

Alliance News and Press Clips for October 12, 2011

Alliance Mentions

Over the Weekend: McGinn Makes Nice With Occupy Seattle Protesters

Seattle St

Everett Rummage

October 10, 2011



Photo of Seattle Occupy Protesters, courtesy of Puget Sound Alliance of Retired Americans

Seattle major, McGinn, attempts to make nice with Occupy Protestors, releasing a number of encouraging statements and visiting them, bringing gifts of coffee. However, the tone seems to be the only real change. Police are still cracking down on protestors and supporters and they will not be welcome for much longer in the public parks.

http://seattlest.com/2011/10/10/mcginn_makes_nice_with_occupy_seatt.php

Panel pitches benefits of issue backing SB5

Canton Rep

October 5, 2011

The Americans for Prosperity is holding forums around Ohio to show their support of Issue 2. The bill that was passed in Ohio severely limiting collective bargaining rights for public employees. They believe that the repeal of this legislation would be bad for the state. In

opposition to Issue 2 and the Americans for Prosperity is the Ohio Alliance for Retired American, along with other groups. Opponents argue that “passage will make it harder for emergency responders, police and firefighters to negotiate for critical safety equipment and training, and worsen a nursing shortage because it makes it illegal for nurses, hospital and clinic workers to demand reasonably safe staffing levels.”

<http://www.cantonrep.com/carousel/x748727146/Panel-pitches-benefits-of-issue-backing-SB5>

Medicare

Waxman urges supercommittee to leave Medicaid and Medicare alone, extend drug rebates

The Hill

Julian Pecquet

October 11, 2011

Representative Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, is using his seniority to urge the Super Committee to leave Medicare alone. Members have until this Friday to submit suggestions to the Super Committee. In a letter written by Rep. Waxman, he advises that the Super Committee look for spending cuts elsewhere because most of the reduction strategies "should be composed of revenues to balance the spending cuts already enacted." You can read Rep. Waxman's entire letter at the link that follows.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicare/186795-waxman-urges-supercommittee-to-leave-medicaid-and-medicare-alone-extend-drug-rebates>

Group backs Lugar on Medicare stance

The Journal Gazette

Brian Francisco

October 11, 2011

The American Action Network, a group that describes themselves as a “right of center action tank,” is running a campaign supporting Congressmen that “seniors can count on.” This includes 13 Senators and 43 House members, all Republican, that will be facing reelection in 2012. The Network is supporting Congressmen that are against Obama's proposal to increase Medicare prescription drug premiums. Their campaign is puzzling to some though, as they recently took out a half page ad supporting Sen. Richard Lugar, although the ad had nothing to do with his campaign, and he will not face reelection for seven more months.

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20111011/LOCAL0202/111019884>

Politics

Obama's jobs bill stalled in Senate

The Washington Post
Rosalind S. Helderman and David Nakamura
October 11, 2011

Obama's job plan was voted down in the Senate by the GOP. The overwhelming support from the Democratic Party is exactly what the Obama Administration and this bill needed. Senate Democrats now plan to break down the plan into individual parts and vote on it this way. GOP leaders say they much prefer this method, so there can be debate on each principle of the bill.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obamas-jobs-bill-stalled-in-senate/2011/10/11/gIAIoJmdL_story.html?hpid=z3

Deficit super panel is not yet at square one
The Hill
Alexander Bolton
October 12, 2011

The Super Committee, which is tasked with coming up with \$1.2 trillion in cuts by Thanksgiving, has not even passed the first step essential to their negotiations. They still need to establish their baseline. The baseline is how they will determine if they have reached the target \$1.2 trillion in savings. The Super Committee has significant power because it gets to set its own baseline; usually it is set by Senate and House budget committees. If the baseline is not set, the committee has no way of tracking its cuts and savings.
<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/186917-super-panel-is-not-yet-at-square-one>

Labor

Public retirees urge 'No' vote on Issue 2
The Marion Star
John Jarvis
October 11, 2011

Retiree's gathered Monday in the lobby of the Marion, Ohio's City Hall to oppose Issue 2. Issue 2 is a bill that restricts the collective bargaining abilities of public workers. People are rallying in support of repealing the bill in the election this November. The retirees present reminisced over the hardships they endured when they first began working and there were no collective bargaining rights. A time when workers had to provide a lot of their own equipment to supplement what City Hall could not give them.
<http://www.marionstar.com/article/20111011/NEWS01/110110305/?odyssey=nav%7chead>

Chrysler, United Auto Workers agree on contract

USA Today
October 12, 2011

Chrysler and the UAW finally reached agreement yesterday on their union contract. There were a number of sticking points between the two as they worked on the contract. While full details have not yet been released, it is assumed to look similar to the deals made with Ford and GM, although probably not a sweet for the workers. Both Ford and GM made money this quarter while Chrysler lost large amounts. The Chrysler contract will create 2,100 jobs, and the company will invest \$4.5 billion in the plants covering 26,000 workers. Another major point of the contract is a 25% cap on entry-level workers that are paid the lowest rate per hour.

<http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/story/2011-10-12/chrysler-uaw-contract/50740962/1>