

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: February 23, 2012

Health Care

Whistle-blowers under False Claims Act Key in Health Care Fight

Kelly Kennedy

February 23, 2012

USA Today

Thanks to more money and tougher policies, the Justice Department has recovered billions of dollars lost to health care fraud. Nearly 36% of the \$16 billion recovered to date has come since 2009. Experts say whistle-blowers who report illegal or unethical health care activities are key to the rise in cases in all sectors of health care.

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/story/2012-02-22/health-care-fraud-whistleblowers/53212468/1>

Don't Trash Health Care Reform without A Sensible Solution

Jason Clayworth

February 22, 2012

Des Moines Register

Chief Medical and Scientific Officer of the American Cancer Society Otis Brawley met with Iowa lawmakers to encourage viewpoints of health care coverage from the perspectives of population that don't have it. Brawley says while the health care reform will prove to be more beneficial to lower- and middle-class families, it will not impact wealthier families as much as presumed.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120222/NEWS09/120222030/1007/news05>

Romney, Santorum Trade Shots on Health Care, Federal Bailouts

Associated Press

February 22, 2012

NorthJersey.com

At last night's GOP debate in Mesa, Arizona, all eyes were on Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum as they sparred more aggressively this time around than in the past. One of the most heated points of the debate was about health care as both candidates blamed one another for the health care overhaul derogatorily known as "Obamacare." Santorum blames Romney because of his health care overhaul as governor in Massachusetts while Romney blames Santorum's endorsement of Republican-turned-Democrat Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/Romney_Santorum_debate_health_care_earmarks_in_Arizona.html

Social Security

Social Security and Medicare: Proper Planning Pays Off Big

Mark Miller

February 23, 2012

Morningstar

Columnist Mark Miller outlines tips – some well-known and some little-known respectively – about the entitlement programs that have been hot topics recently. Some of the topics discussed include the complex rules when filing for benefits and how they relate to employment, spousal, and survivor benefits.

<http://news.morningstar.com/articlenet/article.aspx?id=537879>

Social Security: Rules Let Children Get Social Security Check

Martin Coffey

February 23, 2012

Chattanooga Time Free Press

With this FAQ, local Social Security Director Martin Coffey of Chattanooga, TN answers some important questions about Social Security that may not be common knowledge.

<http://timesfreepress.com/news/2012/feb/23/social-security-rules-let-children-get-social-secu/>

Politics

GOP Fears Rise Over 2012 Tone, Message

John F. Harris, Jonathan Martin and Alexander Burns

February 23, 2012

Politico

GOP Leaders fear the disintegration of their party due to their traditional mode of operations. As the party struggles to decide which of the four presidential candidates to fully back on the basis of conservatism, political analysts notice the lack of campaigning toward the independent voter. Furthermore, there are hopes that the campaign to reelect Obama will do much of the work for the GOP, namely in the realm of seniors, women and other politically

influential voting blocs. Many say that 2012 could set the tone for campaign years in the coming election seasons.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0212/73192.html>

Gallup: Romney Up By Four
Jonathan Easley
February 23, 2012
The Hill

The latest Gallup poll shows how President Obama current trails Mitt Romney if the presidential election was held today. Romney leads Obama by 4 percentage points but still trails fellow GOP candidate Rick Santorum in national GOP polls.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/gop-presidential-primary/212225-gallup-romney-leads-obama-by-four-points>

Labor

Union Sues to Block Indiana's Right-to-Work Law
Associated Press
February 23, 2012
USA Today

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 filed a lawsuit in U.S. district Court Wednesday in attempts to block the newly passed right-to-work law in Indiana. Governor Mitch Daniels, Attorney General Greg Zoeller, and Labor Commissioner Lori Torres are all named in the lawsuit. Citing the U.S. Constitution Equal Protection Clause as evidence as well as other rules and regulations in our nation's framework, the union hopes to continue the fight against Indiana as a right-to-work state.

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-02-22/union-indiana-right-to-work/53213596/1>