

Good Sam Club of Florida, Inc.
Fall Samboree Legislative Report
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- The biggest piece of news effecting the largest segment of Rvers is the 3.6% increase in Social Security payments starting in January 2012. The average payment increase will be \$39.00 monthly.

We have all been aware Medicare premiums will increase, however, the Part B forecast of \$10.50 will be \$3.50. If you have opted for Medicare Advantage, a 4% drop was announced last August.

- It will behoove us all to keep a very close eye on Congress and specifically, Representative Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania and the Debt Free America Act or the Transform America Transaction Fee bills constantly being introduced or re-introduced, whereby all financial transactions , with very few exceptions, would be charged a fee.
- Bank of America has recently introduced a fee for use of their debit card.
- In the October 21st edition of the Florida Times Union reported on the biggest study of cellphone users by Danish researchers states “Don’t worry. Your device is probably safe.”

The Danish study of 350,000 people concluded there is no difference in cancer rates between people who used a cellphone for about a decade and those who did not.

- On Thursday, October 21st, the federal government laid out rules for a new program that aims to improve patient care by getting doctors, hospitals and other care providers to work together more.
- On Sunday, October 23rd an article under the byline of Tony Pugh of McClatchy Newspapers stated: “The leading program for America’s disabled workers is in a financial death spiral in the aftermath of the Great Recession.

“The sour economy, weak eligibility standards and a wave of aging baby boomers are driving an explosive increase in the number of injured workers who receive disability benefits through the Social Security Disability Insurance program.”

“At the current growth rate, the SSDI trust fund, which pays for benefits, won’t have enough money to meet its obligations in 2018.”

- Of extreme importance to many of our Good Sam members, is the following. In the same paper, under the Nation Brief heading, a headline quotes: “Military health care

may be on the line.” “The government’s promise of lifetime health care for the military’s men and women is suddenly a little less sacrosanct as Congress looks for ways to slash trillion-dollar-plus deficits.”

Defense Secretary, Leon Panetta says personnel costs have put the Pentagon, in his words, “on an unsustainable course.”

“Veterans groups are mobilizing to fight any changes. They argue that Americans who were willing to die for their country should be treated differently than the average worker.”

- Also in Sunday’s paper, under the byline of Bill Kaczor and the Associated Press, coming out of Tallahassee, is this: “Florida’s statewide managed mediation program, designed to settle residential foreclosure cases and clear a huge backlog in the courts, isn’t working as planned and should be replaced with a local-option version and new administrative procedures, a special judicial panel says.”
- On Monday, October 24, an Associated Press article, reporting out of Miami says, “The number of Floridians who have had drivers’ licenses revoked because they are deemed physically or mentally unfit has more than doubled in the past decade, according to state figures. The main reasons many lose their driving privileges are related to dementia, stroke and seizure.”

The number of revocations in 2010 was 7,716 compared to 3,559 in 2000 and most were lost because they didn’t submit more detailed medical information requested by the state to show they should be able to drive.

- Of interest to Good Sam members living in rural areas where internet and TV service leaves a lot to be desired, there is this announcement. A small column on October 28th Times Union Money pages stated: “Federal regulators have unveiled a plan for overhauling the \$8 billion dollar fund that subsidizes phone service in rural areas and for the poor. It redirects money toward broadband expansion.
- From the Washington Post in an article written by LaRue Huget states: Brand new research finds that people who drink coffee are at reduced risk of developing basal cell carcinoma, the most common form of skin cancer. And the more they drink, the lower the risk.

The research, presented Monday, October 23rd, at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Boston, looked at coffee consumption and the risk of three forms of skin cancer - basal cell carcinoma, aqueous sell carcinoma and the more deadly melanoma - among about 113,000 participants in two long-term health surveys.

- **VITAMINS: Is there such a thing as too much?** The \$27 billion industry has been scrutinized by a controversial study.

There is no clear evidence that multivitamins lower the risk of cancer, heart disease or

any other chronic health problems. And no government agency recommends them.

As a nutritional scientist, Jaakko Mursu, a researcher at the university of Minnesota, was surprised by the results of his latest study: that dietary supplements actually increased the risk of death for older women - even among those who were more health conscientious.

Results of his research followed another study that found men taking high doses of vitamin E - 400 unit's a day - for five years had a slightly increased risk of prostate cancer.

Mursu and his team studied more than 38,000 women, aged 55 or older, who took part in the Iowa Women's Health Study from 1986 to 2008.

Only calcium appeared to lower the risk of death, according to the report.

- In the health and Fitness section of the Florida Times Union for November 2nd, came this little zinger a couple of days after the biggest candy eating holiday of the year, the Food and Drug Administration encourages moderation if you enjoy snacking on licorice - especially black licorice.

If you're 40 or older, eating 2 ounces of black licorice a day for at least two weeks could land you in the hospital with an irregular heart rhythm or arrhythmia.

The FDA says black licorice contains the compound glycyrrhizin, which can cause potassium levels in the body to fall, when that happens, some people experience abnormal heart rhythms, as well as high blood pressure, swelling, lethargy and congestive heart failure.

Potassium levels are usually restored with no permanent health problems when consumption of black licorice stops, the FDA says.

- From the Associated Press by Matthew Perrone's by-line is this announcement. Dermatologists will soon get some high-tech help deciding which suspicious-looking moles should be removed and checked for melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday, November 2nd approved a first-of-its-kind device, called MelaFind, that makes detailed digital images of skin growths and uses a computer to analyze them for signs of cancer, offering a sort of second opinion to doctors. The device is approved only for dermatologists and only for use on growths that don't have obvious signs of cancer but still have one or two worrisome traits.

- For those of us who are licensed Concealed to Carry firearms, it will behoove each of us to keep close watch on the Obama/Holder situation unfolding in Washington, DC. This government gun-smuggling scandal at the ATF involving Barack Obama's anti-gun attorney general Eric Holder just keeps getting worse.

News broke today that all White House communications on this matter have been subpoenaed.

This issue is white-hot among gun rights activists

In just a few short weeks, Barack Obama's hand-picked, anti-gun Attorney General, Eric Holder, will be forced to testify before Congress about the ATF's scandal, "Fast & Furious."

But this time, there is more evidence.

A number of Eric Holder's deputies may testify what you and I knew all along -- that Eric Holder was well aware of the scandal. Others are also coming forward.

"This was an effort by Barack Obama, Eric Holder and Janet Napolitano to make an aggressive assault against our 2nd Amendment rights. I'm calling for Eric Holder's resignation and prosecution," an Arizona Sheriff recently stated.

Ten Arizona Sheriffs have joined the battle to hold Eric Holder accountable for his actions, which have endangered innocent lives all along the border.

- So you're driving and you start feeling sleepy. Do you pull over for some coffee or pull over and take a short nap. Researchers find a coffee and a nap - in that order - is best refreshment. From the pages of the Washington Post on November 3rd.

Scientists call it 'the caffeine nap' because you first have some coffee and then you take a 15-minute nap. It works because the brain gets just enough rest during the time it takes the caffeine to kick in.

- Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, warns growth of the economy to stay 'frustratingly slow.' The central bank predicts the economy will grow no more than 1.7 percent for 2011. For 2012, it foresees growth of about 2.7 percent. Both forecasts are roughly a full percentage point lower than its June forecast. NOTE: All these people had to do was ask US, right???