

■ **KIM BEDWELL JOINS THE FIRM**

Kimberly W. Bedwell has joined the Baylis & Company team and we couldn't be more pleased! Kim has over 11 years of public accounting experience and has performed attestation, internal audit, tax and sales tax services for a wide array of organizations and entities during the course of her career. Kim holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois and had the honor of being one of only two international interns selected in 1995 by a Big Four accounting firm to work for a semester in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.



Kim's husband, Mark, serves as Pastor of Evangelism & Missions at the First Baptist Church at the Mall. Kim, Mark and their two children, Christian and Shelby, enjoy participating in various civic activities in our community.

Kim and her family have an interesting hobby: they enjoy geocaching together. She says the hobby is great fun and it gives them the opportunity to spend time together in nature, both in town and when they travel. See our *Closing Thoughts* for more information on geocaching.

■ **DOES THE IRS OWE YOU MONEY?**



The Internal Revenue Service reminded taxpayers recently that they are looking to return \$153.3 million in undelivered tax refund checks to 99,123 taxpayers. Holiday gift shopping would certainly be easier with these recovered funds since the average undelivered check is \$1,547!

Taxpayers may safely use the IRS's "Where's My Refund" tool on the web to check on the status of their refund, and obtain instructions and help to resolve delivery problems by visiting <https://sa1.www4.irs.gov/irfof/lang/en/irfofgetstatus.jsp>. Taxpayers may also call 1-800-829-1954 to access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund."

It is important to know that the IRS *does not* contact taxpayers by email to alert them of pending refunds and *does not* ask for personal or financial information through email. Any such email contacts are scams and should not be opened to prevent malicious code from infecting your computer and to safeguard your personal information.

Do you need assistance with income tax or technology matters? Visit <http://www.bayliscpas.com/services/taxfinancialdetails.php#federal> to learn about our tax and financial planning services. Our affiliate, Cipher Integrations, can provide you with a variety of network, internet technology and software development services. Visit www.zeroworries.com to learn more about the technology consulting services Cipher provides.

■ 2012 MILEAGE RATES ANNOUNCED

The IRS recently issued the following mileage rates effective January 1, 2012:

55.5 cents per mile for business miles driven

23 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

Taxpayers also have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicles rather than using the standard mileage rates for business miles driven.

■ VETERANS JOBS BILL



Unemployed veterans received welcome news late last month when President Obama signed the Veterans Job Bill into law. This bill was created to provide tax credits to employers who hire unemployed veterans and it received overwhelming bipartisan support.

Tax credits provided by this bill include:

- Up to \$5,600 for hiring veterans unemployed for six months or longer in the past year
- Up to \$2,400 for hiring veterans unemployed for between four weeks and six months in the past year
- Up to \$4,800 for hiring service disabled veterans within one year of being discharged
- Up to \$9,600 for hiring veterans with service-related disabilities who have been unemployed for six months or longer in the past year.

We encourage you to consult your tax advisor if you have questions about how this legislation may benefit your business. Please contact us for assistance with this or other business consulting services. Visit <http://www.bayliscpas.com/services/smallbusiness.php> to learn more about these services.

■ CLOSING THOUGHTS

Our newest firm member, Kim Bedwell, enjoys geocaching with her family. What exactly is geocaching? Participants use Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates to search for containers hidden at a specified location. Rules to the game are simple: if you take something from the cache, leave something of equal or greater value; and log your experience.

The practice of geocaching started in May of 2000 after GPS receivers were updated and location coordinates became readily available to anyone with a mobile phone or other GPS device. The first geocaching website, www.geocaching.com, debuted in September of 2000 and listed 75 known caches throughout the world. Kim and her family use this website to choose and log their searches. Today there are 1,595,999 active geocaches, 5 million geocachers, and multiple websites which provide coordinates and information about caches close to where you live, work and play, or completely around the world.

Do you have a bored student on holiday break? Why not suggest that they give geocaching a try? Geocaching is a great way to practice research and treasure hunting skills and get to enjoy our beautiful weather at the same time!

Prefer an e-newsletter? Email info@bayliscpas.com.