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The Early Word: Fiscal Debates

By JADA F. SMITH

In Today's Times

- President Obama will start the year's fiscal debate on Monday by releasing his election-year budget request, Jackie Calmes reports. It will feature \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years, but also sizable spending increases and tax cuts.
- The sheer number of lobbyists around Mitt Romney's presidential campaign in part reflects the growing embrace of his candidacy by the Republican establishment, including most of the party's elite donors and dozens of members of Congress, Nicholas Confessore writes.
- Newt Gingrich will be largely out of sight to "Super Tuesday" voters this week, as he will detour to California, a state that is rich in Republican donors but will not hold its primary until June, Trip Gabriel writes. Even as he sacrifices time to win over voters, his prospects of raising much-needed campaign cash are uncertain.

Happenings in Washington

- President Obama will present his 2013 budget at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Va. Later, the president and first lady will award the 2011 National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal to recipients in the East Room of the White House.
- The American Women Writers National Museum will have its grand opening celebration Monday afternoon.

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