

TODAY'S MUST READS – APRIL 24, 2013

ALLIANCE PEOPLE

THE MYTHS THAT UNDERMINE MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The Baltimore Sun

April 23, 2013

Frank Stella, President of the Maryland/DC Alliance, writes an op-ed dispelling common myths about Medicare and Social Security, and arguing against any benefit cuts.

http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2013-04-23/news/bs-ed-seniors-myths-20130423_1_social-security-current-benefits-simpson-bowles-commission

BUDGET

SOURCES: OBAMA PLANS W.H.-GOP BUDGET GROUP

Politico

John Bresnahan and Glenn Thrush

April 23, 2013

President Barack Obama is reaching out to Republican senators — the most receptive participants from his recent “charm-offensive” dinners — to jump-start talks to reach a “grand bargain” on entitlements, spending and taxes, according to White House and Congressional officials.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/04/sources-obama-plans-wh-gop-budget-group-90539.html#ixzz2RO2ZZA1i>

DEBT

RETIREMENT GONE WRONG? HOW SENIORS CAN DIG OUT OF DEBT

NPR Money Coach

April 23, 2013

Older middle-class Americans are now carrying more credit card debt than younger Americans, according to the AARP. Host Michel Martin speaks with certified financial planner Steve Repak, about ways for seniors to ease the burden.

<http://www.npr.org/2013/04/23/178601465/retirement-gone-wrong-how-seniors-can-dig-out-of-debt>

HEALTH CARE

POLL FINDS PEOPLE IN DENIAL ABOUT THE NEED FOR LONG-TERM CARE AS THEY GET OLDER

Washington Post/AP

April 24, 2013

We're in denial: Americans underestimate their chances of needing long-term care as they get older — and are taking few steps to get ready. A new poll examined how people 40 and over are preparing for this difficult and often pricey reality of aging, and found two-thirds say they've done little to no planning.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/aging-america-poll-finds-people-in-denial-about-the-need-for-long-term-care-as-they-get-older/2013/04/24/d54d596a-acb0-11e2-9493-2ff3bf26c4b4_story.html

U.S. ACCUSES NOVARTIS OF PROVIDING KICKBACKS

The New York Times

Andrew Pollack

April 23, 2013

Federal prosecutors in New York filed a lawsuit on Tuesday accusing Novartis of providing illegal kickbacks to pharmacies, in the form of discounts and rebates, to promote use of one of the company's drugs. Prosecutors say in their lawsuit that Medicare and Medicaid paid tens of millions of dollars in claims for Myfortic that were "tainted" by the kickbacks.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/24/business/us-accuses-novartis-of-providing-kickbacks.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y>

A HEALTH PROVIDER FINDS SUCCESS IN KEEPING HOSPITAL BEDS EMPTY

The New York Times

Annie Lowrey

April 23, 2013

On a stormy evening this spring, nurses at Dr. Gary Stuck's family practice were on the phone with patients with heart ailments, asking them not to shovel snow. The idea was to keep them out of the hospital, and that effort — combined with dozens more like it — is starting to make a difference: across the city, doctors are providing less, but not worse, health care.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/24/business/accountable-care-helping-hospitals-keep-medical-costs-down.html?hp>

SEQUESTER

CONTRA COSTA MEALS ON WHEELS FACING CUTS, MAY DROP 200 SENIORS

CBS San Francisco

April 22, 2013

Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa launched an urgent appeal for more donations Monday, saying that a funding shortage could force it to drop 200 people from its roster of 1,200 seniors

receiving home-delivered meals. A crucial blow has been the loss of \$100,000 in funding as a result of the federal budget sequestration.

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2013/04/22/contra-costa-meals-on-wheels-facing-cuts-may-drop-200-seniors/>

REID PROPOSES PLAN TO REPLACE SEQUESTER CUTS WITH MONEY FROM AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ WARS

ABC News

Sarah Parnass

April 23, 2013

Nineteen months before the combat phase of the war in Afghanistan is set to end, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid suggested Congress take money allocated for that operation and use it to pay off sequester cuts.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/reid-proposes-plan-replace-sequester-cuts-money-afghanistan/story?id=19025132#.UXfisqIqbj4>

BIPARTISAN GROUP OF HOUSE MEMBERS PRESSES MEDICARE AGENCY ON CANCER CUTS

The Hill

Sam Baker

April 23, 2013

A solidly bipartisan group of more than 100 lawmakers is urging the Obama administration to reverse Medicare cuts to cancer clinics. The lawmakers questioned whether the Medicare agency can change the way the automatic cuts have been applied, so that cancer clinics won't be hit as severely.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicare/295631-bipartisan-group-of-house-members-presses-medicare-agency-on-cancer-cuts-#ixzz2RODwu6a0>