

**FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS AUGUST 16-31 / PART 2**

10/16/2012

**NEW STUDY SAYS FLU VACCINE IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH**

VO: 31

Flu season is here and doctors recommend getting a vaccine to keep from getting sick. But, a University of Minnesota study finds that flu vaccines may not offer enough protection.

**SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS 830AM**

VO: 28

More than 56 million Social Security recipients will see their monthly payments increase by 1.7 percent in January. The increase was announced Tuesday when the government released a key measure of inflation, which determines whether people who receive Social Security get a cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA. About 8 million people who receive Supplemental Security Income will also receive the 1.7 percent COLA, meaning the announcement will affect about one in five U.S. residents. The increase is among the lowest since automatic annual adjustments were adopted in 1975. It reflects relatively low inflation over the past year. This year's increase was 3.6 percent. Social Security payments for retired workers average \$1,237 a month, or about \$14,800 a year.

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10/17/2012

**MENINGITIS OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION**

VO: 25

Criminal investigators from the department of justice and the food and drug administration searched the new england compounding center in framingham, massachusetts tuesday. Federal officials say more issues have been reported with drugs from n-e-c-c, which has been linked to a deadly multistate outbreak of fungal meningitis that appears to be spreading. Most of the patients got sick after getting steroid injections for back and neck pain that were contaminated. But the newest infections are from drugs used in heart and eye surgery. Doctor john jernigan with the c-d-c says more patients could be at risk.

## **SKIPPING BREAKFAST PRIMES THE BRAIN TO SEEK OUT FAT**

**VO: 25**

Brain scans show that skipping breakfast makes fatty, high calorie foods appear far more attractive later in the day, according to researchers. Scans of 21 people showed the brain was more attracted to food if breakfast was missed and people had more food at lunch. Scientists said it made losing weight challenging as missing meals made calorific food even more appealing. Nutrition experts say breakfast is known to take the edge off appetite. However, researchers were curious about what happened inside the brain to alter the food people choose to eat. Scans Twenty one people, who were all normal weight, were shown pictures of calorie packed foods while they were positioned in a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine at Imperial College London. On one day they were given no breakfast before the scans and on a different day they were fed a large, 730 calorie, breakfast an hour and a half before. The researchers said skipping breakfast created a "bias" in the brain in favour of high calorie foods. The results, presented at the Neuroscience 2012 conference, showed the brain changed how it responded to pictures of high calorie foods, but not low calorie foods, when breakfast was skipped. They showed part of the brain thought to be involved in "food appeal", the orbitofrontal cortex, became more active on an empty stomach.

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**10/18/2012**

## **NS: NY TERROR PLOT ARREST**

**VO: 37**

The arrest of a 21-year-old Bangladeshi national accused in a foiled bomb plot this week offers the latest evidence that terrorists are determined to strike the U.S., law enforcement officials say. For New York, the incident represents a chilling reminder that the city remains at the top of the hit list. More than a decade after the 9/11 attacks, 15 plots against the city have been uncovered by federal and local authorities, according to the New York Police Department. Previous targets have included the Brooklyn Bridge, Times Square, the city's subway system, Citicorp Center and the New York Stock Exchange. This week, the Federal Reserve Bank in the heart of Lower Manhattan's financial district was added to the list. In a written statement allegedly intended to claim responsibility for the attack, Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis stated that he chose the landmark to strike against the U.S. economy in pursuit of a goal to "destroy America."

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10/19/2012

## **DETERGENT PODS DANGER**

**VO: 33**

Those bite-sized, brightly colored packets of concentrated liquid laundry detergent need to be kept out of the reach of small children, who often mistake them for candy, U.S. health officials warn. Ninety-four percent of poisonings from these laundry detergent "pods" are among kids aged 5 and younger, a new report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows.

## **MENINGITIS LATEST**

**VO: 29**

The Massachusetts company that supplied the drugs that have caused 247 cases of fungal meningitis - including one in this area - should have been shut down by the Food and Drug Administration years ago, an expert with Public Citizen's Health Research Group said Thursday. New England Compounding Center is a "compounding pharmacy" that operates as a drug manufacturer under an oversight framework intended for custom compounding of drugs for individual patient prescriptions, Michael Carome said.

## **PEANUT BUTTER RECALL**

**VO: 27**

The country's largest organic peanut processing plant is scrubbing its facilities top to bottom and hopes to get back in production soon after massive recall of scores of products linked to a salmonella outbreak. The recall has affected peanut butter and nut products sold at major retailers around the country, raising concerns about the long-term impact on the industry especially in products grown and processed in the flat, dusty eastern New Mexico town of Portales. The region is home to the prized Valencia peanut, which represents just a small percentage of the nation's massive peanut crop, but is favored for natural and organic peanut butter products because of its sweet flavor.

## **FARMWORKERS HEAT SUIT**

**VO: 19**

The United Farm Workers of America sued California's work safety division Thursday, saying state regulators aren't enforcing heat regulations, leading to continued illnesses and deaths in fields. The suit, filed on behalf of the union and individual farmworkers, alleges that the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health failed the last two years to conduct inspections in response to some heat complaints, didn't initiate inspections on time, and failed to cite or adequately fine violators.

## **DOG BITES DANGEROUS**

**MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN - MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**PKG: 1:33**

Dogs bite more than 4.7 million Americans each year and about 800,000 of those bites require medical attention. But there are steps we can take to help prevent dog bites. Most dogs that bite are only doing so because they are scared and want to warn you to back away. That's what aggression achieves. Distance. Most important thing to remember is give it space. Do not go into that dog's space. When you meet a dog as well, don't stare in its eyes. Don't smile at it. Because staring at its eyes is a challenge, is a threat.

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**10/22/2012**

## **MENINGITIS**

**VO :27**

The U.S. death toll from fungal meningitis linked to potentially contaminated steroid injections has risen by two to 23, with North Carolina reporting its first death, health officials said on Saturday. Tennessee's death total in the outbreak rose to eight, the highest state total, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on its website. States reported 13 new cases of fungal meningitis, raising the total to 281. There are also three peripheral infections caused by injections into joints. The outbreak stems from medications shipped by the New England Compounding Center (NECC) in Massachusetts. The company faces federal and state investigations and lawsuits over the tainted medications. Indiana and New Hampshire reported two new cases apiece. Virginia, Tennessee and New Jersey each had three new cases, the CDC said.

## **GAS PRICES COULD SOON DROP 50 CENTS A GALLON**

**VO :15 / SOT :25**

Autumn gasoline prices are about to drop faster than fall foliage. As inventories rise and demand wanes, gasoline prices could plunge up to 50 cents a gallon from October's \$3.86 peak average over the next few weeks, providing a lift for the economy and possibly becoming a factor in next month's presidential election. Gasoline, now averaging \$3.68 a gallon, is expected to fall to \$3.35 or lower by late November. In some regions, prices have already sunk below \$3. The drop could provide a boost to consumer spending and influence next month's presidential race, where gas prices have been a hot-button issue for much of the campaign. Several battleground states, including Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, are enjoying big price drops.

## **LATINO VOTE**

**VO :34**

As many as 60,000 Hispanics reach voting age every month, but Latinos overall have yet to bring their full force to the voting booth. Two-thirds of eligible whites and African-Americans voted in the 2008 presidential election, while barely half of Hispanics cast ballots. This year, declined voter registration and tepid enthusiasm among Hispanics have complicated the Obama campaign's efforts to rally minorities against Republican Mitt Romney and his polling advantage with white voters. Add the concerns about obstacles posed by new photo identification requirements, voter roll purges and demands for proof of citizenship, and it all casts doubt on whether Latino turnout will reach the goal of 12.2 million set by Hispanic advocacy groups. That would mark a 26 percent increase from 2008, when Latinos set a record of roughly 9.7 million votes cast.

## **TSA REPLACING BODY SCANNERS AT BUSY AIRPORTS**

**VO :21**

X-Ray machines at airports that caused so much controversy among travelers are now being removed from major airports. The Transportation Security Administration is replacing them with newer machines. The website Pro-Publica is reporting those X-ray body scanners are being removed from high-traffic airports like L-A-X, D-F-W, J-F-K and Chicago O'Hare -- and moving them to smaller airports. X-ray body scanners got a bad rap from travelers over privacy -- because the X-ray images could be revealing. According to Pro-Publica, the new machines known as millimeter-wave scanners display a generic drawing of a person's body, instead of a detailed body scan image. T-S-A officials say the new scanners will streamline the process and get travelers through security quickly.

## **NISSAN-RECALL/ALTIMA**

**VO :21**

Nissan Motor Co is recalling 13,919 of its top-selling Altima sedans in the United States because bolts that may not have been tightened properly during production could fall off, increasing the risk of a crash, according to U.S. safety regulators. The Altima sedans are from the from the 2012 and 2013 model years and were made at the Nissan plant in Canton, Mississippi, from May 10 to July 26, Nissan North America told the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## **POVERTY COLECTIVE VIOLENCE**

**MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN- MIAMI, FL**

**VO :51**

In the study, "Children's Mental Health and Collective Violence: A Bi-National Study on the United States/Mexican Border," researchers compared psychosocial and behavior scores among children and adolescents living in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico in 2007 and again in 2010. All the participating children were of Hispanic origin (Mexican or Mexican-American), lived below the

poverty level and went to a clinic for a non-emergency visit. None of the children had a history of diagnosed mental illness, or a neurological or life-threatening disease or disability. The psychosocial and behavioral scores among children living in poverty in El Paso, Texas did not change significantly between 2007 and 2010, although these children living in poverty had considerable psychosocial and behavioral problems, said study author Marie Leiner, PhD. At the Mexican site, however, children exhibited significant increases in social problems, rule breaking and aggressive behavior, with higher scores reported in 2010.

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10/23/12

#### **STUDY: ORGANIC FOOD NO BETTER FOR CHILDREN**

**VO: 21**

A new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics found no evidence that organic foods offer any extra nutritional value over conventionally grown foods.

Pediatricians say both types of food offer the same amount of vitamins, antioxidants and proteins. The report did note that organic foods do contain lower levels of pesticides and are less likely to be contaminated with drug-resistant bacteria, which could be significant for kids. But doctors say, what's most important, is that parents feed their children a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products.

#### **EXERCISE AND BRAIN**

**VO: 28**

Regular physical exercise appears to protect the brain from shrinking, an otherwise natural process in old age that is associated with memory and thinking problems. Conversely, mentally and socially stimulating activities, long believed to stimulate the brain, had no major effect on preventing brain shrinkage, according to a study published Monday in the journal *Neurology*. In other words, if you want to maximize the mind-enriching benefits of playing chess, pick a match across town and run or walk vigorously to it.

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10/24/2012

## **COLLEGE COSTS**

**VO: 19**

A growing number of colleges are joining the once-elite club of schools charging more than \$50,000 per year. For the 2012-13 academic year, 151 colleges charged annual tuition, fees, room and board totaling more than \$50,000, according to College Board data analyzed by the Chronicle of Higher Education. That's up from 123 schools last year, 100 schools the year before and only 58 schools the year before that. One college even priced out of the \$50,000 range this year, charging more than \$60,000. Sarah Lawrence College, in Bronxville, N.Y., boasted a \$61,236 sticker price -- which includes tuition, fees, room and board -- after hiking costs by 3.5% this year. Selective liberal arts colleges like Wesleyan University, Vassar College, Williams College and Bowdoin College were among the most expensive schools, as were Ivy Leagues like Harvard University, Stanford University and Dartmouth College. In addition to being the priciest schools in the nation, at least 146 of the 151 schools charging \$50,000-plus increased their costs this year. But hikes weren't reserved for just the most expensive schools. Among the more than 3,000 schools in the Chronicle of Higher Education's database, more than half increased tuition, fees, room and board this year.

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**10/25/2012**

## **ABSENTEE VOTING PROBLEMS**

**VO: 28**

Election experts and researchers say the rise in popularity of mail-in absentee voting around the country is increasing the risk of mistakes, lost votes and even fraud. A study by the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project examined California absentee votes over two decades. It found that absentee votes are twice as prone not to be counted as votes cast on more modern voting machines. The study estimated that in 2008 as many as 21 percent of absentee ballots requested nationwide never made it back to election officials. A co-author of the study, Charles Stewart III of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says the nation may have gotten far ahead of itself in encouraging people to vote by mail. Mail-in absentee voting accounted for 16 percent of ballots in the 2008 election.

## **FORECLOSURES FALL IN 62% OF US CITIES**

**VO: 23**

Foreclosures fell in nearly two-thirds of the nation's largest metro areas during the third quarter, according to RealtyTrac Thursday. With 62% of the nation's 212 largest markets seeing foreclosure activity shrink during the latest quarter, the ongoing decline is yet another sign that the housing market is starting to During September, foreclosure activity in 58% of the major metro markets had even dropped below

September 2007 levels. The numbers indicate that "most of the nation's housing markets are past the worst of the foreclosure problem," Daren Blomquist, RealtyTrac's vice president said in the report. Major cities like saw foreclosures fall by double-digit percentages of 26% or more. which saw a 21% decline in foreclosures, still managed to claim the nation's highest foreclosure rate, however. "That foreclosures there are still the highest in the country speaks to how severe the problem was," said Blomquist. Other California cities in the top 10,all posted year-over-year declines of between 22% and 34%. Yet, there are still some trouble spots, particularly in Florida. In miami notched a 15% jump.

Blomquist attributed Florida's problems to the after effects of the robo-signing scandal.

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10/26/2012

## PENDING HOME SALES

VO:16

Slightly more Americans signed contracts last month to buy homes, an increase that signals further gains in the housing recovery. The National Association of Realtors says its seasonally adjusted index of sales agreements rose in September to a reading of 99.5. That's up from August's reading of 99.2 but below a two-year high of 101.9 reached in July. Contracts are up 14.5 percent from a year ago. A reading above 100 is considered healthy. The index bottomed at 75.88 in June 2010 after a homebuyer's tax credit expired. The pending home sales index is a measure of the number of signed contracts to purchase homes. The index can signal where the housing market is headed because a signed contract usually results in a final sale one or two months later.

## GAS PRICES CONTINUE TO FALL

VO: 21

Gas prices across the country have taken a dive and they're expected to go even lower. Gas station owners and customers agree-they hope the prices continue to fall. Marty Gustafson says she saves at the pump any way she can. "When the gas starts to go down, we do notice it," Gustafson said. Experts say the price of gas is falling across the country. According to [gasbuddy.com](http://gasbuddy.com), the average price for a gallon of gas in Wisconsin is \$3.46. That's close to 15 cents lower than the national average, and more than 40 cents lower than one month ago. "I think the prices are getting better, but I think they could get a lot better, people need lower gas prices," Ronald Nerlock of Weston said. Experts note the drop in prices is a bit later than usual. But they say it's making up for lost time. "It usually starts in late September and it's much slower. You know, maybe a penny every few days. This has been much quicker and it occurred later than we expected," Patrick DeHaan, gas expert at [gasbuddy.com](http://gasbuddy.com) told Newsline 9. Gas station owners say they hope the prices will fall even more. "It's still expensive for customers, but at least it's going in the right direction," Keith Rybacki, Weston BP Owner said. Experts say it's doubtful the price of gas will dip below \$3 in Wisconsin. And as the holidays get closer, prices are expected to rise again. "Perhaps some minor increases around the New Year, but major increase will be coming next spring," DeHaan said. But customer says they'll enjoy the lower prices while they last.

**STUDY:ASPRIN MAY EXTEND SURVIVAL FOR COLON CANCER PATIENTS**

**VO: 24**

Taking aspirin can extend the life of some colon cancer patients, according to a new study. Researchers looked at more than 900 patients with colorectal cancer. They found those whose tumors had a mutation in a key gene lived significantly longer after taking aspirin. Patients who did not have the gene mutation in their tumors did not seem to benefit from aspirin. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in American men and women. The study appears in the New England Journal of Medicine.

**STUDY: IMPROVED ECONOMY DRAWS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**VO: 23**

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection vehicle passes along the U.S.-Mexico border fence in Brownsville, Texas, Immigration from Mexico fell to historic lows during the recession. Study found immigrants headed north in the first half of 2012 outnumbered those returning. Researchers used interviews and data from the U.S. and Mexico to conduct study. Want a sign that the economy is on the rebound? Illegal immigration from Mexico is starting to rise again, according to a new report. Immigration from Mexico fell to historic lows during the worst years of the recession. After four decades that brought 12 million people from Mexico to the U.S., people started heading back home and continued doing so from 2007 to 2011. It's impossible to pinpoint the exact number of people crossing the southwest border with Mexico, but the study by U.S. and Mexican researchers estimates that immigrants headed north in the first half of 2012 outnumbered those heading back for the first time since 2007. "Illegal immigration is a market indicator," said Roy Beck, CEO of NumbersUSA, an Arlington, Va.-based think tank that advocates lower levels of legal and illegal immigration. "They all got gigantic networks of family and friends who are already here sending information back and forth. So this is basically another sign that the economy is picking up." The report is a collaboration between the University of Southern California and El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana, a Mexican government-sponsored research group. Researchers used interviews with people along the border and data from the U.S. and Mexico. Jeffrey Passel, the senior demographer at the non-partisan Pew Hispanic Center who was not involved in the report, said the findings look legitimate. But he said the small increase in people coming from Mexico does not mean the United States is close to the massive influx of illegal immigrants seen recently. For example, in 2000, 770,000 Mexicans immigrated, legally and illegally, to the U.S. In 2010, that number fell to 140,000.

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10/29/12

**SUPERSTORM AIRLINES**

**VO: 24**

Hurricane Sandy grounded thousands of flights in the U.S. northeast Monday and upended travel plans across the globe, stranding passengers from Hong Kong to Europe. The massive storm threatens to bring a near halt to air travel for at least two days in a key region for both domestic and international flights. Major carriers such as American Airlines, JetBlue and Delta planned to cancel all flights into and out of three area airports in New York, the nation's busiest airspace. According to the flight-tracking service FlightAware, nearly 7,500 flights had been canceled for Sunday and Monday. Both Philadelphia International Airport and Newark International Airport, a hub for United Airlines, each had more than 1,200 cancellations for the two days.

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**10/30/2012**

**NOTHING TO REPORT**

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**10/31/2012**

**NOTHING TO REPORT**

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