On The Record

Oregon extends tax filing deadline, payments

At the direction of Gov. Kate Brown, the Oregon Department of Revenue has announced an extension for Oregon tax filing and payment deadlines for personal income taxes and some other taxes closely following the IRS extension declaration.

"The governor's clearly stated goal is for Oregon families to stay home, save lives," said Oregon Department of Revenue Director Nia Ray. "After consultation with the state treasurer and state budget officials, the Department of Revenue will extend personal and corporate income tax deadlines during this challenging period."

Under the authority of ORS 305.157, the director of the Department of Revenue has determined that the governor's state-declared emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the action of the IRS will impair the ability of Oregon taxpayers to take certain actions within the time prescribed by law. Therefore, the director has ordered an automatic extension of the 2019 tax year filing and payment due dates for certain affected taxpayers as indicated below.

Personal income taxpayers:

• The Oregon return filing due date for tax year 2019 is automatically extended from April 15 to July 15.

• The Oregon tax payment deadline for payments due with the 2019 tax year return is automatically extended to July 15.

• Estimated tax payments for tax year 2020 are not extended.

• The tax year 2019 six-month extension to file, if requested, continues to extend only the filing deadline until Oct. 15.

• Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call us to qualify for this automatic Oregon tax filing and payment extension.

• For more information about personal income tax, email questions to questions.dor@oregon.gov.

Corporate income/ excise taxpayers:

• The Oregon return filing due date for tax year 2019 is automatically extended from May 15, 2020 until July 15, 2020. Returns due after May 15, 2020 are not extended at this time.

• The Oregon tax payment deadline for payments due with the 2019 return by May 15, 2020 is automatically extended to July 15, 2020. Payments for returns due after May 15, 2020 are not extended at this time.

• Estimated tax payments for tax year 2020 are not extended.

• Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call us to qualify for this automatic Oregon tax filing and payment extension.

Interest and penalties:

• Because of the extension of the due dates for filing returns and making payments, any interest and penalties with respect to Oregon tax filings and payments extended by this order begin accruing on July 16, 2020.

• No automatic extension is provided in this order for the payment or deposit of any other type of Oregon tax or for the filing of Oregon information returns.

Taxpayers can find resources such as forms and publications, information regarding filing as an individual or business, as well as helpful tools such as Where's My Refund and What's My Kicker, on the Department of Revenue webpage. Keep up to date with the latest developments impacting your taxes at oregon.gov/dor/.

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, or email questions.dor@oregon.gov, for more assistance. For TTY for hearing- or speech-impaired, call 800-886-7204.

Record claims for Unemployment Benefits continue in Oregon

During the week starting March 22, the Oregon Employment Department received 92,700 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits. That represented a 21 percent increase from the previous record during the week starting March 15. By comparison, the agency received 4,900 initial claim filings during the week starting March 8.

The Employment Department continues to take proactive steps to meet the unprecedented need for unemployment benefits, which is largely due to reduced hours and layoffs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initial Claims

The Employment Department has detailed information for 45,800 of the claims processed during the week starting March 22. The leisure and hospitality sector, which includes hotels and restaurants, saw the greatest number of initial claims for unemployment benefits (15,500). This reflects impacts of additional public health and safety measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many initial claims also came from workers in health care and social assistance (7,600) and retail trade (4,600).

Multnomah (10,900), Washington (5,300) and Lane (4,200) were the counties with the largest number of claims. The largest percentage increases in initial claims over the week occurred in Harney and Tillamook counties.

More initial claims data by industry and area can be found on the QualityInfo.org COVID-19 page.

Helping Oregonians

Over the past two weeks, the Employment Department doubled the number of staff dedicated to taking claims, and is in the process of tripling it. The agency employees processing claims are doing so at a record rate. We also continue adding secure phone lines to take more calls while also protecting the personal information of those filing claims.

Still, the truly unprecedented and sudden level of initial claims has caused delays and frustration for Oregonians who need help, especially by phone.

The Employment Department encourages anyone who can file an online claim to do so.

The agency's website includes a video with step-by-step instructions for filing online claims specific to COVID-19 situations. Filing an initial or weekly claim online helps those who must file their claim by phone. Calls to follow up on the status of successfully filed claims also allows fewer new initial claims, which require the most time and work, to be received by phone.

The Employment Department has started sending automatic confirmations for successfully filed claims with an e-mail address provided. Other automatic fixes and guidance, discussed in this video conversation, have been implemented to address common online claim errors and reduce the need for follow-up.

To file an online claim for unemployment benefits, go to Oregon.gov/employ or call 1-877-FILE-4-UI. For help finding jobs and training resources, contact your local WorkSource Oregon center or go to WorkSourceOregon.org.

Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: 503-947-1794. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

Oregonians can now use SNAP benefits for online food purchases

In keeping with Gov. Kate Brown's "Stay Home, Save Lives" executive order, Oregonians across the state who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can now purchase groceries online from Walmart and Amazon, helping to keep SNAP recipients and their families safe from COVID-19 by opening new avenues for social distancing.

Oregon has been exploring ways to increase access to food including a pilot project to provide Oregonians the opportunities to purchase groceries online with SNAP benefits.

In March, the Department of Human Services (DHS) provided access to online purchasing in Portland and Grants Pass at Walmart and Amazon.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, both retailers moved up their expansion dates for online food shopping to help those who are unable or who have difficulty getting to the store another option to purchase food.

"We are grateful that these retailers expanded their grocery services to all Oregonians receiving SNAP benefits," said Dan Haun, Self-Sufficiency Programs director at the Oregon DHS. "Convenience, quality and fresh groceries should not be determined by how someone pays. The expansion will increase food access for those who experience challenges visiting brick-and-mortar stores."

As the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in the number of people eligible for SNAP, the ability to purchase groceries online supports physical distancing necessary to help slow the spread of the virus.

If your work hours are reduced or you lose your job, you may become eligible for SNAP if you meet eligibility requirements. You can apply for SNAP benefits online at OHP.Oregon.Gov.

DHS is keeping local offices open during this pandemic to serve people who do not have access to the Internet. Go to oregon.gov/DHS/Offices/Pages/Self-Sufficiency.aspx.

Eye Consultants offers telemedicine

During these trying times, it is imperative that patients are able to have access to their doctors, even when they are unable to be seen in clinic. COVID-19 has left many patients without the resources they need to stay on top of their health.

Oregon Eye Consultants, 2002 Highway 101 in Florence, believe it is extremely important that our community's eye care needs are still being addressed while they are staying home to protect themselves and our community from the coronavirus.

Oregon Eye Consultants now has a telemedicine option with comprehensive ophthalmologist and cornea specialist Dr. Benjamin Kunz for several ocular conditions including: allergic eye disease (itchy eyes); dry or irritated eyes; conjunctivitis; tearing; and eyelid conditions, such as sties.

Patients will need a smartphone, computer or tablet to access our telemedicine visits, and have their insurance information available along with proof of ID and co-payment option just as they would for an in-clinic appointment.

For more information, contact the office at 541-687-1927 or banderson@oregoneyeconsultants.com.

Visit us on the web
THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

THANK YOU

to the bevy of workers keeping our society functioning, despite the risks and fears.

We quite literally couldn't keep going without you.

SPONSORED BY:

CHAD E. CLEMENT, D.D.S., P.C
1256 Bay Street • 541-997-3423

COUNTY TRANSFER & RECYCLING
5078 Coastwood Lane • 541-997-8233

CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD
1380 10th St.• 541-997-3533

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1935 25th Street • 541-997-7660

FLORENCE IN BLOOM
1234 Rhododendron • 541-997-5391

FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
900 Greenwood Street • 541-997-3515

FLORENCE RV AND AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALISTS
4390 Hwy 101 • 541-997-8287

HOBERG'S COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
345 Highway 101 • 541-997-2413

LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTER
4325 Highway 101 • 541-997-7178

OREGON PACIFIC BANK
1365 Highway 101 • 541-997-7121

RAY WELLS, INC.
1770 Laurel Street • 541-997-2054

SIUSLAW NEWS
148 Maple Street • 541-997-3441

STATE SENATOR ARNIE ROBLAN, DISTRICT 5
900 Court St NE, S-417, Salem, OR, 97301
503-986-1705

THE GIRLS MAINTENANCE
541-590-0283

WEST COAST REAL ESTATE SERVICES
1870 Hwy. 126 • 541-997-7653

WHITE CLOUD ENTERPRISE CONTINUOUS RAIN GUTTERS
(541) 997-9508

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES ARE OPEN TO SERVE YOU.

To be included in this list for $49 a month, Call 541-997-3441.

Abby's Legendary Pizza, 1374 Highway 101 • 541-997-2229 ..... Open daily 11 am – 9 pm.
Offering delivery and curb-side takeout. ..... Online ordering is easy at https://abbys.com/order.
Coastal Home Services, 2530 Kingwood Street Suite D • 541-590-3691 ..... Open Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm.
Florence Janitorial Services , 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. 541-997-2385
Florence RV and Automotive Specialist, 4390 Highway 101 • 541-997-8287 ..... Open Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm
Taking call outs!
Hoberg's Complete Auto Repair 345 Highway 101 • 541-997-2413 ..... Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
J and J Automotive, 1885 42nd Street • 541-997-3260 ..... Open 8 am – 5 pm Monday – Thursday, Friday by appointments
Neil's Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning, 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. 541-997-3825
Novelli's Crab & Seafood, Boat Slip A13, Bay Street and Nopal Street • 541-639-7689 ..... Open every day 11 am – 5 pm.
Curbside Service or Delivery
Shervin's Tire and Automotive Repair, 4515 Hwy. 101 • 541-997-8052 ..... Open Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm
We will pick up and deliver your car back to you!
TR Hunter Real Estate 1749 Hwy 101 • 541-997-1200 ..... Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm Monday through Saturday.
We're taking extra precautions to insure the safety of our clients and walk-ins. And if you choose, we have online resources in place that will allow you to conduct your real estate transaction from the safety of your home.
West Coast Real Estate Services, 1870 Highway 126 • 541-997-7653, www.jimhoberg.com ..... Open 8:30 am – 5:30 pm daily.
During these uncertain times, we are accessible by phone, website, email and by appointment. We are conducting business as safely as possible for our clients as well as our staff.
Word of Mouth Home Décor 541-991-3457
Curbside pick up, shipping and free in-town delivery. Special care packages can be viewed on our Instagram; choose from the packages or contact us to help with products from our store inventory. We are available daily 11-3pm. Call, text or direct message us on facebook or instagram.