

Broad View discussion topics for February 25, 2012

1 Koran burning spurs protests at U.S. military base #

U.S. helicopters fired flares to disperse hundreds of angry Afghans who massed outside the main U.S. military base in Afghanistan on Tuesday after hearing staff there had burned copies of the Koran.

2 Final Republican debate

Mitt Romney challenged Rick Santorum's credentials as a fiscal conservative in a fiercely combative debate on Wednesday, trying to redefine Mr. Santorum as part of the problem in Washington and regain his footing in the fight for the Republican presidential nomination.

3 Obama rolls out his new budget

Putting his chips on manufacturing and new energy sources, President Barack Obama rolled out his new \$3.8 trillion budget Monday, trying to balance the August debt accords against his own judgment that too much austerity, too fast will spell trouble for the economy...

4 Obama's birth control mandate already law - no compromise

Despite what President Obama said at his White House press conference, the actual regulations make permanent the "interim final regulations" issued August 3, 2011 — the ones that sparked the furor in the first place.

5 Whitney Houston dead at age 48

Anyone who'd followed reports of Whitney Houston's bizarre behavior in the days leading up to the Grammys had to have been "shocked, but not surprised" at reports of her demise...

6 Confusion and worries about Syria and Iran #

The State Department has begun coordinating with Syria's neighbors to prepare for the handling of President Bashar al-Assad's extensive weapons of mass destruction if and when his regime collapses...

7 Muslim judge in Pennsylvania lectures crime victim for insulting Islam

A Muslim judge in Pennsylvania — who scolded a local atheist for offending Islam, called him a doofus and accused him of "using the First Amendment" to madden Muslims — dismissed harassment charges against the Muslim defendant who purportedly choked the atheist during a Halloween parade.

8 Obama's letter to unemployed carpenter

"I won't lie to you. It will probably take another year or two to fully dig our way out of this hole."

Nevada - State & local news

1 **Bill Raggio dies in Australia - Age 85**

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Raggio's sense of humor and his quips from the floor of the Nevada Senate, the podium of a local service club, the home of a neighbor, or around a table at the Gold 'N Silver or Coney Island are the stuff of legend.

2 **Nevada approves robot-driven cars**

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The concept took a big step when Nevada became the first state to approve regulations that spell out requirements for companies to test driverless cars on state roads.

3 **Harry Reid sneaks Nevada earmark into "earmark free" highway bill**

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If the House highway bill is an excrement sandwich, the Senate version is...well, it's a lot worse. The one saving grace of the bill was that it supposedly did not contain any earmarks. Well, indeed there is one earmark in the bill, and it's directed to Nevada.

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Sports

1 **Sports story of the month: Jeremy Lin**

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The NBA determined there would be too many reporters and cameras to have Lin meet with the media Friday along with the other players in the Rising Stars Challenge. So the league gave him his own availability...