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JUNE 2009



What's happening in June and July?

July 3rd

Bethel Church presents 'CELEBRATE AMERICA 2009'

Friday July 3, 2009

Shoreline Amphitheatre at Mountain View

FREE ADMISSION, parking \$5.00

Family Activities begin at 4:00 PM

Mainstage Performance and Laser Show begin at 8:00 PM

Bring your own snacks or purchase food from our vendors. (no alcohol permitted)

July 4th

Saratoga's Independence Day Observance

Saturday July 4, 2009, 10:15 AM to 11:45 AM

Saratoga's Azule City Park (Behind Blue Hills School--On Goleta Ave near Sea Gull and across the freeway from Kevin Moran Park)

Saratoga residents and visitors are invited to attend the fifth annual patriotic ceremony at Azule Park observing Independence Day. Come and celebrate the birth of America and our freedoms.

Everyone is encouraged to wear patriotic colors and carry a flag. Children & adults are encouraged to decorate their bikes & pets with red, white, and blue. Flags & balloons for children will be handed out before the program. Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniforms. Parking limited near park so come early

Following the ringing of the liberty bell we will conduct a Family

Patriotic Parade around the park. (Small bikes, pets, strollers, wagons, & adults too.) After the parade children will receive a prize & ice cream or otter bar.

Bring a chair. Seating and shade available for seniors.

July 5th, 2009 Meeting

We will not have an official Conservative Forum meeting in July. We are, however, strongly encouraging all of our members and friends to attend the second Tea Party Patriot event.

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Meeting Place is The Century Theatre Parking lot underneath the Century Theatre sign (near The Flames Restaurant) on Winchester.

What: Bring signs and flags. We will be marching between 280 and Stevens Creek on Winchester, and between 880 and Winchester on Stevens Creek. The corner of Winchester and Stevens Creek is one of the busiest intersections in Santa Clara County; and we will be protesting adjacent to Valley Fair and Santana Row.

See our web site for more details <http://www.theconservativeforum.com/>

[Surprised Obama Drove GM into BK? Remember His Plans for Coal?](#)

By John W. Lillpop

Liberals who share Barack Obama's disaffection with capitalism and freedom have never forgiven conservatives, especially Ronald Reagan, for winning the Cold War.

Watching the Berlin Wall and the USSR go down in flames was a humiliating experience for hard core leftists, coming as it did at the hands of a "dumb actor" from Hollywood.

Left wing extremists bent on revenge and punishment of American capitalists have, in President Obama, a man willing to do everything within his power to reduce the allure of free market enterprise.

An obvious example is the Obama-directed bankruptcy of General Motors, a once huge and prosperous American corporation, with Chrysler waiting in line for the ax of Obama to fall on its corporate neck.

To those shocked by Obama's disgusting, and probably unconstitutional, wielding of power, a one word reminder should suffice: Coal!

Remember, please, that this president openly admitted that an Obama administration would use the government to force private corporations into bankruptcy.

As reported at [Redcountry.com](http://www.redcountry.com), in part: <http://www.redcountry.com/sarasota/2008/11/obama-will-bankrupt-coal-indus/>

"In this audio interview between Barack Obama and the S.F. Chronicle Senator Obama says he will put in place a 100% cap and trade policy that "will bankrupt them [the coal industry]."

"Here is the transcript of the interview:

Let me sort of describe my overall policy.

What I've said is that we would put a cap and trade system in place that is as aggressive, if not more aggressive, than anybody else's out there.

I was the first to call for a 100% auction on the cap and trade system, which means that every unit of carbon or greenhouse gases emitted would be charged to the polluter. That will create a market in which whatever technologies are out there that are being presented, whatever power plants that are being built, that they would have to meet the rigors of that market and the ratcheted down caps that are being placed, imposed every year.

So if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant, they can; it's just that it will bankrupt them because they're going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted.

That will also generate billions of dollars that we can invest in solar, wind, biodiesel and other alternative energy approaches.

The only thing I've said with respect to coal, I haven't been some coal booster. What I have said is that for us to take coal off the table as a (sic) ideological matter as opposed to saying if technology allows us to use coal in a clean way, we should pursue it.

So if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant, they can.

It's just that it will bankrupt them."

President Obama appears to have selected bankruptcy as the weapon of choice for dealing with Republican capitalists.

More CHANGE we need?

Would you invest in the New GM?

By Jack Ward

Investors Business Daily (IBD) asked the probing question regarding investing in the 'New' General Motors (GM); "Why invest in a company if your money and rights as an investor can be arbitrarily stripped from you, as they were in GM's case?" IBD was pointing out that President Obama has dismantled two centuries of contract law in his "pre-packaged bankruptcy" of GM. Legal and binding contracts have been wiped out with the GM assets disproportionately distributed favoring the government and unions while leaving investors and dealers holding the short straw. The United Auto Workers (UAW) will receive about 17.5% of the stock for \$10 billion of unsecured debts, the bondholders will receive about 10% of stock for the \$27 billion in secured debt, and stockholders will get zero. Where else would unsecured debt be favored over secured debt? It would be cynical to point out that the unions donated millions to the Democrats in political campaigns in this 'pay to play' world. Obama and the congressional Democrats are obligated to save the UAW at the expense of non union jobs and businesses. During a Bloomberg business panel, it was asked what will be the importance of the unions in the next decade. Jack Welsh, former GE CEO, asked, "Give me a highly successful unionized industry." After the panel dodged the question Welsh said, "It's (unions) an inherent killer of competition." Profitability of a company is not an objective of a union.

Before you celebrate that the bondholders and stockholders got the shaft, ask who they are? Many were retirement funds, and individuals and many lost everything they had invested in GM. In reality, this wasn't a bankruptcy it was the nationalization of private industry.

But it's not Obama's fault. He has said, "...the United States government has no interest in running GM." But Obama is running GM. Obama orchestrated the firing of the GM CEO, dictated the terms of the bankruptcy, has decided where the GM headquarters will be, decided which dealers would survive, forbid the import of profitable GM cars from China and Germany, and hand picked a 31-year-old Yale law student, Brian Deese, to dismantle GM. Deese has no recognizable experience in economics, business, or the automotive industry. So why

would Obama select him to be in charge of dismantling GM?

The federal government doesn't have a stellar record on managing businesses. The government even lost money when the IRS confiscated and attempted to run the Mustang Ranch bar and brothel. For the government run GM and survive, they will have to build and sell cars that people want. Congress has already dictated the kinds of cars that will be produced. Soon dealerships will display the reincarnation of such classics as Le Car, Travant, Lada, and Yugo. Tiny cars have been available for decades but they have never been popular. To sell the Pelosi GT, the Waxman Super Sport, or the Obamamobile, congress will need to ban all other vehicles.

If the people aren't interested in driving these automotive disasters, how will GM ever become profitable? This is the dilemma that investors have. Why should an investor put their good hard earned money into a company that has very little chance of making money? But for the sake of good humor, let's assume that people want to drive 'clown cars'. History shows the profit margin on these cars is small. Why would someone want to be a stockholder in the 'New' GM knowing that the business model is flawed and was it created after the federal government ignored contract law and wiped out the stock value of the original GM? Throwing good money after bad comes to mind. The goal of an investor is to invest in a profitable company. But the basic goals of the 'New' GM are conflicted with the last and least important goal is to make a profit.

Obama and the congressional Democrats are obligated to save the UAW at the expense of non union jobs and businesses. Devotees of Socialism can rejoice knowing that the workers (UAW) will now control a significant portion of the means of auto production, but will investors think this Government / Union consortium is a good investment?

I doubt it.

The recession is almost over?

Keith De Filippis

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) showed the "number of unemployed persons increased by 787,000 to 14.5 million in May", and the unemployment rate rose to 9.4 percent." We are told that is good news because it is lower than expected.

While the President went on a combination apology tour and Paris vacation, his administration was saying we have turned the corner and are on the road to recovery. The press is telling us the rate of unemployment is tapering off. "It is lower than expected."

For many years I have had the pleasure of working with statisticians. The first thing I learned was about "outliers" they are numbers that don't fit pattern. I used to ask, how do you know they are outliers? Trust me was the answer. After the outliers were removed the numbers always supported the preconceived notion. If your unemployment projections are unreasonably high the actual numbers will look good. They are not saying that unemployment is going down. They are saying that is not rising as fast as they projected.

The same game is being played by the administration and the press. They are saying the rate of unemployment is slowing down therefore the recession is almost over.

Sometimes you need to use another way of measuring. I call it the common sense approach. Go to your local tool rental store. You notice the parking lot is empty and the clerks are talking to each other. Home Depot - the same thing. The local restaurants are empty also. Your local car dealer is in the same boat. They are trying to push previously owned cars if any. The traffic at rush hour is much lighter.

When the government statistics are at odds with reality you must decide which you believe.

We are approaching a point where glowing speeches and promises of prosperity being just around the corner are no longer going to sell. People are going to see the "change" we were promised isn't what we are getting. More government regulations and requirements are not bringing us out of the recession. Government does not produce revenue, it consumes money and resources.

Speeches and misleading statistics will not bring prosperity. Only when real business generating real products will we emerge from this recession. There are no quick fixes.

Top 12 Indicators That The Economy Is Bad (picked up from emails and blogs)

12. CEO's are now playing miniature golf.
11. I got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.
10. I went to buy a toaster oven and they gave me a bank.
9. Hotwheels and Matchbox car companies are now trading higher than GM in the stock market.
8. Obama met with small businesses - GE, Pfizer, Chrysler, Citigroup and GM, to discuss the Stimulus Package.
7. McDonalds is selling the 1/4 ounce..
- 6 People in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and are learning their children's names.
5. The most highly-paid job is now jury duty.
4. People in Africa are donating money to Americans.
3. Motel Six won't leave the lights on.
2. The Mafia is laying off judges.
- And my most favorite indicator of all.
1. If the bank returns your check marked as "insufficient funds," you have to call them and ask if they meant you or them.