

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ORCHESTRA**January 3, 8-9 a.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Amy Johnson reports that less than 4% of classical American symphony musicians are African-American, but that is certainly not because of the talent pool. In fact there are thousands of celebrated and talented classical musicians of African descent throughout the world. Yet their opportunities to grace concert stages of major American orchestras seem rare. The 'Colour of Music Festival' in South Carolina has a mission to reverse that trend.

MLK BREAKFAST**January 14, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Juan Fernandez reports that people of many faiths attended the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast. It was held at Holman United Methodist Church. The event celebrates Dr. King's message of equality, freedom, justice and peace. The keynote speech focused on communities coming together.

ACADEMY CHANGES**January 23, 8-9 a.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Amy Johnson reports that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is pushing to fix its diversity problem. The goal is to double the number of women and minorities among its ranks over the course of four years.

GARCETTI / FIRST AME**February 7, 8-9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Andrea Fujii reports that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is helping celebrate African-American Heritage Month. He visited the First AME Church in South Los Angeles. The visit was not only for worship, but to remember the city's past. Mayor Garcetti reflected on L.A.'s rich history, and the role people of color played in it.

PAINTING NEIGHBORHOOD**February 17, 8-9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Elsa Ramon reports on how some artists in L.A. are using their talents to restore neighborhoods in the city, one alley at a time. The makeover began with one mural on a wall. Neighbors saw the bright display and began cleaning up and offering up their properties for painting. Word of the project spread, and more property owners and artists are signing up.

PRES. MEETS W/ AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERS**February 18, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Leyna Nguyen reports that President Obama met with African-American civil rights leaders at the White House, to discuss several issues, including criminal justice reform. The President praised bipartisan support in Congress for some of the proposals, but noted more work must be done.

BULLYING IMMIGRANTS**March 8, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Elsa Ramon reports that a Virginia mom is upset about what she calls "the Trump effect". She says her son's 3rd grade classmates told him he'd be sent home because of his 'brown skin', if Trump becomes President. She says the bullies used very specific rhetoric that came directly from the presidential campaign.

GARCETTI EXIDE**March 12, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Andrea Fujii reports that there is an expanded effort to help homeowners in Boyle Heights, who may be living on contaminated land. Hundreds of volunteers went door-to-door to encourage people to sign up for free lead testing of their property. At issue is soil that might have been tainted by the Exide battery recycling plant, in the neighboring city of Vernon.

RACIST GRAFFITI**March 13, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Erica Nochlin reports that racist graffiti has triggered outrage in an upscale Southland community. Vandals spray-painted a number of hate-filled messages outside Palisades Charter High School.

LUMOSITY LAWSUIT**January 6, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Andrea Fujii reports that a California company will have to pay a \$2-million fine for claiming it can improve brain function. The Lumosity app was also billed as a tool to improve academic performance and fight diseases like dementia. The Federal Trade Commission says the claims are misleading to consumers, because there is no science to back it up.

CHOCOLATE SHORTAGE**January 15, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Juan Fernandez reports on how the world could be heading for a shortage of chocolate. Demand is up very high, especially in Asia, and cocoa growers are struggling to meet it. Production is down because of factors like rough weather and a diseased crop. Cocoa prices have jumped nearly 40% in three years.

SOCAL HOME PRICES**January 19, 8-9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Jeff Vaughn reports that Southern California home prices and sales are on the rise. The median home price in the six-county region is up nearly 7% from 2015. Home sales are also up slightly more than 8%. Prices rebounded the most in Orange County, where the average price of a home is \$630-thousand—that's the highest since the recession where the peak price was \$645-thousand.

UNEMPLOYMENT**February 5, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Leyna Nguyen reports that the U.S. Department of Labor announced the U.S. unemployment rate is at 4.9%. It's the first time in eight years that the rate is below 5%. Experts say it's a solid report, however noted there are also a few warning signs for the American economy.

SUPER BOWL ECONOMY**February 7, 8-9 a.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Correspondent John Blackstone reports that after hosting the Super Bowl, the city of San Francisco is going to be left with a huge bill. The city is complaining as to why they are getting no funds from the NFL for costly expenses such as police overtime and street cleaning.

PROPOSED GAS TAX CUT**February 23, 4-5 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Juan Fernandez reports that gas prices could drop more in California, because taxes are going down. The Board of Equalization in Culver City voted to lower the excise gas tax rate. The rate will drop 2.2-cents a gallon starting in the month of July, and the rate will last for one year.

FAST FOOD ANTIBIOTICS**March 5, 8-9 a.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Dana Jacobson reports that customers at Subway restaurants are going to be able to order chicken sandwiches made with chickens that were raised without antibiotics. Public health officials say this will make consumers safer.

MASERATI RECALL**March 15, 4-5 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Sandra Mitchell reports that luxury automaker Maserati is recalling 30-thousand cars, because they can accelerate on their own. Maserati says floor mats have been getting stuck under the gas pedal, which causes the cars to speed up even if the driver is not pushing the gas pedal. Maserati will be contacting drivers of the affected models.

ALDI GRAND OPENING**March 24, 4-5 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Elsa Ramon reports that a budget grocer called Aldi is celebrating eight grand openings in Southern California. The German-based chain touts low prices by streamlining its selections, often selling under its own private label. Aldi plans to open 25 additional stores in L.A. and Orange Counties by summertime.

SUN VALLEY PURSUIT**January 4, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Jennifer Kastner reports live from Sun Valley, where northbound interstate-five was shut down for hours, after a police chase, crash and shooting took place with a man wanted in connection with a violent month-long crime spree.

DEADLY HOME INVASION**January 17, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Brittney Hopper reports live from Downey, where police have two men in custody following a deadly home invasion. Their search continues for a third man. The Downey neighborhood is frightened, and in mourning for the homeowner who was killed.

ESCAPEES RETURNED**January 31, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Peter Daut reports that the three inmates who escaped from a Santa Ana Jail are back in Orange County, but security is going to be much tighter. The men had spent eight days on the run, until they were captured in the Bay Area.

FAKE PRIEST ARREST**February 2, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Rachel Kim reports that the LAPD and the L.A. Archdiocese both say Father Erwin Mena is a con man. He's been arrested for pretending to be a priest, and allegedly stealing thousands of dollars from unsuspecting parishioners.

BOYLE HEIGHTS HIT-AND-RUN**February 15, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Andrea Fujii reports on the calls for justice, after a hit-and-run driver left a college student and member of the National Guard to die in the street. It happened in Boyle Heights, when 24-year-old True Cowan was walking to the store. His family's hope is that whoever drove off will do the right thing and turn themselves in.

ANAHEIM OIS**February 20, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Jeff Nguyen reports live from Anaheim, where investigators are on the scene of a deadly officer-involved shooting. Police say the man they shot had shot another person, and then fired at a police helicopter.

HUMMER PURSUIT**March 1, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Orange County Reporter Stacey Butler reports that the man who allegedly kidnapped his own kids and former girlfriend, and ended up in a long standoff with police in Newport Beach, has finally been caught. He was captured near his mother's house in Cerritos.

LAKERS SEXUAL HARASSMENT**March 21, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Jennifer Kastner reports on how the L.A. Lakers are conducting damage control after two players were accused of sexually harassing two women in Hollywood. Photos of the incident ended up online, and the situation has turned into an embarrassment for the team. A spokesperson for the Lakers says they are taking the allegations very seriously.

SANTA CLARITA KIDNAPPING**March 25, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Jeff Nguyen reports live from Santa Clarita, where a man with a knife snatched a two-year-old girl out of her home. Some neighbors are being called heroes for seeing it happen and jumping into action.

EDUCATION & YOUTHFCC Report
1st Quarter 2016**KIDS AND WEIGHT LOSS****January 1, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Chris Martinez reports that many adults are making New Year's resolutions to lose weight and get in shape, but a school program in L.A. is specifically helping students make physical fitness a lifelong goal.

SCOTUS TEACHERS**January 11, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Jeff Vaughn reports that an Orange County teacher is leading a case that was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. The case challenges forced union dues to non-members. A group of teachers say their First Amendment rights are being violated, when public employee unions force mandatory fees from workers who choose not to be in the union.

COLLEGE ADMISSION CHANGES**January 20, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Jeff Vaughn reports that the struggle to get into college could get a little easier. Harvard University researchers released a report called, "Turning the Tide". The researchers say it's time to revamp the admissions process, and recommend reducing the emphasis on standardized testing. They also recommend cutting the amount of extracurricular activities required, and encouraging kids not to overload on AP classes.

SUPER BOWL YOLA KIDS**February 8, 8-9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Jeff Nguyen reports on a Southern California connection to the Super Bowl halftime show. The L.A. Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform during the halftime show. The majority of the kids in the YOLA program come from immigrant families. All of them are from

working-class families who live in some of L.A.'s economically challenged neighborhoods.

TRANSGENDER LOCKER ROOMS

February 11, 9-10 p.m. newscast

KCAL9 Anchor Jeff Vaughn reports that a transgender high school student in San Diego County has triggered a fierce debate at his school. The student was born a girl, but identifies as a boy. He wishes to use the boys' locker rooms. An online petition has started, asking the school district to maintain its support for students like him.

PARENTS BACK TO SCHOOL

February 28, 7-8 a.m. newscast

KCAL9 Reporter Jamie Yuccas reports on how some parents are having a hard time helping their kids out with homework. Some of these parents have decided to head back to the classroom themselves, for refresher courses.

LAUSD ART FESTIVAL

March 5, 8-9 p.m. newscast

KCAL9 Anchor Andrea Fujii reports that there are many great performing artists in L.A. who are children. Kids from 60 schools participated in an event called, 'Northwest Fest'. They attend schools in the northwest part of the L.A. Unified School District. Most of the kids take part in an after-school arts program called 'Beyond the Bell'.

CHARTER SCHOOL DENIAL

March 17, 10-11 p.m. newscast

KCAL9 Reporter Stacey Butler reports on a bombshell decision regarding the future of a controversial Chino charter school. The school board unanimously voted to close it down, and hundreds of parents are furious.

UC SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

March 24, 9-10 p.m. newscast

KCAL9 Anchor Peter Daut reports that UC Berkeley has unveiled a plan to fight sexual misconduct, following criticism over its handling of several cases. UC officials say the plan hopes to provide quicker investigations, more consistent sanctions and more interactive training and education about sexual misconduct.

CALIFORNIA TREES DYING**January 2, 7-8 a.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Amy Johnson reports that despite recent storms, the mountains in Northern California continue to face a severe drought. A study reveals nearly one-billion trees have been impacted. The U.S. Forest Service says more than 29-million trees have died, and 58-million more are on the brink. The hope is that El Niño-fueled storms will bring much-needed rain.

VW EMISSIONS LAWSUIT**January 4, 4-5 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Juan Fernandez reports on the problems for troubled German automaker Volkswagen. The Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Justice are suing Volkswagen over its emissions-cheating software. Volkswagen is being accused of violating environmental rules. About 500-thousand Volkswagen and Audi vehicles in the U.S. are affected by the scandal.

PORTER RANCH UPDATE**January 8, 4-5 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Andrea Fujii reports that the air may become a little clearer in Porter Ranch, as SoCal Gas has agreed to burn off some of the methane gas from a leaking well. The company says it will start to use air pollution control devices to destroy the methane and reduce the foul odors.

SEA LIONS AND HEAT**February 15, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Rebecca Ferriter reports that although Southern California has been spared from the effects of El Niño, the weather phenomenon continues to have an impact on marine life. Sea lions are experiencing problems along the California coast.

INDOOR AIR POLLUTION**February 24, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Sandra Mitchell reports on how people may be risking their health when they freshen up their homes. A British report shows

that candles, air fresheners and cleaning products can pollute the air inside people's homes. Experts say breathing in toxins can cause asthma, heart disease, dementia and even cancer.

DROUGHT UPDATE

February 24, 10-11 p.m. newscast

KCAL9 Anchor Jeff Vaughn reports that the chief forecaster of the State Water Resources Control Board says that anything short of daily rain in March will likely result in another year of forced water cutbacks. El Niño conditions have helped ease the drought somewhat, and even with the dry spell, the winter has been the best in five years for rain and snowfall statewide.

YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLIES

March 3, 8-9 p.m. newscast

KCAL9 Anchor Elsa Ramon reports that grizzly bears near Yellowstone National Park have made a dramatic recovery, according to the federal government. Fish and Wildlife officials say they may lift 'threatened species' protections for the bears, but unfortunately that would open the door for people to hunt for them in surrounding areas. Bears within Yellowstone would remain off-limits.

SEA LION RESCUE

March 16, 9-10 p.m. newscast

KCAL9 Anchor Jeff Vaughn reports that more starving sea lion pups are getting stranded along the California coast. Warmer ocean temperatures mean it's hard for them to find food. The Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute is expanding its facility to take in more animals.

PORTER RANCH TESTING

March 26, 7-8 a.m. newscast

KCAL9 Reporter Rebecca Ferriter reports that testing is underway for any lingering chemicals inside Porter Ranch homes. L.A. County health officials are testing the air and surfaces inside about 100 homes for any traces left behind from the gas leak. People who live closest to the capped leak, have continued reporting headaches and nausea.

CRYOTHERAPY**January 3, 7-8 a.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Marlie Hall reports on a trial that is underway to help people with a rare and deadly form of cancer called Mesothelioma. Doctors at the Mayo Clinic are freezing the tumors before taking them out.

HIV PREVENTION**January 4, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Kenneth Craig reports that there is a push among healthcare officials to get the word out about a pill that can prevent HIV infection. The CDC says not enough providers know about it.

OBAMACARE TAX ISSUES**January 8, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Jeff Vaughn reports that more than a million people who got insurance through President Obama's healthcare law, are at risk of losing it because of tax filing mistakes. The IRS says it is working to help people and reduce the confusion.

CANCER TESTS**February 9, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Jeff Vaughn reports on how researchers say there is a blood test on the horizon that can detect cancer long before a patient notices symptoms. Several companies are racing to develop the test. However the FDA says the test does not have adequate clinical validation and may harm the public health.

HEARTBURN DRUGS / DEMENTIA**February 16, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Sandra Mitchell reports that a study published in JAMA Neurology says heartburn drugs like Prilosec and Nexium increase the risk of dementia by 44% in people over 75. Researchers say doctors should be careful about over-prescribing the medications.

ZIKA TRANSMISSIONS**February 23, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Leyna Nguyen reports that the CDC is investigating 14 possible cases of Zika virus that may have been spread through sex. These cases include two pregnant women, and the virus is suspected of causing severe birth defects.

MALIBU TOXIC SCHOOLS**March 1, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Serene Branson reports that it's been several years since toxic chemicals were found at Malibu schools, but parents and teachers are saying the district has no plan to remove them.

RACE FOR THE CURE**March 9, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Sandra Mitchell reports on the upcoming Susan G. Komen Los Angeles County Race for the Cure. Thousands will be at Dodger Stadium to support breast cancer patients and survivors, and to remember those who have been lost.

SCOTUS BIRTH CONTROL**March 23, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Peter Daut reports that on the sixth anniversary of President Obama's healthcare overhaul, religious groups are challenging one of its mandates that provides free birth control. They argued before the Supreme Court that Obamacare is clashing with their religious rights.

OBAMA GUN CONTROL**January 2, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Elsa Ramon reports that President Obama is vowing executive action on gun control. It will be among his top agenda items in his final year in office. Sources say the President is hoping to increase the number of transactions requiring background checks, and is also considering requiring stepped-up reporting and tracking of lost or stolen guns.

STATE BUDGET**January 7, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Juan Fernandez reports that Governor Jerry Brown unveiled plans for a \$123-billion state budget. It's a record-high amount that would increase spending on programs that suffered cuts during the recession. The proposal includes a big boost for education, health care and state infrastructure.

MINIMUM WAGE**January 19, 12-1 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Sandra Mitchell reports that the City Council in Long Beach is considering a plan to raise the minimum wage to \$13 per hour. Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia supports the increase. L.A. County and city officials have approved two separate plans to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by the year 2020.

DEMOCRATIC DEBATE**February 4, 9-10 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Political Reporter Dave Bryan reports that in New Hampshire, a fiery debate took place between the two Democrats fighting for their party's nomination. The gloves came off as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders spent two hours ripping into each other on the issues, as well as their records.

COASTAL COMMISSION**February 10, 8-9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Len Ramirez reports that a showdown lasting more than eight hours has been going on regarding the California coastline. Hundreds of people from across the state flooded a Coastal Commission public hearing. The focus was on whether or not the embattled leader of the commission should be fired.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**February 25, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Political reporter Dave Bryan reports on the debate and its possible impact before Super Tuesday. Donald Trump took many jabs from all sides, in what may prove to be the most important Republican debate of 2016. Leading the attack was Senator Marco Rubio, whose aggressive questions and charges set the tone.

DEBATE POLITICS**March 13, 10-11 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Cristy Fajardo reports on the high stakes, as five states will be holding primaries with more than a thousand delegates up for grabs. A CBS News battleground tracker shows Hillary Clinton crossing the halfway point to the Democratic nomination, with more than 1200 delegates, and Donald Trump a third of the way with more than 400.

MAYOR / TRANSGENDER**March 15, 4-5 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Anchor Leyna Nguyen reports that L.A. city leaders are forming a partnership with the transgender community. Mayor Eric Garcetti introduced the city's first Transgender Advisory Council. The group will help city leaders handle specific issues within the transgender community. With this, L.A. becomes America's largest city to have a council serving the transgender community.

LAPD / BELGIUM TERROR**March 22, 8-9 p.m. newscast**

KCAL9 Reporter Jeff Nguyen reports that Mayor Eric Garcetti spoke with law enforcement and religious leaders at his side, to express that there is 'no credible threat' to the city, but it's still responding with a show of force. Extra security is being added at key places around the city. LAPD Chief Charlie Beck added that Southern California has a potent weapon in its arsenal—inclusion. He said the belief in each other is what keeps people from turning to the darker sides of religion.