

## **FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA DECEMBER 16-31 PART 2**

**12/16/2011**

### **GOVT SPENDING BILL: SEN REID - OMNIBUS ISSUE RESOLVABLE**

**VO :24**

Highlights of the \$1 trillion-plus 2012 spending legislation in Congress:\$518 billion for the Pentagon's core budget, a 1 percent boost,excluding military operations overseas.\$115 billion for Pentagon war costs in Iraq and Afghanistan,\$43 billion less than 2011 costs.\$7.2 billion to sustain and modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal.\$11.8 billion for the IRS, an almost 3 percent budget cut.\$39.6 billion for homeland security programs, a 5 percent cut,though border security and immigration enforcement are increased.\$8.4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, a 6 percent cut from the president's request.\$4.3 billion for the Indian Health Service, a 6 percent increase.\$30.7 billion for health research, a 1 percent increase.\$14.5 billion for Title I grants to schools, virtually the same as last year.\$11.6 billion for grants to school districts for special needs children.\$4.3 billion for Congress' own budget, a 5 percent cut.\$122.2 billion for veterans programs.\$3.5 billion for low-income heating and utility subsidies, a cut of about 25 percent. \$53.3 billion for foreign aid and the State Department's budget. \$8.1 billion for disaster aid.Reforms to the Pell Grant program that maintain the maximum award at \$5,550 but limit the number of semesters the grants may be received and make income eligibility standards more strict.

### **AMERICAN PILOTS IPAD**

**VO :19**

Apple's iPad has been cleared for use by American Airlines pilots during takeoff and landing in a move that could make bulky flight bags crammed with manuals and charts a thing of the past. American Airlines began testing iPads as "electronic flight bags" last year and a number of other carriers, including United Airlines and Alaska Airlines, have followed suit. But pilots were barred from using the touch screen tablet computers during "critical phases of flight" -- operations below 10,000 feet (3048 metres) -- pending further evaluation.

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**12/19/2011**

## **GREEN CARD FOR INVESTORS**

**VO: 23**

Affluent foreigners are rushing to take advantage of a federal immigration program that offers them the chance to obtain a green card in return for investing in construction projects in the United States. With credit tight, the program has unexpectedly turned into a mainstay for the financing of these projects in New York, California, Texas and other states. The number of foreign applicants, each of whom must invest at least \$500,000 in a project, has nearly quadrupled in the last two years, to more than 3,800 in the 2011 fiscal year, officials said. Demand has grown so fast that the Obama administration, which is championing the program, is seeking to streamline the application process. Still, some critics of the program have described it as an improper use of the immigration system to spur economic development - a cash-for-visas scheme. And an examination of the program by The New York Times suggests that in New York, developers and state officials are stretching the rules to qualify projects for this foreign financing. These developers are often relying on gerrymandering techniques to create development zones that are supposedly in areas of high unemployment - and thus eligible for special concessions - but actually are in prosperous ones, according to federal and state records.

## **BOEHNER REJECTS SENATE PLAN**

**VO: 29**

House Speaker John Boehner on Sunday rejected a Senate plan to extend the payroll tax cut for two months, thwarting a deal cut by the and Senate Republicans that would prevent taxes from rising on middle-class workers in the new year.

## **1 IN 3 ARRESTED BY AGE 23**

**VO: 16**

By age 23, almost a third of Americans have been arrested for a crime, according to a new study that researchers say is a measure of growing exposure to the criminal justice system in everyday life. The study, the first since the 1960s to look at the arrest histories of a national sample of adolescents and young adults over time, found that 30.2 percent of the 23-year-olds who participated reported having been arrested for an offense other than a minor traffic violation. That figure is significantly higher than the 22 percent found in a 1965 study that examined the same issue using different methods. The increase may be a reflection of the justice system becoming more punitive and more aggressive in its reach during the last half-century, the researchers said. Arrests for drug-related offenses, for example, have become far more common, as have zero-tolerance policies in schools.

The study did not look at racial or regional differences, but other research has found higher arrest rates for black men and for youths living in poor urban areas. Criminal justice experts said the 30.2 percent figure was especially notable at a time when employers, aided by the Internet, routinely conduct criminal background checks on job candidates.

## **GAS PRICES**

**VO: 22**

The average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline has dropped about five cents over the past two weeks. That's according to the Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday. It puts the price of a gallon of regular at \$3.24. Midgrade costs an average of \$3.40 a gallon, and premium is at \$3.52. Diesel is down six cents, to \$3.90 a gallon. Of the cities surveyed, Albuquerque, N.M., has the nation's lowest average price for gas at \$2.83. San Francisco has the highest at \$3.57.

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**12/20/2011**

**HOUSE LEFT TAX CUT VOTE FOR TODAY**

**VO: 35**

With neither side showing signs of yielding, a bitterly divided House debated a Republican effort Tuesday to force the Senate to negotiate a payroll tax cut and jobless benefits that expire on New Year's Day. The GOP-run House planned a vote on rejecting a two-month extension of the tax cut and unemployment benefits that the Senate passed last weekend with a bipartisan landslide. They were also ready to vote to formally request the Senate to begin fresh talks on the legislation.

**SALT DANGERS**

**VO: 24**

The devastating cost of eating too much salt. We've reported here on world News what would be saved if everyone cut their salt intake by just half a

Teaspoon a day... 11 million fewer high blood pressure patients... And 92-  
Thousand lives.

## **DHEA HORMONE**

**VO: 25**

A hormone called DHEA and mostly secreted by the adrenal glands may be able to help women who are going through menopause and could also give them better sex lives, a study found on Tuesday. Italian researchers writing in the journal of the International Menopause Society, Climacteric, said they had found the first robust evidence that low doses of DHEA can help sexual function and menopausal symptoms, suggesting it may one day become an alternative to hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

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**12/21/2011**

## **CONGRESS PAYROLL TAX**

**VO :29**

Stuck in a stalemate, President Barack Obama and his Republican rivals are slugging it out in Washington rather than reaching for a holiday season accord to prevent payroll taxes from going up on 160 million workers. The tax increases, as well as cuts to Medicare doctors' fees and a lapse in jobless benefits, are due Jan. 1. They are looming even though the combatants agree that they shouldn't happen. Instead, the warring factions have painted themselves into a corner. House Republicans are demanding that the Senate join negotiations to produce an agreement within days; Senate Democrats insist no talks will take place before the House approves a stopgap measure to buy more time.

## **LAWSUIT AGAINST UTAH IMMIGRATION LAW HB497**

**VO :20**

The Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit against Utah to block immigration law HB 497, claiming that several of the provisions are preempted by federal law. The state law calls for verification of immigration status for anyone arrested for a felony or class A misdemeanor. HB 497 went into effect on March 15, and representatives from the DOJ subsequently have been in talks with Utah state officials to resolve particular issues. The DOJ is specifically challenging Sections 3, 10 and 11, which relate to verification of immigration status upon arrest, transporting and harboring aliens, and arrest by peace officers.

## **TIRED PILOTS**

**VO: 22**

Federal aviation officials are set to release rules aimed at preventing airline pilots from flying while dangerously fatigued. The Federal Aviation Administration is scheduled to release the rules governing pilot work schedules today, nearly three years after the deadly crash of a regional airliner flown by two exhausted pilots. Researchers say fatigue can impair a pilot's performance by slowing reflexes and eroding judgment, much like alcohol. An effort by the FAA in the late 1990s to develop new rules stalled when pilot unions and airlines were unable to find common ground. The effort was revived after the February 2009 crash of a regional airliner near Buffalo, N.Y., killing 50 people. Cargo airlines, which often fly overnight, have been lobbying the administration for less stringent rules than passenger-carrying airlines.

## **NY / TAXIS SIN MEDALLÓN**

**VO :25**

Governor Andrew Cuomo struck a deal with lawmakers that will let New York City sell an additional 2,000 taxi medallions and permit so-called car services to pick up passengers who hail them outside Manhattan. The bill will generate \$1 billion in revenue for the city and help reduce a \$4.6 billion budget gap for the fiscal year that starts July 1, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said yesterday in a press briefing in Albany, the capital, to announce the deal. The agreement caps Cuomo's first year as governor, during which the Legislature passed a property-tax limit, a bill legalizing same-sex marriage and a tax-code overhaul that raised rates for those earning \$2 million or more and cut them for the middle class.

## **RISK OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

**VO :22**

More than three million people could lose their unemployment benefits, this agreement for failure in congress to extend that help ... the issue is key in the negotiations that holds the house of representatives on the law of tax cuts to the payroll

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**12/22/11**

## **POLICEBEATINGCA**

**VO :22**

Captured on camera the violence is clear...but was it a brutal beating by la sheriff's deputies or justified force? marco chiclana's attorney says these photos of his client's severe injuries and the video speak volumes the sheriff's department says that's not the case at all. The incident happened in april outside antelope valley hospital. Chiclana's father who was

confused from his medication following open heart surgery left the hospital and got into the families suv. Authorities were called after Chiclana, his wife, mother and a friend tried to get him out of the vehicle and the father turned violent. You can see the first deputy approaches chiclana..there's an exchange then he's pushed against the vehicle and the fight is on..deputies hitting and kicking the 34 year old...6 deputies in all.

## **BANK OF AMERICA DISCRIMINATION**

**VO :27**

Bank of America agreed Wednesday to pay \$335 million to settle federal claims that its Countrywide Financial unit charged black and Hispanic borrowers higher mortgage fees in the lead up to the financial crisis and steered them into riskier loans than their white counterparts. Obama administration officials said the settlement, THE LARGEST EVER FOR FAIR-LENDING CLAIMS, came after investigators reviewed more than 2.5 million home loans originated by Countrywide during the housing boom.'B7 'B715\_Get more news from Post Business Investigators concluded that Countrywide charged more than 200,000 blacks and Hispanics higher fees and interest rates than comparable white borrowers between 2004 and 2008. In addition, officials claim the firm advised more than 10,000 minority borrowers to take riskier and more costly subprime loans, even though they could have qualified for more traditional mortgages.

## **BABY FOUND ALIVE IN CARDBOARD BOX**

**VO :24**

A holiday tradition at a Long Beach, California hospital, presents for parents are the greatest gift they could want.... a stocking filled with their newborn. Babies born at Miller Children's Hospital between December 21st to 25th will leave the hospital wrapped in a giant red Christmas stocking. The event is part of a 50-year tradition at the hospital. CU Newborn in stocking. MS Parents with newborn in stocking. CU Baby in bassinet. CU Woman in bed holding newborn in stocking. MS Baby in bassinet being

wheeled down a hallway with mother and father walking beside. CU ZOOMOUT Baby in bassinet. MWS Signage outside 'Long Beach Memorial Medical Center'.

## **US TO ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY IN AIRSTRIKE**

**VO :22**

The Wall Street Journal reports that the U-S will take responsibility for a NATO strike last month that killed more than two dozen Pakistani soldiers near the Afghan border. Pakistani military officials contended that NATO forces knew they were firing at Pakistani troops throughout the attack and even apologized as they kept firing, evidence they say supports their assertions the attack was deliberate. This new report out confirms much of Pakistan's version of events. Military leaders will be briefed on the investigation Friday.

## **MOTRIN RECALL**

**VO :21**

Johnson & Johnson, the health-care company beset by product recalls the last two years, said it was asking retailers to return about 12 million bottles of Motrin over concerns the painkiller may dissolve too slowly. Tests of product samples showed some caplets may not dissolve as quickly as intended when near their expiration date, J&J's McNeil Consumer Healthcare unit said in a statement on its website today. While consumers don't have to return any bottles, it's possible there may be "a delay in relief" after taking the drug, Bonnie Jacobs, a spokeswoman, said in a telephone interview. J&J is based in New Brunswick, New Jersey. McNeil agreed in March to give U.S. regulators stepped-up oversight at three manufacturing plants, after the division had to pull tens of millions of packages of over-the-counter drugs for quality concerns. Today's recall covers Motrin distributed in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Fiji, Belize, the Bahamas, St. Lucia and Jamaica, according to the statement.

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**12/23/11**

## **PAYROLL TAX AGREEMENT/FRIDAY**

**VO :27**

Capping a full retreat by House GOP leaders, Congress will convene Friday in hopes of approving a stopgap measure renewing payroll tax cuts for every worker and unemployment benefits for millions -- despite serious opposition among some tea party Republicans. Friday's unusual session, if all goes according to plan, will send a bill to President Barack Obama to become law for two months and put off until January a fight over how to pay for the 2 percentage point tax cut, extend jobless benefits averaging around \$300 a week and prevent doctors from absorbing a big cut in Medicare payments through 2012. Those goals had been embraced by virtually every lawmaker in the House and Senate, but had been derailed in a quarrel over demands by House Republicans for immediate negotiations on a long-term extension bill. Senate leaders of both parties had tried to barter such an agreement among themselves a week ago but failed, instead agreeing upon a 60-day measure to buy time for talks next year.

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**12/26/11**

## **TEC NAVIDAD-HACKERS**

**VO :25**

Officials at a Texas-based security think tank, Stratfor, say the company has protections in place that are supposed to prevent hacking attacks. One hacker says the goal is to pilfer funds from individuals' accounts to give away as Christmas donations. And some victims are confirming unauthorized transactions linked to their credit cards. One man says \$700 was taken from his account, and given to the Red Cross, Save the Children and other groups. The hackers say they stole the company's confidential client list, which includes companies and organizations ranging from the Air Force to the Miami Police Department to Apple. One security expert says companies that shared secret information with Stratfor, in order to obtain threat assessments, might worry that the information is included in the data that the hackers claim to have stolen.

## **YEAR END-WALL STREET**

### **VO :26**

It's forecasting time on Wall Street and once again, the pros are trying to predict the unpredictable. Wall Street experts think stock prices will rise more than 10 percent next year. Then again, they expected big gains in 2011 and got nearly zero instead. In typical times, guessing where stocks will end up in a year is difficult. Now, forecasting has become nearly impossible. Big unknowns hang over the market as rarely before, including the European debt crisis. There's plenty of reason to think stocks will rise fast in the coming year. U.S. companies are generating record profits. Americans are spending more than expected and factories are producing more. The job market finally appears to be healing, too.

## **ID ERRORS PUT HUNDREDS IN L.A. COUNTY JAILS**

### **VO :27**

Advertisement Hundreds of people have been wrongly imprisoned inside the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department jails in recent years, with some spending weeks behind bars before authorities realized those arrested were mistaken for wanted criminals, a Times investigation has found. The wrongful incarcerations occurred more than 1,480 times in the

last five years. They were the result of a variety of factors, including officials' overlooking fingerprint evidence and working off incomplete records. The errors are so common that in some years people were jailed because of mistaken identity an average of once a day.

## **DAY AFTER X-MAS SHOPPING/RETURNING**

### **MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN. SATELLITE ROOM**

#### **PKG 1:36**

Malls around the country can expect another round of shoppers today. Many retailers typically see a post-holiday rush -- for exchanges and returns of gifts that weren't quite right. They'll also see a number of gift card recipients looking to get exactly what they wanted for the holidays. And bargain-hunters will be on the prowl, taking advantage of slashed prices in after-Christmas sales. U-S-A Today reports a predicted 60-percent jump in day-after-Christmas shopping, according to Shopper-Trak. The consumer research group says December 26th is usually the second-highest revenue day for retailers.

## **8 STATES TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE**

#### **VO :26**

While some workers are worried about smaller paychecks next year, more than 1.4 million low-income earners will see their wages go up on New Year's Day. Minimum wage rates in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont and Washington will rise between 28 and 37 cents per hour on Jan. 1, thanks to state laws requiring that minimum wage keeps pace with inflation. Rates in these states will range from \$7.64 per hour (in Colorado), to \$9.04 (in Washington) in 2012. While the federal minimum wage rate is \$7.25 -- amounting to annual income of just over \$15,000 -- 18 states and Washington, D.C., have rates above the federal level. Ten states raise their rates each year to make sure wages reflect increases in the cost of living.

## **\$41 BILLION GIFT CARDS HAVE GONE UNUSED SINCE 2005**

**VO :26**

The total amount of money on gift cards that went, or is likely to go, unspent from 2005 to 2011. Gift cards are becoming an increasingly popular holiday present, but as the market grows in value the question of what happens to money that goes unspent still looms large. Some 80% of respondents to a **National Retail Federation** survey said they planned to buy gift cards during the 2011 holiday season, while for the fifth year in a row they remain the most requested present with 58% of shoppers saying they'd like to receive a gift card. The market for gift cards is growing along with their popularity. Financial-consulting firm **TowerGroup** estimates that gift-card sales will reach \$100 billion in 2011. Consumers aren't the only ones who love gift cards. The retail industry also has many reasons to embrace them. Stores can't count money received from the gift givers who purchase the cards as revenue until they're redeemed, but this offers a number of benefits. First, it sets up a source of cashflow in the weeks after the holidays as recipients make their way to stores to spend the money on their cards.

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**12/27/11**

## **ECONOMY-SURVEY**

**VO :22**

Leading economists say they don't expect much change next year in the 8.6 percent unemployment rate, even though the economy should grow faster in 2012. The AP economists expect the unemployment rate to be stuck at a recession-level 8.4 percent when voters go to the polls in

November. The three dozen private, corporate and academic economists surveyed by The AP also say growth in the U.S. could be buffeted by

debt crisis upheavals in Europe or some other shock. They say they expect the economy to grow 2.4 percent next year. In 2011, it likely grew less than 2 percent.

## **ONLINE SHOPPING-CHRISTMAS DAY**

### **VO :20**

A growing number of shoppers apparently need only the briefest of breaks before diving back in, especially if they can log in to shop. IBM found that online shopping jumped 16.4 percent on Christmas Day over last year, and the dollar amount of those purchases that were made using mobile devices leaped almost 173 percent. IBM tracks shopping at more than 500 websites other than Amazon.com, which is the largest. It found a huge increase in the number of shoppers making their purchases with iPhones, iPads and Android-powered mobile devices.

## **SEARS-STORE CLOSINGS**

### **VO :20**

Between 100 and 120 Sears and Kmart stores are shutting down after terrible holiday sales during the most crucial time of the year for retailers. Sears Holdings Corp., based in Hoffman Estates, Ill., says the

store closings will generate \$140 to \$170 million in cash in inventory sales. The retailer anticipates additional proceeds from the sale or sublease of real estate holdings. The retailer says that same-store revenue fell 5.2 percent to date for the quarter at both Sears and Kmart. Kmart's declining sales were blamed on diminished layaways and a drop in clothing and consumer electronics sales. Sears' cited lackluster consumer electronics and home appliance sales.

## **MOTHER/CHILD BOND MAY INFLUENCE TEEN OBESITY**

**VO :22**

The type of bond a mother has with her child could affect their weight. Researchers at Ohio State University found toddlers who have a poor emotional relationship with their moms are more likely to be obese when they turn 15. The findings support a previous study showing toddlers who didn't have close emotional ties were more likely to be obese by the age of 4-and-a-half. Researchers suggest toddlers may begin to use food as a source of comfort in place of mom. The study appears in the January issue of Pediatrics.

## **WOMEN'S LUNG CANCER RISK NOT TIED TO CHILDBIRTHS**

**VO :26**

A woman's lung cancer risk doesn't appear to be linked to the number of children she has, although some scientists had thought hormonal changes during pregnancy might protect against the disease. That's according to a new report that sums up 16 previous studies on the topic, which researchers have explored to get a better understanding of lung cancer and possible treatments.

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**12/28/11**

## **AIRPORT DELAYS**

**VO :19**

The skies above New York City were clogged with planes waiting to land in winds gusting up to 50 mph Tuesday night, forcing long delays at two of the

three major metropolitan airports and causing some flights to be diverted to other cities. National Weather Service meteorologist Adrienne Leptich said the delays occurred because the number of planes that can land each hour must be decreased in high winds, forcing some planes to circle the region or be diverted to other airports if fuel runs low. The Federal Aviation Administration reported at 10 p.m. that some arriving flights at Newark International Airport were delayed an average of 2 hours and 8 minutes while flights into LaGuardia Airport were delayed an average 1 hour and 34 minutes. Kennedy International Airport reported minor delays. By early Wednesday, all three airports were reporting average delays for arrivals and departures of less than 15 minutes.

## **NEW INSURANCE FEE**

### **VO :25**

Starting in 2012, the government will charge a new fee to your health insurance plan for research to find out which drugs, medical procedures, tests and treatments work best. But what will Americans do with the answers?. The goal of the research, part of a little-known provision of President Barack Obama's health care law, is to answer such basic questions as whether that new prescription drug advertised on TV really works better than an old generic costing much less. But in the politically charged environment surrounding health care, the idea of medical effectiveness research is eyed with suspicion. The insurance fee could be branded a tax and drawn into the vortex of election-year politics.

## **PREVENTIVE CARE CONFUSION**

### **VO :21**

Many Americans are finding out that free preventive care under the nation's health overhaul isn't always free. Sometimes doctors are confused and charge a copayment when they shouldn't. Other times a screening test turns into treatment. An Arizona man wound up paying \$1,100 after his free colonoscopy revealed a polyp, a possible warning sign for cancer. A Florida woman had to argue with hospital staff to avoid paying \$700 for a

mammogram. President Barack Obama's health overhaul requires most insurance plans to pay for cancer screenings, cholesterol tests and other preventive services. Millions of patients have received such services this year. But a few expensive surprise bills has some screening advocates worried that such experiences may undercut the law's intent of preventing more serious health problems by catching them early.

## **HEART ATTACKS DIAGNOSE**

**VO :22**

One of the most common reasons people go to the emergency room is for serious chest pains. Time is crucial when someone is having a heart attack. If doctors don't make a diagnosis quickly, it can mean the difference between life and death. Now, there may be a new tool to help ER doctors make a quicker diagnosis. A new highly sensitive test can detect troponin, a protein in the muscle tissue, according to new research in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). According to cardiologists, the higher the levels of troponin, the more likely it is a person will have a heart attack. If tropin isn't present, the likelihood of a heart attack is much smaller. Researchers say this new test could also help physicians monitor patients who present with chest pains but no heart attack symptoms in the hours after being admitted to the hospital.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON RISE AT MILITARY ACADEMIES**

**VO :20**

The number of sexual assaults at the nation's military academies shot up nearly 60-percent in the last academic year. That's according to a new report by the Department of Defense. There were a total of 65 reports of sexual assault involving cadets and midshipmen at the country's three major military academies. They are: the U-S Naval Academy in Maryland, the U-S Military Academy in New York and the U-S Air Force Academy in Colorado. That's up from 41 reports in the previous year. The Pentagon suggests efforts by academies to encourage reporting of assaults could be the reason for the spike.

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**12/29/2011**

## **REPORT HISPANIC PEW CENTER**

**VO :22**

U.S. Hispanics disapprove of President Barack Obama's stepped up deportation program by a two-to-one margin, although support for the Democrat over top Republican rivals remains strong, according to a study. The Obama administration deported a record 396,000 illegal immigrants last year, up about 7 percent from 2008, the last year Republican George W. Bush was in office. More than half those deported were convicted criminals, according to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. The study by the non-partisan Pew Hispanic Center released on Wednesday found 59 percent of Latinos surveyed disapproved of the way the Obama administration handles deportations. Twenty-seven percent of the nationwide sample of 1,220 adult Latinos -- including 557 who said they were registered voters said they favored the policy, while 13 percent did not know or declined to answer. Hispanics are the largest and fastest growing minority in the United States, totaling 50.5 million in 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. They are an increasingly powerful bloc who supported Obama for president in 2008 by a two-to-one margin over Republican rival John McCain.

## **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**VO :26**

The number of people seeking unemployment benefits rose last week for the first time in a month. But a measure of applications over the past month fell to a three-and-a-half-year low, an indication that hiring could pick up.

The Labor department says weekly applications rose 15,000 to a seasonally adjusted 381,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell for the fourth straight week to 375,000 -- the lowest level since June 2008. Applications generally must fall below 375,000 -- consistently --to signal that hiring is strong enough to reduce the unemployment rate. Unemployment benefit applications are a measure of the pace of layoffs. Applications have plummeted in the past month, indicating that job cuts have fallen sharply. Still, many companies have been slow to boost hiring.

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**12/30/2011**

## **2011 SAFEST YEAR EVER FOR AIR TRAVEL**

**VO: 21**

2011 was one of the safest for airline passengers... According to the Wall Street Journal, the commercial aviation experienced just one passenger death for every seven-point-one-million travelers worldwide. The previous record was set in 2004 with one death per six-point-four-million passengers. Safety officials say

## **SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA**

**VO: 26**

American soldiers are increasingly using a mixture of herbs called "Spice" that mimics the effect of marijuana and can cause hallucinations that last for days. Alarmed, the army authorities launched an aggressive inspection program that this year has led to investigate alleged over 1,100 consumers. The marijuana called "synthetic" has become popular nationwide in recent

years. Two years ago only 29 Naval military were investigated by the use of Spice. This year the figure reached 700. Those who are found guilty of using Spice are expelled.

## **NY NURSE EDUCATION**

### **VO: 20**

New registered nurses would have to earn bachelor's degrees within 10 years to keep working in New York under a bill lawmakers are considering as part of a national push to raise nursing education standards, even as the health care industry faces staffing shortages. The "BSN in 10" initiative backed by nursing associations and major health policy organizations aims to attack the problem of too few nurses trained to care for an aging population. That includes hundreds of thousands of nurses who are expected to retire in the coming years.

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