

SEPT
OCT
2026

HW



THE Gold Standard

THE WEALTHOLOGIST'S WISDOM

The Best Investments Don't Show Up on a Statement

When I turned 50 this year, I spent some time thinking about what I wanted that milestone to mean. One thing I decided was that I wanted to invest more intentionally in my daughters.

For Sloane, that meant taking her to a three-day leadership conference as her interest in business and entrepreneurship has grown. For Blythe, it has meant spending hours together learning to cook, from pasta and sushi to meals we can actually make at home.

Those experiences reminded me that investing in the next generation is about more than money. It can be time, experiences, knowledge and simply paying attention to what interests them.

But there is also a practical financial way to do it.

Instead of buying another birthday or Christmas gift that may eventually end up

in a closet, consider occasionally giving a child stock in a company they know.

When they are young, you might choose it for them. As they get older, let them help research and decide what they want to own. Talk about why the company makes money, what could go wrong, and why investing is generally about patience rather than quick results.

Imagine doing that over the course of their childhood.

By 18, they wouldn't just have a portfolio. They would have years of conversations about businesses, ownership, risk, patience and building wealth.

And maybe more importantly, they would inherit the story behind the investments.

The older I get, the more I believe some of the best things we can give the next generation are not simply assets.



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SADIE BISHOP, ASSOCIATE WEALTH ADVISOR

Wealth Isn't What You Own

Most people think wealth means bigger houses, nicer cars, and European vacations. We measure financial progress by our net worth, portfolio size, and business valuation - numbers that represent years of hard work and what we've built. But there's a problem with measuring wealth only by what we own. You can be financially wealthy and still be time-poor, exhausted, unhealthy, and disconnected from the people you care about most. Real wealth is bigger than a balance sheet. It's having the resources to create a life that feels rich, not just one that looks rich.

YOUR TIME HAS A PRICE

Money can buy things, but its greatest value may be what it allows you to stop doing. When your income grows, you can trade money for time. You can outsource the tasks that drain your energy and use those hours for the things money alone can't create: time with your family, a healthy body, meaningful work, or simply having room to breathe. The goal isn't endless leisure; it's having more control in how you spend it.

If I spend \$400 a month on a cleaning service, I'm not just paying someone to clean my house; I'm buying back the hours I would have spent doing it myself. Those hours give me more time with people I care about, more opportunities to explore Charlotte, more space to reflect and reconnect with myself, and more time to invest in my health so I can enjoy the experiences I want for longer. Suddenly, that \$400 monthly expense isn't just a cost, but a potential investment with returns that can go far beyond the dollars spent.

HEALTH IS AN ASSET, NOT AN EXPENSE

I see people who are financially successful but not holistically well. Too often, we overlook the importance of investing in our health until the consequences of neglecting it begin to catch up with us. That's especially important to recognize because retirement isn't just a financial event; it's a physical one, too.

Investing in your health can mean spending money to protect your energy, strength, longevity, and ability to perform at your best. These expenses may not look like investments on a balance sheet, but they protect the asset that makes everything else possible: you. Your ability to work, lead, earn, create, and enjoy your wealth depends on your physical and mental capacity. After all, what good is financial freedom if you don't have the health or energy to enjoy it?

MONEY CAN CREATE OPTIONS

Financial freedom isn't necessarily about having enough money to stop working. It's about having enough financial security so that money doesn't dictate every decision you make. When you have a financial cushion, you gain options. You can leave a job that no longer serves you, take time off, change careers, move somewhere new, pursue an opportunity that feels uncertain, or help someone you love. You can say no when something isn't right because you don't have to say yes just to keep the bills paid.

THE ULTIMATE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The goal isn't to stop pursuing financial success. It's to ask a better question: "*Will spending this money give me more of the things I actually want my life to contain?*" Because the ultimate return on wealth isn't another dollar in your bank account. It's found in the time you get back, the health you preserve, the choices you can make, and the people you get to share it all with. The point of building wealth isn't to have more money. It's to have more life.

THE GOOD LIFE

Get Moving!

There's some magic in stepping outside with no destination in mind, just the open air, an easy pace and the chance to see what the day has to offer. A nature walk doesn't ask for much: there's no special gear, no training and no need to set aside a chunk of your time. It's one of life's simplest and most rewarding pleasures.

NATURE WALKS

Walking outdoors has been considered a safe and easy way to look after your well-being for years, but the rewards go much further than that. According to a 2023 study, it can also be used to mitigate stress levels, lift your spirits and even improve your mood.¹

FINDING A TRAIL CLOSE TO HOME

The best trail is one that you can easily use. Try looking for neighborhood greenways, city parks or riverside paths close to your home. Online apps like AllTrails can help you see things like distance and reviews from other walkers. Pick a shorter route to stretch your legs at your own pace.



KEEP EYES AND EARS OPEN

Half of a nature walk is what you see along the way. You can notice plants and animals that you haven't thought about before. Watch for movement off the trail. A free app like Merlin can help identify birdsongs. Fall is when trees start to change color, so you'll be surrounded by the change of the season. Pick one thing to look for each time out and give your brain some stimulation!

¹Ma, Jingni, Peilin Lin and Joanne Williams. Aug. 19, 2023. "Effectiveness of nature-based walking interventions in improving mental health in adults: a systematic review." *Current Psychology*, vol. 43, 2024, pp. 9521-9539, Springer, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-05112-z>. Accessed June 15, 2026.

HOW TO ...

How to Protect Your Digital Legacy in an Afternoon

Autumn is the season for preserving what matters. Your home gets that treatment every year. Your digital life probably hasn't — yet.

Four things to do this fall:

- **List your key accounts** — email, banking, social media, subscriptions. If something happened to you tomorrow, would your family know where to look?
- **Store passwords securely** — a password manager or a printed "legacy letter" kept with your important documents works well. No sticky notes.

- **Organize your photos** — consolidate camera rolls, label albums and back everything up to a shared folder your family can find and enjoy.
- **Note your digital financial assets** — PayPal balances, investment accounts and cryptocurrency need to be included in your estate plan.

None of this takes more than an afternoon, and the confidence it provides lasts considerably longer.





DOLLARS & SENSE

The \$15 Million Exemption: Good News, but Not the Whole Story

For years, families with money to bequeath watched one date like hawks: Dec. 31. The federal exemption — the amount you can give away without triggering gift or estate tax — was set to drop by about half at the end of 2025. That looming deadline pushed many people to gift in a hurry. Then it changed.

Under current law, the exemption didn't shrink.¹ It climbed to \$15 million per person in 2026 — \$30 million for a married couple. The amount you can give to any single person each year, no strings attached, holds steady at \$19,000.

The pressure of that 2025 deadline is gone, but gifting shouldn't drop off your to-do list.

WHY GIFTING STILL MATTERS

- **State taxes.** Many states tax estates at far lower levels than the federal government, and a few even tax the people who inherit. The federal change didn't touch any of this.
- **The rules can change again.** Today's exemption reflects current law, not a permanent promise. Congress can revisit it.
- **Growing assets.** Give away an asset now, and all its future growth leaves your estate too.
- **The yearly clock.** That \$19,000-per-person allowance resets every Jan. 1. If you don't use it, it's gone.

PRACTICAL MOVES

- **Yearly gifts:** Give up to \$19,000 per person each year, no paperwork, no dent in your \$15 million lifetime amount. Couples can combine for \$38,000 per person, but splitting gifts means filing a gift tax return, even when no tax is owed.
- **Tuition and medical payments:** Pay tuition directly to the school or medical bills directly to the provider, and those payments skip both your yearly limit and lifetime amount.
- **Larger lifetime gifts:** Best for fast-growing assets, like a family business stake meant to stay in the family. Bonus: At your death, an inherited asset's tax "cost" usually resets to current value — erasing a big capital gains bill for your heirs.
- **Trusts:** For more control, a trust dictates how and when heirs receive money, shields assets from creditors and guides wealth across generations. A Spousal Lifetime Access Trust moves assets out of your estate while your household still accesses them through a spouse.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Fall is a natural time to slow down and take stock. As the year winds down, it's worth setting aside an afternoon to review your gifting plans and ensure your documents still reflect what you truly want.

If you'd like a fresh look at your gifting strategy, we'd be glad to help. Reach out to our office whenever you're ready.

¹Russell P. Love, Jonathan Gopman. Nelson Mullins. Feb. 9, 2026. "2026 Estate and Gift Tax Update." <https://www.nelsonmullins.com/insights/blogs/tax-reports/all/2026-estate-and-gift-tax-update>. Accessed June 23, 2026.

THE SCOOP

Campus Is Calling — and There's No Homework This Time

Something happens every September. The air shifts, the light changes, and even decades past your last classroom, you feel it: that quiet pull to start something new. This year, lean into it.

THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON CAMPUS

Many colleges offer adults 60 and older the chance to **audit courses for free or close to it**. You can sit in on real lectures alongside traditional students without the stress. The benefits are real:

- **Intellectual stimulation:** Engage with ideas that challenge and stretch you.
- **Structure:** A standing weekly commitment that adds rhythm to your days.
- **Variety:** History, literature, philosophy, science, art history, economics — the catalog is yours to explore.
- **No pressure:** Learn at your own pace, with zero grade on the line.

MORE THAN A CLASSROOM

Being on a university campus puts you in an environment built around curiosity. That kind of energy is contagious, and for retirees who miss the social rhythm of working life, it fills a real gap.

BONUS: Many universities also run dedicated **lifelong learning institutes**. These programs are designed specifically for older adults, complete with lecture series, discussion groups and a community of peers in the same life stage. To get started:



- Search “[your nearest university] + senior audit program.”
- Call the registrar’s office and ask what’s available this fall.
- Show up. That’s the hardest part.

Retirement should be full of exploration. It’s a time to invest in yourself in ways you couldn’t before. Take that first step and discover how rewarding it can be to keep your mind active and your horizons expanding.

10	2	10	2	12	8	4	4	5
3	10	2	3	3	3	1	6	3
13	2	3	4	6	8	3	7	8
12	3	8	7	5	6	1	4	4
3	11	3	8	5	2	11	1	2
1	7	8	4	8	3	4	8	4
5	8	4	9	5	7	8	1	2
4	7	2	12	3	6	3	1	2
6	3	12	3	6	2	12	1	13

BRAIN GAMES

15 Up

Game Rules

Use a pen or pencil to draw the boundaries around groups of cells to make the region add up to fifteen exactly. The regions can be any shape as long as all the cells touch each other (but not diagonally). There is only one way to achieve this.

PICK UP THE PHONE!



A name pops into your head; you wonder how that person is doing, and you tell yourself you'll reach out one of these days. Then the day never comes. This fall, change that!

There's good reason to make the effort. Staying socially connected can be one of the simplest ways to boost your well-being as you age. A meaningful conversation can make you smile long after it's over. Here's a simple, no-pressure plan for reconnecting with an old friend.

Who You Gonna Call?

Don't overthink it. Make a short list of people you want to catch up with. They can be a former coworker, a college roommate, an old neighbor or a high school buddy. You may already have their number saved or written in an old address book. If not, a few minutes of detective work usually does the trick.

- **Check your phone and email.** Old texts, group threads and email chains can hold a current number or address.
- **Look at social media.** Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram make it easy to find people and send a message directly.
- **Ask a mutual friend.** If you share a connection, a quick "Do you have their number?" is all it takes.

Breaking the Ice

Choose how you want to reach out. You could send a text first if you want them to reply on their own time, write a note or card if you want to be more personal or make a phone call if you want to talk to them faster.

Keep it simple and honest. The goal is connection, not a grand reunion. You can set that up on the call if you both want to! Let the conversation wander, but don't take silence personally. If you don't hear back from them, a friendly follow-up later is fine. Wrap up with "Let's not wait so long next time" — and mean it.

Make the Call This Week

Reconnecting takes less effort than you'd expect, and most people are glad to hear from a familiar voice. Pick your name, find their number and reach out.



HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

Welcome Nick Morabito and Anna Grady Wilson!

We are excited to welcome Nick Morabito and Anna Grady Wilson to the Hobart Wealth team!

Nick joins us as our newest Client Service Associate, bringing a client-first mindset and a strong attention to detail to every interaction. In his role, Nick supports clients and advisors throughout the onboarding process and assists with ongoing account service needs. Whether he is answering questions, coordinating requests, or helping make the client experience as smooth as possible, Nick is focused on building strong relationships and ensuring each client feels supported and cared for.

Outside of work, Nick enjoys lifting weights, golfing, playing pickleball, exploring Charlotte’s local coffee shops, and spending time with friends and family. A lifelong sports fan, he can often be found cheering on the Miami Hurricanes, New York Knicks, New York Yankees, and Miami Dolphins.

We are thrilled to have Nick on board!

We are also excited to welcome Anna Grady Wilson as our Marketing Operations Manager. Anna Grady will play an important role in helping develop and execute marketing initiatives that support Hobart Wealth’s growth, brand presence, and overall client experience. She works closely with leadership and cross-functional teams to coordinate marketing campaigns, events, and business development initiatives, helping ensure the firm’s marketing efforts are strategic, organized, and aligned with long-term goals.

Outside of the office, Anna Grady enjoys exploring Charlotte with her dog, Hallie, discovering new restaurants and coffee shops, and taking yoga and Pilates classes. As a fourth-generation Clemson graduate, she also loves returning to campus for football games whenever she can.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Nick and Anna Grady. We are proud to have them as part of the Hobart Wealth team and look forward to all they will contribute!



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RECIPE
CHILI

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb ground beef
- 2 15 oz cans kidney beans, drained & rinsed
- 1 15 oz can corn
- 1 28 oz can Rotel
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 1 packet ranch dressing mix

HOW TO MAKE IT:

1. In a large pot over medium-high heat, brown ground beef and drain.
2. Return ground beef to pot and add remaining ingredients. Let simmer over low heat until heated through and thickened.
3. Add desired toppings – chips, cheese, sour cream, etc. Serve warm and enjoy!

BRAIN GAMES

ANSWER KEY:

10	2	10	2	12	8	4	4	5
3	10	2	3	3	3	1	6	3
13	2	3	4	6	8	3	7	8
12	3	8	7	5	6	1	4	4
3	11	3	8	5	2	11	1	2
1	7	8	4	8	3	4	8	4
5	8	4	9	5	7	8	1	2
4	7	2	12	3	6	3	1	2
6	3	12	3	6	2	12	1	13



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UPCOMING DATES / HOLIDAYS

SEPTEMBER

7 - Labor Day - Offices Closed

11 - Patriot Day

13 - Grandparents Day

OCTOBER

15 - Medicare - Open Enrollment Begins

15 - Deadline to File Federal Taxes (if you received an extension)

31 - Halloween



HW

Fall Financial Check-In

There's still time to be proactive before year-end.

- Tax Planning
- Required Distributions
- Charitable Giving
- Estate & Beneficiary Updates

Have a question about what applies to you?

Your Hobart Wealth team is here to help.

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