



Thank You, Wisconsin

When the State of the State address was complete, mixed feelings came to mind. First, and foremost I was both pleased and surprised by Governor Walkers pledge to return a surplus of tax revenue, yeah taxes, to the folks that earned it. What followed were some pledges to both lower deduction rates for earners paychecks, and the money it puts back in the family budget box will likely spur sales, that spurs jobs, that spurs paychecks that spurs tax revenues and on and on.....funny how that works. It sounds too simple, but its simplicity is its beauty.

Sounds weird to speak of any notion of beauty when we speak of taxes, yet isn't beauty in the eye of the beholder. For me, I like what I see. I always try to prepare for the unknown turn of events, and the Governor has done the same in some manner with addition to the rainy day fund. All in all, prudence leads to outcomes. And with the supposition that past performance leads future outcomes, the road ahead looks clear of ice and snow. Now that's a refreshing notion.

It will be argued by the tax & spend crowd that the tax relief amounts to little relief. Good lord folks, look at this turnaround in light of the tax increases Doyle Days Past. Had we continued down the Diamond Jim Doyle direction, the continued tax increases, our State tax bills may have been 10-15% higher. I'm basing that supposition on past historical performance and the softening national economy.

This tax refund boon leads me to be a bit selfish about Scott W. and the best political reality Wisconsin has enjoyed in my memory. While I do miss Senator Bill Proxmire's Golden Fleece Awards and the humor that brought some comic relief to government, we now have Vice-president Joe Biden. Hey, lighten up folks, as he inserts the size 12 firmly in the piehole, shrugs the shoulders, and all the while we relish the self-effacing humor the VP can bring to the National stage.

The humor aside last week I watched and listened to a handful of fiscal conservative pundits as they lifted up our Governor at the top of Presidential hopefuls. Will we lose our favorite son to the ravages of the national stage? First, I agree with the talking heads-this guy looks like the real deal. However as the Governor has correctly said, the success in Wisconsin is due to the hardworking taxpayers in the State, higher expectations for business through government lifting the hard heel of over regulation, and destructive taxation.

Looking ahead, and barring unforeseen events, it appears this lower tax tone will be the song we sing for the next year and for a long time to come. For this environment to expand we must look carefully at local leadership and identify local officials and candidates who may look at the sunset occasion of the Packer Tax and the re-issuance of the County sales tax for whatever reason. I've even heard whispers warning there could be a return to pre-Act 10 benefits for government employees including salary arrearage. As crazy as it may sound, all it takes is for a few good men and women to look aside and take their eye off the prize of lower taxes

For now, deeply felt thanks to Governor Walker and our elected representatives who supported his ideas. Let's make sure we keep momentum on the side of lower Wisconsin taxes When you say Go Badgers, you've said it all.....

Richard Parins — President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
In our 29th Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.

National Debt Update. Interest alone adds \$400,000 to the bill each and every day,

On February 1, 2014, the U. S. National Debt reached **\$17,398,189,845,576.00**, an increase of \$129 Billion, over the January 1, total. This is not the total amount of Federal spending, but the excess of spending over income for the period. It represents only the amount we have to finance in order to keep money in the bank so the country's checks don't bounce.

This increase equates to an average to **\$4.129 Billion for each and every day in the month of January**. This also amounts to about \$13 per day of deficit spending for each U. S. Citizen. You can figure it out for yourself if you have a lot of fingers or a big adding machine.

Assuming an extremely low rate of interest of 4.00% for a country with a risky credit rating the interest alone on a \$4.129 Billion loan would be \$165 Million per year, or about \$452,493. for each and every day until payment of the principal is made, which doesn't look like it will be anytime soon.

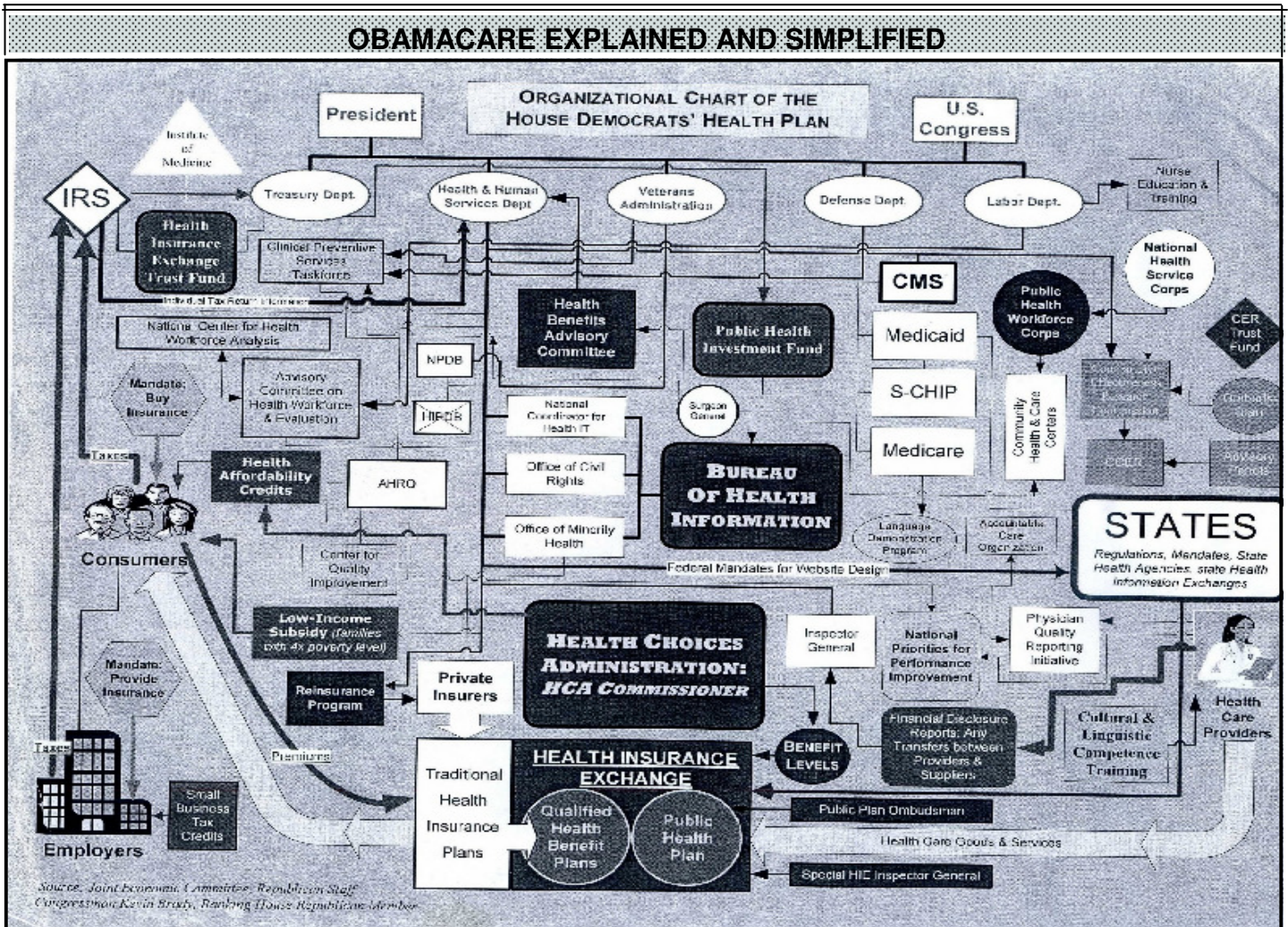
We acknowledge that January may have been an expensive month, but checking back we notice an increase averaging close to \$3 Billion per day for several years, piling up debt at a rate that will be impossible to pay. For example, our debt now

exceeds our GDP, and is growing at a faster rate. One significance of that could be fewer resources available to use in debt reduction as well as provide for other cost of living items.

It is interesting that just about all of the major countries of the world have large indebtedness to deal with. For example, converted to U. S. Dollars, the UK owes \$2.035 Trillion. Japan \$11.306 Trillion, China 2.427 Trillion, and Russia \$266,5 Billion. Obviously each country has different economies and levels of government service. Some are in worse shape than others.

One thing that troubled us with President Obama's State of The Union address before a cheering crowd of followers was that while he reinforced the "hope and change" policies of his entire administration, and which for the most part involve continued deficit spending, he made no mention or solution to the immense National Debt that is being created in the meantime

Going back to the first paragraph of this article. At the present rate of increase, sometime soon we will be approaching a debt of \$18 Trillion. No doubt this will result in confrontation between Congress and the President, who in turn will blame Congress for his inability to get anything done. We have been through this several time in recent years, and the problem seems to be with a Congress which believes in fiscal responsibility dealing with a President who doesn't. **Jim Frink—BCTA**



Courtesy of Congressman Kevin Brady, (TX) :

Inspired by Barack Obama and Rube Goldberg.

December Meeting Notes.

Convention of States Presentation.

Monthly Brown County Taxpayers Association meeting held December 19, 2013, at the Titledown Brewing Corp.

Steven Gillespie, Wisconsin State Director of "I Am American," presented an explanation of The Article V Constitutional Convention process. He was joined (via network) by Louis Marin, Chief Executive Officer of I am American and Loren Enns, Director of Strategic Planning and Constitutional Expert for I Am American.

The I Am American mission statement concludes with "It is our hope that by using the constitutional authority given to them in Article V, the States can reform the federal government in order to return America to the prosperity and unabridged freedom she enjoyed just a few short years ago." In Article V of the Constitution, our founders established the Article V Convention which empowers the States to bypass the federal government and ratify those constitutional amendments deemed necessary to reform it.

Mr. Enns explained that the state legislatures lost substantial power when the Seventeenth Amendment, ratified in 1913, ended state legislatures electing United States Senators. Now, we must face reality. The economy must be saved. The national debt is the greatest threat to our nation's survival. He believes we have 5-6 years to exhaust our credit. Enacting a Federal Balanced Budget Amendment through the Article V Convention Process to prevent national bankruptcy is I am American's primary goal.

Mr. Marin outlined The Article V Convention Process:

Step 1. Two thirds of the State legislatures (34 of 50) must apply for the Article V Convention and then Congress MUST officially call for it to be held.

Step 2. State selected convention delegates propose amendment(s) and then Congress MUST select the mode of ratification (state legislatures or special state ratification conventions).

Step 3. Three quarters of the States (38 of 50) must ratify the amendment before it becomes a part of the Constitution.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution reads: "The Congress, Whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall Propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, **on the**

Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress ..."

Dave Nelson—Secretary

Wanted: Your Thoughts and Opinions.

The TAX TIMES is the newsletter of the Brown County Taxpayers Association, and is paid for through our membership dues. We are a non-profit group which has been in existence for 30 years, and committed to promoting fiscal responsibility in government. No one should deny this is an important subject these days, and everyone seems to have opinions about what government is doing or should be doing with taxpayer money. Both in looking for ways to collect and looking for ways to spend it.

We know that some of our readers have good thoughts and send letters to the opinion page from time to time. We all just want to speak our minds at times. Our point of this article is that the TAX TIMES is also interested in the views of our members and other readers and is available for your input. Our mission is to inform and educate citizens on taxpayer issues of concern to them. As our "Things that make us wonder," and "National Debt Update" monthly features show, there is no shortage of to be concerned with. This is where we need help, there are just too many issues on the local, state, and national level to pursue.

We acknowledge our newsletter is not very professional and we do not try to compete with all of the magazines, newspapers, TV, E-Mail and all the hand held gadgets occupying our attention in efforts to inform us one way or the other, believe what they say or not.

The Tax Times is printed 10 times annually (May/June and July/August are combined). The deadline for material is usually the 25th of the month to allow time for mailing the week before our scheduled membership meetings. It is mailed to our members, elected local, state and national representatives from the area, the local media and other taxpayer groups.

Let hear from you. Information is included in our disclosure which in printed below. Thank you for your interest.

Jim Frink—Editor

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. leave a message and we will get back to you. E-Mail BCTA@ExecPC.Com.

"Public opinion are rather like children in a garden, digging things up all the time to see how they're growing." . . . J. B. Priestly

"Leaders are responsible not for running public opinion polls but for the consequences of their actions." , , , Henry A. Kissinger

"If you think healthcare is expensive now, just wait until you see what it costs when it is free." . . . P. J. O'Rourke

"I think we have more machinery of government than is necessary: too many parasites lving on the labor or the industrious." . . . Thomas Jefferson

Visit our website. [wwwBCTAaxpayers.Org](http://www.BCTAaxpayers.Org)
E-Mail: BCTA@ExecPc.Com

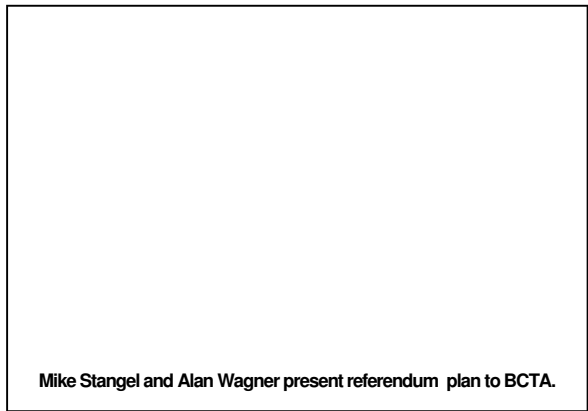
JANUARY MEETING NOTES.

District Officials Discuss Green Bay School Referendum.

Monthly Brown County Taxpayers Association meeting conducted January 16, 2014 at Tiletown Brewing Corp,

Alan Wagner, Chief Financial Officer of the Green Bay Area Public School District, led an explanation of the \$20 million referendum to be voted on in the April 1, 2014 election. Green Bay School Board President Brenda Warren, District Superintendent Michelle Langenfeld, and Director of Facilities Planning and Maintenance Mike Stangel participated in the presentation. They reported that on December 16, 2013, the Green Bay Area Public School District Board of Education approved expenditures totaling \$22,120,000 for capital improvement projects at Washington, Franklin, Fort Howard, Tank, Nicolet and Chappell schools.

The Board designated \$2,120,000 of the district's fund balance to offset the total cost of the projects The Board of Education approved a \$20 million "no frills" referendum for the April election. \$18.7 million of the referendum is designated for the replacement of aging heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems that have reached their useful life spans in Washington and Franklin Middle schools, and Fort Howard, Tank, Nicolet, and Chappell Elementary schools.



Mike Stangel and Alan Wagner present referendum plan to BCTA.

In response to issues in the 2010 referendum about insufficient funds budgeted for ongoing maintenance, the district has increased the general fund operational facilities budget from \$660,000 to \$3.5 million per year. In the last three years, the district has completed \$11.8 million of maintenance projects using the district's operating budget.

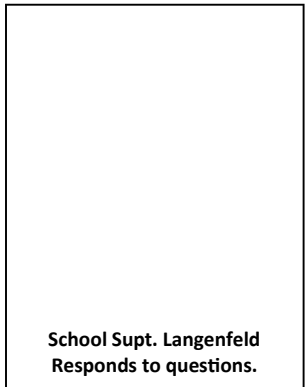
The 2014 referendum would result in a zero percent increase in the district's debt service tax levy rate due to the replacement of expiring debt service with the debt service costs for the new debt. Replacing aging systems such as HVAC units will create long-term energy savings for the district. Some school HVAC systems within the district are more than 50 years old.

The Howard-Suamico School District will have an April 1, referendum to approve borrowing almost \$13.4 million for building upgrades and improvements to the swimming pool at Lineville Intermediate School. \$9.9 million is for security upgrades in district buildings, HVAC upgrades, other building improvements and equipment purchases. Also, \$3.5 million is being requested to remodel and improve the 1970's era pool at Lineville Intermediate School.

An April 1 referendum in the village of Ashwaubenon is an effort to reduce the amount of state funding its school district would lose if it was to incur the \$20 million debt. Officials also say the projects are used by community members as well as students. The 50-year-old pool at Ashwaubenon High School is falling apart. The auditorium is too small to meet current student and community needs.

The next BCTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, at Tiletown Brewing. The speaker will be Keith Lucia, Business Director of the Ashwaubenon School District who will discuss their shared \$20 Million referendum with the Village or Ashwaubenon. Details on the back cover of this *TAX TIMES*.

Dave Nelson—Secretary



School Supt. Langenfeld Responds to questions.

Things That Make Us Wonder

The date for filing nomination papers for local elections has now passed and interesting that only 7 of the 26 members of the Brown County Board Supervisors will face opposition.

We can take this as a sign that constituents are happy with the job their representatives are doing for them, or they realize that it is a demanding time consuming task with limited rewards except the satisfaction of serving the public. Same goes for the City Council and the School Board.

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In addition to the \$20 Million referendum for the Green Bay School District, the Howard-Suamico and Pulasaki school districts and Village of Ashwaubenon will also have referendums on the spring ballot As with any request for taxpayer funding, approval will depend on how well the need for the projects and projected cost is presented.

We wish them all success with their projects and appreciate the consideration of allowing taxpayers a voice in how their money is spent.

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U, S. foreign policy is crazy enough already without having a goofball like Dennis Rodman and his murderous pal Kim Jong Un talking basketball.

Unfortunately diplomacy through normal channels doesn't work with North Korea either. At least they should be made to realize that in the USA, and every other civilized nation in the world, whether we like them or not, we allow disgraced politicians to die of old age.

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Reports are that the Corps of Engineers so far has spent \$200 Million trying to figure out how to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. At least until something else comes along.

A study group consisting of government experts, scientists, and environmental interests came up with 8 recommendations from doing nothing to spending \$15-\$18 Billion to reroute the Chicago River someplace else. Maybe the best solution would be to publish and distribute cook books containing recipes for boiled carp.

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Unfortunately Asian Carp are probably one of the less pressing problems facing the Great Lakes. While we have already dealt with Alewife and Lamprey Eels in recent years there seems to be a long list of other invasive intruders anxious to adapt to our fresh water. .

Also pollutants of all sorts are endangering the water we drink ranging from phosphorus from sewage plants to road salt to agricultural runoff and a wide variety of other industrial wastes in between. We have already spent a billion dollars or so in efforts to remove PCB's from the Fox River and still have a "dead zone" in the middle of the bay to contend with. Dredging our harbors and waterways of sludge and runoff is an ongoing and expensive event.

The biggest problem of all could be the fluctuating levels of the Great Lakes which at the present seem to be locked in "low." This is one reason constant dredging is necessary. There are a lot of theories, but basically it is a problem of more water going out than is coming in. This could be man made and correctable. The Corps of Engineer denies it, but it seems possible the flow of water through the St. Claire River between Lakes Huron and Erie could be responsible. There is an 8 ft difference of water level in a relatively short distance with no locks or natural barriers to restrict flow.

As far as the other problems, is it easier and cheaper to try and clean something up after it happens like we are trying with PCB's, or to keep spending money on efforts to keep pollutants out with stricter laws, or do little else except let nature take care of itself?

Tough decisions to be made.

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Another good question would be what did President Obama's initiatives to enhance the food stamp program, spend \$900 Billion in "stimulus money", the cash for "clunkers" program, raising the debt limit every few months, creating Obamacare, extending unemployment benefits, raising the minimum wage, spending more money on education and immigration reform, etc., etc., have in common? The correct answer could be that they were all sold to the public on the premise they would create jobs and stimulate the economy.

However, a more accurate answer might be they all cost taxpayers a ton of money, raised our National Debt out of sight, while our unemployment rate is more or less the same as it has been for the last five years.

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One example is the 2009 "Cash for Clunkers" program. While it was well publicized, and intended to create employment and save energy, it didn't necessarily turn out that way.

A total of about 700,000 "clunkers" were taken off the road nationwide in exchange for a \$3,500 voucher We assume it was to be produced in the USA. Analysis's of the program showed that 45% of the participants were planning a buying a new car and only moved their purchase ahead a few months.

Many of the fuel guzzlers turned in were exchanged for SUV's with little if any improvement in MPG. Only 2,050 jobs were credited as created by the program so if creating jobs was the motive the cost to taxpayers would have been \$1.4 million per job, plus what the government spent on it's own help. Energy savings and pollution eliminated were negligible but it still cost us over \$2.85 Billion overall.

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The internet is a wonderful tool for communicating with friends, ordering merchandise, and gathering information on anything you choose.

It has also become an influential political propaganda tool and we probably all may be guilty of its abuse.

This is America and we still enjoy freedom of speech and maintaining our own individual beliefs.

Unfortunately it seems we have become more polarized in recent years, and most people are either strongly on one side of issues or the other. While It is good that most of us respect other opinions, whatever they may be, most of us are probably much more comfortable discussing issues with those we agree with than arguing with those we don't.

This is where the internet comes into play. We all probably all spend some time daily reading all of the blogs, think tanks, newsletters, news-

papers, E-Mails from friend's, etc., that come our way which are generally slanted one way or the other to suit their readers. Much of the political chatter has been covered in the daily news, but we all realize the daily news does not necessarily cover everything so we pass things on to our E-Mail confederates for their enlightenment.

We all should know what to believe or disbelieve but nothing seems too preposterous to say these days.. We have to use our own judgment and try ti check multiple sources if possible.

Misleading and malicious information can be fed into the information channel creating a favorable or unfavorable opinion of a person or issue with full knowledge it will spread like wildfire by the recipient like you or me. One way to tell if a story you receive is true or false is to check with a website like TruthorFiction.com.

At least this is another way to help you decide if a story is true of if you are guilty of spreading rumors.

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It has been said that if American consumers purchased only 5% more of the goods they buy made in the USA, we could reduce unemployment and adjust the balance of trade to more acceptable levels.

Possibly so, but is the problem what we buy or who sells it to us? If we complained more to retailers to get after their suppliers who would get after the manufacturers who outsourced their production in the first place we might get the message through. Unfortunately the problem will not be solved by raising the minimum wage, but by creating demand for "made in America" products. Maybe then the demand for skilled workers competing for higher wages would also increase.

That's the way the free market system is supposed to work as long as government doesn't tax and regulate them out of business.

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Wisconsin has been talking about abandoning it's "Do Not Call," phone list because it duplicates the federal system. Great idea but many

Continued on next page →

of us would likely prefer a couple of calls from some struggling entrepreneur and simply say no to than to be pestered day and night with political and charitable solicitations from boiler rooms run by trained professionals working on a commission basis.

Also, It seems we have seen more TV ads per hour. At one time didn't the FCC regulate this? How do we turn those off?

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At this time, the decision to allow Walmart to build on Green Bay's west side, or how long they will pursue the issue amidst all the controversy has not been made.

While there are numerous concerns either way, it still seems the opinion of people living in the immediate neighborhood and other adjacent property owners who will benefit or lose as a result should be the primary concern.

It is seldom a popular idea to change the character of a neighborhood without agreement of those invested or living there and unless there is a significant and beneficial improvement. Listen to them first as they have to live with what happens.

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The recent *Press-Gazette* daily poll asked, "Should a course on personal finance be a high school graduation requirement?" The response was 91% Yes and 6% No.

We wonder how well this subject would be covered in the proposed Common Core standards.

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Liquid Propane (LP) is produced by a process of compressing natural gas, and by all reports new discoveries have assured us an ample supply for many years to come. We are even thinking of converting railroad locomotives and more road vehicles to its use as it is clean burning to satisfy environmentalists.

For years it has been available for heating residences and industrial purposes with no critical supply problems even though winter usage fluctuates from year to year due to conditions. About 250,000 Wisconsin residents depend upon it for heat,

mostly in rural areas and in the northern part of the state.

We acknowledge that this winter has been particularly bitter, but our residents have always been completely prepared for whatever comes. We are very fortunate to have utilities like Wisconsin Public Service who dependably supply gas and electricity directly to our homes and businesses.

That all said, we can think of no plausible excuse for the shortage of liquid propane heating gas which is causing undue hardship on many residents of Wisconsin this Winter. It is not a minor inconvenience. Most of the people effected live in rural, isolated areas. They depend on their own wells for water, and cannot easily drain their systems to avoid freezing.

They generally depend on agreements with their local suppliers to maintain a supply of propane during the winter at a set price, which their suppliers have always honored. This winter, without warning, supplies became scarce, with the price of what was available as much as tripling.

What happened? Pipeline break, production breakdown, colder than normal, supplies used for other purposes? These are all good excuses, but everyone involved should have been prepared for the worst the same as in the past. This is definitely a taxpayer issue. Governor Walker has already set aside several million dollars for home energy assistance to aid those in need due to higher prices.

Maybe we're wrong, but when some supplies are coming through at triple the price it looks like just another case of an artificial shortage created to profit a few at the expense of many.

Hopefully the situation will be resolved without serious incident, and all involved will do a better job of planning before next winter arrives.

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The 2014 Winter Olympic Games are scheduled to start Feb. 7, In Sochi, Russia. The winter games are usually more interesting to watch than the summer games as many of the events are more demanding. It is always interesting to see the nations of the world engage in friendly competition, and we sincerely hope there are

no disturbing incidents.

Their have been very few if any Olympics games whereby the host country made a profit. Good will between nations and athletes has been the bottom line. President Putin championed for the games in his country, and proclaimed the cost for the venues at the equivalent of \$7 Billion with only half coming from their government.

This estimate may be a bit short as they have also constructed a power plant and railroad station in Sochi along with an elaborate Olympic village along with all of the other amenities to compete with the world. Security costs may also be higher than originally anticipated. Most cost estimates are for at least \$50 Billion.

If nothing else this probably proves there is one thing that Presidents Putin and Obama have in common which is that political leaders will exaggerate and fudge the numbers and facts at times if convenient and necessary to have their own way.

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Whenever a city, county, or school district capitol spending initiative is proposed, with a cost beyond what would be acceptable in the current years annual budget, the method of approval of choice to gain approval is with revenue bonds. This method provides for payment over a period of time, commonly 20 years, a relatively low rate of interest, perhaps 3-5%, enabling projects to proceed with the money already in the bank.

Other advantages are that interest income paid to investors is usually tax free. Though the rate of return is low, they are safer than corporate bonds as payment is guaranteed.

One drawback is the cost of the interest represents an additional cost to taxpayers over and above the announced cost being financed.

Like a home loan, specific clauses apply. Like home loans, the total amount of interest to be paid over the life of the loan can add considerable cost to the original principal.

For example, using a standard amortization calculator, a \$20 Million loan with equal monthly payments over a 20 year period at 4% would cost an additional \$9.08 Million in interest by the

time it was paid. The same loan at 5% could cost an additional \$11.67 Million, or adding an additional \$583,850.00 per year to the cost of the project. In other words, interest charges can add at least 50% to the taxpayer cost of public projects even though they are seldom mentioned when the project is being promoted for taxpayer approval.

Largely due to the nature in which government operates, it seems that anything they decide to build costs more than if it were for the private sector. Everything from authorization to design must go through channels so that everyone involved gets their say. Elaborate specifications are established and must be followed. Although bids are submitted, strict rules must be followed to assure prevailing wages are paid.

Not that this is all bad, but can anyone deny that public projects take longer and cost more to build than a private office building or retail store of similar construction.

The bottom line when questioning a new spending proposal is to ask if the total cost to being given to taxpayers includes interest to be paid.

One solution would be to set money aside in the budget as bonds are retired and actually make money to save until the next big project comes along, but no unit of government would ever allow reserved funds to gather dust.

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Whenever a government unit has something to hand out, you can be sure of a long line with their hands out. In this case we are talking about \$900 million in cash that Governor is proposing giving back to the citizens of Wisconsin in the form of property tax relief.

Wisconsin has always had a reputation as a highly taxed state, usually in the top 10 nationally rated for taxes per capita adjusted to income. Previous administrations in Madison have placed taxes and regulations on just about everything they could think of, and it has had a negative effect on economic development.

Finally helped by a more business orientated state government and tax collections actually creating a surplus, revenues have exceeded budget expenses and the governor is proposing giving some it back. There are still legitimate needs to be addressed.

Our schools and highways always need more funding, and the economy is still creating problems. More money should be set aside for future emergencies which keep arising and yes, return some to taxpayers and even lower the rates a little if there is any money left over.

The cash surplus in Madison has caused some lawmakers to propose elimination the individual income tax completely, and raise the sales tax rates. This is a poor and impractical idea. The sales tax rate would have to be raised to 12% or more to make up for the lost income tax revenue.

Perhaps better is something that has been talked about for years, and that would be to simplify the Wisconsin Income Tax returns to comply more with Federal forms.

There are still some minor differences between the two which make filing requirements confusing and do not make much difference in taxes. Most states use federal income and deductions for their income taxes.

In addition there are numerous fees and paperwork items that have been created from previous administrations which seem to have no other purpose than waste peoples time and money to keep people busy in Madison.

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The groups opposed to Gov, Walker that initiated the 2012 recall election, seem to forget the Governor was re-elected with a comfortable margin by citizens of the state to continue his office and programs.

However they are still trying to change the election results through whatever legal processes they can find. Running up legal bills for all concerned in the meantime. At this time, it would seem best to hold back and let the voters of Wisconsin decide the issues they consider important in the coming fall elections, and who can best address them.

Has there ever been an election that made everybody happy?

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The State Dept. recently released a report that the proposed Keystone Pipeline to carry over 800,000 barrels of oil daily from northern states and Canada to southern refineries would "not substantially worsen carbon

pollution." It would be built with private funds. Assuming Pres. Obama will now find a way to take credit for the project with no more roadblocks construction on this important project will be able to proceed.

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After long debate, Congress passed a 1,000 page, \$500 Billion farm bill which covers everything from subsidies and crop insurance designed to encourage the raising of certain crops to discourage others at the discretion of political forces. The bill also includes funding for school lunch programs, and \$80 Billion for food stamps hopefully to be used to buy farm products for low income families.

Why the food stamp program is in the farm bill is difficult to understand except they probably couldn't find anyplace else to hide it.

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Britons have been complaining that their Royal Family has been spending too much money. Their reserve fund is down to \$1,7 million and their many palaces are in need of repairs that will cost about \$80 million.

What's more expensive, a big family with dozens of ancient castles to maintain, or a President who regularly uses the companies fleet of 747s to fly his family and friends on vacations and junkets around the world?

As usual, lots of things to wonder about.

Jim Frink

"Things That Make Us Wonder," consists of taxpayer related thoughts that occur to us from daily 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 for inclusion in future "TAX TIMES."

"Ten years ago we had Bob Hope. Steve Jobs, and Johnny Cash. Now we have no hope no jobs, and no cash." . . . Mitch O'brien

The TAX TIME\$

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The TAX TIME\$ - February, 2014

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- Thursday - February 20, 2014 - **BCTA Monthly Meeting, 12:00 Noon.**
Scheduled Speaker : Keith Lucius
Ashwaubenon School District
- Thursday - March 20, 2014 - **BCTA Monthly Meeting, 12:00 Noon.**
Scheduled Speaker : Jim Schmitt
Green Bay Mayor
- Thursday - April 17, 2014 - **BCTA Monthly Meeting, 12:00 Noon.**
Scheduled Speaker : Troy Streckenbach
Brown County Executive

Public officials and candidates for public office are cordially invited to attend any of our meetings and be recognized.

Unless otherwise notified, BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at Titledown 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.

February, 
 2014

“My reading of history convinces me that most bad government comes from too much government.”
... Thomas Jefferson

“Thinking id the hardest work there is, which is probably why so few engage in it. . . . Henry Ford

SUPPORT THE BCTA

**New Members are Always Welcome. Call 499-7701
Write us at P. O. Box 684
or visit our website
www.BCTaxpayers.Org
for Details.**