

Quarterly Community Issues

2014: October – December

KQNC 6:04 – 6:06 pm Weekdays

October

SIGNFOLW

01: Pitney says he was slightly surprised to see Brown veto some political reform legislation, especially since Brown has cultivated a reputation for being a political reformer. But Pitney says Brown also has a pragmatic side which he demonstrated in his vetoes.

STOCKPERS

01: A federal judge has ruled that pension contracts of workers and retirees under California law are NOT protected in the bankruptcy process.

FIREAIR

02: The King Fire in Eldorado County led to some of the worst air quality in years for some communities. Smoke from wildfires can be hazardous to people's health— particularly for those with respiratory problems.

JAILHORSE

02: About 20 wild horses are now living at the Rio Cosumnes [kuh SUM ness] Correctional Center in Sacramento County. The animals will be trained by inmates as part of a new county program.

TAMONITOR

03: Normally, it would take thousands of years for those species to migrate. But now, landscape changes could become visible in as little as 50 years - and Bill Fox with the Nevada Museum of Art says the museum plans to put photos and videos on display that show the changes.

ENVIRUS

03: The department says it's also investigating recent cases of a rare form of paralysis, and whether or not the enterovirus is a cause. Dr. Gil Chavez with the California Department of Public Health says there have been 35 paralysis cases since 2012, and three of them have tested positive for the enterovirus.

HOTWX

06: The hot weather will be with us for a few more days, but some relief is on the way. Brooke Bingaman (BING-uh-mun) with the National Weather Service in Sacramento says temperatures were ten to fifteen-degrees above normal this past weekend. She says the high pressure ridge that kept temperatures in the mid- 90's will weaken considerably by Wednesday.

PROP

06: Proposition 47 would change felonies to misdemeanors for some nonviolent property and drug crimes: Grand theft, shoplifting, receiving stolen property, writing bad checks, check forgery and drug possession.

CALAUGA

07: The water conservation message appears to be sinking in with Californians. The State Water Resources Control Board today [Tuesday] released numbers showing Californians saved 27 billion gallons of water in August compared to 2013. That's an 11.5 percent saving.

TWINRAIL

07: Tyrone Roderick Williams is Director of Development for the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency or S-H-R-A. He says the purchase of the properties will clear the way for a new mass transit station.

DOGFIRE

08: The state fire agency grounded its 23 Grumman air tankers after pilot Geoffrey Hunt of San Jose was killed when his plane went down near the Park's west entrance. Hunt was working on the Dog Rock Fire in the Park.

PROPTWO

08: We're taking a look this week at all the statewide ballot measures California voters are deciding this fall. Today: Proposition 2 – the constitutional amendment that would create a state budget reserve. As Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports, a little-known new law tied to Prop 2 has some school officials and parents upset.

EBOLA

09: There have not been any diagnosed cases of Ebola in California. But hospitals are preparing... just in case. Capital Public Radio's Katie Orr reports.

APPLEEVAC

09: Cal Fire says the wildfire along Interstate 80 northeast of Auburn has destroyed five homes and one-thousand more are threatened. The homes at risk are around the community of Applegate in Placer County, with many homes under mandatory evacuation orders.

TANKERS

10: Cal Fire's fleet of 22 firefighting air tankers is back in service. The planes were on a "safety stand down" after a tanker crash this week in Yosemite National Park.

SACCOURT

10: Presiding Judge Robert Tight says when the new building is finished, 44 court rooms will be used only for criminal cases. The court rooms at the Gordon D. Schaber courthouse on 9th Street will be used for civil cases and administration.

EBOLACAL

13: Dr. David Eisenman is Director of the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. He says he doesn't doubt the health care system can successfully treat and manage potential Ebola patients. But he says the U.S has never seen anything like Ebola, so it's unlikely health care workers have been trained for that level of infectious disease control.

WATERWORK

13: As California faces the prospect of another year of drought, a group tasked to coordinate water quality monitoring across all state agencies and departments is working to streamline the process. Capital Public Radio's Ed Joyce reports.

CLIMCREDIT

14: The California Air Resources Board says nearly 11-million households in the state will get a credit averaging \$35 on their electric bills. The credit comes from California's cap-and-trade program to fight climate change. It's a result of payments power plants and industries make when they buy carbon emission permits.

GRID

14: Grid Alternatives provides the systems for free to low-income communities. The projects are the first installations in the Sacramento region. Currently California's low-income solar rebates are only available to customers of investor-owned utilities, which don't serve Sacramento.

RAINY

15: Meteorologist Tom Dang with the National Weather Service in Sacramento says the area is likely to get one or two tenths of an inch of rain by the time the storm winds down later this morning - and though that may not amount to much, it may affect your commute.

YOCRASH

15: An air tanker that crashed while fighting a fire near Yosemite may have hit a tree, which caused the plane to crash. That's according to a preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board.

CADROUGHT

16: The forecast predicts the drought will be less severe in the southern and northwestern parts of the state, but that improvement won't happen until December or January. Even then, Werner says, any precipitation won't be enough to make up for three straight years of drought.

GROWS

16: Scooping up all of the garbage, all of the irrigation pipeline, all of the fertilizer bags -- we try to process all of the hazardous chemicals separately. And we bundle it all up in the giant nets, up to five thousand pounds at a time, and the California Air National Guard helicopter comes in and lowers us a big winch cable which we literally hook up to this giant net, and they haul it away.

VOTEREG

17: State law requires voter registration to close 15 days prior to any California election. Nicole Winger with the Secretary of State's office says it gives elections' officials time to verify eligibility.

UNEMPLOY

17: The state's unemployment rate fell to 7-point-3 percent in September, down from 7-point-4 percent in August. The national unemployment rate is 5-point-9 percent.

GOVWATR

20: Governor Brown says securing enough water for a growing population will continue to be a key issue. Brown, who's running for re-election, joked that water is a complicated issue that will continue to occupy his time.

YOSEMITEFEES

20: Yosemite National Park is proposing to raise its entrance fee from 20 to 30 dollars per vehicle for a seven day pass. Fees would also be raised for individuals, motorcycles, and annual passes. Yosemite Park Ranger Scott Gediman says the raises are needed to keep up with inflation.

KASHCAMP

21: Republican gubernatorial candidate Neel Kashkari is staying positive about the support he's gotten from his party. That's despite the lack of endorsements from two other major G-O-P candidates -- Pete Peterson, who's running for Secretary of State, and Ashley Swearengen [SWEAR-en-gin], who's running for Controller.

CATOMATO

21: Mike Montna, President of the California Tomato Growers Association, says growers chose to allocate the water they did have to tomatoes rather than other crops, because they got a better price.

POLTRAIN

22: Younessi says the students, like other poll workers, will be paid \$165 for the training and election day work, and the students will get the day off from school.

FLOOD

22: If a major flood were to take place there, it could threaten much of the state's water supply. Bill Croyle is the Emergency Manager with the California Department of Water Resources. He says the exercise helps agencies prepare for different emergency scenarios.

PPICTURNOUT

23: Twelve days until Election Day... and more signs that a lot of California voters are thinking about sitting this one out. A new poll from the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California finds only 40-percent of voters say they are enthusiastic about this election. Pollster Mark Baldassare says low excitement could mean low turnout... and unexpected results.

SUPPLMNT

23: California taxpayers are on the hook for nearly three million dollars because Governor Jerry Brown and state lawmakers delayed their water bond negotiations.

SIXSHOOT

24: Lisa Bowman with the Sheriffs' department says the deputy was investigating what he considered to be a suspicious vehicle. She says as the deputy approached, someone inside the vehicle fired multiple rounds.

BERAAD

24: A political ad running in Sacramento claims Congressman Ami Bera voted for a gas tax increase and first class travel for lawmakers. We'll take a closer look at whether it's accurate.

OPTWO

27: Election Day is just a few days away in California. This will be the second general election held under the top two primary system, which was adopted by California voters in 2010. And one political watcher says it's changed the way some candidates appeal to voters.

FINALWK

27: After avoiding the campaign trail all year long, Democratic Governor Jerry Brown is finally hitting the road this week. Yet sticking with his strategy to date, Brown's not really campaigning for his own re-election. He's mostly focused on winning voter approval of Propositions 1 and 2, the water bond and rainy day fund. And after criticism from Democrats, he's also starting to help some of his party's legislative candidates in competitive races.

ROADSUK

28: Local roads in California are crumbling. That's the news in a report out today [Tuesday] from the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. The groups issue a "roads" report every two years. The latest finds road conditions continue to deteriorate. The average county road system falls in the "at risk" category.

BYMAIL

28: If you're voting by mail this election, you might want to drop that ballot in the mail very soon to make sure your vote counts. As Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports, experts advise giving your ballot up to a full week to arrive through the mail.

PROSPEND

29: Health insurance companies have spent more than that trying to defeat Proposition 45. Prop. 45 would give California's elected insurance commissioner the power to reject a health premium increase that he or she finds excessive or unreasonable. About the same amount of money has been spent by medical liability insurers, physicians and hospitals to try to defeat Proposition 46.

GRNBRK

29: Six months after receiving the approval to begin construction of a downtown arena, the Sacramento Kings and the City of Sacramento have broken ground.

HALLOWRAIN

30: Sacramento-area kids and parents will need to bring an umbrella when they hit the streets tomorrow for trick-or-treating.

DWRPLAN

30: The California Department of Water Resources has released its plan for managing the state's water until the year 2050. It's the most comprehensive guide, involving dozens of state, federal and community agencies. The plan emphasizes the importance of integrating water management across jurisdictions.

MARILYN

31: Marilyn's on K is closing after 16 years. The live music venue in Downtown Sacramento will close its doors for good Saturday. Longtime Marilyn's manager Danny Elze (el-zee) and music promoter Marty DeAnda (dee-an-duh) worked closely with the owner of the club, Linda K. Swanigan (swan-ih-ghen), A-K-A Marilyn, since its opening. Together, they booked many of the bands that played at the club. In this audio postcard the three reflect back on the past 16 years.

CASTORM

31: The forecast is for several inches of snow in the western Sierra above 6-thousand feet. The Interstate 80 and Highway 50 corridors are likely to see significant affects from the snowfall and gusty winds. The weather service says drivers should be prepared for winter road conditions tonight through tomorrow morning.

November

CLOSERACES

03: It's also unclear whether Democrats will hold onto their two-thirds supermajority in the California Legislature. Republicans need to pick up one seat in the Senate or two in the Assembly to block Democrats from raising taxes, overriding gubernatorial vetoes and sending ballot measures to voters.

DIGNITY

03: In the final days of her life, Maynard worked with Compassion & Choices. The group supports the right of terminally ill patients to end their lives. California Political Director Charmaine (shar-main) Manansala (mahn-an-SALA) says the group will be working to get a program similar to Oregon's approved in California.

VOTER

04: The polls have been open in California for a couple of hours this Election Day. Local voters will be deciding city council races and measures - including Sacramento's Measure L, known as the "strong mayor" ballot measure. Californians will elect a Governor, seven other statewide officials and many state lawmakers. They'll also decide six statewide ballot measures, including a multi-billion dollar water bond.

DAVISFUNER

04: The life of Michael Davis, the Placer County Sheriff's Detective who was killed during a Sacramento area shooting spree last month, was honored today at a church in Roseville.

LVOTE

05: After the polls closed, both sides of Sacramento's Measure L question headed to Sacramento watering holes to await the results and talk about the campaign.

GOVRACE

05: Brown defeated Republican challenger Neel Kashkari [cash-CAR-ee], __ percent to __ percent. We have reports from both campaigns, beginning with Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler in Sacramento.

KIDPAN

06: Nine songs in a week..that's how many songs elementary students in Stockton and Lodi wrote. Capital Public Radio's Rich Ibarra reports some of those songs will soon be performed with an orchestra before "live" audiences.

SACTURK

06: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife says there are more wild turkeys in the state, and more of them in cities. The department says the population has increased since it stopped releasing the birds in the environment for hunting fifteen years ago.

SACBIC

07: Sacramento has some laws in place regarding which city sidewalks may be used by cyclists, but there are no signs posted with those restrictions.

DRYFISH

07: California's Fish and Wildlife agency says there's less water flowing during the drought, but there are just as many fish. And it said that's good news for fisherman looking for an easy catch.

SOLARUP

10: A new report from UC Berkeley shows California leading the nation in the use of solar energy in the last five years. As Capital Public Radio's Amy Quinton reports, most of the increase is in the construction of solar-farms.

CACASH

10: Corporate taxes played a large part. They were projected to bring in about \$25 million for the month, but instead generated \$328 million, about 1200 percent above projections. Personal income taxes also outperformed expectations by more than 8 percent. The one downside was sales taxes, which came in about 4 percent below projections.

VISAS

11: Ryan Becker with Visit California says in 2013 nearly half of all Chinese tourists to the United States came to California. That amounts to about 800-thousand people. 70 percent went to Los Angeles and almost half went to San Francisco.

SACCOUNCIL

11: If McCarty is sworn in December first, the city will go to Council the following week and ask for a special election for the council's sixth district.

SCIFI2

12: If the council approves, \$29 million dollars in bonds will be issued to build a new center next to the old PG&E building on Jibboom Street. The center would be responsible for paying off the bonds.

MARKMARK

12: While Republicans continue to win elections elsewhere in the country, California remains firmly in the grip of the Democratic Party. Mark DiCamillo is director of The Field Poll. He says Republicans have made significant gains nationally in the last six years. They now control both the governor's office and legislature in 23 states. But DiCamillo says the party hasn't been as successful in California.

POLARVORTEX

13: The "polar vortex" is bringing freezing temperatures to some parts of the U.S. Midwest. California and the west coast will not be chilled by the weather pattern. The polar vortex is an area of swirling cold air that exists mostly in polar regions. Sometimes a part of it drifts south, bringing frigid Arctic air with it.

TAWELLS

13: Because of the drought, three wells in South Lake Tahoe have higher levels of contamination. Some wells have been shut-downs and the state of California is investigating. Capital Public Radio's Ky Plaskon reports.

RAINFOG

14: If you liked the rain this week-- just wait. The National Weather Service in Sacramento reports this weekend will be clearing but another storm is forecast to come in around Tuesday next week. Meteorologist Eric Kurth says yesterday's [Thursday's] brief storm brought a-quarter to a third of an inch of rain to the valley. Up to an inch fell in some parts of the Sierra foothills. He says this season is a marked improvement over this time last year, for rainfall.

BDCPPAY

14: The report shows water contractors will pay between one-point-eight billion and two-point-five billion dollars a year, even during dry periods. Consultant Jim Gage with the Treasurer's Office says construction overruns are among the factors that could change the project's affordability.

NCAASAC

17: The N-C-A-A announced today the new downtown arena will be the site for the first two rounds of the 2017 event.

WOOD

17: Lung specialist Dr. Michael Schivo [skee-vo] with the UC Davis School of Medicine says young children, and people with asthma, emphysema and bronchitis, are most susceptible to the smoke.

RAIN

18: Forecasters say there'll be patches of rain and snow across the Sacramento Valley and the Sierras through the weekend.

LUNG

18: Lung cancer kills more people than any other form of cancer in the U.S. People who have quit smoking may assume their risk has dropped, but they're at the most risk.

UCBEN

19: The University of California Board of Regents is set to debate a proposed tuition increase today in San Francisco. UC President Janet Napolitano's [nuh-pol-ih-TAN-oh's] plan would raise tuition by five percent for the next five years – unless the state increases the UC's funding. Capitol Bureau Chief Ben Adler says Governor Jerry Brown is expected to attend the meeting

POSTMARK

19: That's because a new law that starts January 1st will allow ballots to be counted if they're postmarked by Election Day and arrive within three days. Right now ballots that arrive after Election Day are not counted.

REART

20: The City of Reno is considering leasing a 6-acre parcel of land to local artists for a dollar a year. The artists collective known as "The Generator" would build an art production facility on the land. Development proposals include dozens of live-work spaces and huge sculptures on the property. The first public meeting on the project is this afternoon at City Hall. City of Reno Finance Director Robert Chisel (CHIZ-el) says it could lead to art tourism.

BERAWIN

20: The result of the seventh Congressional race has been hanging in the balance for the last few weeks but no more... Incumbent Democratic Congressman Ami Bera has beaten his Republican challenger Doug Ose. Sacramento County Registrar Jill Lavine gave the update yesterday [Wednesday] after counting the provisional ballots in that district-- she says more of those provisional ballots must be counted from the rest of the county.

CALIMMIG

21: President Barack Obama's executive action announced last [Thursday] night means millions of undocumented immigrants may be able to stay in the country legally for some time. Democratic Senate President Pro-tem Kevin De Leon applauded Obama's speech. He says it's not a perfect solution but will be good for California's economy.

SACSHLTR

21: The Winter Sanctuary program opens this morning [9am] in Sacramento. It will offer a warm place for homeless people to sleep and get services. Maya Wallace with Sacramento Steps Forward says homelessness can be caused by unemployment, mental health and/or substance abuse.

GRAYFRIDAY

24: Black Friday shoppers will need to bring an umbrella this weekend. A storm system will deliver more rain after Thanksgiving.

IMMIGCAL

24: A former policy advisor to President Obama says the President's Executive Order on immigration has created "a lot of commotion" for something that won't do much for immigrants. Capital Public Radio's Ed Joyce reports.

KRUGER

25: Governor Jerry Brown has announced [Monday] he's picked U.S. Department of Justice Attorney Leondra [LEON-dra] Kruger to fill a vacancy on the California Supreme Court.

FERGREAX

25: Local religious leaders say what's happening in Ferguson could happen anywhere, including the Sacramento area.

CHANNEL

26: The man-made Delta Cross Channel transports fresh water from the Sacramento River into the interior of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The channel is about 30 miles south of Sacramento near Walnut Grove. That fresh water is eventually pumped south to provide drinking water to 25 million Californians. But with the gates open salmon can be confused and be diverted from their migratory path up the Sacramento River.

OFFNUAM

26: California has passed a number of laws designed to make life easier for undocumented immigrants living in the state. Now Democratic State Senator Ricardo Lara wants to create the Office of New Americans to help those immigrants navigate the system.

RAIN

28: Wet weather is returning again in the Sacramento area starting later today through Sunday evening. Tom Dang is with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. He says the storm system is coming from the eastern Pacific.

IMMIGDL

28: Pedro Rios is with American Friends Service Committee in San Diego, which supports immigrant-led organizations. He says at community forums people have expressed excitement, but also uncertainty about how they'll be treated by law enforcement.

December

01: SACWEB

The City is also now relying on employees in different departments to update the web pages, instead of relying on just a few employees to update all of the city's information. Tucker says the City plans to explore creation of a one-stop web portal within the next year-and-a-half. It would be a single online location for people to pay fines or fees to the city.

NEWLEG

01: Today's swearing-in of the new California Legislature marks a changing of the guard at the state Capitol – at least to a point.

REDBUDGET

02: The Sacramento Police Department is projected to be one-point-seven million dollars over-budget for the fiscal year. The department blames updating technology and increased officer overtime. The fire department is expected to spend 800-thousand dollars more than budgeted, but it's also expecting more than a million dollars in unanticipated revenue. The City expects tax revenues from Measure U will also exceed expectations, helping the City realize a surplus by the end of the fiscal year.

NOGASTAX

02: A similar proposal by Democrats to delay the requirement last session went nowhere. The California Air Resources Board says the oil market is volatile and the only way to keep fuel costs low over the long term is to reduce dependence on petroleum.

WETWED

03: Jason Clapp with the National Weather Service says in the last 24 hours, downtown Sacramento has seen about 1.39 inches of rainfall.

CIMSAC

03: Sacramento's biggest running event - the "California International Marathon" or C-I-M - is this weekend. About 15-thousand people are registered to take part this Sunday - many from out-of-town. Mike Testa is with the Sacramento Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

RAINY

04: Smith says while rain totals finished short of the normal mark for November-- this recent rain has brought totals up to 100-percent for December. However, he says there's still a long way to go in terms of catching up with the drought.

NINOYFS2WAY

04: Michelle Mead is the Warning Coordinator Meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. She tells us the rain that started Monday was from a Pacific winter storm that is typical this time of year.

NINOYFS

05: She says if it does develop, it won't bring above-average rain to northern California, but would benefit the southern half of the state. Mead says the recent storms in California were part of the typical December weather pattern. She says 150 percent of average rain and snow through March would end the drought.

RACERTE

05: The race is one of three that starts at 7 a.m. Sunday, but the road closures start earlier than that. Eighth, 9th and 10th Streets near the Capitol will be closed Sunday morning at 4:30. Tenth Street in front of the Capitol will be closed to traffic tomorrow starting at eight a.m.

STORMPREP

08: A major storm is expected to hit Northern California beginning tomorrow [Wednesday] night and last through Thursday. The National Weather Service predicts two-to-four inches of rain in the Valley, as much as 10 inches in the foothills, and up to two feet of snow in the Sierra.

SACFUEL

08: The Sacramento City Council tonight [Tuesday] will hear a plan that would have the city spend 33-million dollars over the next five years on fuel for its vehicles. Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports.

NEWTORM

09: If you're in the City of Sacramento and see any street flooding or downed tree limbs during the storm city officials say call their 3-1-1 line for city services. Rhea Serran [sir-ANN] with the city's Utilities Department says they'll be opening an operations center.

NUTS

09: A new study finds California's almond industry creates more than 100-thousand jobs throughout the state. Daniel Sumner [SUM-ner] heads the "University of California Agricultural Issues Center" which released the report. Sumner says most of those jobs are in industries that sell products to farms and processors like tractor parts and machinery.

SMUD

10: SMUD is gearing up for this week's big storm... Chris Capra with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District says the organization has staffed up its line crews and its customer service center in anticipation of the storm that will bring high wind gusts-- up to 65-miles per hour.

DIE

10: Medical school students in Sacramento and across the country staged "die-in" demonstrations today [Wednesday]. The students dropped on the ground to protest grand jury decisions in New York and Missouri over the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers. The Sacramento protest was held at the U-C Davis Medical School.

MORERAIN

11: The rain has arrived in Sacramento after lashing much of the Northern part of the state overnight. The National Weather Service says some streams and creeks have been flooding in the Redding area as the storms move through. Meteorologist Mike Smith says Sacramento will see some of the hardest rain move in a bit later this morning.

RESLEVL

11: The Department of Water Resources says water levels are rising in reservoirs. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, has received about 33-thousand acre feet of water in the last week. But Doug Carlson with DWR says a lot more is needed.

TASTORM

12: At least four ski areas in the Lake Tahoe area closed yesterday because of high winds. Today, many are expected to be back open. But as Capital Public Radio's Ky Plaskon reports, resorts will work on a short timeline.

NWSFRIDAY

12: We can expect rain through the day in the Sacramento area, but the National Weather Service says this storm is moving on into the Sierra and bringing snow into lower elevations-- around the four-thousand foot mark. Meteorologist Mike Smith in the Sacramento office says rain totals were right around what was expected-- just under three inches in the Sacramento area.

LOVOTEFOLO

15: California voter turnout hit an all-time low in last month's midterm election-- with 42-percent of those eligible taking part. Kim Alexander with the California Voter Foundation says one reason for that may be economic issues-- including a declining rate of home ownership. She says a decline in the access to a middle class lifestyle means a decline in turnout at the polls.

RAINYWEEK

15: Forecasters predict this will be another wet week. ... Brooke Bingaman (BING-uh-mun) with the National Weather Service in Sacramento says we'll see steady rain today [Monday] through Wednesday evening.

SACLERGY

16: Protests throughout the country have sparked interest in a Sacramento program called "Cops and Clergy." Local police and religious leaders go into communities together visiting schools or knocking on doors talking with young black men. The goal is to build trust. Sacramento City Police Lieutenant Roman Murrieta [ROW-man MUIR-ee-ET-uh] says they contact at-risk youth every two weeks. On Capital Public Radio's "Insight," he described what happened during a recent visit.

CALGAS

16: Falling gas prices in California have resulted in more profits for the owners of gas stations. Gas-Buddy-dot-com says the average price for a gallon of gas has fallen about 75 cents compared to this time last year.

GASECON

17: That's Sally Hamilton, a business professor at Drexel University in Sacramento. She predicts people will be spending more money on traveling and gifts this holiday season because of lower prices at the gas pumps.

COPSINSIGHT

17: Officer-involved deaths of citizens elsewhere in the United States are raising questions thousands of miles away from Ferguson, Missouri and New York.

REMETER

18: The agency that provides water in the Reno-area has taken the first step toward eliminating the last of its flat-rate customers. Capital Public Radio's Ky Plaskon reports.

RICECARB

18: Offsets are a reduction in emissions that compensate or "offset" emissions made elsewhere. Paul Buttner with the California Rice Commission says it requires growers to drain flooded fields earlier or seed rice in drier soil.

NEWFLAME

19: In 2013, the state implemented new fire safety standards that don't require the use of flame retardant chemicals in furniture. Charles Margulis (MAR-gew-lis) with the Center for Environmental Health says there are other safer alternatives. He says the labeling requirement is the logical next step.

CHARITY

19: This is traditionally the season of giving. But a new report finds affluent households in the Sacramento region are not the most charitable. Sacramento Business Journal Editor Jack Robinson says the newspaper found that giving, as a percentage of income, is greater for low-to-middle class households.

CDCRPOP

22: California has been under a federal court order to reduce its prison population. Jeffrey Callison is with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He says diverting some people from prisons to county jails, and other changes in state law have helped reduce the population.

REGOAT

22: 10 miles south of Reno, 40 goats are having a post-Christmas feast, eating trees. A company called Goat Grazers is working with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to collect trees dropped off at fire stations in Verdi, Spanish Springs, Washoe Valley and Cold Springs. The goal is to keep trees from being illegally dumped in the desert. Goat Grazers owner, Vince Thomas says the goats eat only the needles, which tastes like candy to them.

AIRMAS

23: Anytime you have a large group of people that are hurrying trying to make their flight it can be stressful. That's why we recommend people get here early because we are staffed up and we are ready for crowds around Christmas. It's stressful but it's also a really festive time.

NOWAIT

23: Starting January 1st, health insurers offering plans through California small employers will no longer be able to impose a waiting period before employees are covered. Proponents of the law say the need for waiting periods no longer exists because of new insurance rules under the Affordable Care Act.

BIZYEAR

26: Downtown Sacramento this year saw a flurry of development activity sparked by construction of the new Kings arena. Sacramento Business Journal Editor Jack Robinson says it was the top business story of 2014. Once the Kings broke ground, he says, things really started to happen.

FROST

26: A freeze warning is in effect tonight [Fri] through tomorrow [Sat] morning in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. Temperatures are expected to reach 28 to 32 degrees for several hours. A frost advisory is in effect for the Sacramento Valley, the northern San Joaquin Valley, the Delta and the Mendocino Coast.

EVEWX

29: The National Weather Service says a winter storm should hit northern California and Nevada this week with high winds and as much as three inches of snow in the high Sierra. Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports.

XCYCLE

29: Sacramento-area recycling groups say the holidays generate a lot more trash than usual. The Regional Recycling Group in Sacramento says on average, families throw away three-to-ten more bags of trash this time of year.

REALTY

30: Modesto was one of the U-S housing markets with the highest home price appreciation in November. Research firm RealtyTrac says Modesto's median sales price last month was 218-thousand dollars, up 18 percent from a year ago...but still down from its peak of \$385-thousand dollars in 2005.

SNOWUP

30: Manual readings today (Tuesday) taken at Echo Summit show only four inches of water in the snow, about 33-percent of average. Snow Surveys Chief Frank Gehrke (GUR-kee) with the Department of Water Resources says it's not nearly enough.