

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

12/16/11

ARPAIO INVESTIGATION

VICTOR HUGO RODRIGUEZ / PHOENIX, ARIZONA

PKG 1:52

Hours after the release of a Justice Department report that said that Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio fueled a culture of anti-Latino bias in his office, the Department of Homeland Security said it was kicking him out of an immigration enforcement program. Secretary Janet Napolitano Thursday the department is ending an agreement with the Maricopa County sheriff's office that allowed trained deputies to enforce immigration laws. It's also restricting the office's use of the Secure Communities program, which uses fingerprints collected in local jails to identify undocumented immigrants.

ALABAMA IMMIGRATION LAW PROTEST

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS / MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

PKG 2:17

Immigrant rights advocates and civil rights leaders are gathering in Montgomery for a two-day event to call for repeal of Alabama's immigration law. The event includes a march Saturday from the Capitol to the Governor's Mansion.

REPUBLICAN DEBATE

LUIS MEGID / SIOUX CITY, IOWA

PKG 2:02

Newt Gingrich overlooked a couple of years of red ink when he asserted Thursday night that he balanced the budget for four years as House speaker. And in claiming sole credit for the achievement, he glossed over the fact that budgets are not a one-man show: There was a Democratic president in town, too. In the last debate before the leadoff Iowa Republican presidential caucuses, Gingrich persisted in repeating a claim he

has made often in the campaign, sometimes more accurately than others. Here and there, other candidates, too, reprised misstatements or partial truths from the string of debates and from the stump. Mitt Romney once again declared he has spent his life in the private sector, once again ignoring his years as governor and political candidate.

GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:50

The White House hailed a compromise deal on extending payroll taxes for two months as a "significant victory" for the American people and the U.S. economy, even though it fell short of President Barack Obama's original push for broader tax relief.

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12/18/2011

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

VO :22

Research firm comScore says U.S. online sales this holiday shopping season are up 15 percent so far compared to last year. The Reston, Va., company says shoppers have spent \$30.9 billion online from Nov. 1 through Dec. 16, up from \$26.9 billion at the same point last year. Online sales surpassed \$1 billion on four days last week, which com Score expects to be the heaviest week of online shopping this holiday season. Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving, remains the biggest online shopping day in history, with \$1.25 billion in sales. The company says spending will start to slow as Christmas draws closer.

HOLIDAY GAS PRICE

VO :22

Good news for holiday travelers: Gas prices are down. The Lundberg Survey reports, gas prices in the U-S fell more than five cents over the past two weeks. They're down 24 cents over the past six weeks. The price drop coincides with a dip in crude oil prices, especially within the past couple of weeks. The national average for regular gas is 3-24 a gallon.

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12/19/2011

GINGRICH & ROMNEY LATEST

VO: 21

Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich's lead in the G-O-P race for the White House has evaporated. That's according to a new C-N-N/O-R-C International Poll released today. It shows Gingrich is now neck-and-neck

in the race with Mitt Romney. Each has the support of 28 percent of the potential voters polled. The survey shows voters consider Romney to be the most honest and trustworthy candidate in the race. But, Gingrich still leads Romney when it comes to being seen as the strongest leader among the G-O-P choices

WHITE HOUSE SHOOTER COURT

VO: 18

As expected, a federal judge denied Monday motions to conditionally release an Idaho man accused of trying to assassinate President Barack Obama by shooting at the White House Oscar Ortega-Hernandez will remain in federal custody pending any indictment and subsequent criminal trial. Magistrate Judge John Facciola held a brief hearing Monday, finding "probable cause" to keep the suspect behind bars, following last month's incident.

WOMEN SMOKING SKIN CANCER

VO: 20

A new study links tobacco use to skin cancer in women. The study found women who smoked have a greater risk of developing a type of non-melanoma skin cancer. Those who smoked for at least 20 years were twice as likely to develop it. The results are not the same for men. Researchers found men who smoked only had a modest risk for non-melanoma skin cancer. The study appears in the journal Cancer Causes Control.

SHOPPERS HIDDEN FEES

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ - NEW YORK

PKG: 2:09

With the holidays soon approaching, many shoppers are more focused on getting things done and preparing for celebrations than paying attention to the risks and fees involved in using prepaid cards. U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, a staunch advocate of the Credit Card reform and Wall Street reform that passed, wants to make sure prepaid card users are aware of the differences these cards have with debit cards and checking accounts and that they can avoid their hidden fees. Menendez will reintroduce his Prepaid Card Consumer Protection Act next week.

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12/20/2011

CONNECTICUT IMMIGRATIONS VOTE

VO: 22

Gov. Robert Bentley won't support a repeal of the state's get-tough immigration law, rejecting a Christmas appeal from a group of top religious leaders. "Gov. Bentley believes Alabama needs an effective illegal immigration law because the federal government has failed in its duties to enforce the law," wrote Bentley's press secretary, Jennifer Ardis, in an email. A half-dozen religious leaders on Tuesday (Dec. 20) delivered a letter to Bentley's office asking him, in the spirit of the Christmas season, to support the repeal of the law, which one bishop called one of the nation's "meanest." The religious leaders - including the state's Episcopal, Catholic and United Methodist bishops and others - are part of a lawsuit that was filed against the state this summer seeking to have the immigration law overturned.

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12/21/2011

6:30 pm & 11:30 pm

ALABAMA GOVERNOR IMMIGRATION

VO: 21

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IMMIGRATION DREAM ACT ESTRATEGY

LUIS MEGID - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 2:06

Last month a lot of people were shocked by the suicide of 18-year-old high school student, Joaquin Luna from Texas, who killed himself apparently on worries of his undocumented immigration status. The student left notes to family members indicating his frustration with the Dream Act failure to pass. Because of the failure of the U.S. Congress to pass a national Dream Act, many states have opted for implementing their version of the Dream Act. The Dream Act (Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) was first introduced in the U.S. Congress in 2001 and last on December

2010, during a lame duck session of Congress. It passed the U.S. House of Representatives, but failed a super majority in the U.S. Senate by five votes (55 U.S. Senators supported the bill, 41 opposed it). The Dream Act was reintroduced in the U.S. Congress in May of this year, under bill S.952. Since its initial introduction, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (D-ILL), has led much of the effort on behalf of the Dream Act.

BANK OF AMERICA \$335M

VO: 21

Bank of America agreed to pay \$335 million to resolve allegations that its Countrywide unit engaged in a widespread

pattern of discrimination against qualified African-American and Hispanic borrowers on home loans. The settlement with the U.S. Justice Department was filed Tuesday with the Central District court of California and is subject to court approval. The DOJ says it's the largest settlement in history over residential fair lending practices. According to the DOJ's complaint, Countrywide charged over 200,000 African-American and Hispanic borrowers higher fees and interest rates than non-Hispanic white borrowers with a similar credit profile. The complaint says that these borrowers were charged higher fees and rates because of their race or national origin rather than any other objective criteria.

CALIFORNIA SUES FANNIE MAE FREDDIE MAC

VO: 13

New trouble is brewing for mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The L-A Times reports California's Attorney General Kamala D. Harris is suing the companies. Harris wants more information on Fannie and Freddie's involvement in California's housing meltdown. And she says, so far, the government-controlled companies have refused to answer her questions. She's hoping a judge can force them to cooperate. So far, there's comment from the mortgage giants on the lawsuits. The Federal

Housing Finance Agency, which oversees the two companies, also had no comment.

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12/22/2011

6:30 pm & 11:30 pm

US TAXES LATEST - LIVE: 2:00

PABLO SANCHEZ- WASHINGTON, DC

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner on Thursday said he had reached a deal with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to extend a payroll tax cut for two months. The agreement reverses Boehner's insistence that a full-year deal be negotiated before the current payroll tax cut expires on Dec. 31. "We will ask the House and Senate to approve this agreement by unanimous consent before Christmas," Boehner said.

GINGRICH & ROMNEY LATEST

VO: 25

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney on Thursday spurned chief rival Newt Gingrich's challenge for a one-on-one debate in the run up to the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses but dismissed the notion -- suggested by the former House speaker -- that he was afraid to participate in such a face-off. "We've had many occasions to debate together and we'll have more, I presume quite a few more, before this is finished," Romney told The Associated Press. "But I'm not going to narrow this down to a two-person race while

there are still a number of other candidates that are viable, important candidates in the race. I want to show respect to them."

OBAMA BIRTH LAWSUIT

VO: 25

A federal appeals court has tossed out a lawsuit challenging President Barack Obama's U.S. citizenship and his eligibility to serve as commander in chief.

OCCUPY LAWSUITS

VO: 20

Most major Occupy encampments have been dispersed, but they live on in lawsuits in which protesters are asserting their rights to free speech and assembly and challenging authorities' use of force. Lawyers for protesters have sued in state and federal courts from coast to coast. They are challenging eviction orders, what they call heavy-handed police tactics and the banning of demonstrators from public properties.

TIRED PILOTS LAWSUIT

VO: 20

United Parcel Service pilots have gone to court hoping to make the government include them under new rules designed to ensure pilots aren't too sleepy to fly. Their union, the Independent Pilots Association, filed a lawsuit against the Federal Aviation Administration Thursday, one day after the new rules for passenger airline pilots were announced. Cargo carriers are exempt from the rules.

EMPLOYMENT DOWN

VO: 20

Analysts believe steady improvement in the economy is unquestionable. Unemployment claims have dropped to the lowest level since April 2008. The Labor Department says claims fell by 4,000 last week to 364,000. It was the third straight weekly drop.

US MORTGAGE RATES

VO: 15

The average rate on the 30-year fixed mortgage fell to a record 3.91 percent this week, the third time this year that rates have hit new lows. Freddie Mac says the rate on the 30-year home loan fell from 3.94 percent the previous week. The average on the 15-year fixed mortgage was unchanged at 3.21 percent. That's also a record.

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12/23/11

EXTENSION OF TAX BENEFITS SIGNED - PKG 2:12

PABLO SANCHEZ- WASHINGTON, DC

President Barack Obama signed into law a two-month payroll tax cut extension on Friday, capping a year of fierce partisan combat over taxes and spending that will resume in January and play heavily in the 2012 elections. The Senate and the House of Representatives, by voice votes in chambers nearly emptied for the holidays, passed a \$33 billion bill to keep the payroll tax rate at 4.2 percent through February. It had been scheduled to increase

SC VOTER ID REJECTED

VO: 25

South Carolina's attorney general says he will fight the Justice Department in federal court over South Carolina's voter ID law. The federal agency on Friday rejected the law, saying it makes it harder for minorities to vote. It was the first voter ID law to be refused by the Obama administration. Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez says South Carolina's law didn't meet the burden under the Voting Rights Act and may have prevented thousands of minorities from voting because they don't have the right identification.

IRAQ TROOPS COME BACK - PKG 2:10

VICTOR SOLANO- NEW YORK

The thousands of soldiers coming home this month from Iraq should prepare for one more fight -- over their finances. Experts in the issues facing military families say the next few months will present money challenges to returning service members. More than 12,000 troops returned this month from Iraq as the war drew to a close.

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12/24/2011

6:30 PM & 11:30 PM

US OCCUPY PROTEST

VO: 24

Occupy protestors camping at Washington DC's McPherson Square will stay in place over the Christmas holidays. On Friday, tension was eased between protestors and congressmen who went home for Christmas, but some of the protestors said they still would not go home and plan to continue the protest. "I'm heading down to Occupy Miami," one protestor said. A number of protestors said they would stay in their tents over the festive season because the fellow protestors are just like their family members. "I'm not missing home, this is my family right now. Look, these are all my people, I've been with them for like five months," said Jason, a protestor in the square. "I miss my home, my family, but again, this is my home, too. You know, these good people that help, that care for every one," another protestor said. Jason and nine other protestors live in a big tent. Despite the winter cold, he said, they keep each other warm. Occupy protestors have also kept the police in the area. Two men at the McPherson Square campsite were arrested Thursday and charged with assaulting a police officer. Although the police have not confirmed whether the two men are Occupy DC protestors, they have to be on standby to maintain order at the square during the upcoming festive season.

OBAMA WEEKLY ADDRESS

VO :22

President Obama steered away from political policy matters, and struck a non-partisan note in his weekly address this morning.

Delivering the address with first lady Michelle Obama, the President thanked troops for serving over Christmas. He also expressed specific gratitude to troops returning from Iraq. Michelle Obama echoed the sentiment, telling listeners to ask themselves how they can give back.

IL TROOPS RETURN

VO:21

Christmas came early for a little girl in Chicago, Illinois. Grace La Giglia was reunited with her dad, John, after he served a year overseas. John La

Giglia, 29, has served in the military since 2000, and he returned from his second tour in the Middle East on Friday (12/23). His first stop was to surprise his six-year-old daughter at her elementary school. There wasn't a dry eye in the building as Grace realized Santa had given her exactly what she asked for. The soldier was originally scheduled to return sometime in the New Year, but says it's a true Christmas miracle that he gets to wake up at home Sunday.

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12/25/2011

6:30 PM & 11:30 PM

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/26/11

NOTHING TO REPORT

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11/27/2011

AVILA PKG SEARS CLOSES STORES

VO:22

Sears Holdings Corp will close as many as 120 of its Kmart and Sears discount and department stores after its holiday sales slumped, sending its shares sliding more than 27 percent to their lowest level in three years. The retailer, which is controlled by its chairman, the hedge fund manager Edward Lampert, has seen sales decline every year since the \$11 billion merger of the two chains in 2005, and likely faces further closings to cut expenses, preserve cash and push back against rivals such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc and Amazon.com Inc, analysts said.

Sears also disclosed on Tuesday that it tapped its credit line to borrow cash and forecast that fourth-quarter earnings would fall by more than half. Under Lampert, the company, once one of the most successful U.S. retailers with a history going back to 1886, has let stores deteriorate, said analysts, who also faulted poor locations and ho-hum merchandise for its ongoing problems. "They've neglected this business for so long," independent retail analyst Brian Sozzi said, adding that he expects more closings. "They are letting Kmart and Sears die on the vine.

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12/28/2011

HISPANIC PEW CENTER LATINO VOTERS REPORT

LOURDES MELUZA - WASHINGTON, DC

PKG: 2:18

The Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center, tomorrow will release a new report about Latinos' views of deportations, President Obama, the nation's overall direction, immigration policy priorities and the

upcoming 2012 presidential election. The report is based on a new national survey of 1,220 Latino adults, including 557 registered voters. The report also contains an analysis, based on government data, of deportation trends.

CALIFORNIA NEW CAR TOW LAW

VO/SOT: 44

New law takes effect Sunday in California that prohibits police from impounding cars at sobriety checkpoints if a driver's only offense is no license. The practice has hit illegal immigrants hardest, since they haven't been eligible for a license in the state since 1993. The Associated Press reports that thousands of cars are towed each year in the state under those circumstances. The new law was introduced by state Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, a Los Angeles Democrat who tried unsuccessfully to restore drivers licenses to illegal immigrants after California revoked the privilege in 1993. He said he proposed the bill to ban such towing after learning one Los Angeles incorporated suburb, Bell, raked in big fees from unlicensed drivers at checkpoints.

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12/29/2011

IMMIGRATION HOTLINE

VO: 23 SEC

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency said it set up the hotline for people who "believe they may be

U.S. citizens or victims of a crime" and were detained by state or local law enforcement agencies. Scores of state and local police forces participate along with the federal government in a program allowing them to enforce U.S. immigration law. Implementation of the program has been controversial.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

VO: 21 SEC

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.

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12/30/2011

VERIZON DROPS \$2 FEE

VO :18

Verizon Wireless has reversed its decision to charge a \$2 fee for one-time telephone and online bill payments bowing to a storm of criticism from consumers and the U.S. communications regulator. The biggest U.S. wireless operator retracted its decision on Friday, just a day after it announced the fee, which was to have begun Jan. 15. The consumer victory comes after Bank of America recently decided against a new \$5 monthly fee for debit card users after consumer and lawmaker uproar about

the charge. Verizon said it was making the decision based on customer input after many consumers spoke out about the fee on the company's online forum, with some threatening to leave the service as a result. The Verizon Wireless turn-around came after the U.S. Federal Communications Commission said it was "concerned" about the fee and vowed to look into it.

SOLANO PKG NEW WORK CONTROL

VO :22

New York City police are once again planning heavy security in Times Square for the annual New Year's Eve celebration. The New York Police Department's measures include deploying all 1,500 rookie officers from the latest academy class. They'll join Thousands of other officers assigned to crowd control. Even more officers in plain clothes will blend in with revelers, and the bomb squad will sweep theaters. The department also relies on a network of high-tech security cameras to keep an eye on "The Crossroads of the World." The cameras provide live feeds to command centers. Security in Times Square has been amped up ever since a would-be terrorist left a car bomb there in the summer of 2010. The homemade bomb fizzled, and no one was hurt.

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12/31/2011

6:30 PM & NO 11:30 SHOW

OBAMA SIGNS DEFENSE BILL

VO: 30 SEC

President Barack Obama says he's signing a \$662 billion defense bill despite "serious reservations" over its restrictions about handling suspected terrorists. A presidential statement accompanying the bill signing says the administration will interpret and implement some parts of the law in way that gives counterterrorism officials flexibility and upholds the nation's values. The White House initially threatened to veto the legislation, but pulled back after Congress made last-minute revisions. The new law gives the president the authority to waive military custody, if it's in the interest of national security, for foreign terrorism suspects who are linked to al-Qaida or who are involved in plotting or attacks the U.S.

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