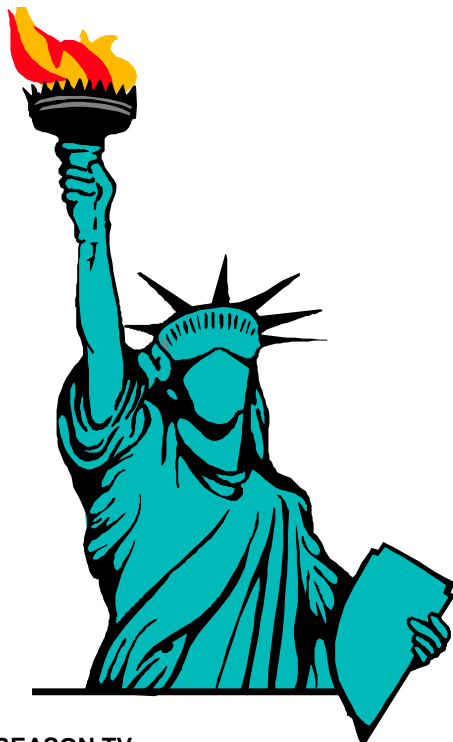


Liberty Rising

What's happening?

Libertarian Party of Sonoma County
 March 3, 2010 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table
 Pizza, 550 Montecito Blvd., Santa Rosa



REASON.TV
 March 15-19, 2010 – Reason Saves
 Cleveland with Drew Carey. Episodes 1
 through 6.

Libertarian Party of Sonoma County
 April 7, 2010 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table
 Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa

Freedomfest 2010
 July 7-11, 2010 – Last year's event fea-
 tured "over 100 speakers, 90 exhibitors,
 and nearly 1700 attendees."
www.freedomfest.com

Bill of Rights Day
 December 15, 2010 – A perfect day to
 pen a note to the President and Congress
 that you will not give up your Tenth
 Amendment rights!

What's a Libertarian to do?

Flaunt the Constitution

Libertarianism does not begin with our Constitution, but it is still a great place to start. Consequently, flaunt the Constitution at every opportunity, particularly in the face of politicians.

It would help if your knowledge of the Constitution could pass serious scrutiny. Study up.

It would help if politicians would deign to at least fold and spindle this important document. Imagine the possibilities if reporters understood but a few key portions of the Bill of Rights.

It is too bad the people who wrote the Declaration of Independence did not write our Constitution.

News break

Ardent supporter

President Obama claimed to be "an ardent supporter of the free market" in a recent speech. Rarely has such deceit flowed so easily from the mouth of a U.S. President.

In a free market the government doesn't bail out and acquire ownership of automobile and insurance companies, nationalize the student loan market, guarantee most of the mortgage loans, dictate the pay on Wall Street, determine the acceptability of health insurance products, prevent consumers and insurers from reaching mutually acceptable contracts, mandate the provision of certain products, mandate the purchase of certain privately produced products, and otherwise interfere in the market place ad nauseum.

Just as Arnold Schwarzenegger

knew he had to praise Milton Friedman in his campaign to replace Gray Davis, Barack Obama knows he must praise the free market even as he tramples it beneath his stylish and shiny boots.

Did anyone expect a community organizer to understand or even appreciate the free market?

Rohnert Park sales tax?

The city council has unanimously declared a state of emergency, which clears the way to skip the June 8 primary election and instead place a special election on the ballot later in June.

This is an ill-disguised end run around the general voter who will likely not bother to turn out at a special election to defeat a tiny increase in the sale tax. Instead, legions of city employees (and their family, friends, and union buddies) will turn out to vote themselves a heaping slice of the consumer's pocketbook.

Contact LP Sonoma to help stop this tax!

NEWS BREAK continues on page two

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Lake County crisis

Lake County was recently named the 14th worst in the nation, based upon various measures of economic conditions. The article went on to point out the deficiencies: a lack of natural resources, lack of cheap labor, lack of efficient transportation, and an over-reliance on “lower-income visitors.”

What an opportunity! What if Lake County offered its residents and visitors something they couldn't get anywhere else? What if local government actually respected its residents and their liberties?

Imagine a business community no longer fleeced to placate special interest groups. Imagine property tax payers paying for services they want and can't get in the marketplace, instead of paying for services forced upon them by politicians, bureaucrats, and union thugs.

Truthfully, Lake County all it needs for a prosperous economy except for the liberty that transforms resources into prosperity. Do the people know? Do the politicians know and not care? Does the business community know or are they already hostage to the government planners, permit grantors, and tax gougers?

Lake County can be saved with the Libertarian prescription: privatize, de-regulate, and un-tax!

LP Sonoma

LP Sonoma

Chair Kate Moore
Vice-Chair David Koolhoven
Secretary Frank Ball
Treasurer James Oglesby

Contact LP Sonoma, of course.

2010 Action Plan

Party members will discuss a proposed action plan for 2010 submitted by James Oglesby. His plan seeks to marshal county-wide resources to address local issues while at the same time staging a series of publicity events.

The issues at hand are Healdsburg's efforts to adopt community impact reporting, special elections to raise the sales tax in Cotati and Rohnert Park, and a special election to increase the parcel tax in the Russian River Fire District.

The publicity events proposed range from a Second Amendment raffle, a seminar on the Constitution, a dinner meeting with a prominent guest speaker, mailing copies of the Constitution to public officials and newspaper reporters, awarding Disgrace in Government certificates, and a July 4th ammunition distribution.

To ensure a strong but doable plan, attend the March 3, 2010 meeting of LP Sonoma.

Meeting Change

The March 3, 2010 meeting is at the usual time but in a different location: 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 550 Montecito Blvd., Santa Rosa. Mark your calendar and don't head to the wrong location.

What's the answer?

Q: How do you answer those who would give up their liberty in exchange for some form of national health care?

A: Samuel Adams said it about as well as it can be said. See his quote elsewhere in this newsletter.

Q: Where's the ammo?

A: Find it at ammoseek.com.

Q: In a year of debate why haven't the advocates of single-payer health care provided an actuarially sound example of where it works?

A: The answer is obvious. The same people claim Social Security and Medicare work, oblivious to their combine \$50 trillion in unfunded liabilities.

What do you know?

The Walmart way

In a recent taste test a Texas chef purchased the ingredients for a fancy meal at both Walmart and Whole Foods. A taste panel found no major difference in quality or flavor. Of

course, low-income shoppers saved 30% (\$126 vs. \$175)! How about more goods and services from Walmart and fewer from federal, state, and local governments?

Privatize, deregulate, and un-tax, that's the Libertarian prescription for real reform.

“If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating contest of freedom, go home from us in peace. We ask not your counsels or your arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen”

Samuel Adams

Real reform

In the market place reform is a continual process driven by consumers looking for better value and by competitive businesses looking for customers. In contrast, government driven reform is a cumbersome process complete with endless public meetings, back room deals, expensive election campaigns, privileges for the politically connected and mind-numbing legalese that no one understands.

Privatize, deregulate, and un-tax, that's the Libertarian prescription for real reform.

Comics

2/1 Healdsburg Tribune

Apparently the Post Carbon Institute is convinced that available energy sources on insufficient to “get us ‘over the hump’ to a post-carbon world.” From their website we

learn that in the United Kingdom the energy industry insists that tight oil supplies will lead to gasoline shortages by 2014-15.

Since the United Kingdom is hardly the champion of the free market it is not surprising that they are worried about gasoline shortages. In a free market there are no persistent shortages because changing prices ensure that supply stays in sync with demand.

Anyone concerned about the potential chaos of tight oil supplies and gasoline shortages should be first in line demanding a return to free markets. Since the Post Carbon Institute is not, we can be sure they are fear mongering and will happily force oil and gas shortages upon us in order to coerce us to accept a post-carbon lifestyle.

2/10 The Press Democrat

The State of California has accumulated \$52 billion in unfunded "retiree health benefits." This is on top of unfunded pension benefits, on top of the current \$20 billion short-term deficit, and on top of over \$500 billion in state debt. Thanks.

2/11 The Press Democrat

The headline reads "Bipartisan jobs bill unlikely to create many new jobs." So this major and much-trumpeted legislation really won't do much. Is it any wonder that it has bi-partisan support? Get the point, government happily does two things, the useless and the harmful. How can it be otherwise? Anything useful and beneficial would be provided for individually or via markets.

2/12 The Press Democrat

James Evans wants to ad "hire local" to the panoply of "stay local, eat local, and buy local." While common sense and economics textbooks say "hire, stay, eat, and buy where the value matches your budget," there are still many who prefer to cook the golden goose.

Buying local actually makes the economic pie smaller as consumers buy less in order to buy local. In turn, local businesses are rewarded for their inefficiency, again shrinking the economic pie. Racing to the bottom is not a viable strategy.

2/10 The Press Democrat

Anti-discrimination laws apparently don't apply as the Santa Rosa Planning Commission has approved a "gay and lesbian retirement community." While any swerve on the part of government towards liberty is good, one wonders why other forms of discrimination are still illegal.

Directory

LibertyRISING is published by the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County, James R. Oglesby editor. The deadline for the March issue is 3/15/10. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:

*James R. Oglesby
c/o LibertyRISING*

5774 Lois Ave

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

707 838-4059

LPSonomaNews@aol.com

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www.LPSonoma.org

Libertarian Party of California

www.LPC.org

"In a moral society, your fear of freedom cannot require my forfeiture of liberty."

Vantage Vigilance Valor

2/14 The Press Democrat

Defly moving the editorial pages onto the front page under the guise of a news story, we are assured via a bold headline that there is a "Grim outlook if health care overhaul isn't passed."

For every "grim outlook" if health care isn't passed there is a matching "grim outlook" if health care is passed. There are increased taxes, increased demand, reduced supply, increased regulations, loss of liberty, trampling of our Constitution, and the criminalization of previously peaceful behavior. To claim there is a "grim outlook" only if health care doesn't pass is blatant editorializing disguised as news reporting. Associated Press writer Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar should

be ashamed as should *The Press Democrat* for carrying this editorial on their front page.

2/15 The Press Democrat

The installation of wireless PG&E meter is being challenged in the very politically correct City of Sebastopol. Noted as an official "nuclear free zone" and as an unofficial "vaccine free zone," Sebastopol never fails to amuse.

2/15 The Press Democrat

China is extracting 300,000,000 tons of iron ore per year from Australia, along with massive quantities of other resources such as liquid natural gas. Whatever happened to the "running out of resources" hysterics? Perhaps they have fallen into the world's largest open-pit iron ore mine that used to be the site of a 1,500' mountain.

2/17 The Press Democrat

Finally recognizing the folly of claiming global warming is a threat while paying lip-service to nuclear power, the Obama administration has pledged \$8.33 billion in loan guarantees for a new nuclear power plant in Georgia. While it is good to recognize the disconnect, it is still wrong to put up the loan guarantees. Instead, free the market.

Only the market can sort through the costs and benefits of various forms of energy production. Remove the federal regulations and restrictions. Reduce taxes. Eliminate federal favoritism. Let the market work and it will.

By the way, the fears of long term storage of radioactive waste are misguided. Such waste only has to be stored for a very short period of time. At that point advancing technology will allow us to store the waste safely for a somewhat longer period of time. Repeat as needed.

2/18 The Press Democrat

Rohnert Park may need to close the wastefully built and extravagant Spreckels Center. The city may have to close that which should never have been built. It was pure hubris that built the Spreckels Center – "how

can we be a real city without a performing arts center?"

2/18 *The Press Democrat*

"California's pension fund for teachers is short (unfunded) by \$22.5 billion.

2/23 *The Press Democrat*

The insatiable appetite of the takers is nicely on display in an opinion piece by Jay Halcomb and Dan Kerbein of the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter. Not content with the coerced acquisition of the "headwaters" forest in Humboldt county, and not content with the many (many) redwood trees in various state and national forests, they want control over Bohemian Grove. Even the nearby Armstrong Redwoods fails to curb their appetite. They won't stop taking. They can't stop taking. Even, if it means trampling your life, your liberty, and your property.

Media silence

Strangled by regs

Four times in the last 100 years Americans have felt the impact of major tax cuts. The first was post WWI, and led to an economic boom. The second was courtesy of John F. Kennedy, which also helped the pre-Great Society economy surge.

Significantly, both these tax cuts occurred when federal regulations were reasonably light. When Reagan cut taxes he also cut federal regulations, reducing the size of the federal register from 87,000 to 55,000 pages. Again, the economy boomed.

Finally, we have the Bush (43) tax cuts. Essentially they failed, partly because they were mostly promised future tax cuts that couldn't be relied upon, and partly because they were temporary. More importantly, they failed because President Bush failed to cut regulations. The profound media silence on this failure helps explain why the anti-constitutionalist terrorists are winning.

My \$0.02

February 25, 2010

Dear Editor,

I have some ideas to help the STUPID TRAIN out of its financial mess. The train expects to earn \$8 million per year in fare box revenue while spending \$19 million per year on operating expenses. That \$11 million per year loss really adds up over the course of their twenty-year plan.

Raise fares. At some point raising fares will cover operating costs, probably at the point that no one desires to ride. Good. Now all those new train station won't have to be built. And, the system will work just as well running one empty train per day as opposed to many empty trains, saving even more money.

With empty trains the system won't have to buy all those expensive new rail cars. Just bolt some old school and transit buses onto railroad flatcars and call it good.

James R. Oglesby

This is the opinion section. Send in your two cents worth, just keep it short. Longer opinion pieces are welcome. Very long articles will be considered for publication on a \$20/page fee basis (you pay to cover the additional printing and postage costs).

Your Econ Guru

Cartoon Economics

If you don't have the time or inclination to wade through an economics textbook, there is an alternative. Check out "The Cartoon Introduction to Economics," by Grady Klein and Yoram Bauman, PhD. Cartoons are an excellent way to visually communicate economic theory, and the humor helps the medicine go down.

Rather than a free market screed, this book is what you would expect if most any introductory economics textbook were rendered in a graphic cartoon style. "The Cartoon Introduction to Economics" praises the market when necessary, and points out its flaws whenever possible. Too often, in fact.

Typically, we are told how markets

suffer from the problem of asymmetrical information, as when an individual attempts to purchase a used car. The owner of the car tends to know a great deal about the car, including its use, abuse, and reliability. The purchaser knows nothing. This is the classic representation of asymmetrical knowledge.

Far from being an insurmountable problem requiring government intervention, people make choices and act. They buy used cars from dealers offering warranties. They buy used cars with transferable factory warranties. They offer private, fly-by-night sellers less than they offer to fixed-in-place businesses. They seek out cars with good repair histories, they order Carfax reports, they pay for independent mechanical evaluations, they conduct extensive road tests, and they even buy from more trusted family members and friends.

Asymmetrical knowledge is just another problem dealt with long ago by free people solving problems.

As usual, privatize, de-regulate, and un-tax.

Disgrace in government

The for February award Disgrace in Government has been earned by the City of Sebastopol for its request that P.G.&E. halt the replacement of electric meters with electronic smart meters. Such a blithering sault on science is as-the norm in this community dominated by the environmental left. While 90% confidence is sufficient for them to fight global warming, even 99.99% confidence is too weak when it comes to vaccines and microwave radiation.

This newsletter registered 10.3 on the Flesch-Kincaid grade level scale, with 2,889 words.