

FEBRUARY 2012

Volume 3, Issue 1

Mother Lode Tea Party

we the people

(209) 223-1318

<http://www.motherlodeteaparty.org>



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Freedom—How Free Are We

The following quote was found over a wall in a house in Iraq and forwarded to this editor by a U.S. Soldier named Jason Doczi who has served two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Each of these tours was twelve grueling months, a solid year. *“For those who have fought for it, Freedom has a flavor the protected shall never know”*

I for one have never served in the U.S. Military, though it was not for lack of trying. Which in turn means I have never gone abroad except for those times for business or pleasure. Yet I enjoy the freedom I have which is granted to me by the Constitution of the United States of America and fought for by each person serving in the U.S. Military. We who have

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General Meeting Thursday

February 9, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Speaker:

Brad Dacus

**Pacific Legal Foundation
“Rescuing Liberty From
Coast To Coast”**

Italian Benevolent Society Hall
Italian Picnic Grounds
581 Highway 49
Sutter Creek

Conferences and Seminars

**California Tea Party Groups
Strategic Conference
March 3 - 4, 2012
San Juan Capistrano, CA
Capistrano Inn - Best Western**

27174 Ortega Highway
San Juan Capistrano

Conference Registration Fee: \$45 per person
Your registration fee also includes
lunch both Saturday and Sunday

To register for the conference please go to:
www.socaltaxrevoltcoalition.org/19.html

For more information please contact:
Dawn Wildman, President
SoCal Tax Revolt Coalition, Inc.
(619) 606-0337

**Int'l Affairs &
U.S. Nat'l Security**

Dr. Angelo Codevilla

2nd & 4th Tuesdays
7:00—8:30 pm

MLTP Headquarters & Training Center

For additional information please call
(209) 223-1318

**Making of America
Saturday**

March 10, 2012

Morning Session: Developing America's Great
..... Success Formula

Afternoon Session: The perfect Plan of Liberty

8:30am—4:30pm

Holiday Inn Express

9175 W. Stockton Blvd.

(Laguna Blvd. at Hgwy 99)

Elk Grove

\$20 Adults - \$10 Students

Reservations: elkgrovetpp@aol.com

This seminar explores the solid political & economic principles
from the preamble through the amendments to the Constitution

Freedom

15 Good Things—*About The Bad Economy We're In*

Written by Kathryn Vercillo

not gone abroad and fought in hand-to-hand combat or been at the wrong end of rifle and wondered if it was going to be the last thing we ever saw. For most Americans we've had a pretty cushy life and at times have taken for granted the freedoms we do have. Not giving it one thought as who's life was taken away for the freedom we have.

Today we are having more and more of our freedoms taken away from us, from guns to speech to what we can or cannot eat. In the airports we are subjected to humiliating searches and treated as though each and every one of us is a criminal or terrorist. We sit back and complain amongst ourselves and wonder why on earth these great United States are in the pickle they're in.

Brad Dacus of the Pacific Legal Foundation is, in a sense, a soldier here on the home front. He's fighting to preserve and bring back liberty and freedom.

Come join us February 9th at 7:00pm at the Italian Picnic Grounds in Sutter Creek. Brad will explain what's happening and what we can do.



There is no denying that the economy is in a bad place and that we're not quite sure when things are going to get better. This has created suffering of various degrees for many people across the U.S. It is not a pretty picture. But there are two sides to every coin and it's good to remember that not everything about this downward economic shift is bad.

Here is a look at fifteen things we could consider to be the "silver lining" of the bad economic cloud that's been hanging over us:

1. **People are coming together to help one another out.** One of the most profound things that has already begun to occur as a result of the change in the economy is that people are more concerned about other in their community. When we aren't wasting our energy trying to get more stuff and keep up with the Joneses, we start to realize that the Joneses are just people just like us and we begin to be kinder to them.
2. **Priorities are shifting.** Individual, corporate and global priorities seem to be shifting a little bit as we adjust to the idea that money is important and necessary but it's not the be-all-and-end-all of happiness.
3. **The environment is improving.** People are naturally making changes to reduce their spending that result in positive effects on the environment. For example,

putting on a sweater instead of turning on the heater saves you money and also saves the earth.

4. **Everyone is looking at jobs a little bit differently.** For some people, this has been the perfect time to start looking for a job that they can be truly passionate about because there's just no guarantee that they're going to be able to keep the job that they don't really like but which pays the bills. For other people, there has become a greater appreciation for just having a job, even one they complained a lot about in the past. These changing relationships that we have with our work may be difficult to go through but they are ultimately positive changes.
5. **Many people are stopping to smell the roses.** We are noticing the small things in life again as a way of dealing with these big changes. And really, it's the small things that matter.
6. **We are taking care of ourselves.** As the economy has suffered, each of us has tried individually and collectively to find a way to make ourselves feel stable and okay and better. This means that we are taking better care of ourselves than before these changes occurred.
7. **People are equalized a little bit.** People are certainly being impacted to different degrees by

3.1 Million New Jobs?—*Carl McDanel*

Something hasn't rung true about the Obama Administration (Treasury Department) claim to have "created" 3.1 million new jobs. In search of clarity I decided to take a look at the government data at www.bls.gov (The bureau of Labor Statistics). The data is year end, YE 2008 to YE 2011 is three years of the Obama Administration

CHANGE	2008	2011	COMMENT
U.S. Working Age Population	233.8 mil	240.6 mil	+6.8 mil Additional working age Americans
Labor Force	154.3 mil	153.9 mil	-.4 mil 400,000 fewer Americans are looking for work in spite of a 6.8 million increase in the working force population
Labor Force % of Working Age Population	66%	64%	-2% This means there are 4.8 million working age Americans who have given up and dropped off of the unemployment rolls
Total Employment	145.4 mil	140.8 mil	-4.6 There are 4.6 million fewer Americans actually working
Employment % of Working Age Population	62.2%	58.5%	-3.7% An additional 8.9 million Americans are not working!
Unemployed	8.9 mil	13.1 mil	+4.2 mil 4.2 million more Americans want to work and can't find a job
Unemployed % of Labor Force	5.8%	8.5%	-2.7% This is based on a smaller labor force due to drop outs

These numbers appear consistent with themselves: 4.6 million less employed, 4.2 million more unemployed, .4 million dropped out.

When you add the 13.1 million unemployed to the 4.8 million who have given up or dropped off the rolls there are now 17.9 million actual unemployed in the U.S., an 11.6% unemployment rate. This also does not account for the number of workers that are working part-time or at significantly reduced wages.

As popularized by Mark Twain in 1906 there are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics. Which is the Obama Administration's the 3.1 million new jobs?

Disgusting Government Waste, Fraud & Abuse

Written By: Dan Mitchell

July 7, 2011

It gets my blood boiling that the crowd in Washington is talking about raising our taxes when the budget is so riddled with excess spending. Here are two stories that illustrate the waste, fraud, and abuse that is pervasive in the federal budget.

Our first example is about unemployment benefits fraud. I've noted on several occasions that the main problem with unemployment benefits is that they lure people into long-term joblessness and dependency. That gets me angry in my role as an economist. As a taxpayer, though, I get upset that 10 percent of the funds (that's just what the government admits, so the real figure surely is higher) are squandered because of fraud. Here's some info from an AP report.

A nationwide crackdown is coming for people fraudulently drawing unemployment payments—those who were never eligible and workers who keep getting checks after

they return to work—a \$17 billion benefits swindle last year along, say federal officials. As much as 30 percent of the wrong payments in 2010 went to people who had returned to the workforce but continued to claim benefits, according to Dale Ziegler, deputy administrator for the Office of Unemployment Insurance at the U.S. Department of Labor.

Our second example comes from a news report in West Virginia, and it deals with the weatherization program (one of the flagship components of Obama's failed stimulus scheme). You won't be surprised to learn the program has been a farce.

Federal audits are turning up misspent taxpayer dollars in a \$5 billion stimulus program aimed at lowering the utility bills of disabled, poor and older Americans by making their homes more energy-efficient. In West Virginia, which received \$38 million in weatherization funds, some of the money went for lobbying, to consultants who did little work and to recipients with connections to state officials who are doling out the funds, the Energy Department's in-

spector general found. In one case, West Virginia paid \$25,000 to a lawyer for writing two sentences stating that weatherization contracts had been reviewed, reportedly after four hours' work at a state office, according to a report analyzing how the federal stimulus money was used. A \$20,000 consulting fee was paid to the former director of the state's weatherization program after he left the job in May 2009 even though there were no specific work requirements set for the consulting contract. ...more than half of weatherized homes that were re-inspected needed to be redone because of faulty work, the report said. Meanwhile, \$2,500 was spent on lobbying in Washington—even though such use is expressly forbidden—to “get the word out” that there wasn't enough funding to administer stimulus program, it said.

These stories aren't even the tip of the iceberg. They are a few tiny crystals in one snowflake sitting on the top of the tip of the iceberg. The politicians want more revenue so they can maintain this corrupt scam.



15 Good Things

the economy's change but most of us feel like we're all kind of in the same boat. We are all losing something here, we are all feeling a little bit nervous and unsure. This helps to iron out the difference that exist between us and bonds us through our shared plight.

8. **Local businesses and organizations are benefiting.** Yes, there are definitely some losses at the local level. However, there have also been some gains. People are sticking closer to home and this means that some local businesses and organizations are strengthened as a result of the economic downturn.
9. **We are becoming more creative.** When you have a lot of money, you can do things habitually. When you don't have a lot of money, you have to get creative about doing the things that you want to be doing. More creativity among people is always a good thing as far as I'm concerned.
10. **We are learning to make choices.** We are asking ourselves what we really want to spend our money on. This is teaching us to make really basic choices about what matters to us on a daily basis. This increased ability to make better choices ultimately means that we are learning how to choose the kind of life we really want instead of accepting the one that has been handed to us in the past.
11. **We are relaxing more.** Believe it or not, many people are relaxing more than they did in the past. For some, this is because the sheer stress of the situation has forced them to figure out ways to de-stress. For others, it is because they can't afford to spend money on constant entertainment the way that they did in the past. Whatever the reason, people now are taking more walks, going to yoga classes and hanging out at board game nights with their friends.
12. **There is less waste.** We are wasting less money. We are wasting less food. We are finding new uses for old things instead of just throwing them away. We are even wasting less time. We may have less but this also means that we waste less and that's generally a positive thing.
13. **We are more grateful than in the past.** People who stop to think of the things that they are thankful for each day are people who tend to be happier in their lives. More and more people are starting to do this because it has become increasingly important to us to count our blessings even as we acknowledge that we are going through a tough time filled with various types of loss.
14. **Everyone is doing a better job at the work that they do.** People who are afraid of losing their jobs are going to make

sure that they go above and beyond to do what needs to be done to stand out in their companies. This means that people are really giving their all which is something that we ought to feel good about doing when it comes to the jobs that we have chosen.

15. **We are recognizing our own strength.** Going through any period of loss causes us each to deal with situations that we may feel like we aren't capable of getting through. When we get through these things, we feel stronger than we did before and we recognize our own ability to take care of ourselves and our loved ones in a way we didn't know we could before. The loss of economic stability is creating this on a big scale.

Volunteers Needed

With this being an election year we need your help more than ever if we are to turn this country around. No experience necessary.

To lend a hand please call 223-1318 or stop by the office in Mother Lode Plaza 611A Hgwy 49

Calendar

Amador County Calendar

Board Of Supervisors

February 14 & 28

1:00 p.m.

810 Court Street
Jackson

Planning Commission

February 14

7:00 p.m.

810 Court Street
Jackson

Amador Water Agency

February 9

9:00 a.m.

12800 Ridge Road
Sutter Creek

School Board—County Governing board

February 15 & 29

7:00 p.m.

810 Court Street
Jackson

MLTP Calendar

February 9

Thursday

General Meeting

Brad Dacus

Pacific Legal Foundation

6:30 p.m.

Italian Picnic Grounds

581 Highway 49

Jackson

March 8

Thursday

General Meeting

Speaker TBD

7:00 p.m.

Italian Picnic Grounds

581 Highway 49

Jackson

Driving Directions

Italian Picnic Grounds & Benevolence Hall

Highway 49 to Sutter Hill—from the south

- ◆ In Martell just passed the “New Jackson Ford & Prospect Motors” locations you’ll turn left into the small fruit stand. You’ll be directed by parking lot attendants towards the parking area,
- ◆ Pull into the driveway at the fruit stand. You’ll be directed by parking lot attendants towards the parking area.

Highway 49 to Sutter Hill—from the north

- ◆ Just passed Ridge Road on Highway 49 you will make a right turn just beyond the RV sales lot.
- ◆ Pull into the driveway at the fruit stand. You’ll be directed by parking lot attendants towards the parking area.