



In This Issue:

Study: RIAs on Track to Set M&A Record

How to Survive a Stock Market Downturn

Interest Rate Hike could be Coming, Minutes Show

Americans' Financial Well-Being Reaches Record High



Keeping You On Target.

Study: RIAs on Track to Set M&A Record

At the current pace, mergers and acquisitions among registered investment advisers will surge to a record this year, according to a study from Echelon Partners. Based on the trend this year, deals will post a 23% increase from a year earlier, reaching 169 deals by year-end, the company said.

Find out more from Financial Advisor Online [here](#).



Tips to Safeguard your Social Security Number

Once your Social Security number has been accessed by a hacker, it is impossible to make it secret once again. However, there are several ways to keep your number secure.

[Click here](#) to read more from U.S. News & World Report.

Treating Numbers Like Numbers and People Like People



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At Williams Overman Pierce, our commitment is to offering our clients a full range of solutions to address a wide variety of needs. From mid-size businesses to not for profit organizations and emerging enterprises—we can help you reach your goals. One of our areas of specialty is tax services.

Effective tax planning can make the difference in having an outstanding or disappointing year. We provide our clients with tax strategies that result in real savings, improved cash flow and improved profitability. Our tax specialists take the time to learn your business, value your goals, analyze your individual tax needs, and apply the tax code and regulations appropriately.

- Tax planning, Consulting and Compliance for businesses, individuals, trusts and estates
- Exempt status applications
- Cost segregation analysis
- Bankruptcy tax filings
- Assistance with the formation and structure of a new or existing entity
- Communicate with federal, state and local agencies on your behalf to address notices and provide representation during audits
- Analysis of multi-state tax and nexus issues

How to Survive a Stock Market Downturn

What goes up must eventually come down, as every student of science and stock markets knows. The recent 30th anniversary of Black Monday, the single worst day in Wall Street history, is a fitting occasion to consider whether you're prepared for the time when gravity inevitably brings soaring stock prices back to earth.

No one anticipates a repeat of that fateful day in 1987 when the Dow fell 22.6 percent, the equivalent of a 5,000-point freefall at current levels. Nor are market pundits saying a bear market (when prices drop 20 percent or more) is imminent.

[See the article](#) at Next Avenue.



Holiday Closure

In order to allow our staff time to enjoy the holiday season with their families and get some well-deserved rest in advance of our upcoming busy season, Williams Overman Pierce, LLP will be closed Monday, December 25, 2017 to Monday, January 1, 2018.





A Cluttered Desk can Make it Harder to Focus



If you're having a hard time focusing on the job, the solution might be simpler than you think. Researchers have long known the negative effects of physical clutter. It makes sense, when you think about it. If you have a messy desk with papers and paraphernalia strewn all over it, these distractions in your visual field can hijack you from the task at hand. A study from the Princeton Neuroscience Institute at Princeton University found that physical clutter (like desk disorganization) limits how well your brain processes information by wearing down your mental resources.

[Read the full article](#) from U.S. News & World Report.

Interest Rate Hike could be Coming, Minutes Show



Federal Reserve policymakers discussed inflation at their Sept. 19-20 meeting but indicated that another interest rate increase this year "was likely to be warranted if the medium-term outlook remained broadly unchanged," according to the meeting minutes.

Traders broadly expect the Fed to hike in December. Just a month or so ago, traders in the federal funds futures market gave little chance to another move in 2017.

[See the article](#) at CNBC.

Equifax Contract Suspended by IRS



In a statement Friday, the IRS said it suspended the contract as "a precautionary step" while the agency reviews the company's security systems.

"During this suspension, the IRS will continue its review of Equifax systems and security," the statement reads. "There is still no indication of any compromise of the limited IRS data shared under the contract."

[Visit](#) USA Today/The Associated Press to read more.



Americans' Financial Well-Being Reaches Record High

Americans reached a new level of personal financial satisfaction in the third quarter of 2017, according to the AICPA Personal Financial Satisfaction index (PFSi). The PFSi measured 25.9, continuing an upward trend in place since January 2017, and surpassing all previous measures in the 24-year history of the index. The increase was driven by market gains, new job openings, and growing real estate values.

[Click here](#) for more from Journal of Accountancy.