

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA OCTOBER 16-31 PART 2

10/16/09

DHS RESHAPES ITS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

VO: 24

A controversial federal program that deputizes state and local law enforcement agents to catch illegal immigrants is expanding under the Obama administration, despite changes announced this summer intended to curb alleged racial profiling and other police abuses. The Department of Homeland Security is expected to report Friday morning that a small number of the 66 participating agencies have dropped out because of the new federal requirements, officials said. And those losses are offset by applications from 13 additional police and sheriff's departments, a federal official said, speaking on condition of anonymity before the formal announcement.

SMOKING BANS REDUCE HEART ATTACKS: STUDY

VO: 25

Bans on public places really do work at reducing heart attacks from secondhand smoke, a major study finds. Smoke-free policies can reduce the risk of heart attack by up to 47 percent and significantly reduce the likelihood of other heart problems, according to a report released Thursday by the U.S. Institute of Medicine (IOM). The report also found compelling evidence that even a brief exposure to secondhand smoke can trigger a heart attack.

FDA WARNS AGAINST BUYING H1N1 TREATMENTS ONLINE

VO: 18

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today warned consumers to use extreme care when purchasing any products over the Internet that claim to diagnose, prevent, treat or cure the H1N1 influenza virus. The warning comes after the FDA recently purchased and analyzed several products represented online as Tamiflu (oseltamivir), which may pose risks to patients. One of the orders, which arrived in an unmarked envelope with a postmark from India, consisted of unlabeled, white tablets taped between two pieces of paper.

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10/19/09

NEW MEDICAL MARIJUANA POLICY ISSUED

VO: 30

The Obama administration will not seek to arrest medical marijuana users and suppliers as long as they closely conform to state laws. The Justice Department is set to issue new policy guidelines on medical marijuana Monday. Two department officials described the new policy to The Associated Press, saying federal prosecutors will be told it is not a good use of their time to arrest people who use or provide medical marijuana in compliance with state laws. The new policy is a significant departure from the Bush administration, which insisted it would continue to enforce federal anti-pot laws regardless of state codes. Fourteen states allow some use of marijuana for medical purposes.

BARACK OBAMA CONSIDERING ANOTHER STIMULUS PACKAGE

VO: 23

President Barack Obama is considering all options to create jobs, including another stimulus package, while trying to pull the out of a deep recession and deal with a record deficit, White House advisers said on Sunday. With more than half of the \$787 billion recovery package yet to be spent, Obama aides said the administration is not ready to commit to additional measures.

WHITE HOUSE SAYS STIMULUS SAVING EDUCATION JOBS

VO: 21

The Obama administration said on Monday its economic stimulus had saved or created 250,000 education jobs, as it sought to push back against Republicans who contend the package was wasteful and had not worked. Faced with pressure to act to help spur job growth with the U.S. unemployment rate at 9.8 percent, President Barack Obama is considering new steps to help the economy, on top of the \$787 billion stimulus package passed earlier this year.

TEXAS POLICE IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

PEDRO ROJAS / HOUSTON, TEXAS

PKG 1:58

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

INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

RYAN DOOLEY & MARTHA PACHECO / MIAMI, FLORIDA

INTERVIEW 5:00MIN. APPROX.

Under the laws of the United States and many foreign countries, international parental child abduction is crime. Removing a child from the United States against another parent's wishes can be considered a crime in every U.S. state. In some cases an abducting parent may be charged with a Federal crime under the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act (IPKCA). This can be the case even when neither parent holds a custody decree prior to the abduction. Nevertheless, a custody decree can be helpful to prevent international parental child abduction, or to recover your child if he/she is abducted.

INFLUENZA A H1N1

DR. JORGE ARANA / ATLANTA, GEORGIA

INTERVIEW 5:00MIN. APPROX.

This flu season, scientists expect both 2009 H1N1 flu and seasonal flu to cause more people to get sick than a regular flu season. More hospital stays and deaths may also occur. Vaccines are the most important tool we have for preventing influenza. This season, there is a seasonal flu vaccine to protect against seasonal flu viruses and a 2009 H1N1 vaccine to protect against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus (sometimes called "swine flu"). Each seasonal influenza vaccine contains three influenza viruses-one A (H3N2) virus, one regular seasonal A (H1N1) virus (not the 2009 H1N1 virus), and one B virus. The viruses in the vaccine change each year based on international surveillance and scientists' estimations about which types and strains of viruses will circulate in a given year. About 2 weeks after vaccination, antibodies that provide protection against influenza virus infection develop in the body.

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10/20/09

MORTGAGE HELP

VO :21

Home buyers, as well as renters, could benefit from a program being unveiled today by the Obama administration. Officials say the goal is to provide hundreds of thousands of affordable mortgages for working families, and to allow the development or rehabilitation of tens of thousands of affordable rental properties. The program will operate under a law passed last year to bolster the housing industry. It will feature two parts, a new bond purchase program to support new lending by housing finance agencies and a temporary credit and liquidity program to improve access by housing agencies to credit sources for their existing bonds.

HEALTHCARE POLL

VO :27

A new poll suggests more and more Americans are worried about losing their current health care coverage. As the health care debate nears the floor of the Senate, the poll from the nonpartisan Robert Wood Johnson Foundation finds conflicting views on whether an overhaul will help, make things worse or do nothing. About one-third of respondents say they're worried about losing current coverage in the next 12 months. That's a slight increase from 29 percent in August. The share who say they're worried has gone up by 11 percentage points since spring. Forty percent of young adults surveyed say they're concerned, but even 29 percent of seniors say they're worried, despite having taxpayer-subsidized coverage through Medicare.

STUDY: STATES CAN'T AFFORD DEATH PENALTY

VO :21

Death penalty costs can average \$10M more per year per state than life terms. Eleven state legislatures have considered repealing the death penalty this year. Study relied on U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics data from 33 large urban counties.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

VO :24

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

RECALL BABY FOOD

VO :19

There's a national baby food recall. Plum Organics is recalling some of its apple and carrot portable pouch baby food because of concerns over possible botulism contamination. The product was sold individually throughout the country at Toys-R-Us and Babies-R-Us stores. The California-based company says the product did not meet the FDA guidelines for proper acidity level, leaving it vulnerable to botulism contamination. Botulism is a serious and sometimes life-threatening condition. Consumers should not use these products, even if they appear to be normal, because of the possible health risk. No illnesses have been reported in connection with the baby food, and the company says no other Plum Organics products are affected.

AIDS VACCINE

VO :26

Scientists say further analysis of tests on an experimental AIDS vaccine offer disappointment and cause for optimism. The latest results confirm that it is only marginally effective and suggest that its protection against HIV infection may wane over time. But scientists say one exciting part is that the vaccine does seem to have some effect, the first time that's happened. Scientists also think blood samples from the trial may show how to make a vaccine that does a better job. The results also hint that the vaccine may work better in the general population than in those at higher risk of infection. The test was done using thousands of HIV-negative men and women in Thailand ages 18 to 30 at average risk of becoming infected.

SWINE FLU-NURSES

VO :31

A nurses' union is threatening a one-day strike at 34 hospitals across California, accusing them of poor swine flu preparedness. California Nurses Association spokesman Chuck Idelson says up to 16,000 registered nurses will strike on Oct. 30 if federal swine flu recommendations aren't written into their contracts. Idelson said Monday that nurses have complained about poor access to protective masks since a Sacramento nurse died in July after contracting swine flu. Catholic

Healthcare West runs 28 of the hospitals expected to be affected by the strike. Hospital chain spokeswoman Jill Dryer says contract negotiations have been under way since March and include a commitment to provide safe working environments for nurses.

FLU HOSPITAL VISITORS

VO :24

Hospitals around the country are turning away visiting children and tightening restrictions on adults, too, in hopes of limiting the spread of swine flu in the hallways. Utah and Colorado are recommending visitor limits for hospitals statewide. But mostly it's a hospital-by-hospital decision. Some hospitals are trying education instead of rules, posting signs that urge people of any age to postpone that visit if they have a sniffle or cough. But there's little science the limits work. Consequently, neither the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nor the American Hospital Association have set guidelines on the issue.

H1N1 LATEST

FERNANDO PIZARRO / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:49

The pandemic H1N1 flu virus was confirmed for the first time Monday in a U.S. hog, which was exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair where four teenagers became sick, the Agriculture Department said Monday. USDA said the discovery does not suggest infection of commercial pig herds raised for slaughter. Health officials say the virus, originally known as swine flu, is not linked to meat products.

RAISING SCHOLARSHIP MONEY

LUIS MEGID/ BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:58

Catalino Tapia arrived in America from Mexico at the age of 20 with six dollars in his pocket and a sixth grade education. He worked hard, eventually starting his own gardening business to support his wife and two sons. His proudest moment came when his son graduated from UC Berkeley law school. It was also pivotal. Tapia decided that more young Latinos should have the chance to reach the same heights. He launched the Bay Area Gardeners' Foundation, a nonprofit comprised of area gardeners that provide scholarships to low-income Latinos

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10/21/09

OBAMA SMALL BUSINESS

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ - NEW YORK

PKG 2:10

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

US AUTO BAILOUT

VO: 33

U.S. stocks rose Wednesday, boosted by progress on a bailout of the U.S. auto industry, even as opposition to the plan from several Senate Republicans shaved earlier gains. "It appears that there's some sort of a snag," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners. "But the market knows that [the bailout] is going to happen in one shape or another." A jump in the price of oil also helped lift energy shares, providing support for the overall market, thanks to "President-elect Obama's plan to boost this economy," Cardillo added.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

VO:23

Fewer states posted an increase in unemployment in September, even as the national rate recently hit a 26-year high of 9.8%. Jobless rates increased in 23 states and the District of Columbia last month, according to a report released Wednesday by the Labor Department. Additionally, 19 states posted a decrease in unemployment, and eight states had rates hold steady in September. That's compared to August, when 27 states and the District of Columbia recorded month-over-month unemployment rate increases.

HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL

VO:21

A key U.S. Senate committee endorsed a sweeping healthcare overhaul on Tuesday, gaining the support of an influential Republican and delivering President Barack Obama a victory on his top domestic priority. The Democratic-controlled Senate Finance Committee approved the measure by 14-9, with Senator Olympia Snowe becoming the first Republican in Congress to back a healthcare reform bill. Snowe, who had been courted by Obama and his fellow Democrats, said she backed the plan with reservations and could not guarantee her continued support as the overhaul advances through Congress. "My vote today is my vote today. It doesn't forecast what my vote will be tomorrow," Snowe said, warning there was still a long road ahead for healthcare reform.

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10/22/09

FINANCIAL OVERHAUL

VO: 21

A House committee is expected to approve a bill today creating a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency. The agency would regulate popular financial products like mortgages, credit cards and savings accounts. The vote would be a victory for President Barack Obama, who has made the agency a top priority in his effort to tighten the rules governing Wall Street and prevent another economic crisis. But there's plenty of fine prints that will limit the new agency's reach.

HOMEBUYERS TAX CREDIT

VO: 29

House panel is looking into concerns of fraud among those taking advantage of the first-time homebuyer tax credit. The program has been central to the Obama administration's effort to get the housing market back on track. The Ways and Means subcommittee hearing today comes as Congress considers whether to extend, and possibly expand, a stimulus act provision that allows qualified first-time homebuyers a tax credit of up to \$8,000. That benefit is scheduled to expire at the end of November.

OBAMA-EXECUTIVE PAY

VO: 22

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

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10/23/09

HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL

VO: 25

Members of the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday made slow progress on a sweeping health-care overhaul bill, turning aside an amendment that would have further delayed the measure and preparing for bigger, more-contentious amendments to come. Senators narrowly shot down an amendment by Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., that would have made the bill's language public ahead of the vote, as well as the final cost analysis from the Congressional Budget Office. Bunning wanted both to be posted on the committee's Web site for 72 hours before members take a final vote. But Sen. Max Baucus, the Montana Democrat who chairs the panel, is seeking to vote on the bill this week.

GAYS-HATE CRIMES

VO: 24

a vote of 68-29, the U.S. Senate passed a hate crimes bill making violence against gays and lesbians a Federal crime on Thursday. The bill is expected to be signed by President Obama. The passage of the bill is seen as a victory for civil rights groups that have long sought to expand the Federal statute beyond attacks motivated by religion, race, color or national origin. Named in honor of Matthew Shepard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming who was beaten to death in 1998, and for James Byrd Jr., an African American in Texas who was chained to a pickup and dragged to death the same year, the bill was attached to a \$680-billion Pentagon measure.

GAY MARRIAGE-CENSUS

VO: 25

The U.S. Census Bureau is making an unprecedented effort to include same-sex couples in next year's national population count, but legally married gay couples won't show up as such in the official once-a-decade tally, bureau representatives said Thursday. Statistical problems related to the development of the 2010 census form and the evolving legal state of same-sex relationships led Census officials to conclude that trying to include married gay couples in the overall snapshot of household marital status could yield an inaccurate number, said Gary Gates, a University of California, Los Angeles demographer who has been advising the bureau on gay issues.

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10/26/09

H1N1 NOW NATIONAL EMERGENCY

VO :30

President Barack Obama has declared 2009 H1N1 swine flu a national emergency, the White House said. The declaration will make it easier for U.S. medical facilities to handle a surge in flu patients by allowing the waiver of some requirements of Medicare, Medicaid and other federal health insurance programs as needed, the White House said in a statement.

VITAMIN D KIDS

VO :30

A recent analysis suggests at least one in five U.S. children aged 1 to 11 don't get enough vitamin D and the main author says the number is between 80 and 90 percent for minority kids. A vitamin D deficiency could put kids at risk for a variety of health problems including weak bones. Dr. Jonathan Mansbach calls the statistics for black and Hispanic children "astounding numbers" that should serve as a call to action. He's a researcher at Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital in Boston. Vitamin D deficiency in children, teens and adults is a concern because of recent studies suggesting the vitamin might help prevent serious diseases, including infections, diabetes and even some cancers. Exactly how much vitamin D children and adults should get, and defining when they are deficient, is still under debate.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

VO :28

Senate Democrats are trying again this week to extend unemployment benefits. Democrats are pushing a bill that would extend expiring benefits for 14 weeks in all states and an extra six weeks in states where unemployment is above 8 1/2 percent. Unhappy with how Democrats' planned to pay for the extended benefits, Republicans refused to let the benefits extension move ahead via unanimous consent. Democrats now indicate they're now open to Republican amendments. One to be offered would extend the tax credit for first time homebuyers, which is set to expire next month.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WASTES UP TO \$800 BILLION A YEAR

VO :27

The U.S. healthcare system is just as wasteful as President Barack Obama says it is, and proposed reforms could be paid for by fixing some of the most obvious inefficiencies, preventing mistakes and fighting fraud, according to a Thomson Reuters report released. The U.S. healthcare system wastes between \$505 billion and \$850 billion every year, the report from Robert Kelley, vice president of healthcare analytics at Thomson Reuters, found.

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10/27/09

US IMMIGRATION WORKERS

VO :26

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

RECESSION OVER

VO :22

Economic numbers coming out in the next week or so are expected to make it technically official the recession is over, but not the pain. This week, the government will be releasing figures expected to show the Gross Domestic Product growing at an annual rate of around 3 percent. But next week, the government issues another set of numbers expected to show unemployment rising toward and possibly passing a clearly recessionary 10 percent. Such seemingly contradictory assertions raise questions about economic scorekeeping. For his part, economist James K. Galbraith says any real return to prosperity could be years away, when unemployment gets back around 4 percent.

SLOWER DEVELOPMENT ON HISPANIC CHILDREN

VO :20

A study reveals that the slow understanding of language and reasoning is higher on hispanic children of two or three years old, in comparison with the white minors of the same age. The experts attribute this slow development to low levels of maternal education, lack of educative practice at home and to the numerous things that a family can be.

ADVANCE PAYMENT PLANS FOR UNIVERSITIES MORE EXPENSIVE

VO :32

Advance payment plans for state universities increased price this year in Florida, up to four times in some cases. The advance payment plan been pleased plan to cover in its totality the matriculation that receives the universities, raised of "four thousands 600" dollars for new born the last year, to near " veinte" thousand dollars this year. And that besides the basic quota of the state universities, that also is going to increase. the increases must that the legislature him this retiring the state endorsement to the universities.

POLICE HEADS PRO THE REFORMATION IMMIGRATION

VO :25

More than 50 heads and police bailiffs of great cities and small towns has been united to civil and communitarian the coalition of organization that promote the migratory reformation. They have added organizations of black and Latin police that conform the call "Initiative of participation of agencies of" law. Many of these agents reject the controversial programs well-known like 287g, that allows the local police to exert migratory functions like arrests of undocumented people.

CAMPAIGN TARGETS MORTGAGE MODIFICATION SCAMS**VO :26**

A national housing nonprofit has launched an education campaign in Southern California to combat scams targeting homeowners in peril of foreclosure. Loan modification fraud is on the rise, costing troubled homeowners thousands of dollars up front for mediation and counseling services that are provided free by federally approved nonprofits.

AIRLINES CHARGE**VO :19**

Some airlines charge \$25 just to check a bag. Southwest just started a sale where \$25 will get you from point A to Point B on certain routes. Dallas-based Southwest today announced one-way travel as low as \$25, for travel up to 375 miles. The price is \$50 for travel between 375 and 549 miles, and \$75 for flights between 550 and 999 miles.

STUDENTS E-COLI**VO :19**

Massachusetts health officials say a meat company is voluntarily recalling beef products after more than 20 school children and adults from Rhode Island were sickened by E. coli. Department of Public Health spokeswoman Jennifer Manley said that South Shore Meat Company of Brockton is recalling ground beef and other products after tests showed the presence of E. coli in leftover samples. Those sickened include two sixth-graders, who were hospitalized after consuming contaminated meat during a field trip earlier this month. Massachusetts officials say tests showed the ground beef collected at the camp is the same strain of E. coli confirmed in two of the children. E. coli can cause serious illness in young children, the elderly or those with compromised immune systems.

DODD CALLS FOR INTERIM FREEZE ON CREDIT CARD FEES AND RATES**VO :29**

Senator Christopher J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, on Monday proposed freezing interest rates and fees on existing credit balances until a new law took effect. Senator Dodd, the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, said his bill was necessary because banks were raising rates "to squeeze customers" before the remaining provisions of law took effect in February. The new credit card law, which was passed in May, seeks to stop banks from arbitrarily raising interest rates. Last week, the House Financial Services Committee passed legislation to move up the effective date for the credit card law, which will restrict interest rate increases and hidden fees, from Feb. 22 to Dec. 1. The measure is opposed by the banking industry, which says it will be difficult if not impossible to meet the expedited deadline.

NEW JOBS**BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ / NEW YORK****PKG 1:58**

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

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10/28/09

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

VO: 19

Legislation to extend unemployment benefits for out-of-work Americans has cleared a procedural hurdle in the Senate. Senate Democrats, saying that 7,000 people a day are exhausting their benefits, called on their colleagues to move quickly to a final vote. Republicans insisted they get a chance to offer amendments.

HOME PRICES

LUIS MEGID - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:33

Home prices rose for the third straight month in August, a key ingredient for a broad and sustained housing recovery. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index of 20 major cities climbed 1 percent from July to a seasonally adjusted reading of 144.5. While prices are down 11.4 percent from August a year ago, the annual declines have slowed since February.

SF BOARD CHANGES TACK ON IMMIGRANT MINORS

VO: 17

The Board of Supervisors gave final approval Tuesday to a measure that would keep law enforcement from turning over minors to immigration authorities unless they have been found guilty of a felony. The move pits the panel against Mayor Gavin Newsom and law enforcement by reversing his policy of turning over youths to Immigration and Customs Enforcement after their arrest. Newsom took the stance in 2008 after the city was accused of protecting young offenders such as Edwin Ramos from deportation. Ramos, an undocumented immigrant from El Salvador, was charged with felonies as a minor, but the sanctuary policy allowed the suspected gang member to stay in the U.S.

OBAMA TO SIGN DEFENSE BILL, HATE CRIME LEGISLATION

VO: 22

President Barack Obama is signing a big defense spending bill today that includes a hefty pay raise for the troops. The military pay increase of 3.4 percent exceeds inflation and is a half-percent more than even the president asked for. Lawmakers had their way on a number of spending items, though Obama did prevail in his fight to end production on the Cold War-era F-22 fighter.

GMAC ANOTHER BAILOUT

VO: 24

A Treasury Department spokesman confirms GMAC Financial Services is in talks with the Treasury Department for a third injection of taxpayer aid. The auto lender faces a November deadline to raise an \$11.5 billion cushion mandated by results of the government's "stress test" earlier this year.

PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS-KIDS

VO: 18

A worrisome effect is emerging for children on widely used psychiatric drugs -- major weight gain and obesity. A new study says many kids pack on nearly 20 pounds and become obese within just 11 weeks of taking such drugs. Dr. Christopher Varley, a psychiatrist with Seattle Children's Hospital, says occasionally, "you can actually see them grow between appointments." He says the study results are "sobering."

INSULIN SYRINGE RECALL

VO: 20

An Alabama company is recalling about 250 million Accusure insulin syringes it has distributed nationwide since January 2002. Huntsville-based Qualitest Pharmaceuticals says it's received about four complaints related to the needle detaching from the syringe, but no reports of injuries.

H1N1 LATEST

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ - NEW YORK

PKG 2:09

One scenario by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology forecasts that if 30% of the U.S. population contracts H1N1 flu, 90 million could get sick, 1.8 million would be hospitalized and 30,000 or more would die. The Trust for America's Health, a non-profit public-health advocacy group, reported in early October that if the infection rate hits 35%, many states may run out of hospital beds, forcing hospitals to begin canceling elective procedures. So far, hospitals have been taxed - but not to that degree.

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10/29/09

HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL

VO: 30

After months of contentious negotiating, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi prepared to unveil a retooled health care overhaul plan intended to bridge differences among Democrats and open a history-making floor debate on extending health insurance to nearly all Americans.

IMMIGRATION ID CARDS

VO: 26

Ten New Haven residents filed a lawsuit Wednesday accusing federal agents of violating their rights during an immigration raid they say was in retaliation for a city program that provided ID cards to foreigners in the country illegally -- the first of its kind in the nation. The sweeps in New Haven on June 6, 2007, came two days after the city approved issuing identification cards to all of its residents, regardless of immigration status. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have denied that the early morning raids were retaliatory, saying planning began the year before.

OBAMA STIMULUS JOBS

VO: 25

A review of jobs created or saved by President Barack Obama's economic recovery plan shows some of the numbers are overstated. The administration says recovery money has helped pay for more than 30,000 jobs. But The Associated Press found that a company in Colorado that said it created more than 4,300 had actually produced fewer than 1,000. A firm in Ohio that reported 54 jobs created only six.

SWINE FLU VACCINE/ US TO GET 3M DOSES

VO:20

Swiss drug-maker Novartis AG says it will deliver about 30 million doses of swine flu vaccine to the United States by the end of November. The company says in a statement Thursday that it already has shipped more than 7.5 million doses of pandemic vaccine to America and is on target with commitments made to the U.S. Novartis and other major swine flu vaccine producers have been hit by production delays.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT WARNS OF SWINE FLU PARTIES

VO:28

The Centers for Disease Control warns on its website about the new trend. Officials said some people are intentionally coming in contact with an infected person, in the hopes of getting a mild form of the virus. The thought is they will develop an immunity that could protect them if the strain becomes more severe. They said these parties are not a good idea. "There is no way to predict

what the outcome will be for an individual or, equally important, for others to whom the intentionally infected person may spread the virus," the website states.

DIABETES CAN BE DELAYED WITH DIET, EXERCISE

VO:24

People on the brink of developing diabetes who get a lot of support and encouragement to diet and exercise can turn things around and avoid the disease, U.S. researchers said on Wednesday. "Millions of people could delay diabetes for years and possibly prevent the disease altogether if they lost a modest amount of weight through diet and increased physical activity," said Dr. Griffin Rodgers, director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease.

SEX, ALCOHOL, FAT AMONG WORLD'S BIG KILLERS: WHO

VO: 24

Tackling just five health factors could prevent millions of premature deaths and increase global life expectancy by almost 5 years, the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) said Tuesday. Poor childhood nutrition, unsafe sex, alcohol, bad sanitation and hygiene, and high blood pressure are to blame for around a quarter of the 60 million premature deaths around the world each year, the WHO said in a report.

NO LINK SEEN BETWEEN COFFEE AND HEART FAILURE

VO: 23

Contrary to findings from an earlier study, new research suggests that coffee lovers do not face an increased risk of heart failure. Researchers found that among more than 37,000 middle-aged and older Swedish men, those who regularly drank coffee were no more likely to develop heart failure than those who infrequently, if ever, drank the beverage.

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10/30/09

OBAMA PREVIEW - RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS BILL

VO :19

President Barack Obama is set to sign an extension of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS bill. The legislation currently provides care, treatment and support services to nearly half a million people, most of whom are low-income. Later Friday, the president meets in the White House Situation Room with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to discuss Afghanistan and Pakistan. Vice President Joe Biden is expected to attend, along with all the major players except Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who's on a foreign trip.

HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

VO :28 & PKG 2:04

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

CENSUS COLLEGE STUDENTS

VO :28

Some are there because of the recession, and others despite it. Regardless, more young Americans than ever are in college especially community college, according to a new report. A record high of about 11.5 million Americans age 18 to 24, or nearly 40 percent, attended college

in October 2008, according to a study of Census data released Thursday by the Pew Research Center. Virtually all the increase of 300,000 students over the previous year came at two-year schools, while attendance at four-year schools remained flat.

CDC VACCINE ADVISORY

VO :26

CDC offers an update ON how the process of distribution of vaccines against the influenza h1 n1 goes. 16 thousand nurses of three chains of catholic hospitals of California and Nevada, today realise a day of labor unemployment and protests, by the lack of preparation of many medical centers to confront the pandemic of influenza h1 n1.

OVERDRAFT CHARGES HEARING

VO :15

A bipartisan legislative effort to reform credit card interchange fees and consumer credit card concerns (overdraft fees, interest rate hikes, curtailed lines of credit) is making headway in Congress, Politico.com reports. The tug-of-war is in response to the credit card rules that President Obama signed into law in May, and House Democrats are more determined than ever to accelerate their implementation date, according to the Capitol Hill news source.

ECONOMY GROWS LATEST

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ / NEW YORK

PKG 2:03

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said he sees positive signs that the economy is recovering, although the recession remains "alive and acute" for families dealing with unemployment and facing home foreclosure. In testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, Geithner said that Americans were saving much more and borrowing less from the rest of the world. The economy grew at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the third quarter of this year, the strongest rate of growth seen in two years.

H1N1: 6 MILLION CASES

VO :25

Health officials think that as many as 5.7 million Americans were infected with swine flu during the first few months of the pandemic. Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that between 1.8 million and 5.7 million Americans were infected from April through July. The estimate is the CDC's most specific calculation to date. Officials had simply been saying millions have been infected. The estimate is in an article in a CDC publication called Emerging Infectious Diseases.

STATIN DRUGS MAY LOWER DEATHS FROM FLU

VO :22

Patients taking statin drugs were almost 50 percent less likely to die from flu, researchers reported on Thursday in a study providing more evidence the cholesterol-lowering drugs help the body cope with infection. The findings are compelling enough to justify doing controlled studies in which some patients are given the drugs deliberately and some are not, said Meredith Vandermeer of the Oregon Public Health Division, who helped lead the study.

WHEN MOMS GET FLU SHOT, BABIES BENEFIT TOO

VO :17

When pregnant women get vaccinated against flu, their babies are bigger, healthier and less likely to be premature, researchers reported on Thursday. The studies show that influenza vaccines protect not only women, who are extremely vulnerable to flu when pregnant, but also their babies before and after birth, the researchers said. When moms get flu shot, babies benefit too.

CANCER ICE CREAM

VO: 17

Scientists of New Zealand are developing an ice cream that is so good for the health that could prescribe by the doctor. The frozen delight, called "recharge", use active ingredients of milky products to alleviate diarrhea, anemia and the lack of appetite in people with cancer who are put under chemotherapy.

=====END OF THE REPORT=====