

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA JANUARY 16-30 PART II

01/17/2011

AP POLL HEALTHCARE

VO :28

As lawmakers shaken by the shooting of a colleague return to the health care debate, an Associated Press-GfK poll finds raw feelings over President Barack Obama's overhaul have subsided. Ahead of a vote on repeal in the GOP-led House this week, strong opposition to the law stands at 30 percent, close to the lowest level registered in AP-GfK surveys dating to September 2009. The nation is divided over the law, but the strength and intensity of the opposition appear diminished. The law expands coverage to more than 30 million uninsured, and would require, for the first time, that most people in the United States carry health insurance. The poll finds that 40 percent of those surveyed said they support the law, while 41 percent oppose it. Just after the November congressional elections, opposition stood at 47 percent and support was 38 percent.

IRS

VO :30

The Internal Revenue Service today opened the 2011 tax filing season by announcing that taxpayers have until April 18 to file their tax returns. The IRS reminded taxpayers impacted by recent tax law changes that using e-file is the best way to ensure accurate tax returns and get faster refunds. Taxpayers will have until Monday, April 18 to file their 2010 tax returns and pay any tax due because Emancipation Day, a holiday observed in the District of Columbia, falls this year on Friday, April 15. By law, District of Columbia holidays impact tax deadlines in the same way that federal holidays do; therefore, all taxpayers will have three extra days to file this year. Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until Oct. 17 to file their 2010 tax returns.

NACA

INTERVIEW TO DANIEL PEREZ

LIVE 4:00

A Non-Profit Community Advocacy and Homeownership Organization HUD Certified Counseling Agency. This is a Save-a-Thon, that means 24 hours a day or over 100 straight hours. We expect many thousands of

homeowners with an unaffordable mortgage to attend these events. NACA's historic Save the Dream Tour has been an incredible success with over 375,000 participants in fifteen cities and many thousands of homeowners receiving same day solutions. Most people have had their mortgages payments permanently reduced by over \$500 and many by over \$1,000 a month often with interest rates reduced to 3% or 2% and sometimes a principal reduction. All of NACA's services are FREE. Over 300 NACA counselors will work with you to determine an affordable mortgage payment. In addition, the servicers/lenders have hundreds of staff on-site and in their offices to approve your solution.

**JOHNSON & JOHNSON RECALLS 45 MILLION MORE PRODUCTS
VO :23**

Johnson & Johnson's McNeil division announced a recall of certain Tylenol brand products Friday after a review of cleaning procedures at a plant in Fort Washington, Pa. Conducted in consultation with the Food and Drug Administration, the recall covers certain lots of Tylenol 8 Hour, Tylenol Arthritis Pain, and Tylenol upper respiratory products, as well as some Benadryl, Sudafed PE and Sinutab products. The latest recall comes after a review of McNeil's Fort Washington factory, which has been closed due to its production problems since early May, found equipment cleaning procedures were insufficient or that cleaning was not adequately documented.

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01/18/2011

**HEALTH CARE
VO :28**

House Republican efforts to repeal the health care reform law get rolling today as debate begins on the bill. A vote is scheduled tomorrow and a handful of Democrats are expected to go along. Republicans want to get the bill approved this week -- ahead of next week's state of the union speech. The measure will be dead on arrival once it hits the Senate and Republicans this week also plan to approve a measure requiring that a trio of House committees come up with replacement healthcare legislation. A recent AP-GfK poll shows only one in four Americans wants an outright repeal.

**911 VICTIMS BENEFITS
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ- NEW YORK
PKG 2:06**

Like thousands of other rescue and recovery workers, Volpe suffers from an ailment that is not expressly covered by the law. Only a few diseases were singled out by name in the act, including asthma certain types of lung disease and a handful of other respiratory ailments. They were included because research has suggested there is a link between those illnesses and the tons of caustic dust that blanketed lower Manhattan after the twin towers collapsed. Federal administrators still have to decide whether to cover other conditions, like cancer where there is less hard evidence of a tie to ground zero toxins. Volpe's problem, a kidney disease called IgA nephropathy, is among those that haven't yet been linked to the dust.

**OBAMA REGULATIONS
VO :23**

President Obama says he wants to get rid of government regulations that stifle job creation. He's ordered federal agencies to review regulations and look for unreasonable ones that hurt economic growth. Obama says he is signing an executive order Monday making it clear that his administration wants to strike the right balance between protecting the public and promoting economic growth. He made his comments in an opinion column in Tuesday's editions of The Wall Street Journal. He says Congress and presidents have tinkered with regulations, creating a patchwork of overlapping rules that make the U.S. economy less competitive. Obama says the rules have sometimes placed an unreasonable burden on businesses.

**NEW FINANCIAL PROGRAM TO HELP TEACHERS
LOURDES DEL RIO- MIAMI, FLORIDA
PKG 2:16**

A \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education is allowing Florida International University's College of Education to offer Hispanic-American teachers in low performing schools in Miami-Dade the opportunity to earn their Master's degree, as well as provide about a dozen school leaders with the chance to seek a doctorate in educational administration. The Creating Latino Access to a Valuable Education (CLAVE) program provides support for the education of minorities seeking doctoral and master's degrees in the area of education. A group of 13 teachers from low performing schools (grade of C or D) were accepted into

the College of Education's Urban Education program, which aims at enhancing the effectiveness of teachers serving in diverse urban settings.

STUDY SHOWS TOXINS FOUND IN PREGNANT WOMEN

VO :22

Pregnant women take elaborate steps to protect their babies' health, following doctors' orders to avoid alcohol, caffeine, tobacco - even soft cheeses and deli meats. In spite of these efforts, a new study shows the typical pregnant woman has dozens of potentially toxic or even cancer-causing chemicals in her body - including ingredients found in flame retardants and rocket fuel. Almost all 268 women studied had detectable levels of eight types of chemicals in their blood or urine, finds the study, published in today's Environmental Health Perspectives. It analyzed data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These chemicals include certain pesticides, flame retardants, PFCs used in non-stick cookware, phthalates (in many fragrances and plastics), pollution from car exhaust, perchlorate (in rocket fuel) and PCBs, toxic industrial chemicals banned in 1979 that persist in the environment.

ANTIBIOTICS, BLOOD PRESSURE DRUGS CAN BE RISKY MIX

VO :23

Older adults on blood pressure drugs known as calcium channel blockers could suffer dangerous drops in blood pressure if they are given certain antibiotics, according to a study out Monday. Researchers found that patients on calcium channel blockers who were given the antibiotics erythromycin (brands like E-Mycin) or clarithromycin (Biaxin) were at increased risk of being hospitalized for dangerously low blood pressure.

EXERCISE PREVENTS KNEE INJURIES IN ARMY RECRUITS

VO :20

Stretching and strengthening exercises help new military recruits avoid knee pain from hard training, UK researchers have found. Nearly a quarter of physically active people suffer from so-called anterior knee pain, researchers say, making it the most common knee problem. It's also the main reason new British soldiers drop out of the Army. To find out if the problem could be prevented, researchers from the Defense Medical Rehabilitation Center in Surrey followed more than 1,500 recruits during a grueling 14-week training program. Half were told to do eight different types of exercise during every training session, focusing on strengthening their leg muscles and making them more flexible by stretching.

SEMEN ALLERGY BLAMED FOR POST-ORGASM SICKNESS

VO :26

There's a mysterious phenomenon in which some men, immediately after having an orgasm, come down with a flu-like illness. Now Dutch scientists are saying these men may be allergic to their own semen. The condition is known as post-orgasmic illness syndrome, or POIS. Though it's been on scientists' radars for nearly 10 years, it's not commonly known by patients or doctors. Many men who experience the post-ejaculate sickness don't come forward and tell their doctor about it out of embarrassment, experts suspect. Marcel Waldinger, a professor of sexual psychopharmacology at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and his team analyzed 45 Dutch men who had been diagnosed with POIS. A standard skin-prick allergy test using a diluted form of their own semen. Of those, 29, or 88 percent, had a positive skin reaction indicating an auto-immune response, or allergic reaction.

DO VIDEO GAMES FUEL MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS?

VO :33

A study published by The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that games may fuel mental health problems in children. The two-year study of more than 3,000 school children in Singapore found nearly one in ten were 'addicted' to games, and recommended limiting children's time in front of computers or TVs to two hours daily, Reuters reports. On average, kids said they played for 20 hours per week, and those that qualified as addicted reported increasing symptoms of depression, anxiety and social phobia. While the addicted players were more likely to have had behavioural problems to begin with, Gentile said that unhealthy gaming habits were likely fuelling their mental problems.

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01/19/2011

HOUSE TO VOTE ON REPEALING OBAMA'S HEALTH CARE LAW

VO :26

The new Republican-led House is poised to vote to repeal President Barack Obama's landmark health care law. Republican lawmakers are expected to deliver an emphatic thumbs-down on Wednesday, though they have no ready substitute of their own for fixing the nation's health care

system. The House vote could turn out to be the high-water mark for repeal, a goal that energized conservative voters in the midterm elections and helped Republicans return to power in Congress. Democrats, who hung on to the Senate, have vowed to block the GOP drive. But House Republicans warn not to underestimate their determination or their willingness to use parliamentary maneuvers to deny the Obama administration funds needed to carry out the law. The law aims to provide coverage to more than 30 million uninsured people.

HOUSE GOP ANNOUNCES PROGRAM AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

VO :28

A group of House Republicans announced plans Tuesday to put forward a package of at least 16 bills aimed at illegal immigrants, including bills that would revoke the driving licenses of deportees, block illegal immigrants from attending public colleges and universities, and require the state to begin tracking the number of undocumented children in public schools. Lingamfelter said state action was needed because the federal government has "completely failed" to protect its borders.

LULAC IMMIGRANT MESSAGES ANDREA GOMEZ. HOUSTON, TEXAS

PKG 1:55

LULAC officials claim they have been receiving threat letters with anti immigrant messages. Interview with a rep from LULAC, interview with the FBI and picture of the letter. The FBI is looking into the matter if it is a real threat.

MEETING ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

VO :26

House Democratic Leaders and Administration Officials are scheduled to hold a media availability before their caucus meeting on Health Care Reform. Secretary Sebelius, Secretary Vilsack, and Administrator Mills will discuss the impact repeal of the Affordable Care Act would have on families, rural Americans and small businesses

ARMY TO REPORT RISE IN NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVE SUICIDES

VO :28

The U.S. Army on Wednesday will report that while the number of suicides in the active-duty force declined in 2010, the number of suicides in the

Army Reserve and National Guard increased, a senior Army official said. The increase in Reserve and National Guard suicides is among troops who are in the United States and not activated for duty. The senior Army official said more than half of those troops were never deployed to a war zone. The official said one possible explanation for the increase in suicides is economic pressure and rising unemployment, but he emphasized that the Army simply does not have answers. The official noted that for Guard and Reserve personnel who live as civilians back in their communities, the Army is not able to provide the same type of suicide awareness and prevention programs that are available to active-duty personnel.

BIG BREAKFAST WEIGHT LOSS MYTH

VO :20

You've heard it for years, eat a hearty breakfast It's the most important meal. And it'll keep you from getting hungry later in the day. Well -- according to a new study, you can forget all that. Research published in BioMed Central's open access Nutrition Journal found that people ate the same at lunch and dinner-- regardless of how much they ate for breakfast. Start day with a big hearty breakfast and you'll just get fatter, faster.

ANTIDEPRESSANT MAY CURE HOT FLASHES

VO :28

Study shows antidepressant Lexapro may reduce severity of hot flashes in menop. A new government-funded study shows the antidepressant may reduce the frequency and severity of hot flashes. The study included more than 200 middle-aged women who were experiencing an average of 10 hot flashes per day. After eight weeks, women who took Lexapro every day were having about five hot flashes per day, while those who took placebo were averaging roughly six and a half. The study is published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

CAN CIGARETTE ADS REALLY LURE KIDS TO SMOKE?

VO :22

Teenagers who frequently encounter the Marlboro man whirling his lasso in the Wild West, or other familiar tobacco icons, may be more likely to get lured into lighting up, hints a new German study. While it's not the first time researchers have tied cigarette advertisements to teen smoking, the new study makes the link more solid by showing that tobacco ads wield influence even when other advertising does not.

SKIN CREAMS MAY NOT PROTECT AGAINST ALL UV LIGHT

VO :26

Many daily skin creams that claim to provide ultraviolet protection and anti-aging benefits may not have enough of the critical ingredients needed to block UV-A light, according to new research. That means consumers who rely on these products may be vulnerable to the effects of UV-A rays, including skin darkening, wrinkles, and skin cancer, in some cases.

INTERNET TIME TIED TO TEEN DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS

VO :22

Spending time online is normal behavior for teenagers. But too much Internet use by teens -- or too little, for that matter -- might be related to depression, a new study finds. The findings, reported in the journal of Pediatrics, do not mean that the Internet is to blame. For one, teens in the study who spent no time online were also at increased risk of depression symptoms.

WA:DO-IT-YOURSELF GASTRIC BYPASS SURGERY

VO :26

Do-it-yourself gastric bypass surgery kit sold online has doctors outraged. A product sold on Amazon-dot-com has some doctors outraged. It's a do-it-yourself gastric bypass surgery. And hysicians say the kit could be very dangerous, if not deadly.

WOMEN SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS STUDY

VO :20

A new book finds career women who wait until their late 20s to find a mate - might have a tougher time finding that special man. Two researchers at the University of Texas at Austin published a book called "Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate and Think About Marrying.' They found that since women in the 18-23 age group feel they don't need men to support them financially... Many feel they can date around during their 20s. But they will eventually want a long-term relationship. The problem is that there will still be women who will have sex readily without commitment, and since men know this, *fewer* of them are willing to go steady. The analysis is based on several national studies-- as well as interviews with people ages 18 to 23.

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01/20/2011

HEALTHCARE REPEAL

VO: 29

The Republican controlled House plans to vote today to direct four committees to come up with alternatives to the health care overhaul members voted to repeal. Republicans want to end the mandate to purchase insurance and install tort reform limiting malpractice awards. Senate approval will be required and is considered unlikely, as it is with the repeal.

DC: HOUSE TAX REFORM HEARING

VO: 25

Nine in 10 Americans will find the maze of credits, deductions and exemptions on their tax forms so confusing and difficult that they'll hire someone or turn to special computer software to fill out their returns. Even the commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service says he pays someone to do his taxes. President Barack Obama and key lawmakers from both political parties say it's time for a serious national discussion about making the tax code simpler and fairer. It's going to be a long talk, one that could last years. Why? Because every deduction, exemption and credit, every layer of complexity, is important to somebody, in some cases millions of somebodies. "That's what the tax code is now, it's a whole set of winners and losers," said Howard Gleckman, a fellow at the Urban Institute and editor of TaxVox, a blog on tax issues. "If you reform it, you're going to create new winners and new losers, and the losers always scream much louder than the winners cheer."

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01/21/2011

AP POLL-OBAMA-TWO YEARS

VO: 25

Thumbs up for President Barack Obama's personality. Thumbs down for his progress. An overwhelming majority of Americans like Obama, but most say he hasn't accomplished much on two top goals - fixing the sluggish economy and changing how Washington works, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll midway through the first term of his presidency.

Half of those surveyed say he deserves a second term, and independents, whose support will be critical in 2012, are evenly divided on that question. Obama is getting the benefit of the doubt despite concerns about his policies, a reflection based in large part on his likability. The AP-GfK poll is a snapshot in time, and plenty could happen between now and November 2012, including an economic upturn that could cut the 9.4 percent unemployment rate. But, in a polarized nation, the findings portend a competitive presidential race no matter who the GOP candidate is.

CRACKDOWN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

LUIS MEGID - SAN FRANCISCO, CA

PKG 1:58

The Obama administration plans to intensify a crackdown on employers of illegal immigrants with the establishment of an audit office designed to bolster verification of company hiring records. In an interview, John Morton, chief of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a unit of the Department of Homeland Security, said the Employment Compliance Inspection Center would "address a need to conduct audits even of the largest employers with a very large number of employees." The office would be announced Thursday, he said. Mr. Morton said that the center would be staffed with specialists who will pore over the I-9 employee files collected from companies targeted for audits. In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2010, ICE conducted audits of more than 2,740 companies, nearly twice as many as the previous year. The agency levied a record \$7 million in civil fines on businesses that employed illegal workers.

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01/24/2011

STATE OF THE UNION

VO: 29

President Barack Obama is putting the finishing touches on a State of the Union speech tomorrow that'll mostly be about one thing jobs. The president telegraphed the theme on Friday in an appearance at a GE plant in upstate New York saying it's time to put the U.S. economy into "overdrive." Look for a focus tomorrow on key investments and incentives to make U.S. companies more competitive and ready to hire. But aides say the speech will also be tempered by the need to start bringing down America's mountain of debt.

STATE OF THE UNION-WHAT PEOPLE WANT

VO: 22

Americans are talking about what's on top of their fix-it wish list as President Barack Obama prepares for tomorrow's State of the Union address. Twenty-three percent of those surveyed in the Associate press-GfK poll say employment is the most important single issue. Fifteen percent say it's fixing or reforming health care and 14 percent say fixing the overall economy is tops. The poll reveals discontent and some hope. More than half disapprove of Obama's handling of the economy and a little more than one-third say it's improved in his first two years. Still, Obama is considered likable, strong and in touch.

CONGRESS-SPENDING

VO: 29

Republicans plan to send President Barack Obama a message just a few hours before his State of the Union speech Tuesday. The House GOP has scheduled a vote telling budget committee chair Paul Ryan to pare back non-security spending for the second half of the current fiscal year to 2008 levels. House Majority leader Eric Cantor says cuts could go even deeper than that. He says, "We are about trying to find savings everywhere we can. The vote before Obama's address will force lawmakers to show where they stand on spending cuts.

MORTGAGE GIANTS LEAVE LEGAL BILLS TO THE TAXPAYERS

VO: 20

Since the government took over Fannie Mae, taxpayers have spent more than \$160 million defending the mortgage finance companies and their former top executives in civil lawsuits accusing them of fraud. The cost was a closely guarded secret until last week, when the companies and their regulator produced an accounting at the request of Congress. The bulk of those expenditures - \$132 million - went to defend Fannie Mae and its officials in various securities suits and government investigations into accounting irregularities that occurred years before the subprime lending crisis erupted. The legal payments show no sign of abating.

CERVICAL CANCER AND LATINAS

VO: 30

According to the American Cancer Society, Latinas in the U.S. are twice as likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer in comparison to non-Hispanic

white women. We are also less likely to get regular checkups, making the death rate among us 50% higher than white women's. And a new survey from the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation showed that while 89% of women don't feel they're at risk, 80% will get HPV in their lifetime. These are scary stats for the second most common cancer among women worldwide.

FIFTY HEALTHY

VO: 29

Many People Who Have Never Been Concerned About Their Health After 50 Years, Still Have Time To Reconsider. Experts In Various Fields Of Health Recommend To Put Batteries And Stop Smoking, Exercise, Weight Loss, Swimming And Healthy Eating. Also Recommended Yoga, Exercise On The Floor For Strengthening The Spine And Muscles. Also, The Trainers Ask Before You Do Stretching Exercises, Which Is Essential As It Ages. Another Task Is The Dance And Cycling.

UN JUNK FOOD

VO: 24

World Leaders Debate Campaign To Prevent The Junk Food Marketing To Children When You Meet In New York On September 19 And 20. So Announced The World Health Organization, Which Added That The Heads Of State Discuss The Limitation On The Number And Type Of Notice To Children Who Are Exposed. In The World, 43 Million Of Preschool Are Overweight Or Obese.

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1/25/2011

AIRLINES-MAKING MONEY

VO: 36

Putting the airlines back on course to profitability after a decade of multibillion-dollar losses appears to have been as simple as less is better. By grounding planes and eliminating flights, airlines have cut costs and pushed fares higher. As the global economy rebounds, travel demand is rising and planes are as full as they've been in years. The government says profit margins at big airlines are the highest in at least a decade, according to the government. The eight largest U.S. airlines are forecast to earn more than \$5 billion this year and \$5.6 billion in 2012.

OBAMA STATE OF THE UNION

VO: 23 AND INTERVIEWS

VALERIE JARRETT SENIOR ADVISOR OF PRESIDENT BARACK

OBAMA/WHITE HOUSE

REP. MARIO DIAZ BALART (R-FL)/ WASHINGTON, DC

President Barack Obama is formally launching the era of divided government tonight with his State of the Union speech to Congress. With Republicans running the House and clamoring for spending cuts, the president will agree it's time for tough fiscal choices but warn these can't prevent investments in helping companies create jobs. He's likely to seek some common ground with the GOP. The president's poll numbers are up modestly in recent weeks, as he struck bargains with the GOP in the lame-duck Congress and following his Tucson shooting memorial speech. As Obama made clear in a message to backers, it's a real balancing act which he hopes will be helped by the post-Tucson-shooting spirit of toned-down rhetoric. Some Democrats and Republicans in Congress plan to sit together for tonight's address.

US REPUBLICANS SPENDING

VO:22

Republicans controlling the House are putting members on record in favor of cutting the day-to-day budgets for domestic Cabinet agencies back to the levels in place before President Barack Obama won the White House. Tuesday's vote comes on a nonbinding resolution that promises cuts approaching 20 percent of the budgets for agencies like the Education and Commerce departments when Congress wraps up the long-overdue budget for the current fiscal year. The White House warns that such cuts would mean furloughs of tens of thousands of federal workers.

US BUSH WHITE HOUSE VIOLATIONS

VO: 24

The White House Office of Political Affairs during the George W. Bush administration violated the law by giving briefings to political employees, concludes a government report issued Monday. The report says the electoral success of the Republican Party and possible strategies for achieving it often were on the agenda at some 75 political briefings at 20 federal agencies from 2001 to 2007. Prohibited political activities were prevalent in the months running up to the 2006 midterm elections, according to the report.

PREVIEW STATE OF THE UNION & ECONOMY

LOURDES MELUZA/ WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:06

In discussing foreign policy, Obama is expected to underscore the end-of-year deadline for all U.S. troops to leave Iraq. Regarding Afghanistan, Obama will highlight the July deadline he has set for the start of troop withdrawals, a process scheduled to unfold through 2014 at a pace to be determined by conditions on the ground. But on other subjects, what exactly the president will say remains unclear. Gun-control groups are pushing for Obama to embrace stricter gun laws in the wake of the shooting in Tucson. Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said he wants Obama to support specific legislation, but would be satisfied if the president instead appointed a commission to look at the causes of gun violence. "A national tragedy took place, there should be a response," Helmke said. He added of the Tucson shooting, "no laws were broken until [the gunman] starting shooting." White House officials have been noncommittal on supporting any new legislation, and have not said if Obama will address gun control in his speech.

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01/26/2011

JAPAN TOYOTA RECALL

VO :24

Toyota is recalling nearly 1.7 million vehicles worldwide for various defects that may cause fuel leakage and other problems -- the latest in quality control woes for the Japanese automaker. Toyota Motor Corp. said Wednesday it was recalling several models, including the IS and GS Lexus luxury models in North America and the Avensis sedan and station wagon models in Europe. It is also recalling about a dozen models in Japan. There have been no accidents suspected of being related to the defects, according to Toyota.

STATE OF THE UNION RECAP AND ANALISIS

MARTIN BERLANGA PKG 2:00

LUIS MEGID PKG 2:00

INTERVIEW 6:00

VO :20

President Barack Obama's call to lower corporate tax rates is popular among business leaders and lawmakers from both parties. That support, however, won't be easy to maintain if the president ever gets specific about how to pay for the lower taxes. Obama said in his State of the Union address that he wants to close corporate tax loopholes and use the additional revenue to lower corporate tax rates for the first time in 25 years -- without adding to the budget deficit. The top corporate tax rate is 35 percent, among the highest in the industrialized world. However, federal tax laws are filled with so many credits, deductions and exemptions that few companies pay the top rate. Obama's goal is to create a simpler tax code that encourages sound business decisions rather than aggressive tax planning. As it stands now, businesses and individuals spend more than 6 billion hours a year working to comply with the tax code, according to the National Taxpayer Advocate, an independent watchdog within the Internal Revenue Service.

STUDY NAMES TOP CITIES FOR HOSPITAL CARE

VO :24

A health care organization has released a new list ranking the nation's best cities for hospital care. Health-Grades named West Palm Beach, Florida as number-one, with nine hospitals earning top marks. The group based its scores on factors including patient death rates; the number of medical complications; and performances on medical procedures. Rounding out the top five are Brownsville, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota; and Tucson, Arizona. It's worth noting Tucson is home to University Medical Center, the hospital that treated Representative Gabrielle Giffords and other victims after the shootings earlier this month.

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01/27/2011

SOCIAL SECURITY

VO :23

Social Security's finances are getting worse as the economy struggles to recover and millions of baby boomers stand at the brink of retirement. New congressional projections show Social Security running deficits every year until its trust funds are eventually drained in about 2037. This year alone, Social Security is projected to collect \$45 billion less in payroll taxes than it pays out in retirement, disability and survivor benefits, the nonpartisan

Congressional Budget Office said Wednesday. That figure swells to \$130 billion when a new one-year cut in payroll taxes is included, though Congress has promised to repay any lost revenue from the tax cut.

FORECLOSURES CITIES

VO :25

The foreclosure crisis is getting worse as high unemployment and lackluster job prospects force homeowners in an increasing number of U.S. metropolitan areas into dire financial straits. In Seattle, Houston and Chicago, a growing number of homeowners are falling behind on mortgage payments and finding themselves on the receiving end of foreclosure warnings. Others have already seen their homes repossessed by lenders. Those cities were relatively insulated from foreclosures early on in the housing bust. Foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac says all told, foreclosure activity jumped in 149 of the country's 206 largest metropolitan areas last year.

MICHELLE OBAMA TO SEE ARMY FITNESS, FOOD IN SC

VO :24

First lady Michelle Obama is visiting the Army's largest training post to see how the military turns couch potato recruits into strong and nutrition-minded soldiers. The first lady, who has taken on the cause of battling childhood obesity, was to speak Thursday to the latest crop of new soldiers at their graduation ceremony at Fort Jackson in central South Carolina. Her battle against children's lack of fitness intersects with the nation's need to field fit troops for the Army. Fort Jackson, which trains more than 60,000 soldiers annually and more than half the Army's female soldiers, is one of the service's five major posts for basic and advanced individual training. Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, who recently overhauled the way the Army feeds its troops during training, also revamped the Army's physical training regimen.

COLLEGE FRESHMEN

VO :29

American college freshmen are reporting record-low levels of emotional health, and an increasing number say they felt overwhelmed by work as high school seniors. That's according to a study being released Thursday by researchers at the University of California in Los Angeles. Lead author John Pryor says the emotional well-being of freshmen is at its lowest level in 25 years. Some experts say that could be because better medications and treatment are enabling more students with mental health

problems to attend college. The study also found a generally positive attitude toward higher education. Nearly 58 percent of freshmen expect they'll be satisfied with their college experience. Almost 73 percent believe that college will increase their earning power.

**105 MILLION IN U.S. HAVE DIABETES OR PREDIABETES, CDC SAYS
INTERVIEW WITH NILKA RIOS BURROWS, MPH APIDEMIOLOGIST AT
THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, CDC
TIME 4:00**

Obesity, changes in diagnostic criteria may be behind soaring rates. Diabetes now affects nearly 26 million Americans of all ages and 79 million people have what doctors call "prediabetes," according to 2011 estimates released Wednesday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prediabetes, which the CDC says affects 35 percent of adults, is a condition where blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. Prediabetes greatly boosts a person's odds for type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke. The vast majority of cases of diabetes are type 2, which develops when the body's cells gradually lose sensitivity to insulin. According to experts, there's one very big reason for type 2 diabetes' continuing rise among Americans -- weight gain.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK
INTEVIEW TO LAZARO MUR, CHARIMAN HISPANIC CREO
TIME 4:00**

Our message is simple: we need a K-12 education system that provides a wide array of options. We need an effective education system that has the flexibility to personalize and motivate students and allow parents to choose the school that is best for their child. National School Choice Week was created to provide a concentrated focus on this mission - a time for the media and the public to hear our resounding message and a time to bring new voices into the chorus. There is no one organization behind this effort; those working on setting it up come from a variety of school reform organizations. We may each have a specialty: charter school growth and success, universal vouchers and tuition tax credits, corralling out-of-control spending, or union accountability, but each is equally important and all should plan to be a part of this special week.

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01/28/2011

ECONOMY

VO :20

Americans likely spent more freely and U.S. companies sold more abroad, giving the economy solid momentum at the end of last year. That's boosting hopes for a stronger 2011. Economists expect the government to report Friday that economic growth rose at an annualized rate of 3.5 percent in the October-December quarter. If they are right, it would show the economy has consistently gained speed since hitting a rough patch in the spring. Growth slowed sharply at that time as Europe's debt crisis hurt sales of U.S. exports and crimped other business activity.

FBI EXECUTES SEARCH WARRANTS IN PROBE OF PRO-WIKILEAKS CYBER ATTACKS

VO :26

FBI agents have executed 40 search warrants throughout the United States as part of an investigation into recent coordinated cyber attacks targeting major companies, the agency said. The United Kingdom's Metropolitan Police Service executed additional search warrants and arrested five people for their alleged role in the attacks, the FBI said in a statement Thursday. A group calling itself "Anonymous" has claimed responsibility for the attacks, the FBI said. The attacks were allegedly carried out by people who are active supporters of WikiLeaks, but are not affiliated with the website, a federal law enforcement source said.

COLOR ALERT

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:55

The Obama administration Thursday unveiled a new system to warn Americans about terrorism threats that will include specific information about the threat, scrapping the widely ignored color-coded alerts. The old approach was criticized because it lacked specifics about threats, prompting people to ignore the warnings. The new approach will tell the public whether the threat is "imminent" or if there is an "elevated" risk of threat. The new system will be implemented over the next three months and U.S. security officials have apparently quietly tried the new alert approach. The Transportation Security Administration, responsible for airport security, issued an advisory in December that officers may closely

examine insulated drink containers after learning al Qaeda operatives may try to hide explosives in them.

CREDIT CARD RATES AT RECORD HIGHS NEAR 15%

VO :33

Interest rates are now hovering near record highs, at an average rate of 14.72%. And if your credit is bad enough, you could even end up with a rate as high as 59.9% APR. That's because while the CARD Act helped crack down on certain fees and requires more disclosures, it didn't cap every credit card holder's worst enemy: interest rates. Sure, the new rules prevent banks from raising most interest rates retroactively, but there's no limit on the rates they can charge new customers. APRs have climbed more than 20% over the past two years and hit an all-time high of an average 14.78% in mid-November, based on weekly data collected from 100 of the nation's top credit card issuers. And there's no end in sight. While interest rate caps have been proposed -- including a proposal earlier this month from New York Congressman Maurice Hinchey that would limit rates at 15% -- none have been passed into law so far.

SIZE MATTERS TO BABIES, TOO, A STUDY SUGGESTS

VO :27

Far from being something children learn on the playground, from pop culture, or in lessons from parents, the importance of size in social hierarchies may be innate or develop very early in life, the research suggests. The study published yesterday by the journal *Science* describes an experiment in which babies watched animated cartoons in which big and small blocks bound toward one another, bump against each other, and bow differentially. If the big block bowed to the small one, infants as young as 10 months old stared for a long time, indicating to researchers that this bit of social choreography defied their expectations. The new work adds to a growing body of research revealing the powerful social tool kit that babies use to make sense of the world and suggests that they understand some basic rules of social interaction before they have had to use them.

FIRST LADY PRESSES AHEAD WITH FITNESS CAMPAIGN

VO :31

First lady Michelle Obama says her "Let's Move" physical fitness campaign isn't about telling the American people what to do. Obama tells ABC's "Good Morning America" that improving diet and exercise habits is "a national security issue." The "Let's Move" campaign will be a year old next

month, and President Barack Obama's wife has recently been taking it to military installations. She says in the interview broadcast Friday that too many young military men and women are "unable to train" because of weight, fitness and nutrition programs. Mrs. Obama says her physical fitness campaign "has never been about the government telling people what do to." Instead, she said the emphasis is on giving people information about nutrition and fitness so they can make better choices for themselves and their children.

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01/31/2011

DIETARY GUIDELINES SALT

VO: 26

The government is launching an assault on salt. It's telling half of the U.S. population to drastically cut their daily salt intake. That warning goes for people who are 51 and older, all African-Americans and anyone suffering from hypertension, diabetes or chronic kidney disease. It recommends reducing daily sodium intake to little more than half a teaspoon. For everyone else, the government continues to recommend about a teaspoon a day -- 2,300 milligrams, or about one-third less than the average person usually consumes.

ECONOMY CALIFORNIA - BUDGET

VO: 27

Governor Jerry Brown is set to press California lawmakers in his state-of-the-state address Monday to balance the state budget with \$12.5 billion in spending cuts and \$12 billion in tax hikes California, the most populous U.S. state, faces a \$25.4 billion deficit caused by the combined effects of recession, high unemployment and turmoil in financial and housing markets.

CLINTON CALLS ON U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MASS MEETING

VO: 28

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is convening an unprecedented mass meeting of U.S. ambassadors. The top envoys from nearly all of America's 260 embassies, consulates and other posts in more than 180 countries will be gathering at the State Department beginning on Monday. Officials say it's the first such global conference. The gathering comes at a time of crisis in Egypt that could reshape dynamics in the Middle East,

fallout from leaked diplomatic documents and congressional calls for sweeping cuts in foreign aid. Although the meeting has been called to discuss U.S. foreign policy priorities for 2011, officials say Clinton plans to meet personally with ambassadors from front-line states to hear about developments on the ground. Officials also expect that specific concerns about the WikiLeaks revelations will be raised.

ANTI-UNDOCUMENTED LAWS

VO: 28

There Is A New Attempt In The United States To Strengthen The Persecution Of The Undocumented. Americans Group For Legal Immigration Pac Announces Campaign Called "The Fight For The States 2011" A Walk On Republican Party And Members Of Tea In North Carolina, The Day That The Republicans Take Control Of The State Assembly. By Now, Legislators In Ten States Have Similar To The Proposed Laws Of Arizona, Including Florida, Pennsylvania, And Texas.

USA-HEALTHCARE/STATES

VO: 23

A Florida judge could Monday become the second U.S. judge to declare President Barack Obama's healthcare reform law unconstitutional, in the biggest legal challenge yet to federal authority to enact the law. The judge, Roger Vinson of the U.S. District Court in Pensacola, Florida, was expected to rule on a lawsuit brought by governors and attorneys general from 26 U.S. states, almost all of whom are Republicans. Obama is a Democrat. The plaintiffs represent more than half the U.S. states, so the Pensacola case has more prominence than some two dozen lawsuits filed in federal courts over the healthcare law.

GUIDELINES URGE AMERICANS TO CLEAN UP THEIR DIETS

VO: 23

So it's no surprise that the federal government's new dietary guidelines, being released today, recommend people get back on track and eat healthier by slashing sugar, salt and solid fats such as butter and stick margarine from their diets and eating more seafood, fruits, vegetables and whole grains. The latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services, are designed to help people reach a healthy weight and reduce their risk of diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer. About two-thirds of adults and one-third of children in the USA are

overweight or obese."We are saying to Americans: You really need to think about your diet because you want to live a good, healthy life and you want your children and grandchildren to have that same opportunity," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack "You need to be conscious of what you eat."Among the 23 key recommendations:Consume fewer calories from solid fats and added sugars.Eat more fruits and vegetables.

CERVICAL CANCER
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ- NEW JERSEY
PKG 2:13

The Gardasil shot made its debut years ago, but Lubbock doctors and nurses said there's still a need for more education about the vaccine in Lubbock. The shot prevents the human papilloma virus, HPV, which can cause cervical cancer. Members of the health community have taken time out throughout the month of January, Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, to talk to patients about the importance of prevention and early detection. Cervical cancer, or cancer of the cervix, is one of the most common types of cancer that affects a woman's reproductive organs. Because HPV is the most common cause of cervical cancer, preventing this sexually transmitted disease is the best way to prevent the cancer. Darla Porter, a nurse practitioner, said patients can prevent the disease by limiting their number of sexual partners, using condoms and, of course, receiving the vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends girls receive the shot as early as age 9. Catch-up shots are available for girls and women ages 13 to 26 who haven't received the vaccine. The cervical cancer vaccine isn't recommended, however, for women older than 26.

===END OF REPORT===