

Press Clips and Alliance News for October 11, 2011

Alliance Mentions

Affordable Care Act brings free preventive care to Milwaukee seniors
Milwaukee Courier
October 8, 2011

As part of the public education campaign launched by the Department of Health and Human Services the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans in partnership with Know Your Care Wisconsin held informational forum on free preventative care. This forum, that took place at the Clinton Rose Senior Center, was focused on the free care provided under the Affordable Care Act. "Preventative care isn't just for the young guns. Free preventative care means staying healthy and crossing the century mark with a smile. It's great to see the Affordable Care Act providing such important services to so many seniors across the country." said Billy Feitlinger, executive director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans.

<http://milwaukeecourieronline.com/index.php/2011/10/08/affordable-care-act-brings-free-preventive-care-to-milwaukee-seniors/>

'Occupy Wall Street' movement stages first rally in Palm Beach County
The Palm Beach Post
John Lantigua
October 9, 2011



Wellington's Tony Fransetta (right), the state president for the Alliance of Retired Americans, and others participate in the Occupy Lake Worth protest at Bryant Park in Lake Worth on Saturday.

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/occupy-wall-street-movement-stages-first-rally-in-1902879.html>

Alliance People

Occupy Savannah

WSAV

October 11, 2011

Retirees are out getting involved in the "Occupy" movement. Down in Savannah protesters were out in the rain rallying for jobs and regulation of Wall Street.

Watch the video here: <http://www2.wsav.com/news/2011/oct/10/occupy-savannah-99907-vi-105873/>

Letters to the Editor

Letter published in the SF Chronicle, Sept 29, 2011

Raise the Social Security age to 70?

Pushing Social Security eligibility age to 70 would be a disaster.

The author of "Push eligibility age to 70" (Open Forum, Sept 26) only notes the success of the self-employed. Given the discrimination against older workers, raising the age of Social Security would mean more homeless and people living on the street, more on welfare, more on Medi-Cal and living in poverty.

As it is now, Social Security saves many of those over 65 from desperation. The author does not recognize the health problems of those who do hard physical labor, who work for many years for low pay - how many Walmart greeters would be hired under her plan? Has she visited nursing homes, homes for the aged, board and care homes, Section 8 housing? She only observes those ambulatory and visible. She is incredibly naive.

Those wishing to cut Social Security and raise the eligibility age have a plan for the aged - they are proposing homelessness, poverty, untreated illness and misery. (They can't see these problems from within their gated communities.)

Margot Smith, Berkeley

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/09/28/ED7E1LAAKS.DTL#ixzz1ZS9yoqGu>

Medicare

White House used Mitt Romney health-care law as blueprint for federal law

NBC News

Michael Isikoff

October 10, 2011

Recent reports link Obama's Healthcare Act with the one enacted in Massachusetts under Mitt Romney. In fact documents show that Obama's advisors that were tasked with coming up with the new healthcare law met numerous times with top advisors of the Massachusetts healthcare bill. It is important to keep this in mind at Gov. Romney fights for the GOP nomination. He has attempted to distance himself from the healthcare reform passed in his state, yet key Massachusetts advisors say he was closely involved. He is even quoted saying the Massachusetts plan created a path to "expanding coverage to all our citizens." Romney now says he believes this program is wrong for the country, and if elected the first thing he will do is issue a waiver to every state.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44854320/ns/politics-decision_2012#.TpRsj3LdLEx

Politics

Many in Both Parties Want a Window Into the Deficit Reduction Panel's Work

The New York Times

Robert Pear

October 10, 2011

The Super Committee, or the "Super-Secret Committee" as Senator Dean Heller, Republican of Nevada had dubbed it, is facing massive criticism from both Republicans and Democrats. This committee is tasked with cutting \$1.2 trillion over 10 years from the deficit in just six weeks. So far almost all of their deliberations have been in private. Of the two public hearings they did have there was no chance to hear from the American people. Some members of the committee insist that having the committee insulated from public interest and party pressures is the only way to get the job done, but members from both sides of the aisle strongly disagree. "I'm concerned that we are going to be handed a set of recommendations and asked to cast an up-or-down vote with no chance for amendments," Representative Jan Schakowsky of Illinois said. "The American public, and those of us who represent them, deserve to have these questions debated openly."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/11/us/politics/deficit-reduction-panel-is-criticized-for-its-secrecy.html?pagewanted=1&r=2&ref=todayspaper>

In Senate Vote, Administration Jobs Bill Faces Its First Hurdle

The New York Times

Robert Pear

October 11, 2011

Many in the Senate doubt that Obama's Jobs Plan will get the 60 votes it needs. His bill is a combination of public work spending and tax cuts to relieve those trying to find a job in this 'economic emergence.' If the bill fails Senate Democrats plan to split the large bill up into smaller pieces, hoping it will be easier for moderate Republicans and Democrats to swallow this way. This bill is essential to the Obama administration as unemployment is higher than when Obama first took office. Republicans are refusing to compromise on this issue, arguing Obama is using it solely as a platform to get reelected.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/12/us/politics/obamas-jobs-bill-senate-vote.html?hp>

Labor

Bump in the road as local union votes down Ford, United Auto Workers agreement

The Washington Post

Associated Press

October 11, 2011

UAW Local 900 has voted down the agreement the UAW and Ford reached last week. The agreement calls for profit-sharing checks as opposed to raises, and a \$6,000 signing bonus. Members of Local 900 are upset that they are net getting back a number of things they lost such as annual raises and cost-of-living increases. Local 900 is one of the first Locals to vote on the agreement, and their opposition may spell trouble for the union.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/local-union-votes-down-ford-united-auto-workers-agreement/2011/10/11/gIQANVWfcL_story.html