

Today’s Show:

Host Kris Halterman will discuss the history of Labor Day, Minimum Wage vs. Living Wages, Millennial Work Ethics, and some interesting Dept. of Labor Statistics; with guest Lorraine Newman.

LIBERTY ALERTS:

October 5th, 2017: Voter Information Forum

County Council and Port of Bellingham Candidates Meridian High School (More Information Soon)

October 19th, 2017: Wake-Up Whatcom Event

Tim Eyman, Glen Morgan, and Lars Larson are confirmed to entertain and inform the audience on issues affecting Whatcom County and Washington State.

Meridian High School (More Information Soon)

COMMON CENTS:

This past August we have seen both the best and the worst of man. Charlottesville culminating the worst and the Heroes of Hurricane Harvey serving as a model for all humans to aspire to.

Why does it take tragedy to show us the error of a divided society? A society that prefers to use the current vogue standards of the politically correct to spew slander and threats at one another; fails to display a mature understanding that when we blame one group for their bad behavior while we ignore and hold blameless all the other *bad behavior*, we are foster more of that *bad behavior*. Your bully is not a better bully because you approve of their cause *and vice-versa*.

Why does it take tragedy to show us that when we breakdown all the PC labels and social causes; when we pitch-in to help our family, friends, and neighbors; we’re all the same? In an emergency, no matter what caused it, people are what make a difference and we are capable of so much more than when we dig-in and help to relieve human suffering. Police, emergency responders, and organizations like Samaritan’s Purse, the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross are organized to roll out in catastrophic emergencies like Hurricane Harvey. But, what a difference it makes when we all work together.

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Why does it take a tragedy or an emergency to wake-up our local, state, and federal governments that relaxing the rules and regulations makes it so much easier to work with one another? The Federal Government and the State of Texas relaxed the rules so that all these agencies and people could work together without the barriers of crossing all those T’s and dotting all those I’s. Remember the bridge collapse in Burlington? Governor Inslee relaxed the rules and regulations to ensure that that bridge was restored and operational in record time. Why does it take a tragedy to do what’s right? If it reduces the time and costs to the public’s benefit...wouldn’t that hold true in our everyday lives?

Lastly, there is another tragedy that could easily be addressed if politicians would put aside their partisanship and do what’s right for America.

American taxes and tax laws have become so onerous that they are dragging down our ability to sustain the public good. Cutting corporate and personal taxes will be [stimulative](#) to the economy. But, reducing the regulatory nightmare faced everyday by businesses large and small, would do more to stimulate the economy and *grow our way out of debt* than all the tax reductions or pay raises could do. A simplified tax code would generate more small business creation, which is the engine that drives and pays the bulk of wages in America. More small business growth is what will pay-off the debt.

It cannot eliminate the deficit spending that has become too commonplace in our government agencies. That duty is the job of our political leaders. Only in drastic emergencies, like Hurricane Harvey, should our government spend more than the people can pay for. If they want more money, then they need to reduce taxes and regulations to produce more and generate more public tax dollars in an honest and fair trade with the public.

Small businesses comprise what share of the U.S. economy? Small businesses make up:

- 99.7 percent of U.S. employer firms,
- 64 percent of net new private-sector jobs,
- 49.2 percent of private-sector employment, 42.9 percent of private-sector payroll,
- 46 percent of private-sector output,
- 43 percent of high-tech employment,
- 98 percent of firms exporting goods,
- and 33 percent of exporting value.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SUSB, CPS; International Trade Administration; Bureau of Labor Statistics, BED; Advocacy-funded research, Small Business GDP: Update 2002- 2010, www.sba.gov/advocacy/7540/42371.

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[History of Labor Day](#)

What it Means

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Labor Day Legislation

The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887.

By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

Founder of Labor Day

Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the

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holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

[Can Work Ethic be Learned?](#) (aka Entrepreneurship)

No one way is necessarily "better" than the next, and efficacy often depends on the nature of the child at hand.

Is work ethic always instilled--by parents, in young children? Can it be learned later on or, in fact, even be inherent?

There is **reason to believe**, however, that **work ethic can be learned among older adults**.

schools have begun emphasizing "work ethic" within their standard curriculum. One school district in Kentucky implemented such a program, in which **students are taught the basics of being a good employees**: not just how to get a job, but how to keep the job by showing up on time, doing good work, and exceeding employer expectations.

There is also good reason to believe that **work ethic is inherent, something we're born with**, like a talent for piano or a natural sense of humor. Some kids are just more interested in working.

Alex was always **the lemonade stand sort of kid**, ever looking for a way to do work.

I think it was the satisfaction he felt in having something of his own--an idea, a profession--of working towards something larger than himself.

Difference of:

- [Minimum Wage](#)
 - The **minimum wage in the United States** is set by [US labor law](#) and a network of state,

and local laws. Employers generally must pay workers the highest [minimum wage](#) prescribed by federal, state, and local law. As of July 2016, the [federal government](#) mandates a nationwide minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. As of October 2016, there are 29 states with a minimum wage higher than the federal minimum. From 2014 to 2015, nine states increased their minimum wage levels through automatic adjustments, while increases in 11 other states occurred through referendum or legislative action. In real terms, the federal minimum wage peaked near \$10.00 per hour in 1968, using 2014 [inflation-adjusted dollars](#).^[1]

- Beginning in January 2017, Massachusetts and Washington state have the highest minimum wages in the country, at \$11.00 per hour.^[2] New York City's minimum wage will be \$15.00 per hour by the end of 2018

- - [Living Wage](#)

- In public policy, a **living wage** is the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs.^[1] This is not necessarily the same as subsistence, which refers to a biological minimum, though the two terms are commonly confused. Some have defined needs to include shelter, food, and other incidentals such as clothing. Due to the flexible nature of the term 'needs', there is not one universally accepted measure of what a living wage is and as such it varies by location and household type.
- European: A person working 40 hours a week, with no additional income should be able to afford the basics for quality of life, such as, food, shelter, utilities, transport, health care, and minimal recreation.
- Activists: wage equivalent to the poverty line for a family of four. The income to allow the family to secure food, shelter, clothing, health care, transportation and other necessities of living in modern society.

- Greater London: threshold wage, calculated as an income of 60% of the median, and an additional 15% for unforeseen events.
- Localities without subsidized government services should factor those costs into the 'living wage.'
- A basic wage to maintain a safe, decent standard of living within the community.

The living wage differs from the [minimum wage](#) in that the latter is set by national law and can fail to meet the requirements to have a basic quality of life which leaves the family to rely on government programs for additional income.^[1] Living wages, on the other hand, have typically only been adopted in [municipalities](#). In economic terms, the living wage is similar to the [minimum wage](#) as it is a [price floor](#) for labor. It differs somewhat from [basic needs](#) in that the basic needs model usually measures a minimum level of consumption, without regard for the source of the income.

- [Earned Wage](#)

- A **wage** is monetary compensation (or [remuneration](#), personnel expenses, labor) paid by an [employer](#) to an [employee](#) in exchange for work done. Payment may be calculated as a fixed amount for each task completed (a *task wage* or [piece rate](#)), or at an hourly or daily rate ([wage labour](#)), or based on an easily measured quantity of work done.
- Wages are part of the expenses that are involved in running a business.
- [Wage labour](#) involves the exchange of money for time spent at work (the latter quantity is termed [labor power](#) by [Marx](#) and subsequent economists). As Moses I. Finley lays out the issue in [The Ancient Economy](#):
- The very idea of wage-labour requires two difficult conceptual steps. First it requires the abstraction of a man's labour from both his person and the product of his work. When one purchases an object from an independent craftsman ... one has not

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bought his labour but the object, which he had produced in his own time and under his own conditions of work. But when one hires labour, one purchases an abstraction, labour-power, which the purchaser then uses at a time and under conditions which he, the purchaser, not the "owner" of the labour-power, determines (and for which he normally pays after he has consumed it). Second, the wage labour system requires the establishment of a method of measuring the labour one has purchased, for purposes of payment, commonly by introducing a second abstraction, namely labour-time.

Mail Clerks / Postal Wkr - \$11.26
 Library Asst / Clerical - \$11.30
All Whatcom County Occupations Hourly Wages – 82,170

- Food Prep & Serving Related Occupations: 8,870
- Personal Care & Service Occupations: 2,470
- Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance: 2,860
- Sales & Related Occupations: 9,190
- Healthcare Support Occupations: 2,290
- Office Admin & Support Occupations: 12,250
- Transportation & Material Moving Occupations: 5,250
- Production Occupations: 6,410
- Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media: 1,210
- Farming, Fishing & Forestry Occupations: 310
- Installation, Maintenance, & Repair: 3,260
- Education, Training & Library: 5,830
- Community & Social Services: 1,190
- Construction & Extraction Occupations: 4,330
- Life, Physical, & Soc. Science Occupations: 580
- Business & Financial Operations Occupations: 3,810
- Legal Occupations: 390
- Computer & Mathematical Occupations: 1,310
- Protective Service Occupations: 1,470
- Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations: 4,150
- Architecture & Eng. Occupations: 1,310
- Management Occupations: 3,430

[Interesting Labor Statistics for Bellingham/Whatcom County](#) (Statistics from May 2016 Bureau of Labor Findings)

Top 10 Occupations Earning an Hourly Wage:

Family & Gen Pract	-	\$93.42
Chief Exec	-	\$74.93
Architect & Eng/Mgrs	-	\$63.28
Pharmacists	-	\$58.15
Physician Asst	-	\$54.18
Computer Prog	-	\$52.07
Computer & Info Sys Mgr	-	\$51.80
First Line Supervisors	-	\$51.78
Sales Managers	-	\$50.15
Trans, Storage, Dist Mgr	-	\$49.82

Bottom 10 Occupations Earning an Hourly Wage:

Dishwasher	-	\$10.81
Host & Hostesses	-	\$10.83
Comb Food Prep & Serve	-	\$10.97
Ushers, Lobby Attend	-	\$10.99
Gaming Dealers	-	\$10.37
Food Prep & Serving	-	\$10.73
Dng Rm, Cafetr, Bar	-	\$11.04
Amusement & Rec	-	\$11.07
Food Servers	-	\$11.10
Prof. Rec Srvc Wkr	-	\$11.14
C-nter Attend, Cafeteria	-	\$11.15
Childcare	-	\$11.22
Gaming & Bookies	-	\$11.38

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