

in this issue...

- Meeting the Challenge of College Costs
- Basics of Estate Planning
- Investing with Style
- Employee vs. Independent Contractor - Ten Tips for Business Owners

Basics of Estate Planning

A carefully prepared estate plan will allow you to achieve many goals. Ensure the financial security of your spouse; determine what should be left to the children and how their inheritances should be handled if they are young; dispose of the family business; minimize the effects of taxes on your estate; empower a reliable executor and trustee to invest and manage the assets in your estate.

By having a will, which is the basic estate planning tool, you can prevent two costly mistakes: lack of experienced management assistance for your family and the possible loss of thousands of dollars through needless taxation on your estate.

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Investing with Style

How do you define your approach to investing? There may be many answers to that question. One answer goes to the style of investing that you choose: value or growth.

The goal of a value investor is to seek out "bargains," finding those companies whose stock may be out of favor for one reason or another and whose stock is inexpensive relative to the company's earnings or assets. Value investors are looking for companies that have shown low or no sales growth, have little corporate debt and experience below-average earnings increases.

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Employee vs. Independent Contractor - Ten Tips for Business Owners

If you are a small business owner, whether you hire people as independent contractors or as employees will impact how much taxes you pay and the amount of taxes you withhold from their paychecks. Additionally, it will affect how much additional cost your business must bear, what documents and information they must provide to you, and what tax documents you must give to them.

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Meeting the Challenge of College Costs

Your child has entered high school and is just four years away from college. It's time to get serious about figuring out how much it's going to cost. Based upon recent data from the College Board, if he or she goes to a private four-year university, the cost for the four years will be about \$160,000.

Which position would you rather be in-taking advantage of a "discount" of \$18,000 off the sticker price or overpaying by \$53,000? That, in a nutshell, is how to compare the difference between saving for college now or borrowing to pay for your child's education later.*

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