



QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAM LIST

2ND QUARTER 2014

**Young Broadcasting
San Francisco, CA**

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 in-depth features, typically of 30 seconds to 2 minutes in duration, dealing with community issues.

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

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.

KRON 4 News @ 8, a 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 @ 11, a daily news/informational program aired 11 to 11:30 pm, includes reports and in-depth features, typically of 30 seconds to 2 minutes, dealing with community issues, and major national and international news.

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.

KRON 4 News @ 8 Weekend, a Saturday and Sunday news/informational program aired 8 pm to 9 pm, includes reports and in-depth features, typically of 30 seconds to 2 minutes, dealing with community issues.

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
ECONOMY
DIVERSITY
GOVERNMENT
ENVIRONMENT
HEALTH
EDUCATION
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.

CRIME

CRIME

4/18/14 KRON 4 News at 11pm

Local faith communities take a stand against crime

A GROUP OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN SAN JOSE IS HOPING AN EVENING WALK WILL HELP PEOPLE STAY AWAY FROM VIOLENCE. KRON 4'S JEFF BUSH EXPLAINS:

THE ORGANIZATION P.A.C.T. IS A GROUP OF PREACHERS AND OTHER CHURCH LEADERS FROM DIFFERENT CONGREGATIONS WHO BELIEVE THAT A PROGRAM CALLED NIGHT WALKS WILL HELP REDUCE GANGE VIOLENCE AND OTHER FORMS OF CRIME.

Danny Sanchez, P.A.C.T.: "Why are we doing this? Because we love this area. This is a part of the Mayor's gang prevention task force faith initiative. We want to get our faith communities involved in the neighborhood."

THAT INVOLVEMENT IS IN THE FORM OF A NICE EVENING WALK IN A LARGE GROUP TO MEET PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

Sanchez: "We are going to be walking around, just meeting people."

THE IDEA IS THAT A GROUP OF NON-VIOLENT, CHURCH-GOING PEOPLE WILL REDUCE THE VIOLENCE BY EXAMPLE.

Sanchez: "This has been done in Salinas and they have seen a drop in their crime in certain areas of Salinas. So we asked the Deacon from Salinas to come down and give us some training and show us what's going on over there. We've been talking about this for the last six months in meetings with the police department's gang task force and the Mayor's gang prevention task force."

THE ORGANIZERS OF THE NIGHT WALK SAY THIS IS THE FIRST OF MANY EVENTS LIKE THIS AND SAY THEY WILL BE WALKING A DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOOD EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT AND HOPE TO EXPAND TO SATURDAY NIGHTS, TOO.

JEFF BUSH IN SAN JOSE, KRON 4 NEWS.

CRIME

4/28/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Muni cites drop in crime rate

MUNI IS REPORTING A DRAMATIC DROP IN CRIME ONBOARD ITS BUSES, TRAINS AND STREETCARS. KRON 4'S MAUREEN KELLY HAS THE NUMBERS AND THE REASONS BEHIND THE DECLINE:

THE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAYS OVERALL CRIME IS DOWN 30% ON MUNI, BUT THE BIGGEST DROP IS CELL PHONE THEFT. THAT'S DOWN 88%. THE SFMTA HAS BEEN TRACKING THE CRIME TREND SINCE LAST MAY. ONE REASON MUNI IS CREDITING FOR THE DRAMATIC DROP IS THE FACT THAT THEY GOT EXTRA FUNDING FROM THE TSA TO GET MORE COPS ON BOARD TO HELP FIGHT TERRORISM. BUT THOSE EXTRA UNIFORMS ARE ALSO HELPING TO DETER COMMON THEIVES.

Paul Rose, SFMTA spokesperson: "They are deployed throughout our system along with our transit fare inspectors to really create a safer presence. It's meant to address crime concerns and at the same time address terrorism concerns."

WHILE IT WASN'T UNCOMMON FOR 50 TO 60 ROBBERIES A MONTH ON MUNI, IT'S NOW DOWN TO 10 TO 15 A MONTH.

THE OTHER THING THAT MUNI SAYS IS HELPING IS THEIR "EYES UP PHONES DOWN" PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN THAT THEY LAUNCHED LAST AUGUST. AND WHILE IT'S STILL NOT HARD TO FIND PEOPLE WITH THEIR FACES GLUED TO THEIR DEVICES ON MUNI, SFMTA SPOKESPERSON PAUL ROSE SAYS THEY ARE CONTINUING TO WORK ON GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS TO RIDERS

Rose: "People should be vigilant about their surroundings when they're on Muni. Put the cellphone down and look around. Be aware of your surroundings."

THE TSA HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING FOR EXTRA SUPPORT FOR MUNI IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

MAUREEN KELLY KRON4 NEWS

CRIME

4/29/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Legislative hearing on expanding sentencing for sexual assault cases

A BILL AIMED AT INCREASING JAIL TIME FOR JUVENILES WHO COMMIT SEXUAL ASSAULTS AND THEN USE PHOTOGRAPHS TO CYBER BULLY THEIR VICTIMS JUST GOT ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING LAW HERE IN CALIFORNIA. IT IS ALL BASED ON THE INCIDENTS THAT LED SOUTH BAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AUDRIE POTT TO COMMIT SUICIDE. KRON 4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN WAS IN THE STATE CAPITAL TODAY WHEN THE VICTIM'S FAMILY ADDRESSED THE NEED FOR THE NEW LEGISLATION.

Larry Pott, Audrie's father: "Rape is rape. Remove the loophole."

THE PASSIONATE VOICE OF A FATHER, LARRY POTT, TESTIFYING HERE AT THE STATE CAPITOL SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF SENATE BILL 838 BETTER KNOWN AS AUDRIE'S LAW. IT IS A BILL NAMED AFTER HIS 15-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER A SARATOGA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO TOOK HER OWN LIFE BACK IN SEPTEMBER 2012, FOLLOWING A SEXUAL ASSAULT THAT INVOLVED CELLPHONE PHOTOS OF HER NAKED BODY BEING MADE PUBLIC.

Pott: "You may know it garnered worldwide attention in the press because it alerted the public to a disgusting trend of raping unconscious victims and the use of technology to document these crimes and then harass the victims."

THREE SANTA CLARA COUNTY JUVENILES WERE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT, BUT MR. POTT TESTIFIED THAT THE PUNISHMENT DID NOT FIT THE SEVERITY OF THE CRIME.

Pott: " Her assailants should have been charged with rape. Instead they admitted to just sexual assault and received a minimal stay in juvenile hall."

State Congressman Jim Beall, "As amended the bill will close a loophole in the current law that treats rape and sexual assault of an unconscious or developmentally disabled person as a lesser crime."

THE AUTHOR OF SB838 CONGRESSMAN JIM BEALL SAYS AUDRIE'S LAW WILL ADDRESS THE DISPARITY IN PUNISHMENT BETWEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RAPE OF SOMEONE WHO IS UNAWARE OF THE CRIME THAT IS TAKING PLACE.

Congressman Beall: "We weren't able to get these cases referred to an adult court, so we got sentencing for a minimum of two years and had the proceedings open and we got another year added for felony cyber crime."

OUTSIDE THE HEARING ROOM THERE WERE MIXED FEELING BY AUDRIE'S PARENTS.

Larry Pott: "Well, we're relieved, number one. We're happy. I wouldn't say we're ecstatic."

Lisa Pott, Audrie's stepmother: "Imposing mandatory sentences on juvenile offenders is important. Anything is better than 30 days."

Sheia Pott, Audrie's mother: "They've made some significant changes here that Audrie would be proud of. I still think there is a lot of work that has to be done."

AUDRIE'S LAW IS NOW HEADED TO THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. THE BILL REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS VOTE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO ADVANCE TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK, BUT LAW MAKERS ARE ESTIMATING IT WILL BE THE LAW OF THE LAND BY JANUARAY 2015.

HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

CRIME

5/2/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

BART gets tough on bike thieves

ONE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS BIKE THIEVES IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY MAY SOON FACE CHARGES. THAT'S ACCORDING TO BART POLICE WHO SAY THEY ARRESTED THAT SUSPECT EARLIER THIS WEEK IN PLEASANT HILL. KRON 4'S J.R. STONE HAS MORE ON THE "BAIT BIKE" OPERATION WHICH IS GEARED TO CURB BIKE THEFTS.

Lt. Michael Hayes, BART police: "Don't come to BART to steal a bike. That's the message I'd like to send."

SIMPLE AND TO THE POINT. BART POLICE OFFICERS SAY THEY'RE GOING AFTER BIKE THIEVES AND THIS WEEK THEY BUSTED TWO PEOPLE DURING A STING OPERATION.

Lt. Hayes: "Take a bike indoors and we can find it."

LT. MICHAEL HAYES SAYS THIEVES TRIED STEALING A "BAIT BIKE" FROM THE PLEASANT HILL BART STATION ON TUESDAY, A BIKE THAT HAD BEEN PUT THERE AND LOCKED UP BY OFFICERS. ONE SUSPECT HIT IN THE AFTERNOON AND ONE IN THE MORNING. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THEY WERE BEING WATCHED AND TRACKED.

Lt. Hayes: "They took our bait bike and then attempted to flee on BART. The other cut the cable lock on the bicycle and then rode away."

IT'S NO SECRET HOW THIEVES BREAK LOCKS. A GOOD TOOL LIKE CABLE OR PIPE CUTTERS CAN MEAN A QUICK IN AND OUT JOB ON A CABLE LOCK. LT. HAYES SAYS ONE OF THE SUSPECTS IN THIS PLEASANT HILL CASE CUT A CABLE LOCK SIMILAR TO

THIS IN LESS THAN TEN SECONDS. LET ME REPEAT THAT, IT TOOK THE THIEF LESS THAN TEN SECONDS TO FINISH THE WHOLE JOB.

Lt. Hayes: "You can tell this is not the first time that they've taken a bike."

OFFICERS TELL ME THAT BOTH SUSPECTS WERE CAUGHT ON SURVEILLANCE VIDEO. THEIR NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED AND CHARGES NOT BEEN FILED YET. OFFICERS I TALKED WITH SAID THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS BE AWARE OF THE SERIAL NUMBER ON YOUR BIKE TO PROVE OWNERSHIP IF IT IS IN FACT STOLEN.

J.R. STONE KRON 4 NEWS

CRIME

5/8/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Legislative moves to curb cell phone theft

George Gascon, SF District Attorney: "This is about protecting the public safety of millions of people. This is about protecting the consumer and I'm looking forward to working with all the stakeholders to get this through."

A STEP TOWARDS REDUCING PHONE ROBBERIES! CELL PHONE "KILL SWITCH" LEGISLATION IS NOW MOVING FORWARD! TODAY, THE BILL PASSED THE STATE SENATE. THE PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE ALL CELL PHONES SOLD IN CALIFORNIA TO COME WITH ANTI- THEFT TECHNOLOGY...WHICH WOULD MAKE STEALING PHONES LESS ATTRACTIVE TO THIEVES.

THE TECHNOLOGY WOULD ALLOW A USER WHO HAD THEIR PHONE STOLEN...TO ESSENTIALLY KILL THE PHONE, MAKING IT INOPERABLE. OFFICIALS SAY THE BILL IS CRITICAL FOR THE SAFETY OF COMMUNITIES, AS CELL PHONE THEFTS CONTINUE TO RISE DRAMATICALLY. DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCON SAID IN 2012, HALF OF ALL ROBBERIES IN SAN FRANCISCO INVOLVED SMARTPHONE THEFT AND THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO THIS YEAR.

THE BILL NOW HEADS TO THE STATE ASSEMBLY. NO WORD YET ON WHERE GOVERNOR BROWN STANDS ON THE ISSUE.

KRON 4'S MAUREEN KELLY TALKED TO A TECHNOLOGY EXPERT ABOUT WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW AND HAS MORE ON THE STORY:

WATCH THIS VIDEO AS A THIEF ON MUNI SNATCHES A SMART PHONE RIGHT OUT OF A WOMAN'S HAND. THE CRIME HAS BEEN CALLED A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC BECAUSE THE DEVICES ARE EVERYWHERE AND CAN BE EASILY HOCKED BY THIEVES AT HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS A POP.

STATE SENATOR MARK LENO'S LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE ALL SMART PHONES SOLD IN CALIFORNIA TO COME PRE-LOADED WITH TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD ALLOW USERS TO BRICK THEIR PHONES IF THEY ARE STOLEN, MAKING THEM INOPERABLE. AND MAKING THE PEOPLE WHO SCROLL AND STROLL NO LONGER SUCH OBVIOUS TARGETS FOR THIEVES.

SOME OF THE MORE POPULAR PHONE MANUFACTURERS LIKE APPLE ALREADY HAVE ANTI-THEFT TECHNOLOGY.

Richard Nieva, CNET: "In September they came out with something called Activation Lock, but it's not turned on. So a customer has to go into their settings and turn it on."

SAMSUNG ALSO HAS THE ANTI-THEFT TECHNOLOGY. SO WHY, THEN, IS LENO'S BILL NEEDED?

Nieva: "To make sure that everybody has it across the board and to make sure that it's automatically turned on. So the consumer doesn't have to go in and do it themselves because some people might not do it or even know that they can do it."

THE BILL DOESN'T SPECIFY HOW THE TECHNOLOGY WILL WORK, SO IT'S LIKELY TO VARY BETWEEN MANUFACTURERS.

Nieva: "For a lot of these solutions, you would go onto a computer or other device and you would be able to lock the phone or erase your data."

IF PASSED, SB962 WOULD APPLY TO PHONES MADE AND SOLD AFTER JULY 2015. UNLIKE EARLIER VERSIONS OF THE LEGISLATION, THIS BILL WILL NOT COVER TABLETS LIKE THE IPAD.

MAUREEN KELLLY KRON 4 NEWS

CRIME

5/13/14 KRON 4 News at 11p

Hot weather creates opportunity for criminals

THE WARM WEATHER IS GREAT FOR OPENING WINDOWS AND DOORS TO LET IN THE FRESH AIR AND A BREEZE. BUT POLICE WARN THIS IS ALSO THE OPPORTUNE TIME FOR BURGLARS. AUTHORITIES SAY SUSPECTS LOOK FOR ANY CHANCE TO GET INSIDE AND STEAL VALUABLES. KRON 4'S ALECIA REID SHOWS US 2 CULPRITS WHO WERE CAUGHT ON SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS TRYING TO GET INTO A SUNNYVALE HOME THIS AFTERNOON:

IT'S A QUIET TREE-LINED STREET. MOST HOMEOWNERS WORK DURING THE DAY. THE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE ON THE 1700 BLOCK OF KARA-MEOS DRIVE HAPPENED TO BE MONITORING HIS HOME SURVEILLANCE AND SAW THESE TWO MEN TRYING TO PRY THEIR WAY IN THROUGH A WINDOW.

HE CALLED POLICE, BUT BY THE TIME OFFICERS ARRIVED THE MEN HAD DISAPPEARED. WE SPOKE TO THE MAN'S WIFE WHO GOT HOME SOON AFTER. SHE TELLS US SHE'S GRATEFUL THE SUSPECTS DIDN'T GET INSIDE.

DURING THE HOT WEATHER, PEOPLE WANT TO OPEN WINDOWS AND DOORS TO LET AIR IN, BUT POLICE WARN BURGLARS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ANY OPPORTUNITY TO GET INSIDE YOUR HOME.

WE SPOKE TO A NEIGHBOR THAT WASN'T AS LUCKY. WHILE OUT OF TOWN THEY LEFT A WINDOW SLIGHTLY OPENED.

Victim: "They took 2 big 50" flat screen TVs. Older models that were heavy. It must've taken a few guys to carry them from upstairs down to some truck or van or whatever. It's hard to say if they knew we were out of town because we didn't broadcast our plans, but they were brazen enough. They took their time in the house. They weren't worried about anybody coming back."

TODAY, THESE MEN WALKED AWAY WITH NOTHING. BOTH SUSPECTS ARE DESCRIBED AS HISPANIC MEN IN THEIR 20'S. POLICE ARE URGING RESIDENTS TO LOCK AND SECURE THEIR HOMES WHEN NOT INSIDE.

THE HOMEOWNER TELLS ME THIS IS A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN. THAT'S PART OF THE REASON THEY HAD SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS INSTALLED WHEN THEY MOVED IN.

ALECIA REID KRON 4 NEWS

CRIME

5/16/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Be on the alert for yet another credit card scam

YET ANOTHER SCAM GETTING THE ATTENTION OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND IT INVOLVES PRE-PAID MONEY CARDS. ERICA SANDBERG, OUR CONSUMER FINANCE EXPERT, IS HERE TO OFFER SOME ADVICE FOR ALL OF US ON HOW TO AVOID GETTING RIPPED OFF.

THE SCAMMERS SEEM TO BE SO BUSY COMING UP WITH DIFFERENT WAYS TO TAKE OUR MONEY FROM US. HOW DOES THIS LATEST SCAM WORK?

Sandberg: "They are very good at what they do! You will get a phone call from someone saying you are behind on a bill, a very important bill like a utility bill or perhaps even the IRS. If you don't pay right away, we're going to turn off your lights or have a judgment against you. The only way you can prevent that is to get a pre-paid card like a Green Dot card, give us the numbers of that card, and then we will be able to resume service."

WHY ARE THESE MONEYPAK GREEN DOT CARDS SO POPULAR?

Sandberg: "Because they are pervasive. Everyone knows where to get one. You can get them at Walgreen's, CVS, Walmart. They're everywhere. So they're easy to pick up and you load them up with cash. And that's the key – cash. It's like money. When it's gone, it's gone."

WHO IS MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO THIS? A LOT OF PEOPLE FEEL THAT IF SOMEONE CALLS YOU UP AND SAYS SEND US MONEY, THERE SHOULD ALREADY BE RED FLAGS.

Sandberg: "This is interesting. Typically it's going to be someone new to personal finance and doesn't have a bank account and that's the reason they go for these cash type of cards. Or, they have a business and that's what happened in the local Burlingame case. They had a business and wanted to be sure their lights were on. They panic, thinking if the lights aren't on tomorrow I'll be out revenue."

YES, AT LEAST FOUR BUSINESSES IN BURLINGAME HAVE BEEN HIT BY THIS SCAM. SO, HOW SHOULD PEOPLE PROTECT THEMSELVES?

Sandberg: "It is so important to just hang up the phone. Do not believe them. It makes no sense to do what they're asking. You don't have to do that. But also, report it to the Federal Trade Commission and to Green Dot itself because they really want to know. And if the money hasn't gone through, they can still make sure the funds stay on your card."

YOU HAVE SPOKEN TO THE FOLKS AT GREEN DOT?

Sandberg: "I gave them a call today. They issued a statement saying they are doing their best and are very concerned this is happening. They reiterated the importance of calling them if you receive one of these scam phone calls. Even if you don't fall for the scam, you should call them anyway. They want to track it all."

MOST OF THE TIME THESE TYPES OF AGENCIES WOULD NOT CALL YOU WITH THIS TYPE OF REQUEST?

Sandberg: "Absolutely not. They would never do that. They will contact you and explain that you are behind. But they will NOT ask you to go out and get a Green Dot card to send to them."

CRIME

6/5/14 KRON 4 News at 11pm
Disturbing new crime trend in Bay Area

SEVERAL EAST BAY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE WARNING THE PUBLIC ABOUT A GROWING CRIME TREND INVOLVING LARGE GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE RAMPAGING THROUGH CITY STREETS. AUTHORITIES CALL THE BEHAVIOR "WILDING". TONIGHT, KRON 4'S JEFF BUSH EXPLAINS WHAT IT IS AND WHAT POLICE ARE NOW DOING TO STOP IT FROM HAPPENING:

WILDING IS A SLANG TERM FOR A MAURADING GROUP OF TEENAGERS VANDALIZING PROPERTY AND CONDUCTING RANDOM CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY EN MASSE. YOU CAN SEE IN THIS YOU TUBE VIDEO FROM CHICAGO THE GROUP OF WILDING TEENS FAN OUT AND ATTACK MOTORISTS WHO ARE PASSING BY.

SAN LEANDRO POLICE SAY THERE HAVE BEEN TWO INCIDENTS OF WILDING THAT TOOK PLACE NEAR THE BAYFAIR MALL. THE FIRST ONE HAPPENED AT THE END OF LAST MONTH. A GROUP OF ABOUT 20 TEENS STOPPED A CAR AND WHEN THE ADULTS GOT OUT OF THE CAR THE GROUP SWARMED THE VEHICLE AND TOOK A LAPTOP AND OTHER ELECTRONICS. THERE WAS A TWO YEAR OLD CHILD INSIDE WHEN IT HAPPENED. EARLIER THIS WEEK ANOTHER, SMALLER ATTACK OCCURRED.

POLICE SAY THESE CRIMES OFTEN TAKE PLACE NEAR A BART STATION AND SAY THE REASON THE BAYFAIR MALL HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF TWO OF THE INCIDENTS IS BECAUSE THE BART STATION IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MALL.

POLICE SAY THE BIG CONCERN IS THE RANDOM NATURE OF THE WILDINGS AND THE HIGH NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED MAKES IT HARD TO CATCH THEM.

SAN LEANDRO POLICE, ALONG WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WILL BE MEETING ON FRIDAY TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH EACH OTHER AND TO COME UP WITH TACTICS TO FIGHT THIS LATEST CRIME TREND.

JEFF BUSH, KRON FOUR NEWS.

CRIME

6/6/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm
Follow-up on police response to "wilding"

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE EAST BAY ARE TRYING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VIOLENT ROAMING MOBS OF YOUTH, A BEHAVIOR KNOWN AS "WILDING." WE'VE SHOWN YOU VIDEO FROM CHICAGO, BUT IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. "WILDING" BEARS A LOT OF SIMILARITIES TO YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL FLASHMOB. IT INVOLVES A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE, USUALLY TEENAGERS OR YOUNG ADULTS, GATHERING IN PUBLIC PLACES WITHOUT ANY NOTICE. BUT NOW, INSTEAD OF HAVING A BIG PILLOW FIGHT IN SAN FRANCISCO, "WILDING" FLASHMOBS ARE COMMITTING SERIOUS CRIMES. KRON 4'S DAN RUBIN JOINS US FROM SAN LEANDRO WHERE LOCAL POLICE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO TRY AND STOP THE CRIMES BEFORE THEY OCCUR:

AS POLICE WERE MEETING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO STOP WILDING, THEY GOT WORD THAT ABOUT 60 TEENAGERS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO BAYFAIR MALL FROM HAYWARD. POSSIBLY TO START TROUBLE AGAIN. THERE HAVE BEEN THREE INCIDENTS AT BAY FAIR MALL JUST THIS WEEK. TWO PEOPLE ARE NOW CHARGED WITH THINGS LIKE KIDNAPPING AND ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON.AND OTHER FELONIES.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT HEADQUARTERS,SAN LEANDRO POLICE ARE HOPING THIS NEW TREND WILL QUICKLY FADE. THIS IS WHAT "WILDING" LOOKS LIKE. THE VIDEO WAS TAKEN FROM CHICAGO, BUT YOUTHFUL, DESTRUCTIVE MOBS ARE POPPING UP ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

Lt. Robert McManus, San Leandro Police Department: "They attack people; they assault them for no reason;, they rob them."

THAT HAS POLICE WORKING TOGETHER, ACROSS JURISDICTIONS, TO TRY AND KEEP THE VIOLENT MOBS FROM TERRORIZING THE PUBLIC.

Mcmanus: "When we have five or six police officers addressing a group of anywhere greater than fifty, you can only imagine that we don't have the resources to identify everybody there."

POLICE DEPARTMENTS ACROSS MANY BAY AREA CITIES ARE POOLING THOSE RESOURCES, INCLUDING OAKLAND, HAYWARD, FREMONT, NEWARK, AND BERKELEY.

McManus: "The formation of the task force, setting dates and times these officers will be out on patrols, and how we can come together as one and properly combat this."

OFFICERS ARE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY WILDING OCCURS. THEY'VE EVEN HIRED A PSYCHOLOGIST TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND.

McManus: "It appears that they are just gathering together, and when there's the crime of opportunity, or the ability to intimidate other people, that's when they take that opportunity, so to properly answer that questions, we do not believe at this time that they premeditate this."

LIEUTENANT MCMANUS WENT ON TO LINK THE FACT THAT SCHOOL IS LETTING OUT, SO THEY MAY SEE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO RUN WILD THROUGH THE STREETS.

IN THE MEANTIME, POLICE ARE PLANNING MORE FREQUENT PATROLS ALONG PUBLIC TRANSIT ROUTES. ANOTHER MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY TO HELP THEM COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS.

LIVE IN SAN LEANDRO DAN RUBIN KRON 4 NEWS

ECONOMY

ECONOMY

4/16/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Predicting economic fallout from the drought

GROCERY SHOPPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY COULD START SEEING HIGHER PRICES FOR PRODUCE THIS YEAR AND THE REASON IS CALIFORNIA'S ON-GOING EXTREME DROUGHT. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD HAS DETAILS:

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE GENERATES ABOUT 40 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY. THERE ARE A WIDE VARIETY OF CROPS GROWN ALL OVER THE STATE AND FOR SOME ITEMS, LIKE AVOCADOS, CALIFORNIA IS ONE OF THE NATION'S MAIN SUPPLIERS.

BUT THE ONGOING DROUGHT IS NOW PREDICTED TO HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON FARM PRODUCTION STATEWIDE. THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR SAYS THAT ALL OF CALIFORNIA IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING SOME FORM OF MODERATE TO EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT.

IN THIS NEW REPORT FROM ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, RESEARCHERS PREDICT THAT UP TO A MILLION ACRES OF FARMLAND COULD BE IMPACTED ACROSS CALIFORNIA AND TEN TO TWENTY PERCENT OF CERTAIN CROPS COULD BE LOST. THE LOWER SUPPLY COMBINED WITH AN EVER-INCREASING DEMAND WILL EQUAL HIGHER PRICES NATIONWIDE.

FOR EXAMPLE, MONTEREY COUNTY LEADS THE STATE IN PRODUCTION OF LETTUCE AND BROCCOLI, BUT ALMOST ALL OF MONTEREY IS FACING DROUGHT CONDITIONS. THE ASU REPORT PREDICTS THE PRICE OF LETTUCE COULD JUMP ALMOST 34 PERCENT TO \$2.44 PER HEAD AND BROCCOLI COULD GO UP BY 22 PERCENT TO \$2.18 PER POUND.

CALIFORNIA IS ALSO THE COUNTRY'S SOLE DOMESTIC SUPPLIER OF AVOCADOS. MOST ARE GROWN YEAR-ROUND IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WHERE THERE ARE CURRENTLY MODERATE TO EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS. THE REPORT SAYS THAT PRICES COULD RISE 28 PERCENT TO 1.60 PER AVOCADO.

GRAPES, BOTH FOR WINE PRODUCTION AND TABLE GRAPES, ARE GROWN IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTY OF CALIFORNIA. THE DROUGHT COULD PUSH THE COST OF GRAPES UP BY AS MUCH AS 21 PERCENT TO \$2.39 PER POUND.

FINALLY, THE ASU REPORT ALSO PREDICTS BIG PRICE JUMPS FOR TOMATOES, MELONS, PEPPERS AND BERRIES.

IN SAN FRANCISCO, CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

ECONOMY

4/30/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Ripple effects of Bay Area's booming economy

CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW. IN JUST THE PAST YEAR, THE STATE HAS ADDED MORE THAN 356 THOUSAND RESIDENTS. AND ONCE AGAIN, THE BAY AREA IS THE FASTEST GROWING REGION. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD IS LIVE

TONIGHT IN SAN FRANCISCO TO BREAK DOWN THE NUMBERS AND DETAIL HOW ALL THIS GROWTH IS AFFECTING COMMUTERS:

ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, SANTA CLARA COUNTY IS THE FASTEST GROWING COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA. IN THE PAST YEAR, THE POPULATION HAS RISEN BY 1.5 PERCENT TO 1,868,558 PEOPLE. FOR THE FIRST TIME, SAN JOSE HAS JUST OVER 1 MILLION RESIDENTS.

ALAMEDA COUNTY IS THE SECOND FASTEST GROWING COUNTY IN THE STATE. THERE ARE NOW 1,573,254 PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY AND OAKLAND GREW BY 1.2 PERCENT TO 404,355 RESIDENTS.

AND THE THIRD FASTEST GROWING COUNTY IN THE BAY AREA IS SAN FRANCISCO, WHICH NOW HAS A POPULATION OF 836,620 PEOPLE. THAT'S UP 1.3 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR.

THE MAIN REASON FOR THE GROWTH IS THE SURGING ECONOMY. A RECENT REPORT BY FORBES SHOWED THAT THE SAN JOSE-SUNNYVALE-SANTA CLARA AREA HAD A 4.3 PERCENT INCREASE IN JOBS LAST YEAR, WHILE SAN FRANCISCO-SAN MATEO-REDWOOD CITY HAD A 3.6 PERCENT SURGE IN EMPLOYMENT.

AND THE STRONG ECONOMY AND GROWING POPULATION HAVE ALSO RESULTED IN MORE CARS ON THE ROADS AND MORE RIDERS TAKING PUBLIC TRANSIT. IN MARCH OF 2012, AN AVERAGE OF 368,056 PEOPLE RODE BART. IN MARCH OF 2013, THAT NUMBER JUMPED TO 394,380. LAST MONTH THE AVERAGE DAILY RIDERSHIP ON BART WAS UP AGAIN TO 403,177 PEOPLE. THAT'S A NEARLY 10% INCREASE IN TWO YEARS.

CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

ECONOMY

5/13/14 KRON 4 Evening News

More signs of a booming California economy

THAT CLINKING NOISE COMING FROM SACRAMENTO IS THE SOUND OF MONEY FLOWING IN TO THE STATE TREASURY. THAT'S RIGHT – IN. NOT OUT.

CALIFORNIA'S BOOMING ECONOMY HAS SENT BUSINESS AND TAX REVENUES SOARING. TODAY GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN LAID OUT HIS PLANS FOR WHAT TO DO WITH THE WINDFALL.

IN THE FIVE MONTHS SINCE GOVERNOR BROWN RELEASED HIS PRELIMINARY SPENDING PLAN, THE STATE'S INCOME HAS JUMPED BY ONE POINT THREE BILLION DOLLARS. THE REASON: BUSINESSES ARE MAKING MORE MONEY.

THEY'RE HIRING MORE PEOPLE AND PAYING HIGHER SALARIES. THAT MEANS MORE TAX REVENUE FOR THE STATE. SO TODAY, THE GOVERNOR RELEASED A REVISED SPENDING PLAN, BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE GETS READY TO WORK ON A FINAL BUDGET NEXT MONTH.

MOST OF THE SURPLUS WOULD GO TO MEDI-CAL TO PAY FOR THE 1.4 MILLION PEOPLE WHO SIGNED UP FOR STATE HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER THE OBAMACARE ROLLOUT. THEY WILL COST THE STATE AN ADDITIONAL 1.2 BILLION DOLLARS. ANOTHER 183 MILLION WILL PAY FOR A TWO PERCENT PAY HIKE FOR MOST STATE EMPLOYEES, STARTING JULY FIRST. THE GOVERNOR ALSO ADDED 142 MILLION TO THE STATE'S DROUGHT FIGHTING FUNDS.

THE GOVERNOR IS RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION, AND RIGHT AFTER RELEASING THE BUDGET PROPOSAL, HE HIT THE ROAD TO PROMOTE THE PLAN IN LOS ANGELES AND SAN DIEGO.

ECONOMY

5/15/14

KRON 4 News at 8pm

Local economy gets boost from Amazon

AMAZON IS OPENING ITS FIRST DISTRIBUTION CENTER IN THE BAY AREA AND THIS MEANS A LOT OF NEW JOBS. OUR TECH REPORTER GABE SLATE VISITED THE SITE AND WAS SURPRISED TO SEE HOW MASSIVE A BUILDING AMAZON HAS BUILT:

WELL, AMAZON CHOSE THE SOUTHEAST CITY OF NEWARK TO OPEN THEIR FIRST DISTRIBUTION CENTER. THIS IS A HUGE DEAL FOR THIS CITY WHERE THEY'RE STILL WORKING THEIR WAY OUT OF THE RECESSION. I JUST SPOKE WITH THE MAYOR AND HE IS THRILLED.

Alan L. Nagy, Mayor of Newark: "This is an exciting time for Newark. We – and all of our communities – have been in the doldrums of recession for so long and we're all starting to climb out of that. So, just overall, it's a very positive thing for our community."

THIS IS THE WAREHOUSE THEY BUILT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION CENTER. IT IS MASSIVE! IT IS 575 THOUSAND SQUARE FEET. THAT'S BIGGER THAN 10 FOOTBALL FIELDS. IT'S EXPECTED TO CREATE 500 NEW JOBS WHEN IT OPENS IN AUGUST.

BUT DON'T WAIT UNTIL THEN TO APPLY. AMAZON IS HIRING NOW. THIS JOB POSTING IS LIVE ON THEIR EMPLOYMENT WEBSITE SHOWING THAT THEY ARE SEEKING FULFILLMENT ASSOCIATES IN NEWARK.

THE JOB PAYS \$13.50 AN HOUR AND COMES WITH SOME GOOD BENEFITS.

IT'S NOT JUST THE MAYOR WHO'S EXCITED ABOUT IT. THEY WOULDN'T TALK TO ME ON CAMERA, BUT I SPOKE WITH A NUMBER OF LOCALS WHO ARE VERY EXCITED AND SAY IT'S A GREAT THING FOR THEIR TOWN. ONE PERSON SAID HE WAS DEFINITELY APPLYING FOR A JOB.

I REACHED OUT TO AMAZON TO CONFIRM THIS OR MAKE A COMMENT, BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO MY EMAILS AND CALLS. BUT THE MAYOR SAYS THEY TOLD HIM IT'S OFFICIAL.

Mayor Nagy: "They recognize the central location of Newark, California. We're on the east side of the bay. There are 3 international airports within 30 minutes of us. We have the 880 freeway and Highway 4 running east/west. For Amazon's purposes of trying to get goods to their customers faster, this is an ideal location to be in to do that.

GABE SLATE KRON 4 NEWS

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A JOB AT THE NEW CENTER, WE'VE PUT A LINK ON OUR WEBSITE. JUST GO TO KRON4 DOT COM.

ECONOMY

5/16/14 KRON 4 Evening News
Latest jobs report

THE BAY AREA IS A BEACON OF PROSPERITY IN CALIFORNIA'S LATEST JOB REPORT. IN FACT, THE ENTIRE STATE IS SEEING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DROPPING TO LEVELS NOT SEEN SINCE THE BIG RECESSION BEGAN EIGHT YEARS AGO.

THE NEW FIGURES OUT TODAY SHOW THE GOLDEN STATE REGAINING ITS LUSTER, WITH UNEMPLOYMENT LAST MONTH DROPPING TO SEVEN POINT EIGHT PERCENT. THAT IS THE BEST FIGURE SINCE 2008, WHEN THE HOUSING BUST SENT THE ECONOMY INTO A NOSEDIVE.

THE BIGGEST JOB GAINS LAST MONTH WERE IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES. THE STATE STILL LAGS BEHIND THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF SIX POINT THREE PERCENT, BUT HERE IN THE BAY AREA, ALMOST EVERY COUNTY IS DOING EVEN BETTER THAN THAT.

SOLANO COUNTY IS THE SOLE EXECEPTION WITH A SEVEN PERCENT RATE. NAPA, CONTRA COSTA AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES ARE HOVERING AROUND SIX PERCENT. SANTA CLARA AND SONOMA ARE JUST OVER FIVE PERCENT. THE TECH BOOM HAS BROUGHT SAN MATEO AND SAN FRANCISCO DOWN TO NEAR FOUR PERCENT AND IN MARIN, UNEMPLOYMENT IS JUST THREE POINT NINE PERCENT.

WITH A NATIONAL JOBLESS AVERAGE OF SIX POINT THREE PERCENT, THE COUNTRY IS GETTING CLOSE TO WHAT THE FEDERAL RERVE BANK CONSIDERS "FULL EMPLOYMENT." THAT FIGURE IS FIVE POINT SIX PERCENT. ANY LOWER THAN THAT, AND THE FED SAYS PRICES COULD RISE. IF YOU NEED ANY EVIDENCE OF THAT, JUST LOOK AT THE BAY AREA'S HOUSING PRICES.

ECONOMY

6/2/14 KRON 4 News at 11pm
The economics behind the MUNI sick-out

THE EVENING COMMUTE WAS A NIGHTMARE FOR PEOPLE TRYING TO GET HOME BY MUNI. HUNDREDS OF MUNI DRIVERS CALLED OUT SICK TODAY TO MAKE A POINT DURING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND PASSENGERS SUFFERED THE CONSEQUENCES. KRON 4'S ALECIA REID SPOKE TO ONE DRIVER WHO SAYS, IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT THE PUBLIC HAD TO SUFFER, BUT EXPLAINS WHY WORKERS FELT THE NEED TO CALL OUT SICK:

IT'S BEEN A WAITING GAME FOR PEOPLE LOOKING TO TAKE MUNI. HUNDREDS OF DRIVERS CALLING OUT SICK CAUSED MAJOR HAVOC ON THE SYSTEM. "D" IS A CURRENT DRIVER AND DOESN'T WANT TO SHOW HIS FACE ON CAMERA.

"D", MUNI driver: "Us being city workers, we can't strike, but it's something we felt we needed to do to show our importance to the city."

"D" TELLS ME DRIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO IS A VERY DIFFICULT JOB, AND WORKERS WANT TO BE COMPENSATED ACCORDINGLY. THEIR CONTRACT ENDS IN JULY, BUT THE CURRENT OFFER ISN'T SUITABLE FOR EVERYONE.

"D": "What keeps us divided is the different tier system they have in place. So it depends on when you started with MUNI, you pay a different amount of money into your pension. Drivers such as myself that started a few years ago pay more so those drivers that have been there

longer are making more money than I am. So I believe whatever amount they decide on, all drivers should pay the same into their pension. The cost of living is going up. It costs a lot of money to live in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Most drivers live out of the city in Antioch, Pittsburg, Fairfield, Vallejo. They can't afford to live in the city with the wages that we make."

THERE'S NO WORD ON HOW MANY DAYS DRIVERS PLAN ON CALLING OUT SICK. SINCE DAYS CARRY OVER FROM YEAR TO YEAR, "D" TELLS ME SOME DRIVERS HAVE LOTS OF DAYS TO SPARE.

REPORTING IN SAN FRANCISCO ALECIA REID KRON 4 NEWS

ECONOMY

6/9/14 KRON 4 Evening News

How changing tastes in China impact your grocery bill

YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR GROCERY BILL. IF YOU HAVE NOT NOTICED ALREADY, MILK PRICES ARE WAY UP FROM WHERE THEY WERE A YEAR AGO. ALISON KOSIK IS AT THE NEW YORK CITY STOCK EXCHANGE WITH WHAT'S BEHIND THE LATEST SPIKE:

THE PRICE OF MILK IS A LOT HIGHER THAN WHERE IT WAS LAST SPRING. ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS: A GALLON OF WHOLE MILK COST \$3.69 IN APRIL. THAT'S UP 7.5% FROM WHERE IT WAS AT THE SAME TIME A YEAR AGO, AND IS THE HIGHEST PRICE SHOPPERS HAVE SEEN SINCE WAY BACK IN SEPTEMBER OF 2011.

UNFORTUNATELY, ANALYSTS EXPECT PRICES TO CONTINUE TO RISE, AT LEAST FOR NOW. AND YOU CAN PIN A LOT OF THE BLAME FOR THAT ON CHINA. MILK DEMAND THERE, ALONG WITH OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, HAS BEEN SKYROCKETING. ANALYSTS SAY CONSUMERS THERE ARE UPGRADING THEIR PALATES TO MORE EXPENSIVE MEAT AND MILK PRODUCTS.

AND AS THE IMPORTS INTO THOSE PLACES INCREASE, IT NATURALLY DECREASES THE SUPPLY LEFTOVER FOR THE U.S. BUT FARMERS HERE AREN'T GETTING AS BIG A CUT AS YOU MIGHT THINK. CURRENTLY, ONLY A THIRD OF RETAIL PRICES IS WHAT'S CALLED THE "FARM SHARE." IN THE 80'S, THEY USED TO GET HALF. FARMERS AREN'T LOSING OUT COMPLETELY THOUGH.

THE USDA SAYS DAIRY FARMING IS ONE OF THE FEW BRIGHT SPOTS IN COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE THIS YEAR. SO, ALTHOUGH YOU'RE PAYING MORE AT THE CHECKOUT, THE ECONOMY OVERALL BENEFITS.

ALISON KOSIK IN NEW YORK

DIVERSITY

DIVERSITY

4/9/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Is gentrification bad for community health?

GOOGLE BUS PROTESTS ARE THE MOST VISIBLE SIGN OF WHAT COULD BE CALLED 'CLASS WARFARE'. THE TECH BOOM AND THE GENTRIFICATION THAT FOLLOWED HAS MADE MANY LONGTIME BAY AREA RESIDENTS ANGRY. GRANT LODES IS HERE TO EXPLAIN WHY ALL THE CHANGES MAY ALSO BE SHORTENING THEIR LIVES.

COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS SAY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HAVES AND HAVE NOTS IS GROWING. IT'S NOT JUST THE FREE RIDES TO WORK, BUT THE SKY-ROCKETING RENTS AND SEVEN-FIGURE HOME PRICES IN FORMERLY WORKING CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS. A NEW STUDY SAYS GENTRIFICATION IS ACTUALLY UNHEALTHY, AND THE PROBLEM EXTENDS BEYOND SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO'S MISSION DISTRICT, POSTER CHILD FOR THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION BETWEEN 1990 AND 2014, WHEN THE AVERAGE RENT MORE THAN DOUBLED. THE MEDIAN HOME PRICE IS NOW MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS. AND THE ETHNIC CHANGE IS JUST AS DRAMATIC: THE NUMBER OF WHITE HOUSEHOLDS IS UP BY 29 HUNDRED SINCE 1990 WHILE THE NUMBER OF LATINO HOUSEHOLDS HAS DROPPED BY 14 HUNDRED.

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE SAYS NORTH OAKLAND IS EXPERIENCING SIMILAR GENTRIFICATION.

AND IN BOTH CASES THE HEALTH IMPACT IS SIGNIFICANT. FOR THOSE WHO STAY, HIGHER HOUSING COSTS MEAN LESS MONEY FOR MEDICAL CARE. THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN OVERCROWDED, SUBSTANDARD HOUSING. AND AS THE NEIGHBORHOOD GROWS MORE WEALTHY, LOCAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES TEND TO SHRINK. FOR THOSE WHO LEAVE, THERE IS THE COST OF RELOCATION, DISRUPTION IN HEALTH CARE AND FRAGMENTATION OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS SOME STRONG WORDS ON THE SUBJECT, SAYING GENTRIFICATION AND COMMUNITY DISPLACEMENT MAY BE ITS SINGLE GREATEST CHALLENGE.

DIVERSITY

4/29/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Historical context for the Donald Sterling scandal

KRON 4'S JUSTINE WALDMAN SPOKE WITH A NOTABLE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST ABOUT THE MESSAGE THE NBA SENT OUT, BY PUNISHING CLIPPERS OWNER DONALD STERLING FOR HIS RACIST RANT:

Dr. Harry Edwards, civil rights activist: "I think this is one of those historical moments we will look back on and say something important happened there."

DR. HARRY EDWARDS BELIEVES A GREAT MARK IN CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY WAS MADE ON TUESDAY WHEN THE NBA COMMISSIONER BANNED CLIPPERS OWNER DONALD STERLING FROM THE NBA.

Dr. Edwards: "They were working for a man who considered himself to be running a plantation as opposed to owning an NBA franchise."

EDWARDS IS KNOWN AS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE TWO AFRICAN-AMERICAN ATHLETES RAISING THE BLACK POWER SALUTE DURING THE 1968 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN MEXICO CITY. THE U.C. BERKELY SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR ALSO WORKED FOR TEN YEARS AS A STAFF CONSULTANT FOR THE WARRIORS.

HE TELLS ME WHEN THE CLIPPERS TOOK OFF THEIR WARM-UP JERSEYS AND WHEN OTHER PLAYERS CHOSE TO WEAR BLACK SOCKS IN A SILENT PROTEST, IT CREATED A SYMBOL OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR DISCRIMINATION.

Dr. Edwards: "I think that as they look back on that legacy, that will provide a pattern for future generations of athletes to look back on, just like they looked back on Jim Brown and Bill Russell and how they handled quotas."

DESPITE THE PROGRESS MADE, EDWARDS FEELS THE WAR TO END RACISM IS FAR FROM OVER.

Dr. Edwards: "I think we make a mistake if we think Donald Sterling is alone. There are no final victories. There are still battles to be fought."

JUSTINE WALDMAN KRON 4 NEWS

DIVERSITY

5/5/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Morgan Hill Cinco de Mayo demonstrations

A RENEWED FIGHT OVER PATRIOTISM ON CINCO DE MAYO AT A HIGH SCHOOL IN MORGAN HILL. PEOPLE OUTSIDE RALLYING FOR AND AGAINST A DECISION MADE FOUR YEARS AGO. THAT'S WHEN SEVERAL STUDENTS WHO WORE AMERICAN FLAG T-SHIRTS ON THE MEXICAN HOLIDAY WERE SENT HOME, THE SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL CITING FEAR OF VIOLENCE.

IT HAS SINCE BEEN A BREWING BATTLE, QUIET BUT STILL INTENSE. AND AS KRON 4'S WILL TRAN FOUND OUT THIS MORNING, SOME ARE NOT GIVING UP THE FIGHT.

Georgine Scott-Codiga, Gilroy-Morgan Hill Patriots: "We didn't disrupt anything. We came before school and we were holding American flags."

PROTESTERS FROM AS FAR AWAY AS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SHOWED UP BRIGHT AND EARLY AND LINED THE STREETS WITH AMERICAN FLAGS, PROTESTING A JUDGE'S DECISION TO THROW OUT A LAWSUIT BY FOUR STUDENTS WHO CLAIM THEIR FREEDOM OF SPEECH WAS VIOLATED WHEN THEY WERE KICKED OUT BY THE SCHOOL FOR WEARING T-SHIRTS WITH AMERICAN FLAGS ON THEM ON CINCO DE MAYO.

Scott-Codiga: "There is no reason to ban the American symbol of freedom."

BUT THE JUDGE SAID IT WAS A SAFETY ISSUE. ASKED IF SHE WAS SATISFIED WITH WHAT SHE HOPED TO ACCOMPLISH AT THE PROTEST...

Scott-Codiga: "We exercised our First Amendment rights by standing silently in front of the school in support of the First Amendment."

SOME PARENTS SUPPORT THE PROTEST BUT OTHERS SAID WHY AT THE SCHOOL. WHY NOT AT THE COURTS TO PROTEST THE JUDGE WHO THROUGH OUT THE LAWSUIT.

Scott-Codiga: "Why not here? Is there a ban on First Amendment freedom rights in front of this high school?"

AT NO POINT DID THE PROTESTERS APPROACH THE STUDENTS. THEY JUST STOOD QUIETLY WITH THEIR FLAGS. BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE IT WAS PEACEFUL, THE MORGAN HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDED EXTRA OFFICERS WHO WERE ON HAND. NONE OF THEM MADE ANY MOVES TOWARD THE PROTESTERS AND NONE OF THE STUDENTS APPROACHED THE PROTESTERS AS THEY WERE HEADING INTO SCHOOL.

WILL TRAN KRON 4 NEWS

OUR TEAM COVERAGE CONTINUES WITH KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN WHO TALKED TO PARENTS AT THE SCHOOL:

THE AMERICAN FLAG IN THE HANDS OF PROTESTERS OUTSIDE OF LIVE OAK HIGH SCHOOL IN MORGAN HILL ON THIS CINCO DE MAYO

Patricia Morreale, parent: "To me it just shows a sign of hatred for other people."

THAT IS VIEW OF PATRCIA MORREALE, WHOSE DAUGHTER IS A STUDENT HERE AT LIVE OAK.

Morreale: "It is very sad, I am shocked. I knew that there was a fence up today. I didn't expect to see people with American flags."

THIS IS THE MAKE-SHIFT FENCE SHE'S REFERRING TO, STRETCHING ACROSS THE FRONT OF THE CAMPUS. SCHOOL OFFICIALS SAYS IT WAS ERECTED AS A BARRIER BETWEEN STUDENTS AND THOSE WHO CAME TO PROTEST A RECENT FEDERAL APPEALS COURT RULING THAT UPHELD THE SCHOOL'S DECISION, FOR SAFETY REASONS, BACK ON CINCO DE MAYO 2010 ORDERING STUDENTS TO TURN THEIR AMERICAN FLAG T-SHIRTS INSIDE OUT OR GO HOME.

Kendall Jones, parent: "No student or no American should be put under a situation where they have to disrespect their country."

KENDALL JONES FILED THE ORIGINAL LAWSUIT AGAINST THE MORGAN HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT. HE IS ALSO A PARENT OF ONE OF THE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE T-SHIRT CONTROVERSY.

Jones: "You can never discriminate against the American flag. Perhaps – and the boys never said this; all they ever said was we just want to show our pride – perhaps they felt incensed because their country was being discriminated against and they wanted to stand up. That was all."

HOWEVER IT IS THE PROTEST GROUP STANDING IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL FOUR YEARS AFTER THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE THAT BOTHERS THIS PARENT:

Parent: "You know, I just think it's sad. What happened here back then, none of these kids were even in high school when this happened. And all they wanted to do was just go to school today."

Morreale: "It's not the students. This isn't student-driven. The students here, we teach them tolerance. They believe in tolerance."

IN MORGAN HILL HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

LATER IN THE DAY, A COUNTER-RALLY WAS HELD AT COMMUNITY PARK IN MORGAN HILL, SHOWING ANOTHER SIDE OF THE ISSUE. KRON 4'S SCOTT RATES WAS THERE AND SHOWS US THEIR MESSAGE:

MORE THAN A HUNDRED PEOPLE FROM THE GROUP "WE THE PEOPLE" OF MORGAN HILL CAME OUT TO THIS PARK TODAY TO RALLY. THEIR MESSAGE? VERY CLEAR – IT WAS ALL ABOUT PEACE.

Event organizer: "I decided I needed to do something for the community and this was probably the best thing to create a rally that signifies unity, respect and peace. That's why it's true to my heart. I've lived the racist situation, growing up as a Latino in the United States. I don't want other children to experience what I have."

Event participant: "To be here in support as dancers but also as an organization so we could tell the kids, especially, out here in the community that we support you and we value your culture regardless of what flag you choose to wave. We are all America."

Event attendee: "Take back the flag and recognize that Mexican Americans are Americans, too. This is our country, and we love it, too. And we serve it every day."

EVERTHING DID END VERY PEACEFULLY OUT HERE. MORGAN HILL PD WAS ON HAND, BUT THEY JUST STOOD BACK AND OBSERVED. WE DID NOT SEE ANY COUNTER-PROTESTS.

IN MORGAN HILL SCOTT RATES KRON 4 NEWS

DIVERSITY

5/6/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Why women still struggle in the workplace

FEMALE EXECUTIVES ARE MORE CONFIDENT THAN EVER IN THEIR JOBS, BUT STILL STRUGGLE IN MOVING UP THE LADDER, ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY.

AN ORGANIZATION CALLED "WOMEN OF INFLUENCE" ASKED MORE THAN 300 SENIOR EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN THE U.-S. TO RANK THEIR SKILLS AND LEVEL OF SATISFACTION IN THEIR CAREERS.

THE WOMEN SURVEYED RANKED THEMSELVES HIGHEST IN THEIR ABILITY TO LEAD OTHERS AND COMMUNICATE WELL. HOWEVER, THEY SAY THEY STILL STRUGGLE WHEN IT COMES TO SELF-PROMOTION, INCLUDING TALKING ABOUT THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. AND ONE OF THEIR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN ADVANCING THEIR CAREER IS IN NEGOTIATING FOR A BETTER POSITION.

THE COMPANY BEHIND THE STUDY SAYS IF WOMEN WANT TO SUCCEED BEING ABLE TO SHOWCASE YOUR ABILITIES IS CRUCIAL FOR MOVING UP IN THE WORKPLACE.

DIVERSITY

5/7/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Local program helps disabled veterans

ONCE AGAIN, YOU ASKED FOR IT AND WE ARE DELIVERING. A VIEWER TOLD US ABOUT SOME IMPORTANT WORK LOCAL VETERANS ARE DOING TO HELP THEIR DISABLED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ARMS. KRON 4'S ROB FLADEBOE HAS THIS "MY KRON 4 STORY" FROM MENLO PARK:

RETRIEVING A DROPPED KEY RING IS AMONG THE MORE THAN 90 COMMANDS IN THE REPERTOIRE OF THE SERVICE DOGS BEING TRAINED HERE AT THE VETERANS HOSPITAL IN MENLO PARK WHERE CATE DORR OVERSEES THE WOUNDED WARRIOR CANINE CONNECTION WHOSE MISSION IS TWO-FOLD.

Cate Dorr: "One, to help as many veterans and active duty military members as we can through the course of rehabilitation and recovery, whether it's a brain injury, post traumatic stress, spinal cord injury, substance use. The second mission is that we graduate highly skilled, highly trained service dogs for veterans with some type of profound disability."

FORGET TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS? NO PROBLEM. NEED SOMETHING FROM THE FRIDGE? JUST SAY THE WORD. THESE SERVICE DOGS WILL PLAY ON COMMAND OR JUST AS EASILY FETCH YOUR MEDICATION OR THE PHONE. TRAINER JOHN TYSON IS AN IRAQ WAR VET WHOSE INTERACTION WITH THE DOGS IS HELPING HIM BATTLE POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

John Tyson: "I have all these psychiatrists and psychologists at my disposal and, nothing against them, but these dogs have reached me more than they have. It's just something that I feel almost kindred to these dogs."

JUSTIN BULLARD CAME HOME FROM THE NAVY WITH A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM AND SAYS THESE DOGS ARE BETTER THAN DRUGS AND ALCOHOL.

Justin Bullard: "They have a sense if you're having a bad day. They'll comfort you, put their head on your lap. You can't beat that."

IT'S NOT ALL TRICKS AND TREATS EITHER. FORD, CAVIT. BEA, AND THE OTHER SERVICE DOGS ARE PUT THROUGH THEIR PACES BEFORE THEY GRADUATE AND THEN MATCHED WITH A DISABLED VET, FREE OF CHARGE FOR LIFE. IF 7 MONTH OLD CAVIT SEEMS A BIT SLEEPY, IT'S BECAUSE HE ACCOMPANIED A GROUP OF 16 VETERANS TO THE A'S GAME LAST NIGHT TO WORK ON BEING ABLE TO AVOID DISTRACTIONS LIKE FOOD ON THE GROUND.

Cate Dorr: "These recovery and rehabilitation programs are not stress-free and not pain-free. So to have a battle buddy to go through that with them who is an 80 pound furry golden retriever can really complement the traditional therapies they are already going through."

WHY GOLDENS? BECAUSE OF THEIR RETRIEVING INSTINCT, SOCIAL SKILLS AND SOFT MOUTHS. IF THEY CAN FETCH AN AVACADO WITHOUT LEAVING BITE MARKS, THEY'RE READY TO GRADUATE. JUST SAY THE WORD AND THEY'LL QUITE LITERALLY KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF.

IN MENLO PARK ROB FLADEBOE KRON 4 NEWS

DIVERSITY

5/9/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

New guidelines for teachers at Catholic school

TONIGHT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SOME EAST BAY CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SIGN A CONTRACT SOME FEAR COULD FORCE THEM TO CHANGE THEIR WAY OF LIVING OR OTHERWISE BE FIRED. MEANWHILE, THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OAKLAND IS FACING A BACKLASH OF CRITICISM AFTER THE CHURCH CHANGED THE WORDING OF THE ANNUAL CONTRACT THAT ALL EAST BAY CATHOLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING TEACHERS, HAVE TO SIGN. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD REPORTS FROM OAKLAND TODAY WITH REACTION FROM PARENTS, STUDENTS AND THE DIOCESE:

RIGHT NOW, I'M STANDING OUTSIDE BISHOP O'DOWN HIGH SCHOOL HERE IN OAKLAND. THIS IS A VERY DIVERSE CAMPUS WHICH INCLUDES CATHOLICS BUT ALSO NON-CATHOLICS, STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS. BUT UNDER THIS NEW CONTRACT FROM THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND IT WOULD SEEM TO IMPLY THAT ALL EMPLOYEES HERE, EVEN NON-CATHOLICS, WILL NOW HAVE TO ADHERE TO CATHOLIC TEACHINGS BOTH ON- AND OFF-CAMPUS.

IN THIS NEW "CONTRACT OF EMPLOYEMENT," THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND SAYS THAT "IN BOTH THE EMPLOYEE'S PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE, THE EMPLOYEE IS EXPECTED TO MODEL AND PROMOTE BEHAVIOR IN CONFORMITY WITH THE TEACHING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH IN MATTERS OF FAITH AND MORALS."

THE REFERENCE TO AN EMPLOYEE'S PERSONAL LIFE HAS NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS CONTRACTS AND THERE'S CONCERN THAT MANY EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING NON-CATHOLICS, COULD BE DISCIPLINED FOR NOT FOLLOWING CHURCH TEACHINGS AWAY FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Parent 1: "I'm 100% against it."

Parent 2: "I think it's a bad idea."

OUTSIDE OAKLAND'S BISHOP O'DOWD HIGH SCHOOL FRIDAY AFTERNOON, PARENTS AND STUDENTS EXPRESSED STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT THE NEW CONTRACT.

Parent 1: "I don't think the diocese should have a say in what the teachers do in their personal lives outside of school."

Student: "There are a lot of teachers here that may not agree with the Catholic beliefs that I still think should teach here and that I think are really valuable to this school. So I think this contract could really ruin education here."

WHEN ASKED FOR COMMENT, THE CHURCH DOWN-PLAYED THE SITUATION. IN A STATEMENT THEY SAID, "THE DIOCESE HAS NO INTEREST IN DELVING INTO THE PERSONAL LIVES OR BEHAVIORS OF ITS TEACHERS, BUT TO MODEL FOR STUDENTS THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC TEACHINGS WITHIN THE CLASSROOM. THERE IS NO LIST OF PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS. IT CAN BE INFERRED THAT WAY AND THAT'S WHY THE BISHOP AND THE SUPERINTENDENT HAVE OFFERED AND WILL MEET WITH OUR PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS TO CLARIFY HIS INTENT."

IN OAKLAND CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

DIVERSITY

5/16/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Local students demonstrate in support of classmate

A SAN FRANCISCO PRIVATE SCHOOL IS REVIEWING ITS DRESS CODE POLICY AFTER STUDENTS SHOWED THEIR SUPPORT FOR ONE OF THEIR CLASSMATES INVOLVED IN CONTROVERSY OVER A YEARBOOK PHOTOGRAPH. SCHOOL OFFICIALS AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PREPARATORY IN SAN FRANCISCO SAY JESSICA URBINA WENT AGAINST THE SCHOOL POLICY WHEN SHE WORE A TUXEDO FOR HER SENIOR PICTURE INSTEAD OF THE USUAL GOWN REQUIRED FOR FEMALE STUDENTS. YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE SENIOR PHOTO IN QUESTION.

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO OVERSEES THE SCHOOL AND PLANNED TO PULL HER PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE SCHOOL'S YEARBOOK WHICH LEAD TO PUBLIC OUTCRY FROM JESSICA AND HER CLASSMATES. TODAY JESSICA'S STUDENT SUPPORTERS DRESSED TO PROTEST:

Jessica Urbina: "I've never felt more love than I do right now, honestly."

THIS IS THE TEEN AT THE CENTER OF THE TUXEDO TROUBLE. JESSICA URBINA TOOK HER SENIOR PORTRAIT WEARING A TUXEDO, A VIOLATION OF THE PHOTO DRESS CODE AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL SCHOOL. GIRLS ARE SUPPOSED TO WEAR DRAPES, A TYPE OF DRESS. BOYS CAN WEAR TUXEDOS.

BECAUSE SHE BROKE THE RULES, THE SCHOOL REMOVED HER SENIOR PORTRAIT FROM THE YEAR BOOK AND THAT OMISSION CAUSED OUTRAGE ON THE CAMPUS.

TO RALLY AROUND JESSICA, STUDENTS SHOWED UP TO SCHOOL TODAY WEARING TIES AND BOWTIES.

Student: "You could feel the sense of community in our school and everyone was here to support her today."

Student: "There is no reason she shouldn't be in it."

Student: "The yearbook is to celebrate all students and I think she deserves that recognition."

EVEN JESSICA'S PARTNER TOOK PART. THIS IS THEIR PROM PICTURE.

Katie Emanuel, Jessica's partner: "I support my girlfriend, I support my school, and I want to make it as good as it can be for people like us."

Jessica: "Honestly, I have cried multiple times overwhelmed with all the support. I just want to thank everybody who is supporting me right now."

AFTER A DAY OF MEETINGS AT THE SCHOOL, ON ITS WEBPAGE, SACRED HEART SAID THAT WHILE NOT EVERYONE HAS A PORTRAIT PICTURE IN THE YEARBOOK, ALL SENIORS ARE SEEN IN PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE BOOK AND THAT THEY WILL ALL BE EQUALLY REPRESENTED IN GRAUATION FESTIVITIES.

AND THE SCHOOL IS MAKING CHANGES, ISSUING A STATEMENT SAYING:

"These events have sparked a campus-wide dialogue which will result in a revision of policy."

THAT POLICY IS REGARDING DRESS CODE FOR SENIOR PORTRAITS, BUT THE SCHOOL DOES NOT SAY WHEN THE CHANGE WILL GO INTO EFFECT. EVEN SO, JESSICA'S TUXEDO FASHION HAS TRIGGERED A TRANSFORMATION.

Gary Cannon, Sacred Heart principal: "I'm actually proud of my students today. To me, it's an educational opportunity for the school and for the student body."

Jessica: "I am SO appreciative of everything."

THAT WAS JUSTINE WALDMAN REPORTING. WE HAVE PUT THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW WITH JESSICA URBINA ON OUR WEBSITE. JUST GO TO KRON4 DOT COM.

DIVERSITY

5/19/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm
Follow up on Jessica Urbina story

AN ABOUT-FACE FROM A SAN FRANCISCO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL. AFTER THE SCHOOL REMOVED THIS YEARBOOK PHOTO OF SENIOR JESSICA URBINA WEARING A TUXEDO, THE SCHOOL APOLOGIZED TODAY. KRON 4'S JUSTINE WALDMAN FOUND OUT WHY THE SCHOOL DECIDED TO INCLUDE JESSICA'S TUX PHOTO AFTER ALL:

THIS PHOTO OF JESSICA URBINA WEARING A TUX WILL NOW BE INCLUDED IN THE SACRED HEART YEARBOOK. ORIGINALLY, IT WAS OMITTED BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL POLICY ONLY BOYS CAN WEAR TUXEDOS IN THEIR PORTRAITS. GIRLS MUST WEAR A DRAPE OR DRESS.

Gary Cannon, Sacred Heart principal: "The Catholic Church teaches about the intrinsic dignity of the individual. This is a part of who she is and what she is about and we honor that."

PRINCIPAL GARY CANNON TELLS KRON 4 THE SCHOOL HAS SAID SORRY TO JESSICA AND HER FAMILY FOR REMOVING HER PHOTO FROM THE YEARBOOK. STAFF WILL NOW PASTE IT IN AT THE END OF THE PORTRAIT SECTION – IN ALL 1400 COPIES.

STUDENTS RALLIED BEHIND JESSICA ON FRIDAY BY WEARING TIES TO SCHOOL AND CREATING A SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN WITH THE HASHTAG "JESSICA'S TUX" CAUSING JESSICA TO SAY SHE WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE SUPPORT.

THE SCHOOL IS NOW REWORKING ITS DRESS CODE POLICY FOR SENIOR PORTRAITS, CALLING THE TUXEDO TROUBLE A GROWTH EXPERIENCE.

Cannon: "We are going to involve students and families and board members in saying what is appropriate for our mission now and going forward."

THE YEARBOOK WITH THE PASTED-IN PICTURE WILL GO OUT THIS WEEK. THE SCHOOL WILL ALSO REPRINT THE YEARBOOK AND HAVE JESSICA'S TUX PICTURE IN THE SENIOR PORTRAIT SECTION FOR THE VERSION THAT WILL COME OUT IN JUNE.

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

4/4/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Local government corruption case update

A FEDERAL CORRUPTION CASE INVOLVING STATE SENATOR LELAND YEE HAS MOVED TO THE NEXT LEVEL. YEE HAS BEEN FORMALLY INDICTED ALONG WITH 28 OTHER PEOPLE. HE'S FACING A LIST OF SERIOUS CHARGES THAT COULD ADD UP TO MORE THAN 100 YEARS IN PRISON IF CONVICTED. KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN TELLS US WHAT WE CAN EXPECT AS THE CASE MOVES FORWARD:

SUSPENDED STATE SENATOR LELAND YEE AND ALLEGED CRIME BOSS RAYMOND "SHRIMP BOY" CHOW ARE AMONG THE 29 DEFENDANTS IN THE GRAND JURY INDICTMENT. IT INCLUDES 50 COUNTS RANGING FROM MONEY LAUNDERING TO MURDER FOR HIRE TO ARMS DEALING TO BRIBERY. AND MUCH OF THE PROSECUTION'S CASE RELIES ON UNDERCOVER FBI AGENTS.

Kevin Ryan, former U.S. Attorney: "They are going to be powerful in their testimony because they are theoretically employees of the federal government and much less subject to impeachment than say a snitch."

STILL FORMER US ATTORNEY KEVIN RYAN SAYS WITH SO MANY DEFENDANTS THE CASE WILL BE VERY COMPLICATED FOR THE PROSECUTOR.

Ryan: "The problem when you have a case like this is that sometimes it can be so complicated that the jurors get lost in the minutiae."

RYAN ANTICIPATES THAT SOME OF THE 29 DEFENDANTS WILL MAKE DEALS AND TESTIFY FOR THE GOVERNMENT, WHILE OTHERS, POSSIBLY SENATOR YEE, WILL ASK TO HAVE THEIR CASE SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER DEFENDANTS.

Ryan: "It's always easier to be in a position of one-on-one against the government rather than being part of a large group that's being charged and tried by the government."

YEE IS ACCUSED OF CONSPIRACY TO DEAL AND IMPORT ARMS, AS WELL AS BRIBERY. SPECIFICALLY THE INDICTMENT SAYS THAT YEE AND CONSULTANT KEITH JACKSON TOOK PART IN A SCHEME TO USE YEE'S OFFICIAL POSITION AS A STATE SENATOR TO ENRICH THEMSELVES AND OBTAIN MONEY.

YEE, CHOW AND THE 27 OTHERS ARE DUE BACK IN COURT FOR ARRAIGNMENT ON TUESDAY.

AT THE FEDERAL BUILDING, DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

KEEP IT HERE FOR THE LATEST ON THE CORRUPTION CASE, INCLUDING MORE INFORMATION ON THE PEOPLE ACCUSED. WE'VE ALSO POSTED THE FULL INDICTMENT ON OUR WEBSITE. IT'S ALL ON KRON-4-DOT-COM.

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER SAN FRANCISCO POLITICIAN, FORMER SUPERVISOR ED JEW, WAS BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT TODAY. A JUDGE SENTENCED HIM TO 60 DAYS IN JAIL AND A YEAR OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, FOR LYING ABOUT WHERE HE LIVED WHEN HE RAN FOR OFFICE.

JEW HAS ALREADY SPENT 5 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR PERJURY AND EXTORTION. HE PLEADED GUILTY IN 2008 TO CHARGES HE DEMANDED MONEY FROM A CHINATOWN BUSINESS IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS HELP AS A SUPERVISOR.

YEARS AGO, JEW DID VOLUNTEER WORK FOR NOW-SUSPENDED STATE SENATOR LELAND YEE, BUT JEW'S ATTORNEY DENIED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO CASES.

Stuart Hanlon, attorney: "He hopes and prays for Mr. Yee's family and that Mr. Yee is found innocent. But he had nothing to do with that case and never did."

George Gascon, San Francisco District Attorney: "Whether they were connected or not, the larger connection is that you have individuals who are members of an elected body of government and the public has a right to demand that their elected officials are going to play by the rules and be ethical and be moral, and if they are not, there are going to be consequences for it."

AND SAN FRANCISCO CITY ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCON SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT JEW'S SENTENCE WAS NOT TOUGHER. THE FORMER SUPERVISOR COULD HAVE GONE TO JAIL FOR A YEAR. THOUGH SENTENCED INSTEAD TO JUST 60 DAYS, JEW WILL SERVE ONLY 30 DAYS IF HE MAINTAINS GOOD BEHAVIOR.

GOVERNMENT

5/21/15 KRON 4 Morning News

Federal government getting involved in e-cigarette controversy

E-CIGARETTES HAVE MADE HEADLINES IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, WITH CITIES PUSHING THEM OUT OF PUBLIC PLACES. AND WARNINGS TO PARENTS ABOUT HOW POPULAR THEY ARE BECOMING WITH KIDS. NOW THE FDA WANTS TO STEP IN. WE'RE TALKING LIVE THIS MORNING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE FDA'S CENTER FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS MITCH ZELLER:

IS THERE A WAY THAT THE FDA CAN REGULATE THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT REALLY CIGARETTES?

Zeller: "They do meet the definition of a tobacco product because the nicotine in e-cigarettes is derived from tobacco. So, what we proposed about a month ago is to include e-cigarettes, hookahs, pipes, cigars in the FDA's regulatory reach."

THE THING ABOUT WHAT CITIES ARE DOING... WITH E-CIGARETTES THERE IS NO SMOKE; IT'S JUST VAPOR SO THERE'S NO SECOND-HAND RISK TO ANYONE. SO HOW CAN A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TELL SOMEONE WITH AN E-CIGARETTE YOU CAN'T SMOKE THAT IN A RESTAURANT?

Zeller: "There is second-hand exposure to the vapor to anyone who's a bystander and we don't know what the risks of that are."

SO YOU DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THESE BUT YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT REGULAR CIGARETTES?

Zeller: "Here's what we do know about e-cigarettes. They have become very popular with young people. From 2011 to 2012 e-cigarette use doubled among middle school and high school age kids. And it is the wild, wild west in the marketplace for e-cigarettes. Companies are free to bring any product to market and make any claim they want. We're proposing to bring them within a regulatory framework to make it illegal to sell these products to kids, to make it illegal to sell them in vending machines, and to put warning labels on all the products we're proposing to regulate."

THEY HAVE ALL THESE DIFFERENT FLAVORS TO MAKE THEM APPEAL TO KIDS AND I THINK A KID LOOKING AT IT WOULD SAY IT'S NOT LIKE A CIGARETTE. IT'S NOT SMELLY AND I CAN USE IT UNDETECTED AROUND MY HOUSE.

Zeller: "That's exactly our concern. Any nicotine exposure to the brain of a developing adolescent is not good for that kid. Any initiation of e-cigarette use by children or adolescents is bad for public health. It might be different for currently-addicted adult smokers, those smokers who are unable or unwilling to quit. If they could completely switch to e-cigarettes, there's no question they would reduce their health risk compared to continued smoking."

CAN KIDS JUST WALK IN RIGHT NOW TO 7-11 AND BUY THESE?

Zeller: "I hope not, but there's no federal regulation, so it's up to states and localities to create enforceable laws and ordinances. But we have proposed to make this a national regulation that we would enforce the same way we enforce the minimum age requirements for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco."

HOW LONG WOULD THAT TAKE?

Zeller: "That's a good question. It's a rule-making process. The public has the opportunity now to submit comments to us. When the comment period closes, we will review all the comments and issue a final rule just as quickly as we can."

SO IN THE MEANTIME, IT'S UP TO PARENTS TO EDUCATE OUR KIDS THAT THESE ARE JUST AS DANGEROUS AS CIGARETTES?

Zeller: "I think the message should be, don't assume that they're safe. And any use of these products, especially with these kid-appealing flavors, is not good for the kid and not good for public health."

THANK YOU FOR THIS UPDATE ON WHAT THE FDA IS DOING RIGHT NOW.

GOVERNMENT

6/9/14 KRON 4 Morning News

Political fallout for Oakland's Mayor Quan?

MORE NOW ON MAYOR JEAN QUAN'S ACCIDENT WITH ANOTHER DRIVER OVER THE WEEKEND, THAT DRIVER CLAIMING MAYOR QUAN WAS ON THE PHONE AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. THIS COMES AFTER KRON 4 NEWS REPORTED LAST WEEK ON PICTURES OF TWO OTHER INSTANCES WHEN MAYOR QUAN WAS USING HER PHONE WHILE DRIVING. OF COURSE, ALL OF THIS IS TAKING PLACE AT A TIME WHEN SHE'S RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION. HOW WILL THIS LATEST INCIDENT AFFECT HER CAMPAIGN? JOINING US NOW IS KRON 4 POLITICAL ANALYST MICHAEL YAKI: MICHAEL, IS THIS JUST A DROP IN THE BUCKET THAT WILL GO AWAY AS THE ELECTION HEATS UP IN THE FALL OR WILL IT BECOME AN UNDERLYING ISSUE?

Yaki: "Well, this is not a good thing. Obviously, the jury is still out while there's conflicting testimony, but the fact is that someone can claim this is a pattern of practice by the mayor. There's many things you can say. It's flouting the law; it's the mayor being arrogant, deciding that she's above the law. Those are the kinds of things politicians don't like to have stick to them. So this is something she will desperately do anything she can right now to try to make sure this doesn't stick."

WOULD IT BE UNUSUAL OR CONSIDERED A LAVISH EXPENSE FOR THE MAYOR OF OAKLAND TO HAVE A CAR AND DRIVER?

Yaki: "I don't think so. Given the size of the city and its budget and given the geographic area that Oakland encompasses, I don't think it's unreasonable. But this is something she should have done early on in her administration. But now, making that decision now will draw just as much fire as not. In San Francisco, for example, it's traditional that the mayor drives around in a town car driven by a police officer who provides protection. I think it's reasonable for the mayor of Oakland to have that as well."

IN THE LAST OAKLAND MAYORAL ELECTION THERE WAS RANKED CHOICE VOTING. DON PERATTA ACTUALLY HAD MORE FIRST PLACE VOTES THAN MAYOR QUAN, BUT WHEN YOU COUNTED THE SECOND AND THIRD PLACE VOTES MAYOR QUAN WOUND UP WINNING THAT ELECTION. WHAT'S YOUR FEELING ON RANKED CHOICE VOTING? IS IT THE RIGHT WAY TO GO BECAUSE IT AVOIDS A RUN-OFF OR DO YOU THINK REGULAR ELECTIONS WITH A RUN-OFF ELECTION IF NECESSARY IS THE APPROPRIATE WAY TO VOTE?

Yaki: "I think ranked choice voting doesn't really give you a full picture of what a candidate may or may not be like. If you just took a snapshot of a primary where there's many voices to be heard, name recognition comes into play, "lesser of all evils" comes into play. I think for Mayor Quan, now, she's not going to be happy about ranked choice voting, because these are the types of incidents that make someone who might have picked you as #2 or #3 will leave you off entirely. So this is not a good development for her in terms of ranked choice voting."

DEPENDING ON WHAT THE FINAL POLICE REPORT SHOWS, WHETHER SHE WAS OR WAS NOT AT FAULT, IF THEY SAY SHE WAS NOT AT FAULT IS SHE FREE AND CLEAR TO MOVE ON, BEING THE LEADER ALREADY IN THE POLLS? OR, WHAT HAPPENS IF IT SHOWS THAT SHE WAS INDEED ON THE PHONE DURING THE ACCIDENT, HOW MUCH WOULD IT HURT HER?

Yaki: "Well, since she has come out and denied she was on the phone, if there were evidence to the contrary that would be extremely bad for her. The other thing is that when you open up the genie of asking for the records you can count on there being intrepid journalists who will be looking at the records to see how many times she made phone calls during other times that we know she was on the road. So having these records released may not help her at all in the end if it shows she wasn't on during this accident, but she was on the phone while driving all these other times. These are the things she has to worry about."

THANK YOU. AND A REMINDER THAT MAYOR QUAN WILL BE HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE AT CITY HALL THIS MORNING AT 10:30 TO TALK ABOUT THIS ISSUE WHICH WE WILL CARRY LIVE ON OUR WEBSITE AND MOBILE APP.

GOVERNMENT

6/9/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Follow-up on on-going coverage of VA scandal

THERE IS MORE FALLOUT FROM THE SCANDAL OVER VETERAN AFFAIRS AND HOW LONG IT TAKES VETS TO GET MEDICAL ATTENTION. THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TODAY ANNOUNCED IT IS SCRAPPING THOSE PERFORMANCE BONUSES FOR SENIOR MANAGERS.

THIS, AFTER A NEWLY RELEASED AUDIT FOUND THAT GETTING AN APPOINTMENT WITHIN THE VA'S 14-DAY DEADLINE IS QUOTE "SIMPLY NOT ATTAINABLE" DUE TO THE GROWING DEMAND AND LACK OF CAPACITY.

SOME 57 THOUSAND MILITARY VETERANS HAVE BEEN WAITING THREE MONTHS FOR THEIR FIRST MEDICAL APPOINTMENT. ANOTHER 64-THOUSAND NEVER GOT AN APPOINTMENT AT ALL.

THE PICTURE IS NOT AS BLEAK FOR VETERANS HERE IN THE BAY AREA. THE AUDIT REPORT SHOWS AT THE SAN FRANCISCO VA 98 PERCENT OF PATIENTS GOT APPOINTMENTS IN 30 DAYS OR LESS. IN PALO ALTO, THAT NUMBER WAS 93 PERCENT. HOWEVER, MANY LOCAL VETERANS DO REPORT HAVING PROBLEMS WITH GETTING THEIR BENEFIT CLAIMS PROCESSED.

GOVERNMENT

6/13/14 KRON 4 Evening News

New county government veterans program

IT'S ABOUT TIME. THAT'S THE REACTION FROM VETERANS WHO ARE LINING UP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A NEW BENEFIT UNVEILED THIS WEEK IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY. AND THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MIGHT WANT TO TAKE NOTICE. AS KRON 4'S ROB FLADEBOE REPORTS NOW, SO SAYS ONE OF THE FIRST VETS TO SIGN UP FOR THE NEW PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HELP SANTA CLARA COUNTY VETERANS:

89 YEAR OLD U.S. ARMY VETERAN VINCE CASTALDO IS ONE OF THE FIRST TO SIGN UP FOR AND RECEIVE ONE OF THESE. IT'S A NEW IDENTIFICATION CARD THAT WILL ALLOW HIM TO RECEIVE DISCOUNTS AT LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Vince Castaldo: "More veterans should know about this office, so they could come here and get their ID card. It works in many, many places."

A DECORATED VETERAN WHO WAS AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN WORLD WAR TWO, CASTALDO SAYS PROGRAMS LIKE THIS ONE ARE LONG OVERDUE GIVEN THE RUN AROUND HE HAS ENCOUNTERED IN DEALING WITH THE FEDERAL VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE ON-GOING SCANDAL OVER DELAYS IN VETERANS ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.

Castaldo: "They're just reluctant to do anything, up until this point. And it's too bad we lost those 18 veterans in the Arizona VA hospital. That was terrible."

HOWEVER, CASTALDO HAS ONLY PRAISE FOR HIS LOCAL SANTA CLARA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE. FROM NOW ON, HE CAN LEAVE HIS DISCHARGE PAPERS AT HOME AND USE HIS NEW I.D. CARD AS PROOF OF HIS MILITARY SERVICE AND TO ACCESS OTHER SERVICES AND BENEFITS. AND HE WONDERS IF THIS MIGHT JUST BE A TEACHING MOMENT FOR UNCLE SAM.

Castaldo: "I think that as our government's president, Obama should get more involved with helping the veterans. He says he's going to, but I haven't seen it yet."

CASTALDO REMINDS US THAT HE'S ALSO A REGISTERED VOTER AND ONE OF SOME 85,000 VETERANS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ALONE.

IN SAN JOSE ROB FLADEBOE KRON 4 NEWS

GOVERNMENT

6/30/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm
Reactions to Supreme Court ruling

IT WAS THE OKLAHOMA BASED ARTS AND CRAFTS STORE HOBBY LOBBY THAT CHALLENGED A PROVISION OF OBAMACARE THAT MANDATED THAT CONTRACEPTION BE PROVIDED IN ITS HEALTH COVERAGE AT NO EXTRA CHARGE... BUT IN A 5-4 DECISION THE HIGH COURT MAJORITY RULED THAT VIOLATED THE 1993 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT.

Lori Windham, attorney for Hobby Lobby: "We think this is a great day for religious freedom. The court ruled that American families don't give up their constitutional rights to religious freedom just because they open a family business."

BUT OPPONENTS OF THE RULING SAY IT PUTS WOMEN AT RISK.

Amy Everitt, NARAL Pro Choice: "The five male justices have opened the door on a minefield where now any religious employer can say my religious values can be imposed on all the employees. In the case of Hobby Lobby, that's 23,000 people."

AMY EVERITT WITH NARAL PRO CHOICE CALIFORNIA SAYS IT'S THE POOREST OF THE EMPLOYEES WHO END UP LOSING

Everitt: "As Justice Ginsburg points out, the cost of an IUD, which is the fastest growing and most popular form of birth control, is the equivalent of one month salary for a minimum wage worker, So, it's putting the best health care for a woman out of her reach."

THIS RULING COMES LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER THE SUPREME COURT RULED MASSACHUSETTS PROTESTER-FREE BUFFER ZONE AROUND ABORTION CLINICS WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. PRO CHOICE ADVOCATES FEAR THE CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE COURT ULTIMATELY HAS ITS EYE ON STRIKING DOWN ROE VERSUS WADE

Everitt: "I believe this court has been moving in a direction to undermine Roe to such an extent that it doesn't exist before they completely eradicate it."

IT'S UNCLEAR JUST HOW MANY OTHER COMPANIES WILL COME FORWARD AND OBJECT TO PROVIDING CONTRACEPTION.. RIGHT NOW, SOME 30 MILLION WOMEN RECEIVE BIRTH CONTROL AS A RESULT OF THE HEALTH LAW... NOW THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE TO COME UP WITH ANOTHER WAY TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE FREE FOR WOMEN WHO WORK FOR COMPANIES THAT OBJECT.

DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

GOVERNMENT

6/30/14 KRON 4 Evening News
Analysis of Supreme Court Rulings

On-set interview with political analyst Michael Yaki regarding implications of Supreme Court Hobby Lobby ruling.

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

4/6/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

How bad is the drought?

DESPITE SEVERAL RECENT STORMS, CALIFORNIA IS STILL FACING DROUGHT CONDITIONS, AND EXPERTS SAY TIME HAS JUST ABOUT RUN OUT. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD HAS A LOOK AT THE CURRENT SITUATION:

CALIFORNIA'S RAINY SEASON USUALLY PEAKS AROUND APRIL 1ST, SO IF HISTORY IS ANY GUIDE, RAIN AND SNOW STORMS WILL START BECOMING FEW AND FAR BETWEEN FROM THEN UNTIL NEXT FALL. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MOISTURE WE GET THIS YEAR WASN'T ENOUGH TO REVERSE THE DRY CONDITIONS.

THURSDAY MORNING, THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR RELEASED THIS NEW MAP SHOWING THAT 99 PERCENT OF CALIFORNIA IS STILL DEALING WITH DROUGHT. TWENTY-THREE PERCENT OF THE STATE, SHOWN ON THIS MAP IN DARK RED, IS FACING EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT. HERE IN THE BAY AREA, EVERY COUNTY HAS EITHER EXTREME OR EXCEPTIONALLY DRY CONDITIONS.

ACROSS CALIFORNIA, THE STATE'S RESERVOIRS ARE ONLY HOLDING ABOUT 63 PERCENT OF THE WATER THEY NORMALLY HAVE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. THAT'S LESS THAN HALF OF TOTAL CAPACITY. AND ACROSS THE SIERRA, CALIFORNIA'S SNOWPACK REMAINS ONE OF THE SMALLEST IN RECORDED HISTORY.

THIS IS A CHART PUT TOGETHER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES THAT COMPARES THE CURRENT SNOWPACK TO PREVIOUS YEARS. THE BLACK LINE – HERE – IS THE HISTORIC AVERAGE. THE RED LINE REPRESENTS THE SNOWPACK FROM THE WINTER OF 1976-77, WHEN THERE WAS A VERY SMALL SNOWPACK. THE PINK LINE IS THIS YEAR, AND AS OF TODAY, CALIFORNIA'S SNOWPACK IS EQUAL OR JUST BARELY BIGGER THAN THE RECORD LOW.

IN THE NEWSROOM, CHUCK CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

4/14/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Is BART wasting electricity on 24/7 parking lot lights?

WHILE BART HAS HAD ISSUES WITH ITS TRAINS LATELY, THE STATION IN NORTH CONCORD HAS ISSUES OF A DIFFERENT KIND. POWER. THE STATION HAS BEEN LEAVING THE LIGHTS ON NOT JUST AT NIGHT BUT DURING THE DAY AS WELL. KRON-4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE NORTH CONCORD STATION AND SPOKE WITH THE MAN WHO FIRST BROUGHT IT TO OUR ATTENTION:

IT IS A BRIGHT AND SUNNY DAY HERE AT THE NORTH CONCORD/MARTINEZ BART STATION AND, AS TONY KARAVIDAS POINTS OUT, LIGHTS ARE ON HERE IN THE PARKING LOT

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE LIGHTS BEING ON?

Karavidas: "Yeah, it's a waste of money."

IT CERTAINLY APPEARS THAT WAY. JUST LOOK AT ROW AFTER ROW OF LIGHTS ALL ON HERE IN THE LOWER PARKING LOT. SAME DEAL IN THE UPPER LOT AS WELL. KARAVIDAS TAKES BART TO WORK ON A REGULAR BASIS AND SAYS HE NOTICED THE LIGHTS SHINING DURING DAY LIGHT HOURS ABOUT A MONTH AGO

Karavidas: "I come late mornings, so I park in the back generally, unless I get lucky, and I just walk through here every day and uh I just looked up and said that's weird. Then I noticed it again a week later. You know they are always talking about money for the employees vs money for the system. The cars are broken down all of the time. Seems like they could be using this in better ways. I know what I pay for my electric bill, so I can just imagine what this costs."

SO NOT ONLY ARE YOU PAYING FOR YOUR OWN ELECTRIC BILLS YOU MIGHT BE PAYING FOR THIS ONE, TOO.

Karavidas: "Yeah, in my fares"

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT BART TO DO ABOUT THIS? IF YOU COULD SHOOT THEM A QUESTION WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Karavidas: "I'd say why don't they turn off, just like the street lights over there? Clearly something isn't right. So I thought I'm going to write to KRON4 and see if they can investigate it."

AND HERE WE ARE!

Karavidas: "Yeah, thanks!"

IN FACT I DID MAKE CONTACT WITH A BART SPOKESPERSON AND EMAILED TONY'S QUESTIONS AND ADDED A FEW OF MY OWN. KEEP IT LOCKED RIGHT HERE ON KRON4 AS WE GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS PROBLEM WITH THE PARKING LOT LIGHTS STAYING ON AROUND THE CLOCK AT THE NORTH/CONCORD MARTINEZ BART STATION

HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

4/15/14 KRON 4 Evening News
BART parking lot lights follow-up

Tony Karavidas: "Why didn't anybody pay attention to it on their own without having it exposed by the media?"

KRON 4 NEWS INVESTIGATED THE PROBLEM THIS BART COMMUTER TOLD US ABOUT – LIGHTS BURNING NIGHT AND NOON, ALL DAY, FOR AT LEAST A MONTH, WASTING ENERGY FOR NO GOOD REASON. KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN HAS BEEN ON THIS STORY FROM THE BEGINNING, AND TONIGHT WE HAVE THE SOLUTIONS:

NOTICE SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Karavidas: "I noticed that the lights are off and that's pretty awesome."

THE LIGHTS IN THE PARKING LOT HERE AT THE NORTH CONCORD/MARTINEZ BART STATION ARE NO LONGER ON DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. THIS COMES THE DAY AFTER TONY KARAVIDAS VOICED HIS CONCERN TO KRON4 ABOUT THE ELECTRICITY BEING USED TO POWER THE LIGHTS 24 HOURS A DAY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS

THAT WAS A BIG STICKING POINT FOR YOU THE FACT THAT THIS WAS A WASTE OF ENERGY?

Karavidas: Yeah! I walked up smiling today because I thought, wow, that's really amazing that you did this report and all of the sudden somebody here paid attention to it."

NO MORE LIGHTS AROUND THE CLOCK?

Karavidas: "Not at North Concord station."

BART SPOKESPERSON LUNA SALAVER SAYS IT IS LIKELY MAINTENANCE WORKERS TURNED THE LIGHT SENSORS OFF.

Salaver: "This could have been the case where they were doing maintenance and they switched the contacts for the lights in the parking lot at North Concord to manual mode. When you brought this to our attention our crews went out there and flipped it back to automatic mode."

BART OFFICIALS SAY NOW THAT THE LIGHTS ARE BACK ON AUTOMATIC MODE THEY WILL TURN OFF DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND AUTOMATICALLY TURN ON WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN. NO MORE WASTING ENERGY OR TAX PAYERS DOLLARS AS EACH BULB USES 400-WATTS OF ELECTRICITY

Karavidas: "That's great news and it was a simple fix. I love KRON4!"

AT THE NORTH CONCORD MARTINEZ BART STATION HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

4/16/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Mandatory water rationing in Livermore

LIVERMORE IS NOW THE LATEST BAY AREA COMMUNITY UNDER MANDATORY WATER CUTS BECAUSE OF CALIFORNIA'S EXTREME DROUGHT. MOST OF THE RESTRICTIONS AFFECT OUTDOOR WATER USE. FOR EXAMPLE, RESIDENTS CAN ONLY WATER THEIR LAWNS TWICE A WEEK AND ONLY IN A CERTAIN TIME PERIOD. SOME AREA WINERIES ARE FEELING THE PRESSURE TO CONSERVE AS WELL. KRON 4'S ROB FLADEBOE TRAVELED TO THE LIVERMORE VALLEY WHERE WINEGROWERS ARE ALREADY WORKING HARD TO SQUEEZE THE MOST OUT OF EVERY DROP OF WATER:

MANDATORY WATER RATIONING IMPOSED HERE IN THE TRI-COUNTY LIVERMORE VALLEY STRIKES AT THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE REGION'S VALUABLE WINE INDUSTRY. WENTE VINEYARDS IS BY FAR THE LARGEST WINEGROWER HERE. KEVIN ZOLLINGER MANAGES THE VINEYARDS AND THEIR WATER NEEDS.

Zollinger: "Well I think what you're going to see is that people who are farming vineyards are going to have to be very focused on conserving and making sure they're able to get the water they need into the vineyards and monitor the timing of when they irrigate and how they irrigate."

WENTE EXPECTS TO SEE ITS IMPORTED WATER ALLOCATIONS CUT BY AT LEAST 25 PERCENT AND WILL RELY MORE HEAVILY ON PUMPING GROUND WATER AND CONSERVATION.

Zollinger: "We have weather stations throughout the valley here in Livermore that allows us to understand exactly what's going on in the soil and in the vines and the leaves in the vineyards. It allows us to best predict when we have to irrigate and how long we can go without irrigating if need be and still take care of the health of the vines."

FOR NOW, WENTE AND OTHER WINEGROWERS ARE STILL TAPPING NEARBY DEL VALLE RESERVOIR AND OTHER SO-CALLED SURFACE WATER SOURCES CARRIED OVER FROM LAST YEAR'S ALLOCATIONS, BUT DEEPER CUTS AND RESTRICTIONS ARE LOOMING.

Zollinger: "Water is something that people are going to watch very carefully and who is using water and how they're using it and how efficient they're being with it. The old saying whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting is never more appropriate in California than now."

IT'S TOO SOON TO SAY, BUT LESS WATER COULD MEAN A SMALLER CROP THIS YEAR AND THOSE EXTRA COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSERVATION MEASURES COULD ALSO BE PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER IN THE FORM OF HIGHER WINE PRICES.

IN THE LIVERMORE VALLEY ROB FLADEBOE KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

4/24/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Is water quality slipping in San Francisco?

CONCERNS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER IN SAN FRANCISCO. LOCAL WATER OFFICIALS TONIGHT ARE TRYING TO EASE FEARS THAT THE CITY'S TAP WATER MAY DEGRADE AND BECOME CONTAMINATED. IN PART BECAUSE OF THE ONGOING DROUGHT, THE CITY HAS BEEN PLANNING TO INTEGRATE GROUNDWATER WITH WATER FROM SOURCES SUCH AS HETCH HETCHY. KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN REPORTS ON THIS FUTURE BLEND OF DRINKING WATER.

SAN FRANCISCANS PRIDE THEMSELVES IN HAVING ONE OF THE BEST DRINKING WATER SOURCES AROUND – THE HETCH HETCHY RESERVOIR. RIGHT NOW, THAT'S WHERE THE BULK OF THE CITY'S WATER COMES FROM.. BUT SOON, THE SFPUC WILL ADD GROUNDWATER TO THE MIX.

Steve Ritchie, SFPUC: "This is done all over the state, all over the nation, using ground water supplies together with surface water supplies to make sure that you've got a reliable supply at all times."

THIS SHORT AND STOUT YELLOW PIPE IS ONE OF THE TEST WELLS, AND SOON IT WILL BE JOINED BY 5 MORE, WHERE THE SF PUC WILL EXTRACT GROUND WATER FOR DRINKING

Ritchie: "The water that comes out of the wells will be disinfected and blended in with our Hetch Hetchy supply."

THE BLENDING PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE HERE BEHIND THIS FENCE AT THE SUNSET RESERVOIR AND AT THE SUTRO RESERVOIR... EVENTUALLY THIS MIXED BLEND OF WATER WILL BE DELIVERED TO NEARLY 60% OF SAN FRANCISCO, THE AREA IN BLUE ON THIS MAP... ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CITY ARE THOSE WHO WILL RECEIVE IT Ritchie: "I bet if you walked across the street from where the blends were you would not be able to tell the difference between the quality of water coming out of the tap."

AND THE SF PUC SAYS REPORTS OF POOR QUALITY ARE SIMPLY UNTRUE. THEY SAY THERE SHOULD BE NO BACTERIA, AND NITRATES IF ANY WILL BE OF SUCH SMALL CONCENTRATIONS, AS TO NOT COMPROMISE THE QUALITY OR SAFETY.

Ritchie: "This water is safe and reliable and will continue to be safe and reliable and be part of a good supply for San Franciscans. There's nothing to be alarmed about."

NOW THIS GROUNDWATER WELL RIGHT HERE AND THREE OTHERS SHOULD BE ONLINE WITHIN TWO YEARS. THAT MEANS WHEN YOU PUT YOUR GLASS UNDER THE FAUCET AND FILL IT UP IN ABOUT TWO YEARS YOU'LL BE DRINKING A MIX OF ABOUT 10% GROUND WATER AND THE REST FROM EXISTING SOURCES.

IN SAN FRANCISCO DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

4/30/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Taking steps to protect East Bay from fire damage

AS WE MENTIONED THE HOT TEMPERATURES HAVE INTENSIFIED THE FOCUS ON FIRE DANGER. KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN SHOWS US WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REDUCE THE ODDS OF A FIRE TAKING PLACE IN THE EAST BAY:

SENDING IN THE GOATS – EIGHT HUNDRED OF THEM IN FACT – TO CLEAR THIS OVERGROWN HILLSIDE ABOVE HIGHWAY 24 IN THE OAKLAND HILLS.

GOATS R US OWNER TERRI OYARZUN SAYS:

"We have our goats out here making sure people are safe from fires. That's what we're doing. Weird season, isn't it?"

Lisa Baker, Oakland Fire Department: "Actually, the fire season is all year now."

ALSO IN THE HILLS ON THIS HOT DAY IS OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT BATALLION CHIEF LISA BAKER WHO SAYS THE HIGH TEMPERATURE MIXED WITH DRY VEGETATION HAS FIRE FIGHTERS ON ALERT THROUGHOUT THE OAKLAND HILLS.

Baker: "We have all of our hill companies out patrolling in their own districts making sure that no one does anything that might cause a fire."

LIKE USING THE WRONG WEED WACKER

Baker: "They shouldn't be using anything that has a blade, because the blade can hit a rock and cause a spark that could ignite a fire, so they'd be doing more harm than good in that instance. They have the kind that uses string, so the string one is probably better."

OR BETTER STILL CALL IN THE GOATS. ARE THEY HELPFUL?

Baker: "They're very helpful. They're taking away the fuel that would make a fire grow bigger."

OYARZUN SAYS THAT'S WHY CALTRANS HIRED GOATS R US TO TAKE DOWN TALL GRASS AND WEEDS NEAR BAY AREA FREEWAYS.

Oyarzun: "We have a number of sites that we do. We work for lots of different municipalities, different cities. Whoever has open space. Obviously this is the closest to the freeway being that it belongs to CalTrans...."

IN THE OAKLAND HILLS HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS

OFFICIALS AT THE OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT SAY IT HAS ALL FIRE STATIONS IN THE HILLS OUT ON PATROL LOOKING FOR ANYTHING THAT MAY START A FIRE. AND

BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS, LOCAL FIRE OFFICIALS HAVE SUSPENDED ALL OPEN BURNING FOR SEVERAL BAY AREA COUNTIES, INCLUDING ALAMEDA, CONTRA COSTA, SANTA CLARA AND SAN MATEO.

ENVIRONMENT

5/6/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm
The latest climate change report

EARLIER TODAY, THE WHITE HOUSE RELEASED A DETAILED NEW REPORT ON THE DANGERS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD HAS DETAILS AND HE ALSO SPOKE WITH A BAY AREA RESEARCHER WHO SAYS CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALREADY HAVING A MAJOR IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA'S WATER SUPPLY:

THIS REPORT IS CALLED THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT. IT'S 840 PAGES LONG AND IN A NUTSHELL IT SAYS THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALREADY CAUSING PROBLEMS IN THE DAILY LIVES OF MOST AMERICANS.

THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT THE UNUSUAL WEATHER EVENTS OF RECENT YEARS, INCLUDING DROUGHTS AND POWERFUL STORMS, WILL BECOME COMMONPLACE IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION.

EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY COULD FEEL THE IMPACT, FROM WATER SHORTAGES AND STRONGER HURRICANES IN THE SOUTHEAST TO FLOODING IN THE NORTHEAST. THE MIDWEST COULD SEE LONGER DROUGHTS AND HEAT WAVES AND IN THE SOUTHWEST, SCIENTISTS PREDICT WILDFIRES AND LONGER DRY SPELLS.

THE REPORT ALSO DETAILS SEVERAL BEST TO WORST CASE SCENARIOS. IN THE BEST SCENARIO, HUMANITY FIGURES OUT AN AS YET UNKNOWN WAY TO REMOVE LARGE AMOUNTS OF CO2 FROM THE ATMOSPHERE. THAT WOULD LIMIT THE TEMPERATURE INCREASE IN THE U.S. TO JUST A COUPLE OF DEGREES BY THE END OF THE CENTURY.

BUT, IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, IN WHICH NOTHING IS DONE TO REDUCE CO2, TEMPERATURES WOULD CLIMB BY AS MUCH AS 10 TO 15 DEGREES.

HERE IN CALIFORNIA, THE BIGGEST CONCERN IS THE WATER SUPPLY.

Michael Wehner, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory: "The rules that worked in the past will no longer work."

MICHAEL WEHNER IS A CLIMATE SCIENTIST WITH THE LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY. HE WORKED ON THE NEW REPORT. HE SAYS THAT CALIFORNIA'S USUALLY PREDICTABLE MOISTURE PATTERNS COULD BE PERMANENTLY ALTERED IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Wehner: "The amount of precipitation that falls may be the same, but its form will be changed. It will either come down as rain in the lower catchments of the Sierra or melt sooner if it does come down as snow. That throws the timing off for water resource managers. It means difficult decisions are going to have to be made about how to deal with this change in our water cycle."

CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

5/29/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Drought-imposed water sharing plans

CALIFORNIA IS NOW WELL INTO A THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND STATE WATER MANAGERS NOW SAY LOCAL AGENCIES MAY SOON HAVE TO START SHARING THEIR WATER. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD HAS DETAILS ON WHAT THIS COULD MEAN FOR MILLIONS OF BAY AREA WATER CUSTOMERS:

MOST OF SAN FRANCISCO GETS ITS WATER FROM THE HETCHHETCHY RESERVOIR NEAR YOSEMITE. THE RESERVOIR IS ACTUALLY OWNED BY THE CITY AND MANAGED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISISON. IN ALL, 2.4 MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE BAY AREA USE WATER FROM HETCHHETCHY AND VERY LITTLE OF THAT SUPPLY IS GIVEN TO THE REST OF THE STATE.

BUT EARLIER THIS YEAR, AS IT BECAME APPARENT THAT CALIFORNIA WOULD HAVE TO ENDURE A THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR OF DROUGH CONDITIONS, THE STATE WATER RESOURCES BOARD WARNED THE SFPUC THAT IT MIGHT HAVE TO SHARE HETCH HETCHCY.

THE BOARD HASN'T ISSUED SUCH A WARNING SINCE THE 1980'S. ELLEN LEVINIS THE DEBUPY MANAGER OF THE SFPUC'S WATER ENTERPRISE DIVISION.

Ellen Lewis: "When there's a lot of water in the system, everybody gets what they want. But this is a dry year, where supply may not meet demand, particularly coming up on the summer."

AT THIS POINT, THE STATE BOARD HASN'T SAID EXACDTLY HOW MUCH WATER THE PUC WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP, IF ANY. SPECIFICS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SOMETIME IN MID-JUNE OR JULY. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT HETCH HTECY RESERVOIR IS AT ABOUT 91% FULL AND LEVIN SAYS THAT EVEN IF THE STATE DOES TAKE ADDITIONAL WATER, THE PUC'S CUSTOMERS SHOULDN'T SEE ANY DISRUPTION IN SERVICE, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

Lewis: "It is difficult, but we do think we have the supply to get us through this drought and if next year is dry we may have to ask customers for further reductions, but we'll probably get through it."

CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

6/2/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Santa Clara County begins West Nile fogging

IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CREWS HAVE STARTED FOGGING FOR MOSQUITOS. HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT MOSQUITOS CARRYING THE WEST NILE VIRUS. AS KRON 4'S JOHN FENOGLIO REPORTS, MORE CREWS WILL BE OUT THIS WEEK, BECAUSE THE VIRUS HAS ALREADY BEEN DETECTED IN A NUMBER OF AREAS.

Russ Parman, Acting District Director, Santa Clara County Vector Control: "We're actually setting quite a few records in terms of how early and how intense this virus is getting off the ground this year."

RUSS PARMAN OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT IS REFERRING TO THE NUMBER OF DEAD BIRDS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED AND TESTED POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS. AS PARMAN EXPLAINS, BIRDS ARE THE MOST COMMONLY INFECTED ANIMAL.

Parman: "We're seeing very well-defined clusters of dead birds out there in these areas where we're fogging. And it's getting really easy to go out and find infected mosquitos in these areas."

IN FACT, PARMAN SAYS 33 BIRDS HAVE BEEN FOUND SINCE APRIL.

Parman: "Every time we find a positive bird, we go out and set traps. We've set 40 traps."

Parman: "This is the testing area."

TRAPS ARE THEN BROUGHT HERE TO THE VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT LABORATORY WHERE MOSQUITOS ARE TESTED. TRAPS WITH POSITIVE MOSQUITOS DETERMINE WHERE FOGGING TAKES PLACE. WHILE THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY REPORTED HUMAN CASES OF WEST NILE INFECTION THIS YEAR, PARMAN SAYS THE POINT IS TO PREVENT THE VIRUS FROM SPREADING TO HUMANS.

Parman: "As of Wednesday, we'll be doing our third fogging operation this year. Our second is tonight. We've never had this many fogging operations this early in the year."

TONIGHT'S MOSQUITO FOGGING WILL TAKE PLACE IN SUNNYVALE AT AROUND 11PM AND LAST FOR SEVERAL HOURS. THE FOGGING AREA IS BORDERED BY EAST OLIVE AVENUE AND WEST EL CAMINO REAL ON THE NORTH, SOUTH MARY AVENUE AND LIME DRIVE ON THE WEST, PALO VERDE DRIVE ON THE EAST AND INVERNESS WAY AND LACONNER DRIVE ON THE SOUTH.

ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT MORE FOGGING WILL AGAIN BE CONDUCTED IN SUNNYVALE AS WELL AS IN SANTA CLARA.

IN SAN JOSE JOHN FENOGIO KRON 4 NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

6/10/14 KRON 4 News at 11pm
Controversy over crude oil rail transport

SEVERAL REFINERIES IN CALIFORNIA ARE PREPARING TO RECEIVE CRUDE OIL BY RAIL BUT IT IS A HUGELY CONTROVERSIAL IDEA. CRUED OIL TRAIN ACCIDENTS LIKE THIS ONE IN VIRGINIA HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CONCERNED BECAUSE BY 2016, 25 PERCENT OF THE CRUDE OIL IMPORTED INTO CALIFORNIA WILL TRAVEL BY RAIL.

TODAY STATE EMERGENCY OFFICIALS LAID OUT SEVERAL THINGS THAT NEED TO HAPPEN IN ORDER TO SAFELY TAKE ON THE NEW INFLUX OF CRUDE. KRON 4'S JEFF BUSH HAS MORE:

I'M STANDING NEXT TO THE RAILWAY LINES THAT WILL LIKELY TAKE CRUDE OIL INTO THE VALERO REFINERY HERE IN BENEICIA. BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES SAYS A LOT NEEDS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN SAFELY.

THE RAIL LINES ARE GOING TO BE CARRYING 140 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL INTO CALIFORNIA BY THE YEAR 2016, AND TWO BAY AREA REFINERIES ARE AFFECTED – . VALERO IN BENICIA AND TESORO IN MARTINEZ.

STATE OFFICIALS SAY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS NEED TO BE SPENT TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN. MOST OF THAT MONEY WILL GO INTO A 55 MILLION DOLLAR TRUST FUND IN CASE A SPILL HAPPENS. SAFETY PROGRAMS THAT CURRENTLY APPLY TO TRANSPORTATION BY SHIP WILL GO INTO AFFECT AND NEW TRACKING TECHNOLOGY

WILL HAVE TO BE INSTALLED ON THE TRAIN CARS TO MONITOR THEM FROM THE POINT OF ORIGIN TO THE REFINERIES. BUT, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SAY THE STATE IS NOT READY TO HANDLE A DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE LIKE CRUDE OIL ON THE RAIL LINES.

Suma Peesapati, Earth Justice: "Transporting oil by rail is inherently dangerous. It's a terrible idea, especially in California with our dilapidated railway infrastructure. We have thousands of bridges that are not adequately inspected."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT A DERAILMENT LIKE THIS ONE BACK IN APRIL, WHEN A TRAIN CRASHED IN LYNCHBERG VIRGINIA, AND THIS ONE A YEAR AGO IN QUEBEC, CANADA, WITH A TRAIN THAT WAS ALSO CARRYING CRUDE OIL. FORTY-SEVEN PEOPLE DIED IN THAT DISASTER.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAY THE NEW REGULATIONS ARE NICE BUT CAN'T ADEQUATELY ENSURE RAILWAY SAFETY.

Peesapati: "Crude by rail is inherently a bad idea. It's dangerous from a public safety perspective. It also has significant public health and air quality impacts in California, not to mention the climate change impacts."

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT WILL BE UNVEILED ON THURSDAY. THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO LOOK AT IT AND GET THEIR COMMENTS PUT IN.

JEFF BUSH KRON 4 NEWS

HEALTH

HEALTH

4/14/14 KRON 4 evening News

Should you nap or not?

THAT AFTERNOON SNOOZE WE THOUGHT WAS GOOD FOR US MAY ACTUALLY BE KILLING US SLOWLY. SERIOUSLY. THERE'S A NEW STUDY THAT CLAIMS DAYTIME NAPPERS ARE ALMOST A THIRD MORE LIKELY TO DIE BEFORE HITTING THE AGE OF 65.

THE RESEARCH OUT OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY NOTICED THAT NAPPERS WHO SLEPT LESS THAN AN HOUR A DAY WERE 14% MORE LIKELY TO DIE YOUNG THAN NON-NAPPERS. THE FOLKS WHO SIESTA-ED MORE THAN AN HOUR? THEY WERE 32 PERCENT MORE LIKELY TO DIE BY 65.

SCIENTISTS SAY THAT NAPPING CAN TRIGGER INFLAMMATION IN THE LUNGS AND CAN CAUSE RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS LATER ON. BUT THE GOOD NEWS FOR SHORT NAPPERS IS OTHER STUDIES SHOW THAT A CATNAP CAN HELP WITH STRESS AND HEART HEALTH.

SOMETHING TO SLEEP ON .

HEALTH

4/18/14 KRON 4 Evening News
Health news round-up

A STARTLING NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO GO SEE A DOCTOR ARE GETTING THE WRONG DIAGNOSIS. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY BY A GROUP OF RESEARCHERS. GRANT LODES IS HERE NOW WITH MORE ON THE PROBLEM:

A STUDY IN THE JOURNAL "B-M-J QUALITY AND SAFETY" FOUND THAT ONE IN 20 ADULT PATIENTS ARE MISDIAGNOSED. RESEARCHERS SAY SOME OF THESE MISHAPS WERE MINOR, LIKE CALLING SOMETHING AN "ALLERGY" WHEN IT'S REALLY A COLD. BUT OTHERS COULD HAVE MAJOR CONSEQUENCES, SUCH AS A DANGEROUS DELAY IN SOMEONE STARTING CANCER TREATMENT.

RESEARCHERS SAY PREVENTATIVE STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN BY THE PATIENT, THEIR DOCTORS, AND THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM BY WORKING TOGETHER. DOCTORS NEED TO ASK OTHER MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IF THEY'RE NOT SURE, AND PATIENTS NEED TO GET A SECOND OPINION IF THEY'RE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE DIAGNOSIS.

YOUR EXPANDING WAISTLINE COULD BE COSTING YOU A WORK PROMOTION! A CAREER BUILDER SURVEY FOUND ALMOST 40 PERCENT OF WORKERS SAY THEY HAVE GAINED WEIGHT WHILE AT THEIR JOB AND THAT EXTRA WEIGHT COULD END UP HURTING EMPLOYEES.

NEARLY ONE IN FIVE WORKERS FEEL PEOPLE WHO ARE THIN AND FIT ARE SHOWN MORE FAVORITISM IN THEIR WORKPLACE. THE STUDY ALSO HAD A LIST OF THOSE MOST LIKELY TO GAIN WEIGHT: THOSE IN MANAGEMENT POSITIONS, WORKERS 35 AND OLDER, WOMEN, I-T PROFESSIONALS, AND THOSE OF US WHO WORK ON THE WEST COAST.

AND TALKING ABOUT WORK, RESEARCHERS NOW SAY COFFEE KEEPS TIRED WORKERS HONEST! IN THE STUDY FROM THE JOURNAL OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY, SCIENTISTS FOUND THAT SLEEP DEPRIVATION CONTRIBUTES TO UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR AT WORK, MAKING WORKERS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO BAD INFLUENCES. FOR EXAMPLE, A BOSS ASKING WORKERS TO CARRY OUT A DISHONEST TASK. SCIENTISTS SAY CAFFEINE CAN HELP YOU RESIST, BY STRENGTHENING YOUR SELF-CONTROL AND WILLPOWER WHEN YOU ARE EXHAUSTED.

WHAT RESEARCHERS SAY THIS MEANS FOR EMPLOYERS: KEEP AN EYE ON EMPLOYEES WORKING LONG HOURS, ADD SOME NAP ROOMS IF NEEDED, AND ALWAYS KEEP THE COFFEE FLOWING.

HEALTH

4/23/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm
Health issue on the ballot

BAY AREA HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE OUT TO PROTECT FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CHILDREN AND SENIORS. TODAY, SUPPORTERS OF A NEW INITIATIVE SUBMITTED 1.3 MILLION SIGNATURES TO THE STATE TO GET THE MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT. SUPPORTERS SAY THE "MEDI-CAL FUNDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT" WILL ENSURE SPENDING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHOUT RAISING NEW TAXES. AND IT WILL INSURE THAT THE FEDERAL MONEY IS PERMANENT.

Anne McLeod, California Hospital Association: "What's at stake is actually billions of dollars on the table at the federal government with California's name on it. If we don't pass the act, those dollars can remain there. Right now with the legislation, we're able to draw those down. But when this expires in 2017, those dollars go back to Washington, D.C. We want to keep those dollars coming to California; to our hospitals and patients so that there's access to care and services for all Californians."

CURRENTLY, MORE THAN 900 THOUSAND PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA ARE ENROLLED IN THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM.

HEALTH

5/6/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Health Digest: does aspirin really prevent heart attacks

MANY OF US HAVE PROBABLY HEARD THAT TAKING AN ASPIRIN A DAY COULD HELP PREVENT A HEART ATTACK. BUT A NEW DECISION BY THE FDA SUGGESTS IT MIGHT NOT BE THAT SIMPLE.

ASPIRIN MAKER BAYER HAD ASKED THE FDA TO ALLOW THE COMPANY TO PUT ON ITS BOTTLES THAT ASPIRIN CAN HELP REVENT HEART ATTACKS. BUT THE FDA SAYS IT DOESN'T BELIEVE ASPIRIN DOES PREVENT A FIRST HEART ATTACK.

IF SOMEONE ALREADY HAD A HEART ATTACK OR STROKE, OR HAS A KNOWN HISTORY OF HEART DISEASE, THEN THE FDA SAYS A DAILY DOSE OF ASPIRIN CAN SERVE AS A PREVENTATIVE MEASURE.

THE FDA SAYS YOU SHOULD SPEAK TO YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE TAKING ASPIRIN DAILY TO WEIGH THE BENEFITS VERSUS THE RISKS.

HEALTH

5/6/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Cancer dangers in popular shampoos

A CHEMICAL FOUND IN HUNDREDS OF POPULAR SHAMPOOS IS NOW BEING LINKED TO CANCER. KRON 4'S SCOTT RATES SHOWS US THE CHEMICAL AND WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT IT:

IT'S IN SHAMPOO THAT YOU'LL FIND ON STORE SHELVES, IN YOUR SHOWER. YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN USING IT FOR YEARS AND NOT EVEN KNOWN THEN DANGERS. UNDER CALIFORNIA'S PROP 65 CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, A CHEMICAL CALLED COCAMIDE DEA WAS ADDED TO A LIST OF CHEMICALS KNOWN TO CAUSE CANCER...

Caroline Cox, Center for Environmental Health: "I was surprised how many different brands of shampoo we did find that did still have Cocamide DEA in them"

CAROLINE COX IS THE RESEARCH DIRECTOR AT THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN OAKLAND, THAT COMPANY ANNOUNCING MONDAY THAT IT HAS REACHED LEGAL AGREEMENTS WITH 26 MAJOR COMPANIES TO REMOVE COCAMIDE DEA FROM THEIR SHAMPOOS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS.

Cox: "They're the ones that really stepped forward to deal with this problem quickly."

MAJOR COMPANIES, TOO, LIKE COLGATE AND WALGREENS. HOWEVER MORE THAN 100 OTHER COMPANIES HAVE NOT REMOVED THE CANCER-CAUSING CHEMICAL.

Cox: "Lots and lots of people wash their hair every day, every couple of days. So, you're being exposed to that chemical."

SO WHAT EXACTLY IS COCAMIDE DEA, AND WHAT DOES IT DO??

WELL, IT'S A MIXTURE OF FATTY ACIDS FROM COCONUT OILS WITH DIETHANOLAMINE. BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? BASICALLY IT'S THE INGREDIENT IN SHAMPOO THAT GIVES IT ITS EXTRA FOAMY FLARE.

Cox: "There are several other chemicals that do kind of the same thing and can replace Cocamide DEA in these products. And that's what the companies have done. Just check the ingredients list on the back of the bottle. If it says Cocamide DEA, you might want to think about buying a different product."

SCOTT RATES KRON 4 NEWS

HEALTH

5/7/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Follow-up to shampoo story

CANCER CONCERNS IN YOUR SHAMPOO. LAST NIGHT WE TOLD YOU ABOUT A CHEMICAL FOUND IN SOME POPULAR SHAMPOO KNOWN AS COCAMIDE DEA. BUT ANOTHER CHEMICAL FOUND IN MANY SHAMPOO PRODUCTS THAT SOUNDS SIMILAR TO COCAMIDE DEA IS CAUSING LOTS OF CONFUSION. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FLOODING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, ASKING WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS AND WHAT THE SPECIFIC DANGERS ARE. WE SENT KRON 4'S SCOTT RATES BACK OUT TO INVESTIGATE:

IT'S FOUND IN HUNDREDS OF SHAMPOOS, SOAPS, AND COSMETIC PRODUCTS. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT COCOMIDE MEA AND CHANCES ARE YOU WILL SEE IT ON THE INGREDIENTS LABEL ON YOUR SHAMPOO BOTTLE. BUT WHAT IS IT, AND HOW MUCH DIFFERENT IS IT THAN COCOMIDE DEA, A CHEMICAL THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO CAUSE CANCER IN LAB RATS..

Caroline Cox, Center for Environmental Health: "They are related chemicals, but they are not the same. It has many of the same properties that Cocomide DEA does and that's one of the reasons why it's replacing Cocomide DEA in these products. It provides some of the same functions and hasn't been identified as a cancer causing chemical."

BOTH CHEMICALS ARE MADE WITH A REACTION THAT STARTS WITH COCONUT OIL; HOWEVER, IT'S A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT CHEMICAL REACTION THAT MAKES COCOMIDE DEA DIFFERENT FROM COCOMIDE MEA.. SO, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IT IS A SAFE CHEMICAL, RIGHT? WELL...

Cox: "We don't know whether we should worry about Cocomide MEA being a cancer-causing chemical in the same way that Cocomide DEA is. And the reason we don't know is because those tests have not been done for Cocomide MEA. And it points up that the system for testing chemicals and regulating chemicals really needs to be fixed."

WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT CHEMICALS OUT THERE, IT'S HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF WHICH IS SAFE AND WHICH IS NOT. THAT'S WHY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS SET UP THIS WEBSITE WHICH IS A SITE YOU CAN GO TO AND GET A LIST OF PROVEN SAFE COSMETICS. WE HAVE SET UP A LINK TO THAT WEBSITE. SO JUST GO TO OUR HOME PAGE KRON 4 DOT COM AND CLICK ON THE STORY.

SCOTT RATES KRON 4 NEWS

HEALTH

4/26/14 – 5/9/14 Multiple Newscasts

On-going series of reports about health code violations at various Bay Area food outlets

Excerpts:

INSPECTORS WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH RETURNED TO THE WHOLE FOODS MARKET IN NOE VALLEY FOR A THIRD TIME IN LESS THAN A WEEK, TO REINSPECT THE MEAT DEPARTMENT... THIS AFTER MAGGOTS WERE DISCOVERED IN THE MEAT CASE TWO MONDAYS AGO.

Richard Lee, SF Department of Environmental Health: "Whole Foods has done everything we have asked them to do."

RICHARD LEE, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT HEALTH, SAYS THAT INCLUDES SETTING UP ENW CLEANING PROCEDURES, INCLUDING CLEANING TWO FLOOR DRAINS THAT COULD BE THE SOURCE OF THE MAGGOTS.

Lee: "They're going to be doing deep cleaning every week, which they weren't doing."

INITIALLY WHOLE FOODS TOLD THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT THEY HAD FOUND ONLY ONE DEAD MAGGOT ON THAT MONDAY. DAYS LATER, AFTER KRON 4 BEGAN ITS INVESTIGATION, WHOLE FOODS ADMITTED THERE WERE SEVERAL LIVE MAGGOTS

Lee: "It disturbed me that what the story that was first told to our inspector was not what really happened."

WHOLE FOODS HAS MAINTAINED THAT DESPITE THE DISCOVERY OF MAGGOTS, QUOTE, "the Health Department confirmed that there was never a public health risk." NOT EXACTLY SAYS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Lee: "We don't know if there was a health hazard or not."

LEE SAYS THAT'S BECAUSE THEY INSPECTED THREE DAYS AFTER THE MAGGOTS WERE DISCOVERED AND CLEANED UP.

Lee: "If there was a potential adulteration or contamination, we would remind Whole Foods they should not be selling food."

WHOLE FOODS WON'T COMMENT ON THAT ONLY ISSUING THIS STATEMENT SAYING "We have high quality sanitation and food safety standards. We conduct routine third-party audits to make sure we meet our own standards and exceed those of the Health Department. Our top priority is to ensure this issue does not happen again."

GOING FORWARD, THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAYS THERE COULD BE ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS OF THIS MARKET, BUT WITH JUST 25 INSPECTORS AND MORE THAN 5500 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS TO VISIT TWICE EACH YEAR, THAT IS SOMETHING THEY CAN'T CONFIRM AT THIS TIME.

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A RECENT KRON4 INVESTIGATION INTO A MAGGOT PROBLEM AT A SAN FRANCISCO WHOLE FOODS LED US TO DIG FURTHER INTO HEALTH VIOLATIONS AT OTHER GROCERY STORES. KRON 4 REVIEWED INSPECTION REPORTS FROM THE SF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON ALL MAJOR GROCERY STORE CHAINS. WHAT WE FOUND WAS PARTICULARLY TROUBLING.

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A LOCAL GROCERY STORE IS BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT TONIGHT WITH MORE PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS. OUR KRON 4 INVESTIGATION UNCOVERED SEVERAL. THE GROCERY CHAIN CLAIMS IT HAS CORRECTED THE PROBLEMS. BUT TWO WEEKS LATER, DOCUMENTS SHOW THAT'S NOT THE CASE.

KRON 4 HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO HEALTH VIOLATIONS AT BAY AREA GROCERY STORES. OUR DAN KERMAN WAS THE FIRST TO REPORT ON THE PROBLEMS FACING THIS SAFEWAY STORE AND NOW HAS NEWEST HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT THAT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT COMPLIANCE.

IT WAS ON APRIL 22ND THAT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT OBSERVED NUMEROUS PROBLEMS DURING A ROUTINE INSPECTION, AMONG THEM WERE CONTAMINATED OR ADULTERATED FOOD, EMPLOYEES WITH UNCLEAN HANDS OR IMPROPERLY USING GLOVES, UNCLEAN OR IMPROPER SANITIZING OF FOOD SURFACES AND UTENSILS, AND HOT AND COLD FOOD BEING KEPT AT UNSAFE TEMPERATURES. WHEN ALL WAS COMPLETE, THE STORE SCORED A 66 OUT OF POSSIBLE 100 POINTS.

Richard Lee, SF Department of Public Health: "This is probably in the lower 5% of the food facilities we inspect. The violations are high risk and therefore there's a higher chance of food borne illness."

WHEN CONTACTED, SAFEWAY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING: "The concerns raised at the Diamond Heights store centered on two areas: proper equipment operating temperature, and employees following our policies and procedures. Both areas were addressed immediately...."

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOUND. A FOLLOW UP INSPECTION OF THIS SAFEWAY IN SAN FRANCISCO'S DIAMOND HEIGHTS FINDS HIGH RISK HEALTH VIOLATIONS PERSIST.

ON WEDNESDAY, THE HEALTH DPEARTMENT RETURNED TO THIS SAFEWAY SOME 15 DAYS AFTER THEIR INITIAL INSPECITON. WHAT DID THEY FIND? WELL, IT'S ALL IN THIS REPORT. THEY FOUND EMPLOYEES COUGHING INTO THEIR HANDS. THEY FOUND EMPLOYEES TOUCHING THEIR FACES AND THEN NOT WASHING THEIR HANDS. THEY FOUND FOOD BEING HELD AT IMPROPER TEMERATURES. AND THEY FOUND FOOD SURFACES AND UTENSILS NOT BEING SANITIZED PROPERLY.

Dr. Tomas Aragon, SF County Public Health Officer, "Coming back two weeks later and having that occurring is not good."

HE PLANS TO MEET WITH INSPECTORS FRIDAY TO DETERMINE THE DEPARTMENT'S NEXT COURSE OF ACTION.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAYS THIS SAFEWAY CONTINUES TO SCORE LOWER THAN ALL OTHER SAFEWAYS IN SAN FRANCISCO. AND, IN FACT, THEIR RATING HAS DROPPED YEAR OVER YEAR FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS. NOW, THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WANTS TO KNOW WHY. COULD IT BE BAD MANAGEMENT? COULD IT BE POOR TRAINING? THEY DON'T KNOW AT THIS POINT, BUT THEY SAY THEY ARE GOING TO FIND OUT.

...

A LOT OF YOU HAVE WANTED TO READ THESE HEALTH REPORTS FOR YOURSELF AND YOU CAN DO SO BY GOING TO THE KRON 4 DOT COM HOMEPAGE. WE'VE POSTED THE FULL HEALTH DEPARTMENT INSPECTION REPORT. THERE IS ALSO LOTS OF RELATED COVERAGE.

HEALTH

5/13/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Warnings about deadly new virus

A POTENTIALLY DEADLY VIRUS IS BEING TRACKED IN THE UNITED STATES. THERE ARE NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASES OF "MERS" – OR "MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME" – INCLUDING NEW WARNINGS GOING OUT TO BAY AREA TRAVELERS. CATHERINE HEENAN IS HERE WITH THE LATEST:

THERE'S ENOUGH CONCERN ABOUT THIS POTENTIALLY DEADLY VIRUS THAT THE CDC IS NOW PUTTING UP WARNINGS AT 21 MAJOR AIRPORTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING SFO. THIS, AS TWO MORE POSSIBLE CASES ARE BEING MONITORED BY THE WHITE HOUSE.

PART OF THE REASON THERE'S SUCH CONCERN ABOUT MERS IS THAT THERE'S NO KNOWN VACCINE. SO EVEN THOUGH HEALTH OFFICIALS STRESS THAT IT'S NOT A BIG RISK TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, NEW WARNINGS ARE GOING OUT TO AIR TRAVELERS...

HERE AT SFO, THEY'RE TELLING PEOPLE TRAVELING TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA TO BE AWARE OF "A NEW DISEASE CALLED MERS." AND TO WASTE NO TIME GETTING TO A DOCTOR IF THEY GET SICK WITHIN 14 DAYS OF TRAVELING TO THE AREA.

TWO CASES OF MERS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED IN THE U.S., A MAN IN INDIANA AND A MAN IN FLORIDA. BOTH ARE HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND BOTH HAD BEEN IN SAUDI ARABIA WHICH IS A HOT SPOT FOR THE VIRUS.

NOW THERE'S DISTURBING NEWS FROM THIS ORLANDO HOSPITAL WHERE TWO WORKERS HAD BEEN AROUND THE FLORIDA PATIENT. THEY HAVE STARTED SHOWING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS AND ARE BEING TESTED. TWENTY OTHER HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN TOLD TO STAY HOME UNTIL IT'S CLEAR THEY'RE SYMPTOM FREE.

THE WHITE HOUSE IS WATCHING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY.

Jay Carney, White House Press Secretary: "The CDC is monitoring this very closely. Something of this nature is something that would be briefed to the President and has been briefed to the President."

TO DATE, THE VIRUS IS BEING BROUGHT BY PLANE FROM SAUDI ARABIA. A TOTAL OF 152 PEOPLE HAVE NOW DIED THERE SINCE MERS WAS DISCOVERED IN 2012. NEARLY 500 HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED TO HAVE CONTRACTED THE VIRUS THERE. AND JUST TODAY, THERE'S WORD FROM SAUDI ARABIA THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ANOTHER FIVE DEATHS.

THE CDC IS NOW INTENT ON QUICKLY CONTAINING THE KILLER VIRUS HERE IN THE U.S. AND KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED. GRANT LODES HAS MORE:

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME. THIRTY PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE WHO CONTRACT THE MERS VIRUS DO NOT SURVIVE. MERS IS TRANSMITTED BY HAVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED PERSON WHICH IS WHY HEALTH CARE WORKERS TREATING SICK PEOPLE ARE MOST AT RISK. SYMPTOMS INCLUDE SHORTNESS OF BREATH, FEVER AND COUGHING. AND SYMPTOMS CAN APPEAR ANYWHERE FROM FIVE TO 14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE. YOU MIGHT NOT FEEL ANYTHING RIGHT AWAY. HEALTH EXPERTS RECOMMEND COMMON

HYGIENE PRACTICES TO AVOID CONTRACTING AND SPREADING MERS, THINGS LIKE WASHING YOUR HANDS OFTEN AND COVERING YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING.

HEALTH

5/21/14 KRON 4 Morning News
Concerns about E-Cigarettes

E-CIGARETTES HAVE MADE HEADLINES IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, WITH CITIES PUSHING THEM OUT OF PUBLIC PLACES. AND WARNINGS TO PARENTS ABOUT HOW POPULAR THEY ARE BECOMING WITH KIDS. NOW THE FDA WANTS TO STEP IN. WE'RE TALKING LIVE THIS MORNING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE FDA'S CENTER FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS MITCH ZELLER:

IS THERE A WAY THAT THE FDA CAN REGULATE THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT REALLY CIGARETTES?

Zeller: "They do meet the definition of a tobacco product because the nicotine in e-cigarettes is derived from tobacco. So, what we proposed about a month ago is to include e-cigarettes, hookahs, pipes, cigars in the FDA's regulatory reach."

THE THING ABOUT WHAT CITIES ARE DOING... WITH E-CIGARETTES THERE IS NO SMOKE; IT'S JUST VAPOR SO THERE'S NO SECOND-HAND RISK TO ANYONE. SO HOW CAN A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TELL SOMEONE WITH AN E-CIGARETTE YOU CAN'T SMOKE THAT IN A RESTAURANT?

Zeller: "There is second-hand exposure to the vapor to anyone who's a bystander and we don't know what the risks of that are."

SO YOU DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THESE BUT YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT REGULAR CIGARETTES?

Zeller: "Here's what we do know about e-cigarettes. They have become very popular with young people. From 2011 to 2012 e-cigarette use doubled among middle school and high school age kids. And it is the wild, wild west in the marketplace for e-cigarettes. Companies are free to bring any product to market and make any claim they want. We're proposing to bring them within a regulatory framework to make it illegal to sell these products to kids, to make it illegal to sell them in vending machines, and to put warning labels on all the products we're proposing to regulate."

THEY HAVE ALL THESE DIFFERENT FLAVORS TO MAKE THEM APPEAL TO KIDS AND I THINK A KID LOOKING AT IT WOULD SAY IT'S NOT LIKE A CIGARETTE. IT'S NOT SMELLY AND I CAN USE IT UNDETECTED AROUND MY HOUSE.

Zeller: "That's exactly our concern. Any nicotine exposure to the brain of a developing adolescent is not good for that kid. Any initiation of e-cigarette use by children or adolescents is bad for public health. It might be different for currently-addicted adult smokers, those smokers who are unable or unwilling to quit. If they could completely switch to e-cigarettes, there's no question they would reduce their health risk compared to continued smoking."

CAN KIDS JUST WALK IN RIGHT NOW TO 7-11 AND BUY THESE?

Zeller: "I hope not, but there's no federal regulation, so it's up to states and localities to create enforceable laws and ordinances. But we have proposed to make this a national regulation that we would enforce the same way we enforce the minimum age requirements for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco."

HOW LONG WOULD THAT TAKE?

Zeller: "That's a good question. It's a rule-making process. The public has the opportunity now to submit comments to us. When the comment period closes, we will review all the comments and issue a final rule just as quickly as we can."

SO IN THE MEANTIME, IT'S UP TO PARENTS TO EDUCATE OUR KIDS THAT THESE ARE JUST AS DANGEROUS AS CIGARETTES?

Zeller: "I think the message should be, don't assume that they're safe. And any use of these products, especially with these kid-appealing flavors, is not good for the kid and not good for public health."

THANK YOU FOR THIS UPDATE ON WHAT THE FDA IS DOING RIGHT NOW.

HEALTH

Various Dates / Various Newscasts
Public health nuisance

Ongoing multi-part investigative series focusing on pervasive and persistent rodent infestation at multiple local Walgreens locations. Documenting extent of the problem, involvement of the San Francisco Department of Health, and remedial clean-up efforts by the stores.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

4/9/14 KRON 4 Evening News
New report card on Bay Area schools

A NEW REPORT SAYS MANY BAY AREA SCHOOLS ARE NOT DOING A GREAT JOB OF EDUCATING CERTAIN STUDENTS. TONIGHT KRON4 IS DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE PROBLEM. FIRST, GRANT LODES IS HERE WITH THE REPORT AND THE LOCAL RANKINGS. GRANT?

THIS IS A STUDY DONE BY AN OAKLAND-BASED EDUCATION GROUP. EACH YEAR, IT RANKS CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICTS ON ACADEMICS AND COLLEGE READINESS FOR BLACK, LATINO AND LOW INCOME STUDENTS. HERE ARE THE RESULTS.

THE HIGHEST PERFORMING DISTRICTS IN THE BAY AREA GET ONLY A "C+". THOSE ARE IN SAN RAMON, DUBLIN, AND SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO. THE LIST IS LONG, BUT HERE ARE SOME OF THE OTHERS:

CASTRO VALLEY AND PLEASANTON GET A "C".
"C-" FOR ALAMEDA CITY, PETALUMA CITY AND PITTSBURG.
"D+" IN FREMONT, PALO ALTO, AND BERKELEY.
"D" FOR ANTIOCH, SAN JOSE AND SAN LEANDRO.

SAN FRANCISCO AND WEST CONTRA COSTA WERE SLAPPED WITH A "D-". AND THE ONLY "F" GOES TO OAKLAND.

WE'VE POSTED THE ENTIRE BAY AREA LIST ON OUR WEBSITE KRON 4 DOT COM. AND FYI, THE HIGHEST GRADES STATEWIDE WENT TO SCHOOLS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN REPORTS ON WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY TO IMPROVE THESE RESULTS.

THE REPORT CARDS ARE IN. THE BAY AREAS 32 LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE FAILING OR AT BEST BELOW AVERAGE WHEN IT COMES TO SERVING THE NEEDS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN, LATINO AND LOW INCOME STUDENTS

Jeannette Lafors, Education Trust-West: "Three of them are performing at a top grade of "C+".

JEANNETTE LAFORS WITH THE EDUCATION TRUST-WEST, THE GROUP THAT CONDUCTED THE REPORT, SAYS ALL OTHER DISTRICTS ARE PERFORMING BELOW THAT.

Lafors: "The ramifications are that the students are not being provided with the opportunities they need to be successfully well prepared for college and career."

ONE OF THE LOWEST ACHIEVERS IS THE WEST CONTRA COSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT, WHICH RECEIVED A "D-".

Charles Ramsey, WCC School District Board President: "We have to get better. We have to understand and embrace this and not see this as a criticism but as an opportunity."

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT CHARLES RAMSEY SAYS INCREASED EDUCATION FUNDING SHOULD HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE GOING FORWARD AND HE SAYS PLANS ARE ALREADY IN THE WORKS FOR LOW PERFORMERS, LIKE STEEGE ELEMENTARY.

Ramsey: "What we're going to do is have an extended day for students so they are getting instruction longer. And an extended year, so they can go to school over the summer and really try to capture them at an early age and address the needs that they have."

THOSE BEHIND THE REPORT SAYS BAY AREA SCHOOLS CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM BALDWIN PARK UNIFIED DISTRICT IN LOS ANGELES WHICH SCORED WELL.

Lafors: "They maintain a culture of excellence at every level in their system. Their school leadership is really committed to high expectations and mastery for all students. Their teachers are in a culture of mastery and are supporting students at high levels. And the students themselves know that there's no excuse for poor performance and they're working hard with the support they get from the teachers."

WHILE SCHOOLS ADMIT THAT CHANGE AND IMPROVEMENT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS OVERNIGHT, AT LEAST HERE IN THE WEST CONTRA COSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT COME NEXT YEAR AT THIS TIME THEIR GRADE WILL BE BETTER.

IN RICHMOND DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

EDUCATION

4/30/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Local school's mission to develop tomorrow's scientists

Stephen Brady; ""I'm Stephen Brady, Principal with Ygnacio Valley High School, and this is my KRON 4 story."

STEPHEN BRADY AND HIS STAFF ARE ON A MISSION TO MAKE YGNACIO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL THE PLACE WHERE STUDENTS COME FOR SCIENCE.

Brady: "We really do need physicists, engineers, mathematicians, chemists and the like in our society."

WHICH IS WHY HE HAS DEVOTED ALMOST 3.5 MILLION DOLLARS TO CATAPULT HIS SCHOOL'S 20 YEAR OLD SCIENCE WING INTO A 21ST CENTURY LABORATORY. TEACHERS HERE FOCUS ON HANDS-ON EDUCATION..

Gary Macaluso, chemistry teacher: "Let's bring this technology in and say play with it. Let's let this go. You know, be a scientist!"

GARY MACALUSO SAYS THE SKILLS HE'S TEACHING HIS STUDENTS HAVE REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS.

Gary Macaluso: "The Bay Area is biotechnology alley, and those are your jobs of the future. Because biotech isn't leaving this area. So if you can learn the chemistry and the biology to go out and do this, you've got a job."

THE MODERN LABORATORY FEATURES WIFI CONNECTIVITY AND COMPUTER OUTLETS FOR EVERY STUDENT. CHALK BOARDS HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH GIANT TOUCH SCREENS THAT CAN BE CONTROLLED WITH AN IPAD.

Rochelle Macaluso, science teacher: "Use your finger and tap on the gallery."

BASICALLY, WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS MAKING EDUCATION MORE INTERACTIVE.

Rochelle Macaluso: "Yes! And it's easy! With the millions they spent on these two rooms and the renovation of our science building, it shows these kids they're worth the money put into it."

AN INVESTMENT IN THEIR STUDENTS TO PROMOTE SUCCESS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.

JOHN FEOGLIO KRON 4 NEWS

EDUCATION

4/30/14 KRON 4 Evening News

New study undermines some long-held beliefs

THE GENDER BATTLE IN THE CLASSROOM MAY FINALLY HAVE A WINNER. A STUDY FINDS GIRLS DO BETTER THAN BOYS IN ACADEMICS – IN ALL SUBJECTS.

THE FINDINGS COME FROM THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. THEIR STUDY DEBUNKS THE BELIEF THAT GIRLS EXCEL IN LANGUAGE AND ARTS AND NOT IN MATH AND SCIENCE. RESEARCHERS ACTUALLY FOUND THAT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS START TO SHOW AN EVEN STRONGER GRASP OF MATH AND SCIENCE OVER BOYS.

THE STUDY LOOKED AT DATA FROM AROUND THE WORLD. WHILE IT DID FIND THAT THE ADVANTAGE EXCLUDED ONE-TIME TESTS SUCH AS THE S-A-T, OVERALL FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THROUGH GRADUATE SCHOOL, GIRLS HAVE AN ADVANTAGE IN GRADES.

EDUCATION

5/9/14 KRON 4 Morning

Concerns about policy changes at local special needs school

IN A "MY KRON 4 STORY," WE LOOK INTO THE CONCERNS OF PARENTS AT ONE SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL WHICH SERVES SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS. THE PARENTS FEAR POSSIBLE STAFFING CHANGES COULD AFFECT THE TEACHER-TO-STUDENT RATIO AND AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION. KRON 4'S JEFF BUSH ATTENDED A MEETING WHERE THOSE PARENTS SPOKE OUT:

IT WAS A PACKED HOUSE AT CLARENDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. PARENTS AND TEACHERS ARE CONCERNED THAT STAFFING CUTS COULD HAPPEN AT CLARENDON ELEMENTARY. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOOKING AT WAYS TO MAKE STATE MANDATES JIBE WITH THE DESIRES OF THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Teacher: "We were told that they would always be coming with Para support, added to our staffing needs. Now based on this chart we're looking at, that's not only not going to be possible, but the kids that are not in our SDC class but our class with papers and IDPs seem like they're going to be cut short minutes of Para time which affects all of the students."

Brent Stephens, Assistant School Superintendent: "The reason the answer is no is that it depends on the student and the student's goals. And this would be true in RSP as well as SDC. So it is the case, for example, that some RSP students have reading goals and that the team determines that those reading goals can be met in the context of GE and by the General Education teacher."

MANY OF THE PARENTS ARE WORRIED THAT THE CLASS SIZE IS GOING TO BE TOO BIG TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR CHILDRENS' NEEDS. THE DISTRICT IS STILL WORKING ON STAFFING LEVELS FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

Parent: "In order to make the program, whether it be RSP or Inclusion, be successful, we have to have it staffed properly. When you take the Inclusion program or RSP and you make every school offer that, you can't possibly staff all the schools and have a success program."

ONE BIG CONCERN IS STUDENTS FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL WILL BE COMING TO CLARENDON AND PARENTS WORRY THAT WILL SPREAD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS TOO THIN.

Susanna Benningfield, parent: "Kids that had been taught in special day classes at Cobb are being transferred here. And we welcome them with open arms – as long as we have adequate staffing to take care of our own children and to assist with the transition with the Cobb children."

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SAYS THE FINAL WORD IS STILL A LONG WAY OFF AND THAT PARENTS CONCERNS ARE DULY NOTED.

Brent Stephenson, Assistant Superintendent: "San Francisco Unified has been committed for a number of years to improving special education services in the city. As we have made our schools more and more accessible to students with disability, we've also needed to adjust our staffing so that they follow students into different schools as they are needed."

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SAYS IT UNDERSTANDS THE CONCERNS OF THE PARENTS AND SAYS IT IS COMMITTED TO MAKING SURE THAT ALL OF THE STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT GET A QUALITY EDUCATION.

I'M JEFF BUSH IN SAN FRANCISCO, KRON FOUR NEWS.

EDUCATION

5/21/14 KRON 4 News at 11p

Teachers troubled by new contract language

SOME CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE EAST BAY ARE QUITTING BECAUSE OF NEW LANGUAGE IN THEIR CONTRACTS. IT REQUIRES TEACHERS TO "PROMOTE BEHAVIOR IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH" IN THEIR "PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE." KATHLEEN PURCELL IS ONE OF FIVE EAST BAY TEACHERS WHO WON'T BE RETURNING IN THE FALL. SHE WAS VERY SURPRISED BY THE NEW CONTRACT BUT SAYS THE ISSUE IS LESS ABOUT ENFORCING CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES AT HOME AND MORE ABOUT ENFORCING LABOR LAWS AT BISHOP O'DOWD CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

KATHLEEN PURCELL LOVED WORKING AT BISHOP O'DOWD HIGH SCHOOL IN OAKLAND.

Purcell: "It has what I consider authentic diversity. It really reflects Oakland."

BISHOP O'DOWD IS ALSO A CATHOLIC SCHOOL THAT FALLS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND. THIS YEAR, A NEW BISHOP REVISED LANGUAGE IN TEACHERS' EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS, LANGUAGE THAT REQUIRES TEACHERS TO "PROMOTE BEHAVIOR IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH" IN THEIR "PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE."

Mike Brown, Diocese of Oakland spokesperson: "Teachers not only are obligated by contract to teach in the classroom and to teach Catholic principles in whatever they teach, they're also obligated to be a role model."

KATHLEEN PURCELL, WHO IS A CATHOLIC, HAS NO PROBLEM BRINGING RELIGION INTO HER PERSONAL LIFE, BUT SAYS:

Purcell: "I'm offended as a Catholic. This is not the modern church."

Brown: "Five teachers in two of our high schools have chosen not to sign the contract and have chosen not to return."

IN MOST OF THE NEW EMPLOYEE CONTRACT, TEACHERS ARE REFERRED TO AS "EMPLOYEES." HOWEVER, TOWARDS THE END OF THE NEW CONTRACT, THERE'S A QUICK CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY, REFERRING TO A TEACHER AS "A MINISTER."

Purcell: "A math teacher is hired to teach math; a science teacher is hired to teach science."

CALLING THOSE TEACHERS "MINISTERS" IS A LOADED TERM THANKS TO A 2012 SUPREME COURT DECISION THAT PUTS RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS ABOVE THE LAW.

Purcell: "I'm a lawyer. I'm a constitutional lawyer who turned to education. Under the old contract, the protections of the law, of the anti-discrimination laws, of the labor laws, apply. But if this is what it appears to be, and if it were to succeed, then it would strip all the employees of those protections."

REPORTING IN OAKLAND DAN RUBIN KRON 4 NEWS

EDUCATION

5/27/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Students speak out at Bishop O'Dowd High School

NEW TONIGHT AT EIGHT, CONTROVERSY AT AN OAKLAND PRIVATE SCHOOL HAS STUDENTS SPEAKING OUT. TEACHERS AT BISHOP O'DOWD HIGH SCHOOL WERE ASKED TO SIGN A MORALITY CONTRACT AND THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF BACKLASH EVER SINCE. TODAY MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT BODY MET WITH THE BISHOP. KRON 4'S SCOTT RATES WAS AT THE SCHOOL AND TELLS US WHAT HAPPENED:

STUDENTS OF BISHOP O'DOWD HIGH SCHOOL ARE COMING TOGETHER.. THEY SAY THEY ARE UPSET AND FRUSTRATED AFTER LOSING WHAT THEY CALL GOOD TEACHERS OVER A SO-CALLED "MORALITY CONTRACT" THAT THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S BISHOP MADE THE TEACHERS SIGN IN ORDER TO KEEP THEIR JOBS...

Student spokesperson: "We want to hear language that will clearly and explicitly protect our teachers' right to free speech."

THE NEW LANGUAGE IN THE ANNUAL CONTRACT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSES TEACHERS' PERSONAL LIVES. FOR STUDENTS LIKE CASSIDY SPIEGEL, IT'S A LITTLE MORE PERSONAL... CASSIDY IDENTIFIES AS GENDER NEUTRAL.

Cassidy Spiegel: "I do feel it would be such a momentous step forward if the church were able to be more openly accepting of LBGT individuals."

TUESDAY AFTERNOON STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MET WITH THE BISHOP TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES, HOPING TO CONVINCHE HIM TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE OF THE CONTRACT FOR NEXT YEAR AND EASE THE CONCERNS OF THE STAFF. THE SCHOOL'S PRESIDENT SAYS THE BISHOP IS LISTENING.

Stephen Phelps, president: "There will be new clarifying language added to the contact that will I hope allay the concerns of some of those faculty who have left and certainly those who are afraid of the word personal."

Student spokesperson: "We're hopeful the clarifying language will clear up this controversy and protect our teachers."

SO FAR, AT LEAST THREE TEACHERS HAVE REFUSED TO SIGN THE NEW CONTRACT AND ARE NO LONGER WORKING AT THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING KATHLEEN PURCELL.

Kathleen Purcell, former Bishop O'Dowd teacher: "I am optimistic. It appears real dialog occurred and the bishop really listened. I'm encouraged by his promise to issue a clarification and his statement that he did not intend what we thought."

Student spokesperson: "We feel like good progress was made today, but we're going to keep our eyes on it because a lot of our concerns remain unanswered."

STUDENTS WILL MEET WITH THE BISHOP AGAIN IN A WEEK

SCOTT RATES KRON 4 NEWS

EDUCATION

5/27/14 KRON 4 News at 11pm
San Francisco teachers rally for fair wages

TEACHERS IN SAN FRANCISCO RALLIED TODAY AS THEY DEMAND FAIR WAGES. IT'S ALMOST TIME TO RENEW THEIR CONTRACT WITH THE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND AS THEY WALKED INTO ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE BOARD, THEY TOLD KRON 4'S ALECIA REID NOW IS THE TIME TO SPEAK UP.

TEACHERS AND PARA PROFESSIONALS RALLIED THROUGH THE STREETS TO THE SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, DEMANDING THEIR NEW CONTRACT BE A FAIR ONE.

Cynthia Lasden, teacher: "I have friends that are being evicted left and right. It's just not enough money to live in san Francisco."

Lita Blanc, teacher: "In particular, we're asking for a living wage for our para professionals. They average 25,000. You cannot survive on 25,000 in this city."

Lasden: "We took furlough days and cuts, so not only did we not get a raise or a cost of living increase, which we used to get, but we took cuts in days to our annual salary schedule."

TEACHERS TELL US THEIR LAST RAISE WAS 5 YEARS AGO. AFTER TAKING FURLOUGH DAYS AND OTHER CUTS, THEY BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO MAKE WHAT THEY CONSIDER, A LIVING WAGE. UNDER THE NEW CONTRACT, THE DISTRICT IS OFFERING 8% OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS, BUT THE UNION IS DEMANDING 21 PERCENT.

Matthew Hardy, spokesperson for United Educated SF: "To have a life dedicated to the students we need a raise. It's just getting too expensive. We're just looking to make sure teachers can stay in San Francisco."

TEACHER BRENDAN FUREY, WHO LIVES IN THE CITY WITH HIS FAMILY, EXPLAINS WHY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR TEACHERS TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.

Brendan Furey, teacher: "Last month I ran into a student in the park and met his uncle and talked to his uncle about how he was doing in school. We had an informal parent teacher conference and that's not possible if I live in Antioch or the East Bay."

AFFORDABLE RENT IS ONE THING. HEALTHCARE IS ANOTHER. PROTESTORS TELL US BOTH HAVE BEEN A STRUGGLE.

Furey: "Healthcare costs \$400 per month, and with rising housing costs there's kind of an insecurity."

Lasden: "Right now, I have my daughter on a catastrophic plan where I have to pay 6 thousand out of pocket if anything should happen, which is through the California coverage. It's actually more affordable than the district's healthcare plan. I cannot afford that, unfortunately, for my daughter."

THERE WILL BE A FEW DOZEN MEETINGS BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST. TEACHERS ARE HOPING FOR AN AGREEMENT BUT IF NOT, SAY THEY ARE READY FOR THE FIRST OF TWO STRIKE VOTES THAT WILL TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 14TH. PROTESTORS TELL US THEY ARE NOT LOOKING TO GO ON STRIKE, BUT IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, THEY ARE READY TO.

Hardy: "We have 2 strike votes that we have to take and if it comes to it, the teachers are ready to do what it takes for their jobs."

REPORTING IN SAN FRANCISCO ALECIA REID KRON 4 NEWS

EDUCATION

6/4/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Teacher sick days impact students' learning

TEACHERS, JUST LIKE ANYBODY, TAKE OFF WORK WHETHER THEY'RE SICK, OR JUST SICK OF WORK. BUT A NEW REPORT SAYS TEACHERS IN SOME OF THE NATION'S BIGGEST PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT AND IT MAY BE HURTING STUDENTS' LEARNING.

THE STUDY BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON TEACHER QUALITY LOOKED AT 40 DISTRICTS AND FOUND THAT 16 PERCENT OF TEACHERS WERE OUT 18 DAYS OR MORE. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, 71 PERCENT OF ABSENCES WERE FOR ILLNESS OR PERSONAL LEAVE AND THE REST WERE RELATED TO SCHOOL BUSINESS.

THE STUDY ALSO DISCOVERED THAT ON AVERAGE, TEACHERS WERE PRESENT 94 PERCENT OF THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR AND MISSED ONLY 11 DAYS OF WORK. BUT, THE FINDINGS SAY EVEN THE AVERAGE OF 11 DAYS OUT DURING A SCHOOL YEAR MAY HURT STUDENTS' PROGRESS.

ALSO, THE REPORT SAYS THE POVERTY LEVEL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT MADE NO DIFFERENCE IN ABSENTEE RATES OF THE TEACHERS.

DISTRICTS SAY THEY ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GIVE TEACHERS THE NECESSARY TIME OUT WHILE STILL DISCOURAGING ILLEGITIMATE ABSENCES.

EDUCATION

6/10/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Court rules teacher tenure unconstitutional

IN A SINGLE RULING, A CALIFORNIA JUDGE HAS WIPED OUT KEY JOB PROTECTIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS. THE RULING GREW OUT OF A LAWSUIT BROUGHT BY NINE STUDENTS, THREE OF THEM FROM THE BAY AREA.

THE JUDGE RULED STUDENTS HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO EQUAL EDUCATION AND TEACHER TENURE AND OTHER PROTECTIONS ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL, RESULTING IN AN ABUNDANCE OF BAD TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM. THE REGULATIONS HARM STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY POOR STUDENTS, BY STICKING THEM WITH BAD TEACHERS WHO ARE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIRE

THE CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION WILL APPEAL THE RULING, SAYING THE DECISION IS NOT A CURE FOR WHAT AILS THE STATE'S EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Jim Finberg, attorney for CA Teachers Association: "California has problems with its educational system. California Teachers Association agrees that we should address those problems, properly. The proper place to address them is in the legislature and the proper solution is more resources, smaller class size, and better technology. Give the teachers the tools they need to teach our children well. What we should do is support our teachers so they can do the best job they possibly can."

THE ATTORNEY REPRESENTING THE TEACHERS UNION SAYS HE'S CONFIDENT THE COURT OF APPEALS WILL OVERTURN THE RULING STRIKING DOWN TEACHER TENURE. NOT DOING THAT, HE SAYS, WILL HAVE A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA.

Finberg: "It would reduce academic freedom and make it more difficult for school districts to recruit and retain teachers."

MANY TEACHERS OPPOSE THE DECISION, BUT NOT ALL TEACHERS AGREE. KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN HAS THAT PART OF THE STORY:

WE SPOKE TO SOME TEACHERS TODAY AS WELL AS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER IN THE CITY OF RICHMOND WHO WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THIS RULING.

Alva Caruthers, teacher: "If you're not putting your heart in it and you're tenured and you are just collecting a check, don't do that to our kids."

ALVA CARUTHERS IS A FOURTH GRADE TEACHER AT MARTIN LUTHER KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN RICHMOND. SHE SAYS DURING HER TEACHING CAREER SHE'S SEEN A LOT OF TEACHERS NOT PULLING THEIR WEIGHT. THAT'S WHY SHE AND KINDERGARTEN TEACHER MARY TIMAR SUPPORT THE RULING TO DO AWAY WITH TEACHER TENURE. THEY BELIEVE THE CURRENT SYSTEM ISN'T WORKING BECAUSE IT'S TOO DIFFICULT TO GET RID OF BAD TEACHERS.

Mary Timar, teacher: "The CTA have a lot to say and I understand they want to protect their members, but the children, at the end of the day, are who comes first, even if it hurts the teacher."

THE TEACHERS UNION SAYS TENURE DOES NOT PREVENT THE FIRING OF BAD TEACHERS. BUT, NOT SO, SAYS WEST CONTRA COSTA SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT CHARLES RAMSEY.

Charles Ramsey: "School districts currently do not have the ability to get rid of bad teachers. "

RAMSEY SAYS FRUSTRATED PARENTS CAN NOW BE SURE THAT WILL CHANGE.

Ramsey: "You can come and have the hope and belief that if a bad teacher is teaching your kid, that now that teacher will not be allowed to teach there anymore."

RAMSEY SAYS HE'S EXCITED ABOUT THE RULING.

Ramsey: "It's part of a process where we need to raise the rate of achievement in California. We're at the bottom in terms of student achievement. And so, we hope that this signals to everybody that we care about the kids and we want to do better for our students and we want test scores to improve so they can be competitive and go on to college and become productive citizens in our society. So, I'm excited about this decision."

RAMSEY ALSO IS OF THE BELIEF THAT THIS WILL ALLOW BETTER TEACHERS TO GO TO MORE URBAN AND POORER AND MINORITY SCHOOLS. HE BELIEVES THE TENURE PROVISION ALLOWS TEACHERS TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHERE THEY GO. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TEACHERS UNION DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT THAT'S PART OF THIS PROVISION, SO THERE'S STILL SOME DISAGREEMENT ABOUT WHETHER THIS WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE RULING.

SO WHAT'S NEXT? TEACHER TENURE DOESN'T GO AWAY IMMEDIATELY. THE RULING HAS TO BE FORMALIZED. AND THEN THE APPEALS PROCESS HAS TO BEGIN IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. IN FACT, THE JUDGE HAS PUT THE RULING ON HOLD SO

OPPONENTS CAN APPEAL. THIS WHOLE PROCESS – FILING THE APPEALS, THEN BRIEFING, THEN ARGUING – AS WE SAW WITH PROP 8, IT TAKES SOME TIME. WE MIGHT NOT GET A FINAL RULING FROM THE APPEALS COURT ON THIS CASE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS.

HOUSING

HOUSING

4/16/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Bay Area housing costs just keep going up

IT WILL COME AS NEWS TO NO ONE THAT RENTAL COSTS IN THE BAY AREA ARE HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE, BUT JUST HOW HIGH IS SURPRISING EVEN THE EXPERTS. G RANT LODES IS HERE WITH SOME IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS:

YOU MIGHT BE IMPRESSED OR YOU MIGHT BE DEPRESSED BECAUSE THE AVERAGE RENT IN THE BAY AREA IS NOW MORE THAN 2 THOUSAND DOLLARS. THAT'S ABOUT A TEN PERCENT JUMP IN JUST ONE YEAR.

NO SURPRISE, SAN FRANCISCO RENTERS ARE FACING THE STEEPEST RENTS. MORE THAN 3 THOUSAND DOLLARS IS THE AVERAGE PER MONTH. AND PEOPLE ARE PAYING IT – 96 PERCENT OF AVAILABLE SAN FRANCISCO RENTALS ARE OCCUPIED.

SAN JOSE'S AVERAGE IS ABOUT ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS LESS, BUT IT ROSE FASTER FROM LAST YEAR.

AND CHECK THIS OUT. IT IS ACTUALLY MORE EXPENSIVE TO RENT IN OAKLAND. ITS AVERAGE IS UP MORE THAN 12 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO.

ALL THESE NUMBERS COME FROM THE RESEARCH FIRM REALFACTS. THEY ALSO BROKE DOWN THE RENTS BY COUNTY. CONTRA COSTA HAS THE LOWEST AVERAGE, FOLLOWED BY ALAMEDA COUNTY. AND THE THIRD LOWEST MAY SURPRISE YOU – IT'S MARIN COUNTY,

THE REASON FOR THE SKY HIGH RENTS IS, AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, THE BAY AREA'S BOOMING ECONOMY. THE TECH INDUSTRY IS ONLY PART OF THE PICTURE. HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IS ALSO AT A RECORD PACE. LAST YEAR THE BAY AREA ADDED ABOUT ONE THOUSAND APARTMENTS A MONTH AND THIS YEAR ANOTHER 13 THOUSAND COULD BE ADDED.

AS WE SAW, ONE OF THE MOST AFFORDABLE PLACES TO LIVE IS IN THE EAST BAY. BUT AS ALECIA REID FOUND OUT, RENT IS STILL OVERBEARING FOR SOME RESIDENTS.

RENT ACROSS THE BAY AREA IS PRICEY. HERE IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY THE AVERAGE IS A LITTLE BIT LOWER, BUT FOR SOME IT'S STILL VERY EXPENSIVE.

Contra Costa resident Carol Brooks: "It's really difficult, and the rent goes up 100 each year. So it's very expensive here."

THE AVERAGE ONE BEDROOM IN CONTRA COSTA IS JUST UNDER 1400 DOLLARS, WHEREAS IN SAN FRANCISCO YOU MAY FIND ONE FOR ABOUT 3 THOUSAND. THE CITY WAS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR CAROL BROOKS, WHO WORKS IN WALNUT CREEK. SO TO SAVE A LITTLE SHE DECIDED TO MOVE CLOSER TO HER 9-5.

Brooks: "I've been run out of San Francisco. I can't even live there anymore. I hope they do something about it. I think owners are taking advantage of the people who have to rent."

ACCORDING TO REAL FACTS LLC'S QUARTERLY RENT AND OCCUPANCY TREND REPORT, RENTS HAVE JUMPED AT LEAST 200 BUCKS OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS.

Real Facts spokesperson: "Rent right now is up and down. It varies right now from six hundred or seven hundred to two thousand."

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU GO, YOU'LL STILL BE PAYING THE COST OF LIVING IN THE BAY AREA.

REPORTING IN WALNUT CREEK ALECIA REID KRON 4 NEWS

HOUSING

4/18/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Home prices keep going up, just like rents

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THE STORIES. REAL ESTATE AGENTS FORCED TO CARRY PACKETS OF TISSUES BECAUSE SO MANY WOULD-BE HOMEOWNERS BREAK DOWN IN TEARS WHEN THEY HEAR AND SEE WHAT THEY CAN GET FOR THEIR MONEY. AND NEW NUMBERS INDICATE THE BAD SITUATION IS GETTING WORSE.

ACCORDING TO THE REAL STATE FIRM DATAQUICK, THE AVERAGE BAY AREA HOME NOW GOES FOR 579 THOUSAND DOLLARS. THAT'S UP FROM 470 THOUSAND A YEAR AGO. THE INCREASE WORKS OUT TO ABOUT 9 THOUSAND DOLLARS EVERY MONTH, OR AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 12 DOLLARS EVERY HOUR.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAS THE CHEAPEST HOME PRICES, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE UP 22 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR. ALAMEDA IS NEXT CHEAPEST, DESPITE THE BIGGEST PRICE JUMP IN THE BAY AREA. IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY, THE AVERAGE PRICE IS NOW MORE THAN 700 THOUSAND. AND IT'S EVEN HIGHER IN SAN MATEO COUNTY. IN MARIN, THE AVERAGE HOME SALE IS NOW 875 THOUSAND AND IN SAN FRANCISCO IT'S 937 THOUSAND.

BUT, AS HIGH AS THEY ARE, THESE BAY AREA HOME PRICES ARE NOT RECORD-SETTING. THE ALLTIME HIGH WAS IN 2008, BEFORE THE HOUSING FINANCE COLLAPSE. DATAQUICK SAYS WE ARE ONLY ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF THE WAY BACK TO RECOVERY.

HOUSING

4/18/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Help for people facing Ellis Act evictions

IN SAN FRANCISCO, THERE HAS BEEN A RECORD NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVICTED THROUGH THE ELLIS ACT OVER THE LAST YEAR. THAT'S THE STATE LAW WHICH ALLOWS LANDLORDS, UNDER CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS, TO EVICT TENANTS. NOW, AS KRON 4'S DAN KERMAN REPORTS, CITY HALL IS TAKING STEPS TO HELP NEWLY EVICTED LONG-TERM RENTERS FIND NEW HOUSING.

THE SAN FRANCISCO TENANTS UNION ESTIMATES THERE ARE 120 ELLIS ACT EVICTIONS OR BUY-OUTS EACH MONTH IN SAN FRANCISCO

Ted Gullicksen, SF Tenants Union: "This is the worst eviction epidemic we've seen in San Francisco."

TED GULLICKSEN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO TENANTS UNION SAYS ONCE KICKED OUT, THESE RENTERS HAVE A TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TIME FINDING NEW HOUSING.

Gullicksen: "Usually it's long-term renters who have pretty affordable rent-controlled rents who are being evicted and they're coming into a market where the average rent is well over three thousand dollars."

NOW CITY HALL IS REACHING OUT TO HELP LONG-TERM RENTERS.

David Chiu, President SF Board of Supervisors: "We need to provide all the relief that we can at this point."

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PRESIDENT DAVID CHIU IS ONE OF THOSE BEHIND THE CITY'S NEW ELLIS ACT HOUSING PREFERENCE PROGRAM WHICH GIVES LONG-TERM RENTERS PRIORITY AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING BECOMES AVAILABLE.

Chiu: "If you are a victim of the Ellis Act and you have been a long-term resident where you were living, you lived there for more than ten years, you can approach the City and we have a wait list for individuals to get into our affordable housing opportunities. This bumps them up to the top of the line."

CHIU ADMITS THAT IT'S NOT A SILVER BULLET AND MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS, LIKE THESE, NEED TO BE BUILT SO EVICTEES HAVE A PLACE TO GO.

STILL OFFICIALS SAY THAT ANY KIND OF ASSISTANCE HELPS AND THIS COULD CUT DOWN THE WAIT PERIOD FROM FOUR YEARS TO TWO YEARS.

DAN KERMAN KRON 4 NEWS

HOUSING

5/28/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Poll shows housing concerns reaching crisis level

IF YOU'RE FED UP WITH THE BAY AREA'S TRAFFIC AND HIGH HOUSING COSTS, YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT ALONE. SEVEN OUT OF TEN OF US AGREE THAT WE'RE IN A TRANSPORTATION CRISIS. EIGHT OUT OF TEN SAY WE'RE IN A HOUSING CRISIS. GRANT LODES IS HERE TO BEGIN OUR COVERAGE.

THE BAY AREA IS FACING A CRISIS IN HOUSING COSTS. A MILLION DOLLARS FOR A FIXER-UPPER. THREE THOUSAND BUCKS RENT FOR A RATTY STUDIO IN AN IFFY NEIGHBORHOOD. IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ANYBODY ANGRY. TONIGHT WE KNOW IT'S MAKING ALMOST EVERYBODY ANGRY.

THE BAY AREA COUNCIL SAYS 79 PERCENT OF PEOPLE IN ITS SURVEY AGREED. AND IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE RICH OR POOR. EIGHTY-THREE PERCENT OF LOWER INCOME RESPONDENTS AND 76 PERCENT OF HIGHER INCOME RESPONDENTS SAID YES. ALL INCOME GROUPS AGREE GOVERNMENT LEADERS SHOULD FOCUS ON BUILDING MORE HOUSING.

AND MOST OF US WOULD ACCEPT THAT HOUSING SHOULD BE IN OUR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS AND NOT EXPAND INTO OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND. SIX OUT OF TEN PEOPLE SAY THEY'D LIVE IN A SMALLER HOME TO STAY CLOSE TO JOBS, SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND ENTERTAINMENT. ONLY HALF AS MANY WOULD TRADE A LONGER COMMUTE FOR A BIGGER HOUSE, BETTER SCHOOLS, AND LESS CRIME.

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION

4/16/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Preview of BART's proposed new car design

BART IS PLANNING TO FINALLY REPLACE ITS AGING FLEET OF TRAIN CARS, AND TODAY, BART ALLOWED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE A SNEAK PEAK AT THE NEW DESIGN. KRON 4'S MAUREEN KELLY SHOWS US WHAT THE 'FLEET OF THE FUTURE' WILL LOOK LIKE AND TALKED TO RIDERS WHO GOT A GLIMPSE. SHE FOUND THAT NOT EVERYONE IS ON BOARD:

BART PULLED THE BLACK TARP BACK ON ITS LATEST MODEL TRAIN AND LET THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC TAKE A GANDER AT THEIR FIRST NEW DESIGN IN NEARLY 40 YEARS. THE NEWLY-DESIGNED CARS ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE A QUIETER RIDE, BE MORE HIGH TECH, AND, THANKFULLY, WILL HAVE SEATS COVERED IN A FABRIC THAT CAN BE EASILY CLEANED. THOSE NEW SEATS WILL NOW BE COVERED WITH A WIPEABLE MATERIAL AND NOT THE OLD WOVEN FABRIC, WHICH SEEMED TO MAKE A LOT OF RIDERS HAPPY.

Lynn Mitchell: "To not have that cloth that gets yucky. This can be washed down. It's cushy. Very nice."

THE SEATS ARE ALSO HIGHER SO THINGS LIKE SUITCASES CAN BE STORED, AND THE NEW CARS WILL COME WITH A BIKE RACK.

ANOTHER NEW FEATURE – LCD DISPLAY SCREENS WITH A YOU ARE HEAR BUBBLE SO RIDERS CAN SEE WHERE THEY ARE ON THEIR JOURNEY. BUT ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHANGES IS THIS POLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AISLE RIGHT AFTER YOU BOARD WHICH BART BOARD PRESIDENT SAYS WILL MAKE THE RIDE SAFER FOR THOSE HAVING TO STAND.

AND THERE WILL MORE PEOPLE STANDING, SINCE THE NEW DESIGN LEAVES APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEWER SEATS PER CAR WHICH IS A BUMMER FOR SOME RIDERS WHO COME IN FROM FAR AWAY.

THOSE MISSING SEATS WENT TO CREATE SPACE FOR A THIRD DOOR. YOU CAN'T SEE IT HERE SINCE THIS MODEL IS ONLY 2/3 THE LENGTH OF WHAT THE REAL TRAIN WILL LOOK LIKE. BUT THE TRANSIT AGENCY HOPES TO GET THE MONEY TO PUT MORE CARS ON THE RAILS THAN THEY HAVE OPERATING NOW WHICH WILL TRANSLATE INTO 38% MORE SEATS ON THE SYSTEM OVERALL IF THEY GET THEIR WAY MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO LINED UP TO SEE THE NEW DESIGN LIKED WHAT THEY SAW.

Rider: "It looks good. It looks sleek; it's modern."

BUT A CONTINGENT OF THE DISABLED COMMUNITY ALSO GOT ON BOARD AND VOICED THEIR CONCERNS, WHICH MAINLY HAD TO DO WITH THE NEW POLE LOCATED SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF EACH OF THE CAR'S ENTRY POINTS.

Wheelchair user: "It's the fact that the pole is right in the middle of the doorway that makes it hard for those of us with large chairs to navigate the space."

Marissa Shaw, wheelchair user: "They impede us from getting from one side of the train to another. And when people are crammed into the entry as it is, especially at rush hour, it's going to make things ten times worse."

BART SAYS THEY'VE ALREADY CHANGED THE DESIGN TO SHIFT THE POLE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE WHEELCHAIR AREA, WHICH THEY BELIEVE GIVES THE DISABLED ENOUGH ROOM TO MANEUVER. THE TRANSIT AGENCY'S BOARD PRESIDENT SAYS BART LIKES THE IMPROVED SAFETY THE POLES ADD FOR THOSE STANDING, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE TRAINS STOP AND START.

Joel Keller, BART Board President, "Particularly for seniors, I think it's very important. If there are not enough seats and these cars are increasingly getting more and more crowded."

BART SAYS THEY WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE INPUT FROM ALL OF THEIR RIDERS. THE AGENCY HAS UNTIL THE END OF MAY, WHEN THEY PLACE THEIR ORDER, TO TWEAK THE DESIGN AND WILL BE MOVING THE MODEL TO DIFFERENT STATIONS OVER THE COMING WEEKS SO MORE RIDERS CAN GIVE FEEDBACK. HOWEVER, THE FIRST NEW CARS WON'T BE PULLING INTO THE STATION UNTIL 2017.

MAUREEN KELLY KRON4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

4/23/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Supervisor wants public transit to run later

A SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR WANTS TO EXTEND PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE HOURS IN THE BAY AREA. RIGHT NOW, PUBLIC TRANSIT SUCH AS BART AND MUNI DO NOT RUN 24 HOURS. BUT SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR SCOTT WEINER WANTS TO CHANGE THAT. WEINER INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION YESTERDAY TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP DESIGNED TO COME UP WITH SUGGESTIONS AND SOLUTIONS THAT COULD LEAD TO POLICY CHANGE.

KRON-4 SPOKE WITH COMMUTERS WHO GAVE THEIR THOUGHTS ON EXPANDING AFTER-HOURS TRANSIT SERVICE.

Commuter: "I think that's a very smart idea so people don't have to drive into the city or waste money on cabs which can be very expensive and definitely a safe way to get home."

Commuter: "I definitely think it would be safer and cheaper."

THE WORKING GROUP IS EXPECTED TO REPORT BACK TO THE SUPERVISOR WITH THEIR FINDINGS IN SIX MONTHS.

TRANSPORTATION

5/6/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

New app to ease San Francisco parking woes

ONE OF THE DOWNSIDES OF LIVING IN THE BAY AREA IS THE PARKING. WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH THAT ANNOYING TASK OF CIRCLING A BLOCK WAITING FOR A SPOT TO OPEN. BUT LET ME RUN SOMETHING BY YOU. IF YOU WERE IN THAT SCENARIO AND YOU WERE SICK OF CIRCLING, WOULD YOU PAY FOR A STREET PARKING SPOT TO SUDDENLY OPEN UP, ON YOUR COMMAND?

THAT'S THE IDEA BEHIND A NEW MOBILE APP CALLED "MONKEY PARKING."

IF YOU LAUNCH THE FREE MONKEY PARKING APP ON YOUR PHONE AND CLICK "REQUEST A SPOT," THESE MONKEY FACES POP UP. THOSE ARE STREET PARKING SPOTS NEAR YOU THAT OTHER MONKEY PARKING APP USERS CURRENTLY HAVE THEIR CAR PARKED IN, BUT THEY ARE WILLING TO SELL.

YOU CAN OFFER THEM 5, 10, 15 OR 20 DOLLARS FOR THAT SPOT. IF THEY ACCEPT, THE TWO OF YOU SWITCH OUT YOUR CARS IN THE PARKING SPOT. YOU GET TO STOP CIRCLING THE BLOCK AND PARK, AND THEY GET MONEY. THE TRANSACTION IS DONE ALL THOROUGH THE APP WITH CREDIT CARDS, SO NO CASH IS EXCHANGED ON SITE.

THIS APP IS UP AND RUNNING AND PEOPLE ARE USING IT. I RAN A PARKING REQUEST FOR THE AREA I WAS CURRENTLY IN AND AS YOU CAN SEE AS I ZOOM OUT THERE ARE TONS OF PEOPLE SELLING THEIR PARKING SPOTS.

THE CREATORS OF THE APP ARE BASED IN ITALY. I DID A SKYPE VIDEO CHAT WITH THEM AND ASKED THEM WHY THEY CHOSE SAN FRANCISCO AS THE FIRST CITY IN THE U.S. TO LAUNCH THEIR APP.

App creator: "What we noticed is the problem is highly perceived in San Francisco. We interviewed a lot of people and everyone was saying that parking is really a pain and a nightmare in San Francisco, downtown and in other districts. So it sounded like a good place to start."

HOW ABOUT THAT? OUR PARKING PROBLEMS ARE SO BAD, THEY ARE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN.

BUT, THIS APP BRINGS UP SO MANY QUESTIONS. FIRST OF ALL, IS THIS LEGAL? I CONTACTED THE SFMTA AND THEY SAID THEY ARE LOOKING INTO IT AND WILL GET BACK TO US.

IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT THEY SAY. THEY COULD SHUT IT DOWN OR SUPPORT IT. PROMOTE IT. MAYBE TAKE A CUT OF THE PROFITS. BUT THEN WHAT'S NEXT ? SELLING YOUR SEAT ON MUNI FOR A BUCK OR TWO? THE MONKEY PARKING APP COULD BE VIEWED AS GENIOUS OR EVIL.

IS IT SOLVING A PROBLEM? WHILE OFFERING A CONVIENEICE AND A UNIQUE WAY TO MAKE A FEW EXTRA BUCKS? OR IS IT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AN OVERCROWDED CITY?

I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?

SEND ME A TWEET TO @GABESLATE, FIND ME ON FACEBOOK, OR EMAIL ME SLATE AT KRON 4 DOT COM.

GABE SLATE KRON 4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

5/7/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm
Solar cars?

IS THE FUTURE HERE IN CAR TECHNOLOGY? KRON 4'S HIGH TECH REPORTER GABE SLATE GOT A SNEAK PEAK OF A FIRST OF ITS KIND IN AUTOMOBILES:

PREPARE TO HAVE YOUR MIND BLOWN. WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE MIGHT HAVE CARS THAT WILL BE POWERED BY THE SUN?

I AM STANDING NEXT TO A VEHICLE THAT HAS SOLAR PANELS BUILT INTO THE ROOF. THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS A SOLAR-POWERED CAR. FORD BROUGHT THEIR NEW C-MAX SOLAR ENERGY CAR TO THE BAY AREA FOR A SPECIAL AUTOMOTIVE DESIGN PANEL FOCUSING ON CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGIES. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME OTHER THAN CES THAT THIS CAR HAS BEEN OUT IN PUBLIC. SO I COULDN'T PASS UP THE CHANCE TO SEE IT IN PERSON AND LEARN A LITTLE MORE ABOUT IT.

Ford spokesperson 1: "The panels are from Sun Power. They are the most efficient panels in the industry and what you see installed on the car's roof makes about 300 watts of power. This is sort of a first of its kind vehicle that enables the battery that provides power to the car's power train to be recharged from solar energy."

DOWN THE ROAD, THIS COULD BE A CAR THAT DOES NOT NEED A GAS PUMP OR AN ELECTRICAL OUTLET.

Ford spokesperson 1: "It's been inspiring. It's allowed a lot of people to dream about what is possible. Because solar prices have been on a steady downward trajectory over the past few years, we've seen a point now where it becomes viable to put them on a vehicle rather than just on the roof of your house."

Ford spokesperson 2: "If your car is just sitting out there in the sun, let's make it work. Let's make it do something."

Ford spokesperson 1: "There's some engineering that's still to be done on it and we have no hard, firm plans to commercialize it at this point, but we are working towards that with great hope that one day you're going to see a Ford vehicle with a solar panel on the roof."

GABE SLATE KRON 4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

5/19/14 KRON 4 Evening News
Looking for new traffic solutions on Bay Bridge

ON THE BAY BRIDGE, CHANGING TOLL PRICES IN AN EFFORT TO DETER DRIVERS DURING PEAK HOURS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING. IN FACT, MORE CARS ARE CROSSING THE BRIDGE THAN EVER. KRON 4'S CHARLES CLIFFORD IS LIVE AT THE BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA...AND TALKED TO THE MTC TODAY. CHARLES WHAT DO THEY THINK NEEDS TO BE DONE?

ACCORDING TO THE MTC, ON AVERAGE MORE THAN 9000 CARS PASS THROUGH THE BAY BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA EVERY HOUR DURING THE MORNING COMMUTE. THE BRIDGE'S MAXIMUM CAPACITY IS ONLY ABOUT 10,000 CARS PER HOUR. TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS WANT TO SPEED UP TRAVEL TIMES, BUT THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH THEY CAN DO. JOHN GOODWIN WITH THE MTC SAYS THAT ONE OF THE BIGGEST OBSTACLES IS THE BRIDGE ITSELF.

Goodwin: "You've got 22 lanes of freeway that narrow down to just 5 lanes and that's not going to change. So you have a problem based on the size of the pipe, as it were, and an awful lot of water that needs to get through that pipe."

WHILE THEY CAN'T MAKE THE BRIDGE WIDER, THEY CAN TWEAK THE TOLL PLAZA.

Goodwin: "Looking long-term, one thing that will likely have some alleviating effect is an eventual transition to all electronic tolling."

MTC SAYS THAT BY ELIMINATING THE NEED TO STOP TO PAY TOLLS WITH CASH, THE TRANSITION THROUGH THE TOLL PLAZA MIGHT BECOME FASTER. A SIMILAR SYSTEM HAS BEEN IN PLACE ON THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE FOR JUST OVER A YEAR, BUT THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO PLANS TO SET IT UP AT THE BAY BRIDGE.

Goodwin: "We don't have a schedule for making that transition on the state-owned bridges. We don't know which of the state-owned bridges would go first or where the Bay Bridge would fall into that schedule, but clearly that is the future of toll collection."

WITH NO PLANS IN PLACE TO GET ELECTRONIC TOLLING IN ALL LANES, THE MTC SAYS THE FASTEST WAY TO GET THROUGH THE TOLL PLAZA FOR NOW IS TO GET FASTRAC. CHARLES CLIFFORD KRON 4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

5/19/14 KRON 4 Evening News

SF Muni considers removing seats from light rail cars

COMMUTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO MAY SOON FIND THEIR RIDE ON MUNI A LITTLE ROOMIER. TODAY MUNI HAS LAUNCHED A PILOT PROGRAM INTENDED TO CREATE MORE SPACE. KRON 4'S JOHN FENOGLIO TOOK A RIDE ON THE NEWLY CONFIGURED LIGHT RAIL CAR AND HE SAYS PASSENGERS ARE ALREADY NOTICING A DIFFERENCE:

WHO HASN'T RIDDEN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND WISHED THERE WAS MORE ROOM?

Passenger: "It feels bigger."

THIS MUNI RIDER IS REFERRING TO THE SPACE CREATED NOW THAT SEATS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM ONE OF THE CARS ON THE N JUDAH LINE.

Passenger: "I think it's good like this. It's more comfortable."

THIS IS WHAT SEATING IS LIKE ON THE CURRENT FLEET. YOU CAN SEE THE DOUBLE-WIDE SEATS ALLOW FOR MORE SITTING, BUT ONLY LIMITED STANDING ROOM. COMPARE THAT TO THE PILOT CAR AND THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR.

JOHN HEALY IS SFMTA'S DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT:

Healy: "You sacrifice about 20 to 25 seats. And you can get another 50 or so people in. So you're talking about pushing 200 people per car, in that range."

IN TOTAL, THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT SAYS, 14 DOUBLE-WIDE SEATS WILL BE REPLACED WITH SINGLE-WIDE SEATS, INCREASING FLOOR SPACE FOR 26 STANDING PASSENGERS.

Healy: "Initially, we're seeing passengers stand comfortably three deep."

DURING THIS ONE MONTH PROGRAM, MUNI WILL BE SURVEYING RIDERS AND COLLECTING DATA ABOUT OVERALL CAPACITY. DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF THAT INFORMATION, YOU JUST MAY BE SEEING FEWER SEATS ON MUNI'S LIGHT RAIL IN THE FUTURE. JOHN FENOGLIO KRON 4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

5/19/14 KRON 4 News at 8pm

Technology and the battle to make pedestrians safer on San Francisco streets

SAN FRANCISCO IS TURNING TO EXTREME MEASURES TO PREVENT PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS. KRON 4 TECH REPORTER GABE SLATE SHOWS US THE NEW TECHNOLOGY THEY'RE TESTING ON KIDS:

THE POLICE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF, POLITICIANS, MEDIA WERE ALL ON HAND TODAY FOR A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON STREET SAFETY IN SAN FRANCISCO. IT WAS HELD AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WHICH WAS GOOD BECAUSE AFTER TALKING TO THESE KIDS I REALIZED IT'S SCARY BEING AN ADULT CROSSING A STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO SO I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR KIDS LIVING IN THE CITY.

Kid: "It's pretty scary."

Kid: "You don't really know what's going to happen. Maybe there's going to be a car going past you that's speeding and not looking where it's going."

Fire Department spokesperson: "So we're here to hopefully save lives and reduce injuries."

Police Department spokesperson: "Learning's supposed to be fun and this program is fun. Whatever goes into our little ones when they're young goes into the hard drive, so if this is going to keep kids safer, it's all good."

SO, HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE DOING. THEY PAID A TON OF MONEY TO HAVE L.A. STREET SMARTS DRIVE UP FROM LOS ANGELES TO OUR LAKESHORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. L.A. STREET SMARTS HAS BEEN RUNNING A STREET SAFETY PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES THAT'S GETTING NATIONAL ATTENTION.

THEY TAKE A SCHOOL'S GYMNASIUM AND TRANSFORM IT INTO AN INTERACTIVE STREET CROSSING SCENARIO.

L.A. Street Smarts facilitator: "There's a car backing out of that garage, and the driver may not see you."

THE SET IS COMPLETE WITH CARS BACKING OUT OF GARAGES AND KIDS AND DOGS RUNNING INTO THE STREETS.

Facilitator: "So we all agree that the first thing you do is what?"

Kids: "Stop!"

AFTER THE KIDS GO THROUGH THE COURSE, THEY HAVE THE KIDS PLAY A VIDEO GAME THAT SUBTLY TEACHES THEM STREET SAFETY

Soundtrack: "Remember to look left, right, and left again for cars."

DR. KNUDSON IS A TRAUMA SURGEON AT SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL. SHE HELPED DEVELOP THE GAME.

Dr. Knudson: "It's a fun game. It's got music. It's got great characters. And the kids are engaged in game playing."

SUPERVISOR NORMAN YEE HOPES TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY AND INTEREST TO GET OUR OWN STREET SMARTS SET AND VIDEO GAME PROGRAM THAT WILL STAY HERE FOR OUR KIDS.

Yee: "To have available for 72 elementary schools in San Francisco."

GABE SLATE KRON 4 NEWS

TRANSPORTATION

5/28/14 KRON 4 Evening News

Commuter crisis

BAY AREA RESIDENTS ARE CALLING FOR EMERGENCY ACTION. TONIGHT THERE ARE GROWING CONCERNS THAT HOUSING COSTS AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION HAVE REACHED THE CRISIS STAGE. TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT SAY THEIR COMMUTES ARE GETTING HARDER. THIRTY PERCENT SAY THEY'RE GETTING LONGER. BUT THERE IS NOT MUCH CONSENSUS ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. BAY AREA DRIVERS SAY THEY'RE FACING LONGER COMMUTE TIMES. AS KRON4'S HAAZIQ MADYUN REPORTS, SOLO DRIVERS ARE ONE OF THE REASONS DRIVERS ARE SPENDING MORE TIME ON THE ROAD:

THE MOOD ALTERING SIGHT OF BUMPER TO BUMPER TRAFFIC. THE BEEPING SOUND OF FRUSTRATED MOTORISTS HITTING THEIR HORNS. IT IS ALL TOO FAMILIAR FOR US LIVING HERE IN THE BAY AREA. AND NOW A RECENT POLL CONDUCTED BY THE BAY AREA COUNCIL, A BUSINESS-SPONSORED PUBLIC ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION, REVEALS THAT THE PERCEPTION OF TRAFFIC HAS REACHED A HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF CONCERN FOR DRIVERS, WITH 71% OF THOSE SURVEYED FEELING THE SITUATION HAS REACHED A TRANSPORTATION CRISIS.

Jim Wunderman, Bay Area Council: "Which means they are gripping the steering wheel pretty hard every day."

BAY AREA COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND CEO JIM WUNDERMAN SAYS THAT NEGATIVE PERCEPTION IS THE RESULT OF THE STRESS THAT COMES FROM SITTING BEHIND THE WHEEL TRYING TO MAKE IT FROM A TO B ON A DAILY BASIS.

Wunderman: "Suffering through tremendous traffic jams, wasting productive time, costing the economy as well as their own quality of life."

ONE-THOUSAND-EIGHTEEN RESIDENTS FROM THE NINE BAY AREA COUNTIES PARTICIPATED IN THE ONLINE POLL. THE FRUSTATION WITH TRAFFIC IS ALSO SEEN IN A PAIR OF RESULTS WITH 31% SAYING THEIR DAILY COMMUTES ARE LONGER THAN THEIR COMMUTES WERE A YEAR AGO. AND THEIR MOST COMMONLY USED MODE OF TRANSPORTATION? 77% SAY THEY DRIVE ALONE WITH ONLY 12% PERCENT CARPOOLING.

Wunderman: "We're working with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to see if we can come up with better ways to get folks to car pool, get out of cars, maybe more shuttle buses from companies."

AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WUNDERMAN SAYS ALL TRAFFIC JAMS ARE NOT BAD. IN FACT, HE SAYS SOME CONSTRUCTION-RELATED TRAFFIC BACK-UPS LIKE THIS ONE IN DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO COME WITH A SILVER LINING.

Wunderman: "Construction is a good problem to have. A lot of other cities and regions around the country would like to have the problem of too many construction cranes. So you have a desirable place that has a very strong underlying economy, a great workforce, great weather...everyone in the poll agreed about the Bay Area's great weather and great quality of life. But we have to provide some solutions to the problems of transportation and housing that would make it better for companies to be here."

IN SAN FRANCISCO HAAZIQ MADYUN KRON4NEWS