

UNIMAS NEWS BRIEFS

APRIL 1, 2013 - APRIL 30, 2013

04/01/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: ILLINOIS BUSINESS PUSH IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 5:21 pm

Synopsis:

A new group of business leaders wants to recruit 300 CEOs and 1,000 small businesses in Illinois to push for "common sense" bipartisan immigration reform. The Illinois Business Immigration Coalition includes leaders from Peoria-based Caterpillar Inc. as well as Motorola Solutions Inc., the University of Illinois, trade groups and immigration-rights advocates. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel backs the coalition. Caterpillar CEO Douglas Oberhelman spoke at a kickoff event Monday in Chicago. He says the manufacturer has trouble filling both high- and lower-skill jobs and immigration reform could help. The coalition is forming as lawmakers in Washington seek to hammer out details of a potential immigration law overhaul. Business and labor leaders last week agreed on a broad outline. Emanuel says it's "a huge opportunity" that shouldn't be squandered "because of politics".

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04/02/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: NRA CALLS FOR TRAINED, ARMED SCHOOL STAFF

Time 4:25 pm

Synopsis:

As Democrats struggle to shepherd a slew of embattled gun laws through Congress, a group associated with and funded by the National Rifle Association (NRA) is pushing its own proposal for reducing mass shootings in schools, unveiling Tuesday a 225-page "school safety" report that recommends sending a trained, armed officer to every school in America, as well as various "layered security" measures it says will make schools safer. Led by former Rep. Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark., who announced the plan in a press conference Tuesday morning, the so-called "NRA National School Shield Initiative" outlines eight recommendations it says would boost school security nationwide. Hutchinson stressed that the "initiative" is fully independent from the NRA -- which he said budgeted \$1 million for the effort -- and that the pro-gun lobby was under no obligation to enforce any of its recommendations.

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04/03/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: TPS HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA

Time 2:25 pm

Synopsis:

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for eligible nationals of Nicaragua for an additional 18 months, beginning July 6, 2013, and ending Jan. 5, 2015. Current Nicaraguan beneficiaries seeking to extend their TPS status must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period that runs from April 3, 2013, through June 3, 2013. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) encourage beneficiaries to register as soon as possible once the 60-day re-registration period begins. Applications will not be accepted before April 3, 2013.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM LATEST

Time 3:19 pm

Synopsis:

In the shadow of a bipartisan Senate group preparing to roll out broad immigration legislation next week, shortly after Congress returns from its holiday break, a bipartisan group of eight House members is readying its own bill. In contrast to the Senate plan - which would provide one clear, if difficult, path to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country - the House legislation will most likely offer three distinct paths to legal status. Young immigrants in the country without legal papers, who often call themselves "Dreamers," and low-skilled agricultural workers would qualify for an expedited road to legal status, people familiar with the negotiations said. The Dreamers should not be punished for being brought illegally to the country by their parents, House aides said, and the members agreed that the agricultural workers perform crucial work for the economy.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: REPUBLICANS AND IMMIGRATION POLL

Time 6:30 pm

Synopsis:

Who to please? The new ABC News/Washington Post poll on immigration reform asks that basic question of Republicans on Capitol Hill. Does the GOP try to broaden its appeal and support what appears to be a very popular issue in immigration reform, with 57 percent of responders behind the so-called "path to citizenship" for undocumented immigrants? That includes 58 percent of crucial independent voters, which both Democrats and Republicans need nationally. Or do individual Republican members of Congress look at the other number in the poll that shows that their base vehemently rejects allowing 11 million undocumented to come out of the shadows and work their way to citizenship. Republicans oppose it by a whopping 60 percent to 35 percent.

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04/04/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: SURVEY LIVING TOGETHER

Time 2:25 pm

Synopsis:

Americans are increasingly saying "I do" to living together before marriage, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In fact, cohabitation is now more common among younger women than living with a spouse or living alone. The report, released Thursday, is based on data from the CDC's National Survey of Family. More than 12,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44 took part in the survey between 2006 and 2010. (So did more than 10,000 men, but the new study focuses on the women.)

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM DISCUSSION FOR SUMMER

Time 4:22 pm

Synopsis:

As negotiations on comprehensive immigration reform among key stakeholders enters its last phase, a top American Senator believes that the Senate would be able to vote on a Bill in this regard by this summer. "By this summer, I hope that all members of the Senate will be able to vote for or against comprehensive immigration reform and that each member will take into consideration the significant process that the Senate Judiciary Committee will have completed," Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy said in a letter to the Republican Senator Marco Rubio yesterday.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: GUN LAW CONNECTICUT

Time 4:22 pm

Synopsis:

Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy today signed a tough new gun law that, among several key provisions, restricts sales of the sort of high-capacity ammunition clips that a gunman used to massacre 26 people in minutes in a December attack on a school. Lawmakers in the state's Democratic-controlled House approved the measure, which supporters described as one of the toughest such laws in the United States, early on Thursday morning. The Senate approved the measure hours earlier.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA GUNS IMMIGRATION

Time 7:36 pm

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama says passing new gun control measures will be a tougher slog than immigration reform. Obama says he's optimistic immigration can get done within the next few months, because the impact of the November election is breaking through partisan gridlock.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS TO THE US

Time 7:36 pm

Synopsis:

A study shows that between 2011 and 2017, the net flow of Mexican immigrants entering the United States will reach 260,000 people per year.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: CANCER CLINICS TURNING PATIENTS

Time 8:24 pm

Synopsis:

Cancer clinics across the country have begun turning away thousands of Medicare patients, blaming the sequester budget cuts. Oncologists say the reduced funding, which took effect for Medicare on April 1, makes it impossible to administer expensive chemotherapy drugs while staying afloat financially. Patients at these clinics would need to seek treatment elsewhere, such as at hospitals that might not have the capacity to accommodate them.

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04/05/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM COSTS

Time 2:24 pm

Synopsis:

Senate Republican staffers estimated Thursday that the annual cost to taxpayers of legalizing illegal immigrants could be in the billions, if they use their status to apply for federal benefits from Medicaid and Obama Care. The claim, though, was challenged by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a key Republican engaged in immigration bill talks. Republicans on the Senate Budget Committee -- responding to an emerging immigration proposal that includes a path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants -- had estimated that the cost could total up to \$40 billion in 2022, "just for Medicaid and Obama Care."

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA CUTS MEDICARE

Time 2:24 pm

Synopsis:

President Obama will release a budget next week that proposes significant cuts to Medicare and Social Security and fewer tax hikes than in the past, a conciliatory approach that he hopes will convince

Republicans to sign onto a grand bargain that would curb government borrowing and replace deep spending cuts that took effect March 1.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: NY JUDGE RULES ON MORNING AFTER PILL

Time 5:19 pm

Synopsis:

A federal judge has ruled that the United States government must make the most common morning-after pill available over the counter for all ages, instead of requiring a prescription for girls 16 and under. The decision, on a fraught and politically controversial subject, comes after a decade-long fight over who should have access to the pill and under what circumstances, and it counteracts an unprecedented move by the Obama administration's Health and Human Services secretary who in 2011 overruled a recommendation by the Food and Drug Administration to make the pill available for all ages without a prescription.

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04/06/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: MARCH FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 6.12 pm

Synopsis:

On Saturday, thousands of South Floridians marched to "Say Yes" to a new immigration system, one that proponents tout as a real and inclusive path to citizenship for 11 million aspiring Americans. The march was the first of many taking place nationwide and leading up to a Washington, D.C. march on Wednesday. The march began at 12pm in Little Havana's Jose Marti Park and ended at the Torch of Friendship in Bayfront Park. Families who say they've been affected by U.S. immigration policy shared the stage with Miami Archbishop Westski, City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado, and several faith leaders, elected officials and artists.

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04/07/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: RALLY FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 4:37 pm

Synopsis:

As the debate and momentum for common sense comprehensive immigration intensifies, the pathway to passage remains fragile. The time has come to elevate public pressure on our elected leaders and compel them to negotiate reform, which includes a pathway to citizenship, workers' rights, and keeping families together. April 10th is the anniversary of the largest mobilization for immigrant rights in recent history (April 10, 2006) when over 70 cities across the US took action to encourage the senate to defeat the anti-human rights "Sensenbrenner Bill." This year's rally on April 10 is expected to draw tens of thousands of activists to the West Lawn of the Capitol and reassert the mandate from the election for Congress to finally act and pass reform. The D.C. rally will culminate a week of actions, which include lobbying, media events, phone banking, and educational forums.

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04/08/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: RED MEAT CHEMICAL AND HEART DAMAGES

Time: 5:17 pm

Synopsis:

US scientists claim red meat has dangerous chemicals. A chemical found in red meat helps explain why eating too much steak, mince and bacon is bad for the heart say US scientists. A study in the journal Nature Medicine showed that carnitine in red meat was broken down by bacteria in the gut. This kicked off a chain of events which resulted in higher levels of cholesterol and an increased risk of heart disease. Dieticians warned there may be a risk to people taking carnitine supplements. There has been a wealth of studies suggesting that regularly eating red meat may be damaging to health. In the UK, the government recommends eating no more than 70g of red or processed meat a day - the equivalent of two slices of bacon. Saturated fat and the way processed meat is preserved are thought to contribute to heart problems. However, this was not thought to be the whole story. Experiments on mice and people showed that bacteria in the gut could eat carnitine. Carnitine was broken down into a gas, which was converted in the liver to a chemical called TMAO. In the study, TMAO was strongly linked with the build-up of fatty deposits in blood vessels, which can lead to heart disease and death.

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04/09/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 3:28 pm

Synopsis:

It was a striking show of force as a bipartisan group of eight senators prepares to release far-reaching legislation. A path to citizenship is a central component, but it will not be as swift as some want. The bill will make clear that border security needs to be intensified before steps are taken toward citizenship, a concession to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and other Republicans who are helping craft the legislation. A border security plan, with a completed security fence, plus other steps, including an electronic system for workers to check the status of employees, will have to be implemented before a person could seek a green card, according to an outline of the legislation. If border security measures are not achieved within five years, then a commission of local officials will take action. Members of the bipartisan "Gang of 8" kept a low profile after days of speculation.

Duration: 45 SEC

Topic: GUN CONTROL

Time: 4:24

Synopsis:

The Senate is poised to begin the most wide-ranging and ambitious battle over gun control on Capitol Hill in 20 years, with a vote scheduled Thursday that would formally start the debate. News of that vote was a boost for the Obama administration, which has lobbied hard for increased background checks on potential gun buyers and for new limits on assault rifles and high-capacity ammunition magazines. All will face heavy opposition from the National Rifle Association and its Capitol Hill allies in both parties.

Duration: 45 SEC

Topic: MORTGAGE SETTLEMENTS

Time: 8:14

Synopsis:

A total of \$3.6 billion in cash payments will begin going out Friday to about 4.2 million borrowers whose home mortgages were in any stage of the foreclosure process in 2009 and 2010 and serviced by one of 13 banks. The payments will range from \$300 to \$125,000, but the average will be about \$850. Almost 80 percent will get \$1,000 or less, according to a payment breakdown. The payments were part of an

agreement reached earlier this year between the servicers and two federal regulators - the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Reserve.

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04/10/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: GUN CONTROL

Time: 2:27 pm

Synopsis:

Conservative senators from both parties announced their support for expanding background checks for gun buyers Wednesday, giving a burst of momentum to supporters of stronger restrictions. But big questions remain about whether President Barack Obama can push significant gun controls through Congress. The compromise between Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., boosted the chances that the Senate will agree to broaden required background checks, a step gun control groups laud as an effective way to keep weapons from criminals and the mentally ill. The senators are among the most conservative members of their parties, both have received "A" ratings from the National Rifle Association, and their endorsements could make it easier for hesitant colleagues to back the effort.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: IMMIGRATION RALLY

Time: 3:18 pm

Synopsis:

Thousands of supporters of immigration reform rallied around the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, calling on lawmakers to support a path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants. Demonstrators waved flags, from the United States and in smaller numbers Latin American countries, and held signs reading "Citizenship for 11 million" and "Basta ya! La deportacion," which translates to "Deportation, enough already."

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: OBAMA BUDGET

Time: 7:36 pm

Synopsis:

Mixing modest curbs on spending with tax increases reviled by Republicans, President Barack Obama proposed a \$3.8 trillion budget on Wednesday that would raise taxes on smokers and wealthy Americans and trim Social Security benefits for millions. Obama's 2014 blueprint combines a \$242 billion infusion of new spending for road and rail projects, early education and jobs initiatives -- all favored by Democrats -- with longer-term savings from programs including Medicare and the military. It promises at least a start in cutting huge annual federal deficits.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING LEAP

Time: 8:23 pm

Synopsis:

Apprehensions of illegal immigrants are up 13 percent this year, the chief of the U.S. Border Patrol told Congress on Wednesday as lawmakers continued to bash the Obama administration for failing to come up with a way of measuring how secure the borders are. The increase in apprehensions appears to contradict the administration's assertion that the border is more secure than ever - a claim that is critical to advocates' hopes of passing an immigration legalization bill this year.

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04/11/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: CARS RECALL

Time: 2:30 pm

Synopsis:

Toyota said it was recalling 1.7 million cars around the world, including some popular Corolla, Matrix and Camry models. Nissan recalled around 480,000 cars, while Mazda added another 45,000. Honda, which is recalling more than 1.1 million autos, said the recall was necessary to replace passenger front airbag inflators.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: GUN DEBATE

Time: 3:30 pm

Synopsis:

A day after the Senate voted to begin debate on new gun control measures, the Supreme Court is expected to consider a new appeal aimed at loosening state restrictions on firearms. The justices are meeting in private Friday to discuss adding new cases for the term that begins in the fall. Among them is an appeal of a federal court ruling that upheld New York's strict licensing scheme for carrying concealed weapons in public. The National Rifle Association and 20 states are backing an appeal by five New York residents who claim that the state law violates their constitutional gun rights. The challenge comes nearly five years after a landmark Supreme Court decision in favor of gun rights -- and four months after a gunman killed 20 children and six adults in Newtown, Conn.

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: DEMOCRATS IMMIGRATION PLAN

Time: 7:36 pm

Synopsis:

Just days before a bipartisan group of eight senators is expected to present legislation that would make broad changes to the nation's immigration system, a group of Democrats in the House unveiled its own blueprint for an immigration overhaul. The self-described group of moderate and pro-growth Democrats, the New Democrat Coalition, outlined four basic principles at a news conference on Thursday, including changing the country's employment and family-based immigration system to meet the needs of a global economy; ensuring that adequate resources are devoted to securing the border; mandating an efficient employment verification system to prevent immigrants from working illegally; and providing the 11 million immigrants already in the country illegally with "the opportunity to work toward permanent residency with a path to earned citizenship." In a two-page news release, the group said its principles were inspired by the desire for growth, efficiency, fairness and inclusion.

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04/12/13

Duration: 45 SEC

Topic: BRA STUDY

Time: 4:30

Synopsis:

A French study suggests some women should throw their bras in the trash. Professor Jean-Denis Rouillon, a sports medicine specialist from Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Besancon in Besancon, France, published a study on Wednesday that shows that wearing bras may not prevent women's breasts from sagging, and may in fact increase it. The 15-year study involved 330 volunteers between the ages 18 and 35. Researchers measured their breasts using a slide ruler and a caliper and recorded any changes throughout the study period. Women who did not wear bras had a 7 millimeter lift as measured from their nipples each year. Their breasts were also firmer, and their stretch marks faded. There was also no evidence that the bras helped get rid of back pain.

Duration: 45 SEC
Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM
Time: 9:33PM
Synopsis:

A bipartisan immigration bill soon to be introduced in the Senate could exclude hundreds of thousands of immigrants here illegally from ever becoming U.S. citizens, according to a Senate aide with knowledge of the proposals. The bill would bar anyone who arrived in the U.S. after Dec. 31, 2011, from applying for legal status and ultimately citizenship, according to the aide, who was not authorized to discuss the proposals before they were made public and spoke on condition of anonymity. It also would require applicants to document that they were in the country before Dec. 31, 2011, have a clean criminal record and show enough employment or financial stability that they're likely to stay off welfare.

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04/15/2013

Duration: 45 secs.
Topic: BOSTON BOMB LATEST
Time: 5:28 pm
Synopsis:

Federal agents zeroed in Tuesday on how the Boston Marathon bombing was carried out - with kitchen pressure cookers packed with explosives, nails and other lethal shrapnel - but said they still didn't know who did it and why. The FBI and other law enforcement agencies repeatedly appealed to the public to come forward with photos, videos or anything suspicious they might have seen or heard. President Barack Obama branded the attack an act of terrorism but said officials don't know "whether it was planned and executed by a terrorist organization, foreign or domestic, or was the act of a malevolent individual." Scores of victims of the Boston bombing remained in hospitals, many with grievous injuries, a day after the twin explosions near the marathon's finish line killed three people, wounded more than 170 and reawakened fears of terrorism. A 9-year-old girl and 10-year-old boy were among 17 victims listed in critical condition.

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04/16/2013

Duration:45 secs
Topic: DETAILS ABOUT THE IMMIGRATION REFORM
Time: 7:36 pm
Synopsis:

After months of bipartisan negotiations the Senate Gang of Eight has finally released their immigration reform bill. The all encompassing bill covers a range of immigration, employment and border security issues. Some key components of the bill include 1) increased funding for border security, 2) a temporary legal status for the roughly 11 million current undocumented immigrants that after more than a decade would lead to a potential path to citizenship, 3) a shorter pathway to citizenship for young people brought to the country as children, 4) substantial changes to future immigration and visa systems and 5) several new provisions to help prevent people in the future from working in the country illegally. The bill will first face a full mark up in committee followed by a long Senate floor debate. If it is approved it will head to the House where it will face its strongest opposition.

Duration:45 secs
Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM
Time: 7:44 pm
Synopsis:

The eight senators who crafted comprehensive U.S. legislation to overhaul the immigration system went to great lengths to balance the competing priorities of dozens of interest groups in an 844-page bill introduced on Wednesday in hopes it would improve the chances for passage of the bill. The courting of immigrants rights groups, farmers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the tech industry and the AFL-CIO

labor organization has paid off so far, with many of these players issuing positive initial statements about the bill.

Duration:45 secs

Topic: GUN CONTROL

Time: 7:44 pm

Synopsis:

The U.S. Senate on Wednesday rejected a bipartisan plan to expand background checks for gun buyers, dealing a crippling blow to President Barack Obama's campaign to curb gun violence after the Newtown school massacre. Despite emotional pleas from families of victims of the Newtown, Connecticut, shootings and broad public support nationwide, the plan to extend background checks to online and gun-show sales failed on a 54-46 vote, six short of the 60-vote hurdle needed to clear the Senate.

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4/17/2013

Duration; 45 secs

Topic: TEXAS EXPLOSION LATEST

Time: 5.28 pm

Synopsis:

Rescue crews are searching the smoldering remains of a fertilizer facility in central Texas, and a swath of destroyed homes around it, for victims of a massive explosion that injured more than 160 people and may have killed as many as 15, authorities said. The estimate of how many may have died in the explosion Wednesday night includes an estimated three or four "first responders" who remained missing hours after the blast, most likely volunteer firefighters or ambulance workers. Officials said they were among many who responded to a fire at the West Fertilizer Co. retail facility and were urgently trying to evacuate people from the area, after realizing that the blaze had the potential to trigger a huge blast.

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04/18/2013

Duration:45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 8:23 pm

Synopsis:

Senators are formally unveiling a wide-ranging immigration bill with support from business executives, religious leaders, activists and others. The sponsors are four Republicans and four Democrats. They hope that, unlike past efforts, this time the coalition of support will hold firm and repel attacks from the right. Support for the bill is already being put to the test as conservatives grow more vocal in opposition. They are mischaracterizing part of the bill to claim that immigrants here illegally would get free cell phones. The bill would secure the border, allow new workers into the country while requiring employers to verify their legal status, and put 11 million people here illegally on a path to citizenship.

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04/19/2013

Duration:45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 7:36 pm

Synopsis:

The bill sets goals of surveillance of 100 percent of the border with Mexico, and catching or turning back 90 percent of would-be crossers. Within six months of enactment of the bill, the Homeland Security Department must develop a border security plan to achieve those goals, including the use of drones,

additional agents and other approaches; and develop a plan to identify where more fencing is needed. About 3,500 new Customs agents would be funded nationally. The National Guard would be deployed to the border to build fencing and checkpoints, among other tasks. Funding would be provided to increase border-crossing prosecutions and to create more border patrol stations and forward operating bases.

Duration:45 secs

Topic: MANHUNT IN BOSTON

Time: 8:10 pm

Synopsis:

Boston Marathon Suspect Dzhokhar A. Tsarnaev has been using his Twitter account while a manhunt was underway to capture him. Jack Mandanin, 58, who lives in a Watertown condo, said he heard "40 to 50" gunshots. Massachusetts officials had no comment on what happened, although there was an immediate police response as helicopters circled above. The intense manhunt for Tsarnaev, 19, of Cambridge, followed a night of terror that left a college police officer slain and a transit cop seriously injured. His brother, 26-year-old Tamerlan Tsarnaev the second suspect in the horrific Boston bombings, was killed during a wild shootout where the suspects threw bombs at pursuing police in a desperate attempt to escape three days after Monday's twin blasts near the race's finish line. Cops recovered at least seven IEDs. A SWAT team hunting for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev surrounded a home in suburban Watertown, Mass., shortly after sunrise as authorities moved through the terrified town of 32,000.

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04/20/2013

Duration:45 secs

Topic: BOYSCOUTS ACCEPTS HOMOSEXUALS

Time: 5:17 pm

Synopsis:

The Boy Scouts of America will vote next month on a proposal that would lift its ban on allowing gay boys to be scouts but would continue to bar gay adults from being scout leaders, the organization said Friday. The proposal - a revision of a plan the Scouts floated in January that would have left it up to local troops whether to accept gay members and leaders - left advocates on both sides of the issue dissatisfied. Opponents of accepting gay scouts complained that the organization would be abandoning its decades-old values, while supporters said the organization would be abandoning gay youths on their 18th birthdays.

Duration:45 secs

Topic: NACA LOW INTEREST RATES

Time: 6:23 pm

Synopsis:

The Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA) has helped thousands of homeowners who were upside down on their mortgages or being foreclosed upon because they could no longer afford their homes get some help with a free mortgage modification. Currently, NACA is offering loans without caring about a person's credit history or whether they had a home foreclosed. The loan being offered is without an initial quote, without paying closing costs and at a very low interest rate.

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04/21/2013

Duration:45 secs

Topic: THE IMMIGRATION DEBATE STARTS ADDING TO THE EQUATION THE BOSTON EXPLOSIONS

Time: 5:24pm and 10:33pm

Synopsis:

The Boston bombings and the foreign-born suspects have become part of the Capitol Hill debates on legislation to overhaul immigration law -- with critics of the proposal saying Sunday the terror attacks expose gaps in the country's system and supporters saying the tragedy could be a turning point in fixing a broken system. Graham and New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, members of a bipartisan Senate group working on immigration reform, said a key part of the legislation is better tracking of who enters and exits the United States on visas. The bombing suspects-immigration debate essentially started when Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley said Friday during a Judiciary Committee hearing: "Given the events of this week, it's important for us to understand the gaps and loopholes in our immigration system." Four key parts of the immigration bill are the improved Visa tracking, securing U.S. borders, improving the employee verification system known as E-Verify and providing a path to citizenship for some of the roughly 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S.

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04/22/2013

Duration:45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM DEBATE

Time: 2:30PM

Synopsis:

Congressional advocates of comprehensive U.S. immigration legislation were diverted into a sometimes testy debate on Monday over whether the measure should be delayed because of questions arising from the Boston Marathon bombing allegedly carried out by two immigrant brothers. The idea of holding up the legislation gained some ground with the support of U.S. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, a prominent Republican who in the past supported immigration reform. However, the highest-ranking Republican in Washington, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner of Ohio said he saw no reason for the bombings to delay the debate.

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04/23/2013

Duration:45 secs

Topic: HEALTH-AUTISM

Time: 2:25PM

Synopsis:

Scientists have found patterns of change in gene activity involved in autism in a study that shed light on how environmental factors can work to turn certain genes on or off and contribute to the development of the brain disorder. In the largest study of its kind, researchers analyzed data from 50 sets of twins to try to find out what might have caused some of them to develop autism while their genetically identical siblings did not. Chloe Wong, of the Institute of Psychiatry (IoP) at King's College London, who worked on the study, explained that epigenetic changes affected levels or activity of genes without changing the underlying DNA sequence.

Duration:45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRATION

Time: 3:26PM

Synopsis:

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano squared off to Senators who grilled her on whether provisions in the new Senate immigration reform proposal would make the country less safe, especially in light of the recent Boston attacks. Napolitano testified that the proposed immigration bill would "absolutely" make the country safer. "We want our country to focus on the narcotraffickers, the money launderers - that's why this bill should be passed," said Napolitano. The Homeland Security Secretary added that legalizing undocumented immigrants, monitoring employers through E-verify and changing the visa system would reduce the need to focus on undocumented immigration and more on law enforcement. When Napolitano said that new technology has made and is continuing to make the border safer, Cruz

said that did not answer the question. Napolitano said if levels of undocumented entry were back at 2005-2006 levels that would be an example of the trigger not being met.

Duration:45 secs

Topic: MARIJUANA AND DEPORTATION

Time: 5:21PM

Synopsis:

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor backed a ruling Tuesday that said immigrants cannot be automatically deported if they are convicted of relatively minor crimes involving marijuana. In a 7-2 decision, the justices sided with Adrian Moncrieffe, a longtime resident of the United States from Jamaica who was deported from the United States over possession of a small amount of marijuana. The court said Moncrieffe should have had the opportunity to contest his deportation. Sotomayor said in her opinion for the court that marijuana offenses must involve either the sale of the drug or possession of more than a small amount to count as serious enough to warrant automatic deportation. The decision means that Moncrieffe will be able to return to the United States so that he can make the case that he should be allowed to remain in the country where he has lived since the age of 3, said Thomas Goldstein, his Washington-based lawyer. Goldstein said he believes that the government often drops the deportation effort in minor cases like Moncrieffe's.

Duration:45 secs

Topic: ALLOWING EMPLOYERS ACCESS TO FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

Time: 7:38PM

Synopsis:

State efforts to block companies monitoring employees' personal Facebook and Twitter accounts are under fire from new front-securities regulators. An unlikely alliance of regulators and industry groups is seeking to carve out exemptions in state laws that would allow certain financial firms to sidestep bans on looking at the personal social-media accounts of employees. Wall Street's self-regulator, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, says financial firms need a way to follow up on "red flags" suggesting misuse of a personal account, according to a spokesman. Finra has asked lawmakers in about 10 states to make changes to proposed legislation, the spokesman said. California, Illinois, Maryland and Michigan adopted social-media privacy laws last year, and a similar new law in Utah takes effect in May. Social-media privacy legislation has been introduced or is under way in 35 states since the start of 2013, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Supporters of the new laws say they are needed to protect employees, even when their employer may be the subject of tweets or other messages made using an employee's personal account on a social-networking website.

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04/24/2013

Duration:45 secs

Topic: LATEST ON THE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 3:26 PM

Synopsis:

Frustrated at being left out of an immigration overhaul, gay rights groups are pushing to adjust a bipartisan Senate bill to include gay couples. But Democrats are treading carefully, wary of adding another divisive issue that could lose Republican support and jeopardize the entire bill. Both parties want the bill to succeed. Merely getting to agreement on the basic framework for the immigration overhaul, which would create a long and costly path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million people in the U.S. illegally, was no small feat for senators. And getting it through a divided Congress is still far from a done deal. Even so, gay rights groups, their lobbyists and grass-roots supporters are insisting the deal shouldn't exclude bi-national, same-sex couples -- about 28,500 of them, according to a 2011 study from the Williams Institute at UCLA Law. They're ramping up a campaign to change the bill to allow gay

Americans to sponsor their partners for green cards, the same way straight Americans can. Supporters trekked to the Capitol to make their case at senators' offices on Wednesday.

Duration:45 secs

Topic: HOW DO WE INVESTIGATE 11 MILLION UNDOCUMENTED?

Time: 4:24 PM

Synopsis:

The 11 million immigrants in the country illegally would have to pass national-security and criminal-background checks before receiving legal status under an immigration overhaul bill the Senate is considering, but some critics say the federal government would have a hard time adequately screening such a large number of people. Federal immigration officials conducting the background checks also would have difficulty screening out potential terrorists because the checks are limited to information contained in government databases and terrorist-watch lists, critics say. "If you are not in an existing database as a problem or there is not something in your background that raises a red flag, you are going to breeze through," said James Carafano, a vice president and national-security expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank. "It's far from a panacea."

Duration:45 secs

Topic: ACLU SUES CALIFORNIA FOR INADEQUATE ENGLISH INSTRUCTIONS

Time: 8:19 PM

Synopsis:

About 20,000 students in California who need to learn English aren't getting adequate language instruction, according to a lawsuit against the state and education workers filed Wednesday by the American Civil Liberties Union. Under state and federal law, schools are required to teach non-English speakers the language, but by its own records, the state isn't offering English instruction to nearly 20,000 students. The suit alleges that lack of instruction has meant some children had to be held back a grade or live with low proficiency scores because of a language barrier. The ACLU brought the issue to the attention of the state with a letter in January, and officials say they're working to ensure compliance at the local level.

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04/25/2013

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: BOSTON BOMBERS PLANNED TO ATTACK NYC

Time: 9.30 PM

Synopsis:

The surviving suspect in the Boston bombings has told investigators he and his brother planned to bomb Times Square, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Thursday. The two came up with the plan spontaneously after the Boston bombing, as they talked in an SUV they hijacked, New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev initially told investigators that he and his brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, had talked about going to New York to "party." Then in a second round of questioning Sunday evening into Monday morning -- during which Kelly said the suspect was "a lot more lucid" than the first time he was interviewed -- he revealed they planned to use their remaining explosives there, Kelly announced. The plan "fell apart" when the SUV ran low on fuel in the Boston area and the Tsarnaevs ordered the driver to pull into a gas station, Kelly said. The driver escaped during the refueling, he said, and police subsequently caught up with the Tsarnaevs.

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04/26/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: LATINOS PAY MORE FOR THEIR HOMES

Time: 5:20

Synopsis:

Hispanics are at the forefront of the rebounding housing market, despite paying more for housing. Latino and Black home buyers paid 3.5 percent more than whites buyers for comparable homes in four major U.S. cities, according to a Duke study, over the last 18 years. The Duke study compared home prices for comparable quality homes within the same neighborhoods from 1990 to 2008 in Los Angeles, Chicago, Baltimore/Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. The 3.5 percent actually translates to between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per housing sale. Multiply that amount with the average number of times Americans move, every five to seven years, and you will come to a substantial amount. The study compared prices of more than 2 million home sales but failed to reveal any clear explanation as to why minorities were paying more for their homes. A buyers' wealth, income, access to credit, racial prejudice or animosity on the part of home sellers could not be proven as reasons why minority buyers paid more when buying a comparable home. Years after the historic Fair Housing Act of 1968, which prohibited the discrimination in housing transactions based on race, gender, religion, etc., there are still disparities in the housing sector. But why? Pat Bayer, economics professor and senior author of the Duke study, believes that minority homeowners are more likely to be first time home buyers and therefore are not as experienced in negotiating home prices. The median age of Hispanics in the U.S. is 27, ten years younger than the average age of Americans overall.

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04/27/13

Duration: 45 secs.

Topic: SALMONELLA POISONING CONNECTED TO MEXICAN CUCUMBERS

Time: 4:38 pm

Synopsis:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday while no deaths have been reported, more than a quarter of the cases have required hospitalization. People in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin have been infected, with California having the majority of the cases. The products in question were produced by the Daniel Cardenas Izabal and Miracle Greenhouse of Culiacan, Mexico, which the Food and Drug Administration has put on alert. There is no current evidence that affected cucumbers are still on sale, but because it takes time from when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported, there may be some additional cases out there. The majority of people who were sick because of this outbreak contracted their illness between Jan. 12 and April 6, 2013. Salmonella bacteria causes an infection called salmonellosis, which can cause someone who ingests the bacteria to have diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness lasts between four to seven days, and often can resolve itself without treatment. However, the elderly, infants and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to have severe forms of the illness, which can require hospitalization and result in death in some cases.

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04/28/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: AIR TRAFFIC SYSTEM SOON AT FULL OPERATION

Time: 7:49

Synopsis:

The Federal Aviation Administration says it's suspended all employee furloughs and says air traffic facilities will begin returning to regular staffing levels. The FAA said in a statement that the air traffic system will resume normal operations by Sunday evening. The announcement comes a day after

Congress passed legislation to allow the agency to withdraw the furloughs -- fallout from the \$85 billion in automatic-across-the-board spending cuts this spring. They started to hit air traffic controllers this past week, causing flight delays that left thousands of travelers frustrated and furious. Republicans accused the Obama administration of forcing the furloughs to raise public pressure on Congress to roll back the budget cuts. The White House complains the FAA fix left the rest of the cuts intact.

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04/29/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: SUPREME COURT REJECTS ALABAMA'S REQUEST TO REVIEW THE STATE'S ANTI-IMMIGRANT LAW

Time: 7:45

Synopsis:

The U.S. Supreme Court today rejected the state of Alabama's request to review a provision of the state's anti-immigrant law that was blocked by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit last year. In February, Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange, petitioned the Supreme Court to consider the provision of the law that criminalizes neighborly acts of kindness, or Section 13 the "harboring and transporting" provision. This provision criminalized individuals who engaged in routine daily activities with undocumented immigrants, like giving them a ride or renting housing to them. The Circuit has blocked most of Alabama's anti-immigrant law as unconstitutional, including provisions that would have chilled Latino student access to Alabama elementary schools. Last summer, the Supreme Court struck down most of Arizona's SB 1070, which served as a model for the Alabama law. The Court ruled that much of the Arizona law was unconstitutional because it interfered with federal authority over immigration.

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04/30/13

Duration: 45 secs

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL

Time: 4.35

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama believes that Congress will pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill despite a lack of bipartisan cooperation on other key issues. On other key issues in Obama's second term, such as tax reform, deficit reduction, and the sequestration spending cuts, a lack of bipartisan agreement has impeded the president from achieving these goals. He laid blame for that at the feet of Republicans in Congress. But a drastic overhaul of the nation's immigration laws that offers a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants has proven to be an exception for today's divided Congress. The effort has received support from Republicans and Democrats on both sides of the aisle in both chambers.

=====END OF APRIL REPORT=====

UNIMAS NEWS BRIEFS

MAY 1, 2013 TO MAY 31, 2013

05/01/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: GAY RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 8:38 pm

Synopsis:

The tide is clearly turning on gay rights, with same-sex marriage being legalized in states across America and several countries all over the world. But supporting gay rights can still be a political liability in Washington. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) has said that he will introduce an amendment to the Gang of Eight's immigration reform bill that would allow gay American citizens to sponsor their foreign-born partners for green cards, just like straight couples can. That's a big no-no for Republicans, says Marco Rubio, who has served as the Gang of Eight's public face. Rubio has repeatedly said that he is confident the bill - which includes a 13-year path to citizenship, billions for border security, and new visas for high- and low-skill workers - has a good chance of passing. Now it could all come undone over this gay-rights amendment, Rubio tells it will virtually guarantee that it won't pass. This issue is a difficult enough issue as it is. I respect everyone's views on it. But ultimately, if that issue is injected into this bill, the bill will fail and the coalition that helped put it together will fall apart. In the meantime, gay rights groups are calling out the Gang of Eight's four Democratic senators for supporting gay marriage but not recognizing it in the immigration bill.

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05/02/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: DRIVERS LICENSES FOR IMMIGRANTS

Time: 3:20 pm

Synopsis:

Mayor Vincent C. Gray is set to introduce legislation that would allow illegal immigrants to obtain D.C. driver's licenses, following similar moves by Maryland and several other states. The legislation was introduced on Tuesday night by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement, "would allow all eligible District residents the right to obtain a driver's license or DC identification card, regardless of citizenship or immigration status."

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: FUND TO SEIZE GUNS IN CALIFORNIA

Time: 3:20 pm

Synopsis:

The governor approved \$24 million to confiscate weapons from people who can no longer own them due to criminal convictions, restraining orders or mental illness. The state will send dozens of new agents into California neighborhoods this summer to confiscate nearly 40,000 handguns and assault rifles from people barred by law from owning firearms, officials said Wednesday.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: SINGLE MOMS ON THE RISE

Time: 5:21 pm

Synopsis:

More than six out of 10 women who give birth in their early 20s are unmarried, the Census Bureau said Wednesday which shows sharp discrepancies in single mothers related to income, education and race. Census demographers said that single motherhood, while on a steady raise since the 1940s, has

accelerated in recent years. The birth rate for unmarried women in 2007 was up 80 percent in the almost three decades since 1980, the report said. But in the previous five years alone, between 2002 and 2007, it was up 20 percent.

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05/05/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: NEW IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

Time: 9:37

Synopsis:

On Monday, May 6, 2013, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will implement customer identity verification, or CIV, in its field offices. Individuals will now be required to submit biometric data, specifically fingerprints and photographs, when appearing at USCIS offices for interviews or to receive evidence of an immigration benefit. CIV will help to both defend against threats to national security and protect customers from identity fraud by enhancing the agency's ability to verify identity. Currently, USCIS requires applicants and petitioners requesting immigration or naturalization benefits to visit one of the Application Support Centers to provide biometric data. USCIS uses this data to help determine eligibility for requested benefits. This requirement, along with providing a government-issued document for examination, will not change. Under this new process, staff will take two fingerprints and a photograph of the individual and input this information into the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology's or US-VISIT's Secondary Inspections Tool which is a Web-based application that processes, displays and retrieves biometric and biographic data. US-VISIT also links databases associated with border inspections and security. After identity verification is satisfactorily completed, individuals will proceed to their interviews or be issued their immigration documents.

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05/06/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: INTERNET SALES TAX

Time: 2:26

Synopsis:

Traditional retailers and cash-strapped states face a tough sell in the House as they lobby Congress to limit tax-free shopping on the Internet. The Senate voted 69 to 27 Monday to pass a bill that empowers states to collect sales taxes from Internet purchases. Under the bill, states could require out-of-state retailers to collect sales taxes when they sell products over the Internet, in catalogs, and through radio and TV ads. The sales taxes would be sent to the states where the buyer lives. Current law says states can only require retailers to collect sales taxes if the merchant has a physical presence in the state. That means big retailers with stores all over the country like Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Target collect sales taxes when they sell goods over the Internet. But online retailers like eBay and Amazon don't have to collect sales taxes, except in states where they have offices or distribution centers.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: VIAGRA ONLINE SALE

Time: 2:26

Synopsis:

Pfizer Inc. said that they will begin to sell its popular erectile dysfunction pill Viagra directly to patients on its website. Men still will need a prescription to buy the blue, diamond-shaped pill on viagra.com but they no longer have to face a pharmacist to get it filled. And for those who are bothered by Viagra's steep \$25-a-pill price, Pfizer is offering three free pills with the first order and 30 percent off the second one. Pfizer's bold move blows up the drug industry's distribution model. Drug makers don't sell medicines directly to patients. Instead, they sell in bulk to wholesalers, who then distribute the drugs to pharmacies, hospitals and doctors' offices.

Duration: 45 seconds.
Topic: PLASTIC GUNS
Time: 5:22
Synopsis:

Lawmakers in Washington are calling for a ban on plastic firearms made from 3-d printers. A Texas group called Defense Distributed has assembled a plastic handgun made with parts made from the printer. It has also test fired the gun and posted instructions online so others can duplicate it. The test firing has reignited calls to ban 3-d printer guns. Critics fear the gun could easily fall into the wrong hands. They also have safety concerns because plastic guns would be invisible to metal detectors.

Duration: 45 seconds.
Topic: IMMIGRANTS INFO ONLINE
Time: 7:34
Synopsis:

The Sonora Desert claims the lives of hundreds of people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border each year. Many of the dead -- about one out of three -- go unidentified. Now, there may be an easier way to put a name to some of these suspected border-crossers who died north of the international boundary. Monday, the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner joined with Humane Borders to launch a Web-based system that will allow the public to identify the deceased found in the desert in the Tucson area -- more than 2,000 dating back 13 years. The International OpenGIS Initiative for Missing and Deceased Migrants will feature a map documenting deaths as far back to 2001. The database contains customizable search tools available through menu options. It will allow any user to query data concerning migrant deaths and view the data using online maps and tables. Also, it allows the public to download the data for further use.

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05/07/13

Duration: 45 seconds.
Topic: FDA: TIGHTER REGULATIONS ON TANNING BEDS
Time: 5:31
Synopsis:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administrator is calling for tighter regulations on indoor tanning beds. The feds are concerned about equipment malfunctions that have led to some consumers being over-exposed to radiation. Indoor tanning beds are not subject to review by the FDA. They are classified as low-risk medical devices- the same category you would find bandages. Under a new proposal, companies would have to prove to the FDA their sunlamps are safe.

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05/08/13

Duration: 45 seconds.
Topic: IMMIGRATION AMENDMENTS
Time: 3:21 pm
Synopsis:

Before the full Senate will vote on the comprehensive immigration reform bill crafted by the bipartisan "gang of eight," the Senate Judiciary Committee will take a crack at improving it -- and they have plenty of improvements to consider. On Thursday, the committee will begin considering the hundreds of amendments submitted by committee members this week. The amendments touch on a range of issues, from improving immigration law enforcement and protecting the domestic economy to helping special classes of immigrants and regional needs.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: STUDY ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 4:27 pm

Synopsis:

A study of the Center for the Integration of Immigrants found that one of 10 county residents are undocumented in Los Angeles county and has more than half a decade living in the country. 12% are homeowners.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: IMMIGRATION BILL AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Time: 7:41 pm

Synopsis:

A bipartisan immigration bill pending in the Senate would strengthen the Social Security trust fund by adding millions of workers to tax rolls, and provide a boost to the overall economy, according to an analysis Wednesday by the Social Security Administration. The finding came in a letter to Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., who requested the analysis, from Stephen C. Gross, chief actuary for the agency.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: TED CRUZ TO BAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CITIZENSHIP

Time: 8:07 pm

Synopsis:

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, filed an amendment on a new immigration bill that would eliminate a path to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants already here. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, a newly elected Republican with a penchant for making headlines, filed the amendment that would bar undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States from ever earning citizenship.

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05/09/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: IMMIGRATION BILL ON ITS FIRST DAY OF HEARING

Time: 5:24 pm

Synopsis:

Both sides are squaring off over a sweeping immigration bill on the opening day of a Senate committee hearing. The top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee is Chuck Grassley of Iowa. In opening remarks, Grassley insists the landmark legislation backed by President Barack Obama does little more than repeat mistakes of the past. A lead author of the bill is Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York. Schumer counters that it represents the country's best hope for immigration reform. The legislation would toughen border security, remake legal immigration, block employers from hiring anyone in the U.S. illegally, and create a path to citizenship for the 11 million already in the U.S.

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05/11/13

Duration 45 seconds.

Topic: POSSIBLE VIRUS CLOSES SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON

Time 4:43 pm

Synopsis:

More than 100 kids called in sick after a potential outbreak of norovirus at an elementary school. Rogelio Gonzalez now has a three-day weekend. His dad was surprised to hear more than 100 students had called in sick. The grant county health district thinks it's an outbreak of the norovirus. The virus causes the same symptoms you'd find in a pepto commercial: upset stomach, fever, diarrhea. It also spreads like wildfire and lives on countertops, seats, and other objects. This is why Longview is locked down while teachers clean everything. Health officials say the best way to prevent the spread of the virus is to stay

clean with soap and water and stay away from others if you are sick. Because the virus is so hard to kill, it will probably spread.

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0512/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: DOCUMENTATION OF IMMIGRANTS WILL BRING MILLION OF DOLLARS TO CALIFORNIA

Time: 6.42

Synopsis:

With the debate raging over whether immigration reform would gouge taxpayers, Senator Marco Rubio's office has asked the Social Security Actuary to produce an analysis of the legislation. The findings will provide immigration reform advocates with a major boost. The most important finding, for the purposes of the debate, is that the Gang of Eight immigration reform proposal would create 3.22 million jobs by 2024, and boost GDP by 1.63 percent. "We estimate a significant increase in both the population and the number of workers paying taxes in the United States as a result of these changes in legal immigration limits," the analysis says.

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05/13/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: GREEN CARD LOTTERY COULD BE ELIMINATED

Time: 5:21 pm

Synopsis:

In the contentious debate over immigration policy, three groups have dominated public and political attention: the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants seeking to become legal, the skilled foreign workers bound for high-tech jobs and relatives waiting to be reunited with their families. Then there are those who won the green card lottery. The new figures signal the dawn of an era in which whites no longer will be in the majority of Americans. This tiny visa program, aimed at diversifying the pool of immigrants to the United States, selects 55,000 applicants at random each year. Unlike the other U.S. visa programs, it offers the "winners" and their spouses and children U.S. residency with almost no strings attached. Although the odds of winning are infinitesimal, the program is so wildly popular that last year almost 8 million people applied. And now it is likely to be quietly cut. Under a Senate compromise, the program would be eliminated and its visa slots would be subsumed into a broad system that stresses skills, education and other criteria for legal immigration. A few defenders, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus, have urged that the lottery be preserved. They say it helps compensate for the lopsided history of legal immigration, long dominated by a few large countries with high-skilled workers, such as China and India, and those with strong family ties to the United States, such as Mexico and the Philippines. They also note that it creates wide international goodwill for the United States at a low cost, amounting to only 5 percent of legal immigrants.

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05/14/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: IMMIGRATION JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Time: 2.26 PM

Synopsis:

Legal immigration is the focus as the Senate Judiciary Committee resumes the work of amending legislation overhauling the U.S. immigration system. Amendments expected to be offered Tuesday could reshape a painstakingly negotiated deal between business and labor on a visa program for lower-skilled workers. Attention will be on the four senators on the committee who are among the bill's eight authors to see whether they can stick together to fend off the changes. There's also a dispute over provisions in the

bill dealing with high-skilled workers. And the committee may make changes to address shortcomings in the student visa program after the Boston Marathon bombings. A foreign student accused of hiding evidence was allowed to return to the U.S. in January without a valid student visa.

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05/17/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: NO DRIVER LICENSE FOR DREAMERS IN ARIZONA

Time: 2:24 pm

Synopsis:

A U.S. federal judge refused on Thursday to block Arizona's Republican governor, who has long clashed with Washington over immigration reform, from denying driver's licenses to young immigrants granted temporary legal status by the federal government. Civil rights groups had filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Phoenix in November against Governor Jan Brewer and two state transportation department officials on behalf of five Mexican immigrants who qualify for deferred deportation status under a program pushed by President Barack Obama. The suit challenged the legality of an order issued by Brewer in August that denied the young migrants licenses, arguing that the federal deferred action program did not give them lawful status or entitle them to public benefits. Judge David Campbell ruled that while the young immigrants appeared likely to prevail in their argument on constitutional equal-protection grounds, they had not proved they would suffer irreparable injury as the case proceeds.

Duration: 45 sec

Topic: IRS HEARINGS

Time: 7:37 pm

Synopsis:

The Treasury Department's inspector general told senior Treasury officials in June 2012 he was auditing the Internal Revenue Service's screening of politically active organizations seeking tax exemptions, disclosing for the first time on Friday that Obama administration officials were aware of the matter during the presidential campaign year. At the first Congressional hearing into the I.R.S. scandal, J. Russell George, the Treasury inspector general for tax administration, told members of the House Ways and Means Committee that he informed the Treasury's general counsel of his audit on June 4, and Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin "shortly thereafter." It remained unclear how much the disclosure would affect the broader debate over the I.R.S.'s problems. Complaints from Tea Party groups that the I.R.S. was singling them out became public in 2012, through media account.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: OEA STUDIES TO NOT PENALIZE THE USE OF MARIJUANA

Time: 7:37pm

Synopsis:

The Illinois Senate on Friday voted to approve the use of marijuana for medical purposes, which if signed into law would make it the second-most-populous state in the nation after California to allow the drug's use for medical purposes. The bill, approved by the Illinois House in April, now moves to Governor Pat Quinn's desk to await his signature. Quinn has indicated he is sympathetic to the bill, especially as it would benefit injured veterans. The Illinois bill passed by a vote of 35-21 after an emotional, hour-long debate in which some Republicans said they opposed legalizing medical marijuana because it could be a "gateway drug" to abuse of other illegal substances. Others said they were not convinced that the benefits of smoking marijuana for certain medical conditions outweighed the potential negative consequences. Democratic State Senator Bill Haine, a former county prosecutor and the bill's sponsor, said it is the toughest in the nation. He noted that doctors' groups had endorsed the bill. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana, according to Riffle. The Project does not count Maryland, since its law requires the participation of academic medical centers and will not be implemented until 2015. Colorado and Washington state voters decided last fall to allow recreational use of cannabis.

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05/18/13

Duration: 45 sec

Topic: GUN CONTROL LAWSUIT IN COLORADO

Time: 2:26 pm

Synopsis:

Dozens of sheriffs in Colorado are involved in a federal lawsuit. The suit claims gun bills signed earlier this year by Governor John Hickenlooper are unconstitutional. The laws in question call for background checks for private sales; the second one bans ammunition magazines that have more than 15 rounds. Sheriff John Weld says state officials were too hasty when it came to this legislation. A lawsuit was filed on Friday in Colorado's U.S. District Court on behalf of 54 of the state's sheriffs in an effort to block the laws from taking effect. Colorado's recently approved gun control laws, passed in response to the Aurora, Colo., and Newtown, Conn., massacres, are being challenged by a delegation of sheriffs who say the laws are unconstitutional.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSSIBLE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 5:10 pm

Synopsis:

The immigration reform legislation, introduced a few weeks ago by the "Gang of Eight," would require undocumented immigrants to show the ability to speak, read and write English or be enrolled in English classes before they can seek permanent residency. A recent Latino Decisions poll found that 82 percent of the 400 Latino undocumented immigrants surveyed said they would be willing to learn English. Matt Barreto, co-founder of Latino Decisions, said during a conference call with reporters last week that while the desire to learn English is "very high" among Latino undocumented immigrants, he fears there aren't enough programs in place that could help them learn English. He said such programs would be "essential," especially for undocumented immigrants who've never attended school in the U.S. and have low education attainment. He noted that 51 percent of Latino undocumented immigrants have less than a high school education, 26 percent have a high school diploma and 21 percent have at least some college education or more. In preparation for the reform it is important to have a criminal record search done to make sure there is anything on your record that would prevent you from passing a government search. Our reporter suggested how you could go about obtaining a background check and what to do if you discovered that your identity has been stolen.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: MISTAKES IN THE SYSTEM OF ICE

Time: 5:10 pm

Synopsis:

Program to track immigrants grows, drawing scrutiny. Advocates question firm's methods, especially its use of GPS devices. The program has boomed in recent years as deportations soared, and the White House has proposed expanding such monitoring because it is less expensive and more humane than immigration detention. But advocates for immigrants, who have clamored for alternatives to jail, now say the program has morphed into a profit-driven enterprise that subjects thousands of immigrants to scrutiny usually reserved for serious criminals. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Homeland Security agency in charge of deportations, said the program seeks to compel immigrants to obey court and deportation orders; a decade ago, the vast majority did not. BI said in a recent report that 96 percent of participants attended their final court hearings and 77 percent showed up for deportation.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: MARCH FOR EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE

Time: 7:33 pm

Synopsis:

Hundreds of teachers, parents and students took to Chicago's streets Saturday, the first of three days of marches to protest Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan to close dozens of city school. The show of force was meant to add weight to a pair of lawsuits filed in recent days. Police-escorted processions snaked through numerous neighborhoods, with protesters stopping at schools, chanting and holding signs with slogans

such as "Quality Schools For All Kids." The Chicago Board of Education is set to vote on the plan to close 54 schools in the coming days.

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05/19/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: THE BODIES OF 54 UNDOCUMENTED WERE EXHUMED

Time: 2:35 pm

Synopsis:

Throughout many years, 54 bodies were buried and remained anonymous. Today a group of twenty forensic investigators were at the task of exhuming the bodies and trying to identify these immigrants who die attempting to cross the U.S border. The bodies were located in Falfurrias, Texas in a mass grave and were identified only by number. An anthropologist from the University of Baylor will try to do DNA testing and match it up to those from a national bank of missing people. The match-up is done in an attempt to identify who the deceased is and what country they came from. These victims are among hundreds of undocumented immigrants who die in search of the American dream. Last year the number of victims who died in this area of Texas went up to 129 turning this part of Texas into the deadliest of the entire border. Among some of the reasons many find death in this area is due to the fact that there are no mountains and people get lost easily. The temperature in southeast Texas can go as high as 107 degrees and the excess of bushes block the visibility in addition as well as the fact of organized crime in the area.

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05/20/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: CHANGES TO IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 2:25PM

Synopsis:

The president of a union that represents 12,000 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services employees announced his opposition to the immigration reform bill in the Senate on Monday morning. "The legislation will provide legal status to millions of visa overstays while failing to provide for necessary in-person interviews," union President Kenneth Palinkas said in a statement. "Legal status is also explicitly granted to millions who have committed serious immigration and criminal offenses." The Senate version of the bill, which has not been introduced to the floor, will offer legalization to most of the country's 11 million undocumented immigrants, provided they pass a background check and pay fines. Of course, the committee must first come to agreement on a few dicey issues. Among them are the amendments regarding high-skilled immigrant visas, approved by the high-tech industry but opposed by labor unions. The central issue around those H-1B visas-which will be aimed at U.S. workers so that they can get the first shot at them-is around the restrictions surrounding them.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: NEW ALTERNATIVES TO CROSSING THE U.S BORDER

Time: 5:20 PM

Synopsis:

The number of vessels caught trying to illegally enter the U.S. by sea from Mexico in San Diego County increased by 48 percent from 123 to 183 from 2010 to 2011. But the number of individuals caught aboard those watercrafts declined by 27 percent during the same time period, according to statistics provided by the Border Patrol in San Diego. It was the first time the agency has recorded a drop in the number of people caught trying to make it to San Diego County shores since it started keeping maritime smuggling statistics in 2008. The Border Patrol says that's because it is encountering more personal watercrafts, which carry only one or two people, unlike larger, slower boats full of migrants. Personal watercrafts have become a preferred vehicle for drug smugglers.

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05/21/13

Duration: 45sec

Topic: IT'S TIME TO HELP

Time: 2:26pm

Synopsis:

Disasters such as Monday's tornado that wiped out much of Moore, Oklahoma often prompt people to help victims by collecting goods or launching blood drives, but charitable groups said money, not goods, is the best way to help. "What this enables us to do is send those funds to the area where they're needed most immediately," Red Cross spokes woman Anne Marie Borrego said of financial contributions. Donating food or clothing can hurt relief efforts as organizations must take time to sort and process them, the Red Cross said. The Red Cross accepts donations of \$10 or more at redcross.org, dialing 1-800-REDCROSS or texting ``REDCROSS" to 90999. The funds would be for food, shelter and counseling for storm victims in Oklahoma and in nearby Texas. Cash donations allow the Red Cross to buy food in bulk to serve victims and responders.

Duration: 45sec

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM LATEST

Time: 3:21pm

Synopsis:

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved the bipartisan "Gang of Eight" immigration reform bill on Tuesday, sending the measure to the Senate floor for consideration and giving the bill's backers their first major legislative victory. Members of the Democratic-controlled panel voted 13-5 in favor of the measure. If enacted, the plan would constitute the first overhaul of the nation's immigration policy since 1986. "The dysfunction in our current immigration system affects all of us and it is long past time for reform. I hope that our history, our values, and our decency can inspire us finally to take action," Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont, said. Spectators cramming the committee room applauded and cheered loudly following the vote.

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05/22/13

Duration: 45sec

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM (BILL PASSES IN THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE)

Time: 2:24pm

Synopsis:

The immigration reform bill survived perhaps its toughest challenge yet, as the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the bill in a 13-5 vote after the panel's chairman agreed not to force a vote on his proposal to allow gay Americans to seek green cards for their spouses. The debate in the full Senate is expected to begin next month. The legislation is one of President Barack Obama's top domestic priorities -- yet it also gives the Republican Party a chance to recast itself as more appealing to minorities. Passage of an immigration bill in the House remains a high hurdle.

Duration: 45sec

Topic: FAULTS IN STOP AND FRISK IN NYC

Time: 3:22pm

Synopsis:

The New York Police Department's stop-and-frisk strategy has sparked a heated national debate in the last two years, with attention-grabbing statistics on both sides. Critics point to data showing that the aggressive search tactic is used in hugely disproportionate numbers on innocent black and Latino New Yorkers. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly have dismissed these concerns, claiming that stop-and-frisk has dramatically reduced the city's murder rate. Experts say that Bloomberg's equation of more stop-and-frisk searches with fewer murders is far too simplistic. In fact, according to sociologist Anthony Harris, the reduction in New York City homicides - which hit a record low of 414

murders in 2012, down from a historic high of 2,245 murders in 1990 - doesn't have much to do with stop-and-frisk at all. A more important factor, he says: Doctors, nurses, EMTs and ambulance drivers have been getting better at bringing wounded people back from the brink.

Duration: 45sec

Topic: CHICAGO VOTED TO CLOSE 50 SCHOOLS

Time: 7:35PM

Synopsis:

The Chicago Board of Education voted Wednesday to close 50 schools, a controversial move that drew sharp criticism from the city's teachers union. The vote comes two months after officials announced plans to close the schools. The closures "will consolidate underutilized schools and programs to provide students with the quality, 21st century education they need to succeed in the classroom," Chicago Public Schools said in a statement Wednesday. The Chicago Teachers Union opposed the closures, which it said would disproportionately affect African-American students. The union also had warned that the move would expose students to gang violence and turf wars, an apparent reference to neighborhood loyalties.

Duration: 45sec

Topic: IRS OFFICIALS REFUSE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Time: 7:35PM

Synopsis:

The Internal Revenue Service official at the center of a scandal about extra tax scrutiny of conservative groups told Congress on Wednesday she had done nothing wrong but invoked her constitutional right not to answer questions. Lois Lerner, who heads the IRS tax-exempt unit, angered lawmakers by reading a statement before refusing to testify, but she was dismissed from the hearing with a warning that she could be called back for another appearance before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. House Oversight Chairman Darrell Issa, a California Republican, said Lerner appeared to have waived her right against self-incrimination by making the statement. Republican Trey Gowdy of South Carolina demanded that she stay to answer questions, drawing applause from the crowd in the hearing room.

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05/23/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM LATEST

Time: 5:18

Synopsis:

For the second time in two weeks, House lawmakers in both parties emerged from a closed negotiation with a tentative agreement to rewrite the nation's immigration laws. But now they have to put those ideas into text, when that accord could all fall apart. With the Senate gearing up for an early June floor debate on immigration legislation, the House's bipartisan group has struggled to wrap up its legislation, mostly because the two parties are trying to figure out how to ensure that undocumented immigrants don't take advantage of government health care subsidies. With a self-imposed Thursday afternoon deadline looming, Republicans reviewed a Democratic proposal that would fit into a sweeping immigration overhaul bill. The scene was a first-floor Capitol office, where members met without their aides.

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05/24/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: MEMORIAL DAY TRIPS AND GAS COSTS

Time: 4:27

Synopsis:

It's going to be another busy Memorial Day weekend on the nation's highways. From Thursday through Monday, 31.2 million Americans will drive 50 miles or more to a beach, campground or other getaway, according to car lobbying group AAA. That's a small increase from last year but still well short of the

record 37.3 million people who drove during the holiday in 2005. Gas will cost slightly more this year. The national average price for a gallon of gasoline has risen 7 cents in the past week to \$3.66 and could increase over the weekend. Gas averaged \$3.64 last Memorial Day. Still, the price isn't expected to reach the 2011 Memorial Day average of \$3.79. The total number of holiday travelers should decline almost 1 percent to 34.8 million, AAA says, because fewer will choose to fly. AAA estimates that 2.3 million travelers will take to the skies, down 8 percent from last year.

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05/25/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: ARPAIO'S VIOLATION OF HISPANIC PEOPLES' HUMAN RIGHTS

Time: 3:16PM

Synopsis:

Sheriff Joe Arpaio's attorneys said today they plan to appeal a federal judge's finding that the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, helmed by Arpaio, racially profiled Latinos while on immigration patrols. Complaints of deputies pulling over and singling out people who are dark skinned and speak Spanish to check their immigration status have long been levied against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Tim Casey, the attorney representing Arpaio and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said racial profiling has never been a policy of the department, but said deputies may have been given faulty training by federal authorities on immigration enforcement. The lawsuit was brought against the department by a group of Latinos who alleged they were racially profiled by Arpaio's deputies for the purpose of immigration status checks. The 142-page ruling was issued on Friday, more than eight months after a seven-day bench trial was held in the case. U.S. District Court Judge G. Murray Snow wrote that "the evidence introduced at trial establishes that, in the past, the MCSO has aggressively protected its right to engage in immigration and immigration-related enforcement operations even when it had no accurate legal basis for doing so."

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: BAD BRIDGES

Time: 2:16 PM

Synopsis:

The partial collapse on Thursday night of a heavily used river bridge on Interstate 5 caused no deaths, but as the long holiday weekend began it underscored the vulnerability of a transportation system that hinges not just on high-profile water crossings and tunnels, but on thousands of ordinary and unremarked components that travelers mostly take for granted. A 160-foot section of the 58-year-old four-lane steel truss bridge, which crosses the Skagit River about an hour north of Seattle, crumpled around 7 p.m., apparently after being struck by a truck carrying an oversize load, state officials said. Three people were injured, none of them seriously, when vehicles went into the river. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board also arrived Friday to begin an inquiry into the accident's causes. The chairwoman, Deborah A. M. Hersman, said an early priority was to interview witnesses, especially the driver of the vehicle carrying the load that struck the bridge. Whether it should be considered reassuring or alarming about the state of the nation's infrastructure, the Skagit River bridge had not been judged unsafe or structurally deficient, according to inspection records. The bridge and its approach lanes, totaling just over 1,100 feet, were only considered to be past their useful life span, meaning that the time had arrived for a bigger, broader structure. But even calling a bridge structurally deficient does not necessarily mean that it is unsafe, as federal officials often point out; it only means that at least one major component has deteriorated, and actions may be taken to address the issue, like restricting traffic to ensure that the bridge is not stressed beyond its limits.

Duration: 45sec

Topic: FAULTS IN STOP AND FRISK IN NYC

Time: 6:08pm

Synopsis:

Some of the stop-and-frisk statistics reported in the Friday paper and online were incorrect regarding the NYPD's use of the practice in Brooklyn, Queens, Harlem and the Bronx. In addition, several calculations that expressed year-over-year percentage changes of stop-and-frisk statistics in Harlem and the Bronx

were incorrect. This story has been amended to reflect the corrected statistics. The number of police stop-and-frisks dropped by 25% in Harlem and Bronx precincts last year, mirroring a citywide decrease in the police interrogations amid harsh protests by critics who deride the tactic as racial profiling. In the 15 precincts covering those areas, the number of people stopped dropped from 161,938 in 2011, compared to 121,388 in 2012, according to a Daily News analysis. The NYPD has steadfastly maintained that stops have been instrumental in recovering illegal guns and driving crime down to record levels. But citywide, the number of "stop, question and frisk" detainments dropped by 22%, from 685,724 in 2011, to 532,911 in 2012, police data shows.

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05/27/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: "WHERE BORDER PATROL DOES NOT GO"

Time: 9:35 PM

Synopsis:

Univision's correspondent traveled the Arizona Desert where migrants have found a riskier path. As security at the border has tightened, pushing migrants to seek more remote and dangerous routes, the largest number of the deaths last year occurred along the punishing stretch of desert that spans the southernmost tip of the Border Patrol's Tucson sector, the busiest along the border. The only riskier stretch is the Rio Grande Valley sector in Texas, where, from Oct. 1 to April 30, law enforcement officers or ranchers found the bodies of 77 immigrants, or more than half the number of bodies recovered there in all of the past fiscal year: 150. He found the different water stations that several organizations have left behind to aid those taking the dangerous path.

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05/28/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: CATHOLIC CHURCH TO RELEASE SECRET FILES

Time: 7:40pm

Synopsis:

Thousands of pages of secret files held by Roman Catholic orders concerning priests accused of molesting children will be released throughout the summer beginning as early as next month, according to attorneys. Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Emilie Elias set a deadline of September for the religious orders to turn over files on dozens of priests for public release at a hearing Tuesday. The release of confidential files kept by the orders, such as the Silesians, Vincentians and Marinists, were agreed to as part of settlements with victims. The secret files which are required by Catholic church law, would shed light on how high-ranking officials at the orders and leaders of the L.A. archdiocese dealt with allegations of abuse by priests who were assigned to work in Los Angeles. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles released 12,000 pages of its own closely-held document cache in January, but many of the files for priests who belonged to Catholic orders were scant.

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05/29/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: DEBATE OVER THE COST OF IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 3:22 pm

Synopsis:

Legislators debated the cost of the reform today and even opponents were against the cost of the reform. The new Heritage report, authored by Heritage Foundation scholar Robert Rector, concludes that granting "amnesty" to the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. would cost taxpayers \$6.3 trillion over 50 years. The report comes as the Senate works on a comprehensive immigration reform bill authored by

a bipartisan "gang of eight" senators -- though as Rector noted on Monday, his analysis does not study the entire bill, just the prospect for "amnesty." He concluded that over the course of their lifetimes, formerly undocumented immigrants would pay \$3.1 trillion in taxes but receive \$9.4 trillion in government benefits -- that includes benefits from Obamacare, Social Security and more than 80 other programs. For the basis of his analysis, Rector notes that the typical undocumented immigrant has a 10th-grade education. Households without a high school degree get about \$35,000 more in benefits than they pay out in taxes, he noted.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: ARPAIO TO APPEAL

Time: 4:24pm

Synopsis:

Arizona lawman Joe Arpaio, who styles himself as "America's toughest sheriff," said on Wednesday he would appeal a federal court ruling that found his agency had engaged in racial profiling of Hispanic drivers in its zeal to crack down on illegal immigration. "One hundred of my deputies were authorized and trained by the federal government ... to enforce federal immigration laws," the Maricopa County sheriff said in a video posted on YouTube. "Now the federal court has ruled that federal training was unconstitutional and it led to racial profiling. We will appeal this ruling," Arpaio said. Arpaio has been a lightning rod for controversy over his aggressive enforcement of immigration laws in Arizona, which borders Mexico, and an investigation into the validity of President Barack Obama's U.S. birth certificate. A federal judge ruled on Friday that Arpaio had violated the constitutional rights of Latino drivers in his crackdown on illegal immigration, and ordered him to stop using race as a factor in law enforcement decisions. The ruling came in response to a class-action lawsuit brought by Hispanic drivers that tested whether police could target illegal immigrants without racially profiling U.S. citizens and legal residents of Hispanic origin.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: MOTHERS HAVE BECOME THE BREAD WINNERS OF HOUSEHOLDS

Time: 7:05pm

Synopsis:

Mothers are the primary or sole source of income for a growing number of U.S. families in a dramatic shift in American homes and the workplace from just a few decades ago, the Pew Research Center said in a study released on Wednesday. Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the study said a record 40 percent of all U.S. households with children relied on mothers as their main or only source of income. That marked a sharp increase from 11 percent of families in 1960. The so-called "breadwinner moms" are split into two camps, with married mothers who have a higher income than their husbands accounting for 37 percent and 67 percent consisting of single mothers, the survey said.

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05/30/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: DRIVERS LICENSE FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN CT.

Time 5:27

Synopsis:

The Connecticut state Senate has approved a bill that would allow illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses, surmounting Republican opposition. The bill, which cleared the state House last week, passed 19-16 in the Senate early Thursday. Under the plan, immigrants would be able to obtain driver's licenses beginning in January 2015. Applicants would need documentation proving their identities and showing they have lived in the state for at least 90 days. They also would have to pass driving tests and background checks verifying they have no felony convictions in the state. The licenses would be marked "for driving purposes only" and would need to be renewed every three years, rather than the standard six years. Democrats said the measure would improve highway safety.

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05/31/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: OBAMA ON STUDENT LOANS

Time 7:41

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama on Friday urged Congress to prevent an increase in student loan rates, saying rising college costs hold back the entire middle class and unfairly saddle young people with more debt just as they are starting out in their adult lives. Interest rates on new subsidized Stafford loans are set to double, from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, on July 1. Lawmakers from both parties say they want to avoid the increase but are divided over how to act. Obama made his case flanked by college students dressed in business suits and dresses during remarks in the Rose Garden on a steamy Washington morning. The event marked the beginning of a public campaign by the President to temporarily extend current student loan rates or find a long-term compromise to avoid the July 1 rate increase.

=====END OF MAY REPORT=====

UNIMAS NEWS BRIEFS

JUNE 1, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2013

06/01/2013

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

Time: 5:28PM

Synopsis:

At a press conference in Seattle today the former president of Mexico, Vicente Fox, backed plans in Washington and Colorado to make a legal market for marijuana in the United States. Citing the loss of human life in his country due to the failed war on drugs and the black market that grew up in its shadows to feed the massive market for marijuana in the U.S., Fox said he hoped for an orderly and tightly regulated marijuana market here. "We all understand that we human beings perform best in scenarios of peace and harmony. A new responsible society will bring this peace and harmony. About the loses? We cannot be worse than where we are. The war [on drugs] has been lost all along and it has been lost again and again. It's time for a new start. It's time for a new vision. That's why I applaud this group," Fox said. The conference was organized by former Microsoft manager and now marijuana advocate Jamen Shively to announce his company's plans to create a national brand and business out of the legal marijuana markets coming online in Washington and Colorado.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: BANK OFFERS LOANS TO RESIDENTS TO PAY OFF THE APPLICATION FEE TO BECOME CITIZENS

Time: 7:44PM

Synopsis:

Pan American Bank Provides Path to Citizenship: Pan American Bank today encouraged Los Angeles and Orange County legal permanent residents ("LPR") to participate in Pan American Bank's Path to Citizenship Program. The Pan American Bank Path to Citizenship Program is comprised of a Citizenship Application Microloan, free checking or savings account, and financial literacy education. Pan American Bank offers a \$1,000 Citizenship Application Microloan. The loan provides the \$680 citizenship application fee as well as an additional \$320 to apply towards fees associated with supportive services such as application assistance or English language/citizenship preparation classes. The loan can be obtained for a term of 12, 18, or 24 months. The Path to Citizenship Program provides every applicant with an optional free checking or savings account. The account is free of maintenance fees and minimum balance requirement and requires only \$25 to open. A box of 200 standard checks is provided free of charge at the time the account is opened. The Path to Citizenship Program encourages applicants to participate in Pan American Bank's financial literacy education program. The program is provided free of charge.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: FROZEN FRUIT LINKED TO HEPATITIS

Time: 8:21PM

Synopsis:

A frozen fruit mix that's popular in smoothies may be linked to a Hepatitis A outbreak on the West Coast. The centers for disease control and prevention say some of the people who were infected ate Townsend Farms' organic antioxidant blend. C-D-C officials say the at least 30 people have been impacted. Townsend Farms say the outbreak has been traced to a type of pomegranate seeds from Turkey that are in its fruit mix. The Oregon-based company says the mix was only sent to Costco stores and it is now off the shelves. The C-D-C says infections have been reported in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico. Hepatitis A inflames the liver and limits its ability to function. Experts say it is usually transmitted by contaminated food or water and frequent hand-washing is recommended to limit the spread.

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06/02/2013

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: GUNS IN TEXAS UNIVERSITIES

Time: 5:10PM

Synopsis:

The Texas House of Representatives on Monday gave final approval to a proposal to allow concealed handgun license holders to carry guns into buildings on college campuses. The proposal, which was approved on a vote of 102-41, would allow public colleges and universities to opt out of allowing guns in buildings after consulting with students, faculty and staff. Private colleges and universities could opt in. The measure, known as the Campus Carry Bill, now goes to the Senate, where a different proposal has stalled. The author of the House proposal, Republican Allen Fletcher, said he was not trying to arm people so that they could be heroes during mass shootings on college campuses, but to protect themselves. Texas is one of 22 states that ban carrying a concealed weapon on a college campus, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Sixteen states introduced bills in 2012 to allow concealed carry on college campus, and none of those proposals passed. In Texas, where the Legislature meets every other year, a campus carry proposal failed to pass in 2011. In January, three people were shot when a 22-year-old man allegedly open fire on a campus of the Lone Star community college system near Houston, Texas.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM LATEST

Time: 7:30PM

Synopsis:

A government watchdog has found that the Internal Revenue Service spent about \$50 million to hold at least 220 conferences for employees between 2010 and 2012, a House committee said Sunday. The chairman of that committee, Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., also released excerpts of congressional investigators' interviews with employees of the IRS office in Cincinnati. Issa said the interviews indicated the employees were directed by Washington to subject tea party and other conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status to tough scrutiny. The excerpts provided no direct evidence that Washington had ordered that screening. The top Democrat on that panel, Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, said none of the employees interviewed have so far identified any IRS officials in Washington as ordering that targeting. The conference spending included \$4 million for an August 2010 gathering in Anaheim, Calif., for which the agency did not negotiate lower room rates, even though that is standard government practice, according to a statement by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: TEXTING WHILE DRIVING BANNED IN FLORIDA

Time: 7:30PM

Synopsis:

Florida Tuesday became the 40th state to ban texting when behind the wheel. The law is so lax, however, that it can only be applied as a secondary offense: Florida's police officers aren't allowed to pull over drivers they see texting. The law was signed into effect Tuesday by Gov. Rick Scott at Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School in Miami. The governor chose a high school to drive home the point that texting when driving is a major problem for teen drivers. Sending messages from behind the wheel is the leading cause of death for teenagers, according to a study published earlier this month. Cohen Children's Medical Center in New Hyde Park determined that more than 3,000 teens are killed each year in car accidents caused by texting with another 300,000 teens treated at hospitals for injuries sustained in such crashes. Fewer teens are killed or injured in alcohol-related crashes.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: NEVADA ISSUES DRIVER LICENSE TO UNDOCUMENTED

Time: 8:30PM

Synopsis:

Nevada's Republican governor signed a bill on Friday to authorize driving privilege cards for illegal immigrants in a move likely to win favor with the state's large and growing Hispanic community. Governor

Brian Sandoval, a moderate Republican of Mexican ancestry in a state where Hispanic residents comprise over a quarter of the population, signed the bill in a ceremony at the state Capitol. The step comes during national efforts for immigration reform that saw a U.S. Senate panel approve legislation earlier this month that would usher in the biggest changes in immigration policy in a generation if passed by Congress. "Allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's privilege card will increase the number of drivers on Nevada's roads that are insured and aware of traffic rules and regulations," Sandoval said in a statement. The Nevada law, which passed the Democratic-led state Senate and Assembly this month, will allow immigrants to use foreign birth certificates to obtain driving cards that would be valid for a year. It will take effect at the start of 2014. Nevada requires proof of legal status in the country to obtain a full-fledged driver's license.

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06/03/2013

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: FORD RECALL VEHICLES

Time: 8:25 PM

Synopsis:

Ford is recalling nearly 390,000 vehicles in the U.S. for a potential fuel tank leak that could result in a fire. The automaker said the recall affects the Ford Explorer, Taurus, Flex, Fusion, Interceptor Utility, Interceptor Sedan, and Lincoln MKS, MKT, and MKZ. All of the vehicles are from the 2013 model year. At issue is a part within the gas tank that may fail and leak fuel onto the ground. If the spilled fuel catches a spark, a fire could occur. Ford said it is not aware of any fires, accidents, or injuries as a result of this defect. The automaker has received 600 complaints as of March 31, said Ford spokeswoman Kelli Felker. Owners who detect the smell of gas or notice a leak are urged to contact their dealer immediately for a service appointment. The recall also affects nearly 77,000 vehicles in other global markets, including Canada and Mexico.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: CAFFEINE AND MENTAL DISORDERS

Time: 2:24 PM

Synopsis:

The American Psychiatric Association just released the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). In the revised version, caffeine withdrawal has been classified as a "caffeine-related disorder." "Caffeine is a drug, a mild stimulant, which is used by almost everybody on a daily basis," said Dr. Charles O'Brien, who chairs the Substance-Related Disorder Work Group for DSM-5. "But it does have a letdown afterwards. If you drink a lot of coffee, at least two or three [236 ml] cups at a time, there will be a rebound or withdrawal effect." *Caffeine-related disorders* are not a new category in the DSM, as the DSM-IV also included the section. The new edition shows caffeine withdrawal as a direct consequence of caffeine intoxication. Symptoms of intoxication include restlessness, nervousness, red face, gastrointestinal upset, muscle twitching, rambling speech and rapid or irregular heartbeat. Once a person stops consuming caffeine, withdrawal brings on depression, headaches, fatigue and difficulty concentrating.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: IRS SCANDAL LATEST

Time: 3:20 PM

Synopsis:

The Internal Revenue Service, already under fire after officials disclosed that the agency targeted conservative groups, faces increased scrutiny because of an inspector general's report that it spent about \$50 million to hold at least 220 conferences for employees between 2010 and 2012. The report by the Treasury Department's inspector general about conference spending is set to be released Tuesday. The department issued a statement Sunday saying the administration "has already taken aggressive and dramatic action to reduce conference spending." The White House and the agency were on the defensive before the report on conference spending. Agency officials and the Obama administration have said the targeting of conservative groups was inappropriate, but the political tempest is showing no signs of

ebbing. Three congressional committees are investigating, a Justice Department criminal investigation is under way, President Barack Obama has replaced the IRS' acting commissioner and two other top officials have stepped aside. The chairman of one of those committees, Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., also released excerpts of congressional investigators' interviews with employees of the IRS office in Cincinnati. Issa said the interviews indicated the employees were directed by Washington to subject tea party and other conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status to tough scrutiny.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: CONTAMINATED FROZEN FRUITS

Time: 4:22 PM

Synopsis:

The public is being advised to throw out packages of frozen berries sold by Costco under the label Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend. An outbreak of hepatitis A in five states -- including California -- has been linked to the berries. The Kern County Public Health Services Department, in a public statement, is urging people to check their freezers for packages of the berries -- which includes strawberries, cherries pomegranate seeds, blueberries and raspberries -- and dispose of them. People who have eaten the berries in the last 14 days are being asked to contact their medical provider or the Health Department to get medical advice or treatment. As of Friday there had not been any cases of hepatitis A linked to the berries in Kern County. Costco is removing the product from its shelves voluntarily. Hepatitis A is caused by eating uncooked food that has been exposed to fecal matter. It can, according to the Kern County Health Department press release, cause "fever, fatigue, body ache, nausea, abdominal discomfort, dark colored urine and pale stools" followed by jaundice.

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06/04/2013

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN THE U.S MILITARY

Time: 2:23PM

Synopsis:

The military's top uniformed officers acknowledged before a Senate panel Tuesday that they had lost focus on sexual assaults in their services while they also opposed proposals that would remove commanders' discretion to overturn decisions to prosecute troops and throw out their convictions. "I took my eye off the ball in the commands I had," said Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in response to a statement by Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., that little had changed despite 20 years of negative publicity. A decade of war, Dempsey said, had pushed aside the issue in favor of improving "command climate." Some members of the Senate Armed Services Committee supported the service chiefs' opposition to legislation that would strip commanders of their ability to overturn jury decisions in sexual assault and harassment cases. Others, however, hammered the military for its consistent failure to stem the growing number of such cases.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: EFFECTS OF SENATOR LAUTENBERG DEATH TO THE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 3:23 PM

Synopsis:

Gov. Chris Christie said Tuesday that he wants to hold a special election in October to fill the U.S. Senate seat made vacant by Frank Lautenberg's death on Monday, and that he intends to appoint someone to serve in the meantime. The decision means the state will have two statewide elections three weeks apart. At a news conference, Christie didn't answer the big question of whom he'll appoint to the seat in the meantime, but said he has a list of possibilities in his head. Christie's decision could bring criticism for putting more elections on the calendar, which can be expensive. The state Office of Legislative Services says each election costs the state about \$12 million. Christie said the state will pick up the tab. In this case, there would be two -- an Aug. 13 primary and the special election on Oct. 16. The general election is Nov. 5. "The people need to have a voice and choice," he said. In opting for a primary, Christie said he didn't want "insiders and a few party elites to determine who the nominee of the Republican Party and the

Democratic Party will be." Newark Mayor Cory Booker, a Democrat, announced months ago that he was planning to seek the Senate seat.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: SECURITY AT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Time: 5:21 PM

Synopsis:

Security screening for visitors to the Statue of Liberty will be held in lower Manhattan instead of Ellis Island when the site reopens on July 4th after cleanup from Superstorm Sandy. The National Park Service originally had planned for visitors to board cruise ships in Manhattan or in Liberty State Park, New Jersey, and stop at Ellis Island for security, but New York officials criticized the plan. U.S Senator Charles Schumer and police Commissioner Raymond Kelly urged Federal Authorities to reverse the policy, saying it could leave visitors vulnerable. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced Monday that establishing a temporary screening facility at lower Manhattan's Battery Park would address security concerns while security procedures are further reviewed. Plans for screenings at Liberty State Park are being developed.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: POSSIBLE NEW BIRTH CONTROL METHOD FOR MEN

Time: 7:39PM

Synopsis:

A group of scientists in Mexico is busy at work on a new birth control method for men that doesn't involve using hormones or sterilization. It's not yet clear whether this new method would be a pill, cough syrup, injection, or something altogether different. But its developers have promised two things: The new contraceptive will have no major side effects and will only temporarily suspend a man's fertility. If it works, the new method would offer an alternative to hormone-based male contraceptives with familiar side effects like wild mood swings, acne, and loss of sexual appetite. It might also mean that men could take a greater role in birth control responsibilities, which often fall primarily on women. Here's how it would work: The researchers -- biochemists and molecular biologists based at Mexico City's UNAM University -- say they have discovered two proteins that are unique to sperm cells, called CatSper and Slo3. These proteins essentially give sperm the energy they need to navigate a woman's ovaries and fertilize her eggs. Scientists in Mexico are working on a new contraceptive that may give men other options, when it comes to birth control. New contraceptive methods for males could be quite important in cattle ranching and fisheries, according to Dr. Alberto Darzon, the UNAM team's leader. But he added that human males could also use more options for birth control.

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: FLORIDA GOVERNOR VETOES IMMIGRANT DRIVER LICENSE BILL

Time: 8:17PM

Synopsis:

Gov. Rick Scott on Tuesday vetoed a bill that would have allowed children of immigrants who are not U.S. citizens to use a new federal form to get temporary Florida driver licenses. Scott said he vetoed HB 235 because it would have benefited people who are covered by a change in federal policy instituted by President Barack Obama last year that wasn't approved by Congress. Under the policy known as "Deferred Action Process for Childhood Arrivals," young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children are not subject to removal if they meet certain criteria. "Deferred action status is simply a policy of the Obama administration absent Congressional direction, designed to dictate removal action decisions using DHS (Department of Homeland Security) agency discretion," Scott wrote in a veto message. "It was never passed by Congress, nor is it a promulgated rule." The Florida Democratic Party excoriated the Republican governor's action. "Rick Scott continues to alienate and discriminate against thousands of undocumented immigrants. Instead of joining the legislature's near-unanimous consensus around HB 235, Governor Scott imposed his rigid ideology on Floridians - to the detriment of the young immigrants who are Florida's future," said party spokesman Joshua Karp. "This measure would have improved the everyday lives of thousands of undocumented immigrants. With a driver's license, undocumented young people can drive to school or their jobs without the threat of being thrown into jail or deported."

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06/05/2013

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM IN DANGER

Time: 5:21PM

Synopsis:

Marco Rubio walked across the Capitol on Wednesday afternoon to sell a large group of skeptical House conservatives on comprehensive immigration reform. But the House Republicans did not emerge from the meeting singing a different tune. Instead, most of them dug in their heels against the Senate's bipartisan immigration reform bill. That leaves Rubio, the Gang of Eight's chief envoy to conservatives, in a difficult bind. House members reiterated their doubts about a pathway to citizenship, and said that the border security language isn't strict enough. They also commented that they would rather address immigration in pieces rather than a comprehensive bill. "There were no surprises in there," Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho), who is working on immigration legislation in the House, told reporters. That resistance among House Republicans has Rubio twisted into a pretzel. Here's how. Rubio was one of eight authors of the original bill. He's been extremely vocal in selling the proposal on conservative talk radio and to his colleagues in Congress. But now that he's hearing serious resistance to the bill from his fellow conservatives, he's threatening to vote "no" on the very bill he helped write unless changes are made to strengthen the border security provisions-Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla, talks with reporters about immigration reform on his way to the luncheons in the U.S. Capitol on May 7, 2013. "Well, I think if those amendments don't pass, then I think we've got a bill that isn't going to become law, and I think we're wasting our time," he told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt, when asked if he would vote against the bill if it's not amended. "So the answer is no." That's quite a reversal for Rubio, whose own website calls the existing language 'the toughest border security and enforcement measures in U.S. history.'

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: COLORADO SIGNS INTO LAW DRIVERS LICENSE FOR UNDOCUMENTED

Time: 7:28PM

Synopsis:

Immigrants living illegally in Colorado will be able to get driver's licenses under a bill signed into law by Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper. The bill was signed in private on Wednesday. Colorado joins a handful of states that grant driver's licenses for immigrants regardless of legal status. Supporters of the bill argued everyone on the roads should know the rules and be insured. The licenses would be labeled to say they are not valid for federal identification, and can't be used to vote or obtain public benefits. A bill in Oregon was signed last month and a Connecticut proposal is awaiting action from the governor. New Mexico, Illinois and Washington already allow the practice. Opponents argued there's no way to verify the identities of immigrants with certainty.

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06/06/2013

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: US CONGRESS WAS INFORMED ABOUT VERIZON PHONE CALLS

Time: 5:21 pm

Synopsis:

House Speaker John Boehner is calling on President Barack Obama to explain why the data-collecting tools used by the National Security Agency are necessary. Boehner also won't say whether he was briefed or knew about the program. Boehner responded to the publication of a top secret court order for telephone records of millions of U.S. customers of Verizon. The Ohio Republican says he's confident that House and Senate intelligence committees are providing oversight of the NSA. But he says it's time for Obama to "outline the issues" and explain why such tools are critical. He says Congress will look at any policy and privacy concerns of citizens. The Obama administration has defended the NSA's activities, calling them important and saying they were approved by all three branches of government.

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06/07/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: NSA MONITORING ONLINE

Time 3:21 pm

Synopsis:

New information is surfacing that the government has allegedly been monitoring the internet activity of millions of Americans. Documents reveal U.S. spy agencies ordered phone and internet companies to allow them access to personal information and communications of U.S. citizens, a potentially explosive disclosure about how easily the government can collect information on line. The Washington Post and the British newspaper, The Guardian, are reporting that the National Security Agency, NSA, and FBI are tapping directly into the servers of nine leading internet companies, including Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, AOL, Skype, YouTube, and Apple. That's according to a top secret NSA presentation. Intercepting data like video, photographs and emails flowing online. What this program enables the National Security Agency to do is to reach directly into the servers of the largest internet companies in the world --things that virtually every human being in the western world now uses to communicate with one another. The program appears to be intended to grab foreign intercepts many of which flow through the robust U.S. internet. Several of the companies reportedly cooperating with the government issued denials of involvement. This follows the stunning news that a secret Federal Court order directed Verizon to hand over phone records of millions of Americans. Former intelligence officials and privacy advocates say it's reasonable to presume other telephone companies got similar orders. If this is an open ended and indiscriminate collection process as this seems to be, then one would expect it to be much bigger than Verizon business.

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06/09/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: SENATOR PAUL ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 4:27 pm

Synopsis:

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said on Sunday that his Senate colleagues would have to go through him in order to win support from the House to successfully pass comprehensive immigration reform. The libertarian senator has said he wants to bolster border security measures, a rallying cry for many Republicans. The Senate will begin voting on the bipartisan proposal drafted by the Gang of Eight this week. The plan creates a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants already in the country and would tighten border security as well as institute new guest and high-tech worker visa programs. But many Republicans say the path to citizenship amounts to amnesty and are pushing amendments for tougher border security provisions. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) who helped draft the bill and a key figure for winning conservative support said last week he would not vote for the legislation without changes to the border security provisions. Many Republicans agree that comprehensive reform of the immigration system is necessary, with both Paul and Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) on Sunday saying they believed Congress could be successful in passing it.

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06/10/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: SENATE ON IMMIGRATION BILL

Time: 3:17pm

Synopsis:

Senators prepared Monday for the first votes in the full Senate on a landmark immigration bill, readying amendments on contentious issues including border security, back taxes and health care coverage. The two votes scheduled for Tuesday afternoon are on procedural measures to officially allow debate to move forward on the far-reaching measure to remake the nation's immigration laws and offer eventual

citizenship to some 11 million people now here illegally. Both votes are expected to succeed by comfortable margins, because even some senators with deep misgivings about the immigration bill say that the issue deserves a Senate debate. The real fights will come in the following days and weeks, as Republican senators offer amendments they say are needed to strengthen the bill enough that they can vote in favor. Some of these may pass; others already are being dismissed by the bill's supporters as attempts to kill the bill.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: MORE SENIORS FACING RETIREMENT INCOME SHORTAGE

Time: 3:17pm

Synopsis:

A study finds senior citizens in nearly every state in the u-s are falling short when it comes to affording their golden years. Nationwide, seniors are living off a median household income of just over 35-thousand dollars. That's about 57-percent of the median income of their younger counterparts ages 45 to 64. Only seniors in Nevada and Hawaii have median annual incomes that meet the savings benchmark commonly recommended by financial planners. Typically, planners recommend that retirees save enough to replace at least 70 percent of their pre-retirement income. The analysis of 2011 u-s census bureau data was conducted by interest-dot-com, a financial information website owned by bankrate-dot-com.

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06/11/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time: 2:25pm

Synopsis:

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly voted on Tuesday to begin consideration of a White House-backed bill to overhaul the U.S. immigration system, burying a procedural roadblock that opponents regularly use to delay or kill legislation. With last November's election indicating broad support for the landmark measure, even some senators who have expressed opposition voted to allow the debate and amendment process to commence. By a vote of 82-15, the Senate cleared the way for consideration of the measure that could stretch through the end of this month.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: STUDY FINDS MANY DESIGNATED DRIVERS IMPAIRED

Time: 2:25pm

Synopsis:

A new study suggests designated drivers are not taking their duties seriously -- or soberly. The study published in the upcoming issue of the journal of studies on alcohol and drugs, found that 35-percent of designated drivers drink alcohol while serving as the "d-d." and one in five had blood-alcohol levels high enough to impair their driving. Researchers interviewed and tested 11-hundred people in the downtown area of a southeastern college community. Of the designated drivers who drank alcohol, half had blood alcohol levels higher than .05%. That's the new limit recommended by the national transportation safety board to all 50 states. The current limit is .08%.

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6/12/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: IMMIGRATION BILL

Time: 2:24 pm

Synopsis:

Backers of far-reaching immigration legislation are turning their attention to courting support and counting votes after the Senate pushed the contentious bill over early procedural hurdles. Two votes to place the bill formally before the Senate and open for amendments each drew more than 80 votes Tuesday,

reflecting a bipartisan desire to debate the legislation to remake the nation's immigration laws and open the door to citizenship to millions. Despite the lopsided votes, Republicans served notice they will seek to toughen the bill's border security provisions and impose tougher terms on those seeking to gain legal status. "This bill has serious flaws," said their party leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. A vote was possible Wednesday on an amendment by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, to prohibit anyone from taking the first steps toward citizenship until the secretary of Homeland Security has certified to Congress that the U.S.-Mexico border has been under control for six months, according to Grassley's office. The measure is opposed by Democrats and some Republican backers of the bill.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: DISTRACTED DRIVERS

Time: 7:33 pm

Synopsis:

A new AAA study says drivers who use voice commands to send text messages and emails while behind the wheel are actually more dangerous to other motorists than if they were using a cell phone. Automakers have been trying to market the dashboard infotainment systems to new car buyers -- particularly younger ones -- often pitching it as a safer alternative for drivers.

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6/13/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: 71% OF FLA VOTERS BACK UP IMMIGRATION REFORM

Time 3:24

Synopsis:

More than 7 in 10 Florida voters favor the concept of the bipartisan immigration reform plans proposed in Congress, according to a new survey that indicates the issue might not be as politically polarizing as many say. The results released Thursday from Republican-leaning Harper Polling and Democratic-leaning Public Policy Polling could be a big boost to Florida's Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, a potential presidential candidate in 2016. Rubio helped craft his chamber's compromise plan only to face a fierce blowback from the conservative media elite and immigration hardliners. But Florida Republicans overwhelmingly back the proposal: 71-22 percent, with 43 percent saying they "strongly support," the poll of 500 voters says. By an even bigger spread of 82-14 percent, Florida Republicans said their senator should support the plan. Those results are mirrored across the nation and in Republican states, according to the pollsters, who conducted the survey for a bipartisan coalition backing comprehensive immigration reform.

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06/17/2013

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: APPLE DISCLOSES TO GOVERNMENT DATA REQUEST

Time: 5:34 pm

Synopsis:

Apple has joined Microsoft and Facebook in releasing details of requests from US law enforcement agencies for customer data amid continuing concerns over the extent of secret government surveillance. Apple said in a statement it received between 4,000 and 5,000 requests over the six months from December 2012 to May 2013 covering between 9,000 and 10,000 accounts or devices. The requests came from federal, state and local authorities and related to both criminal and national security matters. "The most common form of request comes from police investigating robberies and other crimes, searching for missing children, trying to locate a patient with Alzheimer's disease, or hoping to prevent a suicide," the statement said.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: SUPREME COURT GAY MARRIAGE

Time: 7:40 pm

Synopsis:

The Supreme Court rulings are not as simple as whether gays and lesbians can marry or not, and whether they become eligible for federal benefits. If the range of possible Supreme Court rulings on gay marriage this month requires a scorecard, the potential confusion arising from those decisions may demand a manual. It's not as simple as whether gays and lesbians can marry or not, and whether they become eligible for federal benefits. The two decisions are likely to create new questions for couples in civil unions and those who move between states, as well as for employers. As a result, what's already a complex situation for many gay and lesbian couples could get more complicated, at least initially, says John Culhane, a law professor at Widener University's Delaware campus and co-author of *Same-Sex Legal Kit for Dummies*.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: SUPREME COURT RULES AGAINST ARIZONA LAW

Time: 7:40

Synopsis:

The Supreme Court on Monday tossed out a provision in Arizona's voter registration law that required proof of citizenship. The 7-2 majority said the state's voter-approved Proposition 200 interfered with federal law designed to make voter registration easier. The state called the provision a "sensible precaution" to prevent voter fraud. Civil rights group countered that it added an unconstitutional and burdensome layer of paperwork for tens of thousands of citizens. Justice Antonin Scalia said the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 "forbids states to demand an applicant submit additional information beyond that required by the federal form." But in a nod to state authority, he said the federal law "does not prevent states from denying registration based on any information in their possession establishing the applicant's eligibility." The appeal was a classic federalism dispute, on the often delicate line between conflict and cooperation between state and federal governments over enforcing voting procedures. During last year's election, there were numerous court challenges to state voter identification laws at the polls. The current fight has produced a range of states, lawmakers and advocacy groups on both sides on the gateway issue of registration. The Obama Justice Department opposed the Arizona law, which went beyond what other states have done to ensure integrity in the registration system.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: NSA SURVEILLANCE

Time: 7:40 pm

Synopsis:

Current and former U.S. officials stormed the talk show circuit on Sunday to tamp down the controversy swirling about the National Security Agency's recently revealed surveillance programs, saying the man who leaked their existence - and the media reporting on them - are misrepresenting the extent of the government's surveillance authority. Retired Gen. Michael Hayden, who helmed the NSA and the CIA under former President George W. Bush, told NBC's "Meet the Press" that it was "unfortunate" that two specific programs were leaked at the same time, saying the details of the two programs have bled together in the media's reporting and the public's understanding, "much to the harm of the national debate." One program, the telephone "metadata" program that obtains call logs from Americans' telephone lines, "does touch upon Americans in a massive way with phone records," Hayden explained, but does not survey the "content" of conversations. The other program, called PRISM, surveys foreigners' Internet use, "and it is about content," Hayden said.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: 7-ELEVEN RAIDS

Time: 8:30 pm

Synopsis:

Federal authorities seized 14 7-Eleven stores in New York and Virginia, and indicted nine owners and managers, charging them with stealing identities and exploiting more than 50 illegal immigrants. Farrukh and Bushra Baig, a married couple who owned or managed a dozen of the convenience stores, along with seven other owner-managers, were charged with identity theft, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and

concealing and harboring illegal immigrants, Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said Monday . "From their 7-Eleven stores, the defendants dispersed wire fraud and identity theft, along with Slurpees and hot dogs," Lynch said at a Brooklyn news conference. She said the 7-Eleven defendants allegedly forced the immigrants to work 100 hours a week and pocketed the majority of their pay, while also forcing them to live in and pay rent in boarding houses that the defendants owned. This "plantation system" allegedly went on for more than 13 years, she said.

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06/18/2013

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: "DREAMERS" IMMIGRATION PROTEST

Time: 2:40 pm

Synopsis:

Today, two dozen leaders with United We Dream joined prominent Members of Congress and fellow immigration reform advocates for a press conference to condemn the extreme enforcement-only bill moving through the House Judiciary Committee today. Lorella Praeli, the Director of Advocacy and Policy for **United We Dream**, said: "DREAMers in our network like Evelyn Rivera and Renata Teodoro had to travel to the border just to see their mothers for the first time in over six years, through a metal and concrete fence. Is this the America our politicians want to be part of? An America that tears families apart and deports moms? On the heels of the announcement that ICE Director John Morton is stepping down, the call to end senseless deportations and out-of-control enforcement is more urgent than ever. Morton oversaw an enforcement system rife with rampant abuses. It's time for a new path forward on immigration.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: NSA SURVEILLANCE AND SNOWDEN

Time: 2:40 pm

Synopsis:

Recently disclosed National Security Agency surveillance programs have helped disrupt more than 50 "potential terrorist events" around the world over the last 12 years, according to U.S. intelligence officials, who described the spying operations as tightly regulated and extremely useful. The officials, testifying Tuesday before the House Intelligence Committee identified two new cases - an alleged plot to blow up the New York Stock Exchange and a U.S. resident who helped finance a terrorist group in Somalia - which they said proved the value of collecting domestic telephone calling records and monitoring foreign Internet traffic. Most of the plots were foiled by surveillance of foreigners overseas, the kind of spying the NSA has done since it was created in 1952 to monitor communications and other so-called signals intelligence.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: 7/11 STORES INVESTIGATION

Time: 3:40 pm

Synopsis:

The owners of 7-Eleven franchises in New York and Virginia created a "modern day plantation system" in which undocumented workers were furnished with stolen identities and forced to work 100 hours a week for a fraction of their wages, according to federal authorities. Ten stores in New York and four in Virginia were seized today as part of the federal investigation which found the undocumented workers from Pakistan were given identities stolen from children and the deceased, according to federal prosecutor Loretta E. Lynch. Farrukh Baig, his wife Bushra, and seven others were charged with fraud, identity theft and concealing illegal immigrants to work in their stores. Court records say they employed illegal workers since 2000, forced them to work long hours for less pay and required them to live in residences owned and controlled by the store owners. "The 7-11 franchises seized today will be better known for their big fraud than their Big Gulp," said James Hayes, special agent in charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's office of investigations in New York. The investigation, which is one of the largest criminal immigrant employment investigations ever by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland

Security, began when several of the employees tipped off police to the longstanding practice, authorities said.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: IMMIGRATION REFORM DEBATE IN COMMITTEE

Time: 5:20 pm

Synopsis:

A key committee in the Republican-led House moved Tuesday toward approving a tough enforcement-focused immigration bill opposed by Democrats and immigrant advocates, who interrupted the proceedings with cries of "Shame, shame, shame!" Meanwhile in the Senate, a Republican lawmaker floated a compromise border security proposal he hopes can win over support for sweeping immigration legislation under consideration there. And on a day of fast-paced developments on an issue that is a top priority for President Barack Obama, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, moved to quiet speculation that he might bring the Senate immigration legislation up for a vote despite opposition from many conservatives in his chamber. "Any immigration reform bill that is going to go into law ought to have a majority of both parties' support if we're really serious about making that happen. And so I don't see any way of bringing an immigration bill to the floor that doesn't have a majority support of Republicans," Boehner said. He added that border enforcement would be key for any immigration bill, "And I frankly think the Senate bill is weak on border security." As Boehner addressed reporters, the House Judiciary Committee was meeting to consider a bill, called the Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act, by Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C. It would empower state and local officials to enforce federal immigration laws, make passport and visa fraud into aggravated felonies subject to deportation, funnel money into building more detention centers, and crack down on immigrants suspected of posing dangers. As soon as Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., gaveled the proceedings open, more than a dozen protesters who had been seated in the hearing room stood up and began clapping and chanting, "Shame, shame, shame! More of the same!"

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: MORE PEOPLE NEEDED TO WORK

Time: 7:18 pm

Synopsis:

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack is calling on Congress to pass an immigration reform bill, asserting it would bring a variety of benefits to the agricultural industry and to rural states like Iowa. Vilsack, a former Iowa governor, spoke with reporters today in a conference call about the start of National Small Business Week. "As we deal with comprehensive immigration reform, we look for the benefits of trying to fix a broken system," Vilsack says. "One of the benefits is that immigrants come here with a dream and come here with a hope of a better life and one way that they can do that is by being their own boss and developing their own business, which is why immigrants are more likely than those who currently live here in the United States to start a small business."

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06/19/2013

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: IMMIGRATION REFORM GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY

Time: 3:04 pm

Synopsis:

Prospects for passage of a U.S. immigration bill with strong bipartisan support brightened on Wednesday when a group of Republican and Democratic negotiators reached a tentative deal on ways to shore up U.S. border security, senators said. Some Democratic senators already were buoyed by Tuesday's Congressional Budget Office report, which concluded that the Senate immigration bill would reduce federal budget deficits by nearly \$900 billion over 20 years and boost the U.S. economy. The economic projection is "a big game-changer," New Jersey Democratic Senator Robert Menendez, a member of the bi-partisan "Gang of Eight" that wrote the bill, told Reuters. Menendez said the CBO report undermined Republican arguments that the measure would cost the government trillions of dollars over the long term,

mainly in federal benefit payouts to illegal immigrants who are put on a path to citizenship. Meanwhile, Corker said the CBO's projection that the bill would reduce illegal border crossing by only 25 percent "added some momentum to our discussions about doing something very substantial on border security."

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: FDA DECLARES OBESITY AN ILLNESS

Time: 5:03 pm

Synopsis:

While the American Medical Association may not have the clout it once did, it's still the largest single group of doctors making waves about health and the practice of medicine. So it's not anything when the AMA's House of Delegates approves a measure to label obesity a disease. The group's deliberative democratic body passed a measure in Chicago Tuesday that broadly, if vaguely, says obesity is a medical condition. The AMA isn't vested with legally binding authority on what's a disease and what's not. And, in fact, when it comes to the labeling of diseases, there's a whole other global ball of wax called the International Classification of Diseases, which already has a range of categories covering obesity - from the type "due to excess calories" to the kind that's a side effect of prescription drugs. So what's the big deal with the AMA? The group still has a considerable bully pulpit. And the vote could give more oomph to efforts to have obesity interventions paid for by insurers and to get the public focused on the problem. "We felt it's time to take a stance and say we're going to identify this as a disease," Dr. Douglas Martin, chairman of the AMA public health committee that referred the resolution for vote, told MedPage Today. "We think that's going to send a message not only to the public but to the physician community that we really need to make it a priority and put it in our cross hairs."

Duration: 45 seconds.

Title: IRS WILL GIVE 70 MILLION IN BONUS

Time: 5:03 pm

Synopsis:

The IRS is set to pay roughly \$70 million in employee-union bonuses, contrary to an Obama administration directive to halt such rewards amid the deep, government-wide budget cuts known as sequestration. The apparent deal with the National Treasury Employees Union is scheduled for Wednesday and was made public by Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa. Grassley's office said the information came from a "person with knowledge of IRS budgetary procedures." The IRS is already facing widespread criticism, which started last month when IRS officials acknowledged that agents had improperly targeted Tea Party groups and conservative organizations for additional scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status during the 2010 and 2012 elections. Then the agency's inspector general issued a report a few weeks later that documented lavish employee conferences during the same time period.

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06/20/2013

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: SENATE IMMIGRATION DEAL INCLUDES TOUGHER BORDER SECURITY

Time: 6:32 pm

Synopsis:

A border agent every 1,000 feet, every hour of every day, supported by 700 miles of fencing along the Mexican frontier. No green cards for the 11 million immigrants living illegally in America until those steps and others to enhance border controls are taken. And none of it increases the federal deficit or debt. A bipartisan group of senators unveiled a compromise on Thursday intended to ensure Senate passage of a major immigration reform bill with enough Republican support to persuade the GOP-controlled House to also take up the measure that is a priority of President Barack Obama. The bipartisan amendment would require 20,000 more border agents, completing 700 miles of fence along the boundary with Mexico, and deploying \$3.2 billion in technology upgrades similar to equipment used by U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The proposal, negotiated by a group of senators from both parties known as the "Gang of Eight," also insists on stronger worker verification and border entry-exit controls. Only after those five

conditions have been met and verified by the Department of Homeland Security can undocumented immigrants get permanent residency, supporters said. GOP Sens. John Hoeven of North Dakota and Bob Corker of Tennessee introduced the compromise amendment, saying it incorporated proposals from other senators to try to fix a broken immigration system.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: ACLU PRESENTS A LAWSUIT AGAINST ICE FOR UNCONSTITUTIONAL DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

Time 6.32 pm

Synopsis:

Seeking to end the government's practice of placing immigration holds on individuals without probable cause, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California (ACLU/SC), the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON), and the law firm Kaye, McLane, Bednarski & Litt filed a class-action lawsuit today against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The lawsuit follows the detention of plaintiff Gerardo Gonzalez Jr., a 23-year-old American-born citizen, who is presently held at a Los Angeles County jail on an immigration hold.

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06/21/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: FAA TO CONSIDER RELAXED RULES FOR DEVICES ON PLANES

Time: 5.24 pm

Synopsis:

An industry working group assigned by the Federal Aviation Administration to research the use of electronics on airplanes is expected to recommend relaxing the ban on portable electronic devices. One member of the group, who asked for anonymity because the panel is not allowed to speak publicly about internal discussions, said a document is being drafted that will recommend a wider use of devices during takeoff and landing, including tablets and smartphones used only for data (like e-mail) but not talking. One of the recommendations under consideration in the document would be to allow "gate-to-gate" use of electronics, meaning that devices could be left on, in a limited "airplane mode," from the moment the gate door closes on the tarmac until the plane arrives at the gate of its destination. But the person, who has seen a draft of the report, said there are still concerns about passengers' electronics during landing, where the use of flight instruments is paramount, indicating the recommendation could still change.

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06/22/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: TIME FOR EXCUSES ON IMMIGRATION IS OVER

Time: 6.37 pm

Synopsis:

President Barack Obama is trumpeting a report that says a Senate immigration overhaul would reduce the deficit by almost \$1 trillion over two decades. He says the time for excuses has passed. In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama points to a new analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. He says the Senate's bipartisan bill would boost the economy by more than 5 percent. Obama isn't specifically addressing a military-style surge to border security added to the bill to win over Republicans, but he says the bill is consistent with his principles. In the Republican address, Congressman John Kline of Minnesota says Obama must show leadership to avoid an impending student loan rate hike. He says Senate Democrats are blocking both Obama's plan and a House Republican plan.

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06/24/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM LATEST

Time: 4.30 pm

Synopsis:

The introduction this week of a robust border security amendment to the Senate's immigration reform bill is likely to ensure its passage in that chamber, opponents conceded Sunday, expressing hope that the more-conservative House of Representatives will be able to kill the bill when it lands in the lower chamber. Sens. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., and John Hoeven, R-N.D., unveiled a "border surge" plan on Thursday that, if adopted, would dramatically increase the resources devoted to border security under the Senate's immigration bill. The proposal would double the number of Border Patrol agents from 20,000 to 40,000, spend billions of dollars on enhanced surveillance equipment for the border, and double the amount of border fencing required by the bill, from 350 to 700 miles.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CASE BACK TO LOWER COURT

Time: 5.30 pm

Synopsis:

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday avoided a major ruling in a closely watched racial case on the affirmative action admissions policy at the University of Texas at Austin by sending the case back to a lower court. The court, on a 7-1 vote, said an appeals court did not apply the correct standard in deciding whether the Texas policy violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. In doing so, Justice Anthony Kennedy made it clear that the program is not on solid legal ground and could still be overturned. When the case returns to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, the university "must make a showing that its plan is narrowly tailored to achieve the only interest that this court has approved in this context," Kennedy wrote. Under court precedent, that means a program that takes into account a broad array of qualifications and characteristics ``of which racial or ethnic origin is but a single though important element." The Supreme Court avoided making a decision on whether to overturn a 2003 precedent in a ruling written by the now-retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor that let universities use race in admissions as one factor among others that make particular applicants more desirable.

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06/25/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: SUPREME COURT LIMITS ON VOTING

Time 3:20 pm

Synopsis:

In a major blow to civil rights activists, the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday struck down an important part of a 48-year-old federal law designed to protect minority voters. The court ruled on a 5-4 vote in favor of officials from Shelby County, Alabama, in finding that a section of the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act that sets the formula that determines which states need federal approval to change voting laws is invalid. Writing for the majority, conservative Chief Justice John Roberts said the coverage formula that Congress used when it most recently reauthorized the law in 2006 should have been updated. The court, split on ideological lines, did not go as far as striking down Section 5 of the law, known as the preclearance provision, which requires certain states to get approval from the Justice Department or a federal court before making election-law changes.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: NYPD REPRIMENDED FOR SPEAKING SPANISH

Time 7:30 pm

Synopsis:

Police officer Jessenia Guzman, who is of Dominican descent, filed two lawsuits in the U.S. Department of Labor after she was reprimanded for talking in Spanish during working hours. "It was just natural," said Guzman, who has been in the NYPD for thirteen years. "My partner was getting coffee, she said

something and I answered back in Spanish" the policewoman claimed. At the time of the incident, Guzman was in charge of answering phone calls in Manhattan, which was made public by the New York Daily News on Monday. Hours later, her supervisor called her into his office to inform Guzman he was officially reprimanding her. The sanction stems from a NYPD rule that states employees must communicate in English during working hours. "This policy exists to allow proper supervision of staff," says the memo signed by Lieutenant Richard Khalaf. The memo was sent to Guzman, who now has the sanction in her permanent record, the New York Daily News, which obtained a copy of the document, reported. Guzman, who lives in the Bronx, filed two complaints for violations of federal labor laws. Her co-worker, who also spoke Spanish, did not receive the same punishment.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: IRS SCANDAL CONTINUES

Time 7:30 pm

Synopsis:

A government watchdog says lax oversight by the Internal Revenue Service allowed workers to use agency credit cards to buy wine for an expensive luncheon and, in one case, romance novels, diet pills and baby clothes. Two IRS credit cards were used to buy online pornography, though the employees reported the cards stolen. One of the workers reported five agency credit cards lost or stolen. A report Tuesday by the IRS inspector general found the vast majority of purchases by IRS employees legitimate. However, the report said the IRS has inadequate controls to stop inappropriate purchases. The report said IRS credit cards paid for 28 bottles of wine at a 2010 luncheon for tax officials from other countries.

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06/26/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: SAME SEX MARRIAGE - CALIFORNIA

Time 2:25 pm

Synopsis:

In only one of today's two gay marriage cases did the 5-to-4 ruling break down along ideological lines. That was the case in which the Supreme Court rejected part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional, since it deprived legally-married same-sex couples of federal benefits that went to other married couples. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote the majority opinion in that case, joined by the court's liberal justices. In that case, Justice Antonin Scalia read from his dissent, in which he ridiculed the majority, accusing them of demonizing anyone who opposed gay marriage as being an "enemy of human decency." Also dissenting were Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas. The other 5-to-4 ruling, clearing the way for gay marriage to resume in California, was based on technical legal reasoning, rather than on the issue of gay marriage itself.

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: FILIBUSTER IN TEXAS TO HALT ABORTION BILL

Time 9:26 pm

Synopsis:

A day after a filibuster and a raucous crowd in the state Capitol killed plans for strict new regulations on abortion in Texas, Gov. Rick Perry says he's calling the state Legislature back to try again. Perry said a new special session would convene July 1 to take up the abortion bill, which was declared dead before dawn Wednesday. The bill failed after a night of high drama in Austin, featuring a lone lawmaker who talked for 10 hours to run out the clock on a special session and spectators whose chants of "Shame, shame, shame" drowned out Republicans who tried to pass it in the final minutes before midnight. The announcement comes a day before Perry, who mounted an unsuccessful Republican presidential bid in 2012, addresses the National Right to Life convention in Dallas. And it comes on a day when abortion rights advocates had a new hero in state Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth. She fell short by about three hours when the chair ruled she had gone off topic. The packed gallery erupted in boos. Her fellow Democrats stalled for time with procedural tactics. And as the clock wound down, opponents of the bill

drowned out proceedings on the floor, preventing lawmakers from completing a vote in time. At 3 a.m., Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst stepped to the Senate floor to declare the bill dead and the special session over.

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06/27/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: SENATE IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL PASSES WITH STRONG MAJORITY

Time 5:26 pm

Synopsis:

The Senate passed a politically fraught immigration reform bill on Thursday that would give a path to citizenship to some of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., bringing them out of the shadows and preventing continued record deportations that have separated hundreds of thousands of families. The bill passed 68 to 32, picking up all Democrats and 14 Republicans.

Undocumented immigrants and advocates in the crowd, many of them young so-called Dreamers, broke out into applause and chants of "yes we can!" after Vice President Joe Biden, who came to the Senate to preside over the proceedings, read the results. Senators in the bipartisan "gang of eight" that drafted the bill -- Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) -- patted each other on the back.

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06/28/13

GAY RIGHTS

Duration; 45 seconds.

Time: 4.30 pm

Synopsis:

In a pair of major victories for the gay rights movement, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that married same-sex couples were entitled to federal benefits and, by declining to decide a case from California, effectively allowed same-sex marriages there. The rulings leave in place laws banning same-sex marriage around the nation, and the court declined to say whether there was a constitutional right to such unions. But in clearing the way for same-sex marriage in California, the nation's most populous state, the court effectively increased to 13 the number of states that allow it. If California becomes the 13th state to allow same-sex marriage, about 30 percent of Americans will live in jurisdictions where it is legal. Until last year, when four states voted in favor of same-sex marriage at the ballot box, it had failed - or bans on it had succeeded - every time it had appeared on a statewide initiative.

IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL AND VOTE-THE DAY AFTER

Duration; 45 seconds.

Time 4.30pm

Synopsis:

The Senate passed immigration reform with an impressive 68-32 margin, including 14 Republican votes, hoping to pressure the GOP-led house to follow. The euphoria had hardly passed for supporters of comprehensive immigration reform when House Speaker John Boehner, R- Ohio, put on the brakes, warning that the House does not like being pressured. So what's next? In what is left of the House Gang of 8-now reduced to 7 with the exit of Raul Labrador of Idaho-Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., promised to continue to work on a wide-ranging immigration fix as well. The next key date in the House is July 10, after the Independence Day break, when conservatives meet in the Republican Caucus with Speaker Boehner to decide how to proceed.

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06/29/13

Duration: 45 seconds

Topic: HOT TEMPERATURES IN DEATH VALLEY

Time : 5.26 pm

Synopsis:

There is hot and then there is Death Valley hot!. The current jet stream has the southwest suffering under an extreme heat wave. By two o'clock the thermometer outside Furnace Creek Resort in Death Valley reached a sweltering 126 degrees..Locals say the hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth is 134-degrees...so they're still a bit below that.

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06/30/13

Duration: 45 seconds.

Topic: SOUTH WEST HEAT WAVE

Time 3.:40 pm , 5:20 pm

Synopsis:

Scorching heat blistered the Southwest of the United States on Saturday, where highs between 115 and 120 (Fahrenheit) degrees (46 and 49 degrees Celsius) were recorded for parts of Arizona, Nevada and California. Large swaths of California sweltered under extreme heat warnings, which are expected to last into Tuesday night and maybe even longer. The forecast for Death Valley, California, called for 128 degrees (53 degrees Celsius) on Saturday, but it was 3 degrees shy of that, according to unofficial reports from the National Weather Service. Death Valley's record high of 134 degrees (56.6 degrees Celsius), set a century ago, stands as the highest temperature ever recorded on Earth. Forecasters said temperatures in sun baked Las Vegas, Nevada, shot up to 115 degrees (46 degrees Celsius) on Saturday afternoon, two degrees short of the city's all-time record.

=====END OF JUNE REPORT=====