

# NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

October 1 - October 31, 2009

## AIRDATE: October 1

Topic: **IMMIGRANT LAY-OFFS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A clothing manufacturer with a vast garment factory in downtown Los Angeles is firing about 1,800 immigrant employees in the coming days - more than a quarter of its workforce - after a federal investigation turned up irregularities in the identity documents the workers presented when they were hired. The lay-offs at the American Apparel company have become a showcase for the Obama administration's effort to reduce illegal immigration by forcing employers to dismiss unauthorized workers rather than through workplace raids.

Topic: **CENSUS 2010** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert Groves joined prominent Latino groups, labor and faith leaders and leading national Spanish-language media partners today to outline a historic campaign to ensure a full and accurate 2010 Census count of the estimated 50 million Latinos living in the United States. Members of the coalition - called the "Ya es Hora !HAGASE CONTAR!" Campaign - previewed a series of public service announcements that will begin airing today on major Spanish language media.

## AIRDATE: October 2

Topic: **MORE UNEMPLOYMENT** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The unemployment rate has hit another 26-year-high. The Labor Department says 263-thousand jobs were lost last month, raising the unemployment rate to nine-point-eight percent. That's up one-tenth of a percent from August. Congress today is holding a joint economic committee meeting on the new numbers. Many economists have said there are signs the economy is growing again, but today's jobs report shows job losses could continue well into the recovery, limiting the strength of any economic turnaround.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Although President Obama has put off an immigration overhaul until next year, the federal agency in charge of approving visas is planning ahead for the possibility of giving legal status to millions of illegal immigrants, the agency's director said Thursday. Obama has told immigration officials that a legalization program would be part of legislation the White House would propose, said Mr. Mayorkas, who became director in August. The agency's goal, he said, is to be ready to expand rapidly to handle the gigantic increase in visa applications it would face if the legislation, known as Comprehensive Immigration Reform, passed Congress.

## AIRDATE: October 3

Topic: **HEALTH REFORM / EMPLOYMENT** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Administration officials say President Barack Obama is looking at ways to ease the burdens of laid-off workers, including possible extension of unemployment and health benefits. With the jobless rate continuing to climb, the President said in his weekly radio and Internet address that he is exploring "additional options to promote job creation." Administration aides say the options include extending enhanced unemployment-insurance benefits beyond Dec. 31, when they are set to expire. Another option is to extend a tax credit for laid-off workers who buy health insurance through the COBRA program.

Topic: **FLU VACCINE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The largest U.S. supplier of seasonal flu vaccines says it's running behind on shipping vaccine for the regular, seasonal flu partly because of the crunch to produce millions of doses of the swine flu vaccine. The pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur says it has shipped more than half of the 50 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine ordered by U.S. health care providers. But the French company has sent notices to customers indicating that additional doses may be delayed. Company spokeswoman Donna Cary says it could be November before some customers get the rest of their orders.

Topic: **PREGNANT WOMAN AND INFLUENZA** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A national coalition of health care and information providers for pregnant women and children has an urgent message for pregnant women concerning influenza. The normal changes of pregnancy make pregnant women at increased risk of the harmful effects of flu infection. Pregnant women are at increased risk for serious disease and even death from pandemic H1N1 influenza infection. Pregnant women, who have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough and sore throat should contact their pregnancy care provider immediately so that flu medications can be started and further instructions can be given by their provider. They may also begin treating their fever with acetaminophen.

**AIRDATE: October 4**

Topic: **US VISA LOTTERY** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Each year, the Diversity Lottery (DV) Program makes 55,000 immigrant visas available through a lottery to people who come from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. Of such visas, 5,000 are allocated for use under NACARA beginning with DV '99. The State Department (DOS) holds the lottery every year, and randomly selects approximately 110,000 applicants from all qualified entries.

Topic: **FLU VACCINE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Days before the swine flu vaccine becomes available, more than half of U.S. adults say they will get the vaccine for themselves and 75 percent will get it for their children, according to a survey released Friday. The team at the Harvard School of Public Health found forty percent said they would not get the H1N1 vaccine. The survey conflicts with one published earlier this week by Consumer Reports showing only 35 percent of Americans would definitely have their children vaccinated. The Harvard researchers polled 1,042 U.S. adults for what they said was a representative sample of national opinion late last month.

**AIRDATE: October 5**

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Vaccinations against the H1N1 swine flu virus began in the United States this week as part of the Obama administration's mass immunization effort to help limit the worst effects of the pandemic. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expects up to 7 million doses of vaccine by the end of this week, mainly AstraZeneca unit MedImmune's nasal spray. The U.S. government has ordered vaccine from five companies: Sanofi-Aventis SA, CSL Ltd, Novartis AG, GlaxoSmithKline and MedImmune.

Topic: **CENSUS AND IMMIGRATION RAIDS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: With the 2010 census six months away, the Commerce Department said Thursday it won't seek a halt to raids as it did in the previous census in hopes of improving participation in hard-to-count communities. In a statement, the department said it is committed to an accurate count of U.S. residents, including both legal and illegal immigrants. Spokesman Nick Kimball said officials will not ask the Homeland Security Department to stop large-scale immigration raids during the high stakes count that begins April 1.

### Airdate October 6

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Vaccination against the H1N1 swine flu is off to a slow start in the United States, but states have ordered more than 2 million doses of mostly nasal spray for the first patients, a top health official said Tuesday. Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told a news briefing every state has ordered a share of the pandemic vaccine.

Topic: **MORE CASES OF AUTISM** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Federal health officials say greater awareness and broader definitions in spotting autism in younger children may explain some of the increase in the proportion of children with disorders. Two new government studies indicate about 1 in 100 children have autism disorders, higher than a previous estimate of 1 in 150.

### Airdate October 7

Topic: **HEALTH CARE POLL** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A new poll suggests public opinion on health care legislation is now an even split and a solid gain for Democrats after September results showed 49 percent opposed. The latest Associated Press-GfK poll has found that the opposition to Obama's health care remake dropped dramatically in just a matter of weeks. Still, Americans remain divided over the complex legislation. The poll finds the public is now split 40-40. In September, only 34 percent of those polled supported the effort. Anger about health care boiled over during August town hall meetings.

Topic: **AIRLINES SURCHARGE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Flying around the holidays is already more expensive and could get more so. Several big airlines have added \$10 surcharges for busy days around the holidays. Last month airlines added a \$10 each-way surcharge for Nov. 29 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) and Jan. 2 and 3. Now, FareCompare.com CEO Rick Seaney notes that the same airlines have added 10 more days: Nov. 30; Dec. 19, 26, and 27; March 14, 20, 21, 28; April 11; and May 28. He said the surcharges have been added by Delta Air Lines and Northwest, American Airlines, United Airlines, Continental Airlines and US Airways. Seaney said discounters such as Southwest and JetBlue appear to be avoiding the surcharges.

Topic: **FLU/VACCINE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Wednesday sought to dispel fears about the H1N1 swine flu vaccine, declaring it safe and urging parents to take precautions against the pandemic. Sebelius was seeking to ease worries about the vaccine to target the new strain of influenza that is spreading around the world and she urged the public to visit flu.gov for more information. Sebelius said it was important to protect the more vulnerable population such as children and pregnant women from the H1N1 flu.

Topic: **IDENTITY THEFT RING BUST** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: According to AP the FBI is making dozens of arrests in the U.S. and overseas to crack an identity theft ring that victimized thousands of people. Laura Eimiller, an FBI spokeswoman in Los Angeles, says agents are making arrests Wednesday morning in Southern California, Nevada, North Carolina and overseas. They allegedly used computer intrusion and fraud to obtain personal information that allowed them to withdraw money from bank accounts. In "phishing," people answering an e-mail are directed to a bogus Web site where they are asked to update personal information, such as passwords and account numbers.

Topic: **YOUTH VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: US Attorney General Eric Holder and Education Secretary Arne Duncan made a trip to Chicago to meet with city leaders to discuss youth violence in the wake of the beating death of 16-year-old Derrion Albert. Holder says youth violence is an American problem and not just a Chicago problem. He says the nation was shocked at the violence on the video that captured Albert's fatal beating.

Topic: **SOCIAL SECURITY NO MATCH RULE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today formally issued a final rule rescinding the Social Security "no match" rule. The "no match" rule, which was never implemented, would have forced employers to fire workers based on discrepancies in their Social Security records. DHS first announced its plan to rescind the rule in July, and with today's publication of a final rule in the Federal Register, the rescission will go into effect in 30 days.

Topic: **ARPAIO LOSES POWER** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has lost the power to arrest a person solely because of his or her immigration status but said he will continue conducting crime suppression sweeps that target illegal immigrants. Arpaio said the federal government has stripped the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office of the power to enforce federal immigration law in the field. Instead, the sheriff plans to use a state law to arrest illegal immigrants.

### **Airdate October 8**

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM LATEST** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Despite a report from the Congressional Budget Office that the plan would reduce federal deficits by \$81 billion over a decade, Republicans aren't ready to count on any savings from the health reform measure emerging from the Senate Finance Committee. Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell says Democrats are going to fatten up that bill as it proceeds through Congress. He predicts that it will "never see the light of day." According to the Congressional Budget Office report, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has announced that the Finance Committee will vote Tuesday on the proposal that would expand coverage to 94 percent of eligible Americans.

Topic: **BLOOMBERG ON IMMIGRATION** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Michael Bloomberg announces plan to support immigrants in the five boroughs. The mayor's plan will ensure that immigrants can contribute fully to our economy and are integrated into civic life, that the children of immigrants are properly educated, and policies to protect immigrants from exploitation. Bloomberg today unveiled a plan to better protect and assist immigrants living in the five boroughs.

Topic: **CREDIT CARD REFORM** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Rep. Barney Frank says Congress should move up the enactment date of its credit card reform bill to Dec. 1 because banks are raising rates on customers. Last spring, Frank helped push a bill through Congress that imposes strict new rules on lenders, including a limitation on when and how banks hike rates. Most of the rules will take effect in mid-February, a date set by Congress to give banks time to prepare for the changes.

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The House approved on Sept. 23 a bill that would extend benefits by up to 13 weeks for jobless workers living in 27 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, with unemployment rates of 8.5 percent or higher. A look at the states in the House measure as the Senate considers extending benefits to all 50 states.

### **Airdate October 9**

Topic: **MORE SWINE FLU CASES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Health officials say swine flu activity is picking up, with 37 states now reporting widespread cases. Officials with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday that the count is up from 27 states the previous week. The figures suggest a leveling off of flu activity the previous week may have been short-lived. Meanwhile, CDC officials say states have ordered 3.6 million doses of swine flu vaccine for a campaign that started this week.

Topic: **FORECLOSURE AID** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Obama administration's mortgage relief program has hit its goal of helping 500,000 borrowers, almost a month ahead of schedule. The government in July gave the lending industry a Nov. 1 deadline to meet that goal for the \$50 billion program, which is designed to reduce foreclosures by lowering borrowers' monthly payments to more affordable levels. The lenders hit the government's goal on Oct 6, officials said Thursday.

### **Airdate October 10**

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM LATEST** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Saturday he's seeing "unprecedented consensus" behind overhauling health care, though he acknowledged continued partisan gridlock in Congress. "The historic movement to bring real, meaningful health insurance reform to the American people gathered momentum this week as we approach the final days of this debate," Obama said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet video address. The consensus "includes everyone from doctors and nurses to hospitals and drug manufacturers" -- even Republican governors and former GOP lawmakers, Obama said.

Topic: **OBAMA "DON'T ASK DON'T TELL"** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The climate for passing gay civil rights laws has never been better, but it could be a decade before another chance comes around, the highest-ranking openly gay official in the Obama administration said Friday. A House vote Thursday put Congress on the verge of significantly expanding hate crimes law to make it a federal crime to assault people because of their sexual orientation. Later this year, Congress is expected to hold hearings on a measure prohibiting workplace discrimination -- including decisions about hiring, firing and wages -- based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Topic: **BORDER FENCE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A provision that would set up another 300 miles of tall fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border has been stripped from an appropriations bill. A Texas congressman says it represented "an unproductive and inefficient border security strategy" that is "out of touch with border needs." Seven border state congressmen asked the House leadership in July to strip the amendment from the final bill. As of the end of June, there were about 633 miles of pedestrian and vehicle barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border, which runs 2,100 miles. Many of the gaps in the fencing are in Texas, where landowners continue to fight the government.

### **Airdate October 11**

Topic: **GAY RIGHT** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Thousands of gay rights supporters have marched from the White House to the Capitol. They demanded that President Barack Obama keep his promises to allow gays to serve openly in the military and to work to end discrimination against gays. Rainbow flags and homemade signs dotted the crowds filling Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. Many children were also among the demonstrators. A few counter-protesters also joined the crowd.

Topic: **VACCINES H1N1** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A top U.S. health official says the risks from not getting the swine flu vaccine are greater than any potential risks associated with the vaccine. Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says she's surprised by all the misinformation going around about the new vaccine. She says a good safety record from past vaccines bodes well for the swine flu vaccine now becoming available.

### **Airdate October 12**

Topic: **BILL TO RAISE INSURANCE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The health insurance industry is striking back against the Senate's current plan for health care reform claiming that the plan will not only fail to reduce costs but will actually increase the cost of coverage for the privately-insured by thousands of dollars a year. Over the weekend America's Health Insurance Plans, an industry trade group, released to its members a PricewaterhouseCoopers analysis which projected that the current Senate legislation would cause premiums for families to increase by \$4000 by the year 2019.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL PREVIEW** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Hispanic lawmakers in the House are writing an immigration reform bill that will outline the minority community's position before the debate begins in Congress. The House and Senate are not expected to take up comprehensive immigration reform until next year, but those involved in writing the bill say the legislation being prepared by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., will lay down a marker on what is expected. Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus are behind the effort to lay a legislative blueprint.

Topic: **CENSUS CITIES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: With the 2010 census looming, major U.S. cities whose residents are at high risk of being missed are struggling with a shortage of money and manpower to prepare for an accurate count. A study by the Pew Charitable Trusts, released Monday, examined preparation efforts in 11 major cities. It found only five cities had committed public funds to census outreach -- Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Phoenix and Baltimore.

Topic: **US SWINE FLU LATEST** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The rising swine flu death toll among children has reached disturbing heights. The H1N1 virus is blamed for the deaths of 19 children over the past week, a total of 76 overall, about the number which usually die in an entire flu season ending in May. The American Medical Association comes out with its own report focusing on two major themes: children, and how to handle a massive influx of patients if the virus runs out of control.

Topic: **ECONOMY SURVEY** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The worst U.S. recession since the Great Depression has ended, but weak household spending as the labor market struggles to create jobs will slow the pace of the economy's recovery, according to a survey released Monday. The survey of 44 professional forecasters released by the National Association for Business Economics, also known as the NABE, found that 80 percent of the respondents believed the economy was growing again after four straight quarters of declines.

### **Airdate October 13**

Topic: **HEALTHCARE/SENATE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Now that the Senate Finance Committee has approved its version of healthcare reform legislation, Senate Democratic leaders will merge it with a more liberal bill passed earlier by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Immigrants, workers, union leaders and advocates of progressive immigration reform from 10 cities nationwide converge at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday to call for action in Congress. Activists will gather in the morning at the Church of the Reformation in D.C., and then proceed to Congress to speak to their representatives about supporting immigration reform.

Topic: **PROSTATE CANCER** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: U.S. researchers said that men who have less invasive prostate cancer surgery - often done robotically -- are more likely to be incontinent and have erectile dysfunction than men who have conventional open surgery,.

Topic: **DIABETES STUDY** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: People who live in neighborhoods with safe sidewalks, ample parks, good public transportation and ready access to fresh fruits and vegetables are 38 percent less likely to develop diabetes than others, U.S. researchers said Monday. They said unlike a lot of other factors that influence Diabetes, creating a healthy neighborhood is one thing policymakers can do to address the epidemic of diabetes, which costs the United States more than \$116 billion in medical expenses each year.

#### **Airdate October 14**

Topic: **CENSUS 2010** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Commerce Department and Census Bureau declared Tuesday that an amendment by Sen. David Vitter, R-La., to require the 2010 census to ask all persons their citizenship and immigration status would scuttle any chance that the census could be done on time and would cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Topic: **SWINE FLU LATEST** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Vaccine maker Sanofi Pasteur said test results of its swine flu vaccine suggest that children under 10 may need two shots to be fully protected. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the news is not surprising, since this age group needs two doses of regular seasonal flu vaccine for full immunity to develop.

Topic: **BEEF RECALL** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service said that no illnesses have been reported from the products sold by San Diego Meat Co. The recall applies to 15-pound cases of ground beef patties and 10-pound bags of bulk ground beef produced between Oct. 7 and Oct. 12 and sold to San Diego County-area caterers and restaurants.

Topic: **NEW IMMIGRATION RULE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A federal judge has ruled that adult children who turn 21 while waiting for family-sponsored green cards have to wait anew once they "age out" of their parents' applications. U.S. District Judge James Selna ruled in Los Angeles against a group of immigrants with green cards who sued the federal government, arguing a 2002 law means grown children should be allowed into the country when their parents file new paperwork on their behalf.

Topic: **FORD RECALL** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Ford Motor Co is expanding its largest ever recall -- involving faulty cruise control deactivation switches that have caused fires -- by 4.5 million vehicles, regulators and company officials said Tuesday. The action effectively closes out a 10-year saga over the switches made by Texas Instruments that has led to more than a half-dozen recalls at Ford covering 14 million registered vehicles, the automaker said in a letter to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

### **Airdate October 15**

Topic: **MORE FORECLOSURES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: U.S. foreclosure filings climbed to a record in the third quarter as lenders seized more properties from delinquent borrowers, according to RealtyTrac Inc. A total of 937,840 homes received a default or auction notice or were repossessed by banks, a 23 percent increase from a year earlier, the Irvine, California-based seller of default data said today in a report. One out of every 136 U.S. households received a filing, the highest quarterly rate in records dating to January 2005.

Topic: **CIGARETTE FEDERAL LAW "LIGHT"** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The National Cancer Institute states that smokers will compensate for the lower level of nicotine in light cigarettes by inhaling more deeply, taking larger, more rapid, or more frequent puffs, and smoke extra cigarettes each day. The National Cancer Institute also states that, "researchers also found that the strategies used by the tobacco industry to advertise and promote light cigarettes are intended to reassure smokers, to discourage them from quitting, and to lead consumers to perceive filtered and light cigarettes as safer alternatives to regular cigarettes."

Topic: **TYLENOL AND VACCINES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A new study suggests that giving babies Tylenol to prevent fever when they get vaccinated may make the shots a little less effective. It's the first major study to tie reduced immunity to the use of fever-lowering medicines. The study only looked at preventive use of Tylenol -- not whether it is OK to use after a fever develops. The effect was small and the vast majority of kids still got enough protection from vaccines. But doctors at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say the results make "a compelling case" against routinely giving Tylenol right after a shot.

### **Airdate October 16**

Topic: **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Homeland Security Department says it has completed agreements with 55 state and law enforcement agencies to help arrest and deport immigration violators. But one of those agreements would limit Maricopa County, Ariz., Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his deputies to checking only the immigration status of jail inmates. Arpaio is the subject of a Justice Department investigation triggered by complaints of racial profiling.

Topic: **INFLUENZA LATEST** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The swine flu is causing an unprecedented amount of illness so early in the fall -- and federal health officials said Friday that 11 more children have died in the past week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about half of the child deaths since September have been among teenagers. And overall for the country, deaths from pneumonia and flu-like illnesses have passed what CDC considers an epidemic level. About 6 percent of all doctor visits are for flu-like illnesses, levels not normally seen until later in the fall. Also the vaccination has been slow because of production of time frame.



Topic: **ARPAIO: MORE RAIDS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has launched a crime and immigration sweep in the Phoenix area, less than a day after officials in Washington limited his powers to make federal immigration arrests. The federal government stripped the controversial Arpaio of his power to let 100 deputies make such arrests but renewed another deal that lets 60 jails officers determine the immigration status of people in jail. The sweeps Friday in some heavily Latino areas have drawn criticism that Arpaio's deputies racially profile people, a charge that the sheriff denies. Arpaio says his deputies can still detain illegal immigrants as long as they are turned over to federal authorities within a day or two.

### **Airdate October 17**

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTH** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Top White House advisers Valerie Jarrett and David Axelrod are saying President Barack Obama still believes a government-run health care option would best meet his reform goals. But they say he's not demanding that it be in the overhaul legislation. The White House and lawmakers are trying to blend five versions of health care legislation into something that will pass Congress.

Topic: **DEATH FROM INFLUENZA** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Hospitals, churches, firehouses and even taxi companies are loading up on hand sanitizer, changing behavior and taking other steps to prevent the spread of swine flu. Bottles of hand sanitizer are within sight of passengers in all 16 taxis operated by Yellow Cab of Iowa City. When people filed into Church of Our Saviour on Sunday in Cocoa Beach, Fla., they bumped fists with priest Sean Heslin instead of shaking hands. Many workplaces and other spots where people gather urge hand-sanitizer use and frequent hand washing.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION RAID by ARPAIO** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The so-called "toughest sheriff in America" is at it again. This time Sheriff Joe Arpaio has launched a sweep of illegal immigrants in his home base of Maricopa County, Arizona. Saturday was day two of his crackdown, which has lead to friction with federal authorities.

### **Airdate October 18**

Topic: **FAKE DRUGS SALE ON INTERNET** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A New York congressman has issued a warning about con artists selling fake flu drugs online. Democrat Anthony Weiner says people may be so worried about the swine flu outbreak and what officials say is a temporary vaccine shortage, that they'll take a risk buying drugs online without thinking about it. He says his office easily found sites selling fake flu drugs. Weiner says FDA investigators saw some that turned out to be acetaminophen, the active ingredient in the over-the-counter pain killer Tylenol. Weiner says buyers need to be sure an online site is legitimate and requires a prescription.

Topic: **FREE VACCINE IN NEW MEXICO** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: To keep New Mexicans healthy, U-N-M Health Services is offering free flu shots at clinics each weekend from now until Thanksgiving. Plenty of people took advantage without leaving the comfort of their cars. Directing the heavy flow of traffic at the U-N-M drive-thru flu clinic is a busy job. As car after car drove up, nurses worked efficiently, vaccinating as many people as possible. Drive-thru clinics are great for people who have trouble getting around. Hospital officials advise getting your shot as soon as possible.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REPORT** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Some state and local police are having second thoughts about working with the federal government to enforce immigration laws. Under what's known as the 287(g) program, agencies sign a voluntary agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and are trained to check legal status of prisoners and crime suspects, and to initiate deportations. The contract can specify enforcement in jail, in the community or both. Several police agencies have complained that new rules set by the Obama administration would cost too much time and money and, in some cases, damage their relationship with immigrants.

### **Airdate October 19**

Topic: **BANKRUPTCY FILING DELAYS CHURCH SEX ABUSE CASE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A high-profile sex abuse case that was set to start Monday against Delaware's Catholic Diocese of Wilmington and a former priest will be delayed after the church filed for federal bankruptcy protection. The bankruptcy filing late Sunday automatically delays the case in Kent County Superior Court, the first of eight consecutive abuse trials scheduled in Delaware.

Topic: **OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Justice Department is set to issue new policy guidelines on medical marijuana Monday. Two department officials described the new policy to The Associated Press, saying federal prosecutors will be told it is not a good use of their time to arrest people who use or provide medical marijuana in compliance with state laws. The new policy is a significant departure from the Bush administration, which insisted it would continue to enforce federal anti-pot laws regardless of state codes. Fourteen states allow some use of marijuana for medical purposes.

Topic: **WHITE HOUSE CASTS DOUBT ON AFGHAN RELIABILITY** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A senior aide says President Barack Obama will not commit more U.S. troops to Afghanistan until he's convinced the central government can be a credible and effective U.S. partner. In Sunday talk show interviews, White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel repeatedly underlined doubts about the Kabul government as a reliable partner for the U.S. Emanuel did not answer directly when asked whether Obama would wait for a final election outcome before deciding U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan. The issue of developing an effective Afghan central government has dogged the U.S. mission virtually from the war's beginning.

### **Airdate October 20**

Topic: **SCHOOL LUNCHES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Improving nutritional value of U.S. school food programs by increasing servings of fruits, vegetables and whole grains could increase the cost of breakfast by as much as 25 percent and lunch by 9 percent, according to a report released on Tuesday. A report from the Institute of Medicine, an arm of the National Academies, proposed updating school meal programs to meet nutritional needs and foster better eating habits, but recognized healthier, fresher ingredients would boost costs, especially at breakfast where fruit servings would increase.

Topic: **HEALTHCARE POLL** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A new poll suggests more and more Americans are worried about losing their current health care coverage. As the health care debate nears the floor of the Senate, the poll from the nonpartisan Robert Wood Johnson Foundation finds conflicting views on whether an overhaul will help, make things worse or do nothing. About one-third of respondents say they're worried about losing current coverage in the next 12 months. That's a slight increase from 29 percent in August. The share who say they're worried has gone up by 11 percentage points since spring.

Topic: **STATES CAN'T AFFORD DEATH PENALTY** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: At 678, California has the nation's largest death row population, yet the state has not executed anyone in four years. But it spends more than \$130 million a year on its capital punishment system -- housing and prosecuting inmates and coping with an appellate system that has kept some convicted killers waiting for an execution date since the late 1970s. This is according to a new report that concludes that states are wasting millions on an inefficient death penalty system, diverting scarce funds from other anti-crime and law enforcement programs.

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A coalition of Democratic senators wants to extend unemployment benefits for Americans who are out of work. If approved, the measure would keep unemployment checks coming for an additional 14 weeks.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION LAWSUIT** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A Miami lawyer will be filing a lawsuit against Immigration because they deported the husband of one of his clients that was here under TPS. ICE deported him because he had a previous order of deportation but the lawyer says that they made a mistake and that is the reason for suing.

Topic: **OBAMA SMALL BUSINESSES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: President Barack Obama is expected to announce a series of initiatives Wednesday aimed at boosting credit to small businesses, an administration official said, as the White House tries to address a thorny problem which many believe is a continuing drag on the economy. The White House will move to increase the caps on existing Small Business Administration loans. It will also include measures to make it easier for small banks to access funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program. The Obama administration has struggled to figure out what to do for small businesses and has spent months trying to get its initial program off the ground.

Topic: **GARDASIL APPROVED FOR MALES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Food and Drug Administration has approved Gardasil for boys and men, from ages 9 through 26 was previously approved for the prevention of cervical cancer and genital warts in girls and women ages 9 through 26. Both cervical cancer and genital warts are caused by strains of human papilloma virus, the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. About 2 out of every 1,000 American men develop genital warts each year.

### **Airdate October 21**

Topic: **OBAMA SMALL BUSINESSES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: President Barack Obama unveiled plans Wednesday to refocus spending of the government's \$700 billion financial bailout away from Wall Street's big financial institutions and toward small businesses on Main Street. Speaking in a small business near Washington, Obama said the initiatives would make it easier for smaller community banks to provide credit to small businesses, which have been hard-hit by the financial crisis. The president's plan also includes a request that Congress increase caps for existing Small Business Administration loans.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION SAN FRANCISCO** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Undocumented youths arrested on felony charges in San Francisco would have to be convicted before police could turn them over to federal immigration officials under a new policy approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The supervisors voted Tuesday to overturn an existing ordinance that allows police to hand over juvenile illegal immigrants after they have been arrested on felony charges. The supervisors' 8-2 vote is enough to override an expected veto from Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Topic: **H1N1 YOUNG HIT THE HARDEST** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: New numbers from the government say that young people, age 24 and under, have been hit the hardest by the H1N1 virus, and doubts and fears abound as we head into flu season.

Topic: **CANCER SCREENING RISK** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The American Cancer Society has long supported most cancer screening, but is now warning that screening for breast, prostate and some other cancers can create a risk of over treating smaller cancers, while missing others that are deadly.

Topic: **WORLD VACCINATION** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Global health officials are reporting a record 106 million infants were vaccinated last year against life-threatening diseases. But, the report from the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the World Bank says nearly 1 in 5 babies aren't fully protected. The groups say to get a full round of first-year vaccinations to children in the poorest countries will take another \$1 billion a year. And they say it's a good investment. The report says if 90 percent of children under age 5 got the vaccinations, 2 million deaths could be prevented by 2015.

Topic: **POLLUTION & MIGRAINE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: A study from the densely populated Santiago Province of Chile -- a region surrounded by the Coastal and Andes mountains and, therefore, geographically prone to air pollution - found increased hospital admissions for migraines and other headaches on days of elevated air pollution readings.

### **Airdate October 22**

Topic: **SCARE TO VACCINE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: As the H1N1 virus continues to spread nationwide, a majority of those surveyed - 52 percent -- now say they are "a great deal" or "somewhat" worried that they or someone in their household will be infected with it, up from 39 percent of those polled in August. Concern is rising fastest among young adults, one of the groups most vulnerable to the virus. In August, just 26 percent of those ages 18 to 29 said they were concerned; now 47 percent are worried. At the same time, however, many Americans are hesitant about being vaccinated or having their children inoculated.

Topic: **MTA DISCOUNT** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The new MTA chief is pushing a plan to offer discounts for bus and subway riders on weekends and late nights. MTA CEO Jay Walder has been making a big splash since taking over the job earlier this month, talking to the media about a number of big ideas, such as installing cameras on buses to bust bus lane blockers and introducing a no-swipe MetroCard that would double as a debit card. In an exclusive interview with the Times yesterday, he revealed his latest crazy scheme.

Topic: **GAYS ADDED TO HATE CRIME** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Gays who are physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation receive new federal hate crime protections under legislation heading for President Barack Obama's signature. With a Senate vote on Thursday, Congress has approved a measure that expands current law to include crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. That's one of the most significant expansions of the law since it was enacted after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

Topic: **EXECUTIVES PAY CUT** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Obama administration plans to order companies that received huge government bailouts last year to sharply cut the compensation of their highest paid executives, according to a person familiar with the decision. The seven companies that received the most assistance will have to cut the annual salaries of their 25 highest-paid executive by an average of about 90 percent from last year, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because it has not yet been announced. This person said Wednesday that the Treasury Department will announce the deep pay cuts within the next few days.

**Airdate October 23**

Topic: **GOV. HEALTH INSURANCE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: In pushing to include a government-run health insurance plan in the health care bill, the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, is taking a calculated gamble that the 60 members of his caucus could support the plan if it included a way for states to opt out. Mr. Reid met with President Obama at the White House Thursday to inform him of his inclination to add the public option to the bill, but did not specifically ask the president to endorse that approach, a Democratic aide said. Mr. Obama asked questions, but did not express a preference at the meeting, a White House official said.

Topic: **FREE VACCINE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Los Angeles County will open the first in a series of swine flu vaccination clinics today, offering free shots to high-risk residents without insurance or a regular source of health care. Fielding has urged residents, especially pregnant women and children, to seek vaccinations from clinics or their doctor. Increasing amounts of H1N1 vaccine are expected to arrive in Los Angeles County on a weekly basis. Public Health's vaccine clinics will provide vaccine free of charge to residents in the H1N1 vaccine priority groups who do not have health insurance or a regular source of health care.

Topic: **HATE CRIME REGULATION** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Legislation that would extend hate-crimes protection to gays and lesbians cleared the U.S. Congress Thursday. The bill now heads to the White House, where President Obama will sign it into law or reject it because it approves weapons systems that the Pentagon does not want. It passed the Senate by a vote of 68 to 29. The House approved it on Oct. 8.

Topic: **SWINE FLU 1,000 DEATHS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Federal health officials say more Americans than ever have gotten their flu shots early. So far, 60 million people have bared their arms for the standard winter flu vaccine. Usually, most don't get the shot until later in the fall. One reason for the greater numbers is more availability of the standard vaccine. Another reason is concerns about swine flu, the vaccine for which is in short supply because of production problems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says more than 1,000 deaths are blamed on swine flu so far. Director Dr. Thomas Frieden says it's more widespread now than ever. The CDC reports 46 states now have widespread flu activity. The only states that don't are Connecticut, Hawaii, New Jersey and South Carolina.

## Airdate October 24

Topic: **OBAMA EMERGENCY FOR SWINE FLU** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: President Barack Obama is making what administration officials are describing as a pre-emptive move against the swine flu. He's declaring the pandemic a national emergency, in an effort to speed treatment to thousands of infected people. Administration officials say the effort is designed to make decisions easier when they need to be made. The declaration authorizes Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to bypass Federal rules when opening offsite hospital centers.

Topic: **OBAMA STIMULUS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: President Barack Obama is appealing to banks to lend more money to small businesses. In his weekly radio and Internet address, he says too many small business owners have been unable to get credit despite the Obama administration's efforts to jump-start lending. Obama also mentions the \$700 billion taxpayer-financed financial bailout, and says it's time banks returned the favor by helping small businesses. He also says the administration will "take every appropriate step" to encourage banks to meet those responsibilities. He did not specify what those steps might be.

Topic: **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR FLU** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Officials with the Albany R-3 School District have decided to cancel all classes Thursday and Friday due to the spread of general flu-related illness throughout the system. Superintendent Bryan Prewitt told the News-Press Wednesday afternoon that more than 20 percent of the district's 433 students were out with the flu.

Topic: **"NO ENGLISH" TICKET** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Dallas police chief issues public apology after rookie cop issues a ticket because a driver couldn't speak English. Dallas police Chief David Kunkle issued a public apology Friday after learning that a rookie officer issued a ticket to a motorist because she couldn't speak English. "We don't have abilities to determine proficiency in any language, and we shouldn't be doing it in the first place," Kunkle said. "I apologize to the Spanish-speaking Hispanic community." After a review of the records, Kunkle said about a half-dozen officers had issued a total of 38 similar citations. He said police would recommend to the courts that any pending cases be dismissed.

## Airdate October 25

Topic: **CA: SWINE FLU LONG LINES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Many Americans stood in long lines Saturday to get the H1N1 vaccine but in Southern California, residents got vaccinated without ever leaving their cars. Hundreds of people took advantage of a drive-thru clinic at Beach Cities Health District in Redondo Beach. The line of cars stretched along several blocks. Los Angeles County Public Health has scheduled over 200 H1N1 vaccination clinics during the next couple weeks. The first round of vaccines is being given to those in priority groups. They include babies, adults with medical problems, pregnant women, and medical workers.

Topic: **OK DRIVE THRU VACCINES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Long lines in Oklahoma City Saturday, showed many believed the best defense against the flu is a good offense. Thousands packed two metro high schools to get free H1N1 shots. Grant High School's freshman Michaela Bailey was first in line at five in the morning. Not everyone seemed to be a huge fan of getting a shot but after it's all said and done, the Oklahoma City County Health Department officials say they vaccinated over 35-hundred people at both the U. S. Grant and Southeast High flu shot clinics.

### Airdate October 26

Topic: **PUBLIC OPTION HEALTH CARE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: The Nevada Democrat on Monday announced that the Senate's merged health care bill would introduce a government-sponsored program into the health insurance market. But it remains unclear whether Reid, who is facing a tough re-election battle back home, has managed to corral the filibuster-proof 60 votes needed to guarantee passage of a final bill containing a so-called public option. That would include all 57 of his fellow Democratic senators and the two independents who caucus with them.

Topic: **EMERGENCY FOR H1N1** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Despite long lines and limited supplies of the H1N1 flu vaccine, U.S. efforts against the disease are not too late, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Monday. Sebelius acknowledged frustrating waits to get the vaccine, but said some 16.5 million doses are now being made available, with efforts to get more.

Topic: **NEW JOBS, A GOOD SIGN** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: An economic survey out Monday provides fresh evidence that a fitful recovery is underway as customer demand grows in the third quarter for the first time in more than a year and the jobs outlook brightens a bit. For the first time since the recession began, the portion of companies planning to add employees in the next six months outnumbered those expecting to cut jobs, according to this month's quarterly survey of economists at 78 firms by the National Association for Business Economics.

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Senate Democrats are trying again this week to extend unemployment benefits. Democrats are pushing a bill that would extend expiring benefits for 14 weeks in all states and an extra six weeks in states where unemployment is above 8 1/2 percent. Unhappy with how Democrats' planned to pay for the extended benefits, Republicans refused to let the benefits extension move ahead via unanimous consent.

### Airdate October 27

Topic: **PUBLIC OPTION HEALTH CARE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: In a dramatic sign of Democrats' growing confidence that they have the votes to pass a far-reaching healthcare overhaul, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said Monday that the bill he intended to send to the Senate floor next month would include a "public option."

Topic: **SENATOR PROPOSES INTEREST RATE FREEZE** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, who is fighting for his political survival, proposed Monday an immediate interest rate freeze on existing balances for the estimated 700 million credit cards in circulation.

### Airdate October 28

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: One scenario by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology forecasts that if 30% of the U.S. population contracts H1N1 flu, 90 million could get sick, 1.8 million would be hospitalized and 30,000 or more would die. The Trust for America's Health, a non-profit public-health advocacy group, reported in early October that if the infection rate hits 35%, many states may run out of hospital beds, forcing hospitals to begin canceling elective procedures.

Topic: **WORKPLACE IMMIGRATION RAIDS** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Workplace immigration raids during the Bush administration interfered with ongoing labor investigations and allowed employers to exploit workers who complained about conditions on the job, labor groups said in a report released Tuesday. The stepped-up immigration enforcement came at the expense of rigorous enforcement of labor protections that are guaranteed to all workers regardless of immigration status, the groups said.

Topic: **ALZHEIMER'S AND DIABETES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Diabetes and Alzheimer's disease are connected, in ways that still aren't completely understood. Diabetes has been implicated as a risk factor for eventually developing Alzheimer's disease. And some diabetes drugs appear to slow the cognitive decline associated with Alzheimer's disease. The link between diabetes and Alzheimer's disease may provide new targets for future Alzheimer's treatments. But it may also mean an escalation in the number of people dealing with dementia, as the incidence rate of diabetes keeps increasing.

### **Airdate October 29**

Topic: **BLACK FRIDAY EARLIER** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Black Friday will arrive before Halloween this year, as the recession upends the retail calendar. Sears announced Wednesday that it is launching a sales campaign called Black Friday Now that will feature weekly big discounts through Thanksgiving. The sale, which will begin Friday at 5 p.m., includes \$80 diamond earrings and 50 percent off a 302-piece Craftsman tool set.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM LATEST** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will unveil a health-care reform bill on Thursday that includes a government insurance option and a historic expansion of Medicaid, although sticking points in the legislation involving abortion and immigration remain unresolved. Senior Democratic House aides said the bill would likely include a version of the "public option" preferred by moderates and may raise Medicaid eligibility levels to 150 percent of the federal poverty level for all adults, a steeper increase than in earlier drafts.

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: 46 states are reporting widespread H-1-N-1 flu activity. High demand for the vaccine has overwhelmed supply. Health officials want to make sure those in priority groups get vaccinated first.

### **Airdate October 31**

Topic: **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Say goodbye to the extra hour of evening daylight. The official change to standard time occurs at 2 a.m. Sunday, though most folks will change their clocks Saturday night and get an extra hour of sleep.

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINES** Duration: 30 sec  
Synopsis: Five drug companies are now increasing production of the vaccine for the H1N1 swine flu, and 10 million more doses are expected next week, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Saturday.



# NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

November 1 - November 30, 2009

11/01/09

Duration: 30 seg

Topic: **RETIREMENT STUDY**

Synopsis: The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College says its latest analysis of household financial status shows 51 percent are at high risk of falling short of having enough money in retirement. The study released Tuesday says that's up from 44 percent in 2007.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **MEXICO REACHES RECORD 100 EXTRADITIONS TO U.S.**

Synopsis: Mexico has extradited a record number of criminal suspects to the United States this year, underscoring a dramatic improvement in cross-border law enforcement cooperation -- and an urgent attempt to clean up the country's crime-addled prisons. Authorities reached the historic 100-person mark with the shipment north of 11 crime fugitives on Sunday, the eve of a visit by Mexican Attorney General Arturo Chavez to Washington.

=====

11/02/09

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CIT BANKRUPTCY**

Synopsis: The CIT Bankruptcy filed with a Federal Court in New York on Sunday afternoon is one of the biggest in U.S. history, trailing Lehman Brothers, Washington Mutual, Worldcom and General Motors. The century-old firm has been a leading source of financing for small and medium size businesses and it has been in trouble since the financial crisis.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **U.S. SEPT PENDING HOME SALES UP 6.1% ON TAX CREDIT**

Synopsis: Pending sales of previously owned U.S. homes unexpectedly rose in September to their highest level in nearly three years ahead of the expiration of a popular tax credit for first-time buyers, a survey showed Monday. The National Association of Realtors said its Pending Home Sales Index, based on contracts signed in September, rose 6.1% -- the highest level since December 2006.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **COFFEE MAY LOWER ENDOMETRIAL CANCER RISK**

Synopsis: Women dread a diagnosis of endometrial cancer, but those who drink at least two cups of caffeinated coffee a day may have a lower risk for this cancer of cells lining the uterus. Coffee drinking seemed to particularly protect overweight and obese women, study co-author Dr. Emilie Friberg, at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, told Reuters Health by email. Friberg's team twice surveyed 60,634 Swedish women about their coffee intake - when they enrolled in the Swedish Mammography Cohort study between 1987 and 1990, and again in 1997.

=====

**11/03/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE, IMMIGRATION AND ABORTION CONTROVERSY**

Synopsis: House Democratic leaders and a landmark vote on President Barack Obama's promised remake of the nation's health care system. Unfortunately for the Democrats, the unresolved issues are among the most vexing out there: abortion and immigration. And although they're confident they'll succeed, Democratic leaders have yet to nail down the votes they'll need to pass their sweeping bill.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **AIRLINES PRICES UP**

Synopsis: Most of the largest U.S. airlines have increased a surcharge for travel on the busiest travel days to \$20 each way, up from \$10. The surcharges apply to a large number of flights within the U.S. on more than a dozen peak days around holidays including Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CHILDREN FOOD STAMPS**

Synopsis: A new study finds a growing number of American children end up on food stamps and that the recession is making things even worse. An analysis of three decades-worth of national data finds that nearly half of all U.S. children will be on food stamps and 90 percent of black children at some point during their childhood.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN**

Synopsis: Pregnant women and other people at high risk should be vaccinated against the H1N1 swine flu virus as the cold weather begins to bite in the northern hemisphere, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

=====

**11/04/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **VACCINES H1N1**

Synopsis: A House committee looks into the federal response to the H1N1 virus at a hearing today on Capitol Hill. The head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can expect some tough questioning about the availability of the swine flu vaccine. Meanwhile, a senior House lawmaker is seeking a quick floor vote on a bill to guarantee five paid sick days to workers if their employer tells them to stay home with swine flu or a similar contagious illness.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **INTEREST RATE**

Synopsis: The Federal Reserve is expected to leave interest rates at their already record low levels. The Central Bank concludes its two-day policy-setting session this afternoon. Experts think it will keep the target range for its bank lending rate at zero to 0.25%. That would leave commercial banks' prime lending rates at about 3.25%, the lowest in decades. The prime rate is used to peg rates on home equity loans, certain credit cards and other consumer loans.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **LAS VEGAS UNEMPLOYMENT**

Synopsis: Las Vegas has more than 130,000 people who are unemployed. When City Center announced job openings, they were flooded with more than 100,000 applicants for a very small number of openings. Fewer than 5% of those who applied were hired. This huge number of candidates are not having much success finding jobs in the traditional manner, they're having to expand their efforts and be much more creative to stand out from the crowd and be found. People are feeling like they're a needle in a employers' haystack.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **MICROSOFT LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: Microsoft on Wednesday laid off around 800 employees as part of the 5,000 job cuts it announced back in January. The software giant, which has been hit hard the past several quarters by weak PC and demand, also left the door open to additional job cuts. The latest job cuts are spread across multiple businesses and locations and are designed to reduce costs, increase efficiency and prioritize Microsoft's focus areas, a spokesperson said in an e-mail to Channelweb.com. Microsoft will continue to hire "in priority areas" but may see fit to institute "additional headcount adjustments," according to the spokesperson.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **JOBLESS BENEFITS**

Synopsis: Recognizing that a weak economy still needs a government boost, the Senate voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to provide the jobless with up to 20 weeks in additional unemployment benefits and expand a first-time homebuyer tax credit to include a far larger pool of people entering the dormant housing market.

=====

**11/05/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH BILL AND IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: A House Democrat is accusing President Barack Obama of dehumanizing illegal immigrants with his hard-line stance against allowing them to benefit from pending health overhaul legislation. Congressman Luis Gutierrez, from Obama's home state of Illinois, said Wednesday the approach is "nonsense" and would ultimately cost taxpayers more money when illegal immigrants end up in emergency rooms. Language on illegal immigrants is still being finalized as the House prepares to vote as early as Saturday. The White House wants to bar illegal immigrants from buying health plans in a new purchasing exchange, even if they use their own money. Gutierrez and other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus say that goes too far.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **JOBLESS BENEFITS**

Synopsis: The House could be voting as early as today on a Senate-passed bill that would extend unemployment benefits and expand a homebuyer tax credit. The bill passed the Senate with a 98-0 vote yesterday, and is expected to easily win approval in the House and be sent to President Barack Obama for his signature. The \$24 billion package gives the jobless at least 14 weeks of

additional benefits, while those in states with unemployment rates of 8.5 percent and above get six weeks on top of that. More than 1 million out-of-work people were expected to run out of benefits by the end of the year.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CANCER OBESITY**

Synopsis: Obesity causes more than 100,000 cases of cancer in the United States each year -- and the number will likely rise as Americans get fatter, researchers said Thursday. Having too much body fat causes nearly half the cases of endometrial cancer -- a type of cancer of the uterus -- and a third of esophageal cancer cases, the American Institute for Cancer Research said. Cancer is the second-leading cause of death in the United States after heart disease. The American Cancer Society projects that 1.47 million people will be diagnosed with cancer this year and 562,000 will die of it. More than 26 percent of Americans are obese, defined as having a body mass index of 30 or higher. BMI is equal to weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared. A person 5 feet 5 inches tall becomes obese at 180 pounds .

=====

**11/06/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

Synopsis: The unemployment rate has surpassed 10 percent for the first time since 1983 -- and is likely to go higher. Nearly 16 million people can't find jobs even though the worst recession since the Great Depression has apparently ended. The Labor Department said Friday that the economy shed a net total of 190,000 jobs in October, less than the downwardly revised 219,000 lost in September. August job losses were also revised lower, to 154,000 from 201,000. But the loss of jobs last month exceeded economists' estimates. It's the 22nd straight month the U.S. economy has shed jobs, the longest on records dating back 70 years.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE BILL**

Synopsis: House Democrats acknowledged they don't yet have the votes to pass a sweeping overhaul of the nation's health care system, and signaled they may push back the vote until Sunday or early next week. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters in a conference call Friday that the make-or-break vote on President Barack Obama's top priority that had been set for Saturday could face delay. The apparent problem: Democrats have yet to resolve intraparty disputes over abortion funding and illegal immigrants' access to health care.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION QUESTION IN CENSUS 2010**

Synopsis: Senate Democrats Thursday blocked a GOP attempt to require next year's census forms to ask people whether they are U.S. citizens. The proposal by Louisiana Republican Sen. David Vitter was aimed at excluding non-citizens from the population totals that are used to figure the number of congressional representatives for each state.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **FLU LATEST H1N1**

Synopsis: The World Health Organization says swine flu virus is now the predominant flu strain worldwide. It accounts for up to 70 percent of the flu viruses being sampled. Experts say samples from around the world remain very similar to when the virus was first identified in April.

**11/07/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

Synopsis: The unemployment rate has surpassed 10 percent for the first time since 1983 -- and is likely to go higher. Nearly 16 million people can't find jobs even though the worst recession since the Great Depression has apparently ended. The Labor Department said Friday that the economy shed a net total of 190,000 jobs in October, less than the downwardly revised 219,000 lost in September. August job losses were also revised lower, to 154,000 from 201,000. But the loss of jobs last month exceeded economists' estimates. It's the 22nd straight month the U.S. economy has shed jobs, the longest on records dating back 70 years.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTHCARE OPEN DEBATE**

Synopsis: The House has opened debate on President Barack Obama's landmark health care overhaul that would extend insurance to tens of millions of Americans and enact dramatic changes to the country's medical system. In the opening moments of debate, Democrats hailed the legislation as an advance for the nation's social fabric and a moral and economic imperative. Republicans said it would be a government takeover of the health care system that would damage the economy and erode the doctor-patient relationship. The vote planned for late Saturday was expected to be tight. Democratic leaders hoped a late-morning visit by Obama to Capitol Hill would push it over the edge.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTHCARE VOTE APPROVED**

Synopsis: The House has used a near-party line vote to reject a Republican health overhaul bill. Shortly before beginning its vote on a Democratic plan, the chamber voted 258-176 against a GOP version that would have lowered costs for people with insurance but done little or nothing to expand coverage to those without any. Outnumbered Republicans knew the chamber would reject their measure, but advanced it to present their vision on how the health system should be reshaped. The GOP relied largely on loosening regulations on private insurers to reduce costs for the insured by as much as 10%. Congressional budget analysts said the plan would make no dent in the ranks of the uninsured.

**11/08/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM LATEST**

Synopsis: The glow from a health care triumph is fading quickly for President Barack Obama as Democrats realize the bill they'd fought so hard to pass in the House will have a tough time in the Senate. The government health insurance plan included in the House bill is unacceptable to a few Democratic moderates who hold the balance of power in the Senate. They don't like the idea of the government competing with private insurers. Sen. Joe Lieberman, the Connecticut independent whose vote Democrats need to overcome GOP filibusters, tells "Fox News Sunday" that if a so-called "public option" is part of the bill, he will not allow it to come to a final vote.

=====

**11/09/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTHCARE REFORM LATEST**

Synopsis: As the focus on health care reform shifts to the Senate, analysts aren't expecting the chamber to pass an overhauled bill any time soon. Saturday's close House vote passed a measure that includes a government health insurance plan. That provision is unacceptable to

some Democratic moderates who hold the balance of power in the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is already hinting that senators may not be able to finish health care this year. For now, he's trying to find the votes for a different approach: a government plan that states could opt out of. He's expected to keep meeting with senators this week. The goal is to work out a political formula that will give Reid not only the 60 votes needed to begin debate, but the 60 needed to shut off discussion and bring the bill to a final vote.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **IMMIGRANTS BECOME CITIZENS SETTLEMENT**

Synopsis: Immigrants who waited for years for their citizenship applications to be processed due to extraordinary backlogs will finally have the chance to become Americans and enjoy the privileges of citizenship, under the terms of a settlement announced today between the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the National Immigration Law Center, the ACLU of Southern California, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and the law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **STROLLERS RECALL**

Synopsis: About a million Maclaren strollers sold by Target and Babies "R" Us are being recalled after 12 reports of children having their fingertips amputated by a hinge mechanism. The Consumer Product Safety Commission says the recall includes nine models of Chinese-made single and double umbrella Maclaren strollers, which have been sold around the country since 1999. The fingertip amputations occurred when children placed their fingers in the hinge mechanism of the recalled strollers. The company is offering free repair kits to fix the stroller problem.

=====

**11/10/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CHRISTOPHER DODD H1N1 NEW LAW**

Synopsis: During a hearing today on the H1N1 Pandemic, Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) announced that he is preparing emergency legislation that will guarantee paid sick days for those who are infected by the H1N1 virus. Dodd chaired today's hearing, where he heard from Desiree Rosado of Groton, CT, whose three children all became ill this fall, forcing her to miss work to care for them. Mrs. Rosado is a special education assistant and does not receive paid sick leave, which caused tremendous hardship for her family while her children were sick.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH REFORM**

Synopsis: The U.S. House of Representatives only narrowly approved President Obama's landmark healthcare reform legislation this week - 39 Democrats voted against it. Many Democrats also oppose a provision in the bill that limits the use of federal funds for abortion services, and they plan to derail it before it is finalized.

=====

**11/11/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **PAID DAYS OFF TO COPE WITH SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: A U.S. senator proposed legislation to require employers to give workers seven paid days off to cope with flu. Senator Chris Dodd said the measure would help slow the spread of H1N1 and increase productivity.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **US OFFICIALS BEGIN PUSH AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Synopsis: Fourteen cities are being targeted in a new campaign aimed at alerting people about human trafficking, federal immigration officials have announced. The "Hidden in Plain Sight" initiative, sponsored by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, features billboards highlighting "the horrors and the prevalence of human trafficking," which the agency says is equivalent to "modern-day slavery".

=====

**11/12/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **LAPD UNDER INVESTIGATION**

Synopsis: An independent examination of how the Los Angeles Police Department investigates officers accused of profiling people based on race, gender or sexual orientation found serious problems with a third of the sampled investigations, the inspector general for the L.A. Police Commission reported today. In six of 20 LAPD investigations into allegations of "biased policing" - the LAPD's new name for what traditionally has been termed racial profiling - police failed to interview witnesses, did not ask important questions or made similar gaffes, concluded Andre Birotte, the inspector general, in the 41-page report.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **U.N. NUTRITION REPORT**

Synopsis: A new U.N. report says there are nearly 200 million children around the world who have stunted growth because they don't get enough to eat. The U.N. children's agency says more than 90 percent of those children live in poor Asian and African countries. The UNICEF report also says undernourished children often lack the strength to fight off diseases and complications, and more than a third of all deaths among children under five are linked to the problem.

=====

**11/13/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **NAPOLITANO IMMIGRATION REPORT**

Synopsis: Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano's speech today at the Center for American Progress (CAP) will probably be remembered as a key moment in the history of immigration reform. The Secretary didn't just express support for a comprehensive overhaul of our immigration system; she made it clear that it was imperative for the ultimate security of the United States.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **5000 DEATH ON THE BORDER**

Synopsis: With numbing regularity news bulletins flash regarding groups or individuals suffering severe injuries, snake bites or dying in the remote deserts or mountains or drowning in the river along the 800 mile "Wall" as they attempt to cross the border between Mexico and the USA. In the 24/7 news cycle, this blip quickly fades from our collective memory and we move onto something more interesting, after all, we can't imagine ourselves in the same predicament.

**11/14/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CONCERN ABOUT VACCINES FOR H1N1**

Synopsis: We all know that the H1N1 virus is potentially deadly. We also know that there is a severe shortage of the H1N1 vaccine. While some people are concerned with H1N1 vaccine dangers, others are scrambling to get their dose.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **DISNEY HAND SANITIZER**

Synopsis: In order to combat the H1N1 virus Disney Parks have installed hand sanitizers for visitors to use as they travel through the parks, ride the rides and shop the stores. These hand sanitizer stations are available at Walt Disney World and Disneyland so far.

=====

**11/15/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: Democrats and Republicans in Congress are working together to craft an immigration reform bill that could become law as early as next year, a senior White House adviser said Sunday. That legislation could create a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants already in the United States, David Axelrod, senior advisory to President Barak Obama, told CNN's State of the Union with John King.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **BERNANKE KEEPS EYE ON U.S. DOLLAR**

Synopsis: Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday the Central Bank will keep a close eye on the sliding U.S. dollar even as he pledged anew to keep interest rates at record-lows to nurture the economic recovery. In remarks to the Economic Club of New York Monday afternoon, Bernanke made clear Fed policymakers will keep rates at super-low levels. Yet with his words, Bernanke is also trying to bolster confidence in the dollar without actually raising rates, a move that could short-circuit the fragile recovery. Economists say a free-fall in the value of the dollar is remote but can't be entirely dismissed.

=====

**11/16/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **BREAST CANCER NEW GUIDE**

Synopsis: A government panel of doctors and scientists is recommending that most women wait until 50 to get mammograms and every two years thereafter. That conflicts with the advice of the American Cancer Society, which recommends mammograms at age 40. The experts say earlier and regular breast exams result in too many false positives.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **DRUG MAKERS PRICES**

Synopsis: In the last year, the industry has raised the wholesale prices of brand-name prescription drugs by about 9 percent, according to industry analysts. That will add more than \$10 billion to the nation's drug bill, which is on track to exceed \$300 billion this year. By at least one analysis, it is the highest annual rate of inflation for drug prices since 1992.



Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **ARMY SUICIDES**

Synopsis: Army officials say they appear to be getting a handle on the problem, but they also admit that suicides among soldiers this year will likely top last year's pace. Army Vice Chief of Staff General Peter Chiarelli said today the 140 confirmed suicides by soldiers this year is equal to last year's total. However Chiarelli says the pace of those deaths has tapered off in recent months following a surge in January and February.

=====

**11/17/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **BREAST MAMMOGRAM CONTROVERSY**

Synopsis: Sweeping new U.S. breast cancer guidelines released Monday recommend against routine mammograms for women in their 40s, but several groups immediately rebelled against the recommendations. The new guidelines by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an influential panel of independent experts, would sharply curtail the number of breast mammograms done in the United States, sparing women the worry of false alarms and the cost and trouble of extra tests. U.S. cancer experts argued the altered schedule may mean more women will die from breast cancer.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **ANTI FINANCIAL FRAUD TASK FORCE**

Synopsis: The Obama administration created a new task force Tuesday to crack down on financial fraud, an increasingly important political issue after a spike in mortgage scams and big Wall Street trading scandals. President Barack Obama signed an executive order directing the task force led by the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute financial crimes connected to the past year's financial crisis and to try to deter future fraud.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH TAXES**

Synopsis: Americans don't want to shoulder the cost of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul themselves. They think the rich should pay for it. That's the finding from a new Associated Press poll, and it could be a boost for House Democrats, who have proposed taxing upper-income people to fund their sweeping remake of the U.S. medical system. Their plan, which the House approved this month, would extend coverage to millions of uninsured Americans.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CDC WILL NO LONGER REQUIRE HPV VACCINE FOR FEMALE IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: Starting Dec. 14, the HPV, or human papillomavirus vaccine will no longer be on the list of immunizations female immigrants ages 11 to 26 must receive before becoming legal permanent residents. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made the change on Friday. The CDC said it will require immunizations for which there is a public health need either at the time the person immigrates or changes their status to green card holder.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **U.S. LABOR GROUP UNVEILS PLAN TO TACKLE JOBLESSNESS**

Synopsis: The head of the largest U.S. labor federation urged President Barack Obama Tuesday to use the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout fund to help cash-starved small businesses as a way to stem rising joblessness. In a preview of labor's contribution to Obama's Dec. 3 jobs forum, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said money from the Troubled Asset Relief Program could be loaned at commercial rates to small- and medium-sized businesses that cannot get credit from larger banks.

**11/18/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **SECURE VECHICLES**

Synopsis: Ford, Subaru and Volkswagen lead the insurance industry's annual list of the safest new vehicles, according to a closely watched assessment used by car companies to lure safety-conscious consumers to showrooms. The Virginia-based Insurance Institute for Highway Safety awarded its "top safety pick" on Wednesday to 19 passenger cars and eight sport utility vehicles for the 2010 model year. The institute substantially reduced the number of awards compared with 2009, because of tougher requirements for roof strength.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **IMMIGRANT CARTOON**

Synopsis: Newsday Caricature provokes protest and a call for boycott from Latino Immigrants in Suffolk County. Community Leaders and activists will join forces and protest what's believed to be bigotry within the halls of Newsday. On the anniversary of the brutal beating and murder of Marcelo Lucero the editor of Newsday, John Mancini decided it was right to poke jokes and portray the immigrant community as cry babies. "We are asking the immigrant community to boycott the paper and its advertisers until Mancini resigns or is fired from his post at Newsday," said Fernando Mateo President of Hispanics Across America.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **MAMMOGRAM CONTROVERSY**

Synopsis: U.S. health officials Wednesday distanced themselves from controversial new breast cancer screening guidelines that recommend against routine mammograms for healthy women in their 40s and said federal policy on screening mammograms has not changed. In a move likely to reassure American women, U.S. House and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a statement the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force that issued the guidelines Monday does not set federal policy and does not affect what services the government will pay for.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **SANTA AND H1N1**

Synopsis: Swine flu has become such a concern for the U.S. Santa organizations that one of them - the Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas (AORBS) - featured a seminar on the illness at a recent conference in Philadelphia. AORBS is now lobbying for its members to get on the much sought after swine flu vaccination priority list. They want to get the swing flu shot "not so much to protect the Santa, but to help protect the public". The group also urged its members to use hand sanitizer and take vitamins to boost their immune systems. The president of the organization said he hopes parents will keep sick kids away.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE BILL**

Synopsis: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has taken the wraps off health care legislation. It's estimated to extend coverage to 94 percent of eligible Americans at a cost of \$849 billion over the next decade. Initial maneuvering on the Senate floor was expected later in the week. Republicans hope to deny President Barack Obama a victory on his top domestic priority. Reid says the legislation will save lives, save money and help Medicare.

=====

**11/19/08**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH REFORM SENATE**

Synopsis: Congressional budget experts say the new Senate health care bill would make a government health plan widely available. The Congressional Budget Office said Thursday that

about two-thirds of the U.S. population would have a public plan available in their state, even though the Democrats' 10-year, \$848-billion bill would allow states to opt out. Wide availability doesn't mean the government plan would dominate the market, however. The budget umpires are estimating only 3 million to 4 million people would sign up, partly because private insurance plans would be able to offer lower premiums.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **E-VERIFY**

Synopsis: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Assistant Secretary John Morton today announced the issuance of Notices of Inspection (NOIs) to 1,000 employers across the country associated with critical infrastructure-alerting business owners that ICE will audit their hiring records to determine compliance with employment eligibility verification laws. The 1,000 businesses served with audit notices this week were selected for inspection as a result of investigative leads and intelligence and because of the business' connection to public safety and national security-for example, privately owned critical infrastructure and key resources. The names and locations of the businesses will not be released at this time due to the ongoing, law enforcement sensitive nature of these audits.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **AMERICAN ONLINE JOB CUTS**

Synopsis: AOL will shed about a third of its 6,900-strong workforce after it is spun off from Time Warner next month. The internet provider said that it needed to save \$300 million (£180 million) in operating costs and would make forced redundancies if it did not get 2,500 volunteers to go. Tim Armstrong, AOL's chief executive, will give up his 2009 bonus, which was worth up to \$4 million, as part of the cost saving. He is on a roadshow to sell the company to investors ahead of its initial public offering (IPO) on the New York Stock Exchange on December 9.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **NEW CALIFORNIA LAW - SMALL TV FOR ELECTRICITY SAVINGS**

Synopsis: Power-hungry TVs will be banned from store shelves in California after state regulators Wednesday adopted a first-in-the-nation mandate to reduce electricity demand. On a unanimous vote, the California Energy Commission required all new televisions up to 58 inches to be more energy-efficient, beginning in 2011. The requirement will be tougher in 2013, with only a quarter of all TVs currently on the market meeting that standard.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CALIFORNIA INCREASE UNIVERSITY PRICES**

Synopsis: A UC Board of Regents committee is expected to recommend a series of highly controversial increases in student fees today that would raise undergraduate education costs by more than \$2,500, or 32%, in two steps by next fall. The first will be a \$585 rise in undergraduate fees for the rest of the current academic year. Then for next fall, students will see another \$1,344 on top of that. It will bring the basic UC education fees to about \$10,300, along with about \$1,000 in campus-based fees.

=====

**11/20/08**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Synopsis: Senate Democratic leaders are looking ahead to a crucial test vote on health care amid indications the rank-and-file will stand together Saturday to give them the support they need. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Senate Democrat, said Friday that leaders weren't assuming anything and were working to bring the caucus together ahead of Saturday's vote to begin debate on their health overhaul bill. Two of three moderate holdouts have indicated in recent days that they will vote with fellow Democrats on the procedural vote.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **MAMMOGRAMS INSURANCE**

Synopsis: New guidelines for PAP Smears especially for young women suggest that annual testing may provide more risk, than benefit. They are recommending that women should not begin PAP testing before age 21. Previously, it was age 18 and women between 20 and 30 are tested every other year. It's the second time this week that major procedural changes for women's specific cancer screenings have been suggested.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CHRYSLER LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: General Motors Co. may lay off hourly workers this year because only about 6,000 employees, less than targeted, accepted its most-recent buyout and early retirement offers. That's about 7,500 fewer workers than officials want to cut this year as part of a court-ordered restructuring, according to the automaker. GM has said it wants to eliminate 21,000 jobs this year but so far about 13,000 employees have accepted buyouts and early retirements.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **"GLOBAL ENTRY"**

Synopsis: The Global Entry Program expedites the movement of frequent international air travelers. The program allows members to enter the United States more quickly by using automated kiosks located in the U.S. arrivals area at Hartsfield-Jackson. Fingerprint biometric technology is used to verify a registered member and confirm status. Participation in the Global Entry Program, sponsored by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, is voluntary. Only U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents with no criminal record are eligible to apply for this convenient service.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **LESS H1N1 CASES**

Synopsis: Each week CDC analyzes information about influenza disease activity in the United States. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Report decreased slightly but is still higher than what is expected for this time of year and has remained elevated for seven weeks now. In addition, 21 flu-related pediatric deaths were reported this week: 15 of these deaths were associated with laboratory confirmed 2009 H1N1; 6 were influenza A viruses, but were not subtyped. Since April 2009, CDC has received reports of 171 laboratory-confirmed pediatric 2009 H1N1 deaths, one influenza B death, and another 28 pediatric deaths that were laboratory confirmed as influenza, but the flu virus subtype was not determined.

=====

**11/21/08**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTHCARE SENATE VOTE**

Synopsis: Democrats have hit the magic number of 60 to move ahead on historic health care legislation. Arkansas Sen. Blanche Lincoln said on the Senate floor that she will vote with her party, hours before the 8 p.m. EST roll call. She said it was important that the Senate begin debate on a critical issue. The centrist Democrat was the lone holdout. Facing unanimous Republican opposition, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid needed the 58 Democrats and two independents to vote to move forward on the sweeping bill to remake the nation's health care system. Shortly before 1 p.m. EST, another centrist fence-sitter, Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, said she would vote yes.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **OBAMA ECONOMY**

Synopsis: The Federal Reserve is about to provide a little more insight into how long an extended period of time might be. The U.S. central bank, has been repeating that "extended period" phrase since March to signal that it intends to keep its benchmark short-term interest rate near zero for the foreseeable future. With the U.S. economy now growing again, there is considerable debate about how far that horizon stretches. After its last policy-setting meeting in early November, the Fed spelled out more clearly the economic conditions that it thought justified ultra-low rates -- namely high unemployment and subdued inflation trends and expectations

=====

**11/22/08**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTHCARE VOTE**

Synopsis: Some Democrats are already giving a preview on what could be a rowdy Senate floor debate on a proposed health-care overhaul. Liberal and moderate party members have been airing their differences on the Sunday news shows. Moderates are threatening to scuttle the measure if their demands aren't met, while more liberal members are telling party leaders not to give in. Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska tells ABC he wants tougher restrictions on what taxpayer money will fund. Meanwhile, Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin tells NBC there's a clock ticking. The Senate's No. 2 Democrat says a health care bill must be passed by the end of the year

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **MAMMOGRAMS NEW RECOMMENDATION**

Synopsis: The uproar over new breast cancer screening guidelines in the United States underscores the delicate balance scientists and health policy experts face in trying to convince a wary American public that less healthcare, in some cases, may be good for them. The sweeping new guidelines released Monday advise against routine mammograms for women in their 40s, and suggest women 50 to 74 only get a mammogram every other year instead of yearly. U.S. breast cancer experts and advocacy groups immediately rebelled against the recommendations, saying they endangered women's lives.

**11/23/2009**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **OCTOBER HOME SALES RISE 10.1% FROM SEPTEMBER**

Synopsis: Home resales far exceeded expectations last month, surging to the highest level in 21/2 years as first-time buyers rushed to take advantage of an expiring tax credit. The National Association of Realtors says sales rose 10.1% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.1 million in October, from a downwardly revised pace of 5.54 million in September. It was the highest sales level since February 2007. Sales, which were nearly 24 percent above last year's level, had been expected to rise to an annual pace of 5.65 million, according to economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters. The median sales price was \$173,100 down 7.1 percent from a year earlier, and off 1.6% from September.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **DEMOCRATS READY TO GO-IT-ALONE ON HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: A leading Senate Democrat said Monday his party is determined to push through a health care overhaul bill with or without Republican support because the "system is broken." "We prefer to go at it with Republicans if we can reach compromises in some areas," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **AMERICANS CONFLICTED OVER HEALTH OVERHAUL**

Synopsis: Most Americans don't expect a health care overhaul to affect their lives directly, but those who worry about the fallout outnumber those expecting to come out ahead, a poll out Tuesday has found. The survey by the nonpartisan Robert Wood Johnson Foundation finds that Americans are tuning in to the debate in Washington, with 60 percent saying they're following it very closely or fairly closely. Most see a change ahead for the nation, and they're divided on whether that will be for good or ill. But when it comes to their own personal lives, Americans say they don't expect much of an impact.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **AFGHAN US TROOPS**

Synopsis: As the administration of US President Barack Obama neared an announcement on troop increases in Afghanistan, soldiers at a military Camp in Logar province prepared to head home at the end of their tour in the country. The homeward bounds troops will be replaced with equal numbers, but the

Obama administration is currently considering military proposals to send 10,000 to 40,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan next year.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **OBAMA SAYS MUST DO MORE TO EASE U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Monday that his top priority was to tackle high U.S. unemployment and stressed that although the economy was growing again, many Americans were still suffering. "We cannot sit back and be satisfied," he told reporters following a briefing with his cabinet. "This has been a very difficult year."

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **GAS PRICES FALL TO BEGIN BUSY TRAVEL WEEK**

Synopsis: Retail gasoline prices headed downward to begin one of the country's busiest travel weeks, with more than 33 million people expected to hit the road for the Thanksgiving holiday. Americans are remaining closer to home because of anxiety about the economy and demand for gasoline is weaker now than it was last year at this time. That is telling because a gallon of gasoline then cost only \$1.93 as the economic crisis unfolded in 2008. Unlike last year, however, gas is not falling sharply and though prices fell overnight, it still cost \$2.64 per gallon on average, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

=====

**11/24/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CRIB RECALL**

Synopsis: The head of the Consumer Product Safety Commission on Tuesday promised swift action to get dangerous products off the market, acknowledging that the agency didn't move quickly enough on a record recall of more than 2 million cribs linked to four deaths. At issue are some 2.1 million drop-side cribs made by Stork Craft Manufacturing of Canada. Four infants suffocated in the cribs. CPSC said the recall involves 1.2 million cribs in the United States and almost 1 million in Canada. Sales of the cribs being recalled date back to 1993 and nearly 150,000 of the cribs carry the Fisher-Price logo.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CONSUMER CONFIDENCE**

Synopsis: Americans' confidence in the economy improved slightly in November, but it remains gloomy amid a weak job market heading into the holiday season. The Conference Board says its Consumer Confidence Index increased slightly to 49.5, up from a revised reading of 48.7 in October. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected a reading of 47.7.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **H1N1 VACCINE STOPPED IN CANADA**

Synopsis: Some Canadian provinces have stopped using a particular batch of the H1N1 flu vaccine after six people experienced severe allergic reactions, the country's health agency said on Monday. The Public Health Agency of Canada and vaccine manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline have asked the governments of Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Prince Edward Island -- nearly half the country's 13 provinces and territories -- to stop using a batch of 172,000 doses.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **RECESSION IS MAKING YOUNG PEOPLE RETURN HOME**

Synopsis: Signs of the housing crisis are everywhere, with vacant foreclosed homes and for sale signs in almost every neighborhood, but another sign of the recession is less visible--adult children moving into their parents homes to save money.

=====

**11/25/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **THANKSGIVING TRAVELERS**

Synopsis: Millions of Americans got an early jump on their Thanksgiving travel Wednesday, with many opting to drive or take trains and buses instead of shelling out more money for flights amid a sour economy still hitting household budgets hard. Many Americans are forgoing air travel for the Thanksgiving holiday and opting for cheaper alternatives because of economic pressures. Others are staying home completely -- partly to avoid traffic and airport lines, partly to save a buck. Thanksgiving travel plummeted a staggering 25 percent between 2007 and 2008, and many of those habits seem to be sticking this year. The number of people traveling is likely to stay about the same, inching up only by about 1.4 percent.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **TOYOTA RECALL**

Synopsis: Toyota Motor Corp will fix the accelerator pedals in 4 million cars and trucks to address a safety issue linked to bursts of sudden acceleration and deadly accidents, the company and the U.S. government said on Wednesday. The action, which represents the largest-ever U.S. safety recall by the Japanese automaker, aims to address the risk that floor mats in the vehicles can come loose and trap the accelerator pedal on some of Toyota's most popular models including the Camry and hybrid Prius.

**11/26/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **TAMIFLU REPORT**

Synopsis: The World Health Organization says isolated cases of drug-resistant swine flu in Britain and the United States have not changed the agency's assessment of the disease. It says Tamiflu remains highly effective against the vast majority of H1N1 cases. Four cancer patients in a North Carolina hospital tested positive last week for a type of the flu that was resistant to Tamiflu. Five people at a British hospital also didn't respond to the drug after contracting the flu. WHO flu chief Dr. Keiji Fukuda said Thursday that investigations were under way, but that the American and British patients for whom Tamiflu did not work had severely weakened immune systems.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **BLACK FRIDAY PREVIEW**

Synopsis: Three percent of buyers have already done their holiday shopping. Odds are they have now turned to getting a head start on filing their taxes. For the rest of us, Black Friday looms. We will be trolling between now and the Big Event to offer you news, tips, deals and ideas. Stores are appealing to the recession mind-set this holiday season, offering deals on necessities such as blankets and socks alongside big ticket electronic items. The National Retail Federation expects the Black Friday crowds will be bigger this year, but spending for the weekend will be at best unchanged from last year.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **SLOW ECONOMY RECOVERY**

Synopsis: Hope for a strong economic rebound is fading Growth last quarter was less than initially estimated. The Federal Reserve doesn't expect the economy to pick up steam until 2011, despite huge stimulus spending and low interest rates. The economy is improving according to most yardsticks, but fresh evidence emerged Tuesday that the path to revival could resemble a Thanksgiving holiday road trip -- long, slow and stressful. Hopes for a strong rebound from the recession are fading as the government Tuesday downsized its estimate of economic growth in the third quarter to 2.8% from its earlier calculation of 3.5%.

**11/27/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **VIRGINIA SMOKING BAN**

Synopsis: Starting Dec. 1, a new Virginia law bans most smoking in restaurants. It's a major shift for a state where tobacco has been king since Jamestown was settled 400 years ago. Virginia's neighbor and the nation's top tobacco producer, North Carolina, passed an even stricter restaurant smoking ban this year. It takes effect Jan. 2. About 70 percent of Virginia restaurants have already banned smoking on their own.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **DIABETES HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: By 2034, nearly twice as many Americans will have diabetes and spending on the disease will triple, further straining the U.S. health system and testing the viability of Medicare and other government health insurance programs, U.S. researchers said on Friday. "We forecast that in the next 25 years, the population size of people with diabetes both diagnosed and undiagnosed -- will rise from approximately 24 million people to 44 million people by the year 2034," said Dr. Elbert Huang of the University of Chicago, whose study appears in the journal Diabetes Care.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **BLACK FRIDAY**

Synopsis: Shopping mall operators say more shoppers are making purchases in cash and with debit cards today, instead of credit. One man carrying two bulging Macy's bags in Chicago said "with cash you don't have the hangover in January." After a year of concentrating spending on basic necessities, some shoppers have been taking advantage of post-Thanksgiving deals on toys and TVs. But worries about jobs were on the minds of many shoppers, as they looked for bargains.



**11/28/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HATE CRIMES STATISTICS**

Synopsis: Statistics released today by the Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed that 7,783 criminal incidents involving 9,168 offenses were reported in 2008 as a result of bias toward a particular race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or disability. Published by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, *Hate Crime Statistics, 2008*, includes data about hate crime incidents submitted by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **SMOKING RISKS IN WOMEN**

Synopsis: Women who smoke may have a higher risk of developing seizures than non-smokers do, a new study suggests. Researchers found that among more than 100,000 U.S. women in a long-running health study, current smokers were between two and three times more likely than non-smokers to suffer a seizure over 16 years.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HISPANICS AND HEALTHCARE**

Synopsis: The Health debate starts Monday November 30th as it relates to issues that affect Hispanics. Although Hispanics are the largest ethnic minority population in the United States, they are underserved by the health-care system. Hispanics are less likely to seek and receive health-care services, which might contribute to their poorer health status and higher rates of morbidity and mortality. To assess differences in access to health-care and preventive services between Hispanics and non-Hispanics, CDC analyzed 2001--2002 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System surveys.

=====

**11/29/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL**

Synopsis: Leading Democrats Sunday said they expect Congress to pass a major healthcare reform backed by President Barack Obama, but supporters may have to accept legislation that falls short on some issues. The U.S. Senate Monday is set to begin debate on the sweeping overhaul of the \$2.5 trillion U.S. healthcare system amid growing concerns about the cost of the legislation that aims to provide medical coverage for millions of the uninsured. "We want to cover the uninsured, yes, but we don't want to do it in a way that's going to drive up the costs for folks who currently have it," said Senator Evan Bayh, one of a number of centrist Democrats whose support will be crucial to pass the overhaul in the face of solid Republican opposition.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **OBAMA AFGHANISTAN**

Synopsis: The centerpiece of President Barack Obama's revised war strategy in Afghanistan is expected to be the deployment of about 30,000 more U.S. troops to secure population centers and to train Afghan security forces to gradually assume control. Washington hopes the buildup, expected to be phased in over the next 12 to 18 months, will create conditions to allow the U.S. troop presence to eventually be scaled back. General Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, has told lawmakers that a troop drawdown could begin by 2013, while the White House said it expected U.S. forces out of the country by 2017-2018.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **GM PLANT CLOSE**

Synopsis: The General Motors plant will now stop operating in January instead of June. The factory has more than 400 employees and dozens more temporary workers.

**11/30/09**

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **SENATE DEBATES HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Synopsis: A very partisan debate over health care is under way in the Senate. But the arguments began today even before it formally opened. Democrats say a Congressional Budget Office assessment of the costs show the bill would lower premiums for "the vast majority of Americans." Republicans say most will either see no significant savings or end up paying more.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **CYBER MONDAY**

Synopsis: On this "Cyber Monday," retailers offered online bargains to attract holiday dollars. A Web analytics company that keeps an eye on such things says at about midday, online sales were almost 20 percent ahead of a year ago. Traditional store sales over the weekend were more mixed.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **PEOPLE CROSS BORDER TO GET H1N1 VACCINES**

Synopsis: The Centers for Disease Control say they have shipped over 51-million doses of H-1-N-1 flu vaccine, but the flu is still widespread in forty-three states. In Texas some people are going to Mexico to find flu treatment.

Duration: 30 seg.

Topic: **HOME FORECLOSURES**

Synopsis: The Obama administration will crack down on mortgage companies that are failing to do enough to help borrowers at risk of foreclosure, as part of a broad effort to boost participation in its mortgage assistance program. The Treasury Department said Monday it will withhold payments from mortgage companies that aren't doing enough to make the changes permanent. Officials will monitor the largest of the 71 participating mortgage companies via daily progress reports.

# NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

December 1 - December 31, 2009

12/01/09

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE - UNEMPLOYED**

Synopsis: A potential health care crisis is looming for thousands of unemployed Americans. A federal subsidy to the COBRA plan ends today. COBRA is the program that allows workers to keep their company's health insurance plan after they leave their job. The economic stimulus bill President Barack Obama signed in February cut the cost of COBRA by 65 percent for workers laid off after Sept. 1 of last year. The aim was to keep the ranks of the uninsured from exploding as unemployment moved toward double digits.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SOME TOY DRIVES CHECK IMMIGRATION STATUS**

Synopsis: Some Houston charities are asking whether children are in the country legally before giving them toys. In a year when more families than ever have asked for help, several programs providing Christmas gifts for needy children require at least one member of the household to be a U.S. citizen. Others ask for proof of income or rely on churches and schools to suggest recipients. The Salvation Army and a charity affiliated with the Houston Fire Department are among those that consider immigration status, asking for birth certificates or Social Security cards for the children.

-----  
12/02/09

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION MARCH**

Synopsis: The director of the Department of Justice and Peace will lead a procession of priests and faithful where immigrants are held while being processed for possible deportation or long-term immigration detention. The visit to the "B-18" Holding Center brings the message of this year's Guadalupe Celebration, "No Tengas Miedo (Do Not Fear)," to the immigrant community impacted by our broken immigration system.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ECONOMY LATEST**

Synopsis: The Obama administration is refocusing on the economy in the days ahead. At today's White House jobs forum, President Barack Obama is expected to defend his handling of the economy and push for stimulus spending. He's also set to deliver a major economic address early next week.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BREAST CANCER**

Synopsis: Breast ultrasounds found 100% of suspicious cancers in women under 40 who found lumps or other suspicious areas of the breast, offering a cheaper, less-invasive alternative to surgery or biopsies, U.S. researchers said Wednesday. They said targeted ultrasound -- which examines just the area of the breast where a lump is identified -- should become the standard of care for women under 40. The findings may address some of the concerns raised by a federal advisory panel about breast exams done by women or doctors to investigate lumps or hot spots in the breast, which most often turn out to be harmless.

**12/03/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION HEARING**

Synopsis: Immigrants who have been arrested in zero-tolerance zones along the Mexican border must not be tried at mass criminal immigration hearings because the proceedings violate federal rules, an appeals court ruled Wednesday. A three-judge panel with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that a federal court in Tucson, Ariz. - where mass hearings have been held for defendants arrested by U.S. Border Patrol agents - had violated Rule 11, which requires that each defendant be read their rights and be given an explanation of what a guilty plea means.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NJ GAY MARRIAGE**

Synopsis: A bill to legalize gay marriage in New Jersey will be posted for a vote next week. Sen. Ray Lesniak, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, says the bill is scheduled to go before that committee on Monday and will be voted on by the full Senate next Thursday. Garden State lawmakers who support the idea have been reluctant to post the bill for a vote unless they were fairly certain it would pass. Both houses of the Legislature must pass it before it goes to the governor.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **JOBS SUMMIT**

Synopsis: The decline in weekly jobless claims reported Thursday is "certainly hopeful," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said. He also told reporters that the White House is open to any idea that could spur job creation. President Barack Obama turns his attention Thursday from Afghanistan to the battle against U.S. unemployment, which has sapped his popularity at home and may shape his political future. Obama is hosting a forum with business leaders at the White House to discuss how to boost jobs after U.S. unemployment hit a 26-year peak of 10.2% in October. But the gathering has been dismissed by critics as a public relations exercise.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Synopsis: It was a critical test of Democratic unity on a health care vote -- and Democrats today closed ranks behind \$460 billion in Medicare cuts, even though the move is politically risky. The cuts are at the heart of the health care legislation that's now being debated on the Senate floor.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MEDICARE CUTS**

Synopsis: Senate Republicans have been defeated in their effort to restore \$460 billion in Medicare cuts. The cuts to the popular program are at the heart of a proposed health care overhaul. Senate Democrats closed ranks to keep the cuts in place, as a way of helping fund the \$1 trillion health care plan.

-----  
**12/04/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NOVEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT**

Synopsis: With a report due out on unemployment tomorrow, President Barack Obama is vowing to take "every responsible step to accelerate job creation." At a meeting with more than 100 CEOs, academics, small business and union leaders, Obama highlighted some ideas for job growth that could be put into action quickly. Among the possibilities is a program to make homes more energy efficient.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SLIM FAST RECALL**

Synopsis: Possible Bacterial Contamination Spurs Recall of All Ready-to-Drink Slim-Fast Canned Products. All Slim-Fast ready-to-drink canned products are being recalled because of possible contamination with *Bacillus cereus*, a bacterium that may cause diarrhea and possibly nausea and/or vomiting. Unilever United States, Inc. issued the voluntary recall in cooperation with the FDA. The recall involves all ready-to-drink Slim-Fast products sold in cans, regardless of flavor, "Best-By" date, lot code, or UPC number. The recall doesn't include any other Slim-Fast products, such as powdered shakes, meal bars, or snack bars.

---

**12/05/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTHCARE SENATE**

Synopsis: U.S. Senate Democrats hunted for a compromise on a government-run insurance plan and battled Republicans on home care for the elderly Saturday during a rare weekend work session on a sweeping healthcare overhaul. With Democratic leaders pushing to finish the bill by the end of the year, President Barack Obama will meet with Senate Democrats at the Capitol Sunday to urge them to work out their differences on his top domestic priority.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: Swine flu infections continue to wane, just as vaccine is becoming plentiful enough that some communities are allowing everyone to get it, not just those in priority groups. Swine flu was widespread in only 25 states last week -- mostly in the Northeast and Southwest, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday. In late October, 48 states were reporting widespread cases of swine flu. But since then, there's been a decline across the country, and it appears that a fall wave of swine flu infections has peaked.

---

**12/06/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA-CAPITOL HILL/HEALTHCARE**

Synopsis: Casting health care overhaul as a legacy for the American people and failure as politically unthinkable, President Barack Obama on Sunday rallied Senate Democrats to deliver on their party's half-century quest to expand the social safety net by providing access for all. At the Capitol during a rare Sunday session of the Senate, Obama delivered a closed-door pep talk to the fractious Democratic caucus that lasted about 45 minutes. Deep divisions remain over abortion coverage, but there was hope for compromise on whether the government should directly offer health insurance in competition with private companies.

---

**12/07/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL**

Synopsis: Anti-abortion lawmakers in both parties have insisted that taxpayer funds not be used to pay for abortions in government-run health programs. But some liberals say proposed restrictions go too far by barring federally subsidized health insurance plans from covering abortion even if the procedures were entirely paid for with customers' premiums.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BAILOUT COSTS**

Synopsis: The Obama administration will lose \$200 billion less than expected from the federal bailout program and is looking at using part of the savings to fund new job creation efforts. A Treasury official said that the administration now believes the cost of the financial rescue program will be at least \$200 billion below the \$341 billion estimate it made in August.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FRESNO BEEF RECALL**

Synopsis: A California company is recalling 22-thousand pounds of ground beef that may be contaminated with Salmonella. Beef Packers, Inc. is a Fresno, California, company that produced the beef on September 23rd of this year. The U-S Agriculture Department says two illnesses in Arizona have been linked to the ground beef. The beef went through a retail distribution center in Arizona where it was repackaged into consumer size packages, and sold under different retail brand names. Consumers are advised to check with their local retailer to determine if they have purchased products affected by the recall.

-----  
**12/08/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA AND JOBS**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says staggering job losses mean the country must continue to "spend our way out of this recession" with a round of new incentives for hiring. In a speech at the Brookings Institution, Obama proposed a package intended to stimulate job creation and bring down the country's 10% unemployment rate.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TAMIFLU**

Synopsis: British researchers say there is little evidence Tamiflu stops complications in healthy people who catch the flu, though public health officials contend the swine flu drug reduces flu hospitalizations and deaths. Researchers at the Cochrane Review, an international nonprofit that reviews health information, looked at previously published papers on Tamiflu as used for seasonal flu. They found insufficient data to prove whether the antiviral reduces complications like pneumonia in otherwise healthy people but concluded the drug shortens flu symptoms by about a day.

-----  
**12/09/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTHCARE BILL**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is welcoming a Senate Democratic compromise on a government-run insurance, saying it clears the way for passage of an historic bill. Obama said Wednesday the Senate made critical progress on a "creative framework" that he believes will pave the way for the legislation.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SMOKING REPORT**

Synopsis: The World Health Organization is reporting that tobacco use kills at least 5 million people every year. A new study says that number could rise if countries don't take stronger anti-smoking measures. The U.N. agency says most of the world -- nearly 95 percent of the global population -- isn't covered by laws that ban smoking. WHO also reports that secondhand smoke kills about 600,000 people every year.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **LOS ANGELES MEDICAL MARIHUANA**

Synopsis: The Los Angeles City Council delayed a vote Wednesday on a medical marijuana ordinance that could close hundreds of pot dispensaries across the city. The council asked planning officials to return next week with zoning maps that show how many pot dispensaries could close if the city bans the shops within 500 feet of homes, schools and public gathering sites.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA COMMUNITY HEALTH**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama plans to spend almost \$600 million to build community health centers and to make medical records easier to find. The White House is presenting the plan as a way to add jobs. Officials are also linking it to Obama's broader push for an overhaul of the nation's health systems that's working its way through Congress.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TSA MANUAL REVEALED**

Synopsis: An Obama administration official says some Transportation Security Administration employees have been placed on administrative leave after it was discovered that sensitive guidelines about airport passenger screening were posted on the Internet. Assistant Homeland Security secretary David Heyman has told senators a full investigation into the security lapse is under way. Heyman says the Homeland Security Department is stopping the posting of documents with sensitive security information either in full or in part on the Internet until the TSA review is complete.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CENSUS STATES ESTIMATES**

Synopsis: The recession has brought a nation built on moving from place to place to a standstill not seen since World War II, but immigration continues in major metropolitan areas, according to a report out today. Despite a slowdown fueled by fewer jobs in construction and service industries, immigrants are helping metro areas such as Chicago, Miami and New York make up for the net loss of residents to other parts of the USA.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLU VACCINES**

Synopsis: Americans are getting seasonal flu shots at about the same rate as last year despite heightened awareness of the risks of influenza inspired by the swine flu pandemic, a survey released Wednesday showed. As of the middle of November, about 32 percent of all U.S. adults and 37 percent of adults who are recommended to get a flu shot against seasonal flu had gotten one.

-----  
**12/10/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SHORT SALE REDUCTION**

Synopsis: U.S. foreclosure activity fell in November for the fourth month running, but improvement from July's record high came from loan modification programs that may fail to permanently remedy many failing mortgages, real estate Data Company RealyTrac said on Thursday. Foreclosure filings -- including notices of default, auction and bank repossession -- dropped 8% last month and were down 15% from the July peak. However, filings were reported on more than 300,000 homes for the ninth straight month, having never been that high in any month before this year, and were 18% higher than a year ago.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **JOBLESS RATE**

Synopsis: The number of newly laid-off workers seeking jobless benefits rose more than expected last week, after falling for five straight weeks. Despite the increase, claims have fallen steadily since this summer, a sign that job cuts are slowing and hiring could pick up as soon as early next year amid a broad economic recovery. Initial claims for unemployment insurance rose by 17,000 to a seasonally adjusted 474,000, the Labor Department said Thursday.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION MARCH**

Synopsis: In the blustery, bone-chilling cold Thursday afternoon, about 50 people gathered in front of the Elizabeth Detention Center, where some 300 foreign nationals are held on immigration violations, to call for the immigration system to be reformed. The people at the rally, which marked the conclusion of a march that had begun more than six miles away, by the federal building that houses immigration offices in Newark, called on Congress to pass an immigration measure that would give some of the nation's 12 million illegal immigrants a chance to legalize their status.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BREAST CANCER AND ALCOHOL**

Synopsis: A study of 17,000 women has found that women who consume about three drinks per day but take 200 micrograms of folate or folic acid (Vitamin B9) per day have a lower risk of breast cancer than do alcohol abstainers.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **INFLUENZA H1N1 10,000 DEATH**

Synopsis: U.S. health officials said this week that 100 million doses of H1N1 vaccine were now available or had been delivered and urged everyone to get vaccinated. H1N1 could still peak again and could also mutate into a more dangerous form. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 47 million Americans have been infected with H1N1, nearly 10,000 have been killed by it and more than 200,000 hospitalized.

-----  
**12/11/09**

Duration: 30

Topic: **HISPANICS DROPOUT RATES**

Synopsis: Young Hispanics born in the U.S. are less likely to drop out of school and live in poverty than young Hispanic immigrants, but they have higher exposure to gangs and violence, an independent research group says. The study being released Friday by the Pew Hispanic Center paints a mixed picture of assimilation for a fast-growing group of U.S. citizens starting to wield their political rights: more education and job advancement, but also social problems.

Duration: 30

Topic: **TARGETING CRIMINAL ALIENS**

Synopsis: Nearly 300 foreign nationals with criminal records have been removed from the United States or are facing deportations following a three-day enforcement surge in California, making it the biggest operation targeting at large criminal aliens ever carried out by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). During the operation, which concluded late Thursday, ICE officers located and arrested a total of 280 criminal aliens statewide, along with six non-criminal aliens who had final orders of deportation.



Duration: 30

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM PRESENTATION**

Synopsis: On Tuesday, December 15, Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL) will introduce new legislation, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 (CIR ASAP), to the U.S. House of Representatives. Gutierrez will be joined by members of many different faiths and backgrounds, including the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Black Caucus, Asian Pacific American Caucus and Progressive Caucus.

---

**12/12/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CANCER SCREENING**

Synopsis: Low-income women nationwide are being turned away or put on long waiting lists for free cancer screenings. The American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network says the economy has forced cutbacks in screenings at a time when more people are uninsured. The society surveyed programs for July 2008 through April 2009 and found that state budget strains are forcing some programs to reject people who would otherwise qualify for free mammograms and Pap smears.

---

**12/13/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL**

Synopsis: A plan to let people as young as 55 buy into Medicare, heralded as a breakthrough in the Senate's health care debate, ran into resistance Sunday from lawmakers who can make or break Democrats' efforts to reshape the nation's health insurance system.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CONGRESS SPENDING**

Synopsis: Senate Democrats overcame a Republican filibuster to clear the way for a vote Sunday on a huge end-of-year \$1.1 trillion spending bill that includes money to run much of the government and pay for Medicare and Medicaid benefits. The spending measure gives the Education Department, the State Department, the Department of Health and Human Services and others generous budget increases far exceeding inflation.

---

**12/14/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA MEETS WITH BANKERS**

Synopsis: Obama, in a statement after more than an hour-long meeting with the executives, said he reminded them that much of the financial crisis that took the U.S. banking system to the brink of collapse had been "of their own making." He also exhorted the executives -- both in private and in public -- to drop their opposition to an overhaul of the nation's financial industry.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SUPREME COURT ABOUT IMMIGRATION**

Synopsis: The Colorado Supreme Court ruled Monday that authorities violated the constitutional and privacy rights of suspected illegal immigrants when they used tax returns to try and build hundreds of identity theft cases against them.

**12/15/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: Hispanic, black, Asian and other House lawmakers backing immigration overhaul called Tuesday for legalizing illegal immigrants in the U.S., despite a weakened economy and joblessness. The coalition of lawmakers said Tuesday immigration reform can protect American workers as well as bring into the mainstream economy productive immigrant workers who have lived in the shadows because of their illegal status.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WINDOW COVERS RECALL**

Synopsis: Recall involves millions of Roman and roll-up blinds. About five million Roman shades and about three million roll-up blinds are sold each year. CPSC has received reports of five deaths and 16 near strangulations since 2006 in Roman shades, and three deaths since 2001 in roll-up blinds. Strangulations in roll-up blinds can occur if the lifting loop slides off the side of the blind and a child's neck becomes entangled on the free-standing loop or if a child places his/her neck between the lifting loop and the roll-up blind material.

-----  
**12/16/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **LOW INTEREST RATES**

Synopsis: The U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday narrowly approved a \$155 billion measure that seeks to create jobs and blunt the impact of the worst recession since the 1930s. By a vote of 217 to 212, the House approved additional spending for "shovel-ready" construction projects and money to avoid layoffs of teachers, police and other public employees. No Republicans voted for the bill, and 38 Democrats voted against it.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ECONOMY LATEST**

Synopsis: The Commerce Department said housing starts increased 8.9% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 574,000 units. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected housing starts to rise to 580,000 units. However, the percentage increase last month was the largest since May, indicating housing remained on a steady recovery path. October's housing starts were revised downwards to 527,000 units from the previously reported 529,000 units. Compared to the same period a year-ago, housing starts were down 12.4%, but way off the 54.9% decline seen in January.

-----  
**12/17/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CITIGROUP FORECLOSURES**

Synopsis: Citigroup will suspend foreclosures and evictions for 30 days. It's a temporary break for about 4,000 borrowers during the holiday season. The New York-based bank will halt foreclosure sales and stop evicting homeowners from properties it has already seized. The company projects it will help 2,000 homeowners with scheduled foreclosure sales and another 2,000 that were due to receive foreclosure notices.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **JOBLESS GROWTH**

Synopsis: The number of newly laid off workers filing claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly rose last week as the recovery of the nation's battered labor market proceeds in fits and starts. The Labor Department said Thursday that the number of new jobless claims rose to 480,000 last week, up 7,000 from the previous week. That was a worse performance than the decline to 465,000 that economists had expected.

-----

**12/18/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASYLUM**

Synopsis: The Obama administration now says it is crafting regulations to allow entry by other victims of domestic violence who feel they have no choice but to flee their homelands to protect themselves.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRANT DAY**

Synopsis: In honor of International Migrant Day, a lawyer, a comedian, a dentist, a nonprofit organization chief, a mother, a councilman, a school board member, a printer, a student, a chef, and a writer, are among eighteen every-day Angelinos to be recognized by community leaders and community members. In 2000 the United Nations declared December 18 as International Migrants Day, a day to acknowledge the human rights, essential freedoms, and wealth of contributions immigrants make worldwide. In spite of enormous hardships, stressful journeys from home countries, exploitation, and discrimination, immigrants contribute greatly to American communities.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SAME SEX MARRIAGE**

Synopsis: The U.S. Office of Personnel Management still thinks it can't authorize health care coverage for the same-sex spouse of a federal court employee even though a judge has ordered the agency to do so, a government lawyer said Friday. Elaine Kaplan, the office's general counsel, said in a statement issued Friday that the Department of Justice has determined that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act supersedes the recent ruling by Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge Alex Kozinski. DOMA, as the law is known, prohibits the government from recognizing same-sex unions.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT**

Synopsis: The Labor Department says more states lost jobs than added them in November. The reversal of earlier gains indicates there's only sporadic hiring around the country. The report shows unemployment rates dropped in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Those figures are deceiving because they reflect more people leaving the workforce. Unemployed people who stop looking for jobs out of frustration aren't counted in the labor force. The report also shows 31 states and the District of Columbia suffered a net loss of jobs.

**12/19/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTHCARE LATEST**

Synopsis: U.S. Senate Democrats reached a compromise Saturday with holdout Senator Ben Nelson that secured the 60 votes they need to pass the broad healthcare overhaul sought by President Barack Obama. Nelson said a long day of negotiating on Friday concluded with an agreement that meets his goal of ensuring federal funds are not used to pay for abortions under the bill. The plan that we've put together here, that we have agreement on, in fact walls off that money in an effective manner," Nelson told reporters, pledging to back final passage and support Democrats on upcoming votes to clear Republican procedural hurdles.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTHCARE**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says he thinks the country is on the cusp of making health care reform a reality. Obama spoke at the White House on Saturday not long after Senate Democratic leaders secured the support of Nebraska's Ben Nelson to provide the 60th and deciding vote for health care legislation. He called Saturday's development a major step forward in extending coverage to the uninsured and saving money for businesses and the government in the long term. Obama also said that overhauling the nation's health care system will save lives.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GROUP DELAY DEPORTATIONS**

Synopsis: There are 12 million illegal immigrants in the USA. Activists call for an overhaul of immigration law that would offer them a way to earn legal status. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., introduced a bill Tuesday that would give illegal immigrants who pay fines, pass background checks and meet other requirements a path toward legal residency. College students who are illegal immigrants fall under a separate proposal called the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act - the DREAM Act. Requirements would include arrival in the USA at 15 or younger, a five-year residency or more, and at least two years of college or military service. Versions of the act have been introduced since 2001 without success.

-----

**12/20/09**

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEALTHCARE LATEST**

Synopsis: In the run-up to a crucial make-or-break vote on health care legislation, lawmakers are stepping up their rhetoric. Republican Sen. Tom Coburn called Democratic deal making to get the 60 votes needed to pass the bill "corruption." On the Senate floor, Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse responded by saying Republicans have embarked on a "no-holds barred mission of propaganda, obstruction and fear." Under Senate rules, Democrat need 60 votes on three separate occasions to pass the measure, the first of which is set for about 1 a.m. Monday.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **H1N1 LATEST**

Synopsis: U.S. health officials said this week that 100 million doses of H1N1 vaccine were now available or had been delivered and urged everyone to get vaccinated. H1N1 could still peak again and could also mutate into a more dangerous form. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 47 million Americans have been infected with H1N1, nearly 10,000 have been killed by it and more than 200,000 hospitalized.

**12/21/09**

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH CARE LATEST**

Synopsis: Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., who provided the critical 60th vote that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid needed, received numerous benefits for Nebraska, along with tighter curbs on abortion. Among the Nebraska-specific provisions: The federal government will pick up the full cost of a proposed expansion of Medicaid, at an estimated cost of \$100 million over 10 years. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska will be exempted from an annual fee on insurers; the exemption could also apply to nonprofit insurers in other states, possibly including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Duration: 30 Sec

Topic: **HOLIDAY SHOPPING**

Synopsis: Online retailers are pushing back deadlines and offering free express shipping as the days until Christmas wane. Analysts are expecting a frenzied final few days of buying. Some malls may extend their hours to make up for lost shopping time. Analysts also say more people have put off their shopping this year in search of deals. Retailers are hoping turnout this week can help make up for the weekend trouble.

-----  
**12/22/09**

Duration: 30 Sec

Topic: **OBAMA MEETS WITH BANKERS**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama will discuss the economy, lending to small businesses and financial regulation when he sits down at the White House with representatives of a dozen small and community banks. Obama scheduled Tuesday's session as a follow-up to a similar meeting he held last week with some of the nation's top bankers. At that meeting, Obama implored bankers to help keep the fragile recovery from faltering by increasing lending to small businesses and supporting a rewrite of financial regulations.

Duration: 30 Sec

Topic: **USED HOME SALES INCREASE**

Synopsis: Sales of previously owned homes rose in November more than expected as low prices and tax relief helped buyers surmount worries about the job market. Used-home sales rose by 7.4% to a 6.54 million annual rate from 6.09 million in October, the National Association of Realtors said Tuesday. Inventories kept shrinking. Prices fell - but the decline was the smallest in two years. Economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires expected a 3.3% increase in sales during November, to a rate of 6.30 million.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NEW CYBER CZAR**

Synopsis: The Obama White House Tuesday named former Bush aide, Howard Schmidt, as cyber security 'czar.' Cyber attacks from within and outside the country pose a growing threat to the US. Howard Schmidt, the newly named cyber security "czar", a former executive at eBay and Microsoft, faces the task of reengineering US policy to combat a growing, yet often neglected, threat to the country's economy and digital infrastructure

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE VOTE**

Synopsis: U.S. Senate Democrats cleared the second of three 60-vote hurdles on President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul Tuesday, moving the landmark legislation one step closer to passage by Christmas. For the second consecutive day, Democrats mustered 60 party-line votes to cut off debate on the healthcare reform bill and move toward final passage over unanimous Republican opposition.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION CASES INCREASE**

Synopsis: Federal prosecutions reached a record high in the 2009 fiscal year, with the surge driven by a sharp increase in cases filed against immigration violators. The 169,612 federal prosecutions were a jump of nearly 9% from the previous year, according to Department of Justice data analyzed by a research center at Syracuse University. Immigration prosecutions were up nearly 16%, and made up more than half of all criminal cases brought by the federal government, the report said.

-----  
**12/23/09**

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **A CALL TO HALT IMMIGRATION RAIDS**

Synopsis: As Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) let raids continue unabated across the country, community based organizations, organized labor, immigration law and policy experts and religious groups have called on the U.S. Department of Justice to immediately cease and initiate a comprehensive investigation into the dramatic rise in immigration raids & check points across the southland. The raids are generating mass panic in targeted immigrant communities right in the middle of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **MORE JOBS IN 2010**

Synopsis: Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says he believes it's reasonable to expect "positive job growth" by spring and that people should have confidence about an improving economic climate. Geithner also said he believes many banks around the country still have work ahead of them to regain the public's faith.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NEW HOME SALES DECREASE**

Synopsis: Sales of new homes plunged unexpectedly last month to the lowest level since April, a sign the housing market recovery will be rocky and heavily dependent on the generosity of Uncle Sam. The 11% slump from October's pace shows that consumers are taking their time following an extension of a deadline for first-time buyers to qualify for a tax credit. The incentive was set to expire at the end of November, but Congress pushed back the date to April 30 and expanded the program to include current homeowners who relocate.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **H1N1 RECALL**

Synopsis: Drug maker Med Immune is recalling nearly 5 million doses of swine flu vaccine because the nasal spray appears to lose strength over time, federal health officials announced. The vaccine recall is the second this month caused by declining potency and comes as public health officials urge millions of Americans to get vaccinated against swine flu. The action affects more than 4.6 million doses, but the vast majority have already been used, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama's health care overhaul cleared its second 60-vote test. Senate Democrats are expected to have the 60 votes they need today to cut off debate on the health care bill. That will set the stage for approving the bill tomorrow. Today's test is the final time 60 votes will be needed. The legislation itself can pass with a simple majority.

-----

**12/24/09**

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **HEALTH REFORM PASSES SENATE**

Synopsis: There's some more compromising to do, before President Barack Obama will have a health care reform package to sign. The one that was approved by the Senate today differs from the House version -- although the White House says they're "95 percent" similar. Democrats in the House and Senate vow to finish their work early in the new year.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **FEWER CRIMES IN CALIFORNIA**

Synopsis: Crime in Los Angeles County dropped again in 2009 despite rising unemployment and the bad economy, continuing a slide that has pushed homicides to levels not seen since the 1960s. Killings dropped about 17% in Los Angeles and by nearly a quarter in areas patrolled by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Together, the agencies investigated about 500 killings through Sunday -- a sharp drop in bloodshed compared with the more than 1,500 in 1992, the year of the Los Angeles riots. .

-----

**12/25/09**

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **STRESS AND MENTAL PROBLEMS**

Synopsis: Stress is a normal part of life and we all deal with stress in our own way. However, stress is actually on two different levels in some cases, since mental illness fits into the equation. Everyone has to deal with stress and even so-called "normal" minds have the potential to break down. This doesn't mean a person has a mental illness, rather likely means the person is dealing with a complicated problem that isn't a common part of their day. When someone has a nervous breakdown, it's a temporary state of mind and that person is often capable of returning to a normal lifestyle upon receiving corrective treatment.

-----

**12/26/09**

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **TERROR ALERT INCREASE**

Synopsis: The US government has raised the terror alert level for airline flights to orange, the second-highest designation, after today's incident involving a passenger on a Detroit-bound jet that the White House says was "an attempted act of terrorism." Earlier, a 23-year-old Nigerian claiming ties to al-Qaeda tried to ignite a powder he had smuggled aboard the flight from Amsterdam.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **EDUCATION AND HEART ATTACK**

Synopsis: More education may mean a lower heart attack risk later in life, with benefits seen in low-income countries as well as wealthy nations, a new study finds. A number of studies in Western countries have found a link between higher socioeconomic status and lower heart

disease risk. However, studies measure socioeconomic status in various ways -- by people's education or current job or current family income, for instance -- and it is not clear whether all of those factors are equally important.

-----  
**12/27/09**

**NOTHING TO REPORT**  
-----

**12/28/09**

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **AIR SECURITY**

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says the aviation security system failed when a young man on a watch list with a U.S. visa in his pocket and a powerful explosive hidden on his body was allowed to board a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. A day after saying the system worked, Napolitano said her words had been taken out of context.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **NEW TRAVEL SECURITY MEASURES**

Synopsis: Authorities are introducing more security measures following the failed terrorist plot against the United States. On one Air Canada flight the crew told passengers before departure that in addition to remaining in their seats for the duration of one-hour flight, they were not allowed to use any electronic devices.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **RETAIL SALES GO UP**

Synopsis: Stocks edged higher in early trading Monday as investors returning from a long holiday weekend were heartened by good news on retail sales. Shares of major retailers rose after data showed shoppers opened their wallets more this holiday season, a good sign that consumers are feeling better about the economy. Consumer spending is one of the biggest drivers of economic growth and is vital to a sustained recovery.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **MEAT RECALL**

Synopsis: An Oklahoma company is voluntarily recalling about 248,000 pounds of beef. Officials with National Steak and Poultry say the beef products may be related to an outbreak of illnesses related to e-coli. The USDA's food safety and inspection service found out about the potential problem while investigating a cluster of illnesses connected to non-intact steaks in the following states: Michigan, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Washington.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **OBAMA SPEECH ON TERRORIST PLOT**

Synopsis: A wing of al Qaeda claimed responsibility for a failed Christmas Day attack on a U.S.-bound passenger plane, and President Barack Obama vowed to bring "every element" of U.S. power against those who threaten Americans' safety. Speaking during a vacation in Hawaii, Obama said, "We will not rest until we find all who were involved and hold them accountable." "We will continue to use every element of our national power to disrupt, to dismantle and defeat the violent extremists who threaten us..." Obama added.



Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **NEW YORK LOW CRIME RATE**

Synopsis: This year has been the safest in New York City in more than four decades, with the murder rate down to levels not seen since the early 1960s, police said Monday. As of Sunday, 461 murders had been committed, down from 516 in 2008 and the lowest number since comparable record-keeping began in 1963, the New York Police Department said. The FBI also said New York was the safest U.S. big city in 2009. Crime in New York has been falling for several years in a decline widely attributed to a "broken windows" strategy of no tolerance for even the smallest infraction.

-----

**12/29/09**

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **GPS FOR IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: The immigration debate takes a technological turn with a new cell phone device that helps illegal immigrants crossing the desert into the U.S. find water. The Transborder Immigrant Tool was developed by UC San Diego Prof and activist Ricardo Dominguez and UCSD lecturer Brett Stalbaum. Both believe it will save the lives of hundreds of people who die each year during their trek across "Devil's Highway."

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **TYLENOL RECALL**

Synopsis: A voluntary recall of Tylenol Arthritis Pain Caplets is being expanded because of consumer reports of an unusual moldy odor with the 100-count bottles, the U.S. Food and Drug administration said. The FDA and Johnson & Johnson were expanding the recall to all available product lots of the pain caplets with the distinctive red EZ-open cap. Health effects of the compound have not been well studied, but the events reported to the company have been temporary and not serious.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RISES**

Synopsis: A more upbeat outlook on jobs pushed Americans' confidence in the economy higher in December for the second month in a row, a survey said. Consumers' expectations for the job market over the next six months reached their highest level in two years, but Americans remain gloomy about their current prospects. The Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index rose to 52.9, up from a revised 50.6 in November, but the reading is still far short of the 90 that would signify a solid economy.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **AIRPORT SCREENING**

Synopsis: Privacy concerns are helping thwart large-scale use of high-tech scanners that might have spotted the would-be plane bomber Christmas Day. Full-body scanners show great detail, including body contours, but critics say they amount to a virtual strip-search. In June, the House voted overwhelmingly to prohibit the use of whole-body imaging for primary screening. They're currently used for primary screening at six airports, and for secondary screening at 13 more. Supporters say such scanners provide the best protection for the widest range of threats.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **H1N1 PANDEMIC**

Synopsis: The H1N1 flu pandemic may not be conquered until 2011 and continued vigilance is required against the virus which can still mutate, the head of the World Health Organization said. WHO Director-General Margaret Chan also warned that although countries have shored up their defenses against the first influenza pandemic in more than 40 years, they remain ill-prepared for mass outbreaks of the deadlier bird flu virus.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **NEW IMMIGRATION POLL**

Synopsis: In contrast to many national religious leaders who are lobbying for increases in immigration, a new Zogby poll of likely voters who belong to the same religious communities finds strong support for reducing overall immigration. Moreover, members strongly disagree with their leaders' contention that more immigrant workers need to be allowed into the country. Also, most parishioners and congregants prefer more enforcement to cause illegal workers to go home, rather than legalization of illegal immigrants, which most religious leaders prefer.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **HOME PRICES RISE**

Synopsis: Home prices rise for the fifth month in a row in October, but the recovery continues to be uneven with only 11 of the 20 metros tracked showing gains. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index released Tuesday edged up 0.4% to a seasonally adjusted reading of 145.36 in October. The index was off 7.3% from October last year. Eleven of the 20 cities posted month-over-month gains with San Francisco and Detroit posting the largest increases.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **GM DISCOUNTS**

Synopsis: General Motors Co. is offering deep discounts on its remaining Saturn and Pontiac vehicles as it looks to move the leftover inventory of the soon-to-be-dead brands, according to a published report. The automaker will pay dealers \$7,000 for every new Saturn or Pontiac left on their lot if the vehicle is moved to dealer-operated rental or service fleets, according to The Wall Street Journal, which cited a letter mailed to dealers.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **OBAMA ON TERRORIST ATTACK**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Tuesday that the intelligence community had bits of information that should have been pieced together and that would have triggered "red flags" and possibly prevented the Christmas Day attempted terror attack on a Detroit-bound airliner. "There was a mix of human and systemic failures that contributed to this potential catastrophic breach of security," Obama said. Officials said Obama chose to make a second statement in as many days because a morning briefing offered him new information in the government's possession about the suspect's activities and thinking, along with al-Qaida's plans.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **NEW LICENSE MEASURES IN FLORIDA**

Synopsis: Starting Jan. 1, Florida drivers will need more proof of identity in order to apply for a new driver's license or state-issued ID card. Drivers will have to prove their identification, with documents such as an original birth certificate or valid passport; their Social Security number, with the card itself or a pay stub or W-2 form; and their residency, with two forms of identification, such as a voter registration card or an electric bill. The changes are a result of a federal law known as Real ID, which Congress passed in 2005 partly in response to the Sept. 11 attacks and concerns that drivers' licenses were too easy to get.

**12/30/09**

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **US HAD INFORMATION PREVIOUS TO FAILED TERRORIST ATTACK**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says the intelligence community had information that it should have pieced together before the Christmas Day attempted terror attack on a Detroit-bound airliner. Obama says the security system failed to connect the dots. He's due an early report from his homeland security and counterterrorism adviser tomorrow on how a man with suspected ties to al-Qaida was able to board the Northwest Airlines flight with explosives.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **NEW FLORIDA ID REGULATIONS**

Synopsis: Starting Jan. 1, Florida drivers will have to meet beefed-up identity-verification requirements in order to renew their driver's license or obtain a new one. If you are renewing, you are allowed a "convenience" renewal by mail or via the Internet between office visits. Old driver's license will no longer be accepted as a primary proof of identity.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **POSSIBLE FIRST CASE OF ANTHRAX**

Synopsis: Health experts suspect a rare gastrointestinal anthrax case may be linked to a recent drumming circle in New Hampshire. A woman who was stricken with the potentially fatal illness may have swallowed spores released into the air during a drumming exhibition she attended Dec. 4 at the United Campus Ministry center in Durham.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **CENSUS 2010**

Synopsis: As the U.S. Census Bureau gears up to make an actual count of the U.S. population on April 1, it estimates that the final figure will be 308,400, 408, representing an increase of 0.9% over 2009. The bureau says one birth is expected to occur every eight seconds in the United States and one death every 12 seconds. Net international migrations add one person every 37 seconds to the U.S. population. By combining those figures, the bureau estimates that the population grows by one person every 14 seconds.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **WHITE HOUSE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: With the healthcare battle still unfinished, the Obama administration has been laying plans to take up an issue that could prove even more divisive -- a major overhaul of the nation's immigration system. Senior White House aides privately have assured Latino activists that the president will back legislation next year to provide a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **SWINE FLU NOT AS CATCHY**

Synopsis: H1N1 swine flu is less catchy than previous pandemic flu bugs, a household study finds. The study looked at 216 two- to six-person households in which one family member came down with a confirmed case of 2009 H1N1 swine flu. Only 13% of family members caught the flu from the infected person. Strikingly, children aged 18 or younger were twice as likely to catch H1N1 swine flu from an infected family member as were family members aged 19 to 50. And people over 50 were about 80% less likely to catch the flu as were younger adults.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **NEW YORK CITY MARKS FEWER CRIME**

Synopsis: Calling a sharp drop in overall violence throughout America's most populous city "one for the record books," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that 2009 saw historic crime-rate declines across the city's five boroughs. According to the mayor's office, there have been 461 homicides to date in 2009. That number is down nearly 11% from the same time a year

ago, with 516 murders recorded in 2008. Bloomberg said 2009 is on track to have the fewest murders in New York City's history since reliable recordkeeping began in 1963.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **NY TIMES: GOVERNMENT HAD WARNING ON THE FAILED TERRORIST ATTACK**

Synopsis: New York Times reports that two officials said the government had intelligence from Yemen before Friday that leaders of a branch of Al Qaeda were talking about "a Nigerian" being prepared for a terrorist attack. While the attacker was not named, officials said it would have been evident had it been compared to information about the 23-year-old Nigerian charged with trying to blow up an American passenger jet on Christmas Day.

-----

**12/31/09**

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **IMMIGRATION 2009**

Synopsis: Immigration prosecution rose to record levels in 2009 as the Obama administration kept up aggressive enforcement that began under President George W. Bush. Nearly 27,000 people faced serious federal charges relating to immigration in 2009, according to Chief Justice John Roberts' annual year-end report on the judiciary. More than three-fourths were accused of illegally re-entering the United States after having previously been sent home. Immigration cases increased by about a fifth over the previous year and made up a third of all new criminal filings in U.S. district courts in the government spending year that ended Sept. 30. The statistics were compiled by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **OBAMA PRELIMINARY REPORT ON SECURITY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is to receive a preliminary report Thursday on how a 23-year-old Nigerian with suspected terrorist ties managed to board a plane he is accused of attempting to bomb on Christmas Day, along with recommendations on how to prevent a sequel. The report is just the first step in what is shaping up to be an Obama-led effort to change the nation's intelligence practices after an attack that failed not because of U.S. anti-terrorism policies, but despite them. Administration officials said the system to protect the nation's skies from terrorists was deeply flawed and, even then the government failed to follow its own directives.

Duration: 30 seconds

Topic: **NEBRASKA HEALTHCARE**

Synopsis: Republican attorneys general in 13 states say congressional leaders must remove Nebraska's political deal from the federal health care reform bill or face legal action, according to a letter provided to The Associated Press Wednesday.