

Quarterly Community Issues

2017: October - December

KQNC

6:04 – 6:06 pm Weekdays

October

02: MEXIHEALTH MIXDOWN

In the consulate's packed lobby, people cradle infants, shuffle papers or slouch in plastic chairs. They're listening for their numbers, so they can apply for a passport or get a notary signature. Lupita Rodriguez peeks out from the Ventanilla de Salud, or "health window". In the cozy corner office, she offers free diabetes and blood pressure screenings, and as of this month - psychiatric services. "They have time. So we want them to use this time to look into their health, and now also mental health." The nonprofit Health Education Council has provided chronic disease screenings in the consulate lobby since 2009. Now, with a \$1 million state grant to cover mental health services for the next five years, the group is shifting focus to stress and anxiety.

02: BONDSPEED

A coalition of school officials and building developers have written to the Brown administration and rallied outside the state Capitol this summer for a quicker release bond funds. Lisa Gonzales is assistant superintendent of Dublin Unified School District. Our district is growing like crazy. We're adding 1,300 students a year, which is the equivalent of about one or two schools every year, and we simply can't keep up with the growth. Gonzales says her district needs the bond funds voters approved in Proposition 51. Governor Jerry Brown opposed that measure, and now its backers say his administration is releasing the funds much more slowly than previous, similar bonds.

03: CAGOVGUNS

State Treasurer John Chiang was asked whether he thinks existing California and national gun laws are enough – or if more are needed. Chiang pointed to tough new STATE laws approved last year by the Legislature – and by voters with Proposition 63 – such as background checks on ammunition purchases and bans on rifles with bullet-buttons. Chiang: "I don't want to politicize this, especially this particular time: We have to make sure that the laws that we have enacted, we follow through on them to make sure that we take action to prevent similar types of circumstances here."

03: NEWDOGS

Jeremy Packard is the statewide K-9 coordinator for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He says Pilot and seven other dogs will spend the next two days meeting prospective handlers and acclimating to working in prison. "When we start the academy, we do two days of classroom work with the handlers. On the third day, we actually give the dogs to the assigned handler. So, they're with the handler 24-7 from that point on until the last day of certification.

04: DACAHELP

Last month President Trump announced he would wind down DACA - Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals - an Obama-era program which offered temporary protection from deportation for some immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally as minors. That decision started a countdown for DACA recipients. If their status expires between Sept 5th and March 5th they may apply for a two year renewal. California lawmakers and Governor Jerry Brown recently passed legislation providing 20 million dollars to local agencies working directly with DACA recipients. Dan Torres, State Director of Immigrant Integration, says the funds cover legal aid and grants to cover the 500-dollar filing fee. He points to numerous barriers in the process.

04: CHALLENGERS

At the University of the Pacific, the tennis courts echo with the sound of balls hit, squeaking shoes, and grunts from players. Here a 100 mile-an-hour serve would be on the slow side, and the action is faster when compared to seeing it on TV. Morten Christiansen admires the game from just a dozen feet away. "Nice to watch the tennis tournament and see some of the top players in the world this close and you can really experience the speed of the game." Among the competitors are 7 American players including one of the top juniors in the nation, 16-year old Jenson Brooksby of Sacramento, and Mackenzie MacDonald, a former 3-time college All-American.

05: LGBTFARGO

California consumers will soon be able to sue financial institutions if fraudulent accounts are created in their names, rather than be forced into arbitration. Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler says that's one of 20 measures signed into law yesterday [WEDNESDAY] by Governor Jerry Brown. Brown also signed a bill that gives legal protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors living in long-term care facilities. And he vetoed five measures, including one that would have increased the penalty for taking a photo or video of someone without their consent – and intentionally distributing it. The governor wrote in his veto message that the bill's additional one-thousand dollar fine would not deter criminals – and that existing penalties are sufficient.

05: ORODRAIN

The old Lake Oroville main spillway and the new spillway both have the same enemy: water. Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt toured the construction site and reports on the measures taken to keep water out of places it's not supposed to go. Every 30 feet under the new spillway, there is 6" drainage pipe four-to-13 feet below the surface. Jeff Petersen is Project Director for Kiewit Construction. He says new technology should prevent any water from getting through the concrete from the top water from above "It flows from the middle out, the water does. If water went down through the slab, it would collect it. That's not likely because a new technology in this construction is the water-stop joint and you can see it in this white vinyl. That water stop is at every joint. So, water can't really get down there. But, over time, a slab separates or cracks or whatever happens to the concrete in the years ahead, the drainage system collects the water that goes through."

06: PFMASSSHOOOT

Following the mass shooting in Las Vegas this week, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi claimed there's been one mass shooting per day so far this year. Capital Public Radio's PolitiFact reporter Chris Nichols examined Pelosi's statement and the very different definitions of these horrific crimes. Pelosi said there have been more than 270 mass shootings through early October. She was writing in a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan, urging stronger gun background checks -- the day after the Las Vegas tragedy. We found the congresswoman picked a very broad definition for mass shootings -- one in which four or more people are shot, but no one is necessarily killed.

06: SANCSIGNED

Golden State is about to become a "sanctuary state." As Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports, Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill yesterday that sharply limits cooperation between California law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. The new law takes effect next year. It restricts state and local law enforcement from communicating with federal immigration agents ... and from detaining or transferring people into their custody. Supporters celebrated at a news conference in Los Angeles with the bill's author. Among the speakers: Romulo (roh-MULE-oh) Avelica-Gonzalez (ah-VELL-ee-cah), who was detained earlier this year while dropping his daughters off at school.

09: WILDFIRES

The Cascade Fire in Yuba and Butte counties has burned 3000 acres and prompted evacuations in the communities of Loma Rica and Browns Valley, about 20 miles north-east of Yuba City. Parts of Highway 20 are closed near Browns Valley. Yuba County Fairgrounds has opened as an emergency shelter that can take large animals. Two fires burning several hundred acres near Grass Valley and Nevada City have also prompted mandatory evacuations. An evacuation shelter is open at the First Baptist Church in Grass Valley and a veterinary disaster team is stationed at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. And evacuation orders are also in effect in an area north of the town of Oroville, where a fire has burned 500 acres.

09: VALLEYFEVER

Valley Fever is spread by a fungus in the dirt with spores causing a variety of symptoms including fever, body aches, and cough. The disease can last for months and can even cause death. This year San Joaquin County has seen 128 cases so far but November and December are usually the months which account for the majority of cases. San Joaquin County Health Officer Dr. Karen Furst says people who work in construction and farming are more at risk. "The fungus is only found in the soil in certain locations so people who work outside in those locations are the people who are more likely to get exposed to the disease."

10: VEEPCAL

Shortly after Air Force Two landed near Sacramento yesterday afternoon, the vice president introduced himself to Johnny Morales, who runs a small family pest control business. Pence asked Morales what he thought about the Republican proposal to overhaul the U.S. tax system. Johnny: "We're in a heavily regulated state – business – pest control, along with termite work and things like that. So when they announced that the corporate rate was going to come down, we've been wanting to incorporate, and so it literally is a bigger incentive." Pence and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, went from table to table at a carefully staged event at a manufacturing company in the nearby suburb of Rancho Cordova – talking with pre-screened families about the need for tax reform.

10: VICTIMS

Both California and Nevada are offering assistance to California residents who were injured or were otherwise affected, as well as surviving family members. About half of the 58 victims who died in the Las Vegas shooting were reportedly California residents or natives. Julie Nauman [NAH-min] with California's Victim Compensation Board says everyone at the event was traumatized. "And then the aftermath of that, of trying to process, 'what just happened to me.' And so that's why we're making a real effort to try to spread the word throughout California that anyone who was at that event should make an application." An estimated 22 thousand people attended the festival where the shooting occurred. People can apply on the Victim Compensation Board's web site.

11: OROCRETE

Crews in the mid 1960's were not using liquid nitrogen to make structural concrete for the Lake Oroville main spillway. But workers replacing the damaged spillway are using it now. Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports as part of a series on the Oroville emergency, eight months later. This is not your grandfather's concrete. Jeff Petersen is Project Director for Kiewit Construction concrete erosion" This concrete with the chemicals we have now is actually called erosion-resistant concrete. And so, it holds up a lot better to erosion over time and this is the concrete that has the extreme temperature control. So, at the batch plant, we make it with ice. We cool it off with liquid nitrogen and then we bring it out here. It has to be 50 degrees on the grade." It takes 28 days for it to cure and it must be cool and wet for 14 days.

11: WINELOSS

With fires still burning and many communication lines down, Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner Tony Linegar [Linn-ah-gerr] says they haven't made any formal assessment of damage to the agricultural sector. Linegar's heard anecdotal reports and seen photos of several burnt out wineries. He's had reports of power outages and actual vineyards burning, too. He says that's unusual. Normally, he says -"A vineyard would actually serve as a pretty good fire break. Because you have the green vegetation, you have the ground tilled up similar to what a fire break would do. But in this circumstance the winds were so high intensity and the heat and intensity of the fire actually caused vineyards to burn."

12: FIRECOM

The restoration of cell service in fire-damaged areas of Northern California is a top priority for the state Office of Emergency Services. As Capital Public Radio's Randol White explains, temporary fixes are helping residents communicate during the catastrophe. Crews with Verizon, AT&T, Comcast, and other contractors are working to restore fiber lines disabled by fires in several Northern California counties. These lines are how cell towers connect to the system. On Tuesday, there were an estimated 77 cell sites knocked off the communication grid, but by Wednesday morning, 64 of those had been restored. Bryan May is a spokesperson for Cal-OES. He says safety is a factor in getting some of the remaining or newly-damaged sites back up.

12: FIREVOICES2

Tomorrow we'll hear from people affected by the Cascade Fire burning northeast of Yuba City. State Senator Bill Dodd had to evacuate from his Napa home and says he's witnessed many fires in the area over the years. "This is just by far and away, so much more of a significant event impacting not only more people but certainly more property damage than any of those fires ever." John Fornachon says he was arriving at the Oakland Airport when he was received the pictures. His home in Napa that had been in his family for 115 years had burned to the ground.

13: CHIP-1-SS

The two decade-old federal program covers families that make too much to enroll their children in Medicaid, but not enough to purchase private plans. But this year, Congress is holding off on paying their end of the deal. As legislators argued about repealing the Affordable Care Act last month, the Sept. 30th deadline to renew CHIP funding flew by without a vote. That could be bad news for the two million California kids who rely on the program for check-ups, vaccines and emergency visits. Alla Moraru lives in Sacramento with her husband and four children. She says CHIP became vital for them earlier this year, when her husband lost his job and her two-year-old son was diagnosed with a facial tumor.

13: PFHILLSPEECH1

[We found most of her claims are backed up by the facts. Early on in the speech, however, Clinton misstated a key definition for mass shootings. Clinton: "There have been more than 270 mass shootings in the United States in the last year alone. That's where four or more are killed." In reality, there have been less than 20 shootings this year where four or more people were killed – not 270. If Clinton had included injuries in her definition, then her claim would fit with one very broad definition of this type of crime. We rated her claim False. Clinton: "One thing that most people don't know is I actually got a higher percentage of white women votes than President Barack Obama did in 2012.

16: VETODRIVE-2-CC

Governor Jerry Brown has vetoed a bill that would have extended driving limits to Californians under 21. The bill would have established a curfew between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. for those drivers. Exceptions would have been made for work and school. Several young drivers at Sacramento State, including 20-year-old Trieu [True] Nguyen [NU-when] said they're glad the governor spiked the bill.

16: KDLSENATE-1

Feinstein has long balanced progressive stances on gun control and the Supreme Court with a moderate fiscal record and a more hawkish foreign policy. So De León is challenging Feinstein from her left. In an interview with Capital Public Radio after announcing his candidacy yesterday (SUNDAY), De Leon said Democrats cannot be complacent as President Trump seeks to eviscerate programs critical to Californians.

17: BILLSDONE

California has more than 800 new laws on the books this year, after Governor Jerry Brown finished signing legislation Sunday night. He also vetoed more than 100 measures. Capital Public Radio's Ben Bradford reports state lawmakers rarely know how the governor will act on their bills.

17: FIREREADY

Of some 11 thousand firefighters, hundreds came from outside California to battle the wildfires, bringing engines, aircraft and equipment from some 17 states. Calfire's Daniel Berlant says the out-of-state help has allowed California to keep ready to stamp out new fires in other parts of the state. DB: "Even with the number of fires that we're battling in Northern California, over the weekend we had very gusty winds across Southern California, so insuring that we have plenty of resources available down there has been part of our overall strategy."

18: DAVEJONES

Victims of the Northern California wildfires who need to rebuild should be aware of scam artists. That's the warning from state Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones. On "Insight with Beth Ruyak," Jones said independent adjusters or contractors should not be talking with victims yet.

18: FIREHIRES

Cal Fire hires runners, pilots, bulldozer operators and water tender drivers. This week, a Missouri man [38-year-old Garret Paiz] died after rolling his water tender on Oakville Grade in Napa County. According to the National Fire Protection Association, there were 16-thousand vehicle collisions in fire zones nationwide in 2015. Those accidents caused more than 11-hundred injuries.

19: SEEDMONEY

Five hundred dollars a month can make a huge difference for a family below the poverty line and in Stockton, that's one out of 4 people. One million dollars is coming from the Economic Security Project, a network of researchers, elected leaders, and organizers...there are no tax dollars being spent. Mayor Michael Tubbs says over the next 6 months a study group will determine who gets the money, and for how long...anywhere from one to three years...from 25 to perhaps 75 families.

19: GASTAXBUX

Conservatives mounting a campaign to repeal California's new gas tax are getting a financial boost that could help them qualify the initiative for next November's ballot. Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler says San Diego businessman and Republican gubernatorial candidate John Cox announced yesterday he'll put some of his personal fortune into the campaign.

20: PFLACRIME1

Villaraigosa made this claim recently on Capital Public Radio. He made an even more detailed assertion on MSNBC in late July. Villaraigosa: "In the eight years that I was mayor, (there was a) nearly 50 percent drop in violent crime, gang crime — crime went down because we grew our police department, we focused on constitutional community policing." As evidence, Villaraigosa's campaign pointed to LAPD crime statistics. UC Irvine Criminology Professor Charis [SHAR-is] Kubrin [koo-BRIN] says ... Charis: "The numbers do check out. Violent crime has gone down substantially during this period of time. It's noteworthy that violent crime was going down well before."

20: FIREINS

Total damage estimates for the most destructive week of fires in California history are now topping a billion dollars. As Capital Public Radio's Randol White explains, the state has released preliminary numbers based on insurance claims. State Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones says the data surrounding the outbreak of fires in California this month is "chilling." He says more than 54-hundred homes were destroyed and nearly 42-hundred damaged. In addition there were more than three thousand vehicles destroyed, hundreds of commercial properties, and roughly 150 pieces of farm or agricultural equipment.

23: PFBREITBART1

Sonoma County sheriff's officials are blaming the far-right website Breitbart for spreading false information about an arson arrest tied to Northern California's deadly wildfires. Capital Public Radio's PolitiFact reporter Chris Nichols checked out the website's inflammatory claims.

23: CAGOPWRAP

The California Republican Party is lost in an identity crisis. The divide pits the conservative, nationalistic wing against the establishment, business-friendly wing. That split was on full display at the state G-O-P's convention this weekend. But as Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports from Anaheim, many Republicans see problems with both.

24: FLOODCAST-1

The California Department of Water Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers are repairing 30 sites that suffered "critical" damage this winter and are preparing to fix another 10. But, there are 100 locations that have been tagged as "serious" that will not be addressed this year. Jon Ericson is with DWR. "The contingency plan, what we're going to do is really lean into flood-fighting: monitoring the situation to see if the condition is going to progress to something that may cause flooding in a local area. [So, we're going to monitor and provide advance flood-fighting supplies to that location if necessary.]"

24: SHOOTING-1

Members of Sacramento's Sheriff's department practiced coordinating with firefighters to rescue injured victims from an active shooter scene. Sheriff's Sergeant Shaun Hampton says working together under a "unified command" allows them to act quicker to save lives. "If we can get a person evacuated into an area where they can receive care and better care, than just staying put inside an active scene, that's kind of what our goal is."

25: PURPH

Sacramento's Department of Utilities says the cause of the purple-tinged water was a higher concentration of manganese, a metal that can occur naturally in ground water. The department says it deposited in the pipes over years and then somehow got dislodged. Officials say there are no known health impacts, even at the higher levels found in the water last week. The city says the pipes were flushed and manganese levels have returned to normal. And they will continue to monitor the area north of I-80 near Norwood Avenue as needed. Sally Schilling, Capital Public Radio News.

25: FLOODPREP

State and federal workers are currently evaluating risk factors, such as mud flows and water-quality issues, at these burn areas. Funding and resources are tight, however, according to Darren Suen [soon], deputy director of California's flood operations center. He says a bill recently approved by lawmakers and Governor Jerry Brown could alleviate some of these budget challenges.

NOTENOUGH

26: The state Senate leader has hired an outside law firm to investigate claims of widespread harassment, and a consulting firm to recommend safeguards. The Assembly will hold public hearings on the matter starting late next month. But those response to now hundreds of women speaking out may have missed something.

26: MANNADMIN

The Sacramento Police Department has concluded its internal investigation into the shooting death of Joseph Mann on Del Paso Boulevard last July. Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports neither officer involved is still employed, but the results of the investigation are not being made public.

27: MEDICARE

Seniors have until December 7th to enroll in Medicare Part D for their prescription medicine. Capital Public Radio's Rich Ibarra reports choosing a plan can be confusing but a group of pharmacists and pharmacy students can help recipients save thousands of dollars.

27: BIZTAIL

That's Sonya Sorich with the Sacramento Business Journal speaking with Capital Public Radio's Steve Milne. You'll find more business news at: CAP-RADIO-dot-org-slash-BUSINESS.

It was a busy week on the Sacramento retail scene, with developments at several local centers. Let's start in Arden-Arcade, where a space, that used to be a Save Mart, will be filled by another grocery store. That's right. We now know that Sprouts Farmers Market is coming to Town & Country Village, with a store that could open in the third quarter of next year.

30: CJBALLOT

A ballot initiative has been filed that would reverse recently approved laws aimed at reforming California's criminal justice system. Capital Public Radio's Julia Mitric [MEE-tritch] has more on how opposing sides see the impact of the changes when it comes to public safety.

30: SANCTSTATEBALLOT

Those opponents have until January third to collect nearly 366-thousand signatures from registered voters to put an initiative on the November 2018 ballot. Backers of the law say the state shouldn't be involved in immigration enforcement or use state and local resources to track down law abiding undocumented immigrants. They say without the law crime victims would fear working with police agencies.

31: NOCOMPETE

An almost 800-million-dollar tax incentive program meant to lure companies to California could hurt small businesses and should be canceled, according to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office. Capital Public Radio's Ben Bradford reports on the California Competes program.

31: PUMPKIDS

Patients at Shriners Hospitals for Children in Sacramento got a medical lesson today as surgeons operated on a pair of giant pumpkins.

November

01: GASTAXREAX

If it feels like gas prices are up, it's not just you. California raised its tax on fuel by 12 cents per gallon—and 20 cents for diesel. As Capital Public Radio's Daniel Potter reports, many drivers aren't thrilled with the increase.

01: CANDY

For the next two weeks, dentists across California are accepting leftover candy in an effort to keep the sticky stuff off kids' teeth. Some even offer cash incentives. Then they send the candy to Operation Gratitude, a California nonprofit group that assembles care packages for military service members and first responders nationwide.

02: CRANES

The Delta and the Lodi area is their winter home where they feed and roost in the fields.

Kathy Grant with the festival says bus tours will be continuous from sunup to sunset to give visitors the best experience at seeing the birds which stand about 4 feet tall with wingspans of over 6 feet.

02: STEINSEX

Lawmakers at the State Capitol are preparing for public hearings on sexual harassment later this month. The city of Sacramento is facing similar scrutiny over how sexual harassment cases are handled. Mayor Darrell Steinberg says the current system for reporting has major flaws.

03: SACTEACH

Last night more than a hundred teachers rallied outside the district's headquarters ahead of a school board meeting. They say they want smaller classroom sizes and salaries that are comparable to similar districts in California. Michelle Gisler [GHEE-sler] teaches third grade at Matsuyama Elementary. She says Sac City Unified schools lack adequate librarians, nurses and services for disabled students. Gisler argues without those offerings the district can't attract and retain new teachers.

03: MISSING

The family and friends of two Yolo County teenagers have been trying for a year now to figure out where they went. Enrique Rios, a then-16-year-old from Esparto, was last seen on October 17th. His friend and classmate, 17-year-old Elijah Moore, vanished from Woodland a couple weeks later.

06: NOSTRIKE

Union membership will vote on it this week. If teachers ratify the agreement, they will receive pay raises of 11 percent during the next three years. Superintendent Jorge Aguilar says the part of the agreement that deals with pensions and money to pay off pension fund debt has not been finalized, but would rely on healthcare savings.

06: LEGWHISTLE

For four straight years, the California Senate has quietly shelved an Assembly bill that would have provided whistleblower protection to legislative employees. Now, the sexual harassment turmoil at the Capitol could give the bill new life. Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports.

07: RURALOPIOID

In Humboldt, Lake, Plumas and Shasta counties, the state has given out extra funding to promote safe prescribing practices. California Department of Public Health director Dr. Karen Smith says experts are traveling to rural clinics to talk to providers about what to do when a patient asks for painkillers.

07: TURKEY

Merced County-based Foster Farms is reaching out to food banks in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, the Bay Area, Seattle, Portland, and San Diego.

Ira Brill with Foster Farms says among the hardest hit is Santa Rosa and the company has already stepped forward to help the food bank there.

08: DIPLO

During his trip to Europe this week, California Governor Jerry Brown is urging foreign governments to bypass the Trump administration and coordinate with states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Capital Public Radio's Ben Bradford looks at how far the governor can wade into international diplomacy.

08: KINGS

"Kings of America" continues through December 10th at the Sacramento Theater Company. We have a link at our website, where you'll find extensive arts coverage, from theatre reviews to feature stories to Insight segments.

09: MENDOZA

An attorney for a California legislative staffer says state Senator Tony Mendoza fired her client and two other staffers for reporting his inappropriate behavior towards a young woman in the Senate Fellows Program. Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports.

09: RAILCARS

Hundreds of highly-skilled manufacturing jobs are coming to Sacramento as part of a 371-million-dollar state contract to build new commuter railcars.

10: FIRECLEAN

Today [MONDAY] is the last day for people effected by last month's wildfires in Northern California to sign up for help to clean up their properties.

10: NIXPLASTICS

A year after California enacted a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags, environmental groups say early data shows a significant dip in plastic trash. Capital Public Radio's Julia Mitric [ME-tritch] has more.

11: POTHOLES

Sacramento County workers will be hyper-focused on fixing potholes this week. The goal is to prepare the roads for the upcoming winter season. It's called Pothole Sweeps Week. Matt Robinson is a spokesperson for the County. He says they take calls reporting bad road conditions on a daily basis, and this week they're hoping to hear from even more people.

11: CRISISTEAM

Thirty five residents from Oak Park, Valley Hi and other neighborhoods where homicides among black youth are more prevalent are learning how to stop gang violence. Last week they sat down with the Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento County Probation and the County Sheriff's Department to discuss how to better work together.

13: SENINVEST

Atkins says the firm that will handle complaints must be completely independent, and must be found quickly. She says the long-range plan includes creation of rules in the Senate and the Assembly that will protect employees. A survey of staffers could be conducted soon to identify how pervasive the problem is.

13: BIGGIFT

It's the largest cash gift in the history of Sac State and comes from a former student who made it big selling mattresses. Dale Carlsen founded Sleeptrain soon after graduating in 1984. The new center is named for Carlsen and his wife Katy. It will be housed in an underused area of the campus library. Sac State President Robert Nelsen says not only will the project spur innovation among the business community, it has the potential to be life-changing for students.

14: FACTACT

Since the Reproductive Fact Act took effect in 2016, anti-abortion groups have made several attempts to get it taken off the books. Now the Supreme Court will hear a first amendment complaint against it. The law requires all pregnancy care facilities to inform patients about free or affordable prenatal and abortion services. They have to hang a poster in the waiting area listing the number for county social services.

14: YOLOPOT

Yolo County says people are growing weed all over the unincorporated areas, even though there is no ordinance that allows it. A series of community meetings are being held this month to gather ideas for the county's new cultivation and processing rules. Leslie Lindbo is the director overseeing the effort. She says people have already expressed concerns about safety, odor and the use of farmland.

15: PANHANDLE

Homeless advocates like Bob Erlenbusch [ERR-len-bush] don't like the new ordinance. Erlenbusch leads the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness. At last night's council meeting, he complimented the city for agreeing, earlier this month, to partner with Sacramento County on homeless prevention programs like mental health services and drug abuse treatment.

15: JUVEERULES

The State of California is considering changes to the minimum standards used for county juvenile halls.

16: FELLOWSREAX

Every year college graduates compete for a spot in Sac State's Capital Fellows Program. If they get in, Fellows are placed in the Senate or Assembly or the Judicial or Executive branch for 11 months. Tam Ma was a Senate Fellow in 2002-2003 and got a job interview with a legislator soon after. She later ran into him at a social gathering where Ma says he treated her inappropriately.

16: ADOPTPICK

The names and ages of children are read annually to highlight their sheer number. Gail Johnson Vaughan (vahn) is the founder of Families Now. She says the list this year, is half the size it was when the event started nearly three decades ago. VAUGHAN: "We passed very significant legislation to remove the barriers for children who are growing up in foster care and it's definitely helped shift policy and mindset about whether these children can achieve permanent families." Vaughan says many on the list this year will successfully end up with families, but the rest will have very low prospects for doing the same.

17: WEEDRULES

Marijuana growers, manufacturers and sellers will have to pay the state and submit fingerprints to obtain annual licenses. The rules set limits for the amount of THC—the active drug in marijuana—that edible and topical products can contain. There are requirements for security, packaging, waste disposal and renewable energy usage.

17: FOODBANK

The old adage 'anything helps' isn't quite right when it comes to food donations. Eileen Thomas runs the River City Food Bank. It was bustling with donation drop-offs today. "We've received jars of caviar, we've received jars of we think jam but it has no label on it so we can't really do anything with it. Those are the things I would caution people to hold back from"

20: PACHECO

Meanwhile, a former Senate Fellow says Pacheco [puh-CHAY-koh] berated her and discriminated against her because she was a Latina Republican. You can read about that in Ben's full story at Cap-Radio-dot-org. And full disclosure: The Capitol Fellows programs are run by Sacramento State, which also holds the license to Capital Public Radio.

20: PFHIGHCOSTS

Republican candidate for governor John Cox recently claimed on Capital Public Radio that California has the nation's highest water and electricity bills, along with some of the top tax rates in the country. Capital Public Radio's PolitiFact reporter Chris Nichols fact checked the candidate's statement.

21: HAHNFIG

Officer Anthony Figueroa tackled and punched Nandi Cain in north Sacramento in April. The officer had stopped Cain for jaywalking. Cain ignored Figueroa's commands and then challenged him to a fight. The officer was placed on paid administrative leave, but, is now on modified duty.

21: MEDITRUMP

Seema Verma says she wants to change the way the state and federal government approach health care. "In the past, the agency has been the "say no" agency." Verma is the administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. During a visit to Modesto Monday, she voiced support for state models that move able-bodied people off of the over-burdened Medicaid program.

22: WINTERSANC

As the cold weather settles in for the season, warm beds for the homeless are opening up in Sacramento County. The service can accommodate a hundred people with dinner, a place to sleep, and security during the overnight hours. Janna Haynes is with Sacramento County. She says on Monday night, the first night for the program, 95 people were given shelter. She expects that number to hit capacity quickly.

22: POTFOREST

Pot farming and the timber industry leave very different marks on California forests according to University of California researchers who want to know more about the ecological impact of marijuana grows. Capital Public Radio's Julia Mitric [MEE-tritch] has more.

24: TOYS

A consumer advocacy group is warning holiday shoppers that some toys, including certain types of the popular fidget spinners may be hazardous to kids. In its annual "Trouble in Toyland" report California Public Interest Research Group found high levels of lead in two fidget spinners sold at Target.

27: POTVOTE

The City will recommend allowing some existing medical marijuana dispensaries to sell recreational pot starting January 1. Sacramento has been on this track since California voters approved legalization last November. Joe Devlin is Chief of Cannabis Policy and Enforcement. He says the City hopes to embark on an "equity program" to help people who have already been selling marijuana without a license.

27: TAXREPEALS

California voters could find two separate initiatives on the November 2018 ballot seeking to repeal the state's recent gas tax increase. One calls for simply throwing out the gas tax, which was passed in April by the Legislature and signed by Governor Jerry Brown. The other would repeal this year's increase, and also require voter approval on any future efforts to raise the gas tax.

28: HARASSFALLOUT

California Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra [rah-OOL BO-cuh-NEH-gruh] has resigned, effective immediately, after multiple women alleged he groped them or made unwanted sexual advances. Capital Public Radio's Ben Bradford reports Bocanegra is the first state lawmaker to resign, following complaints by hundreds of women about a pervasive culture of sexual harassment at the state Capitol.

28: BLACKBEARS

A new study says more than 500 black bears have returned to the Great Basin of Nevada where the species disappeared about 80 years ago. Scientists say new genetic testing confirms the bears are making their way east from the Sierra ranges north and south of Lake Tahoe along the California line.

29: HARASSHEAR

Outrage over pervasive sexual misconduct at the California state Capitol is culminating in hearings to change rules that women say have allowed abuses. Capital Public Radio's Ben Bradford reports the Assembly is undertaking a tricky, public self-reform that began with a hearing yesterday.

29: POTCOUNCIL

The council voted to cap the number of brick-and-mortar dispensaries at 30, for now. Councilman Larry Carr raised concerns about the cap: "If there's not a consensus for adding more, then what we end up doing is having a system where we've essentially given monopoly to 30 groups." But councilman Jay Schenirer says there will also be delivery-only dispensaries, which are not capped.

30: LEGCOMPLAINTS

You could practically hear hundreds of jaws drop in the California Capitol during this week's Assembly hearing on sexual harassment ... when staff told lawmakers they don't keep track of victim complaints. But Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports there's no legal requirement to do so – for the Legislature, or any other California employer.

30: STATEBAR

The state Supreme Court approves changes to bar rules. It expedited this rule at the request of the bar, after reports that an Orange County district attorney withheld evidence in a 2013 child-abuse trial. The court is considering about 70 other updates, in the first major overhaul of ethics rules in decades.

December

01: TUPLEMEMO

Finding out exactly how much the California Legislature has paid out in sexual harassment settlements is no easy task. Attorney and political researcher Ryan Hughes says the total is nearly two million dollars over the past twenty five years. Nearly twice what's been reported. Hughes compiled a comprehensive report on the Legislature's secretive settlements to shed light on lawmakers and their staffers.

01: CIMMONEY

Eleven-thousand people have signed-up to run the full marathon...along with 7-thousand relay runners and 5-k participants. The Sacramento Business Journal's Digital Editor Sonya Sorich says a lot of those runners are from out-of-town and will be spending money on places to eat, sleep and shop.

04: PROP65

After years of debate around the pesticide chlorpyrifos, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment voted to add the chemical to its Prop 65 list of 900 substances causing cancer, birth defects and reproductive harm.

04: GREATWOLF

For years, the resort chain has considered Manteca as its next location and the city council could agree to an exclusive negotiating agreement that could lead to a 250-million dollar 500-room hotel. Manteca Chamber of Commerce Director Joann Beattie says the influx of a half million tourists each year would be huge economically.

05: DABABNEH

Two women say California Assemblyman Matt Dababneh [duh-BOB-nay] sexually harassed them – including one who claims the lawmaker assaulted her in a bathroom during a Las Vegas party. Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports – and we should note: This story contains some graphic language.

05: YOBUSES

Yosemite has a fleet of almost 30 buses that take visitors from waterfalls in the valley to hiking trails. They traveled almost a half-million miles last year, and now comes the next step to provide even cleaner transportation. Ranger Scott Gediman says starting next year new all-electric buses will join the fleet.

06: OMALU

He goes on to write about the complaints of his colleague Dr. Sue Parson who resigned late last month. Both write that San Joaquin County Sheriff Steve Moore overstepped his bounds as the county coroner in attempting “to control and influence” their professional judgment and conclusions.

06: LOOSCAP

Some energy analysts worry that the recent success of California's signature climate change program, cap-and-trade, creates a paradox: Blockbuster returns from the program now could ultimately undermine the state's ambitious goals for cutting greenhouse gas pollution. Capital Public Radio's Ben Bradford reports.

07: XMASCAROL

The Sacramento Theatre Company – known as STC -- is staging the 30th anniversary production of its original musical version of “A Christmas Carol.” Critic Jeff Hudson has seen this holiday evergreen many times, and has these thoughts about this local holiday tradition.

07: MLSBID

Sacramento should learn in about a week or two, whether it was chosen as an expansion city by Major League Soccer. Capital Public Radio's Randol White has this update following yesterday's high-profile meeting in New York.

08: SMOGSUIT

The EPA is generally tasked with identifying regions that have air quality problems, but so far it has not designated any areas where states are failing stricter smog standards adopted by the Obama administration in 2015. The lawsuit led by California and New York says that inaction is preventing states from addressing high-smog areas.

08: STKGANGSWEEP

California's attorney general said the sweep targeted some of the most notorious and violent gangs in South Stockton...with names like Conway Gangsters, Flyboys and Glock Team. The weapons confiscated include 10 assault rifles. Also seized...nearly 44-thousand in cash, 34 pounds of marijuana, and two pounds each of meth and cocaine.

11: RAILHOME

The facility is in an industrial complex on Railroad Drive, off of Del Paso Boulevard. The City of Sacramento says the triage component is key to identifying the problems that keep people homeless. Mary Buck was one of several homeless who had been living in a camp right across the street. She says she is grateful the City included a place for her dog.

11: SINGLEPAY

A committee of California lawmakers is working toward a universal health care plan that would cover all state residents. Today [Monday] they'll hear from policymakers in other states who've attempted to launch similar models. Capital Public Radio's Sammy Caiola explains what they might learn.

12: POTSHOPSCRAMBLE

The Bureau of Cannabis Control took a long awaited-step Friday by releasing on-line applications for retailers, distributors, testing labs and micro-businesses who want to jump into the new state-sanctioned marketplace in the new year. Kimberly Cargile is executive director of A Therapeutic Alternative a medical cannabis dispensary in Sacramento.

12: CONPLAN

The Sacramento City Council is expected to vote tonight on whether to approve changes to the Downtown Convention Center renovation plan. Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports the new proposal calls for a ballroom and a shorter timeline.

BADAIRB

13: The idea of renting out rooms or homes for a day here or a day there has become quite popular in the city of Sacramento. But as Capital Public Radio's Bob Moffitt reports, most of the people renting out their spaces are not following the rules.

LODIVOTE

13: A majority of the councilmembers said they were forced to vote in favor of district elections in order to avoid a million-dollar lawsuit. The Mexican American Legal Defense And Education Fund wrote a letter to the city in October threatening the suit claiming Lodi's "at-large" election system dilutes the Latino vote.

14: CELLPHONE

Most of us take our cell phones everywhere. We keep them in our pockets and lay them near our beds at night. Now, the California Department of Public Health has a guide about those habits. It recommends using speakerphone or a headset instead of holding the phone to your ear, and sleeping a few feet away from your device. But department director Dr. Karen Smith says there's no definitive link between cell phone use and cancer, or any other condition.

14: CORONER

San Joaquin County's District Attorney and the local Medical Society are urging county supervisors to establish a coroner's office separate from the sheriff. Capital Public Radio's Rich Ibarra reports county officials actually started looking at the issue before the current controversy.

15: DRYDEC

Two times in recent history, the Sacramento area has seen Decembers that were this dry or drier. In 1989 the city recorded no rainfall at all for the entire month, and ten years later in 1999, it was only three-hundredths of an inch... exactly where Sacramento sits this month.

15: SENMETOO

The California Senate has rolled out a new process for handling complaints and investigations of sexual harassment that the chamber's leader is calling unprecedented. But it's not drawing universal praise, as Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler reports.

18: NLSCHOOLGUNS

Another California gun law taking effect in the New Year will make it illegal to import ammunition purchased in another state without first shipping it to a licensed vendor. It's part of Proposition 63, approved by state voters in 2016.

18: SACGRAD

Almost four thousand students graduated from Sacramento State this weekend.

19: CARBFUNDING

The new plan adds funds to existing programs that offer vehicle rebates for people interested in zero-emission and plug-in hybrid cars. Around \$125 million dollars is set aside to get clean cars and busses into disadvantaged communities affected by the worst air pollution in the state.

19: POWER

The plan calls for a \$30 million contribution from the City to the construction and operation of the center's new home inside the PG&E Powerhouse Building. The center offers hands-on science and technology programs for children. Rachel Hazelwood is with the Office of Economic Development and Innovation. She says \$20 million is coming from a federal program that disappears if the Congressional tax reform bill is signed into law.

20: FREEZE

The thermometer is expected to hover around the freezing point over the next couple of days in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

20: PDDRILL

Members of the Sacramento Police SWAT team had a different start to their morning. [Wednesday] Capital Public Radio's Sally Schilling reports the department surprised officers with a mass shooting drill at the Golden 1 Center.

21: GASTAXPOLL

That's according to a new U-C Berkeley poll out today [FRIDAY], which asked about the law signed by Governor Jerry Brown this past spring. Capital Public Radio's Ben Adler says likely voters back the repeal of the transportation funding measure by a margin of 52 percent to 43 percent.

21: NL PROP64

New Year's Day marked a seismic shift for California. It's now legal for adults 21 and older to buy cannabis for recreational use from a licensed retailer. Voters set this change in motion when they approved Proposition 64 in November of 2016.

22: NLFAMLEAVE

One measure expands job-protected family leave to new mothers and fathers who work in small businesses with at least 20 employees – down from the previous minimum of 50. That's job security a Bay Area man named Alfonso wishes he had two-and-a-half years ago when his daughter was born. Alfonso declined to give his last name to avoid angering his employer at the time.

22: MURAL

The artists from the art collective known as the Royal Chicano Air Force say the mural will measure 30 feet high by 11 feet wide and will include very bright colors. Stan Padilla is one of the artists. He says the mural is a three dimensional story of how people transform into the best they can be.

26: NLRAPEKIT2

Nancy O'Malley is the Alameda County District Attorney. She says one new law requires sexual assault victims be provided with a card that says, "A person who is the victim of a sexual assault crime does not have to cooperate with or engage with law enforcement in order to get a free forensic sexual assault exam." She says another new state law requires law enforcement agencies use a new computer database to track sexual assault forensic kits once they are logged into law enforcement property rooms. Even if victims don't press charges, adult rape kits must be held for at least 20 years or until the victims turn 40 if they were minors at the time of the attacks.

26: XMASPACKAGE

About a million extra tons of waste is added to landfills by Americans from Thanksgiving to January 1 yearly. And in California nearly 25 percent of all trash comes from packaging alone. Last year the head of the state's recycling department decided it's time to reduce that total. Lance Klug with CalRecycle says policy recommendations are set to come out in February.

27: CHPBELLTOLL

The bell ringing for officer Andrew Camilleri is a private tribute to mark the final end of watch for a fallen officer. A public memorial will likely be held later this week. Camilleri died when a man suspected of being under the influence of drugs and alcohol hit his patrol SUV. The crash happened along Interstate 880 in Hayward just before midnight Christmas Eve.

27: DENTILAW

Low-income dental patients in California will have new access to important procedures, such as crowns and root canals, starting January 1st.

28: RIDLEYRESIGN

Ridley-Thomas says he's had five surgeries this year—the most recent last week—for an unspecified health issue. In a statement, the third-term lawmaker says he can't keep up with the travel, long hours and stress of the job while recovering, but that he'll look to return to public life when he's healthy. Ridley-Thomas's resignation follows that of two other Democratic Assemblymen, Matt Dababneh and Raul Bocanegra, who stepped down after allegations of sexual misconduct. It will leave the party two votes shy of the two-thirds majority it enjoyed at the start of this session, at least until the state holds special elections for the seats—likely in June.

28: NL ANTIBIOTICS1

California livestock managers will need a vet to prescribe antibiotics to treat health problems in cattle, goats and other livestock. UC farm advisor Dan Macon works with ranchers on livestock production in the Sierra foothills. He notes the law doesn't require a vet to be on site for each animal that needs treatment. But there will need to be a "veterinary-client-patient relationship." [Macon/AX: "Where the vet knows the operation, knows the rancher and has some idea of the types of animals and types of issues the rancher may be dealing with. And so it does require some semi-annual check in with the vet at the ranch."] Macon says food animal vets are increasingly rare. He says the new law could pose a challenge for California livestock ranchers in places where vets are few and far between.

29: VEHICLEFEE

It's part of the deal lawmakers passed that also increased the gas tax to help pay for the state's backlog of needed road repairs

29: CALTRANSCLIMATE

Last year's storm season caused more than \$1.2 billion dollars in highway damages statewide. In response, Caltrans is preparing 12 reports that evaluate each region of the state for infrastructure vulnerabilities due to changes in climate. Vanessa Wiseman is with Caltrans.