

TODAY'S MUST READS – APRIL 23, 2013

## **ALLIANCE PEOPLE**

**LETTER: NO CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY CPI, MEDICARE, MEDICAID**

Quad-Cities Online

April 21, 2013

Lynda Long-Fainter, a member of the Illinois Alliance, writes a letter to the editor opposing chained CPI and cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

<http://qconline.com/archives/qco/display.php?id=635454&query=cpi>

## **BUDGET**

**TAXES: PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET WOULD HIT MIDDLE CLASS**

Politico

Steven Sloan

April 23, 2013

President Obama's annual budget is doing more to target middle-class taxpayers than any of his previous proposals, calling for caps on deductions, changes in the way some tax benefits are calculated and a big hike in cigarette taxes — all proposals that would make middle-class Americans pay more.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/04/obama-budget-middle-class-facing-tax-hikes-90469.html#ixzz2RIUgUV79>

**DEMS REJECT OBAMA'S CHAINED CPI FORMULA FOR SOCIAL SECURITY**

The Hill

Pete Kasperowicz

April 22, 2013

Dozens of House Democrats on Monday introduced a resolution that rejected President Obama's proposal for calculating growth in Social Security benefits. The resolution, H.Con.Res. 34, was sponsored by Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.), and co-sponsored by 81 other Democrats.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/295297-dems-reject-obamas-chained-cpi-formula-for-social-security#ixzz2RIXqXLFx>

**BUDGET NEGOTIATING CHIP HAS BIG DOWNSIDE FOR OLD AND POOR**

The New York Times

Tara Siegel Bernard

April 19, 2013

The President has proposed slowing the rate at which benefits increase over time, a change that would ultimately hit the oldest of the old, often single women, many of whom have probably exhausted any other savings.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/20/your-money/the-potential-effect-of-obamas-social-security-proposal.html?emc=tnt&tntemail1=y&r=0>

## **HEALTH CARE**

### **SENIORS GET HUNG UP IN HEALTH CARE SCAMS**

Kaiser Health News/NPR

Jenny Gold

April 22, 2013

Law enforcement agencies are reporting an increase in health insurance scams across the country. Many of the fraudsters seem to be preying on the public's confusion over the massive changes taking place in the nation's health care system.

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2013/April/22/insurance-scams.aspx>

### **STUDY: GROWTH IN HEALTH SPENDING, CURBED BY RECESSION, TO REBOUND**

LA Times

Chad Terhune

April 22, 2013

A new study attributes a slowdown in U.S. healthcare spending to the recent recession and predicts more rapid growth as the economy strengthens. The analysis found that economic factors related to the recession accounted for 77% of the reduced growth in national healthcare spending, which totaled an estimated \$2.8 trillion in 2012.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-healthcare-spending-20130422,0,4891167.story>

## **POLITICS**

### **BAUCUS WON'T SEEK RE-ELECTION**

NBC News

Mark Murray

April 23, 2013

First Read confirms that Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., will not run for re-election in 2014. A Democrat familiar with Democratic Gov. Brian Schweitzer's thinking says the governor is leaning toward running for Baucus' seat, which would give Democrats a solid chance at holding onto the seat.

<http://firstread.nbcnews.com/news/2013/04/23/17878184-baucus-wont-seek-re-election?lite>

**A CONFIRMATION TOO LONG DELAYED**

New York Times  
Editorial Board  
April 22, 2013

The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to hold a long-overdue vote on Tuesday on President Obama's nominee to lead the embattled agency responsible for overseeing Medicare, Medicaid and the implementation of health care reforms. The committee ought to set aside its deep partisan divisions and unanimously endorse Marilyn Tavenner to be the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/23/opinion/a-confirmation-of-marilyn-tavenner-is-overdue.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y>