

4						8		
	3				9	7		4
7				4		3	6	
8	7	4			5			
	2						4	
				3		5	2	7
	8	9		2				3
2		5	7				8	
		7						9

## Grilled Chicken Skewers with Tamarind Marinade

(Can't find tamarind? See \* below)

Serves 4

¼ cup tamarind concentrate  
 2 teaspoons minced garlic  
 3 tablespoons light brown sugar  
 ½ tablespoon salt  
 1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
 1½ pounds chicken tenderloins  
 Wooden skewers

Whisk tamarind, garlic, sugar, salt, and oil in a shallow dish until sugar is dissolved. Add chicken and toss to coat all pieces. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight.

Soak wooden skewers in water for at least 30 minutes before using and preheat grill to medium high. Thread 1-2 chicken tenderloins onto each skewer. Place them on the grill for about 5 minutes on each side or until internal temperature reaches 160 degrees.

Using tongs, remove from the grill and allow to rest for 5 minutes before serving.

\*Tamarind can be found in most Asian grocery stores, or mix equal parts of lime juice and additional light brown sugar as a substitute.

**Sudoku instructions:** Complete the 9 × 9 grid so that each row, each column and each of the nine 3 × 3 boxes contains the digits 1 through 9. Contact me for the solution!



### Why Not Pass Me to a Friend?

If you've enjoyed this newsletter and found its information useful, please pass it to a neighbor, friend or co-worker.

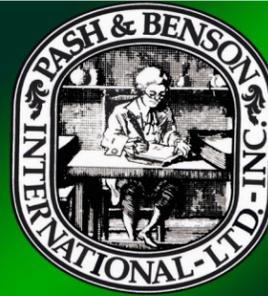
And if you have any comments about it, don't forget to give us a call or send us an email!

### Worth Quoting

- A barbecue is just the ultimate blokes' pastime, isn't it? ~ Curtis Stone
- Making money is a hobby that will complement any other hobbies you have, beautifully. ~ Scott Alexander
- Some say our national pastime is baseball. Not me. It's gossip. ~ Erma Bombeck
- Making people uncomfortable is one of my hobbies. I'm always hoping that half the people get the joke and the other half are the joke. ~ Josh Homme
- In Australia, not reading poetry is the national pastime. ~ Phyllis McGinley
- Hobbies of any kind are boring except to people who have the same hobby. ~ Dave Barry
- Apple doesn't do hobbies as a general rule. ~ Tim Cook

Unless annotated, all articles courtesy of Ready to Go Newsletters

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# PASH & BENSON INTERNATIONAL

## Planning Your Financial Future

July 2016

### Name Change Due to Marriage or Divorce

If you changed your name as a result of a recent marriage or divorce you'll want to take the necessary steps to ensure the name on your tax return matches the name registered with the Social Security Administration. A mismatch between the name shown on your tax return and the SSA records can cause problems in the processing of your return and may even delay your refund.

- If you took your spouse's last name or if both spouses hyphenate their last names, you may run into complications if you don't notify the SSA. When newlyweds file a tax return using their new last names, IRS computers can't match the new name with their Social Security Number.
- If you were recently divorced and changed back to your previous last name, you'll also need to notify the SSA of this name change.
- Informing the SSA of a name change is easy; you'll just need to file a Form SS-5, *Application for a Social Security Card* at your local SSA office and provide a recently issued document as proof of your legal name change. This form is available on SSA's website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>, by calling 800-772-1213. Your new card will have the same number as your previous card, but will show your new name.

If you adopted your spouse's children after getting married, you'll want to make sure the children have an SSN. Taxpayers must provide an SSN for each dependent claimed on a tax return

Source: IRS.gov

**Remember to call our office to schedule an appointment after your taxes have been completed for your 2016 annual review!**

### 10 Financials to Review This (and Every) Summer

We all have annual rituals – from New Year's resolutions to spring cleaning. This year, add one more: a midyear financial checkup. And what better time to do it than summer, when other obligations often ease?

We recommend evaluating the following areas to determine whether your financial health needs improvement:

- Budget.** How much are you spending? Can you trim costs by eliminating unnecessary expenditures?
- Emergency fund.** You should have liquid and accessible reserves that will cover three to six months of living expenses.
- Retirement savings.** Look at what you're contributing to retirement plans – such as 401(k)s and IRAs and consider how your funds are invested. Are changes needed?

**Benefits.** If you're employed, determine when your company offers its annual open enrollment window, then review coverage in advance to decide whether you want to make changes.

**Taxes.** Did you owe money this year or get a refund? Adjust your W-4 accordingly. Remember, while a refund is nice, it really means you're loaning money to Uncle Sam interest-free.

**Insurance.** Review your home, auto, and umbrella insurance coverage and determine whether changes are required. Do you need more coverage? Can you afford the deductibles?

**Beneficiaries.** Ensure the beneficiaries are correctly named on your bank accounts, retirement plans, and life insurance so that your assets transfer to the correct person in the event of your death.

**Probate.** If you haven't already, consider setting up your bank accounts as transfer on death (TOD) to avoid probate.

**Credit.** Review your credit reports from TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian annually. All offer one free report each year; however, you may want to arrange for one every four months throughout the year to ensure you have regularly updated information.

**Financial Advisor.** Review any of these items with your financial advisor.

**On Its Way Back To A Trillion**—From an all-time peak level of \$1.022 trillion as of 4/30/08, credit card debt in the United States fell to \$833 billion as of 4/30/11, but has since bounced back and reached \$952 billion as of 3/31/16.

Source: Federal Reserve

**Foreign Holders**—As of 12/31/15, Chinese investors held \$1,246 trillion of US treasuries, or 9.4% of the \$13,192 trillion of treasuries outstanding as of the end of last year. Japanese investors held \$1,123 trillion of US treasuries or 8.5% of the total outstanding. Source: Treasury Department

**More Than The Rate Of Inflation**—Average hourly earnings of American workers in the private sector was \$20.15 a decade ago, an amount that is equal to \$23.93 in 2016 dollars after adjusting for inflation over the last 10 years (using the Consumer Price Index). Actual average hourly earnings of American workers in the private sector are \$25.53 today. Source: Department of Labor

**Just Once Before**—The ongoing bull market for the S&P 500 index reached 87 months in length (i.e., 7 years and 3 months) as of the close of trading on 6/9/16. The bull run, the index's 11th since 1950, is just the 2nd bull since 1950 to reach 87 months in length. The S&P 500 consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation. It is a market value weighted index with each stock's weight in the index proportionate to its market value. Source: BTN Research

**Hot And Cold**—The best performing individual stock in the S&P 500 index during the first 5 months of 2016 (i.e., January—May) gained +92%. The worst performing individual stock in the S&P 500 during the first 5 months of 2016 lost 74%. Source: BTN Research

**Digital Revolution**—The number of electronic devices that are “connected online” (e.g., laptops, smart phones, cars, appliances, watches, security systems) surpassed the world's population in 2010. Within 4 years (by 2020), the number of devices and objects that will be “connected online” will reach 50 billion. The globe's population is 7.3 billion today. Source: Federal Trade Commission

**No Wiggle Room To Spare**—46% of 5,700 Americans surveyed do not have \$400 set aside in cash to cover an emergency expense and would have to sell an asset or borrow the \$400 to cover the expense. Source: Federal Reserve

## Here's the Latest Buzz on Bumblebees



Buzzing bees can be a nuisance in summer. But bees are responsible for pollinating fruits and vegetables, meaning they're a crucial part of our food production process. And they're currently under stress, thanks to the loss of habitat and pollution.

Biologists have long understood why bee pollination is important. But how bees pollinate has been something of a mystery.

That's changing. Researchers at the University of Stirling in Scotland recently released a study confirming what scientists suspected: that the innate ability to pollinate increases over time. Equally important, the study found that bumblebees make different noises when they're pollinating than they do when they're flying.

Why is this important? Bees attach themselves to a flower's anthers. When the bees buzz, the flowers vibrate. Those vibrations release pollen. Different characteristics of the buzzing noise determine how much pollen will be released.

That determines the amount of fruits and vegetables pollinated. And this can show up in our supermarkets in reduced supply and higher prices. So, love – don't swat – those bees.

## It's a Dog's World, Thanks to Home Tech

It's not only humans who benefit from the boom in home technology. As a recent article from RISMedia suggests, pets are reaping the rewards, too.

Smart thermostats allow homeowners to monitor temperature in each room and adjust for weather conditions from their smartphones or tablets. This can be a lifesaver for pets, who often suffer when owners are away and temperatures dip or rise drastically.

Owners also can control remotely when their pet's food will be dispensed, and even be notified if supplies are running low.

And for owners who have to leave their dogs alone for the day, there are “smart doggy doors” that use radio frequencies to communicate with a tag on the dog's collar and let puppy in and out.

These days, it truly is a dog's world!



## Relax and Ride the Wave during This Summer's Doldrums

Is your portfolio ready for summer?

This time of year, most of us are in vacation mode – and the same can be said for the people who drive the financial markets. Investment analysts, traders, brokers, and money managers take vacations, too. And as a result, the summer season is generally a slow time for financial markets, leading to what finance professionals call “the summer doldrums.” It's an important concept to understand, because it can affect your portfolio.

When financial professionals are out of the office, they aren't buying and selling stocks and bonds. That leads to reduced activity in the financial markets, and is sometimes referred to as “low volume.”

Interestingly, low volume means greater volatility. Why? Because the few purchases and sales that are completed have a bigger impact on the price of the stock or bond. Think about it: if you sell 1,000 shares of a stock that trades, on average, 100,000 shares a day, your sale is only 1% of the total sales volume. But during the summer doldrums, if you sell 1,000 shares of the same stock that now trades, on average, 10,000 shares a day, your sale has become 10% of the total sales volume.

You may want to keep that in mind as you review your account statements over the summer. Don't panic and decide to sell just because your investments decline; be sure you have a portfolio that is allocated appropriately for your goals, and then ride the wave. And take heart: the summer doldrums end after Labor Day.

## Worth Reading

**In the Future, We Will Photograph Everything and Look at Nothing**

By Om Malik  
*The New Yorker*

As Malik says, “We are all taking too many photos and spending very little time looking at them.” While current software that allows a “photographer” to edit on the go is alluring, it also may feel like a luxury we humans have control over that machines have already begun to take over from us.

**More:** <http://tinyurl.com/July-reads-1>

**More Than Half of What Americans Eat Is “Ultra-Processed”**

By Julie Beck  
*The Atlantic*

Another study confirms it: North Americans eat too much ultra-processed food. Ultra-processed foods are those with substances added, often to create sensory experiences similar to natural food, or to mask deficiencies. They're also very high in added sugar, and that's problematic. Dietary guidelines recommend that fewer than 10% of calories should come from added sugar. People with diets high in ultra-processed foods average much more. **More:** <http://tinyurl.com/July-reads-3>

## IRS Warns of Latest Scam Variation Involving Bogus “Federal Student Tax”

The Internal Revenue Service issued a warning to taxpayers about bogus phone calls from IRS impersonators demanding payment for a non-existent tax, the “Federal Student Tax.”

Even though the tax deadline has come and gone, scammers continue to use varied strategies to trick people, in this case students. In this newest twist, they try to convince people to wire money immediately to the scammer. If the victim does not fall quickly enough for this fake “federal student tax”, the scammer threatens to report the student to the police.

“These scams and schemes continue to evolve nationwide, and now they're trying to trick students,” said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. “Taxpayers should remain vigilant and not fall prey to these aggressive calls demanding immediate payment of a tax supposedly owed.”

Scam artists frequently masquerade as being from the IRS, a tax company and sometimes even a state revenue department. Many scammers use threats to intimidate and bully people into paying a tax bill. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the driver's license of their victim if they don't get the money. Some examples of the varied tactics seen this year are:

- Demanding immediate tax payment for taxes owed on an iTunes gift card.
- Soliciting W-2 information from payroll and human resources professionals
- “Verifying” tax return information over the phone
- Pretending to be from the tax preparation industry

The IRS urges taxpayers to stay vigilant against these calls and to know the telltale signs of a scam demanding payment.

### The IRS Will Never

- Call to demand immediate payment over the phone, nor call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

More information on how to [report phishing or phone scams](#) is available on IRS.gov.