

**FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS JANUARY 01-16 / PART 1**

**01/01/2013**

**MARIA EUGENIA PAYÁN- MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**FISCAL CLIFF ACUERDO**

**PKG: 1:44**

A deal worked out by U.S. Senate leaders to avoid the "fiscal cliff," was far from any "grand bargain" of deficit reduction measures. But if approved by the U.S. House of representatives, it could help the country steer clear of recession, although enough austerity would remain in place to likely keep the economy growing at a lackluster pace. The senate approved a last-minute deal early tuesday morning to scale back \$600 billion in scheduled tax hikes and government spending cuts that economists widely agree would tip the economy into recession. The deal would hike taxes permanently for household incomes over \$450,000 a year, but keep existing lower rates in force for everyone else.

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**01/02/13**

**NOTHING TO REPORT**

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**01/03/2013**

**FISCAL CLIFF LATEST**

**VO: 37**

President Barack Obama has signed a bill that boosts taxes on the wealthiest americans, while preserving tax cuts for most american households. The bill, which averts a looming fiscal cliff that had threatened to plunge the nation back into recession, also extends expiring jobless benefits, prevents cuts in medicare reimbursements to doctors and delays for two months billions of dollars in across-the-board spending cuts in defense and domestic programs. The gop-run house approved the measure by a 257-167 vote late

tuesday, nearly 24 hours after the democratic-led senate passed it 89-8. Obama, who is vacationing in hawaii, signed the bill using an autopen, a mechanical device that copies his signature.

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01/04/2013

### **SUPERSTORM AID HOUSE SETS VOTE**

**VO: 22**

A \$9.7 billion measure to pay flood insurance claims is set for a vote in congress, boosting prospects for relief for the many home and business owners flooded out by superstorm sandy. If the house, as expected, approves the flood insurance proposal on friday, the senate plans to follow with a likely uncontested vote later in the day. The federal emergency management agency warns that the national flood insurance program will run out of money next week if congress doesn't provide additional borrowing authority to pay out claims. Congress created the fema-run program in 1968 because few private insurers cover flood damage. Northeast lawmakers say the money is urgently needed for storm victims awaiting claim checks from the late october storm, which was one of the worst ever to strike the northeast, ravaging the coast from North Carolina to Maine, with the most severe flooding occurring in Atlantic City, N.J., New York City and Long Island and along the Connecticut coastline. House speaker John Boehner promised a house vote on friday after his decision to delay an action on a broader sandy relief package provoked outrage from northeast republicans, including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who said he'd lost trust in gop leaders in congress after being promised a vote earlier this week.

### **ILLINOIS GAY MARRIAGE**

**VO: 29**

With a vote to legalize same-sex marriage in Illinois looking less likely to happen in the next few days, supporters of marriage equality are looking ahead to the following legislative session as their next best hope. A senate committee voted 8-5 late thursday in favor of a bill that would allow gay marriage. But with key supporters absent, senate democrats delayed a full floor vote. The senate then canceled its friday schedule, and President John Cullerton said lawmakers are unlikely to return to springfield before the session ends jan. 9. New lawmakers will be sworn into office that day. Sen. Heather Steans, the bill's sponsor, said it was a matter of "when, not if" the measure will pass. She said people across illinois and state lawmakers are changing their minds every day and supporting gay marriage.

### **OBESITY POLL**

**VO: 22**

We know obesity is a health crisis, or every new year wouldn't start with resolutions to eat better and get off the couch. But don't try taking away our junk food. Americans blame too much screen time and cheap fast food for fueling the nation's fat epidemic, a poll finds, but they're split on how much the government should do to help. Most draw the line at policies that would try to force healthier eating by limiting food choices, according to the poll by the associated press-norc center for public affairs research. A third of people say the government should be deeply involved in finding ways to curb obesity, while a similar proportion want it to play little or no role. The rest are somewhere in the middle. Require more physical activity in school, or provide nutritional guidelines to help people make better choices? Sure, 8 in 10 support those steps. Make restaurants post calorie counts on their menus, as the food and drug administration is poised to do? Some 70 percent think it's a good idea.

## **ANTIDEPRESSANTS DON'T RAISE INFANT DEATH RISK**

**VO: 24**

There's been contentious debate whether women should take antidepressants during pregnancy. Now there's promising news from the journal of the american medical association. Researchers say taking a common type of antidepressant... Does not increase the risk of having a stillborn child or losing an infant early in life. S-S-R-is... like zoloft... Were the antidepressants studied. Data was taken from a million-and-a-half newborns and their mothers from northern europe. Researchers concluded there was little difference in those who took the medication and those who didn't, in terms of delivering a stillborn baby or death before its first birthday

## **USA-ECONOMY**

**VO: 30**

U.S. Employers added 155,000 jobs in december, a steady gain that shows hiring held up during tense fiscal cliff negotiations in Washington. The Labor Department says the unemployment rate stayed at 7.8 percent last month. November's rate was revised higher from an initially reported 7.7 percent. Robust hiring in manufacturing and construction fueled the gains. Construction added 30,000 jobs, the most in 15 months. That likely reflects additional hiring needed to rebuild after superstorm sandy and also solid gains in home building that have contributed to a housing recovery. Manufacturing gained 25,000, the most in nine months. Even with the gains, hiring is far from accelerating. Employers added an average of 153,000 jobs a month last year, matching the monthly average in 2011.

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**01/07/2013**

## **FLU VACCINE**

**VO :25**

Get a flu shot. That's the message from health experts at the c-d-c who say this is the earliest start to a flu season in about a decade. Forty-one states are reporting widespread flu cases. We know right now through our surveillance system that more people are going to the doctor and more people are being hospitalized for flu this year than they were last year. The c-d-c says more than 22-hundred people have been hospitalized because of the flu -- and 18 children have died. This is a group of people, children, who can be particularly vulnerable to influenza so we strongly recommend that eligible children be vaccinated every year, this year, especially so. Getting a flu shot doesn't guarantee you won't get the flu -- but it does offer protection against the virus.

This year they're saying about 60-percent effectiveness, not 100 percent like previous years but it's better than nothing. And getting the shot -- won't give you the flu. When you get a flu shot you're getting a dead virus so it can't give you the flu but what it's doing is activating your immune system, that's what it's supposed to do, it's teaching your immune system to recognize that virus as a problem so when it sees it again it attacks it. Doctors point out that it takes two weeks for a flu shot to take full effect -- so it's important to get vaccinated early in the season.

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01/08/2013

## STUDY: ALZHEIMER

VO: 31

Beta blockers, a venerable class of blood pressure drugs that has fallen from favor in recent years, may help protect the aging brain against changes linked to alzheimer's disease other forms of dementia that rob memory and mental function, new research indicates. In autopsies on the brains of 774 men after their deaths, scientists found that those who took beta blockers to help control hypertension had fewer of the brain lesions and less of the brain shrinkage seen in alzheimer's than men who took other types of blood pressure medications and those who left the condition untreated. Their brains also showed significantly less evidence of multiple tiny strokes </topic/health/physical-conditions/stroke called microinfarcts.

## SURVEY WOMEN DIETS

VO: 27

Testimony is set to begin in a federal lawsuit brought by four sisters who believe their breast cancer was caused by a drug their mother took during pregnancy in the 1950s. The case involves a synthetic estrogen known as des, prescribed to millions of pregnant women between the late 1930s and early 1970s to prevent miscarriages, premature births and other problems. Studies later showed the drug did not prevent miscarriages. The melnick sisters, who grew up in tresckow, penn., say they all developed breast cancer in their 40s after their mother took des while pregnant. They say their mother did not take des while pregnant with a fifth sister, and that sister has not developed breast cancer. They are seeking unspecified damages. Opening statements and testimony are expected tuesday.

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01/09/2013

### **INFANT SLEEPERS RECALLED-RISK OF MOLD**

**VO: 40**

Fisher-Price is recalling about 800-thousand infant sleepers. Mold could build up under the seat cushion and potentially make your baby sick. Fisher-price has had 600 reports of mold -- and of 16 babies getting sick after sleeping near that mold. The sleepers look like this, although the fabric cover comes in more than a dozen patterns and colors. Mold can develop between the cushion and the hard plastic frame if it gets wet or isn't cleaned often enough. The rockers were sold for between 50 to 85 bucks.

### **STUDY: COGNITIVE PROBLEM MARKERS IN NFL PLAYERS**

**VO: 29**

A marker for later cognitive problems may be starting to show up in the brain tissue of former national football league players. That's according to a study published monday in jama neurology. Researchers found that cognitive problems and depression are more common among aging NFL players with a history of concussion. Brain damage and mood problems among some segments of the n-f-l population is not stunning news anymore. What has scientists slightly giddy are those markers: Poor performance on cognitive tests also showing up on sophisticated brain scans. It suggests that post-concussion damage could someday be detectable by scanning the brain.

### **THE SKINNY ON THE YEAR'S BEST DIETS**

**VO: 27**

U-s news and world report released a list of the best overall diets. At the top ... The dash diet developed by the national institutes of health. The key component of it is limiting sodium intake and eating fruits, vegetables and whole grains. One thing that set the dash diet apart ... It doesn't cut out or extremely restrict certain foods. The panel weighing the different diets looked for plans that were easy to follow, nutritious and safe. But the diets also needed to help you lose weight-- and fight diabetes and heart disease.

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01/10/2013

## CONSUMER PROTECTION-MORTGAGES

VO: 29

The consumer financial protection bureau has rolled out new rules designed to ensure that mortgage borrowers can afford to repay the loans they take out. The rules, which take effect next year, impose a range of obligations and restrictions on lenders. Lenders will be required to verify and inspect borrowers' financial records. They generally will be prohibited from saddling borrowers with loan payments totaling 43 percent of the person's annual income. Risky "interest-only" and "no documentation" loans that helped inflate the housing bubble will be banned. The rules limit features like teaser rates that adjust upwards and large "balloon payments" that must be made at the end of the loan period.

## FLU LATEST

VO: 31

Doctors are calling it one of the fiercest outbreaks in a decade. This flu strain, which started in october instead of january, has spread to 41 states hitting at least 22 hundred people. Boston mass general is seeing unprecedented levels of patients, many of whom have to wait 24 hours to be admitted. In pennsylvania, one hospital had to set up a special tent outside the emergency room to deal with flu patients. The situation is not much better in chicago where overwhelmed hospitals diverted patients to less crowded er's. And in minnesota... They're dealing with a thousand confirmed flu cases.

## FL GRAPEFRUIT HEALTH RISK

VO: 24

And this is what they came across uf914 missing a chemical found in other grapefruits. That chemical causes the so-called "grapefruit effect" in people taking common medications for high blood pressure, cholesterol, anxiety - even heartburn.

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01/11/2013

## OFFICIAL FLU CASES FALLING OFF

VO: 27

The nationwide flu outbreak has hit Boston hard as the state declares a public health emergency. Wednesday the state announced that the outbreak has led the city to offer free flu vaccines along with setting up more places where people can get vaccinated. And for the city's latino population, this is especially important as they tend to be more reluctant to get flu shots to begin with. The best thing you can do to protect yourself and your family is to get the flu shot," said Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. According to the centers for disease control and prevention, in the last flu season only 39.1 percent of latino adults received the shot, compared to 49.1 percent of non-hispanic whites. Since the unofficial start of the flu season oct. 1, four flu-related deaths, all elderly residents, have been reported in boston with 18 deaths statewide. The city is experiencing its worst flu season since at least 2009, menino said, with about 700 confirmed cases of the flu, compared with 70 all of last season. Massachusetts was just one of 29 states reporting high levels of "influenza-like illness," according to the most recent weekly flu advisory issued by the CDC. The CDC said the proportion of people visiting health care providers with flu-like symptoms climbed from 2.8 percent to 5.6 percent in four weeks. By contrast, the rate peaked at only 2.2 percent during the relatively mild 2011-12 flu season. The estimated rate of flu-related hospitalizations in the u.S. Was 8.1 per 100,000 people, which is high for this time of year, according to dr. Joe Bresee, chief of the epidemiology and prevention branch of the cdc's influenza division. Barbara Ferrer, director of the Boston Public Health Commission, said the emergency was declared in part to get residents' attention. She said that the 700 confirmed cases represent only those reported to the city and that thousands of other people may be ill.

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**01/14/2013**

## **FLU LATEST**

**VO: 34**

Vaccine clinics in Boston were busy over the weekend after wednesday's declaration of a flu emergency in the city. Boston's public health commissioner says more than 6,000 people got flu shots at nearly two dozen free clinics across the city, after officials announced that a child under 6 died after being diagnosed with the flu. State health officials have reported about 6,000 confirmed flu cases in the state and 18 flu-related deaths, all in adults. More clinics are scheduled this week in boston. Officials say there is enough vaccine available.

## **GAS.PRICES.CREEP UP**

**VO: 18**

After months of dropping, gas prices are back on the upswing. The average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline has surged seven cents in the last three weeks. That's according to the lundberg survey of fuel prices, released sunday, which puts the price of a gallon of regular at \$3.32. Midgrade costs an average of \$3.50 a gallon, and premium is \$3.63. Diesel remained unchanged at \$3.96 a gallon. Of the places

surveyed in the lower 48 states, salt lake city has the nation's lowest average price at \$3.04. Long Island, N.Y. Has the highest at \$3.75.

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01/15/2013

#### **COCA-COLA ADDRESSES OBESITY FOR FIRST TIME IN ADS**

**VO: 27**

Beverage company Coca-Cola says it wants to work with communities to fight obesity. The company is debuting this video monday night on national cable news. The two-minute video will encourage people to be mindful of calories and how they can affect weight. The company says the point of this video is to emphasize what Coca-Cola is doing to offer customers healthy options.

#### **MERCURY LEVELS IN FISH ABOVE ADVISORY LEVELS**

**VO: 21**

A new study finds widespread, unsafe levels of mercury in people and fish. Research by the biodiversity research institute found more than 82-percent of human hair samples from eight countries exceeded typically safe levels of mercury by the E-P-A. Generally, it found people and marine ecosystems across the world are contaminated with mercury -- and levels in people and fish regularly exceed safe levels. The report is part of the study in collaboration with anti-toxins group I-P-E-N.

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