

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS - OCTOBER 2010

Airdate: October 1st

Duration: 30

Topic: BANK OF AMERICA FORECLOSURE

Synopsis: Bank of America says it is delaying foreclosures in 23 states as it examines whether it rushed the foreclosure process for thousands of homeowners without reading the documents. Bank of America is not yet able to estimate how many homeowners cases will be affected, a spokesman for the nation's largest bank says. A bank official acknowledged in a legal proceeding in February that she signed up to 8,000 foreclosure documents a month and typically didn't read them. The Associated Press obtained the document Friday. The executive's admission adds the nation's largest bank to a growing list of mortgage companies whose employees signed documents in foreclosure cases without verifying the information in them.

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Airdate: October 2nd

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA MARIJUANA SUPERSTORE

Synopsis: Oakland, California is one step closer to becoming the Cannabis Capital of the U.S. following the city's proposal to issue licenses for large scale cultivation of medical marijuana. The city plans to issue up to four licenses to growers willing to pay \$200,000 every year and up to 8 percent of gross sales in taxes.

Duration: 30

Topic: ONE NATION MARCH

Synopsis:

Tapping into anger as the tea party movement has done, a coalition of progressive and civil rights groups marched by the thousands Saturday on the Lincoln Memorial and pledged to support Democrats struggling to keep power on Capitol Hill. "We are together. This march is about the power to the people," said Ed Schultz, host of "The Ed Show" on MSNBC. "It is about the people standing up to the corporations. Are you ready to fight back?"

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Airdate: October 3rd

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA GOVERNORS DEBATE

Synopsis: GOP gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman and Democratic rival Jerry Brown traded barbs over immigration policy and Whitman's illegal immigrant

housekeeper during a heated debate that was aimed at California's growing Latino population. Both candidates hoped to score points with the crucial voting bloc during Saturday's face-off, the first to air statewide on Spanish-language television. Whitman acknowledged early on that she cannot win the governor's race without Latino votes.

Duration: 30

Topic: ALERT ON EUROPE FOR POSSIBLE TERRORISM

Synopsis: Britain's Foreign Office has upgraded its travel advice for France and Germany, warning Britons going to those countries that the threat of terrorism there is high. Before Sunday's change, the government's travel advice for France and Germany was that the threat from terror attacks there was "general." The update came shortly after the U.S. State Department issued a travel alert warning Americans of potential terrorist threats in Europe and urged them to be vigilant in public places.

Duration: 30

Topic: MIGRAINE GENE DISCOVERED

Synopsis: In the past month, international studies have discovered two genes connected to migraines, EAAT 2 and TRESK, proving migraines are hereditary, the reason why some drugs work and that others can be developed. The gene connected to the common migraine, EAAT 2, is the first discovered that influences such a wide group.

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Airdate: October 4th

Duration: 30

Topic: TOYOTA RECALL

Synopsis: Toyota says it has fixed about 3.7 million vehicles in the United States that have been part of the company's massive safety recalls. Toyota says in a progress update Monday that customer complaints about unintended acceleration made to its consumer hotline have fallen considerably since April. Toyota has been working to rebuild its reputation for safety in the wake of more than 10 million recalls worldwide. Company officials say they have completed 5 million fixes in the U.S. to recalled vehicles. About 1.3 million vehicles have received fixes for issues with sticking gas pedals and floor mat problems. Toyota says it is expanding the role of engineering teams created to investigate problems with unintended acceleration to include other problems as well.

Duration: 30

Topic: TERRORISM ALERT

Synopsis: The FBI and Homeland Security Department say they have no indication that terrorists are targeting the U.S. or its citizens as part of a new threat against Europe but they warn law enforcement authorities to be on the lookout for suspicious activity, as it's more difficult to detect terror plots carried out by individuals or small groups. On

Sunday, the U.S. issued an alert to Americans living in or traveling to Europe to be vigilant because of the terror plots there.

Duration: 30

Topic: VERIZON PLANS \$50 MILLION REFUND TO CUSTOMERS

Synopsis: Verizon Wireless admitted on Sunday it had erroneously charged customers for data services they didn't want and said it would refund more than \$50 million to those cell phone users. The announcement, among the largest customer refunds by a telecom service, comes amid complaints that users were unintentionally accessing the Web and using other data services, only to find those mistakes through extra charges on their monthly service bills. The Federal Communications Commission had been investigating the alleged practice and said Sunday it would continue its formal probe, which could lead to additional penalties on the nation's largest wireless firm. Verizon said that over several years, 15 million customers were charged from \$2 to \$6 for data services they didn't initiate. A source close to the company said Verizon Wireless will pay refunds to current and past customers for the error.

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Airdate: October 5th

Duration: 30

Topic: BAILOUT RETROSPECTIVE

Synopsis: The Treasury Department says the \$700 billion financial bailout will cost far less than previously thought. A report on the program Tuesday says it will cost taxpayers about \$50 billion. That's lower than the most recent estimate this summer by the Congressional Budget Office of \$66 billion. Tuesday's report comes after two years of criticism about the programs that rescued banks, automakers and other failing companies. It says the programs achieved many of their goals despite being deeply unpopular. It says they prevented a deeper crisis and stabilized the financial system. The law was passed at the peak of 2008's global credit crisis. Its official end was Sunday.

Duration: 30

Topic: 11 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AGAINST SB 1070

Synopsis: Eleven Latin American countries want permission to urge the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to strike down SB 1070, Arizona's anti-immigrant law. Mexico and a host of other countries petitioned the court on Monday in order to file friend of the court briefs that restate their opposition to the law. In its original language, SB 1070 would have allowed officers enforcing state, local and even civil code to pull over anyone they had "reasonable suspicion" to believe was in the country without papers. It also created a new class of state crimes and punishments for federal civil immigration violations. The law was met with international outrage. Seven lawsuits were filed challenging the law, including one by the Department of Justice.

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Airdate: October 6th

Duration: 30

Topic: AP POLL-WORKING CLASS WHITES

Synopsis: Desperate for jobs and cool toward President Barack Obama, working-class whites are flocking to Republicans, turning a group long wary of Democrats into an even bigger impediment to the party's drive to keep control of Congress. An Associated Press-GfK poll shows whites without four-year college degrees preferring GOP candidates by twice the margin of the last two elections, when Democrats made significant gains in the House and Senate. The poll, conducted last month, found this group favoring GOP hopefuls 58 percent to 36 percent -- a whopping 22 percentage-point gap.

Duration: 30

Topic: RECORD NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS DEPORTED FROM US

Synopsis: U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano on Wednesday announced the record-breaking immigration enforcement statistics achieved under the Obama Administration. "Our approach has yielded historic results, removing more convicted criminal aliens than ever before and issuing more financial sanctions on employers who knowingly and repeatedly violate immigration laws than during the entire previous administration," the DHS Secretary said. ICE Director Morton added that the record-breaking numbers were the result of strong, sensible enforcement programs and priorities. He remarked the strong commitment and dedication showed by thousands of ICE agents and officers.

Duration: 30

Topic: LATIN VOTE / NCLR

Synopsis: At a press conference today, a coalition of national Latino organizations issued an urgent call to Latino voters—who are likely to be key factors in several highly contested elections across the nation—to participate in the upcoming midterm election. The coalition members also outlined their plans to energize Hispanic turnout in November through a series of new public service announcements, a national voter hotline, and stepped-up get-out-the-vote efforts focused on transforming voter anger toward the tone of this year's campaigns into action. The event gathered a number of national Latino organization engaged in voter registration, education, and protection, including Democracia U.S.A., Hispanic Federation, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Mi Familia Vota, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), Voto Latino, and NCLR (National Council of La Raza).

Duration: 30

Topic: FORECLOSURES MISTAKES

Synopsis: At least six states are investigating the foreclosure procedures at Ally, JPMorgan Chase, or both. Ice said without a verifiable way to identify the loan's owner, it may leave cases open to more claims by homeowners' lawyers of faulty foreclosure procedures since some lenders will not be able to justify they indeed own a home loan. A letter from California congressmen released Tuesday said thousands of people in

their districts have reported that despite efforts to seek loan modifications or other relief many financial institutions "routinely fail to respond in a timely manner, misplace requested documents and send mixed signals" about what is required to avoid foreclosures.

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Airdate: October 7th

Duration: 30

Topic: POVERTY IN THE US

Synopsis: A new analysis says the number of poor people in the nation's suburbs is growing. Suburbs are the new center of poverty among those of working age. Suburban poverty has climbed to its highest level in almost a half century, creating strains on dwindling safety-net programs focusing mostly on the inner-city poor. A pair of analyses by the nonprofit Brookings Institution paint a bleak economic picture for the 100 largest metropolitan areas over the past decade and in the coming years. The U.S. poverty rate is projected to edge toward 15 percent. They also come weeks before the Nov. 2 congressional elections in which voters anxious over the slumping economy will decide whether to keep Democrats in power.

Duration: 30

Topic: ARTHRITIS CASES

Synopsis: Over 21 million people in the U.S. alone suffer from the most common form of arthritis - osteoarthritis. Primarily associated with growing older, the condition is marked by the wearing away of cartilage, the cushioning between the bones in the joints. As osteoarthritis gets worse, the cartilage disappears and bone rubs on bone, producing pain and swelling. Mainstream medicine offers symptomatic relief - but no cure - with medications including liver damaging acetaminophen (Tylenol) or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen which, long term, can cause ulcers and bleeding; some NSAIDs may increase the risk for heart attack and stroke, too.

Duration: 30

Topic: LOU DOBBS UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

Synopsis: Today, The Nation magazine published the results of its year-long investigation that found that Lou Dobbs, the former CNN anchor known for his anti-immigrant views, had relied on undocumented labor for the upkeep of his estate and his daughter's show horses. Dobbs devoted so much time to railing against undocumented people that he managed to skew the national debate on immigration reform. While he off-handedly would acknowledge their hard work, he devoted the bulk of his radio and TV air time to made-up stories of diseases and invasions.

Duration: 30

Topic: ARIZONA HISPANIC VOTERS

Synopsis: Groups that have been working to increase turnout among Hispanic voters are pondering this question: Are they mad enough? Polls predict low turnout among Latinos in November, but Hispanic civil rights and civic participation organizations are hoping outrage over "anti-immigrant" rhetoric and the uptick in laws targeting illegal immigrants will counter apathy in the electorate. The groups are pushing voter turnout with an ad campaign they are calling "Vote for Respect."

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Airdate: October 8th

Duration: 30

Topic: BANK OF AMERICA STOPS FORECLOSURES

Synopsis: Potential flaws in foreclosure documents are threatening to throw the real estate industry into a full-blown crisis, as Bank of America on Friday became the first bank to stop sales of foreclosed homes in all 50 states. The move, along with another decision on foreclosures by PNC Financial Services Inc., adds to growing concerns that mortgage lenders have been evicting homeowners using flawed court papers. Charlotte, N.C.-based Bank of America Corp., the nation's largest bank, said Friday it would stop sales of foreclosed homes in all 50 states as it reviews potential flaws in foreclosure documents. A week earlier, the company had said it would only stop such sales in the 23 states where foreclosures must be approved by a judge.

Duration: 30

Topic: OBESITY CAMPAIGN IN NEW YORK

Synopsis: New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg along with Governor David Paterson have submitted a request to The Department of Agriculture to add sugar sweetened drinks to the list of items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. The request is part of an anti-obesity campaign that has also included anti-soda advertisements, stricter rules on food sold in schools, and an unsuccessful attempt to tax soda and other sugary drinks. The campaign is a response to the alarming rise in obesity and type 2 diabetes especially among children, in low income communities. According to the New York City Department of Health, 40 percent of public school students in kindergarten through eighth grade are overweight or obese. Type 2 diabetes is also twice as common among poor New Yorkers. The ban would be for two years to study the impact on health and whether a permanent ban would be merited. Additionally the ban would not extend to other unhealthful products like ice cream, potato chips and candy.

Duration: 30

Topic: DIET PILL WITHDRAWAL

Synopsis: Abbott Laboratories says it is withdrawing its diet pill Meridia in the U.S. and Canada, almost a year after studies showed the drug increases the risk of heart attack and stroke in patients with a history of heart disease. Meridia has been available in both

countries for more than a decade. Abbott says it made the decision at the request of the Food and Drug Administration. Earlier in the day, Health Canada, the nation's health department, announced the drug would come off the market there. European regulators pulled the product off the market in January citing data showing that patients who had heart disease were more likely to have heart attacks or stroke while taking the drug.

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Airdate: October 9th

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA - WEEKLY ADDRESS

Synopsis: Offering voters a reason to keep Democrats in power on Capitol Hill, President Barack Obama says Republicans would cut education spending and put the country's economic future at risk if they had their way. A quality education is paramount, Obama said. He suggested that federal spending on education is one area where he would not compromise. "What I'm not prepared to do is shortchange our children's education," Obama said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address.

Duration: 30

Topic: MERCEDES BENZ RECALL

Synopsis: Mercedes-Benz is recalling about 85,000 of its 2010 and 2011 cars because of potential steering problems. The luxury automaker says in a report to federal regulators that the steering systems in the cars "may fail due to the loss of power steering fluid." Mercedes-Benz says that if that happens, drivers "may not have sufficient control of the vehicle, increasing the risk of a vehicle crash." The recall affects the 2010 Mercedes C-Class and the 2010 and 2011 E-Class Coupe and Cabriolet models. Owners may return the cars to dealers, who will check the powering steering systems for free, the company says.

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Airdate: October 10th

Duration: 30

Topic: NO MORE SODAS WITH FOOD STAMPS

Synopsis: Using food stamps to buy sodas, teas, sports drinks and other sugar-sweetened beverages would not be allowed in New York City under a new government effort to battle obesity. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. David Paterson announced Thursday that they are seeking permission from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the nation's food stamp program, to add sugary drinks to the list of prohibited goods for city residents receiving assistance. If approved, it would be the first time an item would be banned from the federal program based solely on nutritional

value. Spending government money on "foods of little or no nutritional value not only contradicts the intent of the program, it also effectively subsidizes a serious public health epidemic," New York officials wrote in their proposal.

Duration: 30

Topic: FORECLOSURES INVESTIGATION

Synopsis: The attorneys general of up to 40 states plan to announce soon a joint investigation into banks' use of flawed foreclosure paperwork. A person briefed on the investigation says an announcement could come as early as Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was not yet public. Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller will lead the investigation. Miller already has been leading multistate reviews of questionable foreclosure documents.

Duration: 30

Topic: SOCIAL SECURITY NO INCREASES

Synopsis: The Social Security Administration is expected to announce on Friday that retirees and disabled Americans will see no increase in benefits for 2011, the second straight year without an increase.

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Airdate: October 11th

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW PLAN TO CREATE JOBS

Synopsis: Building off his Labor Day announcement of a bold new plan for modernizing and rebuilding America's roads, railways, and runways, President Obama held a meeting today on the economic impact of infrastructure investment on our states and local communities at the White House. Joining the President at the meeting was Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, former Secretaries of Transportation Norman Mineta and Samuel Skinner, Governors Ed Rendell and Jack Markell, and Mayors Antonio Villaraigosa, Mick Cornett, Julian Castro, Michael Coleman, Michael Nutter, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Kasim Reed and Joe Riley. The group discussed the current state of our transportation infrastructure in cities and states across the country, the challenges they face to improving their infrastructure, and the short- and long-term economic impact of new infrastructure investment.

Duration: 30

Topic: STUDY ABOUT AUTISM

Synopsis: Newborn babies who develop jaundice, a common liver problem that turns their skin and eyes yellow, are at greater risk for autism, according to Danish researchers who studied all children born in that country during a 10-year period. Full-term babies born between 1994 and 2004 who were diagnosed with jaundice were 67 percent more likely to develop autism than those without jaundice, according to the study published in the latest issue of the journal Pediatrics. Babies most at risk were those born to mothers who had had children previously, and those born in the darkest

months of the year, October to March, said researchers at Aarhus University in Denmark.

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Airdate: October 12th

Duration: 30

Topic: LOS ANGELES POLICE AND ICE PROGRAM

Synopsis: Immigrant, labor, civil and human rights advocates urge Los Angeles board of supervisors to vote no on anti-immigrant and racial profiling Program 287(g). Moments before the public hearing to determine whether Los Angeles should continue its relationship with ICE through the 287(g) program, community members and advocates will rally to urge Los Angeles Board Supervisors to vote against re-committing to the 287(g) program. After the hearing, community advocates will be available for press comments.

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Airdate: October 14th

Duration: 30

Topic: BANK OF AMERICA AND FORCLOSURES

Synopsis: Bank of America Corp Chief Executive Brian Moynihan said he is "not so concerned" that an ongoing review of foreclosure documents will delay a rebound in the U.S. housing market. He said factors like unemployment levels would have a much greater impact on home prices than the reviews now under way. Asked if he expected the reviews would affect the spring home-selling season in 2011, Moynihan replied, "Not that I see." All 50 U.S. states have started a joint investigation of the mortgage industry, focusing on allegations that some banks did not review documents properly or submitted false statements to evict delinquent borrowers.

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Airdate: October 15th

Duration: 30

Topic: NO INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY

Synopsis: The government says there will be no increase in Social Security benefits next year. It's the second year in a row without an increase for more than 58 million retirees and disabled Americans. The Social Security Administration says inflation has been too low since the last increase in 2009 to warrant one for 2011.

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Airdate: October 16th

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA TAXES WEEKLY MESSAGE

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says there's no reason to reward U.S. companies with tax breaks when they're creating jobs overseas. In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama renews his call for Congress to close tax breaks that reward some U.S. companies with overseas subsidiaries. The proposal has raised concerns among Republican lawmakers and some Democrats. But Obama says the U.S. "should be using our tax dollars to reward companies that create jobs and businesses within our borders."

Duration: 30

Topic: FDA MIGRANE BOTOX

Synopsis: The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved Allergan Inc's anti-wrinkle injection Botox to treat chronic migraines. Botox injections would be given to adult sufferers of chronic migraines around the head and neck every 12 weeks in an attempt to dull future headaches, said the FDA in a statement. Chronic migraine sufferers have a headache on most days of the month. Botox has not been shown to work for people who suffer headaches 14 days or less per month, the FDA said.

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRATION RALLY CHICAGO

Synopsis: Rahm Emanuel could face a serious challenge from Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.), one of the most vocal supporters of comprehensive immigration reform in Congress, in the race for Chicago mayor, according to a poll commissioned by Gutierrez as he decides whether to run for the office. Emanuel won a horse-race matchup, but Gutierrez is the leading candidate among Latino voters and could rally their support in a runoff election. The Chicago Sun-Times reports Gutierrez reportedly plans to announce on Thursday whether he will enter the race.

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Airdate: October 17th

Duration: 30

Topic: VEGETABLES RECALL

Synopsis: Packages containing frozen vegetables sold nationally by Wal-Mart and at Kroger stores in the Southeast may contain glass fragments, the supplier said Friday in announcing a voluntary recall. While there have been no reports of injuries, the Pictsweet Co. of Bells, Tennessee, is advising the public not to eat the recalled store-brand vegetables because of the potential for harm. Consumers should return them to the place of purchase for a full refund, Pictsweet said.

Duration: 30

Topic: ELECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Synopsis: As Democrats and Republicans debate over whether foreign money is polluting the midterm elections a simple point is often overlooked: Hundreds of foreign corporations already play an integral and perfectly legal role in American politics through their U.S. subsidiaries. Political action committees connected to foreign-based corporations have donated nearly \$60 million to candidates and parties over the past decade, including \$12 million since the start of 2009, federal contribution records show. Top donors in this election cycle include PACs tied to British drug makers GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca, which together account for about \$1 million; Belgium's Anheuser-Busch InBev, at nearly \$650,000; and Credit Suisse Securities, at over \$350,000.

Duration: 30

Topic: MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION CONTROVERSY

Synopsis: Attorney General Eric Holder says the federal government will enforce its marijuana laws in California even if voters next month make the state the first in the nation to legalize the drug. The Justice Department strongly opposes California's Proposition 19 and remains firmly committed to enforcing the federal Controlled Substances Act in all states, Holder wrote in a letter to former chiefs of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter, dated Wednesday. "We will vigorously enforce the CSA against those individuals and organizations that possess, manufacture or distribute marijuana for recreational use, even if such activities are permitted under state law," Holder wrote.

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Airdate: October 18th

Duration: 30

Topic: NAPOLITANO AT THE BORDER

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says a 17 percent drop in Border Patrol arrests along the U.S. border with Mexico shows heightened enforcement is working. Napolitano told reporters Monday in San Diego that the Border Patrol made about 463,000 arrests along the border during the federal government's fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. That's down from more than 556,000 the previous 12 months. It marks the fifth straight year of declines. Napolitano says the weak economy helps explain why fewer people are getting caught crossing the border illegally, and she also credits enforcement against employers. But she says a big reason is enforcement -- including more Border Patrol agents and 1,200 National Guard troops.

Duration: 30

Topic: BANK OF AMERICA TO LIFT FORECLOSURE FREEZE IN 23 STATES NEXT WEEK

Synopsis: Bank of America said Monday that it will effectively lift its foreclosure freeze on Oct. 25 when it begins resubmitting foreclosure documents to courts in 23 states. The bank said the new documents will be used in 102,000 foreclosure actions in which judgment is pending in the 23 states. Foreclosures in the other 27 states, which do not require a court order for a foreclosure, will remain frozen as the company continues its state-by-state review. That should affect another 30,000 foreclosures. Bank of America spokesman Dan Frahm said in a statement that the company's initial assessment showed that in those 27 states, as is the case in the states where the ban has been lifted, "the basis for our foreclosure decisions is accurate." Frahm said the company had reviewed its foreclosure procedures with key stakeholders, including "our largest investors," perhaps alluding to the beating Bank of America's stock has taken in recent days on worries about the foreclosure issue.

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Airdate: October 19th

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE EDUCATION FOR HISPANICS

Synopsis: In a ceremony in the East Room today, President Obama will sign an Executive Order to renew and enhance the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics so that it better serves communities across the country by engaging them in the process of improving the education of Latino students, who represent 1 of every 5 students in our nation's schools. The new Executive Order is based on feedback gathered by the Initiative in more than 100 community conversations across the country with experts in education, community leaders from more than 30 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and from comments from more than 10,000 Americans on how to develop real solutions to the challenges confronting the Hispanic community in education. The signing ceremony follows a National Education Summit and Call to Action hosted by the U.S. Department of Education that began on Monday and brought together experts and community leaders from around the country on issues ranging from early childhood learning to higher education.

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Airdate: October 20th

Duration: 30

Topic: CHILDREN OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

Synopsis: AZ Republic reports Republican lawmakers in 15 states Tuesday announced a nationwide effort to change the way the 14th Amendment is interpreted and stop granting citizenship to babies born in the USA to illegal immigrants. Arizona state Sen. Russell Pearce said Kansas lawyer Kris Kobach, who helped draft Arizona's tough

immigration law now on appeal in the federal courts, is working with him and Republican state Rep. John Kavanaugh to draft a bill that all the states could use as a model on the citizenship issue.

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Airdate: October 21st

Duration: 30

Topic: TOYOTA RECALL

Synopsis: Toyota Motor Corp. says it is recalling 1.53 million Lexus, Avalon and other models, mostly in the U.S. and Japan, for brake fluid and fuel pump problems. Toyota said it will recall about 740,000 cars in the U.S. and 599,000 in Japan. The world's biggest automaker has recalled more than 10 million cars and trucks worldwide over the last year for a variety of problems, including sticky gas pedals.

Duration: 30

Topic: UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Synopsis: Fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week, but the drop wasn't enough to reverse a big increase the previous week. Applications for jobless benefits fell by 23,000 to a seasonally adjusted 452,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The decline comes after the department substantially revised the previous week's figure to show a rise of 26,000. That was double the increase initially reported. The revision occurred after several states that had estimated their totals from two weeks ago subsequently found that claims were higher than estimated. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, dropped by 4,250 to 458,000. That's higher than two weeks ago.

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Airdate: October 22nd

Duration: 30

Topic: DISEASE CONTROL PREVENTION REPORT

Synopsis: As many as 1 in 3 U.S. adults could have diabetes by the year 2050, federal officials announced Friday, in a dramatic revision of earlier projections. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 1 in 10 have diabetes now, but the number could grow to 1 in 5 or even 1 in 3 by mid-century if current trends continue. "This is alarming," said Ann Albright, director of the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation. The agency's projections have been a work in progress. The last revision put the number at 39 million in 2050. The new estimate takes it to the range of 76 million to 100 million.

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW SECURITY SCANNERS AT JFK

Synopsis: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano will travel to New York City on Friday, Oct. 22., to tour Transportation Security Administration (TSA) operations and participate in a media availability highlighting the deployment of the first Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) unit at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Secretary Napolitano will be joined by Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Deputy Executive Director Bill Baroni and TSA Office of Security Operations Assistant Administrator Lee Kair to brief media on the cutting-edge screening technology and DHS's ongoing efforts to secure airports throughout the country. Following the availability, members of the media are invited to observe a demonstration of the new AIT unit and observe the steps TSA has taken to protect passenger privacy.

Duration: 30

Topic: HONDA RECALL

Synopsis: Honda said Friday nearly a half-million sedans and minivans in the United States were involved in this week's recall to fix brake fluid leaks. The action, announced earlier, involved the same issue that led Toyota to recall 1.5 million vehicles. Honda said the recall affects 471,820 2005-2007 model year Acura RL sedans and Honda Odyssey minivans from the 2005 to early 2007 model year. The company said there have been no injuries or accidents tied to the problem. The Japanese automaker told the government that certain types of brake fluid could affect the seal on the brake's master cylinder and lead to a leak. If the leaks are left unattended, they could cause a spongy feeling in the brake pedal and adversely affect brake performance. Honda said owners will be notified within the next two months and vehicles will be repaired free.

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Airdate: October 23rd

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA WEEKLY ADDRESS

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says consumers would lose if Republicans regain power in Congress and try to roll back his hard-won Wall Street overhaul. He says the GOP's promised repeal of the law would mean the return of a financial system whose near-collapse led to the worst recession since the Depression. "Without sound oversight and commonsense protections for consumers, the whole economy is put in jeopardy," Obama said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address.

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Airdate: October 24th

Duration: 30

Topic: DESTINO LATEST

Synopsis: Florida Governor Charlie Crist attacked Republican Marco Rubio, the front-runner in the race for the state's open U.S. Senate seat, saying Sunday he held "extreme views" in a party that has swung too far to the right. Rubio, a Cuban-American and former state House speaker from Miami, has built up a commanding lead in the three-way contest that pits him against Crist, a former Republican now running as an Independent, and Democratic Congressman Kendrick Meek in the Nov. 2 Congressional election. An Ipsos poll published in the Miami Herald on Sunday showed 41 percent of likely voters supporting Rubio compared to 26 percent for Crist and 20 percent for Meek.

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA CHURCH ABUSE

Synopsis: Nearly 10,000 pages of previously sealed Catholic church documents have been made public and showed that the Diocese of San Diego long knew about abusive priests, some of whom were shuffled from parish to parish despite credible complaints against them. After a three-year legal battle over the diocese's internal records, a retired San Diego Superior Court judge ruled late Friday that they could be made public. Attorneys for 144 people claiming sex abuse made the papers public Sunday.

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Airdate: October 25th

Duration: 30

Topic: NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE

Immigration officials, in an effort to deter fraud, will unveil today a new naturalization certificate for people who become U.S. citizens. The new certificates, used to obtain passports and other legal documents, come after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) unveiled a new green card - the ID card for immigrants with permanent residency status - this year that had improved security features to prevent forgery and tampering. "They are going to be very significant" technical changes, says USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas, who is scheduled to present the new certificates at a naturalization ceremony in Baltimore.

Duration: 30

Topic: ADOLESCENCE AND SEX STUDY

Synopsis: A study in the medical journal, *Pediatrics*, reported on Monday that 10 percent of the sexually active students in New York City schools had at least one homosexual partner and that adolescents who had such homosexual relations reported a higher-than-average amount of dating violence. The study also stated that these students had more "forced sex," which would be rape in most cases. And the study reported that these students engaged in more "high risk" sexual behavior, which suggests unprotected sex with partners who may have AIDS or some similar grim

disease. One-third of those who had been involved in homosexual relations related that they were heterosexual themselves. The study itself was based upon 17,220 public health surveys. The particular surveys were from 2005 and 2007, and the Youth Risk Behavior Study is conducted by the New York City Department of Health every two years.

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Airdate: October 26th

Duration: 30

Topic: ANTI-BULLYING RULES

Synopsis: The Department of Education is sending a warning to schools, colleges and universities nationwide in response to several high-profile cases of bullying. In letters going out today, the agency tells schools they could be violating Federal anti-discrimination laws if they tolerate or fail to adequately address ethnic, sexual or gender-based harassment. Among some of the recent high-profile cases are the suicides of an 18-year-old Rutgers University student and a 15-year-old Massachusetts girl.

Duration: 30

Topic: ELECTIONS LATEST

Synopsis: Only 51 percent of Latino registered voters across the nation said they're planning on going to the polls -- that's compared to 70 percent of registered voters. But a recent Pew Hispanic Center poll suggests that while voter motivation across the nation might be weak, Latinos in Arizona are gearing up for Nov. 2 election. Mi Familia Vota says they've registered nearly 20,000 new voters. When Governor Brewer signed the tough immigration bill into law, members of the Hispanic community converged on the State Capitol to show their opposition. But will those strong feelings translate into a real impact at the polls? Hispanic community organizers say yes.

Duration: 30

Topic: BMW RECALL

Synopsis: BMW AG said Tuesday that it would recall more than 150,000 vehicles in the United States due to the possibility of fuel pump failures. BMW said some 130,000 of its 2007 to 2010 model year vehicles equipped with twin-turbo six-cylinder engines would be recalled for software updates and a potential replacement of a high-pressure fuel pump. The automaker believes it will have to replace the high-pressure fuel pumps in 40,000 of the 130,000 vehicles. BMW also is recalling separately about 20,800 of its 2008 model year X5 SUVs that have six-cylinder engines to replace the low-pressure fuel pumps.

Airdate: October 27th

Duration: 30

Topic: MARIJUANA BALLOT CONTROVERSY

Synopsis: Proposition 19 supporting legalization of limited amounts of marijuana for personal use is one of the key ballot issues in California. The National Latino Officers Association will hold a news conference to endorse Prop. 19 and release a report that shows Latinos being arrested for marijuana at a rate two to three times higher than whites in California.

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW HOME SALES RISE

Synopsis: Demand for long-lasting U.S. manufactured goods, excluding aircraft, unexpectedly fell last month and a key gauge of business capital spending plans also eased, underscoring the economic recovery's tepid pace. Another report from the Commerce Department on Wednesday showed new home sales rose 6.6 percent last month, but still remained at depressed levels, leaving intact expectations in financial markets that the Federal Reserve would ease monetary policy further next week. Overall orders for durable goods jumped by a more than expected 3.3 percent, the largest increase since January, lifted by a surge in aircraft bookings. They had dropped 1 percent in August and economists had expected a 2 percent increase in September.

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says no victims of domestic violence should ever feel like they don't have a way out. The President on Wednesday announced new administration-wide initiatives to combat violence against women as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Obama said the programs would help victims from feeling trapped in abusive situations because of financial or legal reasons. The new initiatives include a fund to help states provide home visitation services to at-risk families and a Justice Department program to encourage free legal services for victims of domestic violence. The Housing and Urban Development Department also is releasing guidelines to make sure abuse victims don't lose their housing due to crimes committed against them.

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Airdate: October 28th

Duration: 30

Topic: HISPANIC VOTE AND ELECTIONS LATEST

Synopsis: Critical parts of the coalition that delivered President Obama to the White House in 2008 and gave Democrats control of Congress in 2006 are switching their allegiance to the Republicans in the final phase of the midterm Congressional elections, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

Duration: 30

Topic: FORECLOSURE CRISIS

Synopsis: New numbers by RealtyTrac this morning show the foreclosure crisis intensifying. California, Nevada, Florida and Arizona remain the nation's foreclosure hotbeds, accounting for 19 of the top 20 metropolitan areas with the highest foreclosure rates. But the latest data shows many cities such as Chicago and Seattle - formally outside the hotbed saw a spike in foreclosure activity. In all, 133 out of 206 metropolitan areas with at least 200,000 residents posted an annual increase in foreclosure activity. Bank of America, which resumed foreclosures this week after halting them temporarily to review and fix flawed documents, is scheduled to meet Thursday with state officials investigating allegations the bank rushed the foreclosure process without properly reviewing documents.

Duration: 30

Topic: HISPANICS AND IMMIGRATION

Synopsis: Hispanics are increasingly concerned about a backlash against them, even as they are split over the effects of illegal immigration on the country. Their anxiety comes as illegal immigration and border security are playing major roles in election campaigns nationwide. More than 60 percent of Latinos say discrimination against Hispanics is a "major problem," up from 54 percent who said the same in 2007, according to a report to be released Thursday by the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center. Three years ago, Hispanics were most likely to cite language skills as the biggest reason for discrimination. Now, more than a third believe immigration is the biggest factor. That said, the number of Latinos who reported they, their family or close friends have experienced discrimination remained unchanged from last year and actually dropped from 2007. Hispanics make up about 15 percent of the U.S. population and also comprise the vast majority of the country's roughly 11 million illegal immigrants.

Duration: 30

Topic: COLLEGE COSTS

Synopsis: College tuition costs shot up again this fall, and students and their families are leaning more on the federal government to make higher education more affordable in tough economic times, according to two reports issued Thursday. At public four-year schools, many of them ravaged by state budget cuts, average in-state tuition and fees this fall rose 7.9 percent, or \$555, to \$7,605, according to the College Board's "Trends in College Pricing." The average sticker price at private nonprofit colleges increased 4.5 percent, or \$1,164, to \$27,293. Massive government subsidies and aid from schools helped keep in check the actual price many students pay. But experts caution that Federal aid can only do so much and that even higher tuition is likely unless state appropriations rebound or colleges drastically cut costs.

Duration: 30

Topic: NISSAN RECALL

Synopsis: Nissan is recalling 2.14 million vehicles worldwide including the popular March and Mycra subcompacts for an ignition problem that may stall the engine - its third-largest recall ever. No accidents have been reported that are suspected of being

caused by the defect, according to Yokohama-based Nissan Motor Co. The recall affects cars in the United States, Europe and Japan. A problem was found in an ignition-system part called the relay for vehicles produced from August 2003 through July 2006, including small cars like the March, Cube and Note, and about a dozen other models, such as the Tiida sedan, Titan pickup and Infiniti QX56 luxury model. In extreme cases, the engine will stall and won't be able to start, said Nissan spokesman Mitsuru Yonekawa. Of the recalled vehicles, nearly 835,000 were produced in Japan, 762,000 in North America, and 354,000 in Europe.

Duration: 30

Topic: ATM SCANNERS IN FL

Synopsis: Two Illinois men used scanning devices on two bank ATM machines to copy customers' debit and credit card information, investigators say. Security personnel at the Regions Bank at 655 Belcher Road spotted the suspicious devices on Wednesday and notified authorities. Detectives set up surveillance and around 9 p.m., saw two men as they went to one of the ATM's and removed the device. After they were arrested, another scanning device was found on a second ATM. According to a police statement, " The scanning device was silver in appearance with a card slot that is placed directly over the legitimate card slot. The device has a magnetic strip reader that reads and stores the customers' account information when they enter their card into the ATM machine.

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Airdate: October 29th

Duration: 30

Topic: TERRORIST THREAT LATEST

Synopsis: White House Homeland Security Adviser John Brennan says the national security system worked well in response to the discovery of two explosive packages bound for the United States. Brennan says national security officials here and abroad responded quickly and have defused the packages. He says a series of searches of suspicious packages in U.S. cities was just a precaution. U.S. officials have said they are increasingly convinced the attack originated with al-Qaida in Yemen, but Brennan stopped short of linking the plot to the group.

Duration: 30

Topic: PRESIDENT OBAMA ON TERRORIST THREAT

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says the terror probe into suspicious packages believed to be linked to a plot by Yemen's al-Qaida branch is a "credible terrorist threat." The president spoke at the White House. He was first briefed about the terror probe Thursday night. Authorities are investigating a package containing explosive materials intercepted in Dubai on its way from Yemen and another package in England. U.S. officials say they are increasingly confident that the packages were part of a plot by Yemen's al-Qaida branch.

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Airdate: October 30th

Duration: 30

Topic: SECURITY THREAT LATEST

Synopsis: Yemeni police arrested a woman on suspicion of mailing a pair of bombs powerful enough to take down airplanes, officials said Saturday as details emerged about a terrorist plot aimed at the U.S. that exploited security gaps in the worldwide shipping system. Investigators were hunting Yemen for more suspects tied to al-Qaida and several U.S. officials identified the terrorist group's top explosives expert in Yemen as the most likely bomb maker. The explosives, addressed to Chicago-area synagogues, were pulled off airplanes in England and the United Arab Emirates early Friday morning, touching off a tense search for other devices.

Duration: 30

Topic: WASHINGTON, DC NATIONAL MALL RALLY

Synopsis: Two of America's best-known television comedians drew tens of thousands of people to a rally Saturday that was part variety show, part Halloween celebration and part political rally to call for common sense before Tuesday's congressional elections. Satirists Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert, hosts of late-night cable TV shows, poked fun at politicians and media for stoking partisan fervor. Performing in front of the U.S. Capitol building, the pair were joined by crooner Tony Bennett, rocker Ozzy Osbourne, singer Sheryl Crow, and British musician Yusuf Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, who was refused entry to the United States in 2004 for alleged ties to Islamic extremism.

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA WEEKLY ADDRESS

Synopsis: "Tuesday is Election Day, and here in Washington, the talk is all about who will win and who will lose - about parties and politics. But around kitchen tables, I'm pretty sure you're talking about other things about your family finances, or maybe the state of the economy in your hometown; about your kids, and what their futures will bring. And your hope is that once this election is over, the folks you choose to represent you will put the politics aside for a while, and work together to solve problems."

Duration: 30

Topic: IMPORTANCE OF HISPANIC VOTE

Synopsis: This election season, Spanish-language networks are playing an important role as many are hosting many debates with major candidates and seeing their political coverage received by mainstream media, and such a point should not be ignored or forgotten. Recent examples of Loretta Sanchez and Meg Whitman were made after they each appeared on the Spanish-language Univision Network. In an interview with anchor Jorge Ramos, U.S. Representative Loretta Sanchez told viewers that her

Republican opponent Van Tran was anti-immigrant and anti-Hispanic. After the comments were picked up by a blogger, posted on YouTube, and seen by Republican Party leaders, the influence and importance of Hispanic media could no longer be overlooked. California's Republican gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman was attempting to attract Hispanic voters during her Univision sponsored debate with Jerry Brown, but when she was put on the defensive due to accusations she should have known her long-time housekeeper was unlawfully in the U.S., the exchange went viral.

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRANT RETURNING TO WORK QUICKER

Synopsis: Immigrants are returning to work quicker than their U.S.-born counterparts, but are earning significantly less than before the economic downturn, a Pew Hispanic Center study reported Friday. Immigrants in the U.S. have gained 656,000 jobs since the Great Recession ended in June 2009. By comparison, U.S.-born workers lost 1.2 million jobs. The unemployment rate for immigrants fell over the same period to 8.7 percent from 9.3 percent. For American-born workers, the jobless rate rose to 9.7 percent from 9.2 percent. Foreign-born workers "did better in the first year of the recovery, but not so much better that they have recovered the losses they suffered beforehand," said Rakesh Kochhar, Pew Hispanic's associate director for research. Immigrants -- who make up 15.7 percent of the labor force -- began losing their jobs about a year before U.S.-born workers, he said.

Duration: 30

Topic: USA CAMPAIGN OBAMA-PALIN

Synopsis: U.S. President Barack Obama urges Democrats to turn out midterm congressional election in which Democrats are expected to suffer heavy losses. Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin calls election 'extremely important'. President Barack Obama launched a final campaign swing through four key states on Saturday (October 30) in a bid to limit Democratic losses upcoming midterm elections, when polls show his party losing control of the House of Representatives and seeing its Senate majority weakened. Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin appeared in West Virginia to campaign on behalf of Republican Senatorial candidate John Raese.

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Airdate: October 31st

Duration: 30

Topic: DESTINO 2010 / OBAMA TODAY

Synopsis: On his final campaign swing before Tuesday's midterm elections, President Barack Obama is asking Democratic voters to go to the polls and help stem an expected Republican tide. He's scheduled to headline a rally in Cleveland today before returning to Washington for Halloween with his family and other children invited to the White House.

Duration: 30

Topic: REPUBLICANS IN THE RACE FOR ELECTIONS

Synopsis: In the House of Representatives, where all 435 seats are up for election on Tuesday, at least 65 - most held by Democrats - are at risk of changing political hands. Republicans need 39 to win back control of the House.

Duration: 30

Topic: MAIL BOMB LATEST

Synopsis: U.S. inspectors are heading to Yemen to monitor cargo security practices and pinpoint holes in the system. An internal government report, obtained by The Associated Press, says the team of six inspectors from the Transportation Security Administration will give Yemeni officials recommendations and training to improve cargo security. The report also says the agency is considering extending its security directive to increase inspection of cargo for all flights through Nov. 8. Two women in Yemen have been arrested for sending mail bombs to Chicago synagogues. Authorities discovered the bombs Friday on cargo planes in the United Arab Emirates and England. Officials say the terror plot bears the hallmarks of al-Qaida.

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

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS - NOVEMBER 2010

Airdate: November 1st

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION LAW APPEAL**

Synopsis: With battle lines over immigration drawn and the nation watching, attorneys for Arizona and the U.S. Department of Justice will debate Monday lifting a preliminary injunction against portions of the state's controversial immigration law, known as Senate Bill 1070. A federal judge in Phoenix put several key components of the law on hold in late July, only hours before the law was supposed to take effect. Rather than enter into litigation to amend problems pointed out by the judge, Gov. Jan Brewer appealed the injunction. At least 13 states, dozens of congressional members, numerous cities in Arizona and across the country, advocacy groups pro and con, and 11 Latin American nations have weighed in with statements to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, where the argument will be heard. A ruling by the three-judge panel assigned to hear the case isn't likely for weeks or even months. And the debate will not stop with the panel's ruling.

Duration: 30

Topic: **ALCOHOL MORE HARMFUL THAN COCAINE AND CRACK**

Synopsis: British experts evaluated substances including alcohol, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and marijuana, ranking them based on how destructive they are to the individual who takes them and to society as a whole. Researchers analyzed how addictive a drug is and how it harms the human body, in addition to other criteria like environmental damage caused by the drug, its role in breaking up families and its economic costs, such as health care, social services, and prison. Heroin, crack cocaine and methamphetamine, or crystal meth, were the most lethal to individuals. When considering their wider social effects, alcohol, heroin and crack cocaine were the deadliest. But overall, alcohol outranked all other substances, followed by heroin and crack cocaine. Marijuana, ecstasy and LSD scored far lower. Experts said alcohol scored so high because it is so widely used and has devastating consequences not only for drinkers but for those around them.

Duration: 30

Topic: **ELECTIONS LATEST**

Synopsis: Bracing for Monday's final burst of campaigning, President Barack Obama implored voters to remember that GOP policies failed to prevent the recession, while top Republicans said the public will deliver a harsh verdict on his stewardship of an anemic recovery. Alaska was shaping up as the most unsettled state in the midterm election's closing act. Democrats said it's conceivable they could score an upset Senate win there. Desperate to minimize game-changing losses around the country, Democrats put their biggest weapons on the road Sunday. Obama and Vice President Joe Biden rallied about 8,000 supporters in Cleveland, urging them to keep Gov. Ted Strickland and a clutch of imperiled House Democrats from being ousted.

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Airdate: November 2nd

Duration: 30

Topic: MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Synopsis: The surge that gave Republicans control of the U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday also shook up state legislatures, giving Republicans the power to potentially cement their hold in Congress for the next decade. In most states, legislatures will be redrawing electoral districts for the U.S. House -- an adjustment of boundaries every 10 years that tends to favor the party in charge in each state. The big Republican Party wins at the state level give it the edge in reinforcing its strength in the U.S. House. Republicans took control of at least 18 state chambers from Democrats, according to Tim Storey, an elections analyst at the bipartisan National Conference of State Legislatures.

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11/03/10

Duration: 30

Topic: THE BALANCE OF POWER

Synopsis: Mid-term elections tipped the Congressional balance of power toward the GOP, as Republicans swept up the majority of seats in U.S. House of Representatives. Democrats held on to a tenuous lead in the U.S. Senate, with Harry Reid (D-Nevada) maintaining his position as Majority Leader after a bruising battle and close call against Tea Party opponent, Sharon Angle. As of 6:30 a.m. with most precincts reporting, Republicans increased their presence to 239 seats, while Democrats fell to 183. Thirteen seats have yet to be called. Nancy Pelosi (D-California) will step aside as the first woman Speaker of the House, most likely for John Boehner (R-Ohio). The GOP now will have committee control as well as subpoena power over special investigations-- a practice that has bogged down and distracted government away from pressing issues (e.g. the rash of terrorist attacks in the 1990s that were precursors to 9/11).

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S RACE

Synopsis: The California's Gubernatorial Election 2010 was held 2nd day of November 2010 to elect only one Governor of California. This year's primary elections were held June 8th. Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger was ineligible for re-election. The winning candidate Jerry Brown, will serve in California a four-year contract from 2011-2015. California was consistent being one of the most liberal states in the USA, but it doesn't mean their official laws will change.

Duration: 30

Topic: THE LATINO VOTE

Synopsis: Last night, the country saw a demonstration of political power from an emerging electoral force: the Latino and immigrant electorate. The Latino vote provided

the winning edge for key allies of the immigrant reform movement. Nevada Senator Harry Reid won a tough re-election battle against a harshly anti-immigrant candidate based on his performance with the Latino community which he won with 90%. The Senate Majority Leader emerged at his Las Vegas victory party greeted by chants of "Si Se Puede!" Andrea Mitchell of NBC put it best when she said "Harry Reid owes the Latino community big time."

Duration: 30

Topic: **FLORIDA ELECTIONS**

Synopsis: Victories by Tea Party-backed Republicans in the Senate such as Marco Rubio in Florida, who questions whether global warming is caused by mankind, and Rand Paul in Kentucky, could lead to deadlock on slimmed-down energy bills, if they push Republicans to the right. The Tea Party is a loosely organized conservative political movement harshly critical of Obama.

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Airdate: November 4th

Duration: 30

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT LATEST**

Synopsis: The number of people seeking jobless benefits jumped sharply last week, after two straight weeks of declines. The Labor Department said Thursday that initial claims for unemployment aid rose by 20,000 to a seasonally adjusted 457,000 for the week ending Oct. 30. Wall Street analysts polled by Thomson Reuters had expected a smaller rise. The increase comes after claims fell in four of the previous five weeks. Those drops had brought claims to their lowest level since July and raised hopes the job market was improving. Instead, claims have risen back above the 450,000 level they have fluctuated around all year. They will need to drop below 425,000 to signal sustained job gains.

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

Synopsis: A coalition of 13 states has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold an Arizona law penalizing employers of illegal immigrants. The Supreme Court is to hear arguments next month on a 2007 Arizona law that allows business licenses to be suspended or revoked when employers knowingly hire illegal immigrants. The Missouri attorney general's office is leading the coalition supporting the Arizona law. The group argues in court documents released Thursday that states have long had the authority to license and regulate businesses. Other states joining the argument are Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia.

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Airdate: November 5th

Duration: 30

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE US**

Synopsis: U.S. employment jumped by much more than expected last month as private companies hired workers at the fastest pace since April, a sign the sluggish economy is finally starting to tick up. Nonfarm payrolls rose a solid 151,000 in October, the first gain since May, a government report showed Friday. Private hiring rose by 159,000, while the government cut 8,000 jobs. Data for August and September also was revised to show 110,000 fewer jobs were lost than previously thought. Economists had expected payrolls to increase a tepid 60,000 last month, with private employment rising 75,000.

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEBRASKA IMMIGRATION**

Synopsis: The Nebraska Supreme Court won't weigh in on whether municipalities can enact immigration-related restrictions on where people can live or work, the court said in an opinion issued Friday. A federal judge had asked the state's highest court to consider the issue as she hears a lawsuit challenging the city of Fremont's ordinance barring illegal immigrants from renting or working there. The high court said the request didn't allege a violation of state law, so it won't take up the question. Fremont voters approved the ordinance in June, but it has yet to go into effect. The American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska and the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund, also known as MALDEF, have challenged the ordinance. The groups, whose lawsuits have been combined, say the voter-approved ordinance is discriminatory and contrary to what is allowed by state law.

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEW FEES FOR IMMIGRATION FORMS**

Synopsis: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced a final rule adjusting fees for immigration applications and petitions. The final rule follows a period of public comment on a proposed version of the rule, which USCIS published in the Federal Register on June 11, 2010. After encouraging stakeholders to share their input, USCIS considered all 225 comments received. The final rule will increase overall fees by a weighted average of about 10 percent but will not increase the fee for the naturalization application. The rule will also reduce fees for six individual applications and petitions and will expand the availability of fee waivers to new categories. The final rule will be published in the Federal Register September 24, and the adjusted fees will go into effect on November 23, 2010.

Duration: 30

Topic: **THE RISKS OF VITAMIN E**

Synopsis: Although the risk remains relatively small, researchers have found that taking vitamin E supplements increases the risk of hemorrhagic stroke, in which bleeding occurs in the brain. But vitamin E supplements reduce the risk of ischemic stroke, the more common type of stroke, in which blood flow to the brain is blocked, the researchers say.

Duration: 30

Topic: **FOUR LOKKO DRINK**

Synopsis: It's called "Four Loko" and critics say its combination of caffeine and alcohol is sending kids on an uncontrollable high. It looks like an energy drink -- but it's not. Folks who drink Four Loko call it cocaine in a can because it has an insane amount of caffeine and more alcohol than beer and most mixed drinks.

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Airdate: November 6th

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION FEES**

Synopsis: Effective on Tuesday, November 23, 2010, the filing fees for almost all U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) immigration applications and petitions will increase by approximately 10 percent. The fee increase follows in the wake of a mandatory fee review conducted by USCIS every two years to determine whether the agency is capable of meeting its budget, 90 percent of which is derived from fees paid by applicants and petitioners seeking immigration benefits. The final rule on the fee increase was published in the Federal Register on September 24, 2010.

Duration: 30

Topic: **OBAMA WEEKLY MESSAGE**

Synopsis: "This week, Americans across the country cast their votes and made their voices heard. And your message was clear. You're rightly frustrated with the pace of our economic recovery. So am I. You're fed up with partisan politics and want results. I do too. So I congratulate all of this week's winners - Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. But now, the campaign season is over. And it's time to focus on our shared responsibilities to work together and deliver those results: speeding up our economic recovery, creating jobs, and strengthening the middle class so that the American Dream feels like its back within reach."

Duration: 30

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG HISPANICS**

Synopsis: This recession has hit men harder than it has hit women. However, over the past year, things seem to be "evening out" between the genders. In October, the unemployment rate for adult men dipped to 9.7% from 9.8%, in both September and August. It is down from 10.6% a year ago. A bit of that is an illusion, though, as the participation rate for men plunged from 74.2% in September to 73.8% in October, and a year ago it was 74.6%. The employment rate for men ticked down to 66.7% from 66.9% in September, and was also the 66.7% rate of a year ago.

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Airdate: November 8th

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEW SECURITY MEASURES**

Synopsis: The Obama administration Monday banned all cargo shipments to the United States from Somalia, expanding a ban imposed initially on shipments from Yemen in the wake of a recent foiled bomb plot. Two weeks ago, authorities in Dubai and the United Kingdom intercepted two bombs hidden in toner cartridges destined for the United States from Yemen via FedEx and United Parcel Service after a tip from Saudi Arabia. The al Qaeda affiliate based in Yemen has claimed responsibility for the plot. After the bombs were found, U.S. authorities quickly banned cargo shipments from Yemen and now are zeroing in on toner cartridges as the newest method for the group, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), to launch attacks against the United States.

Duration: 30

Topic: **FAST FOOD AND HEALTHY CHOICES**

Synopsis: How well is the effort to improve fast food and offer healthier alternatives to kids really working? A new study by Yale University is raising that question. It says that while healthy options for kids are available, restaurant servers rarely mention them to parents. Of more than 3000 possible combinations of children meals at eight different fast food restaurants, only 12 met nutrition criteria set by Yale for preschoolers and only 15 for older children.

Duration: 30

Topic: **BED BUGS IN NY SCHOOLS**

Synopsis: School children are now learning a very tough lesson about bed bugs as the blood sucking insects have now become a way of life in many classrooms. Peter Cohen has been teaching kindergarten for 23 years and has never seen it this bad. In the first two months of this year, we're told there were 336 confirmed cases of bed bugs in New York City public schools. Last year there were 135 cases. While bed bugs have been spreading, officials say the city has been cutting back on exterminators. Nine years ago, the city used to have 77 exterminators on hand and 149 pest control aides. Right now there are only 33 exterminators and only 28 pest control aides. We're told if school employees spot the bug, they have to capture the nasty insect first, put it in an envelope and mail it to the Department of Education. Only after experts confirm it is a bed bug will someone be sent to the school. By then the bugs will have had free reign to multiply and burrow into the building. Already, bed bugs have crashed Lincoln Center, stores, and even movie theatres. So it was only a matter of time before schools were invaded. But some officials say city response can be greatly improved.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SLEEPY DRIVERS**

Synopsis: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reports more than 40 percent of people admit to falling asleep behind the wheel. And drowsy drivers are the reason behind about 17 percent of deadly crashes. If you're feeling really sleepy behind the wheel, you can pull over to a rest stop and take a nap. If you don't feel comfortable pulling over in

such an open area, you can go to a gas station and it's recommended you get out of the car, stretch your legs, get some coffee and do anything to wake up. Many roads now are designed to keep people from falling asleep. Also, some cars like the Mercedes Benz and Lexus now have high-tech systems to detect drowsiness in drivers. For every 2 hours you drive, it's suggested you take a ten minute break.

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Airdate: November 9th

Duration: 30

Topic: **TEENS TEXTING**

Synopsis: A provocative new study finds that teens who text a lot are more likely to have had sex or used alcohol and drugs than kids who don't send as many messages. The study's lead author says it's startling to see an apparent link between excessive messaging and that kind of risky behavior. The study focused on high school students who send and receive texts at least 120 times a day or who spend at least three hours a day on Facebook or other social networking Web sites. The research was done at 20 public high schools in the Cleveland area. It's being presented at a public health conference Tuesday in Denver

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION BILL IN TEXAS**

Synopsis: State Rep. Debbie Riddle camped out and endured "creepy" noises inside the cold, empty Capitol to be first in line Monday morning to file legislation targeting illegal immigration and ballot security. The Tomball Republican said she remained outside the House chamber for two days because of the importance of getting priority bill numbers assigned to the two hot-button issues. House Bill 16 would require voters to present photo identification or two forms of non-photo identification before they are allowed to cast ballots. House Bill 17 is similar to Arizona's controversial immigration law. It would allow law enforcement officers to charge an immigrant who lacks proper documentation and already is detained on another charge with criminal trespass - a Class B misdemeanor that carries a fine of up to \$2,000 and maximum jail time of six months.

Duration: 30

Topic: **CONFUSION OVER PROGRAM TO SPOT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: In 2008, the Bush administration announced an ambitious new program to help federal officials detain and deport illegal immigrants held on criminal charges by using fingerprints collected by local police departments. But two years later, as the program is being put into effect state by state, confusion abounds in New York and elsewhere, among officials and immigrant advocates alike, about how it works and whether local participation is required. Several counties around the nation have voted to opt out of the program, called Secure Communities because of concerns that it could ensnare immigrants who have committed low-level offenses or chill crime-fighting cooperation between immigrants and the police. As recently as last week, the

spokesman for New York State's criminal justice agency maintained that the program was optional for local governments. But federal officials now say that participation was never voluntary. The program, they say, will be up and running nationwide by 2013.

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Airdate: November 10th

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION PROPOSITION IN FLORIDA**

Synopsis: Arizona's controversial and litigated immigration law aka S.B. 1070, as amended by H.B. 2162, expressly prohibits illegal racial profiling. Several state legislatures have moved to copy the law despite its legal uncertainty due to pending litigation in the appellate courts. Florida is one of those states where the legislature is pushing hard to enact a similar law except with one small caveat. It allows for selective enforcement. Florida state Rep. William Snyder, an ex-Miami Dade Police officer who has drafted Tallahassee's version of the hotly debated Arizona immigration bill, is adamant that his bill would not lead to racial profiling. Snyder is Vice Chair of the Florida legislature's Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety. "Race, ethnicity, and national origin cannot be used in making arrests. It's immoral, illegal, and unconstitutional," Snyder said in a recent radio interview. That's all good except his bill *explicitly exempts Canadians and Western Europeans, who need only show a passport to be "presumed to be legally in the United States"*.

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEW TOBACCO WARNINGS**

Synopsis: Corpses, cancer patients and diseased lungs are among the images the federal government plans for larger, graphic warning labels that would take up half of each pack of cigarettes sold in the United States. Whether smokers addicted to nicotine will see them as a reason to quit remains a question. The images are part of a new campaign announced by the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services on Wednesday to reduce Tobacco use, which is responsible for about 443,000 deaths per year. "Some very explicit, almost gruesome pictures may be necessary," FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said in an interview with The Associated Press. "This is a very, very serious public health issue, with very, very serious medical consequences," such as cancer, heart disease, strokes and lung diseases.

Duration: 30

Topic: **LATINO VOTERS TELL CONGRESS**

Synopsis: Today a bipartisan coalition of major immigration reform leaders gathered on a national telephonic press conference to discuss the decisive political impact of the Latino and immigrant vote in the mid-term elections. Latino voters made clear that they want real solutions on immigration reform and substantive leadership from Congress. They want leaders in both parties to take on the DREAM Act, AgJOBS and comprehensive immigration reform - and Congress should view the lame duck session

as their first opportunity - as a result of the political landscape shaped by Latino voters. Tuesday's elections exposed that Democrats and Republicans can't win if they don't engage Latino voters with the right positions on immigration reform, which has become a litmus test issue for these voters. The results also revealed the growing power of the Latino electorate who want real solutions on immigration reform, not trumped up rhetoric and demagoguery from some or empty promises from others.

Duration: 30

Topic: **ARIZONA SMUGGLING RING BUST**

Synopsis: Arizona authorities say they've dismantled a major cell of a human smuggling ring that may be responsible for the transportation of thousands of illegal immigrants from Mexico to Phoenix and other parts of the country. Nine people are accused of picking up illegal immigrants after they crossed the border by foot, and taking them to what are known as drop houses in Phoenix before they were distributed to other parts of the country. The group also has been connected to a June 2009 vehicle rollover near the Arizona town of Sonoita that killed 11 illegal immigrants. Arizona Department of Public Safety Capt. Fred Zumbo says the group displayed a "total disregard" for human life and that law enforcement has put a "huge dent in the human smuggling arena."

Duration: 30

Topic: **SCHUMER AGAINST CAFFEINE/ALCOHOL**

Synopsis: Senator Chuck Schumer is calling on the State Liquor Authority to immediately ban the sale of caffeinated alcoholic beverages such as "Four Loko." Schumer says two states, Michigan and Oklahoma have banned the drinks after several young people were hospitalized after consuming "Four Loko." Schumer says the drink, which is not FDA approved, is a toxic cocktail, containing as much caffeine as two to three cups of coffee and twice the amount of alcohol as a bottle of beer. In July, Schumer asked the FDA to investigate the safety of the drinks.

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Airdate: November 11, 2010

Duration: 30

Topic: **FORECLOSURE LATEST**

Synopsis: Foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac says the number of homes repossessed by lenders last month fell by the sharpest margin this year. The company says home repossessions dropped 9 percent from September to October. That's because several major lenders temporarily halted most or all of their foreclosures amid allegations thousands of foreclosures were handled improperly. But in recent weeks, some lenders have announced plans to resume foreclosures, though at a more measured pace, in an attempt to ensure there aren't any flaws in the process. That means the number of homes lost to foreclosure should begin picking up again, but at a much slower pace. Among states, Nevada posted the highest foreclosure rate last month, with one in every 79 households receiving a foreclosure notice. That's nearly 5 times the national average.

Duration: 30

Topic: **RETIREMENT AGE**

Synopsis: Leaders of President Obama's bipartisan deficit commission are proposing a new deficit cutting plan that they admit will be unpopular. The commission has proposed reducing annual cost-of-living increases for Social Security, gradually raising the retirement age from 67 to 69 and taking aim at popular tax breaks such as the mortgage interest deduction. The plan would also curb the growth of Medicare. The proposal would need support from 14 of the commission's 18 members to force a debate in Congress. CBS News reports that the plan does not look like it will win enough support within the commission. Democrats on the committee are balking at the idea of making cuts to Social Security and Medicare, while Republicans are recoiling at the parts of the proposal that would see taxes raised. The authors of the proposal, Democrat Erskine Bowles and Republican Alan Simpson, both acknowledged that they view the plan as a starting point versus a definitive solution. The deficit-cutting plan comes at a time when the Treasury Department has announced expectations of a third straight year of \$1 trillion-plus deficits.

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Airdate: November 12th

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION DEBATE**

Synopsis: The story today is about how there are different positions all over the nation about the immigration issue. The Attorney General and other groups in Utah want a more moderate approach and a Federal solution to the immigration problem. Also in Durham, NC they are trying to let them use the "Matricula Consular" but it has brought a lot of opposition. If approved, Durham would be the first city to accept it. On the other hand there is a Senator talking about the Citizenship right again and said that we should not let them "go out there and multiply like rats" Senator from Tennessee/Todd said that means the immigrants can "go out there like rats and multiply." No other lawmakers on a state fiscal review committee responded to his remarks. The immigration debate continues and it's imperative that the Federal Government finds a solution to avoid all kinds of state laws that will address the problem their way because they are NOT.

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION "COMPACT" IN UTAH**

Synopsis: A coalition of conservative Utah leaders says the state shouldn't share its neighbor's tough approach to illegal immigration. An Arizona-style immigration bill has already been introduced in the Utah Legislature that would require police to enforce federal immigration laws. But political, religious and community leaders are offering "The Utah Compact," as an alternative, calling for a federal rather than a state or local solution to the nation's broken immigration system. The compact supports policies that preserve the state's free-market tradition and don't split up immigrant families.

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Airdate: November 13th

Duration: 30

Topic: **MILITARY GAY**

Synopsis: President Obama, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have called for the elimination of "don't ask, don't tell." They must review a proposed rollback plan to ensure that it does not hurt morale, recruitment or troop readiness. But they cannot unilaterally adopt a new policy unless Congress votes to eliminate the shortsighted and discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" law. Some on Capitol Hill, most notably Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), and some military brass have resisted, citing concerns about possible disruptions that could be particularly acute because of the country's involvement in two wars. The Pentagon's findings should allay those fears.

Duration: 30

Topic: **USA AIRPORTS BODY SCANNER**

Synopsis: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said on Friday (November 12, 2010) it is trying to address concerns of pilots about stepped-up screening at U.S. airports and worries in the travel industry that fliers will limit trips because of more rigorous checks. Security officials have defended the measures after foiled plots by al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which tried to hide bombs in clothing and parcels that made it aboard a U.S. passenger airliner and two cargo planes. After fierce complaints by pilots about new full-body scanners and more thorough pat-downs that began recently, the Transportation Security Administration has started testing other methods. "It's embarrassing to stand in front of all those people. It's like getting groped," a female traveler at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport said, echoing the sentiments of many of her fellow travelers. The new tests come after talks earlier this week between TSA Administrator John Pistole and the head of the Air Line Pilots Association, the largest U.S. pilot union, about how to address the concerns among cockpit crews. The union has advised its members who are uncomfortable after being patted down to call in sick and not fly.

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Airdate: November 14th

Duration: 30

Topic: **HEART FAILURE**

Synopsis: There's good news for millions of people with mild or moderate heart failure. Studies show that the Pfizer drug Inspra and an implanted device from Medtronic can boost survival and cut down on trips to the hospital. However, another drug that has been used for nearly a decade, Johnson & Johnson's Natrecor (NAY'-treh-kor), did little to help people with severe heart failure in a study aimed at resolving safety concerns. Doctors say the drug seems safe but does not markedly help shortness of breath or save lives. The studies were presented Sunday at an American Heart Association conference in Chicago.

Duration: 30

Topic: **ARIZONA MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

Synopsis: Arizona voters have approved a measure that will legalize medical marijuana in the state. Proposition 203 won by a tiny margin of just 4,341 votes out of more than 1.67 million votes counted.

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Airdate: November 15th

Duration: 30

Topic: **BODY SCANNER CONTROVERSY**

Synopsis: Officials are defending new anti-terrorism security procedures at the nation's airports that some travelers complain are overly invasive and intimate. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says in a USA Today opinion piece that body scanners used at many airports are safe and the images viewed in private. She says pat-downs have been used for years at airports and measures are in place to protect travelers' privacy. The head of the Transportation Security Administration, John Pistole, said Monday on NBC's "Today" show that "everybody wants the best possible security" and the TSA is looking for a balance between security and privacy. Some travelers fear the scanners may produce unhealthy radiation and complain the pat-downs, which can include touching the inside of travelers' thighs and feeling their buttocks, are too personal.

Duration: 30

Topic: **COLLEGE TUITION FOR IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: The California Supreme Court ruled Monday that some illegal immigrants are entitled to the same tuition breaks offered to in-state high school students to attend public colleges and universities. While the ruling applies only to California, the case was closely watched nationally because nine other states including New York and Texas have similar laws. Republican congressmen Lamar S. Smith of Texas and Steve King of Iowa filed a so-called friends of the court brief urging that illegal immigrants be denied the reduced rate. The lawsuit considered by the court was part of a broader legal assault led by the immigration legal scholar Kris Kobach, who has filed numerous cases across the country seeking to restrict the rights of illegal immigrants.

Duration: 30

Topic: **MEXICAN ID IN NORTH CAROLINA**

Synopsis: Durham's city council is getting an earful over a controversial plan to allow Mexican immigrants to use a special Mexican ID card for Mexican citizens living outside Mexico. It's an identification card issued by the Government of Mexico through its consulate offices to Mexican citizens residing outside of Mexico regardless of their emigration status. The card is accepted as ID by many police departments nationwide, and many banks accept it for financial transactions. According to an opinion from the Durham City Attorney, "the official purpose of the card is to demonstrate that the holder is a Mexican citizen living outside of Mexico. It includes an official Government of

Mexico issued ID number and bears a photograph and address of the Mexican National to whom it is issued." If Durham approves the resolution, city officials would accept it as a legal form of ID for business conducted with the city. Police officers would also accept it for identification purposes.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAXES/ CONGRESS**

Synopsis: Liberals in the U.S. House of Representatives pressed their case against extending Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, seeking a meeting with Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi on the issue. Lawmakers returned to the Capitol on Monday in a "lame duck" session after Democrats were routed in the Nov. 2 elections, with time short to enact a 2011 budget and a New Year's Eve deadline on whether to extend tax cuts enacted under former President George W. Bush. The parties agree on an extension of lower rates for individuals earning less than \$200,000 but disagree whether to extend those rates for the highest earners. Republicans say the economy cannot stomach higher taxes; Democrats say the nation cannot afford the cost of lower rates for the wealthiest taxpayers.

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Airdate: November 16th

Duration: 30

Topic: **HISPANIC CAUCUS MEETING**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama has called on the Senate to pass legislation this year that would allow certain foreign-born young people who entered the United States as children without documents to become legal U.S. residents. Obama urged action during a meeting Tuesday with leaders of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus . The legislation, known as the DREAM Act, failed to pass the Senate in September. It would permit young people to become U.S. residents after spending two years in college or the military. It would apply to immigrants who were under 16 when they arrived in the U.S., have been in the country at least five years and have a diploma from a U.S. high school or the equivalent. Obama also called for Congress to act on comprehensive changes to immigration law "at the earliest opportunity."

Duration: 30

Topic: **CONSULAR IDENTIFICATION CARD**

Synopsis: Durham's city council voted 5-2 to tell city employees to treat the Matricula Consular de Alta Seguridad (MCAS) Consular Identification Card the same as other official identification. It's an identification card issued by the Government of Mexico through its consulate offices to Mexican citizens residing outside of Mexico regardless of their emigration status. The card is accepted as ID by many police departments nationwide, and many banks accept it for financial transactions. Police Chief Jose Lopez says officers have been accepting the Mexican IDs for the three years he's held his job. He said the city council's move would build support among the city's Hispanic residents, who have grown more willing to cooperate with police. U.S. cities began

accepting the ID card issued to Mexicans living abroad a decade ago. The policy has spread to nearly 400 U.S. cities and almost 1,200 police departments.

Duration: 30

Topic: **FORECLOSURE MESS LATEST**

Synopsis: Bank of America is telling a Senate panel it is making changes in its foreclosure process after an extensive review found areas needing improvement. The bank is one of several big mortgage lenders that recently suspended foreclosures temporarily because of concern over flawed documents. Bank of America found in its review that its foreclosure decisions weren't based on inaccurate documents but did see ways the paperwork could be improved, a bank executive says in testimony prepared for a hearing Tuesday by the Senate Banking Committee. Among the changes, the legal documents used in the process will each be reviewed by the signer and promptly notarized, said Barbara Desoer, president of the bank's home loans division.

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Airdate: November 17th

Duration: 30

Topic: **CONGRESS NEW SEATS**

Synopsis: When Congress convenes early next January, both party's teams figure to closely resemble the current House leadership of the 111th Congress. The current Deputy Whip, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., stands to move up the GOP ranks to the third-ranking post in the Republican majority as House Majority Whip. Republicans are also expected to choose Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, as the GOP Conference chairman, the party's fourth-ranking post being vacated by Rep. Mike Pence, who is not seeking reelection to the House Republican leadership. More than 80 new House Republicans will vote to pick two representatives to serve at the GOP leadership table. Rep. Kristi Noem, South Dakota, and Rep. Tim Scott, South Carolina have both expressed interest in the positions and are considered frontrunners for the posts. Democrats will first elect the Democratic Caucus Chairman, who will then preside over the remainder of the caucus. The current chairman is Rep. John Larson, D-Connecticut, who is expected to be reelected to the post unopposed. Next, House Democrats will elect the Democratic Leader, also known as minority leader. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-California, surprised many in the caucus by announcing early this month that she was running to remain the House's top Democrat. Although Pelosi is expected to win that election easily, the minority leader post is expected to be the only contended post in the House Democratic leadership election. Pelosi is being challenged by moderate Blue Dog Rep. Heath Shuler, D-N.C., who admits the prospect of knocking off Pelosi from the top post are slim.

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION RELATED LAWSUIT**

Synopsis: City Attorney Dennis Herrera will announce the filing of a lawsuit at an 11:00 a.m. press conference tomorrow (Wednesday), November 17th, against a major illicit immigration law practice in San Francisco that has defrauded clients and devastated the lives of countless immigrants and family members who sought legal counsel. Joining Herrera at the 11:00 a.m. news conference will be Sup. David Campos and representatives from immigration-related community based organizations and the law firm of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Knowledgeable spokespeople will be available at the press conference to answer questions in Spanish, Cantonese and Mandarin

Duration: 30

Topic: **ENERGY DRINK BAN**

Synopsis: The Food and Drug Administration has issued warning letters to four manufacturers of alcoholic energy drinks, saying the caffeine added to their beverages is an "unsafe food additive." FDA Deputy Commissioner Joshua Sharfstein said Wednesday that the agency has decided the combinations of caffeine and alcohol in the drinks is a public health concern after a year-long review of the beverages. The FDA said the government could seize the products if the companies continue to make them. The agency said experts have raised concerns that the caffeine in the drinks can mask a person's feeling of intoxication, leading to risky behavior. One of the companies, Phusion Projects, has already said they will remove the caffeine from their alcoholic drinks.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TSA CHIEF ON PATDOWNS**

Synopsis: The head of the Transportation Security Administration acknowledges that the new pat-downs are more invasive than what travelers were used to. John Pistole says he has received the new pat-down, as has his boss, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. Some travelers complain that the new inspections target sensitive body areas. Pistole says he understands those concerns, but he tells a Senate panel that the government must provide the best possible security for air travelers.

Duration: 30

Topic: **REID ANNOUNCES "DREAM ACT" LEGISLATION**

Synopsis: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced late Wednesday that the Senate will proceed with votes in the lame-duck session on two Democratic priority issues the ban on gays serving openly in the military, and legislation to allow a path to citizenship for young illegal immigrants. Reid's decision to pursue both items indicates Democrats are unwilling to cede their top issues despite overwhelming Republican gains in the midterm elections. Both issues face opposition from Republicans. Reid said the vote on repealing "don't ask, don't tell" will be brought forward with the Defense authorization bill after Congress returns from the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Duration: 30

Topic: **US SECURITY FENCE**

Synopsis: The U.S. government has opted to continue development of a problematic "virtual fence" meant to secure stretches of the Mexican border for an additional 30 days. The Department of Homeland Security said it has exercised a contract extension through Dec. 18 with Boeing Co which has been developing the ill-starred SBInet program on parts of the southern Arizona border since 2006. "DHS is currently reviewing the independent, quantitative, science-based reassessment of the SBInet program," DHS spokesman Matt Chandler said in a statement.

Duration: 30

Topic: **STUDENT LEADER IMMIGRATION**

Synopsis: The parents of popular Cal State Fresno Student Body President Pedro Ramirez always talked a lot about *el sueño Americano* - the American Dream. He was to study hard, get good grades and claim the prize, but it wasn't until that night in their kitchen when the high school valedictorian was filling out university applications that they told him a missing detail - he wasn't a United States citizen. He was born in Mexico. He came to this country when he was 3 years old. Now, an anonymous tip to the college newspaper has forced Ramirez to publicly expose his secret and has put this son of a maid and a restaurant worker into the thick of a debate on immigration and education that has reached a boiling point in recent weeks. Some have called for his resignation while others have rallied to his defense.

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Airdate: November 18th

Duration: 30

Topic: **BAGGAGE HANDLERS AT MIA**

Synopsis: Fifteen baggage handlers at the Miami airport are accused of taking cash to let people secretly check extra or overweight baggage, and authorities are investigating whether some of those bags made it onto planes without going through security. The initial arrests were made on Wednesday. Miami-Dade County police said they are also investigating American Airlines ticket agents and others who may have worked with the skycaps. The skycaps worked for the company Eulen America, which provides janitorial, baggage and security support at Miami International and 11 other U.S. airports, as well as nine in Latin America. Both Eulen and American Airlines said they are working closely with authorities. The bags all went on American flights. Transportation Security Administration Miami Security Director Mark Hatfield said he did not believe the scam posed a security risk.

Duration: 30

Topic: **REPUBLICANS AND THE DREAM ACT**

Synopsis: Today at noon, DREAM-eligible youth will join national leaders to call on Congress to pass the DREAM Act before the end of 2010. Archbishop Jose Gomez, Co-Adjutor Archbishop of Los Angeles, Chairman, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's

Committee on Migration, Janet Murguia of National Council of La Raza, Wade Henderson of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Thomas Saenz of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund will highlight the compelling reasons why the DREAM Act should become law this year.

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Airdate: November 19th

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW SCANNERS AT AIRPORTS

Synopsis: Controversial new pat-downs and full-body scanners will be tested as Americans flock to airports for holiday travel. For some travelers, Thanksgiving will be their first taste of this - new measures some call intrusive, others ineffective. But, TSA officials say its working. Body scanners have already captured passengers trying to smuggle marijuana, whiskey, even knives. The head of the Transportation Security Administration says the close-quarter body inspections causing a furor among some passengers and pilots are unavoidable in a time of terrorist threats.

Duration: 30

Topic: NYPD AND SPANISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Synopsis: A new federal review into how police interact with the city's vast immigrant population suggests that the Justice Department's Office for Civil Rights, found the department often fails to ensure that New Yorkers who do not speak English have critical access to certified interpreters when seeking police assistance. The 10-month review concluded that the department is not fully complying with federal civil rights laws and must do more to provide non-English speakers with "meaningful access to its services." "It is clear the department needs to take further action to ensure that it adequately provides language assistance services to people with limited English proficiency," Michael L. Alston, director of the civil rights office, wrote in the conclusion of the 43-page report. The report was sent to Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly on Nov. 8 along with instructions to develop timelines and goals for remedying the multiple deficiencies found in the review.

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Airdate: November 20th

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA NATO SUMMIT

Synopsis: A brief EU-US summit concluded with Obama reaffirming the existing of close relationships between the United States and the European Union. This was likely to be sweet music to the ears of the EU leadership who feared Obama does not pay enough attention to Europe as he forges ties with emerging economies such as China or India. That feeling was reinforced when Obama decided not to attend a summit in May. Obama's comments after the two-hour summit may appease the EU leadership,

for a while at least. "The United States has no closer partners than Europe. We are not simply united by shared interest but united by shared history, by shared democratic values, shared set of traditions that have endured for generations. That's why the United States needs and wants a strong and united Europe," Obama said after the meeting with the President of the European Union Council Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso. Obama was also set to discuss the economic situation of European countries, especially that of Ireland. Ireland is facing a debt crisis with a likely bailout.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TSA SCREEN CONTROVERSY**

Synopsis: Airline pilots who want to skip certain airport screening measures -- saying it's wasteful to search pilots for sharp objects when they can bring down planes with their bare hands -- are finally getting their way. The Transportation Security Administration announced Friday that it is taking steps to streamline screening for U.S. airline pilots. Pilots traveling in uniform on airline business will be allowed to bypass normal security screening by presenting screeners with their airline ID and another form of identification, the TSA said. The screeners will check the information against a secure, real-time airline crew member database, which includes a picture and other information to verify the pilots' employment status, the TSA said.

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Airdate: November 21st

Duration: 30

Topic: **WOMEN OVER 40 WITH STRESSFULL JOBS & HEART ATTACKS**

Synopsis: Working women are equal to men in a way they'll wish they weren't. Female workers with stressful jobs were more likely than women with less job strain to suffer a heart attack or a stroke or to have clogged arteries, a big U.S. government-funded study found. Worrying about losing a job can raise heart risks too, researchers found. The results seem sure to resonate in a weak economy with plenty of stress about jobs - or lack of them. The mere fact this study was done is a sign of the times: Past studies focused on men, the traditional breadwinners, and found that higher job stress raised heart risks. This is the longest major one to look at stress in women, who now make up nearly half of the U.S. workforce.

Duration: 30

Topic: **ALZHEIMER LATINOS**

Synopsis: Alzheimer's exacts a heavy toll among Latino Americans, who tend to get the condition almost seven years earlier than white Americans, according to research from the University of Pennsylvania and UC San Francisco. Limited access to medical care and health insurance, lower levels of education and income, and higher rates of high blood pressure and diabetes contribute to above-average risks for Alzheimer's among Latino seniors, experts say. The Alzheimer's Assn. calls the situation "a looming but

unrecognized public health crisis" and predicts that Alzheimer's and related dementias could afflict 1.3 million older Latinos by 2050, up from about 200,000 currently.

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11/22/10

Duration: 30

Topic: **THANKSGIVING PRICES**

Synopsis: Shoppers who think turkey and all the trimmings are more expensive this year are exactly right. The Food Institute says turkey this year averages a dollar-five a pound, up from 79 cents last year -- an increase of nearly 33 percent. Add to that hikes in potatoes, sweet potatoes and onions, and the total cost of Thursday's dinner heads skyward. But there is some good news on other items -- frozen carrots, canned apples, green beans and corn are all lower in price this year than last. And for those who live in the Northeast, the Shop Rite chain is offering a free turkey for shoppers who spend 300 dollars during a promotional period.

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEW FEES GO INTO EFFECT**

Synopsis: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reminds customers that its new fee schedule goes into effect Nov. 23, 2010. Applications or petitions postmarked or otherwise filed on or after this date must include the new fee, or they will be rejected. USCIS published the new fee schedule in the Federal Register on Sept. 24, following a comprehensive review of public comments received after publication of the proposed rule this summer. The new fee schedule increases application and petition fees by an average of about 10 percent but does not increase the naturalization application fee.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SALAD BARS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Synopsis: A White House official says Michelle Obama will announce details of a plan to put 6,000 salad bars in public school lunchrooms within the next three years. Mrs. Obama was expected to make the announcement Monday at Riverside Elementary School in Miami. The National Fruit and Vegetable Alliance, United Fresh Produce Association Foundation and Food, Family, Farming (F3) Foundation are joining to support Mrs. Obama's campaign against childhood obesity. The first lady has made boosting fruit and vegetable consumption a major goal of her effort to get people to eat better. Riverside Elementary recently opened a salad bar.

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Airdate: November 23rd

Duration: 30

Topic: **SECURITY PAT DOWNS**

Synopsis: Half of Americans say the enhanced passenger security pat downs at U.S. airports go too far, according to a poll published Tuesday just before the busy holiday travel season. But nearly two-thirds of those surveyed in the Washington Post-ABC News poll support the new full-body security-screening machines at the airports, as most say they put higher priority on preventing terrorism than protecting personal privacy. The poll found that 50 percent said the new pat down searches were unjustified, while 48 percent supported them and 2 percent had no opinion. The recently adopted screening methods that have drawn complaints from passengers and lawmakers in Congress rely on highly revealing full-body imaging scanners and physical pat downs for travelers who choose to opt out of the scans. Airlines expect 24 million people to travel over the Thanksgiving holiday period. Airlines say they have passed along passenger concerns to the Transportation Security Administration, the agency responsible for the new procedures.

Duration: 30

Topic: **MIGRANTS TRAVELING TO MEXICO**

Synopsis: The Mexican government is telling migrants driving home for the holidays that they should form convoys for their own safety while traveling through Mexico. The Interior Department said the government could even provide escorts for such convoys to get them through dangerous areas. It said the Mexican army would assist in the program to help migrants return safely from the United States. Mexico is experiencing unprecedented levels of drug cartel violence in some border areas, making it dangerous to travel on some highways, particularly those in the Gulf coast state of Tamaulipas and some leading to the northern city of Monterrey. In the past, those routes have been heavily used by migrants returning to their hometowns. Migrants have also been targeted in the past by common criminals for robberies or extortion because they often bring new vehicles, cash or appliances with them.

Duration: 30

Topic: **HIV PREVENTION**

Synopsis: A major study shows for the first time that a drug duo widely used to treat the AIDS virus can block HIV infection, researchers said today. The drugs tenofovir and emtricitabine, packaged as a once-daily pill and sold in drugstores as Truvada, reduced HIV infections by an average of 44% among gay and bisexual men who took the drug, compared with those taking a placebo. Men who reported being the most diligent about taking their pill each day reaped an even bigger benefit, reducing their risk by 73%.

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEW IMMIGRATION FEES**

Synopsis: The new Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) fee schedule will be effective Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010. ¿What does it mean for practical purposes? Simply, that applications and petitions postmarked or filed on or after this date are required to

include the new fee, which in average increases the cost in about 10 percent. The new fee schedule does not affect the naturalization application (N-400) fee, which stays at \$595. To see the final rule adjusting fees for immigration benefits and how it will affect your process, visit the USCIS website.

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Airdate: November 24th

Duration: 30

Topic: **CALIFORNIA IMMIGRATION LAW**

Synopsis: The California secretary of state's office on Tuesday authorized a signature drive by a tea party activist to put an Arizona-style immigration law before California voters. Called the "Support Federal Immigration Law Act," the proposal was submitted to state authorities in September by Michael Erickson, a tea party activist in the Bay Area city of Belmont and former chair of the Sonoma County Republican Party. Erickson, speaking at a videotaped rally on his initiative's website, said a legal team drafted a version of Arizona's Senate Bill 1070, which requires that police investigate a person's legal status if an officer has reasonable suspicion about that status. The Arizona law now faces challenges that it is unconstitutional and an overreaching of state law into federal responsibility for immigration enforcement. Initiative supporters must gather at least 433,971 signatures of registered voters by April 21 to qualify for an election. Erickson said he aims to put the measure before voters during the 2012 election cycle.

Duration: 30

Topic: **CONSUMER PROTECTORS**

Synopsis: For budget-minded holiday shoppers, debit cards seem to offer an ideal combination of convenience and self-discipline. They're safer than cash and less cumbersome than checks. Most retailers that accept credit cards also accept debit cards. And because debit cards withdraw money directly from the card holder's bank account, they offer relief from the surprise interest rates, late fees and indecipherable contract terms that have soured many consumers on credit cards. In 2009, payment volume for debit cards exceeded that of credit cards for the first time, a trend that's expected to continue this year, according to Javelin Strategy and Research. Eighty percent of consumers own a debit card, while 78% own a credit card, according to the Federal Reserve. Seventy percent of consumers plan to use a debit card or cash for this year's holiday expenses, according to a survey by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. As increasing numbers of consumers are learning, however, there are drawbacks to debit cards. When it comes to fraud and theft, credit cards offer a distinct advantage over debit cards - something debit card holders may not realize until they discover that money has gone missing from their bank accounts.

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Airdate: November 25th

Duration: 30

Topic: **USA IMMIGRATION & OTHER COUNTRIES**

Synopsis: The fact that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) granted you authorization to work legally in the U.S. while your adjustment of status (AOS) application is pending does **not** mean that it is safe for you to travel abroad just yet. You did not specify your status before you married a U.S. citizen, but we assume, since you have not been home in a while, that you currently are undocumented. If you have been unlawfully present in the U.S. for 180 days to a year and you travel abroad (including even a day trip to Canada or Mexico) before you are granted legal permanent resident status, you face a three-year ban from reentering the U.S. Unlawful presence for a year or more triggers a ten-year ban. These bans would apply to you despite your marriage to a U.S. citizen and pending AOS application. Likewise, the fact that you may have U.S. citizen children who were born here does not alter the situation. Therefore, it is crucial that you remain in the U.S. until you are granted legal permanent resident status at or after your green card interview in the USCIS offices here. Then you will be able to travel abroad for periods of up to six months and return to the U.S. with no problem and no need to apply for permission. Note: a green card holder who travels abroad for more than six months is in a different situation and should obtain legal advice before such a trip.

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Airdate: November 26th

Duration: 30

Topic: **SMALL BUSINESS GET LOANS**

Synopsis: Some small businesses say they're finding it easier to get loans, a development that could help jump-start a tepid recovery and sluggish job market. Small firms with fewer than 100 workers employ half the labor force and typically account for two-thirds of jobs created in a recovery. So far, though, they've benefited far less from the upswing that began in mid-2009 than larger firms. That's because they generally haven't taken part in the export surge, and they rely on banks rather than corporate bond markets to borrow money. Many small businesses still complain credit is tight. But in a survey released this month by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the portion saying loans were harder to get than three months earlier was the lowest since September 2008.

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Airdate: November 27th

Duration: 30

Topic: **WOMEN AND STRESS**

Synopsis: Women with stressful jobs that offer little room for decision making and creativity have an increased risk of suffering a heart attack, U.S. researchers said on Tuesday. While doctors usually focus on standard risk factors such as high blood pressure and cholesterol, the new findings show they might also want to ask about stress. "We don't focus as much on stress," Dr. Michelle Asha Albert, a heart doctor at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, told Reuters Health. "Stress does cause a similar magnitude of risk as some of our additional risk factors."

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Airdate: November 28th

Duration: 30

Topic: **US vs. WIKILEAKS LATEST**

Synopsis: Hundreds of thousands of leaked State Department documents reveal a hidden world of backstage international diplomacy, divulging candid comments from world leaders and detailing occasional U.S. pressure tactics aimed at hot spots in Afghanistan, Iran and North Korea. The classified diplomatic cables released by online whistle-blower WikiLeaks and reported on by news organizations in the United States and Europe provide often unflattering assessments of foreign leaders, including U.S. allies such as Germany and Italy. The cables also contain new revelations about long-simmering nuclear trouble spots, detailing fears of Iran's growing nuclear program and U.S. discussions about a united Korean peninsula as a long-term solution to North Korean aggression.

Duration: 30

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Synopsis: The House of Representatives voted down a bill to extend jobless benefits. Republicans blocked the measure arguing it would add to the deficit. Meanwhile, two million people will lose their benefits by the end of the year. And while Arizona's unemployment rate has dropped to 9.5%, competition for jobs is up. At One Stop, Pima County's employment services center, a sign placed near the entrance seems to greet the unemployed with a message of hope. It reads, "A Better Job Awaits."

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Airdate: November 29th

Duration: 30

Topic: **WIKILEAKS LATEST/ CLINTON, HOLDER & OBAMA**

Synopsis: The White House is condemning the new leak of hundreds of thousands of secret documents. Wikileaks published the first 219 of 251,587 diplomatic cables

between the State Department and more than 270 American diplomatic outposts around the world. Some of the most interesting documents are about Iran, depicting Arab leaders practically begging the U.S. to prevent the Iranian government from getting nuclear weapons. The foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates says "Ahmadinejad is Hitler" and tells a top state department official that "the threat from Al-Qaida would be minor if Iran has nukes." The U.S. government is taking steps to make sure such a massive leak of classified information does not happen again.

Duration: 30

Topic: **OBAMA PAY FREEZE**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama announced a pay freeze for 2 million federal employees Monday and warned the American public that the move is the first of many difficult decisions that must be made to slash the nation's mounting deficits. "The hard truth is that getting this deficit under control is going to require some broad sacrifice, and that sacrifice must be shared by the employees of the federal government," Obama said. The two-year freeze would apply to all civilian federal employees, including those working at the Department of Defense, but would not affect military personnel. The freeze, which requires congressional approval, is expected to save more than \$5 billion in savings over two years, \$28 billion over five years and more than \$60 billion over 10 years, White House officials said.

Duration: 30

Topic: **CYBER MONDAY & TIPS**

Synopsis: It's the most wonderful time of the year, at least when it comes to shopping deals. Cyber Monday is no exception, yet there are countless deals waiting to be found throughout this holiday period online. U.S. retailers from Amazon.com Inc to Target Corp offered steep online discounts to shoppers on Cyber Monday, aiming to win additional sales after a strong start to the holiday shopping season over the weekend. Shares of Amazon rose as much as 2.6 percent to an all-time high of \$181.84, while smaller rival Overstock.com surged 8.1 percent and Web jeweler Blue Nile gained 5.3 percent on indications of strong traffic to retail sites. The Monday after the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday was dubbed Cyber Monday five years ago to get consumers to focus on online shopping. But retailers have been increasingly offering online deals on Thanksgiving Day and over the holiday weekend as well.

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Airdate: November 30th

Duration: 30

Topic: **BYPARTISAN MEETING**

Synopsis: Obama and Republican and Democratic congressional leaders are preparing for their first joint meeting since midterm elections altered the government's balance of power. The president and the House and Senate leaders from both parties will meet today at the White House to engage in talks about the Bush-era tax rates and a U.S.-Russia treaty to reduce nuclear weapons arsenals. The meeting will also help define

the interaction between the White House and a divided Congress for the next two years. Republicans will take over control of the House in January and will gain seats in the Senate, weakening the Democrats' grip.

Duration: 30

Topic: **WIKILEAKS FOLLOW UP**

Synopsis: There's about to be an information "big chill" in the U.S. government. After the latest WikiLeaks revelations, making public hundreds of thousands of private diplomatic cables, the U.S. government is reversing almost a decade of post-Sept. 11 efforts to get U.S. officials to share sensitive documents. The Pentagon is detailing new security safeguards, including restraints on small computer flash drives that would make it harder for any one person to copy and reveal so many secrets. The tightening of sensitive information comes as the U.S. has raised the prospect of criminal prosecution against online whistleblower WikiLeaks.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SENATE PASSES BILL TO BOOST FOOD SAFETY**

Synopsis: The Senate has passed legislation to make food safer in the wake of deadly E. coli and salmonella outbreaks, potentially giving the government broad new powers to increase inspections of food processing facilities and force companies to recall tainted food. The \$1.4 billion bill, which would also place stricter standards on imported foods, passed the Senate 73-25. Supporters say passage is critical after widespread outbreaks in peanuts, eggs and produce. Those outbreaks have exposed a lack of resources and authority at the FDA as the embattled agency struggled to contain and trace the contaminated products. The agency rarely inspects many food facilities and farms, visiting some every decade or so and others not at all.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SCIENTISTS: EXTRA CALCIUM, VITAMIN D AREN'T NEEDED**

Synopsis: The Institute of Medicine released new guidelines for vitamin D and calcium intake, specifying slightly higher recommended dietary allowances by age and sex, and set new limits for intake.

Duration: 30

Topic: **VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY REPORTS DUE TO OVERESTIMATIONS**

Synopsis: Contrary to recent reports that suggest most Americans are deficient in vitamin D, experts with the Institute of Medicine say that after analyzing national surveys on blood levels, most Americans and Canadians are getting enough in their diets. "With a few exceptions, all North Americans are receiving enough calcium and vitamin D," notes the IOM. "Higher levels have not been shown to confer greater benefits, and in fact, they have been linked to other health problems, challenging the concept that 'more is better.'"

Duration: 30

Topic: **PENTAGON STUDY UU MILITARY CAN SAFELY END BAN ON GAYS**

Synopsis: The Pentagon study that argues that gay troops could serve openly without hurting the military's ability to fight is expected to re-ignite debate this month on Capitol Hill over repealing the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Officials familiar with the 10-month study's results have said a clear majority of respondents don't care if gays serve openly, with 70% predicting that lifting the ban would have positive, mixed or no results. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the findings hadn't been released.

===END OF REPORT===

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS - DECEMBER 2010

Airdate: December 1st

Duration: 30

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION IN STALEMATE**

Synopsis: Members of the President's deficit commission will begin weighing in on a controversial plan being presented by the panel's co-chairmen today. It suggests reducing Social Security benefits, raising the retirement age, curtailing tax breaks and other politically explosive ideas for getting the national debt under control. Concern over the national debt means millions of out-of-work Americans are losing unemployment benefits, which expired at midnight after Congress failed to pass an extension for another year. The extension would have cost 12 billion dollars--- Republicans argued other cuts should make up for the increased spending.

Duration: 30

Topic: **DREAM ACT, WHAT'S GOING ON**

Synopsis: Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) filed a new version of the DREAM Act with the aim of attracting broader support for DREAM to get the requisite 60 votes to pass the Senate. With the filing of this new bill, the anticipated date for bringing DREAM to a vote will be delayed. The earliest Reid could file a cloture motion on the new bill would be this coming Thursday. After waiting out the requisite 30 hours post-cloture, it could "ripen" over the weekend, and effectively come up for a vote on Monday at the earliest. The new version addresses many of the concerns raised by Republicans and tightens the restrictions on eligibility in several respects. Among other changes, the new version does the following: Excludes from eligibility those with certain criminal convictions, such as for offenses punishable by a maximum term of more than 1 year (felony) or 3 misdemeanors.

Duration: 30

Topic: **AIDS WORLD DAY**

Synopsis: **World AIDS Day**, observed December 1 each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the spread of infection. It is common to hold memorials to honor persons who have died from HIV/AIDS on this day. Government and health officials also observe the event, often with speeches or forums on the AIDS topics. Since 1995, the President of the United States has made an official proclamation on World AIDS Day. Governments of other nations have followed suit and issued similar announcements. AIDS has killed more than 25 million people between 1981 and 2007, and an estimated 33.2 million people worldwide live with HIV as of 2007, making it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history. Despite recent, improved access to antiretroviral treatment and care in many regions of the world, the AIDS epidemic claimed an estimated 2 million lives in 2007, of which about 270,000 were children.

Duration: 30

Topic: **FLORIDA LAW SIMILAR TO SB1070**

Synopsis: A port security initiative has led to the indictment of 10 people in an international drug smuggling ring, including six Miami longshoremen who used their access to unload the cocaine, heroin and marijuana, federal officials said Wednesday. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton said the case serves to highlight the work of 21 multi-agency task forces around the country, led by ICE, focused on disrupting large-scale criminal activity at seaports and border entry points nationwide. It's particularly important, he said, to root out corrupt employees and government officials who help smugglers, illicit arms dealers, money launderers and possibly even terrorists move around the world. "The system must have integrity. Internal corruption of any kind cannot be tolerated," Morton said at a news conference with other South Florida law enforcement officials. "Our ports are open for business, but only for legitimate business."

Duration: 30

Topic: **BILL TO IMPROVE SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Synopsis: Greasy foods and sugary soft drinks could disappear from schools as Congress is poised to approve a \$4.5 billion child nutrition bill. It would be a victory for President Barack Obama -- along with his wife, Michelle, who has promoted the bill to improve lunches in schools and expand feeding programs for low-income students. Many Democrats signaled opposition in September because it is partially paid for with cuts in future funding for food stamps. But several of them have now said they will support the bill after the Republican victories in the November elections. The White House has said it will find other ways to restore the food stamp cuts. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called passing the bill the "right, moral thing for us to do." It is unclear if Republicans will try to stall the legislation.

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Airdate: December 2nd

Duration: 30

Topic: **DREAM ACT LATEST**

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is urging Congress to allow certain foreign-born young people who were illegally brought to the U.S. as children to become legal residents. She says it would help her department focus on deporting immigrants with criminal records. The Senate failed in September to pass what's known as the DREAM Act. It's unclear whether Congress will vote on it again before the year ends. The bill would apply to immigrants who arrived in the U.S. before age 16, have been here at least five years and have a U.S. high school diploma or the equivalent. It would let them become U.S. residents after they've spent two years in college or the military.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SCHOOL LUNCH VOTE**

Synopsis: The U.S. House of Representatives passed Thursday and sent to President Barack Obama a bill that boosts funding for the school lunch program by \$4.5 billion through 2020 and bans "junk" food from school buildings. Backers said it would be the first real increase in reimbursement rates for schools in 30 years and a step toward healthier meals. Obama was expected to sign the bill, which the Senate passed in August.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX CUT VOTES**

Synopsis: A critical compromise to head off a year-end tax increase for millions of Americans took shape in private talks between the White House and congressional Republicans Thursday, and an extension of unemployment benefits appeared likely to become part of any deal. Democrats sought to expand the package with other provisions that officials said would accelerate the nation's sluggish economic recovery. They included a tax break providing as much as \$400 for individual working people and \$800 for couples -- even if they pay nothing to the IRS.

Duration: 30

Topic: **MCCAIN "DONT ASK DONT TELL"**

Synopsis: A doubting John McCain led Republican opposition Thursday to letting gays serve openly in the military, sternly clashing with the Pentagon's top leaders and warning that troops would quit in droves if Congress repealed the "don't ask, don't tell" law. In tense exchanges with Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, McCain and other Republicans dismissed a Pentagon study on gays as biased and said objections by combat troops were being ignored.

Duration: 30

Topic: **FORECLOSURES SALES**

Synopsis: The worst summer for home sales in decades also put a chill on foreclosure sales, even though average discounts on the distressed properties got bigger compared with other types of homes. RealtyTrac says foreclosure sales plunged 25 percent in the July-September quarter versus the April-June period. They tumbled 31 percent from the third quarter of last year.

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Airdate: December 3rd

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEW JOBLESS DATA**

Synopsis: U.S. employment increased far less than expected in November and the jobless rate jumped to a seven-month high of 9.8 percent, dampening hopes for a self-sustaining economic recovery. Nonfarm payrolls rose 39,000, with private hiring gaining

only 50,000, the Labor Department said. However, overall employment for September and October was revised to show 38,000 more jobs than previously estimated.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SENATE TAX CUT PLANS**

Synopsis: Vice President Joe Biden Friday urged the U.S. Senate to extend tax cuts for middle-class Americans, following the example of a politically charged vote by the House of Representatives earlier this week. Biden addressed reporters at the White House during a meeting with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and budget director Jack Lew, who are leading talks with congressional leaders on a deal to extend Bush-era tax cuts that expire at the end of the year.

Duration: 30

Topic: **ARIZONA DROP HOUSE**

Synopsis: Authorities in Phoenix say 10 children have been rescued from human smugglers who threatened to rape and kill some of them if their parents didn't pay more money for their safe return. The children range in age from 2 to 17 and were smuggled from Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala. They were being held against their will at a drop house in Phoenix.

Duration: 30

Topic: **CAMERAS FOR CARS**

Synopsis: Backup cameras could become more common in future vehicles. The government is proposing new rules aimed at improving rear visibility standards for cars. The Transportation Department is concerned about children being backed over by unsuspecting drivers. Most carmakers will meet the requirements by installing rear-mounted video cameras and in-vehicle displays. The plan is expected to be completed next year and will be phased in during the 2012- 2014 model years. The government estimates nearly 300 people are killed and 18,000 injured each year because of back overs. Nearly half the deaths involve children under the age of 5.

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Airdate: December 4th

Duration: 30

Topic: **OBAMA USA-TAXES/SENATE**

Synopsis: Democratic measures to extend tax cuts for most Americans, but not additional low rates for the wealthiest, failed in the U.S. Senate Saturday, as Republicans and some Democrats blocked the plans. The two Democratic plans to renew low tax rates for individual income up to \$200,000 and up to \$1 million both failed in procedural votes, as Republicans argued that low tax rates for the wealthiest should also be extended. "It's not that we want to punish wealthy people," said Democratic Senator Charles Schumer, who had proposed extending the tax rates for those earning up to \$1 million. "But they are doing fine and they are not going to spend the money and stimulate the economy." No Republicans backed the Democratic proposals, and a

few Democrats voted against them. The rare Saturday votes were expected to fail, but Democrats wanted to show that they didn't support an extension of the lower rates for higher-income individuals.

Duration: 30

Topic: **MARCH PRO-IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: Thousands of South Florida residents marched for immigration reform in an event sponsored by South Florida churches.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SUPREME COURT SB1070**

Synopsis: The impassioned debate over the nation's immigration policy takes center stage at the Supreme Court Wednesday in a dispute over an Arizona law. Arizona's employer sanctions law punishes businesses that knowingly hire workers illegally in the U.S. It has been used just three times in three years, but business interests and civil rights groups have banded together to argue that only the federal government may enforce immigration laws. The outcome in this case also could signal how the court would handle the controversial and more expansive Arizona immigration enforcement law that a federal judge blocked key components this summer.

Duration: 30

Topic: **BOTOX HEADACHES**

Synopsis: According to a recent University Of California, San Francisco study delivered in a presentation at the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery meeting Richard Glogau, MD, UCSF Professor of Dermatology, reported that 75 percent of patients in his case study experienced four to six months of Migraine relief following injections of Botox® (botulinum toxin A derived from bacteria) to muscles of the face and head. Glogau's small study of 24 patients adds weight to previous reports that botulinum toxin A can relieve Migraines. Since 1992, Botox®, the same bacteria that causes deadly food poisoning, has been used in purified and diluted form to temporarily paralyze the muscles that bring the eye brows together, thereby eliminating wrinkles in this region. Patients injected with botulinum toxin A in the upper third of the face for treatment of cosmetic frown lines (who coincidentally suffered from Migraines) have reported the added benefit of Migraine relief.

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Airdate: December 5th

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX CUTS McCONNELL**

Synopsis: The Senate Republican leader says it's become clear now that taxes will not be raised for anyone during the current economic downturn. Sen. Mitch McConnell's assessment comes a day after Senate Republicans voted down Democratic efforts to limit any extension of the Bush-era tax cuts for the top-earning Americans. President Barack Obama then signaled a willingness to give in to Republican demands that the

tax cuts that expire at the end of the year be extended at all levels. McConnell, R-Ky., tells NBC's "Meet the Press" that the question on tax cuts is how long they might be extended. On the issue of aid to jobless Americans, McConnell says he believes that unemployment compensation will be extended again.

Duration: 30

Topic: **US AIRPORT SECURITY BILL**

Synopsis: A New York senator wants to make it illegal for anyone to distribute or record images produced by full-body scanners at airports. U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer introduced a bill Sunday that calls for punishing anyone who misuses full-body scan images by up to a year in prison. They could also face fines of up to \$100,000. Privacy advocates say there are insufficient safeguards to ensure that the revealing images produced by the machines remain private. The X-ray scans from the machines can see through people's clothing. The Transportation Security Administration says the images cannot be stored, transmitted or printed and they are deleted after use. Passengers can opt instead for a pat-down that includes the crotch and chest.

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Airdate: December 6th

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX CUT DEALS**

Synopsis: An outline of a bipartisan economic package is emerging that would temporarily extend the Bush-era tax rates for all taxpayers, while extending jobless benefits for millions of Americans. Differences remained over details, including White House demands for middle- and low-income tax credits. But the White House expressed optimism Monday, raising the possibility of a deal in Congress by the end of the week. "They are making progress," said White House spokesman Bill Burton. "The President is confident that within the next couple of days or so we'll find a way to extend tax cuts to middle class families and do some other things that the President thinks are important, helping to grow the economy and create jobs." Questions remained about how many concessions Obama could extract from Republicans in exchange for extending current tax rates for high earners, a proposal he opposed. But without action, lawmakers face the prospect of delivering a tax hike to all taxpayers at the end of the year, when the current rates expire and revert to higher pre-2001 and 2003 levels.

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEW CENSUS DATA**

Synopsis: The government provided new estimates Monday showing the U.S. population grew to somewhere between roughly 306 million and 313 million over the last decade, acknowledging uncertainty due to rapid shifts in immigration. The estimates, which are separate from the official 2010 census count, are based on a review of birth and death records as well as calculations of new immigrants as of April 1, 2010. Demographers say the range of numbers offers a rough guide to the official 2010 results that will be used to apportion House seats when they are released later this

month. "For the first time, we are providing a series of demographic analysis estimates to more clearly demonstrate the uncertainty in these figures," said Census director Robert Groves. The numbers show the nation's population ranged from 305.7 million to 307.4 million based on lower rates of immigration, which independent think-tanks such as the Pew Hispanic Center have said dropped off sharply recently due to the souring U.S. economy. A mid-range estimate -- which in previous census reports have typically come within 1-2 percent of the final count -- puts the number at 308.5 million. Census estimates based on assumptions of higher levels of immigration place the nation's population between 310 million and 312.7 million.

Duration: 30

Topic: **APPELATION PROPOSITION 8**

Synopsis: The fight over California's same-sex marriage ban reached the next legal level Monday when it went before a federal appeals court during a nationally televised hearing in San Francisco. A line of questioning at an appeals court hearing over California's gay marriage ban suggested the three judges could issue a decision that would legalize same-sex marriage in that state but leave intact bans in other western states under the court's jurisdiction. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard nearly three hours of arguments Monday during a televised hearing that reached a nationwide audience anxious for a final decision on whether voter-approved Proposition 8 and similar same-sex marriage bans violate the U.S. Constitution. The judges appeared troubled over whether they could recognize marriage as a civil right for all same-sex couples or only those in states that already grant gays the rights of marriage without the title.

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Airdate: December 7th

Duration: 30

Topic: **WIKILEAKS FOUNDER ARREST**

Synopsis: A British judge jailed WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday, ordering the leader of secret-spilling website behind bars as his organization's finances came under increasing pressure. Assange showed no reaction as Judge Howard Riddle denied him bail in an extradition case that could see him sent to Sweden to face allegations of rape, molestation and unlawful coercion. Assange denies the accusations and has pledged to fight the extradition, while a spokesman for his organization said the U.S. diplomatic secrets would keep on flowing -- regardless of what happened to the group's founder. "This will not change our operation," Kristinn Hrafnsson told The Associated Press ahead of Assange's hearing. As if to underline the point, WikiLeaks released a cache of a dozen new diplomatic cables, its first publication in more than 24 hours. Assange appeared before City of Westminster Magistrates' Court in London after turning himself in to Scotland Yard earlier Tuesday, capping months of speculation over an investigation into alleged sex crimes committed in Sweden over the summer.

Duration: 30

Topic: **DREAM ACT PUSH**

Synopsis: Congress is expected to vote on the Dream Act on Wednesday, providing a path to citizenship to millions of illegal immigrant youth. It's a bad precedent that uses kids, costs taxpayers and invites new amnesties. After years of failing to sell mass amnesty to voters, the open-borders lobby has turned to tugging at Americans' heartstrings, presenting treachery stories of illegal immigrants brought here as children who then bettered themselves here. Somehow legalizing this group ahead of all the other people awaiting immigration visas legally is supposed to specially benefit all of us, even though the most obvious beneficiaries are the individuals themselves. But out of guilt, or because we "owe" them "justice," the case is being made for passing the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act. That act provides a path to citizenship for some 2.1 million illegals that have lived here continuously for five years, avoided felony convictions, came to the U.S. before they turned 16 and completed two years of college or U.S. military service within six years.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX CUTS FOLLOW UP**

Synopsis: The White House on Tuesday urged congressional Democrats to embrace a contentious tax cut plan that President Barack Obama cut with Republicans, arguing that the rank and file need to move on to other issues before the party loses control of the House in January. White House aides said Vice President Joe Biden will ask Democratic lawmakers to swallow their objections to the administration's proposed compromise with the GOP when he attends a closed luncheon with senators at the Capitol. Obama's plan would extend Bush-era tax cuts for all Americans, including the richest, while also extending unemployment benefits and reducing payroll taxes for a year. Before the GOP assumes the House majority next month, the White House wants Congress to take up ratification of a new nuclear treaty with Russia, and then address the Dream Act, a measure to give young people whose parents brought them into the U.S. illegally a path to legal status. Democrats also want to vote on whether to repeal the military's policy that prevents gays from serving openly in the armed services.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TOP TEST SCORES FROM SHANGHAI STUN EDUCATORS**

Synopsis: The competition among nations when it come to education is strong and wild. The country with best educated people will win in many areas, economy, science, math, etc and the test result from Shanghai are proof of that. That is why education in this country has become more the center of attention and many changes will happen so we can compete with all these nations. "Can you imagine the reaction if we told the students of Chicago that the PISA was an important international test and that America's reputation depended on them performing well?" Mr. Schneider said. "That said, China is taking education very seriously. The work ethic is amazingly strong."

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Airdate: December 8th

Duration: 30

Topic: **DREAM ACT HOUSE VOTE**

Synopsis: The House of Representatives approved a controversial measure Wednesday providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants who came to the United States before age 16. The "Dream Act" passed by 216-198 after sometimes heated debate. The Senate is scheduled to vote Thursday on whether to begin debate on a slightly different version of the bill. It appears unlikely backers will win the 60 votes needed in the 100-member chamber to advance the measure.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX AND EMPLOYMENT**

Synopsis: The tax deal struck by President Obama and congressional Republicans essentially gives Americans a pay raise -- pumping money into the economy almost immediately and probably creating hundreds of thousands of jobs over the next two years, economists say. The compromise already has economists raising their forecasts for growth next year, mainly because it includes a surprising one-year cut in Social Security taxes. The amount of that cut -- 2 percent of pay for most American workers -- instantly becomes more take-home money. Critics complain that the deal would further swell the \$1.3 trillion federal budget deficit.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SUPREME COURT ARIZONA EMPLOYERS**

Synopsis: The Supreme Court appeared likely to sustain an Arizona law that threatens to take away the licenses of businesses that knowingly hire workers who are in the United States illegally. The justices heard arguments in a case that plunges the court into the nation's contentious debate over immigration, generally the province of the federal government.

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Airdate: December 9th

Duration: 30

Topic: **DREAM ACT SENATE VOTE POSPONED**

Synopsis: The Senate moved Thursday to delay a politically charged showdown vote on legislation carving out a path to legal status for foreign-born youngsters brought to this country illegally, putting off but probably not preventing the measure's demise. Facing GOP objections, Democrats put aside the so-called Dream Act and said they'd try again to advance it before year's end. They're short of the 60 votes needed to do so, however, and critics in both parties quickly said they won't change their minds in the waning days of the Democratic-controlled Congress.

Duration: 30

Topic: **DONT ASK DONT TELL**

Synopsis: Republicans blocked a last-ditch effort in the Senate to lift the military's ban on openly gay troops on Thursday, dealing a major blow to gay rights groups and making it unlikely Congress could repeal "don't ask, don't tell" any time soon. The 57-40 vote fell three short of the 60 needed to overcome procedural hurdles to lift the 17-year-old ban. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine was the lone Republican voting to advance the bill, and Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia was the only Democrat to vote against it.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX DEAL NOT A DONE DEAL**

Synopsis: Senate Democrats unveiled a tax bill that largely reflects the deal hammered out by President Barack Obama and Republicans earlier in the week, and adds an additional subsidy for ethanol. The measure would broadly extend income tax breaks for two years and also includes an extension of jobless benefits and other tax breaks. It does not include an extension of the Build America bond program that Democrats had sought.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SMOKING STUDY**

Synopsis: The latest US Surgeon General's report, finds that even limited exposure to tobacco or secondhand smoke can lead to cardiovascular and other health problems. The report, the latest update to its first study in 1964 highlighting tobacco dangers, says that even an occasional cigarette or exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful. Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin says the latest research, "substantiates the evidence that there is no safe level of exposure to cigarette smoke."

Duration: 30

Topic: **GEORGIA IMMIGRATION LAW**

Synopsis: Georgia farmers, many of whom are dependent on immigrant labor, have fired a warning shot at state lawmakers considering ways to crack down on illegal immigrants. Delegates to the Georgia Farm Bureau's annual convention voted to adopt a policy that opposes any state immigration measure that "discriminates against the farm worker" and puts farmers at a competitive disadvantage. The vote marks the first time the Farm Bureau has adopted an immigration policy directed specifically at Georgia state leaders.

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Airdate: December 10th

Duration: 30

Topic: **UNDOCUMENTED DRIVERS**

Synopsis: An estimated 4.5 million illegal immigrants nationwide are driving regularly, most without licenses, according to an analysis by The New York Times. Only three states - New Mexico, Utah and Washington - currently issue licenses without proof of

legal residence in the United States. Many states have adopted tough new laws to prevent illegal immigrants from driving, while expanding immigration enforcement by the state and local police. As a result, at least 30,000 illegal immigrants who were stopped for common traffic violations in the last three years have ended up in deportation, DHS figures show.

Duration: 30

Topic: **CONSUMER CONFIDENCE**

Synopsis: A rise in U.S. consumer sentiment in December prompted investors to sell off benchmark U.S. debt Friday on expectations the economy will continue to grow, but U.S. stocks rose modestly on the news. U.S. data showed consumer sentiment rose more than expected in early December to the highest level in six months, according to the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan survey, while the government said the country's trade deficit shrank much more than expected in October.

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Airdate: December 11th

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION ARIZONA LAW**

Synopsis: A federal judge has dismissed parts of the U.S. Department of Justice's challenge to Arizona's new immigration law. U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton's ruling on Friday struck down the federal government's challenge to the portion of the law that prohibits the transport of illegal immigrants. But Bolton's ruling didn't have any effect on the portions of the law that she previously prevented from taking effect, including a requirement that immigrants get or carry immigration registration papers.

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Airdate: December 12th

Duration: 30

Topic: **USA TAXES AXELROD**

Synopsis: The Obama administration continued to hold firm on the idea that its framework for a deal on the expiring Bush tax cuts could not be changed in truly tangible ways. "We have a framework, we have an agreement, and I don't anticipate that it's going to change greatly," White House senior adviser David Axelrod told ABC's "This Week." "There have been some changes that folks in the House were concerned about, the absence of an extension of a renewable energy tax credit. That is now included in the package. But in the main, I don't see major changes." Axelrod's resoluteness was, in part, a response to the continued howls of discontent coming from several corners of the Democratic Party.

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Airdate: December 13th

Duration: 30

Topic: **TOYOTA RECALL**

Synopsis: Toyota Motor Corp said Monday it would recall about 110,000 of the 2011 Sienna minivans due to a risk that drivers could damage the brake system as they use the parking brake. The Sienna is an all-new model. Toyota said it was not aware of any accidents or injuries related to this issue, and that it would notify owners in January of the problem. But the fix will be delayed until replacement parts are available in February, Toyota said, when it will ask owners to bring the minivans to dealers for installation of new parts. Toyota said that in some cases drivers had damaged a bracket connected to the brake lights by pressing on the parking brake. That could cause the brake lights to stay on, or in some cases cause the vehicle's regular brake to be partially engaged at all times, causing noise and vibration.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX CUTS**

Synopsis: The Democratic-led U.S. Congress will move a step closer toward grudging approval of President Barack Obama's deal with Republicans to extend expiring tax cuts, even for the wealthiest Americans. Backers were expected to muster on the needed 60 votes in the 100-member Senate to clear a procedural hurdle, before passage on Tuesday or Wednesday. The bill would then go to the House of Representatives for likely passage -- despite complaints from many Democrats that Obama conceded too much to Republicans. The bill would avert a Jan. 1 increase in income taxes for nearly all Americans. The package also would renew jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed and provide a one-year cut in Social Security taxes.

Duration: 30

Topic: **HEALTH CARE RULING**

Synopsis: A U.S. judge in Virginia declared a key part of President Barack Obama's landmark healthcare law unconstitutional in the first major setback on an issue that will likely end up at the Supreme Court. U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson, appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush in 2002, backed the state of Virginia's argument that Congress exceeded its authority by requiring Americans to start buying health insurance in 2014 or face a fine. But he declined to invalidate the entire healthcare law, a small victory for Obama, whose administration will appeal the decision. The law is a cornerstone of Obama's presidency, aiming to expand health insurance to cover millions of uninsured Americans while trying to curb costs. Obama told the Tampa television station WFLA he was confident the courts would uphold the healthcare act.

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Airdate: December 14th

Duration: 30

Topic: **USA HEALTH CARE APPEAL**

Synopsis: The Justice Department said it intends to appeal to a U.S. appeals court a ruling by a judge in Virginia declaring a key part of President Barack Obama's landmark healthcare law unconstitutional. Department spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer said the Virginia lawsuit at issue was one of a number of cases concerning the law pending before courts around the country, including four in which challenges were unsuccessful. "Virginia's suit is based on a state statute that is not applicable nationwide, and the department believes this case should follow the ordinary course of allowing the courts of appeals to hear it first so the issues and arguments can be fully developed before the Supreme Court decides whether to consider it," she said in a statement. Some Republican opponents have said the case should go next to the Supreme Court, bypassing the appeals court. By going through the appeals court, it could take more than a year for the issue to end up at the Supreme Court.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX CUT LATEST**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama's tax plan got a boost on when a top Democrat in the House, where the plan faces its stiffest resistance, said there were "compelling reasons" to back it. The bullish comments from Democratic Majority Leader Steny Hoyer signaled opposition is dissipating among Democrats who believe that Obama's \$858 billion tax deal, brokered with the opposition Republicans, is too generous to the wealthy. The Senate cleared a key procedural hurdle on Monday, with a bipartisan group of 83 of the 100 members voting in favor of moving the bill forward. "Rarely do you see that big a number" in support of a bill, Hoyer said, also noting a swath from the very liberal to the very conservative backed it. A vote in the Senate was expected late on Tuesday or shortly after midnight on Wednesday, with the House taking up the measure during the day Wednesday. The plan extends all Bush-era individual tax rates, prevents a spike in taxes on capital gains and dividends and renews long-term insurance for the jobless, among other measures. Obama and most of his fellow Democrats had pushed for extension of the tax cuts enacted by former President George W. Bush only on household income of up to \$250,000. But Democrats lost control of the House and saw their margins shrink in the Senate in the Nov. 2 elections, pushing Obama to strike the deal before the bolstered Republicans take more power in January.

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Airdate: December 15th

Duration: 30

Topic: **HEALTH GROUPS SUES McDonalds's/HAPPY MEAL TOYS**

Synopsis: A U.S. consumer group sued McDonald's Corp to stop the world's largest hamburger chain from using Happy Meal toys to lure children into its restaurants. The

Center for Science in the Public Interest is representing a Sacramento mother of two in the lawsuit, which alleges unfair marketing and other violations of California's consumer protection law. It does not seek monetary damages. "The lawsuit is about the change, not the money," CSPI litigation director Stephen Gardner said. "We are proud of our Happy Meals and intend to vigorously defend our brand, our reputation and our food," said McDonald's spokeswoman Bridget Coffing. "We listen to our customers, and parents consistently tell us they approve of our Happy Meals." Walter Olson, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute and tort reform advocate, said he thinks that McDonald's will ultimately prevail but that it will likely have to go through multiple rounds of legal wrangling, which would suit CSPI. "In the meantime, they've got their step towards a national debate, which is what they want," Olson said. HOT TOYS McDonald's debuted the Happy Meal in the United States in 1979.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SENATE VOTE TAX CUT & CEO MEETING**

Synopsis: The Senate overwhelmingly passed a sweeping tax package that would save millions of Americans thousands of dollars in higher taxes while also reducing their Social Security taxes and extending jobless benefits. President Barack Obama swiftly urged the House to pass the \$858 billion bill without changes, a slap at Democratic liberals eager to toughen a part of the measure that permits up to \$10 million to pass to heir's estate tax-free. A wide array of tax cuts enacted under President George W. Bush is scheduled to expire on Jan. 1 -- just two weeks away -- affecting taxpayers at every income level. The bill passed by the Senate, 81-19, would extend those cuts for two years. Obama urged quick action in the House. "I know there are different aspects of this plan to which members of Congress on both sides of the aisle object. That's the nature of compromise," the president said. "But we worked to negotiate an agreement that's a win for middle-class families and a win for our economy, and we can't afford to let it fall victim to either delay or defeat."

Duration: 30

Topic: **GULF OIL SPILL JUSTICE**

Synopsis: The Obama administration launched a legal battle against BP Plc and its partners by suing them for the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, which could cost the companies billions of dollars. The lawsuit seeks damages from the well owners BP, Anadarko Petroleum Corp and Mitsui & Co Ltd unit MOEX, and well driller Transocean Ltd and its insurer QBE Underwriting/Lloyd's Syndicate 1036, part of Lloyds of London, for their roles in the Gulf of Mexico disaster. "While today's civil action marks a critical step forward, it is not a final step," U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder told reporters at a news conference. "Both our criminal and civil investigations are continuing, and our work to ensure that the American taxpayers are not forced to bear the costs of restoring the Gulf area -- and its economy goes on," he said. The suit, the first by the U.S. government after the April 20 explosion aboard the drilling rig in which 11 workers died, was filed in a New Orleans federal court which is considering private lawsuits against BP and the others for the spill. BP, which returned to profitability in the third quarter of 2010, has begun selling assets and amassing a massive war chest to pay for damages caused by the oil spill, which the oil concern has estimated could reach as much as \$40

billion. The oil company said it was weighing the sale of its Canadian natural-gas liquids business.

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Airdate: December 16th

Duration: 30

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM LATEST**

Synopsis: Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today appeared in federal district court, where he represented the State of Texas during legal arguments over the constitutionality of the Obama Administration's health care law. Last March, Attorney General Abbott and a bipartisan coalition of state officials from across the country challenged the constitutionality of the controversial Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Today's oral argument was the final court proceeding before U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson is expected to rule on the law's constitutionality sometime next year.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX CUT LATEST**

Synopsis: The White House is pushing hard for the House to pass a tax package that would save millions of Americans thousands of dollars in higher taxes beginning Jan. 1. Some Democratic lawmakers are seeking changes to the package that could derail the bill. Democratic leaders are staying hands-off, leaving it to President Barack Obama to persuade fellow Democrats not to put the package at risk by imposing a higher estate tax than he negotiated with Republicans. The Senate overwhelmingly passed the package, with broad bipartisan support. Obama is urging the House to pass it without changes, so he can sign it into law before a sweeping series of tax cuts expire at the end of December. House Democratic leaders plan to pass the bill Thursday evening. But first, they will hold a vote on imposing the higher estate tax, backed by rebellious Democrats who say the package is too generous to the wealthy.

Duration: 30

Topic: **RECESSION IMPACT ON IMMIGRATION**

Synopsis: During 2009, the U.S. economy was in the throes of the Great Recession, and immigration had become a highly polarized topic of debate, reflected by a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment. Immigration was high prior to the Great Recession which officially commenced in December 2007. While immigration seemed to come to a standstill in 2008, an increase between 2008 and 2009 may be reflective of the first signs of the comeback of the national economy. At the very least, the demand for immigrant workers seems to have reappeared, though immigrant earnings are diminished in the post-recessionary period. Despite the national trend, metropolitan markets have experienced the recession in different ways, causing shifts in immigrant settlement patterns, at least for the time being.

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Airdate: December 17th

Duration: 30

Topic: **BANK OF AMERICA FRAUD**

Synopsis: Bank of America Corp. violated Arizona's consumer fraud law by misleading consumers who tried to reduce their mortgage payments so they could keep their homes, state Attorney General Terry Goddard said Friday as he filed a civil lawsuit against the bank. The bank also violated the terms of a 2009 consent agreement requiring the bank's Countrywide mortgage subsidiary to implement a loan modification program, the lawsuit alleges. Hundreds of homeowners kept making their mortgage payments because Bank of America repeatedly assured them their loan was being modified, he said. Instead, many lost their homes anyway.

Duration: 30

Topic: **NEBRASKA IMMIGRANT TUITION**

Synopsis: A Nebraska judge on Friday threw out a lawsuit challenging a state law that allows some illegal immigrants to pay in-state college tuition. The lawsuit filed in January on behalf of six Nebraska residents claimed their taxes were being used to support the state's immigration-tuition law in violation of federal law. The lawsuit named the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and other state college boards as defendants and asked the judge to prevent schools officials from following the law. Jefferson County District Judge Paul Korslund said in his ruling that the Nebraska residents who filed the suit should have first gone to the federal government to ask it to challenge the law before such a case could be heard in the state courts.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TAX CUT EXTENSION**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama signed into law a huge, holiday-season tax bill extending cuts for all Americans on Friday, saluting a new spirit of political compromise as Republicans applauded and liberals seethed. The benefits range from tax cuts for millionaires and the middle class to longer-term help for the jobless. The most significant tax legislation in nearly a decade will avert big increases that would have hit millions of people starting in two weeks on New Year's Day. Obama said as a rare bipartisan assembly of lawmakers looked on at the White House. The package retains Bush-era tax rates for all taxpayers, including the wealthiest Americans, a provision Obama and congressional liberals opposed. It also offers 13 months of extended benefits to the unemployed and attempts to stimulate the economy with a Social Security payroll tax cut for all workers.

Duration: 30

Topic: **DREAM ACT LATEST**

Synopsis: The U.S. Senate is expected to cast a crucial vote Saturday on the DREAM Act, which would pave the way for possibly hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants to legalize their status. And both opponents and supporters of the DREAM Act cranked up their arguments Friday, with Republican congressional leaders sending out a long list of reasons why the measure would be harmful for the country, and

Democrats countering that not passing it would be detrimental. Even Department of Homeland Security officials, including the heads of the main immigration agencies, joined the down-to-the-wire blitz, urging the passage of the DREAM Act. Thursday night, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., scheduled the vote on the highly controversial measure, which would make undocumented immigrants younger than 30 years of age eligible for conditional legal status if they meet a strict set of criteria. The so-called cloture vote would not be on the bill itself, but on whether to move toward a debate and then vote on the bill. Also on the schedule for a cloture vote is the bill that would repeal the ban on gays serving openly in the military.

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Airdate: December 18th

Duration: 30

Topic: **DREAM ACT - SENATE**

Synopsis: Senate Republicans on Saturday doomed an effort that would have given hundreds of thousands of young illegal immigrants a path to legal status if they enrolled in college or joined the military. Sponsors of the "Dream Act" fell five votes short of the 60 they needed to break through largely GOP opposition and win its enactment before Republicans take over the House and narrow Democrats' majority in the Senate next month. President Barack Obama called the vote "incredibly disappointing." "A minority of senators prevented the Senate from doing what most Americans understand is best for the country," Obama said. "There was simply no reason not to pass this important legislation." Dozens of immigrants wearing graduation mortarboards watched from the Senate's visitors gallery, disappointment on their faces, as the 55-41 vote was announced.

Duration: 30

Topic: **DON'T ASK DON'T TELL**

Synopsis: Word that the world's largest military power will allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military brought strong and swift reaction with supporters declaring a civil rights milestone and detractors insisting it would weaken and divide the armed forces. In New York, home to one of the nation's largest gay communities and a gay pride parade whose grand marshal this year was an openly gay, discharged serviceman, 28-year-old Cassandra Melnikow glanced at a news ticker in Times Square announcing the repeal and said: "Excellent! It's about time." "I don't see what difference (sexual orientation) makes in the fighting military," said Melnikow, a public health researcher. "What's the big deal?" President Barack Obama had made repealing "don't ask, don't tell" a campaign promise in 2008, and rounding up a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate was a historic victory for him. By the time President Bill Clinton proposed allowing gays to serve in the military in 1993, they had been explicitly barred from military service since World War I. Foes of lifting the ban argued that the military shouldn't be used to expand the rights of gays and that allowing them to serve openly would hurt troop morale and a unit's ability to fight -- the same arguments used against women and blacks

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Airdate: December 19th

Duration: 30

Topic: **DREAM ACT REACTIONS**

Synopsis: Emboldened by months of phone calls to lawmakers, hunger strikes and sit-ins, a group of college students and graduates in Los Angeles say they plan to take their fight for immigrant rights to the states and the 2012 election after Senate Republicans blocked a key piece of legislation. But it won't be easy. The Senate vote Saturday to toss the Proposal that would have granted young illegal immigrants a route to legal status dealt a harsh blow to student activists who will face an even steeper uphill battle in the next Congress. Immigrants see rough times ahead in the next two years, with many Republicans vowing to push for tougher immigration enforcement, but they also say Latino voters are getting fed up with lawmakers at a time when they are accruing greater political clout. "This is a movement," said Nancy Meza, a 23-year-old illegal immigrant and college graduate who wore a University of California, Los Angeles sweatshirt as she watched the televised vote. "We don't have lobbyists and paid staff. It's a movement by students."

Duration: 30

Topic: **DONT ASK DONT TELL LATEST**

Synopsis: The debate over gays in the military has been settled with a historic decision to allow them to serve openly, but big questions lie ahead about how and when the change will take place, how troops will accept it and whether it will hamper the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan and Iraq. President Barack Obama is expected to sign into law this week the legislation that passed the Senate on Saturday, an act some believe will carry social implications as profound as President Harry S. Truman's 1948 executive order on racial equality in the military. The new law probably won't go into practice for months. Obama and his top advisers must first certify that repealing the 1993 ban on gays serving openly will not damage U.S. troops' ability to fight. That ban, known as "don't ask, don't tell," has allowed gays to serve, but only if they kept quiet about their sexual orientation.

Duration: 30

Topic: **MEDICAID CUTS/HARSH ACTIONS**

Synopsis: Across the country, state lawmakers have taken harsh actions to try to rein in the budget-busting costs of the health care program that serves 58 million poor and disabled Americans. Some states have cut payments to doctors, paid bills late and trimmed benefits such as insulin pumps, obesity surgery and hospice care. In California, Medicaid no longer pays for many adult dental services. But it still pays for extractions, that is, tooth-pulling. The unintended consequence: Medicaid patients tell dentists to pull teeth that could be saved. "The roots are fine. The tooth could be saved with a root canal," said Dr. Nagaraj Murthy, who practices in Compton, Calif. "I had a patient yesterday. I said we could do a root canal. He said, 'No, it's hurting. Go ahead and pull it. I don't have the money.'" Murthy recently pulled an elderly woman's last tooth, but

Medicaid no longer pays for dentures. "Elderly patients suffer the most," Murthy said. "They're walking around with no teeth." ...

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Airdate: December 20th

Duration: 30

Topic: HEALTH BILL FOR 911 VICTIMS

Synopsis: The 9-11 health bill could finally have the votes necessary to win passage in the senate-- and supporters are launching another big push. the biggest hope is that the senate will vote on the measure before the Christmas recess.

Duration: 30

Topic: CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

Synopsis: A startling new study released by the Environmental Working Group shows that a harmful chemical could be coming from your faucet. Tap water in 31 of 35 American cities is highly contaminated by hexavalent chromium-- known as chromium-6. Sound familiar? It was in the movie 'Erin Brockovich'. The chemical was discovered in the water supply in Hinkley, California sparking a massive lawsuit against a utility company. The cities with highest contamination levels according to the recent study: Norman, Oklahoma; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Riverside, California. Chromium-6 has been linked to stomach cancer and tumors.

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Airdate: December 21st

Duration: 30

Topic: CENSUS DATA

Synopsis:U.S. Census figures released on Tuesday showed a population shift from Democratic states in the Northeast and Midwest to conservative states in the South and West, giving the winners more seats in the House of Representatives. The figures kick off the intensely partisan, once-a-decade fight over redrawing congressional lines to ensure each House district represents roughly the same number of people, as required by the U.S. Constitution. The figures also could play a role in the 2012 White House race as the number of House seats determines each state's representation in the Electoral College, which is used to elect a president.

Duration:30

Topic: BIRTH RATE FALL

Synopsis: The U.S. teen birth rate hit an all-time low in 2009 a decline that stunned experts say is partly because of the economy. The birth rate for teenagers fell to 39 births per 1,000 girls, ages 15 through 19, according to a government report released Tuesday. It was a 6 percent decline from the previous year, and the lowest rate since health officials started tracking that data in 1940. Experts say the recent recession from

December 2007 to June 2009 was a major factor driving down births overall, and experts say there's good reason to think it affect would-be teen mothers. "I'm not suggesting that teens are examining futures of 401ks or how the market is doing," said Sarah Brown, chief executive of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. "But I think they are living in families that experience that stress. They are living next door to families that lost their jobs... The recession has touched us all," said Brown. Teenage moms, who account for about 10 percent of the nation's births, are not unique. The total number of births also has been dropping, as have birth rates among all women except those 40 and older.

Duration:30

Topic: TERRORISTS THREAT WARNINGS

Synopsis: Attorney General Eric Holder says he's worried about terrorist attacks on the U.S. by Americans. And high on his list of concerns is the threat posed by anti-American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen believed to be hiding in Yemen. Holder says al-Awlaki has a familiarity with the U.S. that terrorists usually lack. He says he puts him on the list of people who worry him the most, along with al-Qaida head Osama bin Laden. In an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America," Holder said the terrorism threat is real and constant. He says he's concerned that the authorities may have missed a signal that an attack is coming. He says Americans have to be prepared for "potentially bad news."

Duration:30

Topic: NEW TREATMENT PROGRAM AGAINST AIDS

Synopsis: Expanding screening for the AIDS virus to include every American at least once and the highest-risk people once a year could prevent more than 80,000 infections over the next 20 years, researchers projected on Monday. And if treatment for infected people were integrated into such a program, it would prevent an estimated 212,000 new infections, the team at Yale University in Connecticut and Stanford University in California reported.

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Airdate: December 22nd

Duration: 30

Topic: CONGRESS HEALTH- 911 ATTACKS

Synopsis: The Senate has passed a package of health care and economic aid for people sickened by dust from the ruins of September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. The measure was passed on a voice vote with no one objecting after Democrats and Republican critics reached a compromise reducing the bill's cost from \$6.2 billion to \$4.2 billion. The bill provides free health care and compensation for lost wages and other economic losses to first-responders for the Sept. 11 terrorist attack and survivors who fell ill after being exposed to toxins from the trade center ruins. New York and New Jersey lawmakers have waged a long, bitter fight for the measure. The

House was expected to vote on it later Wednesday before Congress adjourns for the year.

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Airdate: December 23rd

Duration:

Topic: HOLIDAY HEART SYNDROME

Synopsis: The term "holiday heart syndrome" was coined in 1978 when researchers detected heart rhythm abnormalities in 24 study participants, none of whom had a history of heart disease. What they all did have was too much to drink, too fast. Since then, several studies have confirmed alcohol's heart rhythm-disturbing effects. The most common abnormal heart rhythm, atrial fibrillation, occurs when the upper heart chambers quiver instead of contracting regularly. Although it's often asymptomatic, it can lead to congestive heart failure or stroke. As the moniker suggests, holiday heart syndrome peaks on weekends and at holidays. Although alcohol alone can derail normal heart rhythms, its effects are exaggerated when mixed with caffeine. Rimmerman warned against the popular practice of mixing alcohol with energy drinks, calling it a "very bad combination."

Duration: 30

Topic: CHRISTMAS TRAVELING

Synopsis: Fair weather helped make the holiday sojourn a not-so-painful experience in much of the country Thursday, even with more people hitting the roads and skies than last year, but travelers' good luck might be running out. A storm was expected to bring snow and ice to parts of the heartland Friday, a rare white Christmas to Nashville on Saturday, and perhaps sock swaths of the Northeast on Sunday. The AAA has expected overall travel to rise about 3 percent this year, with more than 92 million people planning to go more than 50 miles sometime between now and Jan. 2. More than 90 percent said they would be driving. The Air Transport Association was expecting 44.3 million people on U.S. flights between Dec. 16 and Jan. 5 -- up 3 percent over the same period a year ago but still below pre-recession travel volume. The average ticket price is \$421, up by 5 percent.

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Airdate: December 24th

Duration: 30

Topic: ALERT ISSUED ON BEVERAGE CONTAINERS ON PLANES

Synopsis: The U.S. Homeland Security Department has alerted air carriers to a potential terror tactic involving insulated beverage containers like thermoses. The alert stressed that there is no intelligence about an active terror plot, but travelers may notice airport screeners taking a closer look at empty insulated containers. The Transportation Security Administration "is carefully monitoring information related to terrorist tactics" in

coordination with other nations, TSA spokeswoman Sterling Payne said in a statement Thursday. "The possible tactics terrorists might use include the concealment of explosives inside insulated beverage containers, so in the coming days, passengers flying within and to the U.S. may notice additional security measures related to insulated beverage containers."

Duration:30

Topic: ONLINE HOLIDAY SHOPPING JUMPS 15 PERCENT TO \$36.4B

Synopsis: B7Online spending rose 15 percent during the holidays, new data shows, as more Americans responded to online sales and free shipping offers and shifted more of their dollars online. Total online sales between Oct. 31 and Thursday rose 15.4 percent to a record \$36.4 billion, compared with \$31.5 billion a year ago, according to figures released Thursday from MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all transactions including cash. Several categories, including clothing and electronics, gained share of overall category sales as well. "Americans are really changing the way that they shop and the way they spend," said Michael McNamara, vice president of research and analysis for SpendingPulse.

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Airdate: December 25th

Duration: 30

Topic: US Holiday Travel and Flight Cancellations

Synopsis: A rare white Christmas is complicating life for some travelers after airlines canceled hundreds of flights, while snow is predicted for the nation's Capital and travel authorities are warning of potentially dangerous roads. The National Weather Service said the storm could bring more than 5 inches of snow to the Washington region. Meteorologist Stephen Konarik said the storm could hit the area Sunday morning and end Sunday night or early Monday, with the peak snowfall Sunday afternoon and early evening. Brian Korty at the National Weather Service said travelers in the northern Mid-Atlantic region New England may want to rethink Sunday travel plans. He said they may see "nearly impossible" travel conditions.

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Airdate: December 26th

Duration:30

Topic: HARDER LINE WITH IMMIGRATNS

Synopsis: The end of the year means a turnover of House control from Democratic to Republican and, with it, Congress' approach to immigration. In a matter of weeks, Congress will go from trying to help young, illegal immigrants become legal to debating whether children born to parents who are in the country illegally should continue to enjoy automatic U.S. citizenship. Such a hardened approach - and the rhetoric certain to accompany it - should resonate with the GOP faithful who helped swing the House in

Republicans' favor. But it also could further hurt the GOP in its endeavor to grab a large enough share of the growing Latino vote to win the White House and the Senate majority in 2012. Legislation to test interpretations of the 14th Amendment as granting citizenship to children of illegal immigrants will emerge early next session.

Duration:30

Topic: NAPOLITANO SECURITY

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says the use of full-body scanners and invasive pat-downs at airports around the country will not change for the "foreseeable future." Napolitano tells CNN's "State of the Union" that she is always looking to improve the security systems in place but adds that the new technology and the pat-downs are safer for the traveling public. Napolitano also dismisses a recent news report about major airports failing secrets tests designed to get contraband such as guns and knives past security screeners. The report said some airports had a 70 percent failure rate. The Homeland Security secretary says many of the tests were old and out of date and that there were other problems with them.

Duration:

Topic: SOCIAL BRAIN STUDY

Synopsis: If you spend time with a lot of friends, a part of your brain may be unusually large. That part is called the amygdala, and it's deep in your brain. Researchers found that among volunteers who got brain scans, those with a bigger amygdala tended to report seeing more friends and family regularly. Lisa Feldman Barrett of Northeastern University reports the work in a paper published online Sunday by the journal Nature Neuroscience. She says the result makes sense because the amygdala is at the center of a brain network that's important for socializing. The study couldn't show whether a bigger amygdala leads to more friends, or vice versa. Barrett says the influence might run in both directions.

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Airdate: December 27th

Duration:30

Topic: AT&T DOCUMENTARY ABOUT TEXTING AND DRIVING

Synopsis: The wireless company planned to release the video today, before New Year's Eve. The timing is aimed, the company said, at showing that texting and driving deserves to be considered as dangerous as drunk driving. The documentary includes intense, sometimes disturbing, images, including that of Ms. West, as she spent her last minutes alive on a breathing tube. Research from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute shows that motorists who text face a 23 times greater risk of crash or near crash. Other wireless carriers, like Verizon Wireless, have in the last year stepped up efforts to warn about the risks of texting and driving. AT&T said it plans to distribute the documentary to schools, safety organizations and government agencies, and is urging people to take a pledge on its Facebook page not to text and drive.

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Airdate: December 28th

Duration:30

Topic: NEW LAW IN CALIFORNIA FOR MARIJUANA

Synopsis: Come January first, getting caught with an ounce or less of this in California is the same as getting one of these, and the prediction at Oakland's Oaksterdam University where the curriculum is all things cannabis is that this change in law is just a sign of what's to come. Until now, possession of an ounce of pot was a misdemeanor punishable by a \$100 fine. The new law makes it an infraction that comes with the same price tag.

Duration:30

Topic: AIRPORTS START TO RE-OPEN

Synopsis: New York's major airports -- John F. Kennedy, Newark Liberty and LaGuardia -- were shut for nearly 24 hours before reopening Monday evening, forcing many passengers to camp out in terminals. Thousands of additional flights were canceled on Monday, and officials said it would take several days before air travel, especially in the New York area, began to return to normal.

Duration:30

Topic: STRAWBERRIES AND CHOCOLATE GENE

Synopsis: Strawberries and chocolate go all too well together in fondue, cakes, and any other dessert you can imagine. Now scientists are learning more about the genetic makeup of both of these foods. The journal "Nature Genetics" is publishing studies about the genomes of the cocoa and strawberry plants. Researchers say what they've learned about antioxidants in both could lead to genetically modified versions -- that could be more nutritious, and easier to grow.

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Airdate: December 29th

Duration: 30

Topic: JOBS

Synopsis: A new CareerBuilder survey finds that more employers plan to add full-time workers in 2011 compared to 2010. The survey found that new hiring is more likely "in technology and revenue-producing fields." The hiring outlook is different by geographic region, with the West having the best outlook and the Midwest and South having the lowest percentage hiring expectation. According to the survey, 26% of hiring managers in the West reported they plan to add full-time, permanent headcount followed by 24% in the Northeast and 23% in the Midwest and South. Plans to downsize staffs are trending below the last two years, with 8% of employers in the South expecting to decrease headcount followed by 7% in the Northeast, Midwest and West. Harris Interactive conducted the survey for CareerBuilder from Nov. 15 to Dec. 2, 2010, with

input from more than 2,400 hiring managers and human resource professionals across industries and company sizes.

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Airdate: December 30th

Duration: 30

Topic: UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS CLAIMS DROP

Synopsis: The number of people filing for jobless benefits has fallen to the lowest number in over two years, according to the latest figures from the Labor Department. Claims for unemployment benefits were down to 388,000 for the week ending Dec. 25, marking a decrease of 34,000 from the previous week.

Duration: 30

Topic: OTHER STATES COULD FOLLOW ARIZONA ON IMMIGRATION

Synopsis: Because Congress was unable to pass any kind of immigration legislation this year and the prospects remain dim when the new Congress is sworn in next month, state legislatures will continue to lead the charge on immigration policy in the new year. For many states, that could mean a crackdown on illegal immigration that mirrors the Arizona law that passed in April and reignited a national immigration debate. After Republican Party made huge gains in statehouses and governor's mansions in the November election, as many as seven states are "likely" to pass an Arizona-style law next year, according to a study by the National Immigration Forum, which opposes such legislation. Arizona's law would require all of the state's law enforcement officers to determine the immigration status of people they've stopped, detained or arrested for another offense if a "reasonable suspicion" exists that they are in the country illegally. The U.S. Department of Justice sued Arizona, arguing that immigration enforcement was solely a federal responsibility. In July, a federal judge blocked the core aspects of the law, known as S.B. 1070, and the ruling is under appeal.

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Airdate: December 31st

Duration:30

Topic: MEAT E-COLI RECALL

Synopsis: A California company has recalled 34,373 pounds of organic ground beef over fears of E. coli contamination. First Class Foods Inc. of Hawthorne said recalled packages were produced on December 7 and December 16. They have "EST. 18895" printed on them, federal officials said. Products were shipped to California, New Jersey, North Carolina, New York, Wisconsin and Washington state.

Duration: 30

Topic: CHRYSLER RECALL

Synopsis: Ford Motor Co. is recalling 19,600 2011 model year trucks and crossover SUVs over concerns that an electrical short could cause a fire, the manufacturer said Thursday. Chrysler Group LLC also is recalling nearly 145,000 trucks and crossover wagons in three separate campaigns for steering, stalling and airbag concerns, according to letters posted this week on the website of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Ford decided to recall certain 2011 model year F-150 trucks, Super Duty trucks (F-250 through F-550) and its Edge and Lincoln MKX vehicles after fires started in the cabs of two F-150 trucks at a Michigan assembly plant in November and December, the company said in a letter Monday to the NHTSA. Investigators determined that a body control module manufactured by Lear Corp. was the source, and that in at least one case, a circuit board had shorted, resulting in overheating.

=====END OF 4th QUARTER 2010 PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT=====