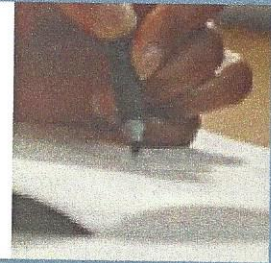




LPL Financial
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Member FINRA/SIPC



AZTEC Financial Group Newsletter

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It's official! Spring is here! In this neck of the woods we never know what April has in store for us and sometimes it feels like winter doesn't want to give up but the Spring Equinox has come. Daylight hours outnumber darkness and soon we will see the flowers and trees begin to bloom. What's your favorite thing about spring?

I would like to thank everyone who submitted answers to our question last month. The winner of the drawing for March is (not drawn yet). Congratulations (xxx)!

This month's drawing will be for a \$25 gift certificate to Blue Latitudes in Dover. Blue Latitudes is a full service restaurant celebrating "downeast" American cuisine with twist. For more information click [HERE](#).

And the question is...

What charity deductions can you take that are not cash?

[Click here](#) to submit your answer by email. Good luck!



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Did You Know?

Have you ever wanted to visit a ghost town? If so, there are several right here in New Hampshire. One is Livermore, located in the central/northern part of the state, near Bartlett. Incorporated in 1876, it was a logging town with a population of 100, centered around the Grafton County Lumber Company. The newly founded Sawyer River Railroad spurred it's success...for a short while.

A devastating flood in 1927 washed away most of the railroad tracks as well as several bridges. The mill closed the next year. In 1936, the owners of the lumber company and surrounding land sold the town acreage to the US Forest Service for \$9 dollars an acre. The last of the residents left by 1946 and the town charter was revoked in 1951.

If you go there today, there are still some haunting reminders of what used to be a bustling logging town. Accessing the town on what would have originally been part of the logging railroad, you will find remnants of the sawmill and power house, as well as foundations of many of the buildings.

Local Events!

AARP Tax Aide: Available to assist Low to moderate income taxpayers in Portsmouth Library on Thursdays and Sundays through April 14th. For more information click [HERE](#).

Dover Public Library Presents Classic Cinema Sunday: "Rebel Without a Cause" plays Sunday, April 3 at 2:00. For more information on events taking place at the library click [HERE](#).

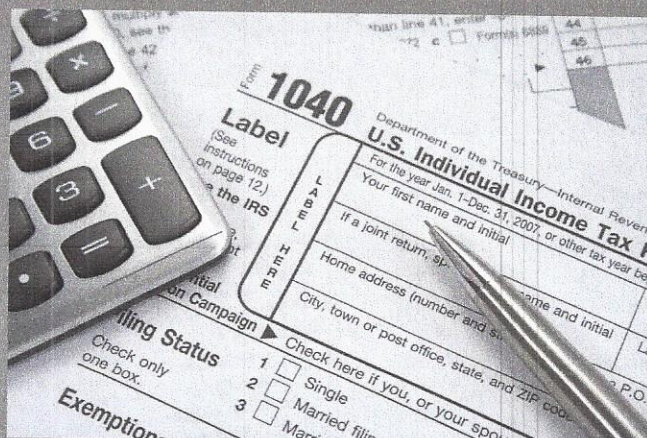
Northeastern Ballet Theatre performs "Sleeping Beauty": April 9 and 10 at Oyster River High School. For more information click [HERE](#).

Winter Farmers' Market: Saturday April 9 at Wentworth Greenhouses in Rollinsford. For more information click [HERE](#).

SMA 5k: Saturday April 16 beginning at Saint Mary's Academy. For more information click [HERE](#).

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Six Most Overlooked Tax Deductions



Who among us wants to pay the IRS more taxes than we have to?¹

While few may raise their hands, Americans regularly overpay because they fail to take tax deductions for which they are eligible. Let's take a quick look at the six most overlooked opportunities to manage your tax bill.

1. **Reinvested Dividends:** When your mutual fund pays you a dividend or capital gains distribution that income is a taxable event (unless the fund is held in a tax-deferred account, like an IRA). If you're like most fund owners, you reinvest these payments in additional shares of the fund. The tax trap lurks when you sell your mutual fund. If you fail to add the reinvested amounts back into the investment's cost basis, it can result in double taxation of those dividends.²
2. **Mutual funds are sold only by prospectus.** Please consider the charges, risks, expenses and investment objectives carefully before investing. A prospectus containing this and other information about the investment company can be obtained from your financial professional. Read it carefully before you invest or send money.
3. **Job Hunting Costs:** A tough job market may mean you are looking far and wide for employment. The costs of that search—transportation, food and lodging for overnight stays, cab fares, personal car use, and even printing resumes—may be considered tax-deductible expenses, provided the search is not for your first job.
4. **Out-of-Pocket Charity:** It's not just cash donations that are deductible. If you donate goods or use your personal car for charitable work, these are potential tax deductions. Just be sure to get a receipt for any amount over \$250.
5. **State Taxes:** Did you owe state taxes at the time of filing of your previous year's tax returns? If you did, don't forget to include this payment as a tax deduction on your current year's tax return.
6. **Medicare Premiums:** If you are self-employed (and not covered by an

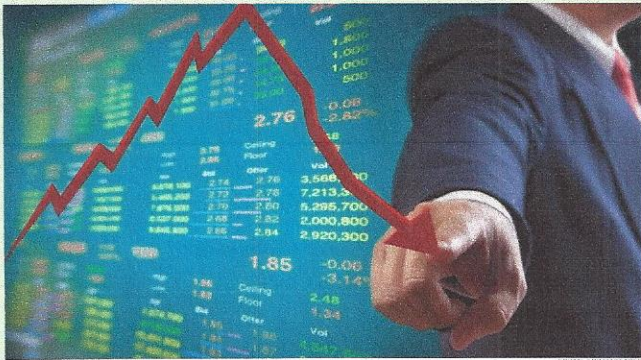
employer plan or your spouse's plan), you may be eligible to deduct premiums paid for Medicare Parts B and D, Medigap insurance and Medicare Advantage Plan. This deduction is available regardless of whether you itemize deductions or not.

7. **Income in Respect of a Decedent:** If you've inherited an IRA or pension, you may be able to deduct any estate tax paid by the IRA owner from the taxes due on the withdrawals you take from the inherited account.³

1. The information in this material is not intended as tax or legal advice. It may not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation.
2. Withdrawals from traditional IRAs are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Generally, once you reach age 70½, you must begin taking required minimum distributions.
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Don't Be Your Own Worst Enemy



One of the most well-known investors of the 20th Century, Benjamin Graham, said that "the investor's chief problem-and even his worst enemy-is likely to be himself."¹

What Graham understood-and modern research is catching up to-is the idea that we all have emotions and biases that affect our decision-making. The innate wiring built to survive pre-modern times can be counterproductive in our modern world, especially when it comes to investing.

Let's take a quick look at a few of the human emotions and biases that can adversely impact sound investment decision-making.

Fear and Greed - These are the two most powerful emotions that move investors and investment markets. Each emotion clouds our capability for rational and

dispassionate decision-making. They are the emotions that lead us to believe that prices may continue to rise (think the Tulip price bubble of 1636) or that everything has gone so wrong that prices may not recover (think Credit Crisis of 2008-2009).

Some investors have found a way to conquer these emotions, be brave when everyone else is fearful, and resist the temptations of a too-exuberant market.

Overconfidence - Peter Bernstein, a noted economic historian, argued that the riskiest moment may be when we feel that we are right.² It is at that precise moment that we tend to disregard all information that may conflict with our beliefs, setting ourselves up for investment surprise.

Selective Memory - Human nature is such that we tend to recast history in the manner that emphasizes our successes and downplays our failures. As a result, we may not benefit from the valuable lessons failure can teach. Indeed, failure may be your most valuable asset.

Prediction Fallacy - Humans have an innate desire to recognize patterns and apply these patterns to predicting the future. We erroneously believe that because "A" occurred and "B" happened that if "A" happens again, we can profit by anticipating that "B" will repeat. Market history is littered with examples of "rules of thumb" that have worked, until they no longer worked.

Financial markets are complex and unpredictable. Our endeavors to tap their opportunities to pursue our financial goals are best realized when we don't burden the enterprise by blindness to the inherent behavioral obstacles we all share.

1. Quoteswise.com, 2015

2. Strategy in Practice, George Tovstiga. 2013, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

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To Catch a Thief

Identity theft is a crime in which an individual illegally obtains and wrongfully uses another person's personal information-such as a Social Security number, bank account number, or credit card number-generally for financial gain. Once a thief has possession of your personal information, it may be used to obtain a loan, run up

credit card debt, or commit other crimes.

The U.S. Department of Justice recommends that individuals take four steps to help protect themselves against identity theft. These steps are represented by the acronym SCAM.2

S - Be stingy when it comes to giving out your personal information. Make sure the person requesting the information is on a "need-to-know" basis. For example, someone who claims to be calling from your bank does not need to know your mother's maiden name if it's already on file with the bank.

C - Check your financial information periodically. If you get hard-copy credit card or bank statements mailed to you, consider keeping these documents in a safe, secure location. Be skeptical if it appears the financial institution missed a month. Identity thieves may try to change the address on your accounts to keep their actions hidden from you for as long as possible.

A - From time to time, ask for a copy of your credit report. This report shows bank and financial accounts in your name and may help provide evidence if someone has used your name to open another account. To obtain a report, contact any of the three major credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian, or Transunion.

M - Maintain good records of your financial accounts and obligations. Experts recommend that you keep hard copies or electronic versions of monthly bank and credit card statements. Easy access to this information may make it easier to dispute a transaction, especially if your signature has been forged.

Recent trends indicate that government agencies, credit card companies, and individuals have become smarter about protecting personal information and identifying perpetrators.

Nevertheless, having your identity stolen may result in out-of-pocket financial loss, plus the additional cost of trying to restore your good name. Help protect yourself by using caution when sharing your personal information and keeping an eye out for warning signs.

The Age of Wisdom

Instances of identity theft are less frequent among individuals aged 50 and older. People age 20-29 are the prime targets.

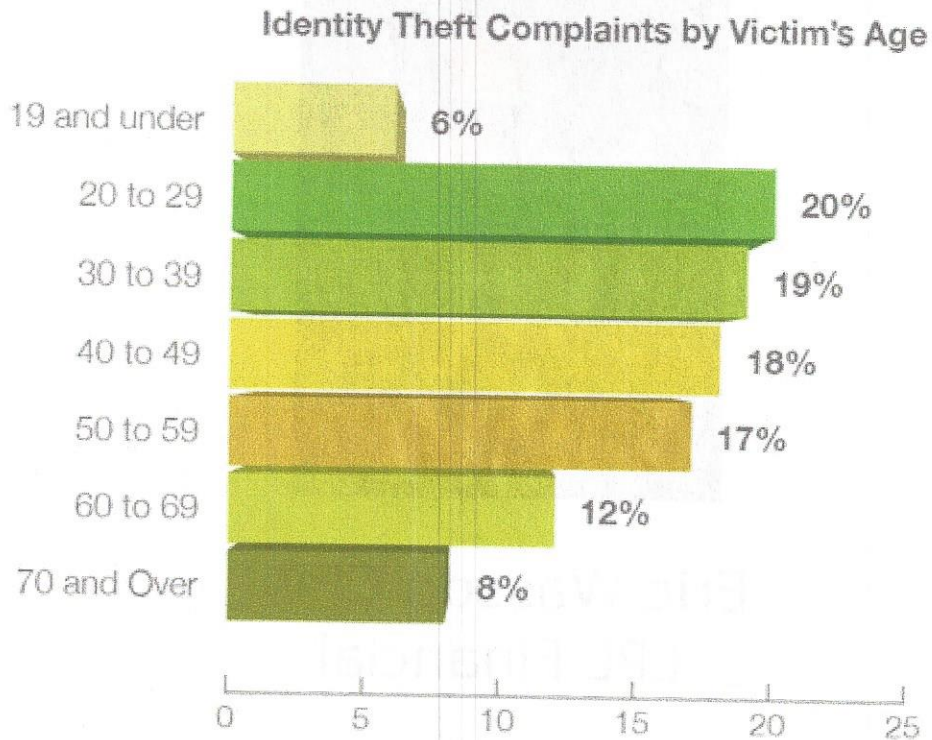
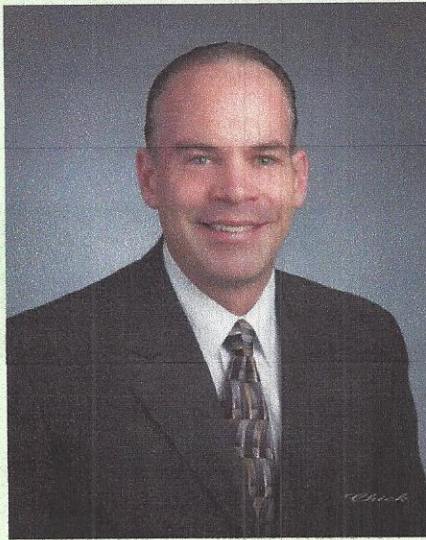


Chart Source: Federal Trade Commission, 2014

AZTEC Financial offers ID Theft Insurance. For more information give us a call!

1. Federal Trade Commission, 2015
2. U.S. Department of Justice, 2015

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