Learning about Missouri

I am a fourth-grade student in North Carolina. In fourth grade, we do state reports and I have chosen the state of Missouri. I am excited to learn more about the great state of Missouri as I work on my report.

Most of the information that we get for our reports will be from books and websites. We also like to get information from people who live in the state, too. This is why I am writing to you. I was hoping that you would be willing to send me some items to help me learn more about the best things in your state. It could be things like postcards, maps, pictures, souvenirs, general information, this newspaper article or any other items that would be useful. You can mail items to Mrs. Hughey’s Class, Charlotte Latin School, 9502 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277. Thank you.

Cam Fillins
Charlotte, N.C.

Loss of coverage

Any individual who has family members who are elderly, have disabilities, know of children in foster care, or purchase their own health insurance should pay attention to this upcoming action. The federal government has begun the process of ending the Affordable Care Act without a suitable replacement. On Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives is considering voting on the “new” American Health Care Act. If the American Health Care Act becomes law, the repercussions are staggering:

• 24 million Americans, including more than 330,000 Missourians, will lose their health insurance within a decade.

• Those of us who don’t lose our health insurance are likely to end up paying more for less, as premiums are expected to rise and insurance companies will be able to sell plans that don’t cover all of the services we might need. Congress could make health care better for Missourians, but it isn’t a simple fix.

• If 24 million Americans become uninsured, the cost of health care will not be affected, but all Americans will increase their debt and the medical community will have to “write off” more of the unpaid costs of health care. Missourians elected their congressional representatives to represent their interests. Billy Long should respond to his district’s voice. Missourians statewide should contact their representative and tell them to vote “no” on the AHCA when it comes up for a vote. More information is available from Missouri Health Care for All.

Andrea Buening
Joplin

Discussing differences

Cynthia M. Allen’s column (Globe, March 14) is of significance because she and her friend she writes about in the column represent polar opposites in many areas but somehow manage to actually listen and discuss their differences.

Many of us independent voters wonder at the mysterious and almost magnetic adherence of those whose left/right demarcation entitles their beliefs to somehow become etched in stone at the Smithsonian Institution. Some of my friends on the left consider me conservative, some on the right label me liberal. Just the word “polarity” bespeaks irrational and biased thinking. We constantly seek to prove political stances by watching television news programs we know will support our views.
We glance at newspaper headlines and the names of columnists, assume their disagreeable content and then dismiss as irrelevant to our narrow cause. What is worse, recent studies at the University of Colorado suggest the above tendencies tend to become even more polemical and ingrained when an individual’s misinformation is challenged with truth.

Perhaps a more informed and involved constituency would help eliminate the incessant bickering between Republicans and Democrats in Washington.

Doug Duncan

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