



FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY



What's YOUR Number?



July 4th, commemorates our Nation's Independence from Great Britain. The day we adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776, free to choose our own destiny. It's a celebration of American freedom, democracy and the birth of our Country. Well, this July 4th, I challenge you to see when YOUR personal "Financial Independence Day" has arrived. The day that you've saved and invested enough money to break free from the handcuffs of a job. But how can you determine your own personal "Financial Independence Day"?

In financial planning, there have been many studies indicating that a 4% withdrawal rate from your investments, historically adjusted income you need for a lifetime, with-

out running out of money. So, the first thing we need to do is determine how much monthly income do you need to retire comfortably? Hypothetically, let's say that number is \$6000 per month to cover all of your living expenses. And if we factor in social security, again let's hypothesize and say that number is \$2000 per month. That leaves a \$4000 monthly gap that your investments need to fill.

By annualizing the \$4000, or \$48,000 per year, you divide that by 4% and in this scenario you would need \$1.2 million invested to support a \$48,000 a year income to supplement social security, which would increase annually with inflation, for life. Simple, right? Yes and no. This is a very overly simplified calculation to give you an idea of what your personal "Financial Independence

Day" number looks like. But of course, there are factors that only a real financial plan can model in. Things such as, what if you hit that number but you're not eligible for social security yet or may want to delay starting your benefits? What if you have current debts that will be paid off at some point and no longer need that additional income to pay the debts, such as a mortgage, home equity line or car payment?

The one thing in planning that I've come to realize, is plans do change. Sometimes frequently. But at least having a goal and a strategy with which to achieve that goal, is the first step towards hitting your own personal "Financial Independence Day". So this 4th of July, let's

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Well, can you believe it? Half of 2025 is gone, already marking the end of the second quarter!

Every year seems to go by just a little quicker than the year before. The fireworks will be lighting up the sky this July 4th, in celebration of our Independence.

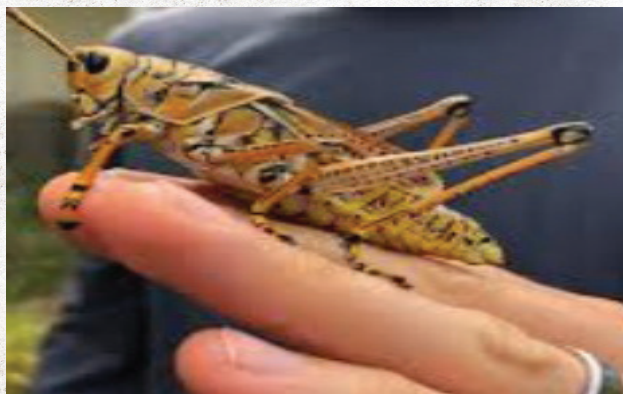
Keeping in lockstep with our financial article of the month, July 1st is National Financial Freedom Day...what's YOUR number? For the Superstitious out there, July 17th is National Lottery Day. Gotta play to win. Just don't bet money you can't afford to lose.

I hope you're enjoying your summertime fun and travels. Remember to stay hydrated!

Respectfully,
Scott Weidman, CFP®



The Lubbers Are BACK!



If you love gardening, like I love gardening, I'm sure you've come across some of these horrific, gigantic and quite frankly terrifying insects. Also known as the "Eastern Lubber Grasshopper" these alien looking beasts have virtually no predators due to their toxins and unless they are reigned in, have complete freedom to decimate your plants at will with their voracious appetites. And boy will they. Unfortunately, by the time they mature into the yellow monsters I've been seeing recently, because of their impenetrable exoskeleton, pesticides really don't work. But here are a few ways to eradicate these invaders and protect your beloved plants from the

scourge.

1. **Handpicking and Drowning.** Manually collecting lubbers and dropping them into a bucket of soapy water is a popular and effective method. Just be aware, when you grab one for the first time, it will probably hiss at you and spit out some sort of black liquid deterrent, so be prepared for a battle.
2. **Shop Vacuum.** This was an interesting one I found online. The high suck capacity of a shop vac can round up these creatures without ever having to touch one. Add soapy water to the shop vac to ensure their demise.
3. **My favorite.... the LUBBER STOMP.** The first time you try this, it may turn your

stomach a bit. But don't worry, over time you become a hardened soldier without even entertaining the thought about the killing and destruction for the betterment of your plants. Grab that lubber quick, throw it on the cement (it's got to be cement for its effectiveness), targeting its head STOMP your foot down with all your might and while standing on tippy toe do a half spin to make sure the job is done quickly and definitively! Just like a lubber killing ballerina.

If you felt overwhelmed and helpless before, I hope these little lifestyle tips help you with your gardening efforts to protect the health and well-being of your precious plants. Happy lubber hunting!



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celebrate our Freedom as Americans but take a few moments and do a

little pulse check and see if you're on track to hitting your personal "Fi-

nancial Independence Day" number!



Our service offerings

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- Buy / Sell Funding
- Business Overhead Expense Insurance

Services

- Hourly Consulting
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- Income Planning
- Asset Allocation and Risk Management

Investments

- Mutual Funds
- Variable Annuities
- Equity Indexed Annuities
- Fixed Annuities
- Stocks / Bonds

Account Types

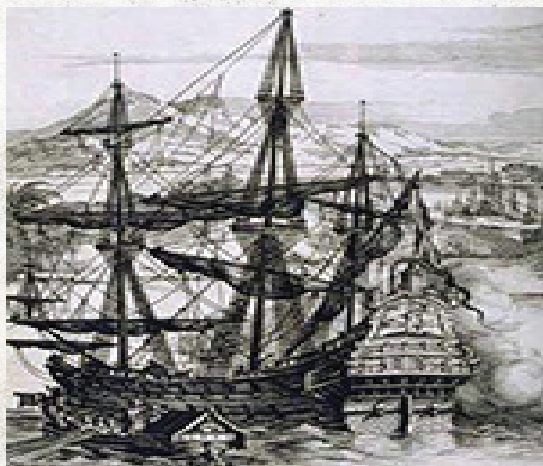
- Fee Based Advisory Accounts
- Brokerage Accounts
- Third Party Money Managers
- 401k Rollovers
- IRA's and Roth IRA's

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Flashback 50 Years Ago This Month



If you've been to Key West and visited the Mel Fisher museum, this little flashback is pretty cool. Dirk Fisher, working with his father Mel Fisher, found the first definitive proof that the wreckage of the "Nuestra Senora de Atocha" was in the area on July 13th, 1975. 40 miles off of the Florida coast, they found 5 bronze cannons from the sunken vessel, lying on the ocean floor since the ship's wreck in 1622. Carrying 47 tons of silver, and 27 tons of gold, the rest of the treasure took ten more years to finally locate on July 20th, 1985.



July 30th, 1975 near Detroit, former Teamster's Union president, Jimmy Hoffa was reported missing after his car was found abandoned outside of the Machus Red Fox, a restaurant in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan where he said he had an appointment with Detroit mobster Anthony Giacalone. Hoffa's body has never been found to this day.



On July 9th, 1975 the British Rock Band, The Rolling Stones began a 5 night run of sold out concerts at Los Angeles Forum as part of their 1975 Tour of the Americas.



Financial Tip Of The Month

A very well planned, thought out vacation can sometime almost break the bank. Especially if your travel destination is highly desired. But what about a little spontaneity in your vacation plans?

Like last minute, **tonight?** PC Mag recently nominated Hotel Tonight as one of its top 2025 vacation apps for last minute travelers.

Out of curiosity, I looked up places in Key West and found "tonight" last minute deals from \$460 per night, now only \$201 per night (that's a 56% discount)! Another was \$690 and now it's only \$378 (that's another 45% discount).

That could be a huge cost savings for last-minute travelers. So if you have that travel bug this July and are flexible where you go, Hotel Tonight may be a great way to do a little last minute bargain hunting. Happy travels.

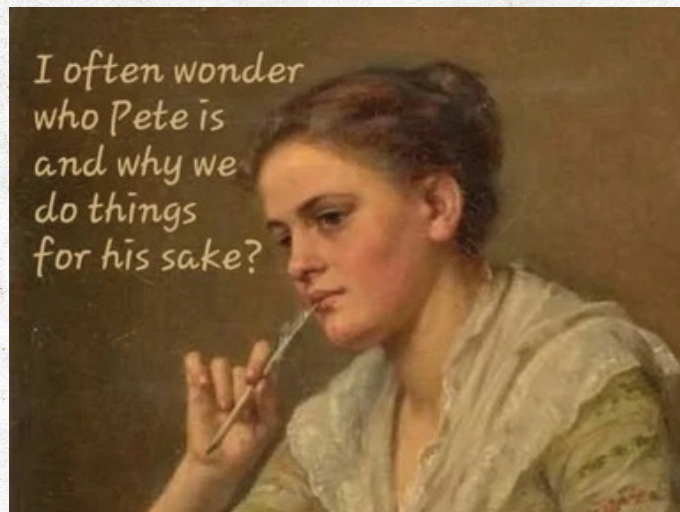


Idiom Of The Month

“For Pete’s Sake!”



ternative. The name “Pete” Another notch for your was believed to come from idiom belt! And now you the phrase “for pity’s sake”. know!



For Pete’s Sake, it’s hot out- year 1903. It was a more so- side! This month’s idiom origi- cially acceptable way to express- nated as a euphemism for “for exasperation or annoyance Christ’s Sake” likely around the without the more offensive al-