

FCC REPORTS- DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS- OCTOBER 2012- PART 1

INM CALIFORNIA-LICENCIAS DE CONDUCIR-California Governor Jerry Brown vetoed an immigration measure dubbed the "anti-Arizona" bill late on Sunday that would shield some illegal immigrants from federal status checks. The bill would have prohibited local authorities from honoring federal detention requests, which may lead to deportation proceedings, on illegal immigrants unless those individuals were charged or convicted of a serious or violent felony. Supporters said the measure would have served as a counterpoint for what they say is racial profiling inherent in an Arizona law that cracks down on illegal immigration that was allowed to stand by the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this summer. In his veto message, Brown said that, while he supports comprehensive immigration reform, the bill was "fatally flawed" by exempted individuals who had committed crimes such as child abuse, drug trafficking and selling weapons. "I believe it's unwise to interfere with a sheriff's discretion to comply with a detainer issued for people with those kinds of troubling criminal records," he said. Brown's veto sparked ire among immigrant-rights groups who sponsored the measure and had been lobbying the governor to take a lenient stance toward illegal immigrants. Governor Brown has failed California's immigrant communities, imperiling civil rights and leaving us all less safe," Pablo Alvarado, executive director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, said in a statement. Activists had hoped that Brown would join a small but growing national trend in which communities resisted the information-sharing program between federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and local law enforcement, known as "Secure Communities."

CALIFORNIA-DOMESTIC WORKERS - Gov. Jerry Brown has vetoed legislation that would have provided overtime pay, meal breaks and other labor protections to an estimated 200,000 caregivers, nannies, and house cleaners in California. The Democratic governor announced Sunday that he rejected AB889, dubbed the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, saying the bill raises a number of unanswered questions. It is unclear how the law would have been enforced and whether it would have extended to part-time workers such as baby sitters. Labor advocates passed similar legislation in New York and are targeting Massachusetts and Illinois. They say the protections are needed to prevent the abuse of primarily female, immigrant workers. The California Chamber of Commerce said the legislation by Democratic Assemblyman Tom Ammiano of San Francisco would hurt working families by imposing impractical regulations

MEDICARE PENALTIES - If you or an elderly relative have been hospitalized recently and noticed extra attention when the time came to be discharged, there's more to it than good customer service. As of Monday, Medicare will start fining hospitals that have too many patients readmitted within 30 days of discharge due to complications. The penalties are part of a broader push under President Barack Obama's health care law to improve quality while also trying to save taxpayers money. About two-thirds of the hospitals serving Medicare patients, or some 2,200 facilities, will be hit with penalties averaging around \$125,000 per facility this coming year, according to government estimates. Data to assess the penalties have been collected and crunched, and Medicare has shared the results with individual hospitals. Medicare plans to post details online later in October, and people can look up how their community hospitals performed by using the agency's Hospital Compare website. It adds up to a new way of doing business for hospitals, and they have scrambled to prepare for well over a year. They are

working on ways to improve communication with rehabilitation centers and doctors who follow patients after they're released, as well as connecting individually with patients

VOTER-ID-PENNSYLVANIA - Some political momentum could be on the line when a judge rules on whether to keep intact Pennsylvania's tough new law requiring voters to show photo identification in next month's presidential election. Commonwealth Court Judge Robert Simpson is under a state Supreme Court order to rule no later than Tuesday, just five weeks before voters decide whether to re-elect President Barack Obama, a Democrat, or replace him with Mitt Romney, a Republican. Simpson heard two days of testimony last week and said he was considering invalidating a narrow portion of the law for the Nov. 6 election. An appeal to the state Supreme Court is possible. Up for grabs are Pennsylvania's valuable 20 electoral votes, the sixth most. For now, Republican candidates are trailing in polls on the state's top-of-the-ticket races. The law, opposed furiously by Democrats, has nevertheless been a valuable Democratic Party tool to motivate volunteers and campaign contributions as other critics, including the NAACP, AARP and the League of Women Voters, hold voter education drives and protest rallies

NEW PEANUT BUTTER RECALL - Tonight a major recall of peanut butter is underway. The centers for disease control has confirmed that at least 30 people have been sickened by salmonella after eating peanut butter and most of the people affected are children the clues to the health scare are pointing investigators to popular brand names at well known stores. Abc's steve osunsami has more. What's especially frightening is that most of the people who've gotten sick. From the recalled peanut butter are children under the age of ten. Mos "i am concerned, cause i love peanut butter. this all began with one brand of sea salt peanut butter at trader joes, but the recall has now cleared out peanut butter aisles at kroger, whole foods and target. Investigators have traced the trouble to sunland incorporated, a peanut butter manufacturer in new mexico, that sells products in grocery stores across the country

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT-LAW LICENSE - The Florida Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments about whether an illegal immigrant can be granted a law license. The case will be heard Tuesday. Jose Godinez-Samperio came to the United States from Mexico at age 9. He has since graduated from college, earned a law degree and passed the Florida Bar.The Board of Bar Examiners has asked the Supreme Court for an advisory opinion on whether he can be denied a law license because of his immigration status. Godinez-Samperio contends President Barack Obama has cleared that potential obstacle. Obama has issued a directive to protect immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children, exempting them from deportation and granting temporary work permits for those who apply. It does not provide a path to citizenship

POSTAL SERVICE MISSES PAYMENT - The U.S. Postal Service has defaulted on a second \$5 billion-plus benefits payment. Prior to the move, the agency sounded a new cautionary note that having squeezed out all the cost savings within its power, the mail agency's viability now lies almost entirely with Congress. Before the default Sunday, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said the mail agency would miss the \$5.6 billion payment due the Treasury, its second default in as many months. Congress has left Washington until after the November elections, without approving a postal fix. For more than a year,

the Postal Service has been seeking legislation that would allow it to eliminate Saturday mail delivery and reduce its \$5 billion annual payment for future retiree health benefits. Since the House failed to act, the post office says it's been seeking to reassure anxious customers that service will not be disrupted, even with cash levels running perilously low. Absolutely, we would be profitable right now," Donahoe told The Associated Press, when asked whether congressional delays were to blame for much of the postal losses, expected to reach a record \$15 billion this year

HONDA RECALLS 600K ACCORDS - Honda is recalling 600,000 Accord midsize cars in the U.S. and Canada to fix a faulty power steering hose that can leak fluid and cause a fire, and the latest peanut butter recall is widening. The recall affects Accords with V-6 engines from the 2003 through 2007 model years. Honda has a report of one fire but no injuries or crashes. The five-passenger Accord is consistently among the top-selling vehicles in the United States, mainly because of its reputation for reliability and fuel economy. For years it has been the nation's second-best-selling car, beaten only by the Toyota Camry. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the government agency that monitors vehicle safety, said in a posting on its website during the weekend that the Accord's power steering hose can deteriorate with prolonged exposure to engine heat. The hoses can crack and leak, possibly causing a fire or loss of power-assisted steering, the documents said. Honda will replace the hoses for free, but it won't have the parts available until early next year. Any owner who suspects a leak should take their car to a dealer for inspection, Honda spokesman Ed Miller said Monday. The company that makes the Accord's power-steering hoses had to ramp up manufacturing to make them since the affected cars are more than five model years old and the hoses were out of production

MX DEPORTED FLIGHTS - The U.S. government has begun flying deported Mexican migrants to Mexico City. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says the pilot program began Tuesday with the departure of 131 Mexicans. The flights are scheduled to run twice a week through Nov. 29 from El Paso, Texas. The flights are not voluntary, unlike a previous effort to deport Mexicans arrested by the Border Patrol during Arizona's summer heat. The U.S. government pays for the flight. The Mexican government pays to get people from Mexico City to their hometowns. Passengers include those with criminal records as well as non-criminals living throughout the United States. The experiment comes as often-violent Mexican border cities along the U.S. border are overwhelmed with deportees

TEEN DRINKING DRIVING DOWN IN PAST 20 YRS - A new report says there are fewer teens drinking and driving than there were 20 years ago. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the findings Tuesday. It says 10-percent of high schools students 16 and older admitted to drinking and driving last year. In 19-91, that number was 22-percent. The report attributed it partly to all U-S states raising the minimum drinking age to 21 and zero tolerance laws for teens caught drinking and driving.

US BIRTHS DOWN FOR 4TH YEAR; BIG DROP AMONG HISPANICS - According to the government, U.S. births have fallen for the fourth year in a row. The decline in 2011 was just 1 percent, not as much as seen in other recent years. Analysts say the decline is proof that the weak economy is causing some people to think twice about having children

VITAMIN D – Advertisement If you're trying to ward off the sniffles, you can take vitamin D supplements out of your shopping cart: A new study reports that dosing with the vitamin does nothing to prevent colds or other forms of upper respiratory tract infections (URTI). The effect of vitamin D on the immune system has been debated for a long time. Controlled laboratory research has shown that vitamin D has several beneficial effects on the immune system, and some studies conducted in the past have suggested that people with low levels of the vitamin are at higher risk for URIs. But the authors of the new study, published Tuesday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, point out that the previous studies were poorly controlled and results have been mixed, calling into question whether the vitamin does anything at all for URIs. To answer the question, the researchers, who are based in New Zealand, conducted a randomized trial nicknamed VIDARIS, for Vitamin D and Acute Respiratory Infection Study. They gave 161 subjects doses of vitamin D once a month for 18 months, and another group of 161 people a placebo. The doses used were those that appeared to have been the most effective against colds in previous studies

CREDIT CARD DELINQUENCIES - A report is showing that more Americans are keeping up with their credit-card payments. The American Bankers Association says the percentage of bank-issued credit cards that were 30 days or more overdue fell to an 11-year low in the second quarter. That came as consumers keep a tighter grip on their finances amid economic uncertainty. But the association says delinquencies rose on home-equity loans, home-equity lines of credit and home improvement loans in the April-June quarter. The association notes that it will take time for the recovery in the housing market to be reflected in lower delinquency rates. Credit card delinquencies in the second quarter fell below 3 percent of total accounts for the first time since 2001, reaching 2.93 percent. That's down from 3.08 percent in the first quarter.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS - The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits rose to a seasonally adjusted 367,000, a level consistent with only modest hiring. The Labor Department says applications increased last week by 4,000 from the previous week's level of 363,000, which was revised higher from an initial 359,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, was unchanged last week at 375,000. Unemployment benefit applications are a measure of the pace of layoffs. When they consistently fall below 375,000, it typically indicates that hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate. Applications have mostly stayed near or above that level since the spring, coinciding with a weak stretch of hiring. On Friday, the government will release its report on September unemployment.

MENINGITIS OUTBREAK - In response to a nationwide outbreak of meningitis and stroke associated with a widely distributed medication, CDC is providing updated guidance to clinicians [Advisory_Meningitis_and_Stroke_Associated_with_Potentially_Contaminated_Product-10-4-12.pdf](#) and patients about contaminated medication products received from the New England Compounding Center located in Framingham, Mass. Patients have suffered a variety of symptoms, including those associated with a rare form of fungal meningitis (brain infection) and stroke. On October 3, 2012, the pharmaceutical compounding center ceased all production and initiated recall of all methylprednisolone acetate (a steroid medication) and other drug products prepared for injections in and around the spinal cord (known as intrathecal administration). In addition, CDC and state health departments have released

the names of approximately 75 healthcare facilities in 23 states that have received contaminated product. As of October 5, a total of 47 cases* in 7 states and 5 deaths have been identified with a clinical picture consistent with fungal infection: Florida (2 cases), Indiana (3 cases), Maryland (2 cases, including 1 death), Michigan (4 cases), North Carolina (1 case), Tennessee (29 cases, including 3 deaths), and Virginia (6 cases, including 1 death). Fungus has been identified in specimens obtained from 9 patients, including *Aspergillus* and *Exserohilum*

AMERICAN AIRLINES - American Airlines late Thursday grounded 48 of its Boeing 757s for a second time after determining more repairs were needed to keep passenger seats from coming loose. American spokeswoman Andrea Huguely said repairs would be completed by Saturday but that passengers on some flights would be delayed and that some flights would be canceled until then. The announcement came hours after the airline had said it had completed inspections on the 48 planes and had made all necessary repairs to fix the problem. On Monday, American grounded the planes after seats had come loose on two of them on three separate flights in the last week. Two flights had to make emergency landings. Inspectors found that the seats were improperly locked into the floor of the aircraft. Repairs were made, the airline said, and the planes were allowed to fly. But on Thursday, Huguely said, the planes needed to be fixed again when they landed at their next stop so seats wouldn't come loose again

CA GASOLINE PRICES - Gas prices across California have soared to record highs, shooting up 50 cents a gallon in just the last week. But even as prices are expected to rise slightly before falling, the spike is not likely to spread to other parts of the United States, experts say. The average price of a gallon of regular gas in California edged up another 0.3 cent Tuesday, according to AAA's latest reading, setting a record at \$4.671. It stood at around \$4.17 on Oct. 1 but has risen every day since then. The biggest increase was a 17-cent spike Friday, followed Saturday by a 13-cent increase. On Sunday, California environmental regulators, acting on a request from Gov. Jerry Brown, agreed to allow refineries to start making a cheaper, winter blend of gasoline as soon as possible -- a move that could solve shortages of the more expensive summer blend that sparked the price spike. Normally, refineries wouldn't start making the winter blend until the end of October. Most of the country makes the transition from the cleaner summer blends of gasoline to the cheaper winter blends on Sept. 15. California, with warmer average temperatures and the nation's strictest air pollution rules, makes the transition six weeks later.

VOTER'S LAST DAY TO REGISTER - With four weeks until the presidential election, if you're not signed up to vote, Tuesday is an important day. Tuesday is the last day to register to vote. The first option, go into your local election board office and fill out a form or go to an election board website. The Chicago election board says that you can fill out a form online, and then print it and bring it in or mail it if it has an October 9 postmark. Related Content Late Tuesday evening there was still once place open where Chicago voters could register: downtown at 69 W. Washington. Registrars will be on duty until midnight. Election officials say thousands of forms are arriving daily but registration is down compared to the surge for registration in 2008. There is also a grace period through November 3, but you must come in person and cast a ballot during your registration visit if you do decide to take part in that grace period. "It is a lot less convenient for voters. The voter has to come in in person and be registered to vote and vote in the same visit," said Jim Allen, Chicago Board of Election commissioner

SCOTUS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION - The Supreme Court is taking up a challenge to a University of Texas program that considers race in some college admissions. The case could produce new limits on affirmative action at universities, or roll it back entirely. The university says the program that fills roughly a quarter of its incoming classes uses race among many factors and argues that is necessary to provide the kind of diverse educational experience the high court has previously endorsed. The rest of its slots go to students who are admitted based on their class rank, without regard to race. Opponents of the program say the university is practicing illegal discrimination by considering race at all. Justice Elena Kagan is not taking part, probably because she worked on the case at the Justice Department

MENINGITIS CASES - The toll from the outbreak of fungal meningitis tied to contaminated steroid shots that has killed 12 people in the United States was expected to grow on Wednesday, raising pressure for stricter oversight of a largely unregulated corner of the pharmaceutical world. On Tuesday, the outbreak claimed four more lives and Florida became the latest state to report at least one death linked to the illness in a widening health scare. Since the September 25 recall of three lots of a steroid produced by a Massachusetts company, the outbreak has spread to 10 states and infected 121 people, according to state health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In five states -- Tennessee, Michigan, Maryland, Virginia, and Florida -- the outbreak has claimed lives, with the latest victim a 70-year-old man in Florida. As many as 13,000 people received the injections to relieve back pain and other complaints and are at risk of infection, the CDC said, although the number ultimately stricken is likely to be far fewer. For the first time on Tuesday, Tennessee state health officials gave an estimate of the rate of infection among those patients who received injections from the recalled steroid supplies. Approximately 5 percent of patients treated with the suspect medication have contracted meningitis, said Dr. David Reagan, chief medical officer for the Tennessee Department of Health. Based on that rate of infection and the 13,000 shots given, the number of confirmed cases could grow to about 650 from the current 121

TOYOTA RECALL - Toyota Motors announced a global recall Wednesday of 7.43 million cars due to a power window problem that poses a fire risk. The automaker said that the driver's side power window switch on some models may feel or sticky during operation. The problem is caused by an uneven application of grease during the switch assembly process, and if commonly available lubricants are applied, a fire could result under some circumstances. No accidents or deaths have resulted from the problem, the company said. The recall will affect approximately in the United States. An additional 1.4 million units will be recalled in both Europe and China, while 500,000 units in the Middle East, 450,000 in Japan and 650,000 in Australia are also affected. The global recall includes a variety of models across multiple years -- including some Highlander, Matrix, Tundra, Yaris, Corolla, Camry and RAV4 models. The company said it would inform U.S.-based owners of affected vehicles later this month by mail.

MENINGITIS OUTBREAK - Meningitis Death Toll Climbs to 12 As the death toll climbs to 12 in the nationwide fungal meningitis outbreak, calls for FDA oversight of the contaminated drugs that caused the outbreak continue to stack up from congressmen, doctors and think tanks. All 137 confirmed victims of this outbreak received spinal injections of a compounded steroid, methylprednisolone acetate, manufactured by New England Compounding Company in Framingham, Mass. The special pharmacy that compounded drugs has since shut down operations and recalled all products. An estimated 13,000

patients are at risk because they received the injections, according to the CDC. For a map of cases by state, [click here](#). What is particularly tragic for the families of those who have been sickened or killed by the tainted drugs is that this situation was completely avoidable, said Dr. Michael Carome, Deputy Director of Public Citizen's health research group. Public citizen is a 41-year-old non-profit think tank in Washington, D.C. Unlike other forms of meningitis, the fungal type is not spread person to person. It does, however, affect the spine and membrane surrounding the brain. Early symptoms of fungal meningitis are mild and include headache, fever, dizziness, nausea and slurred speech, but the inflammatory disease can later cause permanent neurological damage and death. Patients are told symptoms can occur up to a month after their spinal injections. Carome said the meningitis outbreak highlights an oversight failure by the Food and Drug Administration, which knew the once niche pharmacy that tailor-made mixed steroids for individual patients had become a bulk drug manufacturer when it started compounding drugs in large quantities. As a drug manufacturer, New England Compounding Company would have been held to safety, effectiveness and manufacturing standards, but Carome said these were not enforced, calling it a

FORECLOSURE RATES - US foreclosure filings hit 5-year low in September U.S. foreclosure filings dropped to a five-year low in September as fewer homes were on track to be seized by lenders. It was the second-consecutive monthly decline in filings, although there remains a sharp divergence along state lines. A report by foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac Inc. shows the number of homes entering the foreclosure process, so-called foreclosure starts, fell 12 percent from August and 15 percent from a year earlier. The September decline helped reduce foreclosure filings in the third quarter to the lowest level since the October-December quarter of 2007, RealtyTrac reports

CEREAL RECALL- Kellogg has recalled 282,000 cases of Mini-Wheats cereal. Although there have been no reports of any injuries, Kellogg initiated a voluntary recall of certain packages of Mini-Wheats Bite Size cereal as a precautionary measure, company spokesman Kris Charles said in a statement. At Kellogg, our number one priority is the quality and safety of our foods and we take this situation very seriously. The recall covers roughly 282,000 cases of Frosted Mini-Wheats Bite Size Original and Mini-Wheats Unfrosted Bite Size cereal with the letters KB, AP or FK before or after the best-before date. Most of the recalled products are cereal boxes, but some are single-serving bowls. Kellogg consulted with David Acheson, an internal medicine doctor and former chief medical officer at the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, who said the likelihood of metal fragments making their way into the food is low, according to a company statement. We are reassured that our increased supply chain investments helped us to quickly identify the root cause and our preventative maintenance program helped us mitigate the impact," the company said. The odds of any affected food causing injury are also low, according to the company

DIET DRINK CONSUMPTION INCREASING -Diet drink consumption has increased over the past decade, a trend that reinforces other research showing intake of calories from sugar in regular soda has decreased, government statistics out today show. "The data suggest that diet drinks may have replaced sugar drinks during this time," says the study's lead author Tala Fakhouri, an

epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The new diet drink analysis shows that the change in diet drink consumption occurred for both women (up from 18% in 2000 to 21% in 2010) and men (up from 14% to 19% in the same period). Still, only about 20% of people in the USA consume diet drinks on any given day with the majority (80%) not drinking them, the report finds. Diet drinks included calorie-free and low-calorie versions of soda, fruit drinks, energy drinks, sports drinks and carbonated water. Diet drinks did not include unsweetened teas or coffees or 100% fruit juice. Meanwhile, the consumption of sugar found in regular soda has dropped from roughly 150 calories a day in 2000 to 91 calories a day in 2008. But when it comes to calories from all sugary drinks, including sodas, fruit drinks, energy drinks, sports drinks and sweetened bottled waters, males consume an average of 178 calories a day; females consume 103 calories, according to other government data. Overall, about half of the population, ages 2 and older, consume sugary drinks on any given day. Among boys 2 to 19, 70% consume these types of drinks while 40% of adult women consume them

LATINOS WITH OBAMA - Latino registered voters prefer President Barack Obama over Republican challenger Mitt Romney by 69% to 21% and express growing satisfaction with the direction of the nation and the state of their personal finances, according to a new nationwide survey of 1,765 Latinos by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Latino registered voters are somewhat less certain than non-Hispanics that they will vote in this election, however. Obama's current lead over Romney among Hispanics has barely budged throughout the 2012 campaign and is larger than in the 2008 election, when he received 67% of the Hispanic vote to 31% for Republican John McCain. Since then, the Latino electorate has grown in size and importance. Today, 23.7 million Hispanics are eligible to vote, an increase of more than 4 million since 2008. Hispanics now account for a record 11.0% of the nation's eligible electorate, up from 9.5% in 2008

WASHINGTON MARIJUANA - Voters are set to cast their ballots in three Western states next month on whether to legalize the sale of marijuana for recreational use -- initiatives that would directly violate federal law, but that have drawn only silence from the Justice Department. Despite the urging of drug enforcement experts, officials in Washington, D.C., have not said how the federal government would deal with possible state laws in Colorado, Washington and Oregon that would conflict with the federal Controlled Substances Act. Federal law prohibits the production, possession and sale of marijuana and classifies marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug, putting it in the same category as cocaine and heroin

MENINGITIS OUTBREAK-TOLL - Federal health officials are reporting the number of cases of fungal meningitis has risen to 205. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the number of deaths stands at 15. Fourteen states are now reporting cases. The latest is New Hampshire. Others include Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. The outbreak has been linked to steroid shots used for back pain made by a specialty pharmacy in Massachusetts. The medication has been recalled

PEANUTS RECALL - The New Mexico food producer linked to salmonella-tainted peanut butter has expanded its recall to include raw and roasted peanuts, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said. Sunland Inc has also halted production at its nut butter and peanut processing facilities, the FDA said on Saturday. The moves came after food safety investigators looking into the tainted peanut butter

inspected Sunland's production line and found salmonella that DNA tests determined was identical to the strain that caused last month's outbreak. In all, 35 people in 19 states have been infected with salmonella, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in an outbreak linked to peanut butter made by Sunland that was sold under a variety of names, including Trader Joe's brand Valencia Creamy Salted Peanut Butter with Sea Salt. Salmonella typically causes diarrhea, fever and abdominal pain. It can be fatal for old people, young children and people with weakened immune systems.

STUDY: MIDDLE-AGE HISPANICS MOST LIKELY TO SKIP THE VOTE - More than 17 percent of the people who register to vote never make it to the ballot box, and according to new research, these people tend to be poor or uneducated. Research also suggests, however, that more of these people would vote if officials made it more convenient. The most basic duty of any candidate is to get supporters to the polls, and researchers at Austin Community dug into 2008 voter data to better understand the people who register but don't vote. We wanted to show the folks that are (trying to get out the vote) a scientific study of who isn't voting explained Peck Young and Political Studies, which sponsored the study. If you just take the people who didn't vote in 2008, but were registered, they could change the outcome of the state. The 2.3 million non-voters in Texas broke down as 34 percent Hispanic, 5 percent African American and 61 percent everyone else. The first surprise of the study was that neither gender nor the length of time someone has been registered influence whether someone made it to the polls. The statistics also showed that Hispanics remain disproportionately more unlikely to cast a ballot than other groups. Assistant Professor Blake Farrar at Austin Community College and Texas State University professor Hyun Jung

ECONOMIST POLL - Economists believe the jobless rate will creep back above 8 percent in the coming year but they're upbeat about the housing market and don't think the economy will fall off a fiscal cliff. The quarterly survey by the National Association for Business Economists released Monday predicts growth will be weak overall but should slowly accelerate through 2013. The 44 economists surveyed now see gross domestic product the value of all goods and services produced in the United States -- rising just 1.9 percent in 2012 before reaching a 3 percent pace by the fourth quarter of next year. The economists revised upward their previous estimate for single-family housing starts and now expect them to increase 23 percent to 750,000 units in 2012. Continued improvement is seen in 2013. Home prices are now projected to rise by 1.5 percent in 2012 and 2.8 percent in 2013

END OF PART 1