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THE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act was signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025. Let's take a look at how it may impact you.

Taxes Stay Low Through 2028: The legislation locks in the seven tax brackets: 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35% and 37%. They would have gone up without the bill.

No Tax on Tips Deduction: Up to $25k is tax free on tips! Effective through 2028.

No Tax on Overtime Deduction: Up to $12.5k of the premium portion of OT pay (the "half" in time-and-a-half) is tax free. Through 2028.

Auto Loan Interest Deduction: Allows deduction of up to $10,000 in interest on loans for new personal-use vehicles assembled in the U.S. Phases out for MAGI over $100k ($200k joint) at a 20% rate. Applies to loans originated 2025-2028.

Additional Senior Standard Deduction: Seniors aged 65 and older who meet certain income requirements will receive an extra deduction of $6,000. Through 2028.

Expanded Standard Deduction: Starting in 2025 the standard deduction increases to $31,500 for joint filers.

Clean vehicle credits: The credits for new electric vehicles (up to $7,500) and previously-owned clean vehicles (up to $4,000) are largely repealed for vehicles acquired after September 30, 2025. This has been driving a lot of EV sales (think Tesla).

Increased Child Tax Credit: The maximum amount of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is increased from $2,000 to $2,200 per child, with the credit amount indexed for inflation in future years. It goes higher in out years too.

Permanent charitable deduction: Do you give to charity? This will help. There is a permanent charitable deduction for non-itemizers, starting in tax year 2026. Taxpayers who do not itemize can deduct up to $1,000 (single filers) or $2,000 (married filing jointly) in qualified charitable contributions annually. For those who do itemize, the Act introduces a new 0.5% AGI floor, meaning only charitable gifts that exceed 0.5% of adjusted gross income will be deductible. This change expands charitable giving incentives for many taxpayers while limiting deductions for smaller donations by higher-income filers. It may also streamline filing and planning for charitably inclined clients. Makes it easier to give.

Permanent lifetime gift and estate tax exclusion: If you are single and have $15M or married and have $30M (don't we all wish?), you can gift this amount and have it be tax free. It is also tax free as part of your estate when it goes to loved ones upon your death.

Welcome to July 2025! This month is all about July 4th, summer vacations and MLB's All-Star game....unless you are overseas. The Tour de France takes over that country in July! Started in 1903, it runs in 21 stages (race days) over a period of 23-24 days. The prize money the first year was 20,000 French francs (about $141k in today's dollars). This year it was 500k euros ($578k) , although the winner won additional prizes along the way. Something I didn't know was that the Tour also incorporates neighboring countries some years. The circuit runs about 3,500 km (2200 miles) but was historically much longer. For example, it was 5745 km (3570 miles) in 1926. Each year, the race alternates between clockwise and counter-clockwise circuits of France. It runs every year, although it took a break during the two world wars. Four different cyclists have won it 5 times. Lance Armstrong won it 7 times but he was accused of doping and his titles were taken away.

Certified Financial Planner™ Professional
Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor™

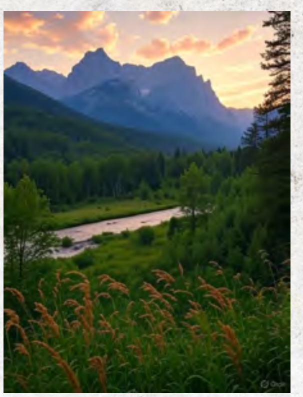
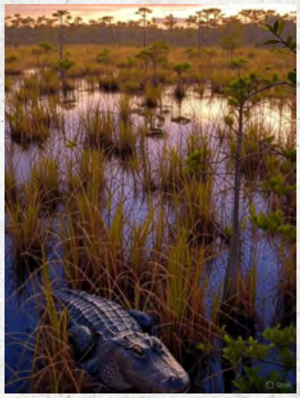
Total Financial Planning

Alexis Hongamen, CFP®, CRPC®

NATIONAL PARKS TRIVIA

1. Yellowstone National Park was the first national park in the United States: and also the first national park in the world, established in 1872.
2. West Virginia's New River Gorge is the newest National Park, established 12/27/20.
3. There are currently 63 designated National Parks in the United States. I thought there more honestly.
4. California has the most National Parks: with a total of nine. Alaska has eight.
5. The National Park Service was created in 1916: to oversee and protect the national parks.
6. The smallest National Park is Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis, Missouri, covering only 192.83 acres.
7. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska is the largest US national park, spanning approximately 13.2 million acres. That's about 20,625 square miles. That would be larger than the smallest 9 US states, wow!
8. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited: National Park, attracting over 12 million visitors annually.
9. Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in Alaska is the least visited, with just over 11,000 visitors in 2024.
10. The world's largest living tree, General Sherman, is in Sequoia National Park.
11. Death Valley National Park holds the record for the highest recorded air temperature: at 134°F.
12. There are 20 US states without a national park.
13. The combined land area of just the national parks, is approximately 52.5 million acres, equivalent to 82,000 square miles. It would be the 15th largest US state, in between Idaho and Kansas.
14. The highest and lowest points in the contiguous US are only 85 miles apart, both in National Parks. Mt. Whitney in Sequoia National Park and Badwater Basin in Death Valley National Park.
15. Acadia National Park in Maine is the oldest national park east of the Mississippi.
16. Katmai National Park in Alaska has the largest concentration of brown bears in the world, with more bears estimated to live there than people on the entire Alaska Peninsula.
17. The largest national park east of the Mississippi River is Everglades National Park in Florida, covering approximately 1.5 million acres.

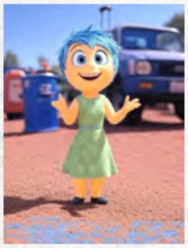


Flashback 10 Years Ago This Month

MOVIES: July 2015

- **Minions**....Minions Stuart, Kevin, and Bob are recruited by Scarlet Overkill, a supervillain who, alongside her inventor husband Herb, hatches a plot to take over the world.
- **Inside Out**.....After young Riley is uprooted from her Midwest life and moved to San Francisco, her emotions - Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness - conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house, and school.
- **Ant-Man.....**Armed with a super-suit with the astonishing ability to shrink in scale but increase in strength, cat burglar Scott Lang must embrace his inner hero and help his mentor, Dr. Hank Pym, pull off a plan that will save the world.


MUSIC

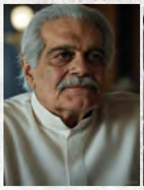
Billboard Hot 100: July 2015!!

- **See You Again (Wiz Khalifa w/ Chalie Puth)**
- **Cheerleader (OMI)**
- **Bad Blood (Taylor Swift w/ Kendrick Lamar)**
- **Trap Queen (Fetty Wap)**

NEWS/SPORTS/CELEBRITY

- Greece becomes 1st developed country to default on debt to the IMF ($1.7B!!)
- The NYSE stops trading for nearly four hours due to a technical error
- The NFL Redskins' trademark vacated because it may offend Native Americans.
- The Confederate flag is taken down for the last time from South Carolina Capitol grounds 1 day after the state legislature ordered its removal
- Mexican drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán escapes from Altiplano maximum-security prison west of Mexico City through a specially constructed 1.5 km tunnel from his cell to a nearby house
- Serena Williams becomes oldest (33) Women's Wimbledon winner in Open era
- Egyptian actor Omar Sharif (Doctor Zhivago, Lawrence of Arabia), dies at 83
- Ashton Kutcher (37) weds Mila Kunis (31) in Los Angeles, California
- Singers Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert divorce after 4 years of marriage





Questions? Call Alexis' cell 407-729-8516

Q: How much should I expect in returns on investments?

Like most answers....it depends. No, I'm not trying to get out of answering. Reward is tied to risk. How much risk are you willing to take? How much risk do you NEED to take? A well balanced portfolio should yield you 6% to 7% conservatively. Many years it is higher, but you can also have very scary down years. Think COVID and the 2008 financial crisis. There is no magic shortcut.

Q: How do you factor in life expectancy when putting together a financial plan.

The last thing I want to do is put together a plan that someone will outlive! Therefore, I have to plan out years past normal life expectancy. I'm 55 and social security's life tables say I should expect to live another 24.5 years. That's an average. I can't just plan for that as there are people that will live longer than average. I generally use 102 for my financial plans with the exception of someone that doesn't have longevity in their family and has health issues.

Q: How much do I need in order to retire? What's "the number"?

Many people joke about what their number is. There isn't one "number" to throw out. A better question is to start off with how much do you need to pay your bills? And work your way backwards from there to make ends meet. Some people need a lot less than others to get by.

Idiom Of The Month

" I N A P I C K L E "

I haven't heard it used in a while, but "in a pickle" means someone is in a tricky situation; they are in a bind.

It comes from pickling juice; something unpleasant.

The term pickle itself is thought to come from the Dutch *pekel*, referring to brine, hence pickling. Meaning submerged in liquid.

Shakespeare uses the term in *The Tempest*, written in 1610. Although his reference is referring to someone who is drunk. There's a little bit of a leap there from being submerged to being inebriated.

Over time, the meaning shifted to its current usage, describing a difficult situation.

It is also used in baseball, when a player is caught between two bases. That player is described to be "in a pickle". Although we always described it as a player caught in a rundown.

F I N A N C I A L T R I V I A

1. Which three U.S. bills together account for 81% of the paper currency in circulation?
2. Small businesses compose what % of all U.S. businesses? 39%, 59%, 79%, 99%?
3. Which U.S. president signed Medicare into law? JFK, LBJ, Nixon, or George W?
4. What is the average price of a new vehicle? $35k, $48k, $51k, $72k?
5. What percentage of Americans say they don't have an emergency fund? 10%, 22%, 31%, or 85%?
6. What percentage of people say they are stressed out about finances? 46%, 52%, 78%, or 85%?
7. What is the average credit score in the United States? 632, 677, 711, or 745
8. What percentage of Americans prefer to bank digitally versus in-person? 53%, 67%, 78%, or 84%?
9. What is the average home price in the United States in early 2025? $329k, $417k, $469.5k or $503k?
10. What does IRA stand for?
11. What does FDIC stand for?
12. Which type of bank account generally offers more liquidity, a Money Market Account or Certificate of Deposit?

Answers:

1. $1, $20, $100.The $1 bill represents about 29% of the total paper currency in circulation. The $20 bill represents about 22%, and the $100 bill represents about 30%.2. Small businesses (independent businesses with fewer than 500 employees) comprise 99.9% of all firms and account for 62% of net new jobs. 3. JFK recommended creating a national health insurance program in 1961, but it was LBJ who signed the Medicare bill into law on July 30, 1965 4. $48k 5. 22% 6. 85% 7. 711 8. 78% 9. $417k 10. Individual Retirement Account 11. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 12. Money market accounts offer check-writing privileges but often require higher minimum balances. CDs lock up funds for a fixed term