

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO – TELEFUTURA NEWS

JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 31, 2011

01/01/11

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA ECONOMY

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says Democrats and Republicans must work together in the new year and share responsibility for moving the country forward. In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama said Saturday that lawmakers must return to Washington next week prepared to make serious decisions about how to grow the economy in the short run and stay competitive in the future. "I'm willing to work with anyone of either party who's got a good idea and the commitment to see it through," Obama said. "And we should all expect you to hold us accountable for our progress or our failure to deliver." Obama said his New Year's resolution is to do everything he can to grow the economy, create jobs and strengthen the middle class, though he warned that the economic recovery is still fragile as the calendar turns to 2011. The president taped his weekly address from Hawaii, where he is spending the holidays with his family. Senator-elect Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire delivered the Republican weekly address, and said the next Congress marks a new chapter for the country and the GOP."

01/02/11

Duration: 30

Topic: STATE "DREAM ACT"

Synopsis: Maryland would offer in-state college tuition benefits to undocumented immigrants who have attended state high schools and whose parents are taxpayers if a measure being proposed by state Democrats becomes law. The proposal, which will be introduced by Sen.-elect Victor R. Ramirez (D-Prince George's) when the General Assembly convenes next month, is certain to generate controversy at a time of heated debate about illegal immigration, gaping state budget shortfalls, and intense competition for coveted spots at the University of Maryland and other state universities. Montgomery College came under attack this year for offering tuition benefits to illegal immigrants. "The citizens of Maryland do not offer in-state tuition to their fellow Americans" who aren't state residents, said House Minority Leader Anthony J. O'Donnell (R-Calvert). "Why would we offer in-state tuition to people who violated our laws to get here?" But supporters of the measure say students who attended Maryland high schools should be encouraged, and not discouraged, to attend college, regardless of their legal status.

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA SIGNS BILL

Synopsis: U.S. President Barack Obama Sunday signed into law a bill that funds medical care for firefighters and other responders to the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001. The five-year, \$4.3 billion measure will provide medical treatment for emergency responders sickened by toxic dust inhaled at the World Trade Center site in New York in the days following the attacks. It also includes a health program for responders sickened by the toxic debris and establishes a victims' compensation fund. Victims have five years to file claims. Thousands of firefighters, police and other rescue and cleanup workers contracted respiratory problems and other illnesses from working at the World Trade Center site in the aftermath of the attacks.

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW CONGRESS

Synopsis: Two early showdowns on spending and debt will signal whether the new Congress can find common ground despite its partisan divisions or whether it's destined for gridlock and brinkmanship that could threaten the nation's economic health. Not all of the bickering in the 112th Congress that convenes Wednesday will be between Republicans and Democrats. House Republicans, who will assume the majority after four years in the minority, will include numerous hard-right freshmen whose unyielding stands on the deficit, in particular, could severely test soon-to-be Speaker John Boehner's ability to bridge differences and pass major bills.

Duration: 30

Topic: SCHWARZENEGGER EXITS OFFICE

Synopsis: California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the former action-movie hero, said he would "blow up the boxes" of state government when he became governor of the nation's most populous state more than six years ago. California poses special challenges for those who occupy the governor's chair: Its cap on property taxes limits the chief executive's options, and its free-wheeling voter-initiative process can undermine a leader's best-laid plans. Even so, Mr. Schwarzenegger's struggle to improve the state's finances amid an uncertain economy illustrates the difficulties looming before the nation's 26 new governors, many of whom face fiscal problems much like those facing California in 2003. Mr. Schwarzenegger came to office after an extraordinary recall election to replace Democratic Gov. Gray Davis that featured 135 candidates, from established state politicians to minor celebrities such as actor Gary Coleman. As Mr. Schwarzenegger leaves office Monday, the bureaucratic "boxes" he targeted remain. Although Mr. Schwarzenegger, a Republican, successfully collaborated with the Democratic-dominated legislature to pass a landmark greenhouse-gas emissions law, he failed to solve the state's fiscal crises and leaves Gov.-elect Jerry Brown with a projected \$28 billion budget shortfall through June 2012.

01/03/2010

Duration: 30

Topic: CANCER BLOOD TEST

Synopsis: A blood test so sensitive that it can spot a single cancer cell lurking among a billion healthy ones is moving one step closer to being available at your doctor's office. Boston scientists who invented the test and health care giant Johnson & Johnson will announce

Monday that they are joining forces to bring it to market. Four big cancer centers also will start studies using the experimental test this year. Stray cancer cells in the blood mean that a tumor has spread or is likely to, many doctors believe. A test that can capture such cells has the potential to transform care for many types of cancer, especially breast, prostate, colon and lung. Initially, doctors want to use the test to try to predict what treatments would be best for each patient's tumor and find out quickly if they are working.

1/04/11

Duration: 30

Topic: GAY MARRIAGE APPEAL

Synopsis: A U.S. appeals court mulling California's controversial gay marriage ban said Tuesday it needs more legal guidance before it can decide the important constitutional issues at stake. California voters banned gay marriage in 2008 by approving so-called Proposition 8. But last year a federal district court ruled the measure unconstitutional. Supporters of the gay marriage ban appealed, but then-Attorney General and now Governor Jerry Brown refused to sign on to the appeal. Then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also took the same stance. In an order released Tuesday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals asked the Supreme Court of California whether initiative supporters have the authority to defend a ballot measure when public officials refuse to do so.

Duration: 30

Topic: COLORADO FINGERPRINTS PROGRAM

Synopsis: Colorado will now participate in a nationwide effort to track illegal immigrants after the governor signed a memorandum of understanding Tuesday. Gov. Bill Ritter (D-Colorado) said the state has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) that would allow local communities to run the fingerprints of alleged criminals through state and federal websites to determine citizenship status. Colorado took steps to ensure civil rights and state laws were respected in the agreement with the immigration agency.

1/05/11

Duration: 30

Topic: 112TH CONGRESS STARTS

Synopsis: Almost as soon as they take control of the House at noon Wednesday, Republicans will embark on a 20-day plan aimed at undoing major aspects of President Barack Obama's agenda as they seek to take advantage of the weeks before the Senate's return and the president's State of the Union address. The first move will come Friday, when the House begins the process of repealing the new health care law. House leaders will then quickly begin to identify tens of billions of dollars in proposed spending cuts and to ease regulations that businesses find burdensome. Much of what Republicans do will be symbolic, given that Democrats still control the Senate and the White House. But the quick action will allow Rep. John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), the incoming speaker, and House Republicans to follow through on campaign pledges and to try to establish their party as a bulwark against what they see as an out-of-control government.

Duration: 30

Topic: BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP EFFORT

Synopsis: Lawmakers in at least 14 states have said they are committed to passing the legislation targeting birthright citizenship. They are taking aim at the 14th Amendment, which grants U.S. citizenship to children born here even if their parents are in the country illegally. The lawmakers disagree with that practice, they say that illegal immigrants and their children are sapping taxpayer-funded services and attracting more illegal immigrants to the United States. Among these states is Arizona, whose state Senator, Russell Pearce, will unveil the bill on January 5 in Washington, D.C. as well as lawmakers in Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah. Arizona's anti-illegal-immigrant bill, SB-1070, was also based on model legislation that could be easily copied by states, and at least seven states are likely to pass bills similar to the first Arizona immigration overhaul this year.

1/06/10

Duration: 30

Topic: JOB CREATION

Synopsis: A new report is raising hopes the government's official report Friday on last month's job creation could be a blockbuster. The private payroll firm, Automatic Data Processing, says companies added nearly 300,000 jobs in December. While some economists see reasons to doubt the numbers, the ADP report and another showing strength in service industries are generating optimism the unemployment rate might start to fall. Economists say it takes up to 300,000 new jobs a month to reduce the jobless rate significantly. There's other good news. The Labor Department said last week the number of people applying for unemployment benefits had fallen to its lowest point in two and a half years. And the staffing firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas said Wednesday layoffs fell last month to the lowest level since June 2000.

Duration: 30

Topic: VACCINES

Synopsis: In 1998 Doctor Andrew Wakefield, a British surgeon and researcher, claimed a link between the measles mumps rubella vaccine and autism. But now a prominent medical journal said doctor Wakefield's study was, in fact, an "elaborate fraud." Working for the British medical journal, investigative reporter Brian Deer debunked Wakefield's study showing eight children developed autistic symptoms within, on average, a week after receiving the measles mumps rubella shot. By cross referencing the actual medical records of the children-- Deer says he found doctor Wakefield falsified their data in his study. That, in fact, some of the children had actually developed symptoms before vaccination, some were deemed normal months afterward and some never had the disease at all. All of which leaves parents in America with some wrenching decisions.

1/7/11

Duration: 30

Topic: BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

Synopsis: On his first day in the majority, Rep. King declared his intention to lead the Republican Party on an anti-immigrant, anti-Latino crusade. King introduced new legislation that would "eliminate birthright citizenship for children when both parents were illegal immigrants." King's efforts coincided with a new push by like-minded state legislators also announced yesterday. Together, the efforts are a radical attempt to change the intent and application of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution, and will have long-term political implications for the GOP

Duration: 30

Topic: US ECONOMY REPORT

Synopsis: Mixed news in the much-anticipated December jobs report. The unemployment rate dropped a massive 4-tenth -- from 9.8 to 9.4 percent. Experts say the drop in that number "may" be attributable to seasonal hiring for the holidays. But the Labor Dept's tally of people actually hired by employers in December was much less than economists predicted. President Obama is scheduled to talk about the jobs numbers while touring a small business in Maryland today, and will also announce Gene Sperling as the new head of his National Economic Council. The Federal Reserve chairman, Ben S. Bernanke told senators on Friday that he expected the recovery to be "moderately stronger" this year.

Duration: 30

Topic: HEALTH CARE REPEAL COSTS

Synopsis: U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones are vowing to push back against massive health insurance rate hikes proposed by Blue Shield of California. Blue Shield has implemented two rate hikes since Oct. 1 and plans another for March 1. Some policyholders would pay 59 percent more in premiums once all three increases take effect. The rate hikes come just as the Republican controlled House begins debate today and holds a procedural vote to repeal President Barack Obama's landmark health care law. Also Americans are closely divided over whether the new Republican-controlled House should vote to repeal the health care law that was enacted just last year, a Gallup Poll finds. 46% of those surveyed Tuesday and Wednesday say they want their representative to vote for repeal; 40% want the law to stand.

1/08/11

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA ECONOMY

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is talking up the latest economic news as a clear trend toward an improving economy. The President used his weekly radio and Internet address today to press for bipartisan action in the newly divided Congress on measures to spur growth. He presented the December jobs report in a positive light even though it fell short of what economists had been looking for and even though the drop in unemployment came partly because some people stopped looking for work. The private sector added 103,000 new jobs in December and the unemployment rate fell from 9.8 percent to 9.4 percent. Obama pointed to 12 straight months of private sector job growth for the first time since 2006. And Obama says each quarter has been stronger than the last. Obama attributed increasingly optimistic economic forecasts in part to the tax cut deal he negotiated last month with Republicans, a payroll tax cut and assorted other tax breaks.

1/9/11

Duration: 30

Topic: GAS PRICES

Synopsis: The average price for a gallon of gasoline in the United States rose 9.32 cents from three weeks before, but the price increases have slowed and could stop rising, according to an industry analyst. The national average for self-serve regular, unleaded gas was about \$3.08 a gallon on Jan. 7, compared with three weeks ago when the average price was nearly \$2.98, according to the Lundberg survey of some 2,500 gas stations.

1/10/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA BUDGET

Synopsis: Gov. Jerry Brown proposed a budget Monday that would slash funding to most areas of state government and maintain a series of tax increases for five years to close California's huge budget deficit. The Democratic governor released his first budget proposal since winning election last fall. He called for \$12.5 billion in spending cuts, including reductions in welfare, social services, health care for the poor and a combined \$1 billion cut to the University of California and California State University systems. Brown also wants the Legislature to call a special election in June to give voters an opportunity to continue hikes in the income, sales and vehicle taxes for five years. His proposal relies on new revenues of \$12 billion.

1/11/11

Duration: 30

Topic: GUN CONTROL

Synopsis: A longtime Senate gun control advocate announced plans Monday to introduce legislation banning high-capacity ammunition clips like the one linked to a weekend shooting that left six dead and an Arizona congresswoman gravely wounded. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., said he would introduce the measure to re-establish a prohibition that lapsed in 2004 on clips that feed more than 10 rounds at a time. Officials have said that Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot in the head over the weekend by an assailant armed with a

semi-automatic pistol and a 33-round clip. Six people were killed in the attack, and the congresswoman is one of 13 others who were shot. She remains hospitalized in Tucson, Ariz., after surgery for a wound to the head.

1/12/11

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRATION SANCTUARY CITIES

Synopsis: Gov. Rick Perry wants to abolish "sanctuary cities" that he says provide haven for illegal immigrants in Texas, but he isn't yet saying how he wants that accomplished. Perry said Wednesday he doesn't know yet whether he wants local police and sheriff's deputies asking the immigration status of drivers pulled over. He declined to offer details about how Texas could get rid of so-called sanctuary cities that are in conflict with state and federal immigration laws. Houston has long been assailed by conservatives as a "sanctuary city" because police there generally don't ask about immigration status during patrols or investigations. The city has bristled at the label. Democrats say they've identified more than 40 bills this session that would crack down on illegal immigrants.

1/13/11

Duration: 30

Topic: FORECLOSURES IN THE U.S.

Synopsis: The bleakest year in foreclosure crisis has only just begun. Lenders are poised to take back more homes this year than any other since the U.S. housing meltdown began in 2006. About 5 million borrowers are at least two months behind on their mortgages and more will miss payments as they struggle with job losses and loans worth more than their home's value, industry analysts forecast. "2011 is going to be the peak," said Rick Sharga, a senior vice president at foreclosure tracker RealtyTrac Inc. The outlook comes after banks repossessed more than 1 million homes in 2010, RealtyTrac said Thursday. That marked the highest annual tally of properties lost to foreclosure on records dating back to 2005. One in 45 U.S. households received a foreclosure filing last year, or a record high of 2.9 million homes. That's up 1.67 percent from 2009. For December, 257,747 U.S. homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice. That was the lowest monthly total in 30 months. The number of notices fell 1.8 percent from November and 26.3 percent from December 2009, RealtyTrac said.

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

Synopsis: Lunchroom classics like Tater Tots and chocolate milk may fall victim to whole-wheat pasta and leafy greens under proposed changes released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. New federal standards would apply to school lunches subsidized by the federal government and provide the most dramatic re-envisioning of school meals in 15 years. The guidelines aim to reduce the country's excessive childhood obesity rate and teach kids healthy eating habits. They would establish calorie limits on school meals for the first time, gradually reduce sodium in food, limit trans fats and increase servings of fruits and vegetables.

Duration: 30

Topic: WARNING ABOUT ACETAMINOPHEN

Synopsis: The FDA is calling on drug makers to lower the amount of acetaminophen in prescription painkillers, which have long been linked with potentially fatal cases of liver damage. ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSES: Acetaminophen is a widely-used pain reliever and fever reducer used in over-the-counter drugs like Tylenol. But FDA officials say many consumers don't realize that prescription pain killers like Vicodin also contain the ingredient. Combining the two types of products can lead to accidental overdose.

1/14/11

Duration: 30

Topic: SECURITY BORDER FENCE

Synopsis: President Barack Obama's administration plans to pull the plug on the troubled "virtual fence" project that was meant to better guard stretches of the U.S. border with Mexico, a senior lawmaker said Friday. The project, being run by Boeing Co, has cost about \$1 billion so far and was meant to pull together video cameras, radar, sensors and other technologies to detect smugglers trying to cross the porous border. "The SBInet program has been a grave and expensive disappointment since its inception," Representative Bennie Thompson, the senior Democrat on the House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee, said in a statement which noted that the Department of Homeland Security was ending the project. Thompson said that nearly \$1 billion had been spent for only 53 miles of coverage in the project that started during the administration of former President George W. Bush. A DHS spokesman had no immediate comment and a Boeing representative was not immediately available for comment. The SBInet project has faced setbacks, missed deadlines and cost overruns. The future of the project has been in doubt for some time after bipartisan criticism by lawmakers and also from DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano.

1/15/11

Duration: 30

Topic: TYLENOL RECALL

Synopsis: Johnson & Johnson said Friday it is recalling nearly 47 million packages of Tylenol, Sudafed and other nonprescription drugs manufactured at a Pennsylvania facility that has already been subject to a series of massive recalls, battering the company's household brand. The latest recall affects certain lots of Tylenol, Benadryl and Sudafed products because of insufficient cleaning procedures, though the company does not believe that quality was impacted. The company also recalled certain lots of Roloids tablets because they do not include certain labeling information. The recalls are aimed at wholesalers in the U.S., the Caribbean and Brazil. Consumers do not have to take any action, the company said. Consumers who have the products can continue using them. All of the products were made at the company's plant in Fort Washington, Pa., before it was shuttered in April following a Food and Drug Administration investigation. FDA inspectors found a slew of manufacturing problems at the plant, including equipment covered with thick layers of dust and others held together with duct tape.

Duration: 30

Topic: MIDDLE SCHOOL DRUG TESTING

Synopsis: To reading, writing and arithmetic, add drug testing for students as young as elementary-aged. In Today's Living, a small town in New Jersey is offering that option to families. You might be surprised at just how many are signing up. "What kind of changes took places in 1500 B.C.?" These students at the Belvidere Elementary School may soon add drug testing to their list of lessons." This week, the board of education will vote on a plan to randomly test 6th, 7th and 8th graders to see if they're under the influence of drugs. Principal Sandra Szabocsik says, "We really want to use it as a deterrent. We're hoping if kids are at a party or someone's house or hanging out they're not going to get involved in drinking or drugs because tomorrow could be a drug testing day." The program is voluntary and both parents and students have to sign up for it.

Duration: 30

Topic: GM RECALL

Synopsis: General Motors is expanding an earlier recall of some 2011 model-year trucks and SUVs to fix a problem that could cause the vehicles' rear axles to lock. The recall, originally announced in December, now covers 26,751 Cadillac, Chevrolet and GMC trucks and SUVs. The models affected are: Cadillac Escalade, Escalade ESV, Cadillac EXT, Chevrolet Avalanche, Colorado, Silverado, Suburban, Tahoe; and GMC Canyon, Sierra, Yukon and Yukon XL. GM said rear-axle cross pins, used to hold the axle in place, weren't properly heat-treated and may not be durable. They can fracture, interfere with the axle and cause it to lock. The driver could then lose control of the vehicle.

1/16/11

Duration: 30

Topic: HYPERTENSION & HEART ATTACKS

Synopsis: High blood pressure in childhood is associated with higher blood pressure or hypertension in adulthood, according to a study by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Their analyses of previously published blood pressure tracking studies over the last four decades show a consistent relationship between children's blood pressure levels with their blood pressure levels as adults.

Duration: 30

Topic: HEALTHCARE SURVEY

Synopsis: As lawmakers shaken by the shooting of a colleague return to the health care debate, an Associated Press-GfK poll finds raw feelings over President Barack Obama's overhaul have subsided. Ahead of a vote on repeal in the GOP-led House this week, strong opposition to the law stands at 30 percent, close to the lowest level registered in AP-GfK surveys dating to September 2009. The nation is divided over the law, but the strength and intensity of the opposition appear diminished. The law expands coverage to more than 30 million uninsured, and would require, for the first time, that most people in the United States carry health insurance. The poll finds that 40 percent of those surveyed said they support the law, while 41 percent oppose it. Just after the November congressional elections, opposition stood at 47 percent and support was 38 percent.

1/17/11

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM IN UTAH

Synopsis: There is a consensus on immigration: authority is Federal. State Rep. Stephen Sandstrom recognizes this but proposes that Utah help with enforcement. State Sen. Luz Robles recognizes this but proposes that Utah grant work permits and start registering undocumented immigrants. Rep. Sandstrom has been tweaking his proposal to conform to recent court decisions. He argues that the proposal copies federal law into Utah law. In practice, this would impose added burden on federal agencies, most particularly Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The U.S. Supreme Court has found similar burdens unconstitutional. Sen. Robles has been tweaking her proposal, but the carrot side of her carrot-and-stick approach is problematic. The work permit directly violates federal law: Title 8 United States Code Section 1324a prohibits employment of unauthorized aliens. The Supremacy Clause renders the state work permit unconstitutional. Besides, Utah should not make and issue fraudulent documents.

1/18/11

Duration: 30

Topic: APPEALS TO COURT ON SB 1070

Synopsis: Arizona's immigration law finally got its day in court after being watered down in July. The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments for and against Senate Bill 1070 on Monday. Debate included whether Arizona could enforce immigration laws without conflicting with federal law. The proceedings were broadcast live on C-SPAN. Gov. Jan Brewer signed the bill into law last April, but four key provisions were put on hold by U.S. District Court Judge Susan Bolton in July after the U.S. Justice Department filed a lawsuit against Arizona and Brewer. John Bouma, Arizona's private lawyer for the case, argued that the state is not trying to alter federal immigration laws, but is asking to enforce federal law at the state level.

1/19/11

Duration: 30

Topic: AFL-CIO ON JOBS CREATION

Synopsis: Politicians are too obsessed with budget cuts when they actually should spend more on public works projects that would create jobs, the head of the nation's largest union federation said Wednesday. AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka said the rush to trim federal

and state budgets was shortsighted, would hurt middle-class workers and do little to spur economic growth. "Too many of our politicians are doing the opposite of what works," Trumka said in a speech at the National Press Club. "Destroying our public institutions, crushing working people's rights and living standards and failing to invest in education. We know this model, and we know where it leads -- catastrophe." Unions face growing hostility from Republican-led state legislatures, and unionized public employees are trying to fend off cuts to salaries, pensions and other benefits. Trumka also offered a subtle challenge to President Barack Obama, who has worked to mend ties with business. He accused Washington politicians of living in "an Alice-in-Wonderland political climate" where the wealthy get tax cuts but "we cannot fund the basic functions of government, let alone invest to build the infrastructure of the future." Union leaders are urging Obama and other leaders to spend trillions of dollars on high-speed mass transit, smart utilities and roads and bridges. Trumka said the U.S. is falling behind the global economy because "we have let our transnational business titans convince our politicians that our national strength lies in their profits, not our jobs." Asked if he is concerned about Obama's recent overtures to business groups, Trumka acknowledged some frustration, but laid most of the blame on Republicans for trying to obstruct the President's agenda.

Duration: 30

Topic: ARIZ. GOVERNOR'S PLAN FOR MEDICAID CUTS ADVANCES

Synopsis: Arizona legislative committees have endorsed Republican Gov. Jan Brewer's plan to seek federal clearance to suspend Medicaid health care coverage for 280,000 low-income people to help balance the state budget. The committees voted along party lines Wednesday after the opening of a special session called by the governor to consider her plan to seek a waiver. The committees' votes clear the way for action Thursday by the full House and Senate. The waiver would be to the federal health care overhaul's "maintenance of effort" requirement. That requirement prohibits states from reducing Medicaid eligibility below early 2010 levels, and applies until the overhaul expands Medicaid coverage in 2014. Republicans voted for the bill. Democrats voted against it.

Duration: 30

Topic: MORTGAGE RATES

Synopsis: Freddie Mac said the average rate on the 30-year fixed mortgage inched up to 4.74 percent from 4.71 percent. But the rate on the 15-year fixed loan fell to 4.05 percent from 4.08 percent. Mortgage rates have been little changed this year after rising more than half a percentage point in the last two months of 2010. Historically low mortgage rates last year did little to help the beleaguered market as sales of previously owned homes were the worst on record since 1997.

1/20/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL WORKERS GROWS

Synopsis: The Obama administration plans to intensify a crackdown on employers of illegal immigrants with the establishment of an audit office designed to bolster verification of company hiring records. In an interview, John Morton, chief of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a unit of the Department of Homeland Security, said the Employment Compliance Inspection Center would "address a need to conduct audits even of the largest employers with a very large number of employees." The center would be announced Thursday, he said. Mr. Morton said that the center would be staffed with specialists who will pore over the I-9 employee files collected from companies targeted for audits. In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2010, ICE conducted audits of more than 2,740 companies, nearly twice as many as the previous year. The agency levied a record \$7 million in civil fines on businesses that employed illegal workers.

Duration: 30

Topic: MICHELLE OBAMA ON OBESITY

Synopsis: First Lady Michelle Obama joined Wal-Mart executives today to help launch the company's Nutrition Charter, a groundbreaking new initiative that has the potential to have a transformative impact on the market place and help families across America put healthier, more affordable food on their tables. The initiative proposes a number of changes by Wal-Mart to offer more nutritious food products, lower the cost of healthy foods, and provide consumers with better information about healthy food options. These changes are the types of improvements critical to achieving the primary goal of *Let's Move!* - solving the problem of childhood obesity within a generation.

Duration: 30

Topic: BREWER MEDICAL WAIVER

Synopsis: Gov. Jan Brewer has signed into law an emergency bill that authorizes her to seek a federal waiver allowing the cash-short state to temporarily remove nearly 300,000 people from its Medicaid rolls in the first such request by a state. Brewer wants to suspend the eligibility of 280,000 low-income adults. That would scale back the state's coverage to near that of most other states and save \$541.5 million. It's a big part of Brewer's plan to eliminate a projected \$1.1 billion shortfall in the next state budget.

1/21/11

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA 2ND YEAR: BALANCE- AND ECONOMY

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Friday that "putting the economy into overdrive" is a top priority, even as a new poll showed the public giving him poor marks in this area. The Associated Press-GfK poll underscored the selling job that confronts the president as he prepares to seek a second term: People like Obama personally, but just 35 percent say the economy's gotten better during his tenure. Appearing in Schenectady, N.Y., on Friday, Obama announced that he was naming GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt as the head of a Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, his latest move to court a business community that he's clashed with amid continued high unemployment. Addressing workers at a General Electric plant, Obama recommitted himself to spending the next two years trying to speed up the economic recovery. His success or failure there is likely to be the central issue of the coming 2012 presidential campaign. "Our job is to do everything we can to ensure

that businesses can take root, and folks can find good jobs," the president said. "We're going to build stuff, and invent stuff," said Obama, emphasizing the need to boost American exports to countries around the world, an issue that was a focus during the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to the White House this week. "That's where the customers are. It's that simple," Obama said

Duration: 30

Topic: CERVICAL CANCER & HISPANIC WOMEN

Synopsis: Most invasive cervical cancer research in the United States has been conducted on non-Latino-White (NLW) and African-American women. Incidence, mortality, stage at diagnosis and survival indicators for invasive cervical cancer in Latino women in California are compared to NLW and African-American women. A model is presented which depicts structural, behavioral, genetic and biological risk factors for invasive cervical cancer. A literature review of risk factors and their association with invasive cervical cancer was conducted using MEDLINE and PsychINFO databases to determine if ethnic differences in risk factors explain observed differences in morbidity and mortality. Latino women experience a significantly higher incidence and mortality associated with invasive cervical cancer than NLW women. The review of risk factors found that rate differences of cervical cancer screening, early detection and human papilloma virus (HPV) type-specific infection explain much of the disparity in disease burden. Further research must clarify if ethnic differences exist in risk factors associated with ethnic variation in HPV-type prevalence in both cases and their sexual partners, in host immune responses, and multiparity.

1/25/11

Duration: 30

Topic: JUDICIAL EMERGENCY IN ARIZONA

Synopsis: The chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona has taken the rare step of declaring a judicial emergency that will temporarily suspend a time limit set by federal statute for bringing accused criminals to trial. Chief District Judge Roslyn O. Silver made the declaration to head off possible dismissal of criminal cases for failure to meet requirements of the Speedy Trial Act. The law requires a federal criminal trial to commence within 70 days of a complaint or indictment being brought. During a judicial emergency, the time limit may be extended to a maximum of 180 days.

1/26/11

Duration: 30

Topic: TOYOTA RECALL

Synopsis: Toyota announced another massive global recall today: Nearly 1.7 million cars including Lexus IS and GS sedans in the U.S. for two fuel leak problems. This Lexus GS350 sedan is one of the luxury brand's U.S. vehicles recalled today. The largest recall today was for improper installation of a fuel pressure sensor that could allow it to vibrate loose, causing fuel to leak in the engine compartment. It affects more than 1.3 million Japan market vehicles, but also 255,000 of its luxury Lexus brand sedans in the U.S. and 10,000 in Europe. The U.S. vehicles are:

- 2006-07 Lexus GS300/350 sedans
- 2006-09 Lexus IS250 sedans
- 2006-early 2008 Lexus IS350 sedans

Toyota says it has no reports of accidents or deaths, but has had 75 complaints in North America and more than 140 unhappy owners in Japan.

1/27/11

Duration: 30

Topic: FDA ON BREAST IMPLANT AND CANCER

Synopsis: Saline and silicone gel-filled breast implants may be linked to a rare form of cancer in some women, according to an announcement made Wednesday by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA received nearly 60 reports of anaplastic large cell lymphoma, or ALCL, from women who had the cancer generally formed around the shell of the implant, according to the reports. ALCL, a rare and aggressive type of lymphoma, makes up only about 3 percent of all lymphomas in adults, according to the Lymphoma Research Foundation.

1/28/11

Duration: 30

Topic: SB1070 IN GEORGIA?

Synopsis: Georgia state lawmakers are looking west to Arizona for ideas as they seek to crackdown on illegal immigration here. Meeting at the state Capitol on Thursday for the first time, a Republican-controlled legislative committee discussed Arizona's tough new laws aimed at the thorny problem. The panel - which is seeking to draft a comprehensive immigration bill before the next state legislative session starts in January - also received a report comparing Georgia and Arizona's laws on the issue. "I am not sure we will adopt Arizona's law, but we will come up with our own," said Sen. Jack Murphy, R-Cumming, co-chairman of the Joint House and Senate Study Committee on Immigration Reform. "It would probably be something similar, but I am not exactly sure how it would mirror theirs exactly. But I'm sure that some of the same language would be in there." In April, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law the nation's toughest legislation against illegal immigration. But in July, a federal judge blocked the part of that law that requires police to check a person's immigration status while enforcing other laws.

Duration: 30

Topic: INDIANA CITIZENSHIP RULING

Synopsis: Federal judge says Indiana cannot deny paternity documents for children born in the U.S. just because their parents are illegal immigrants and don't have Social Security numbers. U.S. District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt issued the ruling Thursday in a lawsuit filed by parents who say a state policy violates their children's rights. Under the policy, paternity affidavits filed by unmarried parents must contain

both parents' Social Security numbers or be sent back to county health offices unrecorded. The judge says denying parents the ability to establish legal paternity amounts to discrimination against children who are American citizens. Pratt issued a preliminary injunction barring the policy. State health officials say the policy was meant to reflect state and federal law. State attorneys haven't decided whether they'll appeal.

1/30/11

Duration: 30

Topic: PHOENIX RAIDS

Synopsis: The office of an Arizona sheriff known for his efforts against illegal immigrants has arrested 83 people during a two-day crime sweep targeting illegal immigrants. Of those arrested, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said Saturday that 68 were illegal immigrants. Those who were not illegal immigrants were arrested for crimes including drug possession and theft. The sheriff's office seized 725 pounds (330 kilograms) of marijuana and some methamphetamine during the operation, which ended Friday. It was the office's 18th such sweep.

1/31/11

Duration: 30

Topic: HEALTH OVERHAUL

Synopsis: A federal judge declared the Obama administration's health care overhaul unconstitutional Monday, siding with 26 states that argued people cannot be required to buy health insurance. Senior U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson agreed with the states that the new law violates people's rights by forcing them to buy health insurance by 2014 or face penalties. He went a step further than a previous ruling against the law, declaring the entire thing unconstitutional if the insurance requirement does not hold up. Attorneys for the administration had argued that the states did not have standing to challenge the law and that the case should be dismissed. Justice Department spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer said Monday the department strongly disagrees with Vinson's ruling and intends to appeal.

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW DIETARY GUIDELINES

Synopsis: Americans need to cut salt, eat less but at the same time eat more fruits and vegetables, the Obama administration said Monday in releasing its latest set of dietary guidelines. They also advise Americans to drink water instead of sugary drinks, cut fat and switch to whole grains. The "bottom line" is that Americans are too fat, said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in releasing the guidelines. More than one-third of children and two-thirds of adults in the United States are overweight or obese. The new dietary guidelines include 23 key recommendations for the general public, and six for specific groups such as pregnant women. General recommendations include avoiding oversized portions, choosing foods with lower sodium, and eating more fruits and vegetables.

2/01/11

Duration: 30

Topic: PEW ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Synopsis: After a drop-off during the recession, illegal immigrants seeking to sneak across the U.S. border may be ready to move again. A new study released Tuesday finds the number of illegal immigrants living in the U.S. last year was roughly 11.2 million, a number virtually unchanged from 2009. In that year, the level of illegal immigration declined for the first time in two decades, dropping 8 percent from 2007, as a sour economy and stepped-up border enforcement made it harder or less desirable for undocumented workers to enter from Mexico. The number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. labor force also was unchanged last year at 8 million, representing about 5 percent of workers in the U.S., after hitting a peak of 8.4 million in 2007, according to the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center, which based its analysis on census survey data. States posting some of the biggest declines in the number of illegal immigrants since 2007 included Florida, New York, Colorado and Virginia. Unauthorized immigrants in three Mountain West states -- Arizona, Nevada and Utah -- also edged lower. In contrast, illegal immigration was on the rise in Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, with the combined populations of these states increasing from 1.6 million in 2007 to 1.8 million last year, according to the study.

2/2/11

Duration: 30

Topic: SMOKING IN PARKS- NY

Synopsis: Lawmakers have voted to extend New York City's smoking ban to parks, beaches -- and Times Square. The ban approved Wednesday by a vote of 36-12 is one of the most ambitious outdoor anti-tobacco efforts in the U.S. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn says the new law will save lives and make New York a healthier place to live. The smoking ban will cover some 1,700 parks and 14 miles of public beaches plus boardwalks, marinas and pedestrian plazas. The law will go into effect in 90 days. New York City outlawed smoking in bars and restaurants in 2002. Backers of the ban say even brief exposure to secondhand smoke can pose health risks. Many smokers say the law will infringe on their rights.

Duration: 30

Topic: HEART USA

Synopsis: Most Americans with the biggest risks for heart disease are not doing enough to control these risks, and the fragmented U.S. healthcare system is partly to blame, federal health officials said Tuesday. Two-thirds of adults with high cholesterol and half with high blood pressure are not being treated effectively, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. While people without health insurance are the least likely to have blood pressure or cholesterol under control, even those with good health insurance are not doing everything they can, the CDC report found.

2/03/11

Duration: 30

Topic: EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT PERMITS POLICE TO ASK ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS

Synopsis: New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez signed an executive order on Monday that requires police to ask people they've arrested for their immigration status. The executive order rescinds a policy that prohibited police from asking about an individual's immigration status that was established by former-Governor Bill Richardson. Gov. Martinez's executive order prohibits police from inquiring about an individual's immigration status if they are a victim of a crime, but puts an end to what she called "sanctuary policies" that were encouraged by former-Governor Richardson. New Mexico is one of three states that still issues driver's licenses to illegal aliens, but Gov. Martinez's executive order coincides with the introduction of a bill in the state legislature that would end that practice.

2/4/11

Duration: 30

Topic: DRIVER LICENSES DEBATE FOR THE UNDOCUMENTED

Synopsis: Democratic legislatures showed opposition to an executive order by Gov. Susana Martinez that orders police to question the immigration status of all criminal suspects. Democratic legislators from the House and Senate held a press conference on Thursday criticizing the executive order, saying it would lead to racial profiling against Hispanics. "I know we are in America but are we in New Mexico or Arizona?" Sen. Mary Jane Garcia, D-Dona Ana, asked at the press conference. Garcia said that her father had once been questioned by federal authorities while working on his southern New Mexico farm. "The executive order undermines community policing efforts and creates barriers for immigrants and mixed status families to contact the police and serve as witnesses in the criminal justice system," said Senator Tim Keller, D-Albuquerque, in a press release. Rep. Antonio "Moe" Maestas, D-Albuquerque, was concerned that the order would frighten women away from reporting domestic violence. According to Maestas, a former prosecutor, said that in cases of domestic violence police can consider both people suspects in the crime.

Duration: 30

Topic: RAHM EMANUEL PLANS TO CREATE THE CHICAGO VERSION OF "DREAM ACT"

Synopsis: In recent months, former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel has been widely criticized by immigration reform advocates who say he did not throw enough support behind the DREAM Act when he was in Washington. Emanuel has disputed those claims, and is now out to prove just how much he supports giving the children of immigrants a chance to attend college in the United States. The Chicago for Rahm campaign issued a press release Thursday evening touting Emanuel's plan for immigration reform in Chicago. "Just because Congress has yet to pass the Dream Act doesn't mean we will wait for progress in Chicago," Emanuel said in a statement. "All children in Chicago deserve to have access to a quality education, and we will make sure they have that opportunity." Emanuel's plan would not provide a path to citizenship as a national DREAM Act would, but would "allow these children to access the same financial aid opportunities as every other child," according to his campaign. "The number one prohibitive reason people don't go to college is cost," Emanuel said in an interview with Telemundo Chicago. "So I want to take a part of the DREAM Act, which Sen. (Richard) Durbin introduced, and make Chicago the first city in the country to adopt a Chicago DREAM Act."

Duration: 30

Topic: NINTH CIRCUIT RULES IN FAVOR OF IMMIGRANTS

Synopsis: Today, MALDEF welcomed the Ninth Circuit's ruling in *Vicente v. Barnett*, upholding an Arizona jury verdict against a vigilante rancher operating along the Arizona-Mexico border. The Ninth Circuit affirmed the jury's decision that the vigilante was liable for assaulting a group of immigrants he found on public land. As a result of today's ruling, the rancher will be forced to pay approximately \$87,000 in damages. The Ninth Circuit ruled that the rancher, Roger Barnett, was not entitled to claim self defense, because he admitted that none of the migrants he assaulted had threatened or attacked him. The Ninth Circuit also upheld the jury's award of punitive damages against Barnett. "We are very pleased with the Ninth Circuit's verdict. Today's ruling sends the strong message that vigilantes will not be tolerated in Arizona" stated David Hinojosa, MALDEF's Southwest Regional Counsel and attorney in the case.

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Synopsis: The U.S. unemployment rate fell sharply to 9 percent in January from 9.4 percent in December, as more than 620,000 previously jobless people found work, the Labor Department said Friday. There was a net gain of 36,000 jobs - the lowest level in four months - but economists blamed bad weather for the weak number. Given that "886,000 workers could not show up for work the week the survey was taken because of inclement weather means we had an undercount pretty severely," said Diane Swonk, chief economist with Chicago-based Mesirow Financial. "At least a portion of those...had new jobs." She pointed to gains in the number of self-employed, which rose by 165,000 to 9.7 million, the highest total since last May, as positive news. The Labor Department data includes separate surveys of households and businesses. The construction industry lost 32,000 jobs, and in the transportation and warehousing industry, courier and messenger jobs dropped by 45,000 over the month. Manufacturing added 49,000 jobs, and retail trade jobs grew by 28,000. "Hiring was suppressed last month and will likely rebound in February," said Neil Dutta, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

2/5/11

Duration: 30

Topic: DRIVER LICENSES

Synopsis: They clean the floors of swanky office towers downtown, pick wine grapes in Wenatchee and wash dishes in Belltown restaurants. An estimated 230,000 illegal immigrants were living in Washington State last year - 35 percent more than three years earlier,

according to a new report by the Pew Hispanic Center. The total represents one of every 20 workers in the state. Researchers at Pew Hispanic, a project of the nonpartisan Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C., used the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey data as a basis for the report.

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA BUSSINESS

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says the American government has a responsibility to make the U.S. the best place in the world to do business, but companies have a responsibility to invest in the nation's future by keeping jobs here, hiring workers and paying decent wages. Obama devoted his weekly radio and Internet message Saturday to ideas from his State of the Union address, specifically a plan to put the U.S. on a more competitive footing globally by spending on innovation, education and public works.

2/6/11

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW YORK CHOLERA

Synopsis: Three people who contracted cholera at a wedding in the Dominican Republic before returning to New York have recovered, and the risk of their infecting anyone else is low, officials said Sunday. None of the three adults had to be hospitalized, said Erin Hughes, spokeswoman for New York City's health department. Person-to-person transmission of the disease is highly unlikely, Hughes told CNN in an e-mail. The Centers for Disease Control will test samples to confirm the illness and determine from which strain the people were sickened, said CDC spokeswoman Candice Burns Hoffman. Cholera is a "nationally notifiable" disease, she said, and samples from all suspected U.S. cases are sent to the CDC for lab testing and confirmation.

Duration: 30

Topic: ECOLI CONTAMINATION

Synopsis: A California company has recalled 3,170 pounds of bulk ground beef and ground beef patties shipped to restaurants in Southern California because it may be contaminated with a dangerous strain of E. coli. All the packages of recalled beef were produced by American Food Service of Pico Rivera on Jan. 31 and bear the establishment number EST. 1913 inside the Department of Agriculture mark of inspection.

2/07/11

Duration: 30

Topic: SENATORS LOOK FOR IMMIGRATION DEAL

Synopsis: Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) have rekindled their alliance on immigration reform, taking some early steps to test the political will for addressing the contentious issue this year. Their call list hasn't focused so much on House and Senate members who've been reliable pro-immigration votes in the past. Instead, they're looking to a strange-bedfellows mix of conservative and liberal constituencies that can provide a "safety net" of support, as Graham put it, once the issue heats up. For all the groups getting a call from the pair, it is the presence of Graham himself who elevates the odds - however bleak - that the Senate could move on a comprehensive, bipartisan overhaul bill. Graham abruptly departed the talks last spring and took with him any hope of getting a bill in the past Congress. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce confirmed that it is back in the mix, after a hasty exit last year when Schumer proposed a legislative framework with a temporary worker program that favored labor unions. And Schumer and his staff have quietly begun reaching out to some unlikely players in the Senate, including Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who has professed a newfound freedom since winning reelection last year without the Republican Party's help.

Duration: 30

Topic: BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP BILL

Synopsis: Senate Bill 1309, commonly known as the birthright citizenship bill, gets its first hearing before the Arizona State Legislature on Monday. Gould says he sponsored the bill to stop the flow of illegal immigrants who come to the United States and give birth. Under the 14th Amendment, that child automatically receives citizenship. Senator Gould says he hopes to make it law that in order to gain citizenship, one of the child's parents must be a citizen themselves or have permanent status as a legal U.S. resident.

2/8/11

Duration: 30

Topic: TOYOTA REPORT ON ACCELERATION

Synopsis: Electronic glitches apparently didn't cause the much-publicized sudden acceleration problems in Toyota vehicles. That's the headline from a 10-month government investigation into what made the Japanese automaker's vehicles speed out of control. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration was in charge of the investigation launched last spring. NASA scientists and engineers were called in to help with the probe. The sudden acceleration complaints led to Toyota recalling nearly eight million vehicles for defects related to gas pedals--including sticky pedals and floor mat obstruction.

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRATION BILL

Synopsis: The author of major legislation targeting illegal immigration in Georgia confirmed Friday that he has already started revising his 17-page bill partly to protect it against potential court challenge. At a packed hearing in the state Capitol, Rep. Matt Ramsey told the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee that he was already on a 16th draft of House Bill 87, also called the Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act. The draft he presented to the panel Friday, however, didn't delete the bill's original key provisions, including one that requires police to investigate the immigration status of certain people they reasonably suspect of being in the country illegally. Several committee members,

meanwhile, raised tough questions about parts of the bill. They asked about one part that would enable state residents to sue local governments for not complying with certain state laws, including one provision aimed at preventing cities and counties from hiring illegal immigrants. Committee members said they worry people could file frivolous lawsuits against financially struggling governments. They also asked whether there would be any extra state funding available to cover the cost of additional police expenses that could stem from the bill.

Duration: 30

Topic: CHIPOTLE IMMIGRATION INSPECTION

Synopsis: Chipotle Mexican Grill has a lot going for it -- an upscale burrito concept, a hip and eco-friendly image, expansion plans galore and a 500 percent-plus stock price gain in just over two years. And then it has something not going its way -- a federal crackdown on its immigrant labor force that has so far forced Chipotle to fire hundreds of allegedly illegal workers in the state of Minnesota, perhaps more than half its staff there. The probe is widening. Co-Chief Executive Monty Moran told Reuters Friday that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has also issued "notices of inspection" for restaurants in Washington D.C. and Virginia. Investors in the Wall Street darling are taking note and one firm, Calvert Investments, plans to talk to Chipotle about the large number of undocumented workers uncovered.

2/9/11

Duration: 30

Topic: INDIANA WANTS TO IMPLEMENT BILL 590

Synopsis: Indiana State Sen. Mike Delph, R- Carmel not only wants to implement an Arizona style bill but wants to bar the use of any language but English in most government transactions. Senate Bill 590 is a thirty page proposal and includes: -requires state and local law enforcement officers who stop anyone for violating a law or ordinance to ask for proof that the person is here legally if the officers have "reasonable suspicion" that the person is not a citizen or legal visitor - Businesses that hire illegal immigrants can be shut down. Most government transactions, documents and meetings would be in English. The state would shut down their Spanish language portal and printing forms, ballots in other languages -The state will bill to Congress for reimbursement of all costs for undocumented residents in Indiana. -No financial aid, scholarships or grants for education at U of I and would have to pay out of state tuition. - Cities and counties would be barred from limiting the enforcement of federal immigration laws. (No Sanctuary Cities) According to the Pew Hispanic Center, Indiana was estimated to have 120,000 illegal immigrants in 2009, up from 10,000 in 1990.

Duration: 30

Topic: LACK OF SLEEP AND HEART ATTACKS

Synopsis: We all know that getting enough shut-eye is good for us, but now a new study suggests that getting too little sleep can increase the risk of heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular disease that can result in early death. Researchers found if you sleep less than six hours, or have disturbed sleep you have a 48% chance of developing or dying from heart disease, and a 15% chance of having or dying of a stroke. The study, published in the European Heart Journal, is a meta-analysis of 15 other sleep studies. A meta-analysis integrates a number of studies into one study. Researchers followed nearly 475,000 adults from eight countries including the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, and Israel for seven to 25 years.

2/11/11

Duration: 30

Topic: HOSPITALS WANT TO BAN SMOKING

Synopsis: Smokers now face another risk from their habit: it could cost them a shot at a job. More hospitals and medical businesses in many states are adopting strict policies that make smoking a reason to turn away job applicants, saying they want to increase worker productivity, reduce health care costs and encourage healthier living. The policies reflect a frustration that softer efforts - like banning smoking on company grounds, offering cessation programs and increasing health care premiums for smokers - have not been powerful-enough incentives to quit. The new rules essentially treat cigarettes like an illegal narcotic. Applications now explicitly warn of "tobacco-free hiring," job seekers must submit to urine tests for nicotine and new employees caught smoking face termination. This shift - from smoke-free to smoker-free workplaces - has prompted sharp debate, even among anti-tobacco groups, over whether the policies establish a troubling precedent of employers intruding into private lives to ban a habit that is legal.

2/12/11

Duration: 30

Topic: ARIZONA IMMIGRATION STATUS IN HOSPITALS

Synopsis: An Arizona bill requiring hospitals to check on whether patients are in the country legally, is the latest attempt by Arizona lawmakers to crackdown on illegal immigration. But the bill is causing concern among medical professionals who fear they will become de facto immigration agents under the law.

Duration: 30

Topic: COLORADO IMMIGRATION BILL

Synopsis: The sponsor of Colorado's version of a controversial Arizona anti-immigration bill wants lawmakers to kill his bill before it even gets a hearing. The bill's defeat comes as several states are introducing bills similar to Arizona's S.B. 1070, which gives local police the authority to investigate anyone they suspected of being in the country illegally.

2/13/11

Duration: 30

Topic: HISPANIC OBESITY

Synopsis: In a San Francisco community clinic, every day is a new battle in the fight against childhood obesity . Almost all patients are Hispanic children, and half are either overweight or obese. Saying that childhood obesity is an epidemic is no exaggeration, especially among Hispanic children who have the highest rate of overweight among all racial or ethnic groups. And what is more worrying, that percentage increases year after year

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA PELL GRANT

Synopsis: President Obama's budget Monday will propose cutting \$100 billion dollars from the Pell grant program and other higher education programs, but use those savings to ensure that eligible students would be able to receive the current maximum award of \$5,500 per school year. Jacob Lew, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said Sunday on State of the Union with Candy that the changes would affect two areas of the Pell grant program.

2/14/11

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRANTS IN HOSPITALS

Synopsis: Arizona lawmakers are trying to widen the state's illegal immigration crackdown with a proposal to require hospitals to confirm whether patients are in the country legally. The National Conference of State Legislatures says it knows of no other states considering similar bills. The proposal being heard late Monday by the Arizona Senate's judiciary committee would require hospitals to contact immigration authorities if a patient is an illegal immigrant. Arizona lawmakers passed a bill last year that required local police, while enforcing other laws, to question the immigration status of those they suspect are in the country illegally. A judge put that provision on hold.

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW IMMIGRATION PROPOSAL

Synopsis: Senator Orrin Hatch came to The Heritage Foundation on Friday to present his forthcoming immigration bill-"The Strengthening our Commitment to Legal Immigration and America's Security Act.", and the content of his bill, are a step in the right direction on immigration and border security-given that President Obama used his State of the Union address to make another case for amnesty. The bill was written in collaboration with members of Congress from states along the southwestern border. The bill addresses key areas in which law enforcement has been lacking under the Obama Administration. Heritage has proposed an alternate "three-legged stool," absent amnesty-and including internal enforcement, border security, and reforms to the legal immigration system.

Duration: 30

Topic: ENERGY DRINKS WARNING

Synopsis: A new report says energy drinks are under-studied, overused and can be dangerous for children and teens. Doctors writing in the medical journal Pediatrics say the dangers include heart palpitations, seizures, strokes and even sudden death. The ill effects are caused mostly by too much caffeine or similar ingredients. Some cans have four to five times more caffeine than soda. The authors want pediatricians to routinely ask patients and their parents about energy drink use and to advise against drinking them. The report says energy drinks often contain ingredients that can enhance the jittery effects of caffeine or that can have other side effects including nausea and diarrhea. It says they should be regulated as stringently as tobacco, alcohol and prescription medicines.

2/15/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CITY OF BELL LATEST: IMMUNITY

Synopsis: A ranking Bell administrator who earned more than \$400,000 for watching over the city's finances has been offered limited immunity in exchange for her testimony in a corruption case accusing city leaders of looting the city's treasury, defense lawyers said. Lourdes Garcia, Bell's director of administrative services, took the stand Monday afternoon, the third witness in a corruption case that accuses six current or former City Council members of misappropriation of public funds. Prosecutors are in the midst of a preliminary hearing to determine if there's enough evidence to order the six to stand trial. The part-time council members are accused of earning nearly \$100,000 a year by drawing pay for serving on boards and committees that rarely met or met for only a few minutes at a time. In addition, former City Administrator Robert Rizzo and his former assistant, Angela Spaccia, are accused of misappropriating public money.

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA BUDGET LATEST

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Tuesday a budget showdown that could lead to a government shutdown can be avoided if both sides agree to make budget cuts only if they do not endanger the U.S. economic recovery. Obama said at a news conference he would not support "symbolic cuts" that would endanger the U.S. economy.

2/16/11

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRATION FINGERPRINTS PROGRAM

Synopsis: A rapidly expanding federal program that identifies illegal immigrants when they're arrested and fingerprinted became operational in Denver and in El Paso and Arapahoe counties on Tuesday. Colorado Department of Public Safety spokesman Lance Clem said Secure Communities was launched in the three jurisdictions, the pilot sites in the state for the program. Colorado is the 39th state to join the program, which is active in more than 1,000 jurisdictions in the country, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which operates Secure Communities. The initiative was launched in 2007 and ICE has said it hopes to have it in every jail in the country by 2013. The program checks arrestee's fingerprints against FBI and Department of Homeland Security databases to determine the person's legal status and

arrest record. Critics argue it creates an incentive for racial profiling. Opponents say that because people's fingerprints are checked upon arrest, immigrants can be placed in deportation proceedings even if charges are ultimately dismissed or they're not convicted of a crime. Denver Mayor Bill Vidal calls it "worrisome" and said it should be monitored closely.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SCHOOLS LAYOFFS IN LOS ANGELES**

Synopsis: Layoff notices wouldn't necessarily mean the employees will lose their jobs this year, but the district is legally required to notify workers if their positions are in jeopardy. According to the district, most of the affected employees would receive notices no later than March 15. A separate notice would have to be sent by June 30 to notify employees if they would actually lose their jobs. The board will consider authorizing warning letters to 3,109 permanent elementary teachers and 975 secondary/single-subject teachers, along with 456 permanent support-services personnel, including counselors, social workers and nurses. Three district staff attorneys would also receive notices.

Duration: 30

Topic: **UTAH IMMIGRATION BILL SEEKS MIDDLE GROUND IN DEBATE**

Synopsis: In state legislatures across the country, most of the immigration bills being debated aim to crack down on illegal immigration. Legislators are trying to cut off illegal immigrants from receiving public benefits, deny their U.S.-born children citizenship and force them out of states by granting local police the power to enforce immigration laws. Protesters rally for immigrant rights at the Utah Capitol in Salt Lake City last month. The state is trying to find constructive ways to handle immigration. One bill filed in Utah is being viewed as the possible middle ground that has proven so elusive in a hyper-charged immigration discussion. The Utah bill, known as the Pilot Accountability Permit Program, would grant work permits to illegal immigrants so they could legally work in the state but would require them to undergo criminal background checks, pay taxes and take English classes, and it would force them to leave the state if they lose their jobs.

2/17/11

Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRANT ADVOCATES TO PROTEST NJ DETENTION CENTER**

Synopsis: Immigration advocacy groups are planning to march more than three miles across Newark to protest a proposed immigration detention facility that will likely be built in New Jersey. Federal immigration officials told The Associated Press in December that the details of a service agreement were being worked out for a 2,700-bed facility in Essex County. A spokesman for Essex County said this week the agreement has not yet been finalized. The protesters plan to march Thursday from Newark's federal building to the Essex County Correctional Facility. The existing detention facility there will likely be expanded to accommodate additional detainees. Protest organizers say there are more humane and cost-effective solutions to immigrant detention, such as releasing people to their families while they await legal proceedings.

Duration: 30

Topic: **SB 11 "SANCTUARY CITY"**

Synopsis: Top state lawmakers filed the latest legislation Wednesday to prohibit so-called "sanctuary city" policies, saying that local governments would risk losing state grant money if they prohibit employees from enforcing state or federal immigration laws. Some voiced concern that the legislation would interfere with police chiefs' oversight of their officers and detract from a focus on local crimes. The sanctuary city issue is among topics declared an emergency by GOP Gov. Rick Perry. Williams, Senate Transportation and Homeland Security chairman, said he did not know how many cities would have to change their policies if the bill became law.

Duration: 30

Topic: **WISCONSIN PROTEST**

Synopsis: Protesters are clogging the hallways of the Wisconsin Capitol as the Senate prepares to pass a bill stripping government workers, including teachers, of nearly all collective bargaining rights. The nation's most aggressive anti-union proposal has been speeding through the Legislature since Republican Gov. Scott Walker introduced it a week ago. It's headed to votes in the Senate and Assembly after clearing a major legislative hurdle last night. And Republican leaders say it has the votes to pass in both chambers. Hundreds of protesters began gathering outside the Senate chamber hours before the planned vote. Many slept in the rotunda for a second night.

2/18/11

Duration: 30

Topic: **SECOND LANGUAGE MAY HELP PREVENT ALZHEIMER**

Synopsis: Scientists say mastering a second language can pump up your brain in ways that seem to delay getting Alzheimer's disease later on. While the new research focuses mostly on the truly long-term bilingual, scientists say even people who tackle a new language later in life stand to gain. Psychology professor Ellen Bialystok at York University in Toronto studied 450 people with Alzheimer's. Those who were bilingual were diagnosed between four and five years later than those who spoke only one language. Speaking two languages does nothing to prevent Alzheimer's disease from striking though.

2/19/11

Duration: 30

Topic: **HOUSE PASSES SPENDING BILL**

Synopsis: The Republican-controlled House has voted to shield greenhouse-gas polluters and privately owned colleges from federal regulators. The vote strengthens the pro-business emphasis of legislation that also would chop \$61 billion from government spending. But newly elected conservatives suffered a rare setback today when a split among rank-and-file Republicans sank a move to cut an additional \$22 billion. The House is meeting into the evening as it moves toward a final vote on the \$1.2 trillion bill that is needed to keep the government in

operation when existing funding authority expires on March 4. The GOP-backed measure faces a veto threat from President Barack Obama and opposition from majority Democrats in the Senate, so it's unclear how much of it will ever become law.

2/20/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CHICAGO ELECTION PREVIEW

Synopsis: Parishioners concentration on a rainy Sunday was the perfect opportunity for candidates to establish direct contact with voters who will decide this Tuesday who will replace the Mayor who has held the position for 22 years and will not participate in this election. Six candidates are to appear on the ballot, but the attention is focused on who leads the polls. Rahm Emmanuel, former Chief of Cabinet of President Obama, Gery Chico, former Chief of Staff of Chicago, and Miguel Del Valle, current City Clerk. Gery Chico for his part, a lawyer, said that as ex Chief of Staff of Chicago he knows how to balance a budget and solve problems. The city has to solve a deficit of 600 million.

2/21/11

Duration: 30

Topic: UTAH IMMIGRATION POLL

Synopsis: A new statewide poll shows a majority of Utahans favor a legislative proposal that would create state-issued work permits for illegal immigrants. The Deseret News and KSL-TV report the poll found 71 percent of respondents support the proposal, which would let immigrants stay in the U.S. if they have a job and undergo a criminal background check. Just 24 percent of respondents opposed the proposal from Democratic Sen. Luz Robles of Salt Lake City. The Dan Jones & Associates survey of 496 Utahans was conducted Feb. 8-11. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. The survey also found 54 percent of respondents favor an enforcement-only approach to immigration. Thirty-nine percent of respondents dislike the enforcement-only approach.

2/22/11

Duration: 30

Topic: ARIZONA IMMIGRATION BILL

Synopsis: A year after enacting the controversial law known as SB1070, Arizona legislators continue to line up additional measures targeting illegal immigration. A bill introduced Monday would toughen the state's mandate that employers check the eligibility of new hires, tighten identification requirements for school enrollment and other public services, and make it a crime for someone in the United States unlawfully to drive a vehicle in Arizona. The bill sponsored by Senate President Russell Pearce, R-Mesa, is to be considered Tuesday by the Senate Appropriations Committee. That committee is already scheduled to consider other legislation on illegal immigration, including bills to challenge automatic citizenship for U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants and to require hospitals to confirm whether nonemergency patients are in the country legally.

2/23/11

Duration: 30

Topic: FORD RECALL

Synopsis: Ford said Wednesday that it would recall 144,000 F-150 pickup trucks because front-seat airbags could inflate even though the vehicle hadn't been involved in a collision. The recall involves trucks built at Ford's now-closed Norfolk, Va., factory from November 2004 to June 2005 and sold in the 2005 and 2006 model years. The automaker said it was aware of 238 incidents of inadvertent airbag deployment in the trucks, causing 77 injuries but no deaths. Federal safety regulators are reviewing Ford's recall plans and looking into whether it will fix enough vehicles with the potential for unexpected airbag deployment.

Duration: 30

Topic: ARIZONA IMMIGRATION BILLS

Synopsis: The nation's immigration battle returned to the state Capitol on Tuesday as a key legislative committee passed two major bills that could significantly impact illegal immigrants living in Arizona. The Senate Appropriations Committee became the first state legislative committee in the nation to pass a package of bills intended to challenge the practice of granting citizenship to children born in the U.S. to illegal immigrants. It also approved an "omnibus" bill that would prevent undocumented children from attending school, prohibit illegal immigrants from driving or buying a vehicle and deny illegal immigrants the ability to obtain a marriage license in Arizona. Hundreds of protesters and supporters gathered outside the chambers Tuesday while dozens waited late into the night to speak to lawmakers.

2/24/11

Duration: 30

Topic: TOYOTA RECALL

Synopsis: Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling 2.17 million vehicles in the United States to address accelerator pedals that could become entrapped in floor mats or jammed in carpeting. More than half of the vehicles are being added to a massive 2009 recall that fixed gas pedals getting trapped in the floor mat. Toyota has now recalled more than 14 million vehicles globally over safety problems since 2009. U.S. regulators said earlier this month that electronic flaws were not to blame for reports of sudden, unintended acceleration.

2/25/11

Duration: 30

Topic: POLICE AND IMMIGRATION STATUS

Synopsis: Federal authorities can now screen the immigration status of arrestees in every county in California. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Friday that the last six counties were hooked up to the so-called Secure Communities program this week. Through January, the agency had arrested 65,000 people in California who were identified through the program. Immigration officials say more than 70

percent of them had a criminal conviction. The program began in California in 2009 and is currently being rolled out across the nation. Under the program, arrestees' fingerprints are checked against Department of Homeland Security records and immigration officials are notified when there is a hit. The program has faced ardent criticism from immigrant advocates who say involving local police in immigration enforcement discourages illegal immigrants from reporting crimes.

Duration: 30

Topic: USDA ANNOUNCES \$1.3B FUND FOR FEMALE, HISPANIC FARMERS CLAIMING DISCRIMINATION

Synopsis: The Obama administration plans to distribute \$1.3 billion to female and Hispanic farmers who claim they were discriminated against by the federal government. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a process for distributing the money Friday. The move comes after Congress approved a separate \$4.6 billion settlement for black and Native American farmers who claimed discrimination. Though some lawmakers alleged the claims process for black farmers was rife with fraud, the administration has pushed to extend settlement money to other minority groups. "The Obama administration has made it a priority to resolve all claims of past discrimination at USDA, and we are committed to closing this sad chapter in USDA's history," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a statement Friday. "Women and Hispanic farmers and ranchers who allege past discrimination can now come forward to participate in a claims process in which they have the opportunity to receive compensation

Duration: 30

Topic: LOSE WEIGHT BY TURNING DOWN HEATER

Synopsis: Turn down the heat -- take off the pounds! A study in the International Journal of Obesity links home temperature and lack of sleep to obesity. Researchers found people who keep their homes warmer were twice as likely to become obese. Doctors say it's possible the body burns more calories if it needs to work harder to maintain a stable temperature. The study also found for every hour of sleep people got each day, their odds of becoming severely overweight dropped 30 percent.

2/26/11

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA BUDGET

Synopsis: President Barack Obama Saturday urged Congress to find "common ground" to prevent a damaging government shutdown, as Republicans and Democrats edged toward a compromise to keep federal money flowing. Republicans in the House of Representatives Friday detailed some \$4 billion in spending cuts for a two-week stopgap spending bill, which the leader of the Democratic-controlled Senate indicated could be acceptable. That would buy time for Congress to try to work out a plan to fund the government through the rest of this fiscal year that ends Sept. 30.

2/27/11

Duration: 30

Topic: GOVERNORS ON ECONOMY

Synopsis: Leaders of the National Governors Association called on Congress and the Obama administration yesterday to avoid doing anything that could further strain fragile state economies, warning that the states already are overburdened and additional strain could threaten the broader recovery.

2/28/11

Duration: 30

Topic: BUDGET LATEST

Synopsis: A deal to avert a U.S. government shutdown took shape in Congress Monday, but the short-term spending measure would do nothing to resolve the bitter debate over federal spending. Budget-cutting Republicans pressured President Barack Obama's Democrats to accept a proposal to trim \$4 billion over the next two weeks by eliminating programs that Obama has also targeted. Senate Democrats indicated they may go along with the Republican plan. With government funding due to expire Friday, Congress must act this week to avert a shutdown of everything from bankruptcy courts to passport offices.

Duration: 30

Topic: GAS PRICES LATEST

Synopsis: High fuel prices are putting the squeeze on drivers just as they start to feel better about the economy. Prices are also forcing tough choices on small-business owners who are trying not to charge more for fear of losing cost-conscious customers. Gasoline prices rose 4 percent last week to a national average of \$3.29 per gallon. That's the highest level ever for this time of year. And with unrest in the Middle East and North Africa lifting the price of oil to the \$100-a-barrel range, analysts say pump prices are likely headed higher.

Duration: 30

Topic: KIDS FEVER

Synopsis: Parents, especially new ones, freak out about fevers. A third of all pediatric visits involve worried parents bringing in feverish little ones. But there's really no reason to fret when your kid's temperature starts to rise. And there's no reason to push drugs to alleviate the fever, according to a new clinical report published online today in the journal *Pediatrics*. Fever in and of itself is not harmful. Even more than that, it can actually be helpful since it prompts the body to churn out more infection-fighting white blood cells. Because fever decreases the ability of viruses and bacteria to reproduce, it can actually shorten the duration of an illness.

3/1/11

Duration: 30

Topic: OKLAHOMA IMMIGRATION

Synopsis: A House committee approved a bill Monday that would give law enforcement officials more authority to check the immigration status of motorists. The measure's author said it mirrors some parts of Arizona's anti-illegal immigrant law passed last year. The House Judiciary Committee also approved a bill that would prohibit foreign laws from being enforced in state courtrooms. Rep. Sally Kern, the bill's author, said it resembles a ballot measure that was approved overwhelmingly in November by state voters but which has been legally challenged.

Duration: 30

Topic: JOB SCAMMERS

Synopsis: If you are among the many Americans desperately looking for work, then you also might be among the growing number of victims who have fallen prey to job scams. Jobs that promise "easy money," "flexible work from home hours," or advertise "no experience necessary" are just some of the ways con artists posing as fake employers get you on the hook to either steal your identity or make a quick buck. A recent AOL jobs survey found that one in 33 people has personally been a victim of a job scam, such as a fake opportunity for employment where the job seeker is asked to pay a fee in advance, and one in nine people report knowing someone who has been scammed.

3/2/11

Duration: 30

Topic: TEXAS IMMIGRATION BILL

Synopsis: Amid a number of bills filed in Texas that address the issue of illegal immigration, one, proposed by Republican state Rep. Debbie Riddle, stands out. As proposed, House Bill 1202 would create tough state punishments for those who "intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly" hire an unauthorized immigrant. Violators could face up to two years in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000. But it is an exception included in the bill that is drawing attention. Those who hire unauthorized immigrants would be in violation of the law -- unless they are hiring a maid, a lawn caretaker or another house worker. It is a tough immigration bill with a soft side that protects those who hire unauthorized immigrants "for the purpose of obtaining labor or other work to be performed exclusively or primarily at a single-family residence." Texas state Rep. Aaron Pena, a Republican, said the exception is a wise one.

Duration: 30

Topic: POTASSIUM RICH DIET

Synopsis: People who get plenty of potassium-rich foods in their diet may be less likely to suffer a stroke, a new research review finds. The review, of 11 studies following more than 247,000 adults, found that as potassium intake went up, participants' risk of suffering a stroke went down.

3/4/11

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA TRAVELS TO FLORIDA

Synopsis: President Obama travelled to Miami, Florida, where he will discuss how winning the future in education will require investments that promote a shared responsibility among everyone involved; reform at the state and local levels; and focus on achieving results. The President will deliver remarks on the importance of out-educating our competition at a local Miami high school. The President visited Miami Central Senior High School with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

Duration: 30

Topic: ANTI-IMMIGRANT PROPOSAL GEORGIA

Synopsis: Georgia's House followed Arizona's lead Thursday, convincingly passing stringent new legislation targeting illegal immigrants and those who harbor them here. By a largely party-line vote of 113-56, the Republican-controlled chamber approved House Bill 87, also called the Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011. The 22-page bill now moves to the Senate, where a committee endorsed a similar but shorter measure Wednesday.

Duration: 30

Topic: ANTI-IMMIGRANT PROPOSAL UTAH

Synopsis: Despite a last-minute revolt among many House Republicans, the Utah Legislature has passed a package of immigration bills that supporters say balances enforcement, economic needs and compassion. The House voted 41-32 Friday night to pass a bill creating a guest worker program, approving the final piece of an immigration compromise that seemed to fall apart only hours earlier.

3/5/11

Duration: 30

Topic: GEORGIA IMMIGRATION LAW

Synopsis: Georgia House of Representatives passed an Arizona-like immigration law on Thursday in a mostly partisan vote 113-56. Under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011 all employers would have to use E-verify to ensure they don't hire illegal immigrants. Right now only government workers have to be checked out by E-verify, according to federal laws. Another provision in the law would make it a felony to present false documentation when applying for a job, with a possibility of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. H.B. 87 would also authorize law enforcement officers to verify citizenship and immigration status, when enforcing other laws, as long as they have a "reasonable suspicion" that the subject is an illegal immigrant. In addition, the legislation goes after those who transport and hide illegal immigrants, or in any other way encourage them to enter US without legal documents.

Duration: 30

Topic: UTAH IMMIGRATION REFORM

Synopsis: Utah lawmakers have approved an immigration package that includes an enforcement law reminiscent of Arizona's but tempered with a guest worker program for illegal immigrants. The immigration measures approved by both chambers Friday night would allow illegal immigrants to get a permit to work in Utah. But they also include a requirement that police check the immigrant status of anyone stopped for a felony or serious misdemeanor. Supporters say the entire package balances economic needs and compassion, while opponents argue it will likely encourage more illegal immigration. Lawmakers initially balked at the enforcement measure, HB 497, because of what some viewed as a likely backlash. But sponsor Rep. Stephen Sandstrom, R-Orem, garnered enough support for passage after amending it to focus on more serious crimes.

3/6/11

Duration: 30

Topic: GAS PRICES

Synopsis: A new survey says the average price of regular gasoline in the United States has jumped 33 cents per gallon in the last two weeks. The Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday says it's the second biggest price increase over a two-week span on record. Analyst Trilby Lundberg found in the survey completed Friday that the average national price of a gallon of regular is \$3.51. The average price for mid-grade is \$3.64, and premium was at \$3.75. Diesel is up 29 cents, to \$3.88 a gallon. Billings, Mont., had the lowest average price among cities surveyed at \$3.15 a gallon for regular. San Diego was the highest among surveyed areas at \$3.87. Fresno had California's lowest gas prices, at \$3.70 for a regular gallon.

3/7/11

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRATION PACKAGE IN UTAH

Synopsis: With the immigration package, passed in both chambers of the Republican-controlled Legislature late Friday, Utah made a sharp break with the hard-line trend in state immigration legislation that has been led by Arizona, which passed a strict enforcement law last April. Utah's package includes measures to tighten enforcement against illegal immigrants that echo Arizona's tough stance - like a requirement that the police check the immigration status of anyone arrested on a felony or a serious misdemeanor charge. But supporters said the hybrid package offered an alternative to states, including those controlled by Republicans that are seeking to avoid the costly political polarization and legal challenges that followed Arizona's law and that also want to recognize the need of some businesses for immigrant labor in spite of high unemployment nationally.

Duration: 30

Topic: GAS PRICES

Synopsis: Gas prices continued to rise Monday, driven higher for nearly two weeks straight by the turmoil in Libya, with analysts expecting prices to keep climbing. The national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline rose six tenths of a cent to \$3.509, according to a daily survey by motorist group AAA. Prices at the pump can vary widely among states, due in large part to vastly different levels of gasoline tax. Gas prices have increased for 13 days in a row, rising nearly 34 cents in that time. The highest gas prices in the nation are in California, where drivers pay an average of \$3.897 a gallon. Prices were also above \$3.80 in Hawaii and Alaska. Montana had the lowest gas prices at \$3.186 a gallon, on average. Wyoming was a close second with an average cost per gallon of \$3.189. Gas prices vary widely from state to state based largely on local tax rates. But prices have been trending higher nationwide following a rise in the price of crude oil, the main ingredient in gasoline.

3/8/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CENSUS CALIFORNIA

Synopsis: New census data shows Latinos and Asians accounted for virtually all of California's population growth over the last decade. Data from the 2010 U.S. Census released Tuesday shows Latinos grew by 28 percent and Asians grew by 31 percent. Non-Hispanic whites saw their numbers decrease between 2000 and 2010 by 5 percent, and the state's African-American population dipped by 1 percent. Demographers say Latinos are growing faster than other groups because most Latinos are of child-bearing age while the rest of the population tends to be older. California's population grew 10 percent over the decade to 37.3 million. But growth lagged behind other western states and California failed to pick up additional congressional seats for the first time after a census.

3/9/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CANCER SURVIVORS

Synopsis: Nearly 12 million people in the United States are cancer survivors, almost four times as many as 40 years ago, reflecting big strides in cancer detection and treatment and the effect of an aging U.S. population, U.S. health officials said on Thursday. But many of the survivors face a lifetime of side effects caused by their treatments, according to figures released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute. The researchers found there were 11.7 million cancer survivors in 2007, up from 9.8 million in 2001 and 3 million in 1971.

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA CHURCH ABUSE

Synopsis: Attorneys for hundreds of people who claim they were sexually molested by priests and religious brothers in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles are going before a judge to argue that confidential files on the priests should be made public. The plaintiff attorneys are asking a mediator judge at the hearing Thursday to recommend the release of files relating to the sexual abuse of children by priests. The release of the

files has been in dispute since the archdiocese settled more than 550 cases for a record-breaking \$660 million in 2007. The plaintiffs argue that the settlement included a provision for the eventual release of the church's sealed files. But the church wants a more limited release and says disclosing the priests' confidential files violate their privacy rights and their religious freedom.

3/10/11

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRANT TUITION

Synopsis: A panel of Maryland senators is hoping a series of nighttime tweaks will help shepherd a plan to grant in-state tuition to illegal immigrants through the Senate. The Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee voted Tuesday night to clean up the plan to grant illegal immigrants the same tuition rates at state-run universities that Maryland residents pay. The full Senate is to begin debating the bill Wednesday morning. The committee voted last week to require that illegal immigrants attend community college before they receive the in-state break at four-year universities, but questions of county residency forced them into the last-minute work session. Although the committee sent the measure to the Senate last week, supporters opted to do the rework in committee where it faces less opposition.

3/13/11

Duration: 30

Topic: US TRAVEL TO JAPAN WARNING

Synopsis: The U.S. State Department issued an updated travel warning on Sunday that urges American citizens to avoid going because of the powerful earthquake two days ago. The department said it requested all non-essential U.S. government personnel to defer travel and urged American citizens to avoid tourism and non-essential travel to Japan. It said that strong aftershocks were likely for weeks after a powerful earthquake such as the one that struck northern Japan. Flights have resumed at all airports closed by the earthquake, except for the airport in the coastal city of Sendai, which remains flooded, the department said.

3/14/11

Duration: 30

Topic: ARIZONA IMMIGRATION BILL

Synopsis: Bills given preliminary approval by the Arizona Senate would make it more difficult for illegal immigrants to find jobs and get public housing in Arizona. The Senate's action Monday represents a dry run of sorts for broader legislation targeting illegal immigration that could be considered later this week. The broader bill includes versions of both bills considered Monday. One of the bills would require public housing applicants to prove they are U.S. citizens or legal residents. It also would require eviction of residents who let an illegal immigrant live with them in public housing. The second bill bars people who can't prove they are in the U.S. legally from getting a state fingerprint background check card. Those cards are needed for many work permits.

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA ON EDUCATION

Synopsis: U.S. President Barack Obama called on Congress Monday to overhaul his Republican predecessor's signature "No Child Left Behind" education law before the next school year begins in September. Former President George W. Bush pushed for "No Child," enacted in 2002, to upgrade education by making schools accountable for students' performance and forcing reforms on schools that do not meet sets of standards. The law has been criticized as inflexible, forcing teachers to adhere to a narrow curriculum targeted mostly at ensuring that every student pass a series of standardized tests.

3/15/11

Duration: 30

Topic: MARYLAND IN STATE TUITION BILL

Synopsis: Maryland state senators on Monday signed off on legislation that would make undocumented immigrants eligible for in-state tuition benefits at the state's public colleges. After a lengthy and emotional debate, the Senate voted 27 to 20 to approve the measure, shifting one of the legislative session's most high-profile and controversial immigration bills to the House of Delegates. Sen. Victor R. Ramirez (D-Prince George's), the lead sponsor, spoke to dozens of students seated in the gallery who would benefit from the measure, and told his story of arriving legally in the United States from El Salvador at age 5. Republican opponents and some Democrats said the state should not be subsidizing the cost of higher education for illegal immigrants, and that their objections were a matter of fairness. The measure passed by the Senate is a scaled-back version of what proponents initially envisioned. It calls for Maryland high school graduates, regardless of immigration status, to initially qualify for tuition breaks only at the state's community colleges.

3/16/11

Duration: 30

Topic: AIRPORT SCREENING

Synopsis: The Transportation Security Administration on Wednesday defended its privacy policy at airports and the safety of an advanced imaging machine that transmits low radiation doses. Testifying before skeptical House members, two TSA officials said imaging machines used for passenger screening have software that prevents the full-body images from being retained, stored or transmitted. The officials, Robin Kane and Lee Kair, also said a single screening from a "backscatter" imaging machine produces radiation similar to a dose from about two minutes of flying at 30,000 feet. The chairman of a House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee, Republican Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, said he isn't convinced privacy is being protected.

Duration: 30

Topic: NUCLEAR USA

Synopsis: The United States showed increasing alarm Wednesday about how Japan was handling its nuclear crisis, urging Americans to leave the area near an earthquake-crippled power plant and relying on U.S. experts for updates. Without criticizing the Japanese government, which has shown signs of being overwhelmed by the crisis, U.S. officials admitted their call for American citizens to evacuate the area near the Fukushima nuclear plant went further than Japanese advice. The State Department recommended that U.S. citizens within 50 miles of the Fukushima plant leave the area

3/17/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA RADIATION ARRIVES

Synopsis: Growing concern by Americans over exposure from damaged nuclear plants in Japan has prompted officials to deploy more radiation monitors in the western United States and Pacific territories, federal environmental regulators say. Officials with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said they do not expect harmful radiation levels to reach anywhere in the U.S. from Japan. "The agency decided out of an abundance of caution to send these deployable monitors in order to get some monitors on the ground closer to Japan," Jonathan Edwards, director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's radiation protection division, said this week. The additional monitors are being deployed in response to the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan, where emergency workers are attempting to cool overheated reactors damaged by last week's magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami. The EPA already monitors radiation throughout the area as part of its RadNet system, which measures levels in air, drinking water, milk and rain.

Duration: 30

Topic: HEALTH INSURANCE ANNIVERSARY

Synopsis: Over the next week, a large number of progressive groups, health care advocacy organizations and high-profile administration officials and congressional lawmakers will hit the road to re-sell the President's health care reform law around the one-year anniversary of its passage. "You can expect to see officials discuss how the law is already benefiting seniors, small businesses, women and young adults," said an administration official. "And they'll be taking the message outside of Washington to communities across the country, not to re-fight the political battles of the last two years, but to highlight how this law is already moving us forward."

Duration: 30

Topic: FLORIDA IMMIGRATION LAW PROPOSAL

Synopsis: The Florida Legislature is following in the footsteps of Arizona lawmakers. Representative William Snyder (R-Stuart) introduced a bill in the Florida House Wednesday that will reform the state's immigration laws if passed. The proposed bill is not as restrictive as the Arizona law, but the Florida Immigration Enforcement Act would still have a dramatic impact on the estimated 800,000 illegal immigrants in the state. The bill would increase the penalties for immigrants unlawfully living in the state and for the employers who willingly hire them.

3/18/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA RADIATION

Synopsis: Radiation levels in California remain normal, air quality officials said Friday morning. As far as our monitors go, we have not detected any increases beyond what you'd expect historically. Nothing you can attribute to Japan, said Philip Fine, atmospheric measurements manager of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the smog control agency for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Fine said he has been spot-checking radiation monitor data throughout California and the West Coast in the past few days, and nothing abnormal has shown up.

Duration: 30

Topic: ARIZONA IMMIGRATION BILL OPPOSITION

Synopsis: Strong business opposition is being cited as a major reason for the Arizona Senate's rejection of proposed new get-tough legislation on illegal immigration. The Senate rejected the bills on Thursday when majority Republicans split and minority Democrats voted in lockstep against the bills, which included measures intended to force a U.S. Supreme Court ruling against automatic citizenship for U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants. Other bills dealt with health care, public services and everyday activities such as driving. The outcome may have been sealed with the hand-delivery of a letter to lawmakers earlier in the week.

3/21/11

Duration: 30

Topic: ONLINE E-VERIFY TOOL

Synopsis: For workers wanting to check their U.S. employment eligibility status -- good news, there's an online service for that. E-Verify Self Check gives users the chance to correct inaccuracies in their Homeland Security or Social Security records before applying for jobs, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Monday in a release announcing the launch of the free, secure service. E-Verify Self Check allows workers to better protect themselves from potential workplace discrimination that may arise from an employer's abusing the E-Verify system, Napolitano said in the joint announcement with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas

Duration: 30

Topic: FOOD CONTAMINATION JAPAN

Synopsis: Radiation-tainted spinach from Japan's damaged nuclear reactors may sound scary, but here's a reality check: Even if any made it to stores there, you'd have to be Popeye to eat enough to worry. With some fallout found in an increasing number of foods, Japan's government is taking steps to stop contaminated products from reaching consumers -- and the U.S. and other countries are double-checking imports. The Chernobyl disaster made clear that radiation from food can be a real risk: Thousands of cases of thyroid cancer after the 1986 reactor explosion

there are blamed on the Soviet Union's failure to stop children in the region from drinking milk contaminated with radioactive iodine -- children who also weren't given a thyroid-protecting drug, potassium iodide.

3/22/11

Duration: 30

Topic: INDIAN POINT

Synopsis: The owner of New York's Indian Point nuclear power plant says the facility is not susceptible to the kind of earthquake and tsunami that rocked Japan. Entergy's vice president, John McCann, told Westchester County legislators on Monday that the earthquake in Japan was much more powerful than any recorded in the region of Indian Point. McCann said he expected changes to be made in response to the events in Japan, but he didn't say what they would be. Entergy on Monday took out a one-page ad in The New York Times reassuring the public that the facility is designed to withstand the strongest earthquake anticipated in the area. The plant is located in Buchanan, N.Y., 35 miles north of New York City.

3/23/11

Duration: 30

Topic: MORE UNINSURED AMERICANS THAN ONE YEAR AGO

Synopsis: New numbers out from the government paint a disturbing picture. There are more uninsured Americans today, than one year ago. But the latest report is not all bad news. Almost 50 million Americans are without health insurance today -- 3 million more than a year ago. The centers for disease control and prevention says over the past decade, the number of adults 18-64 without medical coverage has gone up, but the number of children lacking insurance has gone down.

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW YORK DREAM ACT

Synopsis: The New York State Youth Leadership Council announced yesterday that a state version of the DREAM Act was introduced in the New York Senate. Although the group is hailing this as a positive step, it's a big step backwards from what the DREAM Act set out to be. Originally introduced over ten years ago, the federal DREAM Act was supposed to have provided a pathway to citizenship for children brought to the United States illegally, who were willing to go to college or serve in the military. However, when that bill finally came up for a vote in the Senate last fall, it failed.

Duration: 30

Topic: MIAMI DADE NEW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Synopsis: At Miami Dade College, where roughly two-thirds of the student body is low-income, college leaders on Wednesday unveiled a unique scholarship program designed to let more Miami-Dade students focus on their academic ambitions than worry about paying their bills. Starting this fall, any Miami-Dade student who graduates with a 3.0 GPA or better will be able to attend Miami Dade College for free. "Students can't use the excuse anymore that they can't pay for it," said Verena Cabrera, principal of Hialeah High School. "This opens the doors for everyone to go to college."

3/24/11

Duration: 30

Topic: HISPANIC POPULATION GROWTH ACCORDING CENSUS 2010 RESULTS

Synopsis: In a surprising show of growth, Hispanics accounted for more than half of the U.S. population increase over the last decade, exceeding estimates in most states. Pulled by migration to the Sun Belt, America's population center edged westward on a historic path to leave the Midwest. The Census Bureau on Thursday will release its first set of national-level findings from the 2010 count on race and migration, detailing a decade in which rapid minority growth, aging whites and increased suburbanization were the predominant story lines. Geographers estimate that the nation's population center will move southwest about 30 miles and be placed in or near the village of Plato in Texas County, Mo.

Duration: 30

Topic: HISPANIC STUDENTS IN TEXAS

Synopsis: According to the national bureau of the census, a 38 percent of the people of Texas are Hispanic and young Hispanic population is also experiencing growth in Mississippi, Nevada, Georgia, California, Maryland, new Mexico, Florida, Hawaii and Arizona.

Duration: 30

Topic: APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AID DROP SLIGHTLY

Synopsis: Fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week, adding to evidence that layoffs are slowing and employers may be stepping up hiring. The number of people seeking benefits dropped by 5,000 to a seasonally adjusted 382,000 in the week ended March 19, the Labor Department said Thursday. The fourth decline in five weeks lowered the four-week average to 385,250, the fewest for that measure since July 2008. The four-week average has fallen almost 11 percent in the past seven weeks. Applications at about 375,000 or below indicate a sustained increase in hiring. Applications peaked during the recession at 651,000. Weekly applications for unemployment benefits are considered a gauge of the pace of layoffs.

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA IMMIGRATION E-VERIFY

Synopsis: A city that has taken numerous steps to crack down on illegal immigration is at it again -- this time joining a string of Southern California municipalities that are signing up to tap a federal database aimed at tighter scrutiny of employees' immigration status. Escondido's measure is modest compared to how others have embraced the free E-Verify tool, an online federal database now used voluntarily by

employers nationwide. The north San Diego suburb began requiring checks on new city hires earlier this month and would require the same of all city contractors under a proposal before the City Council on Wednesday.

Duration: 30

Topic: GEORGIA PRO IMMIGRANT PROTEST

Synopsis: Thousands have gathered at the Georgia Capitol to protest legislation that targets illegal immigrants in the state. Folk rock duo the Indigo Girls on Thursday performed their song "Shame on You" with lyrics adapted for the rally. U.S. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, a leader in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, urged the crowd to fight. He said "I was beaten, left bloody, but I didn't give up and you must not give up."

3/25/11

Duration: 30

Topic: CALIFORNIA SUPER BUG

Synopsis: Resistant to antibiotics and high mortality risk is the bacteria that researchers from the Department of Public Health have found at Los Angeles County hospitals. It is known as CRKP (carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae), an infectious organism that can cause diseases like pneumonia and meningitis. "It's a difficult bacteria to treat and which should be considered dangerous," said Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of the Department of Public Health in the county. However, he clarified, there is no reason to panic and stop visiting the hospitals

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW YORK CENSUS

Synopsis: New York City officials are contesting the 2010 census figures that found only modest growth in the city's population. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the city's demographer, Joe Salvo, said on WOR Radio Friday they have lots of evidence to suggest the city grew by about 250,000 people more than the census showed. Census figures released Thursday put the city's 2010 population at about 8.18 million, a 2.1 percent increase from 2000.

3/27/11

Duration: 30

Topic: NEW YORK CENSUS POLITICAL REDISTRICTING

Synopsis: The Lower Hudson Valley has grown in number (and diversity) in the past decade, U.S. Census data show. Population gains here, and losses in upstate and western New York, will certainly mean a lot of shifting lines for both state legislative and congressional districts. The idea behind redrawing legislative districts to reflect population shifts is to ensure people get an equal voice in Albany and Washington, D.C. But campaign promises to establish an independent redistricting commission are taking a back seat to the reality of politics. Once again, the Legislature will likely hold sway on how district lines change. Once again, the hope of more equitable representation will likely fall to the politics of party power and job security for incumbents

Duration: 30

Topic: US IMMIGRATION UNDEREMPLOYMENT

Synopsis: An analysis of the Migration Policy Institute, dedicated to immigration issues, estimates that 6.7 million immigrants with university degrees, 1.2 million jobs have under training. The analysis, based on a survey communities in the Census Bureau does not distinguish between legal and illegal immigrants. The waste of brains has implications for immigrants, employers and the wider economy, "said Jeanne Batalova, coauthor of a research on the topic. For the immigrant, it means earning less than the I could win. For employers, it means less labor skilled supply.

3/28/11

Duration: 30

Topic: OBAMA EDUCATION TOWNHALL

Synopsis: Univision hosted a first of its kind education town hall with President Barack Obama Monday night, as part of its education initiative "Es el momento." Obama used the occasion to argue for fewer standardized tests, saying they make education boring for students and also unfairly punish schools and teachers. The town hall was held at Columbia Heights Education Campus, in Washington DC, and served as a unique opportunity for the fastest growing community in the U.S. to engage President Obama in a dialogue focused on education. At the town hall, President Obama addressed questions from parents and students regarding the Dream Act, the importance of parental engagement, bullying, testing, educational funding and Hispanic teacher recruitment.

Duration: 30

Topic: IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Synopsis: Today human rights groups including the National Immigration Forum, the Rights Working Group, the Transnational Legal Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, the Immigration Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law, and the Women's Refugee Commission will present testimony about human rights violations in the U.S. government's immigration enforcement and detention systems before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Established by the United States and all countries in the Western hemisphere in 1959, the IACHR is authorized to examine allegations of human rights violations by countries including the U.S. The hearing will take place at 9:00 am in the offices of the IACHR at 1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC, and the U.S. government will send representatives to respond to allegations of abuse.

Duration: 30

Topic: BRACEROS COMPENSATION

Synopsis: Some 'braceros' have been waiting more than 50 years for payments promised to them by the Mexican government after legally working jobs in the U.S. They will hold a news conference and rally at the Mexican Consulate to express their "joy" over the recent decision by the Mexican government to begin compensating more than 40,000 of the former Mexican temporary workers in the United States.

3/29/11

Duration: 30

Topic: WALMART SUP COURT DECISION

Synopsis: Several Supreme Court justices sharply questioned Tuesday whether female employees at Wal-Mart Stores Inc can proceed with the largest class-action sex-discrimination lawsuit in history that seeks billions of dollars. At issue in the case was whether a small group of women who began the lawsuit 10 years ago against the world's largest retailer can represent a huge nationwide class that could total millions of women. After attorneys for Wal-Mart and for the employees presented arguments, a crowd of protesters that had gathered outside the Supreme Court shouted "fair pay now" and carried signs such as "Stop discounting the women of Wal-Mart" and "The women of Wal-Mart are not worthless."

Duration: 30

Topic: GAS PRICES

Synopsis: U.S retail gasoline demand was flat last week but fell compared with levels a year ago as higher prices pressured demand while an improved employment outlook provided support, MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse report showed Tuesday. Average gasoline demand fell 0.2 percent year-over-year, its fourth consecutive slip, MasterCard said. Demand was seen at 9.3 million barrels per day. Retail gasoline prices were also flat, at \$3.56 a gallon, for the first time since the start of February. Still, prices are 26.7 percent higher than a year ago, driven by the volatile oil markets and the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

Duration: 30

Topic: ADOLESCENT DEATHS OVERTAKE CHILD MORTALITY

Synopsis: Death rates among adolescents have overtaken those of young children, as increasing numbers of young males are dying through violence or injury while efforts to reduce child mortality are succeeding. A study of data from 50 countries over the second half of the 20th century found that most deaths of young people were due to incidents such as car accidents or reckless behavior, with violence and suicide also key causes of death. The findings, published in the Lancet medical journal on Tuesday, show the reversal of an historical trend and are partly a reflection of success in reducing death rates among very young children, the researchers said.

Duration: 30

Topic: VIRGINIA TECH FINED \$55,000

Synopsis: The U.S. Department of Education has fined Virginia Tech \$55,000 for waiting too long to notify students during a 2007 shooting rampage. The amount was the maximum fine Tech faced for two violations of the federal Clery Act, which requires timely reporting of crimes on campus. In announcing the fine Tuesday, department officials said the violation warranted a fine "far in excess" of \$55,000. Violations and fines are rare, with only a few dozen over the past two decades.

3/30/11

Duration: 30

Topic: US OIL PRICES

Synopsis: Natural gas prices climbed Wednesday as President Barack Obama said he wanted the U.S. to use more of it instead of foreign oil. Colder weather also pushed up prices, as forecasters predicted a cold snap for much of the country in coming weeks. Natural gas for May delivery rose 8 cents to \$4.339 per 1,000 cubic feet in afternoon trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices rose as Obama announced that he wants to cut the country's oil imports by a third by 2025. The President touted a series of initiatives, emphasizing that the U.S. could rely more on its own natural gas and biofuels to power vehicles and produce electricity.

Duration: 30

Topic: U.S. EXAMINES RELATION BETWEEN FOOD COLORING AND HYPERACTIVITY

Synopsis: The Food and Drug Administration of the United States (FDA) examines the link between coloring found in everyday foods and hyperactivity in children. In a two-day meeting that began Wednesday, an FDA advisory committee will decide whether the available data linking dyes with the disorder is sufficient. The panel will recommend whether the agency should further explore the question.

Duration: 30

Topic: DOMESTIC WORKERS PROTEST

Synopsis: In a domestic demonstration, Julia Quintero Munoz told of the terrifying experience she lived while working at a mansion in Los Angeles. The testimonies are multiplying and are common among these women. The move by the state of California assemblies is to protect the rights of workers who should get paid for overtime, double time and have the right to an 8-hour rest period.

03/31/2010

Duration: 30

Topic: GOP DRAFTS LEGISLATIVE ASSAULT ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Synopsis:

Congressional Republicans are drafting legislation that would require the federal government to develop a plan to add more fencing, sensors, agents and even drones to stop every illegal entry into the United States. The legislative effort offers another example of how a more conservative Congress has steered the immigration debate away from the Obama administration's two-pronged push for reforms and improved border security, and toward strict enforcement of immigration laws. In December, a lame-duck House controlled by Democrats passed the

Dream Act, a reform that would have created a path to citizenship for some young illegal immigrants in the U.S., but it was narrowly defeated in the Senate. The Democrats' Senate majority means the latest legislation is unlikely to pass, but the goal may be more political. By continuing to spearhead such measures, Republicans, who feel they are in agreement with most voters, hope to force Democrats to take a position on immigration issues in advance of the 2012 campaign.

Duration: 30

Topic: BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS AND FOOD DYES

Synopsis: The FDA is meeting in Washington, DC today and tomorrow to discuss the impact of certain food dyes. There is new evidence that suggests they could make some behavior disorders in children worse. It's lurking in every corner of the supermarket: In your sports drinks, in chips, in your cereals. And it might just be making your child act up.

Duration: 30

Topic: HISPANIC LABOR FORCE INCREASE

Synopsis:

Latinos earn less than whites or African Americans, the U.S. Labor Department says in a report released Thursday. "There are 50.5 million Latinos in the country," Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said in a conference call to present The Hispanic Labor Force in the Recovery, the first study of Latino workers at the national level. "At nearly 23 million, people of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity represented 15 percent of the United States labor force in 2010. By 2018, Hispanics are expected to comprise 18 percent of the labor force," the report says. The document said that while the recession officially ended in July 2009, overall unemployment peaked at 10.1 percent in October of that year, when joblessness among whites reached a high point of 9.4 percent. Black unemployment peaked in April 2010 at 16.5 percent, while the Hispanic jobless rate topped out at 13.2 percent last November. Last year, 59 percent of Hispanics 16 and older had jobs, compared with 59.4 percent among whites and 52.3 percent of blacks. Black women, however, were more likely to be employed than their white or Latino counterparts. A big disparity was seen in the educational level of the employed, with 36.1 percent of whites older than 25 holding a university degree in 2010 compared to 26 percent of blacks and 16.9 percent of Hispanics.

=====END OF MARCH 2011 REPORT=====



FCC Local Community Issues/ Programs Report

QTR: 1st

YEAR: 2011

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	MADRE (NEW 4TH QT 2010)
LENGTH:	30SEC	PROGRAM:	PSA
NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS RELATED TO THE PREVENTION AND TRATMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBTANCE USE DISORDERS AND TO ENSURE THE EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICE HAVE WORKED TO REDUCE ALCOHOL USE.			
DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	CLOWN (NEW 3 RD QT 2010)
LENGTH:	30SEC	PROGRAM:	PSA
NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO ENCOURAGE HOME OWNERS AT RISK OF LOSING THEIR HOMES TO SPEAK TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND CALL HOMEOWNERS HOPE HOTLINE.			
DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	CONSEQUENCES (NEW 4TH QT 2010)
LENGTH:	30SEC	PROGRAM:	PSA
NARRATIVE: THIS PSA HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DRIVES SPANISH SPEAKERS TO VISIT LISTO.GOV			

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	CONOCER LA DIFERENCIA (NEW 1 ST QT 2011)
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LENGTH: 30SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO EDUCATE OUR AUDIENCE AND TO SHOW THEM HOW IMPORTANT IS TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS WHEN IT COMES IN TO YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	BARRIERS (NEW 4TH QT 2010)
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LENGTH: 30SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO PROVIDE HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS WITH ACCESS TO INFORMATION THAT WILL GET THEM STARTED ON THE ROAD TO A GED DIPLOMA.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	VOCES DE LA MENINGITIS (NEW 1 ST QT 2011)
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LENGTH: 30SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO EDUCATE OUR VIEWERS AND TO TELL THEM THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING THEIR TEENAGERS VACCINATED AGAINST MENINGITIS, A DISEASE THAT CAN CAUSE DEATH.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	MONSTER (NEW 3 RD QT 2010)
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LENGTH: 30SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO MOTIVATE PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA TO LEARN ABOUT SPECIFIC ASTHMA TRIGGERS AND HOW THEY CAN HELP TO ELIMINATE THEM.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	ALZHEIMERS (NEW 1 ST QT 2011)
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LENGTH: 30SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO INFORM OUR COMMUNITY THAT THERE IS HELP WITH ALZHEIMERS AND ALASO IT ENCOURAGES OUR VIEWERS TO GET INFORMED ABOUT THIS DISEASE.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	HEALTHY TOMORROW (NEW 1 ST QT 2011)
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LENGTH: 30SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA DIRECTS FAMILIES TO WWW.LETSMOVE.GOV WHICH PROVIDES SCHOOLS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH SAMPLE TOOLS TO HELP KIDS BE MORE ACTIVE, EAT BETTER, AND GET HEALTHY.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	THE CAMPING TRIP (NEW 1 ST QT 2011)
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LENGTH: 30SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA HIGHLIGHTS PARENTS VISIONS OF PERFECTION VERSUS REALITY. PARENTS DO NOT ALWAYS SEE THINGS THE WAY KIDS DO. IT ILLUSTRATES TO POTENTIAL PARENTS THAT CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE DON'T NEED PERFECTION THEY NEED COMMENTMENT AND LOVE.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	JULIAN (NEW 3RD QT 2010)
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LENGTH: 30SEC

PROGRAM: PSA

NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO REINFORCE AMONG HISPANIC PARENTS THE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ROLE THEY MUST PLAY TO ASSURE THEIR CHILDREN GET A COLLEGE DEGREE.



**FCC Local Community
Issues/ Programs Report**

QTR: 1st

YEAR: 2011

DATE:	JAN-MARCH		TITLE:	PROTEJA SU CASA Y A SU FAMILIA (NEW 1ST QT 2011)
LENGTH:	20SEC	PROGRAM:	PSA	
NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO EDUCATE OUR AUDIENCE AND TO SHOW THEM HOW IMPORTANCE IS TO MAKE WISE DECISION WHEN IT COMES IN TO YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS.				
DATE:	JAN-MARCH		TITLE:	TREE CITY USA (NEW 1 ST QT 2011)
LENGTH:	10 SEC	PROGRAM:	PSA	
NARRATIVE: THIS PSA INSPIRE VIEWERS TO PLANT TREES IN THEIR COMMUNITY SO THE WATER THAT FLOWS INTO OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS WILL BE CLEAN AND SAFE.				
DATE:	JAN-MARCH		TITLE:	LA TIENDA DE MUSICA QUIEREN (NEW 3RD QT)
LENGTH:	20SEC	PROGRAM:	PSA	
NARRATIVE: THIS PSA MOTIVATES PEOPLE TO BE HONEST IN THEIR LIVES AND THAT IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESFUL HONESTY WILL LEAD THEM TO THAT PATH.				

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	MILK BOTTLE (NEW 2ND QT 2010)
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LENGTH: 10 SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO EDUCATE PARENTS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF LEAD PAINT POISONING AND DRIVE THEM TO TAKE ACTION TO SAFEGUARD THEIR CHILDREN.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	BED (NEW 3 RD QT 2010)
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LENGTH: 15SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO MOTIVATE PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA TO LEARN ABOUT SPECIFIC ASTHMA TRIGGERS AND HOW THEY CAN HELP TO ELIMINATE THEM.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	POST CRASH (NEW 3 RD QT 2010)
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LENGTH: 15 SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA IS TO ALERT THE COMMUNITY THAT DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL CAN CAUSE ACCIDENTS OR EVEN DEATH.

DATE:	JAN-MARCH	TITLE:	DESPUES DE LA BATALLA (NEW 4TH QT 2010)
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LENGTH: 15SEC	PROGRAM: PSA
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NARRATIVE: THIS PSA FEATURERS A WOUNDED SOLDIER AND ALSO IT INDICATES THAT THERES ALWAYS HELP FOR SOLDIERS THAT SUFFERED INJURIES WHILE THEY WERE SERVING THIS COUNTRY.

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LENGTH:		PROGRAM:	
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NARRATIVE:

DATE:			TITLE:	
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LENGTH:		PROGRAM:	
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AGENDA WASHINGTON / HOST: MARIO SOL / airs on WFDC Univision Washington

January 05th, 2011 - SHOW #01 NEW CONGRESS

GUESTS: EMILIO VIANO –AMERICAN UNIVERSITY- AND KATHERINE VARGAS –NATIONAL IMMIGRATION FORUM-

TOPIC: NEW CONGRESS

ON AIR WFDC: JANUARY THE 09TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: JANUARY THE 16TH, 2011 AT 7:30AM

January 12th, 2011 - SHOW #02 14th AMENDMENT

GUESTS: FRANK SHARRY –FROM AMERICA'S VOICE-, ILYA SHAPIRO –FROM CATO INSTITUTE- AND HECTOR SANCHEZ –FROM LCCLA-

TOPIC: 14TH AMENDMENT

ON AIR WFDC: JANUARY THE 16TH, 2010 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: OCTOBER THE 23RD, 2010 AT 7:30AM

January the 19th, 2011 - SHOW #03 CUBA

GUESTS: DAN RESTREPO FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND REP. DAVID RIVERA R-FL DISTRICT 25TH.

TOPIC: CUBA

ON AIR WFDC: JANUARY THE 23RD, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: JANUARY THE 30TH, 2011 AT 7:30AM

January the 26th, 2011 - SHOW # 04 VPH

GUEST: JOSE ROBERTO TRUJILLO M.D, Sc. D. NEUROVIROLOGIST AND PAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEUROVIROLOGY FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT.

ON AIR WFDC: JANUARY THE 30TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: FEBRUARY THE 06TH, 2011 AT 7:30AM

February the 02nd, 2011 - SHOW # 05 STRESS

GUESTS: CLAUDIA CAMPOS MHS. PSYCOLOGIST AND MARGARITA KULLICK MD.

TOPIC: STRESS

ON AIR WFDC: FEBRUARY THE 06TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: FEBRUARY THE 13TH, 2011 AT 7:30AM

February, the 09th 2011 - SHOW# 06 –HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

GUEST: JOSE MIGUEL VIVANCO – HUMAN RIGHT WATCH-

TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHT WATCH 2011 BOOK

ON AIR WFDC: FEBRUARY THE 13TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: FEBRUARY THE 20TH, 2011 AT 7:30AM

February the 16th, 2011 - SHOW# 07 SICA

GUEST: JUAN DANIEL ALEMAN GUARDIAN –CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM-

TOPIC: SICA

ON AIR WFDC: FEBRUARY THE 20TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: FEBRUARY THE 27TH, 2010 AT 7:30AM

February the 23rd, 2011 - SHOW # 08 BUDGET 2011-2012

GUESTS: LUIS MIRANDA –WHITE HOUSE-, MARICRUZ MAGOWAN –ECONOMIST AND REPUBLICAN ESTRATEGIST- AND CARLOS INDACOCHEA AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR-.

TOPIC: NATIONAL BUDGET 2011 - 2012

ON AIR WFDC: FEBRUARY THE 27TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: MARCH THE 06TH, 2011 AT 7:30AM

March the 02nd, 2011 – SHOW # 09 HISPANIC FARMERS DISCRIMINATION

GUESTS: FREDERICK PFAEFFLE –DEPARTAMENT OF AGRICULTURE- AND COLLETTE HARRELL –ATTORNEY AND HISPANIC FARMERS RIGHTS ORGANIZATION ACTIVIST-

TOPIC: HISPANIC FARMERS DISCRIMINATION

ON AIR WFDC: MARCH THE 06TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: MARCH THE 13TH, 2011 AT 7:30AM

March the 09th 2011 - SHOW# 10 – OIL - CRISIS-

GUESTS: LAJOS SZASDI –POLITIC ANALIST- AND JAIME BRITO CHEMICAL ENGINEER AND OIL ANALIST-.

TOPIC: OIL - CRISIS

ON AIR WFDC: MARCH THE 13TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: MARCH THE 20TH, 2010 AT 7:30AM

March the 16th, 2011 - SHOW# 11

GUESTS: JOE MUÑOZ -FROM THE INTERNAL RENT SERVICES IRS- AND HENRY ALDANA - CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT-

TOPIC: FEDERAL TAXES 2011

ON AIR WFDC: MARCH THE 20TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: MARCH THE 27TH, 2010 AT 7:30AM

March the 23rd, 2011 - SHOW# 12 -LATINOAMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL TOUR-

GUESTS: JULIO MARENCO -JOURNALIST AND PRESS CORRESPONDANT FOR LA PRENSA GRAFICA FROM EL SALVADOR- AND JUAN CARLOS HIDALGO -POLITIC ANALIST FROM CATO INSTITUTE-.

TOPIC: LATINOAMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL TOUR

ON AIR WFDC: MARCH THE 27TH, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: APRIL THE 03RD, 2011 AT 7:30AM

March the 30th, 2011 - SHOW# 13 -HILDA SOLIS-

GUEST: HILDA SOLIS -SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

TOPIC: SECRETARY HILDA SOLIS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

ON AIR WFDC: APRIL THE 03RD, 2011 AT 8:30AM

ON AIR WMDO: APRIL THE 10TH, 2011 AT 7:30AM