



A STRUCTURED PAYOUT

ESTATE PLANNING MADE SIMPLE

Known As The Poors Man's Trust



reduce the potential tax impact, but it could help them manage their inheritance over time, by receiving a monthly check. For a period of 10 or 20 years or more. And if you have multiple beneficiaries, all in different financial circumstances, you have the ability to independently elect how each would receive their portion. Normally to have this level of control of the disposition of your estate, you would have to set up a revocable living trust and pay the costly legal fees that go along with it. A "structured payout" doesn't cost a dime. It's simply a beneficiary designation, kept on file with the company and could be revoked at any time, by you, if you were to change your mind. I've heard of this arrangement also called "the Poor Man's Trust" since there is no costly legal fees to name a beneficiary with a structured payout. This designation may not replace the



As we embark on a new year, 2025 represents a quarter century, believe it or not! The year 2000 certainly doesn't seem that long ago, when everyone was fussing about Y2K! But here we are 25 years later! Like in the blink of an eye. I hope you can say, just like a fine wine, you've gotten better with age. I think I have!

Ring in the New Year is a tradition that all countries celebrate. Whether it's wearing polka dots and eating round fruits, in the Philippines. Wearing white clothing and jumping into the ocean as they do in Brazil or smashing plates against the doors of friends' houses as in Denmark, January represents new beginnings for all. Although, I wouldn't recommend that last one, unless you want to turn your friends into enemies pretty quickly. Wishing you and your family a prosperous and healthy New Year filled with good blessings!

Respectfully,
Scott Weidman, CFP®

So, you've been diligent friends, or even other family members? Do you feel confident that if they are suddenly given this gift that you've so carefully managed to pass on, they will do the right thing? Or could they become a statistic and blow through all of your life savings frivolously, like someone that's just won the lottery?

But have you given any thought as to whether or not, your beneficiaries will be as diligent and careful with their inheritance as you've been?

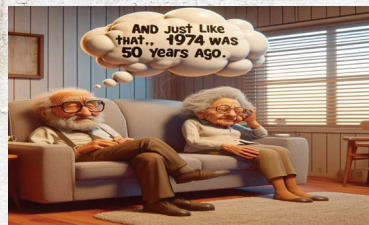
Do you have grown children that have financially struggled and haven't had the discipline, opportunity or experience to save and invest for themselves? Are your beneficiaries competent enough to manage these assets or could they potentially be exploited by

Well, one way that may help protect them is with the use of a "structured payout". In my experience, there are annuity companies that will allow you to list beneficiaries, but with some strings attached.

In other words, you could name a beneficiary, but have their share be paid out over a period of years, instead of as a lump sum.

Not only could that help to

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“Sea Cow” Spotting In Florida



There is only one place in the State of Florida, where swimming with Manatees is legal. Located on the Western Coast of the State, Crystal River in Citrus County beckons visitors from all over the world, to come and witness, first-hand, these peaceful and gentle aquatic mammals, in their natural habitat. In case you don't know, Manatees, also known as “Sea Cows” can grow to be over 13 feet long and weigh more than 3500 pounds!

They have thick, leathery skin and their backs and tails are often covered with algae. These normally slow-moving creatures can reach speeds of up to 25 kilometers with a powerful sweep of their massive, rounded tail.



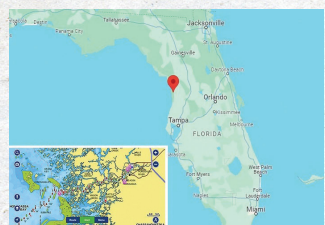
In the colder weather months from December through February, Manatee populations swell in the crystal-clear spring fed rivers throughout the State attempting to enjoy the balmy year-round 72-degree waters of the

springs and escape the colder ocean temperatures. By the way, 72-degree water is freezing if you've never experienced it.



Since I've personally never had the pleasure of joining them in their natural environment, I thought what a fun Christmas gift idea it would be to take Christina “Sea Cow” spotting for a few days in January. There are guided tours available for a small fee. Whether by kayak, tour boat or for the more adventurous, snorkeling in the water, allow you to get a close up look at these enormous beasts.

In my opinion, this journey should be on everyone's bucket list!



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need for a trust, but if the goal is to simply stretch out those payments to your heirs, this could be the easiest and

most cost-effective way to accomplish it. If you think this may work well in your estate planning, give us a call and we can

talk about the benefits and the limitations of a structured payout.



Our service offerings

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Flashback 50 Years Ago This Month



On the racey side of things, the National Hockey League became the first American sports league to allow women journalists into the players' locker rooms for interviews.



For you thrill seekers, on January 15th, 1975 the well known "Space Mountain" an enclosed roller coaster, operated in near darkness, opened at Walt Disney World in Florida.



January 6th, 1975 – The game show "Wheel of Fortune", created by Merv Griffin and inspired by the children's game "Hangman", premiered on NBC. The original hosts were Chuck Woolery and Susan Stafford, who would be replaced by Pat Sajak and Vanna White in 1982.



As a kid, I loved the Jeffersons! On January 18th, 1975 the first of 253 episodes of the Jeffersons was telecast, as Isabel Sanford, Mike Evans and Sherman Hemsley, took their recurring characters on "All in the Family" to a spinoff TV series that would run for eleven seasons.

FRS Questions?

Call Scott
386.299.2893

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Financial Tip Of The Month

With the new year, comes new opportunities to save and invest. This is a great time to take a fresh look at your 401(k) or 403(b) and see if you're taking full advantage of the tax laws. In 2025, the contribution limits for both plans have increased to \$23,500. If you're age 50 or older, the IRS allows a "catch up" contribution of up to \$7,500, bringing your total potential annual tax-deductible savings to \$31,000 if you're able to defer that much income! That is assuming you've elected 100% to go into the pretax portion of the plan. In 2006, the Roth 401(k) and 403(b) were introduced. For participants that elect to have their income go into the Roth portion, they do not receive a current tax deduction on the contributions, but the growth of the account is completely tax free going forward.

From a planning perspective, I would normally suggest that a client defer any income that may be subject to the 22% tax bracket or higher, into the tax-deductible portion. If you're able to reduce your marginal bracket down to just 12% by making those tax-deductible contributions, then I would be more inclined to flip to the Roth side of the plan and pay that 12% tax. Of course, financial planning is not a perfect science, since so much can change from life events to tax laws, but I assure you if you take control of your saving and investing, your future self will be very grateful you did.



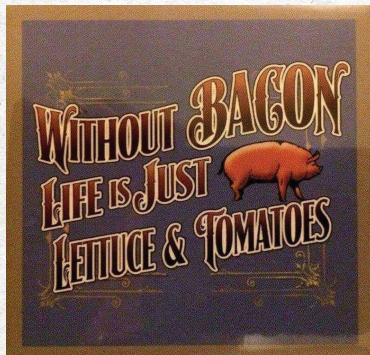
Idiom Of The Month

“Bring Home The Bacon”



Hopeful for a prosperous new year for all, the idiom “Bring Home the Bacon” seems very

suitable. The term, to “Bring Home the Bacon” references going out and earning money. Though there are several origins of this phrase online, the oldest suggests that it originated in 1104 in a small



town in Essex, England. A local Lord and his wife dressed themselves as commoners and asked the Prior for a blessing if they haven’t argued after a year of being married. The Prior, impressed with their devotion, awarded them a fitch (side of bacon). After revealing his true identity, the Lord gave land to the monastery on the condition that they awarded “fitches” to other couples who proved they were similarly devoted. So, this

year, get out there and “Bring Home the Bacon.” And now you know!

