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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:42 PM  
**To:** Carole Bird  
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**FCC REPORTS NETWORK NEWS 6:30 FEBRUARY 1-15 / PART 1**

02/01/2014

**ICY ROADS AND WEATHER DANGEROUS IN NEXT FEW DAYS**

VIVIANA AVILA / NEW YORK

PKG: 1:50

First, snow will taper off over parts of the southern and central Rockies. A few additional inches of snow are expected over the mountains of Colorado and northern New Mexico. Snow should come to an end by early evening from Chicago westward. Saturday night, snow will stretch from northern New England southwestward into the Ohio Valley, along the trailing cold front. Some lingering patchy sleet or light freezing rain is also possible in this strip in the Ohio and mid-Mississippi Valleys through the night, as well.

**DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA**

VO: 0:26

The punishing drought that has swept California is now threatening the state's drinking water supply. With no sign of rain, 17 rural communities providing water to 40,000 people are in danger of running out within 60 to 120 days. State officials said that the number was likely to rise in the months ahead after the State Water Project, the main municipal water distribution system, announced on Friday that it did not have enough water to supplement the dwindling supplies of local agencies that provide water to an additional 25 million people. It is first time the project has turned off its spigot in its 54-year history.

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02/02/2014

## **TOP REPUBLICANS SUPPORT IMMIGRATION REFORM**

**VIVIANA AVILA / CHICAGO, IL**

**PKG: 2:01**

Top Republicans made clear Sunday they want to improve the country's immigration system but will not negotiate until U.S. borders are first secured."This is not trust but verify. This is a verify and trust approach," Wisconsin GOP Rep. Paul Ryan told ABC's "This Week." "Security first, no amnesty, then we might be able to get somewhere." Ryan's comments follow GOP House leadership releasing a plan last week that outlines a path toward legal status for some of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants now in the United States.

## **MORE WINTER! GROUNDHOG PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL SEES SHADOW**

**LUCIA BURGA / MIAMI, FL**

**PKG: 1:22**

Punxsutawney Phil, the world's most famous fuzzy forecaster, popped out of his burrow Sunday morning and predicted six more weeks of winter, much to the disappointment of the crowd gathered at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa. According to folklore, if it's cloudy when the groundhog emerges, the critter will leave his burrow, signifying that winter will soon end. If it's a sunny day, Phil will supposedly see his shadow and, frightened, retreat back into his burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks.

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**02/03/2014**

## **SNOW STORM LATEST**

**VO: 0:22**

The latest in a series of winter storms hit the United States dropping wet, heavy snow in the Northeast states that disrupted travel and threatened supplies of salt needed to keep roads clear. Officials in New York and New Jersey warned they were starting to run short of the rock salt used by road crews to keep ice from building up on highways and local roads, the result of the season's repeated storms.

## **DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA WORST IN YEARS**

## **LUIS MEGID - ALMADEN RESERVE, CA**

**PKG: 1:45**

Beneath unyielding blue skies on a recent afternoon, Ryan Indart knelt down to examine what was left of one of his sheep pastures. Land that should have been lush with native grasses this time of year has been reduced to powdery dirt, splotched with a few withered strands of filaree and foxtail. And where there's no vegetation, there are no sheep. A fourth-generation rancher, Indart has already sent 10% of his 4,000 ewes - which he normally would want to keep - to the slaughterhouse because he can't afford the hay to feed them. If the drought keeps up, his hungry ewes won't reproduce as they should to make his investment pay off. Yearlings will struggle to gain weight because their mothers won't produce enough milk. Indart may have to cull more of them if the clouds don't open up.

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**02/04/2014**

## **IMMIGRATION REFORM LATEST**

**LOURDES MELUZA/ WASHINGTON, DC**

**PKG 2:10**

Conservative Republicans on Wednesday ruled out any immigration legislation in the House this year, insisting that the GOP should wait until next year when the party might also control the Senate. House GOP leaders unveiled their broad immigration principles last week that gave hope to advocates and the Obama administration that the first changes in the nation's laws in three decades might happen in the coming months. Immigration legislation is one of the top priorities for Obama's second term. But several of the conservatives were adamant that the House should do nothing on the issue this year, a midterm election year when the GOP is angling to gain six seats in the Senate and seize majority control. Democrats currently have a 55-45 advantage but are defending more seats, including ones in Republican-leaning states.

## **SCHOLARSHIP FOR DREAMERS**

**VO: 27**

Immigrants living in the country illegally will be eligible for a new scholarship program designed for low-income DREAMers, a philanthropy group announced this week. TheDream.US program will offer scholarships to 2,000 undocumented immigrant students over the next decade, organizers announced. The group has already raised more than \$25 million to fund the program, including donations from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Fernandez Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Under the current system, children brought into the U.S. illegally are permitted to attend K-12 schools and enroll in college. But, in most states, they must pay out-of-state tuition if they can't prove they are citizens. They

are also not eligible for federal financial aid, making college unaffordable for many students living in the country illegally.

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02/05/2014

## OBAMACARE AND JOBS

VO: 24

One of the best arguments for health-insurance reform is that our traditional employer-based system often locked people into jobs they wanted to leave but couldn't because they feared they wouldn't be able to get affordable coverage elsewhere. This worry was pronounced for people with preexisting conditions, but it was not limited to them. Consider families with young children in which one parent would like to get out of the formal labor market for a while to take care of the kids. In the old system, the choices of such couples were constrained if only one of the two received employer-provided family coverage.

## CVS WILL SUSPEND THE SALE OF TABACCO

VO: 23

In the short-term, CVS's decision to stop selling tobacco will cost the nation's second-largest pharmacy chain more than it will cigarette manufacturers. In the longer term, it may increase the number of people who quit smoking and provide an opportunity to e-cigarette makers. Walgreen spokesperson Emily Hartwig said in an email, "We have been evaluating this product category for some time to balance the choices our customers expect from us, with their ongoing health needs. We will continue to evaluate the choice of products our customers want, while also helping to educate them and providing smoking cessation products and alternatives that help to reduce the demand for tobacco products." Even if Walgreen were to follow CVS's lead, it wouldn't do much harm to the cigarette companies. Drugstores account for only 4 percent of cigarettes sold in the U.S., whereas nearly half come from gas stations. Dollar discount stores may make up for whatever sales are lost because of the CVS move. Last year Dollar General said it was doing an "aggressive rollout" of tobacco products and now sells them in about 10,000 stores.

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02/06/2014

## **OLYMPIC SECURITY**

**PABLO SANCHEZ/ WASHINGTON, DC**

**PKG 2:36**

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration is temporarily banning all liquids, aerosols, gels and powders on flights between Russia and the United States. The items can still be carried on checked luggage, the network said, citing an official with the Department of Homeland Security, the TSA's parent agency. Spokesmen for the department and the TSA did not respond immediately to requests for comment. The United States issued a warning on Wednesday to airports and to some airlines flying to Russia for the Olympics to watch for toothpaste tubes that could hold ingredients to make a bomb on a plane, a senior U.S. security official said

## **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

**VO: 26**

Rep. Raul Labrador was a guest speaker on our Sunday show Al Punto where he spoke about John Boehner and how he should lose his spot as a leader to his inefficiency to pass an immigration reform. House Speaker John Boehner said Thursday it will be difficult to pass immigration legislation this year, dimming prospects for one of President Barack Obama's top domestic priorities. Conservatives have said they distrust Obama will enforce any new law, citing his waivers and suspensions of provisions on the health care law and his pronouncement in his State of the Union address that he would bypass Congress if lawmakers fail to act on specific issues.

## **CUT BACK ON FOOD STAMPS**

**BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ/ NEW YORK**

**PKG 2:09**

When the president signs the farm bill on Friday, he'll be enacting a huge set of policies including an \$8.6 billion cut to food stamps over the next decade. But the cuts are concentrated: they will only affect individuals in about a third of states and Washington, D.C. The reason is that it closes what many consider a loophole utilized in some states - one which hunger advocates argue is necessary in light of underfunding. CBO projects it affects about 850,000 households, or 4 percent of beneficiaries of food stamps, formally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Total SNAP spending had been projected to be \$764 billion over the next decade, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's baseline estimate. The \$8.6 billion is just a fraction of that, but its impact is limited to 15 states.

**NOTHING TO REPORT**

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**02/08/2014**

**RAIN IN CALIFORNIA HELPS DROUGHT**

**LUIS MEGID / SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**PKG: 1:48**

Drought-stricken California got some help Thursday from the weather - a prelude to a bigger storm for parts of the state over the weekend that could dump as much as 2 feet of snow in the northern Sierra and 6 inches of rain on Bay Area mountains.

While the overdue wet weather is welcome and may be a sign of things to come, forecasters say California needs much more rain and snow to make up for one of the driest rainy seasons so far.

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**02/09/2014**

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES STEPS TOWARDS HELPING HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES**

**GALO ARELLANO / MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**PKG: 2:30**

The Justice Department on Monday will instruct all of its employees across the country, for the first time, to give lawful same-sex marriages sweeping equal protection under the law in every program it administers, from courthouse proceedings to prison visits to the compensation of surviving spouses of public safety officers. In a new policy memo, the department will spell out the rights of same-sex couples, including the right to decline to give testimony that might incriminate their spouses, even if their marriages are not recognized in the state where the couple lives. Under the Justice Department policy, federal inmates in same-sex marriages will also be entitled to the same rights and privileges as inmates in heterosexual marriages, including visitation by a spouse, escorted trips to attend a spouse's funeral,

correspondence with a spouse, and compassionate release or reduction in sentence based on the incapacitation of an inmate's spouse.

## **MEAT RECALL IN CALIFORNIA**

**VO: 0:26**

Some 8.7 million pounds of meat from a Northern California company have been recalled because they came from "diseased and unsound" animals that weren't properly inspected, a federal agency announced Saturday.

The recall affecting Rancho Feeding Corporation products -- as detailed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service -- marks a significant expansion of one announced January 13, when just over 40,000 pounds of the company's products were recalled. According to the U.S. agency, Rancho Feeding "processed diseased and unsound animals and carried out these activities without the benefit or full benefit of federal inspection."

## **GAS PRICES HAVE GONE DOWN NATIONWIDE**

**VO: 0:23**

There is good news to report at the pump, gas prices are down. The average price for a gallon of regular gas now costs \$3.29. That's down 2 cents per gallon nationwide in the last two weeks and 30 cents a gallon cheaper than this time last year, according to the Lundberg survey. In the past month, the price of gas has dropped more than a nickel per gallon. However, industry experts say it's unlikely gas will drop much more unless crude oil prices plunge. On the flip side, the news isn't so good for those who require diesel fuel. Diesel prices are up 6 cents a gallon in the past two weeks.

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02/10/2014

## **FEDERAL EQUAL RIGHTS FOR GAY COUPLES**

**JUAN CARLOS GONZALEZ / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**PKG: 2:03**

The Justice Department on Monday will instruct all of its employees across the country, for the first time, to give lawful same-sex marriages sweeping equal protection under the law in every program it administers, from courthouse proceedings to prison visits to the compensation of surviving spouses of public safety officers. In a new policy memo, the department will spell out the rights of same-sex couples,

including the right to decline to give testimony that might incriminate their spouses, even if their marriages are not recognized in the state where the couple lives.

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02/11/2014

#### **HEALTH-OVERHAUL-EMPLOYER-REQUIREMENT**

**VO: 42**

The White House has granted employers another concession on health care, but the details are buried in more than 200 pages of dense Treasury regulations. Medium-sized companies are getting a delay in a heavily criticized requirement to cover their workers or face fines. That may help Democratic chances of hanging on to the Senate in the midterm elections. The administration said Monday that companies with 50 to 99 employees will have an additional year to comply, until January 1, 2016. For businesses with 100 or more employees the so-called employer mandate will still take effect in 2015. The mandate for firms with 50 or more workers was originally supposed to be effective this year, until first delay was announced last summer.

#### **CRITICAL STATE (OBAMACARE)**

**LILIANA ESCALANTE/ LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**PKG 2:39**

Much like its English language counterpart, the White House's Spanish-language health care website, CuidadoDeSalud.gov, has been filled with technical issues, mistranslations and links to English-only pages and forms since its launch. It's a laughing stock, but the joke is on Hispanics and Latinos like myself. Beyond the faulty launch of the federal website, the Affordable Care Act penalizes the Hispanic-American community in Maryland in several serious ways. The end result that a law that was supposed to help us actually makes affordable and quality health care even harder to find. One issue that has received too little attention is how Obamacare affects patient choice and doctor-patient relationships. These are major issues for Hispanic-Americans. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, we're the least likely demographic to seek out medical attention. A full 42 percent of Hispanics don't visit the doctor even once a year. When we do go to see a doctor, we're very picky

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02/12/2014

## **OBAMA INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE**

**VO: 19**

President Barack Obama has increased the minimum wage for a few hundred thousand federal contractors -- and he's pressing Congress to pass broader legislation that would apply to all workers. During his State of the Union address last month, Obama first announced that he would sign an executive order to boost the wages of some contractors. He signed it today in a White House ceremony, flanked by Americans who would make more money if lawmakers were to take more sweeping action. The executive order -- which raises the hourly wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 -- applies only to a small percentage of the more than 2 million federal contractors. But officials hope it will generate momentum for Obama's proposal for a broader increase in the minimum wage.

## **SENATE MILITARY PENSION**

**VO: 21**

The Senate voted 95-to-3 in favor of the bill, which the House passed Tuesday. The measure reinstates cost-of-living hikes in the pensions for all current retirees and anyone who enlisted before Jan. 1. President Obama is expected to sign the bill in the coming days. In December, a deal to fund the federal government led Congress to trim a full percentage point from cost-of-living raises for military retirees starting in 2015, yielding \$6.3 billion in savings. The move sparked outrage among veterans and retiree groups, who accused Congress of "betraying" promises made to those who risked their lives in wars overseas. The cuts would decrease the pensions of 750,000 military personnel. Over the course of their lifetime, those cuts would trim, on average, around \$69,000 from enlisted members' pensions and \$87,000 from officers' pensions, according to a Congressional Research Service report this month.

## **PRESIDENTIAL CALL**

**LOURDES MELUZA/ WASHINGTON, DC**

**PKG 2:15**

The Affordable Care Act has a Hispanic problem: Eligible and uninsured Hispanics, in the states where their numbers are greatest, have not flocked to sign up for coverage options made available by the health law. On Tuesday, the Obama administration stepped up its effort to change that with a report emphasizing the large number of uninsured Hispanics in the United States and their high rates of eligibility for government aid. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, almost eight in 10 eligible uninsured Hispanics nationwide - roughly 8.1 million - qualify for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program or financial aid to buy a health plan on federal and state insurance exchanges. About 3.4 million Hispanics in Florida qualify for some form of government help getting health insurance, according to the report, and almost 1 million of them are uninsured. In the Miami-Hialeah area - an area highlighted in the report - about 394,000 residents are eligible uninsured Hispanics, accounting for about 37 percent of the state's total.

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02/13/2014

## STATE OF EMERGENCY IN VARIOUS PLACES BECAUSE OF WINTER STORM

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ / NEW YORK

PKG 2:18

Five states declared states of emergency, as more than half a million customers lost power throughout Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina on Wednesday. The storm moved up into the I-95 corridor spreading a swath of heavy snow across the region and impacting many of the Northeast's major cities including, Washington, D.C., Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York, Albany, Boston and Bangor. Up to 28 inches of snow were reported in some regions of Virginia, as thunder sleet was seen around the Baltimore area. So far the storm has canceled more than 10,000 flights between Wednesday and Thursday and has killed at least twenty people across the South and Northeast.

## DRIVER LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN CHICAGO

ENRIQUE GARCIA FUENTES / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PKG: 2:05

The government of Illinois began delivering temporary driving licenses for undocumented immigrants, which will allow them to drive within the state.

Looking to increase security on Illinois' highways, the state's government began to deliver driving licenses last Tuesday, December 3 in Chicago, Springfield and Bloomington, according to news agency EFE. To get a license, an important requisite is that every immigrant present themselves at state offices and is able to prove they've been living in the state for at least a year, along with bringing a photo ID and make a payment of \$30.

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02/14/2014

## MANY DEMOCRATS STILL BELIEVE IN IMMIGRATION REFORM

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

**PKG: 2:13**

Some Democrats are signaling that they could support an immigration-reform plan from House Republicans that could end the Obama administration's record number of deportations. The plan would give legal status, if not outright citizenship, to millions of immigrants who entered the country illegally. But first they want to see the substance of the legislation. In a press call hosted by the pro-immigrant group America's Voice on Friday, Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., said the set of broad principles released by House leadership on Thursday is an "excellent starting point." In the one-page document, Republican lawmakers stated they will not support a "special path to citizenship" for undocumented immigrants. Given that clear but broad standard, Gutierrez now believes a pathway to citizenship can eventually be achieved. He just wants to see more details.

#### **FEDERAL PERMISSION FOR BANKS TO OPEN MARIJUANA DISPENSARY BUSINESS ACCOUNTS**

**VO: 0:23**

The marijuana industry breathed a sigh of relief Friday after federal banking regulators issued long-awaited permission for them to access basic banking services. But Colorado's pot pioneers said more needs to be done to bring the industry full legitimacy. The U.S. Justice and Treasury departments issued guidance Friday intended to increase the availability of financial services for legal marijuana businesses that are licensed and regulated, while preserving the government's enforcement power. It was welcome news for marijuana businesses that have lost bank accounts and struggled to pay employees and taxes in cash.

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**02/15/2014**

#### **PRESIDENTIAL HELP FOR DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA**

**VO: 0:36**

President Barack Obama drew a link between climate change and California's drought, and said the U.S. must do a better job of figuring out how to make sure everyone's water needs are satisfied. On a tour of central California on Friday, Obama warned that weather-related disasters will only get worse. "We can't think of this simply as a zero-sum game. It can't just be a matter of there's going to be less and less water so I'm going to grab more and more of a shrinking share of water," Obama said after touring part of a farm that is suffering under the state's worst drought in more than 100 years.

=====END OF PART ONE=====