

For November 24, 2010, CBS

Mark PhillipsAssociated Press

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TERRELL BROWN: Security Showdown: Millions of Americans hit the road for the holiday weekend, but will plan protests over security measures jam up the airports. Whiteout: A wintry wallop out West threatens to stop holiday travelers in their tracks.

And, Murder for Hire: The shocking case of a Texas priest charged with abusing a teen, now accused of trying to hire a hit man to silence his victim.

This is the CBS MORNING NEWS for Wednesday, November 24, 2010.

And, good morning, everybody. Good to see you on this Wednesday. I'm Terrell Brown, in for Betty Nguyen this morning.

Over the river and through the woods, Americans begin their Thanksgiving weekend today. That means a lot of us are on the move. Check out the numbers here. According to AAA, more than forty-two million Americans will travel at least, fifty miles over the holiday. That's eleven percent more than last year. More than thirty-nine million of us are driving up twelve percent. But a significant number, more than 1.6 million will fly. That means a lot of airport crowds and a lot of delays. It could be

even worse if travelers rebel against the tighter airport screening and searching policies. Whit Johnson is at Reagan National Airport in Washington, with the latest on that. Whit, good morning to you.

WHIT JOHNSON: Hey, Terrell, good morning. Well, nobody really knows just how big this body scan protest will be or what impact it could have on holiday travel. Airports are basically preparing for business as usual today, but the TSA says just a few protesters could really clog up the system.

(Begin VT)

WHIT JOHNSON: Airports and travelers are bracing for possible backlash on the busiest travel day of the year. Protesters against heightened new security measures are calling on passengers to opt out of full-body scans demanding time-consuming pat downs instead.

WOMAN ?1: I really don't understand why they would do that.

WOMAN ?2: When they see how much time it takes to do the pat downs, they would probably prefer to just go through the scan and save time.

WHIT JOHNSON: But the organizer of the so-called National Opt-Out Day insists officials have gone too far.

BRIAN SODERGREN: How much are we willing to let government poke and prod us and are we willing to let them see under our clothes just because we bought a plane ticket?

WHIT JOHNSON: Just last week, a CBS News poll showed eighty-one percent of Americans favored full-body scans. But this week, in another poll only sixty-four percent supported them and half opposed pat downs.

JOHN PISTOLE: We very much appreciate your involvement.

WHIT JOHNSON: TSA head John Pistole says the agency is working with security experts to try to make the pat downs less invasive while just as thorough. But for now, the procedures will stay put.

MAN: I don't have any concerns at all. It's-- it's never that invasive to me.

WHIT JOHNSON: In fact, Homeland Security reported Tuesday, that ninety-nine percent of passengers singled out for a scanning agreed to it rather than undergo a pat down. As the holiday rush, pushes into overdrive, it appears the majority of travelers won't let the TSA's watchful keep them from seeing their loved ones.

(End VT)

WHIT JOHNSON: And there are more than four hundred of these body scan machines in about seventy airports across the country. TSA says it's going to be a

busy day anyway, so check those flights ahead of time and get to the airport early. Terrell.

TERRELL BROWN: And, Whit, not everyone has to go through these new procedures, do they?

WHIT JOHNSON: No, Terrell. If you are a flight attendant, a pilot, a congressional leader or top U.S. official, the government knows who you are. No enhanced body scanning or security screening for you. If not, Terrell, get in line with everybody else.

TERRELL BROWN: There we go and some folks probably not too happy about that. Whit Johnson, at--

WHIT JOHNSON: Yeah.

TERRELL BROWN: --Reagan National Airport this morning. Whit, good to see you. Thanks.

Many Thanksgiving travelers are out West. So those that are out West to getting hung up, there's a powerful storm that's bashing the Northern Rockies this morning. Blizzard warnings have been out all night in Utah. The snow started falling last night. Two interstate highways were shut down for a while. It's the same storm that has caused huge problems in the Seattle area. It's blamed for at least three deaths in Washington State.

Across the Pacific, South Korean officials say the bodies of two civilians have been found. Those bodies were on the island in North Korean forces shelled on Tuesday. Survivors of the shelling have been evacuated to the South Korean mainland. Both countries are still on high alert. President Obama sends a U.S. aircraft carrier group to the area. The President says he wants to see more international pressure on North Korea to back off.

JUAN ZARATE (CBS News National Security Analyst): To get what it wants and what it needs, it needs to make noise and it's willing to take the world to the brink of war to do it.

TERRELL BROWN: And North Korean official say the South fired the first shots, South Korea's government denies that. The hour-long shootout was one of the worst Korean border incidents in more than fifty years.

There will be no miracle for the twenty-nine trapped miners in New Zealand. There was a second explosion inside that coal mine. Officials say none of the miners could have survived today's explosion. New Zealand's prime minister calls it a national tragedy. The second blast happened a few hours after workers finished drilling a small hole down into the mine. Officials say rescue efforts didn't cause that explosion.

Seattle student Amanda Knox returned to court this morning in Perugia, Italy. She

was convicted of killing a college roommate nearly a year ago. Knox is appealing her conviction and twenty-six-year prison sentence. Her lawyers are trying to bring in new evidence and new witnesses. It is possible that the court will impose an even longer sentence.

Meanwhile in Texas this morning, a sexual-abuse case against a Roman Catholic priest has turned into an alleged murder for hire plot. Police say John Fiala offered a neighbor five thousand dollars to kill a teenaged boy who suing him. The boy claimed the priest abused him at gunpoint. The neighbor called police who set up a sting and arrested Fiala. The teenager's lawyer says the priest first tried to intimidate the alleged victim two years ago.

TOM RHODES: Fiala told him in no uncertain terms, if he told anybody what happened or reported it, he would kill him. Then on other occasions he said he would kill his girlfriend. On other occasions, he said he would kill members of his family.

TERRELL BROWN: Rhodes claims that church officials knew more than twenty years ago that Fiala was a danger to children.

TERRELL BROWN: CBS MoneyWatch time now this morning. Stocks in Asia mostly lower. Ashley Morrison is here in New York with that. Ash, good morning to you.

ASHLEY MORRISON: Good morning to you, Terrell. Well, investors in Asia were cautious a day after the standoff between North and South Korea. Japan's Nikkei lost nearly one percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended up half a percent.

Well, today Wall Street gets a full plate of news. And the Labor Department releases the weekly jobless claim numbers a day early because of the holiday. And the Commerce Department has new reports on Home sales, durable goods and personal income.

On Tuesday, stocks took a beating. The Dow sank hundred and forty-two points while the NASDAQ gave back thirty-seven.

The Federal Reserve is growing more pessimistic about the economic recovery. The Central Bank now predicts the economy will grow no more than two and half percent this year. That's down sharply from earlier projections. The Fed also expects unemployment to stay high through next year and inflation to remain low.

GM speeding up on the road to recovery. The automaker plans to rehire nearly two hundred workers in Flint, Michigan, to make engines for the Chevrolet Volt electric car and Chevrolet Cruze compact. Also, The Treasury Department announced Tuesday that General Motors has paid back almost twelve billion dollars in taxpayer aid. GM raised the money through its initial public offering of stock last week. The government put almost fifty billion dollars into GM as part of its bailout.

The Beatles may be wondering why they waited so long to go on iTunes. Apple says it sold more than two million Beatles songs and more than five-- four- hundred and

fifty thousand albums in their first week on iTunes. The top-selling album was Abbey Road. The best-selling single was Here Comes the Sun .

And, normally when it comes to technology, what's new is king but not this time. The very first Apple computer ever made, the Apple 1, sold at an auction in London yesterday for two hundred and ten thousand dollars. It came with its original packaging and a sales letter from Steve Jobs, the winning bidder, an Italian collector plans to restore it to working condition.

And Terrell, the only problem that is, when they have breakdowns in the computers. How are you going to find someone to fix it with the parts?

TERRELL BROWN: That's right. It's all dated at this point now. But Ashley, it kind of giving you--

ASHLEY MORRISON: We have--

TERRELL BROWN: --a little bit of inspiration to go out and find the oldest cell phone that you can find in the United States, you've had or anything old that you had and keep it and then sell it later on , right?

ASHLEY MORRISON: And then try to use it. Can you hear me? Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now? Whip it out, it's like huge--

TERRELL BROWN: Right, Ashley Morrison--

ASHLEY MORRISON: I-- I know what to get you for Christmas now.

TERRELL BROWN: Exactly, that's right. Go and find the oldest thing in your house and toss it over. I'll take it.

ASHLEY MORRISON: Right.

TERRELL BROWN: Ashley Morrison here in New York. Appreciate it. Thank you.

Take a quick break here this morning. Just ahead in the MORNING NEWS, 911 considers moving into the Twenty-first Century.

Plus, the search for clues in a costly pizza prank. The answer may be blowing in the wind.

First, though. Byron Pitts with a preview of tonight's CBS EVENING NEWS.

BYRON PITTS: It was called harvest of shame, a CBS News documentary about migrant workers in the U.S. It aired fifty years ago this week. Tonight, an update on the CBS EVENING NEWS with Katie Couric.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

TERRELL BROWN: All right. So here in New York City, just before Thanksgiving, some wild turkeys are really pushing their luck. A group of these guys invaded a residential neighborhood on Staten Island. Some have been there for years. They gather on people's lawns and run through the streets and just in case you are wondering, these birds are protected by law. So ideally, they shouldn't end up on anyone's dinner table tomorrow. The key word shouldn't.

TERRELL BROWN: For most Americans, some serious holiday shopping is on tap after Thanksgiving. So what's at the top of the gift wish list this season? It's not the iPad or cashmere sweater. The most popular gifts might be something that fits neatly in your wallet or purse. Manuel Gallegus reports.

(Begin VT)

MANUEL GALLEGUS: It's the modern day version of a blank check, which is why Americans are snapping up gift cards faster than ever.

WOMAN ?1: They like to be able to pick out what they want and don't have to return everything. So it works out perfectly.

MANUEL GALLEGUS: Retail analysts expect shoppers to spend an average of one hundred and forty-five dollars each on gift cards this year. That's up about four percent from last year. And it adds up to nearly twenty-five billion dollars for the holiday season. All that, even though last year's gift cards might still be sitting in a drawer

TOD MARKS (Consumer Reports): one of the most frequently purchased and frequently desired gifts but yet two-thirds of Americans who had a gift card last year have, you know, yet to spend one of them.

MANUEL GALLEGUS: Over the past two years, gift card sales were starting to cool. But people are spending more now. And they're getting new protections from the government.

Under the new Credit CARD Act, gift cards can't expire for at least five years from the date of purchase. If there are fees, they have to be printed on the card or its packaging. And there has to be a toll-free number for questions. If you're shopping for a gift card, experts say, request one from behind the counter, rather than on the rack. That's to make sure no scammers have copied the card number. And remember, not everyone's a fan.

WOMAN ?2: I actually don't really like it. I feel like it's impersonal.

MANUEL GALLEGUS: Even so, gift cards have been the most requested present four years in a row by the latest count, fifty-seven percent of Americans are asking for plastic.

Manuel Gallegus, CBS News, New York.

(End VT)

TERRELL BROWN: There's a pizza mystery in Massachusetts. Antonio's Pizza in Amherst took a big order Friday night one hundred seventy-eight pizzas and replaced by a man caught on the shop's security camera. He claimed to be singer Bob Dylan's Tour Manager. He said he wanted to feed the crew at the Dylan's band played at the University of Massachusetts. Pizzeria manager didn't think it was a prank, so he didn't ask for a deposit.

SEAN MCELLIGOTT (Antonio's Pizza): All of our guys were excited to make food for some-- someone famous. And, we consider it the best pizza around and we liked to show off.

TERRELL BROWN: Issue here is, unfortunately, no one came to pick up the pizzas or pay for them. Some of the pizzas were donated but most of the one hundred seventy-eight pies were thrown out. The restaurant was out almost four thousand dollars.

The government is calling for next generation 911. The call centers that handle 911 emergency calls around the country are not able to handle the newest technology. More than seventy percent of 911 calls are made through a mobile phone. But you can't use texting or other functions to make an emergency call. Proposal to update the system would allow texts, videos and photos to be sent to 911 dispatchers by 2020.

Straight ahead on your Wednesday, we'll have your weather forecast.

And, in sports, a major upset in college basketball.

We'll be right back.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

TERRELL BROWN: (AUDIO CUT)--check of the national forecast. The latest satellite picture shows clouds over the western half of the country, while back East it's clear from New York down to Florida. Later today, travel conditions could get rough in the Midwest as a storm system pushes through. Thunderstorms expected in the Mississippi River Valley and areas along the Gulf Coast will see highs in the eighties.

In sports this morning, Connecticut upset number two Michigan State. To the highlights, Kemba Walker of the Huskies scored thirty points against the Spartans. He knocked down a big jumper with less than a minute left. UConn edged Michigan State, 70 to 67.

Number one ranked Duke easily beat number four Kansas State 82-68. Duke's coach, Mike Krzyzewski now the fifth coach to win eight hundred games at one school. He had eight hundred seventy-three total victories and is third place on the all-time list of winning coaches.

In the NBA, Washington beat Philadelphia in overtime. Nick Young of the Wizards hit a three-point shot in the closing seconds of overtime money. Washington topped Philadelphia, 116 to 114.

Josh Hamilton won the American League Most Valuable Player Award. Hamilton of Texas won the batting title with a three-fifty-nine average. He led the league in slugging percentage and helped the Rangers to the World Series for the first time.

When we return this morning, we get another look at this morning's top stories.

And will she or won't she? Sarah Palin's new book tour raises more questions about her plans for 2012.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

TERRELL BROWN: Here's another look at this morning's top stories. Airports are bracing for big holiday crowds and the possibility of widespread protests against tighter screening policies and new airport scanners. Passenger rights group is urging flyers to ask for time-consuming security pat downs.

Meanwhile, the powerful snowstorm that tied up travel in the Pacific Northwest is now blasting the Northern Rockies. Some interstates in Utah were forced to close overnight.

Former Alaska governor Sarah Palin kicked off her new book tour in Phoenix today. The tour would take her across the country some say it's a dry run for a presidential bid. Kendis Gibson reports.

(Begin VT)

SARAH PALIN: Thank you so much.

KENDIS GIBSON: It's billed as a national book tour for Sarah Palin.

SARAH PALIN: Thank you very much for that.

KENDIS GIBSON: But has all the trappings of a presidential campaign. Media from around the world and enthusiastic crowds showed up for her first stop in Phoenix Tuesday night.

MAN: This is incredible. She's an American hero.

WOMAN: It was awesome. She's just an awesome lady.

KENDIS GIBSON: Fans lined up fifteen hours in advance for Palin's early evening appearance, hoping for an autographed copy of her new book *America By Heart*. The book and tour come on the heels of a very successful midterm election season for the former Alaska governor. Half of the Tea Party candidates Palin supported were elected to office. And with an itinerary taking her to Iowa, South Carolina and

many other early presidential primary and caucus states, political experts suspect she's definitely testing the waters. But even some of her staunchest supporters don't think she's ready to be president.

ROBERT GATES (Palin Fan): I think she'd be better going on campaigning for whoever is going to get the election. I think she can draw more interest that way.

KENDIS GIBSON: Whatever she decides, there's little doubt Sarah Palin will be a factor in the next presidential race.

Kendis Gibson, CBS News, Phoenix.

(End VT)

TERRELL BROWN: Meantime, Sarah Palin said she's so proud of her daughter Bristol, even though she went home empty handed in the finale of the reality show, Dancing with the Stars.

(Excerpt from Dancing With the Stars; BBC Worldwide Limited/ABC)

TERRELL BROWN: Palin ended up in third place last night. It was controversial that she even made it that far in the competition to begin with but as for the winner it came down between the Disney star Kyle Massey and Dirty Dancing actress, Jennifer Grey.

(Excerpt from Dancing with the Stars; BBC Worldwide Limited/ABC)

TERRELL BROWN: The fifty-year-old Grey performed her dances injured. Get this, she suffered a ruptured disk in her spine and a torn knee tendon. She managed to perform a perfect score on her waltz.

Amazing.

This morning on THE EARLY SHOW, actor Jake Gyllenhaal from the new movie Love and Other Drugs.

I'm Terrell Brown. This is the CBS MORNING NEWS.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

TERRELL BROWN: This is what I'm talking about--high stepping right here. The couple doing a mean Salsa. They were trying to set a world record dancing over the city of Chicago on the ledge of the Willis Tower Skydeck. Professional dancers made it look easy, more than thirteen hundred feet in the air. The key, I guess, any good dancer will tell you this, don't look down.

For Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton, there's plenty of work to look forward to, especially since they set a day and place for their much- anticipated wedding. Mark Phillips reports from London.

(Begin VT)

MARK PHILLIPS: Unlike her granddaughter-in-law to be the queen was not checking out the wedding facilities at Westminster Abbey when she attended a Church of England function. It was Kate Middleton who had provided a major wedding location hint when she visited last week. But now it's official. The invitations perhaps like this one can go out. William and Kate will join the long list of royals who have used the Abbey for nine weddings, thirty-eight coronations and seventeen funerals over a thousand years. The Queen herself was married here to the then Philip Mountbatten.

MAN: Side by side they appear heading the procession down the nave.

MARK PHILLIPS: And William's been here before too. Once at his uncle Prince Andrew's failed marriage to Sarah Ferguson. That's him as a child behind then happy couple. And that's him at his mother Princess Diana's Abbey funeral when he was just fifteen.

Westminster Abbey was always the odds-on favorite for the wedding, although, it's a brave choice for William because of his very personal tragic memories here. Still, the other possibility, Saint Paul's Cathedral in marital omens at least was possibly a worst choice.

St. Paul's where Williams parents married and we know how that ended. Both of the London's big Cathedrals come with royal baggage.

RACHEL JOHNSON (Editor, The Lady): They're both in a sense associated. I don't want to say tainted--

MARK PHILLIPS: Hm.

RACHEL JOHNSON: --with Princess Diana and that doomed marriage. I mean, we know that Kate Middleton has got the ring of doom already on her engagement, thank god.

MARK PHILLIPS: Kate may now wear Diana's engagement ring, but will this wedding in these tough times be another fairytale extravaganza.

DAVID STARKEY (Royal Historian): The word fairytale hung over them like the-- the moment at which the bad fairy appears your wedding and lays a curse upon you.

MARK PHILLIPS: But are we stuck with it?

DAVID STARKEY: Ah, we are.

MARK PHILLIPS: For the record, the Queen and to a lesser extent, Kate's parents will cover the wedding costs, except for the expected one-hundred- million-dollars so security bill. Is that Her Majesty making her first down payment on the Abbey's

collection plate?

Mark Phillips, CBS News, London.

(End VT)

TERRELL BROWN: Coming up a little later on THE EARLY SHOW, a live report from Italy, Amanda Knox's appeals trial opening today and an interview with Knox's parents as well on THE EARLY SHOW. Also, shoppers get ready, tips some where to find the best Black Friday sales offering rock-bottom prices on your favorite items. And, actor Jake Gyllenhaal from the new magic comedy, Love and Other Drugs stops by. All that and more coming up on THE EARLY SHOW.

That is the CBS MORNING NEWS for this Wednesday. I'm Terrell Brown. Take care, everybody.

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