

BRIEFS

Betty is America's most appealing celeb

Betty White is America's most appealing celebrity for the third time, according to a market research firm. White narrowly topped Oscar-winners Sandra Bullock and Tom Hanks on E-Poll Market Research's annual list for 2012, which was released yesterday.



White

(REUTERS)

'Rockefeller' guilty of 1980s murder

Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter, who pretended to be a Rockefeller for years, was convicted yesterday in Los Angeles of first-degree murder, capping a nearly three-decade-old mystery involving a missing couple and a body buried in a San Marino backyard.

(MCT)

Prez makes his budget offer

President Barack Obama waded into Washington's budget wars yesterday with a third entry that offers Republicans a modest concession on entitlement programs but demands that the wealthy pay more in taxes.

His fiscal 2014 budget request is closer in most respects to the modest budget savings passed by Senate Democrats last month than to the deep cuts passed by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives aimed at achieving a surplus by 2023.

Here's how the three budget plans compare in key areas:

DEFICITS

Obama: Projected deficits are slightly higher than the Senate plan in the early years of the next decade and never dip below \$475 billion. But they are lower than the Senate plan in later years and average 2.5% of gross domestic product over 10 years. Cumulative deficit is \$5.27 trillion.

Senate: Deficits fall to around \$400 billion by 2016 and stay in the \$400 billion-\$600 billion range, averaging 2.4% of GDP

over 10 years. Cumulative deficit is \$5.20 trillion.

House: Deficits fall below \$100 billion by 2016 and reach a small surplus in 2023. As a share of GDP, they average 0.6% over 10 years. Cumulative deficit is \$1.23 trillion.

HEALTH CARE

Obama: Seeks \$400 billion in

Obama offers a budget with some concessions to GOP.

health care savings over 10 years. Proposes to increase Medicare premiums after 2017 for wealthier seniors for doctor's visits and drug benefits, generating \$50 billion in 10-year savings.

Senate: Seeks \$265 billion in savings from Medicare through unspecified new efficiencies; \$10 billion in

savings from Medicaid through reductions in some reimbursement rates.

House: Seeks repeal of Obama's health care reforms, clawing back \$1.84 trillion in future spending. Cuts \$756 billion from Medicaid and other health care programs for the poor by turning them into block grants for states. Starting in 2024, turns

Medicare into a voucherlike subsidy to help seniors buy health coverage from private insurers or Medicare system.

TAXES

Obama: Revives past proposals for raising \$580 billion over 10 years from the wealthy. It also proposes a new \$77 billion cigarette-tax increase to fund an early childhood education program and would limit tax-deferred IRAs to \$3 million.

Senate: Seeks \$975 billion in new revenue from closing tax loopholes.

House: Seeks no new tax revenue, but leaves in place the \$620 billion "fiscal cliff" tax hike on the wealthy. Proposes to eliminate wasteful tax deductions, credits and loopholes to lower personal and corporate income tax rates, with just two tax brackets for individuals, 10 and 25%.

(REUTERS)



BLOOMBERG

Judge may overrule city in bike case

The Five Boro Bike Tour won't have to pay a nearly \$1 million fee, a Manhattan judge indicated in court yesterday.

Civil Court Judge Margaret Chan hinted that she will rule the 40-mile tour does not have to pay a fee covering NYPD traffic control costs because it is run by a charitable organization, a source that was in



GETTY

The city wants the Five Boro Bike Tour to pay for its security costs.

the courtroom said.

The fee on "athletic parades" was established in 2011. Bike New York, which runs the tour, was the first organization to sue the city over the fee, arguing it was a charity.

Chan seemed to agree in

court, even questioning the city's commitment to increasing bicycling.

"Isn't that something the city wants to promote?" Chan asked in court, according to reports.

Though it appears Chan's final decision is a

"slam dunk" for Bike New York, the city remains confident, noting the tour costs the NYPD more than \$960,000 to control.

The 32,000-person tour is scheduled for May 5. Bikers pay \$85 to participate.

(ANNA SANDERS)

More gun checks near approval

Two key U.S. senators announced a breakthrough deal yesterday to expand background checks for gun buyers, boosting prospects that the Senate will approve at least some of President Barack Obama's proposed gun restrictions.

The agreement by Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) sets the stage for a Senate debate on a gun-control package starting today, when the Democrat-led chamber is



Sens. Pat Toomey, left, and Joe Manchin announced a breakthrough yesterday.

expected to defeat conservative Republican efforts to block the bill from even reaching a vote. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement that his Mayors Against Illegal Guns coalition "strongly supports this bill."

(REUTERS/AMNY)

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