

Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

A better quality of life for seniors, their children and grand children

The NSC FOGHORN TM



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Special Points of Interest

Each year since 1927, Time magazine has selected a person who has had the most influence on events during the previous twelve months. The Museum of the Confederacy and the Library of Virginia decided to do this for each year of the Civil War by inviting five historians to nominate some one (or group) for the title. Before the audience cast their votes each historian presents an argument for their nominee and answers questions from the Audience. Here are the results so far:

1861 General Robert E. Lee
 1862 President Abraham Lincoln
 1863 General Ulysses S. Grant

This is an ongoing series on C-Span3 on Cable TV. 1864 and 1865 will be broadcast in 2014 and 2015 for the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Previous programs can be viewed on the internet at: <http://www.c-span.org/History/The-Civil-War/>

Knight's Back & Bills Ahead

By Director of Legislation Knight Allen

I'm baaack!

Well, not completely but I am mobile and I can drive so, considering where I was just a couple of months ago, I'm feeling pretty good about things. It was, for example, great to be able to attend the March meeting and to be with the group in person.

The first thing I want to do is thank everyone who sent me cards and called me to wish me well. It was a rough time for me and your thoughts and good wishes meant a lot to me. Thank you so much.

It was my intent to monitor the legislature and keep you as informed as possible about bills that could impact us in a serious way. I had spent a good deal of time tracking the Bill Draft Requests (BDR's) trying to decipher what the one line description meant and what it would translate into when it became an actual bill. It's a little like reading tea leaves.

There were over 900 BDR's in the hopper when I fell on 12/26. There are over 1200 now. If the track record holds over 500 will become law and We, the People will be bound up just that much more by the innumerable rules, regulations and bureaucratic dead weight that is suffocating all of society everywhere. Since I've been feeling a little better I have tried to put my toe back in the water but in all honesty I'm still much more focused on my rehab so politics is on the back burner - with the heat turned off.

There is however, one bill that has caught my eye. It is Assembly Bill 201. The bill, if approved, will raise property taxes by 35 to 45 percent by 2013. Don't think the local governments (who are behind this) would have the nerve to seek that kind of property tax increase? Think again. This is from the Legislative Counsel

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Bureau's "Digest":

"Sections 3, 13 and 14 of this bill increase the rate of assessment by 1 percent during each fiscal year for 10 fiscal years resulting in a net increase from 35 to 45 percent as of July 1, 2023." That's as official as it gets. The time frame is interesting. By the time you see this it could be dead (if the Committee didn't move it to the full Assembly by 4/12). To find out and to let the legislators know what you think (if it's still alive) call 486—2626 (local call) and ask for the Message Center.

Had I not fallen I would have been on this (and lots of other bills) much sooner. I think the expression is, "stuff happens."
It sure happened to me.

Thanks again for all the good thoughts.

Knight can be reached at: knightallen702@yahoo.com

Thomas Jefferson

An American Founding Father, he was born on **April 13, 1743** and died **July 4, 1826** a few hours before John Adams. Five years later, to the day, James Monroe died. (Calvin Coolidge was born on **July 4, 1872**.)

He served in the Continental Congress, representing Virginia, was the principle author of the Declaration of Independence (with Adams and Franklin), served during the war as Governor of Virginia. From mid-1784 he served as a diplomat stationed in Paris and in May of 1785 became the United States Minister to France.

He was the first United States Secretary of State (1790-1793) serving under George Washington. He and close friend James Madison organized the Democratic Republican Party after which he resigned from Washington's cabinet. (The U.S. Constitution does not mention political parties and at the time it was signed there were no political parties in the nation or in the world.) He came in second to John Adams (Federalist Party) in the election of 1796 and so by the rules of the day became Vice President. He opposed Adams and they became bitter enemies for many years.

Finally elected the third president in the "Revolution of 1800" (Jefferson's term) he was responsible for the biggest land deal ever when the Louisiana Territory was purchased from France for less than three cents an acre (less than forty-two cents in 2012 dollars). He was responsible for the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806) to explore the new territory. He had his problems too such as the treason trial of his former Vice President Aaron Burr (acquitted) and his embargo laws against Great Britain which resulted in damaging American trade but did not bother the British. He was responsible for Indian tribal removal to the Louisiana Territory to open land for eventual settlement.

He opposed the institution of slavery all his life and although he owned many slaves he treated them very well and expected them to work no more than free farmers. He signed into law (1807) a bill prohibiting importation of slaves into the United States.

Although he is still criticized by modern day scholars over slavery he is still rated as one of the greatest U.S. Presidents.



“Please Don’t Quote Me”

FIRST LADIES

If I should be so fortunate as to reach the White House, I expect to live on twenty-five thousand dollars a year, and I will neither keep house nor make butter. – **Sarah Polk**

Margaret Taylor remained true to her resolve to shun public life, a decision that caused the pampered members of Washington society to begin circulating rumors about her.

Abigail Fillmore was the 1st First Lady to have a job (school teacher) before entering the White House. Mrs. Fillmore established the first library in the White House using \$2,000 given the President by Congress. She was an invalid during her time in the White House.

Just months before the Inauguration, the Pierce’s suffered the loss of their youngest son in a train accident. Mrs. Pierce did not attend the inauguration and they did not hold an inaugural ball.

Mrs. Pierce refused to fulfill her responsibilities at the White House, so her uncle’s wife, Abby Means, served as hostess until 1855.

James Buchanan was a bachelor so there was no First Lady. Harriet Lane, his niece took care of entertaining.



Our Heavenly Father sees fit, often times to visit us, at such times for our worldliness, how small and insignificant all worldly honors are, when we are thus so sorely tried. – **Mary Todd Lincoln**

In Mary Lincoln's lifetime, she lost three of her four sons and her husband.

We are plain people from Tennessee, called here for a little time by a nation’s calamity, and I hope too much will not be expected of us. – **Eliza Johnson**

Mrs. Johnson taught her husband to read and write.

Don't Cheat Your Grandma

Despite the fact that Social Security isn't contributing a penny to the federal budget deficit, fiscal hawks have convinced President Barack Obama that we must slash its benefits to save the country. He's joined the sky-is-falling crew in a crazed search for targeted cuts that will shrink Social Security outlays.

One idea he's considering is a magic trick known as "chained CPI."

Most people don't understand the economic-speak well enough to grasp what this sleight of hand would do to your Social Security check. Here's how it works.

Social Security benefits are periodically raised as inflation goes up. This is logical because, like everyone else, retirees need more money to buy goods and services when prices rise. The increase is called the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This variable has always been calculated using something called the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The chained CPI supposedly accounts for expected changes in buying habits when prices increase. For example, you might start making chili with beans instead of meat if ground chuck starts costing too much. This alternative approach usually results in a number that's at least 0.25 percent lower than the regular CPI.

If the government started using this method to calculate Social Security benefit increases, it would mean those cost-of-living adjustments would be lower. That would save the government money because Social Security checks wouldn't increase as much as they otherwise would. In turn, this would slow deficit growth.

There's little disagreement that chained CPI would in fact do what its proponents say it would.

The problem with using it to calculate Social Security COLAs is that it's tied to the spending habits of workers.

Retirees are apt to spend a larger portion of their income for housing and health care than workers do. They don't commute, for example, so they spend less on gas. And housing and health care costs are rising much faster than other expenses. They're also the two areas where people have the least flexibility in beans-for-meat type substitutions. It's unrealistic to expect retirees or the disabled to move every time their rent or utility bills spike. And if they need a new hearing aid, what's the alternative?

The bottom line for seniors is that chained CPI is just like a pay cut that compounds as the years go by. The longer you live, the less you get.

While this method will hurt all retirees, it will hit women harder than men. The AARP is running ads against the change to a chained CPI, featuring a variety of women with the lines, "I am a grandmother. I am a widow. I am a woman. I am not a line item on a budget." Here are some key reasons why this accounting trick will hurt women most:

Thanks to the gender pay gap, women already have lower average annual benefits (\$13,000) than men (\$17,000).

Women live longer and will see a greater share of the cuts with every passing year. More than two out of three Social Security beneficiaries ages 85 and up are female.

Women are less likely to have other sources of retirement income, such as pensions and savings, so Social Security is more apt to account for nearly all of their income.

Lower payments could push more women into poverty. In 2011, Social Security kept roughly 38 percent of older women out of poverty, compared to 32 percent of older men.

Whether the AARP and women's advocates can prevail in this fight over who is going to pay for the deficit hawks' obsession is anybody's guess. But younger people ought to take up this cause too. After all, if grandma's benefits are cut, who has to take up the slack?

Look in the mirror.

OtherWords contributor **Martha Burk** is a political psychologist, women's issues expert, and director of the Corporate Accountability Project for the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO).

Follow her on **twitter** at **@MarthaBurk**. From **<http://www.nationofchange.org>**

Fracking (Hydraulic Fracturing)

Many facts about fracking's impact on the environment remain hotly contested. Consequences like water contamination have been established, but often it is not clear if they were directly caused by fracking or the result of sloppy drilling practices.

Meanwhile, the scientific studies that do exist suggest there are inconvenient truths for both sides of the fracking debate to confront.

The biggest hurdle for the pro-industry side: The rapid expansion of fracking over the last five years has resulted in confirmed cases of drinking water contamination, a house explosion, and air pollution.

But for those who oppose fracking, there is this: Burning the natural gas produced by fracking may be much better for the environment and public health, over the long run, than burning coal. For a list of 1100 people's personal stories of harm from fracking go to:

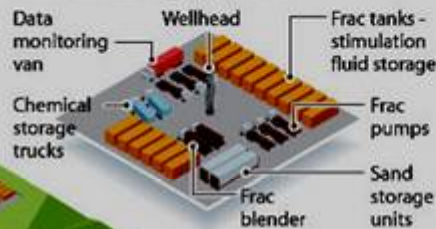
<http://pennsylvaniaallianceforcleanwaterandair.wordpress.com/the-list/> (Also see note on page 7)

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING - ITS GROWTH AND RISKS

THE PROCESS

Hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, is the creation of fractures in rock formations in the earth using pressurized fluid, generally for the purpose of extracting natural gas.

Common Fracturing Equipment

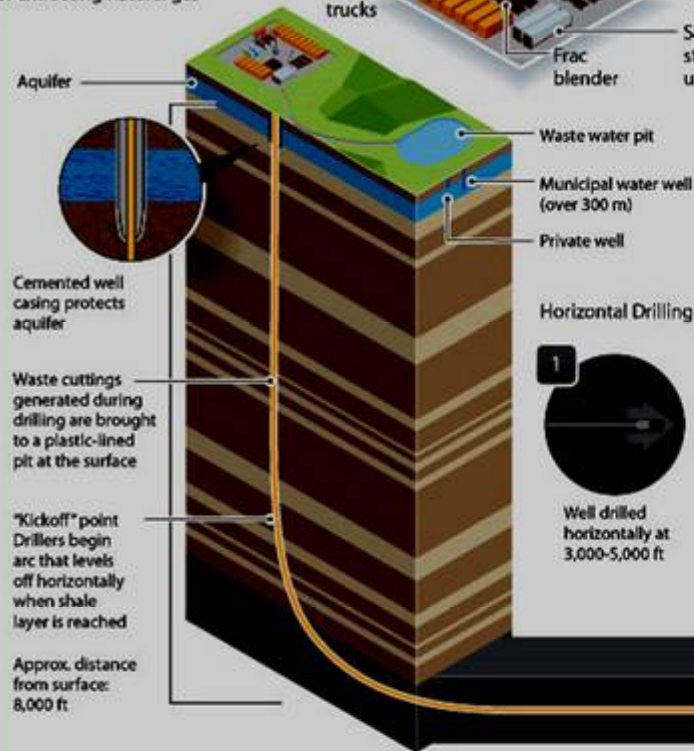


RISKS

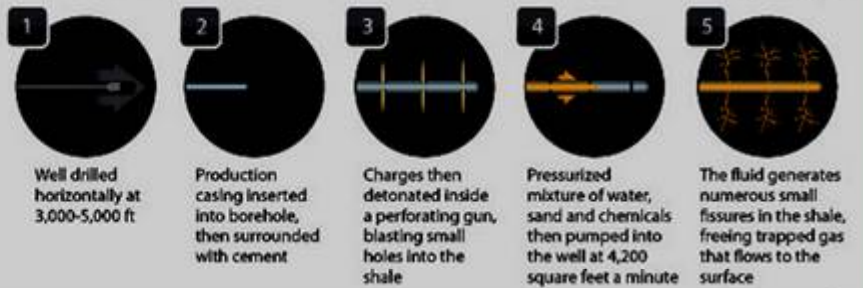
Air emissions
Methane gas associated with natural gas extraction can leak into air

Drinking water
Chemicals used in fracking process have the potential to contaminate aquifers

Earthquakes
The disposal of waste fluid from the fracking process is cited as a cause of earthquakes. Disposed fluids migrate below the injection area, destabilizing the natural fractures in the rock formation



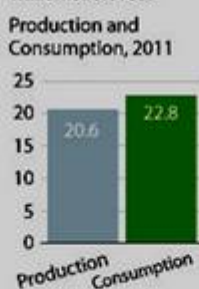
Horizontal Drilling



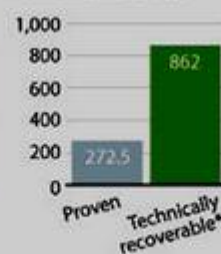
U.S. SHALE BASINS



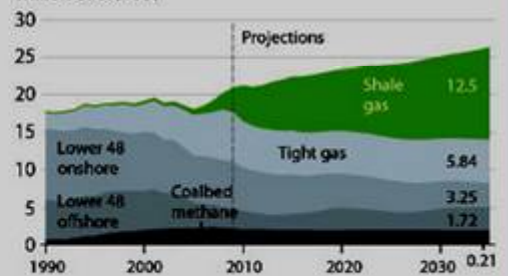
U.S. NATURAL GAS Trillion cubic feet



Domestic reserves from shale resources



U.S. NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION BY SOURCE Trillion cubic feet



* Most common method for estimating total remaining gas

Sources: National Geographic, Chesapeake Energy, EIA, USGS

Earth Day



Earth Day History

Earth day first began in the United States in 1970. This celebration was started by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970.

April 22 was selected because of its location in the year. The day was originally meant to be an educational day, so Nelson wanted to ensure that college students were going to be in session during this day. He felt that more people would be reached if they were in class during this time.

Earth Day Then and Now

On the very first Earth Day, New York City decided to get involved by shutting down 5th Avenue as well as utilizing Central Park as the central area for celebrating. It was estimated that nearly one million people participated in New York City alone. Since New York City was the headquarters of all of the major news media, the very first Earth Day was highly publicized.

In Philadelphia, Earth week was created because of the very first Earth Day. The first group of people felt that devoting only one day to environmental awareness would not be enough time to have any actual impact on the planet. Instead, they held an entire week of events. This initial celebration was so popular that it immediately became a national holiday.

1990 marked the 20th celebration of Earth day. This celebration was much better publicized and as a result,

more people participated. This year's activities created a big boost towards worldwide recycling efforts. This was also the year that Earth Day went worldwide.

Earth Day is now celebrated in over 100 countries across the globe. Through the years Earth day evolved and many different organizations were formed including Earth Day USA which helped organize Earth day events throughout the United States. Earth day 2000 marked the first year that the day was organized primarily through the use of the internet. The internet allowed for better networking, and as a result thousands of activists were allowed to interact with one another and create a more organized event.

Earth Day Around the World

Earth Day events occur all across the globe. These events are meant to inspire not only the countries they are held in, but also people all over the world.

In Thailand, Monks from all across the country gather and participate in a mass meditation ceremony. This ceremony is meant to encourage world peace through creating inner peace among the group.

In Canada, Earth Day is actually celebrated all year by multiple wild life parks promoting better environmental practices.

In Spain, a festival is held each year that only uses eco-friendly products. During this festival attendees are able to celebrate through food and dancing. They are also educated on new ways to protect the environment.

In Bulgaria a world energy forum is held. This forum is attended by leaders from all over the world.

Costa Rica combined Twitter and Earth Day creating an event called Twearth day. During Twearth day followers are able to follow events that are happening in the jungles of Costa Rica all week.

Regardless of where you might live, you can create your own Earth Day events as well. Just research the different events that are going on in the world around you.#

For more on the fracking story on page 5 go to <http://www.nbcnews.com/id/3033676> and click on Fracking's environment record cloudy on the upper left.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 9 starting at 10 a.m. at >>>>>>>>>>



After the meeting why don't you eat and play, and stay all day?

The May 9 Speaker will be:

Aging and Disability Resources Centers Project Manager

CHEYENNE PASQUALE

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Liaison

April 11, 1898

The Spanish American War

11 April 1898

The U.S. President William McKinley requested authorization from the U.S. Congress to intervene in Cuba, with the object of putting an end to the war between Cuban revolutionaries and Spain.

19 April 1898

The U.S. Congress by vote of 311 to 6 in the House and 42 to 35 in the Senate adopted the Joint Resolution for war with Spain. Included in the Resolution was the Teller Amendment, named after Senator Henry Moore Teller (Colorado) which disclaimed any intention by the U.S. to exercise jurisdiction or control over Cuba except in a pacification role and promised to leave the island as soon as the war was over.

{1898: US decides to liberate Cuba from Spain. **Success takes 3 months.**}

1901: The Platte Amendment is added to the new Cuban constitution, allowing the US to intervene in Cuban affairs at will. US forces leave Cuba.

1903: Cuban government leases land to the US on which Guantanamo Naval Base is built.

1906-1909: US forces occupy Cuba to "restore order."

1912: US forces occupy Cuba to "protect American interests". They do the same from 1917-1922.

In the subsequent years, Cuba will see a number of different governments. Fidel Castro took power in 1959 and began nationalizing Cuban land. Of course, relations between Cuba and the US have gone far south since that time.

According to a treaty signed in 1934, the US can occupy or lease the area of land on which Guantanamo is situated for as long as it likes, provided it complies with the treaty. However, the land is ultimately Cuban. The US still pays the lease amount, but the Cuban government considers the installation illegitimate and never cashes the treasury checks.}

11 April 1899

The Treaty of Paris was proclaimed.

The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc. (NSC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.

Treaty of Paris of 1898

Commissioners from the United States and Spain met in Paris on October 1, 1898 to produce a treaty that would bring an end to the war after six months of hostilities. The American commissioners negotiated in a hostile atmosphere because all Europe, except England, was sympathetic to the Spanish side.

Although the Conference discussed Cuba and debt questions, the major conflict concerned the situation of the Philippines. Admiral Dewey's victory over the Spanish fleet had come as a great surprise and it marked the entrance of the United States into the Pacific. Spanish commissioners argued that Manila had surrendered after the armistice and therefore the Philippines could not be demanded as a war conquest, but they eventually yielded because they had no other choice, and the U.S. ultimately paid Spain 20 million dollars for possession of the Philippines. The islands of Puerto Rico and Guam were also placed under American control, and Spain relinquished its claim to Cuba. The treaty was signed on December 10, 1898.

19 March 1899

The Queen Regent of Spain, María Cristina, signed the Treaty of Paris, breaking the deadlock in the Spanish Cortes (the legislature of Spain).