

0 (0s):

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1 (41s):

It's my pleasure to welcome you here to the Clark Howard show where our mission is to serve and empower. You. See you make better financial decisions in your life today's episode. I've got news for you about a new streaming TV service, how much it's going to cost. But before I get to that, there's some interesting news about a nonmedical benefits for you getting a coronavirus vaccine. You know, there are people who aren't going to want to get back scenes Employers are trying to figure out what in the world to do. Should they mandate that their employees in order to stay employed, get a vaccine, should they incentivize them with money?

1 (1m 25s):

A lot of employers are doing that right now, where they're paying people to get a vaccine, and this is going to become something that's very valuable and the job market for a period of time, that you're going to be able to get some form. There's not a uniform form for it yet, but I have mine. It's a, it's a paper form that is inconveniently a size that won't fit in my wallet that is signed by the person who administers you, your vaccine.

1 (2m 5s):

And there's, I've only had my first, but it shows the date. I got it, the signature that the person who gave me the vaccine. And then when I got my second one, I will show a date, the signature and blah, blah, blah. And then I'll have my version of a digital passport or whatever they're going to call it. And there's a lot of haphazard efforts to have a digital verification you'll be able to have on your iPhone or your Android. There will also be people with counterfeit vaccines certification saying they've had it because employers are going to being, looking for that.

1 (2m 47s):

Employers is going to want to reduce their liability risk by being responsible for a spread or event with the Corona virus to a fellow employees or to customers. And it is going to be something that's going to come up in different ways. I saw an item that the dating sites believe that this is going to be one of the main criteria people are going to look for is where somebody is going to say their, you know, they have been vaccinated against coronavirus in that will make them safe to date. I mean, who would have thought that would be a factor, but it certainly is going to be one and employment.

1 (3m 28s):

I got my shot, baby.

2 (3m 29s):

Yeah.

1 (3m 34s):

And people might've thought of it in the past is the shot you might've had anyway. So there's going to need to be some kind of, Oh man, I lost my train of thought. There's going to have to be some kind of a standard process so that these are not gamed. They're not forged that people will know that you actually have a valid vaccine result. It's obviously going to happen with travel, but you're not going to be able to travel a lot of places without proof of having been vaccinated. And I keep saying twice, you know, we're going to have the vaccine.

1 (4m 15s):

It seems almost certain from Johnson and Johnson, where it's going to be a single vaccine that will be all you'll need for Corona. And we'll see there in the final stages of seeking emergency authorization for the Johnson and Johnson and the airlines are really knocking around the idea of requiring that their employees in order to keep their job are going to have to be vaccinated. That because of people's fear of travel and being exposed while traveling that you may see that that comes along next, that the airlines are going to require that you do so.

1 (5m 3s):

And the international air transport association iata, which is the overall trade association for most of the world's airlines is developing what they're calling the travel pass. That will be a document that it'll be a supposedly somehow verified that you've actually had your vaccine and that you are good. And so, you know, that, that this is a breach of traditional medical privacy that having a vaccine is going to be a clear light green light for a lot of things that go on in our life.

1 (5m 47s):

And there are people who are very strident that they don't want to take a vaccine and it may force a change in job or profession on your part. If you don't want to a vaccine, it's time for your questions you posted for me, Clark dot com slash ask. And Krista Joel, who wants to go, you can both were saying you wanted to talk.

3 (6m 17s):

We're so excited about these questions. Joseph and Florida says after 21 years in the air force and 16 years with the local Sheriff's office, my wife and I are retired at 55. Thanks to your guidance. We have a home paid for worth at least 300,000. We have about 71 acres. We bought in Colorado and intend to build a house there and live there permanently. What's the best way to fund the new construction. We have about 200,000

in cash, a hundred thousand in retirement fund and or about, and about 500 K in stocks that could be sold would get some type of construction loan or home equity loan on the existing property to be a good idea. We both have pensions from military and local governments.

3 (6m 59s):

We can and do a live on Clark Howard for president in 2024

1 (7m 6s):

Of what the garden club. Yeah, I think there's a <inaudible> that ship has sailed for me. So thank you for your service. Starting at age 18 in the U S military and then onto More public service after a year, a long time in the military and the pension you so deserve from your years of service. So you can provide for current income pretty much from the pensions that you have as a couple. So I'm going to make a crazy suggestion in the less, the cost of construction, the property you're going to build and Colorado exceeds your savings.

1 (7m 50s):

I would just pay for building the property. You're going to need straight from savings. Don't bother with borrowing money. Don't borrow with a loan of any kind and having the savings. Cushion is not as important in your case, as it is. And others, and particularly having \$200,000 in savings, earning basically nothing would be money that I would use to build the property. And Krista, was there anything in the post about how much it was going to cost for construction? No. So I'm making an assumption that you're going to spend under \$200,000 on building the property.

1 (8m 31s):

If it is more than that, then the way you handle money, I think it would be fine to deal with the excess on a home equity line of credit against your existing dwelling. Or you could do, if you thought it would take you five years to pay off what you need, do a home equity loan, a fixed rate, home equity loan, four or five years against your existing property and use that combination of money, your savings, and what you borrow to build that property in Colorado. And I hope you enjoy your retirement years. You have worked hard for our country. You certainly deserve it.

1 (9m 12s):

Joel Clark Steve,

3 (9m 15s):

Does it help or hurt my credit score too?

1 (9m 17s):

Opt out of pre-screened credit card offers. It has no effect on your credit score to go to opt-out pre-screen dot com, which is a process where you no longer get the junk mail from the banks soliciting you for credit

cards. So it has zero effect on the credit you have or your existing credit score to do opt out. Pre-screen one thing that freaks people out at opt out pre-screen is you have to give your social security number. And the reason you have to do that is that's how credit is granted and is through credit scores.

1 (10m 1s):

And so that is why you have to give that number two, stop the pre screens. And again, opt out  
prescreen.com. Prista

3 (10m 16s):

Salsa. Pete in Florida wrote in and said, Clark you always give great energy saving advice, but I never hear you're talk about the upgraded HVAC unit and the importance of S E R rating as well as mastic sealed duct work, older units, 10 seer or below our watt guzzlers, especially those with three tens and above many older homes have great cooling HVAC units, but draw a massive power compared to the higher seer rated models and closing. Please review the home duct work. If it is in poor condition, you are cooling the environment and not your home. And then a hot attic. This will create condensation that can create possible mold than as you advised.

3 (10m 58s):

Clark add additional insulation to preserve the heat or cooling in your home for savings and comfort.

1 (11m 3s):

All right, thank you very much for that post. And I want to add something to it. Something I first reported on at the CES consumer electronic show for a year's ago is the air conditioners that are new to the United States, but are certainly not knew around the world that are ductless air conditioners that reduce your bills for heating and cooling. By typically 60 to 75%, you don't have to worry about the loss of a conditioned air to inadequate ductwork. And there was a house that was renovated a block from us that just bypass their existing HPAC system.

1 (11m 52s):

And they put it in the direct air conditioning systems and they, they look like a big square fans that go outside a room in your house. And these are not window units or anything like this. It's just the modern way of doing conditioned air in a home. And the cer the energy efficiency ratio on these is typically a 40 or above, which blows past any traditional central heating and air conditioning system that we have historically been using in the United States.

1 (12m 34s):

Joel

4 (12m 36s):

Clark Janus and Georgia says, do you have any recommendations for a company to help run my solo interior design business? I'd love some help with annual taxes and sales, along with the best advice to organize all of my paperwork that I've got involved in this. I'm a very creative person and therefore don't love running the business part.

1 (12m 54s):

And that's true for many people in any type of business that the administrative side of the business they despise doing, and you can automate things like payroll. That's very easy to do. There are a lot of payroll services now that are set up specifically for, from micro businesses of one person to small businesses, up to 19 people at very affordable costs. But a lot of the other administrative things you're talking about that are involved with running your business, your time sounds like it's best used on the creative side of your business. And you might consider hiring somebody who works for you doing those things as a part-time job and figuring maybe a day or two a week to deal with the administrative tasks for your business.

1 (13m 47s):

Be careful with a new hire though, With access to your bank account information. 'cause you start letting somebody to get involved in your finances. Somebody you seems really on the up and up could end up running away with your business's success and your money.

3 (14m 7s):

I was going to also have another suggestion. Clark if you use a program like QuickBooks, and if you have an accountant that you can just meet with, or someone you can consult with, they could help you set it up. And so it pulls in your accounts and it kind of automates things, and it helps you to, once you set up to be more organized,

1 (14m 24s):

And thank you, you must read my mind because I meant to mention QuickBooks and completely forgot. And that's part of the team effect of team Clark is we all learn together. We all learn from each other, and I appreciate that very much. And coming up straight ahead on today's podcast, we're going to talk about a rebranding of a streaming service and which could mean a increase, but if you do it right, could cut your costs in half.

0 (14m 58s):

You decided to upgrade your outdoor deck. So you ordered the essentials, a power washer, or a set of patio chairs and a shiny new grill. And you used your bank of America, cashew awards, credit card, choosing to earn 3% cash back on online. Shopping are up to 5.2, 5% as a preferred rewards member, which you put towards the cost of your most essential deck. Addition, a bird feeder apply for yours@bankofamerica.com slash More rewarding copyright 2020 bank of America corporation.

1 (15m 33s):

Great to have you here on the second half of today's Clark Howard show podcast, and I want to talk to you about something that just makes your head spin. And that is if you've converted from the stale past its date cable monopoly for a video content, satellite content from direct TV or dish network, and you've migrated to streaming. One thing you've given up is the certainty that they're just stuck in the mud, unfortunately, with streaming, unless you stay on top of it, change is a constant is all these big, big, big corporations are jockeying for position and your eyeballs and trying to get the pricing right?

1 (16m 26s):

And so we have one restart after another, with a strategy, we have a price increases in some things deals on others, content going away, content providers going away. And let me make some sense of all this one thing. I want you to know one of the streaming services for a general, a replacement of traditional, a cable monopoly fare, or satellite fair sling has raised prices sling for a package that at one time used to be 20 a month. That's now 35 a month.

1 (17m 5s):

So big increases, but it's still much, much, much cheaper. And sling has always positioned itself as a more affordable alternative compared to the industry bigs, which are YouTube TV and Hulu live, which are both around 65 a month. We'll then you look at the actual direct content providers, you know, Disney plus with something, all the others were watching closely and Disney plus had a rip-roaring massively successful launch, not just in the United States, from around the world. And so other content providers feel pretty confident that they can their own direct to the public streaming services and get you to pay five a month for this one eight a month for that one to seven a month for this other one, to get content from these big content providers that compete with Disney, CBS was early in this CVS came up with something called all access and all access is being shut down in another month is being replaced by what supposed to be a much bigger, better streaming service called Paramount plus.

1 (18m 29s):

And Paramount plus will be available to you at an annual subscription rate of 30 bucks. If you sign up for it, now you have to use a special code Paramount plus when you check out. And so it's kind of like what Disney did before they launched Disney plus where they offered longterm deals. In Disney's case, the deals were three years locked in at an effective to dollars and change a month Paramount is doing the same thing at a cost of what S two and a half dollars a month, but four a year.

1 (19m 16s):

So signing up now would be a great idea, prepay and know you're done with it, that you've got it, and you're getting that special deal. So what are you going to get with Paramount plus? So it's going to be all the stuff the CBS all access had. And then it's going to have things that may or may not appeal to you. You're going to have comedy central Nickelodeon MTV. I mentioned Smithsonian BT, just to name some of the things that

will have and what people are more interested in typically now, instead of the channels, that will be part of it.

1 (20m 4s):

They're interested in the shows and we have a list on our briefing at Clark dot com under our streaming TV section that we have just posted it in the last week. That will bring you up to date on whether or not you want to do the prelaunch discount and buy the one-year deal that you must buy by March the second to lock in that special deal for the 12 months. I know that I will absolutely be doing it because there are some shows on CBS, all access that my wife lane is all about.

1 (20m 47s):

And Krista you've known lane long enough, what would be a star Trek? Yes, various star Trekkie things. My wife is, is really into it for forever or a go at a casino in Las Vegas. They used to have something called the star Trek experience and a w drove lane over to the casino. That was trying to remember which casino that was, is that how it's changed names a few times since. And so I drove her over to do the star Trek experience and it's something, I guess, people spend like 30 minutes at five hours later.

1 (21m 30s):

I finally heard from her and she said, I think I'll be done in another hour. What language was she speaking? I don't. She speaks a lot of those star Trek languages. She's watched every star Trek series there is, and knows the word for word content from individual episodes. So for her, I've got to have this for her to be able to watch the series. She's never been as big and to the movies, it's always been the various TV series and her favorite is TNG. So, you know what that is. You kinda the next generation. You've got it. Okay.

1 (22m 10s):

Is there a favorite of all of them, John Luke Picard. That's her favorite character? So enough about that it's time for your questions. You posted for me at Clark dot com slash ask and Christa, which got, and Krista, I should point out that you were wearing a Joel shirt today. I did that on purpose

4 (22m 34s):

And she said it right when she came in, I was like, thank you for wearing clad representing. I'm not the only one anymore.

3 (22m 39s):

<inaudible> Warren, a lot of plaid shirts. And so I wore a plaid shirt cause a joke

1 (22m 45s):

And, and Oregon, and his always stressed as an Oregonian, even though he left Oregon. When you were, how many months old?

4 (22m 53s):

I was like just shy of two,

1 (22m 56s):

Two years old. And still that's been part of your persona ever since you can take

4 (23m 3s):

The dude out to the Oregon, but you can't take the Oregon out of the dude.

1 (23m 7s):

Alright. So Krista is, you are wearing the hat

3 (23m 10s):

That because if you didn't hear it on the previous episode, Joel announced at the end of the month, he's leaving us. You'll still hear him occasionally before then, but he is going, moving on to do his own full time podcast. And we're very proud of you and happy for you, Joel, et cetera for us. Okay. Terry and Missouri says when a bank or credit union is adopting an arbitration of claims and disputes and waiver of class action provision, do you advise that we opt out

1 (23m 39s):

If you're given the choice to opt out and they not fire you as a customer yes. Opt out. And they, they make the process pretty involved for you to opt out. But you do want the ability to not give up your constitutional rights to the courts. You know, this is a very unfortunate series of decisions by the U S Supreme court and a legislative actions by the Congress that have steadily eroded away consumers and employees, constitutional rights and allowed us to be forced into kangaroo court arbitrations.

1 (24m 23s):

And if arbitration was Ryan as a, a system that was not a stacked deck against the consumer or an employee, I would not object so much to arbitration. I also wouldn't object to arbitration if it was a voluntary action that both sides have a dispute agreed to, but this kind of action where it's a punitive action where you force a consumer or an employee into a company run arbitration where the arbitrator is fine for the company. Typically just a whisker under a a hundred percent of the time is why I find arbitration to be not at all consistent with the spirit of the us, why we were founded, how we were founded and our constitution, Joel

4 (25m 16s):

Clark Frank in Georgia says I'm looking at wedding venues for my daughter. One that we liked, well, one at a 50% deposit and the balance six months in advance, others ask for much less, have a deposit and balance payment closer to the event, the high deposit and early final payments seem to be red flags for me. Should we be concerned?



1 (25m 36s):

So this is standard operating procedure in the wedding industry. And here's a little secret people don't like to talk about more than one in three engagements, break off shore to the altar and people in the wedding industry feel they have no other choice then to require a large amounts of money up front and a brutal cancellation policies that basically say, you walk away from your money. If you walk away from your intendant. And so the nature of the industry is that you lay out big money up front and that That money.

1 (26m 16s):

If the venue goes out of business, you lose that money. If the wedding doesn't happen, you lose that money now. And alternative that I had a very strong pushback from a mentioning from people in the wedding industry was I have recommended that people book facilities, not necessarily a wedding facility, but if you know, it could be a hotel or whatever for a party don't ever say, it's for a wedding and the contract you'll be asked to sign. And the payment terms will be very, very different. If it's just for a party, then if it's for a wedding, the second you say, wedding, the contracts become a very, very anti consumer.

1 (27m 4s):

So if this is a facility, they have their hearts set on. No that you have to live with the policies they require and the risks that come with that to your wallet and Krista, it was very unromantic. What do I say? It wasn't that?

3 (27m 22s):

Okay. Let's see. Linda and Georgia says I have internet from T-Mobile as a hotspot on my phone. I need cable TV, do not want a TV and internet package. Just want the major TV stations. What do you recommend? Where are you talking about streaming earlier?

1 (27m 39s):

Yeah, a T-Mobile has its own for T-Mobile customers has its own video stream service now. And I get so confused about the branding of it and the cost and all the rest of the T-Mobile streaming service. But it's one that would be a very viable option for you as a T-Mobile customer, because it does not have anything that makes it just absolutely fantastic as a streaming service that makes it somehow vastly superior to others.

1 (28m 19s):

But it is made to order for people who are T-Mobile oriented. In addition, T-Mobile has a fast growing internet service around the country called T-Mobile home internet. That's a very catchy name that is \$50 a month for unlimited data. Christa, you have been testing T-Mobile home internet at your home for the last six months, I guess, and a few months now and giving it an a to an F what grade would you give it as an internet service for a home?

3 (28m 57s):

I'd give it an A if you're close to the unit, but if you have a huge home in Less, I mean, you could get repeaters. We haven't tried that yet, but this one we've used to with that with our other internet service, but to have the true, like 5g, the really fast that you would run, something like this off of you need to be at least in the same room or next room.

1 (29m 21s):

So this is perfect for an apartment in a smaller home. Absolutely. Do you have a \$50 T-Mobile home internet and look at the team mobile video product will get the pricing of it and see if that would work for you as a choice that you'd be happy with. And I hope you're happy with our podcast and you're enjoying it. Thank you so much for being a part of team Clark. If you need more advice, please check out our free consumer action center line at (470) 284-7137.

1 (30m 2s):

And it's open Monday through Thursday to answer your questions about your wallet. And if you want to know the hours and all the specific information, go to Clark dot com slash C a C for consumer action center. And if you haven't yet, please subscribe to this podcast and let us know how you'd like what we're doing.