

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS AUGUST 01-15 / PART 1

08/01/2012

POSTAL SERVICE DEFAULT EXPECTED WEDNESDAY

VO: 22

The U-S Postal Service is likely to default on a big bill Wednesday if it doesn't get some help from Congress. It owes more than five billion dollars in health care pre-payments. The government mandates the service pre-fund the benefits for future retirees. Postal officials have said they're bracing for default on this payment as well as the one due at the end of September. They do say there won't be any impact on employees' pay or mail delivery. The default is largely symbolic. The Postal Service is considered independent and doesn't usually use taxpayer dollars. Right now, it's operating on a loan from the Treasury.

GAS PRICES UP 17 CENTS IN BIGGEST JULY JUMP SINCE 2000

VO: 23

After dipping to \$3.33 a gallon and flirting with \$3 in the South, the nation's average gas price climbed 17 cents over 26 consecutive days in July. It was the first monthly gain since March and the biggest July jump since at least 2000, AAA said Tuesday. Nationally, regular gasoline now averages \$3.50 a gallon, although it's pricier in 25 states. "More and more locations say prices are above where they were last year - and last year was the most expensive for motor fuel," says Oil Price Information Service analyst Tom Kloza. Gas averaged \$3.71 a gallon in July 2011. The Midwest is particularly pinched. Refinery woes in Indiana and Illinois have crimped output, propelling prices to as high as \$4.29 a gallon in Chicago and to near \$4 levels in several regions of the Rust Belt.

ADULT KIDS LIVING AT HOME ON THE RISE ACROSS THE BOARD

VO: 33

The number of young adults ages 20 to 34 who lived with their parents jumped from 17% in 1980 to 24% in 2007-09 - the Great Recession according to a detailed analysis out today. The rise was sharpest among those under 25 - a new high of 43% vs. 32% in 1980 - but it increased largely across the board. Even among 30- to 34-year-olds, nearly one in 10 lived with parents. "This 'Great Recession' has had tremendous effects that previous smaller recessions did not," says Zhenchao Qian, a sociology professor at Ohio State University

CARE BENEFITS TO WOMEN KICK IN

MARIA E PAYAN - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 1:19

Starting today , all new health insurance plans must provide eight preventive health benefits to women for free. For women already in plans with copays or deductibles for those services -- they will also be free, starting at their plan's next renewal date.

FDA VIH HOME TEST

VO: 20

In just a few months, over-the-counter HIV tests will be shelved alongside cold medicines and skin creams at neighborhood pharmacies, with the FDA's approval this month of Oraquick, the first ever rapid, in-home test for an infectious disease. "Our hope in approving the product is that more people will be able to test themselves and find out their HIV status," said Rita Chapelle of the FDA office of public affairs. But Joan Duggan, a physician at the University of Toledo Medical Center, is not convinced that OraQuick will make a dent in new infection rates. "This test is a two-edged sword. It's a great thing to have available, but we have to be careful. There's a huge potential for misuse," she said. Thousands of health-care professionals, including Duggan have administered an identical version of the test since 2004.

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08/02/2012

AZ ARPAIO PROTEST

VO: 22

Dozens of Hispanic activists celebrated their efforts so far on Wednesday to boot controversial Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio out of office. They call themselves the campaign for Arizona's future and say they registered more than eleven thousand new Latino voters in the last few months. Outside the federal courthouse dozens gathered to show solidarity against the man whose trial was wrapping up inside the building. On Wednesday the defense in the Sheriff Arpaio racial profiling case took center stage.

DEPORTATION RECORD

VO: 18

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers in the local field office deported a record number of aliens so far this fiscal year - more than 68,000 - with less than three months remaining in the year. Of the more than 68,000 removals, 99 percent were within ICE's enforcement priorities: 37 percent convicted criminals, 33 percent repeat immigration violators or immigration fugitives, and 29 percent recent border entrants. Through smart and effective immigration enforcement, this administration remains committed to prioritizing

immigration enforcement resources to target criminal aliens as well as those who threaten border security or the integrity of the immigration system.

MEDICAID TAX DELINQUENTS

VO: 24

Congressional investigators say thousands of Medicaid health care service providers still got paid by the government even though they owed hundreds of millions of dollars in federal taxes. A legal technicality is making it harder for the IRS to collect. In a report out today, the Government Accountability Office says one dentist who received more than \$100,000 from Medicaid while owing back income taxes was spending lavishly on fine dining, trips, spas, shopping and wine. Medicaid payments to doctors, hospitals and other providers aren't technically considered federal funds, since they're funneled through state health care programs. Because of that loophole, the IRS can't just shut off the payment spigot to collect tax debts. Investigators only looked at three states, so the true extent of the losses is greater.

TOYOTA RECALL

VO: 45

Toyota announced the recall Wednesday of some 778,000 vehicles in the United States due to a suspension problem that could cause crashes. The recall comprises roughly 760,000 Toyota RAV4's from model years 2006 to 2011, as well as about 18,000 Lexus HS 250h's from 2010. Toyota said that if the nuts on the rear suspension arms of these vehicles aren't tightened properly during a wheel alignment service, the arms may come loose or separate. Toyota spokesman Brian Lyons said that so far in the United States, there have been "nine crashes and three minor injuries alleged to be related to this condition. In addition to the United States, some 99,000 RAV4's and 1,000 HS 250h's in Canada are being recalled, though no other markets are involved, Lyons said. The affected drivers may notice a strange noise coming from the rear of their vehicles, Toyota said. The company said it's "preparing the remedy" for the problem, to be performed by dealers at no charge, and will provide further information for car owners by mail. In June, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened an investigation into potential rear suspension failure in an estimated 460,000 RAV4's from between 2006 and 2008. A NHTSA spokeswoman said the agency "is in contact with Toyota regarding its recall and urges consumers to have their vehicles serviced promptly." "The agency's investigation remains open pending review of documentation from the manufacturer," the spokeswoman added.

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08/03/12

ARPAIO TESTIMONIES

VO: 27

Testimony wrapped up Thursday in the civil trial against Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his office, who stand accused of systematically discriminating against Latinos through racial profiling. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio attorney, Tom Liddy, speaks with the media outside the Sandra Day O'Connor Federal Courthouse Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012 in Phoenix. Testimony ended Thursday at a trial aimed at settling allegations over whether Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's office racially profiles Latinos in its immigration patrols. (AP Photo/Matt York) It is now up to U.S. District Judge Murray Snow to determine whether or not 'the Sheriffs violated the civil rights of five Arizona Hispanics who sued "America's toughest sheriff." Snow indicated Thursday that he intends to make the ruling on whether or not intentional discrimination against Latinos exists within the agency and if the policies and practices result in unreasonable search and seizure. Snow's final ruling will come after Aug. 16, the day attorneys from both sides are scheduled to turn in their last round of written closing arguments. The plaintiffs - five Arizona residents who claim they were racially profiled by MCSO deputies and the organization Somos America - are not seeking monetary rewards. Instead, they want the judge to issue an injunction ordering Arpaio's office to adopt a policy that prohibits racial profiling and defines its meaning.

FACEBOOK FAKE ACCOUNTS

VO: 25

Facebook's share price has fallen below \$20 for the first time, as it was revealed around 8 percent of its accounts could be sketchy. The social-networking website is now worth almost half what it was when it floated on the Nasdaq in May. It has lost nearly \$50 billion in value -- more than the total valuation of Hewlett Packard or coffee company Starbucks. The stock debuted at \$38 and since then has headed south, hit by increased doubts about its high valuation, growth prospects, and worries over its ability to make money from its growing mobile audience. Facebook's latest figures suggest as many as 83 million users may come from dubious sources -- including duplicate accounts, pages for pets and those designed to send spam. The number of real users is critical for the company as it seeks to secure advertising revenues from the website. Some analysts have expressed doubts that the company can boost revenues. The number of accounts grew to 955 million at the end of the second quarter, but some 8.7 percent may be dodgy, the company admitted in its quarterly filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

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08/06/2012

BACK TO SCHOOL-DUNCAN

Maria Egunia Payam- MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 1:18

A more well-rounded curriculum with less focus on a single test. Higher academic standards and more difficult classwork. Continued cuts to extracurricular and other activities because of the tough economy. Education Secretary Arne Duncan says those are some of the changes and challenges that children could notice as they start the new school year. Several significant reforms have taken place over the past three years. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core standards, a set of

uniform benchmarks for math and reading. Thirty-two states and the district have been granted waivers from important parts of the Bush-era No Child Left Behind law. Billions in federal dollars have gone out to improve low-performing schools, tie teacher evaluations to student growth and encourage states to expand the number of charter schools, which are publicly funded but privately run. In an interview with The Associated Press, Duncan said he believes students will see the concrete effects of those changes when they head back to class.

SOCIAL SECURITY DEAL

VO: 29

Lifetime Social Security taxes and benefits for people turning 65 in different decades. The lifetime value of taxes is based on the value of accumulated taxes paid, as if those taxes were put into an account that earned an annual 2 percent interest rate, plus inflation. The examples are for a married couple in which both spouses earned average wages (\$43,500 in 2011). Projected benefits assume that both spouses have average life spans after turning 65. Want more benefits? Live longer. In 1960, a 65-year-old woman could expect to live 16 more years, on average, and a 65-year-old man could expect to live 13 more years. In 2030, a 65-year-old woman could expect to live 21 more years, on average, and a 65-year-old man could expect to live 19 more years.

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08/07/2012

FEWER IMMIGRATION STATE LAWS PASSING

VO: 25

State legislatures around the country are passing fewer immigration-related state laws as result of economic problems in their states and the Supreme Court decision on Arizona's SB1070, says new report.

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08/08/2012

MORTGAGES-LATE PAYMENTS

VO: 18

U.S. homeowners are getting better about keeping up with their mortgage payments, driving the percentage of borrowers who have fallen behind to a three-year low, according to a new report. Still, the rate of decline remains slow, credit reporting agency TransUnion said Wednesday. The percentage of mortgages going unpaid is unlikely to return anytime soon to where it was before the housing market crashed. Some 5.49 percent of the nation's mortgage holders were behind on their payments by 60 days or more in the April-to-June period, the agency said. That's the lowest level since the first quarter of 2009. The second-quarter delinquency rate is down from 5.82 percent in the same period last year, and below the 5.78 percent rate for the first three months of 2012. The positive second-quarter trend coincided with an improving outlook for the U.S. housing market. A measure of national home prices rose 2.2 percent from April to May, the second increase after seven months of flat or declining readings. Sales of new homes fell in June after reaching a two-year high in May. Sales of previously occupied homes also declined in June, but were higher than a year earlier.

CHOLESTEROL LEVELS IMPROVING IN KIDS

VO: 21

A new government study finds overall cholesterol levels in children and teens have decreased over the last two decades. It was conducted on more than 16-thousand people, aged six to 19-years-old, over three different time periods from 19-88 to 2010. Researchers found a slight decrease in total cholesterol levels, as well as a drop in the number of children who had high cholesterol from 11-percent to eight-percent. The study was released in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

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08/09/12

FORECLOSURE RATES

VO: 16

The home foreclosure rate in Southern Nevada still exceeds the national average but the Las Vegas metro area in July fell out of the top 20 in this category for the first time since the Great Recession began. Foreclosure property tracking service RealtyTrac from Irvine, Calif., reported Wednesday night that Las Vegas fell to 29th last month among the nation's metro areas with one foreclosure filing for every 376 housing units. That is still worse than the one foreclosure filing per 686 units nationally, which includes notices of default and trustee sales and repossessions by banks. But the July numbers are significant because Las Vegas had the nation's highest foreclosure rate among metro areas in 2011 before tumbling to 9th place in the first half of this year. Foreclosure activity, which involved 2,236 Las Vegas properties in July, was down 29.7 percent from June and nearly 73 percent from July 2011.

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08/10/12

NOTHING TO REPORT

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08/13/2012

NILE VIRUS

VO: 28

Dallas County Has Worst Outbreak In U.S. This Year Facing the worst outbreak of West Nile virus in the nation this year, Dallas County is conducting aerial sprays today to try to contain the mosquitoes that carry the disease. Eight people have died after contracting the illness and more than 120 cases have been reported in Dallas County, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. Officials in the county, which encompasses the metropolitan area of Dallas and Fort Worth, authorized the aerial sprays on Friday after meeting with state health officials and experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was the first time in nearly five decades aerial sprays were approved. "This is a matter of extreme concern, and we're going to follow the science and do what's best for our people," Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, the county's top elected official, told The Associated Press.

GAS PRICES

VO: 22

Gas prices jumped 18 cents over the past two weeks, the biggest jump of the year, according to a survey published Sunday. The average cost of a gallon of regular is \$3.69 nationwide, the Lundberg Survey found. That's nearly 8 cents higher than a year ago, but still 28 cents lower than it was in April of this year.

"Higher crude oil prices, higher corn-based ethanol prices, plus a spate of refinery and pipeline problems around the country combined" are behind the spike, said publisher Trilby Lundberg. The U.S. drought is pushing up prices for all corn-based products. It's impossible to predict what will happen with gas prices in the near future, Lundberg said. "The refinery and pipeline issues that have added to the price rise are certainly temporary in nature. But the other two -- the ethanol price rises and the higher crude oil prices -- aren't so easily dismissed as immediately temporary." But, Lundberg said, she doubts prices will jump this quickly in the near future because many of the refinery issues are being resolved. The Lundberg Survey tabulates prices at thousands of gas stations nationwide. The city with the highest average in the latest

survey was Chicago, at \$4.23. The lowest average price was in Tucson, Arizona, at \$3.18. Here are average prices in some other cities:- Boston, Massachusetts - \$3.74.

SECURITY BREACH-KENNEDY AIRPORT

VO: 40

A man on a personal watercraft who became stranded in a New York bay easily breached Kennedy Airport's security system by walking undetected through two runways and into a terminal. The New York Post reports that the 31-year-old man swam to a Jamaica Bay shore and then walked past motion sensors and closed-circuit cameras of the airport's state-of-the-art Perimeter Intrusion Detection System. The \$100 million system is meant to safeguard against terrorists. The man climbed an 8-foot-tall perimeter fence and made his way to Terminal 3. He approached a Delta Airlines worker, who alerted authorities. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is investigating. The agency says it plans to meet with the security system's maker this week. The man was charged with criminal trespass.

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08/14/2012

WESTERN WILDFIRES

VO: 32

Fire officials said wildfires have destroyed dozens of homes and threatened hundreds more across several western U.S. states, including Idaho, where an on-duty firefighter was killed by a falling tree. Anne Veseth, a 20-year-old who was in her second season as a firefighter, was killed Sunday as she worked a fire near Orofino, the U.S. Forest Service said. Her older brother also is a wild-land firefighter in Idaho, where 12 blazes are burning. "The Forest Service is devastated by the loss of one of our own," Forest Supervisor Rick Brazell said. Officials were investigating the death, which came on the same day that another firefighter narrowly escaped a wildfire in southeastern Oregon. That firefighter was forced to deploy her emergency shelter in an area overrun by wind-whipped flames. She suffered minor burns to a leg and forearm and minor smoke inhalation. Her 20-person federal crew made it to a safety zone and was pulled off the fire. The blaze scorched about 653 square miles in remote terrain straddling Oregon and Nevada, where five ranches in the Kings River Valley were evacuated. A crew in central Washington state also barely outran flames Monday at a wind-driven fire in Kittitas County.

CREDIT CARDS-LATE PAYMENTS

VO: 20

An analysis of consumer-credit data shows that Americans are carrying more credit card debt than a year ago, yet the late-payment rate for card holders remains near an 18-year low. Credit reporting agency

TransUnion says the average credit card debt per borrower in the U.S. in the second quarter was \$4,971. That's about 6 percent more than a year earlier. The rise in card balances coincides with a 4 percent increase in the number of new cards issued to consumers in the second quarter. Meanwhile, the rate of payments at least 90 days overdue inched higher to 0.63 percent from 0.60 percent in the same period last year, when the rate hit the lowest level in 18 years.

BANK AND ATM FEES ON THE RISE

VO: 24

Watch out for rising bank fees. A new survey from Money-Rates-dot-com finds banks are increasing all kinds of fees -- from monthly service fees to A-T-M and overdraft fees. And that's not all. The requirements to avoid monthly service fees are getting harder to meet. The survey found the average minimum balance needed to avoid fees jumped from about 856 dollars to nearly 45-hundred dollars this year. Banks have been looking for ways to recoup lost revenue from a law that limits how much they can charge stores when customers use their debit cards.

12 STATES HAVE ADULT OBESITY RATES ABOVE 30%

VO: 25

Much of America is carrying around a lot of extra pounds, according to a new survey released Monday. A dozen U-S states had adult obesity rates that topped 30-percent last year. Mississippi leads the way with an obesity rate of nearly 35-percent. Louisiana is second, followed by West Virginia, Alabama and Michigan. According to the study, 26 of the 30 states with the highest obesity rates are in the Midwest and South. Colorado had the lowest obesity rate at just under 21-percent. The report was released by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The analysis was based on state obesity rates provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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08/15/2012

US GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 1:38

Young illegal immigrants are scrambling to get passports and other records in order as the Homeland Security Department starts accepting applications to allow them to avoid deportation and get work permits. Homeland Security announced the details Tuesday of what documents illegal immigrants would need to prove that they are eligible for the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. The announcement came a day before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was set to begin letting people apply for the program.

MELONS RECALLED FOR POSSIBLE LISTERIA

VO: 23

A company called Burch Farms is recalling every cantaloupe and honeydew melon it grew this year, because of possible listeria contamination. The Food and Drug Administration found listeria on a melon at the company's North Carolina packing facility. The melons were sold to distributors in 18 states along the East Coast and in the Midwest but may have been resold in other states. Consumers can identify the affected cantaloupes by stickers that say either Burch Farms or Cottle Strawberry on them.

BUMBO BABY SEATS RECALL

VO: 27

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product. Name of product: Bumbo Baby Seats Units: About 4 million in the U.S. Note: In October 2007, 1 million Bumbo seats were voluntarily recalled to provide additional warnings against use on raised surfaces.

STUDY-HAND SANITIZER COULD IMPAIR MUSCLE FUNCTION

VO: 1:01

An antibacterial chemical could weaken your muscles as you wash your hands. A new study suggest the antibacterial chemical, Triclosan, hinders muscle contractions at a cellular level. Triclosan is found in many products advertised as antibacterial and many that aren't. Beyond hand soap, you might find the chemical in mouthwashes and toothpastes, deodorants, lipstick, and trash bags. In the study, researchers at the University of Colorado and the University of California, Davis, found the chemical slowed swimming fish and weakened muscular strength in mice. Triclosan was also found to cause some muscle failure in isolated cells and fibers.

CHILDREN'S VITAMIN REFUND FOR FALSE CLAIMS

VO: 30

The marketer of Disney and Marvel hero-themed vitamins for children is refunding more than two-million dollars. N-B-T-Y has admitted its vitamins contained only a fraction of the nutritional value it claimed on the packaging. The pills were advertised as containing a dose of D-H-A that would satisfy 100-percent of a child's daily requirement. But the Federal Trade Commission says in some cases the vitamins contained only minuscule amounts of D-H-A. D-H-A is an omega-3 fatty acid found in fish.

FDA APPROVES FLU VACCINE FORMULA

VO: 25

The Food and Drug Administration has approved a vaccine for the upcoming flu season. Health experts study global patterns to predict which strains of flu are most likely to infect people. One flu strain is the same as last year and there are two new strains. Each year, five to 20-percent of people in the U-S develop influenza and more than 200-thousand are hospitalized. Doctors recommend that those six-months of age and older receive an annual flu shot.

EGG YOLKS ALMOST AS DANGEROUS AS SMOKING, RESEARCHER SAYS

VO: 18

A researcher at Western University in London said he's found more evidence pointing to the harmful effects of egg yolks.

He claims the cholesterol found in the yolk is almost as dangerous as smoking. Dr. David Spence says Canadians are being duped by what he calls "propaganda" from the egg industry. His most recent study of more than 1,200 people found egg consumption accelerates atherosclerosis or plaque build up an arteries. He said the culprit is the cholesterol found in the yolk, which is 237 mgs in a jumbo egg. "It's more than the cholesterol in a Hardee's monster thick burger which is two-thirds of a pound of beef, three slices of cheese and four slices of bacon," said Spence.

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