

Lifestyle Link

Your link to a better quality of life

Volume IV Issue II

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Dear Friends,

My tractor was delivered back to me last week, looking brand new and ready for work. I send it away each winter for a tune-up and repair. It seems as though I just stopped using it. March Madness has begun and Opening Day is only a few days away. We are nearing the end of the first quarter, and I think I still have Christmas decorations to put away. The twins turned four, and I am now closer to age 60 than to 50. Where does the time go? My mother told me that time goes faster the older we get; I did not realize how smart she was.

As time marches on faster and faster, we have to step away and try to get control. We watch kids grow up, friends grow older, family members enter nursing homes, and we frequent funeral homes far more than we care to. I don't believe we can stop the speed, but I do think we can focus on what is important in our lives. Take some time for yourself, and for those you care for. Just like my tractor that goes in for a manicure each winter, we have to do the same. Don't wait until tomorrow,

because as we all know all too well, tomorrow comes fast or maybe not at all.

The best part of what I get to do is to help clients make money and SPEND money. Don't get me wrong, saving is very important, but there comes a time when enough is enough. If you hear a cruise calling your name, take it. If Alaska, Italy, Maine, Australia, the Grand Canyon or anywhere else is on your travel list, call the agent. Take the grandkids to Disney World, go to the museum or the zoo. Make a list of all things you want to accomplish and start checking them off. Call a friend, take a walk, take a class (ballroom dancing for me), visit the sick, go to church, stay up 'til midnight, laugh out loud.

Before I know it, my tractor will be ready to go back to the shop after a summer's work. The time will go by faster than we want, but at least for a moment, stop time, step away, and do something special.

Take time,
David

Personal Service is a dividend we guarantee. If your friends or family would benefit from our personal service, we'd appreciate your referral.

Help Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

Identity theft is one of the nation's fastest growing crimes and can affect your credit years after the thief begins using your identity. There are several steps you can take to help avoid being a victim.

1. Don't give identifying numbers or financial information over the phone or in person unless you are sure of the other person.
2. Remove your SSN from any documents that don't require it, such as checks and drivers license.
3. Request a copy of your credit report periodically from one of the following agencies and

review it thoroughly. Equifax 800.685.1111, Experian 888.397.3742, or Trans Union 800.916.8800.

Here are some other tips for protecting yourself!

Credit Cards

- ◆ Sign new cards immediately.
- ◆ Store them safely.
- ◆ Only carry the cards you will use.
- ◆ Don't write your PIN number on the card.
- ◆ Shred documents that show your account number, before discarding.

(continued on Page 4)



Economic Commentary *Lincoln Anderson, LPL's Chief Economist*

The stock market is back to its usual jitters, worried about the economy, company earnings, the new Federal Reserve (Fed) chairman and a myriad of other concerns. On balance, I think these concerns are misplaced. For example, the preliminary Gross Domestic Product (GDP) report put the real economic growth rate at a weak 1.1% in the fourth quarter, down from 4.1% in the third. However, that report is called "preliminary" for a reason – it is missing important December data. Subsequent reports for December have been very strong. Non-defense capital goods shipments, construction spending, and inventory investment were all very strong – well above the assumed numbers in the preliminary GDP report. And the latest employment report was also strong, showing a 93,000 upward revision to fourth quarter job growth. 531,000 new jobs were created in the fourth quarter and we broke the 2 million mark (+2,093,000) for job gains over 2005. So I expect a substantial upward revision to fourth quarter GDP growth. And we are off to a good start in 2006 with a gain of 193,000 jobs in January and a drop in the unemployment rate to 4.7%. I do not see a weak economy.

It is the same story with company earnings. We are in the heart of earnings season with 290 of the S&P 500 companies having reported. At this time, median earnings growth is 14.3%. If this holds up, this will be the 15th straight quarter of double-digit earnings growth. And 175 of the companies that have reported have beat expectations, 55 are in line and 60 have missed expected earnings growth. Of course, the media has focused on the 60 that missed, not the 175 that beat estimates. I do not see weak company earnings.

We have a new Fed Chairman – Ben Bernanke – who replaces Alan Greenspan. I think Dr. Bernanke is a very capable, reasonable person who will continue to focus on inflation control and I do not expect major changes from Greenspan's policies. And, in my opinion, Greenspan departs with inflation under good control. Total Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is 3.4% and the "core" rate, which excludes food and energy, is 2.2%. The Fed hiked the Fed funds rate to 4.5% at the end of January, but with these low inflation numbers I expect them to stop shortly. I do not see an inflation problem.

Looking forward, I think there are grounds for optimism on the economy and financial markets. There appears to be plenty of momentum in the economy – inventories are still low relative to sales, employment is expanding, real after-tax personal income is rising, company earnings/profits are rising, inflation is low and profits are increasingly being invested in new equipment, technology and buildings. U.S. household net worth (assets less liabilities) is a record high \$51 trillion. Total U.S. non-financial company net worth is \$12 trillion and the ratio of the market value of equities to net worth is 92%, down from 189% in the first quarter of 2000. Consequently, I think substantial valuation risk has been removed from the equity market.

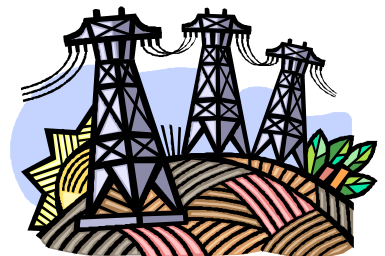


Our office will be closed on the following days:

Friday, April 14 & Monday, May 29

Cinergy and Duke Energy Merger

Haire Bohmer recently held a dinner for Cinergy employees who may be affected by the pending merger with Duke Energy. If you know of someone who is looking for guidance, they are welcome to call us. Please be sure that they mention your name when calling so that they are given priority scheduling with David.



We work by referrals.

David's Deciphering

Sometimes even I get confused with what Lincoln Anderson has to say; so let me try to give you an example of what is happening on a larger scale, but how it affects you. Many of you have an Equity line of credit that you took out from the equity you had built up on your residence. I have recommended them for years and many of you have done home remodeling, purchased autos, paid for college tuition, and a variety of other tasks with the money. Most equity lines are variable rate lines of credit. As the interest rate has increased (the Fed with Greenspan and now Bernanke increase the Fed Funds rate and the prime rate follows), your interest has increased accordingly. For many of us, the rate has gone from 2% to now 7.5%. This is a painful change in our cash flow. So what do we do?

Most of us have stopped spending. If we have some of the line of credit left, we are not using it. We have shut off the money pipeline. Since we are not spending, prices of goods stay constant or go down to try to entice us to buy. The result: Inflation is tamed and the Fed plan works. But now the second part:

Companies want us to spend, so they spend money to get more efficient, buy technology, improve plants, improve products and try to improve their bottom line. And then, hopefully, markets go up as the companies make money. The circle continues.

The consumer is the key. You keep money in motion, and when you decide it has become too expensive to spend, the capital markets step up. I believe we have cause for optimism, and the remainder of the decade has a lot of ground to make up when compared to other historical periods. But, as always, stay invested and stay diversified. We don't know when or from where the next plus will come. Keep paying down debt as interest rates increase. Stay prudent and long term. We believe the glass is only half-full, and better days are ahead.

Volunteer Opportunities!

There is a comprehensive Web site that's perfect if you're not sure where to volunteer or how much you want to get involved. Called Volunteer Match (www.volunteermatch.org), it lists volunteer opportunities that have been requested by nonprofits in your own area. You search by zip code. These opportunities can be one-time events or ongoing opportunities, so you can pick according to your skills and time available.



Welcome to our New clients who are family referrals from our Current clients! Thank you for your trust!

Maureen Hollenbeck

Patricia Scott

Margie Koehler

Mike Thornberry

Nancy Knows...

Even though it has been a mild winter, we think our clients have been hibernating. Please let us know what you have been up to in the past few months. E-mail Nancy at nancy.brunner@lpl.com.

Anniversary Surprise

Betsy and Phil Miskell celebrated their 40th anniversary in February. Betsy surprised Phil with a trip to Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe and Phil surprised Betsy with rubies!

Congratulations!

More Weddings

The **Hafer** family is back in the wedding business - **Walt and Donna's** daughter, Amy, will be married in August. Their daughter, Margo, was married last November. We wish them all the best!

David's son, Joshua, is getting married in September. Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Retiring

Al Gerth retired from CTI/Mobilcom

after "too many years to count." We hope you enjoy retirement!

Welcome back to the USA **Drs. Barbara Warner and Peter Hoffmann** have returned to live in the States after several years in Europe. Welcome Home!



Don't keep us a secret!!!

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We will be happy to
include your friends &
family on our mailing
list. Please let us know
where to send their
copy of *Lifestyle Link*.

Our Mission

Haire Bohmer Wealth Management Group is an independent, service-driven team of professional wealth planners providing clients with a solid and comprehensive plan that enhances their current and future quality of life by defining client objectives, proposing recommendations, and creating lifelong partnerships.

Our Beliefs

We believe that our client partnerships are the heart of our business.

We believe that we must serve the best interests of our clients with honesty, integrity, care and knowledge.

We believe that we are more than wealth planners for our clients.

We believe that giving is more important than getting.

We believe that it is important to listen to our clients.

We believe that it is important to develop a high level of trust with clients by anticipating their needs.

We believe that caring about our clients is important.

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft (continued from Page 1)

- ◆ Don't give your card number over the phone, unless you initiated the call.
- ◆ Remember to get your card and receipt after a purchase, and double check that they are yours.
- ◆ Notify the credit card company immediately if your bill is incorrect, or your card is lost or stolen.
- ◆ Check your bill carefully and notify the credit card company if you don't receive it on time.
- ◆ Use only secure web pages for online ordering. (Designated by a padlock symbol on the status bar of Microsoft Internet Explorer.)
- ◆ Online credit applications which request a SSN should also be on secure webpages. (Look for the padlock.)
- ◆ Use anti-virus and personal firewall software, and keep it updated.

Action Steps if your Identity is Stolen

- ◆ Don't write your credit card number or social security number on a postcard or the outside of an envelope.
- ◆ Collect your mail promptly.
- ◆ Have mail held if you'll be out of town or on vacation.
- ◆ Tear up mail solicitations, bank records and other discarded documents.
- ◆ **Purchase a shredder.**
- ◆ Use collection boxes or the post office for outgoing mail if your home mailbox is unattended.
- ◆ Call the credit reporting industry at 888.567.8688 to opt out of future credit card solicitations.
- ◆ Contact your financial institutions and credit card companies and notify them of the situation. Close any accounts that have been opened fraudulently.
- ◆ Call the credit reporting bureaus and ask them to place a fraud alert on your credit report.
- ◆ File an ID Theft Affidavit with all your creditors.
- ◆ File a police report and contact the Federal Trade Commission at 877.438.4338 or at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.
- ◆ Review your credit report again and again.

Mail

Internet

- ◆ Never e-mail your credit card number or SSN.
- ◆ Check carefully that you are on the page you intend, and not an impostor's page.

