

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA MARCH 16-31 PART II

03/16/2011

KANSAS LAWMAKER APOLOGIZES FOR IMMIGRANT REMARK

VO: 33

A Republican lawmaker in Kansas apologized Tuesday for remarks suggesting that illegal immigrants should be shot like feral swine, but his statement didn't quiet the furor over what he said was a "regrettable" joke. The League of United Latin American Citizens' national office in Washington described the comments from state Rep. Virgil Peck, of Tyro, as "despicable" and called upon him to resign. And U.S. Rep. Charles Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat who is chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said such remarks "have no place in our national discourse."

=====

03/17/2011

US SCARE TO RADIATION

PAULA GOMEZ. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PKG 1:34

The nuclear crisis in Japan has some people in the U.S. worried and taking precautions against radiation. Is it all necessary? Experts in the U.S. say there is nothing to fear. They are monitoring the air quality here, but that isn't stopping people who want to buy emergency compounds, and some are inquiring about them. Pharmacies across the country reported an increase in inquiries and sales of potassium-iodine pills, a remedy used to treat radiation exposure. Potassium-iodine sold out at some health food stores in Chicago.

SPENDING SHOWDOWN

VO :19

A divided Congress is about to send President Barack Obama a stopgap funding bill to keep the government open for three more weeks in hopes that budget talks between the White House and Republicans in charge of the House start to bear fruit. Thursday's measure includes \$6 billion in cuts to domestic spending and would be shipped to Obama after a Senate vote that's likely to be overwhelmingly in favor. Some GOP conservatives are

balking because they're seeking larger spending cuts and an immediate battle over the budget, but both Democratic and Republican leaders support the stopgap bill.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CHARGED MARIA ROSA LUCCHINI. FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA PKG 1:52

Authorities say an illegal immigrant who previously had been deported has been charged in a fatal drunken driving crash in Fairfax County. Police say 33-year old Carlos Sanchez-Ramos of Springfield has been charged with aggravated involuntary manslaughter and other counts. Authorities say he lost control of his car striking a Ford Fusion and pushing it into oncoming traffic. The Fusion was struck head on, killing a 54-year-old man. Police say Sanchez-Ramos fled the scene with a 3-year-old boy. He was arrested a short distance away.

HEALTH COVERAGE STILL TOUGH TO GET FOR INDIVIDUALS VO :20

Nearly three quarters of those seeking health insurance in the U.S. individual market in recent years faced roadblocks or were turned down due to prior medical conditions, a report released on Wednesday said. The report by the Commonwealth Fund, a healthcare advocacy group, said 71 percent of an estimated 26 million people who tried to buy insurance on the individual market in the previous three years had problems purchasing affordable insurance

TIGHT BUDGETS MAY END DEATH PENALTY IN SOME STATES VO :26

A perfect storm of cash-strapped budgets, newly elected governors and an increased use of DNA evidence threatens to smite the death penalty in an increasing number of states. The death penalty got the ax in Illinois last week and stands a good chance of being eliminated this year in Connecticut, Maryland and Montana, where bills are wending their way through statehouses, said Richard Dieter, executive director for the Death Penalty Information Center.

SOME LEAN CUISINE DISHES RECALLED VO :19

More than 10,000 pounds of Lean Cuisine frozen spaghetti and meatball dishes have been recalled because of the possible presence of foreign

materials, the Department of Agriculture said late on Monday. The health risk associated with this recall is low, the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service explained. If the product is consumed, there is only a remote probability of adverse health consequences.

=====

03/18/2011

WHO: GUIDELINES NUCLEAR

VO :22

In the wake of Japan's nuclear crisis, the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued fresh guidelines on how to minimise exposure to radiation that can cause cancers, especially in children and young adults. The United Nations agency said measures taken by Japan so far meet its public health recommendations, including evacuating people within 20 kms of the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant and asking those within 30 kms to stay indoors.

VITAL SIGN GUIDELINES 'MISS SICK CHILDREN

VO :26

A child's heart and breathing rates are important signs for diagnosing illnesses. Guidelines for children's heart and breathing rates are inaccurate and not based on evidence, according to researchers. These measurements are often used to decide treatment, but the study in the Lancet says current rules would mean half of healthy 10-year-olds were diagnosed with abnormal vital signs. The study analysed data from 143,346 children. Experts say the work could help clinicians.

FORTIFIED BREAST MILK MAY NOT UP PREMIES' GROWTH

VO :24

Adding nutrients to breast milk does not appear to boost very preterm infants' growth over the first year of life, a new study finds. The study, which followed 320 infants born weighing less than 5 pounds, found that those given protein-fortified breast milk were no heavier or longer at the age of 12 months than those fed regular breast milk.

HORMONES MAY BE BETTER THAN SOY FOR HOT FLASHES

VO :19

Hormone replacement therapy may work slightly better than soy at reducing menopausal hot flashes, a new study says. Women who took such hormones had fewer hot flashes, on average, than women who took soy - and both had fewer than those who took a placebo, or "dummy pill."

COSTLIER PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENTS GAIN POPULARITY

VO: 16

Newer technologies for treating prostate cancer have surged in popularity in the last decade -- and they have come with a hefty price tag, according to a report published this week. Researchers estimate that the increased use of certain prostate cancer treatments, such as less invasive surgery and advanced radiation therapy, tacked on an additional \$350 million in healthcare spending in one year alone.

U.S. REPORTS 1ST HIV CASE SPREAD BY LIVE ORGAN DONOR

VO :19

A New York man has contracted the AIDS virus in the nation's first case of transmission from a living organ donor since a screening test was implemented to prevent such infection, the New York State Department of Health said on Thursday. The recipient of a live kidney transplant in a New York City hospital tested positive for the HIV virus, department spokeswoman Claudia Hutton said.

=====

03/21/11

CAR SEATS CHILDREN

VO: 23

New guidelines for parents say children should ride in rear-facing car seats longer, until they are 2 years old instead of 1. And some kids should ride in booster seats until age 12. That's the advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The doctors group and the federal agency issued separate but consistent new recommendations Monday. Both organizations say older children who've outgrown front-facing car seats should ride in booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits them.

OIL PRICES JUMP MORE THAN \$2 A BARREL

VO: 26

There Is Bad News For The Pockets And The Bank Of All .Oil Prices Increased By More Than Two Dollars Per Barrel After The Escalation Of The Conflict In Libya. In The Past Two Weeks, The Average Price Per Gallon Of Gasoline, Increasing Other Seven Cents, Reaching A Level Seventy-Five Cents Higher Than Three Years Ago. The Average Price Of Gallon Of Regular Gasoline Is Three Dollars And Fifty-Seven Cents.

HEALTH CARE AT ONE YEAR

VO: 19

A year after President Barack Obama signed his health care overhaul, the law remains so divisive that Americans can't even agree on what to call it. Supporters call it the Affordable Care Act, a shortened version of the official title Democrats gave their massive bill. It may be better known as "Obamacare," the word used by Republicans seeking its demise. Even so, polls show that about 1 in 8 Americans believe they have been personally helped already, well before the main push to cover the uninsured scheduled for 2014.

=====

03/22/11

BORDER PATROL FATALLY SHOOTS MAN IN ARIZONA

VO: 26

A Border Patrol agent shot a man three times as he fled police in southeastern Arizona, killing him. Several agencies involved in the shooting or investigation released few details, including whether the agent was put on leave. The Cochise County Sheriff's Office says Douglas police saw a suspicious vehicle speed away from them toward the Mexican border Monday afternoon.

=====

03/23/11

FILE: HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES IMPROVE

VO: 24

new report spells out the economic benefits of making sure students graduate high school on time. The Alliance for Excellent Education, an education research and advocacy organization, said cutting Alabama's drop out rate in half would have hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact as the prospects of those students would improve with better education. "The best economic stimulus is a high school diploma," Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education, said in a press release. "From the individual student to the bank branch manager, new car salesman, or realtor, everyone wins when more students graduate from high school." According to the report, about 24,000 students dropped out from Alabama high schools in 2010. Reducing that number in half would increase the prospects of those students, adding the following to the economy: > Graduates would spend \$227 million more on home purchases. > Increasing the gross state product by \$141 million by the midpoint in their careers. > Boosting state tax revenues by \$6.6 million per year. > Spending \$13 million in an average year on automobile purchases.

COMFORT FOOD FIGHTS LONELINESS

VO: 26

A new study in the Journal of Psychological Science suggests that eating comfort foods can help fight loneliness. In the study, volunteers were asked to spend several minutes writing about a fight with a friend or loved one. Then, some in the study were either asked to write about their favorite comfort food or were served chicken soup, if they previously stated they enjoy it. Researcher found that those who thought about or ate comfort foods reported reduced feelings of loneliness. The authors cautioned that while these foods may really provide emotional comfort, they are often unhealthy meal choices.

CEREAL MAY HELP WARD OFF HYPERTENSION

VO: 23

Starting each day with a bowl of cereal -- especially a whole-grain variety -- could trim up to 20% off your risk of developing high blood pressure, according to preliminary research presented Tuesday at an American Heart Association meeting in Atlanta. High blood pressure, or hypertension, can be caused or worsened by a range of factors, including obesity, lack of exercise, too much sodium, and stress. Although cereal alone won't keep blood pressure in check, eating it regularly may be an easy and practical way to prevent hypertension, the researchers say. "Cereal is something that people can easily get into their diet and that they enjoy," says lead

researcher Jinesh Kochar, M.D., a geriatric specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, in Boston. "And it costs a lot less than the drugs you'd have to take if you had hypertension."

=====

03/24/11

TRAFFIC CONTROL SLEEP VA

VO: 26

Air traffic safety is under increased scrutiny by federal authorities following an incident in which two passenger jets landed without controller assistance at Reagan National Airport because no one could be reached in the airport tower. An aviation official said that an air traffic supervisor -- the lone controller on duty around midnight on Tuesday when the incident occurred -- had fallen asleep. The official spoke on grounds of anonymity because an investigation is ensuing. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood directed the Federal Aviation Administration to launch a nationwide inquiry into airport tower staffing issues.

Peter Knudson, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board, said Wednesday that the pilots of the two planes were in contact with controllers at a regional FAA facility about 40 miles away in Warrenton, Va.

SECRETARY NAPOLITANO TO VISIT TEXAS

VO: 18

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano will travel to El Paso, Texas on Thursday, March 24, to visit the Bridge of the Americas (BOTA) at the El Paso Port of Entry, meet with El Paso business leaders and highlight the Department of Homeland Security's unprecedented efforts to strengthen border security while facilitating trade and travel along the Southwest border. In El Paso, Secretary Napolitano will also join Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Francisco Sanchez, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Alan Bersin and El Paso Mayor John Cook to participate in a media availability reiterating their shared commitment to a secure and prosperous border region.

MORE THAN 25 MILLION LATINOS LIVE IN POLLUTED AREAS

VO: 28

Two-thirds of Latinos in the United States live in areas that do not comply with federal standards for air quality and Hispanics are three times more

likely than whites to die from asthma, the Center for American Progress says in a report released Wednesday. The report, "Why the EPA Is Important for Latino Families," points out that Hispanics represent upwards of 40 percent of the population in seven of the 25 main U.S. cities with the worst air quality. The regions with higher levels of pollution and Hispanic population are located in California, Florida, Illinois, New York and Texas. Therefore, CAP, a progressive think-tank based in Washington, raised the alarm about the proposals of Republican lawmakers to reduce financing for the Environmental Protection Agency as part of their proposed budget cutbacks. The CAP report cites advocacy group Environment America's description of those proposals as "the largest assault on public health, clean air and clean water in years."

BILL SEEKS TO EXPAND RIGHTS FOR NEW YORK'S IMMIGRANTS VO: 20

Three months after the defeat of the Dream Act a Congressional bill that would have provided a path to legal residency for young illegal immigrants, a state senator from New York City has introduced his own version of the legislation in Albany. Unlike its federal counterpart, the bill would not offer those immigrants a path to legal residency. But it would give some of them certain rights now granted only to legal residents and citizens, including the ability to hold some state jobs - a provision that appears to challenge federal laws that prohibit the hiring of undocumented workers. The bill would allow illegal immigrants to get driver's licenses, a proposal that will undoubtedly reprise the fiery debates that compelled Gov. Eliot Spitzer .

RECORDS CONTRADICT MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR ON LOBBYING WORK FOR MEXICO VO: 24

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour's assertion that he did not personally work for the government of Mexico when his lobbying firm represented the country a decade ago is contradicted by the firm's own federal filings, which describe him as a leader of the team assigned to the account. During an appearance Saturday at the California Republican Convention in Sacramento, Barbour denied a reporter's statement that he once "lobbied for the government of Mexico on the issue of amnesty and a path to citizenship." "Your facts are incorrect," Barbour said, adding, "I didn't do the work in the firm; one of my partners did." The Republican governor said one of the issues his firm worked on was a law that would have allowed legal immigrants to renew their visas without leaving the country, though he

added, "Don't hold me to all the details." In fact, the firm lobbied in support of bill that would have allowed illegal immigrants to obtain legal residency by paying a fine, instead of having to return to their home countries before applying for legal entry.

DO VITAMINS STOP CANCER, HEART ATTACKS? STUDY: NO

VO: 18

Will taking multivitamins protect you from dying of cancer or heart disease? The answer is no, according to new research. In a study of more than 180,000 people, scientists saw the same number of deaths from cancer and heart disease among multivitamin-takers and those who did not take the supplements.

MENTHOL CIGARETTES NO MORE RISKY, STUDY SUGGESTS

VO: 27

People who smoke menthol cigarettes are no more likely to develop lung cancer than those who smoke non-menthol varieties, U.S. researchers said on Wednesday in a surprise finding that could affect U.S. regulators' efforts to ban menthol-flavored cigarettes. Scientists had assumed that adding menthol to cigarettes would expose people to more toxins and increase their cancer risk, but a large study of older adults in community health centers found the opposite.

=====

03/25/2011

BORDER BATTLE OVER ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION SHIFTS TO BEACHES

VO: 26

The immigrants heard the engine slow as the pilot steered through breakers. Twelve hours earlier, they had shoved off from a beach near Ensenada. Now, they were bobbing off Red Beach at Camp Pendleton. Out in the darkness, California beckoned.

=====

03/28/2011

NON-HISPANIC WHITES ARE NOW A MINORITY IN THE 23-COUNTY NEW YORK REGION

VO: 21

For the first time, black, Hispanic and Asian residents of New York City and its suburbs are a majority of the metropolitan area's more than 19 million residents, according to the 2010 census, released last week. New York is the first major metropolitan area in the country outside the South or West in which non-Hispanic whites have become a minority of the population.

Some of the same dynamic that transformed New York into a majority-minority city in the 1980s also contributed to that benchmark in the 23 counties that make up the metropolitan area: New York's five boroughs, as well as Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties, Fairfield County in Connecticut and 12 counties in New Jersey.

GOV. RICK SCOTT'S DRUG-TESTING ORDER MAY FACE LEGAL CHALLENGES

VO: 15

By signing an executive order last week that requires drug testing for many current state workers and job applicants, Gov. Rick Scott is betting the public is entitled to know a lot. Legal scholars say the governor has overreached, and that his order contradicts what many consider to be settled law regarding drug-testing of government employees. Both sides appear headed for a legal showdown. Scott has defended the order as a policy the public wants, and a protection the state should have - similar to private employers.

LAUGHTER AND MUSIC LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE

VO: 22

WE all know that laughter is the best medicine. But a recent study in Japan showed that laughter alone doesn't carry all the credits anymore. Laughter and music not only lifts the mood, they also drop blood pressure among middle-aged adults. The study involved 79 adults, aged 40 to 74. One group underwent one hour music session for every two weeks. The other group went into laughing sessions and the last group had no intervention. No change in blood pressure was recorded among participants who received neither intervention. For three months, music therapists guided 32 participants in listening to, singing and stretching with music. They were also encouraged to listen to music at home. Laughing sessions were led by trained laughter yogis, with 30 participants performing laughter yoga, a

combination of breathing exercises and laughter stimulated through playful eye contact. They also listen to sit-down comedy.

=====

03/29/2011

GRASSLEY AND SMITH: DELAYING REAL ID IMPLEMENTATION ENDANGERS AMERICAN LIVES

VO: 30

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) today sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano regarding the implementation and future of REAL ID. DHS has pushed back the REAL ID deadline by 20 months to January 15, 2013 and Secretary Napolitano has once again called for the repeal of REAL ID. Enacted in response to a 9/11 Commission recommendation, REAL ID helps prevent terrorists from obtaining valid drivers' licenses and identification cards which allow them to blend into American society. The 9/11 terrorists obtained over 30 drivers' licenses. They ultimately used these forms of identification to board commercial planes on the morning of September 11.

LEGISLATURE WANTS TO PRIVATIZE PRISONS

VO: 25

Tallahassee Bureau In what could signal a massive private takeover of public prisons, the Florida Senate quietly slipped language into its newly proposed budget Monday that seeks to give corporations the chance to run correctional facilities and probation services in 18 counties. The move - which could shift nearly \$600 million to private firms - surprised prison guards, their unions and even the head of the Senate's Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee, Mike Fasano, who said his committee was opposed to the idea of privatizing prisons when it was proposed by Gov. Rick Scott's aides.

MEDICARE AGE

VO: 25

A new study on Medicare shows its complexity makes it hard to make changes without causing ripple effects elsewhere in the system. The

nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation says raising the eligibility age to 67, as is being done with Social Security, would save Medicare billions. But it would cost employers more because people would work longer to keep their medical coverage. And those already on Medicare would pay some 3 percent more because the youngest seniors wouldn't be in the pool. The study says even people under 30 would be hit, because more seniors aged 65 and 66 would be in the insurance pool, raising costs.

GAS PRICES RESUME RISE; AVERAGE IF \$4 PER GALLON NEAR VO: 22

After hitting a midmonth speed bump, local gas prices resumed their climb to \$4 last week. The average retail price of gasoline in Sacramento rose 5.2 cents a gallon to \$3.96 over the past week, according to Monday's weekly report issued by SactoGasPrices.com, a GasBuddy.com website. Prices rose only 0.2 cents the previous week, hitting the brakes after climbing nearly 40 cents a gallon in the three weeks before that. Analysts said the latest rise was driven by concerns over the possible disruption of oil flowing out of the Middle East, particularly ports in war-torn Libya. The price of benchmark crude has jumped 24 percent since mid-February. However, crude fell \$1.42 to settle at \$103.98 per barrel Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That decline was linked to news that Libyan rebels had recaptured some key oil ports and promised to resume exports.

RADIATION FROM AIRPORT SCANNERS VERY LOW: STUDY VO: 27

Airport scanners are an "extremely low" source of radiation exposure that poses virtually no health risk, not even to frequent air travelers, U.S. researchers said on Monday. The study may help ease fears of uneasy travelers already spooked by reports of radiation leaking from the crippled nuclear plants in Japan.

MORE EVIDENCE TIES CHOLESTEROL DRUG, DIABETES VO: 19

People on a high-dose regimen of the cholesterol drug Lipitor may have a slightly increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes -- particularly if they have

several of the classic diabetes risk factors, a study published Monday finds. A number of studies have linked Lipitor (known generically as atorvastatin) and other cholesterol-lowering statin drugs to a small increase in users' risk of diabetes.

=====

03/30/2011

AIRLINE LUGGAGE DELAYS

VO: 23

A new report says airlines slipped last year in getting passengers' checked luggage to arrive on time. Worldwide, 29.4 million bags last year didn't arrive on the same flight as their owners, according to SITA, an aviation communications and technology provider. That's 12.07 mishandled bags for every 1,000 passengers, a 6 percent increase over 2009. European airlines led the decline while U.S. carriers saw a slight improvement.

OBAMA TO UNVEIL ENERGY SECURITY PLAN

VO: 25

President Barack Obama is preparing to outline his plans for U.S. energy security during a speech at Georgetown University. Obama aides say the speech scheduled for Wednesday is part of a broader White House effort to focus on energy policy in the coming weeks. The president said in his State of the Union address last January that he wants 80 percent of the nation's energy to come from clean sources like wind, solar and nuclear by 2035. Obama's speech comes amid rising gas prices following instability in the oil-rich Middle East. Gas prices have jumped more than 50 cents a gallon this year.

GAY MARRIAGES WILL BE TEMPORARILY HONORED IN DEPORTATION CASES, USCIS SAYS

VO: 26

The U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services has decided to halt deportation cases where gay immigrants are married to a same-sex U.S. citizen.

The USCIS released a statement Monday announcing it has decided to honor gay marriages and unions in its deportation proceedings for gay foreign nationals in order to comply with the president's directive on the Defense of Marriage Act.

JOE ARPAIO USING AIRCRAFT IN LATEST CRIME SWEEP

VO: 28

Sheriff Joe Arpaio on Tuesday announced the launch of "Operation Desert Sky," targeting drug-smuggling desert corridors in the southwest and southeast parts of the county. Unlike previous crime sweeps, Operation Desert Sky will use 30 fixed wing aircraft to spot smugglers from the air. Airborne "spotters" will report any unusual or suspicious activity to deputies on the ground, according to Arpaio. Operation Desert Sky will also enlist the services of drug sniffing dogs, armed posse members, human-smuggling and drug-enforcement units and SWAT teams equipped with M-16s. The operation comes as a response to 207 recent arrests of illegal immigrants and the seizure of nearly 36,000 pounds of marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamines in the past year.

STUDY: JOB DISCRIMINATION HITS LOW-INCOME WOMEN HARDEST

VO: 26

Discrimination lawsuits brought by working professionals tend to draw public attention, but it's low-wage workers who suffer the harshest consequences in those circumstances, according to a report by the Center for WorkLife Law at University of California Hastings College of the Law.

MORE TYLENOL RECALLED FOR MUSTY SMELL

VO: 22

Johnson and Johnson is recalling yet another batch of Tylenol because of complaints of a musty, moldy smell. The latest recall includes about 34-thousand bottles of Tylenol 8-Hour extended release caplets. A spokesperson says the recall is part of the company's ongoing surveillance of its products. More than 50 million bottles of Tylenol, Motrin and Benadryl products were recalled last year after consumers complained of the same moldy, musty odor. The company said consumers who purchased products from the latest recalled lot should stop using the product.

=====

3/31/2011

IMMIGRATION HIGH SKILLED VISAS

VO: 29

A group that backs a visa program designed to bring high-skilled foreign workers to the U.S. reports that some of the approximately \$3 billion in visa fees paid by employers has gone to science and math scholarships, U.S. worker training and anti-fraud activities. A report issued this week by the National Foundation for American Policy points to the use of fees for such programs as a reason to maintain the visa program. The foundation supports policies allowing businesses to hire foreign workers. The money has paid for 58,000 student scholarships distributed by the National Science Foundation and for 100,000 U.S. workers to get training through the Labor Department, says the report. Some opponents claim the visas cost Americans jobs.

RETIREMENT-HEALTH CARE EXPENSES

VO: 20

A new study says there's been an 8 percent drop in the amount of money this year's retirees will need to cover medical expenses. It's the first time in 10 years that the outlook is improving for new retirees wondering whether they'll be able to pay their medical bills throughout their retirements. The study being released today by Fidelity Investments says a 65-year-old couple retiring this year will need \$230,000, on average, to cover medical expenses in retirement. A year ago, the projection was \$250,000.

HOW MANY HISPANICS? PEW HISPANIC CENTER RELEASES UPDATED COMPARISON OF 2010 CENSUS COUNTS AND CENSUS ESTIMATES

VO: 22

The number of Hispanics counted in the 2010 Census was nearly 1 million more than expected, based on the most recent Census Bureau population estimates, according to an updated analysis by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. The report includes comparisons of census counts and estimates for all states as well as the District of Columbia, as well as rankings of states with the largest discrepancies between count and estimate. The 2010 Census count of Hispanics was 50,478,000, compared with 49,522,000 Hispanics in the bureau's own estimates. The count was 1.9% higher (955,000 people) than the estimated population. In 32 states, the 2010 Census count of Hispanics was at least 2% higher than the estimates; in nine states, it was at least 2% lower than the estimates. In the nine remaining states and the District of Columbia, the difference was less than 2% in either direction.

RADIATION IN MILK @ USA

VO: 23

Low levels of radiation have turned up in milk samples from two West Coast states. Traces of radioactive Iodine-131 were found in milk in California and Washington, according to federal and state authorities who are monitoring for contamination as the nuclear crisis unfolds in Japan. But the officials say the levels are still 5,000 times below levels of concern. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that radiation was found in a March 25 milk sample from Spokane, Wash. The California Department of Public Health said on its website that a similar result was found March 28 in San Luis Obispo County.

US BACK TO DENYING SAME SEX COUPLE VISAS

VO: 28

After a brief reprieve, immigration authorities are once again denying applications for immigration benefits for same sex couples following a legal review.

Chris Bentley, a spokesman for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency, said Wednesday that after a review by lawyers from the Homeland Security Department, it was concluded that a law prohibiting the government from recognizing same sex marriages must be followed, despite the Obama administration's decision to stop defending the constitutionality of the law in court. The law, the Defense of Marriage Act, defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. Earlier this week, USCIS announced that applications from foreigners married to a U.S. citizen of the same sex would be held in "abeyance" while the legal review proceeded. Bentley said Tuesday that the temporary hold on application decisions was not a change in policy. In February, Attorney General Eric Holder announcement that the government would no longer defend the law, which gay rights activists have said is discriminatory. Bob Deasy, of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, said the latest ruling is a "disappointment." "The administration has the authority to put these cases on hold" while the fate of the marriage law is decided in court, he said. Holder's announcement appears to have already had an impact on at least one immigration case.

GOP DRAFTS LEGISLATIVE ASSAULT ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

VO: 27

The legislative effort offers another example of how a more conservative Congress has steered the immigration debate away from the Obama administration's two-pronged push for reforms and improved border security, and toward strict enforcement of immigration laws. In December, a lame-duck House controlled by Democrats passed the Dream Act, a reform that would have created a path to citizenship for some young illegal immigrants in the U.S., but it was narrowly defeated in the Senate. The Democrats' Senate majority means the latest legislation is unlikely to pass, but the goal may be more political. By continuing to spearhead such measures, Republicans, who feel they are in agreement with most voters, hope to force Democrats to take a position on immigration issues in advance of the 2012 campaign. The debate's change in tone also comes as census data show that Latinos comprise the fastest-growing block of voters, potentially a complicating factor for Republican strategists. The number of Latino voters is increasing most in states that in 2010 gained congressional seats and Electoral College votes, according to a study released in January by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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