

Yankee Steve's Columns

For the Week of September 16, 2010

Good News / Bad News

Big Night for Tea Party: Conservative Christine O'Donnell Wins Delaware

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 Associated Press (AP)

Conservative Christine O'Donnell pulled off a stunning upset over nine-term Rep. Mike Castle in the Republican Senate primary in Delaware Tuesday, propelled by tea party activists into a November showdown with Democrat Chris Coons. After a primary season shaped by economic pain and exasperated voters, the grass-roots, anti-establishment movement can claim wins in at least seven GOP Senate races, a handful of Republican gubernatorial contests and dozens of House primary campaigns, and it influenced many others.

Ethically-Challenged, 80-Year-Old Rep. Charlie Rangel Wins Primary

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 New York (AP)

Embattled Rep. Charles Rangel prevailed in a crowded Democratic primary Tuesday, with voters in his New York City district signaling they are willing to stand by the 40-year House veteran despite more than a dozen ethics charges pending against him.

It's the Republican Establishment vs. the Tea Party as 7 States and D.C. Hold Primaries

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 Washington (AP)

The primary season is ending as it began, with the Republican establishment on one side in state after state, and tea party activists on another. The competition is particularly strong in Delaware and New Hampshire, where GOP senatorial nominations are the prize, and New York, where Republicans pick a challenger for an uphill fall campaign for governor.

Bill Clinton: New-look GOP Makes Bush Look Liberal

By BRIAN BAKST, Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS – Former President Bill Clinton said Tuesday that the Republican Party is embracing "ideology over evidence" and pushing out pragmatic voices that would make even his White House successor seem like a liberal.

Clinton, speaking at a Democratic fundraiser in Minneapolis, said there was no mistaking that Republicans have tacked hard right and questioned whether former President George W. Bush would fit in among the party's candidates this year.

"A lot of their candidates today, they make him look like a liberal," Clinton told an enthusiastic crowd at a downtown hotel as he campaigned for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark Dayton.

Obama-tied Group: Mosque Opponents “Intolerant”

Claims Ground Zero Islamic Center will “Deal a Blow” to al-Qaida

Posted: September 13, 2010, 9:24 pm Eastern

By Aaron Klein © 2010 WorldNet Daily

MIAMI – An organization tied to the Obama administration and to philanthropist George Soros has strongly backed the planned Islamic cultural center and mosque near Ground Zero, slamming opponents as “intolerant” and acting against the U.S. Constitution.

The organization also claimed the Cordoba Initiative's 13-story, \$100-million mosque project will “deal a blow to the propaganda of al-Qaida and Islamist extremists.”

“Don't Ask, Don't Tell” Policy Facing a Senate Vote Next Week

By Ed O’Keefe, Federal Eye

The Senate will vote next week on its version of the annual Defense Department authorization bill - a measure that includes language repealing the military's “don't ask, don't tell” policy.

Aides to Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) confirmed Monday that a vote will occur next week. Potential differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill would still have to be hammered out, so final passage and a presidential signature still appear distant.

Gay rights groups are mounting an aggressive lobbying effort this week, urging supporters of the repeal (including Lady Gaga) to phone senators to urge them to vote for the military bill. But Obama's signature on the authorization bill would not end the policy outright: He would still need to certify a Pentagon study of how repealing “don't ask” might impact troop morale and readiness. The report is due to Obama and military leaders by Dec. 1. The Defense Department would move forward with repealing the policy once Obama certifies the report.

U.S. Shifts Approach to Deporting Illegal Immigrants

By Marcus Sterns (ProPublica)

The Obama administration is changing the federal immigration enforcement strategy in ways that reduce the threat of deportation from millions of illegal immigrants even as states such as Arizona, Colorado, Virginia, Ohio and Texas are pushing to accelerate deportations.

Reid Adding Amnesty Measure to Defense Bill

Published September 15, 2010 (AP)

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Tuesday he wants to attach an amendment to a defense policy for young people in the United States illegally to become legal U.S. residents. The Nevada said at a Capitol conference that the legislation known as the DREAM Act is long overdue. He would not say whether he had the votes for the amendment.

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