

FROM THE BACKSHOP

Ah, yes, the corrupt hand of government

Back in the day, President Ronald Reagan ushered in a new era of confidence and success. By pouring the coals to taxation and allowing us commonplace Americans to achieve our potential, a period of out-of-control inflation was sent to the sidelines. Stack Dutch's efforts against those of President Barack Obama and you'll find a regime of resentment. Syndicated columnist David Nace, in fact, adroitly points out that the Obama administration believes in replacing the invisible hand of the marketplace with the heavy and easily corrupted hand of government. "One need look no further than the takeover of Chrysler and GM to see how these policies really work," he writes. "Bankruptcy laws dictate that secured bondholders have the highest claim on the assets of a company. However in the Chrysler and GM bankruptcies, bond holders received 29 percent of their investment while the United Auto Workers, an unsecured creditor, received 78 percent of their claims and partial ownership of the company." We couldn't have said it better. We're hopeful Washington awakens from this horrid nightmare before it's too late.



Brian Kelly & Steve Greenberg

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano already is headed down the wrong track. Watch this carefully: She wants to unionize Transportation Safety Administration employees. You think a union is going to make an expedient decision with regard to protecting the safety of travelers? Not without payoffs, back slaps and winks. Ever heard of Detroit?

...
Kudos to the powers that be in Hamilton County for finally delivering on our oft-written wishes for a pedestrian bridge to be erected over West 146th Street at the terminus of the Carmel portion of the Monon Trail and the beginning of the Westfield part. Here's hoping it goes up in time and that no one is injured – or worse, God forbid - in the interim.

Brose McVey unveils first part of Jobs 2020 plan

For Current in Westfield

Republican candidate for Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, Brose McVey, recently proposed the first element of a new Jobs 2020 economic growth plan that he would pursue if elected to Congress next year. The initial phase of McVey's plan:

- Calls on Congress to enact a six-month Payroll Tax Holiday;
- Calls on Washington to cancel and suspend the remainder of the "stimulus" plan and use the unused funds from that program to pay for the payroll tax holiday, and;
- Recommends that payback to the federal government of bail-out funds by banks and financial institutions be sent to strengthen the beleaguered Social Security Trust Fund.

"A payroll tax holiday will reduce the cost of labor, put real cash in the pockets of every American worker within weeks, allow employers to keep more folks on their payrolls, and requires no bureaucracy to administer," McVey said. "It is the kind of economic injection we should have enacted six months or a year ago.

"For the average Hoosier family earning \$50,000 per year, this tax holiday would put over \$1,900 in their pockets in the next six months, and it would do the same for their employers," McVey said. According to the

American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau, there were nearly 400,000



MCVEY

people employed in the Fifth District from 2006 to 2008.

"If enacted by Congress immediately, my plan would begin work today and send a strong signal to entrepreneurs, employers, investors and bankers that we are committed to long-term, sustainable growth. Both are possible — and critical — if we are to slow the alarming Federal deficits that threaten our very future,"

McVey said.

"As a small business person myself, I understand the burden that our 15.3 % withholding places on our employees and employers," he said. "I want to set forth the kinds of policies I would advocate if I were in Congress today.

"My plan avoids 'old school' public works projects like those in the so-called stimulus plan. It doesn't pick winners and losers-like the clunkers and bailout plans did. And, importantly, it is fiscally responsible and would save the taxpayer money, when compared with the so-called stimulus plan enacted by Congress. To pay for it, I am calling on Congress to suspend further commitments of unused funds authorized under the current stimulus program, and to direct that funding instead at a six-month payroll tax holiday."

This is why we do this thing called journalism

COMMENTARY

By Zach Dunkin

If you could read between the lines of Martha Allan's compelling cover story about Janus Developmental Services in Noblesville and see behind Leslie Webber's photos that illustrate it, you would discover the reason most of us who call ourselves writers and photographers do what we do.

It's about stepping into the life of a human being and sharing in their joy of being someone important, as Martha did at Janus. It's about capturing the pictorial moment of someone's "sparkling personality," as Leslie described. And it's about sharing all of this with you.

Leslie took the assignment thinking a 15-minute shoot would be enough to get the pictures needed. She even took her 4-year-old because she thought she'd be in and out. Fifteen minutes "turned into an hour and a half of joy," she said.

The experience made Martha recall the last time she felt that "pure excitement of working."

Let them tell you more.

Martha: "I was struck by the simple joy that Bill, Amanda and Shannon took in their work. They talked easily about their lives and their

jobs, and it was easy to see they were proud of being able to take care of themselves, to live independently. Seeing their excitement in earning money, being able to go to a restaurant, get a haircut (that's for you, Shannon!) or care for a pet, made me think about the last time I held a paycheck, and thought, 'I worked hard for that.'

Leslie: "Within 5 minutes I was smitten. We were greeted by a consumer of Janus who immediately took an interest in my little one. The enthusiasm of the staff is palatable and their energy and dedication was obvious. As I started snapping pictures, I became really popular. I was on a time crunch, but everything else would have to wait. Not only was I not about to break someone's heart by not taking their picture, I wanted to remember every talented face and sparkling personality."

And that, readers, is why we do this.



Zach Dunkin is the managing editor for Current in Noblesville. You may e-mail him at zach@currentnoblesville.com

Charitable spirit

COMMENTARY

By Terry Anker

Winning anything, let alone \$5,000, is not something that happens very often, but seeing the winner immediately hand the prize to charity is even more rare. But that is what Patrick Burley of Meridian Investment Advisors did with Happy Hollow Children's Camp. During a benefit dinner for the Camp, Burley bought tickets for and won the prize, generously donated by Kroger Grocery, and then immediately pushed it back to the charity.

Happy Hollow Children's Camp, founded in 1951, provides week-long wilderness experiences in rural Brown County, Indiana, for underprivileged children between the ages 7 to 14 at little or no cost. In 2009, about 800 kids went to camp, in large part, because of the generosity of folks like Kroger and Burley.

But surprisingly, this is not the first time the 15-year Carmel resident Burley has won a prize and handed it off to others. The eagle scout has a passion for building communities.

As a younger man, Burley was involved in many community events in his hometown of Naperville, Ill., a community much like those found in Hamilton County. He and some friends led a rib fest which raised in excess of \$1 million during a four-day span. And, his charitable spirit continues.



Photo by Krista Bocko

Pat Burley (left) at Kroger in Carmel with Kevin Allender of Happy Hollow Children's Camp.

Burley believes that giving back is a trait that his parents instilled in him at a young age. About Happy Hollow, Burley says it "is a very interesting and great organization." He wonders at the alternatives that camp provides for kids.

This year's benefit dinner at the Indianapolis Marriott North on Feb. 27 would be lucky to have more generous benefactors like Burley and the good people at Kroger.

If you would like more information regarding Happy Hollow Children's Camp, to donate, volunteer or recommend campers, please visit www.happyhollowcamp.net. And stop into Kroger and say thanks.



Terry Anker is an associate editor of Current Publishing, LLC. You may e-mail him at terry@currentincarmel.com.