

## **FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA JANUARY 1-15 PART I**

**01/03/2011**

### **NEW CONGRESS**

**VO: 28**

Even if the next two years end in congressional gridlock, Republicans hope to build a record that demonstrates to voters in 2012 that they can get it right. The GOP is promising to use the new Congress that convenes Wednesday to cut spending, roll back President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and prevent unelected bureaucrats from expanding the government's role in society through regulations that tell people what they must or can't do.

### **OBAMA-SEPT 11 BILL**

**VO:28**

President Barack Obama says he's honored to sign a bill to provide aid to survivors of the Sept. 11 attacks and first responders who became ill working at ground zero. In a statement, the president says: "We will never forget the selfless courage demonstrated by the firefighters, police officers and first responders who risked their lives to save others." The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act was named after a police officer who died of a respiratory disease he contracted during the 9/11 rescue operations

### **CANCER BLOOD TEST**

**VO: 20**

Researchers are making progress on a blood test that can spot a single cancer cell among a billion healthy ones. The health care company Johnson & Johnson says it will join scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital, where the test was invented, to try to bring the test to market within the next several years. Researchers think the test has the potential to transform care of many types of cancer, especially breast, colon, prostate and lung.

### **EATING LOTS OF RED MEAT UPS WOMEN'S STROKE RISK**

**VO: 19**

Women who eat a lot of red meat may be putting themselves at increased risk of stroke, a new study in more than 30,000 Swedish women hints. The study team found that those in the top tenth for red meat consumption, who

ate at least 102 grams or 3.6 ounces daily, were 42 percent more likely to suffer a stroke due to blocked blood flow in the brain compared to women who ate less than 25 grams of red meat daily.

## **FAMILY HISTORY OF ALCOHOLISM RAISES OBESITY RISK**

### **VO: 21**

People with a family history of alcoholism may be turning to high-calorie treats instead of booze to satisfy their addiction, U.S. researchers say, a change that could be fueling the obesity epidemic. Because alcohol and bingeing on junk foods stimulate the same parts of the brain, it may be that people with a predisposition to alcoholism are replacing alcohol with junk foods, says the team from Washington University in St. Louis.

## **PREGNANT WOMEN OFTEN DENY SMOKING**

### **VO: 20**

Overall, about one in four women who smoke while pregnant deny it, a new study hints. The numbers could be even higher in certain groups of women, like those in their early 20s. In the United States, smoking by moms-to-be is one of the most common preventable causes of illness and death among infants, Dr. Patricia Dietz from the division of reproductive health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and colleagues note in their report.

## **SMOKING TIED TO MISCARRIAGE RISK**

### **VO:22**

A new study may offer women one more reason to kick the smoking habit before becoming pregnant: a potentially reduced risk of early miscarriage. In a study of nearly 1,300 Japanese women with a past pregnancy, researchers found that those who smoked heavily early in pregnancy were more than twice as likely as non-smokers to suffer a miscarriage in the first trimester.

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**01/04/2011**

## **OBAMA-FOOD SAFETY**

### **VO: 27**

President Barack Obama joined millions of parents who wanted the government to do a better job of keeping peanut butter and other foods

safe for their kids to eat. On Tuesday, Obama is getting a chance to ease such fears about the food supply. The president is set to sign a bill that overhauls the food safety system by giving the federal government new powers over inspections at food processing facilities and companies that produce tainted products. Congress passed the bill to respond to several outbreaks of E. coli and salmonella poisoning in peanuts, eggs and produce in the past few years. The law will be the first major overhaul of the U.S. food safety system since the 1930s.

## **HEALTH CARE REPEAL**

### **VO: 21**

House Republicans are giving themselves a week before they flex their new muscles. They're planning to vote next Wednesday on repealing the health care law. They say it's too expensive and it's a job killer. Senate Democrats are promising to block any effort to repeal the law. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and others say the GOP should consider the consequences of trying to repeal a law containing popular consumer protections that help the middle class.

## **STATES SEEK TO TACKLE BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP, ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**

### **VO: 27**

State lawmakers from Georgia and several other states are gathering in Washington this week for the announcement of a new front opening up in the war over illegal immigration. They are taking aim at the 14th Amendment, which grants U.S. citizenship to children born here even if their parents are in the country illegally. The lawmakers disagree with that practice, complaining illegal immigrants and their children are sapping taxpayer-funded services and attracting more illegal immigrants to the United States

## **TOYOTA LAWSUITS-INSURANCE**

### **VO: 20**

Seven insurance companies are suing Toyota Motor Corp. in an attempt to recover money paid to cover crashes they blame on sudden acceleration. The Los Angeles Times reports that the insurers seek damages in excess of \$230,000 from 14 crashes throughout the United States. The lawsuits were filed Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court. The insurers cite data that blames 725 crashes on sudden acceleration and fault Toyota for failing

to equip its cars with an override system that would cause a car to idle if the brake and gas were deployed simultaneously.

## **ONLINE HEALTH INFO POPULAR BUT OFTEN UNCHECKED**

**VO: 26**

The number of people looking for health information online is set to soar as workers return from holiday breaks, but few will check where the information comes from, according to an international survey on Tuesday. A report by researchers at the London School of Economics (LSE) commissioned by the private healthcare firm Bupa said that with smartphones and tablet computers set to outsell personal computers by 2012, more health information is available online and there are more ways to access it than ever before.

## **SINCE VACCINE, FEWER HOSPITALIZED FOR CHICKENPOX**

**VO: 22**

Since the U.S. began routine chickenpox vaccination in 1995, the number of Americans sent to hospitals by the infection each year has dropped by more than two-thirds, government researchers reported Monday. Studies have shown that after vaccination against the varicella virus that causes chickenpox became standard, yearly rates of chickenpox infections in the U.S. fell by 80 percent to 90 percent over the next decade.

## **RADIATION EXPOSURE FROM IMAGING COMMON IN KIDS**

**VO: 27**

Children and teens often get diagnostic tests that expose them to radiation, increasing the risk of cancer later in life, U.S. researchers said on Monday. "In just a three-year span, 42.5 percent of kids got some form of ionizing radiation from a diagnostic medical procedure," said Dr. Adam Dorfman, a pediatric cardiologist at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, whose study appears in the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

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**01/05/11**

**NEW CONGRESS TODAY**

**BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. WASHINGTON, DC**

**LIVE 12:00**

Taking control of the House at last, Republicans are rushing straight into a political fight with President Barack Obama over health care and changes in Washington they say voters demanded in the midterm elections.

Incoming House Speaker John Boehner says "it's new energy" after two years of Democratic dominance. But the Republican upsurge also ushers in a divided government in the run-up to the 2012 elections. With campaigns but a short time away, President Barack Obama and Republicans are set to square off over the size of government and the taxpayer dollars it spends. Fresh from a Hawaii vacation, Obama says there will be enough time to campaign next year. Still, both parties will start building their election-year cases in the congressional arena Wednesday.

## **IMMIGRACION EE.UU**

**VO :23**

Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives successfully campaigned in November's congressional elections on a "Pledge to America" that they said would heal the ailing economy. While short on specifics, the agenda aims to create jobs, reduce spending, shrink government and cut taxes. The Democrats still control the Senate, making it difficult for Republicans to deliver many of their promises.

## **MCCAIN WILLING TO SEEK IMMIGRATION OVERHAUL BILL**

**VO :34**

Sen. John McCain says he would support congressional work toward an overhaul of the immigration system once "the borders have been secured." The Arizona Republican who has been elected to a fifth term also tells NBC's "Today" show he will reintroduce legislation aimed at giving president's line-item veto authority in the budget-making process. McCain says GOP lawmakers celebrating their newfound power on Capitol Hill should remember that last fall's elections were not so much an embrace of their policies as it was "a vote of disapproval with how we've been doing business."

## **NEW CONGRESS INTERVIEW / HEALTH CARE**

**VICTORIA DE FRANCESCO. AUSTIN, TEXAS**

**LIVE 4:00**

Republicans armed with new power will pounce on one of their top targets, President Barack Obama's hard-fought healthcare reforms, when the House reopens for business Wednesday. Although Obama's Democrats, who still control the Senate, can probably rebuff any attempt to repeal the

overhaul, House Republicans say they will try to choke off its funding and delay its implementation. The reforms, passed early last year as the legislative high point of Obama's first two years, were aimed at addressing the huge cost of U.S. healthcare and eventually extending health insurance to all Americans.

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**01/06/11**

**NEW CONGRESS. SECOND DAY  
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. WASHINGTON, DC  
PKG 3:04**

Almost as soon as they take control of the House at noon Wednesday, Republicans will embark on a 20-day plan aimed at undoing major aspects of President Barack Obama's agenda as they seek to take advantage of the weeks before the Senate's return and the president's State of the Union address. The first move will come Friday, when the House begins the process of repealing the new health care law. House leaders will then quickly begin to identify tens of billions of dollars in proposed spending cuts and to ease regulations that businesses find burdensome. Much of what Republicans do will be symbolic, given that Democrats still control the Senate and the White House. But the quick action will allow Rep. John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), the incoming speaker, and House Republicans to follow through on campaign pledges and to try to establish their party as a bulwark against what they see as an out-of-control government.

**BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP EFFORT  
JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA  
PKG 2:00**

Lawmakers in at least 14 states have said they are committed to passing the legislation targeting birthright citizenship. They are taking aim at the 14th Amendment, which grants U.S. citizenship to children born here even if their parents are in the country illegally. The lawmakers disagree with that practice, they say that illegal immigrants and their children are sapping taxpayer-funded services and attracting more illegal immigrants to the United States. Which States Are Getting On Board Among these states is Arizona, whose state Senator, Russell Pearce, will unveil the bill on January 5 in Washington, D.C. Lawmakers in Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New

Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah. Arizona's anti-illegal-immigrant bill, SB-1070, was also based on model legislation that could be easily copied by states, and at least seven states are likely to pass bills similar to the first Arizona immigration overhaul this year.

## **CENSUS: NUMBER OF POOR MAY BE MILLIONS HIGHER**

**VO :24**

The number of poor people in the U.S. is millions higher than previously known, with 1 in 6 Americans -- many of them 65 and older -- struggling in poverty due to rising medical care and other costs, according to preliminary census figures released Wednesday. At the same time, government aid programs such as tax credits and food stamps kept many people out of poverty, helping to ensure the poverty rate did not balloon even higher during the recession in 2009, President Barack Obama's first year in office.

## **NEW CONGRESS DEFICITS**

**VO :25**

Democrats are accusing House Republicans of exempting more than \$1 trillion in proposed tax cuts and higher spending over the next 10 years from a promise to cut federal deficits. The exemptions include a bill to repeal last year's health care legislation as well GOP-backed proposals extending tax cuts for upper income filers. That's according to a tally several Senate Democrats plan to present at a news conference Thursday. House Republicans have made deficit reduction a cornerstone of their agenda for the next two years and have passed rules to that end. But the rules exempt a handful of specific bills for now.

## **JOB CREATION**

**VO :23**

A new report is raising hopes the government's official report Friday on last month's job creation could be a blockbuster. The private payroll firm, Automatic Data Processing, says companies added nearly 300,000 jobs in December. While some economists see reasons to doubt the numbers, the ADP report and another showing strength in service industries are generating optimism the unemployment rate might start to fall. Economists say it takes up to 300,000 new jobs a month to reduce the jobless rate significantly.

## **HOLIDAY SHOPPING ECONOMY**

**VO :24**

Shoppers' holiday-season splurge was likely a preview of what's to come in 2011, and economists say it should embolden companies to expand and hire. Americans spent more in the 50 days before Christmas than analysts had expected -- the sharpest annual increase since 2006. It's the surest sign yet they're becoming less frugal as the economy rebounds. Normally in January, shoppers recover from their holiday splurges by curtailing their purchases. Not likely this time. Economists say the tax cuts approved by Congress, a rising stock market, a slow but steady rise in hiring and banks' growing willingness to lend will sustain shoppers' spending.

**CAMIONEROS & TPS**  
**PEDRO ROJAS. HOUSTON, TEXAS**  
**PKG 1:38**

How are the cargo truck drivers dealing with the fact they are having troubles with re-newing their commercial driver's license. Statement from DPS says they are aware of the issue and over the 90 days those who have a temporary drivers license will need to provide additional paper work.

**RULING ALLOWS CELL PHONE SEARCHES**  
**VO :23**

Police in California can now search content of arrested person's cell phone. If you get arrested in California, you better hope there is no incriminating data stored on your cell phone. A Superior Court has ruled that police can search the content of an arrested person's phone. The ruling allows police in California to access any data stored on an arrestee's phone including photos, address book, Web browsing history, data stored in apps. The California ruling is expected to be challenged -- and could end up before the U-S Supreme Court.

**VACCINE FRAUD**  
**VO :22**

A new report finds that the first study to link a childhood vaccine to autism was based on doctored information about the children involved. The conclusions of the 1998 paper by Andrew Wakefield and colleagues had already been widely discredited. Still, the suggestion the MMR shot was connected to autism spooked parents worldwide and immunization rates for measles, mumps and rubella have never fully recovered. A new examination found, by comparing the reported diagnoses in the paper to

hospital records, that Wakefield and colleagues altered facts about patients in their study. The analysis was conducted by British journalist Brian Deer.

### **NEWER TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO FACE FDA REVIEW**

**VO :30**

Cigarette makers will have to provide U.S. regulators with detailed information about the ingredients and design of products they have introduced or changed since early 2007, or face possible penalties. In new rules for the industry, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is implementing provisions of a law enacted last year on how companies can show new or modified cigarettes and other tobacco products are not more harmful than those sold before February 15, 2007.

### **VACCINE THAT BLOCKS COCAINE TESTED IN MICE**

**VO :27**

U.S. researchers say the discovery of a vaccine that blocks the action of cocaine on the brains of mice could lead to addiction treatments for humans. Scientists at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York say the vaccine binds to, and sequesters, cocaine molecules before the drug reaches the brains of the animals, preventing any cocaine-related hyperactivity, a Cornell University release said Tuesday. The vaccine effect in mice lasted for at least 13 weeks, the researchers said.

### **SEPTEMBER 11 SURVIVORS SHOW LASTING TRAUMATIC STRESS**

**VO :20**

Many civilian survivors of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center were still suffering from symptoms of post-traumatic stress several years after the 2001 disaster, a new study finds. Surveys of nearly 3,700 people who escaped the Twin Towers that day found that nearly all -- 96 percent -- still had at least one symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) two to three years later.

### **HYSTERECTOMY LINKED TO CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE**

**VO :23**

Women who have their uterus removed for reasons other than cancer may be at a greater risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke, suggests a large new study. The risk appears to rise even higher for women who also have both ovaries removed. However, the Swedish researchers stop short of saying that taking out either the uterus or the ovaries can actually cause cardiovascular disease.

## **HEALTHY CHOICES TIED TO KIDS' CHOLESTEROL CHANGES**

**VO :29**

While unchecked cholesterol may spell trouble for adults, the picture is less clear for kids, whose cholesterol levels often change as they grow up. In a study out this week, Australian researchers say certain lifestyle choices could help explain why some kids with troubling cholesterol levels stay at risk and others don't.

## **ALCOHOL AND EXERCISING**

**VO :22**

The more people drink alcohol -- the more they exercise. That's from a survey in the American Journal of Health Promotion. Heavy drinkers said they exercised about 10 minutes more per week than moderate drinkers -- and 20 minutes more than people who don't drink at all. Researchers were too-- as healthy habits and \*unhealthy\* ones don't usually go hand in hand

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**01/07/11**

## **US ECONOMY**

**VO: 21**

The nation's economy added 103,000 jobs in December and the unemployment rate dropped to 9.4 percent last month, its lowest level in 19 months. But the job growth fell short of expectations based on a strengthening economy. And the drop in unemployment was partly because people stopped looking for work. Private employers added a net total of 113,000 jobs last month and the government shed 10,000 jobs, the Labor Department said Friday.

## **BELL SALARIES**

**VO :28**

The fiscal woes brought on by scandals and sky-high salaries are continuing in Bell as a new audit says the Los Angeles-area city's ability to provide basic services for its residents is at risk. The Los Angeles Times reports that the audit released Thursday says if the city continues spending as it has it will end up \$2.2 million in debt at the end of this fiscal year. The audit requested and paid for by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria

Molina recommends laying off public employees, cutting city services and possibly disbanding the Bell Police Department.

## **WINTER WEATHER**

**VO :25**

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is making sure crews are ready for this morning's snow, even though fewer than 6 inches is expected to fall. Bloomberg took a political pummeling last week after a post-Christmas blizzard paralyzed the city and its airports for days. Residents complained that it took too long for emergency workers to respond to 911 calls, if they responded at all. And days later, melting snow revealed huge piles of trash that garbage trucks hadn't been able to reach.

## **MORE YOUNGER PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES**

**VO :22**

An increase in the number of younger residents of nursing homes is posing a challenge for caregivers and patients alike. An analysis of federal data shows about one in seven nursing home residents in the U.S. is now under the age of 65, more than 200,000 all told. That's up about 22 percent over the past eight years. Experts attribute the increase to medical advances that have kept alive people who've suffered traumatic injuries as well as the shuttering of mental health facilities.

## **ECONOMY ANALYSIS**

**ENRIQUE ALVAREZ. NEW YORK**

**INTERVIEW 4:00**

The nation's unemployment rate dropped to 9.4 percent last month, its lowest level in 19 months. That was because more people found jobs, but also because some people gave up on their job searches. The Labor Department says employers added 103,000 jobs in December, an improvement from November's revised total of 71,000 but far below most analysts' expectations. Once unemployed workers stop looking for work, the government no longer counts them as unemployed. Through all of 2010, the nation added 1.1 million jobs, or an average of 94,000 jobs a month.

## **US DEATH PENALTY**

**VO :19**

The Illinois House has approved a plan to abolish capital punishment in a whirlwind reversal on a historic vote. The legislation to halt state-sponsored

execution gained the necessary 60 votes Thursday after an earlier vote fell short. The landmark action comes nearly 11 years after then-Gov. George Ryan cleared death row and declared a moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois. The legislation now moves to the Senate, where President John Cullerton says he supports the proposal and hopes it passes. But the Chicago Democrat says he won't push his members to back it, calling the vote a personal decision.

## **TAMALE PRODUCT RECALL**

### **VO :22**

A San Francisco-based pasta company on Thursday began pulling thousands of pounds of its frozen meat and poultry tamale products from stores because they contain an allergen that is not listed on the label. Homestead Pasta Company is recalling approximately 144,633 pounds of the frozen meat and poultry products because they contain the undeclared allergen whey, the United States Department of Agriculture announced Thursday. Whey is a known dairy allergen, the USDA said.

## **CAN DIET PROTECT AGAINST ASTHMA?**

### **VO :23**

What you eat might affect your risk of developing allergies or asthma, and possibly that of your kids, hints a new review of the medical evidence. Researchers found zinc, vitamins A, D, and E, as well as fruits and vegetables, seemed to have a protective role, but they stress the data are too preliminary to draw any firm conclusions.

## **FIU BANS SMOKING ON CAMPUS AND IN CARS**

### **VO :24**

Nicotine-craving students and professors at Florida International University may be feeling a bit on edge this week. FIU has imposed a campus-wide ban on smoking -- even outdoors and in cars. FIU is the first South Florida university to have a tobacco ban, and only the second in the state. The University of Florida went smoke-free in July. The use of tobacco is barred on the main Modesto A. Maidique Campus in West Miami-Dade, the Biscayne Bay Campus in North Miami, recreational areas and dorms. Smoking also is banned in campus parking lots, garages and inside the cars parked in them.

**01/11/11**

## **PLANES-AIR BAGS**

**VO : 32**

Federal safety officials urged Tuesday that aircraft owners be required to retrofit small planes with shoulder-lap seatbelts, but stopped short of calling for the installation of air bags. A three-year study of small plane accidents released by the National Transportation Safety Board found several cases in which air bags prevented serious injuries or fatalities. But investigators said that since only about 7,000 planes have air bags, there haven't been enough accidents yet to judge whether they should be required on all planes. Although airbags have been mandated in automobiles for over a decade, the aviation industry has no such requirement for small aircraft.

## **US HIGH COURT REJECTS OBAMA CITIZENSHIP CASE**

**VO :22**

The US Supreme Court refused Monday to take up the question of President Barack Obama's citizenship, which a core group of skeptics continues to challenge despite presentation of his US birth certificate. The high court, without comment, rejected the request by Orly Taitz, a California lawyer who has emerged as a leader of the "birther" movement of mainly rightwing protesters who question where Obama was born. She had asked the court to annul a federal judge's 20,000-dollar penalty for filing a "frivolous lawsuit" by her client, a US soldier who refused to deploy to Iraq because she viewed the commander in chief as illegitimate. The US Constitution allows only "natural born" Americans to be elected to the presidency. Obama was born on August 4, 1961 in the US state of Hawaii.

## **ABORTION RATES STUDY**

**VO :33**

The abortion rate has leveled off after nearly 30 years of decline, according to a study by the Guttmacher Institute. In 2008, the abortion rate stood at 19.6 per 1,000 women age 15 to 44, virtually unchanged from the 2005 rate of 19.4, the 1st time since 1981 that the numbers have not declined.

## **STATINS MAY RAISE STROKE RISK IN SOME: STUDY**

**VO :25**

People who have had a type of stroke caused by bleeding in the brain should avoid taking cholesterol-lowering drugs known as statins, U.S. researchers said on Monday. Although statins are commonly used to prevent heart attacks and strokes, they said the drugs could increase the risks of a second stroke in these patients, outweighing any other heart

benefits from the drugs. That was especially true of people who had strokes in one of the brain's four lobes - frontal, parietal, temporal, or occipital - which recur more frequently than such strokes that occur deep in the brain.

## **NEW FLUORIDE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**VO :20**

After decades of touting the importance of fluoride, federal officials now say that many Americans may be getting too much of a good thing. For years, parents have heeded their dentists' warnings and had their children take fluoride supplements or use fluoride toothpaste, in addition to whatever amount of the mineral they received from their tap water. But today the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that too much fluoride can cause fluorosis, a hypermineralization of tooth enamel that can result in the staining or pitting of teeth.

## **DOCS URGE SHOTS AS FLU SEASON GRABS THE SOUTH, NYC**

**VO :31**

Flu season's arrived with lots of coughing and fever in the South and New York City, and it's sure to spread to the rest of the country. The good news: There's still plenty of vaccine for procrastinators. But don't wait much longer - it takes about two weeks for the vaccine's protection to kick in. If this seems like a late start for influenza, not so: We're just getting back to normal after the swine flu pandemic that made the 2009-10 flu season hit unusually early. January and February typically are the worst flu months, and it can drag into March. And this winter, a well-known nasty strain of Type A flu is causing most of the illnesses so far in the U.S. This so-called H3N2 branch of the flu family tends to trigger more pneumonia and other complications than other forms of influenza.

## **SWINE FLU SURVIVORS DEVELOPED SUPER FLU ANTIBODIES**

**VO :24**

A study of antibodies from people infected with H1N1 swine flu adds proof that scientists are closing in on a "universal" flu shot that could neutralize many types of flu strains, including H1N1 swine flu and H5N1 bird flu, U.S. researchers said on Monday. They said people who were infected in the H1N1 pandemic developed an unusual immune response, making antibodies that could protect them from all the seasonal H1N1 flu strains

from the last decade, the deadly "Spanish flu" strain from 1918 and even a strain of the H5N1 avian flu.

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**01/12/11**

**AP POLL-OBAMA AND CONGRESS**

**VO: 34**

The latest Associated Press-GfK poll shows Americans giving higher marks to President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans after a holiday season of compromise that paid dividends for both. At the start of the new era of divided government, the survey finds that 53 percent of Americans approve of how Obama is doing his job. Those are the president's best numbers since the divisive health care vote 10 months ago. Compared with just after the November elections, more Americans now express confidence that Obama and the new Republican-controlled House can work together to solve the country's most urgent problems. Chief among those problems is the struggling economy. While expressing more optimism in certain areas, Americans remain down on Congress itself.

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**01/13/11**

**CONGRESS RESOLUTION/SECURITY BRIEFING**

**LOURDES MELUZA - WASHINGTON, DC**

**PKG 2:33**

Shaken by the attempted assassination of their colleague, Gabrielle Giffords and the murder of one of her aides, House members reconvened at the Capitol on Wednesday to honor those killed and wounded in the Arizona shooting rampage and to begin reviewing security concerns with law enforcement officials. At the same time, many Republican lawmakers quickly rejected any suggestion that gun control laws need to be tightened, even to limit access to the expanded ammunition clip that the gunman, Jared L. Loughner, used to spray bullets outside a supermarket, killing six people and wounding 14, including Ms. Giffords who was shot in the head. As the House convened to consider a resolution honoring the dead and those wounded in the Arizona shooting, the speaker, John A. Boehner of Ohio,

said , "These are difficult hours for our country" and his eyes welled with tears as he described the loss of Gabriel M. Zimmerman, an aide to Ms. Giffords, calling him, "one of our own."

## **US DELAY**

### **VO: 22**

Former House Republican leader Tom DeLay says his conviction on money laundering charges was a politically-inspired case brought by prosecutors in "the most liberal county in Texas." DeLay tells NBC's "Today" show that prosecutors "never proved" their case against him. DeLay is free on bond after being sentenced to three years in prison and 10 years' probation on a conviction of scheming to illegally influence Texas elections. On Thursday, he again denied the charges.

## **1 MILLION HOMES REPOSESSED IN**

### **VO:22**

Foreclosures hit a record high in 20-10. A report released today (Thursday) by RealtyTrac-- shows more than 1 million people lost their homes, even as notices started leveling off at the end year. There were nearly two-point-nine million foreclosure notices filed. That was a record high-- but just 1 point 7 percent above 20-09. Experts say it would have been much higher had notices not plunged in November and December as banks halted tens of thousands of foreclosures in the face of the robo-signing scandal. For the fourth year, Nevada led the nation in foreclosures-- with one of every 11 households receiving at least one filing.

## **REPORT ON HOMELESSNESS SHOWS INCREASE AMONG FAMILIES DURING RECESSION**

### **VO: 21**

During the throes of the recession, the number of homeless people in the United States increased, and the number of homeless families increased at an even greater rate, according to a report released Wednesday. The findings by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, although not surprising, confirm the harsh toll that the recession - which began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009 - took on families. Historically, people struggling with mental illness, substance abuse or other chronic problems have been the focus of government homelessness efforts, and until recently the number of such homeless people had been declining. But the recession, which has led to rising unemployment and declining social

services, has slowed progress among the chronically homeless and increased numbers of the newly homeless, among them many families, according to the alliance's report. State by state the picture was mixed, with 19 states reporting decreases in homelessness. "The good news is, the numbers could have been a lot worse," Nan Roman, the alliance's executive director, said Wednesday at a news conference at the National Press Club.

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**01/14/2011**

### **HUSBAND: GIFFORDS' BREATHING TUBE MAY BE REMOVED FRIDAY**

**VO: 22**

"It was extraordinary," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York, who was holding Giffords' hand when she opened her eyes on Wednesday. "It was a miracle to witness." The incident occurred shortly after President Obama had visited Giffords in her hospital room. "I think she realized the president of the United States was there, but I'm not sure she knew why," said Mark Kelly, Giffords' husband. Kelly also said his wife's breathing tube could be removed Friday, which could be a sign that she is getting stronger. Less than an hour after his Wednesday visit, given permission to disclose the information by Kelly, Obama electrified a memorial service crowd and a national television audience by revealing one of the most promising pieces of news about Gifford's condition to emerge since an Assassination attempt against her on Saturday.

### **BORDER SHOOTING - ROAD WORKERS**

**VO: 27**

Authorities say workers who were repairing a road near the U.S.-Mexican border in West Texas were fired upon by an unknown gunman in Mexico. Hudspeth County Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Doyal says a crew of four county employees was working on the county road along the Rio Grande late Thursday morning when they heard around eight rounds fired from across the river. The workers quickly fled after several of the rounds hit the ground near them, kicking up dirt. No workers were injured. Authorities found no suspects in the area, situated about 15 miles south of Interstate 10 between Fort Hancock and Sierra Blanca. One witness told investigators he saw a white pickup truck speed away from the area after the shooting.

## **GOP SEEKING HISPANICS**

**VO: 21**

Republicans gathering in South Florida to improve the party's outreach to Hispanic voters will tackle trade, education -- and the elephant in the room, immigration -- at a conference organized by the new Hispanic Action Network. Friday's conference is part of a growing number of Republican efforts to reach out to Latinos in advance of next year's election. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who supports comprehensive immigration reform, is co-chairing the conference at the Biltmore Hotel in the Miami suburb of Coral Gables. Among the featured speakers is Texas Sen. John Cornyn, who voted against comprehensive reform three times in the last decade.

## **US KING HOLIDAY POLL**

**VO: 25**

A new poll shows Americans are no more convinced than before the nation's first black president was elected that the country is closer to achieving Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial equality. Seventy-seven percent of people interviewed in an AP-GfK poll feel there has been significant progress toward King's dream, about the same as the 75 percent who felt that way in 2006, before President Barack Obama was elected. The poll also shows that more people plan to celebrate Monday's holiday honoring King -- 30 percent, compared to 23 percent who had such plans five years ago.

## **U.S. TO TEST GIVING TAX REFUNDS ON DEBIT CARDS**

**VO: 30**

Hoping to say goodbye to paper tax-refund checks, the federal government launched a pilot program to let some people receive their money on a debit card. Next week, the Treasury Department will send letters to 600,000 low- and moderate-income taxpayers offering them the option of signing up for a special MyAccountCard Visa prepaid debit card. Green Dot Corp. in Monrovia, the nation's largest prepaid debit card company, got the nod to provide the cards and manage the pilot program, the Treasury said Thursday. There are two goals: save the government the expense of mailing checks and provide taxpayers without bank accounts quicker access to their refunds. The Treasury mailed about 45 million tax-refund checks last year; had those payments been processed electronically, the government would have saved \$40 million.

**SCHOOL LUNCHES  
LOURDES MELUZA - WASHINGTON, DC  
PKG 2:12**

School cafeterias would have to hold the fries -- and serve kids more whole grains, fruits and vegetables -- under the government's plans for the first major nutritional overhaul of students' meals in 15 years. The Agriculture Department proposal announced Thursday applies to lunches subsidized by the federal government. The guidelines would require schools to cut sodium in those meals by more than half, use more whole grains and serve low-fat milk. They also would limit kids to only one cup of starchy vegetables a week, so schools couldn't offer french fries every day.

**MOTRIN / OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN KROGER HAS SUED  
VO: 25**

Oregon Attorney General John Kroger has sued Johnson & Johnson and two subsidiaries, claiming consumers were exposed to defective supplies of Motrin by a delay in public disclosure of a recall. Kroger said the companies tried to quietly remove Motrin containers from store shelves in a "phantom recall" that failed to notify consumers.

**CHICKENPOX CASES DOWN WITH SECOND VACCINE DOSE  
VO: 18**

Since health officials began recommending a second dose of the vaccine against chickenpox, cases of the infection among Connecticut children have further declined, a new study finds. A vaccine against the varicella virus that causes chickenpox has been used in the U.S. since 1995. It was initially given in one dose, when children were between the ages of 12 and 18 months.

**EVIDENCE SUGGESTS ROLE FOR CHEMICALS IN DIABETES  
VO: 28**

Evidence strongly suggests that some chemicals, especially chemicals in cigarette smoke, might cause some cases of diabetes and obesity, U.S. government researchers said on Thursday. A committee appointed by the National Toxicology Program went through studies looking at links between diabetes and obesity and chemicals such as arsenic, chemicals found in plastic, pesticides and cigarette smoke.

**===== END OF PART I =====**