

FCC REPORTS NETWORK NEWS 6:30 FEB. 1-15/ PART 1

02/01/12

PFIZER BIRTH CONTROL MIX-UP

VO: 22

Pfizer Inc is reaching out directly to women consumers to warn them about its U.S. recall of one million packets of birth control pills as concerns mounted that a manufacturing error could raise the risk of unplanned pregnancies. The world's largest drugmaker recalled 14 lots of Lo/Ovral-28 and 14 lots of the generic counterpart Norgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol late on Tuesday, prompting panicked exchanges on social media like Twitter. Litigators began soliciting new clients who may have suffered health problems or unplanned pregnancy as a result. "Unfortunately, this manufacturing error diminishes people's confidence in an extremely important and safe method of contraception," said Dr. Vanessa Cullins, vice president for external medical affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

MORE LATINO PEOPLE WITHOUT SICK DAYS

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ - NEW YORK

PKG: 1:44

Many of the 1.5 million New Yorkers who don't have paid sick leave could see that change thanks to the efforts of a local politician. who represents the Upper West Side, is the driving force behind a council effort to guarantee paid sick leave for many New York employees. "The idea that you can't take time off to deal with your sick kid is almost incomprehensible, yet hundreds of parents can't do that," Brewer said. "This is good for everybody ... It's a public health bill."

Brewer first introduced paid sick leave legislation in the council in 2010. But the legislation is now closer to success than ever before, which Brewer credited to compromise amendments proposed in recent weeks to appease council members who have worried the bill would hurt businesses. Brewer's current bill includes several concessions to small businesses, including a one-year grace period for new businesses to begin giving employees sick pay and an exclusion for businesses with fewer than five employees.

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02/02/2012

NO-FLY LIST DOUBLES IN 1 YEAR

VO: 22

Even as the Obama administration says it's close to defeating al-Qaida, the size of the government's secret list of suspected terrorists who are banned from flying to or within the United States has more than doubled in the past year, The Associated Press has learned. The no-fly list jumped from about 10,000 known or suspected terrorists one year ago to about 21,000, according to government figures provided to the AP. Most people on the list are from other countries; about 500 are Americans. The flood of new names began after the failed Christmas 2009 bombing of a Detroit-bound jetliner. The government lowered the standard for putting people on the list, and then scoured its files for anyone who qualified. The government will not disclose who is on its list or why someone might have been placed on it.

HIGHER TUTION FOR IMMIGRANTS

VO: 18

Students at New Hampshire's public colleges who are illegal immigrants would have to pay higher out-of-state tuition rates under a bill passed by the House on Wednesday. The House voted 250-88 in favor of legislation to require in-state students to prove they are also legal residents of the United States. The state would also have to establish a system to prove students are in the country legally to receive in-state tuition. The bill now goes to the Senate. In a legislative analysis written for the Republican majority on the House Education Committee, supporters of the bill said the burden would be upon the applicant to prove his or her citizenship. The rules would require the same signed affidavit and documentation process applicants use to prove state residency. Opponents, led by Democratic Rep. Mary Stuart Gile of Concord, said no one had testified during the committee's hearing on the bill to indicate this was a problem in the University System of New Hampshire. Republican Rep. Ralph Bohem, of Litchfield, disputed their logic as "faulty." "If no one checks, how would they know if there's a problem?" Bohem asked.

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02/03/2012

CHRYSLER ADDING 1800 NEW JOBS

VO: 23

Chrysler announced plans today to continue sprucing up its Belvidere, Illinois plant, now with a clearer goal in mind: the plant will be tapped to produce the Dodge Dart, the company's upcoming sedan, a move that the automaker says will add 1800 new jobs. The Belvedere plant previously built the Jeep Compass, Patriot, and the Dodge Caliber. The Caliber's long-overdue death late last year brings in some space for the Dart. The line is presently building re-production examples, but should ramp up to full volume early this year. Adding the Dart to the Belvedere plant took a bit of work on Chrysler's part. New tooling, line upgrades, a 638,000-square-foot body shop, and quality-ocused metrology center were recently bestowed upon the plant. All told, the upgrades represented a \$700 million investment in the Belvedere facility. The better news - at least for the United Auto Workers - is that the addition of Dart production also means additional workers. Chrysler announced it's adding a third shift to Belvedere for the first time since 2008. As a result, the automaker expects to hire 1800 new employees, including 500 tied directly to launch production of the Dart. Once hiring is finished, the plant's workforce should grow from 2700 to 4500 employees.

SUPREME COURT ON ARIZONA IMMIGRATION

VO: 18

The U.S. Supreme Court said on Friday it will hear arguments on April 25 on the power of states to adopt tough immigration laws, concluding the term's scheduled oral arguments with a major case pitting Arizona against the Obama administration. The high court released on Friday its April calendar, listing immigration and other cases scheduled to be heard in its final argument sitting for the current term, which began in October and ends in late June. At issue is whether federal immigration laws take precedence and pre-empt Arizona's controversial law that gives local police broad new powers to crack down on illegal immigrants.

NATION WEAR RED DAY SPOTLIGHT HEART DISEASE

ARLEN FERNANDEZ - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 2:00

It's National Wear Red Day the American Heart Association's campaign to spread awareness for heart disease in women, their number one killer. Are you wearing red today? An estimated one in four women dies from heart disease in the U.S., according to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. That's more deaths from heart disease than the next four causes of death combined, says the AHA. But 80 percent of those deaths could be prevented if women eat right, exercise, and don't smoke. That's why the AHA spreads awareness through its Go Red For Women campaign so women "don't become a statistic." Besides keeping themselves healthy, the AHA says women should look out for signs of a heart attack so they call 9-1-1 and get to a hospital immediately - or at most within five minutes. Women should be on the lookout for uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of their chest that lasts for more than a few minutes or comes and goes. Also, be on the lookout for pain or discomfort in

one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach. Shortness of breath, with or without chest discomfort, are also signs of a heart attack, along with breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

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02/04/2012

6:30 & 11:30

IMMIGRATION NEW MEXICO DRIVER LICENSES

VO: 22

A fight over whether to stop undocumented immigrants from getting driver's licenses in New Mexico is on hold temporarily while Democrats make a last-ditch effort to reach a compromise with Republican Gov. Susana Martinez who wants to scrap the license policy. The House Judiciary Committee decided not to take a final vote on the issue late Wednesday night after spending more than four hours debating the politically charged issue. New Mexico and Washington are the only states allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain the same driver's license as a U.S. citizen. Utah grants immigrants a driving permit that can't be used for identification. The committee chairman, Rep. Al Park of Albuquerque, warned that, without a compromise, the struggle over the license issue was shaping up as a repeat of last year when the House voted to stop issuing licenses to undocumented immigrants but the Senate rejected that proposal

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02/05/2012

6:30 & 11:30

FL UNEMPLOYMENT

GALO ARELLANO - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 2:16

As Floridians head to the polls for today's GOP primary, it is likely that many of Florida's unemployed voters have been looking for a new job for a while. Florida has the highest long term unemployment rate of any states, 53% of unemployed workers in the state have been out of a job for six months or longer, according to Census data. When the housing bubble imploded, so did Florida's job growth. The state's unemployment rate hit a high of 12 percent in December 2010 - one of the highest in the nation. Economists say it is improving, but slowly. Although the market is starting to loosen up, there are four jobseekers for every open position in Florida, said Mason Jackson, chief executive of the WorkForce One career center in Fort Lauderdale. Businesses are still hesitant to hire because of continued uncertainty in the economy. "If we filled every job we could find, 75% would still be unemployed," Jackson said. Nationally, 42.5 of unemployed workers have been looking for work for six months or more. Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) spent much of 2011 talking about the state's one million unemployed workers and proposed tax credits to help spur job growth, which his aide admitted wouldn't actually create jobs

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02/06/2012

ALABAMA REPEAL ACTION

VO :20

In the year since it has become law, HB 56 has been nothing short of a disaster for Alabama. HB 56 has legitimized racial profiling, terrorized persons of color regardless of their legal status, frightened children, entrapped foreigners - including business executives - and damaged the state's economy. According to a new analysis by Sam Addy, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama, HB 56 could cost the state between \$2.3 billion and \$10.8 billion in economic output and \$265 million in tax revenue. The impact of the law has been so harsh and so counterproductive that even proponents of HB 56 have concluded that the law must be fixed. But HB 56 is beyond repair and it must be repealed for the good of Alabama and its residents.

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02/07/12

CA PROP 8 DECISION

LUIS MEGID / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:39

A federal appeals court has declared California's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional, paving the way for a likely U.S. Supreme Court showdown on the voter-approved law. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled 2-1 Tuesday that a lower court judge interpreted the U.S. Constitution correctly in 2010 when he declared the ban, known as Proposition 8, to be a violation of the civil rights of gays and lesbians.

ALABAMA LEGISLATION HB 56

VO :26

As the Alabama state legislature begins its new legislative session today, the costs and consequences of the state's "papers, please" anti-immigration law is the hottest political topic in the state. In light of the many controversies and unintended consequences related to the law's provisions, including the sticker shock of up to \$11 billion the law would cost the state's GDP, changes to the immigration law are likely during the legislative session.

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02/08/12

NOTHING TO REPORT

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02/09/12

STATES NEGOTIATE \$25 BILLION DEAL FOR HOMEOWNERS

LOURDE MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ, NEW YORK

PKG 2:05 & 1:53

U.S. states reached a landmark \$25 billion deal Thursday with the nation's biggest mortgage lenders over foreclosure abuses that occurred after the housing bubble burst. The deal requires five of the largest banks to reduce loans for about 1 million households at risk of foreclosure. The lenders will also send checks of \$2,000 to about 750,000 Americans who were improperly foreclosed upon. The banks will have three years to fulfill the terms of the deal. It's the biggest settlement involving a single industry since a 1998 multistate tobacco deal. Federal and state officials announced at a news conference that 49 states had joined the settlement. Oklahoma announced a separate deal with the five banks. The settlement ends a painful chapter that emerged from the financial crisis, when home values sank and millions edged toward foreclosure. Many companies processed foreclosures without verifying documents. Some employees signed papers they hadn't read or used fake signatures to speed foreclosures -- an action known as robo-signing.

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02/10/2012

OBAMA TO CHANGE BIRTH CONTROL RULE

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:50

The nation's Roman Catholic bishops are expressing grave doubts about President Barack Obama's revamped health care rule on birth control. They say it raises serious moral concerns and lacks clear protections for certain employers, insurers and individuals. The statement came hours after Obama announced he was backing off a new requirement for religious employers to provide free birth control coverage, even if it runs counter to their religious beliefs. Instead, employees of those institutions will be able to get free contraception directly from health insurance companies. Other groups who had objected to the administration's original rule supported Obama's change Friday.

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02/11/2012

6:30 & 11:30 pm

NOTHING TO REPORT

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02/12/2012

6:30 & 11:30 pm

NOTHING TO REPORT

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02/13/2012

CALIFORNIA AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM

LUIS MEGID / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:47

Reviving California's fierce debate over affirmative action programs, dozens of black and Latino students will turn to a federal appeals court this week in a bid to end the state's 16-year-old ban on using race and ethnicity as factors in public university admissions. In arguments set for Monday in San Francisco, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will consider the latest challenge to voter-approved Proposition 209, which outlawed affirmative action programs in all public agencies across the state. The same court in 1997 upheld Proposition 209, but civil rights advocates, armed with a decade of new data on student admissions to the University of California system and what they consider a favorable 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision, are pressing for a different outcome.

WA SAME SEX MARRIAGE

VO :16

Washington is the latest state to sanction same-sex marriage. Governor Chris Gregoire signed the bill into law Monday. It will go into effect in June when the legislative session ends. Opponents vow to try to halt its implementation by putting it on the November ballot. In New Jersey, the state Senate passed a bill that would also allow same-sex marriage. The state Assembly is expected to vote on Thursday. Including Washington, there are now seven U-S states that allow same-sex marriage, as well as the District of Columbia.

KANSAS IMMIGRATION

FELIX DE BEDOUT/ LIBERAL, KANSAS

PKG 2:07

State legislators on Monday started a week-long debate on immigration policy ranging from allowing undocumented workers to stay in Kansas to measures aimed at chasing them away. First up was a bill endorsed by business and religious groups that would allow undocumented workers who had no criminal record and who had been working in Kansas at least five years to apply for a legal status that would allow them to work in Kansas industries facing labor shortages.

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02/14/12

ALABAMA HB 56 PROTEST

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS / MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

PKG 2:03

Monday afternoon Democratic U.S. Representatives held a hearing at Birmingham City Hall where they heard comments about Alabama's new immigration law from educators, law enforcement officers, and citizens. Birmingham Mayor William Bell, Jefferson County Sheriff Mike Hale, and the Superintendent of Birmingham City Schools Dr. Craig Witherspoon, offered their opinions on HB 56. Sheriff Hale called it an unfunded mandate. Supporters of the law, claim the federal government's failure to establish comprehensive immigration reform, forced states like Alabama to take action

TAX HIKE

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:55

President Barack Obama proposed tax increases on wealthy individuals and some corporations Monday, setting the stage for an ideological battle that won't be resolved until after the November election -- if then. Obama's proposed tax hikes put him at odds with the Republican presidential hopefuls. They have all called for tax packages that would lower taxes but possibly add to the federal deficit.

GAS PRICES

MARTIN BERLANGA / MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 1:54

The average price of a gallon of gasoline has jumped nearly 12 cents over the past three weeks. That's according to the Lundberg Survey of fuel prices, which puts the price of a gallon of regular at \$3.51 nationwide. Midgrade costs an average of \$3.65 a gallon, and premium is at \$3.77. Diesel was up about four cents, at \$3.95 a gallon. Of the areas surveyed, Denver has the nation's lowest average price for gas at \$3.01. New York's Long Island has the highest at \$3.82.

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02/15/12

CONNECTICUT: COURT FAVOURS IMMIGRATION

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK

PKG 2:07

Eleven New Haven residents whose homes were illegally raided by immigration agents almost five years ago have reached an unprecedented settlement of their civil rights lawsuit against top U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, local agents, and the United States. The plaintiffs and their counsel will announce the settlement at a press conference on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 10:30 AM at the Wilson Branch Library in New Haven, Connecticut. The eleven men alleged that in the early morning hours of June 6, 2007, approximately 20 ICE agents together with other federal, state, and local officers spread out across the predominantly Latino neighborhood of Fair Haven, invaded homes without warrants or consent, and illegally seized and arrested the men. Agents drew their weapons, pushed through the doors of residents' homes, banged on bedroom doors, forced several men out of bed, and frightened young children present in some of the homes.

SECURE COMMUNITIES

JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

Secure communities is critical to protect citizens and community. That uses fingerprints and biometrical info from individuals after arrested and book in jail to compare it with fbi and ice database changes have been made in secure communities, to ensure that the program efforts target criminals. New directives and prosecutorial discretions have been issued to the ice agents to protect victims of crime and witnesses, ensuring that they don't face removal. As a result there has been a more criminals removed and a reduction in the number of non-criminals removed, through the program.

=====END OF PART 1=====