

The Bulletin

 **Peck | Bulgin**
Wealth Management
of
RAYMOND JAMES®



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From the Desk

Should ETFs Be A Part of Your Portfolio?

Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) offer a powerful combination of diversification, flexibility, and cost efficiency, making them a popular choice for both individual and institutional investors. Here's how they work and why they might be a valuable addition to your portfolio:

- **ETFs Trade Like Stocks:** Unlike mutual funds, which only trade at the end of the day, ETFs can be bought and sold throughout the trading session at real-time prices. They provide broad market exposure while allowing investors to trade with ease.
- **How ETFs Are Created:** Large financial institutions, known as Authorized Participants (APs), create or redeem ETF shares based on demand. This mechanism helps keep an ETF's price closely aligned with the value of its underlying assets.
- **Types of ETFs:** Investors can choose from various ETFs tailored to different investment goals, including broad market ETFs that track major indices, sector-specific ETFs, bond ETFs for income, and commodity ETFs for exposure to physical assets like gold or oil.
- **Potential Risks:** While ETFs offer diversification, they still carry risks such as market fluctuations, tracking errors, and liquidity concerns for niche or lower-volume funds.

ETFs provide a cost-effective way to gain exposure to different markets while managing risk. Whether you're looking for long-term growth, income generation, or sector-specific exposure, ETFs can be a valuable tool in building a diversified portfolio. Talk to your financial advisor to explore how ETFs fit into your investment strategy.

In the Spotlight

happy MOTHER'S DAY



Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful mothers and grandmothers who work tirelessly to make dreams come true every day! To the incredible women who may not have children but have nurtured many as their own, we celebrate you too. Sending extra love to the mothers who are missing their babies who left this earth too soon. May their love illuminate your hearts today. Each of you is loved, valued, and appreciated more than you will ever know.

To all the children who made us mothers, thank you for challenging and rewarding us beyond our wildest dreams. You are the greatest gift, though presents are always appreciated too!

Celebrating Easter!

Easter 2025



The Bulgin Family



The Wagnon Family





The Tesche Family



The Bulgin, Wagnon, and Tesche families all enjoyed celebrating Easter 2025 with sunshine, smiles, and plenty of festive fun.



Thank you to everyone who attended the Jumbo Shrimp game. It was a wonderful evening!
We are already looking forward to next year!

Springtime Refresher



Empress Floradora

This recipe is from the Empress Gin website and quite possibly one of the most delicious cocktails ever created. The perfect choice for toasting motherhood!

- 2 OZ Empress 1908 Indigo Gin
- 1 OZ Fresh Lime Juice
- 1 OZ Raspberry Syrup*
- 2.5 OZ Ginger Beer
- Floral Ice Cubes (optional)
- Edible Flowers, Chamomile, & Lime Wheel, for garnish

METHOD

Add Empress 1908 Indigo Gin, lime juice, and raspberry syrup to a mixing glass or cocktail shaker with ice and mix or shake to chill. Strain into a cocktail glass over ice, then top with ginger beer. Garnish with edible flower petals, chamomile, and a lime wheel. Enjoy!

NOTES

**For the syrup, combine 6 ounces of raspberries in a saucepan with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water, and 1 cup of sugar. Bring to a boil, then immediately reduce to a simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Strain through a fine mesh strainer, then add 1 tablespoon of fresh lemon juice. Allow to cool completely before using.*

Keeping Amelia Island Beautiful

Jesse volunteered with the Amelia Island Sunrise rotary to clean up the yard at Micah's Place.



Articles



Asset-based long-term care solutions: A more flexible option

As we're living longer, asset-based long-term care insurance can help you live your best life well into retirement.

When Social Security was introduced in 1935, the average 65-year-old received benefits for a lifespan of 12 to 15 years. Today, about a quarter of 65-year-olds will live past age 90. This presents wonderful opportunities to lead long, full and productive lives, while also underscoring the importance of planning ahead for potential challenges as we live well into our 80s and 90s.

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Succession planning: Dos and Dont's

Every entrepreneur should have a succession plan, regardless of the stage of the business. Even early-stage founders should be prepared for an unplanned exit. Here are some dos and don'ts of succession planning in this phase.

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Social security survivor benefits: 6 things to remember

Understanding how social security benefits apply to a surviving spouse is essential to creating an effective retirement income plan. Here's what you should know:

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Supercharge your retirement savings with the 'super catch-up' contribution

This significant change could boost your retirement savings as you approach retirement.

The SECURE 2.0 Act has brought about major updates to retirement savings regulations in recent years. Starting this year, workers aged 60 to 63 can augment their retirement savings with an expanded “super catch-up” contribution under new rules created by the IRS last year as part of a package of inflation adjustments to retirement account contributions.

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Tax-advantaged accounts: A powerful addition to your financial plan

The benefits of tax-efficient wealth management.

A tax-advantaged account offers certain tax benefits to encourage individuals to save or invest for specific purposes, such as retirement, education or healthcare. These accounts can help you lower your taxable income, defer taxes or avoid taxes altogether if used for qualified expenses.

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Market Recap

	12/31/24 Close	04/30/2025* Close	Change Year to Date	% Gain/Loss Year to Date
DJIA	42,544.22	40,669.36	-1,874.86	-4.41%
NASDAQ	19,310.79	17,446.34	-1,864.45	-9.65%
S&P 500	5,881.63	5,569.06	-312.57	-5.31%
MSCI EAFE	2,259.60	2,488.79	+229.19	+10.14%
RUSSELL 2000	2,230.16	1,964.12	-266.04	-11.93%
BLOOMBERG AGGREGATE BOND	2,189.03	2,259.78	+70.75	+3.23%

Performance reflects index values as of market close on April 30, 2025. Figures for the MSCI EAFE and Bloomberg Aggregate Bond reflect the market close on April 29, 2025.

April showered with tariff talk, market volatility

Expect uncertainty in the near term.

Uncertainty reigned through April and likely will continue to do so, at least in the near term. Markets have reacted, both negatively and positively, to every headline coming out

of Washington. On April 2, President Donald Trump's declaration of "Liberation Day" sparked a selloff of 19% in the equity markets as the announced tariff rates were considerably higher than expected.

[See Full Market Update](#)

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Keep in mind that individuals cannot invest directly in any index, and index performance does not include transaction costs or other fees, which will affect actual investment performance. Individual investor's results may vary.