

News and Notes:

March Newsletter

Top Headlines

- The Fed
- Inflation
- Waffle house
- Bit Coin



Midway Wealth Partners

1650 N Arlington Heights Rd. ste. 204
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

1580 S Milwaukee Ave ste. 610
Libertyville, IL 60048

Phone: 847-787-1144
Fax: 224-232-5625

E-mail: RBabjak@MidwayWP.com
dryan@MidwayWP.com

The Fed and Rates: Federal Reserve officials left interest rates unchanged in their first policy decision of 2025. The Fed said that it views the risk of inflation and a softer labor market to be roughly balanced. Language from past statements noting progress on bringing inflation down was dropped from the official statement. The Fed cut rates in September, November, and December of 2024 bringing its benchmark federal funds rate down from a range of 5.25 to 5.5 percent to the current target range of 4.25 to 4.50 percent (source: The Fed).

Inflation: Alberto Musalem, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis spoke to the Economic Club of New York on February 20th. Musalem noted that the baseline case is for inflation to gradually move toward the central bank's 2% target. However, "near term inflation expectations have risen substantially over the last few weeks, and that's something I'm watching closely," said Musalem source: CNBC).

Waffle House: Waffle House announced that it will be adding a 50-cent surcharge to all egg items sold because of soaring egg prices caused by the bird flu/ More than 13 million hens have been lost or slaughtered since Decem-

ber after the outbreak. Waffle house went on record saying that they "Hope these price fluctuations are short-lived" (source: NBC News).

Egg Thieves: In a heist that left authorities scrambling, thieves made off with over 100,000 eggs worth \$40,000 from Pete and Gerry's Organics in Pennsylvania. While investigators try to crack the case, the big question remains: Who steals that many eggs, and where do you even hide them/ (source: BBC)

S&P 500: On January 27th, the S&P 500 was down - 1.5%, while more than 300 of its stock rose on the same day. Since the index became a 500-stock index in 1957, this has never happened before. The S&P 500 is trading at a price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio of 30.42, significantly higher than the historical median of 17.93 (source: Investopedia/ SentimenTrader).

Long Legacy: America's 10th president, John Tyler, was born in 1790, and as of December 2023, still had one living grandchild. The reason that's possible? Tyler had children at all stages of his adult life with 15 kids in total, the most of any U.S. president. His first child, Mary was born in 1815, when he was 25 years old and his youngest Pearl, was born in 1860,

when Tyler was 70 less than two years before his death. Harris Ruffin Tyler (the grandson) turned 96 on November 9th, 2024 (source: History Facts).

Bit Coin Trash: A Welsh man who accidentally threw away a hard drive containing 8,000 Bitcoin has been fighting with authorities, trying to allow him to search the landfill where he believes it has been sent. After years of battling with the court system, he's decided that instead of paying more attorney fees that go nowhere, he's going to simply buy the landfill. With today's value of Bitcoin, finding the hard drive would be like discovering a fleet of Lamborghini's in the dump, valued at roughly \$800 million at the time of writing (source: CNN World).

Social Security: The Social Security Administration plans to shed 7,000 employees as the administration looks for ways to cut federal spending. The agency in February confirmed the figures which will bring its total staff down to 50,000 from 57,000. The aim of 7,000 job cuts has prompted concerns about

News and Notes:

March Newsletter

“The four most dangerous words in investing are : This time it’s different.”

Sir John Templeton



Midway Wealth Partners

1650 N Arlington Heights Rd. ste. 204
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

1580 S Milwaukee Ave ste. 610
Libertyville, IL 60048

Phone: 847-787-1144
Fax: 224-232-5625

E-mail: RBabjak@MidwayWP.com
dryan@MidwayWP.com

the agency’s ability to continue to provide services on a timely basis. If you are starting benefits, we have always communicated signing up 90 days in advance which has always been more than sufficient but that may be extended as we monitor how this goes going forward (source: Social Security/ CNBC)

Head to Kansas: Neodesha, Kansas, is offering incentives for those willing to move there, such as waiving state income tax through 2026, student loan repayment assistance and free college tuition. Other communities across the country are also upping the ante with cash incentives or voucher programs for people willing to relocate. “This is a cost-effective way of doing economic development”, says Evan Hock, co-founder and chief operating officer of MakeMyMove (source: CNBC).

Grandma was right: Chicken soup isn’t just comfort food; it’s scientifically proven to help with colds. Rich in the amino acid cysteine, it helps loosen mucus and reduce inflammation, making it a go-to remedy when you are under the weather (source: Better Report).

Housing Market: The average home in January spent 41 days on the market. That is the longest since January 2020, pre COVID. The median first-time homebuyer has reached an all-time high of 38 years old-three years older than July 2023. Existing home sales fell last year to the lowest level since 1995, when the US population was 23% smaller (source: CNBC/ Morning Brew).

Museum Record: London resident Melham set a new Guinness World Record by visiting 42 museums in 24

hours, surpassing the previous record of 33 museums held by Sujoy Kumar Mitra and Saroop Dawrani in Delhi. It’s unclear how much culture he actually absorbed, but his step-count must have been a masterpiece (source: UPI).

“ You will be much more in control if you realize how much you are not in control”

Legendary Investor

Benjamin Graham

The Libertyville Sunrise Rotary will be having its annual Fundraiser on March 8th. The event will feature the Second City Traveling Group. The night will start with early dinner dine arounds at local restaurants, the show at the Libertyville high school auditorium, and an after party at Mickey Finns in Libertyville. There will be a silent auction and raffle. For ticket information go to <https://onecau.se/secondcity2025>. All proceeds benefit local charities, scholarships at Libertyville High School, and a few international projects with Rotary groups around the world

Richard Babjak, Dennis Ryan, Terry Kania, Kelley Belmonte, and Jamie Buffa

The information presented here is not specific to any individual's personal circumstances and should not be relied upon without seeking the advice of a qualified professional after full review of the individual's investment, tax or legal situation. These materials are provided for general information and educational purposes based upon publicly available information from sources believed to be reliable—we cannot assure the accuracy or completeness of these materials. The information in these materials may change at any time and without notice.

Securities and Advisory Services are offered through World Equity Group, Inc., member FINRA and SIPC. Midway Wealth Partners is not owned or controlled by World Equity Group, Inc. Investment advisory and financial planning services are offered through Summit Financial, LLC., a SEC-Registered Investment Adviser, doing business as Midway Wealth Partners.