

AUSTIN NEWS kxan.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: KXAN Public Files

RE: Issues and Programs Report – First Quarter 2011
January 1 - March 31

DATE: April 3, 2011

The major significant problems and needs of the Austin community are:

1. Family Values
2. Crime
3. Government
4. Education
5. Health

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	10:00-10:35 p.m.

	Saturday-Sunday	10:00-10:30 p.m.
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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.

FAMILY VALUES

1/1/11 Winter Exercise

5pm News Duration: 35 seconds

Keeping your workout up in these cold temperatures can be tough, but there are a few tips to make it easier. Experts say the key is dressing warmly. Whatever your sport or activity, wear layers and don't forget a hat. And avoid cotton clothing because it absorbs moisture from your skin, making you even colder. As you warm up during your workout, you can remove layers. But be sure to keep children in backpacks or strollers bundled up the entire time you're outside. Experts also say it's important to stay hydrated during your workout. Even though you don't feel as thirsty in the winter months you need to hydrate..

1/1/11 Heart Attacks

6pm News Duration: 45 seconds

Once every minute in the U.S., a "woman" suffers a heart attack, but few can recognize the symptoms. That's why the government launched a new campaign today aimed at educating women about the signs of heart disease and the risks. It's called "Make the call, don't miss a beat," and urges women to dial 9-1-1 as soon as they recognize one of these symptoms. Dr. Maria Mountis a Cardiologist at Cleveland Clinic: "The symptoms can be much more subdued. They can be anything from shortness of breath, nausea, they can have some palpitations, they can have pain that goes into their jaw or back." Health officials say along with knowing your risk, they are finding ways to prevent heart disease. These should be done: eating a healthy diet, exercising and getting check-ups to track blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and your waistline.

1/4/11 Kidney Stones

5pm News Duration: 1:15 seconds

Tom Bishop became the poster child when he developed a stone that looked like this. "The first kidney stone was about that big, it was the size of a small chocolate chip cookie," said Bishop. But there was nothing sweet about it this is his 8 inch scar to prove it. "They had to pull the kidney out of the body while it was still attached, cut it open, remove the stones, and put it back in," said Bishop. 9 days in the hospital and 7 weeks later he recovered. That was ten years ago. Now doctors at St. David's Round Rock Medical Center have new technology that only leaves a small scar. That's because the procedure accesses the kidney stone through the back. "You only have to put one little tube about the size of your finger, go in, put in a scope, find it, and suck it out," said Dr. Lester Wang, Urologist. A medical jackhammer is what you see breaking up the pieces of kidney stone before its sucked out. Urologist Lester Wang says the procedure is typically used for stones larger than 2 centimeters, but they can come in all sizes. "They can go anywhere from a fleck less than a millimeter to a kidney stone that's this big that fills up the entire kidney," said Wang. For Tom the new procedure made having a kidney stone not the worst thing in the world. "I was in the hospital one day and it was a five day recovery," said Bishop.

2/1/11 Power Problems

6pm News Duration: 1:35 seconds

Ashley Stark says that the wind was just blowing crazy; it was just coming down in gusts. She and her husband heard the wind first. About 10 minutes after it started the trees were just blowing around and then we heard this huge crack, just a big crash like something landing on the house. She didn't have to walk 2 feet out her front door to see what it was. It appears that it just bounced off I guess the corner here or the edge of the house and then landed here thank goodness we didn't get any damage, but around the same time the power went out. 14 thousand Austin Energy customers were without power at the height of the storm Tuesday morning. More than 100 crews fanned out across the city, but it took 14 hours to restore power to everyone. Carlos Cordova of Austin Energy said that there was one particular neighborhood where the tree trimming crews have been out there for 10 hours just getting all the limbs out of the way. It was Ashley Stark's neighborhood. We've done some tree work just in the last few months, but this is our neighbor's tree so we didn't really have any work done on that one and that was what fell. Austin Energy is trimming a lot of trees in this area and all over the city in the coming days just in case. Carlos said that we are afraid of ice when ice gets on the trees, it will snap those limbs off the trees.

2/1/11 National Wrap on weather

6pm News Duration: 40 seconds

The Midwest is really in the thick of it with a massive blizzard bearing down. FEMA is already positioned in 11 states. Four of them have already declared states of emergency. And the National Guard has been deployed in others. Power outages are reported from Texas to Michigan and beyond Chicago where they know winter well is bracing for 2 feet

of snow. This weather system stretches more than 2-thousand miles bringing whiteout conditions and dangerous ice. Safety officials are calling it nothing short of life-threatening. On top of that, more than 9-thousand flights have been canceled across the country. One of the biggest trouble spots is Dallas-Fort Worth.

2/3/11 Frozen Pipes

10pm News Duration: 1:19 seconds

Homeowner Eric Copper took some precautions for the possible winter weather - by stocking up on groceries. Copper says, "in Austin, we don't have this kind of weather that often and people don't know how to drive in it." He also took some precautions to help protect his home by trying to prevent his pipes from freezing. Copper says, "I've got my faucets dripping inside and outside, got the heat and as long as ERCOT stays steady, I'm good to go." Jason Hill, Austin Water Utility says, "What we want to do is prepare for the worst." Thursday afternoon, Austin Water urged residents to take yet another precaution. Hill says, "Go out and proactively know and see where your property cutoff is." He's talking about your water valve. It's usually located in your front yard, and here's what you're looking for once you open it up. Hill also says, "It's going to be a handle like this and it's a very simple operation." However, this particular water cutoff valve is one example of how important it is to take the time to look. According to Hill, "There valve was installed upside down, incorrectly. This is definitely something you want to know now and not find out when you have a water problem in your home." Because, in the time it takes for water crews to respond to an emergency that you, as a homeowner, can't fix - the end result could be disastrous. But, that's not worrying this homeowner. Copper says, "You just take it as it comes and if that happens we'll just deal with it, but no I'm not going to sit and worry about it."

3/2/11 Digital Addiction

6pm News, Duration: 2:00 minutes

Most would agree that some can take technology TOO far.

A Tree Stalker Verizon Commercial states that: "I can email the pics I took to my mom, and with unlimited data and web I can go through his Flickr stream to make sure I'm hotter than than his exes, follow his Twitter feed to see if he's mentioned me yet 0:17" You probably know someone who can't break themselves away from the keyboard or cell phone. Jesse Johnson says, "I'm following one girl on Twitter that literally tweets seven times every hour. She'll tweet every single tweet that pops into her head." Jesse and her friends see signs of technology addiction in their own lives, every day. Jesse says, "I wouldn't say I'm a technology addict, but a Facebook for sure." Mike Brooks, a Psychologist says, "In ways it's very difficult to fight the little dings and calls to our attention." Austin Psychologist Dr. Mike Brooks spoke to these Eanes ISD parents about the topic in January. Mike says, "The process of trying to reign in technology use first begins with asking 'is it a problem?'" So, ask yourself - are you staying up later? Are your grades dropping? Are your personal relationship suffering? Or is it affecting work? If the answer is yes, then you may be a Technology addict. Dr. Brooks calls it the Vegas Effect - Technology addicts are like gamblers playing slot machines except the payoff is each new message or tweet. Mike says, "Whether it's text messages, facebook you know 'someone commented on my status, someone tagged me in a photo, someone sent a friend

request. Who is it?! Someone sent me a friend request." As soon as someone hears the ding from an incoming message, the anticipation rises triggering the neurotransmitter Dopamine in your brain. Kind of like Christmas - before you open presents. Some say they can fight it. Kyle Lagunas says, "If my phone goes off in a movie, I'm not gonna reach in my pocket to look." For those who can't - there are solutions. Like most addictions quitting cold turkey never seems to work.

3/4/11 Laguna Gloria

6pm News, Duration: 1:44 minutes

The 46-inch Live Oak has towered over Laguna Gloria for 200 years and unfortunately for Austinites, it has seen better days. Judith Sims has enjoyed it for the 37 years she's worked here. "I look at it everyday from my window." But in 2002, arborists determined the tree was sick. "It's a fungal pathogen that lives in the soil." Austin Museum of Modern Art spent more than 21-thousand dollars to prolong the inevitable. "We certainly wanted to keep it alive as long as possible." Recently tree experts used sound waves to examine the inside of the tree trunk. Blue areas are hollow...areas of color show wood decaying. "There's only 60 percent wood living in that part." "The staff at Laguna Gloria say this tree is looking worse by the day. They point to things like discoloration of bark and fewer leaves. Because they say it could fall at anytime they've actually used rope to cordon it off and keep people away." Due to the tree's threat to people and buildings, the City of Austin granted a removal permit. "It was incredibly sad when I found out." Gia Pham has photographed brides at Laguna Gloria, and she also got married here herself. Her connection to the tree is professional and personal. The oak was here when Clara Driscoll, known for her role in saving the Alamo, laid out the gardens around the Mediterranean-style villa in 1916. It was here when Stephen F. Austin owned the land before the capital city was founded. "Not only is this an important site for art but it's a landmark." Museum staff say don't know yet if nearby oak canopies fill the empty space or if they'll plant another tree in its spot. "No one is sorer than we are to lose this tree."

EDUCATION

1/4/11 Congress in Washington

5am News Duration: 1:30 seconds

The House convenes at noon today, and one of their first votes will be to change the rules to give you a better look at what's happening here we'll see more than 100 new faces at the capitol, and they are ready to go. "I didn't come to watch. I came to work," said Rep. Bill Huizenga (R) Michigan. He also said "We're tired of hitting the range balls. It's time to tee it up for real." First up is a new speaker John Boehner, who is expected to get the gavel almost immediately. Then lawmakers will vote on new rules to make their work more open to the public, put more information online, and cut their own spending by five percent. Rep. David Dreier (R) California: "We want to do everything we can to reduce spending." Democrats call it a sham saying that the effort to repeal health reform alone would add billions to America's red ink. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D) Florida: "They spent a lot of time during the campaign talking about cutting the deficit the first vote out of the gate is going to add about a trillion dollars to the deficit. It's total

hypocrisy.” Soon they will have to vote on whether to raise the debt ceiling essentially allowing more credit to an already over-extended government. Rep-Elect Mike Kelly (R) Pennsylvania says “This is absolutely foolish that we’re even having this debate like should we increase the debt ceiling. Really?” New decisions by a new congress with some old battle lines already being re-drawn is what we are in for. Republicans have promised at least one vote every week to cut spending.

1/4/11 Tom Sawyer

12 Noon News Duration: 30 seconds

A controversy is brewing right now over a new edition of two of Mark Twain books about to be published. The publisher "New South" Books in Alabama is going to remove the "N-Word" with slave in "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "Tom Sawyer." They say it's so they don't offend anyone, and the N-word appears 219 times in "Huck Finn" and four times in "Tom Sawyer." Twain scholars are blasting the decision saying the move will desecrate the novels. The combined volume of the books will be released by the publishing company in February.

2/1/11 AISD Task Force

6pm News Duration: 1:40 minutes

With confusion and frustration on their faces, several parents sat quietly during the task force meeting Tuesday night, thinking their school may still be one of those set for closure. Robin Rather says, "This task force has wreaked a lot of havoc at our school. We have some really stressed out kids, teachers. The whole month of January was pretty much shot from an education standpoint." Angelica Rangel Noyola, a Allan Elementary Parent said, "We've been supporting all the schools since the get-go, but just here recently, Allan Elementary was put on as well, as part of the options and that's a great concern to us." But, with all the community opposition, the task force decided to scratch that plan to name specific schools, and focus instead on the needs of different parts of town. That still leaves the door open for shutting down some schools in areas not seeing as much growth. Superintendent Richard Frazier, Task Force Co-Chair says, "But it's not so much closures, as it is trying to solve the issues that we've discovered the fact that there are overcrowded schools in Austin. That there are under-capacity schools in Austin. The fact that the school locations don't match up with the community we have right now." The 72-member task force has dwindled in numbers in the last few meetings with just over half showing up in the public work sessions. The members that *are* participating have varied opinions setting up a sometimes heated debate on what should or should not be recommended to the board to make AISD facilities more efficient. There are inconsistencies that are not going unnoticed by parents. Robin Rather, a Barton Hills Elementary Parent says, "Some members of the task force have identified more than 50 million dollars worth of non-school closure cuts, but every time that seems to come up in the task force it seems to get cut off and they go back to closing schools."

2/1/11 Truancy Solutions

6pm News Duration: 1:30 minutes

There is a GPS that reports every two to three minutes while keeping up with kids who have a history of playing hooky. Travis Knox from AIM Truancy Solutions says, "These

are kids at this point in the year who have racked up probably 20 to 25 absences." AIM Truancy Solutions says they've helped raise attendance rates in dozens of school districts. Right now, around 250 kids in San Antonio are currently carrying around one of these and also checking in with mentors on a daily basis who are tracking their grades as well. Tuesday, the company was in Austin for a school administrators conference and caught the eye of districts looking for ways to close their budget gap. All superintendents and all administrators understand that it starts with attendance. That attendance is a good way to help bring in some of that additional revenue." Districts lose 45 dollars a day for every student who's absent. If five students don't show up that's 225 dollars the district will never see from the state. Pflugerville ISD launched an attendance campaign last fall to stress the importance of being in school. It's paid off. They've seen a 1-percent increase in attendance district-wide which will bring in 1-point-2-million more dollars. If Austin does the same they'd get 5-point-6 million more. And Round Rock would rake in an extra 2-point-seven million. Holly Subervi from Austin ISD says, "It's just that simple. If everybody got their kids to school it could make a huge impact on our budget." AISD launched the "Attend-o-meter" this year to track progress and have seen a 2-percent increase in attendance rates during the first semester. It's not just about the money. Holly says, "Really it's the key to a child graduating and being able to succeed in AISD or any other district."

3/1/11 EANES Bus Ads

6pm News, Duration: 1:15 minutes

It's been a year and a half in the making and now Eanes ISD is just weeks away from gracing the side of their school buses with billboards. "We see it as an outstanding opportunity for us as district to partner with local and regional businesses to promote their district and help the school district." Bee Caves Dermatology is one of the first to land a spot. Their sign in front of their building is low, crowded and hard to read if you're whizzing by. But an ad on the side of the bus during morning and afternoon rush hour...Dr. Martinez sees it as a way to boost business and a way to give back. It seems to me that if they need to generate revenue and if there's an easy way to do it that not only helps the community and the business people in the community but then you also helps the schools then it seemed like a great way to be out there." Bee Caves dermatology bought the eye level spot for a year costing \$3600. "It sounded like a good idea with the buses out you're gonna see it, especially Moms with their kids driving around are gonna see it so hopefully it will work out great." Their bus drives busy Bee Caves which sees thousands of cars a day and the bus ad interest is growing. Lake Hills Montessori School also bought an eye level ad. Eanes expects bus ads will generate up to an extra 140 thousand dollars over the next five years.

3/2/11 PISD Budget Cuts

5pm News Duration: 1:00 minute

"I'm very concerned about some of the budget proposals says Mr. Barnes. Toney Barnes has two kids attending elementary school for Pflugerville." He came out, because he doesn't want one of his child's teachers to lose their job. Barnes says, "The kids build relationships with those people." This parent also says, "There are a lot of teachers that I talked with that said, well if we had to do it at a temporary basis, we'll do it at \$100 a

month if that's going to save some teachers jobs then we can do that." Pay cuts are just one idea some teachers and parents are offering up to help save jobs. But, in the long run that might not be enough. Keith McBurnett, the Deputy Superintendent PISD says, "Staff is really going to be affected because it makes up about 83 percent of our overall budget." The Deputy Superintendent for Pflugerville Schools gave a brief presentation on the budget troubles and how the State is planning to cut funding. Input was also gathered. And despite having to make tough decisions, he says, some cuts will remain off the table. "We're not going to be targeting any school closures. We're still growing. We added over 500 students this year. We'll add another 500 next year."

CRIME

1/1/11 No Refusal Numbers

6pm News, Duration: 20 seconds

Austin police arrested just 15 suspected drunk drivers during the New Year's Eve "no refusal" enforcement period. Two of them voluntarily submitted to blood-alcohol testing. Three were automatically forced to give a blood sample - because of a crash or other circumstance. And officers got search warrants to draw blood from the remaining ten.

1/1/11 Hula Hut Fire

6pm News, Duration 1:10 seconds

Sparks from a fireworks display at Abel's on the Lake, next door, hit the Hula Hut's pier torching the thatched roof. Chief Palmer Buck says, "a typical shingle roof could've withstood those embers hitting it, but it was just bales of dry grass" The fire caused about 50 grand in damage, but it came close to being far worse. Chief Palmer Buck says, "the fact that we had a fire engine on the scene on standby for the fireworks display allowed us to get an immediate start on the firefight. Had they not been there I think we would've lost the restaurant. Hours later the Hula Hut was back open which is good news for some who've made it a New Year's tradition. Ann Oliverio says, "We walked town lake then come to the Hula hut. We were glad they were open "Jose Garcia says, "it's one of those places that once you get attached to it, it's hard to let it go." But, the popular deck area will likely be closed for quite some time which is a reminder of just how quickly fireworks fun can get out of control. Chief Palmer Buck says, "For those people that are listening, that still have fireworks they didn't pop last night please, don't pop 'em. It's so so dry out there.

1/2/11 Tracking Tire Slasher

5am News, Duration: 1:30 seconds

Park your car in Hyde Park and you could fall victim to a serial tire slasher. Carol "We have had two cars with their tires slashed. Two tires, each time."

Replacing the tires cost 500 dollars. The slasher, however, is costing some area car owners even more. Dozens of cars have been hit over the past 15 years putting damage estimates in the thousands. Carol says "The money, the frustration, it makes it hard to sleep sometimes. Jacqueline: "Some residents are sick of coming out in the morning and finding this slashed tires. This is why they believe the person is striking between 1 am

and 5 am. Neighbors are now banding together to throw a wrench in the perps plans. They've met with a security consultant and plan catch the person responsible. Their plans, however, are somewhat secret and target hotspots. Lisa: "It will involve cameras but we don't know if he watches the news or not. All Harris would tell KXAN is that the neighbors will vote to allocate 5-thousand dollars to collect evidence. If approved, the association will match the dollar amount leaving 10-thousand to track the suspect. Carol: "It is just really frustrating when you know he is on a rampage and you go to bed not knowing whether you are going to wake up with two tires slashed." Upping their chance of success, they have a person of interest. Both Harris and Jackson believe it's a homeless man living in the area. Carol says It is time to find out and have it stopped.

1/3/11 APD Most Wanted

6pm News, Duration: 40 seconds

The newest APD program aims to capture the city's biggest criminals - using an old tool out of the wild west. A "most wanted" list will be given to officers and also made available to the public starting next week. A new list of about 20 names will be distributed each week on APD's website. The list targets criminals with outstanding warrants and also extensive criminal histories. Police hope the public can help them find those on the list who have been hiding. Commander Chris Noble/APD Organized Crime Division That is one of the motivations, to let people know we are looking for you and to let other people know we are looking for you.

Rewards for information leading to arrests will still be distributed through crime stoppers.

2/5/11 SWAT Situation

6pm News, Duration: 1:25 minutes

I heard a series of bangs before police led the suspect out of the building and into an ambulance. One of our interns lives next door to the apartment where the suspect was holed up. She was listening in as it all started about 4 hours earlier. Kristen Shanahan lives Next to Man In Question. "I walked into the kitchen and heard a police officer banging on the door, next to my apartment. He was just telling the guy 'come out, come out, your roommate's concerned, we're hearing you're in there with a weapon, you've been in there an unreasonable amount of time, come out we want to talk to you.'" Police say they responded to check in on the 26 year-old after his roommate called, concerned he hadn't left his room for a day. When they arrived, officers say the man told them he had a gun. Police evacuated all of the apartments on the building's third floor

Sgt. Jamie Jobes from Austin Police Department said "We were concerned about any kind of rounds going through the walls in case there were any shots fired. I was actually on the phone with my mom as it was happening she's worried like lock your doors. Police had a big area out here at 29th and Guadalupe taped off for most of the afternoon. Once the situation ended the SWAT team took down quickly and the situation returned to normal.

2/7/11 Sexting

6pm News, Duration: 1:05 minutes

An Austin lawmaker filed a new bill that would *lighten* the sentence for teen-to-teen sexting in Texas. A recent study shows 1 in 5 girls admits to sending nude photos of

herself to someone via e-mail or text. Senator Kirk Watson filed a bill that would classify the crime as a Class C misdemeanor for first time violators under 18. Right now the only option is to charge the senders and receivers with a felony child pornography charge which comes with prison time and sex offender registration requirements. Under the proposed law, a judge could require the sender to take an education class with at least one parent and they'd also get the chance to get the conviction off their record when they turn 17. But not everyone is on board. John Bradley from Williamson County District Attorney says, "A Class C misdemeanor with a \$500 fine is in my mind really too lenient for that kind of a crime. I'd rather see it as a class A or B misdemeanor." Senator Watson says prosecutors would have the option to upgrade the charges. The bill also addresses teens who *receive* sexual images. If they report it to authorities within 48-hours, they'd be off the hook for child porn charges.

3/3/11 Horseshoe Bay Crime

10pm News, Duration: 1:00 minute

There is new information tonight about a Hill Country man on the run who is accused of shooting a 7-year-old girl last summer. He never had to report to a probation office because the judge scratched it out on his bond paperwork. Judge Gil Jones let "Ismael Rodriguez" bond out of jail last November. Tuesday Rodriguez' girlfriend says she had to dodge bullets he was firing at her inside a home in Horseshoe Bay. The 34-year-old was already facing attempted capital murder charges. Last May, witnesses say he fired a shotgun, and hit three family members during a party, including 7-year-old Gabby Martinez. Burnet police are trying to protect fearful family members. Late today, the district attorney's office said they're removing Rodriguez's bond. Chief Bill Lane of Horseshoe Bay says, "I think a bond revocation at this point in time is a day late and a dollar short." "There's a community that's fearful of what may happen with this man on the loose now." Burnet Police say their case against Rodriguez has been ready for trial for months. They've been waiting on the district attorney. The DA told us it's not on the calendar because others are higher priority.

3/3/11 Austin Police Dept. Violent Crimes

10pm News, Duration: 1:30 minutes

Rachel Davila is on her daily walk with her granddaughters from her Downtown condo near 8th and I-35 to their local drug store. Rachel says it is a nice area to live, but she would never make this walk in the dark. Rachel says: nighttime I wouldn't chance it even by myself She says: especially over the weekend they park over here around our neighborhood and as close as they can to town and when they come back the windows are busted into in a lot of cars. But that's NOT the story when you look at the numbers for 2011 so far. The yellow line represents property crimes in 2011. It dips below the red line which represents an 8 year low! But violent crime citywide hit a 6-year high in February. That yellow line is violent crimes in 2011. The green is the number for the 6-year high. `Also, the number of bank robberies in Austin is up 300 percent from this time last year. Jason says "I'm sure you could probably attribute a lot of that to the economy and it kind of shows the desperate state that a lot of people are in." Huskins says as big events like Mardi Gras and South by Southwest approach the Department is warning people to stay in groups especially after dark. Jason says "Have a presence in preventing themselves

from becoming victims and not just leave it up to the police to be their protector.” Rachel Davila lives downtown and says that she is in the center of everything and wouldn’t trade living downtown for anything because it is where the action is. She just knows she and her granddaughters have to take advantage of the daylight.

GOVERNMENT

1/2/11 Texas Legislature Starts on the 11th

5am News, Duration: 30 seconds

Lawmakers at the state and national level get back to work soon. The Texas Legislature starts January 11th, next Tuesday The U-S Congress re-convenes this coming Wednesday. Of course both the Texas House and the U-S House are getting a big influx of new blood, mostly Republican. After two state representatives switched parties this month, the G-O-P now has a 101-49 "super majority." And in Washington, Democrats kept control of the Senate, 51-to-47 with two independents, but Republicans now have a big majority in the House, 242-193.

1/2/11 New U.S. Congress

5am News, Duration: 30 seconds

Those Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives, vow to do what they say they were elected to do. One of their top priorities is to repeal the Obama Health Care Reform. Rep. Fred Upton, Republican from Michigan says "If we pass this bill with a sizeable vote and I think we will, that puts enormous pressure on the Senate to perhaps do the same thing. But then after that we're going to go after this bill piece by piece." House Republicans also have the power to hold hearings now, and they're expected to hold several on how recent bailout and stimulus money was spent.

2/1/11 Egypt's Latest

6pm News, Duration: 35 seconds

Egypt's president announced today - he will NOT seek re-election in September. "Hosni Mubarak" said he will work for the remaining months of his term to guarantee the peaceful transition of power. But he also hinted a military crackdown could be coming. He said Egypt must choose between chaos and stability. And Mubarak said he would die in Egypt. The reaction from protesters was immediate and angry. People say Mubarak must leave now and that there can be no other concession. The demonstrators feel they have momentum after gathering hundreds of thousands of people today in Cairo's main square.

2/8/11 Sonogram Bill

6pm News, Duration: 1:30 minutes

Tommy Adenski: "Our decision was to terminate the pregnancy." The decision for Tommy Adenski and Brenda Sendejo came after discovering the daughter they'd always hoped to have was terminally ill in the womb. A doctor made them listen to a recording of the sonogram, which they said was almost worse than the abortion itself. Brenda Sendejo: "It's post-traumatic stress, having to go through this all over again." The couple

told their story Wednesday to senators who are considering the "Sonogram" bill - which would require doctors to let women choose whether to review a sonogram and hear a heartbeat before she gets an abortion. Sen. Dan Patrick: "My intent has never been to force a woman to view a sonogram or hear the heartbeat if she chose not to." The bill's author, Senator Dan Patrick, unsuccessfully introduced something similar last session. Instead of forcing patients to view the sonogram and hear the heartbeat, he aims to require doctors to have those items available for a patient if she wants to review them. Texas law allows doctors to enact their own policies on pre-abortion sonograms. Dr. Sam Spear, Medical Director of Planned Parenthood Central Texas Region: "The serious manipulation of a person's ability to make an intelligent and informed decision is not the person's own free choice." Critics like Planned Parenthood say the bill is just a disguise to manipulate a patient into keeping the child. Patrick says he introduced the legislation, in part, because Planned Parenthood isn't giving patients all the options available before an abortion. Sen. Dan Patrick: "You hear those from Planned Parenthood testify today, 'We already do the sonograms.' 'We show the women.' Well, then, what is their objection to the bill? Proponents say most Texas doctors already do what the bill requires and making this move would just assure the rest will, too.

3/1/11 Tea Party Education

6pm News, Duration: 1:00 minute

The idea is if the state is not in a position to give districts money, then why can't other people who want to donate statewide? Greg Holloway of the Austin Tea Party Patriots says he's considering setting up a non-profit group to gather donations for education. Then that money would go to the state to distribute to districts. Still, his group is advocating the cuts at the legislative level schools fear so badly right now. Other non-profit groups like Partners in Education say, even with private donors, it will be impossible to raise the amount schools need. Kathrin Brewer: "All of us non-profits are like a band aid on an elephant. If the elephants sick, we can't do a lot. We've got to feed the elephant."

3/2/11 Sonogram Bill Latest

5pm News, Duration 1:20 minutes

At Austin Life Care, women don't have to pay for their sonogram. And the executive director admits, for those coming by before an abortion, seeing the screen and hearing the heartbeat can be very persuasive. Pam Cobern, Austin Life Care: "In our center, about 85% that are what we term 'abortion-minded' when they come in, once they see an ultrasound will change their mind." Joe Pojman, Texas Alliance for Life: "These are agencies, to a tremendous credit to the pro-life community. These are agencies that want to help to provide compassionate alternatives to abortion." Critics say it's just one of the downfalls of the House sonogram bill forcing a woman to make a choice she might not otherwise decide to keep her baby. Rep. Sid Miller: "This is an informed consent bill." The bill's author says it's about giving a woman all the information about the fetus inside her before she goes through with an abortion. Rep. Patricia Harless: "The pain and the regret they've had to live with." The bill would make a doctor detail what's seen on the sonogram and give the woman the chance to view it and hear it's heartbeat. Usually, the sonogram is included in the cost of the abortion but for those women who can't pay that

much, their "free" discount might be a decision-maker. Rep. Carol Alvarado: "This is government intrusion at its best." Pam Cobern, Austin Life Care: "This is a lifelong decision. An abortion is not something you should enter into lightly."

HEALTH

1/2/11 What's Going Around

The Noon Show, Duration: 1:00 minute

Our weekly survey of "What's Going Around" at local doctor's offices finds no one specific trend. Instead it's various conditions showing up at local hospitals. At the Heart Hospital of Austin, Dr. Buddy Owen is seeing a lot of stomach issues, heartburn, and anxiety issues - not too surprising considering the recent holiday season. Dr. Corey Jones at St. David's is dealing with a lot of flu-like cases, as well as asthma issues. At St. David's North Austin Medical Center, Dr. Michael Nguyen reports lots of allergy patients, as well as folks dealing with upper-respiratory infections. And stomach flu is the big culprit sending people to Dr. Jody Henson's office at Scott & White Healthcare in Round Rock. Find more stories about your health at KXAN-dot-com, under the health tab.

1/3/11 Epilepsy Accident

6pm News, Duration 45 seconds

A man with epilepsy is now charged with manslaughter almost a year after he was involved in a deadly crash on the *US 281 Bridge* in Marble Falls. A Grand Jury ruled that 48-year-old Troy Klaerner should not have been driving, even though Texas does allow people with epilepsy to get drivers' licenses if they've gone at least 6 months without a seizure and meet a few other conditions. Klaerner's lawyer says his client complied with state law. Doctors say drivers with epilepsy are always at risk for seizure - especially when there are other factors involved. DR. Juliette Madrigal Dersch says "Sleep deprivation is really big and if you drink alcohol or are pregnant, that lowers your seizure threshold. Klaerner does have two previous D-W-I convictions but his lawyer says alcohol was not a factor in this deadly crash. He expects his client to plead "not guilty" later this month.

1/3/11 Cancer Test

10pm News, Duration 1:00 minute

An experimental blood test has the potential to sniff out a single rogue cancer cell lurking in the body. The test is so promising that Johnson and Johnson has already signed on to help develop it for public use. Dr. Roy Herbst is a lung cancer expert at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He's one of many around the country scheduled to begin clinical trials on the blood test predicted to detect even a single cancer cell still circulating in the body after treatment. These cells don't show up on typical follow-up imaging scans. If the test proves to be successful, doctors say it has the potential to replace painful biopsies used now to check for cancer cells that have spread. It could also give doctors an early heads up on whether a treatment is working and a better understanding of what's causing tumors to grow. Dr. Roy Herbst, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston: "If we can do that, we can figure out what the Achilles heel is of that

tumor so that we can personalize a therapy for any given patient." While hopeful, doctors say it will likely take several years to know if the technology can actually help patients.

2/1/11 Prevent Hypothermia

10pm News Duration: 25 seconds

Hypothermia is defined as having a core body temperature less than 95 degrees. In these sub-freezing temperatures, it's important to guard against hypothermia. Wear multiple layers of clothing and hats are especially important for young children. Pack extra clothing for babies and toddlers in case their diapers leak. Those wet clothes can be dangerous. Check on your elderly friends and family members. Doctors say they often see hypothermia cases after an older person has fallen outside and endured long hours in the cold.

2/7/11 Pit Bull Attack

12 Noon News, Duration: 50 seconds

A Marble Falls woman is upset at police response after a pit bull attacked her and her dog. "Caroline Dulfer" says a pit bull charged at her and her *Jack Russell Terrier* named "Piper." Both were bitten. "Piper" needed emergency surgery to fix her shredded back muscles and right hind leg. Police admit they should have removed the dog involved the attack the night of incident but didn't. They picked up the dog 7 days later and then issued a citation to the owner for not having the animal on a leash. Caroline said "The thing is, I couldn't protect her. There was almost, I mean I did everything I could." The pit bull was quarantined to make sure it did not have rabies. Police said the dog will be returned to its owner because it attacked Piper and only bit Caroline when she intervened to save the dog.

3/1/11 Bad Bath Salts

6pm News, Duration: 2:00 minutes

Darryl and Angela Swann recall the day their oldest son called not acting like himself. He had snorted "bath salts" and thought SWAT teams were at his apartment door. Darryl Swann says, "He thought they were the government. He thought they were the guys who carry people away in Swann's Younger son Josh Cabiya says, "It induces like a paranoid schizophrenic state is the best way I can describe it, and there's no talking to the person inside. It's not like you're talking to a person who is on drugs. It's like you're talking to somebody who went insane." That was the Swann family's first encounter with the powdery synthetic substance that looks like cocaine that just about anyone can get their hands on. Leslie Rhode says, "We bought this small container easily at this Austin smoke shop for just under 40-bucks. You can also find it in some gas stations and even online. Users snort it or drink it. Some inject it." Dr. Ross Tobleman runs the ER at Scott and White Healthcare in Round Rock and says the name may sound relaxing, but the drug is actually a toxic stimulant. Dr. Tobleman says that people can have heart attacks from it. People can have respiratory arrest from it. People can die from this. People can go psychotic and go crazy from this stuff." Angela Swann says, "I was fully prepared to walk into a situation where he was going to harm himself or one of us in the apartment. I had already prepared myself for that. That's how delusional this drug made him." The

Texas Poison Center Network is seeing more cases of those severe reactions. In the last year, 49 people have called wanting help after taking bath salts with 38 of those being just in the last three months. Health officials worry if the drug gets more popular they will see more families like the Swann's walking into unfamiliar territory. Angela Swann says, "I want parents to know how horribly painful it is to see your child go through this, and start the ball rolling to make it illegal and make it harder for anybody to get it. It is devastating to a family."

4/4/11 Dentist Porn Bust

10pm News, Duration: 1:25 minutes

Doctor Mike McCarty is a popular dentist to go to for people wanting a perfect smile, but a look deep inside his office found something the Attorney General frowns upon. Jerry Strickland from Texas Attorney General's Office said this is someone once we took a look at his computers and business found several images of child porn with prepubescent boys. An arrest affidavit says more than 350 sexually explicit images of those boys were found on computers at McCarty's office and his home. The National Center for Missing and Exploited children keeps an eye out when pictures like that are uploaded, and they were watching this time. Jerry Strickland from Texas Attorney General's Office indicated that from one of those cyber tips we were able to focus in and this individual. Neighbors knew something was going on when investigators arrested McCarty at his home Wednesday, but were shocked when they heard why. A briefcase full of CD's containing more pornographic images and movies were found inside his home. Nothing indicates McCarty knew any of the boys in the pictures, but it's something they will do because this is someone who has close proximity to lots of people because he is a dentist, because of that our investigation is ongoing. McCarty's website boasts several accolades, and there are several video testimonials online from happy patients who walked away with a whiter smile. Now the AG's office says those patients could help lead the investigation. We would urge any patients who have any concerns or information valuable to investigators to call the Attorney General's office.