

NELSONCORP NEWS

APRIL
2024

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FEATURED CHARITY OF THE MONTH

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YOUR NELSONCORP TEAM



DAVID NELSON



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AUSTIN ECK



TRAVIS MOREHEAD



MIKE VANZUIDEN



AMANDA SCHAVER



TABATHA WESTPHAL



MIKE STEIGERWALD



HANNAH VAN HYFTE



ISABEL HANSEN



DON'T WAIT!

If you haven't already gotten your 2023 IRA contribution in, there's still time to do so. Many people don't know that the 2023 contribution deadline is actually April 15, 2024. You just need to designate the year you are contributing for.

The maximum amount you can contribute for 2023 is \$6,500 if you're under 50, and \$7,500 if you are age 50 or older. This applies to both traditional and Roth IRAs. If you're unsure whether to contribute, remember:

- Contributions to traditional IRAs are tax-deferred, making them an effective way to decrease your tax bill each year. And while distributions from IRAs are taxed as income, your tax rate after retirement could possibly be lower than it is now, lessening the impact.
- Contributions to a Roth IRA, on the other hand, are made with after-tax assets. Roth IRAs also have other contribution limits beyond the maximum contribution number. However, the advantage of a Roth IRA is that withdrawals (distributions) are usually tax-free.
- Whichever type you use, IRAs provide a great, tax-advantaged way to save for retirement.

If you have yet to set up an IRA for 2023, you can still do that. If you want to take advantage of the benefits an IRA has to offer, there's still time, either by contributing to an existing account or by establishing a new one.

If you have any questions about IRAs – whether one is right for you, how it should be managed, or anything else – please give me a call at 563-242-9042. I'd be happy to help you.

Sincerely,

David Nelson

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THINGS TO NOTE

*If you haven't filed your 2023 tax return, now is the time! Just drop off your 2023 tax documents and we will prepare your return and call you when it is finished. We'll ask a few simple questions and take a copy of your driver's license. **No appointment needed!***

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CHARITIES & BUSINESSES

Check out what's happening at our area charities, businesses, and communities:

- Breakfast at the Moose! - Savanna, IL
- The Gathering Place: Where Seniors Shine! - First United Presbyterian Church, Clinton, IA
- Visit Clinton www.clintoniowatourism.com
- Visit Quad Cities www.visitquadcities.com

NelsonCorp Nuggets

House prices across the U.S. have soared 162% since 2000, while income has increased only 78% during this same time period.

*Source:
listwithclever.com - 99
key statistics for 2024*

THE PALE BLUE DOT

On February 14, 1990, the Earth was being watched.

The object watching Earth was small; small enough to fit inside a four meter-large cube. And it was distant, being over 3,000,000,000 miles away.

It was the Voyager 1 spacecraft.

Voyager 1 is a probe built by NASA, launched in 1977 to study the outer Solar System. Its primary mission was to study the planets Jupiter and Saturn and their various moons. Having accomplished this, the probe is now winding down its secondary mission, which is to study the distant regions beyond the planets before it loses power and becomes destined to drift through the Universe as a mute, lonely messenger until the end of time.

But this letter isn't about Voyager. It's about Earth.

In 1990, Voyager 1 completed its primary mission. Carl Sagan, the famous astronomer and author, asked NASA to turn the probe's camera around to take one last photograph of Earth and the other planets. Between February 1 and June 6, Voyager took sixty still images. Each image contained about 640,000 individual pixels, and as the probe was so far away, it took about 5½ hours for each pixel to reach Earth.

The most famous of these photographs was of our home planet—now just a pale blue dot amidst the infinite blackness of space.

Take a look at this stirring, thought-provoking image. Do you see it? It's the light speck about halfway down the picture in the yellow streak of light. (You can Google "pale blue dot" for bigger images to check out.) Imagine our great, grand planet ... filled with life, oceans, mountains, de-

serts, forests, and cities, reduced to nothing more than a speck. It serves to illustrate just how small we really are compared to the unceasing vastness of the Universe. But it also serves another, more powerful purpose.

April 22 is Earth Day, a celebration of our planet, of nature, and of the importance of protecting the environment. Hundreds of thousands of people will observe the event in their own way, but many more will probably fail to remember that Earth Day exists at all. After all, there are already so many holidays demanding our time, our attention, and our money.

And yet, I wonder if we wouldn't attach more importance to Earth Day if we all took a few minutes, once a year, to simply look at that pale blue dot. Because there's something else the picture illustrates, something we should all remember.

After you look at the single pixel that is our planet, gaze around the edges of the image. What do you see?

Nothing.

Of course, we know that the Milky Way galaxy isn't empty. It's bursting with stars, cosmic rays, solar wind, clouds of dust, asteroids, comets, and even other planets. But it contains no other life, not that we've found. The closest planet potentially capable of supporting life is so far distant, it would take millions—millions!—of years to get there. That's longer than our species has even been alive.

Until further notice, we are alone.

Our pale blue dot is just one of billions in the night sky, but it is unique. We are on an island amidst a dark, silent ocean. An



oasis inside the barrenness of space. A single, precious garden surrounded totally by desert.

What the pale blue dot photo really shows is that our planet is significant. It's all we have. It shelters us, sustains us, provides for us, and entertains us. If there is another world richer and more beautiful than ours, we've yet to find it.

In short, we've been given the greatest gift of all.

This is why Earth Day is important: because it's our chance to reflect on what we can do to truly deserve that gift. It is our chance to reflect on how we can protect it, because it certainly needs protecting.

This April 22, I invite you to celebrate Earth Day. Even if you do nothing else but feel the warmth of the Sun on your face, smell the flowers in bloom all around you, and ponder the depths of the night sky, it will be enough.

LAST MINUTE TAX REMINDERS

We're well into tax season now! Of course, some people have already finished filing their returns by this point. If you haven't yet, here are a few simple, last-minute tips to remember.

1. Have all your necessary documents and information in place before you start

Have you ever heard the phrase *mise en place*? It's a French term professional chefs use that means "putting in place." You see, a good chef ensures that all ingredients and equipment are set up and in place *before* they start cooking. This type of mindset is invaluable. It reduces mistakes and accidents and makes the entire cooking process less stressful!

You can practice *mise en place* with your taxes as well. Before you do anything else, gather every receipt, invoice, bit of paper, and piece of data that may relate to your taxes. Have it organized and close to hand. That way, when you start the actual filing process, you never have to interrupt your progress to look for something. Nor will you be likely to forget anything important. It just makes the entire affair easier, quicker, and less stressful.

Specifically, the IRS recommends that you have the following information before filing:

- Social Security numbers for everyone listed on your tax return.
- Bank account and routing numbers.
- Any W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, health insurance statements, and records of digital asset transactions. (Think bitcoin, NFTs, and things like that.)
- Any notices from the IRS citing an amount received for a certain tax deduction or credit.

2. Remember to report all types of income

In the rush to file, it can be easy to forget all the various ways you generated income last year. These days, many people have second jobs and side hustles that bring in money. Then there's investment income, property, and even yard sales to consider! So, as you file, remember to report any and all income from:

- Any goods or items you have sold, whether online or in person
- Investments

- Part-time, seasonal, or gig work
- Rental properties
- Self-employment or other business activities
- Foreign accounts and assets

This will help you avoid any notices or bills from the IRS – something no one wants!

3. Contribute to your IRA if you haven't already done so.

If you haven't yet contributed to your IRA in the last year, there's still time to do so. The deadline to contribute for the 2023 tax year is April 15, 2024. (Remember that if you do decide to contribute, you must designate the year you are contributing for.) For 2023, the maximum amount you can contribute is \$6,500 if you are under 50, and \$7,500 if you are age 50 or older.¹

4. Get a written acknowledgment from charitable organizations you have contributed to.

If you gifted \$250 or more to any charitable organization last year, the recipient must send you a written acknowledgment of the gift upon request.² This should also state whether the recipient provided any goods or services in consideration for the contribution. (If so, the acknowledgment must include a good faith estimate of the value of those goods or services.)

5. Tell the IRS to direct deposit your refund to get it faster.

These days, eight out of ten taxpayers get their refunds via direct deposit.³ There's a good reason for this – it's the fastest and most secure method available! The IRS actually issues nine out of ten refunds in less than 21

days, but getting your refund via check adds unnecessary time to the process.³

Many people are unaware they can actually have their refund directly deposited into as many as three different accounts. That's handy because it can help you allocate the funds in a more targeted way. For example, let's say you want to use part of your refund to pay off a debt, another part to go into your rainy-day fund, and the leftovers to go on vacation. With direct deposit, you can ensure all three boxes get checked. Just have the refund portioned into the appropriate accounts!

Finally, you can track the status of your refund using the IRS's Where's My Refund Tool. You can find that here: <https://www.irs.gov/wheres-my-refund>

I hope you found this helpful. Wishing you a smooth, stress-free tax season!

1 "IRA Contribution Limits," IRS, www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/plan-participant-employee/retirement-topics-ira-contribution-limits

2 "Substantiating Charitable Contributions," IRS, www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/substantiating-charitable-contributions

3 "Get Your Refund Faster," IRS, www.irs.gov/refunds/get-your-refund-faster-tell-irs-to-direct-deposit-your-refund-to-one-two-or-three-accounts



YOUR RETIREMENT VISION

We are going to be covering some important questions you should ask yourself regarding your retirement plans in the coming months. By determining the answers to these questions, you will be more likely to secure the savings and income you need for your retirement goals, while also reducing uncertainty about what the future may hold.

As always, if you ever need help with answering these questions, remember that we are here!

WHAT'S AROUND THE BEND: LISTING YOUR RETIREMENT GOALS

The first question to ask yourself regarding retirement is, "What do I want my retirement to look like?"

When asked this question, many people can usually mention one or two things they want to do, see, or focus on in retirement. But you would be surprised how quickly they trail off after that! It's a surprising fact that many people don't have a clear vision for their golden years...just a nebulous one.

That's a problem for two reasons. One, it can end up limiting all the possibilities of what retirement can be! Second, it makes the actual process of planning for retirement – saving, investing, budgeting, maximizing, managing risk – much more difficult. Why? Because when people don't know what they're saving, investing, and budgeting for, it's impossible to know how much they'll actually need. They definitely won't know what they should do or when they should do it.

This is why asking yourself, "What do I want my retirement to look like?" is so important.

To answer the question, I

recommend actually making a list. Sit down with a pen and paper, let your mind wander, and then write down whatever pops into your brain! It doesn't matter if the items on your list feel random, difficult, or even out of reach. The simple act of listing your goals, dreams, and ideas can help you prioritize and even process information more easily. It will help the future seem less nebulous and more clear.

And it will help you find the answer to all the other retirement-related questions you're likely to have along the way.

As the great Yogi Berra once said: "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there."

WHAT'S OVER THE NEXT HILL: INCOME SOURCES

One of the most important questions you can ask yourself about retirement is, "How will I replace my paycheck?"

These days, very few people can afford to retire when and how they want on their savings alone. You need a *consistent stream of income* – often more than one – to meet expenses, live your desired lifestyle, check items off your bucket list, and ensure

your money lasts a lifetime. The good news is that there are many potential wells to draw from. The following are four examples of where people look for income in retirement:

1. **Social Security.** This is the obvious one. Social Security is a key source of income, but it's important you take steps to *maximize your benefits*. If you need help with this, I'd be happy to send you more information.
2. **Dividends.** Some companies pay out a regular *dividend* – essentially, a percentage of their profits – to their shareholders. Here's a quick example of how they work. Say you own 1000 shares in a company that pays a quarterly dividend of \$0.25 a share. Multiply the dividend by the number of shares you own, and you would receive a payment of \$250 every quarter. Now, this doesn't mean that dividend-paying stocks are perfect...just that they are worth looking into.
3. **Annuities.** An annuity provides guaranteed payments to the owner for as long as they live. However, be aware that annuities can come with a lot of fine print and expenses. So, while they can be a good source of retirement income, always

exercise caution before choosing to purchase one.

4. **Bonds.** Because bondholders receive regular interest payments, they can be a fairly reliable form of investment income. Investors in higher tax brackets can also benefit from the fact that some bonds provide *tax-free* income. That said, bonds have risks. They can experience price volatility just like the stock market can. Always do your due diligence before investing.

The takeaway: If you haven't already, start thinking about where your income will come from in retirement...and let me know if you need any help with choosing the right option(s) for you!

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON: THE W'S IN YOUR WILL, PART II

Over the next few issues of this newsletter, we're going to take a deeper dive into the topic of estate planning. This month, let's discuss what I like to call the *W's in Your Will: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How*. Asking yourself these questions will help reduce uncertainty for you and your family.

WHO...will I name in my will?

Most people include their spouse, children, and certain extended family members in their will. But you need to think carefully about who will be hurt if you leave them out – you don't want your legacy to be one of unintended family drama. In addition, you may decide to bequeath assets to certain charities or other organizations that matter to you.

WHAT...assets will I leave to them?

It's important to make a list of all the various assets you have before you begin the process



of deciding who gets what. Your list should include not just your savings and investments but real estate property, vehicles, family heirlooms, collectibles, artwork, life insurance policies, and even pets. Remember, you're not just leaving money — you're leaving memories!

WHEN...should I tell my family?

Generally speaking, it's a good idea for your family to know that you *have* a will immediately after you've created it. It's also a good idea to let your will's executor know where your will is kept. However, it's often recommended that you *not* tell your beneficiaries who is receiving what — that's your own business. Revealing it too soon can lead to drama and resentment.

WHERE...should I keep my will?

If you have an attorney, storing your will with them may be a good idea. An attorney is legally obligated to keep your will confidential. However, if you don't currently have an attorney, storing it in a fireproof and waterproof safe is certainly an option, as is a bank safety deposit box. Just make sure your executor and other key family members know where it is and can access it!

WHY...am I making these decisions?

When writing your will, try to think about the loved ones you're seeking to care for. What are their needs — financial, physical, or even emotional? With each bequest, which of those needs are you satisfying? By thinking in those terms, you can create a more balanced will that actually does good for your family, as opposed to just offloading assets. Also, think about what you want your legacy to be. How do you want to be remembered? How should your will contribute to that?

HOW...often should I update my will?

Any time you go through a change-of-life event, you'll want to make sure your will is

updated. A change in marital status, a new house, the purchase of some other major asset, a new grandchild...these are all examples of life changes that may require a change in your will. In addition, a general rule of thumb is that you should review your will with an experienced financial professional at least once every five years. After all, what seemed important five years ago might seem trivial today...or vice versa!

WATCHING THE WEATHER: MARKET CONDITIONS ON THE ROAD TO RETIREMENT

In February, we saw both the S&P 500 and Dow reach all-time highs.

Early on, it seemed like it would be a topsy-turvy month. The latest inflation report found that prices were up 3.1% in January from a year prior. That's lower than the 3.4% mark we saw in December but higher than the 2.9% level that many economists predicted. As a result, the markets dipped based on the fear that the Federal Reserve will continue keeping interest rates at their current high level for the foreseeable future.

However, any negative sentiment from this report was quickly erased by more promising data. Several of the largest tech companies continue to inject momentum into the markets, while companies in the consumer discretionary and industrial sectors also did well. For the time being, the excitement over new AI-based technologies continues to buoy investors and propel the markets forward.

NELSONCORP MEDIA APPEARANCES

Be sure to catch our weekly educational content featured locally on television, radio, and the newspaper. You can get this and more at www.nelsoncorp.com/blog.

On 4 Your Money, David Nelson shared his thoughts on the Federal Reserve and when they may start cutting interest rates. He explained some of the metrics that are used when making that decision. He also warned against trying to guess the timing of rates. David returned on another segment to discuss his thoughts on the stock market activity in the first quarter of 2024. While the markets have been performing well so far this year, he stresses a disciplined process when it comes to investing. James Nelson was on another segment to discuss home prices, the housing market, and how they have been doing in regards to the interest rate cycle.

This month on Financial Focus, Nate Kreinbrink and Mike Steigerwald sat down to talk about the tax season and the importance of getting your tax documents in for their returns. They suggested listeners make any necessary adjustments to withholding after their tax returns have been filed to improve their tax return next year. They also reminded everyone to get their 2023 contributions in before the tax deadline and explained the difference between Roth IRA contributions and Traditional IRA contributions. David Nelson was on to talk about the Fed and what they try to accomplish with their rate changes. Nate was back on another episode discussing Medicare Parts A and B and the differences between supplement plans and Medicare Advantage plans.



4 Your Money airs Tuesday mornings on FOX 18 News at 8am and on WHBF CBS Local 4 News at around 6:10pm.



Financial Focus airs every Wednesday at 9:00 am on KROS FM 105.9 and AM 1340.

CLINTON HERALD

David Nelson is a guest columnist every 1st and 3rd Saturday in the Clinton Herald.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

DAVID NELSON

Even though I retired from coaching, basketball still consumes our winter months, but now in the role as a FAN. Sally and I enjoyed attending all the Iowa Women's Basketball home games (and a few away) and watching Caitlin Clark break record after record. Was an exciting time for fans, the University, and the state of Iowa!

Clients often ask about our grandchildren. We are so thankful for our children and grandchildren. We went from a family of 7 to a family of 23! The "original 7" were back together at the final regular season game for the Iowa Women's Basketball Team. Exciting game, but even greater conversation and awesome memories! Here's a picture from the game of Sally and I with our children, Emma, Samantha, John, James, and Catherine. What a fun day!



EUGENE KRUEGER

I hope this finds everyone healthy and enjoying the very mild Midwest winter of 2024! Susan and I have been in Florida since late October and el' Nino has brought one of the cooler/wetter seasons in years for Snowbirds.

Every winter, a number of Fulton, IL friends meet here in SW Florida and play 2 days of golf honoring two other friends who are no longer with us. I was able to win the Annual Traveling

Trophy and now I'm showcasing it proudly, here in our home.

I want to thank you all for your use of NelsonCorp's services but most importantly, I thank you for your friendship!



KEN NELSON



How much fun do you think the granddaughters are having! All three of them are displaying their mermaids they received from Auntie Deb and they are wearing their mermaid shirts Nana and Papa bought them at Coconut Jacks while vacationing in Florida. We were able to get all three of them together for our family Christmas and we are counting the days until we can get them back together for Easter. Can't believe that they are already three years old. What fun they are and incredibly smart, possibly too smart!

As for Nana and Papa, all is well. We spent a couple of weeks down in Florida the first part of January and came home definitely at the wrong time. Right in the middle

of the snowstorm! Hope all is well with everyone and wishing you a wonderful spring and fantastic summer.

AMY CAVANAUGH

I hope you are all enjoying this spring. It was so nice to have an early spring this year and to get through another winter. We were able to get away for a trip to the Florida Keys in late February and always enjoy the sunshine and activities. We had another granddaughter born on March 6th. Drew joined her two big sisters Sage and Nora. We are now up to five grandchildren total and love spoiling them. Enjoy this beautiful season.



NATE KREINBRINK



Another year is moving right along, as we have hopefully made it past any prolonged winter weather. We have transitioned into baseball and golf, as the boys gear up for the start of another season. Hopefully mother nature cooperates, and we don't pay for the mild winter with a not so nice spring.

We were able to spend a few days back at my parents' house over Christmas, except for my oldest

son Alijah, who had to work. As the boys have gotten older and involved with more activities, it is tougher to get everyone together at one time. It doesn't seem like that long ago when half of them were still in diapers. Cherish the memories! I hope to see many of you at our upcoming events.

JAMES NELSON

Hello everyone! I hope you all have enjoyed the beautiful spring weather. I have loved getting back in the yard recently. Things have been busy at our house. We just wrapped up basketball season and have now started soccer. All three girls will be playing again this year. I enjoy coaching all three girls.

We have also enjoyed watching the Iowa Women's basketball team this year. How lucky is Iowa to claim Caitlin Clark!? I hope everyone is well and I look forward to seeing you at our summer events.



JOHN NELSON

Happy early spring! Might this mean a good more! mushroom season this year?

Will and Isabelle have been enjoying school and both are really looking forward to their upcoming soccer and T-ball seasons. Mercedes and I will be "coaching" again and are really looking forward to it.

I'm sure like many of you, our family has enjoyed following

every game of the Iowa women's basketball team this season. As I write this, we are incredibly excited for the tournament and hope for another magical run. I hope to see many of you soon!



VAL HILL

2024 is off to a busy start for us. We were so excited to attend the Iowa Women's basketball game Feb. 15th when Caitlin Clark broke the Women's NCAA record for career points. What an exciting moment to witness!

We have done a little traveling the past couple months. We drove to Destin, Florida with some friends in January. The temperature was warmer in Clinton than in Destin, but we still had a great time. Then in February we headed to St. Maarten. We enjoyed very warm temps, great seafood, a sunset cruise, a trip to the "Top of the Mountain", beautiful beaches and more. Here's a picture from the Top of the Mountain. You can zip line back down, we didn't this year, I wanted to "check it out" first, but next year for sure!!!



JAMIE HUGUNIN

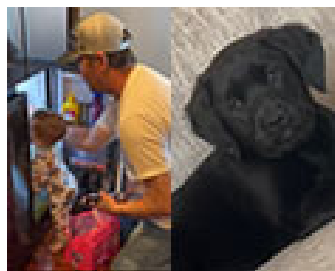
Welcome Spring! We are looking forward to getting outside and having fun. In January, we

celebrated Miles turning 4 by going to Grand Harbor Water Park and the River Museum in Dubuque. He loved it so much when he turned 3 that it was his request for his birthday again this year. Everett just turned 2 in March and we took our first trip to Shedd Aquarium. The boys loved seeing all the marine life.

They are growing all too quickly! Miles is already talking about spring soccer and can't wait for it to get started. I'm looking forward to Easter Egg Hunts with the boys. I'm sure they'll be asking me to hide eggs for weeks! Brian is gearing up for fishing and I bet Miles and Everett will have even more fun with it this year. I hope to see you all at some fun events soon!



MICHELLE EVERSOLL



For the past couple of months, my son and his family have been staying with us while they search for their new home. It's been an absolute delight having them under our roof, especially because it means I get to spend so many precious moments with my grandson. Trust me, there's never a dull moment with his infectious laughter filling our home!

We've also welcomed a new furry member into our family. My daughter and son-in-law got a

new puppy. Allow me to introduce you to Salem – an adorable and energetic lab/golden retriever mix.

MIKE STEIGERWALD



Hello to all and happy spring! Hopefully everyone is enjoying the nice warmer and longer days! I know our boys have really enjoyed being outside playing, riding their bikes, and going for walks in the neighborhood. Here is a recent picture of one of our family walks enjoying some fresh air.

William finished his latest ninja class and has started spring soccer and Joseph and Thomas watch their big brother in action. It won't be long before they are running around on that field with him. We certainly have had a busy start to spring with lots of visitors and activities. I look forward to seeing you all in our offices and at our events soon!

TRAVIS MOREHEAD



Happy New Year, everyone! I hope Happy spring everyone! Hard to believe it is already here. Winter only seemed to last a few weeks. I am fine with that! There wasn't a whole lot going on for me since the new year began besides

keeping up with tax season and trying to fit in some study time for my final RICP test. I was able to get away and celebrate my nephew's 5th birthday. He decided to hold his party at a gymnastics facility where they do "ninja classes". They had a blast. Looking forward, I am excited to break out my golf clubs and get in a few rounds this spring. I hope everyone has a happy Easter!

AMANDA SCHAUER

Hello, everyone and happy spring! I'm looking forward to being outside a lot more for some walks and yard work. I have been plenty busy this winter and have spent a lot of time with the dogs. Here's one of my favorite pictures of Hulk.



AUSTIN ECK

Spring is coming and that means birthday time in our house. Lily just turned five and can't wait for kindergarten next year, especially since she gets to have her mom as her science teacher! Emma is about to turn 11 and is gearing up for 6th grade. She's still rocking the flute and even had a chance to play with the older kids recently in the district-wide band concert. We hope everyone is well and take care!



ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

HANNAH VAN HYFTE

Hi everyone! I am so glad spring is here and I'm really looking forward to the warmer weather. I've been out for a few walks and am looking forward to many more in the days ahead. It's been a pretty busy few months for me, not only because of tax season, but I've also had quite a bit of fun outside of the office as well. I joined a book club thanks to one of our clients and have really enjoyed getting together with the group to talk books! I also hit the pickleball court at our client event and had so much fun I'm hoping to get my husband into it so we can start playing more often. Lastly, I've been out with one of my best friends to watch her husband's band play. We have so much fun dancing! We call ourselves groupies and go to every "gig". They even made me an honorary band wife. This is me with the other band wives.

And since I mentioned tax season, I have to say how much I enjoy seeing all of you coming through during this time either having your tax appointments or dropping off and picking up your tax returns. I just love all the activity! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you either in the office or at our upcoming events!



ISABEL HANSEN

Hi everyone! I am Isabel Hansen and I am so blessed to be a part of the NelsonCorp team. I

graduated from the University of Iowa in December of 2023 with a bachelor's degree in communication, and I started working at NelsonCorp in February of 2024. My goal in life is to travel the world and to see as many places as I can.

In my free time I like to spend my time with my family and friends. Recently, my mom and I spent the weekend in Galena, Illinois. We shopped, ate at Gobbie's restaurant, and watched Iowa women's basketball. It was a great weekend and a nice little getaway! I hope you are all having a nice start to the spring season and I can't wait to see you all in the office!



ANDY FERGURSON



It is the most exciting and crazy time of year again! It's great to see everyone and hear about all your adventures. The tax season is rolling and it's great. Delaney made it successfully to New Zealand. We get to talk to her each week on Zoom and she is happy and having a great

time. Mikaela is staring down the barrel of graduation and her own college experience. Aubrey is breaking basketball records at Clinton High. Everyone else is in sports or music of some kind.

Selena is doing a great job as circus master while I am "away" at work. It is a short time though and before you know it, it will be summer and vacation season again. It was good to see everyone again. I can't wait to see what this summer brings.

MIKE VANZUIDEN



Just like that it is April. I am not a big fan of winter, but this one has been mild for the most part, so I guess I can't complain. Tax season is in full swing, so free time is a bit scarce. However, due to the kindness of friends and very nice Christmas gift from our kids, we have been to Carver Hawkeye Arena a few times. To say we love watching the Iowa Women's Basketball team would be an understatement. We were blessed to witness the buzzer beater from the beak against Michigan State. It's a moment that we will never forget. Each game has been an amazing experience for us. I hope that 2024 holds many blessings for you and yours. It sure has blessed us!

TABATHA WESTPHAL

Hello Everyone!

Although this week feels like it is winter again, spring and summer are just around the

corner. For me that means my favorite time of year...baseball/softball season. This spring we will also get to enjoy track because Riley is finally able to participate in a school sport. Thankfully, all of this happens just after tax season ends so I don't have to miss anything! Life continues to be busy all the time, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Hope everyone has a great Easter!



FINANCIAL SPRING CLEANING



Spring is in the air, and that means it's time for spring cleaning. But before you pick up that feather duster, give a thought to your *financial* spring cleaning first. Getting your finances organized can reap major rewards both now and later, so here's a short, easy checklist to help you do just that.

REVIEW & CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS



Contribute the maximum amount to your IRA if you have one. For 2024 the annual IRA contribution limit is \$7000 for people under age 50 and \$8000 for those 50 or older.*

Also, be sure to review your 401(k) and increase your contributions if necessary. How has your 401(k) been performing? Do you understand how your money is being invested, and why? Are you contributing enough to take advantage of employer matching? If you don't know the answers to these questions, let me know and let's find out!

Finally, if you have fallen behind on contributing to your 401(k), the IRS allows employees age 50 or older to make extra "catch-up" contributions of up to \$7,500 per year.** Contact me if you have any questions about this!

ESTATE PLANNING

Make sure you know where all your estate planning documents are. You should have a copy of your will, power of attorney, advance medical directives, letter of instructions, and other documents in a secure but easily accessible place. Verify that your spouse (or other appropriate loved one) knows where they are. And be sure to check that your beneficiary information is up-to-date and accurate, too!

INSURANCE

Review your current insurance policies for any potential gaps. (For example, Critical Illness and Long-Term Care may come in handy down the road.)

MAKE A LIST

List out your top retirement concerns. Anything you're uncertain about? If so, let's find the answers *now* rather than waiting until retirement.

DREAM

Similarly, make a list of any new goals or dreams you have for retirement. What will it take for you to achieve them? Are you on track? If you're not sure, let's start planning together!

*"Retirement Topics - IRA Contribution Limits," The Internal Revenue Service, <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/plan-participant-employee/retirement-topics-ira-contribution-limits>

** "Retirement Topics - Catch-Up Contributions," The Internal Revenue Service, <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/plan-participant-employee/retirement-topics-catch-up-contributions>

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHARITY IS MERCYONE CLINTON FOUNDATION

MERCYONESM

More than 135 years ago, the first hospital in Clinton opened its doors to provide much needed care. With strong community support, the health system grew from humble beginnings and today offers a wide range of primary, specialty and acute care services to more than 70,000 people in the bi-state region. Working together, we assure the continuum of care is accessible to everyone in need – regardless of the ability to pay.

The generosity of our community, partners and donors who invest in MercyOne Clinton has been the common thread through the years and is greatly appreciated. In the past five years, MercyOne Clinton Foundation and community donors have helped to fund the new linear accelerator for radiation oncology (cancer care), a vein finder for the ER, fetal monitors for the OB unit, new bassinets, infant warmers, cardiac ultrasound machines, a new CT scanner, wound care procedure chairs, cardiac rehab treadmill, stepper and bikes, and provided funds for colleagues wishing to take advanced education and training. Funds donated to the MercyOne Clinton Foundation stay local and make an incredible difference in funding advancements in patient care.

Please consider supporting the MercyOne Clinton Foundation with a gift designated to the MercyOne Fund for the area of greatest need. Gifts to the MercyOne Fund are directed to the highest priority needs for patient care for the medical center and medical group. Donations may also be designated for cancer care, heart care, education and scholarships, home care/hospice, birth center, colleague support, 21st Century Endowment, or the pre-school and childcare center.

Donations can be made to the MercyOne Clinton Foundation, 1410 N. 4th Street, Clinton, IA 52732 or by contacting Julie Dunn at 563-244-3519 to set up a time to discuss making a gift.

JEANS FOR CHARITY

Every Friday, the team at NelsonCorp Wealth Management wears "Jeans for Charity". In exchange for getting to wear jeans to work, we each pay a \$5 weekly fine. At the end of the month, the fines are donated to a charity. NelsonCorp will match the fines that are collected, up to \$250.



PLACE
STAMP
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