

On The Record

2020 Oregon state tax season to begin Jan. 27

The Oregon Department of Revenue will begin processing state tax returns on Jan. 27, the same day the IRS will begin processing federal returns. Taxpayers can submit their returns earlier, but processing won't start until the tax season officially begins.

Once processing begins, returns will be processed in the order received. However, the Oregon Department of Revenue won't be issuing personal income tax refunds until after Feb. 15.

This refund hold is part of the state's tax fraud prevention activities and will allow confirmation that the amounts claimed on returns matches what employers report on forms W-2 and 1099.

The IRS is also holding federal tax refunds until after Feb. 15, but only for those taxpayers claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit.

Federal changes from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act directly impact Oregon's personal income

tax, including changes to calculating withholding allowances for tax year 2019. This may mean that more taxpayers have a tax to pay or may have more tax to pay than usual.

The department encourages taxpayers to use its online withholding calculator to check their state withholding, so they can make any necessary changes to 2020 withholding.

Also, because of these federal tax changes, Oregon now has its own W-4 called Form OR-W-4. Taxpayers can request the new form from their employer or download it at www.oregon.gov/dor, fill it out and return it to their employer.

It's important to note that beginning Jan. 1, any changes to your state withholding must be made using Form OR-W-4 because Oregon withholding is calculated using allowances, unlike the federal form.

Here are a few other things for taxpayers to keep in mind this tax season:

- E-filing is the fastest way to get your tax refund.

On average, taxpayers who e-file their returns and request their refund via direct deposit receive their refund sooner than those who file paper returns and request paper refund checks.

- Some software companies offer free software use and e-filing for eligible taxpayers. Be sure to access the software through the department's website, or the company may not allow you to take advantage of the free offer.

- AARP and CASH Oregon provide free and low-cost tax preparation services throughout local communities.

- All Oregon taxpayers preparing their own return can file electronically at no cost using Oregon's free fillable forms. For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/dor and click on "Free tax preparation services" under "More Topics" on the department's homepage.

- Anyone who needs a personal income tax return booklet can download and print it from www.oregon.gov/dor/forms. They can also order a copy online, by calling 503-378-4988 or 800-356-4222, or by mailing their request — along with their name, phone number, and mailing address to:

Forms
Oregon Department of Revenue
PO Box 14999
Salem, OR 97309-0990

- Some eligible Oregonians may not be claiming the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. For more information about the credit and eligibility, visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

Employers must file their income tax withholding returns and reports and remit the income tax withheld from their employees' paychecks by Jan. 31. Employer returns and reports due by Jan. 31 include:

- Quarterly Employer Tax Report (Form OQ) for the fourth quarter of 2019.
- Statewide transit tax return (Form OR-STT-1

and STT-2), also for fourth quarter.

- Employee Detail Report (Form 132).

- W-2s and 1099s for each employee or worker, electronically submitted through iWire.

- Annual withholding reconciliation report (Form OR-WR).

For information about an employer's filing or payment responsibilities, visit the department's website at www.oregon.gov/dor, call 503-945-8091 or email payroll.help.dor@oregon.gov.

Visit www.oregon.gov/dor to get forms, check the status of your refund, or make payments.

Call 503-378-4988 or 800-356-4222 (toll-free) or email questions.dor@oregon.gov for additional assistance.

For TTY for hearing- or speech-impaired, call 800-886-7204.

WEATHER DATA

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Jan. 7	48	42	0.94
Jan. 8	45	39	0.51
Jan. 9	43	31	0.06
Jan. 10	48	39	0.60
Jan. 11	47	41	0.54
Jan. 12	47	39	0.86
Jan. 13	42	38	0.76

Rainfall Week: 4.27"
Month: 7.84" Year: 7.84"

Courtesy of Roger Cunningham

Find us on Facebook

SIUSLAW NEWS

It's Our Birthday!

Join us for our **100th Birthday** Celebration
Saturday, January 25th
2 pm – 5 pm

Serving cake, ice cream and soda

Come and enjoy the history of the Mapleton Grange!

Mapleton Grange
On East Mapleton Road

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CITY MEETINGS UPDATE

During the holiday season, the following scheduled City of Florence-related meetings or work sessions did not take place for different reasons ranging from lack of a quorum to holiday closures.

Here is a list of meetings in December and January that were canceled, most of which have been rescheduled.

The currently scheduled city meetings can be found online at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us>.

December 2019

Dec. 2
• City Council work session @ 10:30 a.m. — *Cancelled*

Dec. 10
• Planning Commission meeting @ 5:30 p.m. — *Cancelled*

Dec. 11
• Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) meeting @ 5:30 p.m. — *Cancelled*

Dec. 16
• Public Art Committee (PAC) meeting @ 10 a.m.

— *Cancelled*
• City Council Work Session @ 10:30 a.m. — *Cancelled*

Dec. 17
• Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) meeting @ 6 p.m. — *Cancelled*

Dec. 24
• Planning Commission meeting @ 5:30 p.m. — *Cancelled*

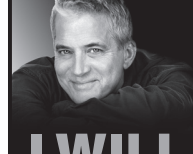
Dec. 25
• Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) meeting @ 5:30 p.m. — *Rescheduled*

January 2020
Jan. 6
• City Council Work Session @ 10:30 a.m. — *Cancelled*

Jan. 13
• Public Art Committee (PAC) meeting @ 10 a.m. — *Cancelled*

Jan. 14
• Planning Commission Hearing @ 5:30 p.m. — *Cancelled*

Jan. 16
• Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) meeting @ 3:45 — *Cancelled*



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SEACOAST ENTERTAINMENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



Americana Folk Music

Wednesday, February 5th • 7:00 pm
Pre-concert talk 6:15 pm

FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER
RESERVED SEATING TICKETS: \$35 + YOUTH/STUDENTS UNDER 18: \$10
541.997.1994 BUY TICKETS ONLINE WWW.SEACOASTE.A.ORG

DEATH NOTICE

HAWKS—John H. Hawks, 70, of Florence, passed away Jan. 7, 2020. Burial in Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

America's 1st Sustainable Home & Garden Show Returns!

Good Earth Show
HOME, GARDEN & LIVING
January 24-26

Fri 5-9pm • Sat 10am-8pm • Sun 10am-5pm
FREE ADMISSION with Canned Food Donations
Lane Events Center - Fairgrounds, Eugene

SHOP & EXPLORE ~ 220 Sustainable Exhibits
Home. Garden. Food. Wellness. Recycle. Art.
Shop for Seeds, Garden Tools, Clothing, Organic Food & Spirits!
Meet the Green Builders, Contractors, Remodelers & Landscapers
Crafting Seminars! Tiny Home & a Yurt! Alpacas, Bees & Chickens!

DOUBLE YOUR DONATIONS!

Every dollar donated to ShelterBox USA during the Show will be matched up to \$10,000 by Show Management. Make your donation at the Eugene Delta Rotary exhibit of the actual emergency aid supplies & tent delivered to families who have lost everything during natural disasters and crises. ShelterBoxUSA.org



All 3 Days!
Shannon Quimby
HGTV Alumni
Designer & Stylist
Salvage Decor & Upcycle Seminars
DIY Salvage Design Projects!
Yard Sales with WOW!
Prizes! Booksignings to Follow



Sat & Sun 1pm
Debra Prinzing, Author
Slow Flowers Founder
Discover American Beauty!
Eco-Friendly Floral Design
Meadow to Market
Booksignings to Follow



All 3 Days!
John Kallas Ph.D.
Director & Author
Wild Food Adventures
Food Foraging - Dirt to Plate
Valley, Forest & Coast
Booksignings to Follow