

## INTERESTS & TIDBITS

- “Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans,” Allen Saunders.
- **Golf Tip:** Three slice fixes...Get a stronger grip! Ease up! and Flatten Your Plane! A correct grip has the hands rotated more to the right. Excessive pressure in your hands and arms inhibits the natural rotation of the clubface through the hitting area.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

You Could Retire Cont’d 2

Do You Have a Pet First-Aid Kit? 3

Colorado Flavors 3

Kansas Happenings 4

## You Could Retire...But Should You?

**Some people retire at first opportunity, only to wish they had waited longer.** Thanks to Wall Street’s long bull run, many pre-retirees have seen their savings fully recover from the shock of the 2007-09 bear market to the point where they appear to have reached the “magic number.” You may be one of them – but just because you can retire does not necessarily mean that you should.

**Retiring earlier may increase longevity risk.** In shorthand, this is the chance of “outliving your money.” Bear markets, sudden medical expenses, savings shortfalls, and immoderate withdrawals from retirement accounts can all contribute to it. The downside of retiring at 55 or 60 is that you have that many more years of retirement to fund.

Staying employed longer means fewer years of



**It might be better to wait a bit longer before retiring. There are several factors to consider.**

depending on your assets and greater monthly Social Security income. A retiree who claims Social Security benefits at age 70 will receive monthly payments 76% greater than a retiree who claims them at age 62.<sup>1</sup>

**There are also insurance issues to consider.** If you trade the office for the golf course at age 60 or 62, do you really want to pay for a few years of private health insurance? Can you easily find such a policy? Medicare will not cover you until you

turn 65; in the event of an illness, how would your finances hold up without its availability? While your employer may give you a year-and-a-half of COBRA coverage upon your exit, that could cost your household more than \$1,000 a month.<sup>1,2</sup>

**How is your cash position?** If your early retirement happens to coincide with a severe market downturn or a business or health crisis, you will need an emergency fund – or at the very least enough liquidity to quickly address such issues.

**Does your spouse want to retire later?** If so, your desire to retire early might cause some conflicts and impact any shared retirement dreams you hold. If you have older children or other relatives living with you, how would your decision affect them?

## You Could Retire...But Should You? Cont'd



No one can tell you what is the right age to retire, but your desire to retire early might cause some conflicts and impact any shared retirement dreams you hold.

*“It seems the more affluent you are, the more likely you are to keep working.”*

**Working a little longer might be good for your mind & body.** Some retirees end up missing the intellectual demands of the workplace and the socialization with friends and co-workers. They find no ready equivalent once they end their careers.

Staying employed longer might also help baby boomers ward off some significant health risks. Worldwide, suicide rates are highest for those 70 and older according to the World Health Organization. Additionally, INSERM (France’s national health agency) tracked 429,000 retirees and pre-retirees for several years and concluded that those who left the workforce at age 60 were at 15% greater risk of developing de-

mentia than those who stopped working at 65.<sup>3</sup>

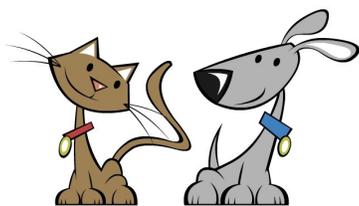
It seems that the more affluent you are, the more likely you are to keep working. Last year, Bank of America’s Merrill Lynch and Age Wave surveyed wealthy retirees and found that 29% of respondents with more than \$5 million in invested assets were still working. That held true for 33% of respondents with invested assets in the \$1-5 million range. Most of these millionaires said they were working by choice, and about half were working in new careers.<sup>1</sup>

Ideally, you retire with adequate savings and a plan to stay physically and mentally active and socially engaged. Waiting a bit longer to retire might be good for your wealth and health.

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# Do You Have a Pet First-Aid Kit? Here Are a Few Tips



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By Lauren Gaddie-Johnson

There are over 70 million pet dogs in the U.S. and 74 million pet cats. But, what most owners don't know is that assembly of a first-aid kit for your pet may come in handy if that emergency vet office is not necessarily nearby. Here are a few items to consider placing in your new pet first-aid kit:

1) Self-cling bandages or gauze rolls. These can be used quickly and will not stick to fur.

Keep your pet safe this summer with a first-aid kit.

2) Absorbent gauze pads, diapers or even feminine products. Most are individually wrapped, sterile and are highly absorbent.

3) Muzzle. Pets can become frightened due to an injury and may even try to bite their owner!

4) Disposable gloves

5) Bottle of 3% hydrogen peroxide and large medicine syringe or even a turkey baster to administer the peroxide. You can use this to induce vomiting, but NEVER do this unless instructed by a veterinarian.

6) Cotton balls or swabs

7) Blanket or towel for picking up an injured pet

8) Extra leash

9) Styptic powder to stop the bleeding of a too-closely clipped nail

10) Plastic bags to tape over a bleeding area

11) Needle-nose pliers to remove a fish hook if you take Man's Best Friend to the great outdoors!

12) Current picture of your pet in case they run away or get lost.

13) Pets' vaccination records or copies of these records.

Always make sure you keep your kit well-stocked and updated from year to year. A healthy pet comes with a well-prepared owner.

You can purchase most of these pet first-aid kit items at pharmacies, Petco, Petsmart, or from your local veterinarian's office.

## Colorado Flavors

### Bacon-wrapped Chicken with Roasted Asparagus

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

8 slices of uncooked bacon

Lemon pepper seasoning

1 bunch of asparagus

Olive oil

Salt & Pepper

Sprinkle lemon pepper liberally on each side of chicken breasts. Wrap each breast with 2 slices of bacon and secure with toothpicks. Place in roasting pan or oven-safe grill pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes each side depending on thickness of breast. (You will

have to turn chicken halfway through baking!)

When chicken is finished, remove from oven & cover with foil. Turn oven up to 450 degrees. Move one oven rack to top position. Place asparagus evenly onto baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil & season with salt & pepper. Cook on top rack for 10 minutes. Voila! Dinner!



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## WORKS CITED

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**Golftipsmag.com**

**VCA Healthy Pet Magazine**

**\*The Financial Ascent is created and edited by  
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## Kansas Happenings

*By Lauren Gaddie-Johnson*

Not sure what to do during the hot month of August? Here are few ideas that will take you off the beaten, dusty path and get you revved up for summer's end.

### **Ulrich Museum of Art— Wichita State University**

**August 6:** Art for Your Ears: Doug MacLeod

This concert, located at the McKnight Outdoor Plaza, features the winner of the 2014 Blues Music Award for Acoustic Artist of the

Year and Acoustic Album of the Year. MacLeod is known for his singing, songwriting, and storytelling. Contact Jennifer Lane at (316) 978-3664 for ticket prices and availability.

### **Kansas Star Casino — Mulvane, KS**

**August 8:** Deep Purple in Concert

Yes, this is the real deal from the 1970s. The band has released 4 studio albums since 1996 and are focusing on less-traveled places dur-

ing this tour. Tickets start at \$38 and can be purchased at [www.kansasstareventcenter.com](http://www.kansasstareventcenter.com).

### **Blacktop Nationals Car Show — Century II Per- forming Arts & Events Center**

**August 21-23:** Whether you're into muscle cars, roadsters, hot rods, or motorcycles, this is the show for you! This three-day affair features good eats and loud treats (cars & live music). Visit [www.blacktopnationals.com](http://www.blacktopnationals.com)