

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

April 1 - April 30, 2009

Airdate: April 1

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Economy manufacturing**

Synopsis: A trade group's measure of the health of the manufacturing sector contracted for the 14th straight month in March. And while the pace of decline was slower than expected, any pickup in jobs is still highly unlikely before next year. The Institute for Supply Management said Wednesday its Manufacturing index rose to 36.3 last month from 35.8 in February. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected the index to rise to 36.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **ICE releases workers arrested in Washington State**

Synopsis: Many of the 28 workers arrested by immigration agents last month in a northwest Washington raid have been released and given permission to work, in another sign of how the Obama administration is handling illegal immigration differently than its predecessor.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Auto sales**

Synopsis: March proved to be another dismal month of steep declines for U.S. auto sales as low consumer confidence and job uncertainty continued to keep buyers away from showrooms, but the improvement from February signaled that bargain-hunting buyers may be providing the momentum for a turnaround. Automakers sold 857,735 light vehicles last month, a 37 percent decline from a year earlier, according to Autodata Inc.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Stimulus Education**

Synopsis: States are getting the first round of school dollars from the economic stimulus law this week. The Obama administration is making available half of the dollars for federal programs that fund kindergarten through 12th grade and special education.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Sleep and suicide risk**

Synopsis: People who suffer chronic sleep problems are more likely to think about suicide or actually try to kill themselves, researchers said on Wednesday. The more types of sleep disturbances a person had -- such as waking up too early, difficulty falling asleep or lying awake at night -- upped the odds of suicidal thoughts, planning a suicide, or attempting it, researchers told a conference.

Airdate: April 2

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **House, Senate poised to adopt pared-back budget**

Synopsis: Democrats in the House and Senate are on track to give President Barack Obama a key victory by adopting slightly pared-back versions of his \$3.6 trillion budget. Both versions are expected to pass today. Meanwhile, Republicans in both chambers are putting forward alternatives that are more generous with tax cuts and stingier with spending. None of the plans -- Obama's, House and Senate Democrats', or the competing GOP outlines -- would succeed in tamping down the deficit much below \$500 billion within five years. Also, the budget blueprints provide little guidance on how to craft subsequent Obama initiatives to reshape the U.S. health care system or combat global warming.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **ACLU Vs. ICE**

Synopsis: Federal authorities are violating immigrant detainees' constitutional rights by holding them for weeks at a detention facility in downtown Los Angeles that was designed as a short-term processing center, according to a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court. The center is "regularly overcrowded, causing violence, safety hazards, and humiliation," while detainees are denied access to attorneys and courts and are rarely provided drinking water or a change of clothing, according to the lawsuit filed Wednesday by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and the National Immigration Law Center.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **World Autism day**

Synopsis: World Autism Awareness Day - designated by the United Nations as Tuesday, April 2 - winds down, the spotlight is on why the disorder is on the increase, why the causes still elude researchers, and why early diagnosis is so important.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Job losses**

Synopsis: On Friday, the Labor Department released more grim news: Another 663,000 jobs disappeared last month. That sent the unemployment rate up to 8.5 percent. This recession has been especially hard on people who work in factories. Since the recession began in December 2007, U.S. companies have wiped out 1.5 million manufacturing jobs. Yet the U.S. remains by far the world's leading manufacturer, as measured by value of goods produced

Airdate: April 3

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Jobless rate bolts to 8.5 percent, 663K jobs lost**

Synopsis: The nation's unemployment rate jumped to 8.5 percent in March, the highest since late 1983, as a wide swath of employers eliminated 663,000 jobs. It's fresh evidence of the toll the recession has inflicted on America's workers, and economists say there's no relief in sight. If part-time and discouraged workers are factored in, the unemployment rate would have been 15.6 percent in March, the highest on records dating to 1994, according to Labor Department data released Friday. The average work week in March dropped to 33.2 hours, a new record low. Since the recession began in December 2007, the economy has lost a net total of 5.1 million jobs, with almost two-thirds of the losses occurring in the last five months.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Iowa Supreme Court same sex ruling**

Synopsis: Gay rights activists are celebrating after Iowa's Supreme Court struck down the state's ban on same-sex marriage. The court has ruled that the ban violates the state's constitution and doesn't further government interests. The conservative Iowa Family Policy Center is dismayed at the ruling, saying "the mood is one of mourning right now." The case began in 2005 when New York-based gay rights organization Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit on behalf of six gay Iowa couples who were denied marriage licenses.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Obama economy**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says a new report on unemployment in the United States is a "stark reminder" of the global challenges created by the economic crisis. Obama spoke about the U.S. jobless picture from Baden-Baden, Germany, where he met Friday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of a NATO conference in the German resort town. Speaking about the sliding economy and the loss of jobs in the U.S., Obama said no nation can isolate itself from the global market. He said that without concerted and united global action, there will be "collective failure."

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Americans to visit relatives in Cuba**

Synopsis: The Obama administration intends to allow Americans to visit relatives in Cuba and send money back to their families on the communist island nation, senior U.S. officials said Saturday. President Barack Obama plans to announce the policy change before the Summit of the Americas April 17-19 in Trinidad and Tobago, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement had not been made. Although some restrictions have been eased temporarily in legislation Obama signed last month,

lifting the bans would meet a pledge he made during the presidential campaign and could signal a new openness with Cuba.

Airdate: April 4

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Fed Ex Job Cuts**

Synopsis: FedEx lays off one-thousand employees Friday. The cuts were announced after third-quarter earnings dropped seventy-five percent.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Border security**

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary, Janet Napolitano and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder met with Mexico President Felipe Calderon and members of his Cabinet, wrapping up a series of meetings on drug violence in the two countries. Among the strategies under consideration are: Changes to extradition laws in both countries to ensure that offenders get the greatest punishment possible, how to better coordinate efforts by the Mexican navy and the U.S. Coast Guard to intercept offshore smugglers, sharing surveillance data to better identify motor vehicles and railroad cars that might be smuggling drugs, weapons or bulk quantities of currency and allowing top Mexican law enforcement officials to work alongside U.S. authorities investigating stateside activities of the drug cartels.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Obama and Cuba latest**

Synopsis: The Wall Street Journal is reporting that President Barack Obama intends to lift the U.S. ban on family members traveling to Cuba. The report says Obama does not intend to call for lifting the decades-long trade embargo against Cuba, which would require congressional approval.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Walt Disney layoffs**

Synopsis: The news is not good for the employees of Walt Disney as the organization is going for job cuts. Now the situation is getting worse for the employees as the recession is taking a toll on all sectors and all of the sectors are feeling the heat.

Airdate: April 5

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **More men losing jobs**

Synopsis: Women are holding onto their jobs more than their male counterparts in the recession as the types of jobs women hold generally offer more stability, albeit at less pay. In the year since the recession began in December 2007, the jobless rate for men rose from 4.4% to 7.2%. At the same time, the jobless rate for women rose from 4.3% to 5.9%.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Unemployment latest**

Synopsis: In the 12 months through February, the latest data available, unemployment rates for men rose at a faster pace than those for women, no matter what their education or age. It has simply been harder for men to hold onto their jobs. A year ago, in February 2008, men who had gone to college but did not earn a bachelor's degree had an unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, below the national rate of 4.5 percent. But by this February, the rate for that group had more than doubled to 8.9 percent and was well above the national rate of 8.1 percent. For women with the same education, the rate a year ago was an identical 4.1 percent. That figure has also risen, but only to 6.3 percent.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Obama in nuclear ambitions**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is now in Turkey, where he'll be asking its leaders for help in turning around the war in Afghanistan and blocking Iran's nuclear ambitions. He'll also point to Turkey's role in the U.S. departure from Iraq. Air Force One landed today in Ankara, where the president was greeted by U.S. diplomatic staff and the Turkish economy minister. Obama travels to Istanbul tomorrow. Small groups of protesters gathered in both Ankara and Istanbul to object to various U.S. policies. In a main Istanbul square, members of a leftist group waved Turkish flags and shouted "Obama, go home!"

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Metropolitan Area unemployment**

Synopsis: Unemployment rates rose in all of the nation's largest metropolitan areas for the second straight month in February. The U.S. Labor Department reported Wednesday all 372 metropolitan areas tracked saw their jobless rates rise in February from a year earlier. The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 8.1 percent in February, the highest in more than 25 years.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **Cancer Breast Mammograms**

Synopsis: Women who believe mammograms will save their lives may be overestimating the benefits, two experts said in what is sure to be a Controversial report published Wednesday. They said fewer than 5 percent of all women whose breast tumors can be detected through screening actually have their lives saved by a mammogram. The American Cancer Society disputed these figures and said the number was 15 percent.

Airdate : April 6

Duration: 30 Sec

Topic: **Bailout Plan Geithner and Mortgage scams**

The Treasury secretary is warning banks that if they come to the government expecting a bailout, they may have to shake up their boardrooms. On CBS' "Face the Nation," Timothy Geithner said banks that seek "exceptional assistance" will have to undergo restructuring to help them emerge stronger. Top federal and state officials announced a broad crackdown on mortgage modification scams, accusing "criminal actors" of preying on desperate borrowers caught up in the nation's housing crisis. Government officials say scammers are seeking to take advantage of borrowers in danger of default. The frauds often involve companies with official-sounding names designed to make borrowers think they are taking advantage of the Obama administration's efforts to help modify or refinance 7 to 9 million mortgages.

Duration: 30 Sec

Topic: **Layoffs**

The Walt Disney Co. has eliminated 1,900 jobs since Feb. 18 in its backstage operations in Orlando and California, the company confirmed. Of that total, 1,400 of the positions were in Central Florida. The company laid off 900 workers and eliminated 500 positions, the company said. In California, 200 workers lost their jobs and the company eliminated 100 positions, Disney said. The job cuts are related to an overhaul of Disney's theme-park management structure the company announced Feb. 18. The jobs were all executive, management and professional positions, the company said.

Duration: 30Secs

Topic: **Immigration Drop House**

Arizona's Department of Public Safety raided a drop house in Glendale. Authorities say a number of illegal immigrants have been detained and seven suspects are in custody. D-P-S says the people found at the house were subjected to threats with handguns, rape and electrocution.

Duration: 30Secs

Topic: **Obese Preschoolers**

A new study suggests almost one in five 4-year-olds in the U.S. is obese. Even more startling, the rate among American-Indians is nearly one in three. The Ohio State-Temple University study suggests obesity is also more common in Hispanic and African American youngsters. The lead author on the study says the magnitude of differences is larger than expected. Sarah Anderson says it's surprising to see differences by racial groups so early in childhood.

Airdate; April 7

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION-LATINOS**

Synopsis: Hispanics made up nearly half of the more than 1 million people who became U.S. citizens last year, according to a Hispanic advocacy group. The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials said the number of Latinos who became Americans in fiscal year 2008 more than doubled over the previous year, to 461,317. That's nearly half of the record 1,046,539 new citizens overall in 2008, a 58 percent increase from 2007.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HISPANICS-POLICE**

Synopsis: A new survey suggests that a lot of Hispanics don't have much faith that they'll get fair treatment from police or the legal system. The Pew Hispanic Center finds that only 46 percent of Hispanics surveyed were confident police would treat them fairly compared to other racial or other ethnic groups. That was much lower than white respondents but higher than blacks, only 37 percent of whom thought they'd get fair treatment.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **GAY MARRIAGE-VERMONT**

Synopsis: Vermont has become the fourth state to legalize gay marriage -- and the first to do so with a legislature's vote. The Legislature voted Tuesday to override Gov. Jim Douglas' veto of a bill allowing gays and lesbians to marry. The vote was 23-5 to override in the state Senate and 100-49 to override in the House.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BIRDFLU-TEST**

Synopsis: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday it had approved a fast test for H5N1 bird flu that can show in less than an hour if people are infected. The test should greatly speed up diagnosis and treatment of people infected with avian influenza, the FDA said.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SALMONELLA-RECALLS**

Synopsis: Setton Pistachio expanded its voluntary recall of pistachios to include all roasted shell pistachios and in-shell pistachios due to possible salmonella contamination, the Terra Bella, California, company said on Monday. The withdrawal from its 2008 crop also would include raw shell pistachios that are not subsequently roasted before sale, the second-largest pistachio processor in the United States said in a statement.

Airdate; April 8

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **DIET CHANGE AND DIABETES**

Synopsis: Eating less sugar and more fiber can reduce the risk of diabetes in overweight Latino adolescents, new research shows. Furthermore, according to findings in the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, elaborate programs may not be necessary to promote these dietary changes.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **DREAM ACT CAMPAIGN**

Synopsis: This week starts the National Dream Act Campaign. The federal DREAM Act will provide undocumented immigrant youth in the United States with conditional residency and a pathway to citizenship provided they came here before the age of 16 and maintained continuous residence for 5 years, graduate from high school or obtain a GED, attend 2 years of college or join the military and have no criminal records.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

Synopsis: The Obama administration announces a new campaign to refocus national attention on the HIV crisis in the United States, the first national CDC HIV/AIDS communication campaign in more than a decade.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **WAIST SIZE, BODY MASS & HEART FAILURE**

Synopsis: Adding to the growing evidence that a person's waist size is an important indicator of heart health, a study led by investigators at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) has found that larger waist circumference is associated with increased risk of heart failure in middle-aged and older populations of men and women. The findings, published online in the April 7 Rapid Access Report of the journal *Circulation: Heart Failure*, showed that increased waist size was a predictor of heart failure even when measurements of body mass index (BMI) fell within the normal range.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **PISTACHIOS RECALL**

Synopsis: The U.S. recall of pistachio nuts due to potential salmonella contamination widened on Wednesday as more snack makers and retailers removed products from store shelves as a precaution. PepsiCo Inc's North American snack division Frito-Lay recalled its unshelled pistachios in 1.75 ounce packages with sell-by dates between July 14, 2009 and Dec. 29, 2009. The company said it had not received any reports of illness related to the product, but was recalling it as a precaution.

Airdate: April 9

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA IMMIGRATION**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama plans to start addressing the thorny issue of immigration reform this year, including the search for a path to legalize the status of millions of illegal immigrants, The New York Times reported Wednesday, quoting a presidential aide. Obama will speak publicly about the matter in May and bring together working groups including Democratic and Republican lawmakers over the summer to begin discussing possible legislation for as early as the fall, administration officials told the Times.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NY LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: The hammer is about to fall on thousands of New York City workers' jobs. Mayor Michael Bloomberg, actively seeking a third term to run the City, sent letters to city agencies. Bloomberg gave agency heads until Monday (04/13) to make what he says are needed cuts.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SUGARY DRINKS AND WEIGHT LOSS**

Synopsis: When it comes to losing weight, what you drink may be more important than what you eat, according to new research; it shows that cutting back on sugar-laden drinks is associated with weight loss and seems to have a bigger impact on weight than cutting back on solid foods. "Consumption of liquid calories from beverages has increased in parallel with the obesity epidemic in the US population," Dr. Benjamin Caballero of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and colleagues point out in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Airdate; April 10

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA ECONOMY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says the economy is starting to show "glimmers of hope." Obama commented Friday after meeting with members of his economic team, including Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, economics adviser Larry Summers and Christina Romer, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Obama said he's starting to see things get better. But at the same time he cautioned that the economy remains under "severe stress."

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBESITY AND OFFICE JOBS**

Synopsis: An interesting study done on Australian workers has suggested that the workplace may play an important role in the growing problem of overweight and obesity. The current study examined the role of occupational workplace and the body mass index. In the present day, lack of physical activity and irregular food intake are some of the established problems of certain occupation. As a result we are seeing a rise in the occurrence of some of the diseases such as diabetes, CHD etc.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SKIN CANCER**

Synopsis: National Institutes of Health (NIH) researchers have identified a gene that suppresses tumor growth in melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. The finding is reported today in the journal *Nature Genetics* as part of a systematic genetic analysis of a group of enzymes implicated in skin cancer and many other types of cancer.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SECOND FACE TRANSPLANT**

Synopsis: A Boston hospital has performed the nation's second face transplant on a man who suffered traumatic facial injuries from a fall. The hospital would not identify the donor or the recipient, but plans a news conference Friday afternoon. The first U.S. face transplant was done in December by doctors at Cleveland Clinic who replaced 80 percent of a woman's face with that of a female cadaver. The woman's identity has not been revealed, nor the circumstances that led to the transplant, except that her injury occurred several years ago.

Airdate; April 11

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **TB SCARE IL**

Synopsis: Hundreds of patients and staff at three Chicago-area hospitals may have been exposed to tuberculosis by a contagious health care worker, officials said Friday. About 300 staff and 150 patients may have been exposed at Children's Memorial Hospital, said Dr. Stan Shulman, the hospital's chief of pediatric infectious disease.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA ON ECONOMY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says nations must confront global challenges like the financial meltdown and climate change together. Obama invoked Christian and Jewish holidays today as he used his radio and Internet address to ask Americans -- and a global audience -- to focus on areas of common interest instead of differences. Obama says Easter and Passover "are both occasions to think more deeply about the obligations we have to ourselves and the obligations we have to one another."

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CAFFEINE & MUSCLE PAIN**

Synopsis: A couple cups of coffee before a tough workout may lower the chances of sore muscles later on, a small study suggests. The researchers found that young men who performed an intense bout of cycling had less muscle soreness when they took a pre-workout dose of caffeine.

Airdate; April 12

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **EARLIER HIV TREATMENT**

Synopsis: Patients should start taking drugs for the AIDS virus earlier to have the best chance of survival, researchers said Thursday. An analysis of more than 45,000 people with HIV in Europe and North America found they were 28 percent more likely to develop full-blown AIDS or die if they deferred treatment until the point currently recommended in many countries.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SALMONELLA PEANUTS**

Synopsis: U.S. marshals served a warrant on a New Jersey company that has refused to recall peanut products at the center of a major salmonella outbreak, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday. The FDA said Westco

Fruit and Nuts Inc., an Irvington, New Jersey-based company, has refused to provide access to distribution documents and declined to recall products after an FDA request. The warrant seeks access to the records.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **VOLUNTEER NY**

Synopsis: New York Cares hosts four large volunteer events every year. These events provide the perfect way for individuals and groups to make a difference in just one day. This program is committed to developing the next generation of volunteers and offers several ways for young people to give back to their communities. In addition to offering over 150 Family Friendly volunteer projects throughout the year, they also work with 38 New York City public schools to introduce hundreds of students to service through their award winning Youth Service clubs.

Airdate: April 13

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA ENDS TRAVELING RESTRICTIONS TO CUBA**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama opened a crack in the decades-old U.S. embargo against Cuba, allowing American telecommunications firms to start providing service to Cubans and lifting restrictions on family ties to the island. The move marked a major shift from the prior approach to Havana, as Obama ended limits on family travel and money transfers by Cubans in the United States to their homeland and spurred hopes that loosened travel restrictions could be next.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **MASS LEGALIZATION VS MASS DEPORTATION**

Synopsis: A new study reveals that mass immigrant legalization is a better option for the U.S. economy than mass deportation. Day after day, anti-immigrant organizations try to convince the American people that immigration is a drain on the economy and that mass deportation of undocumented workers would be a boon-despite all evidence to the contrary. But the insidious truth is that immigrants play a key role in our economy; comprehensive immigration reform would bolster our nation's tax coffers and level the playing field for all workers and employers; and mass deportation is an outlandishly expensive-and equally unrealistic-proposition.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SURVEY: TAX REFUND TO PAY DEBTS**

Synopsis: A recent poll reveals that 54% of tax payers say they plan to use this year's tax refund to pay their bills, deciding in this sour economy to be more frugal with their annual windfall. They intend to pay off credit cards, utility,

housing and other bills, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll released Monday. That compares with 35 percent who said the same thing a year ago.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION-ID THEFT INVESTIGATION**

Synopsis: A judge has halted an identity theft investigation targeting illegal immigrants in Colorado, saying prosecutors wrongly seized records from an income tax preparer. The judge Monday ordered Weld County District Attorney Ken Buck to return or destroy the evidence within seven days. Buck's attorney says he will appeal. Thousands of documents had been seized from Amalia's Translation and Tax Services in Greeley after a Texas man alerted Weld County authorities that someone was using his identity. The American Civil Liberties Union's lawsuit contends the records were confidential.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **ECONOMIC CRISIS AND DIABETES**

Synopsis: The economic crisis is pushing diabetics to literally risk life and limb, as many who have lost jobs and health insurance now are cutting back on, or even going without doctor visits, insulin, medicines and blood-sugar testing. Doctors report a drop in regular appointments with diabetic patients, if they come back at all. Patients more often seek tax-subsidized or charity care. And they end up in emergency rooms more often, patients and physicians say. Sales of drugs and other products used to treat and monitor the disease have dropped since the economic crisis accelerated last fall. Meanwhile, the number of people with the disease keeps growing, an additional 1.6 million Americans were diagnosed in 2007 alone.

Airdate; April 14

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA -ECONOMY SPEECH**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama proclaimed signs of economic progress Tuesday but also warned Americans eager for good news that "by no means are we out of the woods." In a speech at Georgetown University today, Obama aimed to juggle his glass-half-full take on the economy with a determination to not be stamped as naive or overly rosy in the face of stubborn problems that linger.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: Change to Win and AFL-CIO unveil unified immigration reform framework roadmap that lays the groundwork for an immigration system that works for America workers. The joint announcement and proposal is a critical sign of support for the Administration and Congress to address immigration reform - and to ensure that it remains a priority on the legislative calendar. It is

also an important sign that immigration reform is an important part of economic recovery.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **DRUG PRICES**

Synopsis: The AARP says prices of the most popular brand-name prescription drugs are on the rise even as the economy falters. But the group's annual study also found prices of generic drugs are falling and more and more seniors are making the switch to generics, a trend the powerful senior citizens' lobby hopes to encourage. AARP also wants policy makers to focus on how to bring drug prices down as Congress prepares legislation to reshape the nation's costly health care system.

Airdate; April 15

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **VACCINE PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT**

Synopsis: The maker of an experimental vaccine for fighting prostate cancer says the drug extended survival in a late-stage study. Fuller results on the drug, called Provenge, will be presented later this month.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **DEPRESSION, STRESS VARY BY US REGIONS**

Synopsis: Scientists have discovered that levels of depression vary by regions with frequent mental distress (FMD) lowest at 6.6 percent in Hawaii and highest at 14.4 percent in Kentucky. Other states including Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Tennessee had levels of more than 12 percent of FMD, which is described as having 14 days or more of depression and emotional problems in the past month.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE US**

Synopsis: The Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center, today released a statistical profile of Mexican immigrants living in the United States. On the eve of President Obama's visit to Mexico, this profile reveals that a record 12.7 million Mexican immigrants lived in the U.S. in 2008, a 17-fold increase since 1970. Mexicans now account for 32% of all U.S. immigrants and more than one-in-ten of all persons born in Mexico now reside in the U.S. No other country in the world has as many total immigrants from all countries as the United States has immigrants from Mexico alone. More than half (55%) of Mexican immigrants in the U.S. are unauthorized. Immigrants from Mexico are younger than other immigrants and less likely to be U.S. citizens.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CONSUMER PRICES MARCH**

Synopsis: Consumer prices dipped unexpectedly in March, leaving prices over the past year falling at the fastest clip in more than a half-century. The recession is expected to keep a lid on inflation as widespread layoffs dampen wage pressures and weak demand keeps companies from raising prices. The Labor Department said Wednesday that consumer prices edged down 0.1 percent last month as a drop in energy prices offset the biggest rise in tobacco prices in more than a decade.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR CHILDREN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: A group of conservative activists are hoping to bring the issue of illegal immigration back to the front burner of California politics with a ballot measure that would create a new caste of birth certificates for children of the undocumented. An initial version of the measure was cleared to begin gathering signatures Friday, but proponents said they plan to make minor amendments and refile the measure soon. The initiative, which proponents tout as the California Taxpayer Protection Act, is intended for the June 2010 statewide ballot. For undocumented parents to obtain the new "Certificate of Live Birth With Foreign Parent," they would have to be photographed, fingerprinted and pay an additional \$75 fee.

Airdate: April 16

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS - CALIFORNIA**

Synopsis: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said that the claim by some conservative activists that illegal immigration is to blame for all of the state's fiscal problems is ignorant and bigoted. The governor made his comments during a public forum at The Times building in downtown Los Angeles where he expressed frustration with anti-tax organizations and others seeking to derail a package of ballot measures that will come before voters in a May 19 special election. Schwarzenegger and lawmakers placed the measures on the ballot as part of the budget agreement they reached in February.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FORECLOSURE RATES**

Synopsis: The number of American households threatened with losing their homes grew 24 percent in the first three months of this year and is poised to rise further as major lenders restart foreclosures after a temporary break. The big unknown for the coming months, however, is President Barack Obama's plan to

help up to 9 million borrowers avoid foreclosure through refinanced mortgages or modified loans.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **TAX CREDITS UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: A government investigator says the IRS is not doing enough to prevent foreign workers -- including many illegal immigrants -- from improperly claiming federal child tax credits. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration said Thursday that in 2007, the IRS allowed \$1.8 billion in tax credits for more than 1.2 million workers who claimed wages but did not provide Social Security Numbers on their tax returns.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NY GAY MARRIAGES**

Synopsis: New York Gov. David Paterson Thursday introduced a bill to allow gay marriage in the state, likening the effort to civil rights struggles and brushing aside objections from religious leaders. If the bill becomes law, New York will follow Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and Iowa in legalizing gay marriage, but the effort is expected to face resistance in the state Senate.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **WOMEN CANCER HEALTH**

Synopsis: Women who participate in recreational exercise and sports over their lifetime may be lowering their risk of death from breast cancer and breast cancer recurrence. Among 1,231 women with breast cancer who were followed for a minimum of 8.3 years, those who obtained about 4 hours or more of weekly moderate-intensity recreational activity over their lifetime had a 44 percent lower risk of death from breast cancer.

Airdate; April 17

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **STEMCELLS USA**

Synopsis: New stem cell guidelines released Friday by the U.S. National Institutes of Health would limit federal funding of the research to embryos left over at fertility clinics and prohibit federal funding of embryos made by cloning or certain other methods.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CALIFORNIA LANGUAGE DISCRIMINATION**

Synopsis: Alarmed that a professional golf organization proposed excluding competitors who don't speak English, the state Senate acted to prohibit businesses in California from discriminating against customers, including refusal of service, based on the language they use. The proposed law has sparked heated debate throughout the state as well as some anti-immigrant calls to the

office of its author, Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), who has had his own experience with discrimination.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **JOBLESS CLAIMS**

Synopsis: The number of people receiving jobless benefits exceeded 6 million for the first time, the government reported Thursday, and housing construction unexpectedly plunged to its second-lowest level on record -- fresh evidence that the recession is far from over.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CITIGROUP EARNINGS**

Synopsis: Citigroup says the first quarter of 2009 was much better than last year's. The bank is reporting a loss to common shareholders of \$966 million after massive loan losses and dividends to preferred stockholders. But before paying those dividends, the bank is posting net income of \$1.6 billion.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **MEN DIABETES**

Synopsis: Among middle-aged and older men with type 2 diabetes, their capacity for exercise is related to their likelihood of dying over a 7-year period, according to a new study. Dr. Peter Kokkinos from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Washington, D.C., and colleagues say their findings show a strong association between increased exercise capacity and lower mortality risk.

Airdate: April 18

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **"SILENT" HEART ATTACKS**

Synopsis: A study using new imaging technology found "silent" heart attacks may be far more common, and more deadly, than suspected, U.S. researchers said Friday. Some studies estimate that these often painless heart attacks, also known as unrecognized myocardial infarctions, affect 200,000 people in the United States each year.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **RECESSION AND ABORTION**

Synopsis: The recession may be a factor influencing more Americans to opt out of parenthood with abortions and vasectomies, although there is no data available yet to suggest a trend. Even so, there is some anecdotal evidence that would-be parents are factoring the rough economic times into the most personal of reproductive choices, some experts said.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **RYANAIR AIRLINES**

Synopsis: Budget airline Ryanair looks set to impose a 'fat tax' on overweight individuals who choose to take advantage of their cut-price flights. This decision follows a survey of 100,000 Ryanair customers, 29% of whom were in favor of a 'levy on the heavy'. Other revenue generating alternatives suggested by the airline included the introduction of €3 smoking cabins, a €1 charge for toilet paper, subscription-only access to Ryanair's website or a fee that would be payable if you chose to bring your own food onboard. The airlines are now planning to poll their passengers for a second time to decide exactly how this charge should be implemented.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US AND CUBA RELATIONS**

Synopsis: Obama says he's ready to accept Cuban President Raul Castro's proposal for talks on issues that were once off-limits for Cuba, including human rights and political prisoners held by the communist government.

Airdate April 19

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA WILL MEET WITH URIBE**

Synopsis: During the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, Colombian President Álvaro Uribe met with Barack Obama in a meeting that has marked the beginning of a new era in the bilateral relations between the United States and Colombia. Colombia and the United States talked about "Plan Colombia" and the Free Trade Agreement. By the end of a 45-minute one-on-one conversation, Uribe received his first invitation to Washington, effective immediately, and he got Obama to promise to visit Colombia.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CUBA-US COMMUNICATION COMPANIES BUSINESS**

Synopsis: Communications companies in the United States prepare to do business with Cuba, after President Barack Obama lifted travel restrictions to the Island. Restrictions would also be lifted on US telecommunications companies applying for licenses to operate in Cuba. That move could open the way for a greater flow of information to the Island that could create a huge impact in some businesses.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **POPE BENEDICT XVI-GINEBRA ONU CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM**

Synopsis: Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday praised this week's U.N. anti-racism conference and urged countries to join forces to eliminate intolerance, as the Vatican appeared to distance itself from the U.S. boycott of the meeting. The conference beginning Monday in Geneva is an important initiative, the pope said, because "even today, despite the lessons of history, such deplorable phenomena take place."

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CIGAR SMOKE AND LUNG CANCER**

Synopsis: A recent study in the US reveals the smoke released from cigars and cigarettes contain many of the same toxic agents (carbon monoxide, nicotine, hydrogen cyanide, ammonia and volatile aldehydes) and human carcinogens (benzene, vinyl chloride, ethylene oxide, arsenic, cadmium, nitrosamines, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons). However, the amounts of these substances present in cigar smoke are different than in cigarette smoke.

Airdate; April 20

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CREDIT CARDS**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama plans to crack down on deceptive credit-card industry practices that have saddled U.S. consumers with huge debts and soaring interest rates, U.S. officials said Sunday. Top White House economic adviser Lawrence Summers said Obama would be "very focused in the very near term on a whole set of issues having to do with credit card abuses."

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SUPREME COURT ENGLISH LEARNERS**

Synopsis: A 17-year-old legal battle over how Arizona treats students who are still learning English will be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in a case the justices could use to set sweeping new limits on the power of the federal courts over states. The hearing is the latest, and perhaps final, stop in the divisive case known as *Flores vs. Arizona*. The case has pitted state lawmakers against federal judges since 2000.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA CABINET MEETING**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama on Monday ordered his Cabinet to find ways to slice spending by \$100 million, but acknowledged it's a "drop in the bucket" and said there's a "confidence gap" that he needs to overcome. Just back from a Latin America summit, Obama told the first formal Cabinet meeting

of his administration that vast spending to combat the economic crisis was "the right thing to do." But he also said taxpayers still need to know that every dollar they give the government is being spent wisely.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **GM EMPLOYEES**

Synopsis: A top General Motors Corp. executive says 1,600 workers will lose their jobs during the next few days as the automaker tries to cut costs and restructure to stay in business. GM North America President Troy Clarke says in an e-mail to workers obtained by The Associated Press that the layoffs are needed to ensure GM's long-term viability. Last month GM began cutting 3,400 U.S. salaried jobs as part of the 47,000 job cuts that it will make worldwide by year's end.

Airdate: April 21

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US COLLEGES ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: Wading into the politically charged immigration debate, a group of colleges and universities is urging Congress to give illegal immigrants tuition aid and a path to citizenship in light of efforts in several states to block them. The College Board, made up of 5,000 schools and best known for its SAT college admission tests, released a report Tuesday that cites a need for federal legislation that would open up in-state college tuition, financial aid and legal status to many illegal immigrants in the U.S.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US MELTDOWN BAILOUT**

Synopsis: America's banks are still broken despite all their bailout billions, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told impatient rescue overseers Tuesday as they pressed him on when things will get better and how much it will cost. A bleak new report estimated U.S. banks and other financial institutions could lose a stunning \$2.7 trillion in all.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **PARALYSIS**

Synopsis: There's new medical research that says five times more Americans than previously estimated live with a spinal-cord injury. The report released today says overall, 5.5 million people in the U.S. have some degree of paralysis due to a variety of neurologic problems. They range from multiple sclerosis to strokes. Not only have less extensive injuries often gone uncounted, but the report suggests that people are living longer with paralysis -- and they're now starting to face added complications like aging.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **IMMIGRANTS AND ECONOMY**

Synopsis: NCLR said that an immigration reform could help US economy if the government include those 12 millions people in the tributary system.

Airdate: April 22

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FORECLOSURE RATES**

Synopsis: The 26 U.S. cities with the worst foreclosure problems are concentrated in four states - California, Florida, Arizona and Nevada, a report released Wednesday shows. The report on foreclosures for the first quarter by RealtyTrac Inc. said the highest foreclosure rates were found in Las Vegas, Merced, Calif. and the Cape Coral-Fort Myers area in Florida. Next on the list were the California metro areas of Stockton, Riverside, Modesto, Bakersfield and Vallejo-Fairfield. The number of American households threatened with losing their homes grew 24 percent in the first three months of this year and is poised to rise further as major lenders restart foreclosures after a temporary break.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SUPREME COURT ON DEPORTATION**

Synopsis: The Supreme Court has made it easier for illegal immigrants seeking to avoid deportation to get another chance at a court hearing. The decision Wednesday came in the case of Jean Marc Nken, who came to the United States in 2001 and did not leave when his visa expired. Nken has since applied for asylum, married a U.S. citizen and had a child, who also is an American. But immigration authorities and federal courts have repeatedly rejected his claims, which include the prospect of persecution if he is sent back to the African nation of Cameroon. The federal appeals courts have split on what standard to apply to requests to temporarily block deportation while taking another look at immigration cases.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **MORNING AFTER PILL**

Synopsis: Seventeen-year-olds will soon be able to buy the "morning-after" emergency contraceptive without a doctor's prescription, a decision conservatives denounced as a blow to parental supervision of teens. The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday it was accepting rather than appealing a federal judge's order that lifts Bush administration restrictions limiting over-the-counter sales of "Plan B" to women 18 and older.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **ALZHEIMER DRUG**

Synopsis: Contrary to earlier findings, taking common painkillers such as ibuprofen and naproxen may not prevent Alzheimer's disease, but may delay it, U.S. researchers said Wednesday. Earlier studies had suggested that drugs known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory or NSAIDS, which also include aspirin, could protect people from dementia. But a large study with older patients done by researchers at the University of Washington and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Seattle found the dementia risk was actually higher among heavy NSAID users.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA CREDIT CARDS**

Synopsis: The White House Wednesday gave its support to an effort by the Federal Reserve to tighten regulations on credit card companies, saying it wanted to see the Fed's new rules codified into law. The White House has said it is working closely with Congress to craft legislation to rein in what it says are deceptive practices by the credit card firms.

Airdate: April 23

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **LATINO PASTOR GROUP URGING CENSUS BOYCOTT**

Synopsis: A nationwide group of Latino ministers has a message for illegal immigrants: Stand up, but refuse to be counted in the 2010 U.S. census. The National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders is urging undocumented immigrants to boycott the census -- which is used to calculate everything from federal funding to congressional representation -- unless Congress first passes immigration reform. "The same data that helps the Latino community to seek political empowerment, the same numbers that are used to show how strong we are and prove our growing numbers, that's the same data the anti-immigrant forces use against us," the Rev. Miguel Rivera, the head of the coalition, said Tuesday.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **GM LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: Thousands of GM workers could learn as early as Thursday that they will be idle for up to nine weeks this summer as the automaker's plants stop making all but its most popular cars and trucks. The move is a result of slumping sales and growing inventories of unsold vehicles, but some analysts and dealers fear the plant closings could further scare car buyers already made nervous by talk of a GM bankruptcy. General Motors Corp. is planning to temporarily close most of its U.S. factories for up to nine weeks, three people briefed on the plan said Wednesday.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CREDIT CARDS RULES**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says he wants to shield credit card users from confusing fine print and sudden rate hikes. After meeting with industry executives at the White House, Obama said "the days of any time, any reason rate hikes and late fee traps have to end." He says those in the industry who "want to act responsibly" will help the administration charge ahead with its legislation. Obama's proposed changes would keep consumers from facing sudden, surprising jumps in fees and require companies to publish their forms in plain-spoken language, with no more fine print. It would also allow for customer-friendly comparison shopping on credit-card offers and greater enforcement against violators.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **HOME SALES**

Synopsis: Sales of existing homes nationwide fell 3 percent in the United States comparing last March to this March, but in Florida sales went up 30 percent while the prices of homes fell 30 percent in comparison. Home sales fell 3 percent to an annual rate of 4.57 million in the month of March from a downwardly revised pace of 4.71 million units in February, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Airdate: April 24

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CDC VIRUS IN THE US**

Synopsis: The White House says President Barack Obama is being updated on the swine flu outbreak in Mexico. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Friday the Homeland Security Council is monitoring the situation, along with the State Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Gibbs says Homeland Security Adviser John Brennan is leading the White House's response. Mexican authorities say 60 people may have died from the swine flu virus and world health officials worry it could unleash a global flu epidemic. Gibbs said Obama was not at risk during last week's trip to Mexico.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NY STUDENTS FLU**

Synopsis: New York City health officials say that about 75 students at a Queens high school have fallen ill with flu-like symptoms and testing is under way to rule out the strain of swine flu that has killed dozens in Mexico. The Health Department's Dr. Don Weiss said Friday that a team of agency doctors and investigators were dispatched to the private St. Francis Preparatory School the previous day after students reported fever, sore throat, cough, aches and

pains. No one has been hospitalized. The handful of sick students who remained at the school were tested for a variety of flu strains. If they're found to have a known human strain that would rule out swine flu. Results could take several days. In the meantime, the school says it's postponing an evening event and sanitizing the building over the weekend.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BANK STRESS TEST**

Synopsis: Federal regulators on Friday will privately begin telling the nation's 19 largest financial institutions how well they performed in stress tests to assess their soundness. Regulators trying to stabilize the financial system also will release the test methodology they used, which could provide clues about which banks may be in trouble -- but also could unwittingly roil the industry. The results of the stress tests won't be publicly released until May 4. The slow-motion rollout is intended to blunt market reaction to the news of which banks are healthy, which ones could fail if the recession worsens and which need more money to survive.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **AUTO INDUSTRY LATEST**

Synopsis: The Treasury Department says it has provided General Motors Corp. with another \$2 billion in federal loans as the giant automaker struggles to restructure. The Treasury said that the payment was made to GM on Wednesday and provides working capital to the company. A government report revealed earlier this week that the Treasury was prepared to provide GM with up to \$5 billion more in federal loans and Chrysler with up to \$500 million more in bailout support as they race against deadlines to restructure. GM has until June 1 to complete restructuring plans that satisfy the government's auto task force, while Chrysler has until April 30.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **LATEST SWINE FLU-HHS**

Synopsis: At least two cases of the human swine influenza have been confirmed in Kansas, and at least eight more are suspected in students at a New York City high school, but health officials say they don't know whether they have the same virus that has killed scores of people in Mexico. HHS spokesman Bill Hall says the department is working to determine the proper precautions that Americans might need to take. The World Health Organization says the outbreak has "pandemic potential" and is urging countries to increase their vigilance. The CDC on Friday told state authorities to intensively search for any unexplained flu illnesses. Now it will have to test samples from cases in this country to see if the reported cases actually match the new virus.

Airdate: April 25, 2009

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: MEXICO-SWINE VIRUS

Synopsis: A coordinated effort between the U-S and Mexico is now underway to stem the spread of a unique strain of swine virus. Dozens have died and more than a thousand are sickened in Mexico. Eight people in the U-S have fallen ill. The Mexican president says his administration is facing the crisis. Felipe Calderon ordered the most sweeping shutdown of public and government buildings in a quarter of a century: "We know the seriousness of the problem. I know that we will be able to solve this, this is our obligation."

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: USA- SWINE FLU CASES REPORTED IN 4 STATES

Synopsis: Preliminary tests on sickened students at a New York high school likely point to swine flu in the majority of samples taken, according to New York City health officials. Samples taken from nine students came back positive for "Type A" flu. Officials believe 8 of those are likely swine flu. The Centers for Disease Control is now testing to determine the specific subtype of the strain. Up to 100 students reported feeling ill. Those results are expected Sunday or Monday. Authorities reported swine flu cases also in Kansas, California and Texas.

Duration: 30 sec.

**Topic: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION- SWINE FLU
"INTERNATIONAL CONCERN"**

Synopsis: The World Health Organization on Saturday asked countries around the world to step up reporting and surveillance of the strain -- a combination of swine, bird and human influenza that people may have no natural immunity to -- and implement a coordinated response to contain it. WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said the outbreak of the never-before-seen virus has "pandemic potential." But she said it is still too early to tell if it would become a pandemic. WHO guidance calls for isolating the sick and blanketing everyone around them with antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: OBAMA SPENDING SPEECH

Synopsis: Obama said his administration would make \$2 trillion in deficit reductions in the next decade... He also said he wants to re-evaluate priorities in the capital and urged Congress to pass legislation that would force lawmakers to pay for new policies and avoid large deficits. He also told agencies they could keep a part of the money they save. Obama said. "And in the days and weeks ahead, we will continue going through the budget line by line, and we'll identify more than 100 programs that will be cut or eliminated."

Airdate: April 26

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ON SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: The U.S. declared a public health emergency Sunday to deal with the emerging new swine flu, much like the government does to prepare for approaching hurricanes. Officials reported 20 U.S. cases of swine flu in five states so far, with the latest in Ohio and New York. Unlike in Mexico where the same strain appears to be killing dozens of people, cases in the United State have been mild -- and U.S. health authorities can't yet explain why.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **BLOOMBERG ON SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Sunday that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that students at a city high school were infected with swine flu. New York officials previously had said they were eight "probable" cases, but tests later confirmed it was swine flu. Bloomberg stressed that the cases were mild and many are recovering. About 100 students complained of flu-like symptoms at the school. Some students went to Cancun, Mexico, on a spring break trip two weeks ago. Mexican authorities have not said whether swine flu has been found in the Caribbean beach resort.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US-SWINE FLU-EMERGENCY**

Synopsis: The U.S. is declaring a public health emergency to deal with the emerging new swine flu. The precautionary step doesn't signal a greater threat to Americans. But it allows the federal and state governments easier access to flu tests and medications. Federal health officials say 20 cases of swine flu have been reported in five states so far. Officials expect more cases and more severe illness among Americans. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says roughly 12 million doses of the drug Tamiflu are being released from a federal stockpile so that states can get it if needed.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **FLU - USA TRAVEL**

Synopsis: The U.S. State Department urged Americans Monday to avoid all "nonessential" travel to Mexico over the next three months because of an outbreak of swine flu. "The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens of the health risks of travel to Mexico at this time due to an outbreak of H1N1 'swine flu'," the State Department said in an official "travel alert" to U.S. citizens which expires on July 27, 2009.

Airdate: April 27

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: The head of the Homeland Security Department says the United States is preparing as if the swine flu outbreak is a full pandemic. Secretary Janet Napolitano told reporters Monday that the World Health Organization is operating at level three, with level six a full pandemic. She said officials at the WHO were meeting Monday to consider whether to raise the level. Napolitano said the U.S. is proceeding as if it were preparing for a full pandemic. The disease started in Mexico and has spread to the United States and beyond, with 40 reported cases in the U.S.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **GM LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: General Motors Corp. could be majority-owned by the federal government and the United Auto Workers under a massive restructuring plan laid out Monday that will cut 21,000 U.S. factory jobs by next year and phase out the storied Pontiac brand. The plan, which includes an offer to swap roughly \$27 billion in bond debt for GM stock, would leave current shareholders holding just 1 percent of the century-old company, which is fighting for its life in the worst auto sales climate in 27 years.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **OBAMA ON SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Monday that U.S. officials were closely monitoring cases of swine flu in the country, but he said there was no immediate cause for alarm.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CHRYSLER DEBT**

Synopsis: Chrysler LLC, which is living on \$4 billion in government loans and is expected to get \$500 million more, faces a Thursday deadline to restructure and ink an alliance deal with Italian automaker Fiat. The government also wants Chrysler to exchange much of its \$6.9 billion in debt for equity in the company, but with the deadline fast approaching, Chrysler and its secured debt holders remain far apart.

Airdate: April 28

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **US SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: Federal health officials say the number of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States has jumped to 68. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Tuesday that the new count includes "a number of hospitalizations." CDC officials had said there had been just one person hospitalized. The CDC says there are 17 new cases in New York City, four more in Texas and three additional cases in California. That brings the total numbers of cases confirmed by federal officials to 45 in New York City, 13 in California, six in Texas, one in Indiana, two in Kansas and one in Ohio. State health officials in California have confirmed three other cases, and Indiana authorities have confirmed one.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **NEW MORTGAGE INCENTIVES**

Synopsis: The U.S. Treasury Department will Tuesday tap a \$50 billion housing rescue fund to pay off mortgage investors and reduce monthly payments for millions of borrowers, said a senior administration official. Mortgage services that own a small stake in costly loans will receive a cash payment to either erase the debt or agree to accept a much smaller return on their investment.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **CHRYSLER FINANCE**

Synopsis: Chrysler LLC's biggest lenders and the U.S. government reached a breakthrough framework deal to cut the automakers' debt by \$6.9 billion, but bankruptcy still loomed as a strong possibility to complete restructuring, officials said on Tuesday. Although Chrysler allies were buoyed by the development, the near-term future of the American icon hinged on several parts coming together, before Thursday's U.S. government deadline, to prove that the company can be viable again.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **SWINE FLU CRUISE LINES**

Synopsis: Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line have suspended stops at Mexican ports over concerns about swine flu. Carnival said on its Web site it has canceled all calls at Mexican ports through May 4, and in many cases will be able to substitute the canceled stop with an alternative port.

Duration: 30 sec.

Topic: **GM CLOSINGS**

Synopsis: General Motors Corp. told its dealers Tuesday that it will force 1,000 to 1,200 underperforming locations to close their doors as the automaker tries to thin dealer ranks to make the remaining outlets more profitable. GM told

the dealers about the plan in a video conference, according to a dealer who spoke on condition of anonymity because the video conference was private. It is part of the company's plan announced Monday to cut more than 2,600 dealers by 2010.

Airdate: April 29

Duration : 30 sec

Topic : **Mexican boy Flu treatment in Texas**

A nearly two-year-old boy who has become the first death in the United States from the H1N1 swine flu had been receiving aggressive treatment for flu, a Houston health official said Wednesday. "It is important for everyone to know that while the death occurred here in Houston ... this child is a resident of Mexico who traveled to Texas to visit family," said David Persse, director of emergency medical services for the city of Houston, adding that the child's family "are healthy and well and have not had any symptoms." The boy who died lived in Matamoros, on the Mexican border with Texas, Persse said.

Duration : 30 sec

Topic : **Pentagon confirms Marine is ill with swine flu**

The Pentagon said Wednesday a Marine based in Southern California has been confirmed to be ill with swine flu and is under quarantine, along with about 30 other Marines. A Marine spokesman at the Pentagon, Maj. David Nevers, said the sick Marine was doing well and his condition continued to improve.

Duration : 30 sec

Topic : **Obama marks whirlwind first 100 days in office**

Barack Obama Wednesday trumpeted the sharp break he has made from the Bush administration's policies in his whirlwind first 100 days but also expressed some caution about the future. Some have used the 100-day milestone to assess Obama's policies, even as analysts cautioned it was too soon to say whether his long list of initiatives would yield success. Obama has signaled a new approach on policies from the economy to climate change to U.S. relations with Iran as part of an agenda that both his supporters and critics describe as ambitious. Underscoring the challenge Obama still confronts in pulling the country out of recession, new government data showed the economy contracted at 6.1 percent in the first quarter, a steeper-than-expected slide, as exports sharply declined.

Duration : 30 sec

Topic : **Homeland Security and Swine flu**

The number of confirmed swine flu cases is on the rise across the globe. In the U-S, there have been more than 90 confirmed cases. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is testifying before a Senate committee on the government's response-- And its readiness if things get worse. There have been some calls to stop all border traffic and even deploy the military. But Napolitano doesn't think that's necessary. Napolitano also says the U-S is giving out nearly 13 million doses of antivirals to the states. That's about a quarter of the U-S stockpile. Napolitano says the states should receive the medicine by Sunday.

Airdate: April 30

Duration : 30 sec

Topic : **Gov't going after companies hiring illegal workers**

The Obama administration is pursuing employers who knowingly hire and exploit illegal workers, a policy not significantly different from the Bush administration's approach. The guidelines, sent to Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on Thursday, call for imposing fines and pressing criminal charges against employers who break the law. The priority is to go after employers, but the policy says agents will continue to arrest illegal workers as long as local U.S. attorneys commit to prosecuting cases against their employers.

Duration : 30 sec

Topic: **WHO to stop using term 'swine flu' to protect pigs**

The World Health Organization says it will stop using the term "swine flu" to avoid confusion over the danger posed by pigs. WHO spokesman Dick Thompson says the name change comes after the agriculture industry and the U.N. food agency expressed concerns that the term "swine flu" was misleading consumers and needlessly causing countries to order the slaughter of pigs. He told reporters in Geneva "we're going to stick with the technical scientific name H1N1 influenza A." WHO raised the pandemic flu alert to phase 5 on Wednesday, one step away from the highest level indicating a global outbreak. WHO flu chief Keg Faked said Thursday the U.N. agency saw nothing yet to prompt it to raise the pandemic alert farther.

Duration : 30 sec

Topic: **Chrysler to file for bankruptcy**

Chrysler will file for bankruptcy after talks with a small group of creditors crumbled just a day before a government deadline for the automaker to come up with a restructuring plan, two administration officials said Thursday. The Obama administration had long hoped to stave off bankruptcy for Chrysler LLC, but it became clear that a holdout group wouldn't budge on proposals to reduce Chrysler's \$6.9 billion in secured debt, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the filing plans are not public. Clearing those debts was a needed step for Chrysler restructure by the Thursday night deadline.

Duration : 30 sec

Topic: **Credit card legislation nearing success**

Legislation to rein in credit card practices and eliminate sudden rate hikes and late fees that have entangled millions of American consumers is getting closer to becoming law, bolstered by presidential pressure and the backdrop of economic calamity. Measures before the House and Senate are designed to enhance protections for credit card customers. The House bill, which was being put to a vote Thursday, would prohibit so-called double-cycle billing and retroactive rate hikes and ban the issuance of credit cards to people under 18, but wouldn't take effect until a year after enactment. Another requirement in the bill, that customers receive 45 days notice before their interest rates are increased, would go into effect in 90 days.

Duration : 30 sec

Topic: **Swine flu could put damper on immigration rallies**

The timing is not the best. Immigration-rights rallies are set for Friday as health officials try to clamp down on a swine flu epidemic with roots in the same country as many of the expected demonstrators: Mexico. Public health officials on Thursday had not advised canceling large-scale events unless they were specifically tied to an institution or location with a laboratory-confirmed case of the illness. They urged people to stay home if they are sick. Organizers of the May Day rallies, which have drawn thousands and even hundreds of thousands of people in recent years, said they would look to recommendations from public health officials about whether to cancel or modify the events.

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

MAY 1 - MAY 31, 2009

Airdate: May 1

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLORIDA CONFIRMS SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: Florida Gov. Charlie Crist says the state has its first two confirmed cases of swine flu. Crist says the cases are in Lee and Broward counties, involving an 11-year-old boy and 17-year-old girl. Federal officials say 19 states have at least one confirmed case of swine flu, with New York and Texas having the most. One person in the United States has died. Florida officials earlier referred eight suspected cases of swine flu to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta for more testing from Alachua, Orange, Lee, Broward, Palm Beach and Pinellas counties.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FDA RECALL OF DIET PILL HYDROXYCUT**

Synopsis: Government health officials are announcing the recall of popular weight loss pill Hydroxycut, after reports of liver damage and other health problems. Food and Drug Administration officials said Friday the manufacturer of Hydroxycut has launched a nationwide recall of the dietary supplement, used by people trying to shed pounds and by body builders to sharpen their muscles. Hydroxycut is advertised as made from natural ingredients. It accounts for about 90 percent of the market for weight loss supplements, with sales of about 1 million bottles a year.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SUPREME COURT VACANCY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama will have to nominate a successor after Souter makes his retirement announcement official. Souter is likely to stay on the court through the end of the term in June, and maybe longer if a replacement is not quickly confirmed. Obama will have chosen his successor long before June -- if the president hasn't already made up his mind -- but an announcement from the White House is unlikely before the Supreme Court finishes this year's session.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CONTINENTAL CUTS MEXICO CAPACITY**

Synopsis: Continental Airlines Inc said Friday that it had made temporary cuts to its seat capacity to Mexico, citing lower demand as a new strain of flu spreads. In a statement, the carrier said it would cut capacity to Mexico, as measured by available seat miles, by about 50 percent from its original May flight schedule, effective on Monday. It added that it would reduce flight departures by about 40 percent. The carrier said the reductions amount to about 2 percent of its

systemwide available seat miles for May, compared with its original schedule for the month. Continental said it was using smaller aircraft on flights to Mexico or reducing the frequency of flights to destinations. Prior to these reductions, Continental said it operated an average of 450 weekly flights to the country.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CHRYSLER BANKRUPTCY HEARING**

Synopsis: Attorneys packed a downtown Manhattan courtroom Friday morning for Chrysler's first hearing that may signal whether a quick, "surgical" bankruptcy will be possible for the automaker. The nation's third-largest automaker filed for bankruptcy protection Thursday with an ambitious plan to emerge in as little as 30 days as a leaner company. In the early morning hours before the hearing began, attorneys lined up outside the bankruptcy court for the Southern District of New York under overcast skies with coffee and rain gear in tow of hopes of securing a spot.

Airdate: May 2

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TAMIFLU MEDICATION DISTRIBUTION**

Synopsis: The Lee County Department of Health is distributing medication to children after a student tested positive for H1N1 Swine Flu. The Board of Health passed out 18 Tamiflu prescriptions Saturday to students who attend Spring Creek Elementary. The first person to test positive for H1N1 Swine Flu in Southwest Florida attends Spring Creek Elementary. The students who received the prescriptions have pre-existing conditions that make them more susceptible to catching the flu.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **LATEST SWINE FLU / OBAMA**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Saturday that the U.S. is taking "all necessary precautions" to be prepared if the swine flu develops into "something worse" and spoke to Mexico's president about how to keep the flu strain from spreading. Swine flu, or H1N1 flu as the government prefers to call it, has caused only one confirmed death in the United States. But medical authorities fear the flu could become much worse, Obama said, and that's why he has thrown substantial federal resources into the campaign against it.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **PUBLIC PLACES AND THE FLU**

Synopsis: County residents are being urged to take precautions against swine flu at schools, offices and other public places after a weekend of escalating infections triggered global concerns and prompted U.S. officials to declare a public health emergency. County residents are being urged to take precautions

against swine flu at schools, offices and other public places after a weekend of escalating infections triggered global concerns and prompted U.S. officials to declare a public health emergency. No new local infections were reported, and the number of people sickened by the disease in the region remained at four.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ARIZONA JAIL**

Synopsis: Sheriff Arpaio ordered the search of jails and jail visitors Friday in advance of the protest. Sheriff Arpaio says the searches were done to keep weapons and other items out of the jail and to try and minimize the possibility of violence inside the jail while the protest takes place outside the jail. Inmates could be seen walking around in the pink underwear that inmates are required to wear while they serve time. The protest has been put together by immigration rights groups and church groups planning to march from downtown Phoenix to the Tent City Jail. Sheriff Arpaio has taken a no-nonsense approach to enforcing the state's illegal immigration law and since that time has been under fire by many immigrants rights groups.

Airdate: May 3

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ARIZONA IMMIGRATION RALLY**

Synopsis: The timing is not the best. Immigration-rights rallies are set for Friday as health officials try to clamp down on a swine flu epidemic with roots in the same country as many of the expected demonstrators: Mexico. Public health officials on Thursday had not advised canceling large-scale events unless they were specifically tied to an institution or location with a laboratory-confirmed case of the illness. They urged people to stay home if they are sick. Organizers of the May Day rallies, which have drawn thousands and even hundreds of thousands of people in recent years, said they would look to recommendations from public health officials about whether to cancel or modify the events.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ECONOMY AND THE SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: The U.S. economy, which was showing tentative early signs of a recovery, faces a potentially grave new threat: swine flu. A widespread outbreak could batter the tourism, food and transportation industries in particular, deepening the recession in the U.S. and possibly worldwide. With the U.S. and the global economy already fragile, another severe blow could reverse any progress made in easing the recession. The European Union advised against nonessential travel to the United States and Mexico. And worried Wall Street investors pounded stocks of airline companies, hotels, cruise operators and some food firms on fears that the flu would crimp consumer demand.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US FLU LATEST**

Synopsis: The tally of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States jumped Sunday to 245 in 35 states, but officials said that's largely from catching up on a backlog of lab tests rather than a sudden spurt in new infections. The new count reflects streamlining in federal procedures and the results of tests by states, which have only recently begun confirming cases, said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Because states are now contributing their results, and because there are many cases to analyze, "I expect the numbers to jump quite a bit in the next couple days," she told reporters Sunday. Beyond eating into the backlog, the new number also reflects that "we do think this virus is fairly widespread."

Airdate: May 4

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US SWINE FLU LATEST**

Synopsis: U.S. officials said Monday that it's too early to say the swine-flu threat is receding, even though there are some signs the outbreak may not be as serious as originally feared. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the outbreak could die down with warmer weather only to roar back during fall flu season. And she said the public shouldn't be alarmed if the World Health Organization declares that the new virus has officially begun a pandemic, meaning it has spread pretty much globally.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US BANK STRESS TEST**

Synopsis: As regulators prepare to reveal how banks fared on "stress tests" -- a key part of the government's plan to fix the financial system -- investors seem ready to take the news in stride. A handful of banks will likely be told to raise capital, though none will be allowed to fail. Officials will announce how the 19 largest banks fared on tests of how much they would lose if the recession unexpectedly worsened. If the test found a bank's reserves would fall below a minimum level, that bank would have to raise more capital beyond what's now required.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA TAXES**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama promised sternly on Monday to crack down on companies "that ship jobs overseas" and duck U.S. taxes with offshore havens. The president's plan would limit the ability of U.S. companies to defer

paying U.S. taxes on overseas profits. At the same time, Obama would step up efforts to go after evaders who abuse offshore tax shelters.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBESE CHILDREN STUDY**

Synopsis: Obese children and adolescents are 26 percent more likely to have some kind of allergy, especially to food, U.S. researchers said on Monday. They said it is not clear from the study if obesity causes allergies, but it suggests controlling obesity in young people may be important for lowering rates of childhood allergies and asthma.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BABY FOOD WARNING**

Synopsis: Some baby foods contain as much sugar and saturated fats as chocolate biscuits or cheeseburgers, a British food pressure group said on Monday. Publishing results of a survey of more than 100 foods for babies and toddlers, the Children's Food Campaign said Farley's rusks were 29 percent sugar and some Cow & Gate toddler biscuits contained trans fats, which have been linked to heart disease.

Airdate: May 5

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TEXAS FLU DEATH**

Synopsis: Texas health officials have confirmed the first death of a United States resident with swine flu. Few details have been released, but officials say the flu victim was a woman who lived in Cameron County, along the U.S.-Mexico border, and had other, chronic health problems. The Texas Department of State Health Services said Tuesday that she died earlier this week.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BERNANKE ON ECONOMY**

Synopsis: Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is telling Congress that the economy should pull out of recession by the end of the year. In an appearance before the Joint Economic Committee, Bernanke says the Fed expects "economic activity to bottom out, then to turn up later this year." He says recent data suggest the recession is easing and consumer spending should be lifted by the tax cuts in President Barack Obama's stimulus package. But the Fed chief also warns not to expect a boom. He says once a recovery is under way, economic activity is likely to remain subpar, leading businesses to be cautious about hiring.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SOUTH CAROLINA HALT IN FORECLOSURES**

Synopsis: South Carolina's highest court has temporarily stopped thousands of pending foreclosure sales so homeowners can take advantage of a new federal program to refinance mortgages. The state Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a restraining order preventing South Carolina judges from finalizing foreclosure sales on properties with mortgages backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. The order also applies to any mortgage lender who has signed on to a federal assistance program. RealtyTrac Inc. says the ruling could affect 5,000 South Carolina homes.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT**

Synopsis: The White House on Tuesday said it was bracing for further job losses when the Labor Department issues its latest employment report this week. "I presume several hundred thousand jobs were lost last month and the Department of Labor will announce that on Friday," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said. Private economists surveyed by Reuters have predicted that the data would show 620,000 jobs were lost in April following a 663,000 decline in March.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMUNITY UNDERAGE DRINKERS BILL-NJ**

Synopsis: New Jersey might place safety above the law when it comes to underage drinking. A bill in the Legislature would grant immunity to anyone under 21 who has been drinking if that person calls police when another teen drinks too much and needs medical help. Police would not be able to prosecute either the person who called or the one sickened by alcohol. The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee will consider the bill Monday.

Airdate: May 6

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLU CAPITOL HILL HEARING**

Synopsis: Health officials say they have moved quickly to identify the genetic characteristics of the swine flu virus and are in good position to produce a vaccine if one is needed. Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told a House hearing Wednesday that health officials managed to pinpoint the new virus within two weeks.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLU DRUG RESISTANCE**

Synopsis: Fear of swine flu in the early days of the outbreak sent people racing to grab up antiviral drugs just to feel safe, and that has caused concern among

experts who worry about the virus developing drug resistance. H1N1 is susceptible to two antivirals, Tamiflu (oseltamivir) and Relenza (zanamivir), which are helpful if taken within several days of having symptoms, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLU US NEW NUMBERS**

Synopsis: The United States now has 642 cases of the new H1N1 flu in 41 states, with two deaths, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. CDC officials have said they expect the new swine flu to spread to all 50 states, to cause severe disease and some deaths, although most cases have been mild.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US OBAMA BUDGET**

Synopsis: A senior White House official says the president is recommending eliminating or cutting 121 programs to produce \$17 billion worth of budget savings. Some of the cuts in President Barack Obama's budget are sure to rankle lawmakers, such as the elimination of a program that gives money to states to help defray the cost of incarcerating illegal immigrants who commit crimes. President George W. Bush tried and failed to kill the \$400 million subsidy.

Airdate: May 7

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US ECONOMY LATEST**

Synopsis: Citigroup Inc and Bank of America Corp shares rallied Thursday ahead of "stress test" results that will force top banks to raise billions of dollars in capital and draw a line between the weak and the strong. The hotly anticipated release of the test results are the culmination of a month-long exercise aimed at tackling one of the thorniest problems of the U.S. financial crisis: how to revive top banks and get credit flowing again.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND THE BUDGET**

Synopsis: The President's budget includes \$27B for border enforcement and security funding, an 8 percent increase over FY09, expand efforts to stop the illegal traffic of criminals, weapons, and drugs. The President's budget provides a nearly 18 percent increase over last year's funding for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Southwest Border initiative, following through on the President's commitment to provide more funding, technology, and manpower to secure the Southwest border and help Mexico battle the drug cartels.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **PENTAGON NEW JOBS**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama's Defense Department plans to create 20,000 new government jobs to help revise how it buys more than \$100 billion of weapons each year, the Pentagon's No. 2 official told Congress. The Pentagon also plans to tie contract fees more closely to performance and make deals spanning two years, or more, only when "real, substantial" savings result to taxpayers, Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn told the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee Wednesday.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CHRYSLER DEBT**

Synopsis: A small group of Chrysler's lenders Tuesday raised further objections to the Obama administration's plan for a quick dash through bankruptcy and called on the judge overseeing the case to block the effort. Lawyers representing the group said the plan would subvert time-honored bankruptcy principles and prevent the automaker's creditors from getting a fair return. The lenders, who hold more than \$300 million of secured Chrysler debt, also asked the bankruptcy court for permission to keep the identities of their group secret, saying they were being blamed unfairly for Chrysler's failure amid a political backlash.

Airdate: May 8

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **INFLUENZA**

Synopsis: The new H1N1 influenza virus quickened its spread across the United States, but health officials said Friday they were encouraged that more people were washing their hands as a result of the outbreak. States reported 2,500 probable and confirmed cases of the swine flu, acting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Dr. Richard Besser told reporters. "There are 1,639 confirmed cases in 42 states and the District of Columbia," Besser said. About 3.5 percent of cases have been sick enough to be admitted to hospitals and health officials say the rate will continue to fall as more screening is done in the community.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Friday there have been "somewhat encouraging" improvements in the country's stricken labor markets, but the rate of joblessness is "still a sobering toll." The president spoke shortly after the government reported that the jobless rate rose to 8.9 percent in April, although the pace of layoffs slowed to 539,000 from well over 600,000 the previous month.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **DIABETES IN WOMAN**

Synopsis: Over one third of women with type 1 diabetes have some form of sexual difficulty, according to a new study. The findings also suggest that depression is a key factor linked to the problems with sexuality for such women. In contrast to what has been shown in men, however, complications from diabetes itself do not have a significant impact.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SEBELIUS ON US FLU**

Synopsis: U.S. health officials are no longer recommending that schools close because of swine flu. The government last week advised schools to shut down for about two weeks if there were suspected cases of swine flu. Hundreds of schools around the country have followed that guidance and closed schools. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Tuesday that the swine flu virus had turned out to be milder than initially feared and the government decided to change its advice. Sebelius says parents should still make sure to keep sick children at home. Those with flulike symptoms should stay home for seven days.

Airdate: May 9

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US FLU CASES**

Synopsis: H1N1 flu has infected 3,440 people in 29 countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Saturday. The CDC reported 2,254 confirmed U.S. cases of the virus with 104 people in the hospital, up from 1,639 cases previously.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **AUTISM CHILDREN**

Synopsis: A study of the National Institute of Mental Health revealed that 10% of children suffering autism could recover after years of therapy. The study involves children ages 9 to 18.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CDC FLU VICTIMS YOUNGER**

Synopsis: People hospitalized in the United States for swine flu are turning out to be younger than is typical for regular flu. U.S. health officials say the median age for confirmed hospital cases is 15. Dr. Richard Besser of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it's not clear why that group is so young. He said it might just be that younger people have tended to get sick first in the outbreak. Or maybe older people have some greater level of immunity against the virus.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NYC FARE INCREASE**

Synopsis: New York's mass transit agency voted Monday to raise the base cost of a subway ride from \$2 to \$2.25 and raise fares overall by an average of 10 percent. The vote by the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority came after the state Legislature approved a \$2.26 billion bailout for the agency last week. The cost of a monthly subway and bus pass will rise from \$81 to \$89.

Airdate: May 10

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WHO FLU CASES**

Synopsis: H1N1 flu has infected 4,379 people in 29 countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Sunday, increasing its count by almost a thousand in a day.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US FLU DEATH**

Synopsis: Washington state health officials say a man in his 30s is the first person in the state to die from what appears to be complications of swine flu. The state Department of Health says in a news release that a Snohomish County man in his 30s with underlying heart conditions died with what appears to be complications of swine-origin influenza. The man was not identified.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **POSTAL SERVICE**

Synopsis: The price of a first-class stamp will climb to 44 cents. It will cost an extra 2 cents to mail a letter starting Monday. It's the third year in a row that rates have gone up in May under a new system that allows annual increases as long as they don't exceed the rate of inflation for the year before. While the increase will bring in added income, the post office continues to struggle financially as more and more lucrative first-class mail is diverted to the Internet, and the recession discourages businesses from sending their usual volume of advertising.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **STAMPS 2 CENTS UP**

Synopsis: The cost of snail mail is inching up. Starting today, you'll have to pay two-cents more to mail a letter. It'll now cost you 44-cents. It's the third price hike in three years. The Postal Service blames rising production costs. The increase comes as the Postal Service announces plans to reduce its workforce and possibly its mail delivery service by one day.

Airdate: May 11

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: Health care industry leaders are offering \$2 trillion in spending reductions over the next decade to help President Barack Obama move ahead with his plans to revamp the system. The White House plans to release full details of its plans to find a solution to the problem of millions of uninsured Americans later today. Obama is prepared to say the active support of groups that have fought each other and lawmakers for years shows even they know reform is "a necessity that cannot wait."

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT FORECAST**

Synopsis: President Obama's chief economics forecaster said on Sunday that the nation's unemployment rate was likely to keep rising until 2010, even if the economy begins growing later this year.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NATURALIZED CITIZENS RESHAPE CA**

Synopsis: More than 1 million immigrants became U.S. citizens last year, the largest surge in history, hastening the ethnic transformation of California's political landscape with more Latinos and Asians now eligible to vote. Leading the wave, California's 300,000 new citizens accounted for nearly one-third of the nation's total and represented a near-doubling over 2006, according to a recent report by the U.S. Office of Immigration Statistics. The new citizens are reshaping California's electorate and are likely to reorder the state's policy priorities, some political analysts predict. Several polls show that Latinos and Asians are more supportive than whites of public investments and broad services, even if they require higher taxes.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLU LATEST**

Synopsis: Health officials are disputing suggestions they may have overblown the threat from swine flu. A new study from the World Health Organization says the number of swine flu cases may have been several times higher than reported. The report says the potential for rapid spread of the illness justified the agency's decision to raise the global pandemic alert. While about 4,800 confirmed cases have been reported in 30 countries, the new analysis estimates there have been between 6,000 and 32,000 cases in Mexico alone.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GM BANKRUPTCY**

Synopsis: While GM tries to negotiate its way out of daunting financial problems, some experts say it's almost inevitable the automaker will end up in bankruptcy court. A bankruptcy expert says given all that needs to be done before the

government's June 1 deadline to complete a restructuring plan, he doesn't see how it's possible. GM has to persuade bondholders to swap \$27 billion in debt for 10 percent of its risky stock. It also needs to hash out a deal with its union, announce factory closures, cut or sell brands and force thousands of dealers out of business.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TRAVELERS AND ECONOMY**

Synopsis: The number of vacationing Americans will be down this summer, according to a new AP-Gfk Poll, and a third of Americans surveyed said they have already canceled at least one trip this year because of financial concerns. Overall, the survey found only 42 percent of Americans plan a leisure trip this summer, down from the 49 percent who said they planned to take a summer trip in an AP-Ipsos poll conducted in May 2005.

Airdate: May 12

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS IN CRISIS**

Synopsis: The financial health of Social Security and Medicare, the government's two biggest benefit programs, worsened in the past year because of the severe recession. Trustees of the two programs said Tuesday that Social Security will start paying out more in benefits than it collects in taxes in 2016, one year sooner than projected last year, and the giant trust fund will be depleted by 2037, four years sooner. The trustees said Medicare was in even worse shape. They said that the trust fund for hospital expenses will pay out more in benefits than it collects this year and will be insolvent by 2017, two years earlier than the date projected in last year's report.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLU CASES IN THE US RISES**

Synopsis: The World Health Organization reported more than 3,000 cases of influenza A "H1 N1" in 45 states of the nation.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GAS PRICES**

Synopsis: There's plenty of economic pain to go around these days because of the recession. Now there's this: Gas prices have surged nearly 9% over the past two weeks. That's a gain of 18 cents during the past 13 days, and the national average hit \$2.226 a gallon on Monday, according to a survey by motorist group AAA. The good news: analysts say a return to last summer's record highs of \$4 a gallon is not on the horizon. Indeed, while prices have been on a tear, they are still some 46% lower from the all-time high of \$4.114 a gallon hit last July. The

recent spate is not the first time this year that gas prices have risen dramatically for a short period. In January, prices jumped more than 10% in less than two weeks.

Airdate: May 13

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FORECLOSURE RATES**

Synopsis: The number of U.S. households faced with losing their homes to foreclosure jumped 32 percent in April compared with the same month last year, with Nevada, Florida and California showing the highest rates, according to data released Wednesday. More than 342,000 households received at least one foreclosure-related notice in April, RealtyTrac Inc. said. That means one in every 374 U.S. housing units received a foreclosure filing last month, the highest monthly rate since the Irvine, Calif.-based foreclosure listing firm began its report in January 2005.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CHEERIOS FDA WARNING**

Synopsis: Federal regulators are scolding the maker of Cheerios, saying it made inappropriate claims about the popular cereal's ability to lower cholesterol and treat heart disease. The Food and Drug Administration says in a warning letter to General Mills that language on the Cheerios box suggests the cereal is designed to prevent or treat heart disease. Regulators say that only FDA-approved drugs are allowed to make such claims. General Mills said the health claims on Cheerios have been approved for 12 years and the FDA's complaints deal with how the language appears on the box. The company said in a statement that the science was not in question.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLU CASES**

Synopsis: Key developments on swine flu outbreaks, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and government officials: Deaths: Global total of 63 -- 58 in Mexico; three in U.S.; one in Canada and one in Costa Rica. Officials said the Canadian, U.S. and Costa Rican victims also had other medical conditions. Confirmed cases: Estimated 6,257 in 33 countries, including at least 2,282 in Mexico, 3,352 in 45 U.S. states, and 358 in Canada.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BANK RESCUE**

Synopsis: The Obama administration will use bailout money repaid by large banks to provide additional capital infusions to community banks, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Wednesday. In remarks to an association of community bankers, Geithner also said the administration is moving forward with

plans to streamline financial rules as part of a broader overhaul to be unveiled in the next several weeks.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNMARRIED BIRTHS**

Synopsis: The percentage of births to unmarried women in the United States has been rising sharply, but it's way behind Northern European countries, a new U.S. report on births shows. Iceland is the leader with 6 in 10 births occurring among unmarried women. About half of all births in Sweden and Norway are to unwed moms, while in the U.S., it's about 40 percent.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MASS. TRANSIT AUTHORITY BANNING DRIVER CELL PHONES**

Synopsis: Massachusetts transit officials are banning operators of their trains, street cars and buses from carrying cell phones while they are driving the public. The policy change announced Wednesday follows a trolley crash last week that injured nearly 50 people and was blamed on a text-messaging driver. Officials say it's the strictest in the nation.

Airdate: May 14

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CREDIT CARDS BILL PUSH**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says changing the way credit card companies bill customers is critical to fixing the nation's ailing economy. Obama on Thursday addressed a town-hall meeting in New Mexico where he heard Americans' stories about credit card abuses. He says the economy can't recover while people are putting basic needs such as food and shelter on credit cards from companies that don't play fair.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CHRYSLER DEALERSHIP**

Synopsis: A wave of closures by GM and Chrysler is likely to leave many car lots sitting empty. Dozens of cities also depend on sales tax revenue from the dealerships to balance their budgets. With struggling automakers expected to announce the shutdown of thousands of dealerships starting today, cities are bracing for a wave of blight. The closings will dump thousands of large, oddly configured parcels into an already reeling commercial real estate market. Many are likely to remain empty for a long time, monuments to the decline of the U.S. auto industry and the intensity of this recession. Chrysler is expected to tell a Bankruptcy Court today that it will break its contracts with as many as 800 dealerships nationwide.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **E-VERIFY PROGRAM**

Synopsis: The federal government's E-Verify program, which seeks to reduce the hiring of illegal immigrants, is becoming increasingly popular, with 1,000 new businesses signing up each week despite concerns about its reliability. More than 124,000 businesses, including nearly 10,000 in California, are signed up for the Web-based identification program that enables employers to check whether an employee is authorized to work, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Among the employers enrolled in the state are restaurants, hospitals and temporary employment agencies.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US CENSUS**

Synopsis: The nation is becoming even more diverse: More than one third of its population belongs to a minority group, and Hispanics are the fastest-growing segment. Nearly one in six residents, or 46.9 million people, are Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau reported Thursday that the minority population reached an estimated 104.6 million -- or 34 percent of the nation's total population -- on July 1, 2008, compared to 31 percent when the Census was taken in 2000. Even more telling for the future: 44 percent of children younger than 18 and 47 percent of children younger than the age of five are now from minority families.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HOUSING PLAN EXTENSION**

Synopsis: The Obama administration has announced more steps to help homeowners avoid foreclosure if they don't qualify for other assistance. The new initiatives are expected to streamline the process of selling a home that is worth less than the mortgage, or transfer ownership of a home to the lender. Both options will still ding the homeowner's credit score, but less than a foreclosure. Since launching a \$50 billion mortgage aid program in March, mortgage companies have made more than 55,000 offers to modify borrowers' loans. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says there are signs that homeowners are using the program to lower their monthly payments. But housing counselors across the country have complained that mortgage companies often are unaware of the plan or steer borrowers away from it.

Airdate: May 15

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GM AND AUTO DEALERS LATEST**

Synopsis: Analysts say the decisions by GM and Chrysler to drop nearly 2,000 dealerships combined will make it much harder for consumers to shop around. GM told about 1,100 dealers today they'll be let go by late next year because of

weak sales. Experts say fewer dealerships mean less competition and higher prices. FedEx letters bearing the bad news began arriving today, saying dealers were judged on sales, customer service scores, and the location and condition of facilities. But, the letters say the decision isn't finalized, giving dealers to the end of the month to submit information that may change the automaker's mind.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: State workers were outraged and anxious on Tuesday after learning that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to lay off 5,000 of them in the coming weeks. Although the administration didn't break down which departments would lose jobs, it did say the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which runs the state prison system, would lose the most positions. And one official said the state may need to cut more jobs if California's recession worsens and the state's general fund revenue keeps dwindling.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US FLU LATEST**

Synopsis: State health officials said Friday that three cases of H1N1 swine flu have been reported in Mississippi. The cases were reported in Harrison County. The cases were reported in an adult male, an adult female and a child under the age of 1, none of whom were related. There was no contact among the three people. The three cases were reported during the week of May 5. State epidemiologist Dr. Mary Currier said the three people are fine and at home. She said the cases don't seem to be particularly severe.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NIKE LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: Shoe and clothing manufacturer Nike said it would cut its global workforce of about 35,000 by 5.0 percent, hours after Sony and BT announced thousands of job cuts.

Airdate: May 16

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU LATEST**

Synopsis: A surge in swine flu cases has prompted New York City to shutter more schools as it tries to cut off the spread of the disease. The Health Department says it realizes how disruptive the closures are, but notes there are "unusually high and increasing levels" of flulike illnesses at the six schools. An assistant school principal who works at one of the schools is hospitalized in critical condition with the virus. An inmate at Rikers Island has also been diagnosed with the flu. Swine flu has killed five people in the U.S., all with

underlying ailments. The CDC says more than 4,700 confirmed and probable cases have been reported in 46 states.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **20 FORMER AGRIPROCESSORS WORKERS GET VISAS**

Synopsis: Twenty former workers at a Postville kosher slaughterhouse raided by federal immigration agents last year have received visas under a law that protects crime victims. The first wave of women and children arrested last year at the Agriprocessors Inc. plant have been granted U-visas by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, allowing them to legally live and work in the country for four years. They can apply for a green card in the third year.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TOBACCO CONTROL**

Synopsis: After 15 years of debate, tens of millions spent on lobbying and a roller-coaster legislative history, public health advocates say they believe Congress is finally ready to regulate tobacco and their opponents privately agree. This week, a Senate committee will take up its version of a bill that passed the House by a comfortable margin last month. Supporters say they have more than the 60 votes needed to make the legislation filibuster-proof when it reaches the Senate floor sometime after Memorial Day. The legislation would give the Food and Drug Administration broad powers over the manufacturing and marketing of tobacco, a product used by 20 percent of Americans yet largely unregulated.

Airdate: May 17

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA ABORTION**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is expressing willingness to offer a conscience exemption to Americans who believe abortion is wrong. Such an exemption would give anti-abortion health care providers the right to refuse to perform the procedure. He offered no details on how broad that might be. The president said he and other people of faith can never know for sure what God wants, and that element of doubt should make them "wary of too much self-righteousness. The Catholic university's president, the Rev. John Jenkins, emphasized in his introduction that Notre Dame opposes Obama's "policies on abortion and embryonic stem cell research."

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HISPANICS AND FORECLOSURES**

Synopsis: The recent decline in the homeownership rate has hit native-born heads of households harder than immigrant householders. Immigrant householders are less likely than native-born householders to be homeowners

(52.9% versus 70.0% in 2008) but their losses in recent years have been smaller than those of the native born. The explanation for the relatively modest impact of the recent housing market turmoil on immigrants appears to lie in the changing characteristics of the foreign born. Among other things, the typical immigrant in 2008 had spent more years in the U.S. and was more likely to be a U.S. citizen than was the typical immigrant in 1995. Those factors, strongly associated with higher rates of homeownership, appear to have mitigated recent troubles in the housing market among immigrants.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SMOKING STUDY**

Synopsis: It may be riskier on the lungs to smoke cigarettes today than it was a few decades ago -- at least in the U.S., says new research that blames changes in cigarette design for fueling a certain type of lung cancer.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US HEALTHCARE COSTS**

Synopsis: Healthcare costs for Americans who get medical coverage through an employer hit a record \$16,771 per family this year, and they are having to pay more themselves, a report released Monday showed. Employers trying to save money in the current recession have forced workers to take on a greater portion of their healthcare costs, according to Milliman Inc., the consulting firm that prepared the report.

Airdate: May 18

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GAS PRICES**

Synopsis: The price of gasoline in the U.S. jumped 25 cents a gallon during the past three weeks, but remains well below prices from a year ago. That's according to the national Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday. Analyst Trilby Lundberg says the average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline was \$2.30 a gallon Friday, when the survey was completed. That's up from \$2.05 a gallon recorded on April 24, but \$1.49 a gallon cheaper than at this time last year. The lowest price for gasoline in the U.S. was found in Phoenix, at \$1.99 a gallon. The highest was in Chicago, at \$2.63.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: A new poll revealed high expectation of hispanics for immigration reform. The story explained what are peoples plans to pressure the government, expectations and possibilities of the reform happening this year.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GEITHNER ON ECONOMY**

Synopsis: Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says the economy is stabilizing but that unemployment will continue to rise. Geithner said that even as the nation recovers from a recession, millions of Americans will still feel the pinch of the downturn because hiring tends to lag behind other improvements in the economy.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GM AGREEMENT**

Synopsis: The Obama administration is "supportive" of efforts by General Motors Corp and the United Auto Workers union to reach agreements on all aspects of the automaker's restructuring plan, including production issues, a U.S. Treasury spokeswoman said Monday. The UAW has been campaigning to block GM's restructuring plan on the grounds that it would close 16 plants and cut some 21,000 domestic factory jobs while increasing imports of GM-badged vehicles from China, Mexico and South Korea.

Airdate: May 19

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **EXPANSION IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES**

Synopsis: The Obama administration is expanding immigration checks to nearly all local jails, which could increase U.S. deportation cases, The Washington Post reported Tuesday. Expanding the program could result in a tenfold increase in illegal immigrants who have been convicted of crimes and identified for deportation, the report said, citing current and former U.S. officials.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CREDIT CARDS BILL**

Synopsis: One Senate Democrat calls it "a victory for every American consumer who has ever suffered at the hands of a credit card company." The comment from Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, who chairs the Banking Committee, followed the Senate's overwhelming passage of a measure that would put limits on the rate increases and fees that could be imposed by credit card issuers. The House is expected to pass the measure as early as tomorrow, sending it to President Barack Obama's desk by the end of the week. Once it's signed into law, the credit card industry would have nine months to change the way it does business.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NATIONAL ANTI POLLUTION PLAN**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama has announced the first-ever national emissions limits for cars and trucks. He's also announcing a new federal fuel efficiency standard -- a 35.5 miles per gallon industry average. It's expected to eventually add \$1,300 to the cost of a vehicle. But Obama says drivers will save that at the pump.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **AMERICAN EXPRESS LAYOFFS**

Synopsis: American Express said Monday it is eliminating about 4,000 jobs as part of a plan to slash another \$800 million in costs for the remainder of the year. The layoffs represent about 6 percent of the credit card issuer's current global work force.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IRS AUDITS**

Synopsis: The U.S. tax commissioner told lawmakers on Tuesday that the trend for audits would be on wealthy individuals and corporations, as part of its broader effort to crack down on international tax cheats. "Our long-term investment is to have a trend where wealthy individuals, large corporations, (those) who have really benefited from being in the United States, we're going to make sure that they pay their taxes," Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Douglas Shulman told a U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the agency's 2010 budget request.

Airdate: May 20

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FAMILY REUNIFICATION LEGISLATION**

Synopsis: US Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), along with Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) today introduced legislation to re-emphasize family unity in the US immigration system. The Reuniting Families Act would help legal immigrants reunite with their families and end decade-long waiting times for legal immigrant visas.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA BUDGET LATEST**

Synopsis: It's a huge defeat for Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in his bid to bring the state back from economic catastrophe. Voters have rejected a package of budget measures that the governor promised would provide a short-term patch for the current financial crisis. Layoffs and service cutbacks are expected as the state faces a \$21.3 billion deficit.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT**

Synopsis: Legislation called the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act encourages banks to spare homeowners from foreclosure. The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act is aimed at clamping down on mortgage fraud and sets up an independent commission to investigate the cause of the worldwide financial meltdown

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **COLLEGE GRADS & JOB MARKET**

Synopsis: As millions of college students celebrate graduation, reality hits pretty hard as they try to find a job in this recession. A survey found students graduating this year, who've been most successful so far at landing jobs, majored in accounting, engineering, business management, computer science and health sciences.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CANCER-BREAST/ABRAXANE**

Synopsis: Abraxane, a new cancer drug designed to be less toxic than standard chemotherapy, did a better job of keeping cancer at bay in women whose breast cancer had spread, U.S. researchers said Tuesday.

Airdate: May 21

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NY TERRORISM PLOT**

Synopsis: The New York City police commissioner says four men wanted to commit jihad when they plotted to bomb a Jewish temple and shoot down military planes in upstate New York. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly quoted one of the men as saying, "If Jews were killed in this attack ... that would be all right." However, Mayor Michael Bloomberg warned against stereotypes. He stressed that the Riverdale Temple is open to people of all faiths, including a Muslim girl who sometimes prays there

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HUGE SWEEPS TARGET LATINO GANGS**

Synopsis: Federal authorities said they would announce today a huge sweep of Latino gang members allegedly responsible for violence against law enforcement and racially motivated attacks against blacks. The announcement followed the arrests of dozens of suspected gang members during raids early this morning. A news release from the U.S. attorney's office called it the "largest gang takedown in United States history."

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TEEN PREGNANCY AMONG HISPANICS**

Synopsis: Parents of Hispanic teens in the United States have the most influence on their kids' decisions about sex, according to a new national survey. The birth rate among teens overall in the United States is rising after 14 years of decline. Among racial and ethnic groups, the rate of teen pregnancy and births is highest among Hispanic teens, with 53 percent of Hispanic females becoming pregnant when they're teens, according to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and the National Council of La Raza, which co-sponsored the survey.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU VACCINE**

Synopsis: The U.S. government is setting aside \$1 billion to help companies develop a vaccine against the new strain of H1N1 influenza that is sweeping the world. U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the money will be used for clinical studies over the summer and for commercial-scale production of vaccine ingredients for the government's stockpile of drugs and vaccines that is on hold in case of a pandemic of influenza.

Airdate: May 22

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CREDIT CARDS NEW LAW SIGNED**

Synopsis: New rules for the credit card industry that are designed to protect consumers from surprise charges, such as over-the-limit fees and costs for paying a bill by phone, are part of a bill President Barack Obama is set to sign into law. Obama plans to sign on Friday an overhaul of credit card regulations that he blames in part for the economic downturn. Despite opposition from financial companies, the bill cleared Congress with broad support. The new rules, which would go into effect in nine months, would prohibit credit card companies from giving cards to people under 21 unless they can prove they have the means to pay the debt or a parent or guardian co-signs for the card.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GAS PRICES**

Synopsis: Retail gasoline prices continued to climb at the start of the Memorial Day weekend and the unofficial start of America's summer driving season. The national average pump price increased nearly 3 cents to \$2.39 a gallon, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. Gasoline prices ticked higher every day this month

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MEAT RECALL FROM ILLINOIS**

Synopsis: Northwestern Illinois Meatpacker is recalling nearly 96,000 pounds of its ground beef products because they may be contaminated with E. coli. Officials say a recall was initiated after three people fell sick from E. coli in the Cleveland area, and that related illnesses have been reported in Pennsylvania and Illinois. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Thursday that meat from Valley Meats LLC of Coal Valley was linked to the Ohio infections. The USDA said the beef was produced in March and distributed in 10-pound to 40-pound packages, sold under brand names including Grillmaster, J&B, Thick 'N Savory, 3S, Klub and Ultimate.

Airdate: May 23

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **COLLEGE STUDENTS DEPRESSION**

Synopsis: The vast majority of college students are feeling stressed these days, and significant numbers are at risk of depression, according to an Associated Press-mtvU poll. Eighty-five percent of the students reported feeling stress in their daily lives in recent months, with worries about grades, school work, money and relationships the big culprits. At the same time, 42 percent said they had felt down, depressed or hopeless several days during the past two weeks, and 13 percent showed signs of being at risk for at least mild depression, based on the students' answers to a series of questions that medical practitioners use to diagnose depressive illness.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SAN DIEGO PROTEST, IMMIGRATION RIGHTS**

Synopsis: Capping a week of demonstrations in Southern California in support of immigrants, more than 1,000 people marched here on Saturday to send a message. The protest appeared to draw about 2,000 people, organizers said, but the police estimated that there were 1,000 to 1,500. The crowd was a far cry from the several thousand that organizers had hoped for, and from the estimated 500,000 to one million who descended on downtown Los Angeles last weekend for an immigrants' rights march.

Airdate: May 24

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GIFT CARDS**

Synopsis: The credit card overhaul that the President just signed into law deals with more than just major plastic. In addition to protecting credit card users from surprise interest rate hikes, the measure sets new rules for gift cards. For starters, says Sen. Charles Schumer, you have a year before any fees kick in

that would eat away at the value Schumer says the charge after 12 months will likely be minimal, perhaps a dollar or a bit more. The new law also requires that gift cards be valid for five years.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BENEFITS FOR DIPLOMATS**

Synopsis: U.S. officials say Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will soon announce that gay American diplomats will be given benefits similar to those of their heterosexual counterparts. In a notice to be sent to State Department employees, Clinton says regulations that deny same-sex couples and their families the same rights and privileges that straight diplomats enjoy are "unfair and must end."

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH COSTS SEND MANY TO MEXICO**

Synopsis: Nearly a million Californians, perhaps hundreds of thousands more, cross the border to Mexico every year because they cannot afford the rising cost of health care in the United States, according to UCLA researchers. The study by the school's Center for Health Policy Research, published Tuesday in the journal Medical Care, affirms what has long been suspected - that the untamable cost of medicine is forcing many, particularly Latino immigrants, to look outside California for medical and dental care. As casualties from the recession rise and as budget-strapped government programs eliminate health services, more people are expected to head south to fill prescriptions, get teeth fixed or undergo care for chronic illnesses.

Airdate: May 25

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **LATINOS TO EARN EXTRA MONEY**

Synopsis: Latinos, especially women are looking for other sources to get extra money. They are starting small businesses and second jobs to help themselves during the economic crisis.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **AUTO DEALS**

Synopsis: Auto sellers are doing the impossible to keep selling. They are offering better deals to avoid bankruptcy and survive the economic crisis.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GAS PRICES**

Synopsis: Gas prices are rising during Memorial Day weekend forcing people to stay home instead of traveling by road.

Airdate: May 26

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA GAY MARRIAGES**

Synopsis: The California Supreme Court upheld a voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage Tuesday, but it also decided that the estimated 18,000 gay couples who tied the knot before the law took effect will stay wed. The 6-1 decision written by Chief Justice Ron George rejected an argument by gay rights activists that the ban revised the California Constitution's equal protection clause to such a dramatic degree that it first needed the Legislature's approval.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA PICKS SOTOMAYOR SUPREME COURT**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday, selecting a woman who would be the court's first Hispanic justice and a liberal who is unlikely to change its ideological balance. Sotomayor, a 54-year-old judge on the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, would replace retiring Justice David Souter, who was part of the panel's liberal wing.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NAPOLITANO-BORDER**

Synopsis: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Canada's minister of public safety signed an agreement Tuesday to allow the two nations to help enforce each others' laws on the waterways along their shared border.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **U.S. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE**

Synopsis: Even with unemployment still rising and home prices still slumping, Americans are getting their confidence back in the economy. A widely watched barometer of confidence unexpectedly rose to the highest level since September, buoyed by an unexpected surge in the stock market, hopes that the job market might turn around and the belief that the worst of the recession is behind us.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CANCER-USA**

Synopsis: A steady 15-year decline in the U.S. death rate from cancer translates to about 650,000 lives over that time, the American Cancer Society said Wednesday. But cancer will kill 1,500 Americans every day on average with 1.47 million cases diagnosed and 562,000 deaths in 2009, the group said in its annual report on cancer statistics.

Airdate: May 27

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GM & CHRYSLER BANKRUPTCY**

Synopsis: General Motors bondholders felt they deserved something like a 58 percent stake in the company in exchange for their billions of dollars in debt. What they were offered wasn't even close. As a result, the largest industrial bankruptcy in U.S. history is now all but certain. The bondholder rejection virtually ensures GM will file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection within days. Chrysler tried to fend off hundreds of objections Wednesday to its plan to sell most of its assets to an Italian automaker, hoping in a marathon court session to save itself from liquidation.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ECONOMY RECOVERY**

Synopsis: The economic recovery is likely to encounter bumps in the road but more than 90 percent of economists predict the recession will end this year. So says a survey of leading forecasters by the National Association for Business Economics. About 74 percent of the forecasters expect the longest recession since World War II to end in the third quarter. Another 19 percent predict it will come in the final three months of this year. The remaining 7 percent say it'll be in the first quarter of 2010.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FAKE CHECK SCAMS**

Synopsis: The Consumer Federation of America's new national survey found lots of people are getting duped... By fake check scams. The C-F-A estimates as many as one point three million people have become victims.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HISPANIC CHILDREN STUDY**

Synopsis: Hispanics now make up more than one-in-five of all children in the United States and as their numbers have grown, their demographic profile has changed. More than half of the nation's 16 million Hispanic children are now "second generation," meaning they are the U.S.-born sons or daughters of at least one foreign-born parent, typically someone who came to this country in the immigration wave from Mexico, Central America and South America that began around 1980.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU LATEST**

Synopsis: The number of deaths in New York City linked to swine flu has doubled to four. Two deaths were reported Tuesday, a 41-year-old woman and a 34-year-old man. New York City's health commissioner says all four victims had other underlying health conditions. The city is still struggling to contain its swine flu

outbreak. Twenty schools that were closed have reopened, but five more were shut down Tuesday. The plan is to reopen them Monday.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OAKLAND IMMIGRATION ID**

Synopsis: Oakland wants to offer its residents an identification card, a move that would primarily help undocumented immigrants engage with - and, some lament, blend into - broader society. That, by itself, would be enough controversy. But Oakland officials are debating much broader uses than what other cities, including San Francisco, have done. In particular, they propose including: A debit card function, allowing poor people to avoid exorbitant fees of check cashing shops and to be less vulnerable to muggings by carrying less cash. Eliminating gender identity, which they say would allow transgender people to more comfortably avoid discrimination.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US HOME SALES**

Synopsis: The National Association of Realtors said Wednesday that home sales rose 2.9 percent to an annual rate of 4.68 million in April from a downwardly revised pace of 4.55 million in March. Sales were 4.6 percent below April last year, without adjusting for seasonal factors.

Airdate: May 28

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US ECONOMY OUTLOOK**

Synopsis: New government numbers show the economy declined in the first quarter at a 5.7 percent pace, which is not as much of a decline as previously thought. Analysts also say activity isn't shrinking nearly as much now. Stocks have been fluctuating as investors ponder some mixed economic signals.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GM BANKRUPTCY LATEST**

Synopsis: General Motors plans to revive one of its shuttered U.S. factories to start making small and compact cars. But the automaker, which is expected to file for bankruptcy protection Monday, plans to announce the same day it will close 14 more factories.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH/ LUNG CANCER STUDY**

Synopsis: Doctors say certain hormone pills may make lung cancer more deadly. Researchers studied women with lung cancer who were also taking combination estrogen-progestin pills. They found the women were more than

twice as likely to die from the cancer compared to women who weren't taking hormones.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA SAME SEX MARRIAGES**

Synopsis: Opponents of same-sex marriage in California are planning to celebrate weddings between men and women at rallies today in Fresno and San Diego. That follows marches yesterday by gay marriage supporters through conservative, rural areas. They're pledging to put a new ballot initiative before voters to overturn California's ban on gay marriage.

Airdate: May 29

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CIBER SECURITY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is expected to lay out broad goals for dealing with cyber threats this morning. To oversee an enhanced security system for the nation's computer networks, Obama is creating a "cyber czar" as part of a long-awaited plan stemming from a review he ordered shortly after taking office. He's also expected to call for a new education campaign to raise public awareness of the challenges and threats related to cyber security. The plan will not dictate how the government or private industry should tighten digital defenses. And critics say the cyber chief will not have enough money or authority to achieve the goal. There's no word on when the official would be named.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CHRYSLER BANKRUPTCY**

Synopsis: Chrysler's fate could be sealed today. A bankruptcy judge may rule on whether a deal with Fiat would be in the automaker's best interest. Many Chrysler dealers, bondholders and former employees say they're being steamrolled by the fast-paced bankruptcy proceedings. Chrysler LLC's departing chairman and chief executive, Robert Nardelli, testified in court yesterday that he expects the required U.S. regulatory approvals for the sale of the bulk of Chrysler's assets to a Fiat-led group to be in place by today, with international approvals to come later.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NEW YORK CLOSES SCHOOL H1N1**

Synopsis: Six more public schools are shutting down as New York City continues combating the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu. The closings announced Thursday follow dozens of others in recent weeks. City officials say the closed schools reported unusual numbers of students with flu-like illnesses.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **PASSPORT NEW RULE**

Synopsis: New passport regulations for entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean region beginning June 1, 2009 by land or seaport. Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is the new ruling for entering the United States. Everyone who enters the US must now have citizen documentation in the form of a US passport or the new passport card. On June 1, 2009, the U.S. government will implement the full requirements of the land and sea phase of Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

Airdate: May 30

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US AUTOMAKERS**

Synopsis: General Motors' board of directors meets today with the company having cleared another couple of key roadblocks to an almost certain bankruptcy filing Monday. Germany's finance minister said today a plan was approved for Canadian auto parts maker Magna International to move ahead with a rescue of GM's Opel unit. And the United Auto Workers union yesterday ratified a package of concessions designed to reduce GM's labor costs. The board today continues efforts to decide what GM will do when its government restructuring deadline arrives Monday.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT LICENSE BAN**

Synopsis: Starting Monday, if immigrants want a Maryland driver's license, they must prove they're in the country legally. Illegal immigrants issued licenses before April 19 may keep them until 2015, after one renewal.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WEIGHT, OBESE WOMEN & PREGNANCY**

Synopsis: Experts urge less weight gain for obese women in pregnancy. Obese moms-to-be should limit their weight gain during pregnancy to between 11 and 20 pounds to safeguard their health and that of their baby, according to newly updated expert guidelines. That level of gestational weight gain is about half what's recommended for normal-weight pregnant women and reflects the concern over the rising number of obese expectant mothers in the United States. The new guidelines -- the first since 1990 -- were issued jointly May 28 by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council.

Airdate: May 31

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GM BANKRUPTCY**

Synopsis: More than half of GM's bondholders now say they'll support a deal to swap the company's debt for a share of a restructured GM. The deal is an enhanced version of one that was rejected earlier. GM is expected to enter bankruptcy protection tomorrow -- and the new agreement should make the company's reorganization go more smoothly.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **PASSPORT REQUIREMENT DUE TOMORROW**

Synopsis: New rules requiring passports or new high-tech documents to cross the United States' northern and southern borders are taking effect Monday, as some rue the tightening of security and others hail it as long overdue. The rules are being implemented nearly eight years after the Sept. 11 attacks and long after the 9/11 Commission recommended the changes. They were delayed by complaints from state officials who worried the restrictions would hinder the flow of people and commerce and affect border towns dependent on international crossings.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SAME SEX MARRIAGE MARCH**

Synopsis: Hundreds of same-sex couples and their supporters marched Saturday through dusty California farm towns, gathering in the state's conservative center to push for gay marriage in less hospitable areas. Just days after the state's highest court upheld a ban on gay marriage, advocates vowed to win the hearts and minds of those who reject their unions. They are pledging to put a new initiative before voters to overturn the ban, perhaps as soon as next year. The weekend-long event has attracted the movement's most well-known activists and celebrities including Charlize Theron and Eric McCormack. It was organized by a lesbian mother in Fresno who was removed from the parent-teacher association at her son's Roman Catholic school after she spoke out against banning gay marriage.

NOTICIAS AL MINUTO - TELEFUTURA NEWS

June 1 – June 30, 2009

Airdate: JUNE 1

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA 1ST H1N1 DEATH**

Synopsis: Los Angeles County health officials have announced the county's first death of a person infected with the flu H1N1, also known as swine flu. The decedent, a middle-age woman with underlying health problems, died in late May, according to Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, the Los Angeles County Health Officer. As of May 29, there were 102 confirmed cases of the new flu in the county, said Sarah Kissell with the county public health department. Fielding said that most of the cases of the new flu in the United States have been mild to moderate, with symptoms similar to seasonal influenza.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FATAL SHOOTING SHOWS STRESS RISK FACING U.S. TROOPS**

Synopsis: Experts say the risk of soldiers suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) goes up substantially on their third tour of duty. Sergeant Joseph Huiet is on his sixth. The killing of five U.S. soldiers at a clinic in Iraq two weeks ago by a comrade on his third tour, possibly suffering a stress disorder, has led to soul-searching in the U.S. military about the effects of serial deployments.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA SEES GM EMERGING QUICKLY FROM BANKRUPTCY**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Monday he was confident General Motors Corp would emerge quickly from bankruptcy, saying the government is in a reluctant position as a controlling shareholder. Obama, in remarks at the White House just hours after GM sought bankruptcy protection in New York, said GM would make decisions on plants, new products and day-to-day operations, not his administration.

Airdate: JUNE 2

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GM HOPING FOR SPEEDY SALE AND EXIT FROM CHAPTER 11**

Synopsis: General Motors is working to sell off brands after wrapping itself in bankruptcy protection. The Detroit automaker says it has worked up a tentative deal to sell off its Hummer brand, although it hasn't said who the buyer is or what price was set. The automaker says the deal would likely save more than 3,000 jobs. GM also says it has 16 buyers interested in Saturn and three more eyeing Saab. The automaker is hoping to race through bankruptcy and emerge a trimmed down, more maneuverable company. One analyst says before filing for Chapter 11, GM had a lot of its "ducks in a row" because of the terms of the \$20 billion it has gotten in government financing.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WITH WEIGHT-LOSS SURGERY, TYPE OF INSURANCE COUNTS**

Synopsis: People with private health insurance lose more weight after having weight-loss surgery than those covered by the Medicare health insurance program for the elderly and disabled, U.S. researchers said Monday. Medicare patients tend to weigh more before having gastric bypass surgery, they said, and are more likely to be depressed, have high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, cholesterol and sleep apnea.

Airdate: JUNE 3

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BIN LADEN SAYS OBAMA PLANTED "SEEDS OF HATRED"**

Synopsis: Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden said U.S. President Barack Obama had planted the seeds of "revenge and hatred" towards the United States in the Muslim world and warned Americans to prepare for the consequences. Bin Laden's remarks were aired on Wednesday by Al Jazeera television, one day after his deputy described Obama as a criminal and warned Muslims not to fall for his polished words. The comments appeared to be a drive by al Qaeda to preempt a major speech to the Muslim world that Obama is due to deliver in Egypt on Thursday.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA REVERSES BUSH IMMIGRATION LAWYER RULE**

Synopsis: The Obama administration has reversed a rule issued in the last days of the Bush administration that said immigrants facing deportation do not have an automatic right to an effective lawyer. Attorney General Eric Holder says he is vacating the order, issued by predecessor Michael Mukasey, and instructing the Justice Department to study whether a new rule is needed. Mukasey had issued a 33-page decision in January saying the Constitution does

not entitle someone facing deportation to have a case reopened based upon shoddy work by a lawyer. Mukasey said the Justice Department does have the discretion to reopen such cases if it wishes to do so. Immigrant rights groups had criticized the Mukasey decision.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ASPIRIN CAUSES BLINDING FOR SOMES**

Synopsis: An aspirin a day may keep a heart attack away, but it could also increase your risk of internal bleeding. Research shows use of aspirin by patients with no heart disease history reduces non-fatal heart attacks by about one fifth. However, new data shows it also increases the risk of internal bleeding by about one third, potentially canceling out the drug's health benefits. "The currently available trial results ... do not seem to justify general guidelines advocating the routine use of aspirin in all healthy individuals above a moderate level of risk for coronary heart disease," the study authors write. For patients with a history of stroke or heart attack, long-term aspirin use reduced the risk of vascular diseases by one fifth, outweighing these patients' small risk of bleeding.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **TRAMPOLIN DANGERS CHILDREN**

Synopsis: Each year, 75,000 American children are treated at emergency departments for trampoline-related injuries. Nearly all of these trampoline accidents occur at home so doctors are warning parents to be careful. Researchers in the UK reviewed 50 cases of trampoline injury in kids and found certain factors that increased the odds of children being hurt. Accidents occurred when too many people used the trampoline at once, and the lightest bouncers tended to sustain the worst injuries.

Airdate: JUNE 4

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WAL-MART WILL CREATE 22,000 NEW JOBS**

Synopsis: Walmart U.S. announced today that it will create more than 22,000 jobs in 2009 to staff new or expanded stores in the United States. The company is hiring for a number of positions including store management, pharmacists, human resource managers, customer service associates, cashiers and sales associates among others. Last October, Walmart announced plans to open 142 to 157 new or expanded stores during the 2010 fiscal year in the United States. The company will create more than 1,000 jobs in several individual states. For example, the company will create approximately 1,300 jobs in Arizona; 1,000 jobs in California; 1,300 jobs in Florida; 1,500 jobs in Michigan; 1,200 jobs in New Jersey; 1,000 jobs in South Carolina; 1,200 jobs in Utah and 1,100 in Virginia.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEART DRUG MAY BLOCK BREAST CANCER GENE**

Synopsis: A gene that is highly active in up to 20 percent of breast cancer cases might be blocked by a generically available blood pressure drug, U.S. researchers reported Tuesday. The gene, called AGTR1, caused normal breast cells to behave like cancer cells but the blood pressure drug losartan stopped them, the team at the University of Michigan found. They transplanted human tumors that expressed AGTR1 -- meaning the gene was active -- into mice. Eight weeks after they gave the mice losartan the tumors shrank by 30 percent, they reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Airdate: JUNE 5

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT 9.4%**

Synopsis: With companies in no mood to hire, the unemployment rate jumped to 9.4 percent in May, the highest in more than 25 years. But the pace of layoffs eased, with employers cutting 345,000 jobs, the fewest since September. The much smaller-than-expected reduction in payroll jobs, reported by the Labor Department on Friday, adds to evidence that the recession is loosening its hold on the country. It marked the fourth straight month that the pace of layoffs slowed. Still, the increase in the nation's unemployment rate from 8.9 percent in April underscores the difficulties that America's 14.5 million unemployed are having in finding new jobs. Economists had expected the rate to hit 9.2 percent last month.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **VA - SWINE FLU**

Synopsis: State health officials in Virginia say the death of a 34-year old Chesapeake woman may be related to swine flu. The diagnosis has not been confirmed but state officials and the victim's mother say April Wilson was at risk for the H1N1 virus. Alice Johnson says her daughter's immune system couldn't fight off the illness. April Wilson had been a resident of the southeastern Virginia Training Center for almost twenty years. The center specializes in treatment for special needs patients. Wilson's family says she was hospitalized for more than two weeks in November.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **PRISON FOOD COST**

Synopsis: The shaky economy and rising cost of food is reaching into every part of American life, including prisons. Ricky Clark, President of the Association of Correctional Food Service Affiliates, who also trains prison kitchen personnel in Virginia, says the situation is grim, but not as bad as past slumps, when prisons were closed for lack of funds.

Airdate: JUNE 6

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **DIABETES 2**

Synopsis: About 23 million Americans have diabetes, according to government health surveys that include blood tests which can pick up the condition. One in four doesn't even know it. If the disease goes undiagnosed and untreated, however, diabetes patients could risk blindness, kidney failure or heart attack. Still, people are anxious to get tested, either because they are afraid or don't feel it's a risk. Symptoms like fatigue, thirst, and frequent urination may not show up until you've had the disease for many years and by then the damage has started, health experts say.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MANY TEENS WIRED, CAFFEINATED WELL PAST BEDTIME**

Synopsis: Caffeine-fueled teens are texting, Web-surfing and gaming for hours into the night, which is affecting their alertness and ability to function during the day, a new study in Pediatrics shows. "They're up at night and they're doing a lot less homework than we thought and a lot more multitasking," Dr. Christina J. Calamaro of Drexel University in Philadelphia, the lead researcher on the study.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UP TO 20,000 EMPLOYEES DISPLACED IN GM PLANT SHUTDOWNS**

Synopsis: GM says its decision to close nine more plants and idle three others will displace up to 20,000 employees. The closings will trim down GM's factory count in the U.S. from 47 at the end of last year to 34 by the end of next year. Six of the plants are in GM's home state of Michigan, which is already reeling from auto-industry job cuts. The shutdowns start with an assembly plant in Delaware, which will close before the summer's over. It will be followed by a Pontiac, Mich., pickup plant in October. Nearly all of GM's plants were scheduled to shut down for up to 11 weeks this summer as a cost-cutting measure. For now, the plants that will be shuttered are still churning out cars. GM's VP of manufacturing says it's "business as usual" today.

Airdate: JUNE 7

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) on Thursday issued the most direct call yet by a Congressional leader for action this year on comprehensive immigration reform. Reid ruled out a gradual approach to overhauling the immigration system. And he said comprehensive reform should happen this year. Any legislation that comes to the Senate floor, Reid said, must address border security, expand the guest worker program so it addresses "more

than agriculture," include a pathway to legalization for illegal immigrants and include stronger penalties for companies that employ illegal workers.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **10 KILLED IN SUV ROLLOVER**

Synopsis: Ten people are dead after an S-U-V apparently filled with illegal immigrants - rolled over in Arizona just before midnight. Police say all 22 occupants were ejected from the vehicle. It happened just before midnight just outside of Sonoita, Arizona. The cause of the deadly crash is still under investigation. But officials with the Arizona Department of Public Safety say the people inside were "stacked like wood". Officials are not releasing the names of the driver, passengers and owner of the S-U-V until they get positive identification, and families are notified. The collision is also being reviewed for possible criminal charges

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CONN. JUDGE BLOCKS DEPORTATION OF 4 IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: A judge in Connecticut says federal agents violated the rights of four illegal immigrants during a raid in New Haven two years ago and has put a stop to deportation proceedings. Federal Judge Michael Straus ruled recently that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents went into the four men's apartments without warrants, probable cause and without their consent. He says the immigrants' rights were "egregiously violated." The four men were among about 30 people arrested by federal agents and charged with being in the country illegally during raids on June 6, 2007. It's not clear whether the Department of Homeland Security will appeal the ruling.

Airdate: JUNE 8

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HIGH COURT BLOCKS CHRYSLER SALE TO FIAT**

Synopsis: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Monday delayed Chrysler's sale of most of its assets to a group led by Italy's Fiat, but didn't say how long the deal will remain on hold. Ginsburg said in an order that the sale is "stayed pending further order," indicating that the delay may only be temporary. Chrysler LLC has said the sale must close by June 15, or Fiat Group SpA has the option to walk away, leaving the Auburn Hills, Mich., automaker with little option but to liquidate. A federal appeals court in New York approved the sale Friday but gave opponents until 4 p.m. EDT Monday to try to get the Supreme Court to intervene.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **DRIVER TRIED TO SMUGGLE 73 INTO US**

Synopsis: The U.S. Border Patrol says a truck driver has been arrested at a checkpoint in California after 73 illegal immigrants from Mexico were found in the back of his rig. A statement from the agency Monday said the 50-year-old driver from Mexico was arrested Saturday and is in federal custody awaiting prosecution for alien smuggling. The truck was searched after agents observed that the driver appeared nervous. Border Patrol Agent Jerry Conlin said the 53 men and 20 women found in his truck will be returned to Mexico if they had no criminal histories.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA PROMISES SUMMER SPEED UP OF ECONOMIC EFFORT**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is promising to speed federal money into hundreds of public works projects this summer, vowing that 600,000 jobs will be created or saved. After meeting with top administration officials on the \$787 billion stimulus plan, he said his administration had "done more than ever," and done it more quickly, to "get the gears of the economy moving again." And Obama added, "We're in a position to really accelerate." At the same time he said he isn't happy with the progress made so far and is pressing his Cabinet to keep at it. Obama said he's pleased the economy lost fewer jobs in May than experts anticipated. He said that's a sign things are moving in the right direction. But Obama also cautioned "we're still in the middle of a very deep recession," saying "it's going to take a considerable amount of time for us to pull out."

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NEW DIAGNOSTIC FOR DIABETES**

Synopsis: A diabetes test that measures a person's average blood glucose control over the preceding two to three months is being recommended as the new diagnostic tool for the condition. Diabetics have too much glucose in their blood when the condition is uncontrolled, and must monitor it. A committee of international experts recommended the test, called the the A1C assay, at the American Diabetes Association's 69th Scientific Sessions over the weekend. The report could instigate a change in the way diabetes is diagnosed, the American Diabetes Association said. The A1C assay, which has been used for nearly 30 years to determine how well a patient controls diabetes, is a more stable, reliable diagnostic tool than the techniques currently in use, the authors of the report said.

Airdate: June 9

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SOTOMAYOR AUDIENCES**

Synopsis: Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy announced Tuesday that confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor will convene on July 13, earlier than Republicans wanted. Leahy said the date presents a "reasonable schedule" that would give members of the committee several more weeks to prepare.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA BUDGET**

Synopsis: The mayors of some of California's largest cities are asking Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger not to undermine local governments in balancing the state budget. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa led a group of mayors from San Diego, Sacramento and Fresno, who came to the Capitol Tuesday to meet with the governor. They said the state should repay cities if it takes any of their tax revenue. Under Schwarzenegger's budget proposal, the state would borrow \$1.9 billion from property tax collections and reduce the local share of the gas tax by \$744 million. It's part of a plan to close a \$24.3 billion deficit.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH REFORM**

Synopsis: Black, Latino and Asian lawmakers warned Democratic leaders that any health care overhaul that ignores health gaps between whites and minorities will face stiff opposition. The lawmakers said they would be hard-pressed to support a bill without a new program providing access to health care for all Americans.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SLEEP AND BLOOD PRESSURE**

Synopsis: Middle-aged adults who get too little sleep are more likely to develop high blood pressure, U.S. researchers said on Monday. The study, among the first to directly measure sleep duration in middle-aged adults, found missing an average one hour of sleep over five years raised the risk of developing high blood pressure by 37 percent.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **H1 N1 PANDEMIA WARNING**

Synopsis: The World Health Organization (WHO) is on the verge of declaring the first influenza pandemic in more than 40 years, but wants to ensure countries are well prepared to prevent a panic, its top flu expert said on Tuesday. Keiji Fukuda, acting WHO assistant director-general, voiced concern at the sustained spread of the new H1N1 strain -- including more than 1,000 cases in Australia -- following major outbreaks in North America, where it emerged in April.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RATES**

Synopsis: When high school seniors finally grasp their hard-earned diplomas, an average of 3 out of 10 classmates aren't beside them. In some communities in the United States, more than half of high-school students don't make it to graduation. But despite the complex, stubborn problems behind those numbers, a new report shows a decade's worth of modest gains in graduation rates. In 1996, the national on-time graduation rate was 66.4 percent; by 2006, that figure had risen to 69.2 percent. Much greater gains were made by thousands of school districts, including some struggling with high levels of poverty.

Airdate: June 10

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **THE NEW CHRYSLER**

Synopsis: Chrysler was reborn Wednesday under a new Italian parent, but it can't shake the shadows of its past: It's not selling enough cars, its fleet is tilted to trucks and SUVs, and help is more than a year away. A 42-day stay in bankruptcy court cleansed the company of much of its debt and labor costs, but many analysts say Chrysler's immediate future is bleak. It lost \$8 billion in 2008, and sales are down by almost half for the first five months of this year. Cars designed by its new owner, Italy's Fiat Group SpA, won't make it to the U.S. until late 2010. And even then there are no guarantees American drivers will want the tiny cars Fiat specializes in.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SUSPENSION OF WIDOWS DEPORTATION**

Synopsis: The Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday it is temporarily freezing a policy of deporting widows and widowers of U.S. citizens, a sign of the Obama administration's interest in new approaches to immigration. Only a few hundred people were at risk of deportation under the policy, but critics viewed it as one of the most painful consequences of President George W. Bush's immigration crackdown. Under the current interpretation of federal law, some immigrants whose American spouses had died faced possible deportation because their legal status was in limbo. The rule applied to immigrants who had been married for less than two years or whose green-card process hadn't been completed when their spouses died. The clause, known as the "widow penalty," had resulted in a spate of lawsuits.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION REFORM CAMPAIGN**

Synopsis: Leading Christian voices joined together to launch Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform's renewed effort for compassionate reform in anticipation of upcoming White House meetings. The call featured an array of

religious leaders and prominent faith spokespersons, including Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, Noel Castellanos, Rev. Dr. Vashti McKenzie, and Rev. Jim Wallis, discussing the growing need for immigration reform and highlighting the launch of a new website and statement of principles as part of faith effort to pass comprehensive immigration legislation.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SLEEP AND WEIGHT GAIN**

Synopsis: Failure to get a full night's sleep can lead to weight gain or compromise the beneficial effects of a reduced calorie diet on total body fat, according to presentations at SLEEP 2009, the annual meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies, underway this week in Seattle. However, whether it is effective during times of reduced sleep duration is unknown.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OIL PRICES**

Synopsis: Oil prices surged again Wednesday to a new high for the year with investors pouring money into crude markets as a hedge against inflation. Benchmark crude for July delivery rose \$1.32 to settle at \$71.33 a barrel in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier touching \$71.79. It was the second time in as many days that crude hit new heights this year at the close.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MEDICAL MARIJUANA SOLD IN STORES**

Synopsis: The Rhode Island Senate has passed a bill by a 30-2 margin allowing nonprofit stores in the state to sell marijuana to medical patients. The bill now heads to Governor Donald Carcieri for approval, although he vetoed similar legislation last year. If the bill does indeed become law, it would allow so-called compassion centers to sell marijuana to registered patients with debilitating diseases. So far, 680 patients are registered with the medical marijuana program.

Airdate: June 11

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA AND HEALTH**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says he wants to reshape the nation's health care system to bring down costs and extend coverage to 50 million uninsured Americans. And he says the time to do it is now. A dispute over Obama's desire to create a new government-sponsored health plan to compete with private insurers is forming a major obstacle to bipartisan consensus on health reform.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FORECLOSURES INCREASE 18%**

Synopsis: For thousands of Americans struggling through the recession, it's not the bank that's threatening to foreclose, it's the homeowner association. Condo and neighborhood associations may have written into the purchase agreement the right to foreclose on homes when dues aren't paid. It's a clause that caught one Texas couple who owe \$1,800 in fees. Steve Pilat says, it was like their "landscaper was foreclosing on the house." The couple were eventually able to work out a payment plan and save their home. Foreclosure Listing Services says foreclosure attempts initiated by homeowner associations in 19 counties in Texas are up 30 percent from two years ago.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **DIGITAL TV, PEOPLE NOT READY**

Synopsis: By midnight tomorrow, all of the nation's full-powered TV stations will shut off the analog signals that brought the iconic shows "I Love Lucy" and the "Cosby Show" to millions of living rooms, marking the biggest change in television viewing since the advent of Technicolor. In their place, broadcasters will air a new breed of digital broadcasts intended to bring crisper pictures and sound to shows like "American Idol." At the end of this long-awaited and troubled transition, the government will have made \$20 billion from the sale of the old analog airwaves, the telecommunications industry will be able to offer brand-new, high-speed wireless services, and public-safety officials will get access to airwaves for a new nationwide communications network.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU LATEST**

Synopsis: With the number of swine flu cases nearing 30,000, the World Health Organization has declared it a pandemic. The long-awaited announcement is scientific confirmation that a new flu virus has emerged and is quickly circling the globe. WHO will now ask drug makers to speed up production of a swine flu vaccine. The agency's director-general said she decided to raise the pandemic alert level from phase 5 to 6, meaning that a global outbreak of swine flu has begun, after an emergency meeting on swine flu with top experts.

Airdate: June 12

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HOUSE SET TO SEND FDA TOBACCO BILL TO OBAMA**

Synopsis: After more than a decade of efforts by smoking opponents, Congress prepared to take a final vote Friday on legislation giving the government far-reaching powers to regulate tobacco and limit tobacco industry marketing and sales practices that lure young people into smoking habits. The House was expected to give overwhelming approval to legislation that for the first

time gives the Food and Drug Administration authority to ban tobacco ingredients deemed dangerous to health, prohibit use of candied and flavored cigarettes popular among young people and prohibit use words such as "mild" or "light" that give the impression that the brand is safer.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WHITE HOUSE IMMIGRATION MEETING: DELAY IS A MISTAKE, BUT NOT A SETBACK**

Synopsis: Ali Noorani, Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum thinks delaying the meeting is a mistake. Momentum is building for comprehensive immigration reform with more and more Americans demanding solutions. The President is too smart not to move on immigration reform this year. We don't see this as a signal that President Obama is stepping back from reform. All the lights are green, with strong polling support for reform that helps strengthen the economy; hundreds of thousands of calls and faxes into Congressional offices generated by the campaign last week and more are expected next week; and both Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Speaker Nancy Pelosi saying the debate on comprehensive immigration reform is coming soon.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CONFUSION EXPECTED AS ANALOG TV BROADCASTS END**

Synopsis: Starting in the morning and going into the night, TV stations across the U.S. planned to cut their analog signals Friday, ending a six-decade era for the technology and likely stranding more than 1 million unprepared homes without TV service. The Federal Communications Commission put 4,000 operators on standby for calls from confused viewers, and set up demonstration centers in several cities. Volunteer groups and local government agencies were helping elderly viewers set up digital converter boxes that keep older TVs functioning.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FREQUENT VIGOROUS EXERCISE RAISES HEART RISK**

Synopsis: New research suggests that as the frequency of vigorous exercise increases, so does the risk of atrial fibrillation. "Although vigorous exercise has numerous health benefits, case reports and limited data suggest that elite athletic men engaging in endurance exercise...may be at higher risk for the development of atrial fibrillation," Dr. Anthony Aizer, from New York University Medical Center, and colleagues note in the American Journal of Cardiology.

Duration: 30 sec
Topic: **HEART DANGERS SEEN IN VERY YOUNG OBESE CHILDREN**
Synopsis: Obese children as young as 7 have worrying levels of compounds linked to heart disease and heart attacks, U.S. researchers reported on Thursday. They found that obese youngsters had up to 10 times the normal amount of a compound that reflects inflammation, and another that helps blood to clot -- both known to raise the risk of heart attacks and heart disease in adults.

Airdate: June 13

Duration: 30 sec
Topic: **DIGITAL TV TRANSITION**
Synopsis: Most American TV viewers have now gone all digital. But it was a bit confusing for some yesterday when the nation's TV stations shut down their analog transmitters. Nearly 700,000 people called a federal hot line this week. About a third of the calls were about federal coupons to pay for digital converter boxes. Another third were handled by live agents, and 30 percent of those were about how to operate the converter boxes. Over 20 percent of the live calls were about reception issues.

Duration: 30 sec
Topic: **OBAMA HEALTH CARE**
Synopsis: President Barack Obama Saturday proposed an additional \$313 billion in cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and other programs to pay for healthcare reforms expected to cost about \$1 trillion over the next decade. Obama wants a healthcare reform bill on his desk by October, but faces opposition from Republicans who oppose creation of a government-run insurance plan to compete with private insurers.

Airdate: June 14

Duration: 30 sec
Topic: **BANKRUPTCY FILINGS 6, 000 A DAY IN CALIFORNIA**
Synopsis: Consumer and commercial bankruptcy filings are on pace to reach a stunning 1.5 million this year, according to a report from Automated Access to Court Electronic Records. In May, the number of bankruptcy filings in California reached 6,020 a day, up from 5,854 in April, AACER says. Bankruptcy filings are not climbing at the same rate in every state. Nevada, Michigan and California had the biggest per-capita increase in bankruptcy filings.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama has made another strong pitch for overhauling the U.S. health care system, calling it "a ticking bomb for the federal budget." Obama went before the American Medical Association in Chicago Monday to declare that the existing system leaves too many uninsured and forces "excessive defensive medicine" by doctors worried about malpractice suits. Obama told his audience he is open to requiring all Americans to have health insurance. But he emphasized that the plan he envisions would permit continuing help for those who cannot afford it on their own. Obama said a "health care exchange" would be set up for the uninsured to choose a plan. Without such change, Obama said the U.S. economy could end up in the same shape as the failed General Motors Corporation and Chrysler.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SLEEP DISORDERS MORTALITY RISK**

Synopsis: Poor quality sleep - whether from insomnia, sleep fragmentation, or nightmares - is associated with increased risk of death, according to several presentations this week in Seattle at SLEEP 2009, the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies. One study, conducted at Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, Pennsylvania, suggests that insomnia may be as hazardous as obstructive sleep apnea.

Airdate: June 15

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **REID HATE CRIME**

Synopsis: Majority Leader Harry Reid is promising a vote on the Harry Shepard hate crimes bill, before the senate recesses in August. The bill has been debated on capitol hill for the past 10 years. If passed, it would authorize additional federal assistance to states, to fight hate crimes. A renewed effort to pass the legislation, was sparked by the shooting of a security guard at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Washington last week.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NEW FORECLOSURE LAW IN CALIFORNIA**

Synopsis: California is imposing a 90-day waiting period on foreclosures. The law is expected to make lenders try harder to keep people in their homes. Loan companies must prove they tried to modify the delinquent loans before they can begin foreclosing. Supporters acknowledge the California Foreclosure Prevention Act won't stop thousands of foreclosures from eventually happening. There have been more than 365,000 foreclosures in California since early 2007, with many more already scheduled.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **RISE IN GAS PRICES**

Synopsis: Gas prices seem to be defying gravity and economic principles. They've gone up again for the 48th straight day. That matches a record for this decade. According to the auto club AAA and others, pump prices have risen to about \$2.67 a gallon, on average. Compared to a week ago, prices are a nickel higher. Prices are nearly 31 cents higher than a month ago, but remain a \$1.40 lower than a year ago.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SUPREME COURT BORDER**

Synopsis: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to get involved in local Texas governments' fight against hundreds of miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border. The court rejected a challenge by El Paso and other counties to a lower court ruling dismissing a lawsuit against Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. The governments argue that Napolitano's predecessor, Michael Chertoff, improperly waived 37 federal laws that could have slowed or blocked construction of fencing along the border that is intended to deter illegal immigrants.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BORDER SECURITY**

Synopsis: The U.S. and Mexico formalized an agreement Monday to work together to secure legal travel and trade across the countries' shared border. The agreement is outlined in a letter of intent signed by U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Mexico's Finance Minister Agustin Carstens. It expands a 2007 agreement and formalizes plans announced earlier this year to search vehicles at border crossings for bulk weapons and cash being smuggled from the U.S. into Mexico where more than 10,800 people have been killed by drug violence since December 2006.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ADHD AND HEART RISK**

Synopsis: A study that found possible heart risks for healthy children who took attention deficit drugs had limitations and should not prompt parents to stop giving the medications, health officials said Monday. The study, published Monday in the American Journal of Psychiatry, found use of stimulant medications that treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) may be associated with rare cases of sudden death in children.

Airdate: June 16

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **WORKER ID & IMMIGRANTS**

Synopsis: As the immigration reform debate begins to heat up again, some observers expect that one of the biggest and most controversial new elements will be a proposed national worker identification card for all Americans. A "forgery-proof" worker ID card, secured with biometric data such as fingerprints, is an idea favored by Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y), the new chairman of the immigration subcommittee. Schumer, who will lead the effort to craft the Senate's comprehensive immigration overhaul legislation, called the card the best way to ensure that all workers were authorized.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Synopsis: The Obama administration on Tuesday expanded the US watch list of countries suspected of not doing enough to combat human trafficking, putting more than four dozen nations on notice that they may face sanctions unless their records improved. The State Department's annual 'Trafficking in Persons Report' the first released since President Barack Obama took office, placed 52 countries and territories, mainly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, on the watch list. It's a 30 percent jump from the 40 countries on the list in 2008. New countries cited for human trafficking problems included Angola, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, according to the report.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HATE CRIME LEGISLATION**

Synopsis: A leading civil rights coalition says there has been an increase in white supremacist activity since the election of the first African-American president. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund reported Tuesday that the economic downturn and fear of immigrants also contributed to the increase. The report comes a week after a white supremacist killed a security guard at the U.S. Holocaust Museum. The coalition reported the country now averages a hate crime nearly every hour of every day. A special concern is the rising number of hate crimes committed against Hispanics and gays.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA FINANCIAL RESCUE**

Synopsis: Many lawmakers fear President Barack Obama's plan to prevent another financial meltdown might end up turning the Federal Reserve into an all-powerful monster -- a friction that could slow down a major overhaul of banking and market regulations. In a speech on Wednesday, Obama is expected to propose that the Fed take on a role as America's financial supercop. Already the nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve would supervise large financial

institutions that are considered so big that their failure could undermine the economy.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ZICAM LOSS OF SMELL**

Synopsis: U.S. regulators warned Matrixx Initiatives to stop selling intranasal versions of its zinc-containing Zicam cold remedy after more than 130 reports of people losing their sense of smell after using the products, sending Matrixx shares into a tailspin. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration also urged consumers to stop taking the over-the-counter products, agency officials said on a conference call with reporters on Tuesday.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **AGGRESIVE DRIVERS**

Synopsis: New York has overtaken Miami to be voted the U.S. city with the angriest and most aggressive drivers, according to a survey on road rage released on Tuesday. Miami topped the annual poll for the last four years but voters in 25 major metropolitan areas gave New Yorkers the prize for angriest, most aggressive drivers who tailgate, speed, honk their horns, overreact and lose their tempers. The response of New Yorkers to bad drivers also helped push the city into the top slot for road rage.

Airdate: June 17

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HATE CRIMES SENTENCE**

Synopsis: Two Pennsylvania teens acquitted of the most serious charges in the beating death of an illegal Mexican immigrant will each spend at least six months in prison for lesser charges. A Schuylkill County judge sentenced 17-year-old Brandon Piekarsky and 19-year-old Derrick Donchak on Wednesday on charges related to the fatal beating of Luis Ramirez on July 12, 2008 in Shenandoah. Piekarsky was acquitted of third-degree murder and Donchak acquitted of aggravated assault by an all-white jury last month. Both teens were acquitted of ethnic intimidation.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRANT LEGAL AID**

Synopsis: A legal aid program designed to protect undocumented workers from deportation was announced at a news conference held by immigration reform advocates.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR GAYS**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama signaled to gay-rights activists Wednesday that he's listening to their desire for greater equality in "a more perfect union." But he didn't give them even close to everything they want, bringing to the surface an anger that's been growing against the president. "We all have to acknowledge this is only one step," Obama said in the Oval Office, where he signed a memorandum extending some benefits, such as visitation or dependent-care rights, to the same-sex partners of gay federal employees.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA BANKING**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is offering a broad-scale overhaul of the financial system, saying hard times struck largely because a post-Depression era business regulatory scheme couldn't keep up with an increasingly global economy. In remarks readied for the unveiling of new rules to govern business, Obama attributed much of the country's current problem to "a cascade of mistakes and missed opportunities" which happened over several decades. His plan would bestow vast new powers on the Federal Reserve, authorizing it to oversee the entire financial system. It also would create a new consumer protection agency to guard against the types of abuses that played a big role in the current crisis.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NY FLU VICTIMS**

Synopsis: New York City officials on Tuesday reported seven more deaths from A/H1N1 flu, bringing the city's total to 23 . The city health department also said that the number of confirmed cases of the virus had climbed past 1,000.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **KIDS SCHOOL JUNK FOOD**

Synopsis: A new study report that junk food at schools are causing obesity on most kids. They can experience nutrition problems.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NY KIDS MORTALITY**

Synopsis: New data from the Health Department show that the death rate among children in New York City is more than one third lower than the national average. Between 2001 and 2007, the rate of child deaths was 15 per 100,000 children aged 1 to 12 years, compared to a national average of 20 deaths per 100,000. Most of this difference is due to fewer child injury deaths in New York City, especially motor vehicle-related injuries and homicides.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HOLDER ON IMMIGRATION**

Synopsis: U.S. immigration agents soon will get expanded powers to fight Mexican drug cartels, Attorney General Eric Holder told Congress on Wednesday. Under a new deal aimed at settling a long-running turf dispute with the Drug Enforcement Administration, more agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement would get authority to investigate drug cases.

Airdate: June 18

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MEDICARE FRAUD**

Synopsis: Last year, Medicaid reimbursed more than \$1.4 million for oxygen concentrators provided to patients in Miami-Dade County. That figure represents 17 percent of the statewide total of \$8.5 million. But just how much of it was medically necessary? That's what the Agency for Health Care Administration is trying to determine. On Thursday, the agency announced that in recent weeks a team of state investigators conducted site visits at 12 providers and visited more than 120 individuals who received equipment.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MORE POWER TO ICE AGENTS**

Synopsis: The Obama administration ended a years-long turf war between the Justice and Homeland Security departments yesterday, giving more U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents authority to investigate drug crimes. Leaders of ICE and the Drug Enforcement Administration replaced a 1994 agreement that capped the number of customs agents who could investigate federal drug crimes and limited it to those who make seizures at border crossings. When the Department of Homeland Security was created in 2003, ICE's size and national presence were expanded.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION RAIDS**

Synopsis: A city can prohibit its police from stopping or arresting people to find out if they are illegal immigrants, a state appeals court ruled Wednesday in a Los Angeles case with implications for San Francisco's sanctuary ordinance. A taxpayer represented by the conservative group Judicial Watch challenged a 30-year-old Los Angeles Police Department rule barring officers from either arresting anyone for entering the United States illegally or taking any action solely to determine someone's immigration status. The suit claimed the policy conflicts with a 1996 federal law that requires state and local governments to let their employees share information about someone's immigration status with federal authorities.

Airdate: June 19

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HISPANICS-IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama said Friday he is committed to a comprehensive immigration overhaul that includes a way for illegal immigrants to become U.S. citizens. Obama told the Esperanza National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference that U.S. borders must be strengthened to thwart illegal immigration. But he also supports giving the millions of people now in the U.S. illegally the chance to become citizens.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA FATHERHOOD EVENT**

Synopsis: Growing up without a father left a painful hole in his heart, President Barack Obama told boys at the White House Friday in a remarkably personal Father's Day weekend message. He implored fathers everywhere -- and the kids when they're a bit older -- to be involved in the lives of their own children. "This isn't an obligation," said the father of two in a message to millions of wayward dads. "This is a privilege to be a father."

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CASH FOR CLUNKERS**

Synopsis: U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer will call on all New Yorkers to take advantage of the "Cash for Clunkers" program approved by the Senate last night. The program allows New York City drivers to trade in their older, less fuel efficient cars, trucks and SUVs for more fuel efficient vehicles. Schumer said that New York City drivers can save up to \$4,500 cash on the purchase of a new car but they need to move fast because funding for the program is limited and vouchers are given out on a first come, first serve basis.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE**

Synopsis: The West reported the highest regional jobless rate for May: 10.1 percent -- the first time in more than 25 years that a region of the United States has suffered double-digit joblessness. In California, the jobless rate jumped to 11.5 percent last month. In Nevada, it rose to 11.3 percent, and in Oregon, to 12.4 percent. The government report showed employment conditions deteriorating in 48 states and the District of Columbia last month. Eight states had record-high jobless rates. Only two -- Nebraska and Vermont -- reported no increases. Nebraska's jobless rate dipped, and Vermont's was flat.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NESTLE RECALL**

Synopsis: Nestle has recalled all of its refrigerated cookie dough products, including tubes, tubs and sheets of cookies, bars and seasonal items. It doesn't include Nestle chocolate morsels, baking bars, cocoa or Dreyer's and Edy's ice

creams that feature Nestle cookie dough. The Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are investigating whether the products are contaminated with a potentially deadly form of *E. coli*. At least 66 people from 28 states became ill after eating raw Nestle refrigerated cookie dough.

Airdate: June 20

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA CONSUMER**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama is warning critics of his financial overhaul plan that while he's "not spoiling for a fight," he's "ready for one." Obama is using his weekly radio and Internet address to defend a proposal that would impose and enforce new rules for the nation's embattled financial system. The goal is to prevent a repeat of the breakdown that sent the U.S. economy into a downward spiral.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FLORIDA UNEMPLOYMENT**

Synopsis: Florida's unemployment rate broke a psychological barrier in May, entering double digits for the first time in 34 years. Although Florida's economy could start to grow again early next year, experts say unemployment could stay near current levels for up to two years. Employers typically remain cautious about adding workers until they are sure things are really better. At 10.2 percent, the state's May jobless rate was up from April's revised 9.7 percent, and was higher than the national rate of 9.4 percent.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **GREEN TEA & PROSTATE CANCER**

Synopsis: Active compounds in green tea may slow down the progression of prostate cancer, researchers reported on Friday. Capsules made using green tea extracts called polyphenols lowered levels of proteins that tumors use to grow, the researchers found.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA WILL SIGN TOBACCO**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama will sign into law Monday a landmark bill giving the U.S. government broad regulatory power for the first time over cigarettes and other tobacco products, the White House said Friday.

Airdate: June 21

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NY SWINE FLU DEATH**

Synopsis: School officials in Buffalo, N.Y., say a middle-schooler has died of swine flu, and a union leader says a second pupil is hospitalized in critical condition. Schools Superintendent Dr. James A. Williams released a statement of sympathy yesterday, but officials would not say more about the student who died.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OKLAHOMA IMMIGRATION**

Synopsis: Oklahoma will begin deporting illegal immigrants who are serving sentences for nonviolent crimes when a new law takes effect July 1. The Oklahoma Criminal Illegal Alien Rapid Repatriation Act is expected to save Oklahoma taxpayers at least \$4 million in the first year, said Rep. Randy Terrill, R-Moore, the author of the measure. The bill passed the House unanimously and received just one no vote in the Senate.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **NY-GOVERNOR DECLARES EMERGENCY SESSION**

Synopsis: New York's governor is giving state senators until the end of the work day Monday to overcome their differences in a leadership dispute. The dispute has kept the senate in a stalemate for more than two weeks. Monday is the last day of the legislative session before the summer recess. Governor David Paterson says if they can't work things out Monday -- he'll call a special session Tuesday and every day after that until they act on a list of bills that need to be decided by the end of June. He said he'll keep them working on Saturdays and Sundays too, even through the July 4th holiday. The governor is also offering two well-respected former lawmakers to serve as mediators on Monday

Airdate: June 22

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA DRUGS**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama says a pledge by the drug industry to help close a gap in Medicare drug coverage is a step toward an overhaul of the nation's health care system. Obama says the companies have promised to spend \$80 billion over the next decade to help reduce the cost of drugs for seniors and pay for part of Obama's health care plan.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION FBI CHECKS**

Synopsis: FBI name checks on people seeking to work or live in the United States or become citizens are getting completed more quickly, slicing through a

backlog that had left some petitions pending for more than a year, immigration officials said Monday. The FBI hired more workers, beefed up its training programs and upgraded its technology to handle the average of 6 million to 7 million applications that stream through the agency each year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials said.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ECONOMIC CRISIS & CHILD SUPPORT**

Synopsis: Child support payments are falling as parents lose their jobs. States report that more parents are failing to pay and more are going to court to reduce their obligations. Some custodial parents are asking for higher payments because their income is down. And more parents are using unemployment checks to pay child support.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA TOBACCO BILL**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama has signed the strongest anti-smoking measure ever, calling it an extraordinary accomplishment that will help keep children from getting hooked on cigarettes. The legislation gives the Food and Drug Administration unprecedented authority to regulate tobacco and cigarette marketing.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **AIRLINES FEES**

Synopsis: As if charging \$15 to check a bag weren't enough, two airlines are asking for \$5 more beginning this summer if you pay at the check-in counter -- a fee on top of a fee. Of course, you could always pay your baggage fee from home. The airlines call it the "online discount." Rather than raise fares in the middle of a recession, they're piling on fees to make money -- fees for bags, fees to get through the line faster, even fees for certain seats. US Airways and United are hitting passengers up for \$5 to pay their baggage fees at the airport instead of online. United implemented the fee June 10, while US Airways will put it into effect July 9.

Airdate: June 23

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA PRESS CONFERENCE**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama held a news conference Tuesday, and opened the afternoon event with remarks on health care reform, energy legislation and Iran's disputed elections.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **DREAM ACT CEREMONIES**

Synopsis: A DREAM Act graduation ceremony was celebrated at the Los Angeles City Hall. This is one of several such events in which hundreds of students/youth from all over the country, along with education, faith, business, immigrant and civil rights leaders participated in a National DREAM Graduation ceremony, hosted by Dream Team Los Angeles in support of the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **L.A. RETIREMENT PLAN**

Synopsis: Looking to avoid the need for layoffs and furloughs, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the City Council are weighing a plan to offer early retirement to thousands of city workers, some of whom would receive an incentive of at least \$15,000 to leave. As it attempts to close a \$530 million budget gap, the mayor's bargaining team hopes to reduce the workforce by 2,400 while giving no pay increases for most civilian employees in the next two years, according to several sources familiar with the confidential salary talks.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SALMONELLA PISTACHIOS**

Synopsis: U.S. consumers should avoid two brands of these brands of pistachio, FDA spokeswoman Stephanie Kwispistachios tied to a salmonella-related recall because they may have been repackaged and sold in airports and hotels, the Food and Drug Administration said. The federal agency identified the suspect brands late Monday as California Prime Produce and Orange County Orchards, which were repacked by Orca Distribution West Inc of Anaheim, California.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MIGRAINE BRAIN**

Synopsis: Migraine headaches suffered by one in 10 women may inflict long-term damage to a part of the brain important to coordination and the senses, researchers said Tuesday. Lesions in the brain's cerebellum were prevalent in nearly one-quarter of older women who were afflicted in middle age by migraine headaches that were accompanied by an "aura," they said.

Airdate: June 24

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **PREVIEW IMMIGRATION MEETING**

Synopsis: Following the President's remarks on immigration reform Friday, this Thursday's meeting between Members of Congress and the President will move the immigration debate forward and put the spotlight on Congress to begin crafting comprehensive immigration reform legislation. With a Congressional debate looming this fall, leaders from faith, Latino, business, labor, progressive,

and immigration reform organizations will preview the White House meeting and preview the coming immigration reform legislative debate. This on-the-record briefing is hosted by the National Immigration Forum.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA HEALTH CARE**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama left the door open to a new tax on health care benefits Wednesday, and officials said top lawmakers and the White House were seeking \$150 billion in concessions from the nation's hospitals as they sought support for legislation struggling to emerge in Congress. The chief executive also met with governors and arranged a prime-time, town hall at the White House, the latest in a string of events designed to bend public opinion toward his top domestic initiative to reduce health care costs while making insurance available to the nearly 50 million Americans who lack it.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **ZICAM RECALL**

Synopsis: Matrixx Initiatives ¹/₄MTXX.O³/₄ has started to notify U.S. customers of its recall of nasal versions of its Zicam cold remedy, a week after U.S. regulators told the company to stop selling the products. Matrixx said on Wednesday that it was in the process of formally notifying retailers, wholesalers and distributors of its recall of all Zicam Cold Remedy Nasal Gel and Zicam Cold Remedy Gel Swabs, even as the company maintained it "vigorously disagrees" with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration over allegations that the products are not safe and were unlawfully marketed.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **EPA TOXIC STATES**

Synopsis: In 2002, 2.2 million Americans lived in neighborhoods where air pollution caused an excess cancer risk greater than 100 in 1 million, a level EPA considers unacceptable. A look at the states and U.S. territory with the largest number of people living in such neighborhoods: StatePop. at highest risk N.Y. 862,012 Calif. 445,781 Ore. 140,169 Wash.105,454 Ala. 76,452 Pa. 73,046 Ind.57,498 Puerto Rico 54,161 Ill. 44,785 and Texas 37,399.

Airdate: June 25

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CALIFORNIA-BUDGET**

Synopsis: California's budget woes could cut a third of the agents from a little-known unit that has played a key role in high-profile cases like Anna Nicole Smith's overdose death and the arrest of murderer Scott Peterson. State budget negotiators have proposed cutting \$20 million from the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, on top of \$12 million in previous cuts from the bureau. Attorney

General Jerry Brown, a Democrat whose department oversees the narcotics bureau, said the cuts would lead to layoffs for nearly a third of its 187 agents. "It's a terrible budgetary decision," Brown said. "The Bureau of Narcotics enforcement has some of the best-trained agents in the world that are going after drug cartels, that are providing assistance to local law enforcement agencies," Brown said.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **LATINO RIGHT ADVOCATE CHARGED WITH VOTER FRAUD**

Synopsis: Felony charges have been filed and an arrest warrant issued for a well-known Orange County political activist suspected of committing election and voter registration fraud, the California secretary of State's office announced Wednesday. Investigators in the agency's election-fraud unit said Nativo V. Lopez, 57, of Santa Ana leased office space in Boyle Heights and registered to vote using that address although he lived with his family in Orange County. They also say Lopez, president of the Mexican American Political Assn., cast an illegal ballot in L.A. in the 2008 presidential primary.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA-IMMIGRATION MEETING**

Synopsis: Launching a fresh effort toward a comprehensive immigration overhaul, President Barack Obama said Thursday that a bipartisan bill on the "sensitive and volatile political issue" will be difficult but must get under way this year. "It's going to require some heavy lifting," Obama said as he hosted a meeting of about 30 lawmakers whose views on immigration span the ideological spectrum. "It's going to require a victory of practicality and common sense and good policy making over short-term politics. That's what I'm committed to doing as president." Much of the debate centered on how to deal with the roughly 12 million illegals already living in the United States.

Airdate: June 26

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA-JACKSON**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama regarded Michael Jackson as a "spectacular performer", a White House spokesman has said. Robert Gibbs told reporters at the White House this afternoon that the President felt Jackson was a music icon. But he also acknowledged elements of the singer's life were "sad and tragic". The President is thought to have waited until more details about Jackson's death were released before speaking about the singer

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **CLIMATE BILL**

Synopsis: President Barack Obama Friday praised the House of Representatives for passing legislation to drastically reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases blamed for global warming and he urged the Senate to act too. "Today the House of Representatives took historic action with the passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act," Obama said. "It's a bold and necessary step that holds the promise of creating new industries and millions of new jobs, decreasing our dangerous dependence on foreign oil." "Now it's up to the Senate to take the next step," he added.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SOTOMAYOR-CONGRESS SUPPORT**

Synopsis: Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J.; House Small Business Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y.; Rep. Charles Gonzalez, D-Texas; held a news conference with other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to discuss how the caucus will be engaged in the confirmation process for Judge Sonia Sotomayor.

Airdate: June 27

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SWINE FLU IN US- 1 MILLION CASES**

Synopsis: More than 1 million people in the United States may have been infected with the new H1N1 swine flu, U.S. health officials said on Friday, and infections continue to rise. The new H1N1 influenza virus that has triggered a global pandemic is infecting people in the United States well beyond the normal period for influenza season, Dr. Anne Schuchat of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **US CLIMATE BILL**

Synopsis: The House on Friday narrowly passed landmark legislation meant to curb greenhouse gas emissions and create an energy-efficient economy, voting 219-212. President Barack Obama on Saturday urged senators to follow suit. Everyone from small farmers to nuclear energy companies would be forced to re-evaluate their place in the new order. Power plants, factories and refineries would feel the first impact if the federal government moves ahead with plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 and by about 80 percent near the end of the century.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HONDURAS CRISIS**

Synopsis: Honduras has been plunged into its biggest political crisis in decades by leftist President Manuel Zelaya's crusade to allow presidents to run for re-election, defying the courts and the military. The impoverished Central American country had been politically stable since the end of military rule in the early 1980s. But Zelaya's push to change the constitution to allow presidents to serve more than a single four-year term has split the country's institutions. Zelaya and his supporters made final preparations Saturday for an unusual national vote planned for Sunday asking Hondurans to express support for abolishing the term limits. The courts have ruled that the vote has no legal standing, and the military has refused to help organize the balloting.

Airdate: June 28

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA STIMULUS**

Synopsis: A senior White House adviser said Sunday the economic stimulus has not yet "broken the back of the recession" but set aside calls for a second massive spending bill. Republicans, meanwhile, called spending under way a failure. White House adviser David Axelrod urged patience for President Barack Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus package in the face of sliding poll numbers. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a past and potentially future presidential candidate, said the spending was ill-designed and served only to expand the size of government.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **HEALTH-DATA/COURT**

Synopsis: The U.S. Supreme Court declined Monday to hear an appeal by two publishers of health care information arguing that data mining for commercial purposes is protected by free-speech rights. The high court refused to decide a challenge by IMS Health Inc and Verispan, a unit of SDI Health LLC, to a New Hampshire law that makes it a crime to use information about a doctor's prescribing history for the purpose of increasing drug sales.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **OBAMA-CLIMATE CHANGE**

Synopsis: The White House says it's confident that the Senate will pass comprehensive energy legislation. President Barack Obama's top energy adviser, Carol Browner, made the comment in an interview with a small group of reporters. But she repeatedly refused to say when the White House expected the Senate to pass the measure. And she refused to speculate on whether Obama would have legislation sent to his desk by year's end.

Airdate: June 29

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SUPREME COURT-FIREFIGHTERS LAWSUIT**

Synopsis: Only white firefighters scored well enough on the test to be promoted. No blacks. So New Haven, Conn., threw out the test. In an important reverse discrimination ruling Monday, the Supreme Court rejected that decision, cautioning employers nationwide against changing the rules once the game has begun. New Haven discriminated against its white firefighters by ignoring the results of a promotion exam on which they did well but no African-Americans scored high enough to be promoted to lieutenant or captain, the justices said in a 5-4 ruling. High court nominee Sonia Sotomayor had endorsed the city's position as an appeals court judge -- ammunition for both supporters and foes in her upcoming confirmation hearing.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **USA-IRAQ TROOPS RETURN**

Synopsis: Iraq takes a major step toward reasserting its sovereignty on Tuesday when U.S. combat troops hand urban areas over to its relatively untested police and soldiers. Will the end of one aspect of the "surge" strategy -- the ramped-up deployment of U.S. forces in militant strongholds that helped drive al Qaeda and other fighters underground -- lead to a collapse in security? It is highly likely that insurgents will increase their attacks following the departure of U.S. combat troops from city centers, both U.S. and Iraqi officials say. Some militant groups may want to create the impression that they deserve the credit for driving out the occupation forces. The fact that the partial withdrawal has been dictated by a bilateral security pact agreed last year between the United States and Iraq is immaterial to them.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **IMMIGRATION-EMPLOYERS**

Synopsis: The Obama administration launched investigations of hundreds of businesses around the country Wednesday as part of its strategy to focus immigration enforcement on the employers who hire illegal workers. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has begun notifying businesses of plans to audit their I-9 forms -- employment eligibility documents that employers fill out for every worker -- the agency told members of Congress in an e-mail.

Airdate: June 30

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **MADOFF SENTENCING**

Synopsis: U.S. District Judge Denny Chin says the federal probation department recommends that Bernard Madoff get 50 years in prison for a multibillion-dollar fraud scheme. Madoff's lawyer has asked a judge to give his

71-year-old client 12 years behind bars. Prosecutors planned to seek a 150-year prison term Monday. The former Nasdaq chairman was arrested late last year after confessing to his sons that his secretive investment advisory business was a "big lie." He pleaded guilty to securities fraud and other charges in March and has been jailed ever since.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **FDA/PAIN KILLERS**

Synopsis: Government experts called for sweeping safety restrictions Tuesday on the most widely used painkiller, including reducing the maximum dose of Tylenol and eliminating prescription drugs such as Vicodin and Percocet. The Food and Drug Administration assembled 37 experts to recommend ways to reduce deadly overdoses with acetaminophen, which is the leading cause of liver failure in the U.S. and sends 56,000 people to the emergency room annually. About 200 die each year. "We're here because there are inadvertent overdoses with this drug that are fatal and this is the one opportunity we have to do something that will have a big impact," said Dr. Judith Kramer of Duke University Medical Center.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **BEEF RECALL**

Synopsis: Federal health officials say at least 12 people have been hospitalized in connection with a possible E.coli outbreak in beef and two of them suffered kidney failure. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 23 people in nine states may have become ill after eating beef produced by JBS Swift Beef Co. of Greeley, Colo. The company recalled about 380,000 pounds of beef this week after some illnesses were reported and a government investigation showed a possible connection to the company's product. That recall expanded a June 24 recall of just over 41,000 pounds.

Duration: 30 sec

Topic: **SECURITY-DIRTYBOMB/NEWYORK**

Synopsis: Thousands of additional law enforcement officers within 50 miles of New York City will have access to radiation detectors for dirty bombs and nuclear devices, New York police said Wednesday. The detectors, including cell phone-sized devices that officers wear on their belts, can help uncover a dirty bomb that might be assembled outside New York and smuggled in, police said at a security conference. New York Police Department officers have used such devices for several years.