASTOR WAGERS SAYS A LOCAL CHURCH HAS OFFERED TEMPORARY PARKING BUT THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE NEIGHBORS, SAY SWAGERS, AND TO KEEP THE MERCY MOBILE ROLLING IS TO FIND LONG-TERM PAKRING PREFERABLY ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.

DIVERSITY

12/19/16 KRON 4 Evening News Student project helps disabled children

SOME COLLEGE STUDENTS IN FLORIDA ARE HELPING DISABLED CHILDREN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. THEY ARE CONVERTING DRIVABLE TOY-CARS FROM STORE SHELVES INTO CUSTOM-MADE CARS THAT THEY CAN DRIVE. ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA IN JACKSONVILLE ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE ADAPTIVE TOY PROGRAM. THEY HAVE JUST RECEIVED A FIVE-YEAR GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH. THE STUDENTS ARE CONVERTING THE TOY CARS WITH A LARGE PUSH BUTTON INSTEAD OF A STEERING WHEEL AND LIGHT SENSORS MOUNTED UNDERNEATH THE CAR WILL ALLOW IT TO STEER ITSELF. DOCTORS SAY THE TOY WILL GIVE THE CHILDREN NEW MOBILITY AND HELP THEM BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT.

DIVERSITY

12/30/16 KRON 4 Evening News Surge in illegal immigration arrests

A SURGE OF CENTRAL AMERICANS TRYING TO ENTER THE U.S. ILLEGALLY HAS LED TO MORE IMMIGRATION ARRESTS. HOMELAND SECURITY SAYS THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS BY ICE AND THE BORDER PATROL SPIKED BY 15-PERCENT IN 2016. AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS, NUMBERS HAVE MOSTLY BEEN DROPPING RECENTLY COMPARED TO PAST DECADES. THE BORDER PATROL DID ARREST MORE THAN 400 THOUSAND PEOPLE, BUT SAYS THAT'S THE FIFTH-LOWEST TALLY SINCE 1972. AND IT'S WELL BELOW THE TOTALS IN THE LATE 90'S AND EARLY 2000'S.

4Q2016 EDUCATION

EDUCATION

10/2 16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Teacher of the week

KRON FOUR IS PROFILING SOME OF THE BAY AREA'S OUTSTANDING TEACHERS. OUR TEACHER OF THE WEEK IS LEAH MURRAY FROM FARALLONE VIEW ELEMENTARY IN MONTARA. CATHERINE HEENAN SAYS THAT JUST ONE OF THE REASONS HER STUDENTS LOVE HER IS WEEKLY TEA PARTIES:

LEAH MURRAY BELIEVES THINGS DON'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN A GOOD BOOK AND A NICE CUP OF TEA. AND IT'S MORE THAN THAT. IT'S A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS FOR HER 4TH GRADERS. THEY'RE LEARNING TO LOVE THE POWER OF READING.

Schoolyard playground: "Can we get a basketball. Yes!"

IT'S RECESS AT FARALLONE VIEW ELEMENTARY, MEANING LOTS OF BALL GAMES, CATCHING UP WITH FRIENDS, AND KIERAN DOING HIS FAMOUS MAGIC TRICKS.

Leah Murray, teacher: "All right. Line up. Just right book. Meet me on the rug."

BUT WHEN IT'S TIME FOR MS. MURRAY'S 4TH GRADERS TO HEAD BACK INTO THE CLASSROOM, NO ONE'S COMPLAINING. SHE TELLS THEM TO PICK A "JUST RIGHT" BOOK, BECAUSE IT'S FRIDAY AND THE FOCUS IS READING. NOT JUST READING, BUT 'READING INTENSELY.'

Murray: "I see students reading so intensely that they're not even looking up from their books."

IF YOU'RE IN LEAH MURRAY'S CLASS, YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY BOOKS. EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK THERE'S CARTONS AND STACKS AND SHELVES OF THEM. YOU'RE ENCOURAGED TO READ WHAT YOU WANT AND JUST GET LOST IN THE STORY.

[montage of students talking about what they're reading]

Student: "It's like I survived in books that are about true things."

Student: "A girl named Nikki and her sister."

Student: "I'm reading Goosebumps."

Student: "I'm reading Walt Disney."

MISS MURRAY DOESN'T JUST WANT STUDENTS TO BE 'ABLE' TO READ, SHE WANTS THEM TO 'LOVE' IT.

Murray: "It's just such a wonderful part of life. It would be so sad if they didn't get to enjoy that."

AND WHAT COULD MAKE IT EVEN BETTER? AFTERNOON TEA PARTIES.

ON FRIDAYS, EVERYONE GETS A STEAMING CUP OF THEIR FAVORITE TEA, ADDING TO LEAH'S PLAN TO CREATE A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AND COSINESS AND 'LOVE' AROUND BOOKS. IT COULD BECOME A LIFETIME HABIT.

Murray: "They could curl up on a rainy day with a book and a cup of tea even when they're 20 or 30 or 40 or beyond and remember being in 4th grade and doing the same thing."

Cesar Gaytan, principal: "It's just the tone of her voice. And the music that she plays. The way in which she addresses class – it's incredible."

Murray: "I adored my teachers! I just thought they were perfect."

SO THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A LITTLE GIRL GROWS UP AND WANTS TO BE JUST LIKE THOSE TEACHERS SHE ADORED. TO RECREATE FOR HER OWN STUDENTS THAT SENSE OF MAGIC AND JOY IN THE DISCOVERY OF A GOOD BOOK.

AND READING A BOOK IS NEVER ASSIGNED AS HOMEWORK IN MS. MURRAY'S CLASS. SHE SAYS IT'S NOT NECESSARY, MOST OF HER STUDENTS NOW REACH FOR A BOOK AT HOME FOR THE SHEER PLEASURE OF IT.

YOU CAN NOMINATE A TEACHER OF THE WEEK. JUST GO TO OUR WEBSITE, KRON FOUR DOT COM, AND CLICK ON THE TEACHER OF THE WEEK TAB TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY.

EDUCATION

10/17/16 KRN 4 Evening News Latest figures on high school graduation rates

PRESIDENT OBAMA IS AMONG THOSE SAYING THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD HANDS. HE'S CITING A STUDY SHOWING THAT MORE U.S. STUDENTS ARE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL. THE WHITE HOUSE REPORT SAYS THAT THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

RATE NOW TOPS 83 PERCENT, WHICH IS A NEW RECORD. IT'S ALSO A FOUR PERCENT INCREASE SINCE THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR. THE NEW RATES REPORTEDLY INCLUDE ALL GROUPS OF STUDENTS, INCLUDING BLACK, HISPANIC, AND NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR GRADUATION RATES AND THOSE OF WHITE STUDENTS.

EDUCATION

10/19/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Google offers tech training to kids

GOOGLE NOW OFFICIALLY HAS A PRESENCE IN OAKLAND. THEY OPENED UP A COMPUTER SCIENCE LAB IN THE FRUITVALE VILLAGE, NEXT TO THE FRUITVALE BART STATION. THE GOAL OF THE LAB IS TO HELP TEACH MINORITY KIDS COMPUTER SKILLS. OUR TECH REPORTER GABE SLATE VISITED THE LAB, GOOGLE CALLS "CODE NEXT" WHERE THEY ARE HOPING TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF TECH WORKERS FOR THE BAY AREA:

Google says its research shows that 51% of African-American students and 47% of Hispanic students don't have access to computer science classes in school.

And the tech industry, which is made up of mostly white and Asian males, could use more diversity. Google included. According to their latest diversity report black people make up just 2% of their employee population and Hispanics make up 3%. Most of the tech companies in silicon valley share those type of numbers.

The curriculum is includes core math skills necessary for coding, engineering design and leadership development – skills that can lead to a job which is what many of those attending are hoping fore.

Today is leadership club, hands on activities to learn about how to communicate when working with a team on a project.

The program is free to attend, but students must be nominated by their schools OR non-profit organizations like Black Girls Code.

Gabe Slate KRON 4 News

EDUCATION

10/20/16 KRON 4 Evening News School district considering later start time

ONE BAY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS CONSIDERING LETTING SOME STUDENTS SLEEP IN A LITTLE MORE. THE PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW NOVATO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS TO PUSH THEIR START TIMES BACK. KRON4'S MAUREEN KELLY TALKED TO KIDS AT NOVATO HIGH WHO ALL SEEM TO LIKE THE IDEA.

Josh Jossart, student: "It's a good idea. We need more sleep we are teenagers. It's hard to get up and we don't have enough energy to study"

Willy Lopez, student: "If we start later than we get to learn more things we are more focused and awake instead of tired and sleepy

Laylani Williams: "It would give me more time to get a little more rest, staying up late with homework it's hard. Being here so early, it's hard to pay attention because I'm still kinda tired from waking up I think people would be more engaged in school if we got to start later, because now it's like we don't want to be here because it's seven o'clock in the morning."

Matt Baldwin, Novato High School principal: "When you go into our classrooms right now for first period at 7:15 there's a lot of Starbucks, a lot of coffee thermoses. There's all those things and if you ask teachers if you ask the kids, too, they'll tell you they are not really present and ready to go, aren't really awake and focused until 3rd and fourth period."

THE REASON THESE KIDS WANT TO START SCHOOL LATER IS EXACTLY WHY NOVATO UNIFIED IS CONSIDERING THE PROPOSAL. THE STUDENTS AT NOVATO HIGH START AT BEFORE 730AM MOST DAYS. WHICH MEANS THEY HAVE TO GET UP REALLY EARLY.

Williams: "I have to wake up at 630 to get ready."

Lopez: "I have to get up at 5am."

Matt Baldwin, principal: "That's not abnormal. There's a lot of kids getting up at 4:30, 5 o'clock to be here on time. There's kids that are taking care of their family, helping their family out, helping their parents out, getting siblings up in the morning and getting them ready. It's just they are getting 4-5 hours sleep a night and that's having a huge effect on them."

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN PUSHING THE CONCEPT OF LETTING KIDS GET MORE SLEEP FOR TWO YEARS NOW. HE SAYS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT TEENS CAN SUFFER WHEN THEY DON'T GET 8-9 HOURS OF SHUTEYE.

Baldwin: "Adolescents and teenagers were suffering from anxiety and depression and the common denominator was sleep deprivation."

THE DISTRICT HAS FORMED A LATER START COMMITTEE LOOKING AT WORKING OUT THE LOGISTICS. IT MOSTLY MEANS REJIGGERING THE SCHOOL SCHEDULE SO THEY GET ALL THE INSTUCTIONAL HOURS IN THEY NEED TO DO AND CAN STILL GET THE KIDS OUT EARLY ENOUGH TO PLAY AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS WHILE THERE IS STILL DAYLIGHT....SINCE....THEY DON'T HAVE ANY LIGHTS ON THEIR FOOTBALL AND SOCCER FIELD. THE COMMITTEE IS HOPING TO COME UP WITH A DECISION BY MARCH WHICH MIGHT MEAN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS WILL BE SETTING THEIR ALARMS FOR A LATER WAKE UP TIME BY NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

MAUREEN KELLY KRON4 NEWS

EDUCATION

10/28/16 KRON 4 Evening News
Dispute over book called inappropriate for school library

A MOTHER IN WASHINGTON STATE IS FIGHTING TO HAVE A BOOK REMOVED FROM HER SON'S PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY. FROM OUR PARTNERS AT CNN, ALISON GRANDE SHOWS US WHY THE MOM IS UP IN ARMS.

Shirley Lopez, concerned mother: "Parents don't know what's underneath the cover."

SHIRLEY LOPEZ SAYS HER 14 YEAR OLD SON BROUGHT THE BOOK – MANGAMAN – HOME FROM SCHOOL. SHE FLIPPED THROUGH IT AND WAS SHOCKED BY WHAT SHE FOUND.

Lopez: "It's just erotica. These are sexual images. They are not just naked images, they are naked and sexual."

SHE CONTACTED THE PRINCIPAL AND LIBRARIAN AT ISSAQUAH HIGH SCHOOL.

Lopez: "I don't need this to be on the menu at school."

BUT SHE SAID SHE WAS TOLD IT WASN'T GOING TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE LIBRARY.

Lopez: "This is back on the shelf. They have a couple copies back on the shelf. They told me very plainly they are going to carry adult materials."

WE TOOK A COPY OF THE BOOK TO THE DISTRICT.

(L Michelle, Issaquah School District Spokesperson) "I certainly sympathize with this parent she is trying to the do the best for her child."

THE DISTRICT HAS A PROCESS WHERE BOOKS CAN BE RE-EVALUATED.

L Michelle, Issaquah School District spokesperson: "We have a 'request for review of materials' form so there is actually a process for challenging materials."

WE SHOWED THE BOOK TO OTHER PARENTS AND STUDENTS.

Parent: "Well, as a parent I would not want my 14-year-old to have free access to this in school."

Student: "It's kinda ridiculous to me that they would think it's ok to have that like in a school. I could understand a public library or whatever.

LOPEZ, HOPES THE DISTRICT WILL DO THE RIGHT THING.

Lopez: "I don't want to control anybody. I just want to send my kid to school and feel like he is safe."

EDUCATION

11/16/16 KRON 4 Evening News Local educators react to presidential election

THE UNION REPRESENTING SAN FRANCISCO'S PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IS CIRCULATING A NEW LESSON PLAN, ONE THAT CALLS PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP A RACIST, SEXIST MAN. CATHERINE HEENAN IS HERE WITH DETAILS ON WHAT THE 'UNITED EDUCATORS OF SAN FRANCISCO' IS PROMOTING:

TRUMP HASN'T EVEN BEEN SWORN IN YET, BUT SOME BAY AREA CRITICS ALREADY WANT SCHOOL LESSONS TO TARGET HIM AS A BAD CHOICE FOR THE COUNTRY. THE UNION, WHICH HAS ABOUT SIX THOUSAND MEMBERS, IS CALLING THIS AN "OPTIONAL RESOURCE".

THE PLAN ENCOURAGES SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT THE ELECTION RESULTS, TELLING THEM THEY DON'T HAVE TO ACCEPT THEM AND INSTEAD MUST "FIGHT FOR JUSTICE."

Susan Solomon, SF teachers union: "We had students coming to school who were expressing fear about the results of the election and what it meant for their lives personally. Many of our students are from immigrant families and what we call minority communities. They're majority here. They needed a safe place to talk about their concerns post-election day."

A TEACHER AT MISSION HIGH SCHOOL WROTE IN THE INTRODUCTION "PLEASE LET THEM SPEAK AND BE HEARD. LET THEM SAY WHAT IS ON THEIR MINDS. THIS IS CURCIAN FOR OUR SCHOOL LAND OUR COMMUNITY. LET US PLEASE NOT SIDESTEP THE FACT THAT A RACIST AND SEXIST MAN HAS BECOME THE PRESIDENT OF OUR COUNTRY.....".

TRUMP HAS SAID HE WILL DEPORT IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE IN THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES. IT'S NOT CLEAR YET HOW MANY TEACHERS HAVE ACTUALLY USED THE PLAN WHICH INCLUDES A CLIP OF POLITICAL PUNDIT MICHAEL MOORE TALKING ABOUT TRUMP. MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND STUDENTS WALKED OUT OF CLASS LAST WEEK TO PROTEST HIS ELECTION.

THE UNION SAYS SOME TEACHERS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN USING THIS PLAN. BUT OTHERS ARE CRAFTING THEIR OWN APPROACH. IN A STATEMENT, SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ALSO SAYS IT DOESNT SEE AN ISSUE WITH THE LESSON PLAN.

SFUSD spokesperson: "The Mission High School lesson plan, like many, has been circulated as an option for high school teachers. It is not part of the official district curriculum. Educators are entrusted to create lessons that reflect the California standards, support students' social and emotional well-being and foster inclusive and safe school communities."

EDUCATION

11/16/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Is lead a problem in our schools?

ALL THIS WEEK KRON 4 HAS BEEN TAKING AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE DANGERS OF LEAD CONTAMINATION. TONIGHT WE'RE LOOKING AT THE PROBLEM IN SCHOOLS. IN RECENT YEARS, LEAD HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE DRINKING WATER OF SCHOOLS IN MAINE, OREGON, KENTUCKY AND HERE IN CALIFORNIA. THE PROBLEM IS OF EVEN MORE CONCERN BECAUSE CHILDREN WHO ARE POISONED BY LEAD CAN SUFFER LEARNING DISORDERS. TONIGHT, KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD VISITS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE NORTH BAY TO LEARN HOW THEY HAVE HANDLED THE PROBLEM.

IN CALIAFORNIA IT FALLS T THE LOCAL WATER DISTRICTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO TEST FOR LEAD AND OTHER CONTIMINANTS IN THE WATER THAT KIDS DRINK AT SCHOOL. CALIFORNIA'S WATER SUPPLY CONTAINS LITTLE TO NO NATRUALLY OCCURRING LEAD AND SO ON ATHE RARE OCCASION THAT A PROBLME IS FOUND THE SOURCE IS ALMOST ALWAYS TRACED TO OLD PIPES OR PLUMBING FIXTURES WITHIN THE SCHOOL ITSELF.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED AT TWO SCHOOLS IN HEALDSBURG IN SONOMA COUNTY. ABOUT A YEAR AGO, A STAFF MEMBER AT HEALDSBURG ELEMENTARY NOTICED THAT THEIR WATER WAS A LITTLE CLOUDY. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BROUGHT IN A WATER TESTING AGENCY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON. CHRIS VANDEN HEUVEL IS THE DISTRICT'S SUPERINTENDENT...

Vanden Heuvel: "There appeared to be some issues with lead in the water based on those tests so we immediately shut the water off and brought in bottled water and made sure nobody was exposed."

TESTING WAS ALSO DONE AT THE DISTRICT'S OTHER SCHOOLS AND LEAD WAS AGAIN FOUND IN WATER AT THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1927. BECAUSE OF THE AGE OF THE BUILDING, REPLACING THE PLUMBING WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY E XPENSIVE, SO THE DISTRICT INSTALLED A TEMPORARY FIX.

Vanden Heuvel: We purchased a filtration system for the drinking fountains that will catch any contaminants that might be released in the future

BACK AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FOLLOW-UP TESTS BY STATE HEALTH OFFICIALS ACDTUALLY F OUND THAT THE LEAD CONTAMINATION THERE WAS A FALSE ALARM, PROBABLY THE RESULT OF IMPROPER WATER SAMPLING

Vanden Heuvel: "It actually showed that we didn't have harmful levels of lead in the water."

BUT THE INCIDIENT DID SHOW THAT THERE WAS A POTENTIAL PROBLEM AND OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION THE WATER AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS KEPT TURNED OFF FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR.

Vanden Heuvel: "We as a district decided to replace the entire plumbing system in the building there."

THEY ARE ALSO MOVING FORWARD WITH PLANS TO FIX THE PIPES AT THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

Vanden Heuvel: "Luckinly on Tuesday, our community came through and supported a school bond and we're going to be able to adress that in the near future.

FINALLY, VANDEN HEUVEL SAYS THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT LESSONS THAT OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN LEARN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE.

Vanden Heuvel: "If they have any concerns at all, I would encourage them to get a hold of their public health agencies. They will guide you and help you through that process. The second thing is to make sure that the second you have an idea theat there could be ann issue that you shut that water off and you bring in clean drinking water for your students and staff. It's not expensive. It's quite easy to do and it will provide a high degree of assurance to parents and students. And communicate with your stakeholders in a timely manner and let people Iknow what's going on."

IN HEALDSBURG, CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

EDUCATION

12/2/16 KROn 4 Evening News Next steps in local special needs school scandal

A SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL AND THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HAVE BEEN HIT WITH A LAWSUIT OVER THE ABUSE OF A STUDENT THAT WAS CAUGHT ON TAPE. KRON4'S MAUREEN KELLY HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THIS STORY FOR MONTHS. TONIGHT SHE TALKED TO THE VICTIM'S ATTORNEYS ABOUT THE CHANGE THEY HOPE WILL HAPPEN AS A RESULT OF THIS LEGAL ACTION.

IT'S VIDEO THAT'S HARD TO WATCH. A 9 YEAR OLD BOY SLAPPED, ROUGHED UP AND TAUNTED BY A TEACHER'S AIDE. THE SHOCKING IMAGES CAPTURED IN JANUARY INSIDE TOBINWORLD....A NON PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS IN ANTIOCH. TWO AIDES WERE FIRED...AND THIS JUNE PLEADED NO CONTEST TO MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL CHARGES AND ARE BOTH NOW ON PROBATION.

ALL OF THE SCHOOL'S ANTIOCH CAMPUSES ARE NOW CLOSED, SHUTTING DOWN AFTER THE ANTIOCH SCHOOL DISTRICT PULLED THEIR STUDENTS. THE DISTRICT'S MOVE TRIGGERED BY THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL LAUNCHING AN INVESTIGATION INTO HOW DISABLED STUDENTS WERE BEING TREATED AT TOBINWORLD AND OTHER NON PUBLIC SCHOOLS LIKE IT. THAT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE SOON AFTER A KRON4 SERIES OF REPORTS REVEALING MORE ALLEGAGATIONS OF ABUSE.

NOW A LAWSUIT HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST TOBINWORLD. THE ATTORNEY'S RESPRESETING THE BOY AND HIS GUARDIAN SAY HE HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO MONTHS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE LEADING UP TO THIS VIDEO.

Plaintiff's attorney: "This wasn't the first time it happened. These are employees that felt free to engage in this kind of behavior and they wouldn't have done that if they didn't think they could get away with it. THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ALSO NAMED IN THE LAWSUIT. THE ATTORNEYS SAY THE DISTRICT FAILED THE CHILD BY PLACING HIM THERE, SAYING THERE WERE PLENTLY OF EVIDENCE OF PROBLEMS AT THE SCHOOL. THEY EXPECT THAT DISTRICTS WILL KEEP A CLOSER EYE ON NON PUBLIC SPECIAL NEEDS PROVIDERS LIKE TOBINWORLD AS A RESULT OF THEIR LEGAL ACTION.

Attorney: "There needs to be significant oversight to see that those children are being properly treated. You can't just give these children away and wash your hands of them and let them be abused somewhere."

THE VICTIM'S LAWYERS ALSO HOPE TO SEE BETTER TRAINING OF SCHOOL STAFF TO RECOGNIZE AND REPORT ABUSE WHEN THEY SEE OR SUSPECT IT. THE GRANDMOTHER OF THE BOY IN THE VIDEO SAYS HER GRANDSON IS STILL HAVING PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF THE ABUSE HE SUFFERED. SAYING "His behaviors are worse and he has regressed with his education. Its still hard for him to understand that teachers at school are not there to hurt him."

MAUREEN KELLY KRON4 NEWS.

ANCHOR: SO FAR, TOBINWORLD HAS NOT RESPONDED TO OUR REQUEST FOR COMMENT, BUT IN THE PAST THEY CALLED THE ABUSE IN THE VIDEO AN ISOLATED INCIDENT. THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SPOKESPERSON SAYS THEY HAVE YET TO BE SERVED WITH THE LAWSUIT BUT IS NOT SURPRISED TO HEAR THERE IS A LAWSUIT IN THIS CASE.

EDUCATION

12/2/16 KRON 4 Evening News School creates a playground accessible to all

MANY EDUCATORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE MARKING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK NEXT WEEK. THE EVENT CELEBRATES THE PROGRESS SCHOOLS HAVE MADE IN PROVIDING A SUPPORTIVE, QUALITY EDUCATION TO A DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION. IN ATLANTA, ONE TEACHER HAS BROUGHT TO LIFE A PLAYGROUND WHERE ALL STUDENTS CAN PLAY, REGARDLESS OF PHYSICAL ABILITIES. CNN'S KIM HUTCHERSON HAS MORE.

IT'S RECESS TIME AT TOOMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ATLANTA...

BUT THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT HERE -- YOU LIKELY HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE.

IT'S THE RESULT OF SOME CREATIVE THINKING BY KINDERGARTEN TEACHER EMILY MAX --

SHE WANTED A PLAYSPACE FOR BOTH SPECIAL NEEDS AND NON-SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS.

Emily Max/Teacher--ALT--designed Inclusive Playground: "I feel very strongly that if all kids can play together, all kids can live together."

CHECK OUT SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT MAX DEVELOPED --

CHILDREN WITH LIMITED LOWER BODY STRENGTH CAN USE THE "ROLLER TABLE".

Emily Max/Teacher--ALT--Designed Inclusive Playground: "Kids can be transferred on -- but you roll through and you can pull yourself a long --- and then out onto the other side."//This is our sensory panel.//It's got different textures and sensations not just for kids with sensory needs but also students with visual impairments."

MAX WON A 100 THOUSAND DOLLAR GRANT TO BUILD THE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND.

SHE SAYS SINCE HER STUDENTS HAVE BEEN USING IT THEY'VE BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT AND HAVE LEARNED COOPERATION SKILLS.

AND ONCE IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THE PLAYGROUND, MAX HOPES HER STUDENTS WILL HAVE LEARNED SOME VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS.

Emily Max/Teacher--ALT--Designed Inclusive Playground: "How to play safely, how to play within those boundaries and making sure that everyone feels accepted and included."

EDUCATION

12/1/16 KRON 4 Morning News Social media speeds up admissions process

AS THOUSANDS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE CHECKING THEIR MAILBOXES FOR COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE LETTER. ONE UNIVERSITY IS USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO TELL TEENS THEY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AT GREEN BAY IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SNAPCHAT CRAZE. SCHOOL OFFICIALS ARE SENDING FUTURE STUDENTS A SNAPCHAT WHEN THEY'VE BEEN ADMITTED. THEY WILL STILL GET THEIR TRADITIONAL PACKET IN THE MAIL, BUT THE NEW SNAPCHAT FEATURE MEANS THEY ARE LEARNING FASTER THAN EVER THAT THEY GOT INTO COLLEGE. SO FAR, STUDENTS HAVE HAD POSITIVE FEEDBACK OF THE SNAPCHAT ADMITTANCE.

EDUCATION

12/2/16 KRON 4 Morning News Novel way to help students prep for exams

IN CALIFORNIA NEWS, COLLEGE STUDENTS IN SACRAMENTO ARE FINDING NEW WAYS TO RELIEVE STRESS RIGHT BEFORE FINALS START LATER THIS MONTH. TAKE A LOOK....

STUDENTS ARE BEING OFFERED PUPPIES AND COLORING BOOKS AS A WAY TO GET AWAY FOR A BIT. THE PROGRAM IS HAPPENING AT SACRAMENTO STATE AND AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE. OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE HOPING IT HELPS STUDENTS MANAGE THE STRESS OF FINALS. AND MANY STUDENTS ARE WELCOMING THE IDEA, SAYING IT IS A WAY FOR THEM TO GO BACK TO WHEN THEY WERE KIDS AND THINGS WERE SIMPLER. BUT OTHERS ARE NOT TOO FOND OF THE IDEA.

AS FOR THE COST OF ALL THIS. THE COLORING BOOKS ARE DONATED AND THE PUPPIES ARE BROUGHT TO THE CAMPUS FOR FREE BY A SAN FRANCISCO PET ADOPTION CENTER.

EDUCATION

12/21/16 KRON 4 Evening News Correlation between education and decreasing drug use

Counselor James Green: "I have been in the field for 30 years so I definitely have seen less and less."

The U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse studies teens from across the nation and found less illegal drug abuse than ever before. Avera licensed addiction counselor James Green says a major reason for the drop has to do with education.

Green: "There's a kind of change in motivation for kids to be successful in school and in life too."

Green attributes the drop in teen drug use to several factors including the wide variety of activities and sporting options kids have today. He says kids who are busy create their own motivations not to use.

If you are concerned your child might be using drugs, Green says there is a major change to look out for.

Green: "School attendance and grades. When motivation starts hitting you and you start not going to school, you have solid evidence and it seems like that is an indicator."

Green says the number one drug used among teenagers is marijuana and warns against the dangers of marijuana use as a gateway drug to more dangerous abuse. He says if you're suspicious or your child has abused drugs in the past it's a good idea to test them.

Green: "The way you can find out for sure and even help them quit and hold them accountable is by using a drug screen."

He says there are resources for parents if they need help with their teenager. Some of those options are GFX, Avera McKennan, Volunteers of America, The Carroll Institute and researching information online through the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Brheanna Berry reporting

4Q2016 ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

103/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm State enters 6th year of drought

THIS ROUND OF LIGHT RAIN DID LITTLE TOWARD AFFECTING CALIFORNIA'S HISTORIC DROUGHT. OCTOBER FIRST MARKS THE START OF THE SIXTH YEAR OF CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT. IN FACT, THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES JUST ANNOUNCED THAT SIXTY PERCENT OF THE STATE REMAINS IN SEVERE OR EXTREME DROUGHT. KRON4'S ELLA SOGOMONIAN IS LIVE IN SAN JOSE WHERE SHE TALKED WITH THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT:

THEY SAY DON'T GET TOO EXCITED BY THE RAIN. ALTHOUGH IT'S BRINGING THE BAY AREA SOME MUCH NEEDED WATER, IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LOT MORE TO COMBAT 5 YEARS OF DROUGHT.

THIS RAINFALL COMES IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE NEW WATER YEAR AS THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ENTERS ITS SIXTH DRY YEAR IN A ROW. LOW SNOWFALL IN 2016 IS PARTLY TO BLAME. AND ALTHOUGH THE BAY AREA IS GETTING SOME RAIN DROPS AND NOT ALL AREAS ARE HURTING FOR WATER, REGIONS LIKE SANTA CLARA COUNTY ARE STILL WAITING TO LEVEL OUT.

Water district spokesperson: "One year of rain it's not going to get us out of four years of drought." ALTHOUGH ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT IS BACK TO A ZERO PERCENT CONSERVATION RATE SINCE JUNE, SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT IS STILL URGING A 20 PERCENT WATER REDUCTION USE.

Water district spokesperson: ""And that's because we don't know what we're going to be facing in the future, if we're going to have another dry winter."

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER BUT HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:

- LIMIT OUTDOOR WATERING
- TURN OFF THE FAUCET WHEN BRUSHING TEETH
- CHECK PIPES FOR LEAKS
- ONLY WASH FULL LAUNDRY LOADS
- AND USE A BROOM NOT HOSE FOR SIDEWALKS

AND ALTHOUGH NOT MUCH, RAIN IS STILL ONE WAY TO HELP OUT WITH THE DROUGHT.

Spokesperson: "When we've had years of drought, our groundwater sources get depleted. So that's what we're trying to build back up, through imported water and through hopefully some rainfall."

COLLEEN MENTIONED IMPORTING WATER THERE AND OF COURSE WHEN RELYING ON IMPORTS PRICES ARE DEFINITELY GOING TO GO UP, SO HERE'S HOPING WEATHER FROM LA NINYA WILL BRING HEAVIER RAIN THIS FALL.

LIVE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ELLA SOGOMONIAN KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

10/5/16 KRON 4 Evening News More reports of algae-fouled lakes

IN ALAMEDA COUNTY, TWO LAKES ARE NOW CLOSED DUE TO REPORTS OF DANGEROUS TOXIC ALGAE LEVELS. THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY, SAYING LAKE TEMESCAL IN OAKLAND AND QUARRY LAKES IN FREMONT ARE BOTH CLOSED FOR SWIMMING. HOWEVER, THE LAKES WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR FISHING.

EXPOSURE TO TOXIC ALGAE CAN CAUSE RASHES AND ALLERGIC REACTIONS AMONG OTHER THINGS. IT CAN ALSO BE FATAL FOR DOGS. NO WORD YET ON WHEN THE LAKES WILL REOPEN.

BUT THERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR CRAB LOVERS. THE UPCOMING DUNGENESS CRAB SEASON IS EXPECTED TO AVOID LAST YEAR'S ISSUES WITH TOXIC ALGAE.

THAT MEANS FRESH LOCAL CRAB ON DINNER TABLES THIS FALL. OFFICIALS SAY SAMPLES TAKEN SUGGEST THE FISHERY WILL LIKELY OPEN ON TIME AND HAVE CRAB READY FOR HOLIDAY MARKETS.

LAST YEAR, WARM WATERS AND AN UNUSUALLY LARGE ALGAE BLOOM DELAYED THE DUNGENESS CRAB SEASON BY FOUR MONTHS. THE ALGAE BLOOM CAUSED DOMOIC ACID TO ACCUMULATE IN THE PACIFIC COAST SHELLFISH, MAKING IT UNSAFE TO EAT. THIS SEASON IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN NOVEMBER 15TH.

ENVIRONMENT

10/5/16 KRON 4 Evening News Californians using too much water

SOME CALIFORNIANS ARE APPARENTLY GETTING A LITTLE TOO RELAXED ABOUT CONSERVING WATER AND THERE COULD BE CONSEQUENCES. CATHERINE HEENAN IS HERE WITH THE LATEST FROM STATE REGULATORS.

AS A STATE, WE WERE DOING SO WELL. NOW - NOT SO MUCH EVEN AS CALIFORNIA ENTERS A POSSIBLE 6TH YEAR OF DROUGHT..

TODAY REGULATORS ANNOUNCED THAT CALIFORNIANS SAVED LESS THAN 18% IN AUGUST AND THAT'S DOWN BY NEARLY 10 PERCENT FROM A YEAR EARLIER. IN FACT, SOME AREAS OF THE STATE HAVE PRETTY MUCH ABANDONED WATER CONSERVATION.

LAST WINTER WE GOT A NEARLY AVERAGE AMOUNT OF RAIN AND SNOW, MOSTLY IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO END THE LONG DRY SPELL. AND IT CERTAINLY WASN'T ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO GO BACK TO OLD HABITS.

NOW, WATER OFFICIALS SAY THEY MIGHT HAVE TO RETURN TO STATE-MANDATED CONSERVATION WHICH REQUIRED SAVINGS OF UP TO 25%. THEY HAVEN'T MADE A FINAL DECISION, BUT SAY THEY'RE AT THE "YELLOW ALERT" STAGE AND COULD DO SO SOON.

ENVIRONMENT

10/13/16 KRON 4 Evening News Is a La Nina winter coming?

METEOROLOGISTS ARE BECOMING MORE BULLISH ON FORECASTS THAT THE PHENOMENON KNOWN AS 'LA NINA' IS GOING TO INFLUENCE OUR WEATHER THIS WINTER. KRON 4'S ROB FLADEBOE IS LIVE IN SAN JOSE WITH DETAILS ABOUT WHAT ONE LONG-TIME BAY AREA EXPERT IS SAYING ABOUT LA NINA.

WE'VE GOT GRAY SKIES THIS EVENING OVER THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY IN ADVANCE OF THE WET WEATHER COMING IN AND THERE'S COOLER WATER OUT IN THE PACIFIC. THAT MAY MEAN WE'LL HAVE NORMAL RAINFALL THIS WINTER. THEN AGAIN, WE COULD HAVE WHAT ONE LONG-TIME BAY AREA WEATHER WATCHER CALLS AN "OUTLIER" YEAR WHICH MAY MEAN WE'LL HAVE ABOVE-AVERAGE RAINFALL.

Jan Null, Golden Gate Weather Service: "Warm events in the Pacific are El Nino's. Cool events in that area are La Nina's.

GOLDEN GATE WEATHER SERVICE FORECASTER JAN NULL IS TALKING ABOUT THE WATER TEMPERATURE IN THE EQUATORIAL PACIFIC, WHICH CAN INFLUENCE OUR WEATHER HERE ON THE WEST COAST.

Null: "NOAH each month comes out with an updated El Nino or La Nina statement. In this case, it's a La Nina watch and they've now gone to a seventy percent chance that we will have a weak La Nina for the remainder of the fall and into the winter months."

LA NINA MEANS, ON AVERAGE, MORE RAIN FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND LESS FOR CALIFORNIA. BUT NOT ALWAYS. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR EL NINO, LAST YEAR'S EL NINO WAS A KIND OF DUD, PRODUCING ONLY NORMAL RAINFALL FOR BOTH SAN JOSE AND SAN FRANCISCO.

Null: "That has to be tempered with the fact that we have had weak La Nina's with above-average rainfall. So, if we're just going on past averages, it's going to get worse. But that's not a forecast. That's just looking at what's happened in the past with these conditions. For instance, in the Northern Sierra, you get 99% of normal."

IN TERMS OF THE SNOWPACK, NULL SAYS A LA NINA WOULD LIKELY MEAN SLIGHTLY MORE SNOW IN THE NORTHERN SIERRA, LESS FARTHER SOUTH. BUT EVEN FIVE OR TEN PERCENT MORE OR LESS SNOW AND/OR RAIN COULD MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN TERMS OF THE DROUGHT.

NulL: "The best case scenario for California is that this would be a wet outlier year and we see significantly wetter than normal conditions especially over the southern half of the state. Worst case scenario is that this winds up being a dry outlier year and the entire state sees less than normal rainfall."

ONE THING IS CERTAIN THOUGH. THIS WET WEATHER COMING IN TO THE BAY AREA OVER THE WEEKEND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH LA NINA AND ACCORDING TO NULL HISTORICALLY WHAT HAPPENS IN OCTOBER IS NOT A GOOD PREDICTER OF WHAT THE REST OF THE YEAR IS GOING TO BE LIKE.

ROB FLADEBOE KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

10/18/16 KRON 4 Evening News Managing early rain is complicated

LOOKING BACK AT RAINFALL TOTALS OVER THE WEEKEND, WE FIND THAT ONE SOUTH BAY RESERVOIR WAS THE BENEFICIARY OF AN UNEXPECTED WINDFALL. BUT AS KRON 4'S ROB FLADEBOE REPORTS --- THE EXTRA RAIN WAS TOO MUCH TOO SOON AND MUST BE RELEASED.

UVAS RESERVOIR IN THE HILLS NORTHWEST OF GILROY, ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON RUNOFF FROM RAINFALL, ROSE ALMOST TEN PERCENT LAST WEEKEND, FROM 30-PERCENT TO JUST UNDER 40-PERCENT OF CAPACITY. WHY? BECAUSE MORE THAN 11 INCHES OF RAIN FELL UPSTREAM IN THE UVAS CANYON IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS. BUT BECAUSE IT ARRIVED SO EARLY. THE WATER TECHNICALLY CANNOT BE DIVERTED AND MUST BE RELEASED.

Marty Grimes, Santa Clara Valley Water District: "In some of our reservoirs there's a certain date where we can start keeping the water, diverting the water. In a lot of those reservoirs that date is November 1st, so because this storm came before November 1st although we captured some water in the reservoir, we need to release it because it's not the diversion period where we have the right, the water right to actually divert."

INSTEAD THE WATER WILL GO TO DOWNSTREAM INTERESTS WHOSE WATER RIGHTS PRE-DATE THOSE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT. AND TO SATISFY ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS WHICH DEMAND THAT A CERTAIN FLOW BE MAINTAINED IN THE CREEKS AND STREAMS FED BY THE RESERVOIR.

Grimes: "When these water rights were negotiated years ago, there were limitations and the limitations are there to make sure there's enough water for the environment and fish and habitat downstream."

UVAS CANYON CAN SEE UPWARDS OF 100 INCHES OF RAIN IN THE WETTEST OF YEARS. IN STARK CONTRAST, CHESBRO RESERVOIR, NOT TEN MILES AWAY AND FED BY A DIFFERENT WATERSHED, GAINED LITTLE IN THE RECENT STORMS. FREQUENTLY AMONG THE FIRST TO BE FILLED BY THE RAIN, RELEASING WATER FROM UVAS RESERVOIR IS ALSO DONE AT TIMES IN THE NAME OF FLOOD PROTECTION BUT THAT'S FAR MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR MUCH LATER IN THE RAINY SEASON

THE AMOUNT OF WATER BEING RELEASED HERE WE'RE TOLD IS ENOUGH TO MEET THE NEED OF ABOUT 1600 FAMILIES FOR ONE YEAR.

ROB FLADEBOE KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

11/1/16 KRON 4 Evening News State's water use report card

CALIFORNIA KEEPS GETTING WHAT AMOUNTS TO REPORT CARDS ON HOW WE'RE DOING WITH WATER CONSERVATION. CATHERINE HEENAN IS HERE WITH THE LATEST FROM THE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD.

EVERYONE KNOWS WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO RELAX BECAUSE OF RECENT RAIN OR REPORTS SHOWING THAT LESS OF THE STATE IS IN "SEVERE DROUGHT" STATUS. AND IT SEEMS THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE LISTENING.

THE LATEST NUMBERS ON WATER USE SHOW THAT CALIFORNIANS HAVE RECOVERED A LITTLE OF THE GROUND THEY LOST IN TERMS OF CONSERVATION. IN SEPTEMBER, THEY USED 18 PERCENT LESS WATER THAN THEY DID IN 2013, BEFORE THE DECLARATION OF A DROUGHT EMERGENCY. THAT'S NOT AS GOOD AS THE 26 PERCENT CUT FROM THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR, BUT THEY'RE BETTER THAN SOME RECENT MONTHS WHEN PEOPLE BEGAN TO REALLY BACKSLIDE.

WATER OFFICIALS SAY THEY'LL DECIDE IN JANUARY WHETHER TO RE-IMPOSE ANY KIND OF MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION FOR CITY USERS.

LAST MONTHS RAIN LEVELS WERE RARE FOR THE BAY AREA. IN FACT, IN SOME AREAS THE RAIN WAS SO SIGNIFICANT THAT IT SHATTERED RECORDS FROM YEARS PAST. IN MARIN COUNTY LAKE LAGUNITAS IS SPILLING OVER ITS BANKS. WATER OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE AT 77% OF CAPACITIY AT THE SEVEN RESERVOIRS IN THE MARIN SYSTEM. IN ADDITION THEY SAY HAVE RECEIVED NEARLY THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OR RAIN RIGHT NOW COMPARED TO LAST YEAR.

Lon Peterson, Marin municipal Water District: We've done great for October. Historically, for the past few years, specifically for 2014 we had one inch of rain and 2015 saw zero inches of rain in October. This year in October we got 7.9 inches of rain. So we're at 294% of what we normally see this time of year."

HOWEVER, PETERSON SAYS THAT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO ARE USING TOO MUCH WATER. OFFICIALS ARE ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO CONTINUE TO CONSERVE. HE SAYS THE STATE IS STILL IN A DROUGHT AND CONSERVATION IS NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT FOR THE STATE'S WATER HEALTH.

ENVIRONMENT

11/2/16 KRON 4 Evening News
Illegal dumping increasingly difficult problem

IT USED TO BE A PROBLEM JUST IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS, BUT NOW ILLEGAL DUMPING HAS MOVED TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS, ESPECIALLY IN OAKLAND. AS KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN REPORTS, RESIDENTS ARE FED UP AND THE CITY IS TRYING TO JUST KEEP UP WITH ALL THE CLEAN UP.

TRASH PILED SIX FEET HIGH HAS BECOME A COMMON OCCURRENCE OUTSIDE GLENN LOVELY'S EAST OAKLAND HOME. SINCE HE BOUGHT THE PLACE A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, HE'S DISCOVERED THE CUL-DE-SAC AT THE END OF THE STREET IS POPULAR WITH ILLEGAL DUMPERS.

Lovely: "It breeds rats, rodents, unpleasant animals that shouldn't even be here."

LOVELY HAS INSTALLED SECURITY CAMERAS AND HAS CAUGHT MANY DUMPERS IN THE ACT. THIS VIDEO IS FROM HALLOWEEN DAY. HE SAYS HE'S SICK OF IT.

Lovely: "I'm very disappointed. Especially as a homeowner who spends a quarter of a million dollars so he can live in Oakland and work in Oakland without having to deal with the commute."

OFFICIALS HERE IN OAKLAND SAY THIS DUMPING PROBLEM IS NOT UNIQUE TO EAST OAKLAND. IT'S HAPPENING ACROSS THE CITY.

Larry Reid, Oakland city councilmember: "It's gone from the industrial areas moving into residential neighborhoods."

LARRY REID, OAKLAND CITY COUNCILMEMBER IS EMPATHETIC TO WHAT RESIDENDTS ARE GOING THROUGH AND SAYS THE COUNCIL HAS JUST APPROVED 25 THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR MORE TIMELY CLEANUP AND TO INSTALL CAMERAS IN PRIKME DUMPING SPOTS.

Reid: "The District Attorney has said that if we put together a strong case against any individuals caught illegally dumping in our city that she will prosecute them."

GLENN LOVELY HOPES THAT WILL DO THE TRICK. HE'S CALLED THE CITY AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH SINCE HE'S MOVED IN AND SAYS THOSE CALLS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THINGS CHANGE.

Lovely: "I just want people to know that dumping in this area is unacceptable."

DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

11/10/16 KRON 4 Evening News What La Nina will mean for California

GOVERNMENT WEATHER FORECASTERS SAY LA NINA HAS ARRIVED. IT'S THE PERIODIC COOLING OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN THAT AFFECTS WEATHER AROUND THE GLOBE. CATHERINE HEENAN IS HERE WITH MORE ON WHAT THAT COULD MEAN TO CALIFORNIA:

IT'S HERE AND COULD HANG AROUND THROUGH FEBRUARY. IN THE U.S., LA NINA OFTEN MEANS COOLER, WETTER WINTERS IN PLACES LIKE THE ROCKIES AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, BUT NOT IN THE SOUTHERN TIER OF THE U.S. INCLUDING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WHERE IT COULD CAUSE THE DROUGHT TO PERSIST.

THAT'S THE LAST THING THAT AREA NEEDS AFTER 5 YEARS OF BONE DRY CONDITIONS. THE DROUGHT COST CALIFORNIA 2.7 BILLION DOLLARS IN 2015 ALONE, ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY.

LA NINA WILL ALSO EXPOSE OTHER PARTS OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH TO DRIER CONDITIONS. BUT SOME FORECASTERS SAY IT COULD BE RELATIVELY WEAK.

AS FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, THERE'S STILL A BIG QUESTION MARK.IT'S CONSIDERED A KIND OF NO MAN'S LAND, WITH EQUAL CHANCES TO SEE HIGHER OR LOWER RAINFALL.

ENVIRONMENT

11/17/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Local flood control measures

ALAMEDA COUNTY IS CLEANING OUT CREEKS TO PREVENT FLOODING. BUT IT'S HOW THEY'RE DOING IT THAT IS ATTRACTING ATTENTION. KRON4'S LYDIA PANTAZES SHOWS US WHY.

Rafi Gonzalez Reyes: "Wow!"

IT'S SOMEETHING YOU'D EXPECT IN A RURAL COMMUNITY.

Reves: "This is awesome."

BUT NOT IN A BUSY BAY AREA CITY.

Reyes: ""I've lived in Fremont for over 25-years and I've never seen it before."

IF YOU LISTEN CLOSELY, AMIDST THE SOUND OF RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC, YOU CAN HEAR THEM – ABOUT SEVEN HUNDDRED GOATS EATING THEIR WAY THROUGH ALAMEDA CREEK'S CHANNEL.

Reyes: "I like their sound, sounds so cute."

THE ANIMALS HAVE BECOME QUITE AN ATTRACTION, ESPECIALLY FOR RAFI GONZALEZ REYES WHO IS BRUSHING UP ON HER GOAT SOUNDS.

Reyes: "When I saw it on the freeway, I thought it was very interesting and I wanted to see what they do up here."

WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS CLEARING BRUSH TO PREVENT FLOODING IN THE WINTER AND FIRES IN THE SUMMER. THE GOATS ARE BEING USED THROUGHOUT UNION CITY, FREMONT AND HAYWARD.

Justin Laurence, environment compliance specialist: "It's less expensive than manual labor and it's more environmentally friendly than using herbicides so it's better for the environment and it does have less environmental impact."

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME ALAMEDA FLOOD CONTROL HAS USED THE GOATS.

Laurence: "Last year we did 50-acres or so and this year we did a hundred acres and next year we'll expand that."

THE GOATS WILL BE OUT HERE ANOTHER TWO TO THREE WEEKS AND THEN THEY'LL BE BACK IN THE SPRING. AND YOU CAN BET RAFI WILL BE WAITING.

LYDIA PANTAZES KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

11/18/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Testing for lead in the water

ALL THIS WEEK, WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING ON LEAD IN THE DRINKING WATER AND WHAT IS BEING DONE TO KEEP THE CONTAMINANT OUT OF YOUR HOME AND AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY. TONIGHT, IN DEPTH, KRON 4'S LYDIA PANTAZES SET OUT TO TEST THE WATER. HERE'S WHAT SHE DISCOVERED.

ELEVEN YEAR OLD KATE HAGOPIAN FILLS UP HER WATER BOTTLE MULTIPLE TIMES A DAY. AND SO DOES HER FAMILY.

Marie Hagopian, Kate's mom: "I have two kids and a husband and two dogs."

HER MOTHER MARIE IS TRYING TO DO HER PART NOT TO USE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES.

Marie: "So definitely if I had a choice, I'd want to go to the tap and hope that could be the best water I could give them."

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO TESTING THE WATER FOR CONTAMINANTS...

Marie: "I haven't actually tested it, but that would be a very desirable thing to do I'm sure, with all the things you're hearing about with water and lead in other states it does make you raise awareness."

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, YOU'RE ASKING "HOW?" HOW DO I TEST THE WATER AND WHERE CAN I BUY A TEST?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO. WE WANTED THE EASIEST TEST WE COULD FIND. WE WENT TO SOME STORES WHERE THEY ONLY SOLD TEST WHERE YOU HVE TO MAIL IN THE SAMPLE AND WAIT A FEW WEEKS FOR THE RESULTS. BUT WE WANTED IMMEDIATE RESULTS.

WE FOUND IT AT A HARDWARE STORE IN SAN RAMON. THERE WAS ONLY ONE PRODUCT TYPE ON THE SHELF, BUT THAT WAS ALL WE NEEDED. LESS THAN 15 BUCKS FOR ONE TEST, IT'S CALLED "FIRST ALERT IMEEDIATE RESULTS."

MARIE AGREED TO DO THE TEST ON HER OWN. AFTER READING THE INSTRUCTIONS, SHE GOT TO WORK.

"Do not disturb strips or vial during this time."

She collects the water. Then puts it into the test tube.

"Place two droppers full"

She shakes it and then she puts in the test strips.

"Our lead and our pesticide going in simultaneously."

After 10 minutes, we have results.

The test showed the bottom line next to number one is darker, which means the test is negative. "Lead is not an issue in our drinking water according to this test."

Danielle Neilson: "The home test ones will show you a little bit, but they won't give you a full analysis of what's in your water."

DANIELLE NEILSON IS THE DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING FOR ISINGS CULLIGAN WATER IN LIVERMORE. HER COMPANY DOES TESTING AS WELL. SHE SAYS THE NUMBE ROF PEOPLE WANTING THEIR WATER TESTED HAS DEFINITELY GONE UP SINCE THE FLINT WATER CRISIS.

Neilson: "It definitely brought an awareness. You can't help but see what's in the media and be concerned with what's coming from your tap."

WATER TESTING PRICES CAN RANGE DEPENDING ON THE COMPANY YOU CHOOSE, BUT SOME WATER DELIVERY COMPANIES DOE IT FOR FREE. BUT FOR MARIE AND HER FAMILY, FIFTEEN DOLLARS IS A ASMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR PEACE OF MIND.

Marie: "You know what, it makes me feel really good right now, in this moment that our drinks by water is safe."

LYDIA PANTAZES KRON 4 NEWS

OUR INDEPTH SERIES CONTINUES TOMORROW AT 10. THE EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT HAS MILES AND MILES OF WATER PIPES THAT BRING WATER TO MORE THAN A MILLION CUSTOMERS. WE'LL LOOK AT WHAT IT IS DOING TODAY TO FIND THE PROBLEM PIPES OF THE PAST SO IT CAN PROTECT YOUR DRINKING FUTURE. AND IF YOU MISSED ANY OF OUR STORIES THIS WEEK, YOU CAN ALWAYS CATCH UP ON KRON 4 NEWS DOT COM. WE'VE POSTED ALL OF OUR STORIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DISCOVERING LEAD IN YOUR HOME AND SCHOOL.

ENVIRONMENT

11/19/16 KRON4 News at 10pm Keeping the lead out

ALL THIS WEEK, KRON4 HAS BEEN TAKING AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE DANGERS OF LEAD CONTAMINATION. TONIGHT, WE ARE GOING TO VISIT WITH EAST BAY MUD OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS HOW THEY KEEP LEAD FROM CONTAMINATION AN AGING WATER S YSTEM. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD HAS THAT STORY:

THE EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT DELIVERS WATER TO ABOUT 400,000 CUSTOMERS. THEY, LIKE ALL PROVIDERS IN THE STATE, ARE REQUIRED TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE QUALITY OF THEIR WATER TO ENSURE THAT IT'S SAFE TO DRINK AND USE. THEY MUST MEET TOUGH FEDERAL AND STATE STANDARDS TO ENSURE THAT THE WATER IS NOT EXCESSIVELY CORROSIVE AND THAT IT DOESN'T CONTAIN HARMFUL CONTAMINANTS SUCH AS LEAD.

THERE IS NOT "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" WAY TO TEST WATER. EVERY DISTRICT IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT. RICK SAKAJI IS STHE WATER QUALITY MANAGER AT EAST BAY MUD.

Sakaji: "We all draw from different sources and each source has its own unique water quality characteristics. That's why each individual utility conducts their own water quality control and tailors their program."

Adrea Pook, East Bay MUD spokesperson: "We test our water every single day."

ANDREA POOK IS A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE UTILITY. SHE ADDS THAT EAST BAY MUD SPEND YEARS REMOVING MAN-MADE SOURCES OF LEAD CONTAMINAITON, SPECIFICALLY LEAD PIPES THAT WERE PUT IN PLACE AROUND THE TIME OF WORLD WAR II.

Pook: "In the in the 80's and 90's we went back into our system to identify where we might have lead service lines. We have taken a majority of those lines out."

BUT DESPITE RIGOROUS TESTING AND THE REMOVAL OF PROBLEMATIC PIPES, HIGH LEAD LEVELS ARE SOMETMES STILL FOUND INSIDE HOMES AND BUILDINGS. ON THE RARE OCCASION THAT THIS HAPPENS, THE CONTAMINATION IS ALMOST ALWAYS TRACED, NOT TO THE SOURCE OF THE WATER, BUT TO A PROBLEM INSIDE THE HOME ITSELF.

Pook: "Whether it's the fixtures or plumbing in their home, it's not the source water."

FOLLOWING THE ALARMING EVENTS IN FLINT, MICHIGAN AND OTHER PLACES ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHERE HIGH LEAD LEVELS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN DRINKING WATER, EAST BAY MUD DECIDED TO TAKE A SECOND LOOK AT ITS SYSTEM, TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY SOURCE OF LEAD CONTAMINATION THAT THEY MAY HAVE MISSED.

Pook: "We are going back in right now through the summer of 2018 to double check our paperwork and recheck every single service line for all of our 400,000 customers."

AND FINALLLY, FOR ANYONE CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN THEIR WATER, EAST BAY MUD RECOMMENDS FINDING A STATE CERTIFIED LAB TO TEST YOUR WATER FOR YOU. THE UTILITY IS ALSO WORKING ON SEETTING UP A VOUCHER PROGRAM TO HELP CUSTOMERS PAY FOR THAT TESTING.

IN THE SOUTH BAY, THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ALSO RECOMMENDDS USING A STATE CERTIFIED LAB AND HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO, YOU CAN PAY THE SFPUC 25 BUCKS AND THEY WILL TEST YOUR WATER FOR YOU.

IN SAN FRANCISCO CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

AND ON OUR WEBSITE – KRON-4-DOT-COM – THERE IS A LINK TO THE E.P.A. WEBSITE FOCUSED ON LEAD AND AN INTERACTIVE DATA BASE THAT WILL TRACK LEAD IN YOUR ZIP CODE.

ENVIRONMENT

11/19/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Trees suffering under drought condition

THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE RELEASED A SURVEY ON FRIDAY REPORTING A MASSIVE INCREASE OF DEAD TREES IN CALIFORNIA. SCCORDING TO THE SURVEY, THERE HAS BEEN AONE-HUNDRED-PERCENT INCREASE IN DEAD TREES ACROSS THE STATE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

OFFICIALS ARE BLAMING THE DIE-OFF ON CALIFORNIA'S FIVE-YEAR DROUGHT WHICH HAS KILLED MORE THAN 100 MILLION TREES. THEY ALSO SAY THE INFESTATION OF BARK BEETLES IS AT FAULT.

U.S. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK SAYS THE MASSIVE DIE-OFF INCREASES THE RISK OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES. HE IS CALLING ON CONGRESS TO ACT, SAYING MORE MONEY IS GOING TO FIGHTING FIRES THAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT.

ENVIRONMENT

12/15/16 KRON 4 Evening News State drought conditions improving EVERY TIME WE SHOW YOU THE LATEST MAP, YOU SEE LESS AND LESS OF THE REALLY DARK COLORS INDICATING BAD DROUGHT CONDITIONS.. THINGS ARE REALLY IMPROVING...AT LEAST FOR HALF THE STATE.

THE MAP ON THE LEFT IS THE LATEST ONE. THE ONE ON THE RIGHT IS FROM ONE YEAR AGO AT THIS TIME. LAST YEAR A HUGE CHUNK OF THE STATE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH WAS INCLUDED IN THE WORST OF THE DRY CONDITIONS. AND THE BAY AREA WAS IN THE 'ORANGE ZONE'. THE DARKER THE COLOR, THE DRYER THE REGION.

THESE DAYS, THE MAP IS LOOKING MUCH BETTER, WITH PARTS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMPLETELY DROUGHT-FREE. OTHERS AREAS HAVE DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED. RIGHT NOW IT'S MOSTLY THE SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL PART OF THE STATE, FROM ORANGE COUNTY TO TULARE COUNTY STILL STUCK IN EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

WATER AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO BE VERY CAUTIOUS, TELLING EVERYONE THAT WATER CONSERVATION IS STILL A BIG PRIORITY.

ENVIRONMENT

12/17/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Conflicting state and federal water laws

A NEW FEDERAL WATER LAW COULD LEAD TO SOME DRAMA NEXT YEAR. PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNED LEGISLATION YESTERDAY THAT ORDERS THE GOLDEN STATE'S FEDERAL WATER PROJECT TO DELIVER THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF WATER POSSIBLE TO FARMERS AND OTHER USERS. WHILE FARMERS WELCOME THE MEASURE, SCIENTISTS FEAR IT WILL CONFLICT WITH STATE LAWS MEANT TO ENSURE ENOUGH WATER STAYS IN THE SACRAMENTO AND SAN JOAQUIN RIVERS FOR ENDANGERED FISH. SCIENTISTS PLAN AN EARLY TEST OF THE LAW AFTER THE FIRST BIG WINTER STORM OF THE NEW YEAR.

ENVIRONMENT

12/20/16 KRON 4 Evening News Water levels in local reservoirs better than last year

PARTS OF THE BAY AREA ARE STILL DRYING OUT FROM LAST WEEKS BIG SOAKER. AND, THE NUMBERS ARE I. TURNS OUT AREA RESERVOIRS GOT A NICE BOOST FROM ALL THAT RAIN. KRON 4'S ROB FLADEBOE IS LIVE IN LOS GATOS WITH AN UPDATE ON HOW SOUTH BAY RESERVOIRS ARE DOING:

ONE OF THE LARGER RESERVOIRS IN THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY, LEXINGTON, IN THE MOUNTAINS ABOVE LOS GATOS IS NOW AT JUST OVER 40 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. THAT'S A ROUGHLY 5 PERCENT INCREASE OVER A WEEK AGO. IT REPRESENTS A GOOD START FOR THE YEAR.

Marty Grimes, Santa Clara Valley Water District: "Our reservoir levels are up to about 96% of the 20-year average. Our groundwater levels have improved over the last year because of the good savings that the community has achieved as well as the ground water recharge that we've done."

GROUND WATER RECHARGE. THAT'S WHEN RUNOFF FROM THE RAIN AND STRATEGIC RELEASES FROM THOSE RESERVOIRS SEEPS INTO THE UNDERGROUND AQUIFER, LIKE MONEY IN THE BANK, FOR USE WHEN THE RESERVOIRS, IMPORTED WATER FROM THE SIERRA AND OTHER SOURCES RUNS LOW. BUT WATER MANAGERS OFFER A WORD OF CAUTION.

Grimes: "We've seen years like this when you have a good start and then January and February turn out really dry. So, we're still encouraging people to continue saving. We're still asking for savings of 20% in Santa Clara Count.y"

IT TURNS OUT MOST SOUTH BAY CONSUMERS ACTUALLY CONSERVED AS MUCH AS 27-PERCENT THIS PAST YEAR, WHICH MEANS THOSE SAME RESERVOIRS THAT ARE NOW COLLECTIVELY ABOUT 43 PERCENT FULL, HAD SOME 'CARRY OVER,' AND DID NOT GO COMPLETELY DRY LAST SUMMER, LIKE SOME DID THE YEAR BEFORE. IT'S HOPED THOSE GOOD HABITS WILL ALSO CARRY OVER INTO NEXT YEAR

Grimes: "People have made permanent changes. A lot of people have changed out their landscaping to a permanently California-efficient landscape which is great. People have fixed leaks which is great and changed out toilets and clothes washers that were inefficient, so all those will have long-term benefits."

WATER MANAGERS TALK IN TERMS OF "ACRE FEET". THEY SAY THESE EARLY STORMS HAVE GENERATED ABOUT FOUR THOUSAND ACRE FEET HERE AT LEXINGTON AND THE OTHER RESERVOIRS. ONE ACRE FOOT OF WATER IS EQUIVALENT TO THE AMOUNT OF WATER IT TAKES TO COVER AN ACRE OF LAND ONE FOOT DEEP AND ONE ACRE FOOT IS ENOUGH TO PROVIDE THE NEEDS OF A FAMILY OF FOUR FOR A YEAR. FOUR THOUSAND ACRE FEET IS ENOUGH WATER FOR FOUR THOUSAND FAMILIES FOR ONE YEAR.

AT LEXINGTON RESERVOIR IN LOS GATOS ROB FLADEBOE KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

12/27/16 KRON 4 Evening News Year-end drought review

AS 2016 DRAWS TO A CLOSE, CALIFORNIA ENTERED ITS SIXTH YEAR OF DROUGHT... BUT THINGS DO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. CATHERINE HEENAN IS HERE WITH SOME OF THE LATEST NUMBERS ON HOW WE'RE DOING.

IT CONTINUES TO BE TRUE THAT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IS GETTING LOTS OF DROUGHT RELIEF. AS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, IT'S STILL STUCK IN HISTORICALLY DRY CONDITIONS..

A LOOK AT THE BAY AREA OVER THE PAST YEAR IS ENCOURAGING. WE HAVE THE LATEST NUMBERS, SHOWING THAT SAN JOSE RAINFALL WAS 100 PERCENT OF THE HISTORIC AVERAGE, SAN FRANCISCO A HEALTHY 98 PERCENT, AND OAKLAND AT 80 PERCENT.

BUT THE NUMBERS REALLY DROP WHEN YOU MOVE FARTHER SOUTH. LOS ANGELES GOT 65 PERCENT OF THE HISTORIC AVERAGE, WITH THE NUMBERS DIPPING LOWER AND LOWER. BY THE TIME YOU REACH IRVINE, IT'S ONLY 52 PERCENT.

AS FOR THE LATEST MAP FROM THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR, THE DARKER THE COLORS -- THE DRIER THINGS ARE. THIS SHOWS YOU WHERE THINGS STAND AS OF THIS WEEK. PARTS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARE STILL CLEARLY IN TROUBLE, WHILE THE NORTHERN TIP OF THE STATE IS ESSENTIALLY DROUGHT-FREE...

TODAY THE STATE DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES SAID THAT THE SIERRA SNOWPACK IS ONLY 72 PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. IT'S THAT MOUNTAIN SNOW THAT FILLS CALIFORNIA'S RESERVOIRS AND MAKES UP ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE STATE'S WATER. SO THE SNOW REALLY NEEDS TO KEEP COMING. ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HAD THE WETTEST OCTOBER IN 30 YEARS BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAIN.

BOTTOM LINE, WATER OFFICIALS STILL INSIST IT'S TOO SOON TO DECLARE AN END TO CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT. STATE CLIMATOLOGISTS SAY CALIFORNIA NEEDS THE RAIN AND SNOW TO CONTINUE FALLING TO MAKE UP FOR THE PAST DRY YEARS.

4Q2016 HEALTH

HEALTH

10/6/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Medical marijuana

THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY HAS BEEN OPERATING IN THE SHADOWS FOR DECADES. AND WHILE MEDICAL MARIJUANA HAS BEEN LEGAL TO CONSUME FOR 20 YEARS IN CALIFORNIA, STATE REGULATORS ARE JUST NOW STARTING TO FIGURE OUT WAYS TO WRITE RULES TO CONTROL THE BUSINESS OF GROWING AND SELLING MEDICINAL POT. TONIGHT KRON4'S MAUREEN KELLY GOES INDEPTH WITH AN OAKLAND DISPENSARY THAT'S BEEN ON THE FOREFRONT OF BRINGING QUALITY CONTROL TO THEIR PATIENTS.

Steve DeAngelo, Harborside Health Center director: "What you see here is our clone center...."

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HARBORSIDE HEALTH CENTER IS SHOWING ME AROUND THEIR OAKLAND DISPENSARY WHERE THEY SELL CANNABIS IN MANY FORMS, FROM PLANTS TO EDIBLES LIKE COOKIES OR EVEN POPCORN AND TOPICAL OINTMENTS LIKE MASSASE OILS.

DeAngelo: "One gram royal kush and one gram grand setiva..."

THERE'S ALSO PLENTY OF DRIED BUDS OF MANY DIFFERENT VARIETIES LABELED IN DISPLAY COUNTERS. EVEN THE WAY THE PRODUCTS ARE KEPT BEHIND THE REGISTER IS REMINISCENT OF A PHARMACY. IT'S A CLEAN WELL-LIGHTED PLACE FOR THE BUYING WHAT USED TO ONLY BE AVAILABLE FROM A CORNER DRUG DEALER. THE PATIENTS COME FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

DeAngelo: "There are people who range from depression disorders, eating disorders, can't sleep. All kinds of things.

Patient: "This has helped us so much."

Patient: "I've got an indica strain for muscle relaxtion, helps me with my muscle spasms."

IN THE BACK, STEVE DEANGELO SHOWS ME WHERE THE BUDS ARE BROKEN UP BY A WORKER WHO LOOKS LIKE SHE COULD BE IN ANY FACTORY – WEARING GLOVES, MASKS AND A HAIRNET – AND PUT INTO PACKAGING.

DeAngelo: "You don't need to roll your own any more. You can come to Harborside and buy a pre-rolled joint."

WHILE THE DISPENSARY'S PRODUCTS ARE TESTED FOR PURITY AT AN OFFSITE LAB IN BERKELEY, THE QUALITY CONTROL FOR THE CANNABIS IS DONE RIGHT HERE AT THE HARBORSIDE.

HERE YOU CAN SEE A WORKER PLACE POT BUDS INTO A GRINDER. THE REMAINING POWDER IS PUT INTO A MACHINE THAT BREAKS DOWN HOW MUCH OF WHAT GETS PATIENTS HIGH IS IN THE HERB.

DeAngelo: "We'll advertise both of these numbers at the sales desk. It used to be that patients would come to me and ask for advice on how much cannabis to take. They'd have to, say, try a quarter of a cookie and if that didn't work then try another quarter of a cookie. Behind this door lies the future of medical cannabis."

Behind this door lies the future of medical cannabis.

STEVE TAKES ME INTO A ROOM WHERE WORKERS FILL CAPSULES WITH CANNABIS EXTRACT AND SEALS THEM INTO PILL PACKAGING THAT WILL WIND UP IN CLEARLY MARKED BOXES WITH THE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.

DeAngelo: "What it allows patients to do is to ingest cannabis in the way that they ingest any other medicine, in precisely consistent doses, a laboratory-tested medicine in a capsule format that doctors can recommend in a much easier way."

THE STEADY LINES OF CUSTOMERS SHOWS THE APPEAL OF SUCH UPFRONT LABELING.

HARBORSIDE HAS BEEN A LEADING FORCE FOR MEDICINAL MARIJUANA FOR A DECADE, OPERATING IN OAKLAND AND IN SAN JOSE AND SOON SAN LEANDRO. TO CELEBRATE ITS TENYEAR ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK, THEY HANDED OUT CUPCAKES TO THEIR LOYAL CUSTOMERS.

THOSE TOO WERE CLEARLY LABELEDNON MEDICATED.

MAUREEN KELLY KRON4 NEWS

HEALTH

10/17/16 KRON 4 Evening News Major company promises less sugar

ATTENTION SODA LOVERS – GET READY TO SEE A LOT LESS SUGAR IN YOUR PEPSI DRINKS. THE PEPSICO COMPANY IS PROMISING TO AGGRESSIVELY CUT SUGAR AND CALORIES IN DOZENS OF PRODUCTS. SAYING THAT AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF ITS DRINKS WILL HAVE 100 CALORIES OR LESS BY 2025. THE GLOBAL FOOD CONGLOMERATE ALSO PLANS TO REDUCE SATURATED FAT AND SODIUM LEVELS IN MANY OF ITS OTHER PRODUCTS, LIKE FRITOS. THE CHANGES COME AFTER OVERALL PRESSURE FROM PUBLIC ADVOCATES AS WELL AS NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

HEALTH

10/21/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm How to deal with "urban stress"

FEELING STRESSED? TRAFFIC ... CROWDS ... POLLUTION. LIFE IN THE BAY AREA IS AMAZING, BUT IT CAN BE A GRIND. WE HAVE SOME SOLUTIONS THAT CAN HELP YOU BEAT THE BIG CITY BLUES.

THERE ARE A LOT OF BENEFITS OF LIVING IN THE BAY AREA. BUT YOU ALSO HAVE TO DEAL WITH TRAFFIC AND BIG CROWDS. THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS GROWING, AND A UNITED NATION'S REPORT PREDICTED THAT BY THE YEAR 2050, 66 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION WILL BE LIVING IN CITIES.

WITH MORE PEOPLE IN THE SAME PLACES, MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ARE PUTTING A NEW EMPHASIS ON REDUCING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF URBAN LIFE. KRON 4'S PHILIPPE DEJGAL GOES IN-DEPTH TONIGHT..

WITH 66 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION EXPECTED TO BE LIVING IN CITIES BY THE YEAR 2050, MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ARE PUTTING A NEW EMPHASIS ON REDUCING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF URBAN LIFE.

BUMPER TO BUMPER TRAFFIC. AIR POLLUTION. CROWDED STREETS. THE STRESSES OF URBAN LIVING CAN APPEAR ENDLESS. IN FACT, STUDIES SHOW THAT CITY DWELLERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER FROM ANXIETY AND MOOD DISORDERS.

Dr. Brenda Wade: "It is more intense now.certainly, more stressful. And we need to pay attention to that because stress is the number one cause of illness. It is the number one cause of loss of productivity at work, and the number one cause of couples falling apart."

DR. BRENDA WADE IS A BAY AREA PSYCHOLOGIST WHO CALLS THE PROBLEM "FAST"

Dr. Wade: "We move too fast. We spend too much time alone. We sit too much and we think too much.

AND LIVING IN THE HIGH PRICED BAY AREA DOESN'T HELP.

Dr. Wade: "When we feel that fear, worried about money, worried about bills, worried about how we are going to manage, it increases our stress."

TO GET OUT OF THE NEGATIVE SPIRAL, DR. WADE SAYS TO SLOW DOWN, CITING RECENT PUBLISHED RESEARCH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO.

Dr. Wade: "When doctors see a person who is anxious or depressed they write a prescription for something called "Forest Bathing" and means go take a walk in the woods."

SHE SAYS THE RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WALKING IN THE WOODS ONE HOUR A DAY ACTUALLY HEALS THE DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY. BUT SHE KNOWS THAT NOT EVERYONE HAS THAT KIND OF TIME OR CAN GET TO A FOREST.

DR. WADE SAYS JUST GETTING OUTSIDE IS EFFECTIVE, A WALK IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK OR ON THE BEACH.

Dr. Wade: "Most of us don't spend the time doing it and some of us don'; t do it enough. because this is the culprit. We usually get caught in the cycle of thinking that increases our stress. Woulda, coulda, shoulda. And when you start to spin like that, I'm going to teach you a quick little trick to stop it. If you just tap right here on your sternum you start to stimulate a little gland, you slow the heart rate down and when you slow your heart rate it is easier to slow the mind down."

AND IT IS THE MIND THAT CONTROLS THE STRESS.

ONE OTHER THING THAT HEALTH EXPERTS SAY YOU CAN DO IS INCREASE YOUR SENSE OF CONTROL, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SOLVE ALL OF YOUR PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE.. LOUD NOISES KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT. JUST KNOWING THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM CAN REDUCE YOUR STRESS BECAUSE IT INCREASES THAT FEELING OF CONTROL.

PHILIPPE DJEGAL.. .KRON4 NEWS.

HEALTH

10/25/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm STDs on the rise again

AN ALARMING NEW REPORT SHOWS SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES ARE ON THE RISE IN THE U.S. KRON 4'S VICKI LIVIAKIS IS HERE WITH MORE ON THESE DISEASES MANY HAD THOUGHT WERE ON THE DECLINE.

WITH ALL WE KNOW ABOUT STD'S AND HOW TO AVOID THEM, YOU'D THINK FEWER PEOPLE WOULD BE GETTING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES. NOT THE CASE. AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE MOST AT RISK.

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE NEARLY 20 MILLION NEW STD CASES REPORTED EVERY YEAR ARE FROM PEOPLE AGED 15 TO 24. ACCORDING THE CDC, REPORTED CASES OF CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHEA AND SYPHILIS HIT AN ALL-TIME HIGH IN 2015.

AND HERE IN THE BAY AREA, THE RATE OF STD'S HAS BEEN CLIMBING STEADILY FOR YEARS, ALTHOUGH SAN FRANCISCO IS 2 TO 3 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE REST OF THE BAY AREA.

ALL THREE STDS CAN BE CURED WITH ANTIBIOTICS, BUT THE CDC SAYS MOST INFECTIONS GO UNDIAGNOSED AND UNTREATED. DOCTORS RECOMMEND USING CONDOMS, BUT APARENTLY THE MESSAGE ISN'T GETTING THROUGH.

HEALTH

10/25/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm The dangers of concussions

NEW RESEARCH SAYS JUST ONE YEAR ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD CAN HAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON A DEVELOPING CHILD'S BRAIN. REPORTER SARI SOFER GOES INDEPTH ON JUST HOW WORRIED PARENTS SHOULD BE.

HIT AFTER HIT. IT'S NO SECRET. STUDIES HAVE PUT OUR COUNTRY ON HIGH ALERT FOR FOOTBALL-RELATED CONCUSSIONS.

Ben Widder, high school athletic trainer: "We've given the coaches some clip boards that have all the symptoms of concussions and what to do in that respect."

BUT A NEW STUDY AT WAKE FOREST SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SAYS EVEN BEFORE CONCUSSIVE SYMPTOMS, THESE HITS ARE AFFECTING OUR YOUNG ATHLETES' DEVELOPOOING BRAINS. AND AFTER JUST ONE SEASON.

SO WE WENT TO A DOCTOR WHO HAS BEEN STUDYING FOOTBALL-INDUCED BRAIN INJURIES FOR DECADES.

Dr. Michael Cordas, Pinnacle Health: "There is some white matter and you see changes in the white matter, but we don't know what that means."

THE STUDY SAYS IN ONE YEAR, 25 YOUNG FOOTBALL PLAYERS DISPLAYED CHANGES IN THEIR BRAINS' WHITE MATTER. DR. CORDAS CALLS THE STUDY SMALL AND INCONCLUSIVE.

Dr. Cordas: "We know that it's abnormal to have them, but we have not studied something longitudinally enough to understand whether this today will cause a problem tomorrow or next year or ten years down the road."

DR. CORDAS SEE THREE DOZEN SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS A WEEK BUT HE STILL SAYS IT'S TOO EARLY IN THE RESEARCH PROCESS TO MAKE YOUR CHILD SIT OUT OF THE GAME.

Dr. Cordas: "Make sure you coaches are educated enough. Make sure your officials are doing their job and make sure your kids are educated enough to know not to hit with the helmet."

TRAINER BEN WIDDER SAYS THAT'S WHAT HE DOES AT EVERY PRACTICE.

CONCUSSIONS ARE NOT JUST A FOOTBALL PROBLEM. A RECENT STUDY FOUND THAT SOCCER RELATED CONCUSSIONS HAVE RISEN SHARPLY IN THE LAST 15 YEARS.

HEALTH

10/29/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Health risks for tattoos

TATTOOS, BODY ART ONCE RESERVED FOR BIKERS AND SAILORS, HAVE BECOME ALL BUT MANDATORY FOR MILLENIALS. BUT THERE ARE HIDDEN DANGERS THAT'LL MAKE YOU THINK TWICE ABOUT GETTING INKED

NEARLY HALF OF ALL MILLENIALS HAVE AT LEAST ONE TATTOO. AND WHILE BODY ART IS BECOMING MORE POPULAR, IT CAN COME WITH A SERIOUS HEALTH RISK. KRON4'S ELLA SOGOMINIAN TAKES US IN-DEPTH.

Tattooed person:: "Saturn is the planet I was born under. It's also representative of the Greek God Cronos, the god of agriculture."

TATTOOS ARE PERMANENT BODY ART THAT CARRY A PERSONAL MEANING AND STORY.

Tattooed person: "My body suit is something that's creepy and scary to most people but yet beautiful."

IT SEEMS MILLENIALS ARE FINDING MORE REASONS TO GET ONE.

Tattoo client: "I'm about to get my first one in like an hour."

A RECENT HARRIS POLL SHOWS ALMOST HALF OF AMERICANS BETWEEN 18 AND 29 YEARS OLD HAVE AT LEAST ONE TATTOO. ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE TAKE TATTOOS LIGHTLY, GETTING ONE CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

THE TATTOO INDUSTRY IS LOOSELY REGULATED, WITH RULES GOVERNED BY EACH STATE. AND WHAT ABOUT THE INK? THE FOOD THE DRUG ADMINISTRATION NOTES IT HAS NEVER APPROVED ANY TYPE OF INK FOR TATTOOS, LEAVING CONSUMERS FEARFUL.

Dr. Rina Marfatia: "The paints they use have not been tested. They use different kinds of paint that can be toxic. I would not get a tattoo ever."

DR. RINA MARFATIA IS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST.

Dr. Marfatia: "Some places if they're not licensed could be using inks such as printer ink... In addition to that the ink wells can be reused. That's where sometimes you can transfer infections from one person to another."

A TATTOO IS ACTUALLY AN OPEN WOUND MAKING IT SUSPECTIBLE TO BACTERIAL INFECTION THAT COULD LEAVE A SCAR. SO IT'S CRUCIAL TO CHOOSE A SHOP THAT EXERCISES GOOD PRACTICES AND OPERATES SAFELY.

Niki Solima, tattoo assistant: "We make a very clean and sterile environment. Everything that's used has expiration dates. Every ink well and every needle is one time use only."

BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE ARTIST'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT INFECTION. CUSTOMERS HAVE TO COMMIT PROTECTING THEIR TATTOOS.

Joe Clark, tattoo artist: "People get staph infections from wounds, and a tattoo technically is a wound, but it's not the cause of the infection, I would say 99% of the time if somebody receives an unwanted effect from a tattoo it's from outside the shop."

lan Oliver Wheeler, tattoo shop owner: "I don't think there are health risks as long as you go to a legitimate place. Everyone has your best interest and their best interest in mind. Just don't get tattooed out of a kitchen."

THE CDC REPORTS INFECTIONS FROM TATTOOS ARE RAR, BUT IT DID HAPPEN TO JOSIE LAKE WHO IS COVERED IN TATTOOS.

Josie Lake: "I had a complication where I was trying to be healthy so I went out and did a lot of physical activity to get into shape but I did it too soon after I got tattooed and it caused an issue that way. But I wouldn't say it was a result of the tattoo rather than my being a little irresponsible."

SO ONCE A TESTAMENT TO BREAKING THE RULES, THE TATTOO INDUSTRY IS NOW MORE FOCUSED ON FOLLOWING THEM.

HEALTH

11/4/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Crab season opens with a health warning

THE START OF CRABBING SEASON IS JUST ABOUT HERE, RECREATIONAL CRABBING BEGINS TOMORROW, AND IT LOOKS LIKE COMMERCIAL CRABBING WILL LIKELY BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 15TH. THIS IS ALL GREAT NEWS FOR LOCAL CRABBERS WHO LOST MONTHS OF PROFITS LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF DOMOIC ACID. BUT, AS KRON FOUR'S SPENCER BLAKE FOUND OUT, THAT SAME DOMOIC ACID IS THE REASON YOU MAY WANT TO AVOID EATING CERTAIN PARTS OF THE CRAB THIS YEAR.

THESE CRAB POTS AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF ARE ALREADY STACKED UP AND READY TO GO FOR THE UPCOMING START OF COMMERCIAL CRABBING SEASON. BUT MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH HAS SENT OUT A WARNING, IF YOU WILL, THAT'S KIND OF BEEN SNIPPING AT THE EXCITEMENT OF SOME SEAFOOD LOVERS.

THE HAMMERING SOUND INSIDE SWAN OYSTER DEPOT MEANS SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO SINK THEIR CLAWS INTO SOMETHING DELICIOUS. AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE EATING THE MEAT IN THE EXTREMITIES, YOU SHOULD BE FINE.

Customer: "This is the best part, anyway! (laughs)"

Customer: "I love crabs. I make crab. I cook crabs."

BUT BE WARY OF THE GUT. THE INTERNAL ORGANS OF LOCAL CRABS, PUBLIC HEALTH SAYS, COULD CONTAIN DOMOIC ACID AGAIN THIS YEAR. BUT A MANAGER AT ALIOTO'S RESTAURANT AND A CO-OWNER AT SWAN BOTH TELL ME THE WARNING ABOUT CRAB BUTTER PROBABLY WON'T HURT THEM THIS YEAR.

THE CO-OWNER AT SWAN'S RECALLS A SIMILAR SCARE FROM 35 YEARS AGO, BUT SAYS SCIENTISTS LEARNED SOMETHING INTERESTING AFTER THE FACT.

"In order to have any harm from domoic acid you'd have to eat about half a dozen crabs a day for about 25 years."

JUST TO BE SAFE, PUBLIC HEALTH SAYS IT'S BEST TO PULL OUT THE CRAB INNARD AND RINSE THE BODY CAVITY BEFORE COOKING.

"He's actually cleaned much of it out after he opens it. Then he puts it back in the boiling water."

THAT'S FINE TOO, SO LONG AS YOU DISCARD THE BROTH USED TO COOK WHOLE CRABS, AND DON'T USE IT TO MAKE OTHER DISHES. OR, IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, YOU CAN ALWAYS GIVE THE CRAB BUTTER TO THOSE WHO DON'T CARE WHAT THEY EAT, ANYWAY.

WHATEVER EFFECT THAT WARNING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH HAS OR DOESN'T HAVE ON THIS YEAR'S CRAB SEASON, IT SHOULD STILL BLOW LAST YEAR'S SEASON OUT OF THE WATER.

AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF IN SAN FRANCISCO, SPENCER BLAKE, KRON 4 NEWS.

HEALTH

11/7/16 KRON 4 Evening News Coping with election stress

IF YOU ARE FEELING STRESSED OUT BY THE ELECTION, YOU ARE FAR FROM ALONE. AFTER A LONG AND CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL SEASON, MANY AMERICANS ARE REPORTING ANXIETY, NERVOUSNESS AND CONCERN. IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY OF THESE EMOTIONS, KIM HUTCHERSON WITH OUR PARTNERS AT C-N-N HAS SOME ADVICE TO SURVIVE THE NEXT 24 HOURS OR SO:

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ARE UNITED ABOUT AT LEAST ONE THING -- MORE THAN HALF OF THEM SAY THE 2016 ELECTION IS A SOURCE OF STRESS.

THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ELECTION-RELATED ANXIETY, HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO:

READ ENOUGH TO STAY INFORMED, BUT DON'T BINGE ON POLITICAL NEWS.

TAKE SOME TIME FOR ACTIVITIES THAT RECHARGE YOU.

CONCENTRATE ON DAILY TASKS AND STICK WITH HEALTHY HABITS.

DIFFICULT AS IT MAY SEEM, TRY NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE - INSTEAD, TAKE ACTION ON ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU.

WHILE IT'S GOOD TO HAVE MEANINGFUL, RESPECTFUL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POLITICAL IDEAS, AVOID TALKING ABOUT THE ELECTION IF THERE IS A CHANCE IT WILL LEAD TO CONFLICT.

AND IF AN ARGUMENT ARISES, KNOW HOW AND WHEN TO STOP YOURSELF.

REMEMBER, STRESS AND ANXIETY ARE NOT PRODUCTIVE -- THEY HAVE NEGATIVE HEALTH EFFECTS AND WON'T CHANGE THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE A-P-A SAYS VOTING ITSELF CAN MAKE YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE TAKING A PROACTIVE STEP ... AND THAT HELPS YOU COPE WITH UNCERTAINTY.

FOR TODAY'S HEALTH MINUTE, I'M KIM HUTCHERSON.

HEALTH

11/5/16 KROn 4 News at 8m New study on sleeping pills and suicide

PEOPLE LOOKING TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST WITH THE HELP OF PRESCRIPTION SLEEPING PILLS MAY WANT TO LOOK OUT FOR A RARE RISK OF SUICIDE. REPORTER RENETTA DUBOSE SHOW US THE CORRELATION IN A NEW MEDICAL STUDY.

WHEN YOU'RE TIRED, YOU WANT REST AND YOU GET IT BY FALLING ASLEEP. SURPRISINGLY, THE MEDICINT YOU TAKE COULD LEAD TO A SLEEPLESS NIGHT AND MUCH MORE.

Dr Mccall, psychiatrist: "They have problems getting through their day and managing their responsibilities either at home or at work.

SLEEP MEDICATIONS MAY NOT BE AS SAFE AS YOU THINK. THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION NOW ISSUES WARNINGS ON THE PRESCRIPTION MEDS PEOPLE TAKE TO GET SOME SHUT EYE.

McCall: "Patients may be at risk of either using the medications to commit suicide or perhaps that the medication may even make someone suicidal."

DOCTOR VAUGHN MCCALL IS STUDYING THE EFFECTS OF THE SLEEP AIDE ANDHE'S FINDING THAT INSTEAD OF CALMING YOU DOWN, IT STIMULATES YOU, CAUSING FEAR, AMNESIA AND SLEEP WALKING. INSTEAD OF GETTING AGOOD NIGHT'S REST, SOME USERS COULD EXHIBIT UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR WHICH SHOULD CONCERN FAMILY MEMBERS.

Dr. McCall: Confusion, they'd be acting out of character, they might be inappropriately afraid as if they were being threatened from something and this would culminate in a suicidal act."

DR. MCCALL SAYS THIS RARE REACDTION HAPPENS IWTHIN DAYS, SO CHECK IN WITH YOUR DOCTOR OFTERN.

HEALTH

11/1416 KRON 4 News at 10pm Dangers of lead (Part 1 of 2)

LEAD USE IN HOMES WAS BANNED IN THE 1970'S, BUT DECADES LATER LEAD CAN STILL BE FOUND IN OLD PAINT AND SOMETIMES EVEN WATER.

LEAD IS A NATURALLY OCCURRING ELEMENT THAT WAS WIDELY USED IN EVERYDAY ITEMS LIKE PAINT, GASOLINE, AND TOYS. BUT LEAD CAN ALSO BE A HEALTH HAZARD. CHILDREN IN PARTICULAR CAN SUFFER COGNITIVE DISORDERS FROM INGESTING LEAD. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD SHOWS US HOW TO SPOT DANGERS AT HOME:

KAREN YU IS A SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTOR WITH THE SF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH. SHE HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE CHECKING HOMES FOR HEALTH HAZARDS INCLUDING LEAD. DECADES AFTER LEAD WAS BANNED FROM USE IN HOMES, IT STILL LINGERS IN OLD PAINT, DUST, UNCOVERED SOIL AND SOMETIMES EVEN PLUMBING.

WHILE LEAD CONTAMINATION IN WATER HAS MADE HEADLINES IN PLACES LIKE FLINT MICHIGAN, KAREN SAYS ITS ACTUALLY RARE TO FIND ELEVATED LEVELS IN OUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY. IF THERE IS WATER CONTAMINATION, IT IS PROBABLY COMING FROM WITHIN THE HOME.

Yu: "If there were any lead it may have come from your faucet because in the older housing there might still be brass faucets being used and you might want to change that."

FOR ANYONE CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN THEIR WATER, TESTING IS FAIRLY SIMPLE. LOCAL WATER AGENCIES WILL OFTEN HELP OUT. FOR EXAMPLE, IN SAN FRANCISCO THE SFPUC WILL TEST WATER SAMPLES THAT RESIDENTS COLLECT THEMSELVES

Yu: "You let the water sit in your pipes for six hours overnight and then first thing in the morning you take that first draw from the faucet. And then you let the water run for two to three minutes and then you take a second draw. The SF Water Department will come and pick up the water and they will test it."

KAREN ALSO SAYS IF ANYONE THINKS THEIR WATER MAY CONTAIN LEAD THERE ARE A FEW SIMPLE WAYS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE.

Yu: "Every morning let the water run. Catch that water and use it for something else. And then you should be fine. Or you can use filters, filtered water."

WHILE LEAD IN WATER IS CERTAINLY CONCERNING, KAREN SAYS THE MOST COMMON SOURCE OF LEAD IN HOMES IS ACTUALLY PAINT. ANY HOME BUILT BEFORE THE LATE 1970'S, AND THERE ARE MANY IN THE BAY AREA, PROBABLY HAS OLD LEAD PAINT BENEATH NEWER COATS OF PAINT.

Yu: "So when you have deteriorated paint, then the bottom layer shows up and then children can touch that and get it on their hands and they like to put their hands in their mouths. This is how they get lead poisoning."

SHE ALSO SAYS FRICTION POINTS ON OLD DOORS AND WINDOWS CAN CREATE LEAD PAINT DUST.

Yu: "As you move the windows up and down, that will shed lead dust and that will get on the window sills."

LEAD PARTICLES THAT DON'T BREAK DOWN OVER TIME CAN COLLECT IN SOIL IN BACKYARDS. ONCE AGAIN, TESTING IS FAIRLY SIMPLE.

Yu: "Any homeowner can do this. You take a zip lock bag, put your name and address on it, scoop some soil into it and send it off to a laboratory that's been certified to test lead."

FINALLY, LEAD POISONING CAN BE A SCARY PROSPECT. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE, SMELL OR TASTE. KAREN SAYS THAT IF AFTER TESTING THEIR PAINT, SOIL AND WATER RESIDENTS ARE STILL CONCERNED PROFESSIONAL INSPECTORS CAN BE BROUGHT IN TO CONDUCT A MORE THOROUGH EXAMINATION.

IN SAN FRANCISCO CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

OUR COVERAGE OF THIS STORY CONTINUES ONLINE. ON OUR WEBSITE WE HAVE A LINK TO THE EPA WEBSITE ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER AND ALSO THE EFFECTS LEAD POISONING CAN HAVE ON CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN. WE ALSO HAVE A PHOTO GALLERY SHOWING YOU WHAT LEAD-CONTAMINATED PIPES LOOK LIKE. IT'S ALL JUST A CLICK AWAY AT KRON 4 DOT COM.

HEALTH

11/1516 KRON 4 News at 10pm Dangers of lead (Part 2 of 2)

THIS WEEK, KRON 4 IS TAKING AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE DANGERS OF LEAD CONTAMINATION. TONIGHT, WE ARE GOING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO AN EAST BAY FAMILY THAT HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM FIRST HAND. ALTHOUGH LEAD WAS BANNED FROM HOUSEHOLD USE DECADES AGO, IT LINGERS ON IN MANY OLDER HOMES IN THE FORM OF PAINT. IF CHILDREN INGEST THAT PAINT, THEY CAN SUFFER SEVERE HEALTH PROBLEMS. MANY FAMILIES, LIKE THE ONE YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET, HAVE NO IDEA THERE IS EVEN A DANGER. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD HAS THEIR STORY:

ISMAEL ACKBARI HIS WIFE AND TWO YOUNG CHILDREN CAME TO THE U.S. FROM AFGHANISTAN ABOUT A YEAR AGO. THE FAMILY NOW SHARES A VERY MODEST ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT IN OAKLAND'S FRUITVALE NEIGHBORHOOD.

Ackbari: "It's an older house, a 90 year house that we are living in. It's so expensive for a one bedroom. I'm paying \$1300 a month."

WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN THE BAY AREA THE KIDS WERE TESTED FOR LEAD EXPOSURE AND THE RESULTS CAME BACK NEGATIVE. BUT A HEW MONTHS LATER TWO YEAR OLD HOMHAMMED WAS TESTED AGAIN AND HIS BLOOD LEAD LEVEL HAD JUMPED UP TO 71 MICROGRAMS PER DECILITER. ANYTHING OVER FIVE MICROGRAMS IS CONSIDERED A PROBLEM. HE WAS IMMEDIATELY HOSPITALIZED.

Ackbalr: "It was very scary."

ISMAELHAD NEVER EVEN HEARD OF LEAD POISONING.

Ackbarl: "I haven't heard anything about lead in my country. When I came here I understand what it's like."

LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN IS A SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARD THAT CAN HAVE LASTING IMPACT ON A CHILD'S ABILITY TO LEARN. UNFORTUNATELY, KIDS WHO LIVE IN OLDER HOMES IN LOW INCOME AREAS HAVE SOME OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF EXPOSURE.

DIEP TRAN IS A PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE WITH ALAMEDA COUNTY.

Tran: "Unfortunately, most children we see do not have symptoms until their lead level is quite high. I would say the symptoms are vague and that is why the only way you can detect lead poisoning at an early stage is through a blood test. You don't want to wait until they have seizures."

WHEN MOHAMMED WAS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL A TEAM FROM THE ALAMEDA HEALTHY HOMES DEPARTMENT EXAMINED THE ACKBARI'S APARTMENT. AFTER CHECKING THE PAINT, DUST AND WATER INSIDE THE HOME, IT STILL WAS UNCLEAR HOW THE YOUNG BOY INGESTED THE LEAD. NONE OF HIS TOYS OR ANYTHING ELSE INSIDE THE APARTMENT SEEMD TO BE THE SOURCE.

THEN ACKBARI REMEMBERED THAT HIS SON LIKED TO PLAY OUTSIDE NEAR A WALL THAT HAD PEELING PAINT.

Dale Hagen, Alameda Housing Services director: "The older the home the more likely it is to have lead-based paint."

DALES HAGEN IS DIRECTOR OF THE ALAMEDA HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT. HE SAYS LEAD PAINT IS A BIG PROBLEM ACROSS THE COUNTY.

Hagen: "The lead that's in paint or the lead that used to be in pain on the building are the biggest sources that we find in the environment."

MOHAMMED SPEND TWO WEEKS IN THE HOSPITAL RECEIVING TREATMENT. MONTHS LATER, HIS BLOOD LEVEL IS DROPPING BUT IT IS STILL TOO HIGH. FORTUNATELY, HE IS NOT SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF LONG-TERM PROBLEMS.

THE ACKBARI'S AND THE COUNTY HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER TO REMOVE THE LEAD OUTSIDE THE PROPERTY. THE OWNER DID PUT UP SOME BLACK PLASTIC TO CATCH FALLING PAINT BUT ISMAEL SAYS THE FAMILY PLANS TO MOVE ANYWAY, A DAUNTING PROSPECT IN THE BAY AREA'S RED HOT MARKET.

Ackbari: "I'm sure my son will play again outside and he will be faced with the same problem again in the future so that's why I'll shift to a new place in Antioch or somewhere else if I find some better places."

IN OAKLAND CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

HEALTH

11/16/16 KROn 4 News at 8pm Advice on maintaining healthy relationships post-election

THE ELECTION MAY BE OVER - BUT SOME OF THE BATTLE LINES ARE STILL BEING DRAWN. AND WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR PARTIES, BUT YOU AND ME AND OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.KRON 4'S VICKI LIVIAKIS IS HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE FALLOUT FROM OUR FRACTIOUS ELECTION.

YOU'VE PROBABLY FELT IT OR SEEN IT. FRIENDS BEING "UNFRIENDED" ON FACEBOOK. SPATS ON THE BART TRAIN. EVEN IN THE BEDROOM. POST-ELECTION EMOTIONS ARE STILL RUNNING HIGH, AND NOT JUST ON THE STREETS. HOUSEHOLDS THAT SPLIT THEIR VOTES ARE STRUGGLING TO MAKE PEACE BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS. FORTUNATELY THERE'S HELP.

THANKSGIVING ANGST. THIS SNL SPOOF SHOWS THE POTENTIAL FOR POST-ELECTION TENSION.

Dr. Brenda Wade, psychologist: "Lots of relations are affected by this election, more than anything we've ever seen."

SO DO YOU KEEP POLITICS OFF THE TABLE? AND KEEP YOUR RELATIONSHIP INTACT.

Dr. Wade: "All the experts are saying you know what the advice is... if you and somebody you care about are on opposite sides of the election, don't talk about it. Put it in a box. But I say baloney."

DR. BRENDA WADE IS A PSYCHOLOGIST AND RELATIONSHIP COUNSELOR AND FREQUENT GUEST ON OPRAH AND DR. OZ. HER ADVICE - CONTRARY TO POPULAR OPINION - DON'T IGNORE IT AND GO FOR THE BOTTLE.

Dr. Wade: "We can't afford if you're in a relationship you care about. What makes the relationship strong is being able to talk, being able to share."

DR. WADE SAYS FEAR IS A TOXIN ON EITHER SIDE OF THE POLITICAL DIVIDE.

Dr. Wade: "You can't put it in a box because it's Thanksgiving. We just don't want to talk about it. Create that safe place."

HERE ARE THE RULES. THE RULES ARE - IT'S SAFE HERE. EACH PERSON GETS A SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF TIME. YOU SAY IT AND HERE'S THE KICKER - AT THE END OF IT YOU HAVE TO TURN AROUND AND SAY WE DISAGREE ON THIS, BUT YOU'VE SHARED YOUR FEELINGS.

SOUNDS RULES OF ENGAGEMENT ON THE HOMEFRONT AND BEYOND.

Dr. Wade: "You know we can only hope that people in Washington will practice compassion, understanding and forgiveness."

IN SAN FRANCISCO, VICKI LIVIAKIS KRON 4 NEWS.

HEALTH

11/18/16 KRON 4 Evening News Zika threat downgraded

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HAS DECLARED THE END OF AN INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY CAUSED BY ZIKA, BUT SAYS THE VIRUS STILL REMAINS A THREAT. HEALTH OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS ON A GLOBAL LEVEL IS UNDER CONTROL. THEY SAY NOW THERE ARE PLANS TO CREATE A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO HANDLE RESEARCH ON THE VIRUS. THE DISEASE HAS SPREAD THROUGH MORE THAN 50-COUNTRIES AND HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS AND NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS. CURRENTLY THERE IS NO VACCINE OR MEDICINE TO TREAT ZIKA.

HEALTH

12/2/16 KORN 4 News at 10pm Flu season tallies first death in state

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS CONFIRMED THE FIRST FLU DEATH OF A PERSON UNDER 65 FOR THIS FLU SEASON. HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THE DEATH WAS REPORTED

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY. WHILE THIS IS THE FIRST DEATH THERE HAVE BEEN 11 OTHER CASES WHERE A PATIENTS HAVE NEEDED TREATMENT IN INTENSIVE CARE. THE STATE HEALTH DEPARMENT RECOMMENDS GETTING A FLU VACCINE EACH YEAR TO REDUCE YOUR RISK OF GETTING SICK.

HEALTH

12/10/16 KRON 4 Morning News Is vaping safe?

THE U-S SURGEON GENERAL IS CALLING E-CIGARETTES AN EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT TO THE NATION'S YOUNG PEOPLE. A NEW REPORT FROM THE SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE CALLS FOR MORE RESEARCH INTO THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF "VAPING." THE USE OF E-CIGARETTES AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INCREASED *NINE-HUNDRED* PERCENT FROM 20-11 TO 20-15, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT. BECAUSE IT CONTAINS FEWER OF THE HARMFUL COMPOUNDS OF REGULAR CIGARETTES, VAPING WAS FIRST PUSHED AS A SAFER ALTERNATIVE FOR CURRENT SMOKERS. THERE'S NO SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS ON THE RISKS OR ADVANTAGES.

HEALTH

12/13/16 KRON 4 Morning News
Teen use of alcohol and tobacco trending down

TEENS ARE BEHAVING BETTER THAN EVER. A NEW REPORT SAYS THEY ARE DRINKING AND SMOKING LESS, AND DOING FEWER DRUGS. THE 2016 "MONITORING THE FUTURE" SURVEY SHOWED A CONTINUING DECLINE IN THE USE OF MARIJUANA, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

MORE THAN 45-THOUSAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY. RESEARCHERS SAY THEY ARE SEEING THE LOWEST RATES OF DRUG USE AMONG TEENS SINCE THEY FIRST STARTED TRACKING SUBSTANCE ABUSE 40 YEARS AGO.

IN 1991, NEARLY 11 PERCENT OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SMOKED A HALF PACK OF CIGARETTES OR MORE A DAY. THIS YEAR ONLY ONE-POINT-EIGHT PERCENT REPORTED SMOKING THAT MUCH.

HEALTH

12/13/16 KRON 4 Morning News College weight gain phenomenon

COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE ON AVERAGE 10 POUNDS HEAVER WHEN THEY GRADUATE THAN WHEN THEY ENROLLED. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

RESEARCHERS FOLLOWED 117 STUDENTS FROM 2011 TO 2016. AT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR COLLEGE CAREERS, THE AVERAGE WEIGHT WAS 147 POUNDS. BY THE END OF SENIOR YEAR IT HAD INCREASED TO 157 POUNDS. MANY OF THE STUDENTS REPORTEDLY INDULGED IN THE FOODS THEIR PARENTS WOULDN'T ALLOW WHILE LIVING AT HOME.

FEW OF THEM ATE THE RECOMMENDED DAILY AMOUNT OF VEGETABLES AND THE MAJORITY DRANK ALCOHOL AT LEAST THREE TIMES A WEEK. AND ONLY 15 PERCENT EXERCISED ENOUGH.

RESEARCHERS SAY STUDENTS GAINED A THIRD OF THE WEIGHT IN THEIR FIRST YEAR.

HEALTH

12/28/16 KRON 4 Evening News

Controversial new medical law

VAS WE PREPARE TO USHER IN 2017, WE ARE BRINGING YOU SOME OF THE NEW RULES CALIFORNIANS WILL HAVE TO LIVE BY. BUT THIS NEXT ONE... IT IS SURE TO STIR DEBATE WITHIN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY. IT IS CALLED THE "RIGHT-TO-TRY" LAW, NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE "RIGHT TO DIE."

WHAT IS RIGHT-TO-TRY? IT GIVES TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS IN CALIFORNIA THE OPTION OF USING EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS THAT HAVE NOT RECEIVED FULL REGULATORY APPROVAL. THE LAW ALSO PROTECTS DOCTORS FROM DISCIPLINARY ACTION IF THEY RECOMMEND AN EXPERIMENTAL DRUG SHOULD ALL OTHER OPTIONS BE EXHAUSTED.

HEALTH

12/29/16 KRON 4 Evening News

Alarming levels of lead in East Bay

DANGEROUS LEVELS OF LEAD HAVE BEEN FOUND IN CHILDREN LIVING IN AN EAST BAY CITY. WHAT'S ALARMING IS THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF LEAD FOUND IN THIS EAST BAY CITY IS HIGHER THAN THE LEAD LEVELS IN KIDS LIVING IN FLINT MICHIGAN WHICH HAS A WELL DOCUMENTED PROBLEM WITH LEAD IN ITS WATER.

HOWEVER AS KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN HAS LEARNED, THE EAST BAY CITY IN QUESTION HAS A DIFFERENT LEAD PROBLEM.

A RECENT REUTERS NEWS REPORT STATED THAT LEAD LEVELS IN OAKLAND' FRUITVALE DISTRICT ARE WORSE THAN WAS DISCOVERED IN FLINT, MICHIGAN. THE PROBLEM THERE WAS IN THE WATER.

Larry Brooks, Alameda County Healthy Homes Department: "People see the words Flint Michigan and then they see Oakland lead poisoning and then they think water. It's not the water here. It's the lead paint."

LARRY BROOKS IS THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS HERE AT ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTHY HOMES DEPARTMENT...THEIR MISSION?

Brooks: "Research the connection between health and housing and come up with best practices to make sure people live safe and healthy."

HE SAYS ACCORDING TO DATA PROVIDED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6 LIVING IN OAKLAND'S FRUITVALE DISTRICT HAVE ELEVATED LEVELS OF LEAD POSIONING AND IT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HOUSING.

Brooks: "There are a lot of aging homes here in the Bay Area that are not being maintained well. In the 25 years that we have been responding to elevated lead cases, we found that is due to deteriorated lead based paint. More than 90% of the homes in Oakland were built prior to 1980. Lead was not removed from homes until 1978. Also soil is one of the primary sources. Most of our cases have been traced back to paint or the soil. It has never been traced back to the water system."

SO WHAT IS THE CITY OF OAKLAND DOING ABOUT BUILDINGS COVERED WITH LEAD BASED PAINT?

Brooks: "When their code enforcement officers find lead hazards they report them to us."

BUT HE SAYS THAT IS A COMPLAINT DRIVEN PROCESS THAT WILL HOPEFULLY BE REPLACED BY A ROUTINE RENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAM.

Brooks: "They're not going to be waiting for a complaint, they are going to already be out there, it will be a part of their routine inspections"

ROUTINE RENTAL INSPECTIONS PROPOSAL IS CURRENTLY WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH OAKLAND CITY LEGISLATURE. IN THE MEANTIME HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU THINK THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO LEAD BASED PAINT.

IN OAKLAND HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

4Q2016 HOUSING

HOUSING

10/11/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Contentious rent control debate

WITH SOARING RENTAL PRICES AROUND THE BAY AREA, THE FIGHT OVER RENT CONTROL IN THE EAST BAY HAS BEEN TENSE AND EVEN VIOLENT. BUT THE SPARRING OVER RENT CONTROL BETWEEN TENANTS AND LANDLORDS IN THE CITY OF ALAMEDA IS NEARING A RESOLUTION AS VOTERS GET THE CHANCE TO END A DEBATE THAT HAS OFTEN TURNED UGLY. THIS NOVEMBER, VOTERS IN THAT CITY WILL DECIDE BETWEEN TWO COMPETING MEASURES. TONIGHT, KRON 4'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL GOES IN-DEPTH ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE:

THE DEBATE OVER RENT CONTROL IN THE CITY OF ALAMEDA HAS ENRAGED BOTH TENANTS AND LANDLORDS. AT ONE POINT, THE ARGUMENT BOILING OVER OUTSIDE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS DURING A SPECIAL MEETING BACK IN NOVEMBER WHICH, VICE MAYOR FRANK MATARRESE SAYS, RESULTED IN THE ASSAULT OF A CITY EMPLOYEE WHO WOUND UP WITH A BROKEN HIP.

Matarrese: "This is an emotional issue, because we're talking about the roof over your head."

IN MARCH, THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED THE RENT REVIEW, RENT STABALIZATION AND LIMITATIONS ON EVICTIONS ORDINANCE AND HAS SINCE PUT THE MEASURE, KNOWN AS L-1, ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT FOR VOTERS TO AFFIRM.

LONG-TIME CITY COUNCILMEMBER TONY DAYSOG SAYS THE MEASURE DOES NOT INCLUDE A CAP ON RENT INCREASES, BUT LIMITS INCREASES TO ONCE A YEAR AND REQUIRES MEDIATION FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL INCREASES ABOVE FIVE PERCENT.

Daysog: "And, I think people will see in L1, it's basically taking that 40 year old! rent review process that we've had in place, but giving it the power of binding arbitration to establish reasonable rent increases."

RENT INCREASES, WHICH IN THEORY, DAYSOG SAYS WOULD BE MUTALLY AGREED UPON BY THE TENANT AND THEIR LANDLORD.

Daysog: "There have been 60 cases that have come before the rent review process, and of the 60 cases, none of them have hit double digit increases. They've been on average six percent rent increase."

BUT CATHERINE PAULING, WITH THE ALAMEDA RENTERS COALITION SAYS SIX PERCENT IS JUST TOO HIGH.

Pauling: "You can't keep your head together without a roof over it."

PAULING AND HER ORGANIZATION COLLECTED MORE THAN 74 HUNDRED SIGNATURES TO PUT M-1 ON THE BALLOT. THAT'S A COMPETING CHARTER AMENDMENT WHICH, IF PASSED, CAN DOWN THE ROAD ONLY BE AMENDED BY THE VOTE OF THE PEOPLE. M-1 WOULD CAP RENT INCREASES TO ABOUT TWO PERCENT A YEAR AND IT LIMITS THE REASONS FOR TERMINATING LEASES.

Pauling: "M1 actually is providing rent stabilization by tying rent increases to inflation so it can be predictable and sustainable. M1 will stop these no-cause evictions."

JUST KEEP IN MIND, THAT L-1, THE CITY SPONSORED MEASURE, IS CURRENT LAW. THE ONLY WAY TO AMEND IT WOULD BE THE PASSAGE OF M-1.

Daysog: "I do believe that the renters coalition M-1 initiative is too rigid."

Pauling: "We don't want to put landlords out of business, but we do need something that is predictable and sustainable, and tying it to inflation, one to two percent is actually what people are getting in their raises or their cost of living expenses, so it is reasonable."

IN ALAMEDA, PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON 4 NEWS

HOUSING

10/20/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Benefits of stable low-income housing

A NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX IS OPEN IN MARIN COUNTY, JUST ONE MONTH AFTER THIEVES BROKE IN AND STOLE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF APPLIANCES FROM THE COMPLEX. KRON4'S JEFF PIERCE WAS THERE AS THE NEW UNITS FOR FAMILIES WERE UNVEILED:

IT WAS A FESTIVE CELEBRATION IN NOVATO TO RECOGNIZE A COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENT. PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT MARIN COUNTY CAME TO MARVEL AT THE OPENING OF OMA VILLAGE. THE FOURTEEN SMALL RENTAL HOMES IN THE COMPLEX ARE MEANT FOR VERY LOW INCOME FAMILIES THAT HAVE BEEN PARTICIPANTS IN HOMEWARD BOUND OF MARIN. THE PROGRAM IS FOR FAMILIES WITH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

Homeward Bound spokesperson: "Our goal here is to help the families increase their incomes but to help the next generation, the kids who are living in homelessness now to be able to graduate from schools and to have a stable home for a long time."

THAT KIND OF STABILITY FOR A FINANCIALLY STRUGGLING FAMILY CAN BE A LIFE SAVER.

Homeward Bound spokesperson: "Some of the kids have been on the move since they were born so to come to a place like this which is a brand new dignified home in a welcoming community will allow the kids to really put down roots."

HOMEWARD BOUND OF MARIN HOPES TO USE THE ARCHITECHTURAL DESIGN FOR FUTURE VILLAGES.

Homeward Bound spokesperson: "These plans should not sit on a shelf somewhere we can use them again somewhere else in town."

IN NOVATO JEFF PIERCE KRON 4 NEWS

HOUSING

11/1/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm RV residents face zoning problems

IN THE NORTH BAY, A BATTLE IS BREWING BETWEEN RESIDENTS ALONG A QUIET COUNTY ROAD AND A GROUP OF PEOPLE LIVING IN R-V'S WHO HAVE PARKED NEARBY. THIS PAST SUMMER, THE CITY OF SAN RAFAEL BANNED PARKING RECREATIONAL VEHICLES ALONG CITY STREETS, FORCING R-V DWELLERS TO MOVE OUT OF THE CITY.

KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD IS LIVE TONIGHT IN MARIN COUNTY WITH DETAILS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW:

WHEN THE CITY OF SAN RAFAEL IMPLEMENT ITS BAN ON PARKING R-V'S ALONG CITY STREETS, PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN RECREATIONAL VEHICLES WERE FACED WITH HAVING THEIR HOMES POSSIBLY TICKETED OR EVEN TOWED. TO AVODE THAT DRAMA, THEY FLED TO SPOTS JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY WHERE THEY COULD PARK WITHOUT PROBLEMS.

Paul Schreps, R-V owner: "There's nothing in the Constitution that says a home can't have wheels on it."

PAUL SCHREPS IS AN ADVOCATE FOR SEVERAL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SETTLEDHERE ALONG WOODLAND AVENUE. HE SAYS THAT THE CITY'S RECENT BAN HAS PUT MANY OF THESE FOLKS IN A TIGHT SPOT.

Schreps: It was threatening them, losing their homes and property without due process."

BUT WOODLAND AVENUE MAY NOT BE A SAFE HAVE VERY LONG. NEIGHBORS WHO LIVE NEARBY, LIKE ED KOZLOWSKI, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT THE R-V'S COULD HAVE ON THE NEIGHBORHOO.

Kozlowski: "I think there is a big negative impact on property values and the perception of our neighborhood."

HE'S ALSO WORRIED THAT THE R-V DWELLERS MAY DUMP TRASH OR SEWAGE ALONG WOODLAND. THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS THE ICTY OF SAN RAFAEL CLAIMED THE BAN WAS NECESSARY.

Kozlowski: "If they are living there, cooking there and they need to get rid of their garbage I don't know if they are going to leave it on the roadside."

Schreps: "That's garbage."

SCHREPS DENIES THAT ONAYONE IS DUMPING ANYTHING ALONG THE ROADWAY. MOVING FORWARD SCHREPS HOPES TO CONVICNE THE CITY TO LIFT THE BAN ON PARKING WITHIN CITY LIMITS. KOZLOWSKI SAYS HE'S WORKING WITH THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CHANGE THE PARKING RULES HERE ALONG WOODLAND.

Kozlowski: "To possibly ban overnight parking."

CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

HOUSING

11/4/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm House for sale

NEW TONIGHT AT 8, WE OFTEN HEAR ABOUT THE SKYROCKETING BAY AREA HOUSE PRICES. BUT TONIGHT, WE HAVE WHAT IS CERTAINLY THE CHEAPEST HOUSE ON THE MARKET. TRY ONE DOLLAR. NO IT'S NOT A JOKE.... BUT AS KRON-4'S JEFF PIERCE TELLS US --- IT DOES COME WITH A CATCH.

BAY AREA HOME PRICES ARE DAUNTING, BUT IN THIS TREE-LINED NEIGHBORHOOD SITS AN HISTORICAL HOME FOR AN ASTOUNDING PRICE.

Hercules City Councilmember: "We're trying to sell it for one dollar to any willing taker."

AND IT IS A HOME WITH DISTINCTION.

Hercules City Councilmember: "It's a beautiful example of history here in Hercules that we call the Queen Anne house."

Hercules City Councilmember: "It's a fixer up, but it's cozy. It has some of the original molding inside. Things like that."

THERE ARE JUST A COUPLE OF MINOR DRAWBACKS.

Hercules City Councilmember: "It's not a mobile home, but you do have to move it if you want to buy it"

SO MUCH FOR THE TREE-LINED NEIGHBORHOOD. BUT, THE HOME HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR MOBILITY.

Hercules City Councilmember: "It has good breeze because it's been cut in half."

Hercules City Councilmember: "That was necessary for it to be moved. It's my understanding from people who have evaluated it that that is very common with homes and it will be very easy to put it back together."

THE HERCULES CITY COUNCIL MEETS THIS THURSDAY NIGHT TO CONSIDER THE ONE BID THEY CURRENTLY HAVE BUT THEY WILL ENTERTAIN ANY FORTHCOMING OFFERS. PERHAPS A DOLLAR FIFTY?

IN HERCULES JEFF PIERCE KRON 4 NEWS

HOUSING 11/11/16 KRON 4 Evening News Homeless vets

SAN JOSE'S VETERAN'S DAY PARADE TODAY SERVED AS A BACKDROP TO HELP VETERANS WHO NEED IT THE MOST – THOSE WHO ARE HOMELESS. KORN 4'S ROB FLADEBOE HAS MORE:

I'M HERE AT THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HERE IN DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE. IRONICALLY, THIS PLACE HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT OF A HANGOUT SPOT FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE INCLUDE SOME WHO ARE VETS. BUT SOME OF THOSE HOMELESS VETS ARE FINDING PERMANENT HOUSING. TODAY AT THE ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM HERE I MET ONE HOMELESS VET WHO SHOWED OFF THE KEYS TO HIS NEW APARTMENT WHILE ANOTHER HOMELESS VET IS HOPEING THAT HE'S NEXT.

74 YEAR OLD GUNTHER EHLERS IS A VIETNAM ERA VETERAN. BUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EHLERS AND THE THOUSANDS OF OTHER VETS WHO TURNED OUT FOR THE ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE HERE IS THAT EHLERS IS HOMELESS.

Ehler: "I had pneumonia and I had to sleep outside, but a couple of days ago I got into The Orchard."

EHLERS IS LIVING IN A SHELTER NOW, BUT LOOKING FOR HELP FROM 'ALL THE WAY HOME,' A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE CITY, COUNTY AND HOUSING AUTHORITY LAUNCHED A YEAR AGO, WHICH ANNOUNCED IT HAS SO FAR HELPED NICK JARAMILLO AND 509 OTHER HOMELESS VETERANS FIND PERMANENT HOUSING.

Nick Haramillo, former homes veteran: "I'm not used to having keys. But now I have keys and I thank God and I thank everyone in the community that has their eyes open to this."

Dave Corteze, county supervisor: "This is a country where people believe that no veteran who served his country should be sleeping under a bridge or lining in a creek."

CORTEZE HAS MADE A ROOM IN HIS OWN HOME AVAILABLE TO THE PROGRAM WHILE THE CITY AND COUNTY HAVE COMMITTED MILLIONS TO FUND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND LANDLORD INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. VETERANS MAKE UP 10 PERCENT OF THE 6,000 PLUS HOMELESS PEOPLE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY. GUNTHER EHLERS FOUGHT BACK TEARS AS PEOPLE STUFFED CASH INTO HIS POCKETS, JOINING THE EFFORT TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

Ehlers: "My girlfriend is saving six hundred dollars in case we get an apartment and we can move in."

AND MORE GOOD NEWS FOR VETERANS IS THAT VOTERS HERE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY THIS WEEK TENTATIVELY APPROVED MEASURE A, WHICH IS A 950 MILLION DOLLAR BOND ISSUE THAT WOULD PROVIDE A LOT OF HELP FOR VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO GET VETERANS LIKE EHLERS AND OTHERS OFF THE STREETS AND INTO PERMANENT HOUSING.

LIVE IN SAN JOSE ROB FLADEBOE KRON 4 NEWS

HOUSING

11/30/16 KRON 4 Evening News Rent control voted down in Concord

AN UPDATE ON STORY WE FIRST TOLD YOU ABOUT LAST NIGHT ON KRON 4 NEWS. CONCORD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE REJECTED A PROPOSAL THAT WOULD HAVE CAPPED RENT INCREASES IN THE CITY FOR 45 DAYS.

THE COUNCIL VOTED 3 TO 2 TO REJECT DRAFTING AN URGENCY ORDINANCE THAT WOULD HAVE LIMITED RENT INCREASES TO 3-PERCENT OR LOWER FOR A 45-DAY PERIOD. SUPPORTERS OF THE PROPOSAL HOPED IT WOULD BUY TIME FOR THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP A LONG TERM-SOLUTION. CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO RENT CONTROL IN CONCORD.

THE COUNCIL DID APPROVE A RENTERS HOTLINE WHICH WILL BE USED TO REPORT EXCESSIVE RENT INCREASES. ACCORDING TO A CITY REPORT, RENTS IN THE CITY, WHERE RENTERS MAKE UP 41 PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS, HAVE INCREASED AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY 35 PERCENT SINCE 2012.

HOUSING

12/7/16 KRON 4 Evening News Tragic warehouse fire underscores affordable housing crisis

BG Anaraki, lost friend in Ghost Ship fie: "Our community is largely poor people."

Lynette Gibson McElhaney, Oakland City Councilmember: "I'm looking forward to hearing from people who are members of the underground community."

THE TRAGIC LOSS OF SO MANY LIVES IN THE GHOST SHIP WARE HOUSE FIRE HAS PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE ISSUE OF UNAFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND. THE QUESTION NOW IS WILL OAKLAND ARTISTS AND OAKLAND CITY LEADERS FIND AWAY TO COME TOGETHER TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

OAKLAND ARTIST BG ANARAKI LOST 3 FRIENDS AND A ROOMMATE THE NIGHT OF THE FIRE.

Anaraki: "The reason that we have to go to places that don't have permits, that might not be safe and aren't legal is because we literally have nowhere else to go."

McElhaney: "I'd like to see us undertake as a city, a methodical, thoughtful, sensitive process that tries to address these concerns."

THERE ARE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF WAREHOUSES IN WEST OAKLAND, CITY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE MCELHANEY'S DISTRICT. SHE SAYS SHE IS WILLING TO LISTEN AND WORK WITH ARTISTS AND OTHERS SEEKING SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

McElhaney: "There are stakeholders and community members in this vibrant space that hold different ideologies, religions, identities, and how do we hear them in a way that allows us to serve them best and that's part of the challenge and opportunity we have going forward."

HOWEVER THERE IS CONCERN THAT ARTISTS LIVING IN ALTERNATIVE HOUSING MAY BECOME THE VICTIMS OF A CITY TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT ANOTHER DEADLY WAREHOUSE FIRE NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.

Anaraki: "Because no one makes space for us."

IN OAKLAND HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

HOUSING

12/19/16 KRON 4 Evening News Local for-profit university settles suit

A MAJOR MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SETTLEMENT INVOLVING THE ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY IN SAN FRANCISCO. THE CITY FILED SUIT AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY EARLIER THIS YEAR, CLAIMING OFFICIALS WITH THE ACADEMY, ALONG WITH IT'S REAL ESTATE AFFILIATES, FAILED TO FOLLOW THE LAW BY REPORTEDLY IGNORING CITY LAND USE RULES AND UNLAWFULLY ACQUIRED REAL ESTATE IN THE CITY'S ALREADY IMPACTED HOUSING MARKET.

HE SAYS THE UNIVERSITY VIOLATED STATE AND LOCAL LAWS FOR NEARLY A DECADE. ACADEMY OF ART ACQUIRED MULTIPLE REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS IN THE CITY IN ORDER TO CONVERT THEM INTO STUDENT HOUSING.

THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SAYS ITS INVESTIGATION REVEALED THE ACAMEDY HAS 40 PROPERITIES FOR USE BY THE PRIVATE UNIVERSITY CITY-WIDE, AND 33 OF THEM FACE ZONING VIOLATIONS, FAILING TO COMPLY WITH PERMIT, ENTITLEMENT OR AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

Dennis Herrera, San Francisco City Attorney: "Now they will be a part of the process to help with affordable housing. Of particular concern for us was that the Academy and its web of affiliated companies acquired residential properties only to illegally convert them

into student dorms and facilities. This was housing that San Franciscans desperately needed in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. Now, through our efforts, this company has finally agreed to be part of the solution rather than a major contributor to the problem."

THE CITY ATTORNEY SAYS THE HOUSING IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS. TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS OF THE SETTLEMENT WILL GO TOWARDS HELPING TENANTS WHO FACE EVICTIONS IN THIS TOUGH RENTAL MARKET. THE 60-MILLION DOLLAR SETTLEMENT WILL INCLUDE PROVIDING AT LEAST 160 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS FOR SAN FRANCISCANS AND CASH TO HELP LOW INCOME TENANTS.

HOUSING

12/30/16 KRON 4 News at 8pm Relief for some in East Bay rent control ordinance

IN RICHMOND - A NEW RENT CONTROL LAW GOES INTO EFFECT TODAY.
THAT MEANS SOME RESIDENTS WILL GET THE MUCH NEEDED FINANCIAL RELIEF THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR. KRON 4'S HERMELA AREGAWI IS LIVE IN RICHMOND.
SHE SPOKE TO RESIDENTS WHO SAY THIS WILL BE A BIG HELP:

HOW OFTEN DO WE HEAR ABOUT RENTS GOING DOWN? THAT IS WHAT THIS MEASURE WILL DO. I SPOKE WITH THE MAYOR TODAY AND HE SAYS.. THIS MEASURE APPLIES TO ABOUT A THIRD OF THE CITY'S RENTAL UNITS.

HE SAYS IT DOES MORE BAD THAN GOOD BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE IT PUTS ON LANDLORDS.. WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY ONCE AGAIN BURDEN THE RENTERS.

STARTING TODAY... SOME RICHMOND RESIDENTS WILL SEE THEIR RENTS GO DOWN, IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE NOVEMBER PASSAGE OF MEASURE L. THE LAW APPLIES TO PEOPLE LIVING IN BUILDINGS WITH TWO OR MORE RENTAL UNITS. THEIR RENT WILL NOW BE WHATEVER THE AMOUNT THEY WERE PAYING ON OR BEFORE JULY 21, 2015. MICHELLE ALVAREZ SAYS HER RENT WENT UP 138 DOLLARS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR.

Michelle Alvarez, renter: "It's dropping back down because of rent control which we are very thankful for which is extra money in our pocket towards gas to get to work or extra things for our kids."

SHE NOW PAYS ABOUT 80 DOLLARS LESS A MONTH.

Alvarez: "It relieves our stress because we were just planning to move next year once the lease was up so I'm glad it went through and I'm happy for other residents in the complex that have also been here."

THE LAW DOESN'T APPLY TO SINGLE FAMILY HOMES OR UNITS BUILT AFTER 1995. BUT ADVOCATES LIKE MARILYN LANGLOIS SAY IT WILL PROVIDE STABILITY FOR RICHMOND RESIDENTS AND LANDLORDS

Marilyn Langlois: "They'll be protected from extreme rent increases that might force them to leave. It will also be beneficial to neighborhoods in general because it will stabilize neighborhoods. the less rapid turnover you have among neighbors, the more stable the neighborhoods are. And it will also provide predictability and consistency for landlords as well."

IF A RESIDENT MOVES OUT, THE LANDLORD CAN STILL RAISE THE RENT TO BE COMPETITIVE IN THE MARKET. BUT THERE'S ANOTHER PART OF THIS MEASURE THAT MAKES SURE THAT LANDLORDS DON'T ABUSE THAT RIGHT. IT'S CALLED A JUST CAUSE CLAUSE WHICH MEANS THAT LANDLORDS MUST HAVE A JUST REASON TO EVICT A TENANT AND ARE NOT EVICTING FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING THE RENT.

IN RICHMOND HERMELA ARAGAWI KRON 4 NEWS

HOUSING

12/30/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Tent camp in Berkeley protest housing crisis

A HOMELESS COMMUNITY HAS SET UP TENTS IN A VERY BUSY AREA OF BERKELEY AND THEY SAY IT'S A PROTEST FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING. THE TENTS ARE IN THE AFFLUENT "GOURMET GHETTO" NEIGHBORHOOD. KRON 4'S ELLA SOGOMONIAN IS LIVE IN BERKELEY WITH THEIR DEMANDS.

THEY ARE BRAVING THIS COLD WEATHER DESPITE SHELTERS BEING AVAILABLE IN BERKELEY BECAUSE THEY SAY IT IS BETTER TO COME TOGETHER WITH THEIR OWN PEOPLE THAT THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH AND SEND A MESSAGE TO THE CITY OF BERKELEY AND HOPEFULLY TURN THE CITY INTO A PERMANENT SANCTUARY.

THIS IS EXCLUSIVE VIDEO OF POLICE RAIDING A HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT IN BERKELY TWO WEEKS AGO. SINCE THEN ABOUT TEN PEOPLE HAVE SET UP TENTS AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME IN THE AFFLUENT NEIGHBORHOOD KNOWN AS THE GOURMET GHETTO.

Homeless person: "I became disabled last year and my debt structure was monstrous. And I wound up losing my rent-controlled apartment on the west side where I'd lived for twenty years.

THE BUSY LOCATION OF SHATTUCK AND ROSE STREET IS PART OF THEIR STRATEGY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THEIR PROTEST. THE GROUP IS REQUESTING A SANCTUARY ON AVAILABLE CITY LAND DESPITE AVAILABLE BERKELEY SHELTERS.

Homeless person: "You can wind up bedding down next to a seriously mentally impaired person and they can become violent."

NEWLY ELECTED CITY COUNCIL MEMBER DAVILA PAID A VISIT TO THE CAMP FRIDAY NIGHT AFTER RECEIVING ANGRY LETTERS FROM THE COMMUNITY.

Davila: "I'm hopeful for the new year that we can resolve the issues that need to be resolved to keep this encampment happy or resolve the homeless problem period."

A BUSINESS OWNER ACROSS THE STREET SAID THE ENCAMPMENT COULD DRIVE AWAY CUSTOMERS BUT IS MORE CONCERNED WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE COMING INTO HIS BUSINESS TO USE THE RESTROOM AND DISRUPT BUSINESS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A WOMAN WHO WORKS IN THE AREA SYMPATHIZES WITH THE PROTEST IN AN INCREASINGLY EXPENSIVE REGION

Supporter: "It's a form of protest and protests are not about making people feel comfortable."

4Q2016 TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION

10/3/16 KRON 4 Evening News Congested freeways

DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU GET STUCK IN TRAFFIC MORE OFTEN THESE DAYS? IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU DO. THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RELEASED ITS ANNUAL

REPORT OF THE MOST CONGESTED FREEWAY LOCATIONS IN THE BAY AREA. KRON 4'S SPENCER BLAKE IS LIVE IN THE SOUTH BAY AT ONE OF THE TOP FIVE SPOTS AND TELLS US WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR ON THE FREEWAYS?

BASICALLY, THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE. THAT'S WHY I'M OUT HERE OVERLOOKING SOUTHBOUND 101, WHICH GETS PRETTY BAD IN THE EVENINGS. I WASN'T EVEN GOING TO WASTE MY TIME TRYING TO GET TO THE NUMBER ONE SPOT WHICH IS IN THE CITY.

FROM THE DATA COLLECTED IN 2015, THE MOST CONGESTED LOCATION IN THE BAY AREA WAS ON NORTHBOUND 101, HEADING ONTO EASTBOUND I-80 ONTO THE BAY BRIDGE. THE STRETCH THAT PREVIOUSLY HELD THE NUMBER FOUR SPOT NOW HAS MORE THAN 13 THOUSAND TOTAL HOURS OF DELAY EVERY WEEKDAY.

NUMBER TWO? THE CONSTANT CONGESTION ON WESTBOUND I-80 FROM HERCULES ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE BAY BRIDGE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, NOT INTERRUPTED BY A MIDDAY BREAK.

NUMBER THREE ON THE LIST IS SANTA CLARA COUNTY WITH 680 SOUTHBOUND AND 280 NORTHBOUND, JUMPING UP FROM NUMBER 20 ON THE LIST IN 2014.

MTC spokesperson: "Congestion on Bay Area freeways is a problem, and it's worse than it's ever been. I wish that weren't the case, but we do have an objective report before us. It's our job to come out here once a year and let all of you, the public, know what the reality is."

THESE ARE ALL RANKED BY 'CONGESTED DELAY,' WHICH MEANS ANY TME TRAFFIC IS MOVING AT 35 MILES AN HOUR OR SLOWER. THIS DOESN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CAR WRECKS OR ISOLATED INCIDENTS THAT SLOW THINGS DOWN.

THE "CONGESTED DELAY" NUMBER SURGED BY 22 PERCENT. THAT MEANS, ON AVERAGE IN 2015 EVERY DRIVER WAS STUCK IN CONGESTION FOR MORE THAN THREE MINUTES EVERY WORKDAY.

PART OF THE REASON COMMISSIONERS THINK THINGS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE, IS THAT THERE ARE SO MANY NEW JOBS, BUT PEOPLE CAN'T FIND HOUSING TO LIVE CLOSE TO THOSE JOBS.

MTC spokesperson: "San Francisco and San Jose have both added a lot of housing over the past five years, but the construction hasn't kept pace with the jobs."

THAT MEANS PEOPLE HAVE TO DRIVE FARTHER TO GET TO THOSE JOBS. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS POINT TO BALLOT MEASURES IN THE PAST THAT HELPED EASE THE PROBLEM.

MTC spokesperson: "Highway Four was a very small, rural highway before we completed the work that was funded by the voters."

THIS YEAR, THEY WANT VOTERS TO APPROVE MEASURE X IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, WHICH IS A HALF-CENT SALES TAX DEDICATED TO ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION ASPECTS. MEASURE R-R WOULD SUPPORT BART UPGRADES.

THE BART EXTENSION TO THE SOUTH BAY IS SOMETHING SAN JOSE'S MAYOR IS READY FOR.

San Jose Mayor Licardo: "BART of course will carry almost 100 thousand commuters daily just in this segment alone, a critical extension for us."

ONE GOOD NOTE, THOUGH, IS THAT TRAVEL TIMES DURING PEAK PERIODS HAVE HARDLY SEEN ANY DAY-TO-DAY CHANGES SINCE 2010, SO YOU SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TIME YOU'LL GET TO WORK.

YOU CAN FIND THE REST OF THE TOP TEN AT KRON FOUR DOT COM.

TRANSPORTATION

10/21/16 KRON 4 Evening News

Changes to Bay Bridge and MUNI should improve Bay Area commute experience

SOME CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING WRAPPED UP ON AND AROUND THE BAY BRIDGE. CATHERINE HEENAN IS HERE WITH THE LATEST DETAILS..

PART OF THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BIKERS. THE LAST STRETCH OF A BAY BRIDGE BIKE PATH HAS JUST BEEN FINISHED. IT CONNECTS TO YERBA BUENA ISLAND AND IT'S THE LAST SEGMENT OF A FOUR AND A HALF MILE BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH CONNECTING THE EXISTING PATH FROM EMERYVILLE. THERE'S BEEN A RIBBON CUTTING, BUT IT OFFICIALLY OPENS TO THE PUBLIC AROUND NOON ON SUNDAY.

THIS EXTENSION IS 3 YEARS IN THE MAKING, ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL MORE WORK TO BE DONE.

Robert Haus, CalTrans spokesperson: "This is another major link in our plans to have bicycle access to about the entire bay area, being able to get from anywhere to anywhere either by bicycle or walking."

BIKE EAST BAY IS ONE OF SEVERAL GROUPS THAT HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR THIS NEW PATH.

Ginger Jui, Bike East Ban communication director: "They had to demolish the old Bay Bridge to get the path all the way. To touch the island, the old bridge was in the way. This is why it has taken so long."

PEOPLE WE TALKED TO SAY THEY THINK THIS IS A GREAT NEW ADDITION.

John Tumelty, cyclist: "With a little more awareness that you can actually get there via bike, I think it could be a cool day trip."

AND SOME LOOKED FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BAY ON A BIKE.

Kate Krumrei, cyclist: "I think that there are a lot of people who would be open to it, rather than taking their bike on BART or drive on the bridge. It's another option."

FOR NOW, THE PATH WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ONLY ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS. BUT EVEN SOME OF THOSE DAYS, IT WILL BE CLOSED FOR FURTHER CONSTRUCTION.

ALSO ON THE BAY BRIDGE, DRIVERS HEADING WESTBOUND WILL NOW HAVE NEW RAMPS TO ENTER AND EXIT YERBA BUENA ISLAND AND TREASURE ISLAND. TWO NEW WESTBOUND ON AND OFF-RAMPS TO AND FROM THE BRIDGE OPEN TOMORROW MORNING. HERE SKY 7 GIVES US AN OVERVIEW.

DRIVERS ARE BEING ASKED TO PAY ATTENTION BECAUSE THE NEW RAMPS ARE IN DIFFERENT PLACES THAN THE CURRENT ONES. THE CONSTRUCTION ON THE PROJECT FIRST BEGAN IN JANUARY OF 2014 AND IT COST MORE THAN 98-MILLION DOLLARS

AND SAN FRANCISCO COMMUTERS SHOULD BE GETTING A LITTLE MORE ELBOW ROOM NEXT MONTH WHEN RIDING MUNI. THAT'S BECAUSE EXTRA SUBWAY TRAINS WILL BE ADDED DURING THE MORNING RUSH HOUR.

TWO EXTRA ONE-CAR TRAINS WILL SOON BE UTILIZED BETWEEN THE EMBARCADERO AND WEST PORTAL STATIONS. THAT WILL START NOVEMBER 7TH, RIGHT BEFORE ELECTION DAY. THE AGENCY SAYS IT HAS RECENTLY SEEN SUCCESS WITH THIS STRATEGY, REDUCING CONGESTION ON INBOUND TRAINS FROM COLE VALLEY BY MORE THAN 60-PERCENT.

TRANSPORTATION

10/25/16 KRON 4 Evening News Bond measure critical to BART's future

ONE OF THE BIG BAY AREA MEASURES ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT IS PROPOSITION R-R, A \$3.5 BILLION DOLLAR BOND AIMED AT IMPROVING BART'S INFRASTRUCTURE. CATHERINE HEENAN IS HERE WITH DETAILS ON A MEASURE WHICH BART CLAIMS IS CRITICAL TO ITS FUTURE:

PROPOSITION R-R IS MEANT TO HELP FIX A LOT OF BART'S PROBLEMS, FROM AGING, WARPED TRACKS TO ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS. VOTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO, ALAMEDA AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES WILL WEIGH IN..

PROP R-R SEEMS TO HAVE LOTS OF SUPPORTERS. THEY POINT OUT THAT THE 44-YEAR-OLD SYSTEM OBVIOUSLY HAS A LOT MORE RIDERS THAN IT DID WHEN DESIGNED, BUT BART ALSO HAS VOCAL CRITICS, WHO SAY THE AGENCY IS LOW-BALLING THE PROJECTED COSTS, NEEDS TO PROVE THE MONEY WILL BE USED EFFICIENTLY, AND HAS OVERSPENT ON SALARIES.

State Senataor Steve Glazer: "For decades the BART board has refused to own up to these challenges and they've given out contracts after contracts to the highest paid transit workers in the country, raising them even higher because they've never wanted to confront the fact that they can't be spending all this money even though they'd like to on salaries and benefits when we have a system that's significantly underfunded."

Tom Radulovich, BART Board of Directors: "If this bond doesn't pass we're going to see a deteriorating BART system. We're going to see a lot of the decline we've already seen in the past few years in terms of reliability getting lower, in terms of compromised safety and so on. We'll see that continue and we'll see that accelerate. If this bond passes, we'll be able to start making those investments in improved service quality."

TO PASS, PROP R-R REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS SUPPORT IN EACH OF SAN FRANCISCO, ALAMEDA AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES. PROPERTY TAXES WOULD BE RAISED IN THOSE COUNTIES TO PAY OFF THE BOND. SOME ESTIMATES SAY HOMEOWNERS COULD PAY AS MUCH AS AN EXTRA \$100 TO \$150 ANNUALLY.

TRANSPORTATION

10/31 16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Looking for ways to ease the commute nightmare

IT'S THE TOPIC THAT EVERYONE IN THE BAY AREA TALKS ABOUT – ACTUALLY COMPLAINS ABOUT -- TRAFFIC. HOURS ON THE ROAD, JUST TRYING TO GET FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER, EVEN WHEN THE DESTINATION IS NOT THAT FAR AWAY. CAL-TRANS LAUNCHED SEVERAL NEW PROJECTS THIS YEAR TO GET THINGS MOVING.

ON INTERSTATE 580.. THEY SAY YOU CAN GET THERE FASTER IF YOU PAY THE PRICE. TONIGHT KRON 4'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL GOES IN-DEPTH TO SEE IF THAT IDEA IS PAYING OFF:

HOURS ON THE ROAD, BOGGED DOWN IN TRAFFIC, FOR WHAT AT TIMES SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY. THE PLIGHT OF THE BAY AREA COMMUTER, NO DOUBT, IS CONSTANT CONGESTION. TONIGHT BEGINS OUR SERIES ROAD WARRIORS, AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT WHAT'S BEING DONE TO CUT DOWN ON BUMPER TO BUMPER TRAFFIC.

FIRST, WE EXAMINE THE NEW EXPRESS LANES ON INTERSTATE 580 IN THE EAST BAY.. KRON FOUR'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL TELLS IF DRIVERS ARE ACTUALLY BENEFITING FROM THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT.

DURING THE FRANTIC RUSH TO BEAT RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC, WITHOUT QUESTION. AMONG THE MOST TREACHEROUS BAY AREA COMMUTES... I-580 PASSING THROUGH THE TRI-VAILEY CORRIDOR.

Sajad Mojaddedi, student at Las Positas College: "It's awful."

Officer Miguel Andrade, California Highway Patrol: "This is every day."

Mojaddedi: "In the morning, it's really, really bad."

FREQUENTLY TRAVELING FROM TRACY TO LIVERMORE AND BACK, LAS POSITAS COLLEGE STUDENT SAJAD MOJADDEDI USES THIS FREEWAY EVERY WEEK, BUT WISHES HE DIDN'T HAVE TO. HE HOPED THE ADDITION OF EXPRESS LANES IN FEBRUARY WOULD SPEED THINGS UP. BUT SAYS HE'S NOTICED AN OPPOSITE EFFECT...

Mojjadedi: "It's causing more traffic than anything. Really, it is. It's causing more traffic."

TWO ON THE EASTBOUND SIDE AND ONE GOING WEST, THE EXPRESS LANES ARE AVAILABLE FOR A 14-MILE STRETCH FROM PLEASANTON TO LIVERMORE. PONY UP AND, IN THEORY, YOU CAN USE THE LANES TO EXCELERATE YOUR COMMUTE, WITH THE PRICE-OF-USE FLUCTUATING BASED ON THE BUSIEST AND SLOWEST HOURS OF THE DAY.

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SAYS DRIVERS HAVE MADE NEARLY FOUR MILLION TRIPS SINCE THE LANES OPENED, A 55-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT THAT HAS SO FAR, THROUGH PAID TOLLS, RESULTED IN 4.4 MILLION DOLLARS IN REVENUE. OVERALL, ON SOME STRETCHES ALONG THE EXPRESS LANES, THE A-T-C SAYS DRIVERS PAYING THE TOLL ARE RIDING UP TO 26 MILES PER HOUR FASTER THAN THOSE USING THE GENERAL PURPOSE LANES.

BUT STUDIES ON THE IMPACT TO DRIVE TIMES ARE INCOMPLETE. MOJADDEDI SAYS THE PAY LANES ARE FORCING NON-PAYING DRIVERS TO BUNCH UP.

Mojaddedi: "There's a lot more people in the right lanes. There's people using the express lanes."

BUT OFFICER MIGUEL ANDRADE SAYS THE EXPRESS LANES HAVE BEEN A WELCOME ADDITION.

Andrade: "For the most part, I'd say yes, but you do have your people who try to cheat the system."

ANDRADE WORKS RUSH HOUR, LOOKING FOR DRIVERS CHEATING THE SYSTEM...

Andrade: "You've gotta think of these double white lines as a big wall. You cannot jump that wall. If you go through that line, you hit the wall."

ANDRADE SAYS THE CHEATERS ARE DISRUPTING THE SYSTEM AND SLOWING THINGS DOWN.

Andrade: "He showed three lights, so there should be three people in this vehicle. There's two. I could pull them over because they should have three, but they're fine."

YOU NEED A FASTRAK TRANSPONDER IN ORDER TO USE THE EXPRESS LANES. THE LIGHT SENSORS ABOVE THE LANES INDICATE HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN THE PASSING CARS, BY EITHER BLINKING ONE LIGHT, TWO LIGHTS OR THREE.SOLO DRIVERS PAY A TOLL...

Andrade: "This car had it on two before, now he has it on one." (siren)

ANDRADE SAYS THIS HAPPENS OFTEN, ESPECIALLY WHEN TRAFFIC IS STOP AND GO AND DRIVERS GET FED UP.

Andrade: "The reason I stopped you is when I first saw you, you had your toggle set to two."

Driver: "Yeah, I'm sorry, Sometimes I have my kids with me."

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, OFFICER ANDRADE SAYS HE WRITES UP TO A DOZEN TICKETS TO PEOPLE VIOLATING THE EXPRESS LANES.

Andrade: "She commuted this morning into work. She's coming back home. You would think from there to there she would figure it out and she had it set to two and she would have fixed it. So, that's why she got a ticket."

FOR COLLEGE STUDENT SAJAD MOJADDEDI, HE'LL STAY IN THE FREE LANE. BUT HE SAYS THE MONEY IS NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Mojaddedi: "In the end, it's just to save time and get to work better."

IN THIS CASE, TIME IS MONEY.

PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON 4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

11/1/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm
Traffic nightmares and frustrated commuters

THE BAY AREA COMMUTE IS AMONG THE WORST IN THE COUNTRY, AND WITH MORE AND MORE PEOPLE MOVING HERE, THE PROBLEM ISN'T GETTING ANY BETTER.
TONIGHT, WE CONTINUE OUR SERIES 'ROAD WARRIORS' WITH AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT BAY AREA TRAFFIC CONGESTION. KRON 4'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL MET UP WITH A LONG-TIME BAY AREA DRIVER WHO SAYS SHE HAS SPENT WHAT IT SEEMS LIKE A 'LIFETIME' STUCK IN TRAFFIC.

LIKE A SOLDIER GEARING UP FOR BATTLE, ON THE UNFORGIVING FRONT LINES OF BAY AREA TRAFFIC ON A DAILY BASIS. HAVING RACKED UP MORE THAN 172 THOUSAND MILES IN THIS CAR, COMMUTER CAROLYN JONES HITS THE ROAD BEHIND THE WHEEL OF HER 2005 TOYOTA COROLLA...

WITHOUT HER CAR, JONES SAYS SHE'D BE LOST, ESSENTIALLY THROWN INTO THE BATTELFIELD WITHOUT A SWORD OR SHIELD....

Jones: "The Corolla has not done me wrong -- my second home, this is my vacation home."

BUT SHE WISHES IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY. IT'S JUST THE ALTERNATIVES TO DRIVING, FOR HER, ARE NOT CONVENIENT. SHE SAYS BART IS GOOD, BUT OFTEN PROBLEMATIC AND THERE'S JUST NOT ENOUGH OF IT...

Jones: "Anything helps, there just needs to be lots and lots more of it."

JONES IS A FORMER REPORTER WHO RETIRED FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE. SHE LIVES IN OAKLAND AND NOW WORKS FOR THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS DISTRICT. SHE DOESN'T TRAVEL FAR, JUST OFTEN. AND, ALWAYS AT A SNAIL'S PACE.

Jones: "Traffic has become so horrific that for me and just about everyone else I know, their lives have become increasingly constricted."

IN PART BECAUSE OF THE GROWING POPULATION, JONES SAYS THE CONGESTION IS JUST GETTING WORSE. IN 2015, THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SAYS NEARLY HALF OF A RECORD 3.7 MILLION BAY AREA JOBS WERE LOCATED IN EITHER SAN FRANCISCO OR THE SILICON VALLEY. BUT MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING WAS AND STILL IS FOUND ELSEWHERE, INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CARS PASSING FROM ONE CORRIDOR TO THE NEXT.

Jones: "I think eventually, some people are going to move. They're just not gonna take that job in the Silicon Valley. They're going to say, you know, this is really not worth it, no matter how beautiful it is here -- I think I'm moving to Nevada."

REMEMBER THE 172-THOUSAND MILES I MENTIONED ON JONES' ODOMETER? WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S TRAVELING TO LOS ANGELES AND BACK. NOT AT ALL. MAINLY TO NEIGHBORING ALAMEDA TO PICK HER TWO KIDS UP FROM SCHOOL OR MARIN COUNTY WHERE SHE CARES FOR HER ELDERLY MOTHER.

Jones: "Somewhere in there, go to the grocery store. I mean it could be hours of just driving in circles, stop and go, stop and go."

HER STORY MAY SOUND FAMILIAR. BECAUSE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF BAY AREA COMMUTERS FEEL THE SAME PAIN. LOCAL LEADERS AND TRANSPORTATION EXPERTS SAY PURELY AUTOMATED VEHCILES MAY BE THE WAY OF THE FUTURE, AND COULD LESSEN THE DEPENDENCY ON BART AND UNCLOG OUR ROADS. THE IDEA BEHIND THIS IS TO INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSIT RIDERSHIP, BY USING AUTOMATION AS A CONNECTOR TO PUBLIC TRANSIT. THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO PACK PEOPLE INTO FEWER VEHICLES, REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SINGLE OCCUPANCY CARS. ALSO, EXPANDED BIKE AND RIDE-SHARING PROGRAMS. ANYTHING BUT STATUS QUO, SAYS CAROLYN JONES WHO CONTENDS THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN THE ENDLESS BATTLE THAT IS THE BAY AREA COMMUTE.

Jones: "It's a major impact on the quality of life. I mean we live in this beautiful place and yet we have some of the worst traffic in the country and I think public officials need to make that an absolute priority."

PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON FOUR NEWS.

TRANSPORTATION

11/2/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Blame growth for slow traffic

TRANSPORTATION EXPERTS SAY A LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE BAY AREA IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE INCREASED CONGESTION ON OUR ROADS. TONIGHT WE CONTINUE OUR SERIES ROAD WARRIORS WITH AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT BAY AREA TRAFFIC. KRON FOUR'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL EXAMINES HOW THE GROWING POPULATION IS AFFECTING YOUR COMMUTE.

THE BAY AREA IS THE ONLY REGION IN CALIFORNIA, SAYS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, WHERE THE RATE OF PEOPLE MOVING IN FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF THOSE LEAVING THE REGION. ALAMEDA AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES ARE LEADING THE PACK - TWO COUNTIES AT THE TOP OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISION'S LIST OF WORST COMMUTES.

Daniel Chatman, associate professor UC Berkeley: "When we don't provide housing in sufficient amounts, our commute gets a lot worse."

CENSUS DATA SHOWS IN 2010 THE BAY AREA POPULATION WAS JUST OVER SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE. BY 2020 OUR POPULATION IS PROJECTED TO EXCEED NINE MILLION PEOPLE. AND THAT BOOM IS TAKING A BIG BITE OUT OF OUR COMMUTE, SAYS DANIEL CHATMAN, AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING FOR THE COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AT U.C. BERKELEY.

Chatman: "In the case of San Francisco, we have lots of willingness to provide more housing. But elsewhere in the Bay Area, there are constraints on housing production, and as a result, the growth that wants to occur in dense infill areas often can't occur there."

CHATMAN SPECIALIZES IN TRANSPORTATION AND LAND-USE PLANNING.

Chatman: "Berkeley is a good example of that where there's lots of opposition to housing and while we do have pretty good housing production here recently, that necessarily won't always be the case."

"PLAN BAY AREA" IS A LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION, LAND-USE AND HOUSING STRATEGY FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA THROUGH THE YEAR 2040. MOST JOBS ARE LOCATED IN SAN FRANCISCO AND THE SILICON VALLEY WITH MOST AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BETWEEN.

Chatman: "People start to really pay attention to transportation when they're finding it very difficult to get to and from work or to other locations."

THIS INTERACTIVE MAP GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING, AND WHAT'S TO COME. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE YEAR 2020, DURING THE BUSY A.M. COMMUTE, THE BLUE SHOWS YOU WHERE HOUSING PRICES RANGE BETWEEN 90 THOUSAND AND 500 THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE BLUE ALSO INDICATES HOW FAR YOU CAN DRIVE IN THE BAY AREA FROM SAN FRANCISCO IN A SINGLE OCCUPANT CAR IN ONE HOUR.

BUT FOR THOSE USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, GETTING AROUND WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT, BECAUSE THERE IS NOT AS MUCH AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOCATED WITHIN AN HOUR OF THE CITY. THAT THEME RINGS TRUE FOR THOSE COMMUTING TO OR FROM SAN JOSE AS WELL.

LET'S GO BACK TO THE MAP. IF YOU CAN AFFORD MORE FOR HOUSING, WELL THEN YOU CAN LIVE CLOSER TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND JOBS, BUT NOT ALL OF US HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY.

Chatman: "Growth in the Bay Area depends not only on demand, not only on desirability of the neighborhoods, but on the willingness of municipalities to zone and provide housing in those locations."

THIS DECADE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAYS WE ARE BUILDING HOUSING AT LESS THAN HALF THE RATE WE WERE THE PREVIOUS DECADE AND EXPERTS LIKE CHATMAN SAY THAT NEEDS TO CHANGE, OTHERWISE THE COMMUTER'S HEADACHE WILL ONLY GET WORSE.

PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON FOUR NEWS.

TRANSPORTATION

11/3/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm How smart ore smart lanes really?

AMONG THE WORST COMMUTES IN THE COUNTRY IS IN THE EAST BAY. THE NOTORIOUSLY SLOW INTERSTATE 80 CORRIDOR RECEIVED A FACEL-LIFT THIS YEAR, WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY. IT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE MANAGING THE TRAFFIC "SMARTER." TONIGHT, KRON FOUR'S PHILIPPE DJEGAL GOES IN-DEPTH TO FIND OUT IF THE I-80 SMART CORRIDOR IS REALLY AS SMART AS ITS BEEN BILLED.

TRAFFIC INFORMATION BOARDS THAT, WHEN ACTIVE, GIVE MOTORISTS A SNAPSHOT OF DRIVING CONDITIONS. FORTY-THREE ADDITIONAL RAMP METERS SET UP ALONG THE CORRIDOR TO STAGGER CONGESTION. AND, OVERHEAD ELECTRONIC SIGNS THAT LIGHT UP DURING ACCIDENTS, RELAYING TO DRIVERS SUGGESTED SPEEDS DURING A COLLISION, AND WHICH LANES SHOULD BE USED OR AVOIDED TO KEEP TRAFFIC FLOWING.

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OR CAL-TRANS, SAYS THIS STRETCH IS AMONG THE TOP TEN WORST IN THE STATE, AVERAGING 25 LANE BLOCKING INCIDENTS A WEEK. LATE THIS SUMMER, THE SMART CORRIDOR FULLY LAUNCHED, A 79-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT AND THE EARLY RETURNS ARE IN.

THROUGH MID-OCTOBER, CAL-TRANS SAYS THE NEW OVERHEAD SIGNS HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED AT LEAST 18 TIMES. AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ADDITIONAL RAMP METERING DURING TRAFFIC INCIDENTS, TRAVEL TIMES HAVE IMPROVED ON AVERAGE BETWEEN THREE AND SIX MINUTES.

OVERALL, THOUGH, TRAFFIC INFORMATION COMPANY INRIX SAYS TRAVEL SPEEDS THIS PAST SEPTEMBER ARE SLOWER THAN THEY WERE FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. JUST TAKING A LOOK AT THE 7 A.M. HOUR, THIS YEAR, THE AVERAGE SPEED WAS 21.84 MILES PER HOUR WHILE LAST YEAR IT WAS 23.27 MILES PER HOUR.

Alex Bayen, UC Professor: "The life of a commuter in California is a difficult life."

ALEX BAYEN IS A PROFESSOR OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE AND DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION STUDIES AT UC BERKELEY.

Bayen: "This is the Bay Area, this is the Silicon Valley, this is Los Angeles -- this is a place where innovation is very rapid."

BAYEN SPECIALIZES IN MOBILE SENSING AND BELIEVES CAL-TRANS AND ITS SMART CORRIDOR WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE CONGESTION.

Bayen: "SMART Corridor solutions are essential in the future of mobility in the US because of the demographic explosions in some places in particular like California. It's not going to be possible in the future to build more infrastructure to accommodate more traffic. So, in order to relieve that congestion, we need other solutions and the solutions have to do with operations and planning and this is really where SMART Corridor concept can make a huge difference."

WE LEARNED THIS PAST WEEKEND THOUGH, THAT THE SMART COORIDOR DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY ACTIVATE EVERY TIME THERES AN ACCIDENT. THIS THREE CAR CRASH SHUT DOWN TWO LANES NEAR RICHMOND BUT THE SYSTEM WASN'T TURNED ON. CAL-TRANS SAYS INCIDENTS HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BY TRAFFIC CAMERAS OR THE CHP FIRST. BUT IF THE ACCIDENTS CAN QUICKLY BE MOVED TO THE SHOULDER, THEN THE OVERHEAD SIGNS WILL REMAIN OFF.

Bayen: "Ultimately, I think if you look at the grand vision of urban transport, yes, I think the whole freeway system and the arterial system needs to become a SMART Corridor or a set of connected SMART Corridors."

ESSENTIAL SAYS BAYEN. CONSIDERING 270 THOUSAND MOTORISTS PASS THROUGH THIS CORRIDOR ON A DAILY BASIS. AND THAT NUMBER WILL ONLY GET BIGGER.

PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON FOUR NEWS.

TRANSPORTATION

11/4/16 KRON 4 News at 11p
Are driverless cars the solution to traffic woes?

DRIVERLESS CARS --- NOT A NEW CONCEPT, BUT ONE THAT IS BEING EMBRACED BY SOME OF SILICON VALLEY'S BIGGEST COMPANIES. THERE'S A LOT OF TESTING GOING ON RIGHT NOW AND INNOVATORS HOPE IT WILL BE THE NORM VERY SOON. IN FACT, AUTOMATED SHUTTLES ARE READY TO ROLL IN THE EAST BAY.

TONIGHT, KRON 4'S PHIIPPE DJEGAL TAKES AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE AUTOMATION WHICH LOCAL LEADERS THINK WILL EASE OUR CONGESTED ROADS.

AUTOMATION IS THE FUTURE AND THE FUTURE IS NOW. WELCOME TO ROBO-TRUCKING. SAN FRANCISCO START-UP COMPANY "OTTO," NOW OWNED BY UBER, RECENTLY COMPLETED THE WORLD'S FIRST AUTONOMOUS DELIVERY, A 120-MILE TRIP IN COLORADO CARRYING 50-THOUSAND CANS OF BUDWEISER. AND THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Susan Bonilla, California State Assemblymember: "These are very, very safe vehicles."

BAY AREA ASSEMBLYWOMAN SUSAN BONILLA WANTS SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY USED ON BAY AREA ROADS. SHE RECENTLY AUTHORED LEGISLATION SIGNED BY GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN, ALLOWING AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES IN CALIFORNIA TO CROSS PUBLIC ROADS WITHOUT A STEERING WHEEL, DRIVER OR BRAKE PEDAL.

Bonilla: "We used to have people who operated elevators, because they were a little bit tricky and no one really knew how to work them. Now, we trust an elevator and we don't really know how it's working and I think it's going to be the same with these shuttles."

THIS MONTH, THE EASY-MILE SHUTTLE, BEING TESTED AT THE GO-MENTUM STATION AT THE CONCORD NAVAL WEAPONS BASE, WILL BE ROLLED OUT AT THE BISHOP RANCH BUSINESS PARK IN SAN RAMON. THE SHUTTLE CAN CARRY A DOZEN PEOPLE AT A TIME.

Bonilla: "Its a low speed vehicle. It'll be traveling under 25 miles an hour, on a fixed course throughout the business park."

WHICH IN THEORY, BONILLA HOPES, WILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE WORKING IN THE AREA TO LEAVE THEIR CARS AT HOME.

Bonilla: "If we're able to open up more and more off-site parking options with this EasyMile shuttle in the next few years, we're going to see that ridership increase."

LOOKING AHEAD, BONILLA HOPES AUTOMATION WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE FIRST AND LAST MILE OPTION FOR COMMUTERS, AND SHE'S NOT ALONE.

Susan Shaheen: "By far, it's going to be easier to automate on highways."

SUSAN SHAHEEN IS AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND THE CO-DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSPORTATION SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH CENTER AT UC BERKELEY AND ULTIMATELY SEES AUTOMATION AS A WAY TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION.

Shaheen: "Because its point-to-point, it can actually facilitate connections to public transit, and so it could make it possible now to complete that first mile or last mile without having to own a car or drive a car to work."

ALL SORTS OF AUTOMATED TESTING IS BEING DONE AT THE TEST STATION IN CONCORD, WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT MANUFACTURERS, INCLUDING HONDA, STUDYING A DRIVER-LESS CAR'S REACTION TO PEDESTRIANS STANDING IN THE ROADWAY OR, HOW THE SENSORS REACT TO SOMEONE CROSSING THE STREET.

THINKING AHEAD, SHAHEEN SAYS MAYBE ONE DAY FREEWAYS WILL HAVE DEDICATED AUTONOMOUS LANE WHERE AUTOMATED CARS CAN RIDE IN UNISON, AT THE SAME SPEEDS AND DISTANCES AWAY FROM ONE ANOTHER. A PIVOT TOWARDS FEWER SINGLE-OCCUPANCY VEHICLES ON THE ROAD.

Shaheen: "I think we're a few years away from a truly autonomous vehicle being on the freeway. However, the more people that are commuting, the more space there is on the freeway. Where we start to mix these into environments with pedestrians, cyclists and uh, a lot more signalization activity, it becomes more challenging and how best to deploy in that context is open for discussion. We know that we can't build our way out of our congestion problem. The economy is doing well and that's more people on the road. But if we are getting more people onto transit, onto BART, there is more space on the freeway for those who can't take those modes of transportation. So, I do believe it will have a direct impact."

SO DON'T BE SHOCKED THE NEXT TIME YOU HIT THE ROAD AND DON'T SEE ANYONE IN THE CAR OR TRUCK NEXT TO YOU. DRIVERS BEHIND THE WHEEL MAY SOON BE A THING OF THE PAST.

PHILIPPE DJEGAL, KRON 4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

11/17/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Pedestrians vs motor vehicles

TODAY IN CHINATOWN, PROTESTERS STOPPED TRAFFIC IN A PROTEST TO BRING MORE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEASURES TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THEY ARE CALLING FOR A PEDESTRIAN SCRAMBLE TO BE INSTALLED IN THE INTERSECTION OF KEARNY AND CLAY STREETS. THIS INTERSECTION KNOWN FOR ITS DANGER AFTER A 77-YEAR-OLD PEDESTRIAN WAS STRUCK AND KILLED THERE LAST SUMMER.

CHINATOWN ADVOCATES HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR THE SCRAMBLE TO BE INSTALLED EVER SINCE. WITH THE DESIGN ALL FOUR DIRECTIONS OF TRAFFIC ARE SIGNALED TO STOP WHILE PEDESTRIANS CROSS DIAGONALLY. NO CAR MOVEMENT MAKES FOR FEWER COLLISIONS. SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR AARON PESKIN WAS THERE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFETY MEASURE.

THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE REQUEST AND SO FAR COMMITS TO INSTALLING SIGNAL CROSSINGS BUT SAY THEY NEED MORE TIME. UNDERGROUND SIGNAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS TO BE UPDATED SINCE IT IS CURRENTLY TOO OLD FOR THE UPGRADE.

TRANSPORTATION

12/1/16 KRON 4 Evening News BART seismic retrofit

BART IS GETTING AN UPGRADE. BUT IT COULD IMPACT THOUSANDS OF RIDERS FOR YEARS. A BIG ITEM THAT CAME UP TODAY WITH BART IS A MAJOR PROJECT THAT COULD DISRUPT SERVICE FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

THE TRANSIT AGENCY IS MOVING FORWARD WITH A SEISMIC RETROFIT OF THE TRANSBAY TUBE. THE PRICE TAG IS 267 MILLION DOLLARS AND WORK WOULD TENTATIVELY START IN JULY OF 2018. BART SAYS THE TUNNEL CAN ALREADY WITHSTAND A LARGE EARTHQUAKE BUT THE UPGRADES WOULD MAKE THE TUNNEL SAFE IN A CATASTROPHIC EVENT.

HERE IS WHERE THE SERVICE DISRUPTION COMES INTO PLAY. THE CONSTRUCTION WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE OVERNIGHT. BART'S SOLUTION: START TRAIN SERVICE AT 5 AM INSTEAD OF 4 AM AND SINGLE TRACK THROUGH THE TUBE AFTER 9:30 AT NIGHT. KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN HAS MORE:

BUILT IN 1969, BART'S TRANSBAY TUBE WAS DESIGNED TO SUSTAIN A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE, BUT NOT A CATASTROPHIC ONE THAT HAPPENS EVERY THOUSAND YEARS. THURSDAY THE BART BOARD GAVE THE GO AHEAD FOR A SEISMIC UPGRADE

Alicia Trost, BART spokesperson: "The idea is to put in thin steel lining and a better pumping system so that if there was a small crack that lets water in we have a pumping system in place and this liner to allow enough time to get trains out of there and get crews in to repair it quickly before it completely floods."

THE PROJECT WILL START IN JUNE OF 2018, BUT TO BE AFFORDABLE AND MEET A COMPLETION DATE TWO AND HALF YEARS LATER, BART SAYS CREWS WILL NEED TO WORK 5 HOURS A NIGHT... THAT MEANS DURING THE PROJECT BART SERVICE WILL NO LONGER BEGIN AT 4 AM.. BUT AT 5 AM.

Rider: That's going to be hard for someone who has to start work early

Rider: For East Bay people or people who use BART going to the airport, that's not good

RIGHT NOW AN AVERAGE OF 26-HUNDRED BART RIDERS TAKE THE TRAIN BETWEEN 4 AND 5 AM EACH DAY AND MANY OF THEM ARE NOT EXCITED ABOUT THE IDEA

Rider: It'll make me late.

Rider: "It just means more people will be driving

Rider: That's going to be a big impact. Work really starts around 4am.

ALSO CONCERNED IS BART BOARD MEMBER JOEL KELLER, WHO REPRESENTS BART RIDERS IN EASTERN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Keller: "In the area I represent, there is not a robust bus service so there aren't a lot of options and I just want to be sure that these riders, who have been identified as minority and lower income have alternatives."

TRANSPORTATION

12/1/16 KRON 4 Evening News BART proposes fewer seats as solution for overcrowding

ANYONE WHO TAKES BART KNOWS HOW CROWDED AND STUFFY IT CAN GET. SEATS ARE ALREADY AT A PREMIUM AND NOW THERE IS A PLAN TO REMOVE SEATS FROM HALF OF THE TRAINS. THIS, BART OFFICIALS SAY, IS TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE PEOPLE.

FEW CAN ARGUE HOW CROWDED OR OVER CROWDED BART TRAINS ARE ESPECIALLY DURING COMMUTE HOURS. HUNDREDS OF NEW TRAIN CARS ARE ON THE WAY OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS, BUT JUST 60 WILL BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF 2017. SO BART HAS COME UP WITH AN IDEA TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING NOW

Alicia Trost, BART spokesperson: "It would be removing seven seats from about half of our cars"

BART RIDERS AREN'T QUITE SURE REMOVING 7 SEATS PER CAR IS GOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

Rider: We're still going to be standing on top of each other

Rider: "I t hink that means more people are going to be touching me when I don't want them to be."

BUT SOME SAY AS IT IS NOW, THERE IS NO AVAILABLE SEAT, SO WHY NOT

Rider: I think it's right. When you take out seats you get space for more people"

Rider: "I usually have to stand on my commute so more standing room would be good. It usually gets prett y crowded

BART SAYS THIS JUST A STOP GAP MEASURE BUT IT DOES COME WITH BENEFITS

Alicia: "It's going to relieve crowding and it makes it easier to get on and of the car which helps with on-time performance

BUT BART BOARD MEMBER JOEL KELLER ISN'T SURE THIS WHAT'S BEST FOR THE BART RIDERS THE HE REPRESENTS IN EASTERN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

Joel Keller: "I represent people who travel long distances and taking away the seats from that group of people means they have to stand much longer after they get off of work."

BART BOARD MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON WHETHER OR NOT TO REMOVE THE SEATS AT A MEETING ON DECEMBER 15TH.

TRANSPORTATION

12/14/16 KRON 4 News at 10pm Battle over self-driving cars

UBER ARGUES ITS CARS DO NOT FALL UNDER THE STATE'S DEFINITION OF AN "AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE" BECAUSE IT REQUIRES A LIVE BODY BEHIND THE WHEEL AT ALL TIMES...JUST IN CASE SOMETHING GOES WRONG. SO ACCORDING TO UBER, ITS CARS ARE NOT AUTONOMOUS.

BUT IT APPEARS HAVING A DRIVER READY TO TAKE OVER A SELF-DRIVING CAR DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK. THIS VIDEO WAS CAPTURED AT 3RD AND MARKET AT A BUSY INTERSECTION SHOWING AN UBER SELF DRIVING CAR RUN A RED LIGHT. YOU CAN SEE THE LIGHT IS RED HERE AND A PEDESTRIAN ENTERS THE CROSSWALK OVER HERE. THE UBER CAR BLOWS THROUGH, NOT STOPPING.

THE VIDEO WAS CAPTURED BY JESSICA FELIX WHO WORKS FOR LUXOR CAB. SHE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT ALL BY WHAT SHE WITNESSED.

Felix: "They would put this stuff on the road to beta test before it's ready, no doubt in my mind. I just don't understand why they think they can do whatever they want..."

IN A STATEMENT SENT TO ME BY UBER THEY SAID: This incident was due to human error. This is why we believe so much in making the roads safer by building self-driving Ubers. This vehicle was not part of the pilot and was not carrying customers. The driver involved has been suspended while we continue to investigate."

MOVING FORWARD, UBER NEEDS TO GET IT'S PERMIT FROM THE STATE TO CONTINUE TESTING HERE.

IN A STATEMENT THE DMV SENT ME, OFFICIALS SAY THEY ENCOURAGE THE EXPLORATION OF SELF-DRIVING CARS BUT IT MUST BE REGULATED AND PERMITTED TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY. SO FAR THE DMV HAS GRANTED 20 PERMITS TO DIFFERENT TECH COMPANIES WHO ARE DOING SIMILAR TESTING AND THAT UBER SHOULD OBTAIN THE PERMIT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

TO RECEIVE THE PERMIT UBER MUST SHOW IT HAS INSURANCE FOR THE TECHNOLOGY, AND PUBLICLY REPORT DATA LIKE CRASHES AND "DISENGAGEMENTS WHEN THE HUMAN OPERATOR TAKES BACK CONTROL TO MAKE SURE THE CAR OPERATES SAFELY.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? A GOOD OLD FASHION STANDOFF. IF UBER STOPS TESTING AND GETS THEIR PERMIT THEY CAN CONTINUE ON. IF NOT AND THEY KEEP TESTING AND DISREGARD THE REGULATORS, THE DMV SAID THEY WILL SEEK LEGAL ACTION AGAINST UBER ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT TYPE OF LEGAL ACTION.

GABE SLATE KRON 4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

12/12/16 KRON 4 Evening News Is ride sharing responsible for San Francisco traffic woes?

SAN FRANCISCO'S MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAYS RIDE-SHARING COMPANIES ARE TO BLAME FOR HEAVY TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THEY SAY THERE HAS BEEN AN EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF COMPANIES LIKE UBER AND LYFT.

THE AGENCY SAYS THERE'S A POTENTIAL FOR 45 THOUSAND UBER AND LYFT CARS TO BE DRIVING AROUND THE CITY LOOKING FOR PASSENGERS. AND WHILE SAN FRANCISCO ALREADY HAS PLENTY OF TRAFFIC PROBLEMS, MUNI SAYS THIS OBVIOUSLY WON'T HELP...

THE COMPLAINT IS PART OF A FILING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, SAYING THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ENOUGH LIMITS ON THE GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY. AND THAT'S LED TO EVEN MORE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

SAN FRANCISCO WAS RATED AS HAVING THE THIRD WORST TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE NATION THIS YEAR, AND THE AGENCY SAYS MUCH OF THE INCREASE IS BECAUSE OF UBER AND LYFT.

IN ADDITION, A KEY CONCERN IS THE LEGALITY OF UBER AND LYFT DRIVERS USING RENTAL CARS TO DRIVE PASSENGERS, WHICH IS PART OF AN ONGOING DEBATE. TAXI DRIVERS HAVE LONG BEEN ARGUING THAT THEY'RE REGULATED FAR MORE THAN THEIR RIDE-HAILING COMPETITORS.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE REACTION TO THE REPORT FROM UBER AND LYFT.