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Did You Know...?

News you can use for your financial well-being

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- ✓ Knowledge is Power
- ✓ Setting Priorities
- ✓ Investor Success
- ✓ Timely Tidbits

Setting Priorities

Summertime is upon us, and here's hoping you have many enjoyable days at the beach, in the mountains, or just hanging out with family and friends.

Rather than bore you with suggestions of some finance books to read over the summer, I'm going to give you an exercise you can do alone or with your significant other. If this is something you've done before, just do it again—there's tons of value in revisiting it at least annually.

First, you'll need a quiet place and 10 minutes of uninterrupted time. Relax, forget about all of the things going on and tasks you have ahead of you, and consider the following questions:

What are the most important priorities in your life? (i.e. financial security, supporting family, donating your time/money, retiring, developing a rewarding career, traveling)

What are you doing to achieve those goals?

What steps can you take to move closer to achieving those goals today?

Priorities should not include putting on more sun block because it's really hot where you are, or getting a sandwich because you're starving! Really dig deep, think about things that are most meaningful to you.

Once you've done this, please call me and tell me what your top three priorities are. I will then take ownership of them just as you have and work with you to see that they are achieved.

Knowledge (and professional help) is Power

By Matthew J. Duncan, Law Offices of Matthew J. Duncan

Warning: Your Home is Not Protected From California Estate Claims

Have you received a letter with this warning? Do you need to act on it?

Most of us, of course, regularly receive unsolicited offers. Fortunately, most of us also follow the "golden rule" in this area: *If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.*

The estate claim letter is different: it is intended to scare you. Don't let it. But if you do want to know more about Medi-Cal estate claims, or for that matter, investments, reverse mortgages, other lending options, or other matters, which are often the subjects of such mass and random mailings, what should you do?

First, *educate yourself*. Information is power. For example, if you want to know more about Medi-Cal law and procedures, as well as reverse mortgages, check out the excellent website of the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform: www.canhr.org.

Second, consult and work with a *local professional*. If you don't know one, start by asking the people you trust for the names of the professionals they use and like. If you want, *interview* the professional before hiring him or her. As odd as it sounds, your relationship with a professional is *personal*; both of you need to be comfortable working with the other.

And remember, *one size does not fit all*. You are unique; what's appropriate for your neighbor may not be appropriate for you. Working with a professional who is familiar with *your* circumstances, as well as your needs, wishes, priorities and concerns, you can identify and discuss options appropriate for your special circumstances. Together, you can plan for expected changes, and discuss ways to guard against unexpected changes.

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