

Alternative energy reveals same old drive.

I used to be a fan of the Pickens' Plan. Convert 18-wheelers to natural gas, which we have plenty of here in America. Set up massive wind farms across the Plains. And innovate like mad to find better alternative energy solutions.

It was a good pragmatic plan to get us off the dime, roll us down the road a piece, instead of just throwing money at everything and anything and hoping it would pay off, like dropping my IRA on the green at the Whispering Straits.

Pickens is an oilman and he knows oil cannot last forever. But there is nothing anywhere close to as cheap, plentiful and powerful in the here and now. So, if we are going to leave the century on top of the world again economically, we must begin the century on the recognizable path.

The problem with T. Boone's plan is, he lost his nerve. The billionaire is too cozy and has lost his taste for the risk-reward Capitalism that made America great. The recognizable path he took was up the marble steps of the nation's Capitol.

Instead of putting his money where his mouth is, buying Schneider Trucking and converting those rigs @ \$80-Grand a pop and setting up the natural gas infrastructure to run those trucks to their destinations – and pushing it to profitability – Pickens went straight to Congress to beg for subsidies. We have had that approach for far too long.

DO you think Hank Rearden would have done that?! Or Francisco D'Anconnia?! Or John Galt?! Or Dagny Taggart?! Well, hell no! Capitalism is not about going to Cuffy Meigs or Wesley Mouch and begging the government's Unification Board to grant you a profit or to allot you the raw materials to fill an approved order at an approved price paying an approved wage to workers paid according to their need. (Read Atlas Shrugged, Ayn Rand) If you haven't, what have you read?

Holy Canoli, Batman! Is America coming to this? Is Atlas going to shrug for real?!

T. Boone needs to refocus, find him a partner, like Mr. Gates or Mr. Buffet – or both – and put their money where his mouth is. Because if it isn't profitable and they lack the patience and perseverance to make it so, then they should not be doing it. They should read Rep. Paul Ryans, Plan for America, for real.

Just as surely as we ended welfare-- NO, because we didn't really end welfare, we just called it Wisconsin Works. We need to end corporate welfare, for our own good. Because risk-reward capitalism is what made America and we must MUST get back to it!!! Ask Ron Johnson at our July meeting, he makes a payroll, and a product to sell, now that's a novel idea.

We did not get to be America with the likes of ObamaCare and TARP. WE must end Bailout Nation. Or we can watch China rising in the east by 2100.

Think about it. Think hard. And vote risk-reward, America Capitalism. Thank you, my fellow Americans.

Richard Parins — President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
In our 25th Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.

Should We Consider Replacing Our Income Tax System With the FairTax?

There are three major reasons; Responsibility, complexity, and cost.

On responsibility:

- * 47% of workers pay no income tax. That means they don't care if income tax rates go higher. They will vote for more entitlements.
- * If these people don't understand how other types of taxes impact them they could care less about those tax rates.
- * Illegal aliens pay no federal taxes at all.

On complexity:

- * Our tax code is 70,320 pages long. In 2003 it required 200 million returns.
- * Our taxes include income, payroll, corporate, gift, estate, capital gains, self-employment, alternative minimum taxes, tariffs, and excise taxes at various rates.
- * It takes an average 28 hours and 30 minutes to fill out the forms.
- * That is 7.6 billion man hours per year. That is an additional tax.

On cost:

- * There is the cost of complying with our tax system.
- * There is the tax gap also called the cost of non-compliance.
- * There is the revenue not collected from the underground economy.
- * There are hidden taxes that add 22% to the cost of goods and services.
- * The time spent on tax forms could have better uses.

Clarifying the annual cost of our tax system.

According to the Tax Foundation the cost to taxpayers of complying with our tax system is \$388 billion per year.

What the Tax Foundation does not address is what that \$388 billion could do for the economy if a different tax system were in place. What positive effects could that money have if not wasted every year? Does two percent growth or \$7.76 billion per year sound reasonable?

The tax gap or the cost of non-compliance is \$365 billion, \$290 billion after lawsuits. Not mentioned is what these lawsuits cost.

Because of this tax gap Americans must pay an additional 32.1% in income taxes.

In addition the underground economy is \$1 trillion. There are no taxes collected from it by our tax system. The FairTax would collect \$300 billion. The underground economy is made up of drugs, pornography, and crime on which no taxes are currently paid.

Annual cost of our tax system. \$985,760,000,000.00

THE FAIRTAX SOLUTION.

The FairTax replaces the income, payroll, corporate, gift, estate, capital gains, self-employment, and alternative minimum taxes with a national retail sales tax.

1. You take home your gross pay minus state income taxes. This means a minimum 25% raise in spendable income.
2. You never fill out another federal tax form.
3. Legitimate American households receive a monthly prebate.
4. The U. S. economy gains at least \$1 trillion each year.
5. You will not pay taxes on your savings, investments, pension, your 401k, or your Social Security. You just hit the "jackpot."
6. Prices of goods and services will remain about the same.

Other advantages:

1. No federal tax withholding. You will still pay state income taxes. States that "piggyback" the federal tax system, like Wisconsin, will

either copy the FairTax or have to create their own income tax system. You will keep the 10% income and 15.3% payroll taxes.

2. Only retailers will fill out tax forms. They will retain 1.25% of the FairTax collected to cover accounting costs. States collecting the FairTax will also retain 1.25% of the FairTax collected also for accounting. States send the FairTax to the U. S. Treasury.

3. The prebate is intended to cover the cost of the FairTax on necessities. Illegal aliens will not receive the prebate and will help fund our government. Tourists will not receive a refund and will also help pay for our government.

4. Our economy gains \$1 trillion by enacting a tax system that saves money and is more effective at taxation.

5. Smile, retire earlier, send your kids to college, or buy a home.

6. Removal of hidden corporate and payroll taxes drops all prices roughly 22%. The addition of the FairTax makes prices about the same as they were before the FairTax. According to Section 902 of

The FairTax Act of 2009, businesses will be reimbursed for hidden taxes in their inventories for a maximum of two years. When that period passes we will see prices drop to their real value.

OTHER GAINS.

Of 500 CEO's of foreign companies, 100 said they would build their world headquarters here when the FairTax passes. The rest said they would build their next manufacturing plant here. That could mean a large number of jobs for Americans.

There are roughly \$13 trillion locked overseas because of our 35% corporate tax. Companies cannot afford to bring that money home under our current tax system. It is likely that that money will come home under the FairTax. This money would obviously be used for capital investments in current U. S. businesses and more jobs.

The psychological impact of taking home your gross pay will be beneficial. We will no longer be required to maintain records of savings, or investments. The stress of filling out tax forms will be only a painful memory. April 15th will be just another nice spring day.

To quote Neal Boortz, "The FairTax is the biggest, most massive transfer of power from the Government to the people in the history of this country since the Declaration of Independence freed us from the King of England."

Al Ose – For the BCTA

Al Ose is the regional director for "Americans for Fair Taxation." He will be the speaker at our regular Sept. 16, BCTA meeting.

Editors Note: In the June Tax Times we printed an article discussing various tax proposals and combinations thereof that have been proposed. We acknowledge there are many considerations, and look forward to Mr. Ose's presentation JF

"Today's tax system was shaped by sadists who were trying to be nice: Every wrinkle in the code was put there to benefit this or that interest. Since the 1986 tax simplification, the code has been recomplicated more than 14,000 times—more than twice a day." . . . **George Will**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.BCTAxpayers.Org
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Auto Insurance Mandate Began on June 1.

Included in last year's biennial state budget were changes to a number of provisions relating to automobile insurance law. Prior to that budget, motorists driving in Wisconsin were not required to carry motor vehicle insurance. Instead, Wisconsin had a "proof of financial responsibility" law which was passed in 1931.

It requires a person at fault for an accident that results in injury, death, or property damage to either deposit funds as security for the accident or provide proof of financial responsibility. The proof could be automobile liability insurance or a bond that was in effect at the time of the accident.

On June 1, 2010 the proof of financial responsibility law will be replaced and all Wisconsin motorists will be required to carry adequate automobile insurance. On that date, New Hampshire will be the only state in the nation not to require automobile insurance.

The insurance coverage required will be at a minimum a liability policy with \$50,000 injury or death of one person, \$100,000 injury or death of two or more, and \$15,000 property damage. These minimums will be indexed every five years beginning in 2017 by the Department of Transportation to reflect changes in the consumer price index.

Motorists are also required to have uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage. These are set at a minimum of \$100,000 per person and \$300,000 per accident. Under the new laws, policies can be stacked as well. For example, let's assume a married couple with two children own and insure three vehicles. They have one child who is involved in an accident. They could be liable for up to \$900,000 in damages, not just the \$300,000 underinsured minimum on the one vehicle involved in the accident.

There is no requirement that a motorist have collision or comprehensive coverage. If a motorist has a bond or cash deposit on file with the Department of Transportation, a qualified insurer, or governmental unit they would be exempt from carrying insurance.

Drivers are required to have in their possession proof of adequate insurance. Proof can be a card or letter from an insurance provider. The penalty for not carrying insurance can be as high as \$500. Providing fraudulent or invalid proof of insurance could result in a penalty of up to \$5,000.

By increasing the mandatory minimums for automobile insurance coverage Wisconsin's coverage requirements went from the third lowest to the highest in the nation. This is already having the affect of dramatically increasing motorists' insurance premiums. Before these laws were changed in the budget, legislators were warned that premiums would rise on average between 33 to 43 percent. These estimates are proving true with premium changes much higher in some cases.

Legislators were also warned prior to the passage of the budget that the higher premiums may result in more uninsured drivers on the road. Prior to these changes, Wisconsin's uninsured rate was 15 percent; only slightly above the 13.8 national average. New Hampshire, a state without mandatory insurance, had an 11 percent rate at the time.

Mandatory insurance only serves a beneficial public purpose if automobile insurance is kept at affordable prices. If insurance is not affordable, motorists will not purchase it even if there is a mandate. As well, this will put motorists at risk of penalty and place more low-income uninsured drivers on the road. This benefits no one; not the uninsured driver or the insured driver they may get in an accident with.

Consult your insurance provider to ensure you have adequate insurance coverage or if you have any additional questions regarding your policy. **Rep John Nygren**

Editors comment: *While most of us would likely agree that adequate automobile insurance should be one of requirements for the privilege of driving an automobile, there is no question that the mandates of this law will add considerable financial burden as well. The Wisconsin Insurance Alliance reported that 95% of auto accident claims in the state were for less than \$25,000. Increasing the amount of insurance that motorists carry will likely result in higher settlement fees for trial attorneys, who possibly may have had an influence in writing this new law.*

JF

National Debt Update.

While the popular old expression "What goes up must come down" applies to the stock market, elevators and airplanes, it doesn't seem to apply to our countries National Debt. "What goes up just keeps on going," would be more appropriate.

The *spendaholics* in Congress simply don't know any better, nor do they realize an election is coming with their jobs on the line. As of the end of June, the National Debt is in excess of **\$13.105 Trillion**, which is an increase of about **\$105 Billion** during the past month. At this rate we will reach \$14 Trillion the middle of next April.

In case you don't know, a trillion is one thousand billion, and a billion is a thousand million. When you reach the point where you have to borrow money to pay the interest you are in deep trouble.

On the positive side, the last issue of Money Magazine claims that total consumer debt, credit card debt and the time that consumers take to pay their debts has dropped during the past year. **Jim Frink - BCTA**

Ron Johnson to Speak at July 15, BCTA Meeting.

We are pleased to announce that Ron Johnson, Candidate for the U.S. Senate will be our speaker at our July 15, Monthly meeting.

This meeting will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Titledown Brewery. Other upcoming speakers will be Brett Davis, candidate for Lt. Governor on August 15, Al Ose, Regional Director of Americans for Fair Taxation on September 16, and Green Bay Police Chief Jim Arts on October 21.

Details on the back page of the *TAX TIMES*. Mark your calendars and enjoy the summer.

"The \$787 Billion stimulus bill created new ideas on how to spend government money wisely." . . . **Joe Biden**

"Although he's regularly asked to do so, God does not take sides in American Politics." . . . **George Mitchell**

"The buck stops here." . . . **Harry Truman**

Articles and views appearing in the "TAX TIMES" do not necessarily represent the official position of the Brown County Taxpayers Association. We want to encourage discussion and input on current issues of taxpayer interest and invite your comments or articles suitable for future "TAX TIMES." Please send them to the BCTA, P.O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684, or call Jim Frink at 336-6410.

E-Mail BCTA@ExecPC.Com.

159 And Counting.

When it was first brought to our attention that the “*Affordable Health Care Bill of 2010*”, commonly referred to as “Obamacare” would add 159 new agencies, boards, commissions, departments, programs, etc. to the federal bureaucracy, I assumed this was just another humorous piece of work by some anonymous critics of the bill to gain attention on the internet. We may have been wrong.

It still appears that many of our lawmakers who so eagerly voted to approve this legislation and impose it as the law of land on the American people never took the time to read and comprehend the implications of what they were doing. Now that the details are beginning to come out as insurers, law firms, health care providers, and pharmaceutical manufacturers are lining up to make a profit and people concerned with their health care are wondering what will happen next.

Buried within the pages of the bill which has mysteriously grown from about 2,000 to 2,407 pages since its passage are provisions for the formation of 159 new government agencies charged with “*streamlining provisions and administering the program.*” The complete list is available from several reliable sources on the internet. We would have printed them but it would have been necessary to add at least 5 extra pages to this *TAX TIMES*.

However, at the bottom of the page we have included a flow chart of these agencies. It was reduced from a 3' x 6' wall chart so our copy is not clear enough to read but you should get the idea. Copies of the chart are available for \$100 from the Center for Health Transformation, (202-375-2010) which is a Washington, D.C., group seeking improvements to the nations health care system or you can view it on their website.

This comes at a time when there is still plenty of confusion as to what Health Care Reform will mean to you and me. Those who have supported the concept are busy pointing out how improved health care will benefit us, and they even claim the country, including you and me will save Billions of dollars along the way.

On the other hand however, we hear of scams targeting people for more insurance, and note health care providers jockeying for position to profit when everything falls in to place. I personally have seen an increase of 25% this year on my Medicare Supplement statement and similar increases in the price of prescription drugs. Doctors, hospitals and other professional providers also seem to be going through a round of price increases, possibly to take advantage of whatever controls the government imposes.

We acknowledge there is probably something for everyone to like in the plan, and universal agreement that our health care system was getting out of hand. Major concerns are the immense costs and having government in charge of our healthcare system. It is obvious that estimates of the projected cost and projected savings are SWAG speculation. What effect will this have on the quality and availability of the present system?

Will dividing the responsibility of this new government responsibility in to 159 areas of responsibility actually streamline its operation or only add to the cost and confusion due to its own weight? Often bureaucrats placed in charge of a government department tend to flout their importance and build monuments to themselves with complete disregard to the cost or consequences. The cost of adding 159 more agencies to the federal government as a streamlining and cost cutting measure sounds like pure fantasy. **Jim Frink – BCTA**

“The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program.” . . . **Ronald Reagan**

“We just have to pass the Healthcare Bill to see what’s in it.” . . . **Nancy Pelosi**

“You know, we were promised a messiah, All we got is a mess, We’re still waiting on the iah.” . . . **Rush Limbaugh**

159 New Federal Government Programs, Bureaucracies and Offices Created by the Obama Healthcare Law of 2010.

June Meeting Notes. *Scott Walker Speaks to BCTA.*

Monthly Brown County Taxpayers Association meeting conducted June 17, 2010. Gubernatorial candidate Scott Walker presented his background, his concerns about the condition of our state, and his plan for the State of Wisconsin. After working for IBM and the American Red Cross, he served nine years in the state Assembly, and then was elected as Milwaukee County Executive in 2002 in a recall election resulting from a pension scandal in county government. The county government was in turmoil at the time.

Since then, Scott has reduced the county workforce by 20 percent, reduced the county debt by 10 percent, and introduced eight consecutive budgets without a property tax levy increase from the previous year. All of this happened without reducing services. The backlog for long-term care services was reduced from 3,000 to zero. Milwaukee County was just recognized for having the best park system of any county in the United States.

Scott explained that we need to create private sector jobs to get the economy going again. We need to get government out of the way. We need to balance the state budget by looking at all programs. To set an example, he proposes to pay the employee's share of his own state pension cost if he becomes governor. He is proposing a plan that could save Wisconsin taxpayers nearly \$180 million a year if all state employees were required to pay the employee portion of their pension costs, as private sector workers do.

Scott Walker speaks to large turnout at June BCTA meeting.

Scott outlined key points of his plan to restore Wisconsin's economy:

- * *Cut taxes to encourage creating new jobs.*
- * *Cut red tape and the excessive costs of regulation.*
- * *Ease liability litigation for a healthier business environment.*
- * *A world-class education system – pay for performance.*
- * *Healthcare – access is not the problem, costs are: repeal the tax on health savings accounts (HSA's).*
- * *A strong, reliable infrastructure for energy and transportation to support economic growth.*

Rich Carlstedt mentioned that prior to the Green Bay School District's recent referendum, Jo Egelhoff called the Green Bay School District's financial officer, Alan Wagner, and received acknowledgment that full disclosure of funds spent would occur if the referendum passed. This is in direct contrast to the Madison Area School District, where it was recently discovered that the District lost all accounting for the \$21 million referendum passed a few years ago.

Rick Hood announced that the BCTA will be sending questionnaires to all candidates for the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, Wis., U.S. Senator, and 8th Dist., Congressional Representative. The specific questions asked and their responses will be printed in the August Tax Times and furnished to the media. Rick pointed out that everyone select candidates who best represent their interests and be sure to vote in the fall elections.

The next meeting of the Brown County Taxpayers will be Thursday, July 15, at Titledown Brewing. The speaker will be Ron Johnson, candidate for U. S. Senate. Subsequent speakers will be Lt. Gov. candidate Brett Davis on August 19, Al Ose who will speak about the "Fair Tax" on Sept. 16, and Green Bay Police Chief Jim Arts on October 21. Details on the back page of this **TAX TIMES**.

Dave Nelson – Secretary

"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

. . . Thomas Jefferson

Things That Make Us Wonder.

OUR LEGISLATURE IN ACTION.

What does our Legislature do while in session besides pass new laws and invent new taxes? Although not publicized as much as their other accomplishments, the assembly approved a bill making ***Lactococcus lactis***, a bacterium used in the production of cheese as the official state microbe. We acknowledge it is important to our economy.

While all states have official birds, trees, flowers and animals, Wisconsin will be the first one to have a state microbe, which will be so honored in the state blue book along with all the other icons which make our state unique.

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WATCH THE MONEY.

The race for governor is already heating up with the election still five months away. It has been predicted that as much as \$50 million will be spent by the candidates and their supporting interest groups by the time our next governor is announced. This money will have to come from some place.

We note that a large number of states held their primaries June 8, rather than wait for September. Such a move could save candidates tons of money to spend in the November elections.

It will be important to scrutinize the ads you see to determine who is paying for them and what their motives may be. So far attempts at campaign finance reform have been rather ineffective. It is also estimated that various labor unions plan to spend at least \$100 million nationally on their incumbents in efforts to maintain their legislative majorities.

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IS PROPOSITION 14 A WINNER?

California is even in worse financial shape than Wisconsin and probably even more frustrated with their elected officials. On June 8, their voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 14, which could change politics throughout the country.

Starting in 2011, rather than have one candidate from each party face off in the November elections for state office, all candidates, regardless of party affiliation in effect will compete against each other in the primaries. The top two vote getters,



regardless of their party affiliation will then face each other in November. It is interesting that it would then be possible for two candidates from the same party to face each other in the general election.

Whether this plan, called the "Top-Two" would work elsewhere or even in California is debatable. One possible consequence could even be the end of the two party system as we now know it.

Somehow most candidates may sound alike while running for office. They run on a platform of what people want to hear. You seldom hear of proposed tax increases or unpopular mandates. These things come from the ideology of the party in power after the votes are counted.

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AVOIDING THE FOLKS BACK HOME.

An article in the *New York Times* noted that Members of Congress were avoiding their traditional town hall meetings as a re-election tool because of the angry receptions they had been receiving from voters in attendance.

As a result they are also missing out on the TV and press coverage, good or bad, which comes from these meetings which are often staged anyway

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FINDING A HOME FOR THE SHERIFF.

The Brown County Sheriffs Department is considering the former S & L property in Bellevue as a site for their headquarters. No doubt it would have advantages due to its central highway location and room for their other facilities.

What would be nice is an additional location on the west side of the Fox River to reduce squad cars having to race across Hwy. 172 to address accidents on Hwy. 41, etc. Another problem could be the cost involved at a time when taxpayers have been paying for a new county jail and communication center and may be reluctant to spend more.

It wasn't that many years ago that the Sheriff and his wife lived at the jail and had to cook meals for the inmates.

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ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION THOUGHTS.

Illegal immigration is a hot topic and will likely be addressed by Congress before too long. Most polls seem to indicate the American public strongly supports Arizona's moves to identify illegal aliens. In Wisconsin dairy farmers have complained that they need immigrant labor,

legal or not in order to operate.

If this is true, these employers would be breaking some laws. If obtaining labor is the problem, they should either find a way to tap the unemployed or allow immigrant labor to go through the proper and existing channels to remain.

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EVERY JOB COUNTS.

One bright spot in Wisconsin's unemployment situation. Even though the number of new claims is decreasing, the total number has created the workload on the Dept. of Workforce Development which handles unemployment claims has been overwhelming. Those waiting for decisions on claims that had been denied were waiting 90 days for a decision.

Accordingly the Dept. has added 185 employees and plans on hiring 4 or 5 claim judges, which adds up to 190 fewer unemployed in the state.

In the meantime, it was reported that Wisconsin has borrowed another \$1.4 Billion from the Federal Govt. to be repaid with interest. No word of where the Feds are getting the money from but they will also likely have to borrow it with interest.

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LEARN TO BE A BUS DRIVER.

The City of Madison often sets a poor example for the rest of the state as far as managing their budget.

If their transit system is like any other, it loses money and depends on federal subsidies to exist. However, several of their drivers were making salaries in excess of \$100,000 with overtime.

Their union rejected a new contract which would have limited their overtime to 24 hours a week. What is really hard to understand is that the federal government limits the number of hours that airline pilots and highway truck drivers can work due to public safety concerns.

Apparently in Madison bus drivers pay has priority over passenger safety.

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THE COST OF EDUCATION.

The UW System is proposing a 5.5% tuition fee increase for next year.

At the same time the systems faculty and academic staff are claiming they are "falling behind their peers compensation-wise which must be increased quickly in order to remain competitive."

Therefore, two things are likely to happen. Students will pay an average of

\$350-\$650 more next year and the faculty will receive salary increases in order to "remain competitive." Somehow it appears the entire student body can afford to attend UW sporting events if a bowl game or warm weather location is involved.

Aside from salaries, it was reported the UW system offers better retirement and health benefits than similar institutions. About 2/3d's of UW students receive some sort of financial aid.

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DOING THE RIGHT THING.

Wisconsin's Emerald City again. One of their aldermen is proposing an ordinance requiring that contractors doing business with the city provide domestic partner benefits to their employees. They claim this is done in other communities because, "It's the right thing to do."

Perhaps so, but opposition to the plan has not come from the contractors but from their unionized workers.

In an article from the *Daily Reporter*, union workers complained that their cost for insurance and benefits would increase, and all employees would have to be covered even though a small number worked on Madison jobs.

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IT'S ALL PART OF THE COST.

The Green Bay City Council has debated payment of \$48,655 due for police protection at the recent L-Z Lambeau event.

While the event was a success in that it brought prestige and business to the area, their expenses fell short of revenue. While privately sponsored events should arrange for police services and anticipate the cost, some questions arise.

Are all events treated equally, meaning the same charges per hour or service provided, and do they all pay their bills? This would include Bayfest, Packer games, running events, Art Street and various VIP and Presidential visits which occur from time to time. E-Z Lambeau was a big event, but just how much an hour do the police charge for services. Even at \$100 per hour \$48,665 could provide 486 man hours which would seem like plenty for a 3 day event.

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THE REAL 1st NATIONAL BANK.

It sounds crazy, but the Budget and Tax News reports that along with the Health Care reform legislation, Congress also approved the Federal Govt. taking

over the student loan program which is now backed by private interests.

The idea is to help finance Obamacare by borrowing money at the present Govt. rate of 2.6% and loan it to students at 6.8%. It would seem that student loans would fall into the bad risk category but we can always bail them out.

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GOOD NEWS OR PROBLEMS?

Preliminary census reports indicates Brown Counties population increased 9% since 2000, This is good news assuming jobs and the economy also keep increasing.

A recent survey in a national magazine placed the Green Bay Metropolitan area at the bottom of medium size cities for projected job growth during the next decade. Sometimes fortunately these reports are not always accurate.

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WILL \$20 BILLION DO THE JOB?

It remains to be seen if President Obama's demand that BP give the federal government a \$20 Billion escrow to reimburse cleanup expense from the Gulf oil spill will solve any problems.

While the costs are undetermined, BP had acknowledged responsibility and publicly announced they would pay the bill for cleaning up. No telling what the Government will do when they get their hands on the money, but you can be sure it will cost more and do less than if BP were handling it themselves. Meanwhile the personal injury lawyers are looking for the deepest pockets which is still BP.

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HOW THE GOVERNMENT THINKS.

Recently the federal housing agencies Fanny Mae and Freddy Mac proposed a rule that in order to reduce their losses borrowers be required to make a minimal down payment of 5%.. This proposal which could save the agency billions was voted down by Congress because, according to Sen.Dodd, "passage of such a requirement would restrict home ownership to only those who can afford it."

Isn't that what got us into the so-called "mortgage crisis" in the first place?

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WE PAY TO PAY MORE.

The *Washington Examiner* reports that governmental units and public employee unions spend more money for

lobbying and political advertising than either of the next two, the oil industry and the health care industry.

Units of government customarily use paid lobbyists to pursue more federal money, and government workers on all levels through their union dues deductions are constantly lobbying for higher wages and benefits. Since these expenses are already supported by taxpayers, it stands that a lot of our money is being used for causes not necessarily in our interests.

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JUST DO THE JOB.

The DOT and local highway departments are citing cutbacks in budgets as an excuse for not cutting grass along highways. Unfortunately this becomes a safety problem when motorists are unable to see over all the greenery.

It seems they used the same reasoning for plowing the roads last winter but somehow the job got done. It's a matter of establishing priorities with what you have.

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ITS THE PACKERS MOVE.

Citing their long waiting list for season tickets, the Packers have been hinting of plans to enlarge Lambeau Field and even adding additional attractions in the stadium area. In recent years they have been financially able to purchase additional property in the vicinity of the stadium for expansion on their own.

We acknowledge the Packers are what identifies Green Bay and wish them success in their endeavors. We also hope they keep their plans public.

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EMPLOYMENT OF THE FUTURE?

Despite what candidates for Wis. Governor are claiming, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics which tracks the numbers reported that the Milwaukee area had a net loss of 19,200 jobs during the past 12 months. While specific areas of employment where not disclosed, we would assume most were in manufacturing.

In the meantime, an article in the Wisconsin State Journal claimed that most new jobs created in Wisconsin will require a college degree.

Whether that article was planted to justify new spending projects and salary increases for the UW System or to signal a major change in Wisconsin's

workforce was not disclosed.

Right now it seems the focus for revitalizing our economy is on rebuilding our manufacturing base which is where the greatest number of jobs have been lost. Largely due to employers moving manufacturing operations elsewhere due to the cost and hassle of doing business in Wisconsin. Do they propose that these jobs be replaced by high priced college grads?

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SAVING LESS OR SPENDING MORE?

Finally, the Journal/Sentinel reports that \$50 Million is spent by the state each year on fraudulent child care claims.

They claim that a new program called *Youngstar* would help prevent this by closer monitoring of claims and better qualifying of child care providers.

Only problem is they estimate it would cost \$10 Million or so a year to implement the program, and the state does not have the time or the funds available.

If a \$40 Million savings per year could be realized, wouldn't it be logical for the present staff administering the funds to perhaps do a better job?

As usual, lots if things to wonder about.

Jim Frink

"Things That Make Us Wonder," consists of thoughts that occur to us, mostly taxpayer related in some way from current news events. We use reliable, published information and statistics. Some items are unimportant and probably not worth commenting about while others could easily be expanded to full length feature articles worthy of future study and action to protect our interests as taxpayers. We try to cover a wide variety of subjects in limited space and perhaps put a different spin on items from what you read in the papers or see on TV. We acknowledge that our perspective on some items in this column may be contrary to some of our readers. However, one of our purposes is to encourage debate, as we realize there are two sides to every question. Comments or suggestions are welcome to include in this section of the "TAX TIMES."

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." . . . **P. J. O'Rourke**

"If a free cannot save the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich." . . . **John F. Kennedy**

"If stupidity got us into this mess, why can't it get us out?" . . . **Will Rogers**

The TAX TIMES

Brown County Taxpayers Association
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Inside This Issue

Alternative Energy Reveals Same Old Drive.
Should We Consider Replacing our Income Tax
System With the Fair Tax?
Auto Insurance Mandate Began on June 1.
National Debt Update.
Ron Johnson to Speak at July 15, BCTA Meeting.
159 and Counting.
June Meeting Notes. Scott Walker Speaks to BCTA.
Things That Make Us Wonder.
and more.

The TAX TIMES - July, 2010

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- Thursday – July 15, 2010. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon**
Titletown Brewing Co., 2d Floor Meeting Room
Speaker – Ron Johnson, Candidate for U. S. Senate.
(Note) Extra seating available for those not having lunch.
- Thursday – August 19, 2010. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon**
Titletown Brewing Co., **Details to be announced.**
Scheduled Speaker-Brett Davis, Lt. Governor Candidate*
* Originally scheduled for July meeting.
- Thursday – September 16, 2010. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon**
Titletown Brewing Co., **Details to be announced.**
Scheduled Speaker-Al Ose, Americans for Fair Taxation.
- Thursday – October 21, 2010. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon**
Titletown Brewing Co., **Details to be announced.**
Scheduled Speaker-Jim Abts, Green Bay Chief of Police.

Unless otherwise notified, BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at Titletown Brewing Co., 200 Dousman St.

Meetings are open to the public.

BCTA Members, their guests and other interested parties are cordially invited to attend and participate in our open discussions.

COST: \$8.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.

**July,
2010**



“George Washington reputedly never told a lie, but succeeding presidents have taken up the slack.” **Doug Larson**

“On account of being a democracy and run by the people, we are the only nation in the world that has to keep a government four years, no matter what it does.”

. . . **Will Rogers**

SUPPORT THE BCTA

New Members are Always Welcome. Call 336-6410
Write us at P. O. Box 684
or visit our website
www.BCTaxpayers.Org
for Details.