

FCC REPORTS NETWORK NEWS 6:30 AUG 16-31 PART 2

09/16/2011

E-VERIFY

LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:59

The House Judiciary Committee is considering legislation that would require employers nationwide to query a federal database in order to check a potential worker's eligibility under immigration law. This "e-verify" system has been in operation for several years, but in most states using it has been optional. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, describes the e-verify system as "free, quick and easy to use," and he notes that the concept of an electronic system for verifying employment eligibility is broadly popular with the public. But the program has been heavily criticized by civil liberties groups. They warn that making the system mandatory will create headaches for hundreds of thousands of eligible workers who are erroneously flagged as ineligible

BIRTH CONTROL RECALL

VO :20

Incorrectly labeled birth control pills are recalled. It's a little pill with big consequences and it was a simple packaging error that triggered the recall of about a million and a half sets of the birth- control pills. The pills began shipping as far back as last year and that the mistake could lead women to take the pills in the wrong order.. running the risk of an unintended pregnancy.

LESS SMOKING, LESS CANCER

VO :20

Fewer people in the U-S are smoking cigarettes now. And because of that, the Centers for Disease Control says the number of people getting lung cancer is down too. A report by the C-D-C shows new lung cancer diagnoses among men fell in 35 states between 1999 and 2008. And, after years of increasing, the rate among women went down nationwide between 2006 and 2008. The C-D-C credits states' efforts to curb smoking such as higher cigarette prices and anti-smoking media campaigns for the drop.

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09/17/2011

6:30 PM & 11:30 PM

NOTHING TO REPORT

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09/18/2011

6:30 PM & 11:30 PM

OBAMA TAXES

VO: 22

President Barack Obama is expected to seek a new base tax rate for the wealthy to ensure that Millionaires pay at least at the same percentage as middle income taxpayers. A White House official said the proposal would be included in the president' proposal for long term deficit reduction that he will announce Monday.

The official spoke anonymously because the plan has not been officially announced. The measure would be in addition to \$447 billion in new tax revenue that Obama is seeking to pay for his short-term spending and tax cutting plan to jump start the economy. House Speaker John Boehner said Thursday he would oppose tax increases to reduce the deficit. The tax proposal was first reported by the New York Times.

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09/19/2011

OBAMA ENDORSES ENDING 1 DAY OF MAIL DELIVERY

VO: 22

President Barack Obama says the U.S. Postal Service should be allowed to reduce mail delivery to five-days-a-week to cut its massive losses. The Postal Service lost \$8.5 billion last year. It's facing even more red ink this year as the Internet siphons off large amounts of first-class mail and the weak economy reduces advertising mail. While the post office has cut more than 100,000 workers in the last few years it needs to cut more, close offices and find other ways to reduce costs to keep operating. In his economic growth and debt reduction plan unveiled Monday, Obama endorsed the idea of dropping one day of mail delivery -- it is expected to be Saturday -- and urged other changes in postal operations

DEPORTATION SUPPORT CENTER

VIVIANA AVILA - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PKG: 2:09

The country's first 24-hour Deportation Family Support Hotline will launch Sept. 19 to help Illinois families and children left behind in deportations. The hotline

will serve callers from Illinois in English, Spanish, Korean, and Portuguese. In the past five years, 48,330 people have been deported from the Chicago ICE region, leaving an estimated 80,550 children without a parent. The hotline is being launched by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) in partnership with 35 social service agencies; the Catholic Church and other ministers; 17 private law firms and the National Immigrant Justice Center; Mexican hometown federations; the Adler School of Professional Psychology; the Mexican Consulate; and 67 trained bilingual volunteers.

GIANT SNAILS INVASION

LOURDES DEL RIO - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 2:23

The Giant African snail is plaguing Miami, putting people at risk for diseases and literally eating thousands of houses. Workers from Florida's Department of Agriculture are fighting a slimy and dangerous enemy: giant African land snails that have invaded a residential area in Miami-Dade County. We have collected over a thousand so far and we have only just begun," said Denise Feiber, Public Information Director for Florida's Division of Plant Industry. Investigators aren't sure when or how the invaders slithered into town, but they are on a mission to eradicate the snails as fast as possible. Giant African land snails can grow to be as long as 8 inches and consume at least 500 different types of plants. They also destroy stucco and plaster. "They leave excrement all over the sides of houses. They're very nasty," Feiber said. "These things are not the cute little snails that you see." They also pose a health risk by carrying a parasite that can cause meningitis in humans.

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09/20/2011

M: DON'T ASK, DON' TELL ENDS

LUIS MEGID - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 1:43

I'm 32 years old. I'm a woman. I'm a United States Marine...and I'm a lesbian." With the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, Captain Sarah Pezzat can now say those words without fear of losing the job she loves. "I'm grateful now to be able to serve my country with integrity and with my dignity intact. I can now look forward to getting mobilized to active duty instead of feeling like I have to shove my family back into the closet," she said. President Obama signed the law allowing gays to serve openly in the military last December. The Department of Defense used the last nine months to put the new rules and training in place. Its leaders, who supported the law's repeal, addressed the historic day during a press briefing Tuesday. Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, "It was fundamentally against everything we stand for as an institution to force people to lie about who they are just to wear a uniform. We are better than that. It's the right thing to do, it's done, it's time to move on." And Pezzat agrees there should be little fan fare. "I'm a Marine who happens to be a lesbian," she said. "I'm not a lesbian who happens to be a Marine. I'm not at work or deployed or anything like that to celebrate. That's what I do on my own time." Pezzat is now back in active duty, a choice she made before the 18-year-old law was repealed. But for others wishing to re-enlist, there's no special treatment or guarantee they will get back in. New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand though says she believes the transition back for many will be smoother than anticipated.

CALIFORNIA DAY LABOR LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

LILIANA ESCALANTE - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 2:08

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down as unconstitutional an ordinance in a southern California town that prevented day laborers on public sidewalks from soliciting work from passing drivers. "Because the ordinance is not narrowly tailored to achieve the city's goals, it is facially unconstitutional," the court said in a 9-2 decision. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, MALDEF, called the decision "precedent-setting." It affirmed a trial court's decision favoring the day laborer group Comite de Jornaleros in its lawsuit against the city of Redondo Beach. The civil rights group said the court ruling sets "a

strong precedent on day laborer rights." The ruling was an en-banc decision -- a previously ruled-upon case reheard by the panel of 11 circuit court judges -- after civil rights attorneys successfully challenged the earlier 2-1 panel decision that had upheld the controversial ordinance, MALDEF said. "Today's en banc Ninth Circuit opinion resoundingly vindicates the First Amendment rights of day laborers throughout the western United States," Thomas A. Saenz, MALDEF president and general counsel, said in a statement.

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09/21/2011

E VERIFY

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:13

House Republicans on Wednesday jump-started the immigration debate, pushing through the Judiciary Committee a key immigration-enforcement measure to require businesses to check new employees' work status against a government database - but the fight highlighted deep divides that make it unlikely any bill clears Congress in the near future. In a sharp turnaround from their usual stances, Democrats fighting to defeat the bill accused Republicans of offering "amnesty" to at least some illegal-immigrant agriculture workers who would be exempt from checks for three years. Meanwhile, Republicans, who usually argue on behalf of states' rights, defended their bill, which would override existing state laws on electronic background checks. The bill was approved by the committee on a party-line 22-13 vote

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09/22/2011

ECONOMY LATEST

LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:12

The number of people applying for unemployment benefits fell last week, though the decline isn't enough to signal improvement in the job market. The Labor Department says weekly applications dropped 9,000 to a seasonally adjusted 423,000. The four-week average, a less volatile figure, rose slightly for the fifth straight week to 421,000. Applications are at about the same level as they were four weeks ago. Applications typically need to fall below 375,000 to significantly lower the unemployment rate. They haven't been that low since February.

"SECURE COMUNITIES"

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:57

The future of the Department of Homeland Security's controversial Secure Communities program may not be so secure, thanks to the findings of a scorching new department report. Immigration watchers wonder whether the agency will dig deeply enough to address flaws identified in the program--which aims to prioritize deportation of serious criminals among illegal immigrants--whether any changes will merely be cosmetic, or whether the program's soiled reputation means it will have to be canceled outright. A draft of the report, produced by a special department task force and released last week, marks a critical point for the program: It would be painfully obvious if the agency ignored its own task force, and that would only compound its public relations problem. Secure Communities, a fingerprint-sharing system that returns the immigration status of those arrested in local jurisdictions, has faced mounting criticism from those who say it undermines trust between police officers and immigrant communities and sweeps up people for low-level violations, like driving with a broken taillight. In response, the Department of Homeland Security convened a collection of law enforcement

officials, academics, union leaders, lawyers, and other experts into a task force to weigh the merits of the mounting criticism.

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09/23/2011

NOTHING TO REPORT

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09/24/2011

6:30 PM & 11:30 PM

BARACK OBAMA ON EDUCATION

VO: 22

Young people in the United States are falling behind their overseas peers in reading, math and science, President Barack Obama said on Saturday (September 24), calling education reform an essential part of economic recovery. In his weekly address released on the Internet, Obama said as many as a quarter of American students are not finishing high school and far too few young people are getting college degrees. "It is an undeniable fact that countries who out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow. businesses will hire wherever the highly skilled, highly trained workers are located," the Democrat said. "We have to pick up our game and raise our standards." With the 2012 campaign for the U.S. presidency heating up, Obama is speaking increasingly often about education, a key issue for his political base. His \$447 billion job creation plan includes money

for hiring teachers and school repairs, and on Friday he announced a loosening of "No Child Left Behind," a decade-old education measure introduced by former President George W. Bush that seeks to hold schools accountable for students' performance. "No Child" has been widely criticized for being inflexible, requiring teachers to adhere to a narrow curriculum targeted mostly at ensuring that students pass standardized tests.

CENSUS POVERTY INCREASE

LOURDES MELUZA - WASHINGTON, DC

PKG: 2:18

About 15 percent of Oneida County residents are living in poverty, newly released numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau show. And almost a quarter of the county's children are below the poverty level, up from 20 percent a decade ago, numbers show. But bleak as those numbers are, Oneida County's statistics are not far off those of the rest of the United States during the economic downturn. Among the stats: * The 15 percent poverty rate here is slightly lower than the 15.3 percent rate for the U.S. as a whole. * Oneida County residents of working age - 18 to 64 - are slightly less likely to live below the poverty line, with 12.7 percent in poverty, compared to 14.2 percent nationwide. * About 10.2 percent of senior citizens in Oneida County live in poverty, compared to 9 percent nationwide. * 24.4 percent of Oneida County children live in poverty, compared to 21.6 percent nationwide. "It's the highest poverty numbers since the last recession," Pamela Loprest, a senior researcher with the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Institute said, indicating the 1993 downturn. "The real question is, what's going to happen going forward." The data, which are part of the American Community Survey, give statistics only for geographic units with populations of more than 65,000. That means data for Herkimer County, along with the cities of Utica, Rome and Sherrill were not available. Officials from local nonprofits that deal with the poor said they fear Utica's poverty rates are far worse. Those numbers won't be released until October.

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09/25/2011

6:30 PM & 11:30 PM

GAS PRICES

VO: 22

A possible E. coli contamination has prompted a recall for 40-thousand pounds of ground beef, intended for Georgia school lunches. The beef was produced by Palo Duro Meat in Amarillo, Texas, and was to be distributed to a variety of institutions in Georgia, including six school districts. U-S-D-A authorities say they are not aware that the beef was served in schools. Neither the company nor the U-S-D-A has received any reports of illnesses related to consumption of the beef.

GROUND BEEF RECALL

VO:25

The average price for a gallon of gasoline in the U.S. has dropped 12 cents over the past two weeks. That's according to the Lundberg Survey of fuel prices, released Sunday. It puts the average price of a gallon of regular at \$3.54. Midgrade costs an average of \$3.70 a gallon, and premium was at \$3.82. Diesel prices fell 4 cents, to an average of \$3.91 a gallon. Of the cities surveyed, St. Louis had the nation's lowest average price for gas at \$3.08. San Francisco had the highest at

\$3.90.

EL SALVADOR TPS RENEUVAL

VO: 21

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. USCIS may grant TPS to eligible nationals of

certain countries (or parts of countries), who are already in the United States. Eligible individuals without nationality who last resided in the designated country may also be granted TPS.

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09/26/2011

ALABAMA ANTIIMIGRANT LAW

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS - SELMA, ALABAMA

PKG: 2:37

State officials announced Monday they've figured out a way to comply with Alabama's tough new immigration law without requiring motorists to stand in long lines at county courthouses to renew their license plates. Gov. Robert Bentley said Monday the new ALVerify system uses driver's license numbers and expiration dates to verify the legal status of people purchasing or renewing vehicle tags and when getting vehicle titles. Officials demonstrated the system at a news conference by trying the governor's driver's license. It worked - prompting comments from Bentley about how relieved he was. "I sure am. I was worried about that," he said. Probate judges and other county officials had been worried about the impact of Alabama's new immigration law requiring them to verify the legal status of people purchasing or renewing license plates. They had feared it would require everyone to show up at the courthouse with their driver's licenses, state-issued identification cards or other documents during the first year of the law to renew their tags. Then county officials would have to copy the documents and store the information. For vehicles with joint ownership such as a husband and wife, they were worried that both would have to show up at the same time with their documents.

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ - NEW YORK

PKG: 2:03

Dozens of women in bridal gowns and men wearing black walked through northern Manhattan and South Bronx Monday to raise awareness of domestic violence, on the anniversary of the death of a local woman who was murdered by an ex-boyfriend. The 11th Annual Gladys Ricart and Victims of Domestic Violence Memorial Walk led participants on a seven-mile route through Washington Heights, Harlem, East Harlem and sections of the Bronx. The annual event, organized by New York Latinas Against Domestic Violence, is named for Gladys Ricart, who was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend on September 26, 1999, hours before she was supposed to marry someone else. Two years later, Josie Ashton came up with the idea for the march. "I was very disappointed at the murder, but I was even more disgusted with the response of the community," said Ashton.

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09/27/2011

ALABAMA IMMIGRATION LAW

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS - MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

PKG: 2:59

Alabama officials Monday morning unveiled a system of verifying driver's licenses that they say will comply with the state's strict new immigration law while allowing drivers to renew tags online. The system, called ALVerify, was developed by the Center for Advanced Public Safety at the University of Alabama. The system allows individuals to type in a last name, driver's license number and license expiration date into a site on the Alabama Department of Revenue website. The site then checks the information against the Alabama Department of Public Safety's driver's license database to verify the information, and returns a confirmation number if the information exists in the database. The immigration law, signed by Gov. Robert Bentley on June 9, requires proof of citizenship to renew driver's licenses and motor vehicle tags. Several license commissioners and probate judges around the state said that the requirement meant that even people

renewing tags online would have to first go into offices to prove citizenship. Some feared that would mean additional burdens for staff and long lines for those renewing tags.

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09/28/2011

ALABAMA ANTIIMMIGRANT LAW HB 6

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS / BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

PKG 2:12 / INTRO & TAG LIVE

INTERVIEW EZEQUIEL HERNANDEZ / IMMIGRATION LAWYER / PHOENIX, ARIZONA

APROX 3:30

A federal judge Wednesday blocked parts of Alabama's crackdown on illegal immigration but let stand a provision requiring public schools to determine the legal residency of children. The Alabama law is widely seen as the toughest state measure on illegal immigration, and supporters hailed the judge's decision as "a great victory."

ICE RAID "CROSS CHECK"

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:05

A month after promising to focus on deporting the most serious criminal immigrants, the Obama administration says it has rounded up nearly 3,000 criminals. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said Wednesday they have arrested 2,901 criminal immigrants in the last week.

The arrests come just a month after Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that immigration officials would focus enforcement efforts on serious criminals and delay deportation cases for most non-criminal immigrants who don't pose a threat to public safety or national security.

CANTALOUPE LISTERIA

LUIS MEGID / OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:43

Cases of illness in the U.S. listeria outbreak linked to tainted cantaloupes -- already the deadliest in a decade -- likely will rise in the next month as more people who have been infected with the bacteria begin to develop symptoms, health officials said on Wednesday. To date, 13 people have died and 72 people have been infected in the outbreak in 18 states, including two pregnant women, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BRONX OBESITY

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ / NEW YORK

PKG 2:14

Senator Gustavo Rivera (D,WF-Bronx) and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. came together to announce the launch of the at the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center in the 33rd Senate District alongside community partners. The Bronx CAN Health Initiative brings together individuals, doctors and other health providers, places of worship, community gardens and community centers, schools, and civic-minded groups of all kinds to promote the types of behaviors that lead to healthy lifestyles. The goal of the Bronx CAN Health Initiative is to have all the members of our community - young and old alike - build healthier lives, free of ailments like obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol, and cardiovascular disease. Goals included losing weight, exercising a certain amount of times a week, quitting smoking, and bringing down cholesterol levels.

POOREST KIDS ARE HISPANICS

VO :25

More Hispanic children are living in poverty than those of any other race or ethnicity, marking the first time in U.S. history that the largest group of poor children is not white, according to a new research study. In a report released Thursday, the Pew Hispanic Center said 6.1 million Hispanic children are poor, compared with 5 million non-Hispanic white children and 4.4 million black children.

INMATEST ABUSE COMPLAINTS

JAIME GARCIA / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:07

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies brutalized inmates on multiple occasions and their supervisors failed to take complaints of the abuse seriously, according to sworn declarations from two chaplains and a Hollywood producer who volunteered in the jails. Two of the volunteers said they heard deputies yell "stop fighting" as deputies pummeled inmates who appeared to be doing nothing to fight back. The allegations come on the heels of Los Angeles Times stories detailing probes into deputy misconduct in the jails. The declarations are expected to be filed in court Wednesday as part of a report compiled by the American Civil Liberties Union, which is a court-appointed monitor of jailhouse conditions.

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9/29/11

HB-56

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS / LOURDES MELUZA

ALABAMA AND WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 4:00 & LIVE 1:00

A coalition of civil rights and immigrant advocacy groups filed an appeal Thursday of a federal judge's ruling that let stand much of Alabama's tough new immigration law. The groups, along with President Barack Obama's administration and church leaders, have sought to block what is widely seen as the toughest state crackdown on illegal immigration. Chief U.S. District Judge Sharon Lovelace Blackburn ruled Wednesday that Alabama could begin requiring public schools to determine the legal residency of children. She also gave the green light for police to detain people suspected of being in the United States illegally if they cannot produce proper documentation when stopped for any reason. Alabama Governor Robert Bentley and fellow Republican lawmakers hailed the judge's decision as a major win in their efforts to curb illegal immigration in their state. Federal judges have previously blocked key parts of immigration laws passed in Georgia, Arizona, Utah and Indiana. The Obama administration argues that the Constitution bars states from adopting immigration measures that conflict with federal laws.

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9/30/11

HB 56 IMMIGRATION LAW

JAIME GARCIA / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:08

The parties opposed to Alabama's HB 56, who are petitioners in the federal courts in Alabama regarding the constitutionality of Alabama's HB 56, the State's anti-immigrant law passed and signed into law this summer, have filed today an Emergency Motion to Stay /Enjoin Portions of HB 56 Pending Appeal. This comes after yesterday's order staying portions of the anti-immigrant law, which was to go in effect on September 1, 2011, and permitting other sections of the law to go into

effect. The appeal is to the Sections that the court did not stay. The object of the motion is to have the court stay the implementation of those sections that were not stayed by yesterday's court order until the appeals court which will hear the appeal on the lower court's decision renders a decision on the appeal.

FREDDIE MAC MORTGAGES

VO :20

Mortgage rates have skated near record lows for weeks. But now it can finally be said: Long-term rates in the United States have never been lower. This week, the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage fell to 4.01 percent, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said in its weekly report. That's the lowest since it began keeping records in 1971. For months, Freddie had pointed to data from the National Bureau of Economic Research showing that rates were lower in the early 1950s, when long-term mortgages typically lasted just 20 or 25 years.

BANK OF AMERICA DEBIT CARD FEE

LUIS MEGID / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:06

Bank of America plans to start charging customers a \$5 monthly fee for using their debit card for purchases. The fee will be rolled out starting early next year. A number of banks have either rolled out or are testing such fees. Bank of America's announcement carries added weight because it is the largest U.S. bank by deposits.

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