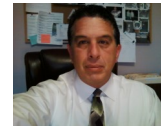




In the News

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Retirement, News & More!

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Alert: News — Be careful of “IPO” News— In stock terms “IPO” is a public offering. Someone recently sent me info to check out —they were excited a company with great opportunity buy in—and they had a great buy rate. Well here is the real information—the company was actually doing this to raise funds to pay off a 115.8 million dollar debt—now understand it is not a good idea to get involved with an IPO who is trying to pay off debt because it’s mismanaged funds or miscalculated funds. Yes it is super impressive the numbers for buy ins and very attractive with the presentation but lets really look at the numbers—115.8 million in debt and in this case last year profit margin of 3.57—so if you have 115.8 million debt by 3.57 profit—how many years before they are at break even if they do not inquire anymore debt—lets say (32 years) - so all though jumping in on an IPO who is blasting advertisement for a great opportunity is not truly always the best idea or option. It is always best to be very careful of attractive ads like this—and most important do the research for behind the scenes on the Company. Yes I guess the old saying “buyer beware” is so true. By no means are we suggesting that all IPOs should be avoided: some investors who have bought stock at the IPO price have been rewarded handsomely by the companies in question. Every month successful companies go public, but it is difficult to sift through the riffraff and find the investments with the most potential. Just keep in mind that when it comes to dealing with the IPO market, a skeptical and informed investor is likely to perform much better than one who is not.

Medicare/Medicaid Info: Medicaid Protections for the Healthy Spouse—Important - Medicaid law provides special protections for the spouses of Medicaid applicants to make sure the spouses have the minimum support needed to continue to live in the community while their husband or wife is receiving long-term care benefits, usually in a nursing home. The so-called "spousal protections" work this way: if the Medicaid applicant is married, the countable assets of both the community spouse and the institutionalized spouse are totaled as of the date of "institutionalization," the day on which the ill spouse enters either a hospital or a long-term care facility in which he or she then stays for at least 30 days. (This is sometimes called the "snapshot" date because Medicaid is taking a picture of the couple's assets as of this date.) In order to be eligible for Medicaid benefits a nursing home resident may have no more than \$2,000 in assets (an amount may be somewhat higher in some states). In general, the community spouse may keep one-half of the couple's total "countable" assets up to a maximum of \$119,220 (in 2016). Called the "community spouse resource allowance," this is the most that a state may allow a community spouse to retain without a hearing or a court order. The least that a state may allow a community spouse to retain is \$23,844 (in 2016). The income of the community spouse is not counted in determining the Medicaid applicant's eligibility. Only income in the applicant's name is counted. Thus, even if the community spouse is still working and earning, say, \$5,000 a month, she will not have to contribute to the cost of caring for her spouse in a nursing home if he is covered by Medicaid. In some states, however, if the community spouse's income exceeds certain levels, he or she does have to make a monetary contribution towards the cost of the institutionalized spouse's care. The community spouse's income is not considered in determining eligibility, but there is a subsequent contribution requirement. And then you have spouses pension, IRA's, 401K's, and so forth—if anything—grab an Elder Law Attorney or someone familiar with Medicaid and Spousal benefits—protect yourself!

In the News:

Stock News:

Macroeconomic analyst Rob Kirby says don't trust the stock market's rise to new all-time highs. The global economy is in terminal trouble, and Kirby explains, "My view of the financial system as it sits today is we are in an intensive care unit, and we have a lot of tubes and wires connected to us right now."

The question you are asking me is how long is a person in critical condition in an intensive care unit going to live?

I don't really know the answer to it other than we could get a code blue any day.

We could get a code blue tomorrow . . . code blue is when somebody has passed.

" Do I believe our economic structure is in or near code blue - yes and that is a personal opinion - we can not continue with the massive debt pushing it to the side and not expect a collision and we can not continue to buy into the concept we are ok we have insurance to cover the damages (why) because we can not pay the premiums anymore - and have not been able to for some time.

World News:

Five years ago, coal provided nearly half of all the electricity consumed in the U.S. Oh, how the mighty have fallen. Today, the coal industry is rapidly going out of business.

Coal plants are being shut down, miners are going out of business, and even import countries like China and India are turning their backs on coal.

How did we get here and is a recovery ever going to take place? The answer may surprise you. The coal conundrum - Renewable energy gets a lot of credit for the decline of coal.

But if you want to know the real reason coal companies are struggling, you don't have to look further than natural gas.

We know that natural gas generated about half the electricity coal did as recently as five years ago, but today natural gas is the No. 1 electricity source in the U.S.