

08/20/09

CASH FOR CLUNKERS LATEST

VO :13

The Obama administration plans to end the popular \$3 billion Cash for Clunkers program on Monday at 8 p.m EDT, The Associated Press has learned. Two congressional officials familiar with the plan say the Transportation Department will wind down the program that offers car buyers rebates of \$3,500 or \$4,500 for trading in older vehicles for new, more fuel-efficient models. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the plan. The Obama administration was set to announce details on Thursday.

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08/21/09

**CASH FOR CLUNKERS NEAR END
LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
PKG 1:52**

As car shoppers head into the final weekend of the Cash for Clunkers program, a couple of car companies are offering cash advances for dealers. The Obama administration has announced the popular promotion will end Monday night after burning through about \$3 billion in just a month. The rebate money has been fronted by dealers, and many of them have complained of slow reimbursements from the government. Now, both Chrysler and General Motors say they will start making cash advances to help dealers with their cash flow. The automakers are offering the advances for up to 30 days. They say the extra money will be available as long as the program remains in effect.

HOME SALES UP

VO :22

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

ECONOMY NEAR RECOVERY

VO :20

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has told investors what they want to hear: The economy is indeed on the verge of recovery. And investors have responded Friday by enthusiastically buying stocks. Major stock indicators have all surged more than 1 percent and hit new highs for the year. And Treasury prices have tumbled and pushed yields sharply higher, as investors no longer felt they needed the safety of government debt. Bernanke told a Fed conference, the prospects for a return to growth in the near term appear good.

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08/22/09

6:30 & 11:30

**CASH FOR CLUNKERS LATEST
FELIPE GONZÁLEZ. SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
PKG 1:48**

AutoNation Inc., the nation's largest auto dealership chain, said Saturday it hit the brakes on the popular Cash for Clunkers program three days early because it wants to make sure it can submit the paperwork

on thousands of sales to the government before a Monday evening deadline. Under the rebate program, dealerships need to enter their Cash for Clunkers sales into a government Web site before the program expires on Monday at 8 p.m. EDT so they can be reimbursed for the rebates of up to \$4,500.

SWINE FLU VACCINE
LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
PKG 1:59

Clinical trials for the new swine flu vaccine have turned up no red flags, U.S. health officials said Friday. First results from studies of the new vaccines in adults and the elderly will be available in mid-September, but so far, the only complaints seem to be a bit of local soreness and redness in the arm at the injection site, they said.

"There are no red flags regarding safety," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one of the National Institutes of Health. Fauci said no side effects were seen 10 to 14 days after the first studies in adults, giving officials the confidence to start trials of the vaccines in children this week.

OBAMA ADDRESS
VO :23

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

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08/23/09

6:30 & 11:30

NOTHING TO REPORT

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08/24/09

CASH FOR CLUNKERS IS OVER
VO:20

The CARS program came to a close Tuesday night with nearly 700,000 clunkers taken off the roads, replaced by far more fuel efficient vehicles. Rebate applications worth \$2.877 billion were submitted by the 8 p.m. deadline, under the \$3 billion provided by Congress to run the program. Cars made in America topped the most-purchased list, from the Ford Focus to the Toyota Corolla to the Honda Civic. "American consumers and workers were the clear winners thanks to the cash for clunkers program," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Manufacturing plants have added shifts and recalled workers. Moribund showrooms were brought back to life and consumers bought fuel efficient cars that will save them money and improve the environment."

SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS REDUCED
VO:20

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

due to the soaring costs of prescription drug plans, which many beneficiaries have automatically deducted from Social Security checks.

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08/25/09

**SWINE FLU PREDICTIONS
LUIS MEGID/SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
Pkg: 1:53**

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

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08/27/09

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TO DRY UP FOR 1.5 MILLION
LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
PKG 1:50**

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

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08/29/09

6:30 & 11:30

**PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY ADDRESS
VO : 26**

President Barack Obama marked the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina on Saturday by pledging to make sure that turf wars and red tape don't slow the pace of the continuing recovery. He also said he would visit New Orleans by year's end. In his weekly radio and Internet address, the president noted that the Bush administration's response to the killer storm raised questions among people in the U.S. about whether the government "could fulfill its responsibility to respond in a crisis." He said he wanted to ensure "that the legacy of a terrible storm is a country that is safer and more prepared for the challenges that may come." Since taking office, Obama has sent 11 members of the Cabinet to the region to inspect progress and to hear local ideas on how to speed up repairs.

**H1N1 IN ARIZONA
ALEJANDRA ESPINOZA/PHOENIX, ARIZONA
PKG 1:24**

Seasonal flu shot clinics begin in Arizona. Clinical trials on an H1N1 vaccine are under way. The local health care community is ramping up for what could be a double onslaught of the flu - seasonal and the novel H1N1 virus also known as the "swine flu." Some parents say there's too much media hype. They plan to remind kids of healthy habits - hand washing, covering a cough - but many say they'll avoid the new vaccine and are doubtful about getting a seasonal flu shot. But H1N1 has never left Arizona, some

say, people need to be aware of its potential. Maricopa County's director of public health have said since last spring that the second wave of the H1N1 virus could impact a greater number of people. He is encouraging people to get a seasonal flu vaccine now - and the H1N1 vaccine when it's available - to help avoid a strain on their bodies, and on emergency rooms and doctors' offices.

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=====END OF PART 2=====