



Financial Decisions

*By Will Divers,
CTFA®, Financial Advisor*

DON'T LET YOUR EMOTIONS WIN

Human beings are not robots. We all think, we all feel. The difference between each of us is how we think and feel about things differently. Everyone is unique in their own right. This applies to how we think about money and finances. Everyone has different saving, spending, and budgeting

There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to how you should feel about your money. The key is to make sure your plan aligns with your emotions. If you are uncomfortable with certain financial decisions being made, then having someone look over those decisions could be beneficial. It is our job to match your emotions about money to how your plan will best work for you. It is never bad to have a second opinion, even if things seem to be running smoothly. Having these discussions around your emotions and money is very important.



tactics. Some people want to have a lot of money in the bank, and some people do not want any money in the bank.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to have one of these discussions.

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Strategic Planning

By Founding Partner Chris Caldwell,
CFP®, AIF®, AEP®, CRC®, MBA, ChSNP

SPRING CLEANING

What are we going to do? How are we going to pay for that? Why didn't we see that coming? Are we going to have to cancel those plans?

This is the time of year I usually write something about Spring cleaning or organization, and I will be doing so again but with a little different spin. Does your family (or business, for that matter) ever find yourselves asking any of those types of questions? If not, you are definitely one of the few.

We all experience life changes that cause us to stress about finances; a birth, a death, a wedding, a college acceptance, a retirement, a house, and of course, all the things around money like taxes, inflation, interest rates, and markets.

While there is no real solution to eliminate stresses, there are methods to lessen and control them. Now I am taking you back to organization. Many people, for some reason, want to avoid knowing where they

are financially, where they are headed, and what needs to change. This group is the most stressed of us all when any little life event occurs. They are driving down the road blindfolded. Picture that image for a minute. That is not only dangerous for them but, for everyone else on the road (such as their parents, kids, employees, etc.).

We need to take the blindfold off and look at our surroundings. *(continued on page 6)*

Tools

Technology Corner



PackPoint: PackPoint makes packing for a trip simple and easy. Users enter their destination, departure date, the number of nights they will be staying and their activities. From this information, PackPoint creates a list of items you will need for your trip. Users can delete items that aren't relevant to them while also crossing off items needed as they pack. The basic version of the app is free, but there is a premium version available for \$2.99 which allows users access to more customization options.



AllTrails: AllTrails is an app for those who love adventure and being outdoors. With this app, users can search for hiking trails by location, interest, and skill level. AllTrails provides detailed trail information and reviews. Users can connect with others on the app as well as share their adventures on social media. The basic version of the app is free. For \$35.99, users can access AllTrails+ which provides extra features such as offline maps, wrong-turn alerts, and extra safety and planning features.

Experiences

Finding Independence

By Rachel Smith,
Senior Client Associate

WANDERING

My youngest, Dillon, spent a year in Europe – 364 days to be exact. To get to the year abroad, we must discuss its origin.

2020

Covid shut the world down. He's a junior in High School, and his brother (closest confidant) left to serve in the Army. Rough year.

2021

The world continues to be in the weird upheaval, and senior year is not exactly how he anticipated. Graduation. The search for self continues.

Summer 2021

He goes on a road trip. He's 17 and drives from Savannah, Georgia – traveling west through Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico – onward towards California. Then, he heads north to Washington State to see his brother. He makes stops along the way to see historical landmarks, State and National Parks, and oddity stops like Roswell, NM (known for UFO sightings). After leaving Devin in Washington – he heads east toward Montana. Approximately 2,400 miles from home – my phone rings. Dillon has totaled his car in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Trip over.

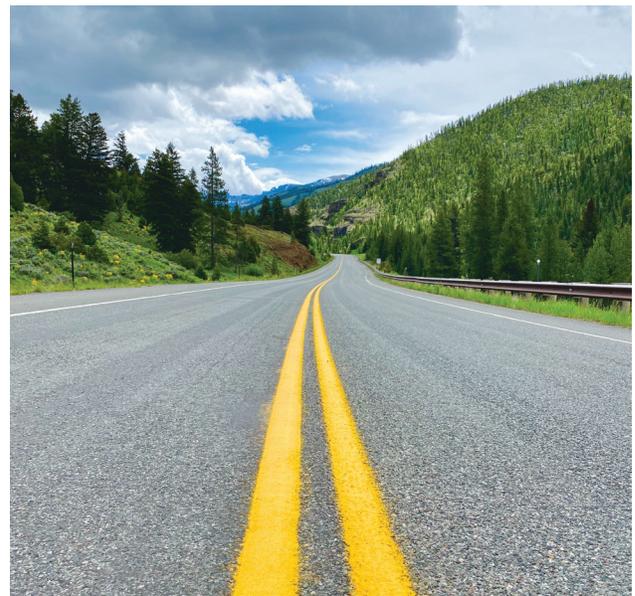
Fall 2021

He loads up to go to college at the University of Rhode Island. College is not all he anticipated it to be. Week of Christmas 2021 – I drive him home. Rough year.

As you can imagine, these starts and stops have challenged Dillon emotionally. What he did not realize at the time is that each of these steps prepared him for his next steps. They allowed him to navigate alone. They allowed him to

prove to himself he has what it takes to be fully independent.

He was able to show that he can take a VERY difficult situation (AKA loading all his stuff from his car, getting it on an airplane, and getting *(continued on next page)*)



Experiences (continued)

Finding Independence

WANDERING (continued from page 3)

home) all by himself. He learned he is a master navigator and really enjoys the logistics of travel. He is a planner.

February 13, 2022

Dillon flies to Italy. Through research and encouragement from friends and family and half the funds from his wreck – he ventures overseas. There is a program called World Packers where wanderers can travel and “volunteer” overseas. His very first job in Gavi, Italy, was working in a vineyard. In exchange for about 15-20 hours of labor per week – he was given a bed to sleep in and home-cooked meals.

Let’s take a moment here to understand what it is like to have your child fly overseas and get picked up by a total stranger in a foreign country, speaking an unknown language, with little to no cell service...Okay, you’ve imagined it...let’s move on!

Over the next year, he literally rode planes, buses, trains, and automobiles... hiked 100+ miles in 10 days through Italy, France, and Switzerland. He picked olives in Greece, changed bed sheets, and cleaned showers in Scotland, was a camp counselor at a summer camp in Spain, worked at a cooking school in Turkey, and many more odd jobs. He spent Christmas morning at All Saints’ Anglican Church in Rome, watched the procession of Queen Elizabeth’s funeral service on the streets of Scotland, was a mere mile away from a terrorist bombing in Istanbul, roamed around many art museums, watched street shows, saw historical sites, and breathed in the centuries-old air. He ate the best food of his life. He slept on strangers’ couches, made lifelong friends, learned to be alone, and took a million

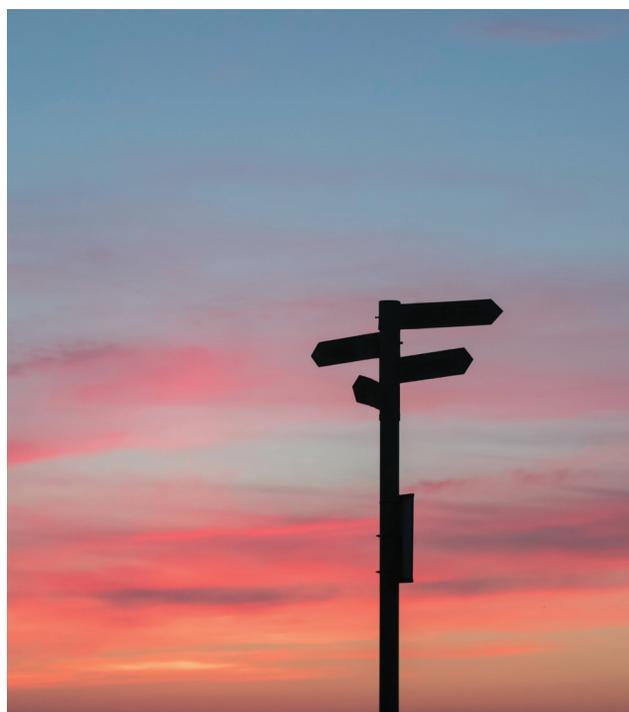
pictures along the way. He missed every holiday at home for a year. He thrived.

He’s home now, working – bored and again determining his next steps.

Although he still doesn’t know what his future looks like, he does know that he has exactly what he needs to take those next steps. If you ask him, the hardest part of the trip – it was always saying goodbye to the people he had met along the way. If you ask him the best part – he often doesn’t have a direct answer because it was too wonderful to pinpoint a specific moment. If you ask me – it was watching him smile via FaceTime as he shared his adventures and watching him grow in confidence in the process.

“...Not All Those Who Wander Are Lost”

– JRR Tolkien



TRANSITION

Transition. It's what financial planners help individuals prepare for in order to move from work to retirement. The objective is to maximize return on investment and minimize risk during the work years to achieve financial security, quality of life and peace of mind for the retirement years. This requires a thoughtful, realistic long-term strategy of investing early and regularly and maintaining a diverse portfolio.

This holds for America's energy resources. Energy fuels our commercial, industrial and manufacturing sectors, mobilizes our military and underpins our economic security and national security. For over two hundred years, America developed a diverse portfolio of fossil fuels, nuclear and renewable energy, and leveraged it to become the world's largest, most important economy and greatest military power—a position we want to maintain. Energy diversity has afforded our economy and industrial base with flexibility, resilience and options during periods of volatility and scarcity.

Because of climate change concerns, the US is debating a transition away from fossil fuels to meet one objective—decarbonization. While hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars are being invested to this end, questions are warranted. What will be the return on this investment vis-à-vis climate change? What are the potential risks? Will it provide long-term security?

From 2000-2021, global carbon emissions increased 13,621 million tons—primarily from fossil fuel consumption. The Asia-Pacific region accounted for 12,674 million tons, of which China alone accounted for 9,098 million tons. During this period, US emissions decreased 971 million tons. This upward trajectory of global carbon emissions will increase for some time. Eliminating US emissions won't reorient it.

The transition proposed for the US promotes renewable energy such as solar and wind as alternatives to fossil fuels. Carbon emissions aside, fossil fuels are reliable, affordable and domestically abundant with a proven record of supporting economic growth and industrialization. Renewable energy, while affordable and abundant, is intermittent and doesn't have reliability characteristics comparable to fossil fuels. Fossil fuels constitute 82% and 75% of global and US energy consumption, respectively—a heavy lift for decarbonization policies centered on renewables. This highlights why nuclear power should be a centerpiece in US energy policy, as it provides the reliability of fossil fuels with no carbon emissions.

It would be risky, after thirty years of investing in a diverse portfolio, to propose shifting to high-risk hedge funds and venture capitalism in order to rapidly transition into retirement. Similarly, efforts to decarbonize the US economy
(continued on page 7)

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Operations

LPL will soon be enhancing the eSignature experience by partnering with Adobe Sign. There will be no major changes to your e-signing experience. You may begin to notice eSignature requests will state "Powered by Adobe Sign". Although, some eSignature requests may still state "DocuSign". Please reach out to our office if you have any questions about an eSignature request you receive from our firm.

Temporary Office Closure

Our offices will be closed the week of June 26th for renovations and will reopen for normal business after Independence Day on July 5th. Our team is working remotely during this time (except July 4th) and can execute service requests as needed. Call our office number (706) 850-4965 or email individuals directly. Thank you!

Strategic Planning

SPRING CLEANING *(continued from page 2)*

What do we have financially?
What risks are present in our lives that could hurt us? What do we spend money on? What



plans do we have that will cost us money? All of this begins by organizing our, well, existence. Get everything on "paper" and in "folders" to look at what is

in good shape, what needs correction, and what needs to be added. I know if you've never really spent the time on a project like this it can be daunting. That basically answers the question, "What do you and financial planners do?". We coach and advise through the process.

I know it is all out in the open, everything you want to achieve in life can be analyzed and tested. Forget the term "goal setting" when thinking about this, let us call it your "strategic plan". The difference is that I have seen too many goal-setting programs feel like throwing

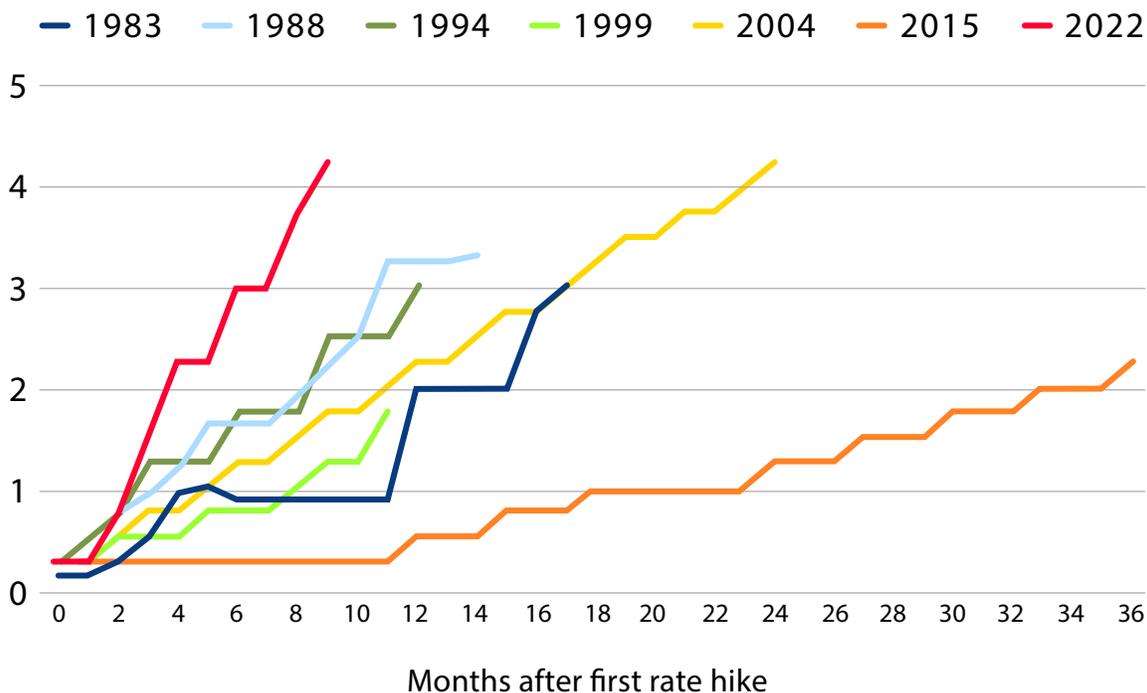
darts, while a true strategic plan is a guided missile. As the world changes around us, taxes, inflation, rates, markets, etc. you will be able to clearly see how these factors impact you and adjust as needed.

I have heard clients in conversations about volatile markets say that they are not concerned and that only comes from the fact that they are well organized. They understand where they are and where they are going. If you have never done this for yourself, I am happy to explain more about the process. Happy Spring Cleaning!

Chart of the Quarter

THE FED IS MOVING HISTORICALLY FAST TO TAME INFLATION

Changes in the federal funds target rate in past tightening cycles (in percentage points)



Source: Federal Reserve

Diversity is Critical

TRANSITION (continued from page 5)

by orienting it toward unproven energy resources will incur risks.

To be clear, climate change is a concern. And although the US leads the world in carbon reduction, climate change is a global phenomenon the US cannot mitigate unilaterally. That said, the US should ensure that any changes in its energy sector will not impact its economic

security and national security, so that America can remain the global power it has been for the past two hundred years. To do so, energy resource diversity is critical. Something financial planners understand well.

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Market Index Returns*

Fixed Income

Current Yield 1/30/2023

90-Day T-Bill	4.66%
5-Year T-Note	3.67%
10-Year T-Note	3.55%
30-Year T-Bond	3.65%

Source: Bloomberg

Index

2023
(1/1/2023–1/27/2023)

2022
(One Year)

Dow Jones Ind.	2.51%	-8.78%
S&P 500	6.02%	-19.44%
NASDAQ	11.04%	-33.10%
MSCI EAFE Growth ETF	9.10%	-22.93%

Source: Morningstar Research

*The Dow Jones Industrial Average is comprised of 30 stocks that are major factors in their industries and widely held by individuals and institutional investors. Bond yields are subject to change. Certain call or special redemption features may exist which could impact yield. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries. The NASDAQ Composite Index measures all NASDAQ domestic and non-U.S. based common stocks listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market. The market value, the last sale price multiplied by total shares outstanding, is calculated throughout the trading day, and is related to the total value of the Index. The MSCI EAFE Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets, excluding the US & Canada. The MSCI EAFE Index consists of the following developed country indices: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

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