

# AUSTIN NEWS kxan.com

## MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – Fourth Quarter  
October 1 – December 31

DATE: January 8, 2010

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The top ten ascertained significant problems and needs of the Austin community are:

1. Transportation/traffic
2. Education quality
3. Growth
4. Crime
5. Gangs
6. High-tech Education
7. Teaching good citizenship/responsibility
8. Focus on positive/good news
9. Family Values
10. Poverty

Attached are examples of local news reports, public service efforts, local programming, and syndicated programs that have addressed these issues. Additionally, as an NBC affiliate, we broadcast network programs that discuss these problems and needs from a national perspective. These include “Dateline” and “Meet the Press.”

## PROGRAMS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

NAME OF PROGRAM	DAYS AIRED	TIME AIRED
Austin News Today	Monday-Sunday	(M-F) 5:00-7:00 a.m. (Sat) 7:00-9:00 a.m. (Sun) 7 & 9 a.m.
Austin News Today Show Cut-ins	Monday-Friday	7:26-7:30 a.m. 7:56-8:00 a.m. 8:26-8:30 a.m. 8:56-9:00 a.m.
Austin News @ noon	Monday-Friday	12-1:00 p.m.
Austin News @ 5	Monday-Friday + Sunday	5:00-5:30 p.m.
Austin News @ 6	Monday - Saturday	6-6:30 p.m.
Austin News @ 10	Monday-Friday Saturday-Sunday	10:00-10:35 p.m. 10:00-10:30 p.m.

All of these programs are produced locally and are a mix of news, weather and sports.

KXAN also airs NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, Monday – Friday at 5:30 – 6:00 p.m., and NBC Nightly News on Saturday and Sunday at 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

NBC Nightly News has two ongoing reports that are relevant to the community we serve.

### ***NBC Nightly News – Making a Difference synopsis:***

"Making a Difference" stories air every Friday on "NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams." The series was conceived in response to viewers who complain that the broadcast features only "bad" news. Viewers can also read and watch the stories on the NBC Nightly News website and use the mailbag to tell NBC about someone they know who is making a difference.

### ***NBC Nightly News – What Works synopsis:***

"What Works" is a continuing series on "NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams." These are "reports which spotlight ideas or innovations that are solving various problems in communities across the country." Viewers can read and watch all the stories from the series on NBC Nightly News website.

## Transportation/Traffic

10/01/09 Cell Phone Signs - The new state law to ban cell phones for drivers in school zones is quickly sweeping across central Texas. Already, the warning signs are going up in Round Rock , Austin, Pflugerville, San Marcos, Marble Falls, and Lampassas.

10/01/09 ACL Traffic - Expect more traffic tie-ups this weekend as thousands of music lovers pour into Austin. You can expect delays in and around the Zilker Park, Barton Springs Road and throughout downtown. To avoid those headaches, log onto [www.KXAN.com](http://www.KXAN.com). We've set up a special page with where you can go for free shuttle pick up and drop off.

10/02/09 Cedar Park Cell Phone Signs - The city of Cedar Park is putting the brakes on the new state law to ban cell phones in school zones before it even goes into effect there. At its latest meeting, the city council decided the law was not clear enough about school zones, and the materials needed were too costly. The signs are required before police can enforce the law. They would cost the city up to 12-thousand dollars.

10/04/09 Road Closures - The rain has forced the closure of a couple roads in the Austin area. The first is in west Austin in the Bull Creek Area... officials have closed off Spicewood Springs near Old Lampassas and Yucca Mountain. Our next stop is in North Austin... at Adelphi Lane just south of Parmer on the frontage road of Mopac.

10/07/06 Trans-Tex Corridor - The state's embattled "Trans-Texas Corridor" is finally dead tonight, after much criticism over the last seven years. Part of that comes from the 600-thousand acres of private land that TXDoT would have seized to complete the 600 mile toll system. The state has spent nearly 12-million dollars on the environmental study - just one hurdle it's faced since 2001.

10/23/09 Bike Buffer - In a little less than two weeks... drivers have to give bicyclists three feet on the road. The Austin City Council passed a new law Thursday that says drivers have to stay three feet away from bicyclists, joggers, and construction workers. The legislature passed the law statewide, but Governor Perry vetoed it. The City Council said it's necessary now for Austin, since so many more people are riding their bike to work and school. The new law goes into effect at the beginning of November.

11/09/09 Passenger Rail - You could get a whole new way to travel from Austin to San Antonio. "The Lone Star Rail District" says its moving forward with plans to operate an L-STAR light rail - linking the two cities. The rail line would run along Interstate-35. Trains would stop at 16 proposed rail stations from Georgetown to South San Antonio. Federal approval for the project is still needed.

11/16/09 Metro Rail - "Capital Metro" launched a new phase of testing in an effort to get the over-budget and overdue Metro Rail line on track. Today four of the commuter trains started a new "real time" testing process. The Red Line tests are running from Leander to downtown Austin during evening hours. The trains are not going to be loaded with

passengers, which means Capital Metro will have to take timing variations into effect while testing the schedules. There are also concerns about cars parking within 15 feet of the tracks - so APD will be out writing \$200 tickets for violations. The evening test runs will be from 3 to 8:30 pm Monday through Friday into January. The rail line is currently on target to begin carrying passengers some time in the first quarter of 2010.

11/18/09 New Bike Routes - The City of Austin's looking to overhaul a downtown street for bicyclists. "Nueces Street" would become a bicycle boulevard if city planners have their way. The street would include new medians, and other signs and detours to divert cars away from the road.

11/30/09 I 35 Improvements - This may come as a relief to many of you who drove I-35 from Austin to Dallas and back over Thanksgiving. Tex-DoT just approved spending nearly one-point-two billion dollars on widening the highway through Bell, McLennan and Hill Counties.

12/07/09 Metro Rail tested - Capital Metro resumed testing its Metro Rail trains this afternoon. Trains were running between 3:00 and 8:30 p.m. Cap Metro had stopped operations the week of Thanksgiving after an insurance question came up during contract negotiations with the rail contractor, Veolia. The contractor is scheduled to test during the same time tomorrow.

12/07/09 Hwy. 71 Extension Project - A major extension for Highway 71 is up for consideration by the Texas Transportation Commission. It would extend the freeway past Riverside Drive - getting rid of the light at that intersection and routing express lanes under a Riverside overpass. The light at Thornberry Road would also go. The 43-million dollar project could speed up the ride to the airport for many drivers. If approved, it wouldn't even begin until late 2011... and would take about two years to complete.

12/10/09 Urban Rail - The Austin City council approved a one-million dollar study of a new rail line through downtown Austin today. They are looking for ways to relieve congestion. This is different than Cap Metro's rail line you've heard so much about running from Leander to Austin. The urban line would connect the Cap Metro downtown line to the capitol and the UT campus. The city would do the engineering work, and prepare for the exact routes and safety studies. City officials are not putting a timeline on the urban rail... though they did give a timeline before the ground work begins. Voters might have the chance to approve more spending on the project in November 2010.

### **Education quality**

10/26/09 AISD Top Green School - Austin schools rank number one among the "greenest" in the nation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency just put AISD at the top of the list of the nation's schools using the most power from renewable energy sources. Round Rock schools are second in the nation!

11/23/09 Christmas Tree Ban - The December Dilemma - that's what one local school district is calling the annual struggle over how to handle the holidays - legally, and without offending anyone. Rumors swirling in the Dripping Springs ISD had parents already planning a protest over a ban on Christmas Trees in the classroom. Turns out - the district has no such policy. But today, the superintendent and staff did spend the afternoon crafting district policy on holiday displays. They released a statement saying, in part, "So long as such activities pass Constitutional muster, we welcome them." "The District's paramount concern is to honor and protect the traditions of all students in an appropriate manner without promoting any particular set of beliefs over another."

12/03/09 Informing School Hours - Like many districts, AISD emergency management staff follows current weather conditions and forecasts into the early morning hours. By 4 am they make the final decision whether school starts late or classes are cancelled. Today, AISD met with other central Texas school districts, the city of Austin and meteorologists to discuss Friday's forecast. Come January, notifying parents will be even easier. AISD plans to install a text, voice and email messaging system. KXAN has a box for school closing information right on our home page at [kxan.com](http://kxan.com). Just scroll down to the bottom left side. We'll update it continuously.

12/05/09 School Board of Education Candidates - Some people believe it's the most important election coming up for Texans - the race for seats on the State Board of Education. This afternoon... three people hoping to win those seats came to a meet-the-candidate forum in southeast Austin. The candidates took questions from the audience. Organizers call it an important opportunity for voters. The League of United Latin American Citizens sponsored the forum... District 10 candidates Judy Jennings and Lorenzo Sadun attended, as did Rebecca Bell-Meterau who's running for the District 5 seat. They're all Democrats. Three Republican candidates declined to attend.

12/09/09 Deaf Student Art - The renowned Texas School for the Deaf helps thousands of students, who are hearing impaired, strive for excellence, and assimilate into the broader culture. One of their programs encourages the arts...and that art is on display for everyone to enjoy this holiday. You can check it out at the historic Scarborough building at Sixth and Congress. This is their third annual holiday art exhibit...titled sweet creations. The students have created eight different art displays shown in the building's large store-front windows. The students love their art program, and it shows in their work. The Texas School for the Deaf was founded in 1857. It is the longest continuously running public school in the state.

## Crime

10/01/09 Paul DeVoe "Guilty" of capital murder. That was the verdict handed down to Paul Devoe. The convicted killer was on trial for the deaths of "Haley Faulkner" and "Danielle Hensley." It did not take the jury long to come to that conclusion.

10/05/09 Mobile Home Embezzlement - Half of the staff at a Georgetown business is under arrest for ripping off customers to the tune of more than 100 thousand dollars. Police say Georgetown Homes was the base for an organized crime ring in Williamson County. The mobile home and land sales company is in south Georgetown off I-35. General Manager Tammy Austin was hired by Georgetown Homes owner Chad Denton to clean up the mess.

10/05/09 Smadi Court - A judge says there's enough evidence to continue the case against a Jordanian teenager accused of trying to blow up a Dallas skyscraper. Investigators say 19-year-old Hosam Smadi drove a truck he believed held a live bomb and parked it in a garage underneath the 60-story Fountain Place building on Sept. 24th. Later, they say he dialed a phone he thought would ignite a blast. If convicted, Smadi faces up to life in prison.

10/07/09 Human Smuggling Case - A man police say smuggled immigrants, then held one for ransom is behind bars in Austin. "Juan Pablo Gil Velez" is charged with aggravated kidnapping. Police say he threatened to kill a boy he was smuggling into Austin if his family members didn't pay 15-hundred dollars for his release. The boy was not harmed.

10/08/09 Manor Gun at School - Police found a pistol on a 17-year-old student at "Manor High School" this week. A school resource officer says he found a .38 caliber revolver in Damian Milligan's pants Wednesday. The officer was searching Milligan for drugs after a report of someone smoking marijuana in a school bathroom.

10/12/09 Craigslist Safety Local "Craigslist" sellers beware - several others have been the target of recent robberies. Police are looking for 20-year-old "Jordan Ashton Huffman" of Pflugerville. He's wanted for "Aggravated Robbery with a deadly weapon". Police say Huffman and an accomplice contacted a man selling an i-Phone. They agreed to meet at a shopping center parking lot. Police say Huffman tried to get the victim to reduce the price, when the victim refused Huffman reached for a gun in his waistband, grabbed the i-Phone and ran away. Police believe Huffman could be linked to three other cases. If you've been a victim, or know where he is - call APD.

11/05/09 Ft. Hood Shooting Thirteen are dead after Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire on the base. What would have prompted Nidal Malik Hasan to attack fellow soldiers? In the coming days we hope to answer this and so many other questions.

11/06/09 Ft. Hood day 2 Emotions still very raw, a day after an Army officer opened fire on a crowd of his fellow soldiers at Fort Hood. Because the mass shooting suspect is still hospitalized, investigators are looking into other avenues to determine his motive. And with survival still uncertain for many, we'll check in on the victims and their families. Meanwhile, Fort Hood's heartbroken community came together this evening for a massive candlelight vigil.

11/06/09 Victims Information about the 13 people who were killed in the shooting at Ft. Hood. many were just starting their lives. Private First Class Francheska Velez was 21, fresh off deployment in Iraq, and pregnant. Pfc. Aaron Thomas Nemelka, 19, of West Jordan, Utah, chose to join the Army instead of going on a mission for his church. Specialist Jason Dean Hunt, 22, of Frederick, Oklahoma, was married just two months ago. 23 victims remain hospitalized tonight around Central Texas. The most are still at Fort Hood at Darnall Army Medical Center. 10 are at Scott and White Hospital in Temple 2 remain at Metroplex Adventist in Killeen, and one remains in Round Rock.

11/12/09 Ft. Hood Charges - The Army psychiatrist accused in last week's carnage at Fort Hood in Texas is now charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder. The charges in the military's legal system could lead to the death penalty if Major Nidal Hasan is convicted. More charges could follow because of the 29 others injured during the rampage. Hasan is recovering in a San Antonio hospital where he is under pretrial restrictions. His attorneys are now preparing for his article 32 hearing.

### **High-tech Education**

10/21/09 Google Music - Looks like "Google" wants to get into the online music business. The blog "TechCrunch" reported today that the search giant is talking to the major music labels about launching a new music service called "Google Audio." TechCrunch says the new service will be available in the United States. However, it is not yet clear if it will be a download service like "iTunes" or a service like "Pandora" that lets users stream music.

11/18/09 Cell Phone Rescue – Saving Lives. Every time you make a call to 9-1-1 on your cell phone... dispatchers can track your physical location. It came in handy tonight when a man entered a storm drain here under this bridge near the intersection of "45th and Duval." We don't know why he decided to do it, but the sun was going down. It was dark... and as he started making his way through the storm drain he quickly became disoriented. He called 9-1-1 from his cell phone. The fire department dispatcher told me the man sounded tired and somewhat embarrassed. Even though he had no idea where he was... the dispatcher knew exactly where to send a rescue crew. The man traveled about five blocks and was trapped under the street for about 20 minutes. The dispatcher told him to start yelling... so crews could hear him. He stuck his arm out of this small opening... and crews opened the manhole and pulled him out unharmed.

### **Teaching good citizenship/responsibility**

10/10/09 Fighting domestic violence through music - Austin musicians performed a benefit concert for victims of domestic violence. Organizers hope to take in \$25-thousand from the event. The money will go towards a student program, which will organize the domestic violence library at the UT school of social work.

10/16/09 Livestrong Challenge - The annual "Livestrong Challenge" that raises money for the "Lance Armstrong Foundation" is next weekend in Austin. One cyclist in particular is taking the Challenge very personally. Bone cancer took 19-year old Carlos Garcia's leg. You may have seen him in the "Challenge This" ad that's been running on television. OPT - a prosthetic company here in Austin outfitted him with a new leg. And Mellow Johnny's bike shop set him up with a new bike for the ride. There are 250 spots left for the ride. You can also run or walk in the Livestrong Challenge. Check the "Community" page of [kxan.com](http://kxan.com) for more information.

10/17/09 Tour de Fat - A celebration of bicycles and beer at Fiesta Gardens today. The New Belgium Brewing Company, makers of Fat Tire Ale, pedaled into East Austin promoting cycling. Things kicked off with a bike parade, with cyclists wearing all sorts of wild costumes. The festival encourages people to get out and bike more.....organizers say by riding we can decrease our carbon footprint and have fun at the same time. After the parade the party went on with music on two solar powered stages. The New Belgium Brewing Company just held their one hundredth festival; they've raised over a million dollars for bike advocacy programs across the country.

10/30/09 No Refusal Weekend - This Halloween weekend marks the one year anniversary of APD's controversial "No Refusal" DWI blood draw policy. During these specially designated events, police don't have to get a warrant to draw your blood if you're suspected of DWI. Drivers who refuse a breathalyzer test will have their blood drawn in this special mobile testing unit called the "BAT Bus." APD's no refusal campaign takes place tonight and tomorrow night.

11/06/09 Blood donations poured into Scott and White Hospital in Temple Friday. At times, people had a two hour wait ahead of them. If you want to give blood in the Austin area, please donate at the Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas, NOT hospitals. Family members coming in from across the country received an outpouring of support. Hotels in Temple offered free rooms to accommodate their stay near the hospital.

11/07/09 Blood Donations Folks with the Blood Center of Texas say the blood supply is up but the need for money is great. Here is a list of places to send your checks to for the families affected by the shooting... the Chaplain's Fund Office... the Fisher House... the Killeen Red Cross... Also in honor of upcoming Veterans Day, Williamson County officials are shipping cookies to our troops. More volunteers are needed to bake, package and write a thank you note for a soldier. For mailing addresses on where to send donations or cookies log onto [kxan.com](http://kxan.com)

11/07/09 H-E-B Donations - Right now the need is great for donations... and it's as easy as going to the grocery store. H-E-B stores are taking donations at their Central Texas locations. The Texas grocery store chain has already donated 50-thousand dollars, but a spokesperson for HEB says every penny helps...

11/12/09 Project Home Front - In response to last week's shooting, "Scott & White Healthcare" is expanding its mental health services to the military. The medical system's

"Project Home Front" has been providing free mental health counseling to troops and their families since early 2008. Now, it will increase staff and counselors to deal with an expected increase in need for counseling among service men and women at Fort Hood.

11/14/09 Girls Empowerment - Alarming statistics show that Texas has the third highest teen birth rate in the country. It's number one in the nation for teen girls giving birth a second time. One group dedicated to changing that is GEN Austin. They hosted its 2nd annual Girls Now! Conference today. More than a thousand girls from 5th to 12th grade throughout Central Texas came out. They learned how to deal with real life issues affecting girls today... like bullying and body image. Kennedy Huff said it's tough being a girl, but is now looking at herself in a new light. The all day event included several guest speakers and workshops to encourage and empower young girls.

11/23/09 Food Bank - Demand for food at the capital area food bank is up 60-percent! Usually the food bank gives out 15-million pounds of food a year, this year they've given out 22-million pounds. The organization says it's due to so many people losing their jobs. And being one of the busiest times of year, the food bank says they need all the help they can get right now - especially when it comes to healthy food donations. Ideal food donations include fruits and vegetables, baby formula, dry beans and soup.

11/25/09 Holiday Volunteering - Nonprofits in our area are looking for additional volunteers as the demand for their services increases. In fact the food bank has 13,000 volunteers every year to help get donations sorted, into boxes, and shipped off to the food pantries that rely on their supplies, but they could still use more help. That's because they have shattered their distribution record 7 times this year alone. For more information on where volunteers are needed call TX 211. You can also log onto our website at [kxan.com](http://kxan.com) to see how to sign up at the Capital Area Food Bank.

12/03/09 Homeless Shelters - As the temperatures drops, the City of Austin is teaming up with nonprofits and churches to make sure everyone has a warm place to sleep. "The Cold Weather Shelter Plan" goes into effect when Austin's predicted low drops below 35 degrees. The city then coordinates efforts with "Front Steps" to activate churches willing to open their doors to the homeless. That's expected to be put into place tomorrow night.

12/05/09 Homeless Overflow - You're looking at a live picture of ARCH, the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless. Tonight's frigid weather has homeless men, women and children doing anything they can to keep warm and stay out of the cold. While some are bundling up under sleeping bags, others are cramming into area shelters..... stretching them to capacity. Case managers at the ARCH say their shelter is overflowing with folks trying to keep warm. As more than fifty people sleep and soak up the heat in their waiting room, the shelter is working with other non-profits and volunteer churches to make sure all of these people have a warm place to lay their heads tonight. Phillips says while they are running out space for the homeless, they are not turning people away. They're finding space at different facilities like the Salvation Army on East 8th street to the all-women's shelter at St. David's on 7th street.

### Focus on positive/good news

10/04/09 SCLC Conference The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is working on appointing a new leader. In line for the role is Bernice King. If elected she would be the first female leader. She is also the daughter of the organization's founder and first president...Martin Luther King. King founded the SCLC in 1957 and remained as president until his death in 1968. The SCLC will vote at the end of this month.

10/14/09 DOW 10K - A big day for investors... the Dow broke 10-thousand for the first time in a year. It jumped about 100 points in the first 5 minutes of trading this morning... and stayed above the mark for the closing bell. The Dow finished just above 10-thousand. Experts think that earnings for "JP Morgan" and "Intel" are part of the reason the market did so well today.

11/09/09 Renewable Energy "Green power" took center stage at the 25th annual Texas Renewables Conference in South Austin. Leaders from around the world gathered to hear how Texas is blazing a bright trail with natural energy.

11/13/09 Firefighter Ambulance - Don't be surprised if you start seeing firefighters driving ambulances around Austin. Over the past six months, firefighters have been training to drive the emergency vehicles... so that both paramedics on board can treat patients in the back. Firefighters often respond first to medical calls - because their stations are closer than the nearest EMS crew. Today, the Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County EMS started the new program that would allow firefighters to take the wheel in the most critical cases - like severe trauma, heart attacks, and strokes. EMS says the change comes at no extra cost to the city.

11/14/09 Pease Park Trees - 140 new trees have a new home in Pease Park in honor of veteran's day. Volunteers showed their appreciation today for our veterans by planting trees all over the park. A lot of the trees at Pease Park were badly damaged by storms. The volunteers started digging holes at 9:00 this morning then planted trees and laying mulch. Volunteers say it was a great opportunity to show their support for the dedication and sacrifice of those who serve. To volunteer with Treefolks log onto [www.kxan.com](http://www.kxan.com). We have a link on our website under the local section.

11/17/09 Meteor Shower - This year's Leonid Meteor shower peaked overnight, creating a sprinkling of meteors over not only North America but right here in Central Texas. A viewer captured a picture just after 5 this morning. Leonids are bits of debris from Comet Tempel-Tuttle. Every 33 years the comet visits the inner solar system and leaves a stream of dusty debris in its wake. 20 to 30 meteors per hour were predicted.

11/24/09 Zilker Concert - While the "Trail of Lights" in Austin will shine less brightly this year - there will be some NEW things to enjoy. Today, city leaders announced a free "Zilker Tree Holiday Festival" concert featuring Ray Benson's "Asleep at the Wheel." The concert will take place December 21, the final night of the Holiday Festival.

11/28/09 Chuy's Parade - It's an Austin Holiday Tradition... the Chuy's Children Giving to Children Parade. Giant balloons, marching bands and holiday floats rolled through downtown today. At the end of the parade, hundreds of kids donated brand new toys to Santa's helpers to give to needy children in the city. It's all part of Operation Blue Santa, organized by the Austin police department. The program provides families in need with a full holiday meal, complete with turkey or chicken with all the trimmings... and wrapped Christmas gifts. Operation Blue Santa volunteers will be making deliveries on Saturday, December 19th.

12/01/09 Brushy Creek Flag - Children helping children - That's what a group of first and second graders is doing at Brushy Creek elementary school in Round Rock. It all started when army Captain Tommy Flynn went to Afghanistan, with the mission to help rebuild a destroyed school. Flynn's mother is a first grade teacher at Brushy Creek... and she and her students started a project to collect school supplies for children in Afghanistan. Today... Flynn presented the kids with an Afghan flag to honor their efforts. The flag comes from the school in Afghanistan. It's now a symbol of the hard work and dedication of the Brushy Creek students...

12/01/09 Austin Hanukkah - Today marks the start of Hanukkah... the Jewish festival of lights. Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of an oil lamp burning for eight days after the rededication of the holy temple in Jerusalem. A candle is lit every night for eight nights. On the final night... all of the candles are lit.

12/05/09 Annual Tree Lighting - A wonderful holiday tradition in downtown Austin tonight. The annual Sing-along and downtown stroll. Along with the singing, the Christmas tree was lit....a beautiful Cedar 40 feet high. Then to cap it off, a stroll down Congress, where musicians played, and shops stayed open, offering special activities and refreshments.

12/12/09 Brown Santa - Hundreds of needy families are getting an early Christmas gift. Williamson County Sheriff's Brown Santa program gave out boxes full of toys to families struggling during this holiday season. 700 needy families in the county received a 20-dollar gift card for food along with toys for the kids. Volunteers started collecting donations early this year to meet the huge holiday demand. It's not too late to donate. For a list of city and county Blue Santa and Brown Santa programs go to our website and click on this story in the "latest" news section.

### **Family Values**

10/06/09 State Flu Report - Texas is only getting about 60-percent of the vaccines it had expected in the first round designated by the "Centers for Disease Control". The state will get just over 142-thousand vaccines. Texas was anticipating 237-thousand in the first allocation. The bulk of those 1st doses will go to pre-registered health care providers to vaccinate healthy 2 and 3 year olds. All of the doses are the "Flu Mist" brand nasal spray

- only approved for use in vaccinating people age 2 through 49 who are not pregnant and don't have chronic health conditions. State health officials say a few of the local health departments received the vaccine yesterday. But Texas expects to receive 15 million doses of the vaccine by the end of January.

10/12/09 UT Medical Research - A collaboration between the University of Texas and Seton Hospitals promises to bring more research and doctors to the Austin area. In a unanimous vote - the UT Board of Regents approved the deal today. Seton Hospitals will spend a billion dollars over the next fifteen years for a research center that will involve UT Southwestern Medical School and UT-Austin. "UT Southwestern" will send its students to Seton hospitals here in Central Texas to do residencies - which could translate into hundreds of more doctors who decide to stay in Austin.

10/20/09 Workforce Solutions - A celebration of bicycles and beer at Fiesta Gardens today. The New Belgium Brewing Company, makers of Fat Tire Ale, pedaled into East Austin promoting cycling. Things kicked off with a bike parade, with cyclists wearing all sorts of wild costumes. The festival encourages people to get out and bike more.....organizers say by riding we can decrease our carbon footprint and have fun at the same time. After the parade the party went on with music on two solar powered stages. The New Belgium Brewing Company just held their one hundredth festival; they've raised over a million dollars for bike advocacy programs across the country.

11/04/09 Electric Rates Austin Energy says it needs to raise your electricity bill. The utility says rising costs for transmission lines and upcoming retirements play a factor in the proposed rate increase. The last hike took place in 1994 at 11 percent. If those figures hold, customers could see their bills rise by 72 dollars per year. The rate increase won't go into effect right away. The earliest that could happen is 2012. But the utility says the need is great. Austin Energy says it could test the rates in 2011. The utility says it will hold public hearings before that happens.

12/18/09 Public Access Nudity - Some call it "art". Others say it's simply "obscene". It's the controversy brewing over nudity on Austin's public access channel. "Nick Papatonis" says he was flipping through the cable station late at night and found a naked woman dancing. He recorded the program - seen on Time Warner Cable and Grande Communications channel 16 - and filed a complaint with the city, which holds the station's contract. "Channel Austin" has since pulled the program while it investigates the complaint. It says it doesn't pre-screen the programs - and, if there is a problem, the program's producer could be held liable. The city says, the last time someone filed a complaint like this was 2005. "Channel Austin" investigated and found no problem. It does allow sexually explicit content between one and five am, however - as long as it doesn't break the law.