

Only MSNBC would report an unemployment increase of 9.8% to 10.2% as "recovery"

It's one thing to be a fan of the president. It's quite another to abandon all fairness and objectivity to further his agenda and/or reputation.

The economy is not doing well. It is in the toilet, so to speak.

In spite of hundreds of billions of dollars given away in the form of a "stimulus package," things are generally not improving. Given away because most will never be repaid.

Not since 1983, the last time unemployment was in the range of today's figures (except the past few months, of course) since World War II, the government had not used billions and billions of dollars to try unsuccessfully to right the sinking ship. It's impossible, in hindsight, to know what would happen and whether a recovery would be faster or slower with or without such government welfare for some of the largest U.S. corporations.

What we do know is we did not have the money to give. We borrow from China for most of our needs. If China called our debts to them, we would either have to default or simply deny them. We (the U.S. government) cannot repay all that is owed - to China or our own residents.

The U.S. government is now invested in the private sector like never before. And recent cash loans don't compare to loan *guarantees* made to Chrysler in 1980 or others prior to this meltdown. The Chrysler loan was a government loan guarantee - not a cash outlay.

Earlier "guarantees" were considerably different than cash loans. Had Chrysler not paid back the loans made to them on the strength of the government guarantees, then cash would have traded hands. Chrysler repaid the loans in three years, not the ten they were provided.

Even the savings and loan debacle cost a mere pittance of what the current bailout will cost American taxpayers. The S&L scandal was by far the costliest bailout in the United States until the 2008 handouts made that rescue look like chump change. Less than \$180 billion of taxpayer funds went to the S&L bailout. Since 2008, \$400 billion has gone to the Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac mortgage fiasco, \$180 billion to A.I.G (American International Group), \$700 billion for T.A.R.P. (Troubled Asset Relief Program, that includes various financial and auto industry corporations), \$280 billion for Citigroup, \$142.2 billion for Bank of America, and lesser amounts to the auto industry (\$25 billion), and \$30 billion for Bear Stearns. As much as \$85 billion of the listed amounts are also included in the T.A.R.P. figure of \$700 billion.

The American economy is in a shambles *before* healthcare nationalization. Yet, friendly media continues to find a silver lining. Or just plain lie about the critical nature of our economic problems. The national unemployment rate is understated. Adding in those who have had to take part-time jobs or have dropped out of the job market, the rate is about 17.5%

What kind of "recovery" is that?

Access to coroner records

In another example of demanding records of which they will do nothing and understand less, the mainstream advertising-driven media is grandstanding about access to coroners' files. This all stems from a case in Fremont County where three young girls died of undisclosed causes.

Because the deaths happened on the Indian reservation up there, it is a federal matter and Wyoming can pass all the laws they want to, they won't trump federal jurisdiction and the autopsy reports and other investigation records will never be provided for public consumption until, and unless, the feds so order.

I've written here before that the Fremont County coroner would have his head handed to him if he shared that data with local or statewide media without the feds approval. It would not be tolerated.

I have had occasion to request autopsy reports on a few deaths here in Laramie County and have never had a problem or unreasonable delay in accessing them.

That tells me that the WT-E has never wanted such information, they have never asked for it and they have never been denied access.

Once again, the controlled media is wasting precious resources and influence by demanding access to records they already have access to. If they think the latest posing and posturing will open the files on the deaths in Fremont County, they're wrong. It won't happen.

Exactly what they want from that horrific case is vague. Shortly after the deaths, local coverage quoted insiders encouraging adults to be watchful for underage drinking. While that is not the definitive word as to what likely led to the deaths, that is as much as we need to know.

I have never reviewed an autopsy report or been briefed by Marty Luna on a death leading to an autopsy where I felt better after access than before. Death under unknown circumstances and not involving another person is a private matter. And even though an autopsy report is a public record, I don't recommend anyone looking at them if you don't have to.

This cause celebre isn't about good government. It isn't about a meeting behind closed doors or doing public business without public participation. This is voyeurism. Cale Case is usually an intelligent man. He is barking up the wrong tree on this issue. Drop it, Cale. Move on.

Oh, to be Eldrick Woods

Looks like Eldrick isn't the only Tiger in the Woods household.

After an outlandish story was floated that Tiger Woods left his mansion at 2:30 am - he was probably going to make a trip to the Taco Bell drive thru - and ran over a fire hydrant and crashed into a neighbor's tree, the truth is coming out at the pace of truth from local government.

Here's a guy who is probably the most admired athlete in the world - if you don't count Dennis Rodman. He is probably the greatest golfer ever and he started winning tournaments before his contemporaries could earn their tour card. He makes more money than Warren Buffet - "makes" it, doesn't "claim" it like Warren - and can demand a million dollars just for an appearance in Dubai.

On one leg, he a better golfer than most on two. No, call that *all* others on two.

He endorses every high profile product in the world and we don't even see what his name is on in foreign countries.

He is the epitome of a hero. He married a beautiful woman and they have two children together.

That's where the rub sets in. He also probably has what he was assured by a high-priced lawyer was an ironclad prenuptial agreement with Elin. If they split, she probably gets the Gremlin and a bungalow in Compton.

We all know Tiger Woods is a great driver. He hits them 300 yards straight down the fairway. He also endorses some out-of-business automobile brand - Oldsmobile or Studebaker, can't recall which.

The truth probably is that Eldrick came home that night at about 2:00 am, reeking of drug store perfume and Elin "suspected" he was with another woman. Either that or Phil Mickelson isn't who we think he is. She confronted him. Not with words. Not with a glare. Not with a vase. Not with overwrought accusations. With her manicured nails. Evidently, she scratched the Boy Wonder's face up and Tiger realized it was easier to ice Ernie Els than it was to calm the beautiful former model or whatever she did in her life before she married the Tiger.

So, as all great golfers do when confronted with such a challenge, he stepped back from the ball to survey the terrain again and concluded that retreat was his best option. Probably bleeding like Ric Flair, he hopped into a sponsor-provided SUV, the first one with keys in the ignition, and tried to beat a retreat. This guy is anything but stupid. And a gentleman does not hit a woman - even if she's beating hell out of him. They just don't. They either buy her a huge diamond ring or get into a Dodge and get out of Dodge.

He perhaps had forgotten that his golf clubs are all over the house - like umbrella stands - and Elin put some dents in his SUV as he tried to drive off in a panic. The initial report was that Elin helped Tiger "escape" from the SUV by breaking the rear window with a golf club. Yeah, right. Seems like there would be several better choices to help a person out of an SUV that had just run into a tree at slow speed. Like open the driver's door. But, if they were all locked, what choice did she have but to use one of his drivers to get at this driver? What choice did she have? She was not done with their "discussion." C'mon Tiger, man up.

Re-using 3D glasses at movie theaters?

The Cheyenne Herald has been reliably informed that the 3D glasses that Cheyenne moviegoers have to pay extra for each time to watch the limited number of movies offered in 3D are "collected" as patrons leave the theater. A box is provided for departing customers to drop their used glasses into.

That's what we're told happens in Cheyenne. That is not the case in other Wyoming theaters or elsewhere.

At this time, with flu strains that can be deadly, deliberately recycling (reusing) the same 3D glasses should be prohibited. And the idea that a small child with a severe head cold wore glasses that may be provided to your child as you enter a 3D movie is unconscionable. It is similar to reusing toothbrushes. It cannot be allowed to happen and the Cheyenne/Laramie County Health Department needs to do a surveillance to see if it is happening or if it continues.

In Cheyenne, ads for 3D movies indicate there is a "3D fee." That could be to cover the additional cost of production. But not

all 3D movies warrant an additional charge to see it. They're not all that good. So, more likely, the additional fee is to defray the cost of the glasses themselves. Which is interesting because you can buy them on-line by paying \$1.00 to cover the shipping costs.

If local theaters aren't planning to reuse the 3D glasses, why collect them as patrons depart? Customers could pocket the tiny things and throw them away themselves when they get home. It wouldn't do a moviegoers any good to save them for the next movie as the type of 3D glasses may be different and it wouldn't reduce admission price anyway.

3D movies aren't new. The first one made by a major Hollywood studio was *House of Wax*, released in 1953. By now, they should have a low cost way to make those glasses and be able to include it in the normal admission price. If the feature is that much better, attendance should also be better and absorbing the cost easy. Whether they charge or not, the mere idea that a theater may reuse the glasses is disgusting. Unsanitary and unhealthy.