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AD FEEDBACK

## July 1, 2011

TRANSPARENCY: 49 House members demand probe of Kagan involvement in ObamaCare. "Did Elena Kagan mislead the Senate Judiciary Committee during her confirmation hearing when answering questions about her level of involvement in ObamaCare? Forty-nine House members have signed a letter to the House Judiciary Committee demanding an investigation of that question, as new documents suggest that the now-Supreme Court Justice helped the Obama administration craft legal defenses for the law. The signatories argue that this should require Kagan to recuse herself from considering the appeals that will likely arrive at the Supreme Court from three different appellate circuits." I assume all the recent attacks on Clarence Thomas were just an attempt to preemptively muddy the waters here.

Posted at 1:39 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

THADDEUS MCCOTTER TO ENTER PRESIDENTIAL RACE: I'm glad. He's sharp, and as any *RedEye* viewer can attest, has a terrific dry sense of humor.

Posted at 1:36 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

PHIL BOWERMASTER ON AVOIDING DOUBLESPEAK: "I bought a ne

phone earlier today and had an interesting conversation with the customer service rep about what the word "unlimited" means on my unlimited data plan. (I'm still not 100% sure.) The thing is, this is not something there should ever be any confusion about."

Posted at 1:30 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 


*THE HILL*: Republican Video Mocks Obama's Golf-Playing During Crisis. "The National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC), the Senate GOP's campaign arm, released a Web video that spliced images of Obama playing ping pong, drinking beer in Ireland and hitting the golf course over audio of him lashing out at congressional Republicans Wednesday for not working hard enough to hammer out a debt-reduction deal. 'Actions speak louder than words,' the ad says." That's a refudiation of the entire Obama credo. . . . Video at the link.

Posted at 1:25 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

RECOVERY BUMMER (CONT'D): Why Only One In Four Teens Is Employed.

Posted at 1:17 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

POLL: Most Jamaicans Think Jamaica Would Be Better Off As A British Colony. "Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of Jamaican independence from the United Kingdom, but a new island-wide poll suggests most residents of the tiny Caribbean nation believe they would be better off had the country remained a British colony. The survey, conducted for the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper by Johnson Survey Research, found that 60 per cent of Jamaicans think the country would be better off today if it was still under British rule. A mere 17 per cent said they believed the country would be worse off. The remaining 23 per cent of respondents said they didn't know."

Posted at 1:00 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

BUT OF COURSE! States Hunt For Ways To Tax "The Cloud." "Most states still don't know how they are going to tax cloud computing. But one thing is certain, they are going to definitely try."

Posted at 12:59 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

RECOVERY BUMMER (CONT'D): Construction falls in May, down 6.3% year-to-date.

Posted at 12:39 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

CORY MAYE UPDATE: SOME EXCELLENT NEWS: "After 10 years of incarceration, and seven years after a jury sentenced him to die, 30-year-old Cory Maye will soon be going home. Mississippi Circuit Court Judge Prentiss Harrell signed a plea agreement Friday morning in which Maye pled guilty to manslaughter for the 2001 death of Prentiss, Mississippi, police officer Ron Jones, Jr. Per the agreement, Harrell then sentenced Maye to 10 years in prison, time he has now already served. Maye will be taken to Rankin County, Mississippi, for processing and some procedural work. He is expected to be released within days."

While personally I don't think that Maye should have served time in | seems to have been a tragic mistake in the course of a botched no-| about as good as could realistically be expected. Some background collection of InstaPundit posts on the case going back several years.



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Posted at 12:25 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

IN PICTURES: 10 Disappearing Middle-Class Jobs.

Posted at 12:23 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

IN THE MAIL: From James P. Hogan, *Migration*.

Posted at 11:00 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

MARY KATHERINE HAM: Meet The Real ATM.

Posted at 10:58 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

AN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MARIJUANA FLIPFLOP: "The Department of Justice sent out a memo Wednesday instructing the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration and leading officials in the U.S. Attorneys Office to treat medical marijuana shops as top priorities for prosecutors and drug investigators. . . . The memo, authored by Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole, 'clarifies' a memo released in 2009 that declared medical marijuana sales in states that have legalized it to be a low priority for law enforcement and prosecutors."

More here. "Some will argue that the administration has no choice but to enforce these laws. However, prosecutorial discretion gives the executive the power to decide not to pursue these cases if the president so chooses. Indeed, the federal government can only prosecute a small fraction of the numerous violations of today's overbloated federal criminal law. The average American commits about three federal felonies every day. Every administration must inevitably prioritize some federal laws over others. There is no legal obstacle preventing the president from keeping his campaign promise. The problem is lack of political will. The hesitation is remarkable in light of the fact that polls show that some 81 percent of the public supports legalization of medical marijuana."

Posted at 10:43 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

CAN WE AT LEAST GET SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY PAID HIS TAXES THIS TIME? After Geithner, The Speculative Short List For Next Treasury Secretary.

Posted at 10:35 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

#### AD FEEDBACK

JAMES JOYNER ON Hybrid Cars, Rare Earth Elements, and Supply.

One of the regular themes of the old OTB Radio program\* was that a major obstacle to hybrid vehicles dominating the market was that we couldn't make enough. President Obama apparently wasn't a listener (it's understandable; he's among the pie-in-the-sky programs rattled off during January's State of the Union goal of a million of these cars on the road by 2015.



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While the target is, coincidentally I'm sure, happily after Obama's political fate is sealed, the goal is highly unlikely absent either radical changes in technology overnight or an increase in the supply of the necessary rare earth elements. . . . The problem is threefold: The demand is high, the supply is limited, and the major supplier is China—with Russia and Brazil controlling most of the rest. Oh, and China is moving to keep more of its supply at home.

Also, the United States government is unusually slow in issuing permits to extract these minerals, not only by comparison to China, Russia and Brazil, but but even by comparison to Australia and China.

Posted at 10:30 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

I THINK WE'LL SEE MORE OF THIS: Obama Travels To Philly, Tea Party Breaks Out. "Demonstrators lined the sidewalk in front of the hotel holding signs with such slogans as 'One and done,' 'Stop spending' and 'Balance the budget.' Once inside, Obama was interrupted by at least two activists holding up paper signs objecting to the number of people who have died of AIDS."

Posted at 10:20 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

*WASHINGTON EXAMINER*: Nothing Funny About Government Limits On Political Speech. A lesson for Stephen Colbert.

Posted at 10:12 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

ALASKA PUSHES new domestic drilling plan.

Posted at 10:00 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION: How Much Would It Cost To Buy Congress Back From Special Interests? Less than the trillions they've squandered. But would it stay bought?

Posted at 9:57 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

MORE FACT-CHECKING: Yes, Obama Still Owns The Tax Break For Corporate Jets. "The jet tax provision is not a serious issue (\$3 billion over ten years?), and Obama's repeated mention of it demonstrates he is not serious about deficit reduction. It just adds icing to the cake that it exists in law today only because of his signature."

Meanwhile, reader Steven DallaVicenza writes: "At some point, some troll needs to put out a petition calling for The United States to set its top marginal federal income tax rate at the Canadian level and see how many left of center people sign it. The current rates are 35% and 29% respectively."

Posted at 9:55 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

AT AMAZON, it's the Friday Sale.

Posted at 9:00 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

INSTAVISION: I talk with Georgetown Law Professor and blogger Ra Supreme Court, attacks on Clarence Thomas, and the future of cons



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Posted at 8:54 am by **Glenn Reynolds**

**JAMES TARANTO:** "They told Glenn Reynolds that if he voted for John McCain, Jimmy Carter would come to seem like the best-case scenario, and they were right."

Posted at 8:36 am by **Glenn Reynolds**

**THE HILL:** Battle Lines Are Being Drawn.

Posted at 8:33 am by **Glenn Reynolds**

**BYRON YORK:** New Budget Law, Hated By Unions, Is A Godsend For Some Wisconsin Schools.

"This is a disaster," said Mark Miller, the Wisconsin Senate Democratic leader, last February after Republican Gov. Scott Walker proposed a budget bill that would curtail the collective bargaining powers of some public employees. Miller predicted catastrophe if the bill were to become law — a charge repeated thousands of times by his fellow Democrats, union officials, and protesters in the streets.

Now the bill is law, and we have some very early evidence of how it is working. And for one beleaguered Wisconsin school district, it's a godsend, not a disaster.

The Kaukauna School District, in the Fox River Valley of Wisconsin near Appleton, has about 4,200 students and about 400 employees. It has struggled in recent times and this year faced a deficit of \$400,000. But after the law went into effect, at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, school officials put in place new policies they estimate will turn that \$400,000 deficit into a \$1.5 million surplus. And it's all because of the very provisions that union leaders predicted would be disastrous.

Disastrous for unions, maybe. A godsend for taxpayers and schoolchildren, probably. It's not like those are mutually inconsistent outcomes. More:

"The monetary part of it is not the entire issue," says Arnoldussen, a political independent who won a spot on the board in a nonpartisan election. Indeed, some of the most important improvements in Kaukauna's outlook are because of the new limits on c

In the past, Kaukauna's agreement with the teachers union required the purchase health insurance coverage from something called WEA Trust — by the Wisconsin teachers union. "It was in the collective bargaining ag



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could only negotiate with them," says Arnoldussen. "Well, you know what happens when you can only negotiate with one vendor." This year, WEA Trust told Kaukauna that it would face a significant increase in premiums.

Now, the collective bargaining agreement is gone, and the school district is free to shop around for coverage. And all of a sudden, WEA Trust has changed its position. "With these changes, the schools could go out for bids, and lo and behold, WEA Trust said, 'We can match the lowest bid,'" says Republican state Rep. Jim Steineke, who represents the area and supports the Walker changes. At least for the moment, Kaukauna is staying with WEA Trust, but saving substantial amounts of money.

Then there are work rules.

Read the whole thing.


Posted at 8:32 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

REPORT: Maid who accused DSK of sexual assault repeatedly lied: sources. "The maid who accused former IMF boss Dominique Strauss-Kahn of a violent sex attack in his Midtown hotel room has repeatedly lied to prosecutors and is 'personally associated' with money launderers and drug dealers — revelations that have sunk the prosecution's case, sources told The Post last night. . . . Strauss-Kahn has admitted to having sex with her, but insisted it was consensual. That makes her the only one who can tell a jury she tried to resist — and DA Cyrus Vance now realizes that if she's exposed to cross examination she'll be destroyed on the stand when defense lawyers shine a light on the skeletons in her closet. . . . prosecutors believe some of her account of her activities in the hours surrounding the alleged attack wasn't true, though they haven't necessarily reached a new conclusion about the incident itself, a law enforcement official told the Associated Press." Well, that doesn't mean she wasn't raped, but it may mean that she's not a credible complainant. On the other hand, he sure *acted* guilty that day.

UPDATE: A reader emails: "If DSK is innocent, and what happened was either consented to or just 'bad sex' (as Ann Althouse would say), then I think it's an instructive example of the power imbalance between men and women in the legal setting. Also, a powerful example of what a class-neutral legal system we have."

ANOTHER UPDATE: A cynical hedge-fund reader emails: "Does \*anyone\* think it's a coincidence that DSK got his walking papers barely 2 days after his successor (a French finance minister with a Chicago law firm pedigree) was picked?"

Here's more on Christine Lagarde.

Posted at 8:27 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

ALAN GREENSPAN: Fed's Massive Stimulus Had Little Impact. I think it made a few people rich.

Posted at 8:01 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

THE TRUTH THAT HURTS: "It seems that in the free-wheeling news conference format Barack Obama is prone to the kind of hyperbole that is far more common on the campaign trail and usually reserved for political rookies. Now thanks to some s by the Associated Press, we have evidence that the president is actu believe his own press releases — never a good thing."



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Posted at 7:59 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE SAY WE'D BE IN BIG TROUBLE WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INSPECTIONS? Pool Inspectors Failed To See Body At Site: "The permit for the state-run swimming pool where a woman's body went unnoticed for more than two days this week had expired six months ago. A city health inspector who examined it Tuesday determined the water was cloudy, but did not see her remains resting on the bottom. . . . It raised sharp questions about whether those responsible for safety at the pool, from staff to city inspectors to state officials, may have neglected their duties."

More here: Inspectors cleared murky pool, overlooked body. "It's a safety hazard. If that pool is so murky you couldn't see the bottom, you couldn't see that there was a corpse there, then there's something really wrong with the clarity of that pool." Ya think?

Posted at 7:58 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

#### AD FEEDBACK

HE WAS WILLING TO TALK TO THE IRANIANS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT: Obama rejects McConnell's offer to meet with GOP on debt ceiling.

Posted at 7:58 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

*DAILY CALLER*: Halperin's MSNBC suspension latest example of White House press tampering. That's okay. The press is only supposed to serve as a check on government when *Republicans* are in power.

Posted at 7:33 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

DESPICABLE: Rep. Cummings' Gunwalker Report Neglects To Mention ... Gunwalker. "The report doesn't mention the estimated 150 dead in Mexico, plus two U.S. agents. Just gun control. And long-debunked statistics."

Plus this:

The 26-page report appears to exist for a political purpose: to gloss over the felonious actions of a multi-agency task force drawn from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Janet Napolitano's Department of Homeland Security, and the Internal Revenue Service, with input from the State Department. Operation Fast and Furious ("Gunwalker") was responsible for providing weapons used in the murders of two federal officers, along with 150 or more Mexican police officers, soldiers, and civilians.

This scandal is about the dead.

But the substantial body count that resulted from this operation is some Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings and his colleagues avoid mentioning. does not include the two American federal law enforcement officers killed by Gunwalker firearms, and does not mention the Mexican casualties of this administration-created fiasco.



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Instead, the minority report minimizes the magnitude of the crimes perpetrated under the guise of law enforcement, while building the case for gun control — an interesting development, as gun control may have been the ulterior motive for Gunwalker all along.

I continue to suspect that a secret program allowing thousands of guns to go from U.S. gun stores to Mexican crime sites was more than coincidentally related to a gun-control campaign from the same administration that was predicated on . . . statements about the flow of guns from U.S. gun stores to Mexican crime sites.

Posted at 7:22 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

UNEXPECTEDLY! Right-to-work states have generally lower unemployment, higher job growth, lower taxes and better business climates.

Posted at 7:04 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

SOME LEGACY: Debt Increased More Under Geithner Than Under Any Treasury Secretary in U.S. History.

Posted at 7:00 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

OUCH: At Least One American Family Will Be Taking A Nice Vacation This Summer.

Posted at 2:29 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

## June 30, 2011

AT THE REDESIGNED POWER LINE SITE, which I should have mentioned earlier, More Jimmy Carter Theater.

Posted at 11:58 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

YA THINK? Doug Mataconis: Barack Obama Continues To Vote "Present" On Same-Sex Marriage.

Posted at 11:54 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

JOE GANDELMAN ON MARK HALPERIN'S SUSPENSION from MSNBC for calling Obama a "dick." Prediction: "In the way our media and political cultures now operate, Morning Joe will see its ratings go up."

Posted at 11:25 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

DOMINIQUE STRAUSS-KAHN CASE on verge of collapse?

Posted at 11:03 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

MORE ON EDUCATION: "A ProPublica analysis of previously unreleased federal data shows that Florida leads the nation in the percentage of high-school students enrolled in high-level classes—Advanced Placement and advanced math. That holds true across rich and poor districts." The reason? Gov. Jeb Bush: "Bush introduced a measures to foster AP courses, including a partnership with the Coll national nonprofit group that manages AP courses and exams. The p in 2000 and was later written into state law."



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Posted at 10:30 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

ANN ALTHOUSE: Emily Mills responds to my criticism of her unsubstantiated accusation that I went to "great and terrible lengths" to defend Justice Prosser.

Posted at 10:29 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

GARNER, N.C. UPDATE: Police say no burglar shooting. Technically, of course, you can certainly be acting in self-defense while outside of your yard, but . . . .

Posted at 10:09 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

GEERT WILDERS takes a victory lap. As he should.

Posted at 9:24 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

IF ONLY THIS HAPPENED TO CONGRESS: Failure to pass budget forces Louisville government to shut down. Note to Kentuckians: Don't worry, it's the one in Tennessee. . . .

Posted at 9:21 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

REPORT: The California Dream Is Fizzling Out. On Facebook, Virginia Postrel comments: "There's a lot going on, both in the article and in the state, but it's a rather large oversight not to connect the high price of housing and the largely successful efforts of people like the woman in the lead to restrict new construction."

Posted at 9:14 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

*GONE WITH THE WIND* was published 75 years ago today. (Link is SFW, but the rest of Fred Lapidés' blog is not.)

Posted at 8:53 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

BILL QUICK IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS WHOLE AMAZON THING: Leftist Wreckers In California Just Stole \$3500-\$5000 A Year Right Out of My Pocket.

Meanwhile, a different take via Joy McCann.

Posted at 8:40 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

CHANGE: Bleak View of Economy Spreads to Wealthy Americans: CNBC Survey. "Nearly two-thirds of the nation (63 percent) is pessimistic about the current state of the economy and its future, with just 6 percent optimistic about both."

Posted at 8:25 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞

AT AMAZON, top deals in Electronics.

Posted at 7:00 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** ☞


ANDREW KLAVAN: Why Do Blacks Vote for Democrats?




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Posted at 6:59 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

LAUREN RAE ORSINI: How to be a journalist in 2011.

Posted at 6:52 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

DAN SAVAGE: You know what's wrong with straight marriage? Monogamy. Bill Clinton agrees.

Posted at 6:23 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

DIET SODA not all it's cracked up to be.

Just how does diet soda make you fat? The other study may hold the answer. In it, researchers divided mice into two groups, one of which ate food laced with the popular sweetener aspartame. After three months, the mice eating aspartame-chow had higher blood sugar levels than the mice eating normal food. The authors said in a written statement their findings could "contribute to the associations observed between diet soda consumption and the risk of diabetes in humans."

But how?

"Artificial sweeteners could have the effect of triggering appetite but unlike regular sugars they don't deliver something that will squelch the appetite," Sharon Fowler, obesity researcher at UT Health Science Center at San Diego and a co-author on both of these studies, told the Daily Mail. She also said sweeteners could inhibit brain cells that make you feel full.

So if sugar soda is no good, and diet soda isn't either – what should we be drinking?

Dr. Hazuda told the Daily Mail, "I think prudence would dictate drinking water."

Coffee's good. Prevents Alzheimer's, too. Just don't add sweetener .

Posted at 6:22 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

RAPIDLY SPREADING WHOOPING COUGH IN NEW YORK. *Contra* the




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think it's a bacterial disease, not a virus. Either way, the key is vaccination. You really don't want it, and you really don't want your kid to have it.

Posted at 5:34 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

THE CONTINUING APPEAL of coupons.

Posted at 5:20 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 


RETIREE TAX HEAVENS and hells.

Posted at 4:12 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

AT AMAZON, markdowns on bestselling men's sneakers.

Posted at 3:00 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 


SUSANNAH BRESLIN: Why Blogs For Women Are Bad For Women. "If blogs for women existed in the real world, rather than a virtual one, what would they look like? Giant pink bubbles in which women floated through life, peering through the see-through pink walls at the big, bad confusing world out there in which men exist, things are complex, and not everything has to do with whether or not you have a pair of ovaries. You don't learn how to live in the world by withdrawing from it."

Posted at 2:47 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

WHEN I MENTIONED THIS SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCING LIBERTY at Broadside Books, I should have mentioned that I have a contribution, too.

Posted at 2:37 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

RANDY BARNETT: Eight Things To Know About Yesterday's Sixth Circuit ObamaCare Decision.

Posted at 2:35 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

OH, GOODY: The Navy Bought Fake Chinese Microchips That Could Have Disarmed U.S. Missiles. "Last year, the U.S. Navy bought 59,000 microchips for use in everything from missiles to transponders and all of them turned out to be counterfeits from China. Wired reports the chips weren't only low-quality fakes, they had been made with a "back-door" and could have been remotely shut down at any time. If left undiscovered the result could have rendered useless U.S. missiles and killed the signal from aircraft that tells everyone whether it's friend or foe."

UPDATE: Maybe not quite so bad after all.

Posted at 2:33 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

BAD BOYS! Mark Halperin And the Growing List of MSNBC Suspensions.

Posted at 2:22 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

SKADDEN ASSOCIATE DIES of overwork?

Posted at 2:20 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 



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WHAT IS UP IN GARNER, NORTH CAROLINA? Burglar shoots at homeowner, homeowner shoots back, gets ticket for “unlawful discharge of a firearm.”

UPDATE: Police say otherwise.

Posted at 2:14 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

SHOCKING NEW FINDINGS ABOUT STATIC ELECTRICITY: “A new study has found that the age-old understanding of this everyday phenomenon—one item becoming positively charged while the other becomes uniformly negative—is incorrect.”

Posted at 2:00 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

JERRY POURNELLE has a new, WordPress-powered site.

Posted at 1:27 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

THAT WAS FAST: CNN says Chevrolet Volt tech is “obsolete” compared to Toyota Prius Plug-in. “It all boils down to price. Stickered with a base price of \$41,000, the Volt ain’t cheap. Pricing for the Prius Plug-In, though not officially confirmed, is expected to start at approximately \$28,000, meaning that it will likely undercut the Volt’s MSRP by more than \$10,000. Yes, rebates alter that number, but CNN finds it difficult to justify the hefty premium for what amounts to less than 30 miles of added electric-only range. Do you agree?”

Posted at 1:00 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

PROCEED AT YOUR PERIL: Proceed at Your Peril: Crowdfunding and the Securities Act of 1933.

Posted at 12:47 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

JAMES PETHOKOUKIS: Obamanomics, Leaving On A Jet Plane. “But the clumsy attempt at class warfare probably wasn’t even Obama’s most disheartening moment during the presser. Several others were at least equally as bad. . . . But this seems certain: Obamanomics took flight in 2009 as a purist Keynesian experiment in economic management from high above. The ultimate Dreamliner for Democrats. Now, two-and-a-half-year later, it’s begun its sputtering descent.”

Posted at 12:06 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

IN THE MAIL: *Grass Roots: A Commonsense Action Agenda for America.*

Posted at 11:00 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

TAXPROF: Obama Excoriates Republicans for Corporate Jet Tax Break He Included in Stimulus Bill.

Posted at 10:58 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

MATT WELCH AND NICK GILLESPIE: Obama Has Outdone Bush On The Day War “Obama has been awful. . . . He’s a bum.”

Posted at 10:52 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 



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TURNABOUT: *To Catch a Predator* host who traps sex perverts in TV stings 'caught cheating on his wife'... by hidden cameras.

Posted at 10:43 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

EVEN THE LEFTIES ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT Obama's War On Whistleblowers.

Posted at 10:32 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

FASTER, PLEASE: Drug Reverses 'Accelerated Aging' in Human Cells. "The discovery has implications for the treatment of several diseases—as well as normal aging in healthy people."

Posted at 10:29 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRESS IN BRITAIN: "Justice Secretary Ken Clarke has said a householder who knifes a burglar will not have committed a criminal offence under plans to clarify the law on self-defence in England."

That's good, but they've got a long way to go to catch up with evolving standards of human rights.

Posted at 10:29 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

"IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MATH:" How Old Is Malia Obama? Don't Ask Her Dad. "But hey, it's not like he said something arguably inaccurate about Paul Revere or any of the other Founding Fathers. (Or even John Wayne!) Family man Barack Obama simply doesn't know how old his own daughter is. He'll definitely get it right when she turns 18, though, because he'll be reminded every time he plays golf."

Posted at 10:28 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

*WASHINGTON EXAMINER*: Obama Doesn't Understand The Family Budget.

Meanwhile Megan McArdle predicts a Washington Monument / Starve Grandma approach on the debt ceiling:

Matt is thinking like a wonk, not a politician. What Obama should do is the exact opposite of this sensible advice: he should make preparations to shut down the machines that write Social Security checks and army paychecks, lamenting that he has no choice because the US is contractually obligated to pay its other bills. The GOP is betting that Democrats will take the blame for this. I think that is a very bad bet.

This is why schools and other government agencies facing budget cuts tend to immediately slash something high-profile and politically popular. That's how you get them to reverse the budget cuts. I'm sure most of us in the private sector can recount situations where this has worked in corporations as well.

The GOP should go for a short-term debt ceiling tied to new cuts — and they should include language that will prevent this approach if the debt ceiling is hit next time. How will the Dems oppose "protect Grandma" language?

Posted at 10:26 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

CHINA IS INTERESTED in Canada's oil. "Our self-destructive dithering could have even worse consequences than we thought."



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Posted at 10:17 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

TRANSPARENCY: Sen. Cornyn shut out of Senate hearing on new air regs that affect Texas.

Posted at 10:16 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

CONN CARROLL: Bipartisan Study Confirms: Default In Geithner's Hands. "The Bipartisan Policy Center released a Debt Ceiling Analysis today showing that even if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling by August 2nd, the federal government would still have enough incoming revenue to pay: all interest on Treasury securities (thus avoiding default), all Social Security obligations, all Medicare and Medicaid obligations, all Defense contractor bills, all Veterans payments, and all active duty troops, and still have almost \$7 billion left over for other items. . . . Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner does not have to decide whether or not he wants to default on our debt until August 15th. That is the day that the Treasury is obligated to pay \$29 billion in interest on previously issued debt."

Whatever decision Geithner makes, I feel sure that it will be political.

Posted at 10:14 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

RICHARD EPSTEIN: "The stumbling pattern of the aging athlete is reminiscent of the vacillation and weakness of today's American leadership." Plus this: "Right now American leadership is running scared. We have a president who thinks that bold words can ease our national decline, which has become as evident to the world as the hitch in Derek Jeter's swing. We will know that this administration is intent on reversing the decline when the word 'deregulation' passes approvingly from its lips. Until that time, we should expect to see housing, labor, and financial markets remain in the doldrums."

Posted at 10:04 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

*THE HILL*: McConnell calls balanced-budget amendment to floor.

Posted at 10:00 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

AT AMAZON, bestselling automotive safety products.

As we've discussed here before, a lot of people recommend the LifeHammer.

Posted at 9:00 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

ECONOMIC NEWS: Mr. President: Hold up a mirror; you have met the enemy and it is you! "I watched President Obama today make a scathing speech in which he was alternatively cynical, deprecating, preachy and downright demagogical. . . . Mr. President, you need to admit you don't know how to fix America, and what you thought would work, didn't, isn't working and won't work. You were wrong, and still are. Mr. President, you need to stop going to fund raisers to reach \$1 billion you can spend on your reelection campaign and do your job. You need to retire your golf clubs and roll up your sleeves and live up to some of that soaring rhetoric that got you into this job—you know, the one you have learned you were woefully underprepared to do."

Posted at 8:57 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

ABOUT TIME: Fred Upton Flip-Flips On Light-Bulb Ban. But will the r



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If you're in doubt, there's still time to stock up!

UPDATE: Reader John Steakley emails:

Awww, you missed it. He didn't flip-flop. He "switched."

Light? Switch?

[crickets]

Hello? [tap, tap] Is this thing on?

Heh.

Posted at 8:39 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

THE NEW CIVILITY: Mark Halperin Calls Obama a "Dick" on "Morning Joe."

UPDATE: Heh: They told me that if I voted for John McCain reporters on Morning Joe would be calling the POTUS a dick on national TV... and they were right!

Plus: "Take a look at the video and make note of this. He didn't say it off the air and *didn't mean to say it off the air*. He meant to say it on the air and be seen saying it! That speaks volumes." The teflon is scratched and flaking.

Posted at 8:37 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

VOTER SUPPRESSION in Maryland?

Posted at 8:36 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO PHARMA R&D?

Hmm. This is sounding suspiciously like something I was worrying about a couple of years ago.

Posted at 8:16 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 


ATF GUNRUNNING SCANDAL UPDATE: *The Hill*: Issa rips Obama's silence on ATF gun-tracking matter:

At a press conference Wednesday, Obama reiterated that Attorney General Eric Holder did not order the gun-tracking program, which was run by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and allowed known and suspected straw purchasers to buy thousands of weapons in hopes of tracking them to members of Mexican drug cartels.

Holder called for the Inspector General to investigate the matter to determine who approved of the operation. Obama said he would comment further on the issue once the investigation is completed. . . .

But Issa, who held a charged hearing on the issue earlier this month, has indicated that responsibility for the operation rests with some of the highest officials at the Justice Department and the ATF.

They'll stall until after the election if they can.

Posted at 8:16 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 



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**FISCAL SOBRIETY:** *The Economist*: A bipartisan vote to end ethanol subsidies is a small but heartening sign.

Posted at 8:09 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

**RICK PERRY TAKES ON Eric Holder And The Gaza Flotilla.** "In his letter to Holder, the governor specifies the U. S. laws which he thinks are being violated by the American individual and corporate participants in the flotilla."

Posted at 8:05 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

**THEY TOLD ME IF I VOTED FOR JOHN MCCAIN, EMINENT LAW PROFESSORS WOULD BE PROCLAIMING A "LAWLESS PRESIDENCY." AND THEY WERE RIGHT!** Bruce Ackerman: The Lawless Presidency. "The present confrontation over the War Powers Act requires Congress to rethink some tragic events of the past decade. It has been tempting to view the torture memos as an unfortunate accident—the result of legal ideologues finding themselves at key positions at a moment of crisis. But the debate over President Obama's bombing campaign in Libya forces us to ask whether there is an emerging crisis of legality within the executive branch."

Posted at 8:01 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

**OPERATION DISTRACTION: Dems Set To Demonize Gun Owners With Gunwalker Hearing.**

The hearings two weeks ago saw Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agents testify about their role in Operation Fast and Furious, the multi-agency scheme that allowed gun smugglers to arm Mexican drug cartels with 2,000 or more weapons as federal law enforcement officers watched. Issa's hearings included evidence of damning emails that showed acting ATF chief Kenneth Melson to be intimately familiar with the program, which has been blamed for the deaths of two U.S. federal agents and more than 150 Mexican police and soldiers.

The ATF's parent agency, the Department of Justice (DOJ); the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) were all directly involved in the operation, which could not even have occurred without State Department approval.


But the committee hearing today isn't about what Obama administration officials in the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security knew, or when they knew it, or about bringing those responsible for the dangerous plot to light to face accountability or possible criminal charges.

Instead, the minority hearing by Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings will be a forum for gun control activists such as Brady Campaign President Paul Helmke. . . . Instead of seeking answers from those Obama administration officials who are culpable for a rogue government program that has left cops, soldiers, and civilians dead, the congressman from Baltimore will use his position in order to provide airtime to those who would place blame at the feet of American citizens.

A reminder for gun owners of where the Administration stands.

Posted at 7:56 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

**HOLLOWING OUT the Ivory Tower.** "So does increasing the number of . . . amount to a surefire way of increasing the majority's earnings? Wolf

Posted at 7:49 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 



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JAMES TARANTO ON OBAMA: Is he really going to campaign on his economic record?

Hey, he killed Osama bin Laden, you know. Osama bin Laden is Osama bin Dead. Dead Osama. Killed, killed, killed bin Laden.

Posted at 7:39 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

*L.A. WEEKLY*: L.A. County's War On Private Property. Watch the well-connected people who wind up with this land a little while down the line.

Posted at 7:20 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

*NATIONAL JOURNAL*: Nerves Show On Team Obama: Recent scrambling by the president's political advisers indicates they're very worried about his reelection chances. With reason, given his performance to date.

Posted at 2:34 am by **Glenn Reynolds** 

## June 29, 2011

GREENPEACE TAKES ON VOLKSWAGEN, gets mauled by Jim Treacher.

Posted at 11:51 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 

HEATH SHULER MAY DITCH CONGRESS TO BECOME U.T. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR? Hmm. I guess the new job's more popular with constituents than the old one, but it's close . . . .

Posted at 11:30 pm by **Glenn Reynolds** 



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