

Obama Warns Syria Against Chemical Weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama warned Syria on Monday that the use of chemical weapons would be “totally unacceptable” and that the country’s leaders would be held accountable.

Obama said that if Syrian President Bashar Assad made the “tragic mistake” of deploying chemical weapons, there would be consequences. Obama stopped short of detailing those consequences.

Obama’s comments came as U.S. officials said intelligence had detected Syrian movement of chemical weapons components in recent days.

The White House said earlier Monday that it was increasingly concerned that the beleaguered regime in Syria might be considering use of chemical weapons against its own people and warned that doing so would “cross a red line.”

White House press secretary Jay Carney said U.S. officials were closely monitoring Syria’s proliferation of sensitive materials and facilities, as opposition to the Syrian government grows.

Prince William And Kate Expecting First Child

LONDON (AP) — The most widely anticipated pregnancy since Princess Diana’s in 1981 is official: Prince William’s wife, Kate, is pregnant.

St. James’s Palace announced the pregnancy Monday, saying that the Duchess of Cambridge — formerly known as Kate Middleton — has a severe form of morning sickness and is currently in a London hospital. William is at his wife’s side.

News of the pregnancy drew congratulations from across the world, with the hashtag “royalbaby” trending globally on Twitter.

The couple’s first child will be third in line to take the throne — leapfrogging the gregarious Prince Harry and possibly setting up the first scenario in which a U.K. female heir could benefit from new gender rules about succession.

The palace would not say how far along the 30-year-old duchess is, only that she has not yet reached the 12-week mark. Palace officials said the duchess was hospitalized with hyperemesis gravidarum, a potentially dangerous type of morning sickness where vomiting is so severe no food or liquid can be kept down. They said she was expected to remain hospitalized for several days and would require a period of rest afterward.

CDC Says Flu Season Has Arrived Early

NEW YORK (AP) — Flu season in the U.S. is off to its earliest start in nearly a decade — and it could be a bad one.

Health officials on Monday said suspected flu cases have jumped in five Southern states, and the primary strain circulating tends to make people sicker than other types. It is particularly hard on the elderly.

“It looks like it’s shaping up to be a bad flu season, but only time will tell,” said Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The good news is that the nation seems fairly well prepared, Frieden said. More than a third of Americans have been vaccinated, and the vaccine formulated for this year is well-matched to the strains of the virus seen so far, CDC officials said.

Higher-than-normal reports of flu have come in from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. An uptick like this usually doesn’t happen until after Christmas. Flu-related hospitalizations are also rising earlier than usual, and there have already been two deaths in children.

Egypt’s Political Crisis Widens With Strikes

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt’s political crisis is widening, with plans for a huge march and a general strike Tuesday to protest the hurried drafting of a new constitution and decrees by President Mohammed Morsi that gave him nearly unrestricted powers.

Morsi also faces the prospect of wider civil disobedience as media, the tourism industry and law professors pondered moves that would build on a strike by the nation’s judges.

The planned strikes and march raise new fears of unrest, threatening to derail the country’s transition to democratic rule.

“Egypt is a big ship in high seas, and no one should stop its captain from taking it to the shore,” said Morsi’s legal adviser, Mohammed Gaballah, defending his boss.

“The ship must keep moving under any conditions,” he told The Associated Press on Monday.

NY Times Looks To Cut 30 Jobs, Offers Buyouts

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times is looking to cut costs and is offering buyouts to some of its staffers.

The newspaper reported Monday that the company is looking for 30 managers who aren’t in the union to take the buyouts.

Jill Abramson, executive editor of The Times, said in a letter to staff that the newsroom had grown back to the size it was in 2003 with 1,150 people and had to be cut.

The date to decide whether to take a severance package is Jan. 24.

Abramson said that layoffs would be necessary if enough savings weren’t reached through voluntary buyouts.

Police: Girl May Die If Not Returned To Hospital

PHOENIX (AP) — Authorities in Arizona say a girl with leukemia and a heart catheter could die if she isn’t brought back to a Phoenix hospital after her parents inexplicably removed her last week.

Phoenix police are asking anyone with information to come forward. They say U.S. Border Patrol stopped the girl’s father, Luis Bracamontes, as he crossed into Arizona over the weekend.

The man provided no clues and denied being involved in removing her from the hospital. Police are now seeking her mother, Norma Bracamontes.

The 11-year-old girl had been receiving chemotherapy at Phoenix Children’s Hospital. Police say an infection forced doctors to amputate her arm and insert a heart catheter. The device was set to be taken out before her mother walked her out of the hospital Wednesday night.

DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY

When it comes to preventing breast cancer, you need the best technology available.

At Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, you get that.

But you deserve more than technology.

You deserve a facility that works around your busy schedule, with evening and weekend appointments available.

You deserve personal care that makes every appointment about you and you alone.

You deserve dedication to privacy and comfort, in a spa-like luxurious setting.

At Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, you get that too.

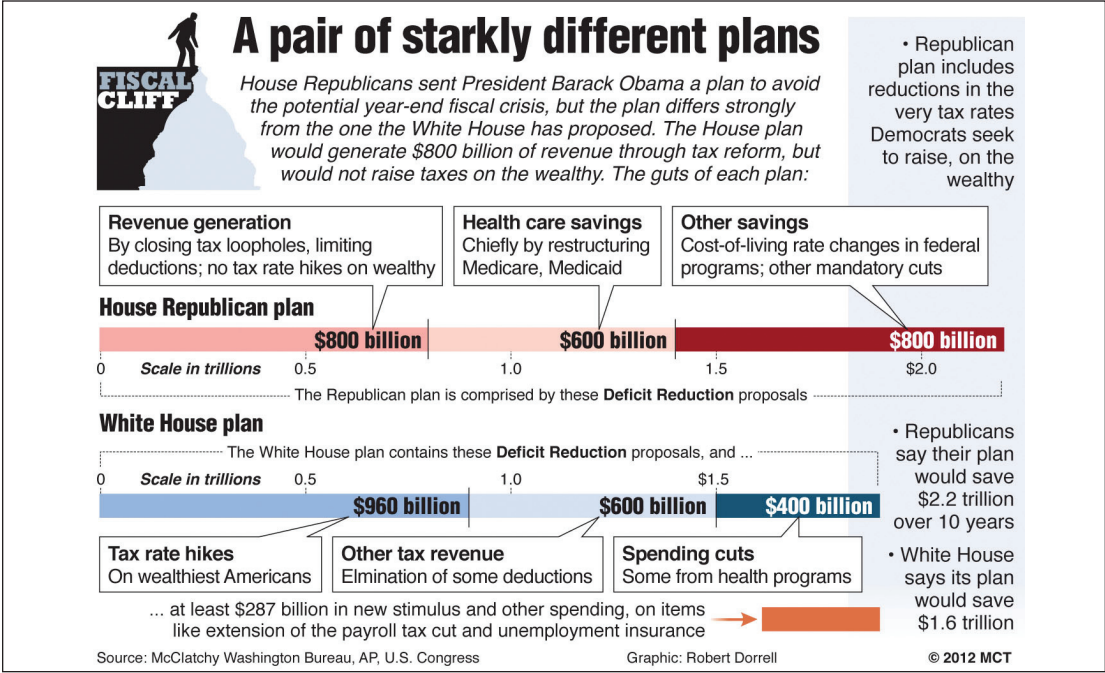
Call (605) 668-8150

Schedule your digital mammogram at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital and get what you deserve.

Avera

Sacred Heart Hospital

www.AveraSacredHeart.org



Small Proposals To Avoid Cliff

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sure the rich may have to pay more in taxes. But a “fiscal cliff” budget deal could mean pain for nearly everyone else, too: higher airline ticket prices, for example, an end to Saturday mail delivery, fewer food stamps and lower farm subsidies.

Each of those changes would make some powerful constituency angry. And even if approved, they would be only a drop in the bucket toward reducing future deficits by trillions of dollars.

Still, all are being looked to as an immediate “down payment” on a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff, a looming \$500 billion combination of automatic spending cuts and tax increases in the first nine months of next year alone.

Every dollar counts, even when the totals are pretty modest compared with a trillion dollars in tax increases and equal or bigger cuts to the huge government health care programs like Medicare and Medicaid that drive the federal budget.

That could mean federal workers, including the military, may soon be contributing more toward their pensions. Republicans may revive efforts to deny child tax credit payments to illegal immigrants. In all, the White House says it can generate \$250 billion over coming years, including billions of dollars from selling excess federal property.

At issue are a handful of long-standing options to trim the federal budget. Several of them, such as increasing airline ticket fees to pay for Transportation Security Administration operations, are ideas from the budgets of both Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

The ideas have been blocked by opponents — often powerful lobbying groups like the airline industry or public employee unions. They have come back to life as policymakers struggle for ways to defray annual trillion-dollar-plus budget deficits.

“All this stuff is hard. There’s nothing easy here,” said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, a member of last year’s failed deficit supercommittee, which sifted through a long roster of budget cuts and new fees. “But if everybody feels like everybody else is contributing, it makes it easier.”

The supercommittee developed a roster but never nailed down any agreements, said an aide to a GOP panel member. If the panel had decided to “go big,” more could have been asked of, say, federal workers or companies with underfunded pension plans. More controversial approaches such as curbing student loan subsidies also might have made it onto the agenda.

The failure of the supercommittee meant that some of the ideas — particularly the less controversial ones — were left vulnerable for plucking by lawmakers, not for deficit reduction but as ways to pay for new spending on things like highways, student loan subsidies and jobless benefits.

Easy-money options like auctioning public airwaves to communications companies (\$15 billion over 10 years) or increased fees on mortgages backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (\$36 billion) have been tapped already.

A longstanding 10-year, \$749 million proposal to limit coal mine cleanup payments to states where problem sites have already been addressed — long blocked by Wyoming senators — was grabbed this summer to help pay for highway programs, as was a \$1.1 billion subsidy for shipping food aid to foreign countries on U.S.-flagged ships.

With the low-hanging fruit already picked, the ideas that remain are generally more controversial.

Take federal workers. They were clipped in February to help pay for extending unemployment benefits for people without jobs for more than six months. Newly hired federal workers now have to contribute an additional 2.3 percent of their pay toward their pensions. That move came after a huge behind-the-scenes battle in which Washington-area lawmakers like Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., succeeded in stifling an effort to make existing workers to contribute more as well.

“Federal employees are the only group in America that’s been asked to make a sacrifice with respect to the national debt. They’ve had their pay frozen for three years in a row. They financed the payroll tax cut extension,” said Rep. Gerry Connelly, D-Va., whose suburban district near Washington is home to 58,000 active federal workers. “They’ve already given.”

So what’s left?

Lots of things that promise to irritate people while doing little to curb the deficit. But as the saying goes, “a billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you’re talking real money.”

A compromise proposal sure to anger airlines and their passengers alike would double from \$2.50 to \$5 the fee per nonstop flight, meaning that the price of a typical roundtrip ticket would rise \$5. It would raise \$1 billion a year.

There’s a longstanding proposal to raise prescription drug copayments for active duty and retired military and to require some to use a mail order program for drugs to treat chronic conditions.

Cutting farm subsidies and food stamps also is being eyed as an alternative to the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts in January. Members of the House and Senate Agriculture committees are struggling to reach a deal on comprehensive farm bill before the end of the year. Even if they do, the potential 10-year saving are not that great: between \$23 billion and \$35 billion, including \$4 billion to \$16 billion in food stamp cuts.

Burglary

From Page 1

from a variety of burglary cases in the region. Incidents from which stolen items have been recovered include a residence in Gayville that was burglarized in September of 2011; a rural Volin residence that was burglarized in March 2012 and had guns and antique collectibles taken; a storage unit east of Yankton that had two televisions taken; a rural Volin residence that was burglarized in February 2012 and had antique silverware and appliances taken; the Lesterville Co-Op that was burglarized in May 2012 and had a computer, tools and other items taken; the Kay-lor Locker that had meat taken; the Keg Steakhouse and Bar in Tabor that was burglarized in July 2012; a Hand County residence; Mark’s Machinery in Yankton; a couple of Huron victims; and the University of South Dakota, which had some computers taken.

“There will be more, I’m guessing,” Vlahakis said.

He added, “This is clearing up a lot of our burglary cases.”

The sheriff’s office has been in contact with other counties to inform them of the property recovered from incidents that occurred in their jurisdictions.

“They’ll have to follow up on the crimes that occurred in those counties, and we’ll eventually turn the property over to them,” Vlahakis said.

The sheriff praised the work of his staff in solving the various burglaries.

“There was a lot of hard work done by the deputies,” Vlahakis said. “They did an excellent job.”

Follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

YOU'RE NEWS!

The Press & Dakotan

IS YOUR WATER TAKING YOU TO THE CLEANERS?

Reduce those hard water problems!

With a Culligan® water softener, you’ll use less cleaning products while making soaps and detergents last longer. So cleaning takes less time while you clean up on the savings on soaps, detergents and a whole lot more. Put Culligan to work on your hard water and start saving today.

- Reduces hard water spots on glasses, shower doors, and bathroom fixtures
- Reduces corrosive build-up on pipes & appliances
- Saves you time & money on cleaning and laundry
- Makes both skin and laundry feel softer

Clean-up on a Culligan water softener today!

\$6.90 per month for the first 3 months

on a water conditioner or reverse osmosis drinking water system

Culligan

Limited time offer. Not valid with any other offers. Dealer participation may vary. Contact your local dealer for details. Installation charges extra. Monthly rental price will increase after the first 3 months. New rental customers only.

Culligan Water Conditioning

600 E. 8th St.
Yankton, SD 57078
Toll Free: (800)-568-6650
CulliganYankton.com

Culligan

better water. pure and simple.®

MC