

The Star-Ledger

A few things that caught my attention: Obama lying about lying; no more Joisey jokes etc.

By Paul Mulshine/The Star Ledger

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"Republicans want someone who is competent and who can win and that's Jeb" - anonymous delusional Republican.

Here's [a good piece from the Cato Institute's Michael Tanner](#) explaining how President Obama has gone from merely lying to lying about his lies concerning whether Americans would lose their health insurance under his health reform.

Here's a key passage showing how employer-based policies will change when the mandate kicks in next year:

But the same conditions that are causing the cancellation of individual policies will eventually result in the cancellation of millions of employment-based policies as well. The only reason that hasn't happened yet is that the employer mandate was postponed for a year, so employer plans don't yet have to be ACA-compliant. But they will. Even the Congressional Budget Office estimates that as many as 20 million workers will lose their current employer-sponsored plans. Combine that with those losing individual plans, and more than 30 million Americans cannot keep their current insurance.

It could be far more. As Avik Roy of the Manhattan Institute points out, some 51 percent of the employer-based insurance market will lose grandfathered status and need to make changes to comply with Obamacare provisions. That could mean that, in total, as many as 93 million will lose their insurance. That's not exactly "a few."

And here's a new wrinkle concerning those individual policies being cancelled by the millions. Obama has been blaming the insurance companies, but it turns out that in some states the Affordable Care Act exchanges themselves required that the customers be dumped:

Moreover, in some localities — notably California, Idaho, Kentucky, Vermont, Virginia, and the District of Columbia — insurance companies were actually prohibited from participating in the state insurance exchanges unless they agreed to immediately cancel all non-ACA-compliant insurance plans sold in the state. As a spokesman for California's Anthem Blue Cross explained, "In order to participate in Covered

California as a qualified health plan, the contract required us to cancel non-ACA-compliant plans on December 31."

Good thing Chris Christie didn't create an exchange here in Jersey.

UNFUNNY JOKES: You know what I really hate? I really hate when people think it's funny to mispronounce "Jersey." That's what I hate. Here columnist Richard Cohen does just that:

For all his positions and religious beliefs, Christie is too Joisey for the tea party -- too brash, as well. He would be wise to steer clear of Iowa lest he lose or, worse, follow Romney and take on the deeply conservative coloration of the state's GOP. That might make him (barely) acceptable to Republican Iowans but anathema to the rest of us.

Also, I'm not too wild about **Cohen's logic concerning Chris Christie's chances** in Iowa. People tend to forget that Mitt Romney, who by any measure is far to the left of Christie, finished in a virtual tie in the 2012 Iowa caucuses.

Also Cohen leaves off his Iowa list Rand Paul. That's positively weird given how the Iowa delegate count finally worked out last year once his dad's people finished out-organizing the opposition. Ron Paul got the most delegates. Except Rand to try and duplicate that.

Also expect the caucuses to be split among so many candidates that no one will win a majority. That will move the race to the New Hampshire primary, where Christie has a much better chance.

He's certainly got a better chance than Jeb Bush. According to **this article**, the former Florida governor has deluded himself into thinking the Republican Party wants another President Bush:

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, brother and son of the former presidents Bush, is considering a run for president, but only if Gov. Chris Christie fails to gain nationwide traction, Politico reports this morning.

According to the report, Bush has edged from a definite "no" to a decided "maybe" and they put the odds of him getting into the race at 30 percent.

"I think he could run," one senior Republican who now works in the financial industry told Politico. "The environment is shaping up well for him. Republicans want someone who is competent and who can win and that's Jeb."

As I've noted, one President Bush per millennium is quite sufficient.

ON THE BEER FRONT: **Pub Scout Kurt Epps** describes a blind-tasting session at The Office on Route 22 in Bridgewater.

Kurt was surprised to see so many dark beers finish at the top of the list drawn up by 30 testers. I wouldn't be. In my blind tests, I never mix lagers with ales. In fact I don't even let my tasters have a darker beer before testing lighter beers.

The reason is simple: Once you've enjoyed a fine IPA such as Victory Hop Devil, you can no longer even taste the difference between a couple of lagers like Carlsberg and Brooklyn Lager. At least I can't. That's why I always test a beer only against similar beers. Otherwise the IPAs will win every time.

But they are different beers built for different occasions. You'd never want a heavy IPA on a hot summer day. Similarly on a cold winter evening, a lager seems a bit thin for the task at hand.

For that reason, they should be compared only within their own categories, as **my revolutionary blind-tasting system does.**

(For a little fun, try and click on the Apply Now button on **this health-care site**; See the Obama apology below)

ALSO: I had to flag several responses from readers who made the usual dull-witted comments about my reporting on beer. If you have the impulse to post similar dull-witted comments, please do not do so or you will be banned from this site.