



Your Tax Team

OWL NEWS

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320-685-9968 Fax 320-685-9902

312 1st St N Ste 1

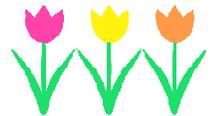
www.yourtaxteam.biz

E: kristie@yourtaxteam.biz

E: jeanie@yourtaxteam.biz

Robert R Thelen, CPA

100 Best Days of the Year!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page 1: 100 Best Days of the Year!

Page 2: Comments, Ideas
Don't Quit Your Day Job
... Yet

Page 3: Social Security's Magic
Number

Page 4: Retool Your Productivity

*We have just wrapped up the 100 best days of the year;
just in time to start enjoying this spring season.*

Please know that if we have completed our services with you for this tax season, we send out a huge "Thank You" for letting us work with you. We look forward to helping you throughout the year with any items that may come up.

If we have filed an extension on your behalf, we look forward to working with you throughout the coming months in order to get your return finalized and then e-filed for you. If you don't already have an appointment set up and would like to have one, please feel free to call to do so.

Thank you again for letting us serve you for the 2015 Tax Season!

Office Hours During Summer Season (May 2nd through September 12th):

Monday through Thursday from 8am until 4pm

Friday from 8am until 12 Noon

We do normally take our lunch break from 12 Noon until 1pm.

**Office Hours any time not mentioned above: Monday through Friday from 8am until 4pm
During non tax season: We do normally take our lunch break from 12 Noon until 1pm every day.**

"Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced."

-Soren Kierkegaard

Comments - Concerns - Suggestions - Thoughts - Ideas

We welcome and request all of the above! Please know that we are all human. That means that we have our strengths, but we also have our weaknesses. It also means that we always have something more we can work on or improve. We want to be sure that we are focusing on areas that are most important to our clients. We are asking for your feedback about things you like and possible improvements you would suggest.



Appointments

Requirements

Email

Portal

Organization

Response Time

Checklists

Charges

Website

Location

Follow Up

Voicemail



Communication



Knowledge

Tell us about your thoughts. Some topics that we could think of are listed above.

We know that we can't focus on every issue that people come up with - we do want to continue to improve and value your input. Please help us to become the best that we can be in order to be the best to serve you.

Please feel free to share your thoughts via email: kristie@yourtaxteam.biz

Don't Quit Your Day Job . . . Yet

Many people fantasize about starting a business, but don't be hasty! Among smaller startups less than a year old, only 38% of founders are able to live on what they earn from the business. (Gallup research finds.)

Still, it's not easy to start a business while employed elsewhere. Some tips:

KNOW WHAT YOU'VE SIGNED

Remember that paperwork HR gave you when you started? Dig up those files and make sure none prevent you from moonlighting or launching a business within a certain period.

And get legal advice if you're unsure.

MAKE THE MOST OF DOWNTIME

At the time Cincinnati entrepreneur Bill Fish co-founded an online marketing company, he was traveling heavily for his job and had time in the evenings to work on his startup.

"I was away from my fiancée and didn't have anything else to do," he says.

SOCK AWAY WHAT YOU EARN

Making money on top of your salary? Fish recommends banking all of it. By living on their salaries, he and his partner could reinvest cash in their startup. His advice:

"Prepare not to take a single dime out of the business for 12 months."

(by Elaine Pofeldt, Money.Com)

*In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life:
it goes on."*

-Robert Frost

Social Security's Magic Number

WHEN YOU TURN 66, YOU'LL RECEIVE SOME SPECIAL BIRTHDAY SURPRISES WELL WORTH WAITING FOR.

You probably know you get a bump in monthly Social Security income for each year you delay benefits between ages 62 and 70.

What you may not be aware of: all the goodies you can get on one birthday in that stretch--your 66th, which Social Security defines for now as "full retirement age" (FRA). If you turn 66 anytime from now through 2020, reaching full retirement age will trigger some little-known but valuable perks. (Starting in 2021, FRA will rise two months every year until stopping at 67 in 2026.) Here are the financial extras:

CASH NOW, A RAISE LATER

Married? One way to squeeze some more money out of Social Security is for one of you to file for benefits based on your spouse's work record, not your own. Say you're the one to make the claim on your partner's record. While you're receiving your checks, the money you're due based on your own employment grows each month that you delay collecting--as much as 32% over four years.

The catch: Social Security lets you use this strategy only after you've reached full retirement age. If you apply before 66, Social Security activates all the benefits you're entitled to and pays you the largest of them, roughly speaking. You don't get to defer your own retirement benefit and let it grow. So the difference in payoff between filing at age 65 and at age 66 can be significant, and that difference in income will grow the longer you live.

EARN MORE MONEY

A related tactic--again, available only upon full retirement age--lets your spouse collect income while your own benefits grow. The tactic is to "file and suspend" your Social Security payout. By filing, you enable your partner to claim on your record, as already discussed. By suspending, you defer payment of your own benefits, which will rise each month you wait--again, up to a maximum of 32%. If you file before 66, however, you can't suspend, and your benefit won't grow.

A BREAK ON INCOME

A third upside of hitting full retirement age is that you--and any family members receiving benefits based on your work--are no longer subject to Social Security's earnings test. That test trims your monthly check if your work income exceeds a certain amount (adjusted annually). In 2015, if you're 65 or younger you lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you earn over \$15,720; if you turn 66 in 2015, it's \$1 for every \$3 you earn over \$41,880 before the month of your birthday.

If you've lost money to the earnings test, you'll get it back, in most cases, in the form of bigger checks once you reach FRA. (A spouse or child getting money on your record usually won't have lost benefits restored.) That's a birthday present that keeps on giving.



(by Philip Moeller, Money.Com)

"Each life is made up of mistakes and learning, waiting and growing, practicing and patience and being persistent."

-Billy Graham

Retool Your Productivity

IF YOU WANT TO BE AN OFFICE OVERACHIEVER, USE THESE HACKS TO REENGINEER YOUR DAILY HABITS AND BECOME MORE EFFICIENT. (by Daniel Bortz, Money.Com)

NOT ENOUGH TIME in the day for your to-do list? It's a common complaint, but if you want to be seen as a star employee, you'll need to modify your behavior. "Without systems in place, you'll lose control of your schedule, burn energy, and let your performance slip," says time-management specialist Cathy Sexton. And performance matters: It accounted for 52% of compensation adjustments in 2014, according to a PayScale study.

Use these productivity hacks to tame your in-box, eliminate distractions, and multitask efficiently.

TAILOR A DAILY ROUTINE

You may already fit your schedule to your own rhythms--early risers should tackle big projects before lunch, etc.--but deadlines can throw you off. To stay on track, keep your schedule on display, suggests productivity coach Casey Moore. And build breaks into the day to give your brain time to refresh: Web browsing aids productivity more than personal calls or emails, National University of Singapore researchers found.

PROGRAM YOUR IN-BOX

Talk about a time suck: Average office workers spend 2.6 hours a day reading and answering email, McKinsey Global Institute found. To cut back, define which emails need immediate attention (the boss's) and set up sound alerts so that you don't need to constantly monitor the in-box, advises Laura Stack, author of *What to Do When There's Too Much to Do*. Set up filters in Outlook or Gmail to funnel away emails that are less pressing. Track how well you're doing with Rescue-Time software, which analyzes computer behavior and spots workflow inefficiencies; a "lite" version is free.

JUGGLE SUCCESSFULLY

Researchers at Stanford have found that multi-tasking impairs mental performance. In practice, however, focusing on one thing at a time may not be realistic. Fortunately, multitasking is a skill that can be developed, says Bob Pozen, a senior lecturer at MIT's Sloan School of Management. Pair the right activities, he says: Listen to a conference call, for example, while reading email. (Wait until the call is over, however, to hit "reply.") Physical chores, like tidying your workspace, team well with simple tasks like checking voicemail.



KEEP CHATTER AT BAY

Open-plan office are now the norm, but the lack of privacy can be a productivity killer, studies have found. Help your team identify, collectively, a non-verbal signal (hat, headphones, sign) that discourages interruptions, suggests Sexton. Then decide what issues are worth the break-in (say, a client crisis). Use lunchtime or happy hour, however, to socialize with peers. Office friendships have been found to increase job satisfaction and organizational effectiveness.

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312 1st St N Ste 1

Cold Spring, MN 56320

kristie@yourtaxteam.biz

P: 320-685-9968

F: 320-685-9902

jeanie@yourtaxteam.biz

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