



Bender, Weltman, Thomas, Perry & Co, PC
Certified Public Accountants

Beyond Beans



Bradley R. Gilmore, CPA

Here we grow again!

We all know how exciting it is to add a new member to the family. Well over the past year we've added a partner, a manager, and many other professional and administrative staff to our family bringing our total to over 40 employees. Why are we so excited? These individuals allow us to expand our product lines and continue to provide excellent and timely services to you!

Our new partner, Bradley R. Gilmore, CPA has significant experience providing consulting, tax and business planning, compliance, controllership, attestation, and mergers and acquisition services to closely-held businesses. His industry knowledge includes manufacturers, distributors, professional service companies, real estate development and management companies, construction companies, restaurants, retailers, dental and medical professionals and non-profit organizations.

Our newest manager is Robert B. Schmidt, CPA. Bob has approximately 20 years of experience in serving small, medium, and large size clients. His areas of expertise include providing tax, business advisory services, financial planning, and accounting and auditing services to individuals and privately held businesses.

Both are members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA).

Did you know?

If an organization has 100 or more participants in their 401(k) plan they are required to have an annual audit performed by a CPA firm.

Need more information?
Contact Lori Plescia, CPA,
PFS at 314.576.1350 Ext.
3565.

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What is the Plan?

Is your business prepared for a disaster?

By Mary Kraemer, Accounting Services

As we all know, disaster can strike anywhere at any time. Wildfires, floods (rivers and sewers), tornados, earthquakes, lighting and terrorism, both mother nature and human nature can strike fast and hit hard. From my experience, the majority of small businesses are nowhere near close to being prepared for a true disaster.

For most of us, the thought of creating a plan sounds like a headache looking for a place to happen. But, without advance planning, recovering from a disaster becomes a far more costly effort. It is easier to think of disaster recovery planning as a process not a project. It truly is a long-term investment in the firm's success.

A good disaster recovery plan should provide a blueprint to enable a firm that has experienced an emergency or disaster impacting its ability to operate and to resume its services in:

- the minimum amount of time
- with minimum disruption, and
- at minimum cost

The planning process should include appropriate provisions for handling a large number of factors that are likely to arise in the event of a disaster or dislocation, including, but not limited to:

- Employees
- Clients
- Physical facilities
- Communications
- Business operations
- Third-party service providers
- Information resources



To get started, follow these five basic steps:

- Establish a team
- Analyze and define what needs to be done
- Create a sample plan
- Test the plan using a practice scenario
- Revise and maintain your plan

If you would like more information on disaster recovery planning, please contact *Mary Kraemer* at our office at 314-576-1350 Ext. 3398.



Less Paper Rather Than Paperless

By Russ Frink, Senior Staff Accountant



Our firm has recently undertaken the project of becoming paperless. Paperless sounds very different from what it actually is. We still use paper when needed. However, we just use less of it. The benefits of becoming paperless are not only limited to reduced paper costs. Our firm has also noticed the following additional benefits:

- Additional production space obtained through the reduction of file storage
- Searchable files return results in seconds
- Restrictive viewing rights for individual users
- A trail reflecting changes made by user and at what time
- Consistent naming conventions and file organization

There are some initial capital outlays required when becoming paperless. These initial expenditures include, but are not limited, to the paperless software package, a quality scanner(s), and additional computer monitors. However, with the Section 179 expense deduction these items qualify for accelerated depreciation which can be used to reduce taxable income.

Although this may seem daunting, it appears more and more businesses are heading in this direction. From credit card statements to filing your taxes electronically, paperless is slowly becoming the standard rather than the exception.

What is it worth to you?

By Ray Brune, CPA, CVA

In addition to tax, consulting, auditing, and accounting services, we also offer business valuation services. Business valuations use a variety of methods and calculations to make a determination as to the value of a business. Business valuations are most commonly required in conjunction with estate and gift taxes, succession planning, divorce proceedings, and sales of businesses.

The certified valuation analyst is the premier accreditation for CPA's who are uniquely qualified to provide business valuation and litigation consulting services. To become a CVA requires that the applicant be a licensed CPA, successfully complete an intensive training and testing process, and obtain a minimum number of continuing education hours each year.



If you are in a situation where a business valuation may be required, please contact me.

***Ray Brune, CPA, CVA at 314-576-1350
Ext.3388***

EDUCATION WITH A BITE

Contact Lori Coachman at 314-576-1350 Ext. 3376 for more information

On the second Friday of each month from May to November we will be holding our educational breakfast series at The Lodge Des Peres in Des Peres, MO.

We offer these seminars at a nominal cost of \$25 per attendee. Your registration fee includes one hour of continuing education credit, course materials, and a continental breakfast. We ask that you register at least two weeks before the actual date of each breakfast.

Friday, May 9, 2008—EMBEZZLEMENT

- *Do you have the knowledge to protect yourself against embezzlement?*

Friday, June 13, 2008—RETIREMENT PLANS

- *Are you saving for retirement? Which plan is right for you and/or your practice?*

Friday, July 11, 2008—DENTAL STATISTICS

- *Review the last five years and look for trends.*

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