

## Thune: Party Urge Obama Restraint

PIERRE (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune said congressional leaders and President Barack Obama engaged in a “frank discussion” on Friday as Republicans urged the president not to use executive authority to act alone on significant issues ahead of next year’s GOP-held House and Senate.

Thune was among the leaders of both chambers who met with the president on Friday to discuss their legislative priorities. Republicans will assume leadership of the Senate next year, and Thune is in line to remain the third ranking Senate Republican and become chairman of the Commerce Committee.

If Obama acts unilaterally on high-profile measures like immigration reform, it could amount to “poisoning the water” for working with Republicans on other significant legislation, Thune said.

“There’s always a sense after an election of optimism and hope, and everybody wants to be productive,” Thune said. “We want to open the place up again.”

Obama as expected pushed for funding to combat the Ebola virus and discussed how to combat IS. Republicans have said previously that they want to make changes to the Affordable Care Act and move quickly on the Keystone XL pipeline, which would cut through South Dakota in transporting oil from the Canadian tar sands to Nebraska. Thune said Republicans also wants to work on trade policies and move forward with some of the jobs proposals that have stalled under current Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Thune said he brought up passing a federal highway bill, which is needed to ensure the Highway Trust Fund remains solvent past May of next year. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx will be in South Dakota next week to discuss transportation initiatives. On the Commerce Committee, Thune said he plans to work on a reauthorization bill for the Federal Aviation Administration, cybersecurity legislation and telecommunications measures if they don’t get passed this year.

## Man Faces Charge After Shooting Self

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha man faces a firearms charge after police say he accidentally shot himself.

Police say officers received a call Friday morning about a shooting in southeast Omaha. They arrived and discovered a shooting victim had fled the scene.

Officers eventually located the man, identified as 29-year-old Luel Teny. He told authorities he was trying to secure a gun when he accidentally shot himself. He said he didn’t realize there was a round in the chamber.

Teny was sent to a local hospital and later released. He was then booked at the Douglas County Corrections on suspicion of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Court records do not list an attorney.

## Beatrice Man Charged With Child Porn

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A former Beatrice man has been given more than five years in prison for possessing child pornography.

U.S. Attorney Deborah R. Gilg said 31-year-old Terry L. Dill was sentenced Friday. He will be required to serve five years of supervised release when he completes his prison sentence. He will also need to register as a sex offender.

Authorities began investigating Dill after a file hosting service reported possible child pornography in one of its customer’s files. Search warrants of Dill’s residence and electronic items later revealed digital files containing more than 960 sexually explicit pictures and more than 100 sexually explicit videos of children under the age of 13.

## Worker Charged With Sexual Contact

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A former daycare worker at a facility for Citibank employees in Sioux Falls has been indicted on a sexual contact charge.

Twenty-six-year-old Edward Moss is accused of fondling a 6-year-old girl at Bright Horizons Family Solutions, which is on the campus of Citibank and open only to family members of its employees.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports (http://argusne.ws/1u7gvKC) that Moss was indicted by a grand jury on one count of sexual contact with a child younger than 16. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

The daycare said in an email that Moss had passed a background check prior to the allegations. He has been fired from the job.

Court documents do not list a lawyer for Moss.

## Mitchell Fire Displaces Residents

MITCHELL (AP) — The American Red Cross has opened a center at a church for people displaced by an apartment building fire in Mitchell.

The Thursday night blaze affected 17 units. The Red Cross put up four families in hotels overnight, and was providing supper for affected residents on Friday while assessing the need for overnight sheltering.

Public Safety Chief Lyndon Overweg tells The Daily Republic newspaper that the fire began about 8:45 p.m. Thursday on Main Street, in a building that houses apartments and businesses. Everyone inside got out, though Overweg says one person was injured while exiting the building. He did not have further details.

Overweg says a dog died in the fire.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately determined.

## Custer State Park Visitor Center Gets \$1M Donation

PIERRE (AP) — The James and Eloise Elmen Foundation of Sioux Falls is donating \$1 million to the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation to support a new visitor center at Custer State Park.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the gift will help the park while also memorializing the late James Elmen, who the governor says was a “lifelong advocate for outdoor education, recreation and preservation.”

The state Legislature and the Game, Fish and Parks Department allocated \$2 million for the visitor center project in 2013. The Parks and Wildlife Foundation committed to seeking \$3 million in private funding.

Parks and Wildlife Foundation President Larry Ness says the Elmen Foundation grant puts his foundation in a position to leverage an additional \$800,000 in private funds needed for the project.

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# Nebraska Uranium Mine Granted A 10-Year License Extension

CRAWFORD, Neb. (AP) — Federal regulators have granted a 10-year license extension for a uranium mine in the northern Panhandle of Nebraska that has long been opposed by environmental groups.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced Thursday that it had renewed the license for the Crow Butte Resources mine southeast of Crawford through Nov. 5, 2024, Chadron radio station KQSK said.

Crow Butte’s parent company, Casper, Wyoming-based Cameco Resources, filed for the renewal in 2007. The NRC allowed the operation to continue because of a huge backlog of license filings.

On Friday Cameco spokesman Ken Vaughn said the company was pleased to finally have its license issue resolved

and looked forward to expanding its mining into what he called the Marsland site, which is 7 miles south of its current site. The Crow Butte mine reserves are dwindling, but new production depends on the market.

“Right now the prices remain depressed since Fukushima,” he said, referring to the March 2011 disaster at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan. The Crow Butte plant produced 700,000 pounds of uranium last year, he said.

The mining process at Crow Butte injects a chemical solution similar to bicarbonate of soda into the aquifer to release molecules of uranium, which are pumped to the surface with the water and removed. Most of the water is recycled, and the uranium is dried into a form called yellowcake that is

processed elsewhere.

Environmental groups opposing the mining and production have said the water carrying dissolved uranium has contaminated aquifers, including the Arikaree aquifer underneath the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, across the Nebraska state line in South Dakota. Bruce McIntosh of the Western Nebraska Resources Council said Friday that he couldn’t immediately comment. A spokeswoman for the Oglala Sioux-based group Owe Atu couldn’t be reached.

The NRC said in announcing the extension on Thursday that “there would be no significant environmental impact from continuing operation for another 10 years.”

## Neb. Seeks Waiver For No Child Left Behind Law

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska education officials are moving forward in seeking a waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind law.

After talking with federal education officials about the waiver for months, the Nebraska State Board of Education on Thursday discussed a draft statement indicating it and the education department’s intent to apply. It’s the first time the board said it definitely wants to start the application process, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported.

“We don’t want to wait two more years in the stranglehold of accountability,” said Molly O’Holleran, a

state education board member.

Nebraska, one of the few states that has not sought a waiver, hopes to have an application ready by April.

More than 40 states and Washington, D.C. have waivers from the federal law, which requires 100 percent proficiency in reading and math by this year. The draft statement follows a recent report that shows only half of Nebraska schools met the 100 percent proficient targets.

The No Child Left Behind law, often criticized by education officials as unrealistic, should have been reauthorized seven years ago, but a

gridlocked Congress hasn’t been able to do so.

In 2011, the Obama administration created the waiver process to allow states flexibility related to the law’s requirements and sanctions, such as requiring schools to offer tutoring services or to transport students who want to attend other schools.

Still, states have had issues with the waiver process, because it requires them to follow a process that includes adopting the voluntary Common Core standards and tying student test scores to teacher evaluations. But those requirements might change.

“The board is encouraged by the increasing willingness of the U.S. Department of Education to consider state plans that are designed by state-level policy makers and local school officials,” the board’s draft statement said.

Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt said some states like Utah and Illinois have been successful in getting more flexible waiver extensions. Next week, he said he’ll attend a national meeting where federal education officials are expected to discuss guidelines for the next round of waivers.

## County Board Limits Benefits For Same-Sex Partner

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lancaster County commissioners have decided not to extend most pension plan benefits to same-sex partners of county employees despite a U.S. Supreme Court decision that effectively forced governments to extend certain benefits to same-sex partners.

The county Board of Commissioners on Thursday followed the Nebraska Defense of Marriage Amendment, a state constitutional amendment passed in 2000 that barred same-sex marriage, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported.

“Until the constitution of the state of Nebraska is changed, I will not be in favor to making any change to our particular system, because I am obligated to support the constitution of Nebraska as it stands,” said Commissioner Roma Amundson.

The Supreme Court’s decision last year in U.S. versus Windsor struck down a provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act that denied a range of tax, health and pension benefits to legally married gay couples. County Administrator Kerry Eagan said that meant Lancaster County had to follow federal rules by extending pension

benefits in three areas: hardship withdrawals, minimum required distributions and direct rollovers.

But the decision didn’t bar states from not recognizing same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. That means states and local governments still can decide whether to extend to same-sex partners any benefits that aren’t subject to fed-



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## RTEC Announces Class Dates for Knitting, Tatting, Welding & More!

### Class A CDL Training:

Mitchell Technical Institute will be returning to help SD residents obtain their Class A CDL. Classroom (CDL prep) portion of the class will be held from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 24 & 25, 2014**. Driving times for those completing the entire course (CDL prep + driving hours) will be scheduled with the instructor. Note: The classroom portion of this training satisfies requirements for NE residents working to obtain their NE Class A CDL. Contact RTEC for complete details! Hurry! Must be registered for course by Friday, Nov. 14th.

### Knitting Without Needles Class:

Learn how to make a trendy infinity scarf for yourself or for someone special in this “just for fun” class from **9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014**. You’ll discover how to knit using your arms instead of needles. No previous knitting experience is required, making it ideal for anyone (age 13+) who would like to explore a new crafting technique. Cost is \$21.20 (includes tax). Note: Participants should bring a scissors and two skeins of yarn - either #5 chunky or #6 extra chunky - in their favorite color/colors. Call and sign up today!

### Needle Tatting for Beginners:

Discover the art of needle tatting in this unique two-part “just for fun” class coming to RTEC on **Nov. 21 & 22, 2014**. You’ll spend two hours learning the basics from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday, have a chance to go home and practice and then return for the final part of the class from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. After mastering basics, you’ll be ready to tat lovely edgings, doilies and more. Note: Thread and #10 tatting needles will be provided. However, participants are asked to bring a scissors, a small (#6) crochet hook and a little bit of patience. Cost is \$40.00 (includes tax). Reserve your spot today!

### AWS Certification/Upgrade Welding Classes:

Applications are currently being accepted for the AWS Certification/Upgrade Welding course set to begin on **Jan. 6, 2015**. It will be a 48-hour night class held from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will run through Feb. 12, 2015. Contact RTEC today to learn about possible funding assistance. Cost is \$1,400 plus tax.

### Welding Basics Class:

Want to prepare yourself for a career that’s in high demand? Learn the basics of welding in the next 48-hour course scheduled to begin **Jan. 5, 2015**. Classes will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Mondays & Wednesdays through Feb. 16, 2015. Cost is \$1,400 plus tax. Contact RTEC today and see if you might be eligible for funding assistance.

### Winter Hobby Welding:

Learn the basics of different types of welding so you can create unique welded projects. Make something for your yard or household or even create a keepsake for a loved one in honor of a special occasion or milestone. Hobby class will be held from **7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on three Saturdays - Jan. 17, 24 & 31, 2015**. Perfect for amateurs, artists and hobbyists! Cost is \$137.80 (includes tax). Sign up today!

*Class sizes are limited! Please contact RTEC and register today!*



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