



# **The JPT Financial Newswire**

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**JPT FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, INC.**

*accounting control consultants & solutions specialists*

**Advisory • Tax • Accounting**

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## ● **WAYS TO TRIM YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL BUDGET**

The National Retail Federation predicts combined spending for back to school and college is expected to reach \$74.9 billion (\$669.28 per family) on apparel, shoes, supplies and electronics, up 5 percent from last year. That's quite a bit of money for many families, so it's best to try and make that dollar amount stretch as much as possible. Here are some ways to ace your back-to-school budget problems.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15911>

Source: e-CPA, 8/8/14

## ● **KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE BEFORE TAKING STUDENT LOANS**

With student loan defaults at historic highs, students and their parents need to understand the ramifications of defaulting on a student loan. Parents need to think carefully about co-signing for a student loan and be sure they understand what it could mean to their own financial future.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15912>

Source: e-CPA, 8/8/14

## ● **TOP TEN TAX FACTS IF YOU SELL YOUR HOME**

Do you know that if you sell your home and make a profit, the gain may not be taxable? That's just one key tax rule that you should know.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15908>

Source: e-CPA, 8/8/14

## ● **A SUMMER ADJUSTMENT CAN PREVENT A TAX-TIME SURPRISE**

When it comes to filing a federal tax return, many people discover that they either get a larger refund or owe more tax than they expected. But this type of tax surprise doesn't have to happen to you. One way to prevent it is to change the amount of tax withheld from your wages.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?sid=15910>

*Source: e-CPA, 8/8/14*

## ● **YOUR MIDYEAR FINANCIAL TUNE UP**

Did you start the beginning of the year by making smart resolutions to get your finances in order in the coming months? Now that the year is half over, it's a good time to review how you're doing. Here's some advice on how to best evaluate your financial situation and make needed corrections.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15904>

*Source: e-CPA, 7/10/14*

## ● **SUMMER WEDDINGS MEAN TAX CHANGES**

Taxes may not be high on your summer wedding plan checklist. But you should be aware of the tax issues that come along with marriage.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15906>

*Source: e-CPA, 7/10/14*

## ● **TIPS FOR STARTING A SMALL BUSINESS**

Do you ever dream of launching your own company? Here's some advice to help you get off on the right foot.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15905>

*Source: e-CPA, 7/10/14*

## ● **GET CREDIT FOR CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE**

Many parents pay for childcare or day camps in the summer while they work. If this applies to you, your costs may qualify for a federal tax credit that can lower your taxes. Here are 10 facts that you should know about the Child and Dependent Care Credit:

- Your expenses must be for the care of one or more qualifying persons. Your dependent child or children under age 13 usually qualify. For more about this rule see [Publication 503](#), Child and Dependent Care Expenses.

- Your expenses for care must be work-related. This means that you must pay for the care so you can work or look for work. This rule also applies to your spouse if you file a joint return. Your spouse meets this rule during any month they are a full-time student. They also meet it if they're physically or mentally incapable of self-care.
- You must have earned income, such as from wages, salaries and tips. It also includes net earnings from self-employment. Your spouse must also have earned income if you file jointly. Your spouse is treated as having earned income for any month that they are a full-time student or incapable of self-care. This rule also applies to you if you file a joint return.
- As a rule, if you're married you must file a joint return to take the credit. But this rule doesn't apply if you're legally separated or if you and your spouse live apart.
- You may qualify for the credit whether you pay for care at home, at a daycare facility or at a day camp.
- The credit is a percentage of the qualified expenses you pay. It can be as much as 35 percent of your expenses, depending on your income.
- The total expense that you can use for the credit in a year is limited. The limit is \$3,000 for one qualifying person or \$6,000 for two or more.
- Overnight camp or summer school tutoring costs do not qualify. You can't include the cost of care provided by your spouse or your child who is under age 19 at the end of the year. You also cannot count the cost of care given by a person you can claim as your dependent. Special rules apply if you get dependent care benefits from your employer.
- Keep all your receipts and records. Make sure to note the name, address and Social Security number or employer identification number of the care provider. You must report this information when you claim the credit on your tax return.
- Remember that this credit is not just a summer tax benefit. You may be able to claim it for care you pay for throughout the year.

*Source: IRS Special Edition Tax Tip 2014-16 6/11/14*

## **SAVE MONEY ON YOUR VACATION**

Are you planning to take a family vacation this summer? If so, it could become a pricey proposition. Here are some tips on how you can set a budget for and hold down the cost of a family trip while still having an enjoyable break.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15901>

*Source: e-CPA, 6/11/14*

## ● MAKE A REWARDING CREDIT CARD CHOICE

You're ready to sign up for a new credit card that seems to promise a host of appealing rewards. But are you really sure of what the card has to offer or how it compares with other options? Be sure to look closely at the benefits—and terms—in order to get the most from your credit card choices.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15902>

*Source: e-CPA, 6/11/14*

## ● TAX INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WHO TAKE A SUMMER JOB

Many students take a job in the summer after school lets out. If it's your first job it gives you a chance to learn about the working world. That includes taxes we pay to support the place where we live, our state and our nation. Here are eight things that students who take a summer job should know about taxes.

<http://www.moneymattersnj.com/story.cfm?SID=15900>

*Source: e-CPA, 6/11/14*

## ● PREPARE FOR HURRICANES, NATURAL DISASTERS BY SAFEGUARDING TAX RECORDS

With the start of hurricane season, the Internal Revenue Service encourages individuals and businesses to safeguard their records against natural disasters by taking a few simple steps:

- **Create a Backup Set of Records Electronically**

Taxpayers should keep a set of backup records in a safe place. The backup should be stored away from the original set. Keeping a backup set of records — including, for example, bank statements, tax returns, insurance policies, etc. — is easier now that many financial institutions provide statements and documents electronically, and much financial information is available on the Internet. Even if the original records are provided only on paper, they can be scanned into an electronic format. With documents in electronic form, taxpayers can save them to the cloud, download them to a backup storage device, like an external hard drive or USB flash drive, or burn them to a CD or DVD.

- **Document Valuables**

Another step a taxpayer can take to prepare for disaster is to photograph or videotape the contents of his or her home, especially items of higher value. The IRS has a disaster loss workbook, [Publication 584](#), which can help taxpayers compile a room-by-room list of belongings. A photographic record can help an individual prove the market value of items for insurance and casualty loss claims. Photos should be stored with a friend or family member who lives outside the area.

- **Update Emergency Plans**

Emergency plans should be reviewed annually. Personal and business situations change over time as do preparedness needs. When employers hire new employees or when a company or organization changes functions, plans should be updated accordingly and employees should be informed of the changes.

- **Check on Fiduciary Bonds**

Employers who use payroll service providers should ask the provider if it has a fiduciary bond in place. The bond could protect the employer in the event of default by the payroll service provider.

- **IRS Ready to Help**

If disaster strikes, an affected taxpayer can call 1-866-562-5227 to speak with an IRS specialist trained to handle disaster-related issues. Back copies of previously-filed tax returns and all attachments, including Forms W-2, can be requested by filing [Form 4506](#), Request for Copy of Tax Return. Alternatively, transcripts showing most line items on these returns can be [ordered on-line](#), by calling 1-800-908-9946 or by using [Form 4506T-EZ](#), Short Form Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript or [Form 4506-T](#), Request for Transcript of Tax Return.

*Source: IRS Issue Number IR-2014-71 6/5/14*

## ● **IMPORTANT DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

The IRS Tax Calendar for Small Businesses and the Self Employed is follows:

➤ **AUGUST 2014**

**8/1/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Jul 26-29 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**8/6/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Jul 30-Aug 1 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**8/8/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 2-5 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**8/11/2014**

Employers: Employees are required to report to you tips of \$20 or more earned during July. File Form 941 for the second quarter if you timely deposited all required payments.

**8/13/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 6-8 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**8/15/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for Jul if the monthly deposit rule applies.

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 9-12 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**8/20/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 13-15 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**8/22/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 16-19 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**8/27/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 20-22 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**8/29/2014**

Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 23-26 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

➤ **SEPTEMBER 2014**

**9/2/2014**

- File Form 730 and pay tax on wagers accepted during July.
- File Form 2290 and pay the tax for vehicles first used during July.

**9/4/2014**

- Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 27-29 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**9/5/2014**

- Deposit payroll tax for payments on Aug 30-Sep 2 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**9/10/2014**

- Employers: Employees are required to report to you tips of \$20 or more earned during August.
- Deposit payroll tax for payments on Sep 3-5 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**9/12/2014**

- Deposit payroll tax for payments on Sep 6-9 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**9/15/2014**

- Individuals: Pay the third installment of your 2014 estimated tax.
- Partnerships: File Form 1065 if you timely requested a 5-month extension.
- Corporations: File calendar year Form 1120 or 1120S if you timely requested a 6-month extension.
- Corporations: Deposit the third installment of your 2014 estimated tax.
- Deposit payroll tax for Aug if the monthly deposit rule applies.

**9/17/2014**

- Deposit payroll tax for payments on Sep 10-12 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**9/19/2014**

- Deposit payroll tax for payments on Sep 13-16 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**9/24/2014**

- Deposit payroll tax for payments on Sep 17-19 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**9/26/2014**

- Deposit payroll tax for payments on Sep 20-23 if the semiweekly deposit rule applies.

**9/30/2014**

- File Form 730 and pay tax on wagers accepted during August.
- File Form 2290 and pay the tax for vehicles first used during August.

Source: IRS Tax Calendar for Business & Self Employed

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