



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Need help easing the Self-Employed tax burden?
- Preparing for life changes
- Quotes
- Trivia
- Referrals
- Buster's latest

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Taxing Times

Dedicated to helping our clients keep the money that belongs to them through a focus on tax.

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Three Commandments for the Self-Employed

Being self-employed has several advantages: you control your own destiny, you take the risk – and reap the rewards, and you set your own work schedule. One disadvantage that many despise is having their business tax burdens placed solely on them. So let's look at a few ways to help ease that burden:



- *You will make the time to organize and record your business activity in a systematic fashion throughout the year. Don't wait till the last minute to gather your business documents (including income and expenses). A sure fire way to create stress at the end of the year, or at the tax-filing deadline, is to put-off gathering all the information for someone to prepare your business and personal returns until the last minute. Waiting until the last minute makes it easy to leave out or overlook pertinent information that could potentially help save you money.*
- *You will review your gross income and expenses to-date on a regular basis. If you failed to follow the first commandment, then estimate your income using last year's income as a baseline and adjust up or down accordingly. When estimating expenses don't forget business meals and entertainment, gifts, equipment, supplies, taxes, licenses, etc. Also, make a separate folder to retain documentation of your home office expenses which may include utilities, rent or mortgage interest paid, insurance, etc. These documents will come in handy when deciding if you should make quarterly tax estimates.*
- *You will set aside money to cover your tax obligations. Self-Employed individuals often ask, "How much should I set aside for taxes?" Each tax situation is different, but as a rule-of-thumb we suggest setting aside approximately 30% of your income to cover federal, state, and self-employment taxes. The best way to do this is to create a separate bank account and deposit the money for taxes in this account. This can be used as a safe guard; out of sight, out of mind.*

*The keys to easing this tax burden are good record keeping, staying organized, and periodically setting some time aside throughout the year for tax planning. Remember, we are always here to help answer any of your tax planning questions. **

A Renegade Looks at Sixty



A major milestone for me is just around the corner. This month I start my sixtieth year on planet earth. I look forward to the opportunity, eleven years or so from now, for a change in my life when I transition from full-time work to less than full time. I don't have a clear picture yet exactly what that change will look like, but I don't think that is necessary. It will help that I'm preparing now for that transition so that I can be ready when it comes.

When I was growing up change just happened. It was a part of the landscape. I never really thought about it. It was always just around the corner. My father was a career officer in the U.S. Air Force. I moved from my birthplace of Moultrie, Georgia at the ripe old age of six months and moved eleven more times before I got out of high school.

Continued on page 3 ➔



MORE THAN

1.6 MILLION TURKEY DRUMSTICKS



ARE CONSUMED EVERY YEAR IN SIX DISNEY THEME PARKS AT

Walt Disney World AND Disneyland

THAT'S

MORE THAN 2.5 MILLION POUNDS OF GOBBLE, GOBBLE.



“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.”
Oprah Winfrey

“I celebrated Thanksgiving in an old-fashioned way. I invited everyone to my house, we had an enormous feast, and then I killed them and took their land.”
Jon Stewart

“Thanksgiving, man. Not a good day to be my pants.”
Kevin James

“My cooking is so bad my kids thought Thanksgiving was to commemorate Pearl Harbor.”
Phyllis Diller

Looking for Someone You Can Rely On?

We really believe in the process of referrals, so part of the service we provide is to be sure to refer our clients and associates to other qualified businesspeople in the community.

Below, you’ll find a list of areas in which we know very credible, ethical and outstanding professionals. If you’re looking for a professional in a specific area we’ve listed, please feel free to contact us. We will be glad to put you in touch with the people we know who provide these services.

- ◆ Mortgage Broker
- ◆ Attorney
- ◆ Welding Supplies
- ◆ Cultured Marble
- ◆ Financial Advisor
- ◆ Realtor
- ◆ Window Treatments
- ◆ Auto /Home /Life Insurance
- ◆ Veterinarian
- ◆ Land Surveyor
- ◆ Printer
- ◆ Home Inspector
- ◆ Banker
- ◆ Bulk Port Facility
- ◆ Commercial Building Contractor
- ◆ Custom Monogramming & Embroidery
- ◆ Carpet Cleaning
- ◆ Lawn and Landscaping



Looking for a Speaker for Your Club or Organization?

Richard knows how difficult it can be to find a good speaker – one that will educate and entertain. If your club or organization is looking for a seasoned speaker get in touch with Richard at richardlindsey@comcast.net for details.

This month’s special Member-Only call-in times for Lindsey’s Insider’s Circle will be 11/24/14 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. To schedule your appointment, contact Kristen at (251) 633-4070.

Not a member yet? Find out how to become one today!

A Renegade —*continued from page 1*

moved --- one last time --- to Mobile after Dad's retirement from the service.

Both my parents were born and raised just up the road in Monroeville, Alabama so I'm sure they looked at this neck of the woods as home. So we

That was 41 years ago. Hard to believe I've been in one place this long!

It was between my junior and senior years of high school --- so I was destined to start my third high school at summer's end. There was Clear Creek in Houston, Texas, Beaver Creek in Dayton, Ohio and finally John Shaw in Mobile.

Last time I told this story, a lady at the table acted amazed and asked: "Wasn't that hard?" No, it just was. When asked, my mother used to say she enjoyed everywhere they lived, except one, and in the same breath, she would admit she never gave it a chance.

Change is a natural part of life, whether we look forward to it with anticipation or dread. We can't possibly know what lies ahead so it doesn't make sense to worry about it, but it does make sense to plan for it.

There is no right or wrong way to plan for change except do nothing. Yes, change requires a certain amount of courage, a certain degree of risk, some discomfort, and sometimes, a lot of hard work.

Life's changes --- marriage, children, college, illness, retirement --- will come whether you're expecting it or not, whether you want it or not, whether you're ready or not.

So what are you doing to prepare for it? *

T-Day Did Ya Know?

Sarah Josepha Hale, the enormously influential magazine editor and author of the classic nursery rhyme, "Mary Had a Little Lamb," has been called the Godmother of Thanksgiving for her nearly two decade long crusade to establish a national Thanksgiving holiday believing that "Thanksgiving, like the Fourth of July, should be considered a national festival and observed by all our people."

President Abraham Lincoln, convinced that it would be a good way to help unify the country, declared the last Thursday in November, 1863 as a national Thanksgiving holiday. From that point forward, every U.S. President, except Roosevelt, would annually declare the last Thursday in November as a national holiday for giving thanks until congress officially set the date in 1941.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to move Thanksgiving to the second to last Thursday in 1939, 1940 and 1941 in order to extend the Christmas shopping season. Some states went along with the change and others didn't. Texas took both as holidays. That's why congress stepped in and officially set the date as the fourth Thursday, which is sometimes the last and sometimes the next to last Thursday in November.

Hale's contribution to Thanksgiving also included numerous editorials which contained recipes for many things that likely were not served at the original Thanksgiving, but are tradition now such as: turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie.

Everything we know about the "first" Thanksgiving comes from just two passages: a letter written by Edward Winslow to a friend in December 1621 which described the harvest festival and William Bradford's "On Plymouth Plantation," written twenty years later. *



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We are **THANKFUL** for **YOU!!**



Well, it's that time of year again...

The time when you "two legged" human folk celebrate with one holiday after another. You've had Labor Day, Patriot Day, and Columbus Day. By the time you read this Halloween will have passed and you'll be looking forward to Veteran's Day, Charles Schulz's birthday (Peanuts creator), Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve, National Popcorn Day, and Super Bowl Sunday.

Well, ok. I think everyday should be....**THANKSGIVING!**

Every day is Thanksgiving in my world. I suggest you adopt the same attitude. So, I made a list... and as I've told you before, using a keyboard ain't that easy for a canine... but I use it to remind myself how great life is as a dog.

Buster's Top Ten Things to Give Thanks For:

10. Treats,
9. Runs on a cool crisp morning,
8. Well trained humans... with treats,
7. Soft chairs, beds, and pillows,
6. Birds and squirrels to chase,
5. Carrots,
4. Did I mention... treats,
3. A ride in the car,
2. No taxes, and
1. You guessed it, treats.

Now, from what I gather, about 280 million turkeys are sold annually for Thanksgiving because 91% of you Ameri-

cans feast on turkey for the holiday. Some of your Cajun friends eat Turducken (a strange combination of turkey, duck and chicken), but I couldn't determine whether that counted as eating turkey or not. Poor Tom.

I also discovered that you crave the white meat of the turkey so much, they have been bred to have huge breasts. So much so, that the domesticated turkey can no longer mate, due to the breasts getting in the way. Poor Tom.

And the reason you eat turkey at Thanksgiving probably has less to do with the original 1621 celebration in Plymouth Colony and more to do with a certain influential magazine publisher. Poor Tom.



Your canine friend... 

