



BCTA Action Immunizes County Residents Against County Sales Tax and Packer Tax Extension.

With political candidates, the time to "pin them down" on issues is before the election. Every two years we do that with county supervisor candidates on the issue of the county-option sales tax. This year, we've been hearing talk of extending the Packer tax, so we polled the candidates on that subject as well. The result? Read our "presser" below:

Press Release

March 5, 2012

Brown County Taxpayers Association

**Pledges make county sales tax "a dead issue" for the next two years.
Packer tax extension also would be rejected by new County Board.**

The Brown County Taxpayers Association today revealed it has secured pledges from enough county supervisor candidates to assure defeat of any attempt to impose a county sales tax. A tally of the candidates who have pledged opposition to the tax shows the new county board will have 13 to 19 supervisors who will oppose the tax. Consequently any emerging sales tax advocates will be unable to achieve the 14 votes needed to enact it.

"We've examined the history of the county option sales tax in Wisconsin and it does not provide property tax relief – it only fuels government spending," said Tom Sladek BCTA treasurer. "We commend the candidates – twenty-one of the thirty-six running – who made this important commitment to protect taxpayers' interests. For at least the next two years, the sales tax is a dead issue."

Sladek continued: "Voters in six districts, numbers 1, 4, 17, 19, 23 and 24, will be able to choose between candidates who have pledged to oppose the sales tax, and those who would not make such a pledge. We do not endorse candidates, but we do ask them to tell us where they stand on important issues and communicate the results."

The taxpayer group also asked candidates to pledge their opposition to any attempt at extending the Packer stadium sales tax, which is scheduled to expire in 2015. Sladek reported that "twenty-two of thirty-six candidates have pledged opposition to any Packer tax extension, ensuring that the next county board would reject any move to extend that tax. That's great news as residents have paid that tax long enough and they may now see some true tax relief".

Candidates were asked the yes/no questions: "Will you oppose any attempt to enact a Brown County sales tax?" and "Will you oppose any attempt to extend, continue or renew the Packers stadium district tax?"

The BCTA salutes those candidates who committed to operating the county government with the resources available, and who didn't look at the county-option sales tax as a way of avoiding the tough decisions they were elected to make.

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
In our 27th Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.

Candidates were asked the yes/no questions: “Will you oppose any attempt to enact a Brown County sales tax?” and “Will you oppose any attempt to extend, continue or renew with the Packers stadium district tax?”

Paste up of results of candidate responses/

Mining and Wisconsin.

Did you know Wisconsin is home to one of the largest known iron ore deposits in the world? The Animikie basin contains the single richest field of iron ore in the world. The proposed mine in northern Wisconsin has enough iron ore to mine for the next 100 years bringing thousands of jobs with salaries of approximately as high as \$80,000 a year.

Each mining job will create two or three jobs in other industries in northern Wisconsin bringing economic vitality to an area that has been devastated by the decline of the timber industry.

Some people oppose iron mining because they are afraid it will harm the natural beauty and tourism associated with it. Perhaps tourists would choose to vacation somewhere else – perhaps in Minnesota. What most people don't realize is that Minnesota has been mining iron ore since 1844. It still has a vibrant tourist industry and people continue to enjoy the natural beauty. Mining also began in Wisconsin in the 19th century. Lead miners were referred to as badgers because they dug holes in the sides of hills and burrowed in the ground. That's also how he became known as the badger state. Mining has changed a lot since that time and it is now possible to mine and protect the environment also.

Iron plays an important role in manufacturing of a wide range of products manufactured in Wisconsin used throughout the world. From cars to dishwashers, heavy machinery to bathtubs. Shipbuilding has become a major state industry heavily dependent on the iron and steel industry. Also, the equipment will be needed to operate the mines will likely be built in Milwaukee.

Most of the iron mining in the United States come from our neighboring states of Minnesota and Michigan, benefitting their economy more than \$12 billion per year.

Wisconsin's economy must continue to grow. It is important for our state to allow iron mining, such as South Dakota has prospered during the recent economic downturns because of the oil industry.

We must do all we can to move our economy forward while protecting our environment. The Department of natural resources has a webpage outlining the details of the proposed mine and steps being taken to protect the natural beauty of the area before, during, and after mining takes place. The must not let this opportunity pass us by.

State Senator Frank G. Lasee

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.

"Our task is not to fix the blame for the past but to fix the course for the future." . . . John F. Kennedy

"When everybody has got money they cut taxes, and when they're broke they raise taxes. That's statesmanship of the highest order." . . . Will Rogers

February Meeting Notes'

\$147 Million GBMSD Solids Handling Project Explained.

Monthly Brown County Taxpayer Association meeting held Feb. 16, 2012 at Tiletown Brewing Co.

Bruce Bartel, Operations Manager for the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (GBMSD), and Tom Sigmund, GBMSD Executive Director, explained the need for replacing the GBMSD solids handling facility.

The solids handling system came online in April, 1976, when the GBMSD facility became operational. The Quincy St. facility processes an average of 38 million gallons per day of sewage. The solids handling system is operating at 90 percent of capacity. The evaporative capacity must be increased to reduce the moisture content of the solids produced. Additional environmental requirements must be met by May, 2016.

The GBMSD used a collaborative approach to develop solutions to the solids handling facility upgrade needs and then to determine the best alternative. External, internal, and Commission committees were formed. A municipal and industrial working group were also formed.

Six solids management plan alternatives were developed for final evaluation. Evaluation criteria included financial impact, operational flexibility, social/community acceptance, and environmental impact. The alternative selected was Resource Recovery and Electrical Energy (R2E2).

This alternative has two anaerobic digesters to produce biogas and combustion engines to generate electrical energy. It has a fluid-bed incinerator with heat recovery to replace the existing 35 year old incinerator. The estimated capital cost is \$147 million. It will require a 9 percent annual increase in GBMSD's wholesale rates through 2016. The cost increase to retail customers will be less than 9 percent annually because the wholesale rate is only part of the retail bills sent out by municipalities.

The R2E2 Project has the lowest calculated present worth cost over a 20 year period. It has the most energy generation, estimated at \$2.2 million in energy savings in the first year. It has the lowest estimated operation and maintenance cost with the generation of electrical energy. It reduces 22,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, equivalent to taking 15,000 vehicles off the road.

The Request for Proposals period is February through June of 2012. Design will occur from July, 2012 through 2013. Actual construction will occur from 2014 through 2017.

Responding to a question about costs resulting from design for greenhouse gas reduction and global warming, Mr. Sigmund replied that those costs are not significant.

The next meeting of the BCTA will be Thursday, March 15. Our speaker will be our 8th District U. S. Congressman Reid Ribble. Details on the back page of this TAX TIMES.

Dave Nelson—Secretary

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.BCTAxpayers.Org
Email, BCTA@ExecPc.Com

Rep. Ribble's Statement on President's Proposed Budget.

"The President's budget does little, if anything, to seriously address our nation's fiscal problems. Instead of putting a stop to trillion dollar deficit spending, the President's budget continues this unhealthy trend and takes our country deeper into debt.

The debt crises of the past couple of years, our credit downgrade and the unnervingly high unemployment numbers have all been considered red flags to tackle the debt and out-of-control spending, but unfortunately the President seems to remain unfazed. The promise of cutting the deficit in half by the end of President Obama's first term is a far cry from where our county is now: \$15.3 trillion in debt and

"The President said in his speech today that his budget is a reflection of shared responsibilities, but it seems that the responsibility lies heavily on the backs of small businesses and hardworking taxpayers. Instead of cutting spending and driving down the debt, the budget amps up spending and takes us further down the road toward bankruptcy.

"This budget reconfirms the President's disregard of our country's growing debt crisis which will have a tremendous impact on the fiscal well-being of our children and grandchildren. We cannot spend our way out of this debt problem, and it's time that we work on real solutions and get real commitment from both chambers and the President to fix Washington's broken budget process and get out country on a more fiscally sound and sustainable path."

8th Dist., WI , Rep. Reid Ribble.

Rep.. Ribble is a member of the House Budget Committee. He will be the speaker at the March 15, BCTA meeting. See last page for details,

National Debt Update.

As of the end of February, the United States National Debt has risen to **\$15,400,425,211,691.00**. This is an increase of about 106 Billion, give or take a few million, and is growing at the rate of three billion each and every day. At that rate. It should be able to reach \$16 Billion sometime about the middle of October. Just in time for the November elections.

Nothing seems to make much difference. The Presidents proposed budget calls for more spending. However, if the price of oil keeps going up it may cost more for him to fly the 747 around making fund raising appearances.

Does the debt effect you? Perhaps the low rate of interest you receive on your investments could be tied to the high risk of financing governments around the world. Including ours.

Of the Special Interests, By the Lobbyists, But For the People.

Please excuse the paraphrase of the famous statement made by President Lincoln 149 years ago. Have things changed that much in how our government operates and how business is conducted in Washington and Madison? The question is, do the representatives who we elect to represent us actually work for us or for the special interests who pay the bills to get them elected.

A recent editorial appeared in a number of Wisconsin newspapers discusses the problem. Legally, by state law, lobbyists hired and paid for by various special interest groups have greater access to our legislators than the people who elected them to office in the first place. We acknowledge that lobbyists do serve a useful purpose, but are the taxpayers often left out of the equation as a result?

How does this work? We have 99 Representatives and 33 Senators elected to our state legislature. At last count however, there were 900-1,000 licensed, registered lobbyists employed by about 700 different special interests at a total costs of \$23.9 million to plead their causes for legislation on behalf of their employers. Our legislators are outnumbered by a count of better than 10 to 1.

This is just in Wisconsin. In Washington, our 535 congressmen and senators have a total of 12,792 registered lobbyists helping them make decisions that will affect us all. That's a 24 to 1 ratio.

What are the qualifications to be a lobbyist? Go to the Wis. Government Accountability Board and buy an annual licenses at a costs of \$350 per year. If you have 2 or more clients the cost is \$650. There are no special qualifications but we note that many of them are former state officials or representatives, lawyers, or business executives. As a group they know their way through the legislative process giving them an advantage in favor of their employers.

Lobbyists are required by the GAB to file detailed reports of their activities. This includes who, when, where, and what issues they discuss. They also must operate under a strict code of ethics prohibiting gifts or personal favors. This includes tickets to events, lunches, and most of all cash payments or campaign contributions. Strict penalties can be imposed for violations, and assume they follow the rules. There are usually ways of getting around most restrictions.

This is an election year, and being elected or re-elected to any to office in recent years has become very expensive. Major players direct their contributions towards the parties and individuals who have the influence to do them the most good. It's common sense. Recent law changes on the federal level have enabled corporations to funnel ever more money towards political contributions.

Who are the groups hiring lobbyists? The largest spender has been WEAC, followed by a number of trade unions including municipal and state employees unions. manufacturing interests, public utilities, cities and counties, medical providers, native American tribes, insurance companies, construction contractors, and law firms are all heavily represented. These interests all have legislation either in progress or being proposed that will either benefits or harm them. It is probably safe to say they are mainly concerned with their own welfare and agenda over the consequences caused to others.

It is interesting to note that the large corporate campaign contributors, trade union and other special interest groups are very much the same groups utilizing lobbyists dealing directly with legislators to promote their causes. They are concerned with encouraging state spending on projects they invest in, easing or creating laws or regulations that effect their business, highway construction, DNR regulations and obtaining permits, etc. etc. It is unlikely many of them are asking the state to reduce spending on behalf of taxpayers, or to simplify our lives with less regulation. With a few exceptions, there are no lobbyists speaking out for taxpayers. Your support of taxpayer groups is one way to make your voice heard. Unfortunately politics has turned into a game of who has the most money to spend, and this will probably become even more obvious this summer and fall as November approaches.

Jim Frink - BCTA

"Don't expect to build up the weak by pulling down the strong." . . . **Calvin Coolidge**

"He that is good in making excuses is seldom good for anything else." . . . **Benjamin Franklin**

"About the time we think we can make ends meet, someone moves the ends." . . **Herbert Hoover**

Things That Make Us Wonder.

This is a follow-up to an item in last month's *Tax Times* regarding the easing of obtaining visas to foreign tourists to enter the United States. Many of these visitors are from China as its citizens have had more money to spend in recent years.

While enjoying sightseeing, we read they also do a lot of shopping in discount our many malls. Oddly, much of the money they spend is for goods that were made in China in the first place. Somehow, it seems they can buy things cheaper here than back home. If this is true, something must be screwed up with the balance of trade or where our goods are made because it just doesn't make sense.

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When you apply for medical insurance on your own, one of the first things you are asked is if you are a smoker. It can make a lot of difference on your premiums. In recent years, it has been fairly well established that people who smoke have greater medical expenses than those who do not. Obviously greater medical expenses require higher insurance premiums.

With this in mind, the Brown County board is considering adding a \$50 dollar per month surcharge to employees or dependence who smoke. The justification being that smokers with their higher medical costs increase the premiums that are paid for by everybody. It could also save taxpayers up to \$600,000 a year.

No doubt there is merit to this plan and it is easy to pick on smokers. One problem may be that insurance rates consists of many factors such as age, medical history, number of dependents, life-style and exposure to hazards. Insuring groups of people must cover a variety of claims.

As the costs of health insurance keeps rising relative to other expenses methods of reducing premiums will have to be devised and this could be a start.

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For years most of the 50 states have complained about losing sales tax revenue from purchases by residents from out of state sources. A total estimated at \$23 billion annually. Local merchants also complain about losing business as a result.

In addition to the various state sales tax rates there are literally hundreds of counties, cities, and special purpose

sales-tax jurisdictions throughout the country which must be complied with by sellers. This is a problem probably easier handled by a large computerized company than a small one but they are all expected to comply with.

Most states with sales taxes expect citizens to report sales-tax payable on all out-of-state purchases in the form of a use tax. For example, for years Wisconsin has had a line on its income tax forms for reporting such sales-tax due. It was reported that only 29,000 people reported this item on their 2010 Wisconsin returns.

For 2011 state returns however, a new line has been added asking that you certify that no sales tax is due the state. This could help the compliance rate.

In Wisconsin, you have always been required to submit sales tax in order to register a titled item such as an automobile, boat, or airplane purchased from out of state or on which no sales or use tax has been paid the state of Wisconsin.

Some exceptions are personal property you owned prior to moving to Wisconsin or on which sales tax was paid to a different state at the time of purchase.

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The USPS keeps digging itself into a deeper hole financially no matter what they do or say. One problem could be that no business could operate with the pricing schedule they use. Also, the problem isn't that they don't raise the price of first-class postage often enough. It's that they don't charge the right people for the services they receive.

This being an election year we all receive stacks of mail each day requesting contributions and support for this or that candidate or cause. *Proper or not, much of this mail appears ro be from organizations who have cleverly configured themselves to be nonprofit.*

We note that legitimate nonprofit organization are able to mail up to 3.3 oz. of literature for 11.5 cents. A real bargain considering that was the new rates as of Feb. 1, cost you or me 85 cents to mail a 3 oz. envelope to the people next door. Even our state and local governments do not receive special rates such as trade unions and Political Action Committees are able to take advantage of.

Much of this mail is professionally prepared with expensive printing and enhancements designed to catch the eye

so where does the nonprofit part come in? Either Congress is ashamed of it's free mailing privileges or overlooks deals to groups helping them remain in office. The least Congress should do is re-visit the requirements to qualify as non-profit, and perhaps pay more attention to what they do that makes them non-profit.

It is difficult to imagine any group out to raise money to influence voters by buying expensive TV advertising qualifying as non-profit, with all accompanying perks.

An across the board increase of 50% in all non-profit postage rates would still amount to far less then what we pay for first class, yet make billions for the postal service.

If the poor so called non-profits complain, they could simply cut down the number of mailings they make each week, take a hard look at what they are paying for printing services, and as a last resort stop sending everybody on their list sheets of address stickers.

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President Obama opened up a hornet's nest with his decree that religious groups comply with all of the insurance provisions of his "Obama-care" plan. He claimed to have solved the problem by decreeing that insurance companies continue to provide the coverage, but not charge groups opposed to the plan.

With thinking like that, it is no wonder our government is bankrupt.

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In front of a cheering crowd at the Univ. of Michigan the President said he proposed making college more affordable by encouraging them to keep their tuition costs down.

I am probably wrong, but have many of our colleges and universities ever set examples of cost control, which in turn dictates the cost of tuition? Also, many of them are heavily subsidized through government backed student loan programs and grants covering every imaginable expenditure they can dream up. Instructors receive lucrative salaries paid by the highest bidders the same as professional athletes and no one ever questions taxpayer expenses for new buildings or other expense items.

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The recall Gov. Walker saga took an unusual turn when the Government Ac-

Continued on Next Page —>

countability Board (GAB) placed all of the petitions which had been submitted on the Internet for public viewing. All million signatures if you care to count them. Even the ACLU seemed surprised.

Whether or not this release will be to anyone's advantage remains to be seen. It could prove to be a valuable resource for political telemarketers and get-out-the-vote callers prior to the election. However, It may also discourage future recall petitions if those signing are made aware their signatures will be posted for public viewing.

All in all, the accountability board seems to have a problem separating public information from personal privacy. Do they also post signatures from nomination papers for candidates for public office on the Internet? It is no wonder people do not trust government.

What next, open publication of everyone's voting records?

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We keep hearing of dramatic increases in the price of gasoline before the summer driving season. While some of these periodic fluctuations seem to be choreographed by special interests controlling the market, the effect on the economy can be devastating. Something we do not need.

Dependence on foreign oil will become more of a challenge due largely to demand in developing countries. Our own reserves are by no means infinite, yet our energy policy, if there is one, does not award conservation of this precious resource. While our concern over the environment is justifiably great, are we giving equal thought to the preservation of resources for future generations? Since the last oil price hike two years ago it seems we have returned to our old habits of fast driving, gas guzzling- vehicle way of thinking with no thought for the future.

We need more of a combination of fossil and alternate energy than at present. While windmills and solar panels won't move trucks or airplanes, research on practical substitutes that will should be a top national priority.

Yes, development of new oil fields in Canada and North Dakota should proceed and be part of our overall reserves. Other parts of the world are developing their own energy reserves and should not be looking at ours. With

more prudent use our reserves should be adequate well into the future.

Much of our energy policy depends on cooperation with Canada and pipelines. The reasons that President Obama vetoed the Keystone XL pipeline are still not clear. There are already over 100 pipelines in the U.S. going between two or more states plus another 20 or so between Canada and the U.S. so environmental and right-of-way problems are nothing new. The project would provide thousands of jobs and boost the economy without federal stimulus money. Maybe we'll see if political contributions help.

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Using their freedom of speech rights provided by the Constitution, the Madison Based "Freedom From Religion Foundation" wrote to the Brown County board requesting they discontinue the practice of prayer before regularly scheduled board meetings. Citing "**We still think prayer offends some people. . . The best course of action is to drop prayer altogether.**", the group made its case in a letter to board chairman Guy Zima.

The separation of church and state was established by the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Somehow attorneys and courts have been trying to interpret and apply it ever since. It's what could be called a gray area, and most people seem to have no problem.

We acknowledge that the group is within its rights with it's agenda, but whether they have popular public support is another question. It seems whenever they make an appearance a lot of public controversy and legal expenses to taxpayers will be involved.

This is a critical election year with most people concerned about things like the economy, jobs, national debt, world peace, national security, education, energy and the environment. Our politicians keep being sidetracked by groups concerned only with items such as gay rights, abortion rights, same-sex marriage, environmental issues, legalizing drugs, union benefits, and yes: separation of church and state. What is more important?

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Did you ever wonder how they can sell millions and millions of **Power**

Ball tickets, then announce the location where the winning ticket was sold just a few minutes after the drawing?

The governments best computer experts must work for the lottery people.

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Greece is a relatively poor country with a total land area, including all its islands slightly less than the state of Wisconsin. It's population is about 10.7 million or about double that of our state.

Unemployment is high, and their government has dug itself into a deep hole of debt through the years trying to keep everyone happy. It's limited ability to repay loans to other countries has created financial problems felt throughout the world.

Under pressure from the IMF to reduce government costs, they recently announced plans to reduce their government work force, estimated at 750,000 by 15,000 workers. The recommendation of the IMF was to reduce workers by 150,000 but at least this was a start. The most noticeable results so far have been rioting and demonstrations similar to what we have seen in Wisconsin during the past year.

Incidentally, a reduction of 15,000 federal workers in Greece, based on population, would be the same as a reduction of about 441,000 federal workers in the U.S., which could prove to be a big start in reducing our own debt problem.

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As part of the discussion on increasing visitors to the area and increasing the room tax, the justification of keeping and maintaining the old Brown County Arena has entered the equation.

In the past it had been determined that it was still being used enough to be an asset, and this could possibly be true if the WIAA Basketball tournament comes here.

No doubt there will be all sorts of proposals and debate during the next few months. Ranging from repairs or demolition of the arena to expansion of Shopko Hall or building a parking ramp. Next will be by whom and how it will all be paid for. It's always in the name of progress and a never ending cycle around here.

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Recall that one of the first initiatives of the Obama administration was the massive stimulus bailouts including \$50 billion to General Motors. In exchange, the federal government received 500 million

shares of GM stock worth about \$19 a share at the time, along with GM promising to streamline its manufacturing costs.

In 2011, GM made a record profit of \$7.6 billion, and recently awarded bonuses averaging \$7,000 to 47,500 employees. Their stock has now risen to about \$27.50 per share. The government figures that when the stock reaches \$53 a share they will start selling it at a profit. If right, this would gross about \$26.5 billion which would still be a little short (\$23.5 Billion) of what they "invested" in behalf of the country in the first place. First it has to go up.

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Despite talking about stimulating business growth to improve the economy, what the government says and what it does are still usually two different things.

One of the latest is an IRS mandate requiring all business that accept charge card or third-party payments file a new report reconciling these sales with their annual gross sales. For whatever purpose these reports will serve is anybody's guess, but it could create a massive paper work burden on small business to comply, and apply largely to business making retail sales. In addition, it would take additional staffing by the IRS to handle the additional paperwork at a time when their department is targeted for downsizing staff reductions.

If the IRS wants to get involved their auditors could probably make a lot of suggestions towards simplifying the tax laws which provide loopholes for evasion schemes without making things more complex than they already are.

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The President's proposed budget contains many great sounding items to enhance job creation, education, energy, infrastructure, and many others that sound good and easy to blame Congress for if not approved as presented. Reduction of the National Debt was a non-factor.

As has become the popular solution for the countries fiscal problems, those in the upper 1% of income would be asked to pay more of their share. Maybe so; much of this rhetoric has come from stories of those with billion dollar incomes and huge corporation paying little or no tax as a result of taking advantage of tax loopholes.

Many of these loopholes came through the years from Congress and the administration at the time trying to aid or stimulate a particular situation or problem at

that time, and leaving it buried in the IRS code manuals without ever bothering to correct it. Thousands of such so called loopholes still exist for those with good tax attorneys, and even some members of Congress take advantage of them.

According to The Tax Foundation, the top 1% of U.S. taxpayers earn 16.9% of national income but pay 36.7% or over a third of our Incomes Taxes. This includes those who don't pay anything.

The top 5% of income earners; e pay 58.7% of the individual income taxes, leaving the remaining 95% to pay 41.3%.

While it is easy to demonize the "rich", it seems ironic that we also idolize celebrities and athletes who are in the top 5% who make their fortunes from appearances and events paid for directly from admissions from the other 95%.

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One bad thing about the mild winter we have been having is that the road construction season is getting off to an early start. While it seems that every year has had crucial work underway making it difficult to get around town, this year will have several main thoroughfares closed or restricted at the same time.

Unfortunately next year promises to be worse as reconstruction of Highway 41 continues.

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In case anybody noticed, spring primary elections for local non-partisan offices were held on February 21. Whether the lack of candidates competing for positions was a good sign indicating everyone is satisfied with their representation on the County Board and local supervisors or people are so turned off by the hassle of politics they simply don't want to get involved remains to be seen.

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After selling over \$80Mil worth of stock to finance seating to seat more people in Lambeau Field, the Packers raised the price of their tickets \$3-5 per game. They cited the fact they were only in the middle of the league as far as revenue goes, and that other team owners said we could charge more because of our waiting list. We note that most other venues feature individual seating for all fans, and provide railings for safety purposes on the steps leading to seating sections.

The Packers are a unique treasure for Green Bay, and the entire State of

Wisconsin. Our city is the envy of the entire sporting world. However, It is probably due more to good luck than safety concerns that more people have not been injured going to and from their seats.

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In the past month or so, the value of the U.S. stock market has grown considerably out of proportion to other economic factors. It's an election year.

Unemployment is still high, the housing market is still weak, corporate earnings are so-so, other countries are experiencing money problems, and there are many uncertainties facing us. The price of gasoline for example.

One theory is that since through the years interest rates, in order to encourage investment have been lowered to the point that banks can no longer pay interest on the saving accounts. People in turn are investing in stocks, which carry a much higher risk.

The lower interest may help pay off Government Debt, and the high stock market makes people feel good, but sometimes we wish they would learn to leave things alone.

As usual, lots if 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."

"Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let hornets and wasps breakthrough." . . . Jonathon Swift

"Congress is now trying to pass a bill to require health insurance for the mentally ill. Once again, Congress is looking out for themselves." . . . Jay Leno

"In politics, absurdity is not a handicap." . . . Napoleon Bonaparte

The TAX TIME\$

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Inside This Issue

County Sales Tax Press Release.
County Board Candidate Pledges.
Mining and Wisconsin.
February Meeting Notes.
Rep. Ribble's Statement on Federal Budget.
National Debt Update.
Of the Special Interests, By the Lobbyists,
But For the People.
Things That Make Us Wonder.
And more.

The TAX TIME\$ - March, 2012

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Thursday - March 15, 2012. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
Titledown Brewing Co.
Speaker. 8th District Congressman Reid Ribble.

Thursday - April 19, 2012. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
Titledown Brewing Co. Program to be announced.

Thursday - May 17, 2012. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
Titledown Brewing Co. Program to be announced.

***All Candidates for Public Office are cordially invited
to attend our meetings and will 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.

March,
2012



"Ninety percent of the politicians
give the other ten percent a bad
name." . . . Henry Kissinger

"Any party which takes credit for
the rain must not be surprised if
their opponents blame them for the
drought." . . Dwight W. Morrow

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.