Quarterly Community Issues

2014: April- June KQNC 6:04 – 6:06 pm Weekdays

April

COVER

01: "Covered California" says there was a dramatic spike to its website yesterday, with record traffic, which caused the site to slow dramatically. Between midnight and 2:30 p.m. yesterday, there were more than 324-thousand visitors to the site.

PACK

01: Frank Gehrke (GURK-ee) with the Department of Water Resources says there is less than three feet of snow on the ground near Echo summit, about 90 miles east of Sacramento. Normally the snow would be 10 feet deep.

TOTALS

02: Peterson says over the past week or so, three separate storms dumped a total of 2.4 inches of rain on the Sacramento area. During the same time period, between six and eight feet of snow fell in the Sierra. Peterson says Folsom Lake is now about 71 percent of where it would normally be. In early February, it was only a quarter of normal.

TWINAC

02: The district has had the units in storage for two years but was unable to pay for the installation. Dr. Steven Martinez is the district's Superintendent He says students, teachers, and parents have been complaining.

COVERED

03: March was the busiest month yet for Covered California, the state's health care exchange. New numbers out today [Thursday] show more than 400 thousand people signed up last month, about a third of the 1.2 million who've signed up in total. Executive Director Peter Lee says the pool of enrollees is changing.

REHAB

03: Sean Powers is with the Yuba County Community Development Department. He says the Housing and Urban Development Department's "Neighborhood Stabilization Program" has already helped the community.

ZEROBIKES

04: Silent, cool, mobile, and most, of all, pollution free. Capital Public Radio's Rich Ibarra reports that describes the Ceres Police Department's new electric motorcycles.

SACLEAN

04: "We do a spring cleanup before the summer season starts to remove debris, whether it's fishing lines, trash, what have you. But, on top of that, with the water levels being as low as they are, we're able to access areas that volunteers haven't been able to access before because the water has covered them. So like, at Paradise Beach, you can walk across the entire river now."

NEWSAT

04: Beginning this week, Sacramento's "Second Saturday" will offer new attractions. Some of them will start earlier than events typically have in the past. That will include the Midtown Farmers Market.

SECINT

07: For the second time in a year, California lawmakers will consider a bill that would create a medical interpreters program. As Capital Public Radio's Health Care Reporter Pauline Bartolone reports, the bill's backers say circumstances are different this time.

CHPTXT

07: CHP's Fran Clader [KLAY duhr] says her department is one of 200 agencies that will look for distracted drivers today [Tuesday] and two other days this month. April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

YEEPLEA

08: Yee faces a total of seven charges: one count of conspiracy to traffic in firearms without a license and illegally import firearms ... and six counts of engaging in a scheme to defraud citizens of honest services. To all those charges, Yee pleaded not guilty in San Francisco federal court.

SERVICES

08: Supporters of the bills say past public service cuts have contributed to California's poverty rate, which is the highest in the nation, and the childhood poverty rate, which is also highest. Vanessa Aramayo (ar-uh-MY-oh) with California Partnership disagrees with the Governor's budget plan to set aside funds for a rainy day.

WAPLAN

09: California and federal agencies today (Wednesday) released a drought operation plan for the state and federal water projects. The plan outlines actions the two projects would take to deal with the drought from now until November.

SMOKFRE

09: But, Tom Herman with the Department of Education says the state is worried about new products containing nicotine including bubble gum-flavored e-cigarettes, patches, and products that look like asthma inhalers.

KJFIX

10: Johnson says CalTrans has reconfigured some parts of the project to accommodate the city's concerns. And it has provided some money to help offset problems the project will cause between its start-up on April 22nd and the planned end date in late June.

BUDGTAX

10: A new report out today (Thursday) suggests some adjustments to the terms of voter approved Proposition 30. The California Budget Project says the adjustments could repair a situation in which the lowest-income Californians pay disproportionate shares of state and local taxes.

I5CRASH

11: Ten people are dead after a southbound FedEx truck crashed head-on into the northbound charter bus carrying the students. In addition to the drivers of the bus and truck, five students and three chaperones aboard the bus are among the dead.

NEVMED

11: Nevada Insurance Commissioner Scott Kipper says people can sign up for insurance whenever they want to, but they won't be able to get financial help, and they'll have to wait 90 days before the coverage kicks in.

BROKERS

14: The open enrollment season under the federal health law has been a busy time for insurance agents in California. But as Capital Public Radio's Health Care Reporter Pauline Bartolone has learned, many brokers are not seeking out the business.

TAXMAIL

14: Those long lines at the post office on April 15th for people trying to beat the midnight deadline for filing their taxes will be missing this year. Capital Public Radio's Rich Ibarra reports that the post office will no longer be staying open late.

COMCOLEG

15: Paul Feist (feest) with the California Community Colleges says certificate and degree completions and transfers are down 2.6 percent for students who entered Community College at the start of the Great Recession.

CONGFLD

15: The new Field Poll finds just 13 percent of California voters approve of the job the U.S. Congress is doing...and 79 percent disapprove. It varies by party, with disapproval climbing even higher among Republicans and non-partisans.

ELDOROADS

16: If you live in El Dorado County, you may be approached by signature gatherers trying to put several slow-growth measures on the November ballot.

KINGTAX

16: Merchant is with the development arm of the Sacramento Kings. He says state law allows contractors to decide where their sales taxes will be allocated on projects that cost five million dollars or more.

FIXRT

17: A lot more people are expected to keep their cars at home and take mass transit starting Tuesday due to construction on Highway 50. Capital Public Radio's Steve Milne explains.

GOKINGS

17: The Sacramento Kings finished the basketball season just as they did last year- with 28 wins in 82 tries and a hard-fought loss at home. But even though the numbers look the same, Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports the team, and its fans, say almost everything else has changed.

BARRIERS

18: Rain and snow may not have pushed California out of its drought, but the late season precipitation will mean a little more water for State Water Project users. As Capital Public Radio's Amy Quinton reports, there is also relief for some federal Central Valley Project users.

EMPLOY

18: show a disappointingly small gain in March after February posted the strongest month of job creation in years. Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler has more.

MEDUSE

21: California's Medi-Cal program has seen a huge surge in enrollment under the Affordable Care Act. Capital Public Radio's Health Care Reporter Pauline Bartolone has more about what those patients can expect when they try to see a doctor.

COOLSTORM

21: Jason Clapp is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. He says a half-an-inch of rain is likely in the valley, and several inches of snow are possible in the Sierra at higher elevations.

FIXBIZ

22: Broadway is a likely alternate route for local people trying to avoid the Highway 50 construction project along the WX Freeway.

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COMMUTER

23: Traffic is already slowing a bit this morning in and around the "Fix 50" construction zone. It's day 2 of the project, which involves repairing the deck of the elevated section of highway 50 between I-5 and Highway 99. Caltrans has closed some eastbound lanes.

BADAIR

23: The winter of 2013 was the driest on record in California. It resulted in a significant increase in the number of "no burn" days in Northern California and the San Joaquin Valley.

REBUDGET

24: City Manager Andrew Clinger says the city needs a minimum of seven percent in reserves to pay bills from the beginning of the fiscal year in July until the first property tax payments arrive in October.

PPIC

24: The survey done by the Public Policy Institute of California finds the national math and language standards known as the "Common Core" enjoy solid support in California -- even as other states move to delay or halt implementation of them.

MCVILLAGE

25: It would be a neighborhood of about 330 homes built on 50 acres adjacent to the Capital City Freeway. Angelides says the project could be an example of smart urban infill.

GOVDROUT

25: Don't water your lawns more than twice a week, get your car washed with recycled water, and use your broom instead of your hose to clean your sidewalk and driveway. That's what Governor Jerry Brown is asking of all Californians in his latest executive order on the state's drought.

KJSTERLING

28: Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson is taking a lead role in the NBA's handling of a scandal involving L.A. Clippers' owner Donald Sterling.

ASIANHEP

28: Chen says about ten percent of Asians have the virus and 80-percent of them will get liver cancer. Chen says a group of low-income people in a recent study who had not contracted the virus will get the second of three shots tomorrow.

EDRISK

29: Napolitano's counterpart at the CSU system says the state's concept of providing two universities and community college options is sound, but needs should be updated.

PATIENTS

29: Stephanie Roberson with the California Nurses Association says with more people becoming insured under the Affordable Care Act, this bill will make sure their health care doesn't come with any surprise expenses.

MCVOTE

30: The McKinley Village would create about 340 single and multi-family homes. They would be in a low-lying area southeast of the Cap City Freeway and northeast of A Street. Pollution from the freeway and idling trains is a concern for people like Ed Edwards.

DRYRICE

30: California's drought is expected to have a dramatic effect on rice production. The state supplies virtually all of the nation's sushi rice and half of it is exported. Economists say of all the food crops in California, rice is likely to be affected by the drought the most. As Capital Public Radio's Amy Quinton reports from Sacramento, the mere speculation of losses is already driving up prices.

May

WATERLOW

01: California hydrologists will measure the state's snowpack for the final time this season today, and they expect the readings to be pretty dismal. That news will come on the heels of a new report showing the state's groundwater supplies are at a historical low. As Capital Public Radio's Marianne Russ reports, the state is preparing to put new restrictions on access to water.

NOSNOPAC

01: This year's final measurement of the Sierra snowpack turned up near record low water levels for this time of year. The state takes five monthly measurements each year from January to May.

GYMJUICE

02: The Orangevale-based chain "California Family Fitness" opened it's latest club across from the "Crest Theater" in the former site of a "Rite Aid" store. Sacramento Business Journal Editor Jack Robinson says "Cal Fit" intends for the gym to fit in with K Street's burgeoning nightlife scene by offering alcoholic drinks.

PEACEOFF

02: Thousands of officers stood at attention as family members of those killed walked from the Capitol to the California Peace Officers' Memorial, where the names of their loved ones will be inscribed. Santa Cruz Police Chief Kevin Vogel paid tribute to the officers killed in 2013.

FIREPREP

05: The State of California is asking people to prepare for fire season by clearing brush and by developing evacuation plans. CAL FIRE is preparing by hiring firefighters and by trying to acquire more equipment. CAL FIRE Chief Ken Pimlott says most of the firefighting aircraft stationed in the Sacramento area have already been deployed to fires in other parts of the state.

SEIU-CHA

05: California's largest healthcare workers union and most of the state's hospital industry say they're joining forces in a 100 million dollar push to overhaul Medi-Cal. As part of the agreement, the union will abandon two fall ballot measures opposed by the hospitals.

NOPAY

06: Currently, suspending members without pay is not legal. Steinberg says lawmakers' pay wouldn't automatically be stopped, but that the option would be available. The bill would not be retroactive.

PEACEOFF

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UNFUND

07: A new report from California's non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office says the state is 340 billion dollars in debt. That breaks down to 85-hundred dollars for every Californian.

NEWFIX

07: Traffic through the Fix 50 site was dramatically improved today as a two-lane bottleneck from the previous stage was replaced with three lanes all the way through the project. But, X Street and the offramp to 34th Street both had longer delays than usual. Sara Varghese (var gess) was driving to Reno and was caught off guard by the closure of the southbound 99 and eastbound Cap City Freeway connectors.

FELONVOTE

08: An Alameda County Judge has ruled that tens of thousands of California felons should be allowed to vote. The ruling overturns a decision by Secretary of State Debra Bowen in 2011.

FIREPREP

08: As we speak, the Department of Defense is working with the Coast Guard under a defense authorization act to actually modify seven C-130 aircraft to be retrofitted to become air tankers to come into the federal aviation program and fleet.

CCBUDGET

09: Sacramento City Manager John Shirey says his proposal for next fiscal year's budget is balanced and has a surplus. Shirey made a presentation to City Council last night. Sales tax and property tax revenues have increased and next year's budget proposal asks for staffing and funding increases for some departments. But, Shirey says the long-term budget forecast is full of deficits. The city faces a 41-million-dollar shortfall within five years.

PUMP

09: The Sacramento Municipal Utility District wants to generate electricity by pumping water uphill. Sacramento Business Journal Editor Jack Robinson says SMUD has begun feasibility studies on building an 800-Million dollar pumping facility in El Dorado County.

AMGBIZ

12: The Amgen Tour of California bicycle race is wrapping up (has finished) the second stage through downtown Folsom and will soon leave for stage three in San Jose.

WHVISIT

12: Vallejo City Manager Dan Keen says the process is a tool for building better understanding about how budget decisions are made.

WHOOP

13: Whooping Cough cases are up significantly in Sacramento County, and local health officials are encouraging people to get vaccinated. Capital Public Radio's Marianne Russ reports.

HYDRO

13: Hydroelectricity makes up about a quarter of the energy SMUD sells. The rest comes from natural gas and renewables such as solar and wind.

HOTHOT

14: George Cline is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. He says it'll likely be 98 or 99 degrees both days, which is 15-20 degrees above average for this time of year.

NOBAGS

14: Democratic State Senator Alex Padilla says 14 billion plastic bags are given out each year in California and only five percent get recycled.

TAKEBACK

15: Blomquist says the pace of recovery is slower in Sacramento in part because many homeowners still owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth. That means they can't sell, which translates to a lack of housing inventory.

RAINYVOTE

15: Members, it's common sense for us to save for a rainy day. I urge your aye vote, and I urge all of us to work together next year on tax reform that will reduce the volatility in our state's revenue streams, so we can provide greater stability for the programs that Californians rely on.

GOPDEBATE

16: Tea Party Assemblyman Tim Donnelly and businessman Neel Kashkari faced off on Los Angeles radio station KFI. The debate in front of a live audience started off cordially, with both men sticking to their stump speeches. But before too long Kashkari went after Donnelly, who first drew attention for patrolling the US Mexico border with his Minuteman chapter.

SACJOB

16: Unemployment in the four-county Sacramento area is down. Numbers out today [Friday] from the state Employment Development Department, or E-D-D, show the jobless rate in April was 7.1 percent, down from 8.1 percent in March. George Marley with the E-D-D says all of the employment sectors they track either gained jobs or staid flat...but none lost jobs.

RENOFIRE

19: there's about 150 firefighters right now trying to battle this thing.....burning through areas that have already burned....winds a big challenge....pretty light....column of smoke....day went on, 20 mph, etc, really fanned the flames...150 acres this morning.

SUPER

19: California's June 3rd Primary Election is two-weeks away. One of the decisions voters will make is whether the leadership of California's public school system should change. The man who currently holds the post as the state's Superintendent of Public Instruction is Tom Torlakson. The incumbent says under his watch, California kids are doing better in school.

ADVANCE

19: California lawmakers sent several notable bills from one chamber to the other – including measures dealing with warrantless wiretapping, in vitro fertilization and campaign finance rules.

WOMENS

20: Democratic Senator Holly Mitchell agrees with State Senate President Pro-Tem Darrel Steinberg's proposal to fund pre-school for four-year-olds. But, she says the state could do more to restore some of the 100,000 early childhood program slots that were cut during the recession.

ARENAVOTE

20: There's widespread support for the 477 million dollar arena, but opposition as well, from those who don't approve of public financing for the project. Two groups failed in their bids to put the arena financing plan before voters. Advocates

FRACKVOTE

21: There are no active wells in the County - but political momentum was sparked by reports oil companies were exploring the possibility of fracking in nearby San Benito County. Santa Cruz Supervisor John Leopold mentioned one study that found toxic chemicals leaking from nearly 7 percent of fracking wells in Pennsylvania.

ARENAYES

21: The party after the votes actually started outside City Hall hours earlier when NBA supporters did the wave and watched the NBA Draft Lottery. The first supporter in line to get into the council meeting was Ron Klink from Roseville.

MUSICFEST

22: Tens of thousands of people are expected to gather in Old Sacramento over the next few days for the Sacramento music festival

CHEESY

22: Sacramento is getting cheesier. Several cheese-centric restaurants and shops have opened in the past year including "The Rind" in midtown and "The Cultured and the Cured" in east Sacramento. And Sacramento Business Journal Editor Jack Robinson says this summer, the Denver-based "American Cheese Society" is bringing its national conference to Sacramento.

MEMWATER

23: Water flows on the American River are about half what they are normally for Memorial Day Weekend, but rafters and children 12 and younger are still required to wear life jackets.

APPROPS

23: The Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees both considered bills that had been held for action. The Senate took up over 200 bills, while the Assembly dealt with more than 300. An approval means the bill will get a floor vote, a bill held in committee is likely dead.

FIX50WEST

27: If your commute includes highway 50 through downtown Sacramento, you'll want to make some adjustments today. The second phase of the "Fix 50" improvement project is now under way. Capital Public Radio's Marianne Russ joins us live with the details.

TAXI

27:Yellow Cab and other large taxi operators support the proposed rules. But smaller, independent taxi companies say the regulations could drive them out of business, especially with increased competition from ridesharing companies like Lyft [lift] and Uber [oober]. If approved by council members tonight [Tuesday], the new rules will take effect in 30-days.

MARIPOSA

28: Officials say five firefighters have been injured in a Central California wildfire that has burned through more than 13-hundred acres in two days. CalFire says none of the injuries is lifethreatening.

FIX50WED

28: Yesterday, crews began repairing and resurfacing the westbound side of the highway 50, and there were significant backups on 50 and northbound 99.

SJCOURT

29: Superior Court Judge Robin Appel says the courthouse was originally planned to be in use two years ago but cutbacks in funding pushed it back.

Appel says the \$210 million dollar project will have 30 courtrooms and be the centerpiece of downtown Stockton.

SACFIVE

29: Ali Cooper was the political director for a local union. He has attacked Schenirer for voting to privatize Sacramento High School and for using corporate dollars to fund inner city health and welfare programs. Cooper is against using any public funds to build an arena.

PANICDEF

30: The California Assembly has approved a bill that would eliminate a murder defendant's ability to reduce their sentence by claiming they acted out of shock at discovering the victim's gender or sexual orientation.

WHOOPING

30: Harriman says it's too soon to tell if this year will be worse than 2010, which had most cases in about 60 years. But she says the disease is cyclical and tends to peak every three to five years.

June

GOVPOLL

2: The poll by the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and the Los Angeles Times finds that among likely voters, 50 percent plan to cast their ballot for Governor Brown. But the real change is between the Republicans vying to challenge Brown.

ROSEVILLE

2: Bigley says Roseville has invested more money in its water conservation programs, and it had the additional cost of operating its groundwater wells for a few months due to low levels in Folsom Lake, which is the city's primary water source.

VOTERS

3: People are voting today for a variety of reasons. We talked with voters at a Midtown Sacramento polling place about what drew them out

JAPANART

3: A little known piece of local World War Two history has come to light. Sacramento's Crocker Art Museum stored hundreds of art and artifacts for Japanese artists and their families who were sent to internment camps. The gallery wanted to ensure the safekeeping of art and family possessions. John Caswell is with The Crocker.

CONRACES

4: And Democratic State Senator Alex Padilla will face Republican Pete Peterson in the Secretary of State Election. Padilla says he believes the November race will be more straightforward.

SCHUWINS

4: Assistant D.A. Anne Marie Schubert had a lead from the second the polls closed and never relinquished it. She says she's indebted to her current boss. "I'm tremendously grateful to her to have the faith that she's put into me. I'm comfortable in my abilities, but I just have tremendous faith because I have absolutely no doubt that at the end of all of this, Jan Scully wants to leave this office in the most capable and ethical hands." Schubert had the backing of many current and former local sheriffs and police chiefs.

SCORCH

5: Smith says it's also good to remember that even though it'll be blistering outside, the lakes and rivers will still be very cold, so you should use caution. He says temperatures should start to cool down a bit by the middle of next week.

GRNDPLN

5: Ross says a groundwater management plan was first considered 30 years ago. She says it's part of a five-year framework to support local decision-making about how to manage the resource.

REBRIDGE

6: Construction of a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge at Sacramento City College will be delayed for a couple of months. The project has been re-designed and will be re-bid, if the City Council approves at Tuesday's meeting.

LASTWB

6: Traffic through the FIX 50 construction zone on U.S. 50 through Sacramento improved dramatically today. Crews shifted the work site from the left three lanes to the right two lanes. But there were still delays because CalTrans reduced the number of available to two before the construction area.

WABOND

9: As temperatures soared toward the triple-digits in Sacramento today (Monday), a coalition of business, agriculture, environmental and political leaders gathered at the Capitol to call on the state legislature to put a "passable" water bond on the November ballot. Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson says California needs a comprehensive, state-wide water plan that includes several elements.

BGTMON

9: California budget talks are nearing the finish line at the state Capitol ahead of the legislature's Sunday constitutional deadline. Governor Jerry Brown, Senate Leader Darrell Steinberg and Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins appear to be in the final stages of negotiations.

NOFEST

10: The Stockton Asparagus Festival will not be back next year. The festival board of directors has voted unanimously end the event after 29 years. Historically average attendance was between 90-100,000 people, but in the last two years crowds have dropped by almost 50 per cent, while costs have escalated dramatically.

CALWATER

10: An Association of California Water Agencies, or ACWA, study says groundwater storage and recycled water projects are well under way in Central California. Timothy Quinn with ACWA says a big public works project is planned in Southern California.

HOUSING

11: Transit advocates say the money generated by selling pollution credits to energy companies should be used to build affordable housing. Stuart Cohen with the group TransForm says affordable housing near transit is much greener.

BGTWEDS

11: "The deal includes child care for 1,500 additional children between zero and five years old, and then separately, a separate program, pre-kindergarten for 7,500 low-income four-year-olds starting July 1st, with another 4,000 slots opening up in June of next year. And the kids in that program whose parents are working will get child care for the rest of the day when they're not in pre-kindergarten."

WESTNILE

12: The district says heat also amplifies the West Nile Virus, which is spread by mosquitoes --meaning the risk of human transmission goes up. Vector Control says it's finding the virus in birds and mosquitoes largely in the Fruitridge and Florin area of South Sacramento.

BGTHURS

12: Republicans are not part of negotiations now that their votes aren't needed to pass a spending plan. Assembly Budget Vice-Chair Jeff Gorell [guh-RELL] had a mixed reaction to the deal taking shape.

WAPATROL

13: Every member of the City of Sacramento's water conservation team was on patrol this morning looking for people or businesses wasting water or watering on the wrong day.

BGTFRI

13: But many progressive groups are deeply frustrated that Democratic lawmakers didn't hold out for more money in health and social services programs. Vanessa Aramayo (are-uh-MY-oh) with the California Partnership says lawmakers should "grow a little bit more spine.

PROTEM

16: The California State Senate voted today (Monday) to elect Democratic Senator Kevin de León as the next President pro Tem. He will be the first Hispanic state Senate leader in more than a century.

PELOSI

16: Bakersfield Congressman Kevin McCarthy is expected to be elected Majority leader later this week. He says he'll do whatever he can to prevent federal money from being spent on California's high speed rail.

WASURVEY

17: The California State Water Resources Control Board today (Tuesday) released results of a conservation survey it conducted of water agencies. Of the 270 that responded, a majority have increased their conservation messaging, more than half are requesting 20 percent conservation, and just under half have stepped up enforcement.

SUGARBEV

17: Backers of the bill said sugary drink consumption is the largest contributor to health problems like obesity, diabetes and tooth decay. State senator Bill Monning said he's disappointed the bill failed but plans to keep pursuing the issue.

NUMYERS

18: The contractor on the project is Myers and Sons Construction. Co-owner CC Myers says he expects fewer big changes on future state projects because the industry is changing. He says more projects are following what's called a "design-build" model. The contractors are involved much earlier in the design process.

TRANSPLAN

18: The event was at the California Train Museum. Caltrans presented its goals related to congestion, safety, the environment, and technological innovation. Visitors were asked to submit their ideas for improving the plan.

FIXOPEN

19: Dennis Keaton with Caltrans says the department paid three-million dollars in bonuses to CC Myers and Sons for finishing each side of the project almost a week early.

MCCARTHY

19: But McCarthy's election may not be good news for supporters of California's High Speed Rail project. The majority leader has said he will work to cut off federal funding to the 68-billion-dollar rail-line.

OFFTRACK

20: But the High-Speed Rail Authority says it has become clear in meetings of the last two weeks that the requirements of the two systems were just too different for the same trains to work for both, SOC

BONNEY

20: Sacramento's soccer franchise, Sacramento Republic F-C will play in its new stadium for the first time tonight at Cal Expo. Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports crews are still adding the final touches to Bonney Field.

NULAWS

23: Some people in the business community say the new law won't affect them because they already pay above the new mandated wage. Others say struggling small businesses will have problems paying even a few dollars more. Other laws that go into effect July 1 include one that makes domestic workers eligible for overtime pay and another that expands paid family leave benefits to people caring for non-immediate family members.

WSACWIN

23: In Dallas for this year's conference, West Sacramento Mayor Chris Cabaldon [cah-BAHLdun] says the "livability" award is not a report card on all aspects of a city. He says it is given each year for a particular local effort that improves the lives of people who live in the city.

REALTY

24: The latest RealtyTrac numbers also show home sales were down last month in both California and Nevada. In California, sales were down by 15-percent from a year ago. In Nevada, sales fell by seven-percent.

WANTJOB

24: Hundreds of people submitted resumes and filled out application forms at Job Journal's HIREvent [Hire Event] job fair in Sacramento today.

SHOTPUT

25: About 300 people filled the grand stands to see the men's and women's events, which included the American record holder Michelle Carter. Carter says she has seen the Capitol venue lure both fans of track-and-field fans and non-fans who are discovering the sport.

FARMOLEST

25: A California Assembly committee passed a bill today (Wednesday) that would give the state the power to revoke the licenses of farm labor contractor's if they hire supervisors who have sexually harassed workers.

TARESTRICT

26: Smoking is allowed inside closed vehicles, campfires are only allowed in developed camp sites. Historically fire restrictions went into effect in August, but U-S Forest Service Fire Chief Kit Bailey says in the past few years restrictions have come earlier because of the drought.

AIRTAX1A

26: Supporters say the bill would help California compete with Florida and other states using tax incentives to lure large aerospace companies. Democratic Assemblyman Steve Fox is the bill's author.

CRIMES

27: An initiative that would convert some low-level theft and drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors has qualified for California's November ballot. As Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports, it's the sixth measure to go before voters this fall.

PLAZA

27: Over the past few years, the shopping center in the Arden-Arcade neighborhood has seen an exodus of big retailers including: Bed Bath and Beyond, Gottschalks and Ross. Sacramento Business Journal Editor Jack Robinson says a list of the new tenants should be out in the next few months.

SACJOBS

30: Reed says 71 percent of the companies he surveyed say they plan to hire in the next three months and 50 percent say they'll be expanding their workforce, as opposed to replacing workers who retire or leave for other reasons. The poll also found that about 30 percent of the region's top employers don't plan to hire at all in the third-quarter.

SIZZLE

30: Temperatures are expected to climb well over 100 degrees today in the Sacramento region. Johnny Powell with the National Weather Service says the official forecast calls for 107 - but it may be closer to 110 in some areas of downtown.