



Monthly *MONITOR*

Monday, August 16, 2010

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BEST NEWS OF THE SEASON | BABY TRUPIANO-KOMO IS HERE!

Congratulations and best wishes go to our colleague and Lobbyist, Michelle Trupiano, and to her husband, State Representative Sam Komo (D-90) on the joyous arrival of baby Everest Trupiano Komo. Everest was born on the evening of Wednesday, July 28, weighing in at 6.6 pounds and 20.4 inches long; mom, dad, and baby are all doing well.

FROM JANUARY TO JULY, 900+ REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH MEASURES INTRODUCED IN STATES

State Legislative Trends at Mid-Year | Guttmacher Institute | July 15, 2010

In the first half of 2010, more than 900 measures related to reproductive health and rights were introduced in the 45 states in which the legislature met. Although legislators continue to grapple with unprecedented budget shortfalls, bills on reproductive health and rights have been the subject of widespread debate and action. At midyear, a total of [49 measures on reproductive health-related issues had been enacted in 20 states](#). Most notably, bills restricting insurance coverage of abortion, prescribing the provision of ultrasound services for women obtaining an abortion and permitting expedited partner therapy for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have garnered significant attention. (Click here for a [longer version of this analysis](#).)

AUGUST 26 MARKS 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any States on Account of sex. The Congress shall have the power by appropriate legislation to enforce the provisions of this article.

This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality.

National Women's History Project—www.nwhp.org

SPEAKING OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE...DEBUNKING A MYTH ABOUT SUSAN B. ANTHONY

By Ann Gordon and Lynn Sherr | May 21, 2010; 9:40 PM ET | The Washington Post | excerpted

Last week in Washington, Sarah Palin addressed the Susan B. Anthony List – the political action committee that calls itself the "nerve center of the pro-life movement" - claiming that her opposition to abortion rights was rooted in our "feminist foremothers." No one asked for sources.

For nearly 30 years, both of us have been immersed in Susan B. Anthony's words - Ann as the editor of Anthony's papers, Lynn as the author of a biography. We have read every single word that this very voluble - and endlessly political - woman left behind. Our conclusion: Anthony spent no time on the politics of abortion. It was of no interest to her, despite living in a society (and a family) where women aborted unwanted pregnancies.

The List's mission statement proclaims, "Although [Anthony] is known for helping women win the right to vote, it is often untold in history that she and most early feminists were strongly pro-life." There's a good reason it's "untold:" historians and good journalists rely on evidence. Of which there is none.

To read more:

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2010/05/sarah_palin_is_no_susan_b_anthony.html

STUDY: FAMILY VALUES TURNED UPSIDE DOWN?

Public News Service-MO | July 30, 2010

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - An invisible line exists between red states and blue states about family values, according to new research from a law professor at University of Missouri-Kansas City. States tallying the most Democratic votes in the 2004 and 2008 presidential elections, called "blue states," have the lowest rates of divorce and teen pregnancy. Red States have the highest.

Researcher June Carbone found that women in blue states generally get married and have kids later in life. She explains that many women in red states, who have put off higher education to start a family earlier, have found life financially challenging - and Missouri is no different.

"The sense of crisis for those following a traditional path that preaches abstinence, early marriage and traditional gender roles is simply at odds with today's economy."

Rev. Rebecca Turner with *Faith Aloud* claims state policy can be connected to some of the report's findings.

"In Missouri's effort to restrict sex education, contraception and abortion, the result is higher rates of teen pregnancy, lower ages for first marriage, lower rates of college education and lower income."

Turner uses abstinence-only education is an example of a failed policy in Missouri. She says teen pregnancy rates remain high in the state, with more than 8,600 births to teens each year, even though there's been a slow decline nationwide over the last decade. "We have to look at the real results of what our policies are and not just base them on some kind of moral code."

Reproductive health advocates, such as *Faith Aloud*, say this research turns the traditional idea of family values upside down. However, Carbone adds, the blue family model isn't perfect. She points to fertility issues, when women wait longer to have children, as one downside.

Carbone's research can be found in the book, "Red Families vs. Blue Families."

EDUCATION VITAL FOR STOPPING SPREAD OF DISEASE: MISSOURI MAKING EFFORT TO INFORM PUBLIC ABOUT HPV, BUT IT'S UP TO US TO ACT.

Letter to the Editor | Springfield News Leader | August 4, 2010

Gov. Jay Nixon is taking action to reduce the number of STDs by signing a bill to promote education about Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

Under the new law, HB1375, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will produce information about HPV, cervical cancer and Gardasil, the HPV vaccine.

HPV can affect anyone, at anytime, without them knowing. There are often no symptoms and no foolproof way to protect against it, if you are sexually active. The best way to protect yourself and your partners against this silent disease is through knowledge and Gardasil.

School districts will decide to either use new informational brochures (in class) or send them to the parents. Regardless, the information needs to get out. Gardasil is the most effective way to decrease the number of cases among sexually active people, especially since males can now get vaccinated.

It is estimated that 6 million cases of HPV occur in the United States yearly. While men can contract and transmit the virus, they are less likely to be as affected as women; however, it takes both partners to spread the disease, as well as stop it.

Until recently, males weren't able to receive the vaccine, leaving the chances for spreading HPV high. Gardasil can now prevent 70 percent of genital warts and 90 percent of cervical cancers.

I encourage everyone, especially men, to take 15 minutes out of your day and get the shot. Men are not only preventing the possibility of genital warts with the vaccine but, as carriers, they can prevent their girlfriend/wife/friend with benefits from the possibility of cancer and infertility.

A virus can't really be stopped if only half of the parties are making an effort to prevent it, so please get vaccinated and educate yourself and others.

Michelle Everett lives in Springfield

Join Tri-Rivers Planned Parenthood for the annual benefit **Art Auction** on **Saturday, September 18** in Rolla.

For more information: trpp@fidnet.com