

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

05/16/2012

FEMALE FARMWORKERS SUFFER SEX ABUSE

LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

A new report says female immigrant farmworkers in the U.S. are commonly subject to sexual harassment and assault, in part because their immigration status makes them fearful of reporting an offender, particularly an employer. The report by Human Rights Watch included dozens of interviews with farmworkers, attorneys and advocates in seven states. The organization calls for laws to protect the workers, who "see these abuses as an unavoidable condition of agricultural work." An estimated 630,000 of the 3 million people who perform farm work are female. The study released Wednesday mirrors two previous reports that focused on California. A spokesman for the California Farm Bureau Federation says sexual harassment is a universal problem not confined to the agricultural industry, which is why laws were enacted to prohibit it.

LOS ANGELES ADOPTS 'RESPONSIBLE BANKING' ORDINANCE

JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:50

Joining a growing number of municipalities, the Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday adopted a "responsible banking" ordinance that will require banks doing business with the city to disclose detailed data on loans and foreclosure activity by community. Much of the information is already reported under federal law but can be hard to find in voluminous federal banking reports, said Miguel Santana, city administrative officer. The new law would bring the information together on a city website that the public could search by census tract, he said. Banks that decline to provide the information will be deemed unqualified to bid for a piece of the city's \$6 billion in deposits and pension funds, Santana said. The law will enable the city and its residents to identify which banks are helping the community and which aren't, said Councilman Richard Alarcon, who wrote the legislation.

SKECHERS DECEIVED CONSUMERS WITH SHOE ADS

VO :20

The government wants you to know that simply sporting a pair of Skechers' fitness shoes is not going to get you Kim Kardashian's curves or Brooke Burke's toned tush. Skechers USA Inc. will pay \$40 million to settle charges by the Federal Trade Commission that the footwear company made unfounded claims that its Shape-ups shoes would help people lose weight and strengthen their butt, leg and stomach muscles.

Kardashian, Burke and other celebrities endorsed the shoes in Skechers ads. Wednesday's settlement also involves the company's Resistance Runner, Toners, and Tone-ups shoes. Skechers made deceptive claims about those shoes, too, says the agency.

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05/17/2012

MINORITIES BIRTH IN USA

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:10

More than half of all babies born last year were members of minority groups, the first time in U.S. history. It's a sign of how swiftly the USA is becoming a nation of younger minorities and older whites. Hispanics, blacks, Asians and other minorities in 2011 accounted for 50.4% of births, 49.7% of all children under 5 and slightly more than half of the 4 million kids under 1, the Census Bureau reports today. The nation's growing diversity has huge implications for education, economics and politics. In all, minorities had 5.9% fewer babies last year than in 2010, but births among non-Hispanic whites fell even more, down 10.1%, Johnson says. A key reason: A greater share of the minority population is of child-bearing age.

ALABAMA HB56

VO :20

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley is sending lawmakers back to the drawing board to rework proposed revisions to the state's immigration law - considered the toughest in the nation. Bentley, a Republican, said he wants the legislature to remove a provision in Alabama's immigration law that requires school officials to ask students about the legal status of their parents. Bentley signed a proclamation calling for a special session of the Alabama legislature starting May 17. The special session is to cover measures dealing with the state budget, redistricting as well as immigration. A press release issued by the governor's office expressed concern about two key provisions of a bill that contained revisions to an existing immigration bill, HB 56, which was signed into law last year. Bentley appears to be concerned that the revised measure tramples on constitutional rights.

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05/18/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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05/19/2012

ALABAMA IMMIGRATION LAW

VO: 26

Gov. Robert Bentley on Friday signed into law revisions to the state's stringent immigration law after his efforts to change the bill fell flat among lawmakers. The governor had hoped to change two provisions of the law -- including one that would create a new public database of illegal immigrants who have appeared in court -- during a special session on redistricting that convened Thursday. "However, as we worked with legislators during the special session, it became clear that the Legislature did not have the appetite for addressing further revisions at this time," Bentley said in a statement. Bentley said he still had some concerns about the legislation, but said it made too many helpful changes for citizens and law-abiding businesses for him to cast it aside with a pocket veto.

CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE FRAUD

JUAN CARLOS GONZALEZ - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 1:42

Before Randy Wilson stepped in front of the camera at the DMV last Thursday, he was told to remove his glasses for his driver's license photo. Wilson, from Fargo, didn't think much of it. He figured it was probably because the camera's flash might cause a glare in the photo. As it turns out, though, it's a little bit more complicated than that. For the last two years, North Dakota has been using facial recognition software as a way to prevent driver's license fraud. Drivers like Wilson are asked to remove their glasses because the frames make it difficult for the software to identify a face. While the concept might seem like something out of a science fiction novel, it's actually pretty basic, said Glenn Jackson, director of the Driver's License Division of the Department of Transportation. The goal of the program, Jackson said, is to prevent a person from having more than one license. The software compares a new driver's license photo with old photos in the database to make sure that a driver isn't in the system under a different name.

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05/20/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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05/21/2012

US SUPREME COURT / PARENTS STAY

VO :21

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Monday that the length of lawful residence in the United States by immigrant parents cannot be considered by the federal government in deciding whether their children should be deported. The justices unanimously handed a victory to the Obama administration and overturned a ruling by a U.S. appeals court that immigrants who entered the United States as children may count their parents' years in this country to satisfy the residency requirements.

CARWASHERS LAWSUIT

JAIME GARCIA / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

MALDEF held a press conference to announce the details of a class action lawsuit against multiple southern California car washes. The car washes have maintained unlawful labor policies and practices resulting in thousands of hours of free labor at each car wash and a work environment depriving workers of their right to be paid. Workers were also forbidden legally required meal breaks and rest breaks without compensation; and consistently provided inaccurate statements of work. The CLEAN Carwash Campaign, a coalition of nonprofit organizations dedicated to ensuring that car washes are held accountable for their routine labor violations, investigated these violations.

RISK OF OBESE KIDS

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ / NEW YORK

PKG 1:56

New federal research is revealing alarming new statistics about heart risks in the nation's overweight teens. The study in the journal, Pediatrics, says half the nation's overweight teens have unhealthy blood

pressure, cholesterol or blood sugar levels that put them at risk for future cardiac problems. One expert says it could mean the battle for good health is being lost early on with many kids. Overall, the study found that 50 percent of overweight young people and 60 percent of obese adolescents had at least one risk factor for future heart disease. Even in normal-weight kids, 37 percent had at least one risk factor.

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5/22/12

CENSUS ACCURACY

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

A new government analysis shows the 2010 census generally was accurate, although it continued to disproportionately overlook minorities.

The Census Bureau reports it over-counted the total U.S. population by about 36,000 people, or 0.01 percent. That is compared to a census over-count of 0.5 percent in 2000.

ONLINE IMMIGRATION SERVICE LAUNCHES

VO :24

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today launched the first phase of its electronic immigration benefits system, known as USCIS ELIS .The system has been created to modernize the process for filing and adjudicating immigration benefits.

AIRLINE CHARGE FOR SEATS

LOURDES DEL RIO / MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 2:05

If you're flying this summer, be prepared to kiss your family goodbye at the gate. Even if they're on the same plane. Airlines are reserving a growing number of window and aisle seats for passengers willing to pay extra. That's helping to boost revenue but also making it harder for friends and family members who don't pay this fee to sit next to each other. At the peak of the summer travel season, it might be nearly impossible.

PROSTATE CANCER

LUIS MEGID / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

Doctors should no longer offer the PSA prostate cancer screening test to healthy men because they're more likely to be harmed by the blood draw - and the chain of medical interventions that often follows - than be helped, according to government advisory panel's final report.

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05/23/12

NOTHING TO REPORT

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05/24/12

FOOD STAMP FRAUD

LOURDES DEL RIO. MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 2:00

Food stamp recipients are ripping off the government for millions of dollars by illegally selling their benefit cards for cash -- sometimes even in the open, on eBay or Craigslist -- and then asking the government for replacement cards. The Agriculture Department wants to curb the practice by giving states more power to investigate people who repeatedly claim to lose their benefit cards. It is proposing new rules Thursday that would allow states to demand formal explanations from people who seek replacement cards more than three times a year. Those who don't comply can be denied further cards. Overall, food stamp fraud costs taxpayers about \$750 million a year, or 1 percent of the \$75 billion program that makes up the bulk of the department's total budget for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

UNIVERSITY AID

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK

PKG 2:20

The cost of college is skyrocketing. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average price for public tuition, room and board during the 2009-2010 school year at a four year institution was \$12,804. For private institutions, it averaged a staggering \$32,184. As government funding has changed to loan-based aid, rather than grant-based aid, many students are easily left with tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt when they graduate. If they find a job, which can be difficult in the current economy, they may only make \$30,000 a year right out of college.

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05/25/12

MEMORIAL DAY TRAVEL / GAS

LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:45

California drivers will pay record gasoline prices over the Memorial Day weekend but could get relief in the weeks ahead - unless more unplanned refinery outages occur. Then all bets are off, analysts say. The average price of a gallon of regular gasoline in California was \$4.311 on Thursday, down 5.5 cents from a week earlier, according to the AAA Fuel Gauge Report. That beats the previous state record for the traditional start of the summer driving season: During the Memorial Day weekend of 2008, average high prices ranged from \$4.168 to \$4.228. Prices are moderating on the West Coast partly out of the wholesale market's anticipation that several hobbled refineries will return to operation, the Energy Department said. "This means if the wholesale market ... is not subject to new disruptions, retail prices should see continuing downward movement in the coming weeks," the agency said in its weekly petroleum report.

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05/26/12

DREAMERS SUCCESSFULL

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS - PHOENIX, ARIZONA

PKG: 3:00

It's been 25 years and the rooster is still crowing. For those who have taken the time to enjoy the music show that happens in the Grand Old Hatchery building downtown each weekend, you'll recognize the reference. At the beginning of each performance, hatchery owner, show organizer and banjo player Vance Smith uses his rooster sound effect to signal the beginning of a musical hoedown. Shortly after the rooster crows, the fiddles, guitars, banjo and more kick in with a lively beat that will tempt anyone in the audience to jump to their feet and scoot their boots across the dance floor. Saturday night the Grand Old Hatchery celebrates its 25th anniversary at 7 p.m. in the only way they know how - by keeping the music playing and reminding passersby that one of downtown Dickson's institutions is still alive.

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05/27/12

CONTROVERSIAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IN COLORADO SECURE COMMUNITIES

JUAN CARLOS GUTIERREZ - DENVER, COLORADO

PKG: 2:05

The controversial federal immigration-enforcement program called Secure Communities went live across Colorado this week - in a cobbled-together fashion and under a cloud of controversy over the potential for entangling domestic-violence victims in deportations. Secure Communities was designed to be the quick, accurate, high-tech way to snag the worst criminal illegal immigrants by checking fingerprints of arrestees with federal immigration data. But its official debut in all 64 Colorado counties Tuesday, after several years of planning and wrangling, happened with some underfunded counties still relying on snail-mailed, inked fingerprints rather than instantaneously sent, computerized, biometric prints.

DREAMERS SUCCESSFULL SERIES P2

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS - PHOENIX, ARIZONA

PKG: 2:46

Barefoot and bleary-eyed, opened the door to his office, an apartment in Los Feliz. "I feel like I'm stoned," the 35-year-old actor said, apologizing for his appearance and trying to wipe the sleep out of his eyes. He looked every bit the part of his familiar on-screen persona: the overgrown man-child. He plopped down on his couch and started cracking his big toe. Every few minutes, his gray cotton T-shirt rode up, revealing his pale stomach, and he casually pulled it down over his jeans again. Little wonder, it seemed, that he's the guy who gets cast as the schlub who isn't ready to propose to his girlfriend or the dude who thinks his wife won't mind if he films a gay porn video with his male best friend.

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05/28/12

GAS PRICES

JAIME GARCIA / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:01

While drivers may feel relief at the pump, gas still isn't cheap. Besides last year, the only other time gas was more expensive on Memorial Day was 2008, when it soon climbed to a record of \$4.11 per gallon. This year, gas shot up by 66 cents from January through early April because of a spike in oil prices.

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05/29/12

JAPAN TUNA RADIATION

LUIS MEGID / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:47

Researchers are surprised to find radiation levels this high in the bluefin tuna that are turning up along the California coast -- 10 times higher than the amount usually found in those fish. They've carried the radioactive contamination 6,000 miles from the waters near Japan's crippled nuclear plant -- the first time a huge migrating fish has been shown to carry radioactivity that far.

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05/30/12

"STARS ACT BILL "

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:27

Sisters Daniela and Dayana Pelaez may be one step closer to helping young undocumented students like themselves adjust their legal status. The sisters left for Washington D.C. Wednesday to meet with Congressman David Rivera and introduce the Studying Towards Adjusted Residency Status (STARS) Act into Congress. The STARS Act would allow undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States before the age of 16 the opportunity to adjust their residency status if they earn a degree from an accredited four-year institution of higher education and meet certain criteria.

IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

LUIS MEGID / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:18

Controversy caused by the new prosecutorial discretion guidelines implemented by ICE. A number of immigration attorneys in Northern California said the approval rate for aliens considered "low priority" has been very low.

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05/31/12

RIVERA SEEKS TO RESTRICT SOME CUBANS FROM RETURNING TO CUBA

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

A congressman seeks to impose sanctions on Cubans if they return to the island within a few years after leaving. U.S. Rep. David Rivera said Tuesday he wants to sanction Cuban Americans who return to the island less than five years after they left, alleging that they are abusing a loophole in the Cuban Adjustment Act and helping the country's communist system. The South Florida Republican submitted a bill on Aug. 1 to deal with the growing complaint that Cubans benefit from the CAA as refuge-seekers but then return to the island just to visit relatives or even to vacation. Approved in 1966 for the tens of thousands of Cubans who were fleeing the communist government at the height of the Cold War, the CAA offers U.S. residency 366 days after arrival and other benefits. Citizens of no other country receive such benefits.

OVERSIZED SODAS NEW YORK

NAYELI CHAVEZ GEKKER. NEW YORK

PKG 1:46

Mayor Michael Bloomberg is proposing a ban on the sale of large sodas and other sugary drinks in the city's restaurants, delis and movie theaters in the hopes of combating obesity -- an expansion of his administration's efforts to encourage healthy behavior by limiting residents' choices. The proposal -- expected to be announced formally on Thursday in a City Hall briefing -- would take 20-ounce soda bottles off the shelves of the city's delis and eliminate super-sized sugary soft drinks from fast-food menus. It is the latest health effort by the administration to spark accusations that the city's officials are overstepping into matters that should be left in the hands of individual consumers

=====END OF PART 2=====