

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO – TELEFUTURA NEWS

1st Quarter, 2009

Airdate: January 6

Duration: 30 sec.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture informed today it will renew during 2009 the program of hiring up to one thousand foreigners with temporary visas to work in the farms of the state.

Airdate: January 8

Duration: 30 sec.

The Federal Health authorities investigate a new salmonella epidemic that has affected 388 people in several states of the country. It is still not known whether the cases are related to each other.

Airdate: January 12

Duration: 30 sec.

President Bush asked Congress to release 350 billions dollars remaining from the financial rescue package to help the country face the economic crisis.

Airdate: January 15

Duration: 30 sec.

The Senate approved today the release of 350 billions dollars of the governmental financial rescue package, so that President elect Barack Obama can use it. He has promised to maintain the people informed on how the money will be spent.

Airdate: January 19

Duration: 30 sec.

President Bush, in one of his last official acts, curtailed the prison sentences of two border patrol agents condemned of shooting a presumed disarmed Mexican narcotics trafficker

Airdate: January 20

Duration: 30 sec.

Barack Obama took oath today as the new president of the United States. The taking of office speech of the 44th President was centered on the serious challenges that the country faces: the economic crisis, two wars and the fall of American prestige.

Airdate: January 24

Duration: 30 sec.

President Barack Obama, today signed a decree that orders the closing of the Guantanamo detention center. The signed decree sets a term of one year to close the facilities.

Airdate: January 26

Duration: 30 sec.

Less than one week from the end of the first month of the year, the companies Caterpillar, Philips, Ing., Home Depot, Nextel and Corus announced cuts in their labor force that together amount to 51 thousand lay-offs.

Airdate: January 30

Duration: 30 sec.

President Barack Obama praised the Senate approval of a law that extends medical coverage to eleven million under-privileged children, and reiterated his commitment to extend that benefit to all the citizens.

Airdate: February 27, 2009

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BUDGET AND MEDICARE**

Synopsis: Medicare costs vary wildly across the country, according to a study that found the government paying twice as much for treating a patient in Miami as in San Francisco. The dramatic cost differences don't appear connected to climate or to who lives where, and people in the more expensive areas don't get better care. More expensive medical technology is only part of the picture, according to the report released Wednesday by the Dartmouth Atlas Project, which studies medical resources.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS**

Synopsis: The most optimistic outlook is for a spring revival as home prices plummet. Government officials, hoping to spur demand, on Wednesday rolled out the details of a new \$8,000 tax credit for first-time buyers. About 40 percent of all home sales last year were from first-time buyers. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the tax credit should help provide an "immediate response to the current crisis." The government response may help, but many consumers are still in wait-and-see mode.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRANT CASE BEFORE SUPREME COURT**

Synopsis: Ignacio Carlos Flores-Figueroa, an undocumented worker from Mexico, made a curious and undeniably bad decision. After working under an assumed name for six years, he decided to use his real name and exchanged one set of phony identification numbers for another. The change made his employer suspicious and the authorities were called in. The old numbers were made up, but the new ones he bought happened to belong to real people. Federal prosecutors said that was enough to label Flores-Figueroa an identity thief. The Supreme Court will hear arguments on prosecutors' aggressive use of a new law that was intended to strengthen efforts to combat identity theft. In at least hundreds of cases last year, workers accused of immigration violations found themselves facing the more serious identity theft charge as well, without any indication they knew their counterfeit Social Security and other identification numbers belonged to actual people and were not made up.

Airdate: February 28, 2009

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BORDER TECHNOLOGY**

Synopsis: Crossing the border is going high-tech. Starting June first, most travel documents needed to cross the U-S border will have a computer chip in them designed to speed up processing at the nation's border crossings. It's called a radio frequency identification document reader or R-F-I-D. The device gives workers access to a traveler's information before the traveler gets to the inspection booth...up to 30 feet away. Border officials expect the device to cut up to eight seconds from a traveler's wait.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM CAMPAIGN**

Synopsis: A national tour calling for reform of the federal immigration system kicked off in Providence. U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., is spearheading the National Family Unity Campaign for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to hear stories from immigrants at stops at more than a dozen churches across the country. Gutierrez said the current laws and harsh enforcement is devastating to families. He and other lawmakers and advocates want President Barack Obama to prioritize immigration reform.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA ECONOMY**

Synopsis: The White House budget director says the president will sign a big spending bill despite GOP calls for a veto. Peter Orszag says Obama will work with Congress to reduce targeted spending, known as earmarks. But he says the \$410 billion measure that passed the House last week represents last year's business and the new administration needs to move on. The bill would keep the government operating through Sept. 30, the end of the current budget year.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CITIGROUP - GOVERNMENT DEAL**

Synopsis: Private investors will have to go along, but Citigroup has reached a deal with the government on a new rescue plan. The Treasury would provide up to \$25 billion in emergency funds for an ownership stake of as much as 36 percent. The deal is contingent on private investors also agreeing to a similar swap.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE COST**

Synopsis: A new government report on medical costs paints a stark picture for President Barack Obama, who's expected to call for a health care overhaul in his speech Tuesday night to Congress. The Department of Health and Human Services says health care costs will top \$8,000 per person this year, consuming an ever-bigger slice of a shrinking economic pie. The report says as the recession cuts into tax receipts, Medicare's hospital trust fund could become insolvent as early as 2016.

Airdate: March 1

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CA JOB FAIR**

Synopsis: Thousands of eager job-seekers are lining up at Dodger Stadium this weekend, hoping to score a job. Applicants are competing for about 500 positions for the summer baseball season. The state's

unemployment rate is now just above ten percent; and many of today's applicants say they've recently lost their job.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IRS RETURN**

Synopsis: The IRS has made changes to make it easier for distressed homeowners to avoid having a federal tax lien block either a mortgage refinancing or sale of a home. While it can take 30 days to process an application to get rid of a tax lien or to have it take a back seat to a lender's claim, the IRS says it's working to speed the requests because of the recession.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FEDERAL CONSUMER CREDIT**

Synopsis: The Federal Reserve rolled out a much-awaited program aimed at boosting the availability of credit to consumers and small businesses. The Fed will lend up to \$200 billion to spur consumer lending for autos, education, credit cards and other consumer debt. The money will be used to provide financing to investors to buy up the debt.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FLU STRAIN RESISTANCE TO TAMIFLU**

Synopsis: Virtually all cases of the most common strain of flu circulating in the United States now resist the main drug used to treat it, as per the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC researchers said 98 percent of all flu samples from the H1N1 strain were resistant to Roche AG's Tamiflu, a pill that can both treat flu and prevent infection.

Airdate: March 2

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **DEPRESSION AND HEART ILLNESS**

Synopsis: Depression almost doubles the risk of developing heart disease over 12 years, according to a long-term study of twins. Mounting evidence has found that depression makes people more vulnerable to heart trouble. Recent studies, though, find that some genes that increase the risk of heart disease also may make people more prone to depression, which has raised the question of whether the depression-heart disease link is genetic

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION LOCAL ENFORCEMENT**

Synopsis: According to government investigators, The Homeland Security Department has failed to ensure that local and state law enforcement partners pursue serious criminals and don't misuse their authority while enforcing immigration law. Dozens of state and local agencies have partnered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to carry out immigration laws, the domain of the federal government. But ICE, a Homeland Security agency, has not clearly explained whether serious criminal offenders are the target, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama has invited to the White House more than 120 people who hold a wide range of views on how to fix the world's costliest health care system, one that still leaves millions uninsured. A broad group of doctors, patients, business owners and insurers were to gather for a forum in hopes of building support for big changes in health care.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA LAUNCHES HOUSING PLAN**

Synopsis: The Obama administration kicked off a new program that's designed to help up to 9 million borrowers stay in their homes through refinanced mortgages or loans that are modified to lower monthly payments. In the "Making Home Affordable" initiative, borrowers will have to provide their most recent tax return and two pay stubs, as well as an "affidavit of financial hardship" to qualify for the \$75 billion loan modification program, which runs through 2012

Airdate: March 3

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HISPANIC ENROLLMENT RISE**

Synopsis: Census figures being released Thursday point to a major ethnic shift in America's school kids. About one-fourth of all kindergartners are now Hispanic. And by the year 2023, minority youngsters will constitute the majority. That has broad implications for how the country handles issues ranging from immigration to jobs and education. The change has been most noticeable in the West. Arizona, California

and Nevada are among states whose Hispanic populations are booming because of immigration and higher birth rates

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES**

Synopsis: The U.S. unemployment rate hit a 25-year high of 8.1 percent in February as employers buckling under the strain of a recession that shows no sign of ending axed 651,000 jobs, according to government data.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA STIMULUS PLAN LATEST**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is heading for Columbus, Ohio, where he plans to highlight at least 25 jobs saved by his \$787 billion economic stimulus program. He'll speak at a graduation ceremony for police recruits. Columbus' mayor laid them off in January, but now says he's got the money to pay them through the end of the year. Obama's chief spokesman, Robert Gibbs, says the President believes trips like the one to Ohio are important because they help show the public what the government is doing to try to turn the economy around.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **TPS WILL EXPIRE**

Synopsis: On October 1, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) formally announced an eighteen-month extension of the TPS designation for eligible Honduran and Nicaraguan nationals from January 6, 2009 to July 5, 2010. On Nov. 24, 2008, DHS announced that it had extended the deadline for the re-registration period for Honduran and Nicaraguan TPS beneficiaries through Dec. 30, 2008. USCIS has also automatically extended the validity of employment authorization documents (EADs) held by Honduran and Nicaraguan nationals in current TPS status from Jan. 5, 2009 through July 5, 2009.

Airdate: March 4

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA ON ECONOMY LATEST**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is challenging the nation to do more than just endure the dreadful economy. Obama is using his weekly radio and Internet address to tell citizens to try to discover opportunity in hard times. He says he believes Americans will do just that. Obama offered a recap of another hectic week in his young presidency. He sought to reassure the country that he and his team are taking specific steps to create jobs in the short term and begin to address huge issues, like health care, that affect virtually everyone.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRANTS LEAVE US**

Synopsis: The U.S. is no longer the only land of opportunity. If we don't want the immigrants who have fueled our innovation and economic growth, they now have options elsewhere. Immigrants are returning home in greater numbers. And new research shows they are returning to enjoy a better quality of life, better career prospects, and the comfort of being close to family and friends. Earlier research suggested that a crisis was brewing because of a burgeoning immigration backlog.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **GUTIERREZ "FAMILY UNITY" TOUR**

Synopsis: A tour documenting the effects of the nation's immigration policy will make a stop in San Francisco where members of Congress will listen to stories about the harm caused to local citizens by deportation and other policies. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., has led the national "Family Unity" tour, which allows people to tell their stories about being separated from family members due to the country's immigration policies.

Airdate: March 5

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA & STEM CELL RESEARCH**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama will lift his predecessor's restriction on federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research and will give the National Institutes of Health four months to come up with new rules on the issue, according to officials. Obama will not lay out any guidelines himself but let the NIH decide when and how it is ethical and legal to pay for embryonic stem cell research.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HOMELESS KIDS STUDY**

Synopsis: One of every 50 American children experiences homelessness, according to a new report that says most states have inadequate plans to address the worsening and often-overlooked problem. The report being released Tuesday by the National Center on Family Homelessness gives Connecticut the best ranking. Texas is at the bottom.

Airdate: March 6

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SMALL BUSINESSES FINANCIAL HELP**

Synopsis: The Obama administration is looking to steer new assistance to the nation's small-business community, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told members of Congress Monday night. In a closed-door meeting with House Democrats on Capitol Hill, Mr. Geithner said Obama officials are working on plans to boost liquidity for small businesses as part of the administration's broadening efforts to spur lending and arrest the pace of job losses.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **UNIFIED BOARD LAYOFFS NOTICES TO ABOUT 9,000 EMPLOYEES**

Synopsis: The letters will go out to 5,500 teachers, and the rest will go to workers such as counselors and administrators. Any job cuts would have to be approved in June. The Los Angeles Board of Education approved issuing preliminary layoff notices to about 9,000 employees Tuesday despite a large demonstration by the teachers union and some board members' concerns over potential harm to educational quality.

Airdate: March 7

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FORECLOSURES UP 30% IN FEBRUARY**

Synopsis: Despite halts on new foreclosures by several major lenders, the number of homeowners threatened with losing their homes rose 30 percent from last year's levels, RealtyTrac reported Thursday. Nationwide, nearly 291,000 homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice last month, up 6 percent from January, according to the Irvine, Calif.-based company.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CA TEACHERS AND STUDENTS PROTEST**

Synopsis: Hundreds of teachers gathered at Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco Thursday night to protest the state's \$11.6 billion in cuts to public education. One of the expected results of the cuts is layoffs. The state teacher's union has nicknamed Friday "Pink-Slip Friday" because that's the legal deadline for districts to issue layoff notices for the fall.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA AND THE ECONOMY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says investors should have "absolute confidence" in the soundness of the United States. Obama made the comment in the Oval Office today in response to a question about the Chinese premier's concerns about the safety of China's investments in the U.S. China is Washington's biggest foreign creditor, with an estimated \$1 trillion in U.S. government debt.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FOOD SAFETY**

Synopsis: President Obama today called for a top-to-bottom overhaul of the nation's food-safety system. The move comes not long after a deadly Salmonella outbreak in peanut products. The President says that will change under former New York City Health Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, who he named as head of the Food and Drug Administration.

Airdate: March 8

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BERNANKE RECESSION**

Synopsis: Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testified on Capitol Hill in Washington, that America's recession "probably" will end this year if the government succeeds in bolstering the banking system, Bernanke seemed to express a bit more optimism that this could be done. Still, Bernanke stressed - as he did to Congress last month - that the prospects for the recession ending this year and a recovery taking root next year hinge on a difficult task: getting banks to lend more freely again and getting the financial markets to work more normally.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEALTH SERVICES ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: By next month, thousands of illegal immigrants will be on their own, with many more people across the nation facing the same fate. Bowing to recession-related budget pressures, Sacramento

County recently took the drastic step of cutting non-emergency health services to illegal immigrants. Local health systems in other states also are facing such decisions as health officials find themselves trapped between their dwindling federal, state and local funding streams and the growing number of newly uninsured who need services.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FOOD LABELING NEW RULE**

Synopsis: Shoppers will have more information about where their food comes from under a new policy starting Monday. Labels on most fresh meats, along with some fruits, vegetables and other foods, will now list where the food originated. In the case of meats, some labels will list where the animal was born, raised and slaughtered. Food safety groups have long lobbied for the policy, which was enacted by Congress as part of a wide-ranging farm bill last year.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **LATIN AMERICAN REMITTANCES**

Synopsis: A new report by the Inter-American Development Bank shows migrant workers from Latin America are sending less money home. The drop comes as the global economic crisis is leading to less work for migrants. The bank predicts that remittances to the region will decline this year for the first time on record.

Airdate: March 9

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRANT HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: Two advocacy groups say U.S. authorities routinely delay, deny or botch medical care for immigrants in detention. Human Rights Watch and the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center released separate reports Tuesday on health care in immigration custody. Advocates say the problems stem from unskilled or indifferent staff, overcrowding, bureaucratic red tape, language barriers and limited services.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US CONSUMER PRICES**

Synopsis: U.S. consumer prices rose in February on higher gasoline and apparel prices, government data showed on Wednesday, calming fears of deflation for now. The Labor Department said its closely watched Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent, the biggest monthly gain since last July, after increasing 0.3 percent in January.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRANTS SCHOOL**

Synopsis: School parents and immigrant community leaders will release a groundbreaking report by Advocates for Children, "*Our Children, Our Schools: A Blueprint for Creating Partnerships Between Immigrant Families and New York City Public Schools*," that shows that immigrant parents would like to be more involved in their children's schools, but face significant barriers to participation.

Airdate: March 10

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA IN CALIFORNIA ON ECONOMY**

Synopsis: Obama spoke for 21 minutes, then took eight questions. As Obama began his two-day Southern California visit Wednesday in Costa Mesa, the White House released a list of projects to be funded with stimulus money. They include adding an eastbound lane to the Riverside Freeway/SR91 in Orange County. Obama's mention of the project drew cheers from a crowd of 1,300 that greeted him in Costa Mesa.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BABY BOOM: US BIRTHS IN 2007 BREAK 1950'S RECORD**

Synopsis: More babies were born in the United States in 2007 than any year in the nation's history, topping the peak during the baby boom 50 years earlier, federal researchers reported. The birth rate rose slightly for women of all ages, and births to unwed mothers reached an all-time high of about 40 percent, continuing a trend begun years ago. More than three-quarters of these women were 20 or older.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **RECESSION PROOF JOBS**

Synopsis: In every economic downturn, people want to know what the most "recession-proof" jobs are. Given the strength of this recession, the smart job-seeker might want to look at the recession proof

field that's among the fastest-growing. And for that, look no further. Some of the jobs on this list are: technician at No. 2. It's a field expected to grow 41 percent in the next decade.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SAVING MORE / SPENDING LESS**

Synopsis: The financial pain Americans are experiencing cuts a lot deeper today than it did just a year ago, when the economy was only starting to veer south. Consumer confidence dropped to an all-time low in February. This is what happens when a nation loses more jobs in three consecutive months than it had lost in any similar period since 1945.

Airdate: March 11

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FAMILY UNITY TOUR**

Synopsis: An immigration reform movement looks to evangelicals, children left behind by deported parents, Congressman Luis Gutierrez's (D-IL) new "Family Unity Tour," which launched last weekend and has already reached thousands across the country. One of the main reasons for the listening and learning tour is to bring family and faith to the forefront of an immigration debate that has long been dominated by divisive rhetoric.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BANK RESCUE**

Synopsis: Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is set to unveil details of the Obama administration's strategy to help banks weighed down by billions in so-called toxic assets. The plan involves buying as much as \$1 trillion in troubled assets. It also sets up a new government entity, the Public Investment Corp. The goal is to loosen up credit and get loans flowing to consumers and businesses.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US BORDER SECURITY**

Synopsis: The Obama administration plans to send more agents and equipment to the southwestern border to fight Mexican drug cartels and keep violence from spilling over into the United States. Speaking at the White House Tuesday, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said officials were still considering whether to deploy the National Guard to the border.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA PRESS CONFERENCE**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says his \$3.6 trillion budget will help the economy now and ensure the nation doesn't face another crisis in 10 or 20 years. The comment is from excerpts of remarks Obama will make tonight in a prime-time news conference. He also says the nation "will recover" from the recession.

Airdate: March 12

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **PLAN FOR BANKING CRISIS**

Synopsis: The Obama administration launched a new effort Monday to end a paralysis in lending, saying it will team with investors with the goal of buying up to a trillion dollars of bad assets from banks that have been reluctant to make loans to consumers and companies.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **RED MEAT STUDY**

Synopsis: The largest study of its kind finds that older Americans who eat large amounts of red meat and processed meats face a greater risk of death from heart disease and cancer. The federal study of more than half a million men and women bolsters prior evidence of the health risks of diets laden with red meat like hamburger and processed meats like hot dogs, bacon and cold cuts

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **ALZHEIMER'S CARE COST TRIPLE FOR EDERLY**

Synopsis: Caring for a patient with the disease costs at least \$33,007 a year, a report finds. The health care costs of Alzheimer's disease patients are more than triple those of other older people, and that doesn't even include the billions of hours of unpaid care from family members, a new report suggests. Compared with people aged 65 and older without Alzheimer's, those with the mind-destroying disease are much more often hospitalized and treated in skilled-nursing centers.

Airdate: March 13

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **EDUCATION "DREAM ACT"**

Synopsis: Congressmen Howard Berman and Lincoln Diaz-Balart announced the reintroduction today of the "Dream Act" in the U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation will restore the States' rights to determine residency requirements for higher education benefits - giving states the option to provide in-state tuition. The American DREAM Act seeks to facilitate access to postsecondary educational opportunities for immigrant students in the United States who currently face barriers in pursuing a college education

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FINANCIAL / USA REGULATION**

Synopsis: The Obama administration has unveiled a sweeping overhaul of the financial system designed to impose greater regulation on major players like Hedge Funds. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told lawmakers that the changes are needed to fix the flaws exposed by the current financial crisis, the worst to hit the country in seven decades.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **COLONOSCOPY HIV**

Synopsis: Officials said about 3,260 patients at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Miami should be tested for HIV, hepatitis and other diseases after receiving colonoscopies with equipment that wasn't properly sterilized. The VA insisted the risk of infection was minimal and only involved tubing on endoscopic equipment, not any device that actually made contact with a patient. It's the second such announcement of errors during colonoscopies at VA facilities

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **PENALIZE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM**

Synopsis: Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) today introduced legislation that would create a new federal crime to penalize those who misrepresent themselves as attorneys in an effort to defraud individuals - citizens and non-citizens alike - who seek immigration assistance. Law enforcement officials say a growing number of fraudulent "immigration specialists" are operating throughout the country as attorneys qualified to practice immigration law.

Airdate: March 14

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CALIFORNIA BUDGET STIMULUS**

Synopsis: Budget experts are estimating that California will receive more than \$50 billion from the federal stimulus package. The California Budget Project says there will be money for Medi-Cal, schools, tax credits, highway construction, and more. Some of the money could help California avoid further budget cuts and higher tax increases. But under state law, for that to happen, at least \$10 billion of those federal stimulus dollars must be used to offset state spending.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) has been on a five week tour visiting 16 American cities -- including Chicago and Joliet, IL and Milwaukee, WI this weekend -- promoting amnesty for millions of illegal aliens and the dismantling of immigration law enforcement programs. Rep. Gutierrez describes the Family Unity Immigration Outreach Tour as an effort to "document the harm caused to citizens across our nation in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform."

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **UNDERSTANDING YOUR TAXES**

Synopsis: Understanding tax issues and rules can help you not only avoid costly mistakes but also allow you to take advantage of benefits that could reduce your tax liability. You should consult with a competent tax professional for assistance with determining the amounts you need to remit each due date. If your payments are less than they should be, you could end up owing the IRS penalties.

Airdate: March 15

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA & HOUSING**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said in an interview published Sunday that he saw "glimmers of stabilization" in some areas of the U.S. economy, including pockets of the domestic housing market.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CA UNDOCUMENTED TRAPPED**

Synopsis: Eight illegal immigrants trapped in a drainage pipe in San Ysidro, California, were rescued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and agents. Custom officials reported that there were two females and five male, including a 16-year-old. They were all located inside a 30-inch drainage pipe just yards from the border station. They were discovered after officials inspecting an uncovered drainage hole near the U.S./Mexican border were informed by a motorist that several people had jumped into the storm drain.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NAPOLITANO ON RAIDS**

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has delayed a series of proposed immigration raids and other enforcement actions at U.S. workplaces in recent weeks, asking agents in her department to apply more scrutiny to the selection and investigation of targets as well as the timing of raids, federal officials said.

Airdate: March 16

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IBM LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: IBM Corp. plans to lay off about 5,000 U.S. employees in a new round of job cuts, The Associated Press has learned. An IBM manager knowledgeable about the plans says the cuts will come from the services division and workers will be informed Thursday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the plan publicly.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HOME SALES**

Synopsis: A real estate group says sales of existing homes rose from January to February in an unexpected boost for the slumping U.S housing market as buyers took advantage of deep discounts on foreclosures. The National Association of Realtors said Monday that sales of existing homes grew 5.1 percent to an annual rate of 4.72 million last month, from 4.49 million units in January.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NEW JOBLESS CLAIMS RISE MORE THAN EXPECTED**

Synopsis: The government says the number of Americans filing initial claims for jobless benefits rose last week while the total jobless benefit rolls reached a new record. The Labor Department says first-time requests for unemployment insurance increased to 654,000 from the previous week's figure of 639,000, above analysts' expectations.

Airdate: March 17

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **MINORITIES IN CENSUS 2010**

Synopsis: Hispanics and other minorities have historically been undercounted in the once-a-decade survey. Advocacy groups are now launching their traditional efforts to ensure an accurate count, but a variety of factors have created new problems for the painting of America's official portrait. Activists and government officials say fears over immigration enforcement and government snooping are making people more reluctant to share their information.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **JOBS AND COLLEGE SENIORS**

Synopsis: Job prospects for college grads, which had been on the rise since 2004, dropped in virtually every sector this year. The most dramatic decline was, not surprisingly, in finance, which hemorrhaged 71% of expected job openings. Government is essentially the only industry planning to hire more new grads this year than last, as the new Administration expands and a graying workforce retires.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **PROSTATE SCREEN TEST**

Synopsis: Two large studies looking at the benefits of a common screening test for prostate cancer produced conflicting results about whether it saves lives, researchers said. The studies, one in Europe and one in the United States, aim to settle a long-running debate over the benefits of a blood test called prostate specific antigen, or PSA.

Airdate: March 18

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **MORTGAGE DELINQUENCIES**

Synopsis: The number of people who were late making their mortgage payments shot up 53% in the fourth quarter of 2008 from the same period in 2007, according to data provided by TransUnion. The credit

reporting agency said its database shows delinquencies - or the percentage of mortgage holders at least 60 days behind on payments, considered a precursor to foreclosure - jumped to 4.58% nationally, from 2.99% for the 2007 fourth quarter.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SMALL BUSINESS HELP**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama moved to boost U.S. job creation Monday by making it easier for small business owners to borrow money and by spending up to \$15 billion to ensure credit is available for small business loans. Obama, facing criticism over his moves to bail out Wall Street, said help was on the way for small business owners who also are hurting in the deep U.S. recession.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CALIFORNIA SAME SEX MARRIAGE**

Synopsis: Same-sex marriage advocates are pinning their hopes on California's highest court as it prepares to hear arguments on a trio of lawsuits seeking to overturn the state's voter-approved ban on gay unions. Thursday's three-hour hearing was expected to draw an audience much larger than the California Supreme Court's courtroom can accommodate. Gay rights groups rented out a nearby auditorium and a big screen television for the outdoor plaza where a group of clergy scheduled a pre-argument prayer service.

Airdate: March 19

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **AIG OUTRAGE**

Synopsis: Leaders of the White House economic team and the Senate's top Republicans have vented their anger over executive bonuses at insurance giant AIG. American International Group is paying the bonuses and getting about \$170 billion in federal bailout money. From one Sunday talk show to the next, officials tore into the contracts that AIG says had to be honored, to the tune of about \$165 million and payable to executives by Sunday. AIG has agreed to the Obama administration request to restrain future payments.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS**

Synopsis: The story gave different options to look for financial aid for our kids when they are going to college. It explains where to go and the steps we need to follow to get a good education for free.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CATERPILLAR LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: Caterpillar Inc.- the world's largest maker of construction equipment - said it would fire 89 people and lay off 2,365 workers at five U.S. plants amid low demand for construction equipment. The closing of a fuel facility in Jefferson, Georgia, led to the 89 firings, and the work done there will move to other Caterpillar plants. The other reductions took place in Georgia, Illinois and Indiana and included 245 management positions that were previously announced, spokesman Jim Dugan said today.

Airdate: March 20

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US TROOPS MEXICO BORDER**

Synopsis: Seeking to stanch the flow of drugs, guns and violence saturating the Mexico-U.S. border, the Obama administration is preparing to send more federal agents as reinforcements. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is sending 37 agents to the region, while the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency may reassign at least 90 officers to the border, an official familiar with the plan said. The official requested anonymity because the plan has not yet been announced. The deployments are part of President Barack Obama's first moves to boost federal security on the U.S. side of the border.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **AIG LATEST**

Synopsis: The head of AIG said Wednesday the "cold realities of competition" compelled the insurer to pay \$165 million in bonuses, but angry lawmakers insisted the money belonged to taxpayers and vowed to get it back. American International Group Inc has come under intense fire from the public, politicians and President Barack Obama for accepting up to \$180 billion in government aid and then handing out multimillion-dollar bonuses, but the company's chief executive, Edward Liddy, said the best hope for recouping taxpayer money was to keep AIG in business.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NOKIA LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: Nokia, the world's largest maker of mobile phones, said that it planned to eliminate 1,700 jobs, roughly 3 percent of its work force, as demand for phones continued to sag. The company, which is based in Espoo, Finland, said 700 workers would be laid off in Finland and the rest elsewhere in Europe, Asia and North America. The layoffs are to take place in Nokia's devices and markets divisions, which produce, market and sell mobile phones, and in a unit responsible for long-term corporate strategy.

Airdate: March 21

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

Synopsis: The recession snatched more than 650,000 Americans' jobs for a record third straight month in February as unemployment climbed to a quarter-century peak of 8.1 percent and surged toward even more wrenching double digits. The human carnage from the recession, well into its second year, now stands at 4.4 million lost jobs; some 12.5 million people are searching for work.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CA MEDICAL FRAUD**

Synopsis: Eight medical laboratories defrauded California of hundreds of millions of dollars by billing the state's Medi-Cal program up to 500 percent more for tests than it billed other patients, the state attorney general has alleged in a whistleblower lawsuit.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US BIRTHS**

Synopsis: More babies were born in the United States in 2007 than any year in the nation's history, topping the peak during the baby boom 50 years earlier, federal researchers reported Wednesday. There is both good and bad news from the more than 4.3 million births: U.S. fertility rates are higher in every racial group, the highest among Hispanic women.

Airdate: March 22

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **UNDOCUMENTED STIMULUS JOBS**

Synopsis: Tens of thousands of jobs created by the economic stimulus law could end up filled by illegal immigrants, particularly in big states such as California where undocumented workers are heavily represented in construction, experts on both sides of the issue say. Studies by two conservative think tanks estimate immigrants in the United States illegally could take 300,000 construction jobs, or 15% of the 2 million jobs that new taxpayer-financed projects are predicted to create

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HOMELESS CHILDREN**

Synopsis: One of every 50 American children experiences homelessness, according to a new report that says most states have inadequate plans to address the worsening and often-overlooked problem.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SCHOOLS CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS**

Synopsis: Census figures being released Thursday point to a major ethnic shift in America's school kids. About one-fourth of all kindergartners are now Hispanic. And by the year 2023, minority youngsters will constitute the majority. That has broad implications for how the country handles issues ranging from immigration to jobs and education.

Airdate: March 23

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTERS**

Synopsis: Two advocacy groups say U.S. authorities routinely delay, deny or botch medical care for immigrants in detention. Human Rights Watch and the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center released separate reports Tuesday on health care in immigration custody. Advocates say the problems stem from unskilled or indifferent staff, overcrowding, bureaucratic red tape, language barriers and limited services. A spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, says the agency provides primary health care along with dental, chronic and mental health care.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HOME CONSTRUCTION**

Synopsis: The number of new housing projects that builders broke ground on in February rose sharply, defying economists' forecasts for yet another drop in activity. The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that construction of new homes and apartments jumped 22.2 percent from January to a seasonally

adjusted annual rate of 583,000 units. Economists were expecting construction to drop to a pace of around 450,000 units.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **ICE DEPORTATION**

Synopsis: Relatives say immigration officials are trying to deport a dead man. They contend Nasin Mauricio Rivera died last August, but a deportation hearing against the native Salvadoran is still set for a hearing scheduled this summer. His former wife, Blanca Ramirez, says Rivera is already in El Salvador - his body was shipped back home for burial. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Virginia Kice says a certified copy of the death certificate is usually enough, but the agency is responsible for ensuring "the integrity of the process."

Airdate: March 24

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA EDUCATION**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama embraced a new approach to education that would reward good teachers, remove limits on charter schools and lengthen both the school day and the school year. These proposals, which constitute the heart of Obama's vision of 21st century education reform, were sure to generate loud criticism, particularly from teachers' union.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

Synopsis: The Labor Department says first-time requests for unemployment insurance increased to 654,000 from the previous week's figure of 639,000, above analysts' expectations.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FORECLOSURES UP 30 %**

Synopsis: Despite halts on new foreclosures by several major lenders, the number of homeowners threatened with losing their homes rose 30 percent from last year's levels, RealtyTrac reported this week.

Airdate: March 25

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA SETS DEADLINE AUTO INDUSTRY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama asserted unprecedented government control over the auto industry Monday, rejecting turnaround plans from General Motors and Chrysler and raising the prospect of controlled bankruptcy for either ailing auto giant. Eager to reassure consumers, Obama also announced the Federal Government would immediately begin backing the warranties that new car buyers receive -- a step designed to signal that it is safe to purchase U.S.-made autos and trucks despite the distress of the industry. In a statement read at the White House, Obama said he was "absolutely committed" to the survival of a domestic auto industry that can compete internationally.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **TOBACCO TAX**

Synopsis: However they satisfy their nicotine cravings, tobacco users are facing a big hit as the single largest federal tobacco tax increase ever takes effect. Tobacco companies and public health advocates, longtime foes in the nicotine battles, are trying to turn the situation to their advantage. The major cigarette makers raised prices a couple of weeks ago.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEART SURGERY**

Synopsis: A controversial operation that folds the scarred portion of a damaged heart in on itself to get it to beat more effectively offers no real benefit to most patients, researchers reported. The operation, known as ventricular reconstruction, is designed to help people with heart failure, a condition that affects about 5 million in the United States alone and often occurs after tissue is damaged by a heart attack.

Airdate: March 26

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SECOND INCOME**

Synopsis: As the job market continues to deteriorate, more people are , looking for alternative ways to make a buck. Laid-off construction workers become handymen for hire. Ex-bankers start doing people's taxes. College grads join yearlong volunteer programs. And some try direct sales. Whether it's selling cosmetics, kitchenware or life insurance, people who may never have considered a career in sales are embracing the occupation to supplement dwindling income or to tide them over until they find a job in their chosen field.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **RECESSION HIRING**

Synopsis: While the recession has claimed 4.4 million jobs, the economy has created others, many of them for highly trained and specialized professionals. More than 2 million jobs openings now exist across a range of industries, according to government data. Job seekers beware, though. An average of nearly five people is competing for each opening. That's up sharply from a ratio of less than 2-to-1 in December 2007, when the recession was just starting and nearly 4 million openings existed

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **TEENS DEPRESSION**

Synopsis: An influential government-appointed medical panel is urging doctors to routinely screen all American teens for depression -- a bold step that acknowledges that nearly 2 million teens are affected by this debilitating condition. Most are undiagnosed and untreated, said the panel, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, which sets guidelines for doctors on a host of health issues.

Airdate: March 27

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US HOME PRICES DROP**

Synopsis: Home prices sank by the sharpest annual rate on record in January, and the pace continues to accelerate, but there were a handful battered metro areas where price declines slowed, according to data released Tuesday. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index of home prices in 20 major cities tumbled by a record 19 percent from January 2008. It was the largest decline since the index started in 2000. The 10-city index dropped 19.4 percent, also a new record.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEART FAILURE**

Synopsis: A pregnancy hormone that relaxes blood vessels appeared to reduce symptoms of acute heart failure and improve survival, according to a preliminary study released by U.S. researchers.

Airdate: March 28

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **WHITE HOUSE AUTO FINANCIAL AID**

Synopsis: The Obama administration was finishing work on a plan to give more financial aid to two Detroit automakers in return for tough cost-cutting measures that will ensure the companies' survival. President Barack Obama's auto industry task force was expected to offer additional aid to General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC while setting firm deadlines for the companies to get concessions from their stakeholders.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FINANCIAL BAILOUT**

Synopsis: U.S. Treasury Secretary Geithner said the government has about \$135 billion left for bank bailouts and refused to say whether it will ask Congress for more this year. Congress approved \$700 billion last fall for rescuing banks that had gotten into trouble when the U.S. housing boom crashed, but lawmakers and ordinary Americans show signs of becoming increasingly unhappy over the program.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEART DISEASE**

Synopsis: Statin drugs, taken by millions of Americans to lower cholesterol and prevent heart disease, also can cut the risk of developing dangerous blood clots that can lodge in the legs or lungs, a major study suggests. The results provide a new reason for many people with normal cholesterol to consider taking these medicines, sold as Crestor, Lipitor, Zocor and in generic form, doctors say.

Airdate: March 29

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA AND AUTOMAKERS**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama asserted unprecedented government control over the auto industry Monday, bluntly rejecting turnaround plans by General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, demanding fresh concessions for long-term federal aid and raising the possibility of quick bankruptcy for either ailing auto giant.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **2010 CENSUS**

Synopsis: New Commerce Secretary Gary Locke exhorted census volunteers to boost outreach in hard-to-count communities as a top lawmaker urged the government to halt immigration raids to ensure an accurate count. Speaking at a Census Bureau training conference, Locke and Rep. William Lacy Clay, D-Mo., tried to allay fears in Hispanic and Asian communities where immigrants often mistake census workers for tax collectors or law enforcement officials.

Airdate: March 30

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **ARENA OBESITY DRUG**

Synopsis: Arena Pharmaceuticals said its experimental obesity drug helped patients shed only about 10 pounds more than those taking placebos, plummeting its shares down 27 percent. The company said it aimed to seek U.S. approval this year for Lorcaserin, a new type of obesity drug, based on the long-awaited new data that it said was favorable by a statistically significant margin.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **PREGNANCY HORMONE**

Synopsis: A pregnancy hormone that relaxes blood vessels appeared to reduce symptoms of acute heart failure and improve survival, according to a preliminary study released by U.S. researchers on Sunday. They said the hormone Relaxin, which is being developed by privately held Corthera Inc of California, was safe, and showed signs of reducing the risk of death from heart problems during the study.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CRESTOR CUTS HEART RISK**

Synopsis: Patients taking AstraZeneca Crestor, who saw both their bad cholesterol and a protein tied to arterial inflammation reduced to very low levels, dramatically cut their risk of heart attack, stroke and death, researchers said on Sunday. The results come from the Jupiter study, which originally found that Crestor significantly cut such cardiovascular events in patients with healthy cholesterol levels, but who had high amounts of the protein, known as C-reactive protein (CRP).

Airdate: March 31

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HOMELAND SECURITY SHIFTS FOCUS TO EMPLOYERS**

Synopsis: Stepping into the political minefield of immigration reform, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano soon will direct federal agents to focus more on arresting and prosecuting American employers than the illegal laborers who sneak into the country to work for them, department officials said Monday. The shift in emphasis will be outlined in revamped field guidelines issued to agents of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, as early as this week, according to several officials familiar with the change.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SCOTUS PHILIP MORRIS**

Synopsis: The Supreme Court has dismissed a cigarette maker's appeal of a \$79.5 million award to a smoker's widow, likely signaling the end of a 10-year legal fight over the large payout. In a one-sentence order Tuesday, the court left in place a ruling by the Oregon Supreme Court in favor of Mayola Williams. The state court has repeatedly upheld a verdict against Altria Group Inc.'s Philip Morris USA in a fraud trial in 1999.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SALMONELLA PISTACHIOS**

Synopsis: Federal food officials are warning people not to eat any food containing pistachios because of possible contamination by salmonella, in another food scare sure to rattle consumers already upset by the contamination of peanuts with the same bacteria.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FORD CAR PAYMENTS**

Synopsis: Ford Motor Co. said it is offering a payment protection plan to help reassure consumers who may be putting off buying a new car because of worries about losing their job. The offer comes as auto sales have been battered by the recession and tight credit, reaching their lowest levels in 27 years. Ford's sales declined 48 percent in February.