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Subject: Clips - Friday, March 1, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News

Associated Press: Ground being broken on inland port in upstate SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=A1TmVgk5

Staff Report

South Carolina is breaking ground on a new inland port in Greer in a development that should help both shippers and motorists. Gov. Nikki Haley, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and South Carolina Ports Authority CEO Jim Newsome are scheduled to be on hand for the groundbreaking Friday afternoon. The port, expected to cost as much as \$25 million, will more efficiently move shipping containers and other goods by rail to the Port of Charleston. Port officials also estimate it eliminate 50,000 truck trips a year on busy Interstate 26 between Charleston and the Greenville-Spartanburg area.

Post and Courier: State politicians debate Medicaid expansion on talk show

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130228/PC16/130229206/1005/state-politicians-debate-medicaid-expansion-on-talk-show>

Lauren Sausser

The fate of Medicaid expansion in South Carolina has already been decided, according to one Republican lawmaker. Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, speaking on SCETV's weekly political talk show, "This Week in the State House," said Thursday that Gov. Nikki Haley told the federal Department of Health and Human Services that the state will not accept federal money to participate in the expansion — an optional program under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Note: "That decision has been made. It's an executive decision that has been made," Smith said. Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey said the governor formalized her decision in her annual State of the State Address. On the program Thursday, Smith said Haley made a smart choice to decline the expansion because the state's Medicaid program is already too expensive and isn't making South Carolinians healthier

Post and Courier: Nikki Haley peruses 1st District field

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC16/130309957/1177/nikki-haley-peruses-1st-district-field>
Robert Behre

All but one of the 16 Republicans vying in their party's 1st Congressional District primary fielded more than a dozen questions Thursday and parted ways on several major issues. Earlier forums have taken the same amount of time, about two hours, but got around to posing as few as two questions for the field, or allowed only two candidates to answer, skipping over the rest.

Note: About 150 people, many from the Lowcountry's port community showed up, as did Gov. Nikki Haley, who has remained neutral in the primary so far. Her reaction when it was over? "A good time," she said.

The State: SC Investment Commission vote censures state treasurer

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/28/2653023/investment-commission-votes-to.html>

Adam Beam

The Retirement System Investment Commission voted Thursday to censure state Treasurer Curtis Loftis for "engaging in false, misleading and deceitful rhetoric." The censure resolution, which carries no penalties, quoted dozens of newspaper articles, blog posts, and radio and TV interviews, dating back to 2009, where Loftis publicly criticized the commission — of which Loftis is a member — for how it manages the state's \$26 billion retirement fund for public-sector workers.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley — who has feuded with fellow Lexington Republican Loftis in the past — "disagrees with the spirit" of the censure, according to her spokesman Rob Godfrey. "It's unproductive and unprofessional," Godfrey said. "She is disappointed in the disrespect shown to the treasurer, with whom the governor will continue to work to deliver results for the people of the state."

Associated Press: Retirement commission censures SC treasurer

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aTK79GrY

Staff Report

The board that invests public workers' pension money has censured South Carolina Treasurer Curtis Loftis for what it calls his "false, misleading and deceitful rhetoric" about his fellow commissioners. Loftis says he will not be silenced and considers the censure a badge of honor. The 5-1 vote Thursday is the latest in the ongoing feud between the Republican treasurer and the previously low-key board responsible for the state's nearly \$27 billion portfolio. Only Loftis voted "no."

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South Carolina News

Associated Press: Boeing cuts back on contract workers at SC plant

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mSuhKdfS

Bruce Smith

Boeing is trimming the number of temporary contract workers employed at its South Carolina assembly plant. The company says the reductions have been planned for some time and have nothing to do with battery problems in its 787 jetliners. Spokeswoman Candy Eslinger says the North Charleston plant employs more than 6,100 workers including regular employees and contract workers. Eslinger says it is standard practice in the industry to use contract workers when production at a plant is being ramped up.

Post and Courier: Report: Boeing cutting workers at North Charleston plant

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC05/130309959/1165/report-boeing-cutting-workers-at-north-charleston-plant>

Brendan Kearney

After years of fast-paced growth, Boeing South Carolina is weaning itself off the contract workers who have helped get the company's 787 plant off the ground. The aerospace giant on Thursday acknowledged that it is starting to eliminate some of the temporary hired hands at its North Charleston manufacturing campus. The workforce reductions were first reported by The Wall Street Journal, which, citing an unidentified person, said the cuts could total hundreds of workers.

Associated Press: SC panel tweaks bill on improving cyber-security

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1ynsgsPz

Staff Report

A Senate panel has decided not to create a whole new agency for the state's cyber-security officer. The subcommittee amended Thursday a bill meant to centralize oversight of state computer systems and prevent another massive breach of taxpayers' information. It will next meet Tuesday.

Post and Courier: MUSC wants to opt of proposed information security protocol

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC16/130309964/1005/musc-wants-to-opt-of-proposed-information-security-protocol>

Stephen Largen

The Medical University of South Carolina wants to opt out of information security guidelines that a new state official would develop under a proposed bill in the state Senate, school officials told a panel of senators Thursday. The measure introduced by Anderson GOP Sen. Kevin Bryant calls for the establishment of a Division of Information Security that would be dedicated to the protection of the state's information and cybersecurity infrastructure.

The State: Cold med RX could be price for SC war on meth

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/28/2653884/sc-bill-would-require-prescription.html>

Adam Beam

A proposed S.C. law would make you get a prescription to buy some common cold medicines. The bill is designed to combat production of methamphetamine, or "meth," a dangerously addictive drug that is also dangerous to make. But critics worry the bill would do more harm than good, driving up costs for consumers and possibly increasing the state's Medicaid costs.

The State: Meth law should target criminals, not families (Opinion)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/28/2651905/philips-meth-law-should-target.html>

Sunny Phillips

As a mother of four and longtime South Carolinian, I am concerned about our state's methamphetamine problem. We've all seen the news reports and heard stories about the highly addictive drug and what it can do to users, families and entire communities. Whatever our leaders decide to do, there's no question that we must all work together to get the meth cooks out of our state.

Associated Press: DHEC director giving speech on obesity

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lyVAXoKg

Staff Report

The chief of South Carolina's public health department is speaking to a group about obesity. Department of Health and Environmental Control director Catherine Templeton is on Hilton Head Island on Friday to speak to a leadership gathering sponsored by Furman University's Riley Institute.

The State: SC DHEC chief says she won't risk health in rules review

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/01/2654311/deepasc-dhec-chief-says-she-wont.html>

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina's environmental protection chief said Thursday she's looking to cut unneeded regulations that bog down businesses – but not at the expense of public health or the environment. Speaking to the S.C. Water Quality Association, Catherine Templeton said she's run across some suspect regulations since taking control at the Department of Health and Environmental Control one year ago.

Greenville News: Greer woman named to mental health board

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130301/NEWS/303010108/Greer-woman-named-mental-health-board>

Staff Report

Marci DeWolf of Greer has been appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley and the legislative delegation to the Greenville County Mental Health Center board of directors. DeWolf previously served on the Florida State Board of Mental Health Counseling, Clinical Social Work, and Family Therapy.

The State: SC's Sen. Tim Scott: A black Republican without horns (Opinion)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/01/2653769/bolton-scs-sen-tim-scott-a-black.html>

Warren Bolton

For anyone who might be wondering, U. S. Sen. Tim Scott does not have horns. I spotted no such devilish details when South Carolina's newly appointed junior senator visited our editorial board last week. And to their surprise, African-Americans in attendance at one of Mr. Scott's recent speaking engagements didn't get a glimpse of horns either.

Post and Courier: A sign of discontent on the Isle of Palms? (Opinion) (CD1)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC16/130309961/1005/hicks-column-a-sign-of-discontent-on-the-isle-of-palms>

Brian Hicks

The new Mike Sottile highway signs on the Isle of Palms are not 20 feet tall, as some folks have suggested. They're only 10 — but they are 5 feet wide. And that's big enough to be a small problem for the former mayor and current state representative.

Post and Courier: Curtis Bostic aims to get more Americans involved in political process

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130228/PC16/130229190/1005/curtis-bostic-aims-to-get-more-americans-involved-in-political-process>

Robert Behre

Ask Curtis Bostic why he is running for the 1st Congressional District seat, and the former Charleston County Councilman offers an answer much like many of his opponents. "This sounds political, but it's the truth: the sincere belief that we Americans have to make a change of course over the next few years or we're going to have catastrophic problems," he says.

McClatchy News: Former SC schools chief to leave federal agency

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/28/2653897/former-sc-schools-chief-to-leave.html>

Emma Kantrowitz

Inez Tenenbaum, the former S.C. schools superintendent, said Thursday that she will not seek another term as chairwoman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Tenenbaum, a Lexington Democrat, was appointed to the position by President Barack Obama in June 2009, and says that after four years, she is

ready to pass the baton.

McClatchy News: Clyburn worries Voting Rights Act in peril

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/28/2653890/clyburn-worries-voting-rights.html>

James Rosen

House Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn, speaking Wednesday at the cottage where Abraham Lincoln drafted the Emancipation Proclamation, celebrated its 150th anniversary but warned that one of the most important products of the slain president's visionary leadership is under threat at the Supreme Court. Clyburn, the only African-American to hold a leadership post in Congress, also noted the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and the now-famous "I Have a Dream" speech delivered to hundreds of thousands by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial.

Associated Press: SLED begins SC speaker investigation

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7XqAQOWH

Staff Report

State police have officially begun investigating an ethics complaint against House Speaker Bobby Harrell. State Law Enforcement Division spokesman Thom Berry said Thursday that agents had been assigned to the investigation. On Feb. 14, Attorney General Alan Wilson forwarded to SLED a complaint accusing Harrell of violating state ethics laws. South Carolina Policy Council president Ashley Landess has alleged Harrell used his office to boost his finances by using undue influence to get a permit for his pharmaceutical business.

Post and Courier: SLED launches investigation of House Speaker Bobby Harrell

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC16/130309962/1165/sled-launches-investigation-of-house-speaker-bobby-harrell>

Stephen Largen

State Law Enforcement Division agents have begun investigating allegations that House Speaker Bobby Harrell used his campaign account and legislative office for personal gain, the agency confirmed Thursday. S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson last month asked SLED to conduct a preliminary inquiry into a complaint against Harrell filed by S.C. Policy Council President Ashley Landess.

Associated Press: DOE: Budget cuts may slow nuclear waste cleanup

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EA8n5Udl

Matthew Daly

Cleanup of radioactive waste at nuclear sites across the country - including one in Washington state where waste tanks may be leaking 1,000 gallons per year - would be delayed under automatic spending cuts set to take effect Friday. Energy Secretary Steven Chu says the cuts would delay work at the department's highest-risk sites, including the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash., where six tanks are leaking radioactive waste left over from decades of plutonium production for nuclear weapons.

Associated Press: SC committee on children releases recommendations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5uloFZIO

Seanna Adcox

Testing students' readiness for first grade and requiring prescriptions for meth-making medicines are among the recommendations of a committee that advocates for South Carolina's children. The joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children released its priorities for 2013 on Thursday. Its wide array of recommendations focus on reducing childhood obesity, injuries and trauma, as well as improving school readiness and increasing immunization coverage.

Associated Press: Utility: New nuclear plant in Ga. over budget

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Crzjeu4q

Ray Henry

Southern Co. said Thursday it will exceed its original budget to build a first-of-its-kind nuclear plant, a troubling development for an industry long plagued by cost overruns. The Atlanta-based utility formally asked regulators to raise its budget to build two more nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle (VOH'-gohl) by about \$737 million to roughly \$6.85 billion. Additional costs are possible. Companies designing and building the plant have sued the utility seeking \$425 million for unexpected project costs, though the utility has filed its own suit and denies responsibility for those expenses.

Associated Press: African American Chamber hosts nuclear energy talk

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lyVAXoKg

Staff Report

The South Carolina African American Chamber of Commerce is bringing utility leaders and politicians together to discuss the future of nuclear power and engineering. The forum, entitled Nuclear Matters: Redefining Our Energy Future, will be held Friday evening at Allen University.

The State: Wet winter gives hope for break from drought

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/28/2653313/wet-winter-gives-hope-for-break.html>

Joey Holleman

A wet end to a roller-coaster winter of precipitation has recharged the state's drought-shrunken waterways. The state still could sink into serious drought conditions later in the year, but at least most areas are in better shape heading into the spring and summer. The southern coast and lower Savannah River regions exit February downright saturated. Both Charleston (10.47 inches) and Savannah (9.75 inches) set all-time records for the wettest month of February, and Augusta (10.03 inches) had its third wettest February, according to the National Weather Service.

The Post and Courier: Founder of GenPhar testifies in federal trial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC16/130309963/1005/founder-of-genphar-testifies-in-federal-trial>

Natalie Caula

Jian-Yun "John" Dong left what he called a suppressive government in China and never intended to return when he traveled to the United States to study in the 1980s. The 56-year-old kept his composure Thursday as he told a jury in a federal courtroom in Charleston that, as an "intellectual," he had been persecuted in the country and even arrested once and beaten by Chinese police.

The State: Friends remember CCU student as search continues for his killer

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/01/2653999/friends-remember-ccu-student-as.html>

Amanda Kelley and Tonya Root

Anthony Liddell was a kind-hearted good person who laughed a lot, according to friends who spoke of him at a candlelight vigil at Coastal Carolina University Thursday night. More than 100 people filled the courtyard inside the Robin W. and Thomas W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts building for the vigil honoring the CCU sophomore who was fatally shot Tuesday. The turnout wasn't surprising to Cevquan King, who has known Liddell since childhood and made the trip from Bennettsville with about 10 others.

Associated Press: SC students have chance to study interviewing

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8kJpPC6a

Staff Report

Some living civil rights icons are sharing their stories with South Carolina high school students during a summit in Columbia. South Carolina Educational Television says its Civil Rights and Social Justice Youth Media Summit gets under way Friday. During the three-day meeting, ETV says students will get to learn about recording interviews by recording accounts from people like Judge Ernest A. Finney Jr., the first black justice appointed to South Carolina's Supreme Court. Other participants include Henri Monteith Treadwell, who was one of three students who desegregated the University of South Carolina in 1963.

The State: U of SC moves ahead with law school

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/28/2653898/u-of-sc-moves-ahead-with-law-school.html>

Andy Shain

University of South Carolina trustees Thursday approved paying for more than half of a new \$80 million law school building with bonds backed by students' tuition payments. The school will look to secure up to \$48.1 million in bonds to pay for the building, in the block bounded by Gervais, Pickens, Senate and Bull streets.

Associated Press: South Carolina to add sand volleyball

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uQDZuqD8

Staff Report

South Carolina's board of trustees has approved adding the sport of sand volleyball to the athletic department. Athletic director Ray Tanner said Thursday the sport would begin play in 2014 and indoor women's volleyball assistant Moritz Moritz would take over as the new team's first coach. The board also approved construction of a playing facility in the school's athletic village located on campus.

Associated Press: South Carolina says football tickets going up \$45

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gCxqtMMx

Staff Report

Football ticket prices are going up at South Carolina. The school announced a \$45 increase to season ticket prices for 2013, raising the cost to \$365 a seat for the Gamecocks seven-game schedule. The school said Thursday it has not raised football season tickets since 2008.

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Hyperlocal News

Greenville News: Freedom Riders roll into Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130301/NEWS/303010109/Freedom-Riders-roll-into-Upstate>

E. Richard Walton

Mariama DeRamus was among the 160 Freedom Riders who stopped in Greenville on Thursday as part of a multicity tour to support the retention of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. A Selma resident, DeRamus said it is critical for her generation not to waste the civil rights gains attained by her grandparents' generation.

Associated Press: Greenville school disinfects after student's death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KpmfTQvW

Staff Report

Officials are disinfecting a Greenville school after a 5-year-old student went home sick and died hours later. Greenville County School District spokesman Oby (Oh-BEE) Lyles says the Blythe Elementary Academy student who died Tuesday may have had a viral illness.

Associated Press: Coroner: No public health threat from child death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8f2pCwsl

Staff Report

Authorities say there is no public health threat related to the death of a 5-year-old Greenville student who went home sick and died hours later. A cleaning crew has disinfected Blythe Elementary Academy, and Deputy Coroner Barry Wright says parents should not be concerned that their children are at risk.

Post and Courier: First JetBlue flight to Charleston greeted with a rainbow

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC05/130309992/1177/first-jetblue-flight-to-charleston-greeted-with-a-rainbow>

Warren Wise

When JetBlue Airways announced in September that it would start service out of Charleston at the end of February, Lynette Harrison was one of the first to book a flight to New York. She jumped at the chance to reserve seats on the discounted inaugural flights for herself and her husband, James, so they could celebrate her birthday on Saturday and the birthday of her daughter, Tanesha Williams, who lives in New York, on Sunday.

Associated Press: Charleston bus drivers to vote on new contract

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cHXHiAjM

Staff Report

Union school bus drivers in Charleston are about to vote on a new contract. The drivers plan to vote on a new contract Saturday. The president of Teamsters Local 509, L.D. Fletcher, says if union members reject the contract, a strike would begin Monday. School bus drivers in Charleston, Beaufort and Dorchester counties work for a private company and have been involved in a dispute over a new contract since last summer.

Associated Press: Bluffton woman gets 2 years for embezzlement

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uDgNkwse

Staff Report

A Bluffton woman has been sentenced to two years in prison for embezzling more than \$140,000 from a property management company. The Island Packet of Hilton Head reported (<http://bit.ly/XqRZCK>) that 41-year-old Christie Linares worked as a bookkeeper for seven years for a commercial property management company in Bluffton. Prosecutors say the embezzlement began in 2010 when the owner moved out of the area and Linares was given authority to sign checks.

Associated Press: Additional parishes join Episcopal Church suit
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IRX9AToW

Staff Report

Three more parishes that split from the national Episcopal Church have joined a lawsuit seeking to keep the property of the parishes that have left. There are now 34 parishes as parties in litigation brought by The Diocese of South Carolina asking a judge to keep a half billion dollars in church property under the control of the diocese and not the national church.

The State: Chance of snow in Midlands Saturday night
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/01/2654319/chance-of-snow-in-midlands-saturday.html>
Joey Holleman

There's a slim chance of a few snow flurries Saturday night in the Midlands, according to the National Weather Service. The moisture associated with a low moving system through the state Saturday appears limited. A light rain is possible late Saturday morning and into the afternoon. As the temperatures drop Saturday night and the system moves out, the National Weather Service said it can't rule out a few flurries. Accumulation on roads isn't expected.

Post and Courier: Local governments should make call on dumping rules (Opinion)
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC1002/130309982/1021/local-governments-should-make-call-on-dumping-rules>
Donald R. Moorhead

Currently, a bill designated as H. 3290 is before the Senate Medical Affairs Committee in the South Carolina General Assembly. What started out as a local issue involving only Horry County has now been amended and would adversely affect all 46 counties in the state of South Carolina.

Post and Courier: Keep local control of waste (Opinion)
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC1002/130309989/1021/keep-local-control-of-waste>
Editorial

Most people would like to have a say in whether waste from New York City is dumped next door to them. As they should. But a bill that passed the S.C. House and is before the Senate would strip counties of their authority to regulate waste disposal. It's a bad bill, which the Senate should reject, or amend significantly.

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National News

Greenville News: Upstate businesses, residents brace for sequester effects
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130301/NEWS09/303010111/Upstate-businesses-residents-brace-sequester-effects>

Ron Barnett, David Dykes and Angelia Davis

Frustrated and fearful, Upstate residents, small business owners and industry leaders tell GreenvilleOnline.com that they can't believe their government missed its own deadline – set in 2011 – for stopping \$85 billion in automatic spending cuts, and it has them worried how the sequestration would affect everything from their children's education to their ability to hire new workers. Wanda Jackson was edgy Thursday at A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School of Engineering, and it wasn't the task of trimming laminated folders for students there that had her feeling that way. It was what the federal government is doing – or not doing – on the budget impasse.

Post and Courier: Sequestration blues has Lowcountry seeing red
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC16/130309955/1165/sequestration-blues-has-lowcountry-seeing-red>

Andrew Knapp and Schuyler Kropf

With all the political noise coming out of Washington, Celine McCoy of Goose Creek says she lost the last bit of faith in government "about two years ago." Restaurant owner Denis O'Doherty thinks Congress, by design, is hard-wired to keep Americans living in fear. And West Ashley resident Tom Lewis thinks politicians have spent so much time in the D.C. bubble that they've lost focus on who they're supposed to be helping.

Associated Press: US Army offers citizenship track for needed skills

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9istTJI0

Susanne M. Schafer

Carolyn Chelulei came to the United States from Kenya on a student visa for a college education, but now the Army is offering her the chance to stay for good as a citizen. The 23-year-old is one of several hundred immigrants whose specialized skills, either in languages or in their professional background, make them eligible for a Pentagon program that repays service in uniform with an accelerated path to citizenship. "I am excited about it," Chelulei said while visiting in her recruiter's office. "I like helping people, and I think I will be a great asset to America, to the Army."

Associated Press: Federal spending cuts imminent; Senate rejects stopgap measures

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC05/130309978/1005/federal-spending-cuts-imminent-senate-rejects-stopgap-measures>

David Espo

Squabbling away the hours, the Senate swatted aside last-ditch plans to block \$85 billion in broad-based federal spending reductions Thursday as President Barack Obama and Republicans blamed each other for the latest outbreak of gridlock and the administration readied plans to put the cuts into effect. So entrenched were the two parties that the Senate chaplain, Barry Black, opened the day's session with a prayer that beseeched a higher power to intervene. "Rise up, O God, and save us from ourselves," he said of cuts due to take effect sometime today.

Associated Press: Congress passes bill renewing anti-violence against women act

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC1601/130309979/1005/congress-passes-bill-renewing-anti-violence-against-women-act>

Jim Abrams

House Republicans raised the white flag Thursday on extending domestic violence protections to gays, lesbians and transsexuals after months of resisting an expansion of the Violence Against Women Act. GOP leaders, who had tried to limit the bill before last November's election, gave the go-ahead for the House to accept a more ambitious Senate version written mainly by Democrats.

Associated Press: Dennis Rodman hangs with his 'friend for life,' N. Korea's Kim Jong Un

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130301/PC1601/130309983/1005/dennis-rodman-hangs-with-his-x2018-friend-for-life-x2019-n-korea-x2019-s-kim-jong-un>

Jean H. Lee

Ex-NBA star Dennis Rodman hung out Thursday with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the third day of his improbable journey with VICE to Pyongyang, watching the Harlem Globetrotters with Kim and later dining on sushi and drinking with him at his palace. "You have a friend for life," Rodman told Kim before a crowd of thousands at a gymnasium where they sat side by side, chatting as they watched players from North Korea and the U.S. play, according to Alex Detrick, a spokesman for the New York-based VICE media company.

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