

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

July 1 - July 31, 2009

Airdate: JULY 1

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ARIZONA IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

Synopsis: The Arizona House has defeated a bill that would have made it the only state in the nation to criminalize the presence of illegal immigrants by expanding its trespassing law. The House voted 26-15 for the bill to expand Arizona's trespassing law Wednesday morning, but that was five votes short of the 31 needed for passage. The Senate approved the bill 16-11 earlier Wednesday. Supporters say an expanded trespassing law would provide a second layer of enforcement to help local police catch immigrants who slip past federal agents.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **RECESSION WILL END SOON**

Synopsis: The chief economist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said the end of the recession is "literally just around the corner," but there is a 15 percent to 20 percent chance of another economic downturn by late 2010. Those odds might seem low, but they're actually high since double-dip recessions are rare and the U.S. economy grows 95 percent of the time, said Marty Regalia. He predicted the current economic downturn will end around September, but the unemployment rate will remain high through the first half of next year. Inflation, however, looms as a potential problem because of the federal governments huge budget deficits and the massive amount of dollars pumped into the economy by the Federal Reserve he said.

Airdate: JULY 2

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT RECORD IN THE US**

Synopsis: The government says employers cut 467,000 jobs last month, raising the jobless rate to 9.5 percent. Obama says too many families are worried about whether they will be next. Obama also told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday he feels his administration has stabilized the housing and financial markets, while he acknowledged that more work needs to be done in the area of job creation.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA CRISIS: WORK WITHOUT PAYMENT**

Synopsis: With budget negotiators at a loggerheads and California government facing a cash crisis, the state controller's office will start printing IOUs this afternoon for the first time in 17 years. The presses are set to start at 2 p.m., churning out 28,742 IOUs worth \$53.3 million that will be dispatched mostly to residents throughout the state still awaiting their income-tax refunds. A panel of state finance officials will meet this morning to set the interest rate for banks and other financial institutions that decide to accept the IOUs. Some banks have agreed to honor them, including Bank of America, which will do so until July 10.

Airdate: JULY 3

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEPATITIS C, DENVER COLORADO**

Synopsis: A Rose Medical Center operating room technician who was fired after failing a drug test for a powerful pain medication may have exposed thousands of patients to hepatitis C. The technician, infected with hepatitis C, is charged with swapping her used dirty syringes, refilled with saline solution, for ones containing the painkiller fentanyl. Hospital officials said they knew the technician had the virus when she was hired.

Airdate: JULY 4

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SECURITY IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS**

Synopsis: Investigators were able to smuggle bomb-making materials past security at 10 federal buildings. Once GAO investigators got the materials in the buildings, the report said, they constructed explosive devices and carried them around inside. For security reasons, the GAO report did not give the location of the buildings. Security at these buildings and a total of about 9,000 federal buildings around the country is provided by the Federal Protective Service, a target of the probe. The report was made available to The Associated Press in advance of a hearing Wednesday of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTHCARE SPENDING**

Synopsis: The Obama administration announced a deal with three hospital groups Wednesday that will save \$155 billion in healthcare spending over 10 years, mainly by lowering charges for health services to the poor and elderly. Vice President Joe Biden said associations representing thousands of U.S. hospitals had agreed to contribute \$155 billion in Medicare and Medicaid savings for the next decade. Biden offered few details on how the savings would be achieved, saying only that they would come about as a result of delivery system reforms and trimming the annual inflationary adjustment to hospital reimbursement payments from the two government health programs

Airdate: JULY 5

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION BILL**

Synopsis: In an interview with The Associated Press, Sen. Chuck Schumer said an immigration bill can be done by the end of the year or early next year that works out disagreements between labor and business interests on the flow of legal foreign workers. Schumer said the way to get the bill done is to be very tough on future waves of illegal immigration. He declared himself pro-immigration and said the U.S. should encourage legal immigration and find some kind of path for people now here to find a way to legal citizenship.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **E-VERIFY**

Synopsis: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano today strengthened employment eligibility verification by announcing the Administration's support for a regulation that will award federal contracts only to employers who use E-Verify to check employee work authorization. The declaration came as Secretary Napolitano announced the Department's intention to rescind the Social Security No-Match Rule, which has never been implemented and has been blocked by court order, in favor of the more modern and effective E-Verify system.

Airdate: JULY 6

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 LATEST**

Synopsis: The U.S. government will fully pay for any autumn vaccination program against the new H1N1 swine flu, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Thursday. Although it is not certain Americans will be offered the vaccine, Sebelius said plans were on track for a mid-October vaccination program. "We have already appropriated about a billion dollars to buy the bulk ingredients," Sebelius told a swine flu "summit" of state and local leaders at the National Institutes of Health. She said another \$7.5 billion was available from emergency preparedness funds. The H1N1 flu virus continues to circulate in this country and in at least 100 other countries around the world - especially in the Southern Hemisphere, where flu season is underway.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HOMELESS IN THE US HAVE INCREASED**

Synopsis: A new report suggests the face of homelessness is changing. The Housing and Urban Development Department says the number of homeless remained steady between October 2007 and September 2008. But, more families and more people from the suburbs and rural communities found themselves among their ranks. HUD says the number of families within the about 1.6 million homeless grew by 9 percent. And officials say demand for transitional housing in the suburbs and rural areas grew from about a quarter to a third of those in need. A scaled down count to try and capture the effects of the economic meltdown on homelessness showed a slight up tick in people entering homeless shelters from January to March.

Airdate: JULY 7

Topic: **OPERATION FALCON**

Synopsis: Operation FALCON is a nationwide fugitive apprehension operation coordinated by the United States Marshals Service (USMS). The resources of federal, state, city and county law enforcement agencies are combined to locate and apprehend criminals wanted for crimes of violence. Since its inception in 2005, Operation FALCON has made 91,086 arrests and cleared 117,874 warrants and is the single most successful initiative aimed at apprehending violent fugitives in U.S. law enforcement history.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BANKS WONT TAKE IOUs**

Synopsis: At least mayor banks have stopped accepting the IOUs in California. State Controller started issuing the IOUs on July 2 to conserve cash, while lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger tussle over closing a \$26 billion budget gap. The state, has issued more than 90,000 IOUs worth nearly \$355 million.

Airdate: JULY 8

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA WELFARE**

Synopsis: The economic downturn has prompted activists to launch a campaign for an initiative that would, among other things, cut off welfare payments to the U.S.- born children of illegal immigrants. State welfare officials estimate that cutting off payments to illegal immigrants for their U.S.-born children could save about 640 million dollars annually if it survives legal challenges. California has roughly 2.7 million illegal residents, accounting for about 7 percent of the state's population.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA, 3 DAYS WITHOUT PAY**

Synopsis Most California state government offices will be closed Friday, the first of three monthly furlough days intended to save the state money. The shutdowns are part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's order to give state employees three days off a month without pay, effectively reducing their income about 14 percent. In February, the governor ordered workers to take two days off a month without pay. He recently expanded the furlough after lawmakers failed to cut employees' pay by an additional 5 percent.

Airdate: JULY 9

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WIRE TRANSFER FROM US TO EL SALVADOR**

Synopsis: Wire transfers from families in the US to their home countries are diminishing because of the economic crisis. Relatives in home countries are dealing with the changes and are having to adapt to the economic struggle so much so that some are starting to leave the US for Latin America to try to gain stability at home.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 OBESITY**

Synopsis: People who are obese but otherwise healthy may be at special risk of severe complications and death from the new H1N1 swine flu virus. US researchers described the cases of 10 patients at a Michigan hospital who were so ill they had to be put on ventilators. Three died. Nine of the 10 were obese; seven were severely obese, including two of the three who died. The study, published in advance in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's weekly report on death and disease, also suggests doctors can safely double the usual dose of oseltamivir, Roche AG's antiviral drug sold under the Tamiflu brand name.

Airdate: JULY 10

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HATE CRIMES**

Synopsis: Hate groups in the US are increasing. According to a legal group more than 100 hate groups have appeared in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. New Jersey is in fifth place with 40 groups in 30 cities, Pennsylvania follows with 37 in 23 cities and New York also makes the list with 24 groups in 10 cities. Hate groups are a national problem and have become more difficult to handle.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 QUARENTINE**

Synopsis: 400 jail mates were placed in quarantine in a San Diego, California jail after it became known that one of the inmates had contracted the H1N1 virus. The inmates were immediately placed in isolation cells and testing was ordered. Tamiflu is being administered as a preventive measure and it is being made available to employees who may have had contact with these inmates.

Airdate: JULY 11

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WHITE HOUSE: HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

Synopsis: The White House's economic advisers say jobs providing health care and helping the environment are growing more quickly than the rest of the economy. The Council of Economic Advisers on Monday releases a report that predicts changes in the U.S. labor market and details where the job market will expand. The report also outlines what training and education will help potential workers find jobs. The White House report predicts some manufacturing jobs would return, along with construction jobs, as the \$787 billion economic stimulus plan kicks in.

Airdate: JULY 12

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION LAW**

Synopsis: A new law in California to cut social benefits for undocumented immigrants and their children born in the United States is being proposed at the US Senate.

Airdate: JULY 13

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MORE MONEY FOR COLLEGES**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is proposing a multibillion-dollar investment in the nation's community colleges, \$12 billion effort to help the two-year institutions reach, teach and train more people for "the jobs of the future." Obama was outlining his four-part program in a speech Tuesday afternoon at Macomb Community College in Warren, Mich. Under the initiative, schools could qualify for "challenge grants" so they'll have money to try new programs, or expand training and counseling.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE BILL**

Synopsis: The House is due to release a massive health care overhaul bill today, amid grumblings about costs and an ultimatum from President Barack Obama. A determined president took note yesterday of stalled progress on his domestic centerpiece while he was out of the country -- and says he's putting everybody on notice. Obama says he knows Washington doesn't like making big changes, but this needs to be done.

Airdate: JULY 14

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CA-SCHOOL BUS CUTS PROTEST**

Synopsis: While California lawmakers grapple with the budget, hundreds of parents, kids and bus drivers gathered in front of the capitol Monday morning to protest the state's proposal to cut school buses. Lawmakers met all weekend to come up with a plan to alleviate the state's 26-billion dollar budget shortfall. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed a plan to cut funding for school buses. Parents and kids say it would be dangerous for the kids to have to walk across busy streets and it would also discourage some of them from attending school. The buses drove around the capitol to drive home the point to the governor not to cut school bus funding.

Airdate: JULY 15

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL**

Synopsis: The Senate health committee has passed a \$600-billion health-care reform plan. That comes a day after House Democratic leaders put forward their \$1.5-trillion proposal.

All the action is drawing praise from President Barack Obama. He wants both houses to finish their versions by the August recess so work on a compromise can start in September. Obama says leaders must step up and meet their responsibilities. He says health-care overhaul has been put off too long and that it's no longer an option to defer it to another day. Obama stood with nurses who support his broad plan

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HOMELAND SECURITY REAL ID**

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is promoting a new program to make driver's licenses more secure and less expensive than a plan pushed by the Bush administration. On Wednesday, she was to testify before a Senate committee considering legislation that would replace the former administration's Real ID card plan with something called a Pass ID. Those who support the new program say it would maintain the security requirements in current law. But others say the new ID would relax rules enacted after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Airdate: JULY 16

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBESITY IN THE US**

Synopsis: The obesity epidemic in the United States is hitting minorities the hardest, U.S. health officials report. Here are the hard numbers: Blacks have a 51 percent greater prevalence of obesity than whites, and Hispanics have 21 percent greater obesity prevalence than whites, according to researchers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Obesity rates also vary geographically. Among blacks and whites, the highest rates of obesity are in the South and Midwest. Among Hispanics, obesity rates were highest in the South, Midwest and West, according to the July 17 issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, a CDC publication.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ASYLUM-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Synopsis: The Department of Homeland Security has opened the door to the possibility that immigrants who have been victims of domestic violence could qualify for asylum.

The move, a change from the Bush administration, came to light when the government asked that the case of a Mexican woman who claims she was severely beaten by her common-law husband be sent back to an immigration court for further review. The woman's bid for asylum was turned down by an immigration judge in San Francisco a few years ago, and she appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Arlington, Va. The department urged that the case get further review, saying that in some cases, but not all, foreign domestic violence victims could be granted asylum.

Airdate: JULY 17

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTHCARE: US HOUSE PANEL PASSES BILL**

Synopsis: A key U.S. congressional committee approved healthcare legislation that includes a hefty tax on the rich but critics pointed to fresh warnings that President Barack Obama's health reform plan would do little to rein in skyrocketing spending. The House Ways and Means Committee agreed to raise taxes to pay for the plan's estimated \$1 trillion cost in part by higher taxes on couples making more than \$350,000. Critics argue that it would harm small businesses that fall into this tax category.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HATE CRIME BILL**

Synopsis: People attacked because of their sexual orientation or gender would receive federal protections under a Senate-approved measure that significantly expands the reach of hate crimes law. The Senate bill also would make it easier for federal prosecutors to step in when state or local authorities are unable or unwilling to pursue hate crimes.

Airdate: JULY 18

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA PRESSES ON FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM**

Synopsis: President Obama vowed to push ahead with healthcare reform, saying "we are going to have to get this done." Obama pledged that the packages being put together by Democrats in Congress will achieve two overriding goals: overhauling the healthcare system and eliminating unnecessary spending while not adding to the country's debt. Obama has been pressing Congress to move quickly on legislation since the spring, and his prodding seems to yield results.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ANTIIMMIGRANT INITIATIVE IN CALIFORNIA**

Synopsis: A California initiative aims to eliminate public benefits for illegal immigrants, cut off welfare payments for their children who are citizens and alter rules for birth certificates. The proposal, unveiled by San Diego political activist Ted Hilton, is believed to be one of the first attempts to end benefits for the U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants. Supporters hope to use the initiative to challenge the automatic citizenship of children born in the U.S. to parents here illegally. Immigrant supporters say the courts will almost certainly throw out the measure and that the initiative is plainly driven by racism and a desire to whip up xenophobia during difficult economic times for U.S. citizens.

Airdate: JULY 19

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WHITE HOUSE HEALTH PLAN**

Synopsis: The Obama Administration is confident that Congress will pass a national healthcare plan before August. Congress is currently working on legislation, but the final bill cannot add to the current deficit, or President Obama has said he will not sign it. Finding a way to pay for the health care overhaul is the focus of House and Senate members working on legislation to send to Obama.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **80% BANKS LENDING WITH HELP OF BAILOUT**

Synopsis: According to a new report from the special inspector general overseeing the government's financial rescue program, more than eight out of 10 banks responding saying money they received from the government has been used for loans or to avoid reduced lending. The government so far has invested more than \$200 billion in more than 600 banks under a program that began in October with investments in nine of the largest banks. Officials said the program is intended to increase the capital reserves of healthy banks, allowing them to make more loans

Airdate: JULY 20

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA'S FORECLOSURE PLAN**

Synopsis: The Obama Administration's plan to help millions of homeowners keeps their homes from going into foreclosure but many are not sure if it has really helped out. Families are still losing their houses because banks are not prepared to handle all of the cases that await them. The Department of State is pressuring banks to hire more personnel and train all employees to work out a solution for all affected homes and save them from foreclosure.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA RAIL CRASH LATEST**

Synopsis: Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board are looking into the San Francisco train crash that resulted in dozens of injuries this week. They are looking into why the operator switched the controls from automatic to manual in a tunnel near the West Portal Station. The train crashed into a parked train while going 23 mph and the operator never engaged the emergency brakes. The incident injured 48 people, four seriously but none of the injuries were life-threatening.

Airdate: JULY 21

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE LATEST**

Synopsis: With healthcare reform hanging in the balance, President Obama takes his case to the American people tonight. The President has dispatched his staff to go on the offensive and bring Democrats on board. Despite their efforts, some Conservative Democrats are still unwilling to support the plan in particular, the tax increases. The discord among Democrats is creating obstacles for Obama on both sides of the aisle.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: Apparently deterred by rising unemployment in the U.S., the number of Mexican immigrants who crossed the border dropped sharply in the past year to the lowest level in a decade, even while undocumented workers already here are opting to stay. The analysis of census data from both the U.S. and Mexican governments, being released Wednesday by the Pew Hispanic Center, highlights the impact of the economic downturn on Mexican immigrants, many of whom enter the United States illegally.

Airdate: JULY 22

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **JOE ARPAIO IMMIGRATION SWEEP**

Synopsis: Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is launching a "crime suppression operation" in Chandler and the Southeast Valley today, and some city officials fear the action will open wounds from Chandler's infamous 1997 immigration "roundup" that detained hundreds of legal residents and cost the city thousands in legal settlements. The Sheriff's Office provided few details other than the effort will involve about 200 deputies and posse volunteers and more information will come at an afternoon press conference. Chandler police officials said they were informed about the operation this morning.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is acknowledging the Senate won't make his deadline for a vote on overhauling health care, and he says, "That's OK." Speaking in a Cleveland suburb on Thursday, Obama said, "I just want people to keep on working." The president says he wants the plan to keep moving forward despite the delay. He says change cannot come quickly enough. He says Washington has delayed action far too long and he wants to sign health care legislation into law by the end of the year. Obama had hoped the House and Senate would pass separate legislation before leaving on an August recess. The Senate's top Democrat, however, said earlier on Thursday that his chamber would not meet the White House's goal.

Airdate: JULY 23

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE**

Synopsis: The federal minimum wage will rise to 7.25 from 6.55 an hour today for about 4 million workers in 30 states. The third increase in three years is aimed at giving workers at carwashes, restaurants, child-care centers and retail shops more buying power. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis said that the increase means about 120 extra a month and expects workers to spend much of that cash in their local communities.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU VACCINE**

Synopsis: The U.S. expects to have 160 million doses of swine flu vaccine available sometime in October, even though manufacturers worldwide are having serious trouble brewing the shots, federal health officials said Thursday. At the expected two doses a person, that much would cover only a fraction of the populations that this new influenza strain is sickening the most -- school-age children, teenagers and young adults. More vaccine would trickle out over the following months.

Airdate: JULY 24

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA EDUCATION PLAN**

Synopsis: President Obama is using the promise of 4-billion in federal aid for his "Race to the Top" program, and the threat of withholding it, to pressure education officials into accepting more charter schools and performance pay for teachers. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has been traveling the country for months warning state officials to embrace Obama Administration reforms or risk being cut off from the funds. "Race to the Top," is a competition for \$4.35-billion in grants. To be eligible states would have to ease limits on charter schools, tie teacher pay to student achievement and move for the first time toward common academic standards.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GUN CONTROL IN PROGRESS**

Synopsis: The U.S. Senate will consider today an amendment intended to bring a concealed firearms law closer to conformity with the letter and spirit of the Constitution. On Monday, Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) introduced an amendment to the defense authorization bill that would bring clarity to the tangled web of state laws regulating the right to carry concealed firearms. At present, complicated web of reciprocally recognized state-issued permits regulate such licenses for the concealed carry of a firearm.

Airdate: JULY 26

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CREDIT CARD DEBT RISES**

Synopsis: Cash-strapped older Americans are racking up credit card debt faster than other consumers amid dwindling retirement portfolios and rising medical costs, a study shows. The study, which will be released Tuesday by Demos, a liberal public policy group, shows that low- and middle-income consumers 65 and older carried \$10,235 in average card debt last year, up 26% from 2005. Card debt for all borrowers surveyed rose 3% during that time, to \$9,827.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA BUDGET**

Synopsis: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a revised \$85 billion budget Tuesday that he said contained "the good, the bad and the ugly," including additional cuts to child welfare programs, health care for the poor and AIDS prevention efforts. Schwarzenegger used his line-item veto authority to save an additional \$656 million that will let the state restore a reserve fund he said is needed for tough times. Democrats immediately questioned whether he had the authority to make some of the cuts. The new budget should help the state's cash crisis. It remained unclear, however, how soon the state could stop issuing thousands of IOUs to vendors and contractors.

Airdate: JULY 27

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA: "END OF THE RECESSION"**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Wednesday the United States may be starting to see the end of the 19-month recession and that his policies helped the country from plunging into a depression. Obama made a detailed defense of his economic policies, from bank and auto bailouts to stimulus spending, in the face of persistent criticism from Republicans that a \$787 billion economic stimulus plan has failed to stop the jobless rate from rising to 9.5 percent. Obama came to North Carolina to promote his plans to overhaul the U.S. healthcare system. But the first part of his opening remarks were about the U.S. economy.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA AND HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: Democratic leaders in the House have reached a deal with a group of fiscal conservatives in their own party on how to move forward with healthcare legislation, a leading lawmaker said Tuesday. Representative Mike Ross, who leads the so-called "Blue Dog" conservative coalition, said they had reached a deal with leadership after days of long negotiations. CNN said that under the agreement, a healthcare bill would be moved to committee by Friday but that the full House would not take the issue up until September after it returns from its month-long break.

Airdate: JULY 28

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU VACCINES**

Synopsis: U.S. government has taken delivery of 20 million doses of a vaccine against the new pandemic H1N1 swine flu, and should be ready to start an immunization campaign in October, officials said Wednesday. Vaccine advisers meeting in Atlanta may follow World Health Organization guidelines that put healthcare workers, pregnant women and patients with asthma and diabetes at the front of the line to get vaccinated. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices may also examine ways to manage a complicated U.S. flu season, with people getting seasonal influenza immunizations alongside swine flu vaccines.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRANT REMITTANCES**

Synopsis: Mexico's central bank is projecting a 7.5 percent economic contraction this year. Mexico sends 80 percent of its exports to the United States and has been hit hard by the slowdown in the U.S. economy. It also has seen a huge plunge in the amount of money Mexican migrants in the United States send home. Remittances are Mexico's largest source of foreign income after oil exports and they fell nearly 18 percent in the second quarter of 2009 compared to the same period last year. The central bank announced the figures Wednesday.

Airdate: JULY 29

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRANT DETENTION SYSTEM**

Synopsis: The dismal state of our immigration detention system makes it clear that the time is now for Congressional action to address our failing immigration system. Hundreds of thousands of people including women, children, asylum seekers - and even some U.S. citizens who have been mistakenly identified - are caught in a system in crisis. The Department of Homeland Security estimates it will detain over 440,000 individuals this year in a detention system plagued by deplorable conditions and rampant abuse. This poorly run detention complex exists at the expense of detainees' rights and U.S. taxpayers' dollars.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: Since taking office six months ago, Obama has made an overhaul of the costly U.S. healthcare system his main goal and he has personally pressed hard for passage, both with lawmakers and at campaign-style stops with voters. But as congressional discussions drag on, more Americans are voicing doubt over the reform plan, with many worried that a costly overhaul could reduce the quality of their care and limit choices of doctors. A New York Times/CBS News poll showed 69 percent of Americans were concerned their care would suffer if they were on a government-run plan.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NEW FHA-MAKING HOME AFFORDABLE LOAN MODIFICATION GUIDELINES**

Synopsis: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan today announced the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has implemented changes to its loan modification program to ensure consistency with the Obama Administration's Home Affordable Modification Program. By August 15, FHA borrowers will be able to significantly reduce their monthly mortgage payments by seeking a loan modification through their current mortgage company or loan servicer under the new *FHA-Home Affordable Modification Program (FHA-HAMP)*.

Airdate: JULY 30

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FEDS HAVE LIMITED POWER TO ARPAIO / RAIDS**

Synopsis: Federal investigators have limited powers at their disposal in their civil rights investigation into Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's immigration and crime sweeps. They would have to expand their inquiry if they want to be able to take stronger investigative tacks, such as subpoenaing records or convening a grand jury. The U.S. Justice Department remains mum on whether it is considering expanding its probe of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office beyond the civil rights inquiry. Critics of the sheriff are asking federal investigators to look at financial management, campaign finance and other tactics beyond the immigration raids involving the MCSO, according to officials familiar with the investigation who asked not to be identified.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **RECESSION IS WINDING OUT**

Synopsis: The economy sank at a pace of just 1 percent in the second quarter of the year, a new government report shows. It was a better-than-expected showing that provided the strongest signal yet that the longest recession since World War II is finally winding down. The dip in gross domestic product for the April-to-June period, reported by the Commerce Department on Friday, comes after the economy was in a free fall, tumbling at 6.4 percent pace in the first three months of this year. That was the sharpest downhill slide in nearly three decades. The economy has now contracted for a record four straight quarters, underscoring the grim toll of the recession on consumers and companies.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CASH FOR CLUNKERS**

Synopsis: The House raced Friday to pass legislation pouring an additional \$2 billion into the popular -- but financially strapped -- "cash for clunkers" car purchase program. Reps. Sander Levin, D-Mich., and Betty Sutton, D-Ohio, said the House planned to consider the additional funding after lawmakers from the two states were assured by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood that the program would continue while the Obama administration looked for more money. Democrats in the House were exploring the possibility of votes as early as Friday to replenish the funding. The Senate was not scheduled to vote on Friday but lawmakers hoped to win approval for additional funding next week.

Airdate: JULY 31

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE LATEST**

Synopsis: Democratic leaders say they have worked out a last-minute dispute, clearing the way for a sweeping health care bill to move ahead in the House. Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman of California said Friday he reached a deal with liberals and conservative Democrats on his panel. Earlier this week, Democratic leaders had settled differences with the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Democrats, but then liberals complained that too many concessions were made. They threatened to oppose the bill. Waxman said the agreement restores some of the subsidies to help low- and middle-income Americans get health insurance.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HONDA RECALL 440,000 CARS FOR AIRBAG RISK**

Synopsis: Honda Motor Co said on Friday that it is recalling another 440,000 vehicles -- including some of its best-selling Accord and Civic models -- for a potentially lethal airbag defect. Honda said that the airbag inflators in some of its top-selling sedans can rupture because of too much air pressure causing metal fragments to shoot through the airbag and strike vehicle occupants. One fatality and a number of injuries have been linked to the defect, Honda spokesman Sage Marie said. The recall covers certain 2001 and 2002 Accords, 2001 Civics and some 2002 and 2003 model Acura TL sedans. The driver's side airbag is the defective component on the affected vehicles.

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

August 1 - August 31, 2009

AUGUST 1

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Synopsis: U.S. President Barack Obama Saturday welcomed the latest vote by a House of Representatives committee on healthcare reform and urged lawmakers to keep up the momentum in the coming weeks. The third and last House panel, the Energy and Commerce Committee, approved its healthcare legislation by a vote of 31-28 late on Friday after accepting changes to win votes of some fiscal conservatives and hold liberal support.

AUGUST 2

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CASH FOR CLUNKERS**

Synopsis: The Obama administration says the popular "cash for clunkers" program will be suspended unless the Senate approves an additional \$2 billion. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in an interview with C-SPAN on Sunday that he expects the current \$1 billion in funding to be exhausted by the end of this weekend. The administration hopes the Senate will add \$2 billion to the government rebate program that gives consumers cash incentives to trade-in old gas guzzlers for more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **EXERCISE AND CANCER**

Synopsis: During an average follow-up of 16 years, 181 of the men died from cancer. Those who engaged in moderate- to high-intensity exercise for at least 30 minutes a day were 50% less likely to develop cancer compared with the other men. The researchers found that an increase of 1.2 metabolic units (oxygen consumption) was related to a decreased risk of cancer death, especially in lung and gastrointestinal cancers, after they took into account factors such as age, smoking, alcohol consumption, body mass index, and fiber/fat intake.

AUGUST 3

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CASH FOR CLUNKERS EXTENSION?**

Synopsis: With the "cash for clunkers" program essentially running on fumes, the Obama administration served notice on the Senate that it must pour in \$2 billion more to keep it on track. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood set the latest policy marker for the popular car-purchase program, saying Sunday that he thought the existing \$1 billion pool would be exhausted by the end of the weekend. Only the Senate can help at this point; the House last Friday voted for the money to be put into the popular program, and the House members have left on their summer recess.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA: NO TAX HIKE FOR MIDDLE CLASS**

Synopsis: The White House spokesman says President Barack Obama is committed to not raising taxes on U.S. families earning less than \$250,000. Robert Gibbs restated that assurance Monday after two top White House officials suggested over the weekend that they could not rule out tax increases as the administration struggles to cut the budget deficit in half in the coming years. In appearances on TV network news shows Sunday, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the White House was not ready to rule out a tax hike to lower the federal deficit. National Economic Council Director Larry Summers said Obama's proposed health care overhaul needs funding from somewhere. Gibbs said the president "has made a very clear commitment to not raise taxes on the middle class."

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA BENEFITS RETIRED AND ACTIVE MILITARY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Monday a new GI Bill for those who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan is an investment in both a new generation of veterans and the future of America. The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most comprehensive education benefit offered to veterans since President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the original GI Bill for World War II veterans in 1944. In the next decade, \$78 billion is expected to be paid out under it.

AUGUST 4

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CASH FOR CLUNKERS PROGRAM EXTENSION?**

Synopsis As dealerships and car shoppers alike wait for the Senate to decide the fate of "cash for clunkers," one question reigns: Deal or no deal? Many dealerships have stopped selling cars and trucks through the program while Washington decides whether to approve more money for it. In some cases, salesmen are only taking deposits and not letting customers drive new vehicles off the lot. Other dealers say the confusion is great for business, enticing customers afraid to miss out on a bargain. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid signaled Tuesday the Senate will vote to extend the program, which pays Americans up to \$4,500 to trade in their old cars and trucks for new ones that get better gas mileage, before senators go home Friday.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **POSTAL SERVICE OFFICES CLOSING**

Synopsis Financial losses in the Internet age are forcing the U.S. postal service to consider closing or combining nearly 700 facilities. A top postal official says managers will be studying the approximately 3,200 stations and branches across the country. They'll be considering factors such as customer access, impact on workers, real estate values and long-term Postal Service needs. The proposed changes come as people turn increasingly to the Internet to communicate and pay bills. Last year, mail volume fell by 9.5 billion pieces. That loss in volume is expected to nearly triple this year. But, at the same time, population growth and new business mean the post office has to serve 1.2 million new addresses every year. While Congress votes money for free mail delivery for the blind and to offer reduced rates to charities, the post office does not receive taxpayer funds for its operations.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA IMMIGRATION STRATEGY**

Synopsis After early pledges by President Obama that he would moderate the Bush administration's tough policy on immigration enforcement, his administration is pursuing an aggressive strategy for an illegal-immigration crackdown that relies significantly on programs started by his predecessor. A recent blitz of measures has antagonized immigrant groups and many of Mr. Obama's Hispanic supporters, who have opened a national campaign against them, including small street protests in New York and Los Angeles last week. The administration recently undertook audits of employee paperwork at hundreds of businesses, expanded a program to verify worker immigration status that has been widely criticized as flawed, bolstered a program of cooperation between federal and local law enforcement agencies, and rejected proposals for legally binding rules governing conditions in immigration detention centers

AUGUST 5

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CASH FOR CLUNKERS**

Synopsis Pressing colleagues to replenish the "cash-for-clunkers" program, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid warned lawmakers they might miss their August vacation takeoff plans Friday if they don't quickly pass the \$2 billion measure. "If we don't work something out on the cash for clunkers," Reid said from the Senate floor Wednesday morning, he would file motions to close debate. Under Senate procedure, that could mean votes on both Friday and Saturday, when lawmakers would otherwise be scattering for their coveted summer break.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA PROMISES HEALTHCARE REFORM THIS YEAR**

Synopsis: U.S. President Barack Obama promised Wednesday that an overhaul of the U.S. healthcare system would be approved by the U.S. Congress by the end of 2009.

AUGUST 6

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MEAT RECALL**

Synopsis: A Fresno based company has recalled more than 825-thousand pounds of ground beef products. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the recall is part of an ongoing investigation into a salmonella outbreak. The recalled meat was distributed to retailers in California, as well as Arizona, Colorado and Utah. The USDA says because the ground beef was re-packaged under different retail names, consumers should check with the store they bought the beef from. The recall involves meat from Beef Packers Inc. The items in question were produced between June 5th and June 23rd.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CASH FOR CLUNKERS**

Synopsis: The Senate is expected to add \$2 billion to the "cash-for-clunkers" program today, after considering some changes that are not likely to be approved. Majority Leader Harry Reid says a "significant majority" wants to move forward with the legislation, which would keep the program going until Labor Day. Reid agreed to allow senators to offer some amendments as a goodwill gesture to those who otherwise might try to delay a final vote on the measure already passed by the House.

AUGUST 7

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SCHOOLS CLOSE FOR INFLUENZA**

Synopsis: New U.S. guidelines for the pandemic of H1N1 swine flu released Friday discourage the early closure of schools, unless the virus becomes worse. But patients who get sick, including children, can return to school or work 24 hours after their fever breaks, instead of the full seven days previously recommended. As many as 800,000 people were infected in New York alone at the peak of the outbreak there.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT WENT DOWN IN JUNE**

Synopsis: Employers sharply scaled back layoffs in July, and the unemployment rate dipped for the first time in 15 months, sending a strong signal that the worst recession since World War II is finally ending. A net total of 247,000 jobs were lost last month, the fewest in a year. That compares with 443,000 jobs that disappeared in June. And the unemployment rate for July declined to 9.4 percent from 9.5 percent in June. The snapshot the Labor Department released Friday offered other encouraging news, too: Workers' hours nudged up after sinking to a record low in June, and paychecks grew after having stagnated or fallen.

AUGUST 8

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND YOUTH**

Synopsis: Local doctors are encouraging young people and pregnant women to get the vaccine against the H1N1 virus when it becomes available. Health officials call those groups the target population for the vaccine.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ORGANIC FOOD NOT MORE NUTRITIOUS**

Synopsis: A study, conducted by British researchers and published in the peer-reviewed American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, proved wrong the claim that organic food is more nutritious than conventionally grown. Researchers stated "there is no evidence of a difference" between organic and conventionally grown produce in 20 of 23 nutrient categories, including vitamin C, calcium and potassium. The researchers had similar results when comparing meats. Any nutritional differences they did find were not significant, they said.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM PROPOSAL**

Synopsis: President Obama says that he hopes to have in his hands a proposed immigration reform bill before the end of the year. Immigration reform would benefit the more than 12 million illegal immigrants currently living in the United States.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - H1N1 TOOL KIT**

Synopsis: The Department of Health is encouraging schools to isolate any students who show flu-like symptoms this fall. They're also sending home information packets filled with details parents, teachers and administrators need to know about the H1N1 virus or swine flu. The CDC is giving million of dollars to set up for vaccination and communication toolkits for schools but until then parents are advised to teach their kids about the importance of keeping their hands clean.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA WEEKLY ADDRESS**

Synopsis: President Obama, on his weekly address, talked about receiving positive news about the state of our economy. 247,000 jobs were lost in July - some 200,000 fewer jobs than in June, and far fewer than the nearly 700,000 a month that were lost at the beginning of the year. He added that a new foundation for future growth and prosperity must be established, and one of the key pillars of that new foundation is health insurance reform. A reform that he states is now closer to achieving than ever before.

AUGUST 9

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BREAST CANCER PATIENTS**

Synopsis: Women who have a mastectomy after being diagnosed with breast cancer seem to have a similar quality of life in the long term whether they have breast reconstruction surgery or not, a research review suggests. Many women who undergo mastectomy have breast reconstruction performed, either at the same time as the mastectomy or at a later point. Breast reconstruction is generally thought to improve women's quality of life in the long run, and some studies have suggested as much.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **INCENTIVES FOR ENGLISH CLASSES**

Synopsis: A proposed bill in New York looks to give companies an incentive if they help their employees learn English. This proposal would help the over half a million people including many Latinos in that city that currently speak another language. The language barrier has been one of the main obstacles for most immigrants that call the US home.

AUGUST 10

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA-IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: President Obama said in the Guadalajara Summit in Mexico that immigration reform remains a priority of his administration and that a draft bill probably would be introduced by the end of this year. He cautioned, however, that "I've got a lot on my plate," and said immigration reform would be addressed after the current health care debate concludes.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **RETIREMENT PLAN**

Synopsis: With the financial crisis more people claim they can't afford to save more than they currently do and for some Hispanics is worst, they haven't even started to save. In our segment "SU DINERO CUENTA" Luis Megiddo explains how the financial crisis is affecting some people that can't afford to retire.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTHCARE REFORM-NH**

Synopsis: Braced for a fight he never got, President Barack Obama went on the offensive in support of his health care plan Tuesday, urging a town hall audience not to listen to those who seek to "scare and mislead the American people." "For all the scare tactics out there, what is truly scary is if we do nothing," Obama told a friendly crowd of about 1,800 in a high school auditorium and a nationwide audience watching on cable television. The White House had been ready for an unruly reception from opponents of overhauling health care.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: JANET NAPOLITANO-\$30 MILLION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND DRUGS

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced \$30 million in federal grants Tuesday to prevent drug-fueled violence from spilling into the United States from Mexico, heralding it as the latest of several moves in recent months to bolster border enforcement. Law enforcement agencies in Texas will get nearly \$13 million, California and Arizona will get more than \$7 million each and New Mexico will receive nearly \$3 million under the federal Operation Stonegarden program.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: US CUSTOMS/BORDER PROTECTION SPEEDY BOATS

Synopsis: U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Monday unveiled a prototype vessel for high-speed pursuits of smugglers ferrying people and drugs from Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean. The 43-foot boat is faster, more stable and carries about twice as much fuel as CBP's current vessels, which were rolled out from 2001 to 2005. The \$875,000 prototype comes with infrared cameras and a sensor that gives detailed images as far as the horizon goes. Currently, agents often use goggles, which detect things only as far as the naked eye. CBP hopes to get funding to replace its fleet of about 65 vessels used for high-speed chases that are stationed in the Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Florida's Atlantic coast and in the Pacific Ocean near the borders with Canada and Mexico.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: ASPIRIN GOOD FOR COLON CANCER

Synopsis: Taking aspirin not only can help keep colon cancer from coming back, but it also can lower the risk of dying from the disease, U.S. researchers said Tuesday. Aspirin already occupies a prominent spot in many medicine cabinets. Daily use of low-dose aspirin can stave off heart attacks and strokes, as well as chase away aches and pains. Other studies have found it can reduce the risk of developing colon cancer. The latest study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, shows it can prevent colorectal cancer deaths.

AUGUST 12

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: FEDERAL RESERVE DECISION

Synopsis: The U.S. Federal Reserve said Wednesday it will extend to the end of October a program to buy longer-term government securities, and it kept interest rates steady near zero as expected. The Fed slashed interest rates to a range of between zero and 0.25 percent in December and has pumped hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy to stimulate economic activity in the worst recession in decades.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: WEIGHT LIFTING FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

Synopsis: For the over 2.4 million breast cancer survivors in the United States, swelling and discomfort of the limbs after surgery that removes lymph nodes or radiation to the nodes can be a chronic and incurable problem. The swelling, known as lymphedema, affects as many as a quarter of breast cancer survivors. For years it was thought that overexertion would aggravate this condition, and doctors cautioned patients against using the affected limb for things such as picking up children or carrying grocery bags. However, new research from the University of Pennsylvania shows that moderate weight lifting may actually LESSEN the severity of this condition.

AUGUST 13

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: HOME FORECLOSURES

Synopsis: A new report says a record number of homes received foreclosure notices in July. The report, by real estate website Realty Trac, says there has been a rise in initial notices of default banks and bank repossessions. California is among the four states with the most foreclosure activity. Nevada topped the list.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: WHITE HOUSE CAMPAIGN FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

Synopsis: Fighting for control of the health care debate, President Barack Obama is using political tactics and rhetorical devices honed in his White House campaign to regain the upper hand over increasingly vocal critics. In person and over the Internet, Mr. Obama is trying to counter intense public skepticism that's flared nationwide in recent weeks over Democrats' plans to overhaul the nation's health care system. It's his top domestic priority and arguably his most challenging political fight yet as president, in no small part because of the vast number of diverse stake-holders involved.

AUGUST 14

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: HEALTH CARE PLAN LATEST

Synopsis: President Barack Obama heads to Montana today for yet another town hall on health care reform. It appears he may run into protesters like those who have disrupted town halls held by members of Congress. A big rally is planned in the conservative suburb of Belgrade, outside Bozeman, Montana. Organizers say they expect up to 500 people. The town hall will be held in an airport hangar in Belgrade. Obama is scheduled to focus on a provision of the health care plan that would prevent insurance companies from dropping or limiting coverage for those who become seriously ill.

AUGUST 15

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: OBAMA HEALTH CARE DEBATE

Synopsis: President Barack Obama has made it clear that his efforts to reform the U.S. health care system have meaning to him personally. On Saturday, Mr. Obama invoked his own anguish over the death of a loved one as he challenged the notion that Democratic efforts to overhaul the nation's health care would include "death panels" that decided who would get care and who wouldn't.

AUGUST 16

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: SCHOOLS AND H1N1

Synopsis: The Obama administration says it's still hopeful an H-one-N-one vaccine will be ready in October. They are preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. The vaccine will be available about the 15th of October, but the regimen will take about five weeks. First shot, three weeks delay, second shot, and then about two weeks for full immunity. Preparation is under way. Schools are great partners for possible vaccine programs, beginning in the fall to get kids immunized as quickly as possible, because this is a children's flu.

AUGUST 17

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: Schools plan H1N1 vaccination clinics

Synopsis: New details are emerging about plans to vaccinate people against the H1N1 virus. Meanwhile, there is also word of a potential shortage of available vaccine. State health officials believe that demand across the country could delay the amount of vaccine Indiana gets initially, but once the supply catches up, the state would get its full allotment sometime after the first of October. Schools are already getting ready for the shipments to come in. Johnson County School officials are already in talks with a private vendor to put flu shot clinics in every school, as soon as a H1N1 vaccine is available, and as soon as the state can distribute it.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: IMMIGRATION REFORM MEETING

Synopsis: The White House is hosting an immigration discussion Thursday with advocates, religious groups, businesses and law enforcers as part of an effort to bring all parties to the heated debate into one room. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano will lead the discussion, said an official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting is not public. Homeland Security spokesman Matt Chandler said Napolitano has been holding similar meetings across the country during the past few weeks. He said Napolitano thinks it is important to speak directly to the people who are affected by the department's policies.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: HEALTH CARE PLAN REFORM

Synopsis: Given hardening Republican opposition to Congressional health care proposals, Democrats now say they see little chance of the minority's cooperation in approving any overhaul, and are increasingly focused on drawing support for a final plan from within their own ranks. Top Democrats said Tuesday that their go-it-alone view was being shaped by what they saw as Republicans' purposely strident tone against health care legislation during this month's Congressional recess, as well as remarks by leading Republicans that current proposals were flawed beyond repair.

AUGUST 18

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: SENIORS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

Synopsis: President Barack Obama's plan will be fairer to individuals and stop the discrimination and harmful practices of for-profit insurance companies. The legislation will end the practice of denying insurance because of pre-existing conditions and forbid termination of insurance if you become seriously ill. It will allow people to keep their doctor and their plan if they wish, and eliminate lifetime limits on health insurance coverage. Seniors will be helped. The plan by Obama and the Democratic Congress protects their choice of doctor. Health care reform will prevent a scheduled 20 percent cut in Medicare doctor payment rates next year, ensuring seniors can continue seeing their preferred doctors. The Obama plan will make preventive services affordable by eliminating co-payments and deductibles for preventive services in Medicare.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: HOUSING STARTS

Synopsis: A government report states construction of new homes and apartments is expected to grow 3.1 percent to seasonally adjusted annual rate of 600,000 units, according to economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters. Building permits, seen as a good indicator of future activity, are expected to rise 3 percent to an annual rate of 580,000 units. The National Association of Home Builders said Monday its housing market index rose in August to the highest point in more than a year. The Washington-based trade association's index rose one point to 18, a level not seen since June 2008.

AUGUST 19

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: MORE WOMEN DRIVING DRUNK

Synopsis: The number of women arrested for drunken driving has jumped nearly 30 percent in the past decade, a dangerous trend that was all too evident when a wrong-way crash involving a woman in New York killed eight people. The Transportation Department said the number of women arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs increased 28.8 percent between 1998 and 2007. The number of men arrested under the influence fell 7.5 percent during the same period.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: CATCH THE FLU THIS FALL? STAY HOME, NO DOCTOR'S NOTE REQUIRED

Synopsis: New federal guidelines released today ask business leaders to promote good hygiene in the workplace, develop plans for work continuity in the event of a flu outbreak, and encourage employees to get vaccinated for flu. Officials say companies need contingency plans that allow workers to telecommute and work in staggered shifts. And if a flu outbreak becomes severe, they say, companies may need to reduce face-to-face meetings or cut back on nonessential travel.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: CREDIT CARDS NEW LAW

Synopsis: This comes even as some provisions of the new law go into effect Thursday: Card issuers are now required to mail notices 21 days before their due dates and they must notify cardholders 45 days before any increase in the interest rate, fees or financial charges, or any other significant change occurs, on their account. Another provision gives cardholders the right to opt out of interest rate hikes and fee increases. Other provisions of the law start in February.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: TOBACCO MIGHT PRODUCE VACCINE FOR STOMACH VIRUS

Synopsis: Tobacco plants might yield a cheap and easy-to-administer vaccine against a pesky stomach virus called norovirus, U.S. researchers reported on Tuesday. They found a way to make tobacco produce a protein that can be used to make a nasal vaccine against norovirus, which causes diarrhea and vomiting, especially on cruise ships, in restaurants, schools and on military bases.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: ESTROGEN THERAPY USEFUL IN TREATING BREAST CANCER

Synopsis: Researchers report that the paradoxical strategy of treating breast cancers that have become resistant to anti-estrogen therapies with estrogen actually proved to be effective in some cases. On top of that, the estrogen even caused some of the tumors to become sensitive to anti-estrogen drugs again. Published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the findings could lead to a partial reversal in how metastasis breast cancer is now being treated, which involves the use of medicines to lower estrogen levels.

AUGUST 20

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: IMMIGRATION MEETING TODAY

Synopsis: A federal appeals court in California today ruled that a lawsuit filed on behalf of immigrants who have been detained for more than six months without receiving bond hearings can go forward as a class action. The immigrants are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, the ACLU, the Stanford Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic and the law firm of Sidley Austin LLP.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: HEALTH CARE REFORM

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is standing by his position that a public option for health insurance coverage should be considered as part of legislation to overhaul the health care system. In an interview Thursday with Philadelphia-based radio talk show host Michael Smerconish, Obama said that "the press got excited and some folks on the left got a little excited" when the administration last weekend made statements indicating that a publicly-run health insurance option was just one of several alternatives.

AUGUST 21

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: CASH FOR CLUNKERS LAST WEEKEND

Synopsis: As car shoppers head into the final weekend of the Cash for Clunkers program, a couple of car companies are offering cash advances for dealers. The Obama administration has announced the popular promotion will end Monday night after burning through about \$3 billion in just a month. The rebate money has been fronted by dealers, and many of them have complained of slow reimbursements from the government. Now, both Chrysler and General Motors say they will start making cash advances to help dealers with their cash flow.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: HOUSE SALES INCREASED 7%

Synopsis: The National Association of Realtors reports home sales in July posted the largest monthly increase in the last 10 years. Much of the credit is being given to first-time home buyers taking advantage of a temporary eight-thousand dollar tax credit. It's the fourth straight monthly increase, raising hopes that the housing crisis may be loosening its grip.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: CALIFORNIA GREEN LIGHT TO IMMIGRANT COURT

Synopsis: A federal appeals court gave the green light Thursday to a class-action lawsuit brought by immigrant detainees who claim the government unfairly denied their right to a hearing. A three-judge panel on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that an immigrant's case against Immigration and Customs Enforcement can go ahead as a class-action and should be heard by a federal court in Los Angeles. Court papers state Mexican immigrant Alejandro Rodriguez was detained for several years without a bond hearing while appealing a deportation order. The American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing the detainees, says immigrants should get a hearing within six months of their detention. "It is just about people getting their day in court," said Ahilan Arulanantham, director of immigrants' rights and national security for the ACLU of Southern California. Arulanantham said dozens of immigrants in Southern California will be covered by the lawsuit.

AUGUST 22

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTH CARE PLAN**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is calling for a "real debate" on health care, rather than one about the lies he says have been spread about Democratic health reform plans. He spoke at Democratic National Committee headquarters, after earlier assuring a radio audience that his health care overhaul will win congressional approval.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CASH FOR CLUNKERS LAST DAY**

Synopsis: AutoNation Inc., the nation's largest auto dealership chain, said Saturday it hit the brakes on the popular Cash for Clunkers program three days early because it wants to make sure it can submit the paperwork on thousands of sales to the government before a Monday evening deadline. Under the rebate program, dealerships need to enter their Cash for Clunkers sales into a government Web site before the program expires on Monday at 8 p.m. EDT so they can be reimbursed for the rebates of up to \$4,500.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA INCREASED**

Synopsis: California's jobless rate reached a fresh post-World War II high in July, climbing to 11.9%, a sobering reminder that though the nation's deep downturn may be nearing its end, the state's employment woes are far from over. Golden State employers cut their payrolls by 35,800 jobs in July, according to figures released Friday by the state Employment Development Department. That's a significant improvement over monthly losses that averaged 76,000 over the first half of the year.

AUGUST 23

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ECONOMY NEAR RECOVERY**

Synopsis: Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has told investors what they want to hear: The economy is indeed on the verge of recovery. And investors have responded Friday by enthusiastically buying stocks. Major stock indicators have all surged more than 1 percent and hit new highs for the year. And Treasury prices have tumbled and pushed yields sharply higher, as investors no longer felt they needed the safety of government debt. Bernanke told a Fed conference, "the prospects for a return to growth in the near term appear good." That sent the Dow Jones industrials soaring 155 points to 9,505. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 18 at 1,026 and the NASDAQ composite index is up 31 at 2,020. Advancing stocks are ahead of losers by 4 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.48 billion shares.

AUGUST 24

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS REDUCED**

Synopsis: Millions of seniors will receive smaller Social Security checks next year, and none of the 37 million seniors who receive Social Security will get an increase, according to an August forecast from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The CBO is also forecasting a zero COLA for 2011. In June, The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) became the first national group to call for an Emergency COLA for 2010. Since then, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) announced plans to introduce an Emergency COLA bill, expected later this month. Next year would mark the first time since automatic Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) went into effect in 1975 that seniors would fail to get an increase. Since automatic raises were established, seniors have never failed to receive an annual increase of less than 1.3 percent.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: AZ-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Synopsis: Immigration authorities are flying illegal immigrants deep into their native Mexico from Southern Arizona to discourage dangerous crossings in triple-digit desert heat. The twice-daily flights from Tucson to Mexico City are intended to keep immigrants away from border towns where they would likely run into smugglers who want to sneak them back into the U.S. "This is where the probability of losing their lives can really increase. We offer that opportunity for them to get out of that cycle," John Torres, a special adviser to the assistant secretary of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said Monday in Tucson. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security flights began Saturday for the sixth straight summer and will end Sept. 28. Tucson is the only spot in this country where the flights depart from. Arizona is the busiest illegal entry point into the U.S.

AUGUST 25

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: VOLUNTARY DEPORTATION PROGRAM

Synopsis: The U.S. government has begun flying illegal migrants caught in the Arizona desert back to Mexico under a voluntary repatriation program. Mexico's Foreign Relations Department says the twice-daily Tucson-to-Mexico City flights began Friday. It said Sunday that the annual summer program will run through Sept. 28. The U.S. federal government launched the program in summer 2004 after years of record-setting migrant deaths along the state's border with Mexico. Authorities say the goal is to save lives and discourage repeat crossings by transporting migrants closer to their homes in Mexico, instead of simply deporting them across the border.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS

Synopsis: Child abuse at four New York juvenile-detention centers is so severe that it violates constitutional protections against harm, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Justice. The investigation found that staff members, including those at two facilities in Tompkins County, are quick to use a high level of force that is disproportionate to youths' actions and to use restraints that result in an excessive number of injuries. The report said the state Office of Children and Family Services failed to adequately investigate the use of force and restraints by workers and often did not hold staff accountable for "gross violations" of the agency's policies on using force and restraints.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: BEN BERNANKE REAPPOINTED

Synopsis: U.S. President Barack Obama announced Tuesday morning the appointment of Ben Bernanke as the Federal Reserve's Chairman for a second term, electing to maintain continuity in the nation's most powerful economic policymaking job in a time of crisis. Obama made the announcement and credited Bernanke from aggressively pulling the economy from the brink. He says Bernanke tackled the crisis "with bold action and outside-the-box thinking" that helped limit the damage.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: SUGAR EXCESS

Synopsis: The American Heart Association is taking aim at the nation's sweet tooth, urging consumers to significantly cut back on the amount of sugar they get from such foods as soft drinks, cookies and ice cream. In a scientific statement issued, the organization says most women should limit their sugar intake to 100 calories, or about six teaspoons, a day; for men, the recommendation is 150 calories, or nine teaspoons. The recommendations are likely to prove challenging for many consumers to meet. Just one 12-ounce can of cola has about 130 calories, or eight teaspoons of sugar. Data gathered during a national nutrition survey between 2001 and 2004 suggest that Americans consume on average 355 calories, or more than 22 teaspoons, of sugar a day.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: LENGTHY GREEN CARD APPLICATIONS WAIT

Synopsis: Hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers are trying to stay in the United States. The wait is often long. The backlog of foreign workers seeking green cards, which allow immigrants to live and work in the United States permanently, numbers more than 330,000. In September, the Department of Labor set up centers in Philadelphia and Dallas to quicken the first step of processing for employment-based green cards. But while the federal agency said it has spent time and money to ease a complicated traffic jam, immigrants, their employers and lawyers have been growing impatient. Government officials say the wait has been too long for most of the immigrant workers hoping for their green cards.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: SWINE FLU PREDICTIONS

Synopsis: The latest government projections paint a disturbing picture of how bad the swine flu may get in coming months. Experts say tens of thousands could die-- most of whom would likely be young. In a dire new warning, government health officials predict that half the country could become infected with the H1N1 swine flu this year.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: LINK HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE WITH LOSS OF MEMORY

Synopsis: People as young as 45 with high blood pressure are more likely to have memory troubles, U.S. researchers said in a study suggesting aggressive early treatment of the condition may pay huge dividends. They said people with high diastolic blood pressure were more likely than those with normal readings to have problems with memory and thinking called cognitive impairment. The study, published in the Neurology Journal, is the largest to look at the link between high blood pressure and memory problems.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: RISE IN MORTGAGE DELINQUENCY

Synopsis: Mortgage delinquencies will continue to rise and set records the rest of this year in California, according to projections released by TransUnion, one of the three big U.S. credit-reporting companies. So in the immediate future the percentage of California home loans that are delinquent at least 60 days or are in foreclosure is projected to skyrocket to more than 14% by year's end from 9.7% as of June 30, TransUnion said. The good news from TransUnion's number-crunching is that, even in the tarnished Golden State, the trend may finally reverse itself by the middle of next year.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: ALCOHOL LINKED TO CANCER IN MEN

Synopsis: Men who drink beer or liquor on a regular basis may face a heightened risk of several different types of cancer, according to a Canadian study. These included cancers of the esophagus, stomach, colon, lungs, pancreas, liver and prostate. When the researchers looked at individual types of alcohol, though, only beer and "spirits" -- and not wine -- were linked to elevated cancer risks

AUGUST 26

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **E-VERIFY IN LOS ANGELES**

Synopsis: Los Angeles County is exploring the possibility of requiring future contractors to participate in a federal program that checks whether employees are legal residents authorized to work in the United States. The Board of Supervisors voted 5 to 0 Tuesday to have county officials review E-Verify and make a recommendation on mandating the program for contractors, which could include drug treatment facilities, construction companies and foster family agencies. E-Verify is a free, online program that uses federal databases to verify that new hires are in the country legally and eligible to work. The Obama administration has promoted the program and is encouraging businesses to enroll. Beginning Sept. 8, the federal government will award contracts only to companies that enroll in E-Verify.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BLINDS RECALL**

Synopsis: The Consumer Product Safety Commission announced recalls of millions of window blinds and shades Wednesday. Six companies are participating in the recalls, which were prompted by the deaths of three children who got caught in the cords. All three deaths involved blinds or shades made or imported by Vertical Land Inc. in Florida and Lewis Hyman Inc. in California. Pottery Barn Kids and IKEA are also participating in the recall.

AUGUST 27

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **PEOPLE MIGHT LOOSE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Synopsis: Up to 1.5 million unemployed workers are set to lose their jobless benefits by the end of the year, according to a media report Sunday. As many as 500,000 unemployed are estimated to use up their benefits by the end of September, the New York Times reported in its online edition, citing statistics compiled by the National Employment Law Project. According to the statistics, 31 states have three-month average unemployment rates of more than 8% with 400,000 jobless workers losing benefits by the end of September. In 13 states and the District of Columbia which have unemployment rates of more than 10%, about 230,000 workers are set to lose benefits by the end of September. About 9 million Americans currently are collecting unemployment insurance, according to the Times.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION DEPORTATION**

Synopsis: Beginning today, law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County will benefit from a new initiative developed by the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS) that modernizes the process used to accurately identify and remove dangerous criminal aliens from the community. The Secure Communities initiative is administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Secure Communities enables ICE to determine whether an individual arrested by a participating state or local law enforcement agency is a dangerous criminal alien and take the appropriate action to remove the individual from the community.

AUGUST 29

Topic: AGENCIES EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Duration: 30 sec

Synopsis: On this fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, President Barack Obama assured Americans that the government is better prepared to handle such a catastrophe in the future. In his weekly radio address, he also promised to make sure that turf battles and red tape don't slow down the continuing recovery along the Gulf Coast.

Topic: WHO ON H1N1

Duration: 30 sec

Synopsis: Doctors are reporting a severe form of swine flu that goes straight to the lungs, causing severe illness in otherwise healthy young people and requiring expensive hospital treatment, the World Health Organization said. Some countries are reporting that as many as 15 percent of patients hospitalized with the new H1N1 pandemic virus need intensive care, further straining already overburdened healthcare systems, WHO said in an update on the pandemic.

AUGUST 30

Topic: HEALTH CAMPAIGN

Duration: 30 sec

Synopsis: Conservative political activists associated with the so-called 'Tea Party' protests have started a cross-country bus convoy dubbed the Tea Party Express. They plan to stop in 33 cities. Tea Party Express organizer Mark Williams, also a conservative talk show host, said there is a lot of dissatisfaction in the country right now focused on issues from health care reform to the national debt.

AUGUST 31

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: NEW FLU HIT ESTIMATED 10 PERCENT OF NEW YORKERS

Synopsis: The new H1N1 swine flu is estimated to have infected about 800,000 people in New York City in the spring, a top U.S. health official said on Sunday, citing a study due to be released later this week. Dr. Thomas Frieden, who heads the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said surveys suggested the virus was widely spread around the city. Frieden was New York City's health commissioner before taking the top CDC job in June.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEARING DATE SET ON POSSIBLE KENNEDY REPLACEMENT**

Synopsis: Massachusetts legislators have scheduled a public hearing on whether to change state law to allow the governor to name an interim replacement for the late Sen. Edward Kennedy. Lawmakers decided Monday to set the hearing for Sept. 9. Kennedy himself requested the law change, which Gov. Deval Patrick supports. Patrick on Monday set a date of Jan. 19 for a special election to fill Kennedy's seat. The primary will be Dec. 8. Possible contenders include Kennedy's widow Vicki Kennedy, nephew and former Rep. Joseph Kennedy, Attorney General Martha Coakley, and several members of the state's congressional delegation. Patrick says Vicki Kennedy has told him she is not interested in being appointed as an interim replacement.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **RIDGE: TALK OF TERROR-ALERT POLITICS EXAGGERATED**

Synopsis: Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Monday people "are hyperventilating" about his assertion that politics played a role in talk of raising the terror alert before the 2004 elections. "A consensus was reached. We didn't go up. The process worked," Ridge said in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America." The former Pennsylvania governor, however, did not take back the statement in his new book, "The Test of Our Times: America Under Siege," that he worried at the time that politics was a consideration in discussions among high-level officials about whether to raise the color-coded terror alert to a higher level.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **AMERICANS MORE CONFIDENT ON HEALTHCARE COSTS -POLL**

Synopsis: Fewer Americans are afraid that they will be unable to pay for healthcare services and fewer expect to postpone medical treatments due to costs, according to a Thomson Reuters survey published Monday. Researchers found a steady increase in people's confidence about their ability to pay for healthcare services -- it rose 12 percent between March and July this year. The survey of 3,000 households showed, unsurprisingly, that people who made more money were more confident they could pay for medical care, and people who had insurance were far more confident about paying than those who lacked insurance.

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

September 1 – September 30, 2009

September 1

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU PREPAREDNESS**

Synopsis: With a potentially deadly swine flu outbreak looming, President Barack Obama is urging Americans to take steps to prevent infection. Obama was briefed Tuesday on the nation's preparedness for swine flu by senior officials, including Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. Following the meeting, Obama said the government is preparing across all levels, but all Americans have a role to play in the response.

September 2

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **LOW-WAGE WORKERS ARE OFTEN CHEATED**

The study, the most comprehensive examination of wage-law violations in a decade, also found that 68 percent of the workers interviewed had experienced at least one pay-related violation in the previous work week.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HOMELAND SECURITY: NEW INFECTIONS EXPECTED**

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says people should expect "a big influx" of swine flu cases this fall and brace for it as best they can. Napolitano also said in a nationally broadcasted interview Wednesday that many cases are likely to surface before a vaccine for H1N1 is available, probably no earlier than mid-October. She said "the best things we all can do are the very simple things" like thorough and frequent hand-washing and coughing into the sleeve. Napolitano appeared on NBC's "Today" show a day after President Barack Obama got a briefing on federal plans for the virus and said that people should be prepared but not alarmed.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **POST OFFICE FACILITIES FACING CLOSURE CUT TO 413**

The Postal Service has narrowed the number of offices facing possible closure to 413. The service is struggling with a sharp decline in mail volume caused by the recession and the movement of traditional mail to the Internet. Postal officials say the agency could have a deficit as large as \$7 billion this year. Being on the list doesn't guarantee closing, but the list of offices selected for a closer look had neared 700 at one point.

September 3

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU VACCINE**

Synopsis: The World Health Organization announced that there might not be sufficient vaccines to prevent the swine flu. This might be a problem due to the contagious increase during the fall.

September 4

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT RISE**

Synopsis: The unemployment rate rose to 9.7 percent in August, the highest since June 1983, as employers eliminated a net total of 216,000 jobs. Analysts expect businesses will be reluctant to hire until they are convinced the economy is on a firm path to recovery. Many private economists and the Federal Reserve expect the unemployment rate to top 10 percent by the end of this year.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NEW SURVEY FINDS MORE POOR SENIOR**

Synopsis: A new survey conducted by UCLA finds more poor seniors in California than many had realized. Almost half of California seniors are poor, according to the research. The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research report measured economic stability by the real costs to eat, travel and pay for medical costs and housing in each of California's 58 counties. Its findings reveal 47 percent of state residents 65 and older are unable to pay for their basic needs. That's 864,000 seniors, more than half of whom struggle at home alone.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ALZHEIMER NEW CHROMOSOME**

Synopsis: In the largest genome-wide association study reported to date involving Alzheimer's disease, scientists have identified two new possible genetic risk factors for late-onset Alzheimer's, the most common form of the disease. The study not only associated variations in the sequence of the CLU and PICALM genes with increased risk, but also found another 13 gene variants that merit further investigation.

September 5

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 IN YOUNG PEOPLE**

Synopsis: New information from the U-S Secretary of Health indicates H1N1 has become the "young people's disease," as H1N1 and any flu virus can spread quickly through day cares and pre-schools. Health officials say 8 of the children in the U-S who died from H1N1 did not have underlying health issues, but developed pneumonia. Also late Friday the CDC announced that children under 5 years of age should be the first in line to get an H1N1 vaccination which will be available in mid-October.

September 6

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH REFORM**

Synopsis: The White House won't say if President Barack Obama is still insisting on a government health insurance option as part of a health reform plan. Political adviser David Axelrod says Obama isn't "walking away" from the public option. But he wouldn't say whether Obama would veto a bill that came to him without the option.

September 7

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ALZHEIMER'S GENE**

Synopsis: The first new genes tied to Alzheimer's disease in a decade have been identified by European scientists, adding insight into the biology of the most common cause of dementia and potentially leading to treatments.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HISPANICS HAVE A HIGHER RISK OF ACCIDENTS AT WORK**

Synopsis: A recent National Council of La Raza report shows just how bleak it is: two out of every five Latino workers do not earn sufficient wages to keep their families out of poverty; barely half of employed Hispanics have health insurance through their employers; Latinos are more likely to be victims of employers who fail to pay the compensation due; and Latinos take on the most dangerous jobs with little occupational safety in workplaces that are poorly regulated.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ROBOT HELPS CRACK AUTISM**

Synopsis: One of the biggest challenges for parents and therapists is predicting and understanding the emotions and feelings of a child with autism. Now, robots may be able to "understand" what humans can't.

September 8

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **E-VERIFY FOR WORKERS**

Synopsis: Businesses that for months resisted a federal mandate to screen for illegal workers are now scrambling to meet a fast-approaching compliance deadline. Starting today, companies with federal contracts must enroll in E-Verify, an Internet-based system run by the Department of Homeland Security, to check the immigration status of both current workers and prospective hires.

September 9

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA'S SPEECH TO CONGRESS**

President Barack Obama will tell Congress tonight that he's still open to bipartisan health care solutions. But according to excerpts of his speech, Obama also warns that he will not allow special interests to keep health care coverage as it is, and he says he will call out those who misrepresent what's in the plan. President Barack Obama says "the time for bickering" about health is over. In excerpts from his speech tonight released by the White House, Obama says this is now "the season for action." He's urging lawmakers to set aside partisanship in favor of drafting a bill that can benefit millions of people with insurance -- and the many more without it.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **LAWMAKER CAUGHT ON TAPE BRAGGING ABOUT HAVING SEX WITH LOBBYISTS**

A state lawmaker from Southern California is making apologies after being caught on videotape bragging about having sex with female lobbyists. On his campaign Web site, assemblyman Mike Duvall says he "made a mistake" and "deeply" regrets the comments. He's been ousted from two legislative committees over the incident and been asked to resign a GOP leadership position.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FED SURVEY: MOST OF U. S. IN ECONOMIC HEALING MODE**

A new government survey finds the vast majority of the country reporting economic activity is stabilizing or improving, as the worst recession since the 1930s appears to be over. The Federal Reserve's snapshot of economic conditions backs predictions by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and most other analysts that the economy has started to grow again in the current quarter. In the new survey, all but one of the Fed's 12 regions indicated that economic activity was "stable," showed "signs of stabilization" or had "firmed." The one exception was the St. Louis region, which continued to report that the pace of decline in economic activity appeared to be "moderating."

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **VOTER FRAUD - ACORN TURNS IN FLA. WORKERS ON VOTER FRAUD CHARGES**

The grassroots group ACORN says it's proof that it's committed to the integrity of its voter registration work. The group has tipped off authorities to possible wrongdoing by its own workers. As a result, authorities in Florida have started arresting 11 people suspected of falsifying hundreds of voter applications during a registration drive last year. ACORN has been accused by Republican and conservative activists of fraudulently registering voters.

September 10

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CENSUS / PEOPLE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE**

Synopsis: New figures due out from the Census Bureau today could have an impact on the health care debate. Two years ago, the Census found 46 million people uninsured. Now, thanks to the recession, that number is likely to be way up. If so, that could add billions of dollars to the president's already costly overhaul. But experts on both sides have big doubts about the numbers, saying they could be off by millions either way.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTH REFORM**

Synopsis: Last night's speech to Congress was just the beginning, as President Barack Obama tries to keep health care reform in the spotlight in the coming days. He heads to Minnesota for a rally Saturday, and has another speech scheduled Tuesday. Speaking at a Cabinet meeting today, Obama said "the time for talk is winding down." Obama says he's accepted the apology from the congressman who shouted "You lie!" at him during Obama's health care speech last night.

September 11

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE**

Synopsis: More than 25 citizenship events are being held across the country this September to help thousands of eligible immigrants apply for U.S. citizenship. The nationwide push comes as the citizenship fee increase and economic recession have contributed to a decrease in naturalization applications. In an effort to support eligible immigrants facing increased economic hurdles, this month's workshops-which will take place in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia-will provide free and low cost legal and administrative support to help eligible immigrants prepare and submit their applications.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH REFORM AND IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: There is a question about whether Democratic health-care legislation would extend coverage to illegal immigrants. Although the answer is more complicated than reform proponents acknowledge, it also does not square with the dark warnings of opponents who say the proposals would bring waves of undocumented immigrants into taxpayer-funded plans.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 LATEST**

Synopsis: Health officials say influenza is circulating unusually early this year with cases in every state -- and nearly all the infections are swine flu. The highest concentrations of flu cases are in the Southeast and a few other states. The report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Friday also came with good news: Testing of vaccines for swine flu show that they work with a single dose and take effect rapidly. Supplies of swine flu vaccine are expected to be available in mid-October.

September 12

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTHCARE REFORM**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says he'll be held responsible for any problems once a health care overhaul becomes law, so he has every reason to get it right. Heading to a rally Saturday in Minneapolis, the president focus on government figures showing that nearly half of all Americans live without health insurance in a 10-year period. He said the situation will worsen without the changes he wants and that losing coverage can happen to anyone.

September 13

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTHCARE REFORM**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says he's confident Congress will pass "a good health care bill." In an interview on CBS' "60 Minutes," the president says he thinks the health reform measure will help the American people reduce costs and control the deficit over the long term. At the same time, Obama was critical of Republican opponents who he said are trying to block an overhaul of the nation's health care system for political gain. Obama is trying to sweeten the deal for Republicans by indicating he is open to their ideas.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINES FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER**

Synopsis: The nation's first round of swine flu shots could begin sooner than expected, with some vaccine available as early as the first week of October, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Sunday. Sebelius said she is confident the vaccine will be available early enough to beat the peak of the expected flu season this fall and that early doses are intended for health care workers and other high-priority groups.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TALL AND HAPPY**

Synopsis: Taller men are happier than shorter men. They're also blessed with fewer worries and don't get as sad or angry. These results are based on a study out of Princeton University published in the journal of *Economics and Human Biology*. Angus Deaton, a professor of Economics and International Affairs, interviewed 454,000 people on the phone and asked them to judge their life on a scale of one to ten, with one being the "worst possible life for you" and ten the "best possible life for you." The researchers also noted each person's height.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **RECESSION LAYOFFS MAY THREATEN BLOOD BANKS RESERVE**

Synopsis: Corporate blood drives help to bolster local blood supplies across the country, but as the U.S. unemployment rate hit 9.7 percent last month, blood banks are starting to feel the pinch. Before the recession hit, Jacksonville's blood bank would pull its buses up to the Anheuser-Busch brewery and pump 300 units of blood from employees. Then came buyouts, retirements and layoffs. During the company's last blood drive, the Blood Alliance only collected about 45 units.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GAS PRICES**

Synopsis: The average price of a gallon of gasoline is falling. The latest Lundberg Survey says a gallon of regular unleaded averages \$2.59 nationwide. That is about a nickel cheaper than three weeks ago. As of Friday, motorists in St. Louis were paying the lowest prices, about \$2.26 a gallon. Anchorage has the most expensive gas at \$3.27 a gallon.

September 14

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CELL PHONES BAD FOR HEALTH**

Synopsis: A new study says all cell phones emit radiation and some much more than others, posing a serious health risk for users of cellular phones. The Environmental Working Group is warning that using a cell phone for 10 years or more significantly increases a person's risk for certain types of brain cancer. Children are especially vulnerable because their skulls are thinner so they absorb about twice the radiation of an adult.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH REFORM LATEST**

Synopsis: In a sharp change of rhetoric by liberal supporters of an immigration overhaul, advocates Monday called a main opposition group a "hate group" based on its founder's ties to white supremacists and interest in racist ideas, such as eugenics.

September 15

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: As Congress's debate over health-care legislation lumbers toward a defining test for the Obama presidency, partisans on both sides of another issue -- immigration -- escalated their own proxy war this week, concluding that the fates of the two issues have become politically linked. Trying to beat back a furor over whether President Obama's centerpiece initiative would subsidize health care for illegal immigrants, liberal supporters of an immigration overhaul on Monday called a main proponent of that claim a "hate group," citing its founder's ties to white supremacists and interest in racist ideas, such as eugenics.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU VACCINES**

Synopsis: The Food and Drug Administration approved the new swine flu vaccine Tuesday, a long-anticipated step as the government works to get vaccinations under way next month. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the vaccine's approval to Congress -- and says she hopes to get the first limited supplies distributed early in October.

September 16

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TAX CREDIT FOR HOME BUYERS**

Synopsis: The White House is considering extending an \$8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers, which has helped to boost sales by more than 1 million this year. Spokesman Robert Gibbs said the administration's economic team is evaluating the tax credit's effect on new home sales and will soon make a recommendation to the president. The credit covers up to 10 percent of a home's price - as much as \$8,000 - for first-time buyers, but sales must be finalized by the end of November. If the credit is not extended past that date, the upward trend in housing sales could be reversed, real estate agents and builders said.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TAXES ON SODAS**

Synopsis: A group of academic and state specialists in public health, including Dr. David Ludwig of Children's Hospital Boston and Dr. Walter Willett of the Harvard School of Public Health, reviewed research linking sugary drinks not just to weight gain but also to diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The Journal authors say that taxes can cut consumption by making it too expensive and finance health programs with the proceeds, following the model of programs to curb smoking.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MORTGAGE FRAUDS**

Synopsis: Calling fraudulent mortgage rescue schemes an "epidemic," several U.S. federal and state agencies pledged Thursday to ramp up efforts to investigate and crack down on abuses as many Americans scramble to avoid foreclosure on their homes.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FAT GOES TO THE BRAIN**

Synopsis: Fat from certain foods including ice cream and burgers goes straight to the brain and tells you to eat more, new research reveals. The study shows for the first time how particular products can create a vicious cycle of food bingeing.

September 17

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM LATEST**

Synopsis: The White House has allocated \$25 million in grants to states for a pilot program that would seek to lessen the impact of malpractice suits on the U.S. medical system, as President Barack Obama pushes for sweeping healthcare reform. Obama offered the plan in a speech to Congress last week in connection with the wishes of many legislators, particularly Republicans, that medical malpractice laws be reformed as part of an overhaul.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **STUDENT LOANS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS**

Synopsis: The biggest change in U.S. higher education finance in 35 years was approved Thursday by the House, handing a defeat to major banks and student loan giant Sallie Mae. Lawmakers voted 253-171 in favor of legislation that would cut the banks and Sallie Mae out of a large slice of the \$92 billion college student loan business, shifting most lending into a program run by the U.S. Education Department. The bill, supported by the White House, will go next to the Senate for further consideration.

September 18

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE VOTE**

Synopsis: The health care plan from Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus is running into some trouble among some of his fellow Democrats. Several of them say they're afraid that a new tax on high-value health insurance policies would hit middle-class Americans who they think already pay enough for their health care coverage. A vote in the Finance Committee could occur as early as next week, but many hurdles remain in both the House and Senate. Meanwhile, President Barack Obama is keeping up the pressure on Congress to pass a health reform bill.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINES**

Synopsis: The first U.S. roll-out of vaccines against the new swine flu virus will be 3.4 million doses of Med Immune's nose spray, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday. The U.S. government is providing the H1N1 vaccine for free to about 90,000 distributors, including doctor's offices, retail chains and state health departments.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HELPS HOMEOWNERS**

Synopsis: The Obama administration is engaged in high-level talks about providing financial assistance to homeowners who've lost their jobs and can't afford their mortgage payments. The Treasury Department held meetings on the subject as recently as Thursday with key stakeholders, according to Laura Armstrong a spokeswoman for Hope Now, an alliance of non-profits and mortgage servicers, and more discussions are planned. Proposals include getting servicers to let jobless homeowners skip some monthly payments, according to Faith Schwartz, executive director of Hope Now.

September 19

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SPINACH RECALL**

Synopsis: California is voluntarily recalling 1,715 cartons of bunched spinach, because it has the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditic and arthritis.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FORECLOSURE / RECESSION**

Synopsis: Only 12 percent of U.S. homeowners eligible for loan modifications under the Obama administration's housing rescue plan have had their mortgages reworked, and millions more foreclosures are coming, the Treasury Department said on Wednesday. A Treasury report showed 360,165 people had their monthly payments reduced through August, up from 235,247 through July, but a senior Treasury official conceded much more must be done to soften the impact of a severe and prolonged housing crisis. Treasury has begun releasing monthly reports on the loan modification program, called the Home Affordable Modification Program or HAMP.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SODA TAXES**

Synopsis: San Francisco could soon become the nation's first city to fight obesity with a tax on soda. In a bid to ramp up the public health battle against obesity, a group of nutrition and economics experts are pushing for a tax of 1 cent on every ounce of sodas and other sweetened beverages. Proposals for a hefty soda tax though have repeatedly fallen flat. The idea was even floated as a way to help pay for health care reform, but government officials on Wednesday said that's not likely to happen.

September 20

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA INTERVIEW IMMIGRATION / HEALTHCARE**

Synopsis: The interview was part of an unusual assault on the airwaves Sunday morning, a five-network blitz aimed at buoying public sentiment on health care. The president was grilled on a host of other issues, from worries about jobs to the war in Afghanistan. He warned that the labor market likely won't improve considerably - and could worsen - over the next few months. Obama repeated his view that two-thirds of the cost of his \$900 billion plan would be covered by cutting waste already in the health-care system.

September 21

Topic: **MORE ALZHEIMER WORLDWIDE**

Duration: 30 sec

The number of people living with memory-robbing Alzheimer's disease grew 10% globally between 2005 and 2009 to 35 million, according to a report today by U.K.-based Alzheimer's Disease International . And mostly because people are living longer, this number is expected to continue climbing to 115.4 million in 2050, according to the report, which surveyed nations around the world. Some other countries, like the U.K., have a national Alzheimer's plan in place, according to Harry Johns, the head of the Alzheimer's Association, one of the members of ADI.

Topic: **APPLIANCE CLUNKER**

Duration: 30 sec

In November a cash-for-clunkers type program for home appliances will begin across the country. The rebate program will allow people to replace appliances such as an old refrigerator, air conditioner or washing machine. The program will encourage consumers to buy energy-efficient appliances. Consumers will be eligible for a rebate only if they buy products that meet federal Energy Star qualifications for appliance efficiency. Rebates under the program could range from \$50 to \$250, depending on the type of appliance. States have until mid-October to come up with their own plans for how the rebate programs will work, what appliances will be included, how much will be paid out and even how to dispose of the "clunkers."

September 22

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINES FOR KIDS**

Synopsis: Parents of children under 10 could face an eventful influenza schedule this year as the first U.S. trial of swine flu vaccine in kids shows the youngest will require two H1N1 shots, on top of as many as two seasonal flu doses. But there's good news for children 10 and over: They appear to need just one dose of the pandemic vaccine.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SENATE FINANCE PANEL ON HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Synopsis: As the full Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday began work on marking up its version of health reform legislation, Democrats and Republicans "formed clear battle lines" and more details were revealed on changes made to the proposal by committee Chair Max Baucus (D-Mont.).

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION AGENCY LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE**

Synopsis: The Obama administration launched a new Web site on Tuesday that officials hope will make citizenship and other immigration services more accessible. The new Citizenship and Immigration Services Web site was unveiled Tuesday at an event with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, as well as White House and Homeland Security staff.

September 23

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Synopsis: The ball is in the Senate's court now that the House easily passed a bill to extend jobless benefits in high unemployment states. The Senate bill is similar, but not identical. Another 13 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits would be welcome for those jobless living in 27 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico with unemployment rates topping 8.5 percent. The bill is an economic lifeline to more than 300-thousand people whose jobless benefits are set to expire at the end of the month.

September 24

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **AIDS VACCINE**

Synopsis: For the first time, an experimental vaccine has prevented infection with the AIDS virus, a watershed event in the deadly epidemic and a surprising result. Recent failures led many scientists to think such a vaccine might never be possible. The vaccine cut the risk of becoming infected with HIV by more than 31 percent in the world's largest AIDS vaccine trial of more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand, researchers announced Thursday.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE LATEST**

Synopsis: Two top Democrats say they'll offer proposals to create a government-sponsored health insurance plan to the Senate Finance Committee on Friday. Sens. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia and Chuck Schumer of New York expect the committee to take a roll call vote on the issue. Chairman Max Baucus omitted a public option from his plan because he doesn't think it can pass the Senate.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CANCER AND OBESITY**

Synopsis: Being fat could become the leading cause of cancer in women in Western countries in the coming years, European researchers said Thursday. Being overweight or obese accounts for up to 8 percent of cancers in Europe. Experts said that figure is poised to increase substantially as the obesity epidemic continues, and as major causes of cancer, such as smoking and hormone replacement therapy for menopausal women, drop dramatically.

September 25

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TYLENOL RECALL**

Synopsis: Johnson & Johnson's McNeil unit is voluntarily recalling 57 lots of infants' and children's liquid Tylenol products because of possible bacterial contamination. The products being recalled were made between April and June and include nearly two dozen varieties, including Children's Tylenol Suspension 4 oz. Grape, Infants' Tylenol Grape Suspension Drops 1/4 oz. and Children's Tylenol Plus Cold/Allergy 4 oz. Bubble Gum.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **PUERTO RICO LAYOFFS PROTEST**

Synopsis: Puerto Rico's government announced Friday that it will lay off more than 16,000 public workers in the U.S. Caribbean territory, adding to an unemployment rate higher than that of any U.S. state. The government hopes the layoffs will help close a \$3.2 billion deficit as the island struggles through its third year of recession and a 15 percent unemployment rate.

September 26

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINE**

Synopsis: A top U.S. health official says the first weeks of October are going to be "a little bumpy" as the government distributes the supply of the swine flu vaccine by next week -- knowing it will not be enough. Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Friday his agency faced a dilemma because most of the U.S. H1N1 vaccine will be unavailable until mid- to late October.

September 27

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU VACCINE**

Synopsis: The government is starting an unprecedented system to track possible side effects as mass flu vaccinations begin next month. The idea is to detect any rare but real problems quickly, and explain the inevitable coincidences that are sure to cause some false alarms. Health authorities hope to vaccinate well over half the population in just a few months against swine flu, which doctors call the 2009 H1N1 strain.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA WOULD ADD TO SCHOOL DAY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is among those making the case that American kids aren't spending enough time in school. The president says that puts them at a disadvantage compared to other students around the globe. He's pushing for schools to add time to classes, to stay open later and to let kids in on weekends so they have a safe place to go. And he's not the only one for it. While it's true that kids in many other countries have more school days, it's not true they all spend more time in school. In fact, U.S. kids spend more hours in school than do kids in the Asian countries that persistently outscore the U.S. on math and science tests.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT**

Synopsis: Big job losses and a spike in early retirement claims from laid-off seniors will force Social Security to pay out more in benefits than it collects in taxes the next two years. That's the first time it's happened since the 1980s. The deficits -- \$10 billion in 2010 and \$9 billion in 2011 -- won't affect payments to retirees because Social Security has accumulated surpluses from previous years totaling \$2.5 trillion. But they will add to the overall federal deficit.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SECURITY IN AUSTIN, TEXAS STADIUM**

Synopsis: In Austin, Texas, weekend football games put the police on high alert. Up to 100 thousand students and fans can be packed into Darryl K. Royal Memorial Stadium. This stadium is the largest football venue in the state of Texas. The city's Emergency Operations Center had an open house to give the public a rare look inside. This is where Homeland Security officials meet to manage a terror attack.

September 28

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NEW CENSUS FORM IN SPANISH**

Synopsis: For the first time, the decennial census will be distributed in the two languages to 13.5 million households in predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhoods. Latino advocates hope the forms will lead to a more accurate count by winning over the trust of immigrants who are often wary of government and may be even more fearful after the recent surge in immigration raids and deportations.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CHOLESTEROL IN WOMEN**

Synopsis: Doctors recommend women to measure their cholesterol in order to avoid cardiac problems.

September 29

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Synopsis: The underlying premise of the health plan that is being proposed by the House and the Senate is to ensure that all Americans and all individuals within our boundaries are required to buy health insurance. The premise, however, is the more the merrier and the healthier the merrier because then that will provide for resources to self-pay for all the Americans who have catastrophic illnesses and sicknesses and long-term chronic illnesses that need health insurance.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINES**

Synopsis: Federal health officials say they're hoping to change the views of obstetricians and other health care providers who are often reluctant to provide flu shots to pregnant women. Experts warn that pregnant women face extra risks from the H1N1 virus, including premature labor and even death.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TOYOTA RECALL**

Synopsis: Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday it will recall 3.8 million vehicles in the United States, the company's largest-ever U.S. recall, to address problems with a removable floor mat that could cause accelerators to get stuck and lead to a crash. The recall will involve popular models such as the Toyota Camry, the top-selling passenger car in America, and the Toyota Prius, the best-selling gas-electric hybrid.

September 30

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TEXT MESSAGES AND DRIVING**

Synopsis: Opening a government meeting on auto safety, the Obama administration says that nearly 6,000 people were killed and a half-million injured last year in vehicle crashes connected to driver distraction, a striking indication of the dangers of using mobile devices behind the wheel. The Transportation Department is bringing together experts again today for what it's calling a "distracted driving summit" to take a hard look at the highway hazards caused by drivers talking on cell phones or texting from behind the wheel. Secretary Ray LaHood is expected to offer recommendations that could lead to new restrictions on using the devices while driving.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR H1N1 IN OKLAHOMA**

Synopsis: Schools in Roff have been closed the rest of the week in hopes of curtailing the flu outbreak. About 38 percent of the school's 350 students between kindergarten and 12th grade were out sick on Monday. The latest totals show that nearly 200 schools have closed in the United States, shutdowns that have affected nearly 80,000 students. A new report said that if the flu closed schools for four weeks, it could cost the country as much as \$47 billion in productivity from parents forced to stay home.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BORDER DEATH INCREASE**

Synopsis: As the nation's economy has plunged, the northbound flow of illegal border crossers has continued to ebb, with border-crossing apprehensions at a low not seen in almost a quarter-century. However, while fewer people are being apprehended by the Border Patrol, the number of deaths while attempting to cross in recent years has remained steady, probably because the crossings are being made in ever more remote locations. Border Patrol tallies of apprehensions, deaths and rescues for the fiscal year that ends today won't be available until later in October, but the agency's numbers through Aug. 31 indicate a trend.