

Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

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

The

NSC FOGHORN™



Volume 13, Issue 1

Our Web Site is at <http://www.nevadaseniors.com>

January 9, 2014

Special Points of Interest

Actual Newspaper Headlines

- ♣ Queen Mary having bottom scraped.
- ♣ Grandmother of eight makes hole in one
- ♣ Farmer bill dies in house
- ♣ Iraqi head seeks arms
- ♣ Lawmen from Mexico barbecue guests
- ♣ Miners refuse to work after death
- ♣ Prostitutes appeal to Pope
- ♣ Blind woman gets new kidney from dad she hasn't seen in years
- ♣ Eye drops off shelf
- ♣ Panda mating fails—veterinarian takes over
- ♣ Dr. Ruth to talk about sex with newspaper editor

GO GREEN, LOSE GREEN

By Director of Legislation Knight Allen

Happy New Year. Welcome to 2014. Hope you had a wonderful holiday season.

I'm looking forward to a year of interesting and informative meetings.

Let's start the Foghorn year off with a discussion about energy-International, Domestic and right here at home. For years the eco-terrorists and climate change hustlers have been mocking the US because we are so far behind Europe in "going green." In what is a nice bit of irony it turns out Europe is also ahead of us in suffering the consequences of falling for the green con.

Germany is the poster child for this nonsense but France, Italy and several other EU nations are not far behind. The German people pay the highest electricity prices in Europe. The subsidies German consumers are paying for wind and solar are becoming comparable to Germany's financial bailout of the euro-zone debt.

"*Spiegel Online*" 9/4/13

Electricity costs in Germany are three times higher than in the US and many German business are moving here. One of their top energy officials calls what is happening the "de-industrialization of Germany." *Wall Street Journal*" 11/9/13

Continent wide power prices have risen 17% for households and 21% for businesses over the last four years. "*Wall St. Journal*" 10/13/13

Here in the US the increase in energy production has been staggering. It has gotten to the point that EXXON/MOBIL is running ads asking if we know where we get most of our energy and it turns out it's right here. The bulk of it has come from fracking technology and between that and expanded oil drilling, the US

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has supplanted Russia and become the #1 oil and natural gas producer in the world. One of the major benefits for us has been a solid reduction in our trade deficit. Also, lower energy prices have led to a good increase in our manufacturing base (see Germany above).

So, now we come home. With Warren Buffett's Mid-American Energy buying NV Energy I thought you might be interested in some perspective on where we've been coming into the buy-out.

In the last 5 years (last bill for 2008 to last bill for 2013):

- The basic rate is up 8%.
- Green Power Financing is up 102%.
- Renewable Program is up 86%.
- Service Charge is up 25%.
- Universal energy charge is Unchanged (how did that happen?)
- There's something called an Energy Efficiency Charge of .00343 that wasn't there in 2008.
- Don't forget the Local Government Fee 5% - Unchanged

For comparison:

- The average private sector wage in Clark County is down a little over 2%.
- Social Security is up 5.5%. That's gross, before deductions for Medicare, etc.

What's coming over the next five years? Will working people and seniors be able to keep pace? Will the Nevada legislature keep taking us down the same green energy road to nowhere the EU has gone?

Stay tuned.#

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Look Before You Leap

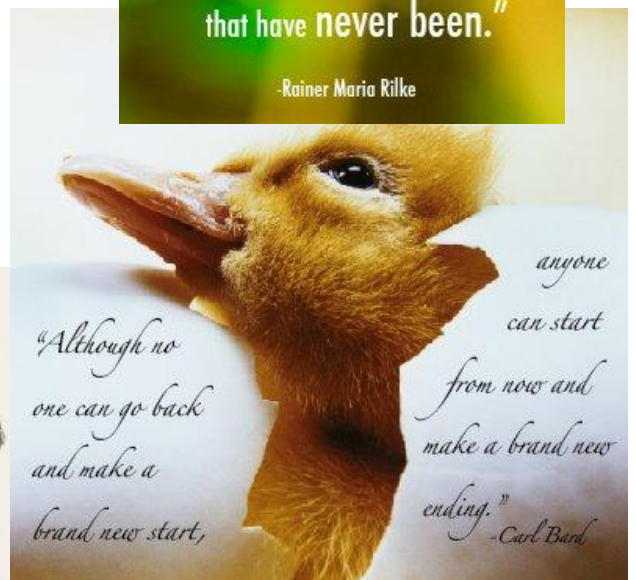
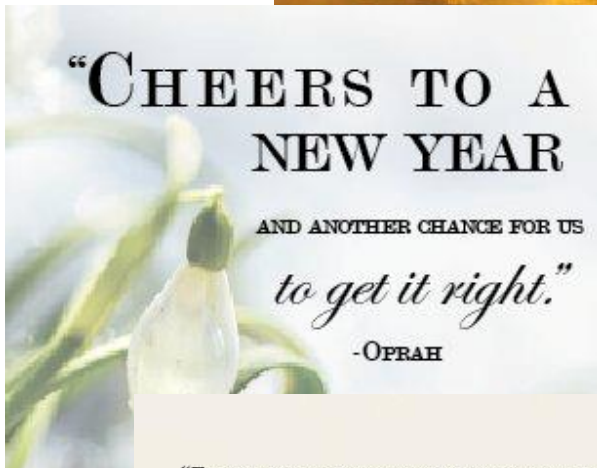
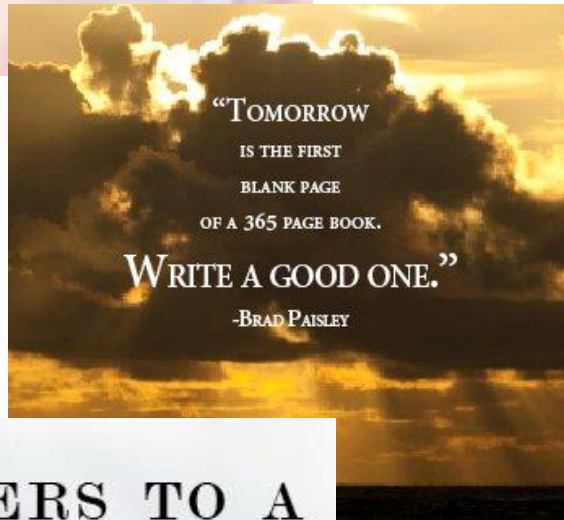
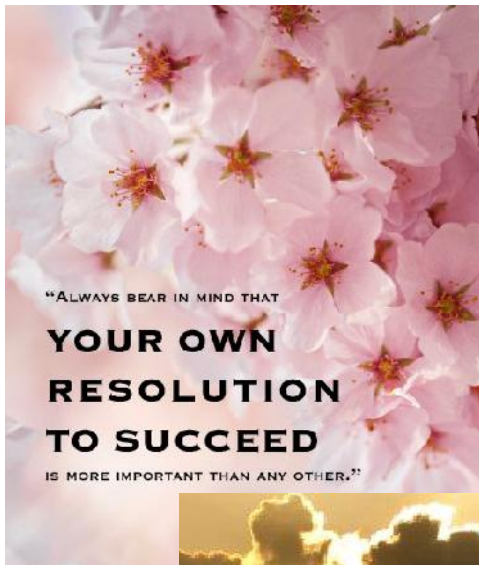
Remember **2014** is **not** a **Leap Year**. February has 28 days. 2016 will be the next leap year. In the Gregorian calendar 3 criteria must be taken into account to identify leap years:

- The year is evenly divisible by 4;
- If the year can be evenly divided by 100, it is **NOT** a leap year, unless; the year is also evenly divisible by 400. Then it is a leap year.

This means that 2000 and 2400 are leap years, while 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are **NOT** leap years.

The year 2000 was somewhat special as it was the first instance when the third criterion was used in most parts of the world since the transition from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar.

"Please Don't Quote Me"



Undocumented Immigrants

“To allow those who came here illegally to be placed on such a path is both inconsistent with rule of law and profoundly unfair to the millions of legal immigrants who waited years, if not decades, to come to America legally.”
– Ted Cruz (R-Texas) commenting on the Immigration Reform Legislation Bill.

11.7 million:

The estimated number of undocumented (ILLEGAL) immigrants (UI) in the United States today. That’s an increase of roughly one third since 2000, when there were 8.5 million UIs, according to the Center for American Progress. (There were 3.5 million in 1990)

86:

Percentage of UIs who have been living in the U.S. for 7 years or longer.

327,000:

Number of UIs apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol agents in fiscal year 2011, the majority of whom were seeking employment in the U.S.

80: Estimated percentage of UIs who are from Mexico and Latin America.

9: Percentage of UIs from Asia.

11: Percentage of UIs from Europe, Canada, Africa and other countries.

\$11.2 billion:

Amount that UIs paid in taxes in 2010, according to the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy. About half of all illegals pay some form of federal taxes.

\$4.2 billion:

Amount the federal government paid to individuals with children in 2005 whose tax bills dip below zero. The Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) is heavily claimed by UIs, according to Factcheck.org

Health Costs:

\$4.3 billion:

Annual estimated cost of taxpayer-provided health care for uninsured UIs, as of 2010, according to the Center for Immigration Studies. About half of that goes to people with incomes below 133 percent of poverty.

\$48.6 billion:

The estimated cost to taxpayers of covering 3.1 million amnestied immigrants during the budget period 2014-2019, in which Medicaid expansion takes effect, according to the same source.

Citizenship:

\$2.6 trillion:

An estimate of costs that could result from putting roughly 10 million adult UIs on a guaranteed pathway to citizenship, made in 2007 by the Heritage Foundation.

Education

\$40 billion:

The annual cost of educating illegals and their offspring in this country, according to the Center for Immigration Studies.

Legalization

\$1.5 trillion:

The amount that would be added to this country’s cumulative GDP over 10 years with a comprehensive immigration reform plan that includes legalization for all UIs currently living in the U.S., according to the Center for American Progress.

\$4.5 billion to \$5.4 billion:

The amount of additional net tax revenue that would accrue to the federal government over 3 years if all current UIs were legalized.

41.7 million: Overall foreign born population in the United States **28%** of which are illegal aliens.

67: Percent of legal Mexican immigrants which are not United States citizens.

Data taken from various sources.

The Civil War 150 Years Ago

Nothing much happened from January to early March 1864

March 10, 1864

Newly commissioned to the rank of lieutenant general, Ulysses S. Grant is given official authority to command all of the armies of the United States.

May 5–6

The Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia is the first of a bloody series of month-long engagements between Grant and Lee.

May 10–12

Battles at Spotsylvania Court House and Yellow Tavern impede Grant's drive for Richmond. Confederate cavalry commander Jeb Stuart is killed at Yellow Tavern, May 11.

June 1–3

The Battle of Cold Harbor results in heavy Union casualties. Grant prepares for a ten month siege of Petersburg.

June 19

The USS Kearsarge sinks the CSS Alabama off Cherbourg, France, where the Confederate raider was bound for refitting.

June 28

Lincoln signs a bill repealing the fugitive slave laws.

July 11–12

Confederate forces under Jubal Early probe and fire upon the northern defenses of Washington, D.C., throwing the Capital into a state of high alert.

August 5

Union Admiral David G. Farragut wins the Battle of Mobile Bay.

September 2

After forcing the Confederate army of John Bell Hood out of Atlanta, Georgia, General William T. Sherman captures the city, a major munitions center for the South.

October 19

A Union victory at Cedar Creek ends the Confederate threat in the Shenandoah Valley.

November 8

Lincoln is reelected President, with Andrew Johnson as Vice President.

November 16

Sherman leaves Atlanta and begins his "march to the sea," in an attempt to demoralize the South and hasten surrender.

December 15–16

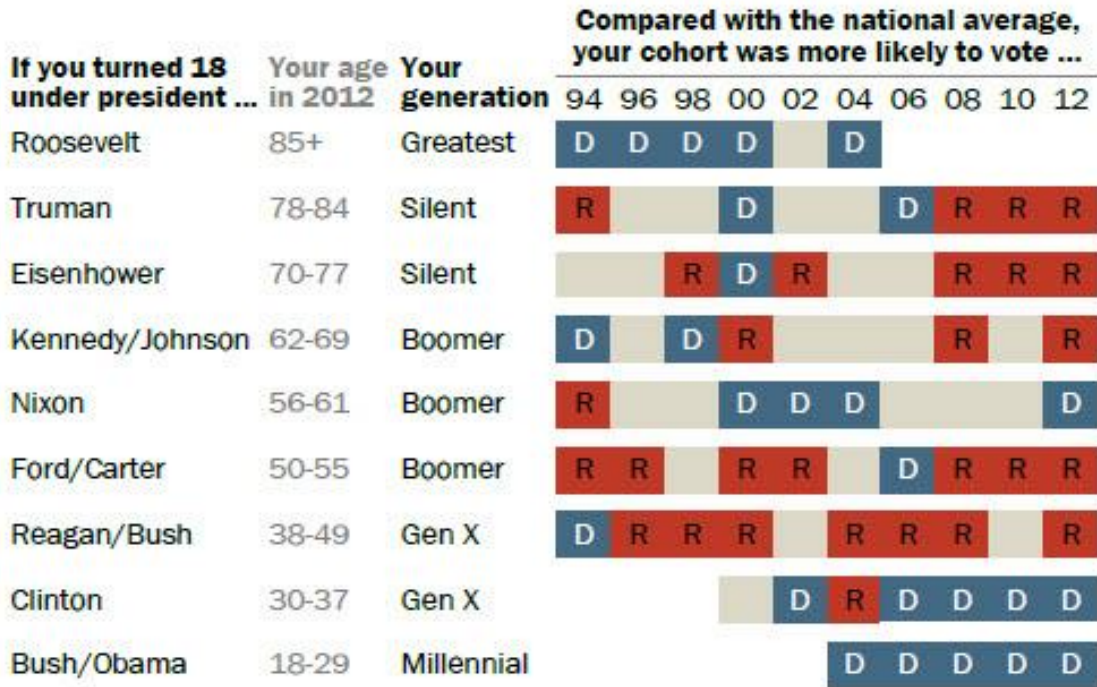
General George Henry Thomas wins the Battle of Nashville, decimating John Bell Hood's Confederate Army of Tennessee.

December 21

Savannah falls to Sherman's army without resistance. Sherman gives the city to Lincoln as a Christmas present.



Presidential Legacies? How Generations Have Voted



Tan boxes represent years in which an age group's vote was roughly equal to the national average. Data from some years not available for oldest and youngest generations due to small sample sizes. Based on likely voters in pre-election polls conducted in each election year. **Your Generation** shows where the majority of that age group is traditionally categorized (e.g., most people who turned 18 under Clinton are Gen X, though the very youngest are classified as Millennials).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Your membership anniversary date is on the Foghorn Mailing label. If the label is **RED**, please renew your membership, either by mail, or at the next meeting you attend. Your name is removed from the membership list 90 days after expiration. Membership dues are \$10.00 per person.

2014
YEAR OF THE HORSE

JANUARY 2014	FEBRUARY 2014	MARCH 2014	APRIL 2014
MAY 2014	JUNE 2014	JULY 2014	AUGUST 2014
SEPTEMBER 2014	OCTOBER 2014	NOVEMBER 2014	DECEMBER 2014



In 1986, Richard Kimball ran unsuccessfully for one of Arizona's two U.S. Senate seats. In a candidate's debate, he described the campaign process to prospective voters:

"Understand what we do to you. We spend all of our time raising money, often from strangers we do not even know. Then we spend it in three specific ways: First we measure you, what it is you want to purchase in the political marketplace — just like Campbell's soup or Kellogg's cereal. Next, we hire some consultants who know how to tailor our image to fit what we sell. Lastly, we bombard you with the meaningless, issueless, emotional nonsense that is always the result. And whichever one of us does that best will win."

Kimball used this philosophy to found Project Vote Smart in 1992. Project Vote Smart does not accept contributions from corporations, labor unions, political parties, or other organizations that lobby, support or oppose candidates or issues. All funding is provided by individual contributions and foundation grants such as from the Ford Foundation, Carnegie Foundation, and Pew Foundation.

Individual contributors are considered members, and are given the opportunity to visit their headquarters at the Great Divide Ranch

where they work as research volunteers alongside interns and staff.

VoteEasy

Introduced by the Project during the 2010 election season, it is "the interactive tool that enables voters to compare their position on various issues with that of a candidate."

For more information go to:

<https://votesmart.org/>

FROM THE EDITOR

Here we are in 2014 – another election year. A very apropos editorial cartoon appeared on the Opinion page of the Tuesday, December 31, 2013 Review-Journal in which a voter talking to Congress says, "Two-thirds of Americans give you the worst job approval rating of any Congress in their lifetimes. The Congress replies, "And who are you exactly?" "I'm a voter.", replies the voter.

And the Congress retorts, "well then apparently you haven't been doing your job so well either...".

Before you vote please be sure you know who you are voting for and their actual record not what they tell you.

There has been much misinformation disseminated in the last year by both parties. Unfortunately a lot of voters believe it.

YERN

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 13 starting at 10 a.m. at the



Whitney Recreation Center

5712 E. Missouri Ave., Las Vegas, NV

Clark County Assessor

Michele Shafe

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Vernon Perry	Issues

January 9, 1861

The S.S. Star of the West is fired upon.

A Union merchant ship, the Star of the West, was fired upon, on this day in 1861, as it tries to deliver supplies to **Fort Sumter** in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. This incident was the first time shots were exchanged between North and South, but did not start the Civil War.

South Carolinians seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860 and they demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Federal garrison at Fort Sumter.

President James Buchanan refused to comply with this demand and was careful not to make any provocative move. Inside the fort, **Major Robert Anderson** and his 80 soldiers needed supplies.

In order to keep tensions from flaring, the Buchanan administration decided to dispatch a civilian ship, the Star of the West, instead of a military transport. The ship left New York on January 5, 1861. After the ship was en route a dispatch was received from Anderson saying that the garrison was safe and supplies were not immediately needed and also that the secessionists were building gun emplacements overlooking the main shipping channel into Charleston Harbor. Holt realized that the ship was in great danger and a war might erupt if it were fired upon. He tried to recall the Star of the West but failed. Anderson was not aware that the ship continued on its way.

On the morning of **January 9**, captain **John McGowan** steered the ship into the channel near the fort. Two cannon shots roared from a South Carolina battery on Morris Island. They came from gunner **George E. Haynsworth**, a cadet from *The Citadel* in Charleston. The shots were poor shots but represented the opening salvo of the war. More shots were fired, and the ship suffered a minor

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.

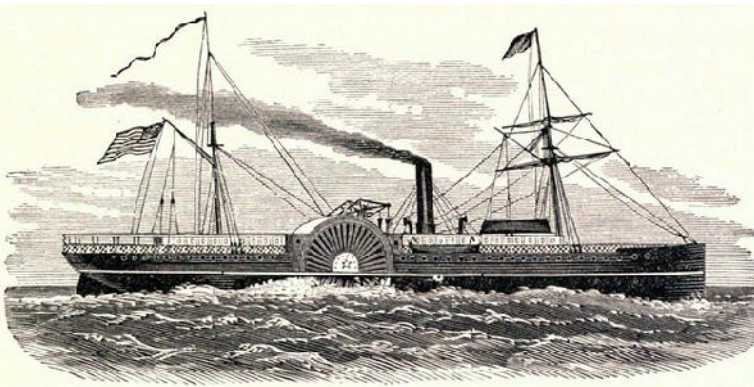
The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

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.

damage. Major Anderson, watching from Fort Sumter, did not respond in support of the ship. He might have started the war on that day if he had.

The incident resulted in strong talk on both sides, but stopped short of war. The standoff at Fort Sumter continued until the Confederates attacked in April 1861 starting the Civil War which continued until April 1865.



S.S. Star of the West (1860 woodcut)