

Fervor for Jeb Bush as Wall Street plays the 2016 dating game, and more must-reads

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Wall Street Republicans have begun their White House dance less than halfway into Barack Obama's second term, Bloomberg writes, and there's fervor for Jeb Bush, admiration for Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and even flirtation with tea-party senators. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was the early favorite, before he became embroiled in his bridge scandal. The piece details activities such as billionaire Wilbur Ross's lunch invitation to Rep. Paul Ryan. "It's kind of like dating," says Barclays senior adviser Jack Oliver about the process. A former national finance vice chairman for George W. Bush, Oliver adds: "Everybody has a good time, but people are not ready to get married."

The loss by Alex Sink in Tuesday's special House election in Florida was another body blow for Democrats that further weakened their prospects for this year's midterms, Politico writes. Democrats are now scrambling to launch a counteroffensive, and if they don't come up with one fast, the loss could foreshadow a brutal time at the ballot box this fall. "Dems should not try to spin this loss," wrote former Bill Clinton aide Paul Begala on Twitter. "We have to redouble our efforts for 2014."

The pushback against President Barack Obama's proposal to change overtime-pay rules has begun. Obama this week will direct the Labor Department to require overtime pay for several million workers whom many businesses now classify as "executive or professional" employees to avoid paying them overtime. "There's no such thing as a free lunch," Daniel Mitchell of the Cato Institute told the New York Times. He warned employers may cut pay or use fewer workers.

Ukraine's neighbors are joining the U.S. oil and gas industry and congressional Republicans in the push to ease regulations on U.S. natural-gas exports, Roll Call writes. This report says European officials who want to reduce their dependency on Russian gas have seized on the Ukraine situation to mount a major lobbying campaign in Washington. Some of these countries, including Bulgaria, Sweden and the Baltic states, rely on Russia for 100% of their gas supplies.

The Obama administration's regulatory czar wants to speed up the approval process for federal rules, the Hill reports. Howard Shelanski, administrator of the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, told a Senate subcommittee it is a "top priority of [his] to reduce the frequency of extended regulatory reviews and to work with agencies on rules that are already under extended review."