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FINANCIAL GROUP

WEALTH MANAGEMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING

EYE ON MONEY

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12 WAYS TO REDUCE THE COST OF ATTENDING COLLEGE

plus

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DIRECT AND INDIRECT ROLLOVERS

EARLY RETIREMENT AND BUYOUT OFFERS

HOW TO FIND MISSING ASSETS

FINANCIAL

3 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT EMERGENCY FUNDS

1 **How much to save.** The rule of thumb is to save at least enough to cover three to six months of living expenses. If you think it may take longer than six months to land a new job and you are the sole breadwinner, consider saving more than six months' worth of expenses.

2 **Where to save.** An easily accessible, low-risk, interest-bearing account, such as a savings or money market account, is a good choice for an emergency fund.

3 **When to tap it.** Use the savings in your emergency fund only for real emergencies, such as a job loss, major medical bills. or some other unexpected event. If you withdraw money for non-emergencies, you run the risk that your financial safety net may not be in place when a true emergency occurs. ■

Please consult your financial advisor for advice on building your financial safety net.

inside

10 Tips to Improve and Maintain Your Financial Health

The start of a new year is a great time to evaluate your financial health and take steps to either improve it or, if your finances are already in great shape, maintain it. The following tips can help.

1 Live within your means.
Good financial health depends on more cash flowing in than out. If your annual expenses are more than your annual income, look for ways to cut expenses and increase income.

2 Save for a rainy day.
Stashing some money in an account that you can draw on quickly in an emergency can help prevent unexpected events, such as a job loss, from harming your financial health.

3 Put saving on autopilot.
Your future financial health may depend on how well you save today. One way to improve your chances for success is to put saving on autopilot by having part of each paycheck automatically deposited into your savings, investment, and retirement accounts.

4 Increase the amount you save.
When you receive a raise, bonus, or tax refund, don't spend it all. Use part of it to increase the amount that you save and invest each year. And as your children finish college and you pay off your mortgage, consider diverting the amount you had been spending on those expenses into your savings, investment, and retirement accounts.

5 Make a plan.
Having a financial plan that identifies your financial goals and the steps needed to potentially reach them can help keep you on track financially. Once your plan is in place, be sure to check your progress at least once a year so that you have time for course corrections if necessary.

6 Review your asset allocation periodically.
Are the proportions of stocks, bonds, cash, and other types of assets in your portfolio still appropriate for your goals, time frame, and risk tolerance? Generally, investors shift to a more conservative mix of investments (fewer stocks) as they draw closer to the time when they will need their money.

Note: Asset allocation does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets.

7 Protect your income.
To help prevent a physical problem from turning into a financial problem, consider purchasing disability insurance, which replaces part of your income when you are unable to work due to an illness or injury.

8 Pay off credit card debt.
Carrying large balances on high-interest credit cards can prevent you from reaching your financial goals. It is generally a good idea to pay off your high-interest debt so you can afford to save.

9 Improve your credit score.
A higher score improves your chances of qualifying for credit and may result in a better interest rate. To help improve a poor score or maintain a good score, pay your bills on time, keep your balances well below your credit limits, and do not apply for more credit than you need.

10 Watch for signs of identity theft.
Keep an eye on your financial statements and credit reports so that you can nip identity theft in the bud before it has time to damage your finances. ■

PLEASE CONSULT YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR ADVICE ON YOUR SPECIFIC SITUATION.

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Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS)

These securities from the U.S. Treasury provide investors with a hedge against inflation.

WHAT ARE TIPS?

Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) are securities issued by the U.S. Treasury that offer investors a "real" return—that is a return that is adjusted for inflation. The inflation adjustments help preserve the purchasing power of future interest and principal payments when inflation is on the rise.

TIPS are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government and so have a very low risk of default. The government backing refers only to the timely payment of interest and principal and does not eliminate market risk.

HOW THEY WORK

Like many other types of bonds, TIPS pay a fixed rate of interest every six months. Unlike conventional bonds, however, the principal is adjusted periodically based on changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a common measure of inflation. As a result of the adjustments, both the principal and the interest payments (which are calculated using the adjusted principal value) increase with inflation and decrease with deflation.

When TIPS mature, investors are paid the inflation-adjusted principal or the security's original principal, whichever is higher.

HOW TO INVEST

TIPS are issued in terms of 5, 10, and 30 years. They can be purchased directly from the U.S. Treasury or through a broker. Mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that focus on TIPS are another way for investors to tap into the inflation protection offered by TIPS. ■

PLEASE NOTE:

Bonds are subject to interest rate risk. When interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall. The effect is usually more pronounced for longer-term securities. Fixed-income securities also carry inflation risk and credit and default risks for both issuers and counterparties. You may have a gain or loss if you sell a bond prior to its maturity date.

Before investing in mutual funds or ETFs, investors should consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses. Contact your financial advisor for a prospectus containing this information. Please read it carefully before investing.

Please consult your financial advisor for help in developing and implementing an investment plan.

How to Protect Yourself After a Data Breach

If your personal information, such as your birth date, Social Security number, or credit card numbers, is exposed in a data breach, there are things you can do to limit the potential damage from identity thieves.

These tips from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, may help protect you after a data breach.

1. **CHECK YOUR CREDIT REPORTS** from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Accounts or activity that you don't recognize could indicate identity theft.

2. **CONSIDER PLACING A CREDIT FREEZE ON YOUR CREDIT FILES.** A credit freeze makes it harder for someone to open a new account in your name. Keep in mind that a credit freeze won't prevent a thief from making charges to your existing accounts.

3. **MONITOR YOUR EXISTING CREDIT CARD AND BANK ACCOUNTS** closely for charges you don't recognize.

4. **CONSIDER PLACING A FRAUD ALERT ON YOUR CREDIT FILES** if you decide against freezing them. A fraud alert warns creditors that you may be an identity theft victim and that they should verify that anyone seeking credit in your name really is you.

5. **FILE YOUR TAXES EARLY,** as soon as you have the tax information you need, before a scammer can file. Tax identity theft happens when someone uses your Social Security number to get a tax refund or a job. Respond right away to letters from the IRS.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY A SCAMMER POSING AS THE IRS.

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information. They also do not request credit or debit card information over the phone.

Source: www.irs.gov

WHO TO CONTACT

TO GET A FREE CREDIT REPORT

You can get a free credit report every 12 months from each of the three credit reporting companies.

Go online to **www.annualcreditreport.com**

Or call **1-877-322-8228**

TO PLACE A SECURITY FREEZE

Contact each company separately.

Equifax	**www.equifax.com**
Experian	**www.experian.com**
TransUnion	**www.transunion.com**

TO PLACE A FRAUD ALERT

Contact any one of the three credit reporting companies listed above. They will notify the other two companies.

To learn what to do if your identity is stolen, visit www.identitytheft.gov.

12 Ways to Reduce the Cost of Attending College

College can be expensive: The price for tuition, room and board, and books for four years of undergraduate study at a private non-profit college currently averages about $190,000[1] before grants and scholarships are factored in. Fortunately, there are several ways to reduce the amount you spend on college. Twelve of them are described here.

Earn college credits in high school.
If you are still in high school and your school offers advanced placement (AP) classes, consider taking a few of them. High scores on your AP exams may allow you to skip some introductory courses in college and perhaps even receive college credits for your AP classes. Accumulating college credits in high school may reduce the time—and the tuition—needed to earn your college degree.

Each college and university has its own policy for awarding credits and advanced placement. Some schools award both, while other schools award just credits or just advanced placement. You can usually find a description of a college's AP policy on its website, as well as the exam scores needed to earn credits or advanced placement. Be sure to consider a college's willingness to accept your AP scores before deciding which college to attend.

Start at a community college.
You may be able to significantly reduce the tuition you pay by attending a community college for your first two years of college. According to the College Board's *Trends in Higher Education* report, the published tuition and fees for in-district public two-year colleges averaged $3,520 in 2016-17 versus $9,650 for in-state public four-year colleges.

If your goal is a bachelor's degree, make certain ahead of time that a four-year school will accept the credits that you earn at community college. Many community colleges have articulation agreements with four-year schools that specify the courses you should take and the grades you must attain while in community college to ensure junior status at a specified four-year school.

Attend an in-state public college.
You may save a bundle in tuition by choosing an in-state public college rather than an out-of-state or private college. In 2016-17, the published tuition and fees for four-year colleges averaged:

- $9,650 for in-state public colleges
- $24,930 for out-of-state public colleges
- $33,480 for private non-profit colleges[2]

Please keep in mind that many students pay considerably less than the published price due to grant aid and tax benefits.

Attend a no-loan college.
If you will qualify for financial aid, consider applying to a college that relies on grants and scholarships instead of loans to help meet the financial aid needs of lower- and middle-income students.

Choosing a no-loan college will not get you totally off the hook for all college expenses, but it may make it possible for you to graduate debt-free. Eligible students may need to chip in part of their savings and earnings from summer jobs, as well as work on campus during the academic year. Parents may need to kick in some cash also. But the portion of the financial aid package that is normally composed of loans will generally be composed of grants and scholarships instead.

Several schools have a no-loan financial aid policy, including Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, Harvard College, and Columbia University.

Choose a combined degree program.
If you plan to pursue an undergraduate degree and a graduate degree, choosing a school that allows you to work on both simultaneously may shave a year off the time and tuition needed to complete a master's degree.

In a combined degree program, the first three years are generally devoted to undergraduate courses. Then in the fourth year, the student takes some graduate courses—at the undergraduate tuition rate. If all goes according to plan, the student completes his or her graduate courses in the fifth year, generally trimming one year off the time and tuition usually needed to complete a master's degree.

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Win a SCHOLARSHIP.

- Thousands of scholarships are available each year for qualified students.
- Awards can stretch from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars.
- Some scholarships are merit-based and are awarded based on the student's academic, athletic, or artistic achievements.
- Other scholarships are awarded based on the student's field of study, ethnic background, community service record, or financial need.
- To see what scholarships are available, check your high school's guidance office, college websites, businesses and organizations you are affiliated with, online scholarship search tools, and the U.S Department of Labor's scholarship database at www.CareerOneStop.org.

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Take advantage of FREE COLLEGE TUITION.

- Some states offer free college tuition for qualified residents.
- Most of the state programs only cover tuition and fees for two years.
- They generally do not cover the cost of books and living expenses.
- With some programs, only students pursuing degrees or certificates in high-demand fields, such as health-care or technology, are eligible for free tuition.
- In addition to the state grant and scholarship programs shown here, some cities and counties also offer free college tuition for qualified residents. Plus, some other states are currently testing free tuition for a limited time.

ARKANSAS – The Arkansas Future Grant generally covers tuition and fees for students pursuing a certificate or associate degree in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) or a regional high-demand field at an Arkansas public institution.

KENTUCKY – The Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship helps cover tuition and fees for up to two years for students pursuing a certificate or diploma in a high-demand field. (For the 2017-2018 academic year, the approved programs included health care, advanced manufacturing, transportation/logistics, business services/IT, and construction.)

NEW YORK – The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other aid programs, covers the cost of tuition for full-time students pursuing a two-year or four-year degree at a City or State University of New York college, including community colleges. The scholarship is limited to families making up to $110,000 annually in 2018 (up to $125,000 in 2019). Students who receive the scholarship are required to live and work in-state for the same number of years after graduation as they received the scholarship.

OREGON – The Oregon Promise Grant covers most tuition at an Oregon community college for recent high school graduates or GED recipients who meet financial eligibility criteria. For students who applied to begin Oregon Promise in Fall 2017, only those students with an expected family contribution (EFC) of $18,000 or less were eligible for the grant.

TENNESSEE – The Tennessee Promise Scholarship, in combination with other aid programs, covers the cost of two years of tuition and mandatory fees for recent high school graduates who attend a Tennessee community college, technical college, or other eligible institution that offers an associate's degee.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE'S PROGRAM FOR DETAILS.

Prepay tuition.
Although tuition may be high when you start college, the odds are that it will be even higher by the time you begin your final year. To help protect students already in college from future tuition increases, some colleges allow families to prepay undergraduate tuition for two, three, or four years at the rate in effect when the student enters the prepayment plan.

Prepayment can be a money-saving option for families with the cash on hand to pay multiple years of tuition at one time. At some schools, prepayment may not be an option for students who are receiving grants or financial aid from the school.

Live at home.
With room and board averaging ten or eleven thousand dollars per year[1], living at home and commuting to class can seriously slash your college expenses. Granted, it does not offer the same experience as living on campus, but if the choice is between living at home or not attending college, living at home becomes a more attractive option.

Shop for the best prices on textbooks.
Before buying a new printed textbook at the campus bookstore, do some comparison shopping. You may find that used, rental, and digital textbooks are readily available at one-third to one-half the price of a new printed textbook.[3]

Used, rental, and digital textbooks can generally be found at college bookstores, as well as online merchants, such as Amazon. And at the end of the semester, you can generally sell your used textbooks and recoup some of what you originally spent on the books.

Choose federal loans before private loans.
If you borrow money for college, you will have two main choices: federal loans or private loans. Federal loans generally offer lower fixed interest rates and more favorable terms so it is generally a good idea to exhaust your federal loan options before turning to loans from banks and other private sources.

To apply for a federal student loan, the student must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year. Your school uses the information in the FAFSA to determine the student's eligibility for a federal loan, as well as other types of financial aid.

Although you will need to fill out the FAFSA, you will not need a credit check or a cosigner for a federal loan, except for a PLUS loan. Credit checks and a cosigner may be required to get a private loan.

Take advantage of education tax breaks.
Claiming a tax credit or deduction for part of the college expenses you pay can help reduce the cost of college.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit from the federal government has the potential to put the most money (up to $2,500 per eligible student) back in your pocket if you are eligible to claim it. Your income must be below a certain amount (less than $90,000 for singles or $180,000 for married couples filing jointly) and other criteria must be met to claim this credit.[4]

In addition to the federal government, several states offer education tax breaks to eligible individuals, such as a tax deduction or credit for part of the tuition you pay or a deduction for the interest paid on qualified student loans. ■

If there is a college-bound student in your family, please consult your financial advisor about how to save and pay for college.

1 Source: *National Center for Education Statistics*

2 Source: *The College Board's Trends in Higher Education report*

3 Source: *The National Association of College Stores*

4 *2017 amounts.*

Should You Accept an Early Retirement or Buyout Offer?

Your company wants to trim its payroll and offers you an incentive package to leave. What do you do? How do you know whether the offer is a good deal? Here are a few things to consider before making your decision.

Are you ready to move on?

If you were planning to retire in a year or so anyway and your company offers you a salary and benefits for the next year with no reduction in retirement benefits, your decision is probably an easy one. But if you have five or ten years to go before your planned retirement date, your decision may be more difficult, both emotionally and financially.

If you want to continue working, evaluate your prospects for employment elsewhere. Will you be able to find comparable employment? Is this the opportunity you have been waiting for to start your own business? Does the offer include a noncompete clause that may prevent you from working for a competitor or opening your own business?

What is in the offer?

To determine whether the early retirement or buyout offer is a good deal, you need to know how much you can expect to receive and for how long.

The cash component of the offer, also known as severance pay, is often based on salary and years of service. For example, the offer may include a specified number of weeks of pay for every year you worked for the company.

But keep in mind that there is more at stake than just pay. A large percentage of your current compensation may be in the form of benefits, such as health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, stock options, unused vacation and sick pay, etc. How does the offer address these items? If health insurance is not part of the offer, how will you bridge the gap until age 65 when you become eligible for Medicare?

How are your retirement benefits affected?

If you have a traditional pension plan, keep in mind that pension benefits are generally based on compensation and years of service. If you retire now rather than years from now, your benefits may be lower unless the incentive package adjusts them.

If you will be relying on the savings in a retirement plan or IRA to supplement your severance pay, remember that a 10% early withdrawal penalty applies to withdrawals before age 59½ unless an exception to the penalty is met. One exception that applies to 401(k) and 403(b) retirement plans, but not to IRAs, allows penalty-free withdrawals if you leave the company sponsoring the 401(k) or 403(b) plan in or after the year you reach age 55 (age 50 if you are a qualified public safety employee).

Also consider the impact of retiring early on your Social Security benefits. Although you can begin receiving retirement benefits as early as age 62, the benefit amount will be significantly less per month than it would be if you wait a few more years before beginning benefits.

Can you afford to take the offer?

Is the offer—pay, benefits, and other perks—sufficient to protect your financial security until you can find a new job or until you reach the retirement age you had planned on? Your financial advisor can help you assess whether the offer is likely to meet your financial needs.

Can you afford not to take the offer?

It is important to consider the long-term prospects of your company and your position in it when evaluating an early retirement or buyout offer. While you may wish to continue working for your current employer, what are the chances that your job may be eliminated in the next few years? And if you pass on this offer, will your company's next offer be as favorable? ■

Please consult your financial and legal advisors before deciding whether to accept an early retirement or buyout offer.

EARLY RETIREMENT AND BUYOUT OFFERS

- Employers who want to reduce their workforce sometimes offer certain groups of employees an early retirement or buyout package to encourage them to voluntarily leave their jobs.
- An early retirement or buyout package typically contains a cash component. It may also contain an extension of health insurance coverage, the addition of extra years of service or age to a pension plan calculation, assistance finding a new job, and other benefits.

Direct and Indirect Rollovers: What Are the Differences?

Thinking about rolling your retirement savings from a retirement plan into an IRA? How you do it matters.

ROLLING YOUR SAVINGS FROM A former employer's retirement plan to an IRA can be a smart move in certain circumstances. But before you do it, it is important to understand the differences between direct and indirect rollovers. Although both rollover methods can avoid current taxation and preserve the tax-favored status of your savings, indirect rollovers can sometimes create a tax headache.

With a direct rollover, your retirement plan administrator transfers your savings directly from your retirement account to your IRA. This is typically done with an electronic transfer or a check made payable to the custodian of your IRA.

With an indirect rollover, the distribution from the retirement plan is made payable to you and you have 60 days to deposit it into an IRA.

Here's where the headache comes in: Some types of retirement plans, such as 401(k) plans, are required to withhold 20% of an indirect rollover for federal income tax. Withholding is not required for a direct rollover.

If 20% of your indirect rollover distribution is withheld, you can still avoid tax and a possible tax penalty on the distribution as long as you deposit the amount you received plus the amount that was withheld within 60 days. To do this, you will need to use funds from other sources to make up for the amount that was withheld.

Here's an example of how an indirect rollover sometimes works.

- Let's say you are age 45 and want to roll $100,000 from your former employer's 401(k) plan to a traditional IRA.
- The retirement plan administrator withholds $20,000 for federal income taxes and you receive a check payable to you for $80,000.
- You have 60 days to deposit the distribution into an IRA.
- If you deposit only $80,000, the $20,000 that was withheld is considered taxable income and will be subject to income tax that year. And because you are under age 59½, the $20,000 will also be subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty unless an exception to the penalty applies.
- If you deposit the full $100,000, using $20,000 from another source, you completely avoid current taxation and the tax penalty on the $100,000 rollover distribution.
- When you file your federal tax return, the $20,000 that was withheld will be applied to your tax liability (if any) for the year and any excess tax that was withheld will be refunded to you.

Now there's a hassle you may not want to deal with and one that can easily be avoided by choosing a direct rollover instead.

Not all types of retirement plans require federal withholding for indirect rollovers. If you are rolling money from an IRA, you can opt out of federal withholding. However, you can make only one indirect rollover from an IRA to another (or the same) IRA in any 12-month period. In contrast, you can make any number of direct rollovers (also known as trustee-to-trustee transfers) from one IRA to another IRA each year.

In most situations, a direct rollover is generally the better choice because you will not have to deal with tax withholding or the one-per-year limit. As always, your best move is to consult your financial advisor for advice based on your specific situation and goals. ■

PLEASE NOTE

When you leave an employer, you generally have the option to transfer the savings in that employer's retirement plan to an IRA or your new employer's retirement plan, leave your savings where they are, or cash out the account. Please carefully consider all of your options before making a move.

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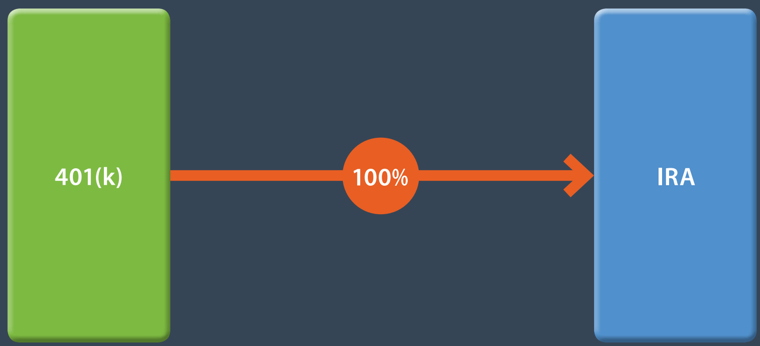
HOW THEY WORK

DIRECT ROLLOVER

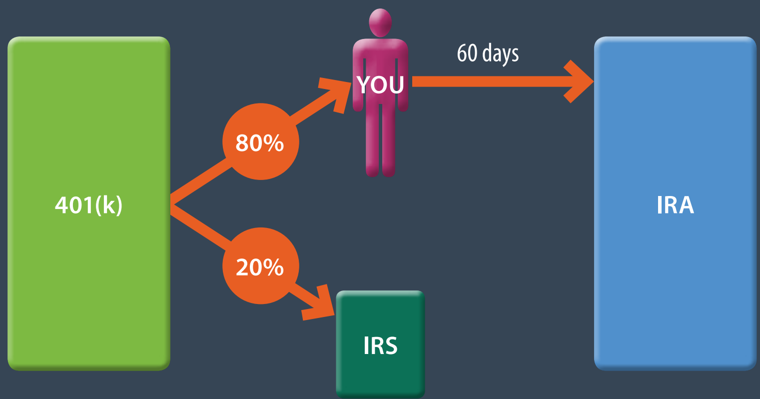
from a 401(k) plan to a traditional IRA



1 Your 401(k) plan administrator transfers the funds directly from the 401(k) plan to your IRA. There are no taxes or penalties on the transfer, and federal income tax withholding is not required.

INDIRECT ROLLOVER

from a 401(k) plan to a traditional IRA



1 80% of the distribution is paid directly to you.

2 20% of the distribution is withheld for federal income tax.

3 You have 60 days to deposit the distribution into an IRA.

- If you do not deposit the entire distribution (including the 20% that was withheld) within 60 days, any previously untaxed amount that is not deposited will be subject to income tax and possibly a 10% tax penalty for an early withdrawal.
- If you deposit 100% of the distribution within 60 days, you avoid current taxation and the penalty.

4 The 20% that is withheld will be applied to your tax liability (if any) for the year with the remainder (if any) refunded to you after you file your federal tax return.

PLEASE NOTE: You can elect not to have federal income tax withheld from distributions from an IRA.

How to Find Missing or Forgotten Assets

States and the federal government are holding billions in unclaimed property. Does any of it belong to you? It may if you've ever forgotten to cash a check, lost track of a financial account, moved without notifying a business that owes you money, or unknowingly inherited money. Here are a few ways to find out.

1. Find missing money.
If you ever forgot about an old bank account or did not receive your security deposit back when you moved, your state may be holding the funds for you.

State laws generally require businesses and financial institutions to turn over cash and other assets to the state after there has been no activity in the account or contact with the owner for a specified number of years.

The easiest way to search for assets you lost, forgot, or never knew about is to use the search tool at **www.missingmoney.com**, a website that lets you search the unclaimed property records of many states with a single search and provides links to those states that are not represented in its database.

Assets you may be able to find at www.missingmoney.com.

- Bank accounts
- Safe deposit box contents
- Uncashed checks
- Insurance proceeds
- Trust funds
- Stocks and dividends
- Mineral royalties
- Refunds
- Security deposits

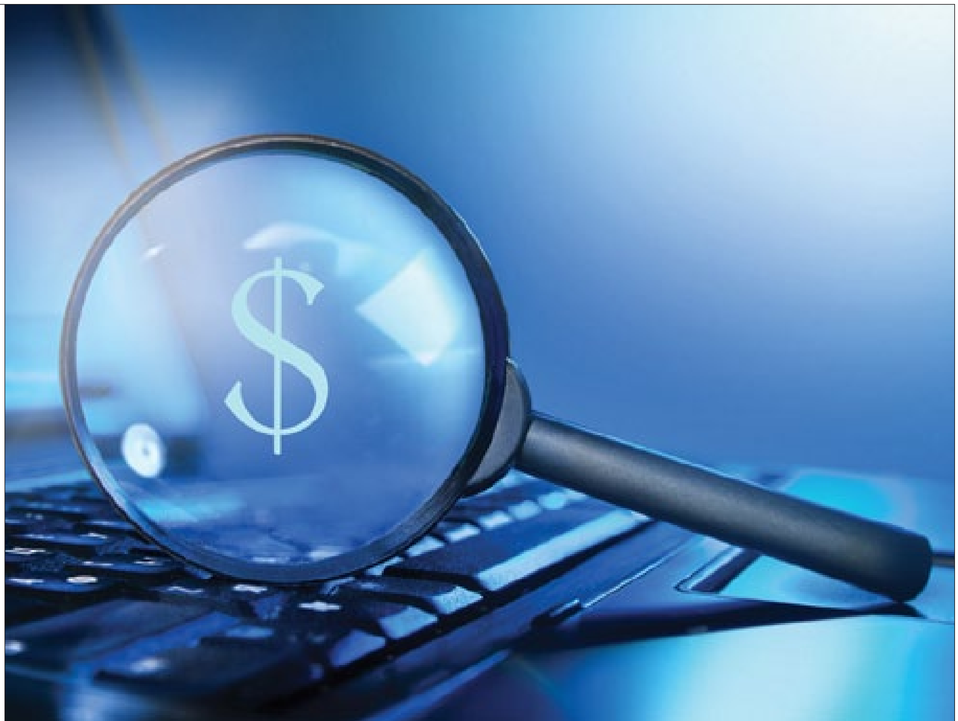
2. Find a missing tax refund.

Each year, millions of dollars in refund checks are returned to the IRS as undeliverable.

If you did not receive a refund you were due, you can check on its status and update your address if necessary by visiting the IRS website, www.irs.gov, and clicking on "Get My Refund Status".

You can also file IRS Form 8822, Change of Address, to update your address.

3. Redeem mutilated currency.
If you have cash that was mutilated by fire, water, chemicals, or even a hungry rodent, all may not be lost. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing may redeem the mutilated currency at full value. To learn more, visit **www.moneyfactory.gov/services/currencyredemption.html**.



SAVINGS BONDS

4. Claim a lost savings bond.
If you lost track of a savings bond, go to **www.treasurydirect.gov** and download, fill out, and file Form 1048, Claim for Lost, Stolen, or Destroyed United States Savings Bonds.

5. Find a lost pension.
If you are entitled to a traditional pension from a former employer and cannot locate that employer to claim it, visit the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's website at **www.PBGC.gov**.

If the company's pension plan was terminated, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) may now be responsible for paying your benefits. You can search for unclaimed pensions on their website.

If the PBGC does not have your pension, check out their "Finding a Lost Pension" publication at **www.pbgc.gov/documents/finding-a-lost-pension.pdf** for other steps you can take to locate it.

6. Claim unpaid wages.
If an employer owes you back wages, the Department of Labor may be holding them for you. You can find out if they are by visiting **https://webapps.dol.gov/wow/**.

7. Find funds from failed banks and credit unions.
If you had an insured deposit at a bank or savings and loan that was closed by a regulatory agency and you did not claim your money from the assuming financial institution, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) may be holding it for you. You can find out at **https://closedbanks.fdic.gov/funds/**.

If it was a credit union that failed, the National Credit Union Administration may be holding your money for you. To find out, check the unclaimed deposits listing at **www.ncua.gov**. ■

How to prevent your assets from going missing in the first place.

- Promptly cash all checks.
- Continue to pay the rental fees on your safe deposit box.
- Keep records of your financial accounts, insurance policies, and safe deposit boxes.
- Keep your financial accounts active by making at least one withdrawal or deposit per year.
- When you move or change your name, notify your banks, brokers, retirement plan administrators, and insurance companies.

ART AND SOUL | Padua, Italy

BY BRIAN JOHNSTON

Padua, once an independent city-state and important pilgrimage town, provides an impressive artistic legacy and agreeable slice of provincial Italian urban life.

LOOK, LET'S ADMIT IT: WHEN THE TIDE rises, the heat soars, and the tour coaches disgorge another million visitors, the undeniable charms of Venice can start to wear a little thin. At some point, you might have had enough of pooping pigeons, trampling crowds, and extortionately priced restaurants. If so, then you should just invest five euros in a train ticket to Padua, or Padova in Italian. Half an hour out of Venice, you'll find yourself in a lovely little town full of relaxed university students. Prices plunge, coffee quality soars, and the dolce vita is in full swing.

By dint of being off the mainstream tour-group route, Padua dishes up a splendid slice of real Italian life. Although it has some superb architecture and artworks, it isn't just a museum-city of dead doges and crumbling palazzi. It has quirky fashion boutiques, colorful fresh-food markets in its central squares, and agreeable cafés in which to people watch. Its large university student population adds a youthful atmosphere and good nightlife.

You could start off in the tourist office just down the street from Padua's train station, where you can pick up a city map and a 48-hour Padova Card that covers entrance fees to the town's top sights and the use of public buses. Good walkers, though, will find the city center relatively compact and agreeable to get around. Look up as you go and you're nearly always rewarded with a glimpse of something interesting: rooftop saints, Renaissance arches, a sudden explosion of baroque bling.

The big drawcard is Padua's gargantuan basilica, whose domes and cupolas, minaret-like bell towers and courtyards of splashing fountains appear more Middle Eastern than Italian. The basilica was begun in 1231 following the death in Padua of Portuguese Franciscan monk St Anthony, who was to become one of the Catholic Church's premier saints and whose tomb turned Padua into a key pilgrimage destination.

Eight centuries on, supplicants still press their hands against the tomb of St Anthony, which is plastered with messages and photos from those claiming cures by his intervention. As the patron saint of lost causes, other notes ask that the saint intervenes to find lost belongings, missing relatives, or lost health. The whispers

Padua's Prato della Valle (left) is ringed by a canal and decorated with more than 80 statues of Paduan notables. The Piazza dei Signori (below) awaits the dawn of a new day.

of old widows in black rustle around the basilica's statues, and the smell of hot wax wafts from splendid side chapels. Fine bronze sixteenth-century bas-reliefs tell the story of St Anthony's life.

The basilica's interior is a patchwork of styles, but the medieval section glows with beautiful frescoes. Don't miss the central crucifixion by the great fifteenth-century sculptor Donatello; Padua is filled with such casual masterpieces that, in other places, would be behind glass in museums. A life-size equestrian statue, also by Donatello, stands in the square outside the basilica. It was the first bronze on such a scale to be cast since Roman times and greatly influenced all subsequent Renaissance sculpture.

This is one of many reasons why Padua is a must-visit for art lovers. Fourteenth-century frescoes by Giotto in Scrovegni Chapel show unprecedented realism and emotion, and revolutionized the painting of religious subjects in Europe. Bring a pair of binoculars with you to appreciate the details and glowing blue colors on the ceiling's depictions of Biblical scenes. Above the entrance are fearsome examples of the life in hell that awaits sinners.

Next door, the Eremitani Museum is crammed with Etruscan and Roman artifacts and a treasure-trove of Venetian canvasses from the likes of Tiepolo, Tintoretto, and Titian. What you won't find, however, are the queues and elbow-crushing crowds of art galleries in Venice and other mainstream Italian destinations.

Lunchtime in Padua couldn't be more different either. There's no such thing as overpriced tourist restaurants here. The town is full of good-value eateries, and even its landmark café won't break the bank. You could do worse than have a coffee and sandwich at Caffè Pedrocchi in the center of town. It was the largest café in Europe when it opened in 1831, and quickly became famous as the haunt of politicians and writers until bombed during the Second World War. In the 1990s it finally reopened with its stunning neoclassical interior skillfully restored.

Caffè Pedrocchi's doors fold back to a lively piazza that is the social center of Padua. Just around the corner, Piazza delle Erbe and Piazza della Frutta—or herb and fruit squares—have hosted fresh-food markets for centuries. The stalls are colorful with eggplants, trussed tomatoes, and sacks of risotto rice. Local shoppers poke at gleaming red capsicums, Indian immigrants sell candied fruit and nuts by the bagful, and grizzled old men haggle over fresh fish.

For the hungry visitor, the ground floor is the most fun: its arcades are lined by food shops, delicatessens, and little stand-up bars, just the place to munch your way through antipasti, open sandwiches, or arancini, crusty pyramids of deep-fried saffron rice combined with meat, green peas, and cheese.

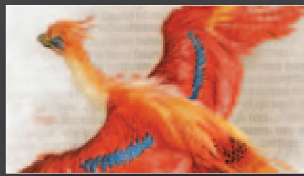
Above the market hubbub stands the thirteenth-century Palazzo della Ragione, seat of the parliament and law courts when Padua was a medieval city-state. It's considered a masterpiece of civic architecture and noted for its fresco-painted great hall, which often houses excellent art exhibitions.

Shopping streets spread out from this downtown area and, because stores cater to everyday Italians and not tourists as in Venice, you'll find not souvenirs but a great choice of mid-range fashions, shoes, and jewelry. Let your footsteps eventually lead you to enormous Prato della Valle, ringed by a canal and decorated with more than 80 statues of Paduan notables.

Another pleasant place for a stroll is the area around the university, a district known as Bo, where students kick back at cafés or canoodle on benches under the trees. The university was founded in 1222 and turned Padua into an important medieval and Renaissance town that provided brainpower to the expanding Venetian Empire. Galileo and Petrarch taught here, and Copernicus, Casanova, and Dante were among its illustrious students.

You can still see Galileo's wooden desk, though the main reason for visiting the university is to see the 1594 Anatomical Theatre, where the theory of blood circulation was developed and students once gathered to see corpses dissected. Its oval of tiered, carved wooden seating is unexpectedly beautiful.

Around the university buildings lies a warren of cobbled streets featuring shoals of students on bicycles. You'll find plenty of pizzerias and bars with a lively evening atmosphere. Another reason to linger is the daily ritual of the passegiata, when well-dressed locals come out before dinner to take the air. Paduans sip lurid orange drinks at pavement café tables, perambulate up and down, and fill the piazzas with conversation, loud as the squawking of starlings before sundown. It's another lovely moment in a city with an abundance of local life and laidback Italian appeal. ■



Phoenix (detail) by Jim Kay (*Harry Potter* illustrator)

What's On at the Museums

From the wizardry of *Harry Potter* to the spellbinding works of Degas and Cézanne, a world of magic, beauty, and discovery awaits you at a museum.

LONDON & NEW YORK

Harry Potter: A History of Magic

British Library | October 20, 2017–February 28, 2018
New-York Historical Society | Opening October 2018

This exhibition presents rare books, manuscripts, and magical objects from the British Library that capture the traditions of folklore and magic at the heart of the *Harry Potter* stories. It also features original drafts and drawings by *Harry Potter* author J.K. Rowling and illustrator Jim Kay. The exhibition in New York will evolve to include artifacts from the U.S. publisher and the New-York Historical's collection.

BOSTON

Mark Rothko: Reflection

Museum of Fine Arts | September 24, 2017–July 1, 2018

11 masterpieces by Mark Rothko (1903-70), on loan from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., showcase the full sweep of the artist's career from early surrealistic work to multiform compositions to classic color field paintings.

DALLAS

Journey to Space

Perot Museum | October 21, 2017–May 6, 2018

Experience what it takes to live and work in space through hands-on activities, numerous space travel and exploration objects, and walk-through replicas of the International Space Station's Destiny module where rotating walls give you an idea of how astronauts feel in space.

DENVER

Degas: A Passion for Perfection

Denver Art Museum | February 11–May 20, 2018

Showcasing the works of French artist Edgar Degas, this exhibition features more than 100 paintings, drawings, pastels, etchings, monotypes, and bronze sculptures from the artist's long career (1855–1906).

LONDON & WASHINGTON, D.C.

Cézanne Portraits

National Portrait Gallery, London | Oct. 26, 2017–Feb. 11, 2018
National Gallery of Art, Washington | March 25–July 1, 2018

Drawn from collections around the world, the sixty portraits in this exhibition explore the pictorial and thematic characteristics of Paul Cézanne's works, the development of his style and method, and the range and influence of his sitters.

LOS ANGELES

Painted in Mexico, 1700–1790: Pinxit Mexici

Los Angeles County Museum of Art | Nov. 19, 2017–Mar. 18, 2018

This exhibition presents more than 100 paintings from 18th-century Mexico—a particularly rich period in the history of Mexican art, according to the exhibition curator, Ilona Katzew. Many of the paintings are on view for the first time and have been restored for this exhibition.

NEW YORK

Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables

Whitney Museum of American Art | March 2–June 10, 2018

Here's your opportunity to see Grant Wood's iconic painting, *American Gothic,* of a pitchfork-wielding farmer and his wife, as well as to explore the full range of Wood's art, from his early Arts and Crafts decorative objects and impressionist oils through his mature paintings, murals, and book illustrations.

SAN FRANCISCO

Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire

de Young | September 30, 2017–February 11, 2018

This exhibition features more than 200 artifacts and artworks from the ancient Mexican city of Teotihuacan, which 1600 years ago was the cultural, political, and religious center of Mesoamerica. On display are mural fragments, monumental and ritual objects from the city's pyramids, as well as ceramics and stone sculptures from the apartment compounds. ■

QUIZ

WINTER

1. To qualify as a blizzard, a snowstorm must have sustained winds or frequent gusts of:

A. 15 miles per hour or greater
B. 35 miles per hour or greater

2. On December 21, the shortest day of 2017 and the first day of winter, the sun set in New York City at:

A. 4:31 p.m.
B. 6:31 p.m.

3. Which ski mountain received 866 inches (72 feet!) of snow last winter?

A. Mount Baker (Bellingham, WA)
B. Mount Mansfield (Stowe, VT)

4. The town of Snowflake, founded in 1878 by Erastus Snow and William Flake, is located in:

A. Alaska
B. Arizona

5. What is a Flexible Flyer?

A. A steerable wooden sled with two metal runners
B. A runnerless wooden sled that curls up in the front

6. The only state never to dip below 0 degrees is:

A. Hawaii
B. Florida

7. An inch of rain is equivalent to how much snow on average?

A. 1 inch
B. 13 inches

8. The only U.S. city to host the Winter Olympics twice (1932 and 1980) is:

A. Lake Placid, NY
B. Salt Lake City, UT

9. How many sides does a snowflake have?

A. Six
B. Eight

10. Which animal turns white in the winter?

A. Moose
B. Artic hare

11. A snowbird is:

A. Someone from a northern state who moves south for the winter
B. A design in the snow created by laying down and flapping your arms

12. Ice hockey is the official sport of:

A. Texas
B. Minnesota

ANSWERS: 1-B, 2–A, 3–A, 4–B, 5–A, 6–A, 7–B, 8–A, 9–A, 10–B, 11-A, 12-B

HMS

FINANCIAL GROUP

WEALTH MANAGEMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING

BARBARA SHAPIRO
EdM^2 MSF CFP® CFS
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FOUNDED IN 1988 AS AN INDEPENDENT FIRM, HMS Financial Group is committed to ethical and personal financial planning and wealth management. Operating as an Office of Supervisory Jurisdiction (OSJ) for one of the largest, independent investment broker/dealers* in the United States, HMS does not have proprietary products, and has no vested interest other than the financial success of its clients.

Our founder and Vice-President, Herb Shapiro, passed away in October 2016. His core values of providing personal service, maintaining market objectivity, and high standards of integrity and honesty with the clients he served, are deeply ingrained in the HMS philosophy.

Barbara Shapiro, President, is a Registered Investment Advisor with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is a Certified Financial Planner® and one of the first Certified Divorce Financial Analysts in Massachusetts. She holds a Master of Science in Finance from Suffolk University and is a Graduate of the Securities Industry Association Institute at the Wharton School. Additionally, she holds a Master of Education in Counseling from Boston University and a Master of Education in Moderate Special Needs from Northeastern University.

Among her many recognitions, Barbara has served as a National Board Member of the Securities Industry Foundation for Economic Education, past member of the Boston Jewish Community Women's Fund, and was the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Council of Economic Education. Barbara also co-authored a book, 'He Said: She Said:' a practical guide to finance and money during divorce, which was published in 2015. She is continually interviewed and quoted in all of the major financial publications.

Barbara is an active lecturer to diverse groups and educational institutions, and has written and teaches a course on financial planning, investments, and long-term care insurance.

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