

MONEY MONDAY

SMART MONEY

It's tough to sell a time share

BY BRUCE WILLIAMS
Universal UClick

DEAR BRUCE: We have a time share that we want to get rid of. It has been a horrible mistake for us. It was a high-pressure sales job with lots of promises.

We have received a lot of phone calls about renting or selling it. We tried twice but lost our money on it. We want to get rid of the time share and have been unable to find any information on how to go about selling it. — M.S., Huntsville, Ala.

DEAR M.S.: You are finding out the hard way that selling — and sometimes giving away — a time share is virtually impossible.

Unless the circumstances are very unusual, you can start with the premise that you're going to take a financial hit and will not get back what you paid for your unit.

You say you tried twice to rent or sell. I'm assuming that you went for one of the pitches, generally made over the phone, in which the company wants to list your time share for a \$300 to \$400 fee (sometimes more). But then nothing came of it, which is not unusual.

Renting may be a different matter, and you may be able to rent it if you make the effort yourself. That means advertising it online, in print media, etc.

There are sales organizations that might be worth your while to contact. They are generally located near where your time share is located.

If you don't get any action in selling or renting the time share and you decide to abandon it, first get good legal advice as to what the time-share company will likely do. Some make a lot of noise but then let the time share revert back to them. Others will go to court.

In most cases, the contract you signed demands that if the matter goes to court, it be settled in the court where the company is headquartered, not where you live. That can result in more expense.

DEAR BRUCE: I am the first of four children. Our father passed away in September. He had about \$14,000 in the bank, a pickup truck and a home on a little piece of property. He had no debt. We have an older will showing a brother as executor, but the newest will, which we can't find, shows our little sister as executor.

Since my father's death, my niece has been living in his home. She is unemployed, and my sister has been paying all the bills with what Daddy had left in the bank. She is co-owner of his bank account, so she can legally spend his money. I don't mind my niece living there, but I don't like the fact that she is getting my inheritance and I am getting nothing and not being asked anything.

My sister has decided to do this on her own, and she is still grieving for our dad. His death has really thrown her for a loop, and she is not ready to start making any decisions regarding his estate. I have no idea what to do or where to start. — Reader, via email

DEAR READER: There are several things we have to deal with.



Dr. Victoria M. Gorney-Tutak is the owner of Advanced Chiropractic Centers at 17331 Penn Valley Dr., Penn Valley.

Photo for The Union by John Hart

What a relief Chiropractor offers ways to ease 'needless pain'

Editor's note: Victoria Gorney-Tutak, D.C., Psy.D., is the owner of Advanced Chiropractic Centers in Penn Valley.

What is your job?
Chiropractic physician.

How did you get into this business?

During my third year of undergrad studies at Wayne State University, while taking pre-med courses, I had sustained a back injury.

After seeing a number of medical physicians, I was advised I would have to live with the problem and take pain medication.

One day my father encouraged me to see a chiropractor. After a series of treatments that stabilized my spine, I was convinced that I wanted to become a chiropractor.

What special education or preparation is required?

The educational requirements to become a chiropractic physician are very similar to becoming a medical physician.

After completing four years pre-med at Wayne State University in Michigan, I then completed four years of professional chiropractic education at Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, graduating in 1987.

In 1991, I completed an additional three years of post-graduate education, specializing in chiropractic orthopedics at Western State Chiropractic College in Oregon.

What surprises most people about your job?

The educational requirements that chiropractic doctors must go through and that the chiropractic profession is the second largest primary health care profession in the world.

Additionally, how chiropractic care works, focusing on the structural components of the body, the spine and the spinal nervous systems, how this relationship relates to the body's ability to function properly.

In simplest terms, chiropractic is not just for back pain. It provides a natural

approach to health care and is an essential, complementary component to our health care delivery system.

What do you love about your work?

I love seeing my patients get relief from their pain and suffering, while further obtaining optimum health through maximizing the inherent recuperative ability of their own body.

What do you find most challenging?

Throughout my career, I have struggled with watching people suffer needlessly in pain, from diseases that chiropractic could have helped.

What future changes or issues are ahead for this field?

During the past 25 years in practice, I have watched chiropractic evolve into mainstream health care.

On the horizon, I envision coordinated collaboration of each branch of the medical profession, facilitating optimal standard of health care for patients.



THE ECONOMY

7 reasons the job gains could last this time

BY PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Wait — haven't we seen this movie before?

Companies are generating waves of jobs, and unemployment is down.

The same thing happened last year around this time. Then everything faded to black starting with the earthquake in Japan, which struck a year ago Sunday.

Does a happier ending await the job market this time? Economists seem to think so.

For reasons ranging from

progress on Europe's debt crisis to a slowly improving housing market to slightly less gridlock in Congress, the economy and the

job market appear better able to withstand setbacks than they were in 2011.

"The internal dynamics of the U.S. economy look pretty good right now," says Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Asset Management.

U.S. employers added 227,000 jobs in February, the third straight month of 200,000-

plus job growth. The unemployment rate remained 8.3 percent, but it was 9 percent as recently as September. By all measures, the

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job market is strengthening by the month.

Then again, the numbers can conjure an unsettling sense of déjà vu. Last year, the job market had a similar three-month

run. From February through April, the economy added an average 239,000 jobs each month.

Helping drive that growth was a new Social Security tax cut that put more money in paychecks for 160 million Americans. The tax cut gives \$1,000 a year, or nearly \$20 a week, to someone making \$50,000. It gives up to \$4,272 or roughly \$82 a week, to a household with two high-paid workers.

The Social Security tax cut was supposed to expire at the

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CONSUMER REPORTS

COMMENTARY

Real-life Greek tragedy

You have to wonder how a little country like Greece going bankrupt can threaten the world's financial system. Stock markets have been in a tizzy over the last year or so



MARC CUNIBERTI
Money Matters

with every hiccup we hear about Greece's problems — going up with every proposed bail out and then dropping like a stone with every new debt problem.

Greece's annual Gross Domestic Product figure (what its economy makes in total) comes in around a mere one-third of a trillion and the country is way down on the list of the world's economies based on size.

Can a Greek default threaten the whole world and what does that mean for Spain, Italy or France, countries whose economies are much larger?

Actually Greece going under wouldn't do so much damage if financial firms hadn't gotten involved and placed massive bets on whether Greece would or would not default. As usual, it's these "bets" that create a big problem out of a little country.

A nasty little invention called the Credit Default Swap (CDS) is to partly blame and it's the brainchild of big financial firms trying to make money in a zero interest rate environment.

They bet by insuring and buying insurance on a Greek default.

Insurance policies are created and sold in exchange for premium payments. A lender to Greece buys an insurance policy

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AAUW event raises funds for AAUW scholarships

SUBMITTED TO THE UNION

The Foothills Flowers and Fools Trivia Bee, a fundraising event for Auburn AAUW's scholarships for local girls and women, will begin at 6 p.m. March 31, at the Auburn Regional Park Gym, 3770 Richardson Dr.

Teams of local community members and leaders compete to see who rules at knowing their local and general trivia. The winners take home a trophy until they defend their title