

**KGO-TV
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

**QUARTERLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY ISSUES
AND
RELATED PROGRAMMING**

**FIRST QUARTER 2014
REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING**

During the first quarter of 2014, KGO-TV aired the following regularly scheduled local newscasts identified on air as “ABC 7 News” with a total cumulative average of over 100 hours per month:

Monday - Friday	4:30-7:00AM
Monday - Friday	11:00-11:30AM
Monday - Friday	4:00-5:00PM
Monday - Friday	5:00-5:30PM
Monday - Friday	6:00-7:00PM
Monday - Friday	11:00-11:35PM
Saturday & Sunday	11:00PM-12:00AM
Saturday & Sunday	5:00-6:00AM / 6:00-7:00AM / 8:00-9:00AM
Sunday	9:00-10:00AM / 9:00-9:30AM
Saturday & Sunday	5:00-5:30PM & 6:00-6:30PM

THE LIVE WELL NETWORK-

On KGO-TV's sub channels 7.2 HD and 7.3 SD, KGO-TV broadcasts the "Live Well Network," a single free 24/7 over-the-air digital multicast platform channel providing viewers with a simulcast (D2 HD and D3 SD) original content focusing on home, health and lifestyle.

The "Live Well Network" offers programs entitled Motion, Mirror, Mirror, Let's Dish, Steven & Chris, Knock It Off, Sweet Retreats, Best Recipe, Food Rush and My Family Recipe Rocks, along with others.

KGO-TV'S D2/D3 Live Well Network signal carries Public Service Announcements, and Children's Core Programming as described in the Quarterly FCC 398 Children's Report.

During the first quarter of 2014, KGO-TV also aired the following regularly scheduled locally produced programming that addressed the problems and needs of the San Francisco-San Jose-Oakland Market area:

BEYOND THE HEADLINES- This locally produced public affairs program consisted of a variety of subjects primarily dealing with issues related to the local community. The program's objective was to go "beyond the headlines" and explore critical issues facing the community. KGO-TV news anchors hosted this program that aired Sundays from 10:00 to 10:30am.

SEVEN ON YOUR SIDE- Michael Finney headed this consumer affairs unit that provided consumer information / product recalls during local 5:00pm newscasts, and reviewed investigations / resolutions during 6:00pm newscasts. Office staff answered letters, e-mail and hotline telephone calls from viewers seeking help with a wide variety of consumer problems. On the average, the unit received over 4000 e-mails/ letters, and over 1500 phone calls per month.

SPONSORED EVENTS

The following community events were featured on KGO-TV's day planner, "Around the Bay," the station's vehicle for sponsoring upcoming community events. Each of these thirty-second spots featured two to three events, and aired for two weeks on a fixed schedule:

1/1/14 – 1/3/14

Project Roadblock: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving

1/4/14 – 1/17/14

SFMOMA: "FOG: Design + Art" (1/17-1/19/14)

SF Airport Commission/City County of SF: SFO T3E Community Day (1/25/14) new airline terminal grand opening, Carolyn Johnson MC

1/18/14 – 1/31/14

Make-a-Wish Greater Bay Area: Wine and Wishes (2/1/14) Ama Daetz MC

Redwood City Lunar New Year Celebration (2/8/14) Kristen Sze MC

2/1/14 – 2/14/14

Academy of Friends Gala (3/2) Oscar night fundraiser for HIV/AIDS groups
USF & Mexican Museum exhibit (thru 12/12/14)

2/15/14 – 2/28/14

California Film Institute's Oscar night fundraiser (3/2/14)

Okizu: Art Inspiring Hope Gala (3/29/14) Cheryl Jennings & Carolyn Johnson MCs

3/1/14 – 3/14/14

Ronald McDonald House at Stanford: House Party! (3/22) Cheryl Jennings, Mike Nicco (and Don Sanchez) MC Bay Area Air Quality Management

District: Altcar Expo (3/14-3/15) alternative car expo

3/15/14 – 3/28/14

Community Housing Partnership: Night with the Stars (4/9/14) Carolyn Tyler judge Professional BusinessWomen of California Conference (5/13/14)

Cheryl Jennings MC, 25th Anniversary

3/29/14 – 4/11/14

American Heart Association: Go Red for Women Luncheon (4/25) Carolyn Johnson MC

West Contra Costa County Youth Service Bureau: 30th Anniversary (5/15)

1000 Mothers Against Violence: Mourning Mothers Walk (5/10) Cheryl Jennings MC

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS-

During the first quarter of 2014, KGO-TV aired over 1500 public service announcements in various time periods throughout the broadcast day that involved a variety of topics. Some of the PSA sponsors that aired in this quarter included: Foundation For A Better Life, Alzheimer's Foundation, Save The Children, Oral Cancer Foundation, Federal Student Aid, USDA, Wounded Warriors, Oakland Zoo, CDC Heads-up, St. Jude Children's Hospital, United Way, US Marines, Army National Guard, EPA-Radon, Alanon Family Groups, March of Dimes, Women In Film, Financial Literacy, and Federal Student Aid.

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In addition to the local news and public affairs programs described in this report, KGO-TV carries all of the ABC Television news & public affairs programs listed and described in the report filed as "Network Programming."

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KGO-TV regularly surveys community leaders and organizations, and responds to these surveys. The station also regularly hosts community feedback meetings known as "ABC 7 Listens" at different Bay Area locations. Residents are invited to discuss, key issues, problems, needs and interests. Through these efforts we've determined that the following issues are important to the community:

- **YOUTH ISSUES**
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- **ECONOMY**
- **CRIME & LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- **ENVIRONMENT**
- **SPECIAL NEWS**

Some of the station's most significant treatments of these issues are described on the following pages.

LOCAL PROGRAMS ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS & NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

YOUTH

ABC 7 News At 6PM - Wednesday, March 26, 2014 - (2:00)

Students Participate in We Day:

About 16,000 students from all over California participated in "We Day" at the Oracle Arena in Oakland. It's the world's largest youth empowerment event of its kind. We Day had its share of musical acts; after all it was mostly teenagers attending. But it was more than that. "We Day" was a chance for these students to pat themselves on the back for what they've done to change the lives of others. Jaagriti Sharma is one of the game changers. Two years ago, she started a tutoring service for underserved kids in San Diego. "We pair with the local library and every week we tutor students, all subjects, all ages," Sharma said. Microsoft, Allstate, and the Unilever Project Sunlight sponsored the event. "They are not bystanders; they want to be part of the future," Unilever spokesperson Gina Boswell said. Other big names came to encourage the youth to continue doing their local and global causes. "This is a fun day for you and look at what you have achieved and look at what more you can do," actor Orlando Bloom said. A word of advice from some of those who have achieved great things in such a short period -- "If you step out of your comfort zone and take a look at the world around you, you can do anything you set your mind to," Angela Chuang said. The event drew students from more than 400 schools in California.

(Youth Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 6PM - Monday, March 17, 2014 - (3:32)

Stanford's Ronald McDonald House to Host Fundraiser:

Ronald McDonald House at Stanford is planning to dramatically expand its ability to care for families with children being treated for life threatening illnesses. And, it needs help. "I have a big scar here and right here," said Shon Clayton.

Clayton isn't self-conscious about his scars or his nasal feeding tube. He's staying with his mom, Barbara, at Ronald McDonald House Stanford. He's recovering from his latest surgery, for one of many health issues. The house is full. Forty-seven families are living there, right now, because their critically ill children are being treated at nearby Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Shon's complicated medical conditions affected everything in his life. "When we adopted Shon, we were told he had a small heart condition, or a heart condition and his stomach was on the wrong side. He had no spleen. We since learned that his heart condition, on a scale of one to 10, he was a 10 plus," said Shon's mother Barbara Clayton. Shon is 16 years old and has been in and out of hospitals for years, with stays that have lasted for weeks. Barbara slept in a chair by his bed. They're so grateful Ronald McDonald House had a real bed once Shon was strong enough to leave Lucile Packard Hospital. "The first night I said to Shon, 'is this the most comfortable bed in the world, or is it from sleeping in a blue chair for so long?" said Clayton. They miss their family, in Paso Robles. "We have two other adopted children that are at home. Dad was home with them," said Clayton. At the Ronald McDonald House, Shon can get visits from his family. And he can dance to his favorite music. But, in spite of the smiles, things are not easy. "Last night I told my mom that my life was filled with twists and turns but I go through it like a puzzle," said Shon. At least, Shon and his mom feel like they have a home. "The compelling thing about walking into this house is anyone of those families could be you. So, we have just seen the waiting list explode in the last couple of years to the point that we're turning away 40-50 families every night," said Ronald McDonald House Chief Operating Officer Laura Boudreau. Boudreau says that's why the house is working hard to more than double its capacity as fast as it can, with Stanford's help. "It all, kind of, came to fruition when Stanford gave us the land right next door to where we're located. The Ronald McDonald House has raised two-thirds of the \$41 million they need. They need to get to 80 percent before they can break ground. The public can help. The Ronald McDonald House will have an upcoming fundraiser on March 22, which will be held on the construction site. They're calling it a house party.

(Youth Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 6PM - Tuesday, March 11, 2014 - (1:40)

Stars Raise Money for San Francisco Children's Hospital:

The stars were out in San Francisco Monday -- all for a good cause. From sports luminaries to A-list actors, they came together to raise money for sick children. Legendary record producer Lou Adler and his wife Page were the driving force behind the star-studded event. Celebrities joined children on stage at San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall to raise money for the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital and the Painted Turtle, a camp for sick kids. "It's a wonderful hospital, the Benioff hospital and then, we're able to take them after that or during that and give them a sense of normal," Lou Adler said. Actress Annette Bening says agreeing to take part in the fundraiser was a no-brainer. She has four children of her own. "Anybody who has children and children who are well, feel a sense of responsibility towards parents and kids and families that are struggling and that aren't well," she said. Kathy Griffin wore a Valentino gown with a plunging neckline for the occasion, all in the name of fundraising. "Renee Zellweger actually used double-stick tape to make sure my breasts are in the dress properly, but if they fall out and it gets a donation for the Painted Turtle then so be it, let's call it a happy accident," she said. The celebrities helped raise over \$1 million.

ABC 7 NEWS 11AM - Wednesday, February 26, 2014 - (2:10)

Kid Raises Over Half a Million Dollars to Cure Friend:

Here's a story about the power of friendship, two California boys and their unbreakable bond. One of them has a disease with no cure; however his 7-year-old friend is on the case setting out to change the world. At 3am 8-year-old Jonah Pournazarian has to be fed with precisely measured bottles of water and cornstarch. He needs to be fed them every few hours, through a tube in his stomach. Jonah is one of 500 children in the world who suffers from Glycogen Storage Disease Type 1b, which is a rare liver disorder that means he's always fighting dangerously low blood sugar. "We hope we don't miss an alarm clock because he could die. His life is our hands," said Lora Pournazarian. The one scientist who's been racing towards a cure almost ran out of funding, but help is now coming from an unexpected place -- Jonah's best friend from pre-school. Dylan Siegal, 7, says his friendship with Jonah is as "awesome as a chocolate bar"...and so he wrote a book of the same name. Dylan read from his book, "I'd like to help my friend, that's the biggest chocolate bar." At \$20 a copy, the book has turned into a sweet success, raising more than half a million dollars, from new friends with big hearts in all 50 states and 42 countries. And every cent goes to the Florida lab, where they now truly believe they're getting close to a cure. "It is now reality. It's not just a dream that these children can be cured," said Dr. David Weinstein.

(Youth Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 11PM - Monday, February 24, 2014 - (1:45)

5 Bay Area Kids Come Down with Paralyzing Illness:

Bay Area doctors are stumped. Five local children are now paralyzed, sometimes within hours after coming down with a mysterious polio-like illness. The number of sick children could be as high as 20. Sofia Jarvis is 4 years old and her left arm is paralyzed. Her parents say she's coping remarkably well, but does have some tough moments. "We call her left arm 'Lefty' in order to make sure it's still part of her body," said Jessica Tomei, Sofia's mom. "When we go to the park and you can just see, like when a little kid goes to the park, she loves to climb and there's certain things she can't do once she's there," said Jeff Jarvis, Sofia's dad. Sofia is one of five Bay Area children who've come down with a rare, polio-like illness over the past 18 months.

Researchers say her case is mild. Some of the other children, ages 2 to 16, are paralyzed in more than one limb. "Our suspicion is this is a virus, but that's unproven," said Keith Van Haren, M.D., a pediatric neurologist at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Van Haren and Emmanuelle Waubant of UCSF have been working on identifying the cause. "The prognosis that we've seen so far is not good. Most of the children we've seen have not recovered use of their arm or leg," said Van Haren. Researchers say they aren't trying to scare anyone, emphasizing that these cases are extremely rare, but they do want to get the word out. In addition to the five confirmed cases, they are investigating 15 others. Researchers say some of the children first showed symptoms of the common cold. As for Sofia, odds are she'll never regain use of her arm. A sobering thought, but this sweet little girl from Berkeley is displaying maturity far beyond her years. "Sofia told me all we need is love," said Tomei.

ABC 7 NEWS 5PM - Thursday, January 30, 2014 - (2:12)

Oakland Teen Accused of Killing Sister To Be Charged as Juvenile:

Prosecutors in Oakland now say a 14-year-old boy accused of shooting and killing his older sister in a fight over laundry will be charged as a juvenile, not as an adult. The boy walked in to the Oakland Police Department Wednesday afternoon to turn himself in. The teen was wanted in the death of his sister, 17-year-old Justice Toliver, who was shot and killed last week in the apartment the two shared with their grandmother and father in Oakland's Chinatown neighborhood. Police say he was upset because she bleached some of his clothing. Justice Toliver leaves behind a 3-year-old daughter. Her brother's first court appearance is set for Monday afternoon in juvenile court.

(Youth Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 5PM - Thursday, March 12, 2014 - (2:50)

Police and School Officials Warn Parents about a New Street Drug:

Mountain View police and school officials are warning parents about a new psychedelic street drug after a high school student may have overdosed. He was hospitalized after being found unresponsive on Stevens Creek Trail Tuesday. The Mountain View Los Altos High School District, along with Mountain View police, sent a letter to parents telling them about a student that overdosed after using a street drug called "DOC." This stretch of Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View is popular with residents. Resident Heidi Baikie walks this path regularly and has witnessed some teens do more than graze in the grass. "I see kids on this trail and they're experimenting and I talk to my kids about that," she said. Now, that conversation will take on a tone of urgency. On Tuesday afternoon, police say a Mountain View high school student used this serene backdrop to run right into trouble after he overdosed on a drug with the street name "DOC." "As a police department, we're very concerned about this," Sgt. Saul Jaeger said. Police are concerned because they're not sure if this student's use of DOC is an isolated incident, or the sign of a new trend. The student, whom they've chosen not to identify, was found lying down and unresponsive. "Kind of a combination of hallucinogen and an amphetamine," Sgt. Jaeger said. "So you're getting sort of a different reaction. But you're looking at zombie like states, but hyper awareness." According to police, DOC is a synthetic drug with a combination of hallucinogenic effects. They say the drug's reaction can be different for each person that takes it and possibly deadly. "We don't know if this is gonna cause seizures, if it's going to cause heart palpitations, or heart attacks," Sgt. Jaeger said. Investigators describe the teen's current medical status as serious. They're working to find out how and where he got the drug. "Whether the teenager dies or not, that's almost irrelevant as far as how hard and aggressively we're going to take this case," Sgt. Jaeger said. District administrators would not confirm if the student attended Mountain View High School. But issued a letter to parents and asked them to speak with their teens about the dangers of recreational drug use and use the high school as a resource. "Not only is there information available, but we're going to have special sessions for parents where they can come and learn more about these drugs," said school district Superintendent Barry Groves. The police department says "DOC" is similar to LSD in that it combines hallucinogenic and amphetamine chemicals, which produce dangerous and long-lasting effects. They include euphoria and increased awareness of sound and movement. Users also experience nausea, chest pain, and trouble breathing. "DOC" is especially dangerous to people with high blood pressure. Authorities say anyone who's ingested "DOC" needs immediate medical help.

TRANSPORTATION

ABC 7 NEWS 5PM - Tuesday, February 18, 2014 - (2:35)

SFMTA Discusses What to do With Muni Surplus:

The agency that runs Muni has a surplus for the first time in recent memory. So, why are fare hikes being proposed? That's what lots of people who ride Muni buses and trains want to know, as they're looking at the possibility of one ride actually tripling in price. On Tuesday at San Francisco City Hall the public had its first chance to weigh in on this. Not that many showed up to the meeting, given that they are discussing a possible fare hike. The public has one more chance since there is a second hearing at City Hall on March 4. The Metropolitan Transportation Agency that runs Muni is facing a surplus and there are many different ways the public could benefit. At the hearing, the agency was asking the public where some of that extra money should go. "We're really seeking feedback on what should be in a proposed budget," said Edward Reiskin, the SFMTA director of transportation. One idea is to extend the free youth fare program to include 18 year olds. Right now the cutoff age is 17. "It's been beautiful for youth to be able to have the opportunity to get a pass and not have to worry about going to school and how they are going to get to school," said one resident. Another possibility is to allow seniors to ride free of cost. One resident said, "This is long overdue. You did it for the youth, the seniors are hurting terribly." But even with the upcoming surplus, Muni admits it won't be enough to pay for all these programs. One way to pay for them is to triple the cost of the F-line street car which serves a lot of tourists. "The F-line at this point is just an idea because there's a lot of tourism interest on this line that it might be something where we can implement a premium fare," said Paul Rose, the SFMTA spokesperson. The current price is \$2. It could go up to \$6, just like the cable cars. But surplus or no surplus, a price hike on the other lines is also expected. A single ride fare would go up 25 cents. The transit agency says that's just based on inflation. Those who live on a fixed income oppose any kind of increase. "Living in San Francisco is a real trial and I have no intention of moving out of San Francisco to solve the problem," said one elderly resident. The board has a few months to decide which programs to support economically. A budget has to be in place by July 1.

(Transportation Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 11AM - Wednesday, March 19, 2014 - (1:45)

Caltrain Up and Running After Computer Glitch:

Caltrain service resumed about an hour after the power outage at the San Jose dispatching center, but it's still backing up service for passengers. Caltrain says it's still experiencing significant delays system wide. We've seen several trains roll through here in Mountain View. But that's just clearing up the bottleneck that was created from Wednesday power outage at the San Jose dispatching center at about 8:25am Caltrain officials say the system did switch to an emergency generator. But the computerized dispatching system did not come back online. That stopped the trains for about an hour. People were left waiting on crowded platforms hoping for a train to arrive as soon as possible. "I didn't see the heads up on my phone so I'm kind of bummed I didn't plan for it earlier than that," Caltrain passenger Angeline Capati said. The dispatching system was back up and running at about 9:20am. All trains made local stops in an effort to clear out the delays, which meant no express trains. One of Amtrak's capitol corridor trains was delayed about 45 minutes due to the signal problems. But no other delays are expected Wednesday. So why did the electricity go out? PG&E is blaming a squirrel coming in contact with a power line for an outage that knocked out power to about 1,100 customers. No definitive word on if that's connected to the Caltrain outage but the dispatching center is located in that same area. Here's some good news though. Caltrain says they expect to restore service normally at about noon.

(Transportation Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 6PM - Friday, February 28, 2014 - (3:30)

Auto Insurance Problems Arise with Ridesharing Services:

A serious drawback is developing with those ride-share services that are popping up all over the place. Many say it's now easier to get around town, just tap your phone and a driver picks you up. However, there is a new complication. Ride services are a perfect example of peer-to-peer economics at work. Anyone with a car can join a transportation network and carry passengers for a fee. Drivers love the extra money, passengers love the service, but there's just one hitch -- what happens when there is an accident? Adrian Anzaldua of San Francisco was making pretty good money as a driver for Lyft. He said, "If you worked hard, you could make \$200 per day." He'd fasten one of Lyft's trademark moustaches onto his personal car and roll out to pick up passengers. "These services are enjoyed. They have filled a need to get around the city," said Anzaldua. However, you may notice there is no pink moustache on Adrian's car anymore. He just gave it back. He told us, "I deactivated myself as a driver." So why would he quit? Well Anzaldua found out he'd been taking a huge risk the whole time. He said, "You could lose the value of your car and whatever payments you have left on it." He realized if he got into an accident while driving for Lyft, his personal insurance would not cover him. He says other drivers reported their claims were denied and he heard someone had a policy canceled. "So yeah it could be, it could be bad," said Anzaldua. "If your car is used as a taxi, or if you're transporting people for a fee, coverage will be excluded," said Nicole Ganley, an insurance industry spokesperson. Ganley says personal insurance won't cover drivers who take passengers for money. Services like Lyft, Uber-X and Sidecar are required to carry \$1 million worth of liability insurance, but that only covers damage to third-party victims, not to their drivers -- even that can leave a gap. That problem was exposed on New Year's Eve, when an Uber-x driver struck and killed a little girl in San Francisco. Uber denies responsibility, saying the driver was not carrying a passenger at the time of the accident. And Ganley says if an uninsured motorist crashes into a ride-service car, the driver and passengers could be stuck paying their own damages. "It's a complicated thing to use a personal car for a commercial purpose and that's why there is some confusion," said Ganley. Ride share companies are responding. Lyft, Uber-X and Sidecar now provide uninsured motorist coverage. Lyft offers some collision coverage. Sidecar is planning to do the same. Uber said it pays drivers directly for their personal collision damage. "So that's a very positive step in the right direction," said Ganley. However, there are still questions about when these policies kick in. "What's important is that the benefit to the city is not outweighed by the risk," said Anzaldua. The insurance problem has caught the attention of the California Public Utilities Commission. They have now formed a coalition with rideshare services and insurance companies. The goal is to develop a new type of insurance that will protect both the driver and the

passengers.

(Transportation Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 5PM - Thursday, February 27, 2014 - (2:15)

Google Gives San Francisco \$6.8M for Muni Youth Program:

Google made a multi-million dollar gift to San Francisco Thursday for free bus rides for children. This comes as the Mountain View-based company is under fire from protesters upset that Google only pays a small amount for the right to use city bus stops for its employees. It was a victory for advocates of a Free Muni for Youth program. For years, they've been lobbying for low-income residents to ride for free and Google just donated \$6.8 million to give free Muni passes to low-income kids ages 5-17. "Families need support like this to be able to survive in San Francisco," Mission District resident Manuela Esteva said. Many residents expressed thanks, but they say it doesn't address the bigger problem. Esteva is the last Latino family left in her building and she's now facing eviction. "This has been caused by gentrification and the families have been replaced by tech workers and students," she said. The tension between the community and the high tech industry has led to protests against Google, Yahoo, and other tech companies that are using public bus stops to pick up and drop off their workers. "But where they go the rents go up even higher because they become more desirable for the tech workers," ANSWER Coalition spokesperson Richard Becker said. But Mayor Ed Lee believes Google is making an investment in the city, and not just trying to get off the hook. "It's the first step and it's another corporate entity that can be added to a number of corporate entities that can see the way forward to solutions," Lee said. There are no guarantees after the money runs out, so community groups are trying to make the Free Muni for Youth program a permanent policy and possibly expand it to 18 year olds, senior citizens and the disabled. Lee believes this can lead to a lot more for the city.

(Transportation Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 5PM - Sunday, February 23, 2014 - (4:35)

BART: Service Could be Restored by Sunday Morning:

BART has revised its timeline for repairs following Friday's train derailment. The transit agency now says service could be fully restored by 8 a.m. Sunday. SKY7 HD was over the scene Saturday as crews first moved the derailed cars. One section of track was so badly damaged that crews had to use a large crane to lift the car off the track. The Concord BART Station remains closed because the tracks inoperable. Right now, BART is working feverishly to repair the damage caused by a train derailment, with less than 48-hours before the Monday morning commute. This is something you just don't see every day -- 60,000 pounds of steel and fiberglass suspended in the air. This is one of four BART passenger cars removed from the scene of Friday afternoon's train. "So it was at a speed of about 27mph in automatic mode when it derailed," said BART spokesperson Jim Allison. The accident brought BART General Manager Grace Crunican out to see it firsthand. This incident pushes the agency once again back into the spotlight as they look to find out how the train, with only an engineer aboard, came off of its tracks in the first place. "It rolled out in automatic train operation to the interlocking and that's when it came to a dead stop," Allison said. But even that, BART admits, doesn't answer the question of why it happened. The accident folded the cars like pretzels and pushed one dangerously over the edge of a platform. Video given to us by BART shows mangled steel and parts of the crushed commuter cars that the transit agency says may have been damaged when the train jumped its tracks. SKY7 HD was overhead as engineers inspected an area that saw similar damage after a train jumped its tracks three years ago. "It is the same spot as the derailment in March 2011 and certainly that's something we're going to look at," Allison said. In 2011 a 10 car, San Francisco-bound train came off of the tracks. About 65 passengers were onboard at the time and some were injured. The threat of what could have happened there has left some shaken. "I have concerns," Concord resident Carlos Steffani said. "This is the second time it has happened and these accidents can be dangerous for the passengers and employees of BART." The damaged cars will eventually end up at the transit agency's Hayward facility, where teams of engineers are equipped to do the repairs. The two tracks have been cleared and repairs have started. ABC7 News obtained the emergency call made from the BART train operator to BART dispatch. BART is operating a shuttle service between Pleasant Hill and Pittsburg/Bay Point stations due to the emergency track work. The transit agency strongly recommends that riders access trains at the Pleasant Hill station if they are travelling into San Francisco or Oakland. Passengers we spoke to at the Pleasant Hill Station were taking things in stride. The big test for the bus bridge comes Monday when regular

commuters join the crowds.

(Transportation Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 11PM – Monday, February 17, 2014 – (1:58)

Muni Planning to Raise Fares:

If you're a Muni rider, you could soon be forced to pay more to ride. A proposal will be presented at a public hearing on Tuesday that includes a hike in fares to meet budget goals. The financial plan would cover spending at the agency for the next two years and everything from free rides for seniors to possible fare hikes. Parts of this proposal could see fares on the F-line go from \$2 to \$6 each way. Getting around the city could get a lot more expensive. How does \$2.25 for single-ride fares paid in cash sound? That's a 25-cent hike over the current rate, and there's more. There's a proposal to hike the rate for the F-line from \$2 to \$6 one-way. That could be a tough squeeze for a lot of people. "\$6 is a bit ridiculous. \$2.50, \$3 maybe, \$6 is crazy," said Jamie She, a Muni rider. "That's one of the ideas that's on the table," said San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency spokesman Paul Rose. Rose says the proposals are only ideas at this point and in order to expand service or create new programs, everything must be on the table. "There aren't any set priorities or established priorities for this budget. What we're looking at right now is having a public hearing for feedback and input from the community," said Rose. According to Rose, raising the fare to \$6 bucks on the F-line could raise as much as \$4.9 million and hiking the cost of cable car visitor passports would rake in more than \$1.5 million. It's a fee tourist Lisa Posada from New York says she won't mind paying. She told us, "I think this is a fair price. It cost like \$14 to go through the Holland Tunnel. Pay yeah, \$6? Yeah you know, \$8? Yeah, that's alright." The MTA, which oversees everything connected to transportation in San Francisco, will hold its first public hearing on Tuesday, where the public will have an opportunity to tell Muni what they really want most. "They need to be on-time and more regular," said She.

(Transportation Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 11AM – Monday, February 17, 2014 – (2:22)

Golden Gate Bridge Gets Boost in Revenue Due to Toll Fines

The Golden Gate Bridge District is looking at a bonanza in revenue it may have not expected and it's coming from fines from drivers who don't pay on time. The Golden Gate Bridge has an all-electronic toll system. At least 60,000 cars pass through the toll plaza every day and those without Fast Trak get a bill in the mail and then have to remember to pay it on time. However, people aren't paying those \$6 tolls when they come in the mail, which means a potential windfall of millions for the cash-strapped district in unpaid fines. All electronic-toll taking has been on duty at the Golden Gate Bridge for nearly a year and some drivers still long for the old days when real toll takers took your cash. "We like people to have jobs and be able to pay your toll right there in cash. That way, you don't have to worry about something coming in the mail," commuter Jaskarn Dobil said. It's a \$25 fine if you don't pay within 30 days and \$70 after 60 days. For the first four months of operation, more than 290,489 violations were issued and 118,089 were paid. But 144,359 are still outstanding, which could mean a windfall of \$10 million for the bridge district. "Many of those violations are either going to be waived because we are being a kind and gentler organization. We want people to get the system and understand it, so if you call up and say 'I never got my toll violation' we're going to take you on your word and say 'OK' and then we'll waive that fee. We're also going to ask that you join the Fast Trak system. We'll waive the fee if you join the Fast Trak system," Golden Gate Bridge spokesperson Mary Currie said. The district says it could take up to a year to collect or resolve a toll violation. If you don't pay, it could prevent you from re-registering your car at the DMV.

(Transportation Cont.)

ABC 7 NEWS 6PM – Monday, January 31, 2014 – (4:50)

Most Reliable & Cheapest Ride-Share Services:

If you're looking for a ride home after a Friday night out, it's now easier than ever because several ride services have rolled out in the past couple of years. They claim it's cheaper and faster than taking a cab, so 7 On Your Side's Michael Finney put them to the test. It seems every couple of months, there's a new transportation network company ready to send a car to pick you up. The latest trend is to use a Smartphone app to dispatch everyday folks in their personal cars. So, how reliable are they? And how much will you pay? We decided to do a little test. It used to be a challenge to get a taxi in San Francisco, but now it seems everybody wants to give you a ride. "Back in the day all you had was taxis and now there's all these other options," producer Ricquel Newman said. A host of new services let you summon a driver by tapping your Smartphone. Suddenly, it's not such a problem to be stranded somewhere at midnight. "Very important especially for a single female," Newman said. So which services are the most reliable and which is the least expensive? Newman tested the most popular ride services like uberX, Lyft and Sidecar. The three companies all set their own rates and do add charges when demand surges. We also tested Flywheel, an app that summons the nearest San Francisco taxi. The cab fares are regulated by the city and there is no surge pricing. Newman used each service during rush hour on a 1.8 mile trip to AT&T Park. It was a non-scientific test done during the 5 p.m. rush hour on a Tuesday and Thursday night. Different days could bring different results. We begin with Lyft, the cars with the pink moustaches. The Lyft app says our car is six minutes away. But 10 minutes later, there was no sign of a car. Now, the app says it's eight minutes away. "I requested you, but the time keeps changing," Newman said. We counted 26 minutes before the car pulled up and there's no moustache. The driver tells Newman the fuzzy pink branding makes him a target for vandals. The Lyft car whisks Newman to the ballpark. The fare was \$12 and there was no extra charge for peak hour demand. Next, we call uberX. This service has temporarily slashed basic rates by 20 percent, though it still does multiply fares during peak demand. Our driver arrives in six minutes. He gets Newman to the park in 11 minutes and the price was \$9.19. Again, there was no extra charge for high demand. Now we try Sidecar, but the app wouldn't connect. After several attempts, the app finally worked. A driver in a red Prius was three minutes away. After a 10-minute wait, he pulls up and they're off. "When I got in the car he offered me candy. Valentine's Day candy," Newman said. That ride cost \$11 and once again there was no surge pricing. Finally, we try Flywheel the cab service. We know it will charge regulated taxi rates and Flywheel adds a \$1 fee. The app keeps telling us it's contacting drivers. Then, we turn around and the

cab is already there. It took three minutes and they're off to the park.

(Transportation Cont.)

Here are our results: uberX was cheapest at \$9.19, then Sidecar at \$11, Lyft was \$12 and Flywheel was \$12.20, all of these minus the tip. "The main thing with taxis is you always know what the price is going to be" Flywheel CEO Steve Humphreys said. Humphreys says peak hour pricing makes the other services more expensive than taxis. For timing, Flywheel was fastest at three minutes, uberX was next at six, and Sidecar took 10 minutes. The Lyft wait was the longest. Lyft tells us the long delay was a fluke. The owner got trapped in a construction zone. Lyft says its records show our wait was just 19 minutes, not 26. And its average wait is just 3.8 minutes. As for the trouble we had connecting with Sidecar, the company says it just upgraded the app. Users need to download the latest version to connect properly. A spokesperson also said Sidecar fares are much cheaper than a taxi. The company issued this statement: "On average you will find that Sidecar has the most competitive price for rideshare in San Francisco." With all these apps you can plug in your destination and find out the estimated cost of your ride before you request it. Overall, we found it was much easier to get a ride using an app than it was by calling a dispatcher the old fashioned way.

ECONOMY

ABC 7 NEWS 6PM – Wednesday, February 19, 2014 - (2:19)

Google May Bring High-Speed Internet to Five South Bay Cities:

Google is in talks to bring fiber-optic Internet connections to five South Bay cities. The speed allows users to download a movie in less than two minutes. Besides the fiber-optic offer, Google wants to install a new downtown WiFi network to replace one they installed in Mountain View seven years ago. Google is considering to get the fiber-optic Internet service. It would provide speed of one gigabit per second, or roughly 100 times faster than typical broadband speed. Unlike other fiber-optic networks, Google's plan is to bring fiber right into the house. Other systems use slower copper wire to connect to homes, creating a choke point that slows down speed. "That obviously is a benefit to our residents, but also to our businesses and our start-up's and small companies to be able to access the Internet at that speed. It will give them a competitive advantage over their peers in other parts of the country," Mountain View City Manager Dan Rich said. Besides Mountain View, which is Google's headquarters city, the other four are Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and San Jose. Discussions are at the early stage. Each city must consider whether it wants to dig up streets to bury the fiber-optic cables. In Sunnyvale, there are plans underway to put in an underground-recycled water line for Apple's new headquarters complex in Cupertino and for other users. The fiber line could be installed at the same time.

Residents may also benefit from new price competition. Google is charging \$70 per month for Internet in three cities where the service is already operating. Competition in this space is obviously a good thing and with particularly Comcast's recent announcement of their merger, giving our residents options as to what they can do is obviously to be to their benefit," Mayor Jim Griffith said. "My current modem speed is more than enough, but I don't have, apart from Comcast, there are no other good options," Sunnyvale cable Internet subscriber Nilesh Dalvi said. And what will they do with that fiber speed? "Ah, probably use the Internet a lot more. And maybe stream Netflix a little more. I'm not sure, but I would be happy if it came by," Sunnyvale resident Ritu Kiragi said.

(Economy Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11AM - Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – (2:29)

Gas Prices May Rise 50 Cents Over Next Few Weeks:

We're getting our annual bad news about the price of gasoline -- gas could rise by 50 cents a gallon in the next few weeks, and it's blamed on a number of reasons. This is not good news for commuters. The statewide average for gas is \$3.65 a gallon. But here in the Bay Area, of course, we're already paying more than that. The price is about to go up, and some drivers say enough is enough. It's a fact of life in California -- the weather will get warmer by springtime and gas prices will get higher. "All the prices are going up, taxes going up, and the gas is going up, and I'm not going to be happy with that, right," commuter Yuni Park said. Energy experts say while frigid weather back east and reduced driving have kept prices stable in the U.S., a 50 cent spike is coming to California drivers as gas supplies tighten and a conversion to a summer blend of gas begins. "It's the time of year plants are expected to run full tilt during the summer to keep up with demand," said Patrick Dehaan, Petroleum Analyst with GasBuddy.com. "And an approach to that, refineries have to slow down or take part of the plants offline to do the work." The result, according to GasBuddy.com, are less supplies and higher prices. "You know, it's just something that we as the general public have no control over," commuter Allan Lim said. "It's up to us whether we want to participate in buying gas or not." Lim pays \$100 per week to fill up his truck. He says that ritual is getting really old, and he wants to make a change. "As far as my personal use, I'm probably going to lean more towards a hybrid or an electric car. When asked if that means he'd get rid of the truck Lim answered, "Yeah, just get rid of it." Jessica Sanchez likes the price of her compact car at the pump. But she likes her big cars too. "It seems like, you know, society is kinda taking advantage of it, especially people who have big vehicles," she said. "I just actually purchased a new truck myself. And it seems like instead of putting 40 bucks I'm putting, like, double. People will probably start taking bikes and buses and other types of transportation." Experts say that summer blend of gas is cleaner burning, but it's also more expensive to producer. Oils exporting countries are also expected to boost the price of crude to about \$100 a barrel. Brace yourself, here's a comparison for you -- the cheapest gas we found was in Wyoming at \$3.27 a gallon.

(Economy Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 5PM - Friday, January 10, 2014 – (2:41)

Bay Area Leaders Discuss New Shoreline Development:

A lot of ideas are being exchanged about ways to revitalize a Bay Area coastline that many believe has enormous potential. The area stretches from Hercules to Oakley along Contra Costa County's northern waterfront. It already generates millions of dollars per year for the county, but many local leaders think there's more that can be done. The area is already part of the second most industrialized county in California behind Los Angeles but some community and business leaders envision much more for than just factories and refineries. "It is our hope that we can bring economic development, jobs, new commercial businesses, restaurants, a variety, to bring jobs and improve not only our city, but this entire region," Antioch Mayor Wade Harper said. Contra Costa Supervisor Federal Glover is leading the effort and bringing together the stakeholders to create a regional plan for the county's 50 miles of northern shoreline. The area runs all the way from Hercules and Pinole in the west, through Bay Point and Pittsburg, to Antioch and Oakley in the east. "We have rail. We have water. And we have the ability to do goods movement. But the other thing is we're not leaving out the other component that's really important, and that's our recreational opportunity along the waterways," Glover said. It's an endeavor that could prove challenging. Eastern Contra Costa County was especially hard-hit by the state's cutting of redevelopment funds as well as the foreclosure crisis and job losses. It's an area where the economy is just starting to rebound. "What I would say is that the work that's being done now is the preliminary work, so that when things do pop, we're ready," said Sean Wright at the Antioch Chamber of Commerce. One study shows expanded development of the northern coastline could bring as many as 5,000 new jobs to the area over the next 20 years.

(Economy Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Thursday, February 6, 2014 – (4:30)

Hospital Hurt by Healthcare Reform:

The debate on whether the Affordable Care Act is a success or not will most likely continue for years. But officials at St. Rose Hospital in Hayward say, because of the ACA and other federal and state cuts, it might not be around to see the unintentional side effect of healthcare reform. St. Rose Hospital has had money troubles for years. In fact, it has almost closed a few times before. Its patients are mostly uninsured or under-insured. The new management team is making headway to keep the hospital open but the reductions in federal and state money might mean those doors shut for good. For patients like Ginny Almond, St. Rose Hospital's location in Hayward is everything. She was recently rushed there for emergency surgery. She says a few years ago St. Rose doctor's saved her life after she almost died in a fire. "Very grateful that they were there and so close to where I live," Almond says. The private, non-profit hospital sees almost 35,000 emergency room patients a year. With Kaiser Hayward closing, St. Rose will be the only facility receiving 9-1-1 patients in the Bay Area's fifth largest city. Now, because of money trouble, St. Rose might have to shut down.

St. Rose's Chief Financial Officer, Roger Krissman, points out, "If St. Rose is no longer existing that means lives are at stake because ambulance have to travel a little bit further ways to another facility." He says, as a safety net hospital, St. Rose sees large numbers of uninsured and under-insured patients. The fees those patients can't pay have been subsidized by federal and state programs, such as, Medicare and MediCal. The Affordable Care Act will reduce Medicare subsidies by \$22 billion over the next five years. The idea is that more people will be insured and able to afford health care. But Krissman argues his hospital still needs that money because St. Rose serves a poor community, many of who might not sign up for insurance. "We will receive \$3.6 million less in reimbursement of, for the next 12 months," according to Krissman. Add that to the \$10,000 deficit Krissman says St. Rose racks up every day, in part because MediCal doesn't cover full service costs. "Under the MediCal program we are reimbursed approximately 13 cents on the dollar," Krissman points out. According to Steve Rousso, "The State and the feds are basically doing what's good for them without realizing how much they're hurting these individual community hospitals. Like a St. Rose." Rousso is a healthcare industry consultant. He says the cuts will hurt more because St. Rose is not affiliated with a larger group, such as, Kaiser, Sutter or even a county. "It's very hard to off-shoot this because they're not part of a system. They don't have the purchasing power of a large system," says Rousso. The ABC7 I-Team wanted

to talk to state and federal officials about this unintended consequence of the affordable care act, possibly shutting down hospitals that have already been experiencing problems, but they either passed us on to someone else or declined an interview.

(Economy Cont.)

The California Department of Health Care Services did send an email that reads in part, "We value the services provided by our provider partners like St. Rose, and we are committed to ensure access to services for our MediCal members." Alameda County is another part of the equation for St. Rose. "St. Rose has said to us at the County for years, like, you got to do more, you got to do more. Where from my perspective the county's support for St. Rose has been significant," according to Alex Briscoe, director of Alameda County Health Care Services. Briscoe points out taxpayers have supported St. Rose to the tune of the \$40 million over the last five years. He says that amount was appropriate because of the important role St. Rose plays in the Alameda County. "St. Rose not only faces the challenge of not getting enough money but they also face the challenge of serving a community that is increasingly living in multi-generation poverty," Briscoe says. In a letter to Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, St. Rose is asking for \$18.3 million annually to help cover the \$3.6 million in reimbursement changes and other funding needs. Briscoe says \$18.3 million isn't realistic. "I think an augmentation of somewhere between \$4 and \$6 million is probably the right level of support and we've been providing that level of support in one-time funds, in special waiver programs, frankly by hook or by crook," according to Briscoe. Krissman says, "I think the Supervisors of Alameda County are uh, are very fair individuals and I'm certain they will do everything in their power to help St. Rose Hospital." Ginny Almond hopes that solution comes soon and St. Rose doesn't have to close. "Well, they've saved my life. I might want them to do it again," Almond says. The health care reform reductions are not one-time cuts. Each year hospitals, such as St. Rose, will get less federal and state dollars. So, there needs to be a long term solution worked out if St. Rose is going to survive.

ABC7 NEWS 11AM - Thursday, March 20, 2014 – (1:15)

Mortgage Relief Event to be Held in Oakland:

Help is here for Bay Area residents still caught in the middle of the mortgage crisis. On Wednesday, hundreds of bank representatives and non-profit financial counselors will be on hand for the American Dream Event in Oakland. Anyone with mortgage trouble can show up and try to get their payments reduced. Organizers say a surprising number of homeowners are still in trouble, despite the improving economy. "Over 6,000 plus homes that are in some stage of foreclosure, whether its auction, bank-owned, foreclosure filing, it's alarming when you look 6,000 plus families that could possibly become homeless, that

number is alarming," Neighborhood Assistance Corp. of America spokesperson Rick Herrera said. The service is free and you don't have to be facing foreclosure to get help. The event runs through Monday at the Oakland Marriott.

(Economy Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Tuesday, March 25, 2014 - (3:15)

Study: Welfare Recipients Spend Millions on ATM Fees:

In California's welfare program, known as CalWORKs, more than 96 percent of recipients receive their money in the form of a debit-type card. Gaining access to that money is costing taxpayers and welfare recipients millions. A new report out says welfare recipients in California spend \$19 million a year on ATM fees to access their benefits. That's money that's intended to provide basic necessities for California's poor. Dominique Hudson is just 18 years old and the mother of 3-year-old Xavier. The high school senior is juggling school with a new grocery job and caring for her son. Her welfare check is 50 percent of her monthly income. "It's like a really big help for me like financially with my son and everything until I can get on my feet," Hudson said. She says she spends an average of \$10 a month on ATM fees to access her money. That's money she could use each month for five additional bus rides to get to and from work. "It's terrible. It makes it kind of harder for me," Hudson said. A study by the California Reinvestment Coalition says California's welfare recipients spend \$19 million annually on ATM fees. California Reinvestment Coalition spokesperson Andrea Luquetta authored the study. "It shouldn't cost people a portion of their safety net grant just to access that grant in the first place," Luquetta said. The report calls for banks, the state and the counties to work together to reduce those fees. The California Department of Social Services says it asked banks to eliminate the surcharges, but the banks declined. The California Bankers Association says there are already plenty of ways to avoid fees. To that end, Alameda County has launched a financial coaching program. "The financial coaching program that we pilot really does help people think differently about the decision that you make and the economic consequences that those decisions will have," Alameda County Social Services spokesperson Sylvia Soublet said. Decisions like setting up a direct deposit, finding the right bank with the lowest fees and using the ATM's within your own network. But the money pass network used by CalWORKs is comparatively small. Alameda County is particularly bad, with very few ATMs available in the money pass network. CalWORKs recipients in Alameda County spend an estimated 730,000 annually on ATM fees. That's five times more than San Francisco residents, where there is more network ATMs available. "That does exacerbate the problem," Soublet said. "The state can't do it by themselves, the county can't do it by itself and the banks can't do it by

themselves. We need them to work in partnership," Luquetta said. Hudson is in a financial literacy class and plans to enroll in direct deposit to help her avoid ATM fees. "I actually just found out about that. They told me it would take about six weeks," Hudson said. The California Reinvestment Coalition study says the application process to get CalWORKs to direct deposit benefits is a complicated one and called on counties to streamline the application process.

(Economy Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Monday, March 3, 2014 - (3:18)

EDD hopes New Funding Will Alleviate Backlog of Claims:

The Employment Development Department is hopeful that new funding recently freed up will alleviate the backlog of claims plaguing the system. A high demand for services coupled with funding struggles, have combined for long delays and frustrations for many applying for benefits through EDD. For John Atkinson of San Francisco, his case became a desperate situation. "We are experiencing high volume of calls which may result in longer delays than usual." That was the standard message Atkinson heard each time he called the Employment Development Department. Atkinson is dealing both with a heart condition and cancer and received a letter from the EDD awarding him disability benefits. "The one little detail they didn't put in there was how to collect my money. Minor little set back," Atkinson said. He tried to call EDD to get more information. However, he said after spending five minutes on hold each time, he would be disconnected. "And they encourage you to apply online. Fast, simple and easy. No, it isn't. They cannot answer question one about how to get my money," Atkinson said. EDD acknowledges its had delays particularly with unemployment claims. It's in the process of hiring nearly 300 employees to handle the phones after funding was restored. "It's about \$43 million in existing funds that we can now start putting to use right away. Start the hiring process right away for about 280 more staff and also allows us the ability to continue to use overtime in processing claim work, otherwise that would have had to have been cut," EDD spokesperson Loree Levy said. The money is earmarked specifically for its unemployment program. That means the disability program won't get additional staff to answer the phones. EDD says its disability program hasn't had the same challenges as its unemployment program. But admits there are limits on the number of calls the current staff can handle. "Could not get through to any living human being," Atkinson said. And that meant for him the situation was getting desperate. "It was very stressful, you know I need that extra income. In my shoes, any little bit helps," Atkinson said. He finally called 7 On Your Side and we contacted EDD. "I try three and a half weeks, couldn't get anywhere. Made one phone call to channel seven, everything works," Atkinson said. Turns out EDD had put a stop payment on his benefit because it thought he had retired and wasn't eligible for disability. Atkinson retired from Merchant Marines last year due to his disability, but is looking for less strenuous work. He is now

receiving his benefits. EDD says if you can't get through on the phone, you can leave your question online and it will be answered within 48 hours.

(Economy Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Wednesday, March 5, 2014 - (2:28)

Little-Known Government Benefit Protects Retirees:

It's the most important government benefit people have that many have never heard of. It can save them grief when they are working and saving to maintain their lifestyle when they retire. A non-descript Sacramento building houses the Western States Pension Assistance Project, a government funded agency that helps with legal problems surrounding retirement programs including 401ks and defined benefit plans. Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi heads up the agency. She says her agency is there to protect money that consumers have already earned. "The pension that they earned is deferred compensation. It's money that they earned while working that was put into a separate account to protect against poverty when they become older in their 60s or 70s," said Ijadi-Maghsoodi. "My goodness can they just come in and arbitrarily take money out of my income," said Jeanette Johnston. Suddenly her retirement plan announced it would reduce her benefit by \$92 a month. Johnston met with the Western States Pension Assistance Project and eventually she was refunded the money that had been taken. "It was in excess of \$500. And, they quit taking the monthly and all of that happened because I came here for assistance and I got wonderful people to help me," said Johnston. The pension assistance project will help anyone living in California and several other western states. People don't have to be retired and they don't have to be living on a low income either. "I suggest anyone who's working right now whether you are [20 years old] or [70 years old] keep copies of your records. Keep copies of your tax returns and keep copies of your 1099Rs. You want to be able to prove or disprove that you received a cash-out or lump sum," said Ijadi-Maghsoodi.

CRIME & LAW ENFORCEMENT

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Monday, March 24, 2014 - (1:55)

Man Killed by Police in Bernal Heights Park Remembered:

Monday evening, the friends of a man killed by police in a San Francisco park held a vigil in his memory. Police say they thought Alejandro Nieto had a gun but his friends say it was a Taser. The 28-year-old was shot to death by police Friday night at Bernal Heights Park after some park goers called 911 saying he was acting strangely and had a gun. But not everyone was concerned. "I didn't like the fact the guy had a gun; he wasn't threatening to me, he just seemed like a regular guy, just eating a burrito," Bernal Heights resident Robin Bullard said. Nieto's family says it was a Taser not a gun and that he carried. It's because he worked as a security guard in San Francisco. But earlier this month a former friend, Arthur Vega filed a restraining order against Nieto, accusing him of attacking him with that Taser, saying, "He used a Taser gun and shoot me four times, two on the lower back, one on the upper back and one on my left shoulder and left forearm." Vega said, "He fired at me five times. You know, so it's like, in my back as well, so it's like, if he's capable of doing that in front of my family, he's capable of doing anything," But other friends say Nieto was a peaceful Buddhist just a few credits short of earning an associate's degree in criminal justice and that he volunteered with kids at the youth guidance center and wanted to be a probation officer. "To have Alejandro shot 14 times by San Francisco police is a grave injustice and we are demanding a thorough investigation," friend Benjamin Bac Sierra said. "The police should be trained to understand the difference between a pistol and a Taser gun." Police weren't talking Monday, but on Friday night, they said Nieto raised his weapon at them. "It does appear he drew his weapon, officers responded and shot him," SFPD Deputy Chief Lynn Tomioka said. Police Chief Greg Suhr will hold a community meeting Tuesday at 6 p.m. to answer questions.

(Crime cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Wednesday, March 5, 2014 – (3:15)

Walter and Kelly Ng Sentenced in Investment Fraud Case:

A case billed as "the largest investment fraud" in California history ended in Oakland Wednesday, the result of a plea deal. Although the case involves some 1,700 investors, who lost more than \$700 million, Walter Ng and his son Kelly Ng were sentenced on for relatively minor offenses. The investors believe the FBI did its job well, but that federal prosecutors dropped the ball and let the clock run out on the most serious charges. In the plea deal, Walter Ng, 84, and his son Kelly Ng, 57, pleaded guilty to structuring transactions for the purpose of evading a reporting requirement -- keeping cash withdrawals under \$10,000 to avoid detection. In Kelly's case, his lawyer said he took \$400,000 over four years to hide his gambling habit from his family. Wednesday, Kelly Ng received 18 months in federal prison and his father five years' probation. The judge cited his advanced age and the fact that he is the primary caregiver for his wife, who suffers from dementia. "There are a number of cases still pending and we'll address that in the cases that are still pending about the investments," Walter Ng's attorney Ed Sawnsen said. "This case just wasn't about the investments today." The investors complain the FBI spent more than two years investigating the Ngs for securities fraud, but that the U.S. Attorney's office didn't move quickly enough and let the statute of limitations expire. About 17,000 investors, many of them elderly, lost their life savings, a total of more than \$700 million, in the Ng's real estate investment companies. "Well, it's all gone now; I'm in there for the low seven figures," investor Bob Wong said. "The majority of the investors weren't really wealthy people; this isn't as high-brow as the Madoff, this is blue collar people," investor Jessica Livingston said. The investors say the Ngs hid the fact that the investment funds were doing poorly, continued to raise money on false projections, and transferred money from one to the next -- in effect, a pyramid scheme. "I do not wish him badly, what I'm saying is that the possibility the bad karma will come to you and other people that are associated with you," investor Young Fong said. One added insult to the investors -- Kelly Ng's lawyers touted his charitable contributions to the Bentley School in Lafayette that his children attended. But, one of the donations, \$25,000, was paid with investor money, drawn from the mortgage fund account. "That's just awful, just absolutely awful," investor Art Hileman said. "They took our money and used it

for themselves." A civil case against the Ngs filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to go to trial this summer, and Walter Ng's bankruptcy will drag on for the rest of the year. Investors will not receive any money from either of those actions. Investors are preparing a class action lawsuit -- their last chance to get some of their money back.

(Crime cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Thursday, January 23, 2014 – (2:27)

Teen Who Stole Guy Fieri's Lamborghini Gets Life Term:

Max Wade, the Marin County teenager who stole celebrity chef Guy Fieri's Lamborghini and pulled off a drive-by shooting at two teens, received his sentence Thursday -- life, plus 21 years, four months with the possibility of parole. Wade's plans for another crime, a takeover robbery of a renowned jewelry store in San Francisco, played no role Thursday as the judge wouldn't allow it in, but, she gave Wade a very serious sentence. Wade's mother rushed from the courtroom in tears after the sentence, pledging to continue the fight with an appeal. "It's not over," Leylla Wade said. The judge only allowed a photographer from Wade's old high school newspaper into the hearing. Wade had virtually no reaction to the sentence. I think Max was prepared, had prepared himself for what was going to happen today," Wade's attorney Charles Dresow said. The judge sentenced Wade to life and a 20-year gun enhancement for a drive-by shooting in Mill Valley. Wade tried to scare away a teen that dated a girl he liked. The judge said they were lucky to escape with their lives. Wade also received 16 months for rappelling into a San Francisco dealership and stealing celebrity chef Guy Fieri's Lamborghini. "He still is a very violent and sophisticated criminal," Marin County prosecutor Yvette Martinez-Shaw said. "This case is not about a Lamborghini, it's not about a celebrity, and it's about somebody who came within inches of taking two teenagers lives." The I-Team spoke to the two Marin County detectives who cracked the Wade case -- they arrested and spoke with him several times. "One of the things I told him is that I didn't feel comfortable walking down the same sidewalk as him," Ryan Petersen said. "Despite his age, despite of that, I wouldn't want my mom or my girlfriend to be walking down the same street as Max Wade." "It is kind of sad for someone who was 17 years old when he did this to be looking at this incredible prison sentence, but he definitely planned it out very carefully and as the DA pointed out much more carefully than many of the adult offenders we see, the career adult offenders we see," Greg Garrett said. Wade's lawyer is planning an appeal, but at this point, he will have to spend 15 years or more in prison, before being eligible parole. He'll be 34 years old before he has a chance to get out of prison.

(Crime Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Thursday, March 20, 2014 – (1:30)

Residents Meet With SJPD About Public Safety:

The troubled San Jose Police Department has more problems on their hands. Already short-staffed, they may see their ranks thin even more in the months and years ahead. Thursday night, residents met at the Willow Glen Community Center to discuss the future of public safety in their city. The last thing they wanted to hear was that the department will have fewer officers. The city of San Jose is disputing the projected numbers, saying they're making changes to increase the ranks. Some San Jose residents are worried about their safety, even more so now that police are predicting a sharp decrease in officers on the streets over the next couple years. "We are going to go from 904 today to 809 by June of 2016," said a speaker. That's an alarming reality for neighbor Steve Kline. He said, "In a three month period of time, our very small street had 50 percent of our houses were burglarized." He doesn't think the city can afford any further reductions. Mayor Chuck Reed isn't buying those numbers. His goal is to have more officers on the streets by 2016. He says the city is aggressively recruiting officers and working to keep them here. "We're giving them a 10 percent pay increase, 4 percent this year and another raise next year. On April 8 we're going to improve the benefits for officers who get hurt on the job. So we're taking some steps to improve the retention," said Reed. But he admits there are challenges like dealing with skyrocketing retirement costs.

(Crime Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11AM - Tuesday, March 18, 2014 – (1:40)

SJPD Investigating City's Ninth Homicide of the Year:

San Jose police are investigating their ninth homicide of the year. It happened in a quiet neighborhood. They're asking whether a man found shot in a home is somehow related to something else they found inside. The quiet neighborhood near Coyote Creek in South San Jose was filled with police officers late last night after a person called 911 to report a man injured and unconscious at a home on Epling Lane. "He was suffering from at least one gunshot wound. He was pronounced deceased at the scene," said San Jose Police Spokeswoman Sgt. Heather Randol. The victim is a man in his 20s. Investigators are not calling the home a grow house, but did find several marijuana plants inside. They would not say if they believe that is a motive in the homicide. One neighbor came home last night to find police tape on her mailbox. "The cop came in and asked 'how's the neighborhood?' And I said its 'calm and quiet.' We aren't here from morning to late night we are out so we don't know what's going on, but that property is rental property that is the only thing I know so far," said neighbor Harminder Tonk. Neighbors say retirees own many of the homes in the area so they're around during the day keeping an eye out on their neighborhood. Even police officers told me this part of San Jose is normally quiet and safe -- with a rare burglary or minor crime reported. "My family has lived here the last 20-30 years and nothing like this happens here so it's definitely a shock," said neighbor Steven Ng. The name of the victim has not been released.

(Crime Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 4PM - Thursday, February 27, 2014 – (2:13)

Fremont Police Hold Security Camera Workshop:

The Fremont Police Department hosted a workshop Thursday night to help residents use their home security cameras, learn how to install them and how to register their devices with police. That way if a crime happens, investigators know who may be able to provide video evidence. The city's Scott Creek neighborhood is peppered with cameras after a series of break-ins. "We've found, through the cameras in the neighborhood, we've successfully worked with the Fremont police to catch multiple breaking and entries," said Fremont resident Robert Morten. Residents started putting up their own cameras after a series of break-ins. In December, Fremont police posted a surveillance video on YouTube after the crook was caught on camera going through drawers in a home on Eggers Drive. "For a single house, four cameras," said Roger Lu. He has seen business for these cameras take off in the past few years. He says when a crime happens people not only want to know the what and who, but the where. "A security system, especially like a camera surveillance system, can provide those answers." He supplies and installs home security systems at every price point from as low as \$100 to more than \$1,000 and most are Wifi equipped so you can capture the action if you're away and share that info with cops. This workshop was so popular, they had to move it to a larger location. The Fremont Police Department plans to hold another workshop in the future.

(Crime Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Thursday, February 27, 2014 – (2:58)

Five San Francisco Police Officers & One former Officer Indicted:

Five San Francisco police officers and a sixth man who is a retired police officer have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges ranging from conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance, to theft and violating others' civil rights. "Our department is shaken," an emotional San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr said on Thursday. Suhr said the scandal would make it hard for his officers. "I will not have dishonest cops among us," he said. "As they sully the ranks of honest men and women out there doing their jobs." George Gascon was district attorney when federal authorities launched their probe. "When members of the law enforcement community violate the law, they themselves become criminals," he said. "We cannot tolerance for that behavior." Three of those indicted are officers at Southern Station. Two others are assigned to the Mission. The sixth defendant, Reynaldo Vargas, was dismissed from the department for an unrelated offense. The indictments ended a three-year investigation by federal authorities. It was a probe that was launched when Public Defender Jeff Adachi released security camera video from residential hotels. Adachi charged that the videos showed the officers violating suspects' rights under the color of law. The officers from Southern Station were on two separate videos from the Henry Hotel. "These officers were barging into their rooms without warrants and lying about it in police reports," Adachi said. Vargas, from Mission Station, was captured on video from the Jefferson Hotel. The indictment charges him and the other two Mission Station officers with distributing marijuana, stealing money and personal property. "The indictment today is a victory for ordinary San Franciscans," Adachi said. Police Officers Association President Martin Halloran said not so fast. These are only indictments," he said. "These officers are now going to be afforded their rights to tell their side of the story." In an exclusive interview with ABC7 News, Halloran and lawyer Michael Rains warned against jumping to conclusions. "If it was in fact informants, street informants, I would question their consistency and reliability," Halloran said. "My feeling right now is they finally made a case after three years; that tells me something about the evidence they have, I don't think it's probably great, I don't think it's much," Rains said. The officers have been disarmed and suspended without pay. Vargas pleaded not guilty in court Thursday; the officers will appear in court Friday.

(Crime Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Thursday, February 27, 2014 – (1:58)

Westbound I-580 in Castro Valley Reopens After Freeway Shooting:

Westbound Interstate Highway 580 past Interstate Highway 238 in Castro Valley was closed for nearly an hour Thursday as the CHP investigated a freeway shooting. It all began around 4pm a driver says he was on the freeway with his daughter when someone fired several shots at his SUV from the car next to him. Video from SKY7 HD shows bullet holes in the windshield and front end of the vehicle. No injuries were reported. "It is unknown at this point if the drivers knew each other or if they had any relationship," CHP Officer Eric Thomas said. "What I do know is the officers on the ground at the scene are investigating that. We don't have any updates as far as how the investigation has gone at this time." I-580 was closed for nearly an hour while officers walked the freeway, searching for evidence. Since the shooting happened just as the evening commute was beginning, traffic was backed up for miles. People were standing outside their cars, waiting for the road to reopen. The driver, Jake Detro, spoke with ABC7 News and described his terrifying ordeal. He narrowly missed being hit by bullets. "First thing I thought of was just to duck. I just laid down pretty much and steered to the shoulder and pretty much hit the brake," said Jake Detro. He says he saw four people in a silver car and the man in the passenger's seat pointed a handgun at him and opened fire. "I just saw him pull the gun out and then I heard the popping, the gunshots. But the guy who was behind me said there were at least 10 shots, but there were seven on the truck, holes. They hit my hat. There's a little hole through the top of my cowboy hat."

ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Monday, March 3, 2014 – (3:08)

Court Will Decide Future of Tahoe Development:

The delicate balancing act over the future of Lake Tahoe is expected to play out in court later this month. The Sierra Club and other environmental groups are facing off against the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) which regulates development at the lake. Each side claims it is the one protecting the lake. Lake Tahoe is considered an environmental treasure, but the area around it has been hard hit by economic problems. For decades casinos drove the economy at Tahoe, but competition from Indian gaming changed everything. The TRPA's Julie Regan says the Tahoe economy was in a free fall even before the great recession hit. Businesses shutdown. A big construction project in the middle of the city of South Lake Tahoe went bankrupt and sat unfinished for six years. Plans to redevelop aging hotels and casinos struggled to get financing. Schools closed. The Tahoe area lost population. Now, there is cautious optimism in the business community that the worst may be over. The abandoned construction project in South Lake Tahoe is underway again and two large developments may be going up soon. One will turn the Homewood ski area on the west side of Tahoe into a high end village and resort. The other development is at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course at the south end of the lake. Edgewood is about to break ground on a new hotel and 40 homes. The deal requires Edgewood to open some of its spectacular beach to the public. "Our feeling is that things are definitely on the way back," said Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course Marketing Director Bryan Davis. Many Tahoe business owners are excited about the flurry of activity. But the Sierra Club and a coalition of other environmental groups are worried. They are suing to stop a new regional plan that streamlines regulations for future development. "This regional plan was aimed totally at economic conditions and ignored the environmental conditions," said Laurel Ames with the Sierra Club. Ames said the new plan allows too much dense development that will hurt the environment. The Sierra Club suit charges the TRPA has not addressed water or air quality properly. They also believe it will gentrify the Tahoe area with too many big expensive new properties and too little affordable housing. But TRPA officials disagree. Regan said new building projects would only be approved if they include major environmental benefits that will actually improve Lake Tahoe. "We have one of the most unique growth management systems in the United States. We capped development. We capped the number of homes. We capped the number of hotel units," said Regan. So if you want to build something at Tahoe, you have to demolish something else and restore the environment. The TRPA points to the Edgewood development as an example.

(Environment Cont.)

Old motels were torn down in order to allow Edgewood to build new units at the new location. The developer is also required to make other environmental improvements on the property. "We were doing our part to make these improvements, and, at the end of the day, it's going to protect the lake and we're going to have an opportunity to run a successful business and then everybody wins," said Davis. Planning officials believe their new rules keep a good balance between business and the environment. But the Sierra Club says the scale is tipping too far in favor of economics and away from the environment. "I would like to see people committed to protecting the lake, able to set aside their driving economic forces and live with what we have," said Ames. The case is scheduled for trial March 2.

ABC7 NEWS 4PM - Monday, March 10, 2014 – (2:30)

Bill Introduced to Have Utilities Develop Security Plan:

Lawmakers in Sacramento will soon take up a bill requiring electric utility companies in California to boost their security plans. The legislation was introduced Monday, following last year's attack on a Pacific Gas and Electric substation near San Jose. Electrical substations are potential targets for any terrorist. That was proven last April at PG&E's Metcalf substation, south of San Jose when 17 transformers were knocked out by heavy gunfire. A blackout was averted because PG&E managed to re-route power around the site. PG&E admits the incident was a game changer for them and the entire industry. "Right after the attack occurred, we immediately began aggressive work to assess our security and improve it," said PG&E spokesperson Brian Swanson. Rick Smith is a former agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. "What's the goal, you know, to scare people, to inflict damage or to cause disruption? And, here, if you don't have any power, you obviously have disruption. And, the message is that our facilities were vulnerable," said Smith. Since then, PG&E has worked with federal and local agencies and security consultants to beef up security. The utility says it will spend \$100 million over four years on its most critical facilities. But State Senator Jerry Hill wants the utilities to follow a security plan mandated by the state. If passed, all electric utility companies will have to perform risk assessments, evaluate potential threats and develop a security plan. "What we see today is we have, you know, cyclone fences and maybe security cameras. It doesn't take a lot more to make sure that that's being monitored on a 24 hour basis," said Hill. Hill believes the utility companies should not have to foot the entire bill. Customers should also help pay for the cost of the upgrades. "But, I think we have to look, more importantly, at what would the costs be if we didn't have electricity for six months. What would that do to our economy," he said. If Hill's legislation comes through, the California Public Utilities Commission will enforce all new security plans.

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Monday, February 17, 2014 - (2:49)

Half Moon Bay Coping With Drought Restrictions:

Like most cities in the Bay Area, people in Half Moon Bay are being asked to conserve water. The drought is particularly troublesome for farmers and for those who board horses in the coastal city. The businesses that board horses were hit hard by the great recession and now the drought is threatening to do more damage as hay becomes an expensive commodity. "We tried to freeze our prices a couple of years ago and just take it in the chops, when the economy was so poor. We're not going to be able to take [the drought] in the chops entirely," said Willa Chapman of Sea Horse Ranch. There are several dozen places in Half Moon Bay that also offer horse rides to the public. Still, the current situation is pushing many businesses that rely on hay to their financial limits. "Alfalfa, a decade, 15 years ago was \$8 to \$10 dollars a bale. It's now \$20 dollars a bale. It's going to be even higher, assuming we can find it," said Chapman. Azevedo is the main hay supplier in Half Moon Bay. Finding hay to meet the local demand is becoming a challenge. They sell to retailers like Half Moon Bay Feed and Fuel Co. on Main Street. They say people have no other choice but to pay the higher prices if they want their animals to survive. Seventy-two percent of the water used in Half Moon Bay comes from Hetch Hetchy, San Francisco's water source. Like other cities, Half Moon Bay is facing a water crisis and residents are trying to respond at home and at work. "At home, taking shorter showers and not watering my grass," said Joy Moore of Harmonies Salon. Employees of It's Italia restaurant serve water only if customers ask first. "We fill the jug, not full, but half way in hopes that that will be enough. We're just trying to cut back," said It's Italia owner Betsy Del Fierro. The restaurant is already making a list of changes it will need to make in case the water shortage gets worse.

(Environment Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 4PM - Thursday, February 6, 2014 - (1:53)

Bay Area Storms Won't Put a Dent in Our Drought:

Despite this week's rain and another storm that's on the way, it's still not nearly enough to put a dent in our drought. Here's a sobering fact from Sonoma County --we need 12 inches of rain by May just to reach the water levels of 1977, the worst drought in memory. Right now, that's a benchmark goal. We began in southern Sonoma County, where one might expect rancher Don DeBernardi to rejoice about those growing puddles on his property. "Yeah, they look great," he said. "We need more of them, though," He's the rancher we [watched last week](#); a man so desperate at the time that he tried to dig a well. It looked promising. "That didn't work out," DeBernardi said. "But it was worth a try, you know." We saw minimal runoff along the Russian River in Healdsburg on Thursday; just 40 cubic feet flowing per second, when normally it would be in the hundreds of thousands. How low is that? Right now levels we saw in the 1977 drought, our worst in memory, have become a goal. "We are shooting for at least that, and hopefully that will help us get through the summer," said Pamela Jeane with the Sonoma County Water Agency. Meantime, back at DeBernadini's place, it's time to act, not wait. The cowpies are taller than his grass. He's spending \$300 a day on hay just to feed those cows. On Friday, all but a few will go to market. "They have to go, or you're going to go, one way or another," he said.

(Environment Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Tuesday, January 14, 2014 - (3:01)

Number of Bears Killed Down After New Hound Law:

A California ban on the use of hounds in bear hunting had a dramatic impact this past year -- the number of bears killed fell sharply. This follows a heated battle in the state legislature between hunters and animal rights activists. The I-Team first investigated hounds used to hunt bears in 2012, before the law took effect, so we went back over the past week to talk to some of the key figures in the controversy to get their take on the big impact of the ban on hounds. State Sen. Ted Lieu, D- Torrance, sponsored Bill 12-21 to ban the use of hounds in bear hunting. "It caused harm to the dogs, sometimes the dogs would get in fights and get killed. Sometimes they would get injured. It was inhumane to bears and it was unsporting," said Lieu. Before the law took effect, hunters could equip packs of dogs with electronic tracking devices. When the hounds chased a bear up a tree, the hunter could come in for the easy kill. During the past year, the hound ban slashed the number of bears killed by almost half -- down from 1,962 killed in 2012 to 1,002 last year. "I'm pleased the law is working as intended and that people are complying with the law," said Lieu. "These darkened-colored zones are the approved bear hunt zones in California," said Jesse Garcia, the head of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's bear program. He says the number of hunting permits or "bear tags" sold was unaffected by the ban on hounds. "We've had actually almost the same amount of bear tags sold this year, but either the same number of bear hunters were incredibly unsuccessful or less hunters turned out." "Our morale is pretty low, I'll be frank with you," said Dan Tichenor from the California Houndsmen for Conservation.

(Environment Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 5PM - Monday, January 27, 2014 - (2:10)

Beavers, Salmon Returning to Los Gatos Creek:

Nature lovers in the South Bay are excited that an on going clean-up of Los Gatos Creek in San Jose and Campbell has brought a beaver back to the area and they've got video to prove it. Hard work by volunteers is paying off after months of removing debris to make the habitat more inviting to native species -- and it's not just beavers making a comeback. Steve Holmes was determined to make a difference. He's the founder of "Friends of Los Gatos Creek." The creek was filled with debris like discarded drink cups and plastic containers, all of which makes for a hostile environment for fish and wildlife. Now, something has changed. "You're seeing that the beaver have come through here and they're eating the bark off the trees because they eat plant matter. So the trees, the bark, that's their source, food source," he told ABC7 News. Night-vision video shot just last week shows a beaver foraging for food and dragging tree branches to help build a dam. The exact location it was shot is being kept under wraps so humans don't disturb the animals. "I think that we're going to find that there's going to be more signs that nature wants to return if we give them a place where they can settle, and the creek has been repaired," Holmes said. By "repaired" Holmes means clean up. Friends of Los Gatos Creek have mobilized about 500 volunteers to pull debris from the creek and the volume may surprise you. "We pulled four tons of trash out at Park Avenue," Holmes recalled. There was about 8 tons removed from the site where the beavers have been spotted. It appears the clean-up, started nine months ago, has led to Chinook salmon sightings going upstream and that has Holmes watching out for discarded batteries that can put heavy metals into the water. The discovery of beaver and salmon is a big reward for volunteers who had hoped their efforts would pay off. "This has really touched, I think, a chord with the community. And we have found that people want to give of their time for this," Holmes said.

(Environment Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 5PM - Saturday, January 11, 2014 - (:47)

Redwood Shores Pond Linked to Avian Cholera Outbreak:

A popular bird-watching pond in Redwood City will be drained this weekend after a suspected outbreak of avian cholera killed an estimated 150 ducks, officials with the South Bayside System Authority said this week. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service believes the duck deaths reported at the pond at the SBSA treatment plant at 1400 Radio Road in Redwood Shores are linked to avian cholera deaths previously reported in Hayward, although the cause of death has not yet been confirmed, SBSA officials said Thursday. The pond, technically a "landscape impoundment," was created in 1998 to eliminate dust from the area, which was harmful to the plant's equipment, according to SBSA officials. It is fed by a flow of recycled water from the treatment facility. "Over the years this body of water has met the goal of eliminating dust from the dry, bare land next to the treatment plant and has become a popular spot for bird watchers," said SBSA Manager Dan Child. The pond is noted for its large number of birds and easy access, even for those with disabilities, according to the Sequoia Audubon Society's web site. Avian cholera does not harm humans but can kill waterfowl, gulls and other species, according to fish and wildlife officials. Officials are asking the public to report any other dead birds in the area.

(Environment Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 5PM - Wednesday, March 26, 2014- (2:08)

California Farmers Remain Worried About Drought:

In Sonoma County, there's mixed news from ranchers and growers. It's natural for most of us to connect the word "drought" with water rationing, shorter showers and brown lawns, but farmers are worried about their livelihoods. When it's easier on them, it is also easier on us. Dairy farmer Neil McIsaac pointed out some of his crop has just jumped out of the ground due to the recent rains. And he's upbeat in the rainy weather because six weeks ago, his pasture was bare ground. "This rain that we're getting right now, it's a million dollar rain. We're all going to get pasture out of it," said McIsaac. The downside is his pasture remains a finite commodity when consumed by herds of hungry cows. Already, this year, ranchers have brought in feed from as far away as Arizona, Texas, and Oregon and as close as Skaags Island, where this sea of green hides bad news. "It is raining today, but it's not enough and it's too late," said feed farmer Jim Hare. Hare grows oats on this land and says don't let the muddy topsoil fool you. His crop is much smaller and shorter than usual. As he digs open half an inch, you'll see why totally dry. So despite the rain, don't be fooled. We're still in a drought, just not as bad a drought as we feared.

SPECIAL NEWS REPORTS

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Saturday, March 15, 2014 – (5:00)

I-TEAM: Small park, Big Problems:

The ABC 7 I-Team is investigating complaints from people living in one San Francisco neighborhood. They say a parklet the city installed to improve life in the area has actually had the opposite effect, attracting drugs, prostitution and other crimes. The neighbors of Tutubi Plaza in the South of Market neighborhood want the parklet ripped out. The San Francisco Police Department has received 23,000 calls for service from there over the past three years -- more than 20 a day. So, Dan Noyes took his camera to document the problems, and had some close calls. One morning, Noyes watched neighbor Ken Hornby's dogs get scared by a Tutubi Plaza regular nicknamed "Needles." Then, he takes out syringes and starts to use them. Hornby has warned Needles before to stay out of the area, and tries again. Ken Hornby: "You need to go, you need to go." Needles: "Son of a bitch, I'm going to tear your whole head off. Are you ready, son, to win like you're in a blank boxing match?" Noyes: "Go away, no, no, no." To calm the situation, Noyes told Hornby to take off, but Needles continued to rage. "Now, I'm going to tear your ___ off, you're on private property now," he said. Some days, Noyes saw others openly smoking pot in the parklet. What appeared to be middle school students lit up, before they saw the camera and took off. Noyes found discarded needles, and met Tutubi Plaza regulars such as parolee James Simms, who were willing to describe the scene. Simms: "There's meth, pot, crack or whatever it is, it's a little stopping ground or whatever, you know what I'm saying?" Noyes: "All right here?" Simms: "Everything goes." The neighbors tell Noyes, it hasn't always been this way. "Before the park was there, it was a relatively safe area," Warren Jones said. "People didn't hang out there. Ever since they put that parklet in, there have been all kinds of trouble." The city spent \$100,000 to create Tutubi Plaza by blocking off this part of Russ Street at Minna Street south of Market Street and hiring an artist to stamp and paint a mural onto the pavement. The San Francisco Arts Commission put out a video in 2011 to celebrate. Meg Shiffler, SFAC Gallery Director questioned the artist, "And now we have this sweet little bird hanging on the side of the weathervane. What kind of bird is that?" No question, everyone involved had good intentions, but Tutubi Plaza's neighbors tell Noyes, the project has soured for them. "There's a saying, 'the road to hell is paved with good intentions,' and the parklet should have been named the road to hell," Frank Garvey said. One of Garvey's art-piece robots cut the ribbon to open the plaza -- his studio

(Special News Cont.)

and performance space is right next to it. So, Noyes asked some neighbors to meet there, one recent rainy weekend. "I've seen gangs sit there, I've seen drug users there, I've seen people selling drugs," Christopher Hegenmeir said. "It's a safety issue, I think," Zac Wollons said. "I avoid walking through there, I'll go completely out of my way and farther around, I tell people not to walk down that street and go through that area," McKenzie Minke said. The neighbors tell Noyes the parklet attracts a bad element from 6th Street, which is lined with SRO hotels, porn shops and a needle exchange. They've been taking pictures, documenting the problems -- the city's prized parklet, strewn with trash. Hypodermic needles too numerous to count. People are sleeping there day and night. It's so bad that neighborhood children have stopped using the adjoining playground. "I think the most shocking thing was when I saw an elderly man with his pants down defecating right by the playground," Evelyn Fotiadi said. "Even blatantly having sex in the afternoon, or in the morning, or late at night," Hornby added. "It's just out of control." A surveillance camera on an apartment building at Tutubi Plaza caught a couple in the act -- too graphic to show most of it on television. The neighbors want it all to stop, for the city to rip out the parklet. These problems have destroyed the potential for us to feel like we are in a community because there's so much fear," Garvey said. San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim lives nearby and often walks through the area. "I have personally never felt fearful on 6th street or on Tutubi Plaza," she said. The neighbors tell Noyes that Kim has not been responsive enough. They've been peppering her office with complaints for more than a year, but Kim says she wants to give Tutubi Plaza another shot. "There was so much resources that were poured into make that a nice plaza, I would hate to see it just go away," she said. Mohammed Nuru heads the Department of public works, which designed and installed Tutubi Plaza. He told Noyes he wants to try better lighting, surveillance cameras, and fencing to discourage bad behavior at Tutubi. Only after those fail would he consider ripping out the parklet. "Opening up the street will not solve the problem at this time," Nuru said. "I think we need to give it a chance before we take that step and if we all meet and that's the consensus, then that would be a discussion we should have." The neighbors have presented a petition with more than 150 signatures to remove the parklet. The police captain in charge of that area tells Noyes, for now, it's up to the neighbors to reclaim Tutubi Plaza. The more they use it, the more that bad element will go away. But, that could be a tall order for the neighbors to face the type of people Noyes met.

(Special News Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Tuesday, February 25, 2014 – (5:55)

I-Team: Friend confesses to being Zodiac Killer

It is the symbol most associated with the Zodiac Killer - the cross hairs. Drawn on letters, the side of one of the victim's cars and on the outfit the killer wore at the Lake Berryessa attacks. "It was a black mask and it came over, over his shoulders, down his front, around his back and had a circle with cross hairs in the center," says retired Napa County Sheriff's Deputy Dave Collins. Collins was one of the first responders to the Lake Berryessa crime scene. But Randy Kenney says those aren't cross hairs. He says his friend Louie Myers confessed to him that he was the infamous murderer and told Kenney what the symbol really means. "The Zodiac sign is a Celtic Cross. That's not the cross with the sights," according to Kenney. Kenney says that Myers was obsessed with his Scottish heritage and that's why he chose the Celtic Cross. Today, you can find the symbol at some the zodiac crime scenes. **Did the Zodiac Killer leave a clue in a card?** The Zodiac Killer is known for writing cryptic and taunting letters to police and newspapers. The best friend of a man who confessed to committing the crimes says one card gave a hint about the Zodiac's young age. At a 1978 press conference San Francisco Police Deputy Chief Clem Deamicis read the words that became the Zodiac Killer's opening line, "Dear Editor, this is the Zodiac speaking. I am back with you." It is believed that the murderer sent 15 letters and cards to newspapers and law enforcement from the late 1960's through the 1970's. "He boasted in that '74 letter that he had 37 victims and the SFPD had zero," according to former SFPD Inspector Dave Toschi at the 1978 press conference. Randy Kenney says his friend Louie Myers was the killer. Myers would have been in his late teens at the time of the murders. According to Kenney, Myers tried to give police a clue about his age on what has become to be known as "The Halloween Card." "The Halloween card said 'look for teen.' Alright? And at that time the authorities just thought it meant 14 victims. But it meant 'look for a teen,'" said Kenney. **Friend confesses to being Zodiac-** He's the one that got away. The Zodiac Killer terrorized the Bay Area in the late 60's and early 70's. Now, almost 45 years later the crimes remain unsolved. Local law enforcement tell us they still receive about one tip a week on the case, including one from a New York man who says he knows who The Zodiac is because the killer confessed to him. We've learned both the Napa County Sheriff's Department and San Francisco police have the name on their list of suspects. Investigators have tied the Zodiac to five murders in 1968 and 1969. He sent cryptic messages to local newspapers, taunting police about their inability to arrest him. In December 1968, he killed two teenagers on Lake Herman Road in Benicia. At the time, Solano County Sheriff's Deputy Les Lundbald said the killer forced the teens out of the car before shooting them.

(Special News Cont.)

In July 1969, a couple was shot while parked at Blue Rock Springs Park in

Vallejo. The female victim died. The male victim survived. "This guy just literally shot those two kids to pieces," according the retired Vallejo Police Officer Ed Rust. In September 1969, a masked man stabbed two people at Lake Berryessa in Napa County, killing one of them. Retired Napa County Sheriff's Deputy Dave Collins says, "We wanted to administer first aid, but there was no place to give first aid." October 1969, a San Francisco cab driver was shot and killed. Days later, a local paper received a letter from the Zodiac claiming responsibility for the murder, along with a piece of a bloody shirt. At the time, ABC7 News reporter Dick Carlson said, "The writer is the same man who's committed five murders." In 45 years, police have investigated and cleared more than 2,500 suspects. The tips keep coming, including the one from Randy Kenney of New York. "He said, 'I killed some people. I'm the guy they're looking for. They've been looking for me for over 30 years. I'm the guy that's The Zodiac Killer,'" according to Kenney. Kenney tells the I-Team his best friend, Louie Myers, confessed in April 2001 after doctors told him he was dying from cirrhosis of the liver. Kenney says Myers asked him to wait until after he died to tell authorities and that he wanted Kenney to write a book with the proceeds going to the victims' families. Myers died in May 2002 and Kenney has spent years trying to get police to listen. "I really, truly feel that Louie was 100 percent honest with me that day," says Kenney. Myers lived in Vallejo from 1965 to 1971. Kenney says Myers told him the reason he became a killer at the age of 17. "It was over a girl he broke up with. That's what the deal was with the couples," according to Kenney. Myers has some interesting circumstantial connections to the crimes. The first connection, Kenney says, was that he went to school with the kids. Myers went to both Vallejo and Hogan high schools. He could have known first Zodiac victims David Farraday at Vallejo High and Betty Lou Jensen at Hogan. The second connection Kenney points out is that he worked in the restaurant with the waitress. Kenney says Myers worked as a bus boy at Terry's restaurant in Vallejo and so did Zodiac victim Darlene Ferrin. The third connection Kenney mentioned is that a military-style boot print was found at the Lake Berryessa crime scene. Myers' father worked on Mare Island and would have access to this type of boot. We're told Myers briefly worked at Victory Military Surplus in Vallejo. Myers didn't know San Francisco cab driver Paul Stine. Kenney: "He was just robbing the cab driver." Noyes: "He told you that?" Kenney: "Yeah, that was just for drug money." Myers got in trouble with Vallejo police, unrelated to the Zodiac murders. His rap sheet includes disorderly conduct, theft and possession of stolen property. "Louie was a good guy, you know. He was a lot of fun," said Myer's childhood friend Bob Robitaille. He stopped hanging out with him after Myers started getting arrested. "That got Louie in big trouble and the way he got out was he went into the Army."

(Special News Cont.)

Connection number four -- military records show Myers stationed in Germany

between June 1971 and January 1973. Coincidentally, the Zodiac didn't send any letters during that time. After the Army, Myers moved back to New York and became a long-haul trucker, making runs back to the Bay Area. That's when Robitaille says Myers also confessed to him in 1976. He says, "And that was the time that he told me that he was The Zodiac." Robitaille didn't believe Myers at the time, but he has changed his mind now. "It freaked me out for a second then I just pushed it aside. We never talked about it again," Robitaille says. Noyes: "He could have been just a nut job who had delusions of being a serial killer." Kenney: "That's possible too." Rust and Collins, who responded to Zodiac crime scenes, are skeptical a teenager could have pulled off the attacks. Plus, Myers doesn't fit witness descriptions of the Zodiac, including one by a surviving victim. "This picture of this Myers guy doesn't, to me, look anything like what Michael Mageau described," says Rust. Still, the former officers believe the Myers' tip is credible enough to pursue, especially if they can come up with new evidence that actually ties him to the crimes. "A suspect will keep certain items they use in a homicide, the knife, the gun, the hood," says Collins. Those are items Kenney hasn't seen and doesn't have. "I've already talked to San Francisco and, uh, that's what they want, the smoking gun. And I don't have it," says Kenney. All the law enforcement agencies investigating The Zodiac declined to be interviewed citing open investigations. We did speak over the phone with some of Myers' family members back in New York. Some said there was no way he was a killer, but his daughter told us she would like police to look into it and give a definitive answer.

(Special News Cont.)

ABC7NEWS 11PM - Wednesday, February 26, 2014 – (3:23)

Foodies Using Technology to Get Tough Reservations:

The Bay Area is where technology is king, where entrepreneurship rules, and food is more than a meal -- it's an experience. It's no wonder then that foodies have managed to combine all three elements to snag hard-to-get restaurant reservations. On a recent evening, the line outside State Bird Provisions in San Francisco's Fillmore District stretched about 40 people deep. All were trying to snag a highly coveted walk-in reservation. John Bloodworth of San Francisco got in line at 4:30 p.m., an hour before the restaurant opened. "So knowing that it would make a couple of people happy, I decided to bite the bullet and get in line early and take one for the team," he said. Only a few tables can be reserved ahead of time and those are snapped up 60 days in advance, the earliest you can book a table. State Bird became the rage when Bon Appetit named it the "Best Restaurant in the Nation in 2012." "It's more just the experience of coming and saying you've waited in line," said Tana Peterman, a Seattle resident. Rana Brarar of Fairfax had been trying to get a reservation for weeks without any success. She knew that new reservations open up 60 days in advance of the date. "So I knew there had to be new reservations, but I couldn't figure out when they put them up. I tried at noon. One time I tried at midnight," she said. Software security engineer Diogo Mónica figured it out. He developed a program that would notify him the minute a reservation opened up. He declined to talk on camera, we went to Dan Garcia of the computer science department at UC Berkeley to find out how the program worked. He said Mónica's program grabs a snapshot of the reservation's page every minute. And 99 percent of the time it says, "No reservations currently available." "And if those are ever different, that means that the reservation page is updated. So, rather than saying, 'No reservations today,' if ever that changes to say, 'We have five reservations,' he'll know that," Garcia explained. The program then immediately sends the user an email. It didn't take long for Mónica to figure out that the reservation would open up every day at the same time -- 4am -- and were often gone within 30 minutes. Others figured that out too, including an eBay user who gobbled up a bunch of them and sold the reservations on eBay. "It might be worth it, but it depends on what time. Is it \$20 for 5:30, for 9 p.m.? Is it \$100 for 7 pm?" said Bloodworth. The reservations sold for \$20. Several buyers left positive comments about their purchase, but not the general manager of State Bird Provisions. He cancelled all of those reservations. So, that eBay seller is no longer selling. So foodies, your choices are waiting in line or getting up at 4 a.m. Brarar chose 4am and was able to snag a reservation for 5:30pm. "Well, I have to say I felt like I beat the system, a little bit," she said. By the way, Bloodworth, by being the first in line, was able to get 7:30pm reservations. Peterman, who was at the end of the line, got 9:15pm reservations.

(Special News Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Friday, February 28, 2014 – (4:45)

Coast Guard Auxiliary Commander Posed as Navy SEAL:

A commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has resigned because of this I-Team investigation that found he exaggerated his prior military service in a major way -- pretending to be a Navy SEAL. It's the latest example of what's called "stolen valor" to come across my desk. It's one thing to pad a resume or to exaggerate your life story from a bar stool. It's another to falsely paint yourself as a hero and to wear awards for which others gave their lives. The U.S. Coast Guard's Auxiliary is comprised of civilian volunteers. They perform many of the same functions as active duty members: search and rescue, harbor patrols, and keeping boats safely away from events such as the America's Cup. For the past 20 years, Jim Van Fleet has been a major figure at Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1291 out of San Ramon. Noyes asked Van Fleet: "And your title? What's your actual title?" Jim Van Fleet: "Currently, I'm a Flotilla Commander." Like many in the Auxiliary, Van Fleet has prior military service in the Navy, and boy, he has some stories: "Well, I got shot in the head here. There's still a crease in my skull where, you know, you can feel the bullet path as it creased my skull. What a headache!" Van Fleet told me he got two Purple Hearts in Vietnam. He said, "I got tossed in the air by a mortar round that landed fairly near to me and it was just like the movies, you go straight up, you come back down on your neck and shoulders or your head." Van Fleet also wears two Bronze Stars. He said, "I don't usually talk about my medals and actions that I was in until after midnight and half a bottle of tequila." Also on Van Fleet's shirt was a gold Trident -- the insignia given to Navy SEALs. Van Fleet claims, "I was in Naval intelligence and I was trained as a frogman, and so today, today you call them Navy SEALs. I was a young pup." Noyes: "Wow, a Navy SEAL." Van Fleet: "Yeah, a long time ago." Van Fleet told me he went on SEAL patrols in Vietnam to provide coordinates for bombing runs, and that he carried out a secret SEAL mission into North Korea after they captured the U.S. intelligence ship, the USS Pueblo. He said, "That was very frightening. We all thought that we were going to be vaporized by an atomic weapon any minute." Van Fleet's tall tales have caught up to him because of a new push by military veterans to expose the phonies. Someone snapped his picture in Monterey last year and posted it to the "Fake Warriors" website for identification. Finally, a member of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary was browsing the pictures this month and recognized Van Fleet. He called retired Navy SEAL Don Shipley, who verified Van Fleet is a fake using the SEAL database. Don Shipley explains, "All I got to do is check your name. I'll check your name, just like that, a couple of keystrokes, I'll tell you if that guy was ever a SEAL or not, it's that easy." Then, I filed a Freedom of Information Act request and received Van Fleet's records. He served three years on the USS Rupertus -- no Purple Hearts, no Bronze Stars, no Navy SEAL. Noyes told Van Fleet: "You know, Jim. I got to tell you that I know that those are fake medals.

(Special News Cont.)

I know that you aren't a Navy SEAL. I know that those Purple Hearts are not

real. Those Bronze Stars are not real. I've pulled your records. Why wear those? Why embellish your service?" It took Van Fleet a moment to compose himself before he answered, "I spent three years in-country in Vietnam." Noyes: "On a ship." Van Fleet: "Yes, sir." Noyes: "In-country means you're on the ground. You weren't on the ground." Van Fleet: "We had occasion to put boats in the water and go ashore to provide medicine and so-forth to villages on the shore." Noyes: "But you were a radar man." Van Fleet: "Yes." Noyes: "Looking at a scope in a dark room on the ship." Van Fleet: "Yes." Van Fleet says he decided to wear the medals because he felt unappreciated after returning from Vietnam. And, he questioned why the I-Team even began this investigation. Van Fleet asked, "Why are we doing this? What difference does it make to you?" Noyes: "It makes a big difference. My father served. He has a real Purple Heart. He had a real Bronze Star. He's passed away since. He actually bled for this country. You exaggerated it. It's called 'stolen valor'. Have you heard that expression?" Van Fleet: "Yes, I have, sir." The issue also matters deeply to five retired Navy SEALs. Hershel Davis described the incident in which he lost two fingers: "AK-47. It was April 1969. First shoot 'em up, off in Vietnam." Together, they have about 100 years of experience as Navy SEALs, from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. Each paid a personal price. Jason Redman told us he took "three rounds directly to the body, at least ten that we know of, between body armor, weapon, helmet. So, obviously the one to the face is the game, the game winner that not many people get to walk away from." Hugh Middleton said, "Hearing loss, shoulders, back, knees, neck, are the typical injuries for SEALs." And they have seen a spike in the imposters. The experts believe there are as many as a thousand phonies for every living Navy SEAL. "It's more common than you think of," said Retired Navy SEAL Tom Black. "And the people that are stealing this, from the people that actually earned it, they just, there's a special place in hell for those people." "I'll tell you how it makes me feel," said Hershel Davis. "I'd like to turn their birthdays off. No more ice cream and cake. But it's against the law, and I'm a law-abiding citizen. That's how serious I take it." Redman added, "I know in my career alone, I've been to over 50 memorials and funerals for guys that I worked with that fell on the battlefield. You can't put a price on that." Noyes asked Van Fleet, "What do you say to the families of those who fought and died, who earned the medals and you're wearing those? What do you say to the families?" Van Fleet: "I knew this would eventually happen. I didn't worry about it and I wasn't afraid of it and I figured when it happened, fine, then we'll, you know, we'll stop. You know, it will go away. I'll stop doing it. And that's what I shall do." The Coast Guard told us last week that they launched an investigation into Van Fleet. Noyes asked for an interview about stolen valor, and how he was able to get away with it for so long, but they refused. Noyes received an email saying Van Fleet had resigned from the Auxiliary, so the case is closed. The current version of the Stolen Valor Act makes it a federal crime to profit from lying about military awards. Van Fleet works as a private eye.

(Special News Cont.)

His website does not mention being a SEAL directly, but says he was "trained by Naval intelligence and the CIA during three years in Vietnam." After our interview, he changed his website, removing the picture with all those phony medals and replacing it with him in a suit and tie. Van Fleet had a hard time apologizing to the real SEALs who earned their medals...or to the families of those who fought and died. Noyes: "You aren't apologetic at all." Van Fleet: "No, I'm not." Noyes: "You aren't apologetic?" Van Fleet: "Oh, yes I am. Ok? Of course I am, but I'm just, you know, a little bit distraught with you." Noyes: "With being exposed?" Van Fleet: "Yes, of course, being exposed." Van Fleet also admitted his wife believed he was a Navy SEAL.

San Francisco Police Dept. Finds Hundreds of Untested Rape Kits:

The ABC7 News I-Team has gotten results. Our exclusive investigation into untested rape kits sitting on police property room shelves prompted the San Francisco Police Department to conduct an audit. It's been four years since the San Francisco Board of Supervisors mandated all rape kits get tested. After we reported the SFPD did not test kits from before the law took effect, the department launched an audit. Thursday, they announced that they found more than 700 untested kits. The SFPD counted 10 years' worth of rape kits in its property rooms. The department found 753 untested from 2003-2013. SFPD Captain Dan Perea told the I-Team Thursday, "We concentrated our efforts on that period testing will produce any information that we can act upon, we won't have the concern of statutory limitation." There is a 10-year statute of limitations on most sexual assaults, including rape. According to Perea, the kits were initially not tested for a variety of reasons. "These weren't kits that we forgot about or didn't know existed," he said. "There was an investigative or a prosecutorial decision made that the testing of those kits wasn't required. And at that time, that was the practice." Perea says the department is now committed to processing all the evidence it found. The plan is to send the kits to a private company, so they won't create a backlog in the SFPD crime lab. There's no estimate of how much it will cost, but Perea says it will be worth it. "It's about justice actually to survivors," he said. "If there's actionable information from cases in that period and we can move forward, we absolutely want to do that." The audit results leave rape survivor Heather Marlowe with mixed emotions. Her kit wasn't tested for two years after she was assaulted in 2010 at Bay to Breakers. Her rapist was never caught. She's happy the audit is complete and the numbers are public, but tells us it's hard to believe the evidence languished for so many years. Marlowe thinks if the SFPD tests the remaining kits, it will encourage rape victims to report the crime and get an exam done. The SFPD has also made a policy change. Before, only rape kits with unknown suspects were eligible to be fast-tracked through the testing process. Now, all kits will be tested.

(Special News Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Monday, March 3, 2014 - 11PM (4:30)

I-Team Investigates What's Causing Pedestrian Deaths:

In San Francisco, simply stepping off the curb can be deadly. Five people have been killed walking on the streets of San Francisco this year. It is a tragedy unfolding at an alarming rate. The I-Team wanted to see what is causing the spike in pedestrian deaths. We spent months on the streets investigating the problem. We've investigated the role that cars and bikes play in accidents. Now, we show you the mistakes people make while they walk that put them at risk for serious injuries. The San Francisco Department of Health estimates two to three people a day are hit by cars, many of them are injured... others die. The I-Team wanted to see what was happening, so we took our cameras to the streets. We watched again and again, as people crossed mid-block, raced against lights, pushed strollers out into blind spots, crossed streets with their heads down on their smartphones or just walked out into traffic without looking at all. We saw Khedim Wagne nearly get hit by a car. He admitted he wasn't looking, "Yeah I know, in the city it's pretty much you keep your heads up and go straight." Pedestrian Krystal Buttner said, "I can admit that have been texting and walking. Then I look up and I feel like an idiot because I almost get hit by a car." Surveillance video obtained by ABC7 News shows just how fast it can happen. It was taken a couple weeks ago. A man walks out onto Van Ness Avenue into oncoming traffic. It was the last time he was seen alive. Commander Mikail Ali heads up the San Francisco Police Department's efforts to keep pedestrians safe. He said, "Of those pedestrians who were killed last year, a third of them were identified as being the cause." In the last seven years, 120 people have died and more than 5,600 have been involved in collisions mostly with cars. "Our pedestrians definitely have to take a greater stake in their own safety," said Ali. The department is cracking down on cars driving too fast and pedestrians who cross illegally. In fact, they've issued 43 percent more tickets this January over last. The city health department is looking for long term solutions. It used police department data to track the most dangerous streets and intersections. Perhaps not surprising, the most dangerous streets for pedestrians are also the city's busiest in terms of traffic. Most of the worst are downtown on stretches like 6th Street, South of Market and Geary in the Tenderloin. "Six percent of our city streets contribute to 60 percent of where our severe and fatal injuries happen," said Megan Wier of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She said an analysis of those accidents also sheds light on who is generally at fault. "Two thirds of the time, drivers are assessed to be at fault," said Wier. The city will be investing \$17 million over the next five years to improve safety conditions for people walking. It includes shortening the walking distances and slowing the traffic down at corners. The city just finished such a project on Cesar Chavez Street. "We're all pedestrians," reminded Nicole Schneider.

(Special News Cont.)

She is with WALK SF, a pedestrian advocacy group. She believes street improvements will help reduce pedestrian injuries and deaths. "We often point fingers and I don't think it is helpful to point fingers. We are educating people and we also need to focus on the things that we know work. We know that street improvements work, so that's the main thing we need to spend taxpayer dollars on," added Schneider. But even at those intersections designed to be safer, our cameras watched as pedestrians continued to make potentially dangerous mistakes over and over again. "At the end of the day it really is quite simple," said Ali. "The rules of the road are there to protect human life and people have to adhere to those rules of the road. Whether you are in a car, you're on a bike, or you're walking. If the light says red, do not cross the roadway."

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(Special News Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 11PM - Wednesday, January 22, 2014 – (3:45)

I-Team Exclusive: Max Wade Planned Takeover Robbery:

Thursday afternoon, Marin County teenager Max Wade will be sentenced after a jury trial for stealing celebrity chef Guy Fieri's Lamborghini and for attempted murder in an unrelated drive-by shooting. But, the ABC7 News I-Team has learned of an even bigger crime Wade planned. Prosecutors will raise this new scheme -- a takeover robbery of a famed San Francisco jewelry store -- as another reason why Wade should receive a stiff sentence. The best case scenario Wade faces is 20-years to life with the possibility of parole. When he was 16-years-old, Max Wade rappelled into a San Francisco dealership and stole celebrity chef Guy Fieri's Lamborghini. A year later he pulled off a drive-by shooting in Mill Valley, trying to scare off the teen that was dating a girl he liked. "It's amazing, he's obviously very intelligent and some of his stuff was definitely the work of a very sophisticated criminal," said Greg Garrett, lead detective on the Wade case. For the first time, Garrett tells the I-Team about a 30-page dossier Wade compiled -- plans for a takeover robbery of Shreve and Co. Jewelers in San Francisco's Union Square. **Noyes:** "How elaborate were the plans?" **Garrett:** "Well, he had photographs of many of the employees. He had their names, some biographical information on some of the employees." Wade also had a picture of the Shreve alarm box and a long equipment list -- gun belts, radios, an AK-47, and San Francisco police uniforms -- some of it was found in a Richmond storage locker when he was arrested. The dossier says Wade planned to set off a diversion at nearby Macy's -- a small bomb or smoke device. "And then have two people go into Shreve's dressed as police officers," Garrett said. "And he had two Hollywood-style, very expensive masks, rubber masks and do a takeover robbery and then flee via the roof." Garrett says Wade planned to pick up his two accomplices by helicopter; that he inquired about flying lessons and had a nighttime photo of the Shreve roof in the dossier. **Noyes:** "Did he actually identify a helicopter?" **Garrett:** "He did have a tail number of a helicopter that we located on the peninsula that is actually a Robinson 44 helicopter." The chopper was at San Carlos Airport. The model is just big enough to handle four people. Dan wanted to ask Wade's attorney about the Shreve allegations, but he declined to be interviewed before Thursday's sentencing. Robert Bryan, a longtime criminal defense attorney, wonders, "Does this kid live in the movie theater, is he living in a fantasy world? What's amazing is he pulled some of it off." We asked Bryan to look at a 400-page brief the defense has filed for Thursday's sentencing. It includes police reports and family court documents that describe a long history of violence in Wade's home, growing up. They indicate his mother slapped him across the face on several occasions and that his father choked him when he was three, leaving red marks on Wade's neck.

(Special News Cont.)

They also indicate that years later, Wade told a social worker he had to intervene when he found his father strangling his mother with a bath

The only trial his father faced for domestic violence ended with a hung jury.

Bryan says the judge should consider Wade's childhood before sentencing him, "A long history of trouble in the family, of violence affects young people, growing up in that environment. You can't put this person in a vacuum and say he's a bad egg. He's a product of some terrible things that happened in the home environment." Bryan says Wade appears to have mental health issues that won't be helped by 20 or 30 years behind bars. He believes Wade should be sent somewhere where he can get help.

(Special News Cont.)

ABC7 NEWS 6PM - Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – (2:30)

San Francisco Firefighter Who Took Asiana Video Disciplined:

Lawyers for many of the Asiana passengers have released dramatic videos that capture the chaotic aftermath of the crash. They also show how one young passenger survived the impact, only to be run over by two San Francisco fire trucks and killed. The videos don't provide new details about why the plane crashed -- the mistakes in the cockpit. But, they do show serious mistakes by San Francisco fire crews that lead to the death of a 16-year-old passenger. The two videos capture the chaos in high-def detail -- one camera mounted on the helmet of Battalion Chief Mark Johnson, the other, aboard Mobile 10, one of the first aircraft rescue and fire-fighting trucks to arrive. Asiana Flight 214 was on fire, after landing short and tumbling down the runway. Many of the passengers were able to evacuate themselves from the plane; others still on board needed help. The spotter aboard Mobile 10 saw 16-year-old Ye Mengyuan on the ground in the fetal position and alerted Lt. Chrissy Emmons. But the complaint filed by Ye's family says Emmons "responded that they should move on" to fight the fire, and "failed to assess Ye Mengyuan, communicate her location to command, or even to mark her location." Ye family attorney Justin Green said, "Not one of the firefighters took her pulse, not one of the firefighters checked if she was breathing, there was an assumption I believe made based on later testimony that she was deceased." The San Mateo County Coroner found that Ye survived the crash and was still alive at that point. The spotter directs Mobile 10 around Ye -- the rig sprays flame-retardant foam. But, 15 minutes later, it's that truck -- Mobile 10 -- that first runs over Ye. About 10 minutes later, Mobile 37, a reserve rig operating without a spotter, also drives over Ye. Her family attorney says this case goes beyond simple negligence, "What happened here involves training of the firefighters who responded, what happened involves the certification of the supervisors that were supervising the firefighters." Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White is on vacation. Her spokesperson says the chief wouldn't comment anyway, with the NTSB investigation still underway. In a news conference last July, Hayes-White apologized to Ye's family. "Very difficult to hear, devastating, heartbroken, there's not a lot of words to describe how badly we feel, how sorry we feel about it," she said. But, Hayes-White is also going after Battalion Chief Mark Johnson. After she found out about his helmet video, she banned the cameras department-wide and filed internal charges against Johnson, claiming he broke a department rule. He's appealing the charges. "I think it's outrageous that they brought him up on charges when his helmet camera answers a lot of the questions that needed to be answered in this tragedy," Green said. There is still some question how Ye got to the position by the left wing. Her family's attorney believes there are two possibilities: a firefighter carried her there or she came down the slide on her own and went into

shock.