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IWF, others bring hundreds to the Capitol to fight state budget

The majority in the Legislature spent a great deal of time behind closed doors streamlining an anti-public school budget the Governor's desk. IWF and other groups brought wave after wave of activists and activists to the Capitol to witness what was going on and let legislators know they would be held accountable.

June 5, hundreds of people watched and listened for 20 hours as Joint Finance Committee members cut the gold touches on the budget before it went to the Assembly. The budget's final step, short of the Governor's desk, was the State Senate. IWF was part of a "Trash the Budget" on the steps of the Capitol that day when several people displayed more knowledge of education and the funding system than was being heard inside the building.

Latest jobs numbers show Wisconsin is still falling behind the national recovery

The newest jobs numbers are not the good news for Wisconsin we would have us believe. Our only "good news" is that we're not falling behind the nation quite as rapidly as we once were. But Wisconsin is still missing out on the national recovery and our governor's policies are largely to blame.

Before Governor Scott Walker took office, Wisconsin's jobs were growing at the national rate. Since his inauguration, however, we've fallen way behind. The new numbers just mean we're still falling further behind, but at a slightly slower rate.

Jack Nussman, former IWF research director and frequent blog contributor on the Wisconsin economy, offers an in-depth look at the latest state jobs numbers.

Click on chart to enlarge.

It's long past time for an "Education Declaration to Rebuild America"

Americans have long looked to our public schools to provide opportunities for individual advancement, promote social mobility, and share democratic values. Over the past three decades, however, we have witnessed public policy that has deprived our children of opportunities to learn and succeed.

It's time for a new approach, an "Education Declaration to Rebuild America." Click here to read more and to sign on.

Corporations taking billions while confused citizens turn on each other

Economist Robert Reich says that multi-national corporations are making billions of dollars in tax breaks while folks in the U.S. and around the world turn on each other. Corporate power is getting out of hand eliciting tax subsidies, extorting tax breaks from countries worried about global competitiveness, and sheltering their profits in low-tax jurisdictions.

The problem is that citizens of these countries aren't banding together to demand accountability. Instead, they are thumbing their chests in shows of rising nationalism.

Read his blog here.

Pecatonica superintendent Gary Nies dies in crash

Gary Nies, superintendent of the Pecatonica School District and long-time school-funding reform activist, and—most importantly—an advocate for children died June 22 at age 47. He also served as superintendent at Benton. A scholarship has been established in his memory. Click here to read Gary's obituary. Gary will be greatly missed by all who knew him and the funding reform movement.

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