

From: Rosyris Silva-Nazario
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 7:37 PM
To: Carole Bird
Subject: FCC REPORTS-DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS- DECEMBER 2010-PART 1

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA DECEMBER 1-15 PART I

12/01/2010

OBAMA IN BIPARTISAN MEETING LOURDES MELUZÁ/ WASHINGTON, DC PKG 2:15

Obama and Republican and Democratic congressional leaders are preparing for their first joint meeting since midterm elections altered the government's balance of power. The president and the House and Senate leaders from both parties will meet today at the White House to engage in talks about the Bush-era tax rates and a U.S.-Russia treaty to reduce nuclear weapons arsenals. The meeting will also help define the interaction between the White House and a divided Congress for the next two years. Republicans will take over control of the House in January and will gain seats in the Senate, weakening the Democrats' grip.

SENATE GOP LETTER CALLS FOR BLOCKING MOST BILLS VO: 22

Senate Republicans intend to block action on virtually all Democratic-backed legislation unrelated to tax cuts and government spending in the current postelection session of Congress, officials said Tuesday, adding that the leadership has quietly collected signatures on a letter pledging to carry out the strategy. If carried out, it would doom Democratic-backed attempts to end the Pentagon's practice of discharging openly gay members of the military service and give legal status to young illegal immigrants who join the military or attend college.

STATE BUDGETS-SURVEY VO: 25

A new report says state lawmakers around the country may have to cut more state services in coming years despite the recession's end. The report says states will have to deal with dwindling help from the federal government as well as a slow recovery in tax revenue. States will spend

about \$43 billion in economic stimulus money during the current fiscal year ending June 30. After that, they'll probably have to get by with less federal help. To deal with a sharp decline in tax revenue, most states have undertaken a series of program cuts and tax increases to balance budgets. Of the states that made midyear 2010 budget cuts, 35 reduced spending on elementary and secondary education, and 32 lowered spending on higher education.

REID IMMIGRATION STUDENTS

VO: 25

The top Senate Democrat says he'll force a test vote this week on a measure to give tens of thousands of young illegal immigrants a path to legal status. Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada says he'll move to schedule action on the so-called Dream Act. It would give more than 100,000 young immigrants brought to the United States before the age of 16 a chance to become legal residents if they attend college or join the military. It's unclear whether Reid could muster the 60 votes necessary to move to an up-or-down vote on the measure. It has some degree of bipartisan support, but is opposed by most Republicans and some Democrats who regard it as little more than an amnesty grant for illegal immigrants.

GAYS IN MILITARY

VO :25

The White House says President Barack Obama agrees with a Pentagon survey that overturning the military's ban on gay service members would not disrupt unit cohesion. Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said Obama continues to believe that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is divisive and should be overturned through the legislative process. Gibbs says the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" was discussed during Obama's meeting with bipartisan lawmakers Tuesday. Gibbs says Obama believes the ban on gays in the military can be repealed in the lame-duck session of Congress.

AMTRAK LIFTS BAN ON GUNS

VO :29

Amtrak travelers will soon be allowed to check guns and ammunition on some rail cars. The new policy takes effect Dec. 15. Congress passed a law in December 2009 requiring the change in policy as part of a transportation funding bill. A ban was put in place after 9/11 due to concerns that allowing weapons aboard the trains would increase the risk

of terrorism. The Transportation Security Administration already allows guns to be transported in checked baggage aboard airplanes under strict guidelines. Amtrak officials said the rail agency spent about \$2 million to implement the new policy, which included changes to its reservation system, the installation of "secure storage at checked baggage train stations" and modification for 142 baggage cars. Officials noted that checked baggage service is not available aboard all Amtrak trains or routes, but it must be available on all trains and at all stations in a person's itinerary if they wish to transport guns or ammunition.

**SENATE PASSES BILL TO BOOST FOOD SAFETY
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ/ NEW YORK
PKG 2:16**

The Senate has passed legislation to make food safer in the wake of deadly E. coli and salmonella outbreaks, potentially giving the government broad new powers to increase inspections of food processing facilities and force companies to recall tainted food. The \$1.4 billion bill, which would also place stricter standards on imported foods, passed the Senate 73-25. Supporters say passage is critical after widespread outbreaks in peanuts, eggs and produce. Those outbreaks have exposed a lack of resources and authority at the FDA as the embattled agency struggled to contain and trace the contaminated products. The agency rarely inspects many food facilities and farms, visiting some every decade or so and others not at all.

**STUDY LINKS FINGER LENGTH TO PROSTATE CANCER RISK
VO :19**

Men with long index fingers have a lower risk of prostate cancer, British scientists said on Wednesday, a finding that could be used to help select those who need regular screening for the disease. Researchers at Britain's Warwick University and the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) found that men whose index finger is longer than their ring finger were one-third less likely to develop the disease than men with the opposite pattern of finger lengths.

=====

12/02/2010

**FORECLOSURES SALES
VO :24**

The worst summer for home sales in decades also put a chill on foreclosure sales, even though average discounts on the distressed properties got bigger compared with other types of homes. RealtyTrac says foreclosure sales plunged 25 percent in the July-September quarter versus the April-June period. They tumbled 31 percent from the third quarter of last year. The foreclosure listing firm says sales of non-foreclosed properties fell 29 percent from the previous quarter and nearly 31 percent from the third quarter of last year. The decline in sales of bank-owned properties and other homes in some stage of foreclosure is in line with an overall housing market slowdown. That slowdown began after federal homebuyer tax credits expired in April.

=====

12/03/2010

**"DREAM ACT INTERVIEW"
JOSE PARRA FROM WASHINGTON, DC
INTERVIEW 4:00 & VO :31**

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is urging Congress to allow certain foreign-born young people who were illegally brought to the U.S. as children to become legal residents. She says it would help her department focus on deporting immigrants with criminal records. The Senate failed in September to pass what's known as the DREAM Act. It's unclear whether Congress will vote on it again before the year ends. The bill would apply to immigrants who arrived in the U.S. before age 16, have been here at least five years and have a U.S. high school diploma or the equivalent. It would let them become U.S. residents after they've spent two years in college or the military.

**OBAMA JOBS
VO :17**

President Barack Obama will make a statement on the monthly jobs numbers Friday. Before that, he will meet with senior advisers in the Oval Office. The nation's unemployment rate climbed to 9.8. The nation's unemployment rate climbed to 9.8 percent in November, a seven-month high, as hiring slowed. Employers added only 39,000 jobs last month, a sharp decline from the 172,000 created in October. The weakness was widespread. Retailers, factories, construction companies, financial firms and the government all cut jobs last month. Private companies -- the

backbone of the economy -- created 50,000 jobs. That was down significantly from the 160,000 private-sector jobs created in October and was the smallest gain since January. With hiring so weak, the unemployment rate rose from 9.6 percent to 9.8 percent. The jobless rate has now topped 9 percent for 19 straight months, the longest stretch on record.

EE. UU. NUTRITION

VO :23

The U.S. House of Representatives passed Thursday and sent to President Barack Obama a bill that boosts funding for the school lunch program by \$4.5 billion through 2020 and bans "junk" food from school buildings. Backers said it would be the first real increase in reimbursement rates for schools in 30 years and a step toward healthier meals. Obama was expected to sign the bill, which the Senate passed in August.

OBAMA BILL

VO :21

The Senate has sent a stopgap spending bill to President Barack Obama that's needed to prevent a government shutdown on Friday at midnight. The bill passed by a voice vote. It gives negotiators in the lame-duck Congress two more weeks to try to pass a bill funding the government for the rest of the budget year, which ends Sept. 30. If that fails, lawmakers would have to pass another stopgap measure to fund agency budgets into next year, when Republicans will control the House.

LATINO AND JOB LEADER

VO :25

By their own reckoning, Latinos living in the United States do not have a national leader. When asked in an open-ended question on a nationwide survey of Latinos to name the person they consider "the most important Latino leader in the country today," nearly two-thirds (64%) of Hispanics said they did not know. An additional 10% said "no one." The survey also explored the subject of leadership in another way. Survey respondents were presented with the names of eight prominent Hispanics and asked if they had heard of each. Those who said they had were then asked if they considered that person to be a leader. Of the eight prominent Hispanics tested in the survey, four were identified as leaders by between 20% and 50% of survey respondents. The other four were seen as leaders by fewer respondents

OK:KIDS USING NUTMEG TO GET HIGH?

VO :26

Kids are using a kitchen spice to get an unexpected kick. Nutmeg is being used as a drug - snorted, smoked or just straight up eaten to get a high. The right amount of the seemingly innocuous ingredient can give you hallucinations. Oklahoma's poison control center says those who try it often say it wasn't worth it. and it has the attention of Oklahoma law enforcement. although they say there's nothing illegal about it, it's what happens down the road that has them concerned.

CANCER RARE AFTER FERTILITY TREATMENT

VO :17

Fertility treatment drugs may not be tied to an increased risk of developing cancer, suggests a new study of more than 24,000 Swedish women treated with in vitro fertilization (IVF). Some prior studies had hinted at a link between fertility drug use and the development of breast, uterine and ovarian cancers, but the numbers of women followed in these studies were small, lead researcher Dr. Bengt Kallen of the University of Lund, in Sweden, noted in an email to Reuters Health.

PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS RISE IN THE U.S.

VO :24

While it remains rare for a woman in the U.S. to die from pregnancy complications, the national rate of pregnancy-related deaths appears to be on the upswing, a new government study finds. Researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that between 1998 and 2005, the rate of pregnancy-related deaths was 14.5 per 100,000 live births. And while that rate is low, it is higher than what has been seen in the past few decades.

BRAIN SCANS ACCURATE AT SPOTTING AUTISM: U.S. STUDY

VO :20

U.S. researchers are closing in on an accurate test for autism, a finding that could lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment. The test, which uses conventional magnetic resonance imaging or MRI machines, detected 94 percent of individuals with a high-functioning form of autism, they reported on Thursday.

=====

12/06/10

JOBLESS BENEFITS

VO: 15

As Congress hammers out a deal on extending the Bush-era tax cuts, it's also moving to keep benefits flowing to the unemployed. Both Democrats and Republicans appear to be uniting behind a plan to continue jobless benefits for millions of Americans whose checks have either run out or soon will. Friday's jump in the unemployment rate to 9.8 percent has put pressure on Republicans to agree to the president's demand that Congress extend unemployment insurance for another year

US TAXES

VO:20

A deal to extend expiring tax rates to all taxpayers as well as jobless benefits for millions of Americans could be reached this week. Democrats and Republicans appear to be close to a compromise, but differences remain over the details. The plan that's in the works would temporarily extend expiring tax rates to all taxpayers. Some Democrats continue to object to any plan that would continue Bush-era tax rates at the highest income levels. Without action, however, Congress faces the prospect of letting the tax rates revert to higher pre-2001 and 2003 levels, and delivering a tax hike to all taxpayers.

UNUSUAL METHODS HELPED ICE BREAK DEPORTATION RECORD, E-MAILS AND INTERVIEWS SHOW

VO: 30

For much of this year, the Obama administration touted its tougher-than-ever approach to immigration enforcement, culminating in a record number of deportations. But in reaching 392,862 deportations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement included more than 19,000 immigrants who had exited the previous fiscal year, according to agency statistics. ICE also ran a Mexican repatriation program five weeks longer than ever before, allowing the agency to count at least 6,500 exits that, without the program, would normally have been tallied by the U.S. Border Patrol.

BEATING HEART TRANSPLANTS

VO: 24

Doctors testing warm, beating hearts in transplant "beating heart" transplant to the standard method of stopping the heart and placing it in a cooler to get it to the recipient. Enrolled in the beating heart pilot study in the U.S. will be 128 patients randomly chosen nationwide. Instead of stopping the heart and putting it on ice in a \$35 cooler, the new technology calls for placing the organ in a special \$200,000 box that feeds it blood and keeps it warm and ticking outside the body.

MISCARRIAGE LINKED TO BROKEN HEARTS**VO:21**

Women with more than three spontaneous miscarriages were over five times more likely to suffer a heart attack later in life after adjusting for other factors, according to Dr. Elham Kharazmi of the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg, Germany, and colleagues. Induced abortion, though, appeared to have no link to heart attack risk, the group reported online in *Heart*. The link between recurrent pregnancy loss and cardiovascular disease may lie in common risk factors, perhaps because of the role of vascular health in placental function, they suggested.

=====

12/07/2010

GULF OIL SPILL-INVESTIGATION**VO: 25**

A federal panel investigating the cause of the rig explosion that set off the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill is set to question more BP and Transocean officials about the disaster. The panel also was expected to hear from two technicians known as mud loggers, who use an assortment of electronic instruments to monitor the drill bit for traces of oil or gas and check for concentrations of hydrocarbons in the drilling mud. Mud loggers are supposed to notify other personnel on a rig when gas levels may be reaching dangerous levels.

GOVERNOR PARDONS SIX IMMIGRANTS FACING DEPORTATION OVER OLD CRIMES**VO: 28**

Gov. David A. Paterson announced pardons on Monday for six immigrants facing deportation because of old criminal convictions, including a financial administrator at the City University of New York. The governor said the

pardons addressed "shortcomings in our federal immigration laws relating to deportation." Mr. Paterson began a special clemency process in the spring with the principal aim of helping permanent legal residents - green card holders - who were at risk of deportation because of long-ago or minor convictions.

DREAM ACT TODAY / REID & RALLIES

VO: 36

Immigrant Youth and Faith Communities Mobilize for DREAM Act across the Country for a Day of Action Events in 26 States Highlight Moral and Economic Imperative for Congress to Pass the DREAM Act On Tuesday, December 7th, immigrant youth and communities of faith around the country are hosting a variety of events to urge Congress to pass the DREAM Act. In some states, leaders will hold vigils to highlight the moral urgency behind the issue. In Washington D.C., and in district offices in various states, events will feature DREAM Act students delivering oversized 6ft checks for \$2.3 billion to their members of Congress, highlighting the economic benefit of the DREAM Act to America. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the DREAM Act would generate \$2.3 billion

SUPREME COURT WILL ACT ON IMMIGRATION, EVEN IF CONGRESS DOESN'T

VO: 19

The Supreme Court this week takes up the national immigration debate that continues to stymie Congress. While immigration advocates and some Democratic lawmakers conjure hopes of legalizing farm workers and students in a lame-duck session, justices on Wednesday confront a real-world immigration enforcement dilemma out of Arizona. The court is sure to do something; Congress is not. The court's hourlong oral argument on Wednesday morning addresses one of Arizona's several controversial laws targeting illegal immigration.

CELL PHONES & PREGNANT WOMEN

VO: 26

There's new evidence cell phones may affect children's behavior -- even before they're born. Researchers found children exposed to cell phones both in the womb and after birth were more likely to have behavior problems -- than those with less exposure. Their new study looked at 28-thousand children. Researchers say the more frequently a mother used a cell phone, the greater the risk her child would have a behavioral problem.

One theory suggests cell phone radiation could interfere with brain development.

=====

12/08/10

TAX CUT EXTENSION

VO: 20

Disappointed Democratic congressional leaders demanded changes in the White House's tax deal with Republicans on Tuesday despite a spirited argument by President Barack Obama that concessions were preferable to higher taxes for millions of Americans. The deal includes an extension of expiring Bush-era tax cuts for all income levels -- not just for lower and middle-income taxpayers, as Democrats wanted. It also contains a renewal of jobless benefits due to expire in a few weeks, and a one-year cut in Social Security taxes paid by workers.

WEIGHT LOSS DRUG

VO:20

A federal advisory panel Tuesday endorsed a new weight-loss drug, potentially breaking a string of disappointments in the effort to find the first new pharmacological weapon to fight the obesity epidemic in more than a decade. The Food and Drug Administration advisory panel voted 13 to 7 that the evidence indicates that the potential benefits of the drug Contrave outweigh its risks. Contrave, which is made by Orexigen Therapeutics Inc. of La Jolla, Calif., helped patients who took it for a year lose between 4 and 5 percent more weight than those who took a placebo, the FDA concluded in a review of studies testing the drug. But the drug also increased blood pressure and heart rate, raising fears that it may boost the risk for heart problems, a major concern that has dogged the development of weight-loss drugs. The studies were too short to know whether the drug actually increased the risk for heart attacks or stroke. The FDA is not required to follow the panel's recommendation, but the agency usually does. A decision is expected by January.

CELL PHONES AND PREGNANCY

VO: 25

Women who use mobile phones when pregnant are more likely to give birth to children with behavioural problems, according to authoritative research.

A giant study, which surveyed more than 13,000 children, found that using the handsets just two or three times a day was enough to raise the risk of their babies developing hyperactivity and difficulties with conduct, emotions and relationships by the time they reached school age. And it adds that the likelihood is even greater if the children themselves used the phones before the age of seven. The results of the study, the first of its kind, have taken the top scientists who conducted it by surprise. But they follow warnings against both pregnant women and children using mobiles by the official Russian radiation watchdog body, which believes that the peril they pose "is not much lower than the risk to children's health from tobacco or alcohol".

=====

12/09/10

CONGRESS-SPENDING

VO :28

House legislation to freeze the budgets of most Cabinet departments and fund the war in Afghanistan faces uncertain prospects as the Senate takes up the measure. The House narrowly passed the budget deal Wednesday night in a 212-206 vote. As it stands now, the bill will cap the annual operating budgets of federal agencies at the \$1.2 trillion approved for the recently finished budget year. It marks a cut of more than 3 percent, \$46 billion, from President Barack Obama's request.

EDUCATION POLL-COLLEGE GRAD RATES

VO :28

The public pins most of the blame for poor college graduation rates on students and their parents and gives a pass to colleges, government officials and others. That's one of the findings of a new Associated Press-Stanford University poll. All sectors of American higher education received high marks for quality. That extends to for-profit colleges, despite recent criticism of dubious recruiting tactics, high student loan default rates and other problems at some schools. Michael Kirst, professor emeritus of education and business administration at Stanford, says the belief that students are most at fault for graduation rates is a troubling sign for reformers who have been pushing colleges to improve graduation rates.

**"DREAM ACT" INTERVIEW
GABY PACHECO. STUDENT
DURATION: 3:00**

Gaby Pacheco just wants everyone to know she is as American as anyone else and she has gone to extraordinary lengths to try and prove it. But until Congress passes the DREAM Act, she won't be able to share her many gifts because people won't look past the fact that she is undocumented. Pacheco was just seven years old when her family moved here from her native Ecuador and settled in Miami. A gifted child, Pacheco, now 25, had a school career any parent would be proud of. She learned English very quickly and in the first grade, tested in the gifted level for math. She excelled in math, in science, music, ROTC, sports. By the 10th grade, she was taking college-level classes, participating and excelling in three sports and was a ranked officer in Navy ROTC.

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TO RUN OUT SATURDAY FOR 185,000
CALIFORNIANS
VO :24**

Applications for unemployment benefits dropped last week to the second-lowest level this year, evidence that companies are cutting fewer jobs. The Labor Department says first-time claims for jobless aid fell by 17,000 to a seasonally-adjusted 421,000 in the week ending Dec. 4. Wall Street analysts had expected a smaller decline. The four-week average of claims, a less volatile measure, dropped for the fifth straight week to 427,500. That's the lowest since August 2008, just before the financial crisis intensified with the collapse of Lehman Brothers. Claims have fallen steadily in the past two months, raising hopes that companies will soon accelerate hiring. Applications dropped to 410,000 two weeks ago, their lowest point in more than two years.

**DRUNK DRIVING
VO :19**

Millions of Americans drive drunk or drugged according to study. A new federal study finds that about 30-million Americans drive drunk each year and 10-million drive impaired by illicit drugs. Wisconsin had the highest level of drunk driving last year. Rhode Island topped the list for people driving under the influence of drugs. The one bright spot in the survey is the rate of drunk and drugged driving has dropped slightly in the past few years.

SENATE ACTS TO STOP MEDICARE DOCTORS PAY CUT

VO :18

The Senate on Wednesday agreed to avert a 25 percent pay cut for doctors treating patients covered by the Medicare health program for the elderly. On a voice vote, the Senate approved a one-year "fix" to the doctor's payment formula that would stop a scheduled cut in physicians pay in January that advocates for the elderly said would have made it harder for Medicare patients to get medical care.

INCENSE BURNING TIED TO ASTHMA IN SOME CHILDREN

VO :26

Children from homes where incense is regularly burned have a higher risk of developing asthma, according to a Taiwanese study suggesting that a particular genetic variation could also be involved. Incense has been used for millennia in many cultures' religious and spiritual ceremonies. In parts of Asia, people commonly burn incense in their homes -- a practice that is becoming more popular in Western countries as well.

FOOD-SAFETY OVERHAUL RIDES ON FUNDING BILL

VO :26

The biggest overhaul of the U.S. food safety system in decades took a major step toward becoming law on Wednesday when House Democratic leaders folded it into a must-pass bill to fund the U.S. government. The House passed the spending bill on Wednesday and the Senate was expected to consider it over the next few days as lawmakers push to complete their legislative session by the end of next week.

ULTRASOUND BEFORE MEDICAL ABORTION MAY BE UNNEEDED

VO :23

Women seeking medical abortion, sometimes called the "abortion pill," often first undergo an ultrasound test, but a new study suggests that may be an unnecessary step. In the U.S., medical abortions can be performed within nine weeks of the first day of a woman's last menstrual period. Most medical abortions involve taking the drug mifepristone (Mifeprex) followed by misoprostol, which causes the womb to contract.

NO SAFE SMOKE

VO :19

Just one puff on that cigarette could be the one that causes your heart attack. The surgeon general's 30th annual report on smoking and health says tobacco smoke begins poisoning immediately, as more than 7000 chemicals in each puff rapidly spread through the body to cause damage to nearly every organ. The report warns that even a bit of social smoking -- or inhaling someone else's secondhand smoke -- could be enough to block the arteries and trigger a heart attack.

SECONDHAND SMOKE TIED TO KIDS' POOR MENTAL HEALTH

VO :24

Kids who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to struggle with mental health problems, suggests a large new study of British children. The findings add urgency in the push for parents to put away their cigarettes for good, or at least smoke outside of the home, researchers say. However, it's still unclear if tobacco fumes actually take a toll on children's brains, or if something else is at play.

GIRLS WHO WALK, BIKE TO SCHOOL DO BETTER IN TESTS

VO :22

Girls, but not boys, who walk or bike to school instead of getting a ride perform better in tests of verbal and math skills, according to a new study of teens living in Spanish cities. And the longer the commute, the higher the test scores, regardless of how much exercise girls got outside of school.

=====

12/10/10

DREAM ACT LATEST

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:54

The Senate moved Thursday to delay a politically charged showdown vote on legislation carving out a path to legal status for foreign-born youngsters brought to this country illegally, putting off but probably not preventing the measure's demise. Facing GOP objections, Democrats put aside the so-called Dream Act and said they'd try again to advance it before year's end. They're short of the 60 votes needed to do so, however, and critics in both parties quickly said they won't change their minds in the waning days of the Democratic-controlled Congress.

DONT ASK DONT TELL

VO :26

Republicans blocked a last-ditch effort in the Senate to lift the military's ban on openly gay troops on Thursday, dealing a major blow to gay rights groups and making it unlikely Congress could repeal "don't ask, don't tell" any time soon. The 57-40 vote fell three short of the 60 needed to overcome procedural hurdles to lift the 17-year-old ban. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine was the lone Republican voting to advance the bill, and Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia was the only Democrat to vote against it.

UNLICENSED DRIVERS WHO RISK MORE THAN A FINE

VO :24

An estimated 4.5 million illegal immigrants nationwide are driving regularly, most without licenses, according to an analysis by The New York Times. Only three states - New Mexico, Utah and Washington - currently issue licenses without proof of legal residence in the United States. Many states have adopted tough new laws to prevent illegal immigrants from driving, while expanding immigration.

OBAMA TAXES

VO :36

Senate Democrats Thursday unveiled a tax bill that largely reflects the deal hammered out by President Barack Obama and Republicans earlier in the week, and adds an additional subsidy for ethanol. The measure would broadly extend income tax breaks for two years and also includes an extension of jobless benefits and other tax breaks. It does not include an extension of the Build America bond program that Democrats had sought.

DREAM ACT REACTIONS

JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:04

Jaime will have the students calling the Senators that are not willing to vote for the Dream Act to try to convince them to do so. Who are they targeting to get them to change their minds and vote in favor of it.

US FAA AIRCRAFT

VO :25

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) aircraft registry is missing key information on about one-third of the private and commercial planes in the

US - a gap the agency fears could be exploited by extremist militants and drug traffickers. The records are in such disarray that the FAA says it is worried that criminals could buy planes without the government's knowledge, or use the registration numbers of other aircraft to evade new computer systems designed to track suspicious flights. It has ordered all aircraft owners to re-register their planes in an effort to clean up its files.

U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY FALLS SLIGHTLY IN 2008

VO :22

American life expectancy slipped slightly in 2008 to 77.8 years, the first dip since 2004, while stroke slid a notch to become the fourth-leading cause of death, U.S. health experts said on Thursday. They said a baby born in 2008 could expect to live about one month less than one born in 2007, falling from a record high of 77.9 years in 2007.

U.S. STUDY HELPS UNRAVEL ALZHEIMER'S MYSTERY

VO :25

Instead of producing too much of a protein, people with Alzheimer's disease appear to have trouble getting rid of it, U.S. researchers said on Thursday. The finding, published in the journal Science, may help explain why people with Alzheimer's accumulate sticky clumps of a protein called amyloid beta, and it may help drug companies hone in on potential treatments.

GENERAL MILLS STEPS DOWN SUGAR IN KIDS' CEREALS

VO :23

General Mills Inc is lowering the amount of sugar in its children's breakfast cereals to no more than 10 grams per serving from 11 grams a year ago, the latest move from a U.S. foodmaker to address childhood obesity. The growing problem of obesity is leading to more children having adult health problems, such as diabetes or high cholesterol.

SMOKING STUDY

LOURDES DEL RIO. MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 1:53

The latest US Surgeon General's report, released today, finds that even limited exposure to tobacco or secondhand smoke can lead to cardiovascular and other health problems. The report, the latest update to its first study in 1964 highlighting tobacco dangers, says that even an occasional cigarette or exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful. Surgeon

General, Regina Benjamin says the latest research, "substantiates the evidence that there is no safe level of exposure to cigarette smoke." Lourdes will talk to a doctor and smokers that can't stop smoking and why.

=====
12/13/10

US TAX CUTS

VO 0:27 & INTERVIEW JOSE GABILONDO PROFESSOR FROM FIU AND EXPERT IN FINANCIAL ISSUES TIME: 4:00

Senators get their first chance Monday to vote on the tax-cut deal struck by President Barack Obama and Republicans. Whatever the outcome of the test vote, the White House expects the bill to pass by year's end. Obama adviser David Axelrod says "everybody understands what it would mean for the economy" if it doesn't get done. The No. 2 Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, says a "good cross-section" of senators in his party are ready to accept the deal. It would avert a Jan. 1 increase in income taxes for nearly all Americans. The package also would renew jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed and provide a one-year cut in Social Security taxes.

PAY ROLL TAX HOLIDAY

VO: 26

President Barack Obama's plan to cut payroll taxes for a year would provide big savings for many workers, but makes Social Security advocates nervous that it could jeopardize the retirement program's finances. The plan is part of a package of tax cuts and extended unemployment benefits that Obama negotiated with Senate Republican leaders. It would cut workers' share of Social Security taxes by nearly one-third for 2011. Workers making \$50,000 in wages would get a \$1,000 tax cut; those making \$100,000 would get a \$2,000 tax cut

SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE GENERIC DRUG LABELING ISSUE

VO: 24

The Supreme Court said on Friday that it would decide whether generic drug companies could be sued under state law over allegations they failed to provide adequate label warnings about potential side effects. The nation's highest court will consider whether federal law preempted such lawsuits because the drug had been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

STUDY PITS LOW-SUGAR CEREALS AGAINST SUGARY BRANDS

VO: 22

Sugary-sweet cereals aren't necessarily what kids crave in the morning. A study conducted by Yale University found that many children-- when given low-sugar cereals-- enjoyed them and ate a better breakfast when they didn't eat a sugary alternative. Scientists measured 91 children at a day camp. The kids were offered either three kinds of high-sugar cereals or three brands of low-sugar cereals.

STEM CELLS USED TO MAKE PANCREAS, GUT CELLS

VO: 23

Stem cells can be transformed into the pancreatic cells needed to treat diabetes and into complex layers of intestinal tissue, scientists demonstrated in two experiments reported on Sunday. In one, a team turned immature sperm cells into pancreatic tissue, while another team turned embryonic stem cells into complex layers of intestinal tissue.

INTERCELL KILLS DIARRHEA VACCINE AFTER STUDY

VO: 20

Austrian biotech company Intercell said it won't develop its Travelers' Diarrhea vaccine candidate and will post a much wider than expected 2010 loss, because the drug failed in clinical trials. The company said on Sunday that the patch-based Travelers' Diarrhea vaccine candidate failed to meet efficacy endpoints to protect against enterotoxigenic E. coli mediated diarrheal infections in pivotal, randomized and placebo-controlled efficacy studies.

=====

12/14/2010

HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL

VO: 21

President Barack Obama does not appear disturbed by a federal judge's ruling that a key part of his health care law is unconstitutional. The ruling states that Americans cannot be compelled to buy health insurance. Obama, in an interview with a Florida TV station (WFLA), noted that other judges have either found the law constitutional, or

dismissed lawsuits against it. He says it's "the nature of these things" for courts to disagree on such matters.

DREAM ACT LATEST

VO:22

Students and their allies dressed in "Grinch" costume will be out in the streets of Hollywood performing skits and educating the community at large about the federal DREAM Act scheduled to be brought up for a vote in the U.S. Senate later this week.

AP POLL TEACHERS

VO: 23

An overwhelming majority of Americans are frustrated that it's too difficult to get rid of bad teachers, while most also believe that teachers aren't paid enough, a new poll shows. The Associated Press-Stanford University poll found that 78 percent think it should be easier for school administrators to fire poorly performing teachers. Yet overall, the public wants to reward teachers -- 57 percent say they are paid too little, with just 7 percent believing they are overpaid and most of the rest saying they're paid about right.

TAX CUT BILL EXPECTED TO GO TO HOUSE TODAY

VO: 34

Although House Democrats have made their objections known, the tax cut package that was negotiated by President Barack Obama and GOP lawmakers is headed toward passage in the Senate. It advanced yesterday by a vote of 83-15, and could win final Senate approval today. House Democrats are scheduled to meet this evening to discuss it. Several Democratic leaders say they may settle for a change that would impose a higher estate tax. Obama says the Senate vote proves both parties can work together

TAX CUTS

LOURDES MELUZA- WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:09

The Democratic-led U.S. Congress will move a step closer today toward grudging approval of President Barack Obama's deal with Republicans to extend expiring tax cuts, even for the wealthiest Americans. Backers were expected to muster on the needed 60 votes in the 100-member Senate to clear a procedural hurdle, before passage on Tuesday or Wednesday. The

bill would then go to the House of Representatives for likely passage -- despite complaints from many Democrats that Obama conceded too much to Republicans. The bill would avert a Jan. 1 increase in income taxes for nearly all Americans. The package also would renew jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed and provide a one-year cut in Social Security taxes. In the Senate they start talking around 2:00 pm about the bill and then vote...cloture and final vote. The House could also vote as soon as tomorrow.

HEALTH CARE RULING

LUIS MEGID- SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:55

A U.S. judge in Virginia Monday declared a key part of President Barack Obama's landmark healthcare law unconstitutional in the first major setback on an issue that will likely end up at the Supreme Court. U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson, appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush in 2002, backed the state of Virginia's argument that Congress exceeded its authority by requiring Americans to start buying health insurance in 2014 or face a fine. But he declined to invalidate the entire healthcare law, a small victory for Obama, whose administration will appeal the decision. The law is a cornerstone of Obama's presidency, aiming to expand health insurance to cover millions of uninsured Americans while trying to curb costs. Obama told the Tampa television station WFLA he was confident the courts would uphold the healthcare act. Healthcare insurers, which include companies such as Aetna Inc and WellPoint Inc, largely opposed Obama's reforms but say the individual mandate is critical so additional customers can offset greater industry costs. Health insurers' stock prices initially rose on the ruling before later tapering off as investors saw more uncertainty as the case proceeds. The ruling signaled that changes to the bill rather than a full overhaul are more realistic. Virginia's lawyers argued that the federal government could not regulate someone for not buying a good or service under the U.S. Constitution's Commerce Clause and could not penalize them for failing to buy health insurance.

=====

12/15/10

SENATE TAXES

VO :29

The Senate is moving Wednesday to pass a tax package that would spare taxpayers at every income level from a significant tax increase on Jan. 1. The package would then go to the House, where Democrats are fuming over extended tax breaks for the wealthy that President Barack Obama negotiated with Senate Republicans. House Democrats are considering possible changes, and may hold a vote to enact a higher estate tax than Obama negotiated. But even critics of the package say they expect it to pass as is.

TIGHT ECONOMY BOOSTS APPEAL FOR USED CTS

VO :26

Thrifty hospitals looking to cut health costs increasingly are buying refurbished MRIs, CT scanners and other diagnostic imaging machines that offer bells and whistles comparable to newer equipment, but at a cut-rate price. Makers of diagnostic imaging machines such as Siemens AG Philips Electronics and General Electric Co's. GE Healthcare have been fixing up and reselling machines for more than a decade, but they say the refurbished equipment market is heating up as hospitals look for ways to cut costs.

EPA SAYS SACCHARIN NOT A THREAT AFTER ALL

VO :30

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has dropped the artificial sweetener saccharin from its list of hazardous substances, the agency said on Tuesday. The white crystalline powder used in diet drinks, chewing gum and juice was dubbed a potential cancer-causing agent in 1980. While a review by the National Toxicology Program and the International Agency for Research on Cancer cleared saccharin in the late 1990s, it has remained on the EPA's potential hazard list.

GOODBYE TO FOLIC ACID DEFICIENCY?

VO :27

A scan of the Canadian population reveals that, thanks largely to fortified foods, almost no one is deficient in folic acid, and forty percent have relatively high -- maybe even too high -- levels of the B vitamin in their blood. Despite the lack of deficiency, however, 1 in 5 women of childbearing age did not carry in their blood the amount of folate (the natural form of folic acid) recommended to prevent birth defects, the benefit for which the vitamin is best known.

STAYING ACTIVE REALLY DOES BEAT MIDDLE-AGE SPREAD

VO :21

People who keep up an active lifestyle into middle-age gain fewer pounds and inches over time -- and the benefit may be even greater for women than men, a new study finds. The fact that consistently active people gain less weight over the years may not come as a surprise. But little in the way of research evidence actually supported that notion.

SMOKING BANS MAY BENEFIT KIDS WITH ASTHMA

VO :20

Children with asthma who live in areas with "smoke-free" laws may suffer fewer bouts of coughing and wheezing as a result, a new study suggests. The findings, reported in the journal Pediatrics, add to evidence that smoking bans in workplaces, restaurants and bars have produced health benefits. But until now, most research has focused on adults.

=====END OF PART 1=====