

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS DECEMBER 03-15 / PART 1

12/03/2012

FISCAL CLIFF MON

VO: 26

Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner (GYT'-nur) says Republicans need to make the next move in negotiations to head off the tax hikes and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff." In interviews with the Sunday morning TV talk shows, Geithner says GOP leaders have to stop using "political math" and say how much they are willing to raise tax rates on the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans and then specify the spending cuts they want. House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) says Republicans have a plan that will provide as much as \$800 billion in new government revenue over the next decade and would consider the elimination of tax deductions on high-income earners. But when pressed for details on "Fox News Sunday," the Ohio Republican would only say there are "a lot of options in terms of how to get there."

AAA GASOLINE WARNING

VO: 16

The AAA says the Environmental Protection Agency and gasoline retailers should halt the sale of E15, a new ethanol blend that could damage millions of vehicles and void car warranties. AAA, which issued its warning Friday, says just 12 million of more than 240 million cars, trucks and SUVs now in use have manufacturers' approval for E15. Flex-fuel vehicles, 2012 and newer General Motors vehicles, 2013 Fords and 2001 and later model Porsches are the exceptions, according to AAA, the nation's largest motorist group, with 53.5 million members. AAA President and CEO Robert Darbelnet tells USA TODAY. "Bringing E15 to the market without adequate safeguards does not responsibly meet the needs of consumers." BMW, Chrysler, Nissan, Toyota and VW have said their warranties will not cover fuel-related claims caused by E15. Ford, Honda, Kia, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo have said E15 use will void warranties, says Darbelnet, citing potential corrosive damage to fuel lines, gaskets and other engine components.

CLASSROOM TIME BIT LONGER

VO: 29

School for thousands of public school students is about to get quite a bit longer. Five states are to announce Monday that they will add at least 300 hours of learning time to the calendar in some schools starting in 2013. They are Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Tennessee. The initiative is intended to boost student achievement and make U.S. schools more competitive on a global level. The three-year pilot program will affect almost 20,000 students in 40 schools. Schools, working in concert with districts, parents and teachers, will decide whether to make the school day longer, add more days to the school year or both. A mix of federal, state and district funds will cover the costs. The Ford Foundation and the National Center on Time & Learning will also chip in resources. Education officials say spending more time in the classroom will give students access to a more well-rounded curriculum, individualized help for students who fall behind and opportunities to reinforce critical math and science skills.

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12/04/2012

FISCAL CLIFF LATEST

VO: 33

Republicans are proposing a "fiscal cliff" plan that revives ideas from failed budget talks with President Barack Obama last year, calling for raising the eligibility age for Medicare, lowering cost-of-living hikes for Social Security benefits and bringing in \$800 billion in higher tax revenue. The counter to a White House plan last week relies more on politically sensitive spending cuts and would raise half the \$1.6 trillion in revenue proposed by Obama over the coming decade. The 10-year, \$2.2 trillion proposal from House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, resembles a framework similar to what Boehner supported last year, but Obama is pressing for additional tax increases and appears to be balking at spending cuts discussed in those talks and since.

HOLDER ONLINE CHILD ABUSE

VO: 29

Attorney General Eric Holder and European Union Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström will launch a global alliance targeting online child sexual abuse, building on the success of cross-border police operations that have dismantled international pedophile networks. Officials from 27 EU member nations will participate in a ministerial conference Wednesday in Brussels, along with officials from 22 countries outside the EU, including the United States. The participating nations are making a commitment to caring for victims, enhancing efforts to prosecute offenders, increasing children's awareness of online risks and reducing the availability of child abuse material online. Representatives from outside the EU include Albania, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Georgia, Ghana, Japan, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Serbia, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and Vietnam.

SUPERSTORM HOUSING

VO: 25

Facing Superstorm Sandy's daunting toll of wreckage and displacement in the nation's largest city, officials have put much of their hopes and hundreds of millions of dollars into jump-starting repairs to make homes livable. Federal and city officials see the strategy -- focusing on getting people back into their own homes, not temporary housing -- as an innovative and nimble answer to the challenge of housing thousands of storm victims in a notoriously expensive and crowded area. But with relatively few homes fixed so far, questions are emerging about whether the "rapid repairs" initiative can live up to its name. More than 10,000 homeowners have signed up for NYC Rapid Repairs in the three weeks since Mayor Michael Bloomberg launched the initiative to bring in hundreds of contractors to restore power, heat and other essentials free of charge.

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12/05/2012

OBAMA PREVIEW FISCAL CLIFF

VO: 26

President Barack Obama speaks to business leaders Wednesday morning amid the debate over how to avoid the fiscal cliff. Obama also plans to answer questions from members of the Business Roundtable, an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies. The group has been urging immediate action to prevent huge automatic tax increases and spending cuts in January. Later, Obama addresses a conference of Native American tribal leaders attending the White House Tribal Nations Summit.

ILLINOIS IMMIGRANT DRIVER'S LICENSES-SENATE VOTE

VO: 18

The Illinois state Senate easily passed a bill today (Tuesday) to give illegal immigrants temporary driver's licenses. The bill would allow about 250-thousand illegal immigrants who drive in the state to get a three-year driver's license. No Social Security Number is need to apply. Holders of the temporary license will have to go through the same testing as drivers with regular licenses and car insurance will be mandatory. Supporters say the change will make sure all drivers in the state are trained, tested, and insured regardless of citizenship. Now that it has passed the Senate, it will move to the House for a vote.

US HOME PRICES INCREASE

VO: 30

A measure of U.S. home prices rose 6.3 percent in October compared with a year ago, the largest yearly gain since July 2006. The jump adds to signs of a comeback in the once-battered housing market. Core Logic also says prices declined 0.2 percent in October from September, the second drop after six straight monthly increases. The monthly figures are not seasonally adjusted. The real estate data provider says the decline reflects the end of the summer home-buying season.

USA MARIHUANA POLL

VO: 19

Majority of American voters support the legalization of marijuana, with men and younger voters holding more tolerant public views about use of the drug, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released on Wednesday. Voters in Colorado and Washington approved recreational use of marijuana last month, making them the first states in the country to do so even though use of the drug is still illegal under federal law.

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12/06/2012

ARIZONA IMMIGRATION REFORM

VO/SOT 1:00

As Congress gears up to once again tackle the long-simmering issue of comprehensive immigration reform next year, a bipartisan Arizona group of prominent community leaders is hoping to lead the way with a four-point blueprint for fixing the nation's broken borders and rehabilitating the state's battered national image. The coalition of elected officials, business leaders and civic activists wants to end Arizona's reputation as a leader of enforcement-only measures such as the controversial Senate Bill 1070 by offering a broader solution that acknowledges the contributions of illegal immigrants and the role immigrants play in the economy. The immigration-reform framework, unveiled Wednesday, already has been received favorably by several members of Arizona's Capitol Hill delegation, including Republican U.S. Sen.-elect Jeff Flake, a six-term congressman poised to become a player in the coming debate, and the retiring GOP U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl. President Barack Obama and congressional lawmakers have signaled that another attempt at enacting comprehensive reform is a top priority for the coming months. High-profile bipartisan efforts failed to pass legislation in 2006 and 2007.

HOW TO AVOID FLU

VO: 21

Well the flu season is upon us... And health officials say the most common strain of the virus is packing quite a punch, causing more severe illness. The average adult touches just about 30 objects each minute, and experts say the flu virus could live on every single one of them. ken devellis is a physician at west springfield's doctor's express. aside from getting the shot, he warns everyone can do one simple thing to avoid it.

FORECLOSURES INDEMNIZATION

INTERVIEW: 3:00

Milwaukee mortgage holders who may have been victimized by improper lending practices have a chance to recover some of their losses through the Independent Foreclosure Review Program. But time is running out. The program is ending on Dec. 31. Ald. Joe Davis Sr. said at a news conference on Wednesday that anyone whose mortgage was in the foreclosure process in 2009 and 2010 and who may have lost money because of mortgage service provider errors should look into the Independent Foreclosure Review Program. "Independent parties will review each case, and I believe it just makes sense to see if you qualify, especially if you believe your mortgage was not properly serviced," Davis said.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS WARNING

MARIA ROSA LUCCHINI - MARYLAND

PKG: 1:50

As Thanksgiving ends, minds turn to Christmas and for many, decorating begins. Businesses selling trees and lights are packed Friday. But you have a lot of costs and safety hazards to consider as you mke your to-do list. We've seen the tree lots setting up for weeks and Friday is their big day, as people crowd into their tents. Fire prevention specialists have some tips to make sure you're picking the safest tree and how to handle all those lights without burning the house down. Some people are opting to have them installed. Hundreds of trees are being cut, bundled and loaded at Tom Sawyer's tree lot along Frazier Avenue Friday after a slow first week. "It's picking up quite a bit. I think people are actually in the holiday spirit now," Tom Sawyer's Farm tree salesman, Mike Tavares says. "Kids love them. Wwe love the smell of them so it just brings Christmas home," customer, Dale Bolton says. "This is the earliest we've ever done it," customer, Kim Worley says. Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department Fire Prevention Lt. Nick Wilson says

since Thanksgiving was earlier this year, picking the freshest tree is key to making it through December without a fire.

TAMOXIFEN & BREAST CANCER

VO: 28

Breast cancer patients taking the drug tamoxifen can cut their chances of having the disease come back or kill them if they stay on the pills for 10 years instead of five years as doctors recommend now, a major study finds. The results could change treatment, especially for younger women. The findings are a surprise because earlier research suggested that taking the hormone-blocking drug for longer than five years didn't help and might even be harmful.

TOBACCO FREE FOR KIDS INTERVIEW PATRICIA SOSA

3:00

Health Advocates Call on State to Pass Comprehensive Smoke-free Law Kentucky ranks 37th in the nation in funding programs to prevent kids from smoking and help smokers quit, according to a national report released today by a coalition of public health organizations. Kentucky currently spends \$2.1 million a year on tobacco prevention and cessation programs, which is 3.7 percent of the \$57.2 million recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Other key findings for Kentucky include: Kentucky this year will collect \$381 million in revenue from the 1998 tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes, but will spend just 0.6 percent of it on tobacco prevention programs. This means Kentucky is spending less than a penny of every dollar in tobacco revenue to fight tobacco use. The tobacco companies spend \$248.9 million a year to market their products in Kentucky. This is 117 times what the state spends on tobacco prevention.

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12/07/2012

ECONOMY FISCAL CLIFF LATEST

VO:23

Superstorm Sandy is widely thought to have slowed U.S. job growth last month. The only question is how much. An answer is expected to emerge in the government's jobs report for November due out Friday. Many economists predict employers added fewer than 100,000 jobs last month, and some think it was fewer than 50,000. That would be far below the 171,000 created in October and normally a sign of a weak market. The unemployment rate is expected to remain 7.9 percent. Analysts caution, though, that Sandy likely reduced the November job gains significantly. And some employers might have delayed hiring because of concerns about the "fiscal cliff" -- the tax increases and spending cuts that will take effect in January if Congress and the White House fail to reach a budget deal. If not for those factors, some analysts estimate the job gains in November might have been as high as 200,000. That would represent the best month of hiring since February.

BLACK BOXES IN CARS

VO: 25

Many motorists don't know it, but it's likely that every time they get behind the wheel, there's a snitch along for the ride. In the next few days, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is expected to propose long-delayed regulations requiring auto manufacturers to include event data recorders - better known as "black boxes" - in all new cars and light trucks. But the agency is behind the curve. Automakers have been quietly tucking the devices, which automatically record the actions of drivers and the responses of their vehicles in a continuous information loop, into most new cars for years. When a car is involved in a crash or when its airbags deploy, inputs from the vehicle's sensors during the 5 to 10 seconds before impact are automatically preserved. That's usually enough to record things like how fast the car was traveling and whether the driver applied the brake, was steering erratically or had a seat belt on.

SMOKING WORSENS HANGOVERS

VO: 24

Smoking worsens surf conditions, the combination of headache and nausea happens after drinking too much alcohol. So say a scientific from Rhode Island for eight weeks received reports of more than 113 students from their alcohol intake .The study found that when drinking too much, those who had smoked were more likely to develop a hangover or suffer more intensely.

FCC ASKS FAA TO ALLOW ELECTRONICS DURING TAKEOFF

VO: 29

According the the New York Times, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission is urging the Federal Aviation Administration to allow more electronics aboard planes. The article says the FCC head sent a letter to FAA requesting the use of tablets, e-readers and portable devices from take-off to landing. Apparently, the communications leader has a soft spot for Americans who have grown dependent upon the devices. The FAA requires passengers to turn off their phones, tablets and computers during takeoff, even though there's been no proof they interfere with flight services. The FAA has said it will review its policies about electronic devices in-flight.

CANCER BREAST TEST

VO: 26

A small new study suggests it might be possible to detect colorectal cancer in people just by examining their breath. The findings, published in the British Journal of Surgery show that the exhaled breath of people with cancer contains a different pattern of substances, called volatile organic compounds, than people without cancer. The study included 37 people with colorectal cancer and 41 people without. Researchers had the study participants breathe out so that they could collect exhaled breath samples, and then evaluated these samples to determine the patterns of volatile organic compounds that might indicate cancer.

LESS AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN CALIFORNIA

VO: 25

Missing hands to work in California land. Alert that is the farmers, calling on the authorities to create an effective program that the country legally allowed to bring foreign labor. A report called "walking on the edge" revealed a severe shortage of workers this year to grow and harvest fields of fruits and vegetables. Although no ranch owners suffered great economic losses, nearly 20% of them reduced their crops 20% failure by employees

JOBS REPORT

VO: 20

The U.S. economy added 146,000 jobs in November, and the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level in four years, the U.S. Labor Department said today. The number is relatively strong given that some economists were concerned that Superstorm Sandy would weigh on job creation. The November unemployment rate fell to 7.7% from 7.9% the month earlier.

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12/10/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/11/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/12/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/13/2012

FISCAL CLIFF NEGOTIATIONS

VO: 24

Five weeks after President Barack Obama won re-election and gained more leverage to make GOP conservatives bend on taxes, the new balance of power is proving vexing for both sides. Republicans still aren't budging on Obama's demands for higher tax rates on upper bracket earners, despite the president's convincing election victory and opinion polls showing support for the idea. Democrats in turn are now resisting steps, such as raising the eligibility age for Medicare, that they were willing to consider just a year and a half ago, when Obama's chief Republican adversary, House Speaker John Boehner, was in a better tactical position. With less than three weeks before the government could careen off a "fiscal cliff" of automatic tax hikes and sweeping spending cuts, Boehner, R-Ohio, said "serious differences" remain between him and Obama after an exchange of offers and a pair of conversations this week.

MASSIVE BANK CYBERATTACK PLANNED

VO: 20

A massive cyber attack is planned on personal checking accounts. We're talking about personal accounts at 30 banks across the country. Security firm McAfee released a report today warning about the cyberattack that's aimed at stealing millions of dollars from consumers' bank accounts. McAfee's research supports a report security company R-S-A released in October. Now that knowledge of the scheme has gone public, R-S-A says the organization behind the cyberattack has disappeared from chat rooms.

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12/14/2012

OBAMA BOEHNER HOLD "FRANK" MEETING

VO: 24

Facing a looming deadline to avoid the fiscal cliff, President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner met Thursday for their first face-to-face talk in four days. Boehner arrived for the previously unscheduled meeting just after 5 p.m. ET, a few hours after claiming Obama had failed to offer a serious compromise to prevent the fiscal cliff's automatic tax hikes and spending cuts set to take effect in less than three weeks. He spent about 50 minutes in the White House before returning to his office. A White House official and Boehner's spokesman then issued near identical statements, calling the Oval Office meeting "frank" and saying the "lines of communication remain open." The meeting didn't spur Boehner to change his plans to return to Ohio on Friday, one of the speaker's aides said. The House is scheduled to end its current session that day, but Majority Leader Eric Cantor has told lawmakers they could be working longer than that with the fiscal cliff still in limbo. The inability to reach a deal, thus far, reflects Democrats and Republicans' underlying divisions about the size of government and how much the wealthiest Americans should pay in taxes.

OBESITY BIGGER THAN HUNGER

VO: 24

Obesity is a bigger health crisis globally than hunger, and the leading cause of disabilities around the world, according to a new report published Thursday in the British medical journal The Lancet. Nearly 500 researchers from 50 countries compared health data from 1990 through 2010 for the Global Burden of Disease, revealing what they call a massive shift in global health trends. "We discovered that there's been a huge shift in mortality. Kids who used to die from infectious disease are now doing extremely well with immunization," said Ali Mokdad, co-author of the study and professor of global health at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, which led the collaborative project.

JUNK FOOD LINKED TO WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

VO: 20

A new study says the feelings you have when quitting junk food are similar to the ones experienced in drug withdrawal.

Researchers out of the University of Montreal say a high-fat diet can actually cause "chemical changes" in the brain. And those changes could lead to stress and withdrawal symptoms if you switch to a healthier diet.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HEALTH CARE

VO: 20

After health care reform is complete, states that have the most illegal immigrants could be left with a disproportionate number of uninsured people -- and a financial burden. Two-thirds of the nation's estimated 11 million illegal immigrants live in eight states. None of them is covered by President Barack Obama's reform law. So when the plan is fully implemented, illegal immigrants could make up a quarter of the uninsured. Over the past decade, many illegal immigrants sought care at community clinics. But those clinics will also have to care for the newly insured. Some observers fear they won't be able to do both. Hospitals are concerned that many immigrants will instead go to emergency rooms just as government funding for that care is cut.

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