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your money



social security: your questions answered

Q: My daughter just joined a nonprofit charity and is helping victims of natural disasters. She gets a salary. We were wondering if she has to pay Social Security tax.

A: Yes, people who work for nonprofits and who receive a salary must pay Social Security tax just like everyone else. It is commendable that she is helping people in need. But the fact is she is also a wage earner. Those wages and the Social Security tax she pays on them will offer her financial relief in the future, when it comes time to apply for Social Security. For more information, visit our electronic publication, "How You Earn Credits" at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Joanne Crane is district manager of the Social Security office at 3310 Route 66, Neptune, NJ 07753. Call 800-772-1213 for information.



Rich and Amy Costello are building this modular home in Lavallette. ROBERT WARD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

Needing to rebuild after Sandy, some residents have turned to modular homes

By Michael L. Diamond @mdiamondapp

Richard and Amy Costello always viewed their bungalow in Lavallette as a modest vacation spot instead of a luxurious resort, so when it came time to rebuild after Sandy, they didn't shy away from replacing it with a modular home.

Their research found it was a less expensive and faster option than a traditional, so-called "stick-built" home. And as they took a tour last week, they began to think that the entire project could be completed in time for Christmas.

"They've got it down to a science," Richard Costello said.

Homeowners trying to rebuild after Sandy have found modular homes a logical option in their quest to return to their pre-superstorm lives. The structures are designed with a computer program, manufactured in the controlled climate of a factory, assembled on site in a few hours and, even with sophisticated designs, ready for occupancy within a few months.

The homes still have skeptics who say traditional building offers flexibility to fit the quirks that contractors can encounter.

But modular home builders dismiss those concerns,

and homeowners are showing more interest in the homes. Once associated with trailer parks that invariably were swept away by tornadoes, manufactured homes now can be found in some of the Shore's wealthiest towns.

'There's another one'

"I drive down the street and say, 'Wow there's another one, there's another one,'" said Terrance Hegel, owner of Atlantic Modular Builders in Manasquan, which has been building modular homes at the Shore for 10 years.

His company's sales this year have more than doubled. Its staff has increased from four employees to nine. And it now tells new customers that it is booked for a year and a half, Hegel said.

The Costellos live in Wilmington, Del. They usually rent their Lavallette home during the summer and use it themselves after Labor Day, Amy Costello's favorite time of year at the Shore.

The previous home had been in the family since Richard's uncles

See PIECES, Page B7

WATCH THE VIDEO

Scan this QR code or visit www.app.com to watch a video on modular homes.



Local Business Briefs

Wall woman chosen as TD Bank branch manager

Victoria Rogers of Wall has joined TD Bank as branch manager in Red Bank. She is responsible for new business development, consumer and business lending, managing personnel and overseeing the daily operations. Rogers has 15 years of banking experience. She formerly served as a banking center manager for Bank of America in Rumson.



Rogers

Eatontown couple open Monster Mini Golf

Bill and Christina Yadlon of Eatontown announced opening of Monster Mini Golf at 749 Hope Road, Eatontown. The new golf center is open from 2 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 2 to 10 p.m. Fridays, noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 8 p.m. Sundays.

Fitness studio opens doors in Toms River

Extraordinary Fitness has opened at 1898 Hinds Road, Toms River. Rudy and Danielle Rosa are the owners. They are both certified personal trainers and have more than six years of experience.

Chambers plan joint business expo

Five chambers of commerce will hold a Mega Business Expo from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6 at Martell's Tiki Bar, Point Pleasant Beach. Join the Brick Township, Toms River-Ocean County, Lakewood, Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach chambers of commerce. The event is free, but reservations are requested. For information, call 732-349-0220.

Local Briefs are compiled by Renee Freeman. Information businesses, expansions, trade association awards and business notes on people may be mailed to her attention at rffreeman@njpressmedia.com.

Markets weekly change

Dow ▲ +170.63 Close 15,570.28	Nasdaq ▲ +29.08 Close 3,943.36
APP/Bloomberg ▲ +2.01 Close 178.56	S&P 500 ▲ +15.27 Close 1,759.77

Some new mutual funds are worth a long look

As long as you're throwing out the bums in Congress - you are, right? - why not throw out some of your old, poorly performing mutual funds? Once you've done that, you can look at new funds, some of which are extremely promising.

Most mutual funds preach long-term investing, despite the fact that most actively managed funds trade stocks at a frenetic rate. The average large-company blend fund, for example, replaces about 64 percent of its portfolio each year, Morningstar said.

But there's no particular need to hang on to a badly performing actively managed fund. Typically, a fund company judges a manager on his three-year record. There's no reason you shouldn't, either. At least by the three-year test, there are plenty of large, poorly performing funds. The three funds with assets of more than \$1 billion that have lagged their peers the past three years: American Funds Investment Company of America, \$49 billion in assets, lagging 66 percent of its peers. Davis NY Venture, \$11 billion in assets, lagging 81 percent of its peers. Hartford Capital Appreciation, \$5.6 billion in assets, lagging 74 percent of peers.



INVESTING John Waggoner

None of these funds got big by being dummies: All have had substantial periods of outperformance. But waiting for them to return to glory could be a long wait. In some cases, their size may be an impediment; it can take longer to unwind big positions that managers no longer like, and longer to accumulate significant stakes in funds that managers do like.

Better records

In many cases, you can find a fund with a better record. For example, most funds that follow the

Standard & Poor's 500 stock index have clobbered the average large-company blend fund, Morningstar said. These funds often have lower expenses than the average actively managed fund, a huge edge. The bulk of a portfolio should be in low-cost funds that track a broad-based index, such as the S&P 500 or the Russell 3000, which tracks nearly the entire universe of U.S. stocks, large and small.

The fund industry is prone to rolling out specialized funds in hot areas, and you should avoid them.

See FUNDS, Page B7