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**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**

**VO :18 / SOT :14**

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.

**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." That sent the Dow Jones industrials soaring 155 points to 9,505. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 18 at 1,026 and the Nasdaq composite index is up 31 at 2,020. Advancing stocks are ahead of losers by 4 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.48 billion shares.

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**8/24/09**

**SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS REDUCED**

**VO:22**

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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**8/25/09**

**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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**08/26/09**

**BLINDS RECALL**

**VO :24**

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

**OBESITY CAN COST 12 YEARS**

**VO 0:27**

Extremely obese people - those who are 80 or more pounds over a normal weight - live three to 12 fewer years than their normal-weight peers, a new study shows.

Just being overweight or moderately obese, however, has little or no effect on life span, the research found. The finding adds to the growing body of evidence that being slightly overweight may have no influence on life expectancy, but being severely overweight trims years off people's lives.

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**08/27/09**

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TO DRY UP FOR 1.5 MILLION**

**VO : 16 / SOT :06**

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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