

Advocacy Tools and the Changing Economy

Created on Mar 31, 2026 15:44:03

Short Summary

You discussed economic struggles, plasma donation trends, and using AI recording tools for community advocacy and police accountability.

Long Summary

You explored the societal impact of the "K-shaped economy," specifically how middle-class Americans are increasingly selling blood plasma to survive. Shifting focus, you discussed equipping community advocates with AI recording tools to hold local officials and police accountable. You shared personal experiences using these devices, emphasizing their value as "learning assistants" and evidence collectors. The conversation concluded with practical advice on setting up these tools to empower those on the front lines of community activism and legal settlements.

Plasma Donation and the Middle Class

- **Shifting Demographics**
 - Plasma donation is moving from lower-income inner cities to suburban middle-class areas.
 - The number of plasma centers more than doubled between 2014 and 2021.
 - New centers are opening in suburban strip malls, often near middle-class amenities like fitness centers.
- **Economic Drivers**
 - Individuals earning around \$50,000 a year are seeking extra income due to rising costs of gas and groceries.
 - Donors often express a sense of shame or a desire for anonymity regarding their need to sell plasma to survive.

Fieldie Recording Device Implementation

- **Technical Setup and Operation**
 - The device connects to a mobile app to sync and manage recordings.
 - Indicators include color-coded lights: red for charging, green/blue for status, and solid white for active recording.
 - Users should press the button for 2-4 seconds to toggle power; the app displays audio waveforms to confirm it is picking up sound.
- **Data Management**
 - Recordings can be exported as PDF files from the app.
 - Recommended workflow involves emailing the PDF to oneself or saving it to a hard drive for distribution or website use.
- **User Support**
 - Plans are in place to start a user support group to help community members and activists troubleshoot the technology.
 - Instruction videos are being created to demonstrate setup and laptop integration.

Activism and Accountability

- **Evidence Collection**
 - The devices are being distributed to community leaders and activists (e.g., Nina, Jesse, Claire) to record interactions with officials and police.
 - Having verbatim transcripts serves as "gold" for legal settlements and federal judge reviews, making it harder for officials to dismiss complaints.
 - Transcripts of police staff can be sent directly to department leadership to enforce accountability.
- **Strategic Questioning**
 - Users are encouraged to act as "reporters" or "prompters" during recordings.
 - Specific techniques involve asking clarifying questions (e.g., "Did I just hear you say...?") to get verbal confirmation of threats or misconduct on the record.

Resource Allocation and Community Support

- **Bike Repair Project**
 - A \$1,000 deposit was placed at North Bay Bikes for a local mechanic named Solo to purchase necessary tools.
 - The project emphasizes letting the expert (Solo) decide which supplies and racks are needed rather than following salesperson suggestions.

- **Equipment Sharing**
 - Two utility wagons were purchased for community use (e.g., transporting water bottles or chargers during marches).
 - The wagons are stationed at a "home base" but are available for check-out by trusted community members.

Transcriptions

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:44:03

Now that it's powered up it's gonna go directly to white. Having it be a solid white like that means it's recording. It's doing it. And it goes straight to here? To here. Now when you when I finally am able to show you and I wanna get together after you download it and start playing with it, it will sorry that I can't get you in.

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:44:28

There'll be this thing, it'll come up with fieldy, you know, and then it'll have this have you ever like um when you see an audio thing and it has these lines, it will show you the lines if you say nothing it will be a straight line and if you say something it'll stop it it'll it'll it'll show oh you're picking up my voice. Ha! You know, like you can you can make it through that. So you'll know it's working because it's gonna show you that it's working. Oh, okay. Um and then when you turn this off, it's gonna stop and it'll say disconnected. Uh-huh. You know, so there's it's pretty simple to understand that it's on or it's not. Once it's uh totally done, it's gonna create a little white box and up in the corner of the

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:45:11

box there's gonna be a thing that says delete this merge it with a previous conversation or export it if you hit export it's gonna go okay you want to export this where and in what format you know and you'll say uh what I do is I pick PDF because PDF works really well and then it'll say mail store it on your drive you know what do you want to do with this thing I just created and I I usually do two things I'll email it to myself so it'll be in my you know and it comes as an email with a little attachment that is the PDF file or I'll stick it on my hard drive on my laptop um I have a folder that I just put stuff in from either of those I can attach it to emails to other people I can put it on my website you know it's like it's the document that I need but it's not much more it's harder than just basically having this either on or off around the aircraft or if I can get you a watch you can use it as a watch.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:46:23

Oh here it is there's a watch

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:46:37

this is just the same version of this it's just this thing

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:46:49

when you spin it if you have to do with

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:46:55

anyway it comes out and it pops into the to a list.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:47:05

I'm gonna make a belt one that has a wrist band

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:47:15

So why don't we start you on with the necklace?

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:47:18

Because all you really have to do is plug it in until that and that'll turn green. And then it'll disappear and it'll always be either white or nothing.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:47:31

Put it in there.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:47:46

The charger.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:47:51

We're gonna buy some more of these because I want to, but I'm kind of wanting not to get them all as as watches. Because append it's nice, but I can only just wanna.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:48:02

And it's sort of hard to get this out easily to put into a watch. So I'm still working on the watch version.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:48:16

The easy way

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:48:24

press this while it's doing it.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:48:31

So in a little while, instead of being red, it'll be green.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:48:37

Uh and you'll know that it's um got enough power to be able to do it. But until it gets more power, it's gonna stay red. Okay, so here's here's we just saw the beginnings of it. See that flashing? Oh yeah, okay. It's saying, okay, I'm charging.

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:48:56

So it'll be a while. But once you get it to where it's not gonna be red, it'll just go directly to the white. Then what I want you to do is um we can clearly turn on the app or fieldy. Uh press it and read it. Okay. And and then what I want to do is

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:49:17

the next time uh Monday you um not working or or any time between now and then I wouldn't what I want you to do is test it out. Yeah. Take it to uh yeah there's a port down there. Yeah.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:49:34

Okay.

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:49:36

My wife bought me two or three of these when we started traveling. Uh huh. Because my cell phone that I was carrying with me would die about two o'clock in the afternoon. We'd start on a you know some uh part of our trip and we'd and I'd at like seven in the morning, you know, we'd be flying out to some place and you know um a uh safari camp or something. And I'd take that I'd take hundreds of pictures and then all of a sudden my battery would die. Oh man because I didn't get um I think that'll it's a yeah so she bought me the first version of this which was much bigger and had much less power. And then over the over time they got smaller and more powerful. And I would put it in my pocket and then have the wire from it come up and you know be in my pocket here. And so then when I pulled out my cell phone to use as a camera it was being powered by the battery and not the battery and the cell phone. Oh was a saving grace for several years because

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:50:47

Um, you know, we would be gone all day on our trips and I and we'd be sitting here at two in the afternoon and I'd be going, Oh, you mean that elephant over there I can't take a picture of because my battery died? And Pat would look at me like, You asshole, we're gonna get to a really good battery. Which is what she did.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:51:05

Now the cell phones have longer life. You know, you can use it and it doesn't it doesn't uh run out of power until like four o'clock or five o'clock. And if I just turn it off when I'm not in front of

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:51:20

else I don't want to take a picture of it'll it'll uh it'll store the the battery's life and I can go to six o'clock or seven o'clock by that time I'm used we're usually back having dinner and I'm thinking I'm thinking about what am I gonna write about today that's awesome.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:51:42

Yep on the tweet yeah I I'm I'm dying to have have you I'm dying to have you send me some of the summaries of the means you have my click and

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:51:58

all all the all of these necessary is when you when you stop it and it summarizes and puts a little bar on the thing and you hit um export it'll say it'll have a little thing that says Gmail or you know something that you and you just hit that and send it to me. Yeah use my address I'm gonna I'm gonna love having little emails come in from hey Nina's been in another confrontation and here's the text well just those cops are just shirts like um one day we woke up to a gun doer is me and my um my ex and I was like whoa he's like get your dog and get out of here and then he's telling my ex I can't wait till I re uh retire so I can shoot you. Yeah see that's that's the that's yeah that but see that's the other thing you're in addition to recording it you're gonna have to be the best prompter the best questioner. Yeah yeah you need to be able to say oh you're asking me to you know or oh am I hearing you that you would did I just hear you say that those kinds of questions you get them on the record. I mean it's you know that they put pressure on you in lots of other ways.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:53:21

Why didn't he tell you that

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:53:22

Yeah. Exactly. You need to help prepare really easily understood to the person reading it, evidence. Yeah. You know, and and you know how to do that. You're good at questioning and you're good at at understanding what's happening around you. So if somebody if they say something to the person over here, not to you, then you need to be that reporter that basically says, Did I just hear you say to my friend, you know, this, you know, get so that they'll say, Yeah, that's what I said. They they may know you're recording it. A few of these um uh held against them, you know, a few times when I send this to Chief Cragen, when Chief Cragen starts getting transcripts of his own staff, they'll get the message, shut up. Don't do that anymore. Don't give Nina evidence.

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:54:13

So we may have a a shorter lifespan of this use than we want because they just start getting wise. Yeah. But I don't think so. I think they're dumb enough to just keep doing it no matter what. Yeah. Uh and and I am also even if we had t you know, a hundred pages worth of really um damning evidence, I'm not sure the city would do anything about it. So let's assume that we've got a year's worth of this kind of stuff where we're gonna be basically having clearer evidence of their because especially the the the um transition of the of the settlement, yeah. This is all of this is gonna be gold for that settlement stuff because not only will you have whatever um testimony that Alicia or complaint or grievance or whatever it is, you're gonna have hundreds of pages of their actual words and what they say. In in a way that they're they can't dismiss. They're not gonna say, Well, you made this up. Because when's uh when I'm recording them, yeah. Even when my friend's dead I'll talk about recording them. Yeah, yeah, yeah. But I mean the but the what I want

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:55:25

But they change their whole demeanor when I put my like open this here. And changing their demeanor is one thing. Getting them when they slip up so that we have a federal judge who doesn't have to watch a bunch of tape. He's got to read it in a way that he probably has his own. I I know I know federal judges and others who have their own fieldies.

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:55:52

Someone taking notes in their in their courtroom. They're using their feelings to do that. So they know the value of it. And they and they know how hard it is to dismiss some cops saying, I didn't say that. That's not what I said. Yeah. See that's what they said in the last one. It's like, oh, Nina's lying.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:56:12

Yeah, well now. No, no, no. Now we have evidence and an easily collectible evidence. That's the thing. If this was hard, if this couldn't be, you know, sort of understood enough to actually make it useful by everybody who isn't a college graduate, isn't somebody who takes notes for a living. This is having all of you have really good assistance. Yeah. Um and that's what I want to do. I I want everybody I what I'm also doing is, you know, I I gave on to Michael to tone and I gave one to assemble. Yeah. Oh cool. So all of you are learning how to use it. And what I want to do is have a user group, um, a support system for people like you and others who can say, hey, I'm having trouble with it in this way. I don't want to be the only one who knows how to use it well. So the more that we get people who are comfortable with it, right? And and what also is happening is a lot of the donors, a lot of the grant, you know, folks who want to support what we're doing, yeah, they get it. They they understand we're equipping people who are on the street who are the ones being the most uh abused with tools to

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:57:29

Like uh Jason, Jason probably would be a good one because they know me and so they they know I report. They know I do not

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:57:41

but they don't know the gather or whatever and but they they know I record all the time.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:57:52

Well here's here's another set. They hate me.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:58:03

That's the deal. Nobody wants to have somebody who's I was trying to tell people you've got to know the rights because they hate when people know their rights because then they'll leave you alone. Yep, yep. So here's uh set for Jason.

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:58:21

Same thing. And you can also the other way to find out more about how to do it is uh Oh yeah, okay.

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:58:36

And one other way that I'm teaching people how to use it, I haven't got it yet, but I made one um YouTube video about this. Oh, you did? Yeah, and and I'm gonna do another one. That was about the introducing it as a as a concept. You know, here's the thing, and it didn't show how to set it up and it didn't show how to use it. But I'm gonna make a scan thing, huh? But that's a scan. That's uh the only criticism I have of the fieldie guys is they assume we're a lot smarter than they think.

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:59:05

So they aren't very user-friendly in their manual. But I'm gonna put a second video together that just has me showing what we're doing. Oh, okay. Here's when I can show it on my laptop and have people see. Oh, that's the thing. And so if you watch that box, I can't wait to see the box. So that's the way in which you if you don't by the time I do the video, as soon as I do it, I'll send it to you. Yeah, you know, but it's we're all gonna be learning about

user - Mar 31, 2026 15:59:32

The same time. I'm afraid of you guys because I've had it for long enough and I've used it and found the value.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 15:59:39

Um tell me something about it when I talked to her last time and that's why I thought it after the meeting and well I what I think is but if she knows they're coming out, and which they are, you'll be out here. Yeah, well, people I just chessy and you and Claire and all the rest of the folks whose job it is to be smart, to know how to put together good testimony or good reports, yeah, to give other people who have the power to be able to stop things information, are exactly the people I think uh we want to have these things. And and what'll happen is the other thing is personally, if I were hiring anybody, if I were the director of health services and I were trying to figure out between this person and this person, and this person had one of those and was able to record meetings and was able to keep their act together and have all their stuff, there'd be no question as to who I'd hire. Right. You know, this is to me, this is as valuable as a college degree. You know, it's like all we ever do in school is teach people how to learn. This is one of the best learning devices I've ever seen. I wish I'd had it when I was in college. Yeah, you know, every lecture I ever went and didn't quite grasp what he was saying. I got a personal assistant who's gonna be sitting next to me in class.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:00:56

That's awesome.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:00:59

I mean, people talk about what the value of AI is, and there's lots of reasons why AI might think might screw up the environment, might do lots of other things, take away jobs that people really need to have for their own systems. But for the change artists in our society, for the people who basically are trying to use what happens to change what happens, which is what you guys are. Um it's it's the best single tool and well worth heaps money. Those folks down at Target are loving it.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:01:35

Fire 11.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:01:38

Yeah, right on. Good. Well the other the other thing is we um brought back the two wagons, those blue wagons. Yeah, they're over in the next room. Oh cool. CJ knows where they are. He said he's gonna clean out that room and try to make space for them. Adrian doesn't have space for it at the office, and these guys, you know, they're kind of liking it because you could use it on the streets with water bottles or you know, cell phone chargers or whatever. So they're kind of wagons in search of a purpose. I bought them because long ago when we were having those marches, like the one that we did, they were useful for kids, and you know, it's like they're very about my wagon over there. They're they're they're a good um support tool. Yeah, and they're only 95 bucks in there at Walmart, and I can certainly afford to buy them. Yeah, but storing them is another so I I what I want to do is keep them like this is their home base, but they don't

have to be here. If you or anybody else that you really wants to, you know, check one out with CJ and take it and use it. So there's um my friend Colin uh Tedis, he works on bikes on the trail. So I asked him if he would um if he'd come get it and drop it off and take care of it or whatever, and make sure no one takes it, and he's he's pretty good at that. Yeah, and for carrying tools around on the trail and for doing stuff. You should also know I got a hold of um Solo. He's up at um Commons. The Commons. Um so I then went over to North Bay Bikes on college, and there's a guy named Matt over there who's a salesperson who got it the minute I came in and said, I want to buy some tools for a guy who fixes bikes. So I put a thousand bucks on deposit at North Bay Bikes, and I told them there'll be this guy, Solo coming in. He's gonna have a list of things he wants.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:03:40

For it, you know. So, and he now knows. He went to actually, um, the one down the street from it, um, the other bike shop, uh, that's closer to, uh, downtown, and he couldn't find Matt. And so he said, "I went there, and they didn't know anything about your money." And I said, "Wrong place."

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:00

[laughs]

user - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:00

Guys, th-th-they're owned by the same family.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:03

Right.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:03

But North Bay Bikes is where I actually put the stuff. So that was-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:07

-two days ago. So what I figure he's... And Matt only works on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. So eventually, soon, Solo and the bike people are gonna get together, and they're gonna order him a bunch of stuff.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:19

Right. Um-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:21

They were talking about, there's the guy who's the salesman said, "What he really needs is this great rack." You know, it's a portable rack that closes up. And, and I said... It was like seven hundred bucks, and I said, "Nah, I don't think so. We got a thousand. Let's let him decide."

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:36

"Let Solo decide what he wants. He's got a truck, and he's got stuff."

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:38

Yeah, 'cause we all do need this stuff.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:39

It may just be that he needs some-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:40

The right shit, yeah.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:41

-new versions of tools that are falling apart, you know?

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:43

Yeah.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:44

A-and, and if he needs... I asked, um, around about supplies, you know.

user - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:49

Everybody wants to make the... They wanna sell you the tire.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:53

But-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:53

But-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:53

-there are other things you need on your bike that they don't-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:56

Yeah.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:04:56

-you can't find at Walmart, you know. It's like the-- And maybe these bike shops couldn't even find.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:00

But I said, "If he comes in, and he says, 'I need this particular supply,' get it for him."

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:05

Yeah.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:05

So we'll see if he can-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:07

-effectively use over the next six months this infusion of good tools and support.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:15

Yeah. Yeah, so we were making a list of all the stuff that, uh-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:19

W-we're-

user - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:20

-working through him 'cause-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:21

So, yeah.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:22

He's, he's the guy that-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:24

I, yeah. Uh, uh.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:27

That comes in the box that-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:28

So yeah, I know Solo pretty well.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:30

Yeah, yeah. And he, he knows-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:32

And he knows-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:33

He knows about you, and you know about him, and-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:36

Yeah.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:37

Oh, let me just put it down.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:38

Yeah. This is just... It's, it was something in here, you know, that, that-

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:43

Wrapped around the thing here.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:45

Is this the wrap? Yeah, yeah.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:05:56

Yeah, it'll think. Yeah, the red thing. When you go to this page, it'll say it'll blink like that when it's starting to charge. When it's starting to charge. And then it'll turn this color and then this color. So read what you when you download the app, read what it says. It makes sense. You know, it's basically telling you it's either powered up or not. And if it isn't, how long, you know, there's like red, green, blue, and white. And you're you're hoping to get it to white. You know.

user - Mar 31, 2026 16:06:37

Yeah, it took me a while. I just put it on and you know, overnight it powered itself up. Yeah. But once it gets power, I mean I I haven't had to power this up, even though I've been using it a whole lot of. So it's sort of like the life of the battery in that is pretty damn long. So once you charge it all the way up, it'll then it's a matter of just pushing it on and it'll come up white or not. You know, and but um keep at it because sometimes you have to press the button for four seconds and sometimes for two seconds. So it's on the side of my cousins on tonight. Yeah.

user - Mar 31, 2026 16:07:17

And I and I have no doubt that it may screw up. And so I just want to I just want to let you know this isn't the only time I should get together with you. Okay. Because what would happen is like next week I'd love to be able to say, listen to you. Yeah. Yeah, it took a while, but I did this when we got this. And I don't quite understand these, you know, what's happening with it, because I'm the only I'm the smartest guy in the county, probably in the state, about using this. The guys at Fieldie, when I I I told you.

user - Mar 31, 2026 16:07:46

I made a video about you know the trans the video is a really nice video to promote. I mean these guys feel they ought to pay me because I just sold them a whole lot of these things. So they when I linked and I sent the link to the YouTube video they wrote back. The guy who is the founder of Fieldie wrote back and said, This is great. I'm gonna tell all my staff they're all gonna get aggressive.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:08:09

It's fine. He's a young guy who wants to make money in the you know tech business. I did that. I mean, one of the reasons I retired early is I wrote a software package for everybody's accounting program and nonprofits. So into it and the folks who are putting together, you know, lots of good market software based it on my software I wrote and gave away. So, you know, I know what it's like to have this, you know, world by the tail. And everybody going, oh, this is really great. But I'm 78 and I've done that enough times to not have to do it again. I'm gonna have to put it this way so they don't know. No. Yeah, one I know people who go, Oh, nice necklace, you know. I say, okay, you know, I'm not gonna tell you that I'm recording the conversation. I'm gonna send it to everybody who could take your grand away.

user - Mar 31, 2026 16:09:02

Because I mean that's the other thing. You you I have a bunch of people who are who are on the on my board and who are in the community who are worried about the next four years. They're worried about whether or not they're gonna continue to get funds, and they're worried about decisions that my board and the board of supervisors and others, city councils are gonna make. I want us to be smarter than them. I want us to know what really is happening in the community. I want to know when they get together that what they say and what they decide is gonna be more than just a few people who attended the meeting. Right. You know, the more people who know about what our politicians are doing, the more likely we're gonna hold them accountable. Right. And so that's what these are doing. They're tools to help us hold them accountable. That's awesome. I think it's awesome.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:09:47

Thank you, right?

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:10:30

Jesse that it's started in the process.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:11:53

This year. And so I'm I'm all in. I mean, I'm accelerator to the floor. We're we're not slowing down at all. He's betting, he says, that gas prices will stay high for a while, and more people just won't want to deal with them anymore. And Henry Act for Marketplace.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:12:10

Greg Sherwood here this afternoon, and I'm delighted to tell you this is it. The last day of our fundraiser. This is the time. You cannot wait any longer because there isn't much time to wait. Be counted, make your gift here at [KQED.org slash donate](https://www.kqed.org/donate), or call one of our great volunteers upstairs at 1-800-937-8850. They're great and they're waiting to talk to you. I'm Fred Lopez, and yes, it's true. We have got less than three hours to go on this fundraising drive. We are last we are down to the last challenge grant drive. Towns grants of this drive. So uh it's exciting to say that Nancy Hudson, who is a proud KQED supporter of 45 years. Wow, she's offering \$4,000 to triple donations right now. So that means that your donation will be triple for KQED. And you could be the one to earn KQED this \$4,000. And you know what? It means so much to KQED. So please donate right now and make a big difference. [KQED.org slash donate](https://www.kqed.org/donate) or call 1-800-937-8850. One of the last opportunities to get your gift tripled. You know, the local news you hear on KQED brings you together with others across our region. It unites us behind issues that we all know are important. It brings us together to find solutions to challenges, and it helps you see things that are happening right in this moment. So uh give now for those stories, the stories we tell, and the ones we listen to together. Choose any amount that works for you and sign up as a monthly member at either [KQED.org/slash donate](https://www.kqed.org/donate) or call 1-800-937-8850. We've gone.

Unknown - Mar 31, 2026 16:13:55

Through complicated local, national, and international events together as a community. And our connection is real. You can feel it. Keep this connection going with your gift before we end this campaign. So you can carry the final hours of the fundraiser across the finish line with one gift. So please gift monthly or increase your monthly gift at [KQED.org slash donate](https://www.kqed.org/donate) or call 1-800-937-8850. Your gift at any level fuels our mission. Donate \$84 a month, and you'll show a powerful commitment to truth and journalism. And you'll join our signal society. To show our thanks, we'll send you our exclusive Signal Society Ceramic Bistro mug. Every donation keeps KQED alive. Your gift of \$84 a month will shape what KQED can do tomorrow. Join the Signal Society at [KQED.org slash donate](https://www.kqed.org/donate) or call 1-800-937-8850.

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But come on, context is everything, right? The NASDAQ grew 795 points, that is three and eight tenths percent, twenty-one thousand five hundred and ninety. This would be 500 edit 184 points, 2.9%, 65 and 28.

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Center is talking about EVs. Well, here you go. Tesla, we've produced four car models and oh yeah, Cybertruck. Spin up four and six tenths percent. Ribbyan, four models of truck there, climbed three and nine tenths. One percent McCormick dropped six and a tenth percent. Unilivered decreased seven and three tenth percent. Condiment competitor craft lines, which oh by the buy. All serious B2 Shepherd Food Guides sauce up one tenth of one percent montage. Field on the Den Newtino down 4.32%. You're lifting marketplace. The numbers is supported by Odo.com, your entire business on one platform. Marketplace is supported by GEP at the forefront of agentic procurement orchestration and autonomous supply chains. With GEP Smart Software, GEPP agente AI, and strategy consulting, GEP

works to help business optimize value and reduce risk. And by bison managed 401k, a service where advisors actively manage 401k accounts to help individuals meet retirement goals. The bison calculator is available at PowerMy401k.com. And by SolodyDyne, offering solid state storage solutions optimized for AI with higher capacities, greater speed and energy efficiency. Solidine, AI data infrastructure built on a solid foundation. Learn more at Storage4AI.com.

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This is Marketplace. I'm Kyle Risdall. We have been talking for months, longer maybe, about the K-shaped economy we have now and the growing number of people on the lower leg of that case struggling to get by. A problem will be compounded the longer this war goes on and the higher food drives household cost. Along those lines, there was a piece in the New York Times the other day about blood plasma donation centers, and about the people who go there and what that says about this economy. Curtis Lee shared the byline, Chris. Thanks for coming on. Thanks for having me. Do me a favor and uh tell me about the guy you start this piece with, uh uh Joseph Rasenio is his name, uh, his circumstances, if you would, and then uh where you uh came across it from. Yeah, so Joseph Rasenio uh lives in the suburbs of Houston, and I met him outside of a CSL Plasma Donation Center. Joseph uh 59 years old. He's uh local waste disposal company. He earns about \$50,000 a year, lives comfortably for the most part, but oh no, with this economy right now, the rising prices of gas and groceries, uh he needs some extra income, so that's why he was selling this part to Osma. And this uh CSL uh CSL name of the company. Um, where is it? I mean, what's what's the what's the local environment for? Yeah, it's very much in uh suburban. If you think of suburbia in America, it's in this uh strip mall. Um there's an orange theory fitness, a few north down from CSL Plasma, and it it very much does have the feel of suburban America. And the thrust of this piece, and or at least what I took away from it, is that you know, we've known about people's plasma and and people in fact in

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is on butt, selling actual blood, but it's been people on the on the on the ragged edge of this economy. And what you've discovered, you and your co-author on this piece, the data guy, uh, is that uh it's moving sort of up into suburban as you said, middle class, doing okay people who are now not doing okay enough that they they can't get away without selling with blood plasma. Yeah for years selling plasma was known to be in a mostly lower income uh inner city community but now over the past two decades it's definitely moved out into more suburban middle class areas. We base our story kind of a bit off of a study by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Colorado Boulder who looked at plasma centers in there and basically found that the number of plasma centers more than doubled between 2014 and 2021. And then we took that data and we found that more and more of these plasma centers are moving out into the suburbs and in particular we went to the suburbs it used to and went to the suburbs called Webster, Texas and in the last couple of years there's been two plasma centers that have opened up the CSL Plasma where I met Joseph Rasenio and also there's a Bioline Plasma Services which is a little more than a mile away and we really just wanted to talk to Americans and see why they're selling their blood plasma right now. We should just stipulate here in case it isn't clear somehow in in what we've been saying it is it is net net not a great thing that people have to sell their blood plasma to survive in this economy no matter what part of the socioeconomic spectrum they're on right yeah absolutely I mean this is this is one of those things that you know a lot of people I talked to felt the sense of shame a lot of people wanted to be anonymous in these conversations. They weren't proud of having to sell their blood plasma but then you talk to you know patients that need certain medical things