

Alliance Clips and Retiree News December 1, 2011

Alliance Mentions

Wild Growth of Elderly in West, Census Shows

Lauren Steussy

NBC San Diego

November 30, 2011



Marilynn Garfield of Delray Beach, Fla., left, raises her hand when the audience was asked how many are on Medicare during the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans fifth annual town hall meeting on health care reform in Delray Beach, Fla. Thursday Aug. 20, 2009. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

Newly released census data shows a fast growing rate in the population of adults 65 and older. In California, the population of older Americans grew to more than 4 million, making it the state with the most seniors, according to the new data. The numbers raises a red flag for many concerns such as Social Security's solvency, housing, and job creation for older Americans.

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Wild-Growth-of-Elderly-in-West-Census-Shows--134784688.html>

Retiree Group: Focus on True Causes of Deficit

Kevin Osborne

City Beat

November 30, 2011

The Ohio chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans said many politicians, especially Republicans, are unfairly blaming the deficit on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. They are using the budget battle as an excuse to dismantle programs they dislike. David Friesner, president of the Ohio chapter stated that, “This was not the first threat that retirees have faced to their Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid – and it will not be the last. There may even be votes to cut these programs in December. At a time when so many retirees are struggling to get by, and when today’s workers wonder if they will ever be able to retire, it is unconscionable that Republicans continue to eye cuts to these programs as a way to fund an extension of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.”

http://www.citybeat.com/cincinnati/blog-2678-retiree_group_focus_on_true_causes_of_deficit.html

Social Security

G.O.P. and Democrats Differ on How to Prevent Social Security Payroll Tax Increase

Robert Pear and Jennifer Steinhauer

NY Times

November 30, 2011

Republicans and Democrats want to prevent an increase in Social Security payroll taxes that is set to occur in January, but they remained far apart on the specifics of how to do it. Senate Republican leaders introduced a bill that would keep the payroll tax rate at its current level for another year. The cost is roughly \$120 billion. Senate Republicans would offset most of the cost by freezing the pay of federal employees through 2015 and gradually reducing the federal work force by 10 percent. Senate Democratic leaders want a deeper temporary reduction in Social Security payroll taxes. They would provide payroll tax relief to employers as well as employees. And they would offset the cost with a 3.25 percent surtax on modified adjusted gross income in excess of \$1 million.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/01/us/politics/social-security-payroll-tax-hike-drives-wedge-in-washington.html?_r=2

Politics

Seniors Group Has Close Ties to GOP, Industry

Janie Lorber

Roll Call

RetireSafe bills itself as a nonpartisan senior citizens advocacy organization, but the organization's Republican and industry ties also raise questions about its independence. RetireSafe is led by former Bush and Reagan administration officials, small-government activists and pharmaceutical industry lobbyists and consultants. It is funded in part by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. "The average voter does not have enough time to know whether RetireSafe is a real group or a fake one," said Charlie Chamberlin, political director of Democracy for America, the grass-roots liberal organization set up by former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean. "That's worth a lot of money."

http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57_67/Seniors_Groups_Close_Ties_to_GOP_Industry-210650-1.html

Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich's Florida rise fueled by seniors

Evan Axelbank

WPTV

November 30, 2011

Months after his Republican presidential campaign nearly collapsed, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has taken a commanding lead in statewide polls. Wednesday, one was released by Public Policy Polling that showed Gingrich with a 47-17 lead over Mitt Romney. Pollsters say that it's seniors who remember Gingrich's 1994 contract with America - that are fueling Gingrich's rise. 54 percent of Florida seniors in PPP's survey supported Gingrich, and Gingrich led front-runner Mitt Romney by thirty points. Political analyst Robert Watson says it'll come down to whether Gingrich can overcome the stronger campaign organization and bank account that Mitt Romney has.

<http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/political/republican-presidential-candidate-newt-gingrich's-florida-rise-fueled-by-seniors>

Lawmakers propose end to congressional pensions

Debbie Siegelbaum

The Hill

November 30, 2011

While vast numbers of the private-sector workforce have seen their pensions vanish over recent decades and find themselves with precarious, market-based 401(k) plans, members of Congress receive both a pension and a quality employer-match plan. In an effort both to identify cost savings amid the nation's growing debt crisis and to give federal lawmakers more credibility in addressing related financial issues, Griffin and Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.) have recently introduced separate proposals for the elimination of pension benefits for members of Congress.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/196105-lawmakers-propose-end-to-congressional-pensions>

Health

Majority of Seniors Postpone Doctor Visits Due to Financial Concerns
Seniors Citizens League

Sacramento Bee

November 30, 2011

A survey of more than 1,200 seniors revealed that 51 percent of respondents put off visiting a doctor or getting outpatient medical services due to concerns about costs. The results were released today by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL), one of the nation's largest nonpartisan seniors advocacy groups, based in Alexandria, Virginia. The survey also found that due to financial concerns: Sixty-one percent of respondents postponed visits to dentists, opticians, or hearing specialists and Forty-four percent of respondents postponed filling prescriptions or chose to take a lower dosage than prescribed

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/30/4089543/majority-of-seniors-postpone-doctor.html#ixzz1fIIYSfg2>