

UNIMAS NEWS BRIEFS

JANUARY 1, 2013 - JANUARY 31, 2013

01/01/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: GROSS MINIMUM WAGE

Time Aired: 4:23 pm

Synopsis:

Hundreds of thousands of workers are set to get a pay raise to start 2013, as 10 states increase their minimum wage. Washington State will again lead the way Tuesday, raising its starting salary to \$9.19 an hour. Washington was first to adopt automatic adjustments in 1998 to compensate for inflation. Nine of the 10 states adjusting wages this week did so automatically. The adjustments have expanded the pay gap between areas that make annual adjustments and those that don't. Many states still follow the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. San Francisco has set the highest local minimum wage and will have workers paid at least \$10.55 an hour in 2013.

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01/02/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: 'FISCAL CLIFF' DEAL

Time Aired: 5:40 pm

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans looked ahead on Wednesday toward the next round of even bigger budget fights after reaching a hard-fought "fiscal cliff" deal that narrowly averted potentially devastating tax hikes and spending cuts. The agreement, approved late on Tuesday by the Republican-led House of Representatives after a bitter political struggle, was a victory for Obama, who had won re-election on a promise to address budget woes in part by raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans. But it set up political showdowns over the next two months on spending cuts and on raising the nation's limit on borrowing. Republicans, angry the deal did little to curb the federal deficit, promised to use the debt ceiling debate to win deep spending cuts next time.

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01/03/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: SUBARU RECALLS NEARLY 634,000 VEHICLES

Time Aired: 3:20 pm

Synopsis:

Subaru is recalling nearly 634,000 cars and SUVs in the U.S. because lights beneath the doors can overheat and cause fires. The recall affects all Outback and Legacy cars from model years 2010 and 2011. Also included are Tribeca SUVs from 2006 through 2012 and Forester SUVs from 2009 through 2012. Subaru says the Tribecas and Foresters were sold before January of 2012. The company says moisture can get into puddle lights beneath the doors and cause a short circuit that can melt plastic and cause fires. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says on its website that Subaru will install an additional fuse at no cost to the owners. The recall is expected to begin in February.

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01/04/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: US SLEEPY DRIVERS

Time Aired: 4:28 pm

Synopsis:

Some new data may encourage you to pull over if you're feeling sleepy behind the wheel-- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveyed nearly 150-thousand people in 19 states and Washington D-C by telephone in 2009 and 2010. The study says research models estimate 15- to 33-percent of fatal crashes may involve sleepy driving. That's as many as one out of every three deadly crashes. According to the C-D-C, deaths and injuries are more likely in crashes that involve drowsy driving compared to non-drowsy driving crashes.

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01/05/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: USA HOUSING GROWTH

Time Aired: 7:35 pm

Synopsis:

Houston, the biggest city in the southern United States, saw home sales rise for the 18th consecutive month last November and saw a 27 percent increase year on year, according to the monthly report released by the Houston Association of Realtors last December. Trulia, an online real estate firm, said that strong job growth and a low number of properties available make this city one of the hottest housing markets in the country. Houston economist Patrick Jankowski said that he has seen the city's housing market expand with its population growth and industries like oil, gas, and transport have also benefited. Homes are selling fast in Houston and construction is everywhere. With more people moving to the area for jobs, the current number of new homes stands at just over 36,000 to serve a population of 6.1 million, a report said.

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01/06/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: EARLY FLU SEASON

Time Aired: 2:40 pm

Synopsis:

Doctors at Rush University Medical Center have seen 203 flu patients since Nov. 5, compared with 119 patients for the entire flu season last year. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the proportion of people visiting doctors for a flu-like illness has climbed from 2.8 percent to 5.6 percent in the last four weeks. That compares with 2.2 percent during last year's mild flu season and a peak of 7.7 percent during the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic.

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01/07/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: FLU LATEST

Time Aired: 2:35 pm

Synopsis:

The CDC said the proportion of people visiting health care providers with flu-like symptoms climbed from 2.8 percent to 5.6 percent in four weeks. By contrast, the rate peaked at only 2.2 percent during the

relatively mild 2011-12 flu season. The estimated rate of flu-related hospitalizations in the U.S. was 8.1 per 100,000 people, which is high for this time of year, according to Dr. Joe Bresee, chief of the epidemiology and prevention branch of the CDC's influenza division.

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01/08/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: ILLINOIS HOUSE APPROVES DRIVERS LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

Time Aired: 2:35 pm

Synopsis:

The Illinois House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to grant temporary driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, the final legislative step before Democratic Governor Pat Quinn is expected to sign the measure into law. Illinois would be the fourth state to offer some form of permits along with Washington State and New Mexico, which offer drivers licenses, and Utah, which provides driving permits. The vote in the General Assembly or House, was 65 to 46, after the state Senate on Dec. 4 overwhelmingly approved the legislation. Supporters said an estimated 250,000 illegal immigrants drive in Illinois and the measure would make the roads safer by subjecting migrants to driving tests. Republican opposition to drivers licenses for illegal immigrants faded after the Nov. 6 election when Hispanics voted heavily for the reelection of President Barack Obama and Democrats in the Illinois state legislature.

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01/09/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: GUN CONTROL

Time Aired: 4:20 pm

Synopsis:

Vice President Joe Biden said on Wednesday the White House is determined to act quickly to curb gun violence and will explore all avenues - including executive orders that would not require approval by Congress - to try to prevent incidents like last month's massacre at a Connecticut school. Kicking off a series of meetings on gun violence, Biden said the administration would work with gun-control advocates and gun-rights supporters to build a consensus on restrictions. But he made clear that President Barack Obama is prepared to act on his own if necessary.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: FEDERAL BENEFITS WILL BE SWITCHED TO ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Time Aired: 4:20 pm

Synopsis:

The U.S. Department of the Treasury reported that 5 million checks continue to be mailed to federal beneficiaries each month on Tuesday, Jan. 8. With just two months remaining until the March 1, 2013, electronic payment law goes into effect, the Treasury Department is urging Social Security and other federal benefit recipients to not delay and switch now to either direct deposit or the Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: AZ ARMED POSSE

Time Aired: 8:29 pm

Synopsis:

A press conference is expected with the Maricopa County Sheriff Office on a volunteer system that would provide patrols around local schools. The patrols will not be on campuses but rather in the area surrounding. The idea is to have a visible law enforcement presence. The sheriff first started using his posse to protect malls during the holiday season and believes since it's worked in malls, it will work in schools.

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01/10/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: FLU SEASON
Time Aired: 2:25 pm

Synopsis:
Boston declared a public health emergency Wednesday as flu season struck in earnest and the state reported 18 flu-related deaths so far. The city is working with health care centers to offer free flu vaccines and hopes to set up places where people can get vaccinated. The city said there have been four flu-related deaths, all elderly residents, since the unofficial start of the flu season Oct. 1.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: NRA MEETING WITH BIDEN
Time Aired: 4:17 pm

Synopsis:
Despite fresh opposition from the National Rifle Association, the Obama administration is assembling proposals to curb gun violence that would include a ban on sales of assault weapons, limits on high-capacity ammunition magazines and universal background checks for gun buyers. Sketching out details of the plan Thursday, Vice President Joe Biden said he would give President Barack Obama a set of recommendations by next Tuesday. The NRA, one of the pro-gun groups that met with Biden during the day, rejected the effort to limit ammunition and dug in on its opposition to an assault weapons ban, which Obama has previously said he will propose to Congress.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: RULE TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM IRRESPONSIBLE MORTGAGE LENDING
Time Aired: 4:17 pm

Synopsis:
Today the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) adopted a new rule that will protect consumers from irresponsible mortgage lending by requiring lenders to ensure prospective buyers have the ability to repay their mortgage. The rule also protects borrowers from risky lending practices such as "no doc" and "interest only" features that contributed to many homeowners ending up in delinquency and foreclosure after the 2008 housing collapse.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: FDA DIET DRUG
Time Aired: 7:38 pm

Synopsis:
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning the public that a product distributed and sold under the name 'WOW' is really just another product in disguise, one that can cause serious harm. Earlier in 2012, FDA twice warned the public about taking Reumofan Plus-marketed as a "natural" dietary supplement for the treatment of many conditions, including arthritis and bone cancer-because, in reality, it contains undeclared active ingredients found in prescription drugs that should only be used under the supervision of a health care professional.

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1/11/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: "DREAM ACT" CALIFORNIA
Time Aired: 2:25 pm

Synopsis:
Starting next Monday, undocumented students graduated from high school can apply online for scholarships called CalGrants to go to college. The dreamers who are accepted will begin receiving state financial assistance contained in CalGrants for next fall.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: FDA AMBIEN
Time Aired: 2:25 pm
Synopsis:

New studies show that after taking a regular 10 milligram Ambien or its generic - 15% of women will still be impaired 8 hours later, and after taking the extended release version, a whopping 33% won't be alert enough for things like driving. The new FDA recommended dose for women should be HALF of what it is now. But first check with your doctor.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: BIDEN VIDEO GAMES MEETING
Time Aired: 3:23 pm
Synopsis:

Representatives from the companies that make "first-person shooter" games such as "Call of Duty," "Medal of Honor" and "Grand Theft Auto" met with Vice President Joe Biden on Friday as the Obama administration looks for ways to curb U.S. gun violence. Biden is heading a task force formed after a gunman shot dead 20 children and six adults last month at a Connecticut elementary school. Biden plans to make recommendations on reducing gun violence to President Barack Obama by next Tuesday.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: OBESITY CLINICS
Time Aired: 6:23 pm
Synopsis:

There are some clinics in New York City that are helping obese kids. They offer classes on how to prevent obesity and how to eat healthy. They also provide different exercise classes including karate.

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01/12/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: US FLU LATEST
Time Aired: 2:25 pm
Synopsis:

The flu is particularly bad this year, with the outbreak hitting 47 states. Doctors' offices and hospital emergency rooms are overwhelmed with patients ; they're running low on vaccines and flu treatments. Even though millions are suffering, the Centers for Disease Control is hopeful that the virus may have peaked in the first areas where it hit hard - the south and southeast. Those that thought ahead and got a vaccine already have the odds in their favor - 62 percent are not seeing symptoms. The CDC says that while not perfect, the vaccine is the best way to try to avoid the illness. More than 128-million vaccine doses have been distributed nationwide. But clinics can't keep up with the demand, and pharmacists are struggling to fill prescription drug orders.

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01/14/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: GUN CONTROL
Time Aired: 2:24pm
Synopsis:

Vice President Joe Biden and members of President Barack Obama's Cabinet will meet on Monday with members of the U.S. House of Representatives as he prepares recommendations on how to curb a rash of gun violence in the United States. Nearly 80,000 Americans were denied guns in 2010, according to Justice Department data, because they lied or provided inaccurate information about their criminal histories on background-check forms. Yet only 44 of those people were charged with a crime. The staggeringly low number of prosecutions for people who "lie and try," as it is called by law

enforcement officials, is being studied by the Obama administration as it considers measures to curb gun violence after the Connecticut elementary school shootings.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time Aired: 4:21pm

Synopsis:

Today, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) held a forum to listen to the ideas of local community members on the topic of immigration reform. Over 60 representatives from different organizations in the South Florida community were in attendance. On that afternoon over one million undocumented immigrants marched on Los Angeles City Hall. For one day, one million people stepped out of the shadows - mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandmas and grandpas. They were hardworking people who are always told that they are to blame for the country's problems.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: LATINOS AND FLU

Time Aired: 7:26 pm

Synopsis:

The Centers for Disease Control is urging Latinos to get a flu shot, as the most aggressive flu outbreak in years sweeps the nation. There's a reason the CDC is making a concerted effort to target Latinos. The demographic is less likely than other ethnic groups to take measures to prevent the flu. That's because Hispanics have more limited access to medical care than other ethnic groups, particularly Latinos that have arrived in the country recently. Latinos are also more likely to face language barriers and to move from location to location for work. But flu vaccines can be especially important for Latinos. Hispanics are more likely to have pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, which can make getting the flu much more dangerous. Efforts by the CDC and other governmental and nonprofit groups to inform Latinos about vaccinations are underway. Information has been distributed to targeted communities in the form of Spanish-language videos and pamphlets.

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01/15/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: GUN VOTING

Time Aired: 4:32 pm

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama is launching the nation's most sweeping effort to curb gun violence in nearly two decades, urging a reluctant Congress to ban military-style assault weapons as well as the kinds of high-capacity ammunition magazines used in last month's massacre of 20 elementary school children in Newtown, Conn. The broad package Obama will announce Wednesday will also include efforts to stop bullying and boost availability of mental health services. It's expected to include more than a dozen steps the president can take on his own through executive action. Those measures will provide a pathway for skirting opposing lawmakers, but they will be limited in scope, and in some cases, focused simply on enforcing existing laws. But Congress would have to approve the bans on assault weapons and ammunition magazines holding more than 10 bullets, along with a requirement for universal background checks on gun buyers.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: WAL-MART VETERANS

Time Aired: 4:32 pm

Synopsis:

Wal-Mart, the nation's largest retailer, will announce Tuesday a plan to hire every veteran who wants a job, provided that the veterans have left the military in the previous year and did not receive a dishonorable discharge. The announcement, to be made in a speech in New York by William S. Simon, the president and chief executive of Wal-Mart U.S., represents the largest hiring commitments for

veterans in history. Company officials said they believe the program, which will officially begin on Memorial Day - May 27 this year - will lead to the hiring of more than 100,000 people in the next five years.

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01/16/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA GUN CONTROL

Time Aired: 2:37pm

Synopsis:

Even as he uses his executive powers to enact 23 measures that don't require the approval of Congress, President Barack Obama says there's only so much he can do to reduce gun violence unless lawmakers act. He says that's what it will take to make a "real and lasting difference." His executive orders include tougher penalties for people who lie on background checks. And they give schools flexibility to use federal grant money to improve school safety. A presidential memorandum will instruct the Centers for Disease Control to research causes and prevention of gun violence. Obama wants Congress to renew and expand a ban on assault weapons, and limit high-capacity magazines.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: HISPANIC NUTRITION CAMPAIGN

Time Aired: 2:37pm

Synopsis:

Latino populations are disproportionately affected by chronic diseases related to a lack of physical activity and poor diet. Lower socioeconomic status and ready access to cheap, unhealthy foods are just some of the contributing factors that have set far too many Latinos on the path to an unhealthy lifestyle. In an effort to address this issue, the NCLR (National Council of La Raza) Institute for Hispanic Health, in collaboration with General Mills and Wal-Mart, is expanding its healthy shopping program, Comprando Rico y Sano, which is designed to teach Latinos how to be health-conscious consumers and make the correct food choices for their families.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM BY FEBRUARY

Time Aired: 7:29pm

Synopsis:

Sen. Patrick Leahy plans to hold hearings on immigration reform in February and said the committee will spend much of the spring working to pass a comprehensive bill. "We must find a way through the partisan gridlock to enact meaningful change, which should include a path for citizenship," he said. He also said he would like to see passage of the Dream Act. Asked about ongoing work by some legislators, such as the so-called Gang of Eight and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Leahy reminded the audience that the ultimate authority rests with his committee.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: NY DREAM ACT

Time Aired: 7:29pm

Synopsis:

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver Wednesday proposed a state version of the Dream Act that would help make college more affordable for children of undocumented immigrants. The bill would allow these children to qualify for state financial aid programs. It would also create a private, state-overseen scholarship fund, to be called the Dream Fund, to further assist children of parents who came to the U.S. illegally.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: PREGNANCY & FLU
Time Aired: 8:21pm
Synopsis:

A large study offers reassuring news for pregnant women: It's safe to get a flu shot. The research found no evidence that the vaccine increases the risk of losing a fetus, and may prevent some deaths. Getting the flu while pregnant makes fetal death more likely, the Norwegian research showed.

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01/18/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: PAID SICK DAYS
Time Aired: 7:28pm
Synopsis:

City officials including Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried, health care workers, labor advocates and representatives of labor unions for nurses call for City Council to pass legislation that would require certain employers to provide paid sick days for employees, during a rally where participants will also discuss the number of recent flu cases; steps, City Hall.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM / CABINET DIVERSITY
Time Aired: 8:21pm
Synopsis:

On the eve of President Obama's second inauguration, organized communities throughout the United States will rise to express their support for an issue favored by a large majority of Americans: a pathway to citizenship to keep families together. On November 6, voters sent President Obama and the 113th Congress a clear mandate to address this crucial issue. In Los Angeles, a diverse coalition of families, immigrant rights, labor, faith, business, students, and elected leaders, will send a clear message about California's leadership role in making immigration reform possible in 2013.

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01/19/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: US OBAMA GUN ADDRESS
Time Aired: 3:34 pm
Synopsis:

President Barack Obama reiterated his commitment to curb gun violence in America in his weekly radio address on Saturday. Obama proposed a new assault weapons ban and mandatory background checks for all gun buyers on Wednesday (January 16) in a bid to channel national outrage over the Newtown school massacre into the biggest U.S. gun-control push in generations. The president said he hoped that his wide-ranging plan for executive and legislative action to curb gun violence would help prevent tragedies like the one in Newtown. Obama had done little to rein in America's weapons culture during his first four years in office. But just days before his second inauguration, he appeared determined to champion gun control in his next term with a drive for tighter laws.

01/20/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA'S PRESIDENTIAL SWEARING CEREMONY

Time Aired: 5:28 pm

Synopsis:

U.S. President Barack Obama was sworn in for a second term in office on Sunday in a small, private ceremony in the White House's Blue Room. Chief Justice John Roberts, who leads the U.S. Supreme Court, administered the oath of office to the president, repeating a role he took in 2009, when Obama became the first black president of the United States. Obama's swearing-in, witnessed by family, met the constitutional requirement that he take the oath on January 20. He will repeat the procedure in a public ceremony in front of the U.S. Capitol on Monday.

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01/21/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION PROTEST ILLINOIS

Time Aired: 7:34 pm

Synopsis:

On January 21st, Inauguration Day and Martin Luther King Day, families of those recently targeted in immigration raids are calling for a march and rally for a moratorium on deportations in Chicago. The immigrant community in Chicago is calling for the President to grant immediate relief from deportations by ordering a moratorium. While Congress deliberates, they say, the President can use his executive authority to make immediate changes to reverse his record on deportations.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: ANTIGUN MARCH NYC

Time Aired: 8:25 pm

Synopsis:

Several hundred people marched across the Brooklyn Bridge on Monday (January 21) to call on the U.S. Congress to pass tougher gun control legislation. The group said the march purposefully coincided with the inauguration and Martin Luther King's Remembrance Day, as they hoped tougher gun laws would be a priority for President Obama. As families marched across the bridge, children held up signs and chanted for gun control along with their parents

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01/22/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: ANOTHER COLLEGE SHOOTING

Time aired:7:28

Synopsis:

Three people were wounded, one critically, on Tuesday when gunfire erupted during an altercation between two people on a community college campus near Houston, police said, the latest in a series of shootings on U.S. college and school campuses. Two people "of interest" in the Lone Star College shooting were detained for questioning, including one with a student identification, according to authorities. Authorities said the two people involved in the argument were in hospital. A maintenance worker who had been standing nearby was shot in the leg, and a woman with a student ID was taken to a hospital with a medical issue that was not a gunshot wound, they said.

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01/23/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: SEX OFFENDERS IN FACEBOOK

Time aired: 4:28 pm

Synopsis:

A federal appeals court has ruled that an Indiana law banning registered sex offenders from accessing Facebook and other social networking sites is unconstitutional. The 7th U.S. Circuit of Appeals in Chicago on Wednesday overturned a federal judge's decision to uphold the law, saying the ban was too broad. U.S. District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt ruled in June that the state has a strong interest in protecting children and found that social networking had created a "virtual playground for sexual predators." The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed the class-action suit on behalf of sex offenders including a man who served three years for child exploitation. They were all restricted by the ban even though they are no longer on probation.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: FONTANA, CALIFORNIA SCHOOL RIFLES

Time aired: 7:32 pm

Synopsis:

The high-powered semiautomatic rifles recently shipped to school police in this Southern California city look like they belong on a battlefield rather than in a high school, but officials here say the weapons could help stop a massacre like the one that claimed the lives of 26 students and educators in Connecticut just weeks ago. Fontana Unified School District police purchased 14 of the Colt LE6940 rifles last fall, and they were delivered the first week of December - a week before the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Over the holiday break, the district's 14 school police officers received 40 hours of training on the rifles. Officers check them out for each shift from a fireproof safe in the police force's main office.

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01/24/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN BILL

Time aired: 2:28 pm

Synopsis:

Congressional Democrats, led by Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, have reintroduced a bill that would ban assault weapons despite opposition in the Republican-led House and the reluctance of some Senate Democrats. Feinstein wrote the original assault weapons ban, which became law in 1994 and expired in 2004. Democratic Reps. Carolyn McCarthy of New York and Ed Perlmutter of Colorado will lead the effort to push the bill through the House.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: DREAMERS MILITARY

Time aired: 3:31 pm

Synopsis:

Undocumented youth who have been approved for Deferred Action under President Obama's executive action will be going to recruiting offices across the country asking the President and the Department of Defense to allow them to serve in the U.S. military now that they have Deferred Action. The new immigration policy change grants DREAMers work authorization and a social security number.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: WOMEN GET TO FIGHT

Time aired: 4:21 pm

Synopsis:

The Pentagon formally announced on Thursday its decision to lift its ban on women in front-line combat roles, a move hailed by supporters as a historic step toward gender equality in America's armed forces after 11 years of non-stop war.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: ACLU ENGLISH CLASSES
Time aired: 8:20 pm

Synopsis:
The American Civil Liberties Union of California on Wednesday charged that about a quarter of California school districts are violating state and federal laws by failing to provide English language instruction to all students who need it and demanded state education officials take action. The ACLU, along with the Asian Pacific Legal Center, sent a letter to Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and state school board members stating that it will file a lawsuit if English classes are not provided to some 20,000 students within 30 days.

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1/25/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: LATINO AND MENTAL HEALTH
Time aired: 3:30 pm

Synopsis:
As the national debate on mental health issues heats up, a new study shows that Latino children are less likely to receive psychological treatment. Only 24 percent of Latino children receive treatment for mental issues, compared with 47 percent of non-Latinos, according to the UCLA's California Health Interview survey released this week. The findings were based on data from 2005, 2007 and 2009. The survey, conducted every two years, involved interviews with about 17,000 parents.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM PLANS
Time aired: 4:20 pm

Synopsis:
The White House and a bipartisan group of senators next week plan to begin their efforts to push for comprehensive immigration reform. President Barack Obama is also expected to make an announcement on immigration during a Tuesday trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, the White House said on Friday. The Senate group is expected to make their plans public around the same time, the Associated Press reported. For Obama, immigration reform is a campaign promise that has remained unfulfilled from his first White House run in 2008. During his 2012 re-election campaign, the president vowed to renew his effort to overhaul the nation's immigration system. It has long been expected that Obama would roll out his plans shortly after his inauguration.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: FLU ACTIVITY DECREASING
Time aired: 7:33 pm

Synopsis:
Flu activity is still high, but is decreasing in many parts of the country. That's according to a report from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention examining data from last week. A total of 47 states reported "widespread" geographic influenza activity, down from 48 last week. By the way, that's a measure of the spread of the flu, not its severity.

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01/26/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: GUN CONTROL MARCH

Time aired: 4:20

Synopsis:

Thousands marched in Washington tonight expressing their feelings on gun control. Among them were families from Newtown Connecticut the scene of the sandy hook elementary shooting. They called it the silent rally-, but they had one unified message that brought them to Washington. Parents sat in the audience as the white house embarks on one of the most extensive gun control efforts ever....the initiative-- a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Universal background checks additional mental health services and congress members vowing to take the NRA head-on along with gun violence victims.

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01/27/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: DRIVERS LICENSE FOR IMMIGRANTS IN ILLINOIS

Time Aired: 7:30 PM

Synopsis:

Gov. Pat Quinn signed a bill into law Sunday allowing illegal immigrants to get special driver's licenses, but it will be at least another 10 months before they'll start being issued. The Illinois secretary of state's office estimates it'll need that much time to finalize rules and train employees about who qualifies and what paperwork can be accepted. The lag time did little to dampen the mood of hundreds who braved icy weather to watch the ceremonial bill signing on Chicago's Southwest Side. The fanfare at Instituto del Progreso Latino included performances by a mariachi band and a roster of speakers 15 dignitaries deep. Supporters said the measure will make it easier for undocumented immigrants to get insurance. To qualify for a license, an applicant must prove they have lived in Illinois for a least a year and show that they are ineligible for a Social Security card. Documents that will be accepted include a copy of a lease, utility bills and a valid passport or consular identification card.

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01/28/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time Aired: 2:25PM

Synopsis:

Key Democratic and Republican senators are pledging to get a wide-ranging immigration bill through the Senate by summer even as they point to numerous pitfalls ahead. The group of eight senators unveiled proposals Monday to secure the border, allow more guest workers, require tougher verification measures by employers and create a path to citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country. They expressed optimism they can succeed where numerous past efforts have failed. Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said November's election losses show Republicans they need to take steps to win over Latino voters. But the senators quickly encountered a cool reaction from other lawmakers, including Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, who said immigration legislation is too important to be written in a back room.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: CREDIT CARD FEES

Time Aired: 4:18PM

Synopsis:

It could soon cost you more to shop with a credit card at some stores. As of this Sunday, Jan. 27, merchants who accept credit cards issued by Visa and MasterCard will be allowed to add a service

charge to the purchase price. Visa and MasterCard had always prohibited merchants from doing this. They agreed to change the rules and allow the surcharge as part of the settlement of an antitrust suit brought by retailers. The surcharge is supposed to equal the actual cost of processing the credit card transaction, which is typically 1.5 to 3 percent. Under the agreement, the fee is capped at 4 percent. The surcharge can vary based on the type of card. For example, it could be higher for a rewards card or premier card. Merchants still cannot add a surcharge to debit card transactions.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: BORDER SECURITY

Time Aired: 5:21PM

Synopsis:

The immigration overhaul framework top senators released Monday relies heavily on more drones to patrol the Southwest border as a key way to control the flow of illegal immigrants. The proposal doesn't say how many drones would be added to the federal fleet, but the reliance on drones could be problematic at a time when some in Congress are calling for a review of how law enforcement uses them. And the Homeland Security Department's inspector general has reported that U.S. Customs and Border Patrol's current drone program is chaotic and the agency can't keep its drones flying at the rate it had promised. The agency didn't even budget for enough maintenance money to repair broken drones.

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01/29/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA REFORM ANNOUNCEMENT

Time Aired: 4:18

Synopsis:

A bipartisan Senate proposal for comprehensive immigration reform is "very much in line" with principles proposed by the White House, President Barack Obama said in remarks prepared for a speech he is slated to deliver in Nevada later on Tuesday that - for the first time in many years - Republicans and Democrats seem ready to tackle this problem together. . Obama said that at this moment it looks like there's a genuine desire to get this done soon and that he considers it very encouraging.

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01/30/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA ON IMMIGRATION INTERVIEW

Time Aired: 4:18 pm

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama spoke with Univision about immigration and the possibility of a reform at the end of this year.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: TOYOTA RECALL

Time Aired: 5:24 pm

Synopsis:

Toyota is recalling over one million cars around the world for faulty air bags and defective windshield wipers. The move comes just days after Toyota regained its spot as the world's No. 1 automaker from U.S. rival General Motors Co., with global vehicle sales that climbed to a record 9.748 million vehicles. The company is now recalling 907,000 cars, mostly Corollas, due to air bags that can improperly inflate when the vehicle's electronic signals damage a chip in the part that controls the air bags. It also is recalling 385,000 Lexus IS luxury cars with wipers that can get stuck if there is heavy snowfall.

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01/31/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRANT VISA LONGEST WAIT

Time Aired: 3:26 pm

Synopsis:

It's a brand new year, but the wait for family-sponsored immigrant visas is about where we left it a month ago. As usual, brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens from the Philippines are enduring the longest waits, followed by these citizens' adult married sons and daughters. Hopeful immigrants from Mexico follow in line.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH ON US IMMIGRATION

Time Aired: 9:28 pm

Synopsis:

The enormous prison population in the United States partly reflects harsh sentencing practices contrary to international law, Human Rights Watch said today in its World Report 2013. The sentencing practices include disproportionately long prison terms, mandatory sentencing without parole, and treating youth offenders as adults. The US maintains the world's largest incarcerated population, at 1.6 million, and its highest per capita incarceration rate.

=====END OF JANUARY 2013 REPORT=====

UNIMAS NEWS BRIEFS

FEBRUARY 1, 2013 - FEBRUARY 28, 2013

02/01/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: LATINOS TO BECOME A PLURALITY IN CA

Time Aired: 2:30 pm

Synopsis:

Researchers say the number of Hispanics in the state will equal the number of whites by this summer. And will outnumber whites by early next year. Researchers looked at birth rates, death rates and immigration statistics to create the projection. They say since the Hispanic population in California is young, that translates into higher numbers. But they won't be the dominant majority until at least 2,060.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: BIRTH CONTROL RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Time Aired: 8:28 pm

Synopsis:

Facing a wave of lawsuits over what government can tell religious groups to do, the Obama administration on Friday proposed a compromise for faith-based nonprofits that object to covering birth control in their employee health plans. Some of the lawsuits appear headed for the Supreme Court, threatening another divisive legal battle over President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law, which requires most employers to cover birth control free of charge to female workers as a preventive service. The law exempted churches and other houses of worship, but religious charities, universities, hospitals and even some for-profit businesses have objected.

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02/02/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REPUBLICANS SPLIT

Time Aired: 3:39PM

Synopsis:

The immigration debate is threatening to pit Republicans who focus mainly on presidential elections against those who concentrate on congressional races. Strategists say Republicans must soften their rhetoric about illegal immigrants if they want to win presidential elections. The fast-growing Hispanic electorate has sided heavily with Democrats in recent elections. But granting illegal residents a pathway to citizenship is deeply unpopular in many House Republicans' districts. President Barack Obama wants such a pathway. So do some prominent GOP lawmakers. Their plans differ on when and how citizenship might occur. Border security is a big sticking point. Some GOP strategists say converting millions of illegal Hispanic residents into citizens might produce large numbers of new voters who will lean Democratic for years.

=====

02/03/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time Aired: 3:40

Synopsis:

The top Senate Democrat on Sunday predicted that Congress will pass and send to President Barack Obama legislation overhauling the U.S. immigration system. Obama last week expressed hope Congress can get a deal done on immigration, possibly in the first half of the year. The president is proposing to

give the roughly 11 million U.S. illegal immigrants - most of whom are Hispanics - a pathway to citizenship, a step that many Republicans have long fought. Obama's fellow Democrats control the Senate, but Republicans control the House of Representatives. Appearing on the ABC program "This Week," Reid was asked whether immigration legislation can win House passage. Obama choose Reid's home state of Nevada, with a sizable Hispanic population, as the site for a major speech last Tuesday pushing Congress to pass an immigration bill.

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02/04/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time Aired: 10:20PM

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama will seek to build momentum for U.S. immigration reform this week ahead of his State of the Union address, which is expected to challenge Republicans to take up an overhaul amid an increasingly contentious debate in Washington. Obama plans to hold a series of White House meetings with corporate chief executives, labor leaders and progressives on Tuesday to lobby for their support, and he has dispatched Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to the Southwest to tout the administration's border security efforts. The flurry of activity, including new moves in Congress, comes amid disagreement between the Democratic president and many Republicans over the question of citizenship for illegal immigrants, an obstacle that could make it hard to reach a final deal on sweeping legislation.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: GUN CONTROL

Time Aired: 5:30PM

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama declared Monday on his first trip outside Washington to promote gun control that a consensus is emerging for universal background checks for purchasers, though he conceded a tough road lay ahead to pass an assault weapons ban over formidable opposition in Congress. The president spoke from a special police operations center in a city once known to some as "Murderapolis" but where gun violence has dropped amid a push to address it from city leaders. Officers stood behind him, dressed in crisp uniforms of blue, white and brown. The site conveyed Obama's message that a reduction in violence can be achieved nationally, even if Americans have sharp disagreements over gun control, including members of his own party in Washington.

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02/05/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION

Time Aired: 3:30PM

Synopsis:

The first major U.S. immigration reform effort since 1986 came under attack on Tuesday from congressional Republicans who cast doubt on a proposal backed by President Barack Obama to give 11 million illegal immigrants a chance to become citizens. An immigration overhaul suddenly looked possible last week when a group of senators from both parties launched a reform campaign. But it has not taken long for partisan rancor to emerge. Republicans in the House of Representatives are questioning a core element of the immigration plan: a path to citizenship for undocumented residents, most of them Hispanic, who are already in the United States.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: WASHINGTON WORST DRIVING
Time Aired: 6:30PM

Synopsis:
A new study from Texas A&M University's Transportation Institute ranks the Washington metro area as the *worst* in America for commuters. Drivers in DC and the Virginia and Maryland suburbs spend an average of 67 hours a year just sitting in traffic! They waste about 32 gallons of gas every year doing that - roughly a full tank for many drivers. And researchers say it's going to get worse -- they estimate by 2,020, drivers will be spending seven *more* hours a year stuck in traffic.

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02/06/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: POSTAL SERVICE CUT
Time Aired: 3:30PM

Synopsis:
Saturday mail may soon go the way of the Pony Express and penny postcards. The Postal Service said Wednesday that it plans to cut back to five-day-a-week deliveries for everything except packages to stem its financial losses in a world radically re-ordered by the Internet.

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02/07/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: ALZHEIMER EPIDEMY
Time Aired: 2:24 PM

Synopsis:
A new government-funded report confirms what advocacy groups have been warning for years: The number of people in the USA with Alzheimer's disease will almost triple by 2050, straining the health care system and taxing the health of caregivers. Numbers are projected to rise from about 5 million now to 13.8 million. The disease robs people of their memory, erases personality and makes even routine tasks like dressing and bathing impossible.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM
Time Aired: 5:21 PM

Synopsis:
Illegal immigrants might face around a 10-year wait to become legal permanent U.S. residents under sweeping immigration overhaul legislation taking shape in the Senate, negotiators said Thursday. That's shorter than some current wait times though longer than some advocates might like. Democratic Sens. Dick Durbin of Illinois and Robert Menendez of New Jersey discussed the timeline in a roundtable meeting with Hispanic-focused media. The senators and their aides emphasized that nothing has been agreed to and the timeline could change.

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02/08/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM LONG WAIT

Time Aired: 3:26 PM

Synopsis:

Immigration activists say they won't settle for anything short of a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in a bill emerging in Congress. Some House Republicans have suggested a compromise that would let the country's 11 million illegal immigrants gain legal status and work in the U.S. -- but not become citizens. On a conference call Friday, activists said that is unacceptable because it would create second-class residents.

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2/12/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA STATE OF NATION

Time Aired: 10:24 pm

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama set up high-stakes clashes over guns, immigration, taxes and climate change in a State of the Union address that showcased a newly re-elected president determined to mark his legacy, facing off against a deeply divided Congress with Republicans eager to rein him in. At the center of it all was a fight over the very role of government, with Obama pushing a raft of new initiatives to improve preschool programs and voting, boost manufacturing and research and development, raise the minimum wage and lower energy use. Uncompromising and aggressive, Obama pressed his agenda on social issues and economic ones, declaring himself determined to intervene to right income inequality and boost the middle class. He called on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants, far-reaching gun control measures and a climate bill to cut greenhouse gas emissions. He threatened to go around Congress with executive actions on climate change if it fails to act.

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2/13/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION HEARINGS

Time Aired: 6:26 pm

Synopsis:

Lawmakers who are shaping the fate of the millions of people in the U.S. illegally were told by one Wednesday that it's time to rewrite immigration laws so that they, too, can live the American dream. The first Senate hearing on immigration policy this year pointed toward an emerging bipartisan consensus that the nation's 11 million illegal immigrants should be offered a path to citizenship. But passionate divisions over the issue also surfaced as one Republican decried amnesty and shouting protesters interrupted the proceedings.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: MARIJUANA SALES TAX

Time Aired: 7:33 pm

Synopsis:

The state of Washington recently passed a law legalizing recreational use of marijuana. If the federal government doesn't step in, selling pot could soon be big business.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Time Aired: 7:33 pm
Synopsis:

In a bipartisan vote Wednesday, the Senate passed the Violence Against Women Act. The bill includes services, such as legal aid and shelter stays to domestic violence victims without regard to their immigration status or sexual orientation. It now heads to the House of Representatives, where proponents expect a fight. Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi praised her colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together on the bill, and encouraged the same spirit in creating a plan to tackle the nation's deficit and ditch the dreaded sequester plan.

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02/14/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: MORE L.A. CLERGY NAMED IN SEX ABUSE SCANDAL
Time Aired: 3:31 pm
Synopsis:

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has quietly added two dozen priests and brothers to its list of clergy accused of child molestation. Though the church deems the allegations against the men credible, the archdiocese has declined to release information about the complaints, including the number of accusers, the dates of the alleged abuse and the parishes where the men worked. The names were disclosed in a two-page report posted on the archdiocese's website last month alongside 12,000 pages of internal records related to its handling of abuse claims.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: BLOOMBERG STYROFOAM
Time Aired: 6:29 pm
Synopsis:

First calorie counts on menus...Then trans fats...And mega soft drinks...Now, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is out to ban plastic foam food packing in stores and restaurants. He unveiled his plan today in his final State of the City speech.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: NC LICENCES FOR IMMIGRANTS
Time Aired: 7:24 pm
Synopsis:

State transportation officials announced Thursday that they will begin issuing driver's licenses and ID cards March 25 to some immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children and qualify under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The DACA program blocks deportation of and grants work permits to immigrants brought to the United States as minors without authorization. Eligible applicants include high school students, high school graduates, those with a GED equivalent and veterans who have been honorably discharged from the military who have no felony convictions or significant misdemeanors.

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: NY MAYOR DREAMERS
Time Aired: 7:24 pm
Synopsis:

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Thursday that his main priority in the state legislature is to pass a bill for undocumented immigrant youth so they can have access to state funds and enter college. Bloomberg said during his annual state of the city that the initiative will make the public university a more affordable place for thousands of immigrants who deserve the opportunity to go and contribute to the future of the city and the nation.

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02/15/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: ALCOHOL CAUSES 20,000 CANCER DEATHS IN THE U.S. ANNUALLY

Time Aired: 8:36

Synopsis:

Smoking often gets the attention, but new research shows alcohol is one of the leading causes of preventable cancer deaths in the U.S. A new study published in the April 2013 issue of the American Journal of Public Health shows that about 20,000 cancer deaths in the U.S. a year -- about 3.5 percent of all cancer-related deaths -- are caused by alcohol consumption. The World Health has labeled alcohol as the world's third largest risk factor for disease burden, saying it can cause neuropsychiatric disorders and other chronic diseases such as heart diseases, cirrhosis of the liver and various cancers. It added that 30 percent of cancer deaths are caused by five behavioral and dietary factors, including high body mass index, low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, tobacco use and alcohol use. Previous studies have shown that drinking alcohol can increase risk factors cancers of the mouth, throat, esophagus, liver, colon, rectum and breast, the study authors noted. Other worldwide statistics show that alcohol is a cause for about 4 percent of cancer deaths worldwide, but before this study, not that much research has focused on the US.

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02/16/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: LEGION OF CHRIST UNSEALED DOCUMENTS

Time Aired 5:24

Synopsis:

Newly unsealed documents in a lawsuit brought against the Roman Catholic order Legion of Christ show the group's former second-in-command testified he discovered the order's founder, the late Rev. Marcial Maciel, had fathered a daughter in 2006, but never confronted him about his double life and didn't share the news with the group's broader membership. The documents, previously sealed in a lawsuit in Superior Court in Rhode Island, include thousands of pages of testimony from high-ranking leaders at the Legion, its members, and relatives of Rhode Island widow Gabrielle Mee, who bequeathed \$60 million to the Legion before her death at age 96 in 2008. The Legion, founded by Maciel decades ago in Mexico City, was taken over by the Vatican in 2010 after a church investigation determined that Maciel had sexually molested seminarians and fathered three children by two women. The scandal, which tarnished the legacy of Pope John Paul II, has been cited as an especially egregious example of how the Vatican ignored decades of reports about sexually abusive priests because church leaders put the interests of the institution above those of the victims.

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02/17/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION PLAN LEAKED

Time Aired: 6:24

Synopsis:

It's a supposed White House plan for comprehensive immigration reform. Republicans are already calling it...dead on arrival...half-baked...and seriously flawed. A leaked draft proposal circulating throughout various departments would allow for illegal immigrants to obtain green cards within 8 years. It also calls for increased border patrol funding and expanded e-verify system so businesses can check employees' legal status. Republicans didn't hesitate to voice their discontent. The White House has not publically released the language or specific proposals for a bill, but the president has warned Congress he's poised to act if they don't move quickly on immigration reform. Overnight the White House also issued this statement. "The president has made clear the principles upon which he believes any commonsense immigration reform effort should be based".

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02/19/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM LATEST

Time Aired 2:25

Synopsis:

The White House sought to keep delicate immigration negotiations on track Tuesday as a key Republican senator further distanced himself from a draft bill President Barack Obama's aides are readying in case congressional talks crumble. Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio's office said Obama's plan "injected additional partisanship into an already difficult process." The White House, following the weekend leak of its draft legislation, insisted the president wants the bipartisan Senate group of which Rubio is a member to propose its own bill instead. Obama spoke with Rubio on Tuesday to reiterate his commitment to the Senate process, but to make clear that he had his own legislation ready, the White House said. The president also called Republicans Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and John McCain of Arizona, two other GOP lawmakers involved in the immigration negotiations.

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02/20/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRATION FORUM

Time Aired 3:33 pm

Synopsis:

New Yorkers for Real Immigration Reform, a new statewide campaign endorsed by labor, faith, grassroots and immigrant leaders and organizations from across the state, hosted a roundtable on the current proposals for reform. Leading immigrant rights advocates, policy experts and directly affected individuals will discuss reforms being considered by Congress and the President and will outline the measures that must be included in any meaningful comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: GAS PRICES

Time Aired 4:19 pm

Synopsis:

The price of gasoline is continuing to rise with no signs of slowing down anytime soon. AAA said on Monday that gas prices have been on the rise for 32 days straight with officials predicting the prices will stay high through April. According to AAA, the national average has now reached its most expensive ever for this early in the year at \$3.75 a gallon, a 15 cent increase from the week prior. In California, the state with one of the largest Latino populations, the gasoline average is at a national high at \$4.17 a gallon.

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: MCCAIN ON IMMIGRATION

Time Aired 4:19 pm

Synopsis:

Arizona took center stage in the national immigration debate Tuesday as Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano toured the state's border with Mexico and Sen. John McCain defended his proposed immigration overhaul to an angry crowd in suburban Phoenix. The presence of the top officials is the latest sign that Arizona will play a prominent role in the immigration debate as President Barack Obama looks to make it a signature issue of his second term.

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: USA COURT ON IMMIGRATION
Time Aired 5:20 pm

Synopsis:
The U.S. Supreme Court declined on Wednesday to apply retroactively a 2010 ruling that requires lawyers to tell clients who are not citizens that they can be deported if they plead guilty to certain criminal offenses. The 7-2 decision was a defeat for thousands of immigrants who might have been able to withdraw guilty pleas in cases alleging ineffective counsel. These cases predated the court's 2010 ruling that immigrants should be told the consequences of guilty pleas.

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02/21/13

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: AFL-CIO AGREEMENT REFORM
Time Aired: 6:24

Synopsis:
After two months of negotiations, the AFL-CIO and the U.S Chamber of Commerce have come to an agreement on three basic principles for a visa program for low-skilled workers. The agreement is a significant step forward for immigration reform efforts for the bipartisan Senate working group, who brought the two influential groups to the table and asked them to find common ground on one of the most controversial pieces of immigration reform. The three principles: American workers should have a first crack at available jobs; there needs to be a way for businesses to hire foreign workers without having to go through a cumbersome and inefficient process, but also protects American workers; and finally that Congress needs to add transparency to the system to know how much labor the market needs.

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02/22/13

Duration: 45 secs
Time Aired: 5:25
Topic: FEDERAL SPENDING CUT EFFECTS

Synopsis:
On March 1, \$85 billion in across-the-board federal spending cuts-known in Washington parlance as the sequester-are set to begin, prompted by a 2011 law designed to reduce the government's budget deficit. Here are answers to some commonly asked questions about how it would work, assuming it takes effect as scheduled. The sequester cuts - including painful slashing of defense spending - now seem inevitable. The question now is how long they'll last. With Washington at loggerheads over spending and taxes, a round of harsh spending cuts - known as the 'sequester' - is imminent. The sequester was one result of the deficit-reduction deal struck by the White House and Congress in the summer of 2011, which also raised the government's borrowing limit, and fits within Washington's broad yet stuttering efforts to bring the budget deficit down to levels most economists consider sustainable. Republicans wanted significant spending cuts as a condition for voting to raise the debt ceiling. The parties agreed to raise the debt ceiling and implement new caps on spending for 10 years, which would save \$917 billion. Both sides knew they would need more deficit reduction to win Republican support. So the White House proposed a process aimed at forcing lawmakers to craft a deal over the next 16 months.

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02/25/2013

Duration: 45 secs.

Time Aired: 2:20pm

Topic: IMMIGRATION MEETING

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama on Tuesday will meet Senator John McCain and Senator Lindsey Graham, leading Republicans working on a bipartisan immigration reform plan, to discuss efforts to overhaul the U.S. system, a White House official said on Monday. McCain and Graham are part of a "Gang of Eight" group of Republican and Democratic senators who are trying to craft immigration legislation. Obama has spoken by phone to Republicans involved in the effort but this would be his first face-to-face talks with them on the issue.

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02/26/2013

Duration: 45 secs.

Time Aired: 4:30pm

Topic: RELEASE IMMIGRANTS FROM JAIL

Synopsis:

A week before mandatory budget cuts go into effect across the government, the Department of Homeland Security has started releasing illegal immigrants being held in immigration jails across the country, Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Tuesday. Gillian Christensen, an ICE spokeswoman, said ICE has reviewed "several hundred cases" of immigrants being held in jails around the country and released them in the last week. They have been "placed on an appropriate, more cost-effective form of supervised release," she said. Christensen said the agency's "priority for detention remains on serious criminal offenders and other individuals who pose a significant threat to public safety." She did not say how released immigrants were selected or what jails they were released from. Tuesday's announcement of jail releases is the first tangible impact of the looming budget cuts for DHS.

Duration: 45 secs.

Time Aired: 6:30pm

Topic: OBAMA IMMIGRATION

Synopsis:

U.S. Senator John McCain on Tuesday predicted that efforts to craft a wide-ranging, bipartisan immigration reform bill would come together promptly in the Senate, which could eliminate the need for President Barack Obama to propose his own measure. The Arizona Republican lawmaker, who is one of the negotiators on a bipartisan measure, emerged from a meeting with President Barack Obama upbeat about prospects in Congress. "We are committed to trying to get the issue resolved as quickly as possible and I think we will ... in a reasonable time frame," McCain told reporters after returning to Capitol Hill. Obama has warned that if immigration reform efforts faltered in Congress, he would put forth a legislative proposal.

Duration: 45 secs.

Time Aired: 7:30pm

Topic: BREAST CANCER SCREANING

Synopsis:

More young women are being diagnosed with advanced, metastatic breast cancer than were three decades ago, a new study said, but the overall rate of cancer in that group is still small. One in 173 women will develop breast cancer before she turns 40, researchers said, and the prognosis tends to be worse for younger patients. In the new study, a team led by Dr Rebecca Johnson at Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington found the rate of metastatic breast cancer rose about 2 percent each year between 1976 and 2009 among younger women.

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02/27/2013

Duration: 45 secs.

Time Aired: 2:29pm

Topic: BREAST CANCER

Synopsis:

A new study finds that advanced breast cancer cases have increased slightly among young women. It's still uncommon in women younger than 40, and experts are uncertain about the reasons for the increase. The results are in an analysis of 34 years of U.S. cancer data. They're potentially worrisome because young women's tumors tend to be more aggressive and they're much less likely to get routine screening than older women. The study appears in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Duration: 45 secs.

Time Aired: pm

Topic: VIRTUAL MARCH

Synopsis:

A coalition of large companies in the United States announced a 'virtual demonstration' to ask Congress to pass a reform that allows the hiring of skilled foreign workers. The initiative aims to put pressure on legislators to implement radical changes to national immigration laws with the aim of recruiting staff abroad highly trained to work in the technology sector. The partnership for a new American economy, led by the Mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, and which brings together prominent figures in the world of technology, has invited the so-called 'March for Innovation', which will culminate in mid-April when it is expected the Congress to undertake the debate on immigration reform.

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02/28/13

Duration: 45 secs

Time Aired: 5:24

Topic: ARPAIO WILL BEGIN CHARGING PRISIONERS FOR MEAL

Synopsis:

Maricopa County jail inmates will start paying for their own meals beginning in January under a policy Sheriff Joe Arpaio revealed Thursday afternoon. The move could save taxpayers more than \$900,000 each year in food costs, if the Sheriff's Office's early estimates are accurate. The policy would charge inmates \$1.25 per day for their meals. It would apply only to those inmates who have money in personal accounts or "on their books." Arpaio estimated that about 2,000 of the nearly 10,000 inmates in the system will end up paying for food each day. Those who can't afford to pay will still receive food, but Arpaio said prison officials will track their free meals. Inmates can accrue money in their accounts in two ways. If they're carrying cash when they are arrested, it goes into an account. Later, friends and relatives can send them money.

=====END OF FEBRUARY REPORT=====

UNIMAS NEWS BRIEFS

MARCH 1, 2013 - MARCH 31, 2013

03/01/13

Duration: 45sec

Topic: AUTOMATIC SPENDING CUTS MEETING

Time Aired: 5:27 pm

Synopsis:

President Obama spoke to reporters after meeting with congressional leaders about the automatic spending cuts, known as sequestration. In his remarks he blamed Republican lawmakers for failing to stop the cuts from beginning later in the day, arguing he could not perform a "Jedi mind meld" to get Republicans to agree on a deal. As part of a deal for raising the federal debt ceiling, the Budget Control Act of 2011 created sequestration on January 1, 2013, automatic spending cuts that are split 50/50 between defense and non-defense spending unless Congress would pass an alternate deficit reduction plan. The cuts had been delayed until March 1, 2013 as part of a "fiscal cliff" agreement.

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03/02/13

Duration: 45secs

Topic: USA-USING GUNS IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Time Aired: 3:31 PM

Synopsis:

Whether carrying guns in public transportation is lawful in the state of Illinois, has recently aroused fierce disputes in the United States. Illinois is the sole state that bans taking guns out. However, in late December 2012 the federal court ruled that Illinois' gun banning violates the constitution and ordered the state to draw laws in six months to allow the citizens to carry pistols or guns in a secret way at public places. The National Rifle Association (NRA), the largest gun-owner organization in U.S., strongly supports the legalization of carrying guns in bus and train, saying it is a right protected by the constitution and passengers have the right to hold weapons for self-protection. However, the citizens of the states are panicked.

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03/04/13

Duration: 45secs

Topic: ADULTS ATTENTION DEFICIT

Time Aired: 3:27 pm

Synopsis:

Attention deficit disorder often lasts past childhood; study says researchers find a majority of children with ADHD have continued symptoms, or symptoms of another psychiatric disorder, in adulthood.

Duration: 45secs

Topic: HIV BABY CURE

Time Aired: 3:27 pm

Synopsis:

A baby born with the virus that causes AIDS appears to have been cured, scientists announced Sunday, describing the case of a child from Mississippi who's now 2 1/2 and has been off medication for about a year with no signs of infection. There's no guarantee the child will remain healthy, although sophisticated testing uncovered just traces of the virus' genetic material still lingering. If so, it would mark only the world's second reported cure.

Duration: 45secs

Topic: APPEAL FOR IMMIGRANT DETAINEES

Time Aired: 4:22 pm

Synopsis:

Hundreds of immigrants spend months or even years in federal immigration detention centers without being offered a bond hearing, attorneys from the ACLU Foundation of Southern California (ACLU/SC) told a panel of judges of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday. ACLU/SC brought the case on behalf of immigrants detained across Southern California. Access to a bond hearing while they fight their cases in the immigration courts is part of due process guaranteed by the Constitution.

Duration: 45secs

Topic: ARIZONA DAY LABORERS

Time Aired: 8:18 pm

Synopsis:

A U.S. appeals court ruled on Monday on the side of day laborers seeking work in Arizona, upholding an injunction that bars the state from enforcing part of its immigration law that prohibits motorists from stopping traffic to pick up workers. In the unanimous ruling, a three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals found the state law, by criminalizing certain interactions between drivers and day laborers, went too far in restricting commercial free speech rights.

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03/08/13

Duration: 45secs

Topic: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS 7.7 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY

Time Aired: 5:25 PM

Synopsis:

Despite the Obama administration's doomsday warnings about the impact of sequester, hiring picked up last month as the unemployment rate fell to the lowest level in four years. The February jobs report released Friday showed the economy added 236,000 jobs, bringing the unemployment rate to 7.7 percent from 7.9 percent the month before. The report comes as the market picks up, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average consistently closing above 14,000 this week. The economy is still shaky and recent reports have also reflected a jittery jobs market. There are still 12 million unemployed, with even more who are in part-time jobs or have left the job market altogether. And the automatic government spending cuts which took effect March 1 will likely take time to ripple into the broader economy.

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03/10/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: CHICAGO IMMIGRATION RALLY

Time Aired: 8:30 pm

Synopsis:

Protestors marched through Chicago's West Side Sunday calling for an end to deportations. They started at Union Park and walked to Federal Plaza. Some of those taking part say that while Congress and President Obama's administration talk about immigration reform, deportations are still taking place and families are being separated. Among those marching Sunday was a brother and sister who say they were brought to the United States from Mexico as children. Both say they have been deported and separated from their families. Sunday's march was part of a month-long series of events called Coming Out of the Shadows, in which people are urged to publicly state their immigration status.

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03/11/13

Duration: 45secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time Aired: 5.25 pm

Synopsis:

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced her agency plans to release even more detained illegal aliens to address budget cuts mandated by sequestration. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had already released 2,000 illegal aliens prior to sequestration taking effect and planned to release an additional 3,000 by the end of March. At the time ICE downplayed the report, claiming that several hundred "low-risk" illegal aliens were released. During the event, Napolitano again repeated the Administration's narrative that "only" several hundred detainees were released. However, House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) published an internal ICE document - presumably the one reviewed by AP - that explicitly details the Administration's plan to release 1,000 detained illegal aliens per week from February 15 through March 31.

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03/12/13

Duration: 45secs.

Topic: SENATE DEMS PASS GUN BILL

Time Aired: 3:30pm

Synopsis:

Members of the Senate Judiciary committee approved legislation today that would expand background checks on all gun sales. The vote on the Democratic proposal was ten-to-eight. It now goes to the full Senate for consideration. President Obama began a push for tighter gun control measures following the massacre at a Connecticut elementary school.

Duration: 45secs.

Topic: SODAS BAN

Time Aired: 4:30pm

Synopsis:

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg vowed on Monday to appeal a judge's ruling that struck down his pioneering ban on large sugary drinks sold by the city's restaurants, movie theaters and other food service businesses just a day before it was to take effect. The judge called the ban "arbitrary and capricious" in an 11th-hour decision that dealt a serious blow to Bloomberg, who has made public health a cornerstone of his administration, with laws prohibiting smoking in restaurants, bars and parks; banning trans fats; and requiring chain restaurants to post calorie counts.

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03/16/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: AIDS LATEST

Time Aired: 4.30 PM

Synopsis:

Treating people with HIV rapidly after they have become infected with the virus that causes AIDS may be enough to achieve a "functional cure" in a small proportion of patients diagnosed early, according to new research. Scientists in France who followed 14 patients who were treated very swiftly with HIV drugs but then stopped treatment found that even when they had been off therapy for more than seven years, they still showed no signs of the virus rebounding. The research, published in the journal PLoS Pathogens, follows news earlier this month about a baby girl in Mississippi in the United States being effectively cured of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) after receiving very early treatment. Christine Rouzioux, a professor at Necker Hospital and University Paris Descartes and a member of the initial team who

identified HIV 30 years ago, said the new results showed the number of infected cells circulating in the blood of these patients, known as "post-treatment controllers", kept falling even without treatment for many years. A functional cure describes when the virus is reduced to such low levels that it is kept at bay even without continuing treatment. The virus, however, is still detectable in the body. Most of the some 34 million people with HIV across the world will have to take anti-AIDS drugs known as antiretroviral therapy for the whole of their lives. These drugs generally keep the disease in check but also have side effects and a high cost impact on health systems. Worldwide, the number of people newly infected with HIV, which can be transmitted via blood and by semen during sex, is falling. At 2.5 million, the number of new infections in 2011 was 20 percent lower than in 2001, according to the United National AIDS programme (UNAIDS). And deaths from AIDS fell to 1.7 million in 2011, down from a peak of 2.3 million in 2005.

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03/17/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: VOTER'S CITIZEN PROOF (ARIZONA)

Time Aired: 9:38 PM

Synopsis:

The Supreme Court will struggle this week with the validity of an Arizona law that tries to keep illegal immigrants from voting by demanding all state residents show documents proving their U.S. citizenship before registering to vote in national elections. The high court will hear arguments Monday over the legality of Arizona's voter-approved requirement that prospective voters document their U.S. citizenship in order to use a registration form produced under the federal "Motor Voter" voter registration law that doesn't require such documentation. This case focuses on voter registration in Arizona, which has tangled frequently with the federal government over immigration issues involving the Mexican border. But it has broader implications because four other states - Alabama, Georgia, Kansas and Tennessee - have similar requirements, and 12 other states are contemplating similar legislation, officials say.

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03/19/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: MORTON TALKS ABOUT RELEASED UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

Time Aired: 6.26 pm

Synopsis:

The release of illegal immigrants from U.S. detention due to budget concerns was undertaken with care to ensure that security was not compromised, the head of the immigration enforcement agency said on Tuesday. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton, at a House Judiciary Committee hearing, defended his agency's decision last month to release 2,228 illegal immigrants from detention centers because of budget constraints. They were placed on alternative supervision such as being required to call in regularly or wear an electronic monitor. Republicans charged that the release was part of scare tactics used by President Barack Obama's administration over mandatory budget cuts, and they pressed Morton on whether his agency had received any pressure. Morton repeatedly denied that his agency had spoken with officials from the White House and the Department of Homeland Security about the decision to release the illegal immigrants before it happened.

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03/20/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: GUN CONTROL WITHOUT SUPPORT

Time Aired: 5:17 pm

Synopsis:

The NRA has won. Congressional leaders said Tuesday a proposed federal ban on assault weapons is all but dead, crushed by the powerful gun lobby. Although anticipated, the move let down still-grieving loved ones of those massacred in Newtown, Conn., and more than 140,000 Daily News readers who petitioned for the legislation. Support for reinstating the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines seemed to mount in the weeks after 20-year-old Adam Lanza mowed down 20 kids and six adults with an AR-15 assault rifle at Sandy Hook. President Obama, who vowed to push for the ban, delivered a powerful speech Feb. 10 that invoked Newtown and the July 2012 Colorado movie theater massacre that left 12 people dead and 58 injured. But the Senate's top Democrat said Tuesday that there wasn't enough support in the Senate to pass the ban on the manufacture and sale of 157 types of semi-automatic assault weapons.

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03/21/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: BIDEN AND BLOOMBERG ON GUN CONTROL

Time Aired: 2:26 PM

Synopsis:

Relatives of shooting victims from Newtown, Conn., stood with Vice President Joe Biden as he spoke at New York's City Hall in favor of an assault weapons ban. Senate Democrats have dropped the ban from the gun control package they plan to consider next month. However, Biden reiterated Thursday that the White House is still pushing for the measure.

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRATION POLL

Time Aired: 3:35 PM

Synopsis:

A majority of Americans believe the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be allowed to become citizens, a new survey shows. Some 63% of nearly 4,500 surveyed supported a path to citizenship "provided they meet certain requirements," the poll by the Public Religion Research Institute and the Brookings Institution showed. The survey, released Thursday, adds public support to bipartisan immigration plans being hashed out in both the House and Senate that are expected to include a path to citizenship.

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: COVER UP SEX ABUSE

Time Aired: 7:42 PM

Synopsis:

Lawyers and parents representing victims of the LAUSD have uncovered evidence of a "cover up" of sexual abuse at the highest levels of the LAUSD since 2009; and have uncovered evidence that the LAUSD has written reports and memos documenting that parents complained to LAUSD staff, including an LAUSD Area Superintendent, of the teacher's sexual abuse of girls, in a case where as usual, the parents were ignored. Starting in the 1990's the LAUSD has failed to protect children and the LAUSD "covers up" sexual abuse of children. A California State Audit confirmed that before April, 2012, the LAUSD "did not send any notifications to parents regarding teacher misconduct."

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: DEATHS BLAMED ON SALT
Time Aired: 7:42 PM

Synopsis:
On the heels of a study linking sugary drinks to 25,000 U.S. deaths a year, new research suggests salty food is even more dangerous. The new study, by the same Harvard research team, linked excessive salt consumption to nearly 2.3 million cardiovascular deaths worldwide in 2010. One in 10 Americans dies from eating too much salt, the researchers found.

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM DATE
Time Aired: 8:15 PM

Synopsis:
Two months have gone by and legislation still has not been written. Although the Senate Judiciary Committee has just held its second hearings on the subject, they had expected to review legislation written by either the president or the bipartisan coalition by early March. It is now clear that the committee will not receive anything to review before their two-week Easter break, which begins Friday. Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy expressed frustration yesterday at the slow pace the bill is moving at saying "Because we do not yet have legislative language to debate, the Senate Judiciary Committee will not be able to report a comprehensive immigration bill by the end of April, which was my goal."

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03/22/13

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: CITIZENSHIP POLL
Time Aired: 2:30 PM

Synopsis:
Nearly two-thirds of Americans favor giving illegal immigrants in the country an opportunity for legal status with a path to citizenship, according to a poll published Thursday by the Public Religion Research Institute and the Brookings Institution. Support for an earned path to citizenship for those immigrants came from 71 percent of Democrats and also a majority, 53 percent, of Republicans.

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: CHICAGO SCHOOLS
Time Aired: 3:30 PM

Synopsis:
Chicago Public Schools will close 54 elementary school programs and 61 school buildings, representing 13 percent of the elementary school buildings in the country's third largest public school district, the Chicago Teachers Union said on Thursday. Citing a list of schools to be closed provided by the district, the union said the schools would be shuttered primarily in Hispanic and African-American neighborhoods. The district, which has a \$1 billion annual deficit, has said it needs to close schools to save money.

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM LATEST
Time Aired: 4:30 PM

Synopsis:
More than two years after Homeland Security officials told Congress that they would produce new, more accurate standards to assess security at the nation's borders, senior officials from the department acknowledged this week that they had not completed the new measurements and were not likely to in coming months, as the debate proceeds about overhauling the immigration system.

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: MORE HATE CRIMES
Time Aired: 5:30 PM
Synopsis:

Nearly two-thirds of hate crimes go unreported in the country despite a heightened awareness on the issue, according to a new federal report. Between the years 2003 and 2006, 46 percent of hate crimes were reported to police, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics disclosed Thursday. But more recently, in 2007-2011, just 35 percent were reported.

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: GUN CONTROL
Time Aired: 6:30 PM
Synopsis:

Gun control fight enters round two after NRA victory on assault weapons. Proponents of reform switch attention to extension of federal background checks as pro-gun lobby marshals its defenses.

Duration: 45 secs
Topic: CLOSING 149 REGIONAL AIRPORT CONTROL TOWERS
Time Aired: 8:08 PM
Synopsis:

The F-A-A announced Friday it's planning to close 149 regional airport control towers due to forced spending cuts. The plans involve closing the towers over a four-week period beginning on April 7-th. Critics worry shutting down the towers could impact safety. But the F-A-A says it will manage the system by reducing volume, not reducing safety.

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03/23/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: OBAMA GUN CONTROL
Time Aired: 6.30 pm
Synopsis:

President Barack Obama put the spotlight back on gun violence on Saturday, praising senators for taking "big steps" to advance gun bills but pressing lawmakers to finish the job and deliver legislation to his desk in the coming weeks. In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama said the nation has changed in the three months since the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., that took the lives of 20 children and six adults. There is "still genuine disagreement" about how to reduce gun violence, he said, but everyone now agrees that it is time to do something. The bills with broader support will be lumped together into one package, while the more controversial pieces -- including the assault weapons ban -- will be taken up as individual amendments to the package.

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03/24/13

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic; CALIFORNIA IMMIGRATION POLL
Time Aired: 9:25 pm
Synopsis:

In a dramatic shift from just a few years ago, Californians across age, race and political affiliation favor an immigration policy that includes a path to citizenship for certain illegal immigrants as well as enhanced border security and workplace enforcement, according to results of the largest statewide survey of registered voters. Overall, 72 percent of voters in the latest USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Poll favored comprehensive changes to the immigration system including a path to citizenship, and 21 percent opposed the plan. Nearly 3 out of 4 voters also favor a guest-worker program. The results of the USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Poll show a significant shift in voter sentiment toward illegal immigrants in

just a few years. In Nov. 2010, 41 percent of Republican voters and 69 percent of Democratic voters supported the possibility of allowing illegal immigrants to stay in the country permanently if they fulfilled "certain obligations such as paying a fine," according to polling from USC and the Los Angeles Times. Twenty-six percent of Democratic voters and 51 percent of Republican voters opposed it.

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03/26/13

Duration; 45 secs.

Topic: SUPREME COURT GAY MARRIAGE

Time Aired: 4:35 pm

Synopsis:

The Supreme Court signaled reluctance on Tuesday to rule broadly on the question of the right to marriage for gays and lesbians as the justices heard arguments on same-sex marriage for the first time. As thousands of demonstrators on both sides of America's long-standing gay rights divide rallied outside, the court heard a spirited, 80-minute oral argument on whether to let stand a California ban on same-sex marriage. Despite the case being one of the most eagerly anticipated legal showdowns of the year, some of the nine justices showed an unwillingness to dive headfirst into the delicate and divisive issue. Though polls show growing support among Americans for gay marriage, only nine states recognize it, while 30 states have constitutional amendments prohibiting it.

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03/27/13

Duration; 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA INTERVIEW

Time Aired: 2:24 pm

Synopsis:

President Obama sat for interviews Wednesday with Univision to talk immigration reform. The president indicated then that he was -- for the time being -- leaving the development of legislation to members of Congress who were showing signs of bipartisan cooperation. During a naturalization ceremony at the White House on Monday, Obama said that he was still waiting on Congress but expected to see the debate ramp up in the coming weeks.

Duration; 45 secs.

Topic: GAY MARRIAGE

Time Aired: 2:24 pm

Synopsis:

Concluding two days of intense debate, the Supreme Court signaled Wednesday it could give a boost to same-sex marriage by striking down the federal law that denies legally married gay spouses a wide range of benefits offered to other couples. As the court wrapped up its remarkable arguments over gay marriage in America, a majority of the justices indicated they will invalidate part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act -- if they can get past procedural problems similar to those that appeared to mark Tuesday's case over California's ban on same-sex marriage.

Duration; 45 secs.

Topic: SENATORS VISIT THE BORDER

Time Aired: 3:23 pm

Synopsis:

A group of U.S. senators who will be influential in shaping and negotiating details of an immigration reform package is traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona to get a firsthand look at issues affecting the region. Republican Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake of Arizona were expected to tour the border

Wednesday with Democratic Sens. Chuck Schumer of New York and Michael Bennet of Colorado. They are all members of the so-called Gang of Eight -- a bipartisan group that has spent recent weeks trying to craft proposed immigration legislation.

Duration; 45 secs.

Topic: AMERICANS AND CANCER

Time Aired: 8:27 pm

Synopsis:

Better cancer treatments and an aging population will push the number of cancer survivors in the U.S. to nearly 18 million by 2022, according to a new report from researchers at the National Cancer Institute. As of January 2012, there were 13.7 million survivors of bladder, breast, colorectal, kidney, lung, prostate, thyroid and other cancers, the report says. Over 10 years, that figure is projected to grow 31% to 17,981,391, the researchers estimate. Today, the biggest group of cancer survivors is women who had breast cancer (22%), followed by men who had prostate cancer (20%).

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03/29/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: OBAMA IN MIAMI: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMICS

Time Aired: 5:23 pm

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama is trying to show that the economy remains a top priority -- with a visit to Florida today to promote a plan that would create construction and other jobs. The plan is aimed at attracting private money to help rebuild roads, bridges and other public works projects. Obama outlined the plan at a Miami port that is undergoing \$2 billion in upgrades -- paid for with government and private dollars. He said even though the unemployment rate among construction workers has been cut in half over the past three years, it's still the highest of any industry. Obama said rebuilding the nation's infrastructure is a way to create jobs and strengthen the economy over the long run. The proposals would need approval from Congress. They include \$4 billion in new spending on two infrastructure programs that award loans and grants. He's also urging higher caps on what are called "private activity bonds." They're used by state and local governments to attract investment. In Obama's State of the Union speech last month, private-sector investment in infrastructure was a key part of his economic agenda.

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03/30/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: LEADERS CLEAR HURDLE IN IMMIGRATION

Time Aired: 9:11 pm

Synopsis:

Labor and business leaders have agreed to a plan for setting wages for low-skilled immigrant workers, possibly ending a scuffle that delayed negotiations in the Senate over a sweeping plan to overhaul the country's immigration system and create a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the country, officials involved in the talks said. Senators drafting the bill are reviewing the compromise, worked out Friday by representatives from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO, and have not yet decided to include it in their bill, the officials said. But the breakthrough may put the bipartisan group of eight senators back on track to unveil a bill soon after Congress returns from a two-week recess on April 8. Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said in a statement that the negotiators are now "closer than we have ever been." The Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO were asked by the senators in December to design a guest worker program that would satisfy labor shortages in the U.S. while still protecting workers rights.

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03/31/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRANT DEAL PREMATURE

Time Aired: 6:10

Synopsis:

Two of the lawmakers negotiating an immigration overhaul in Congress say a final deal is at hand but caution that the bipartisan group working on a proposal hasn't finished its work. Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona said on Sunday that organized labor and the business leaders have reached an agreement on immigration. But they both told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the so-called Gang of Eight senators haven't yet signed-off on final legislative language. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, is also part of the bipartisan group working on an immigration deal. After reports emerged on Saturday that the AFL-CIO and the Chamber of Commerce agreed on a deal, Rubio issued a statement calling a compromise "premature."

=====END OF MARCH 2013 REPORT=====