

On The Record

State, federal tax season for 2020 opens 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.

- There are many free or low-cost preparation options available for both federal and Oregon tax returns.

- 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.

- Taxpayers can order copies of past returns, letters or other correspondence — from 2015 to current — through their Revenue Online account. They can also order and pay for these, or older documents, over the phone at 800-356-4222.

- Anyone who needs a personal income tax return booklet can down-

load 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. Those who qualify for the EITC are also eligible to claim Oregon's Earned Income Credit, which is 8 percent of their federal credit amount, or 11 percent if they have a qualifying dependent under 3 years old.

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

For information about an employer's filing or payment responsibilities, visit www.oregon.gov/dor.

Volunteers sought for 'Point in Time' homeless count

The City of Cottage Grove is partnering with Lane County for the Unsheltered Point in Time (PIT) Count on Thursday, Jan. 30.

All volunteers will be required to participate in a training prior to the count.

To sign up for the Unsheltered PIT count, you can register at www.lanecounty.org/homeless-count.

For more information on volunteering in Cottage Grove, contact Teresa Cowan or Jessica Klarr at 541-942-1185.

DEATH NOTICES

NELSON—Opal Marie Nelson, 97, of Cottage Grove, died Jan. 15, 2020.

Arrangements are being handled by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

TRISKA—Bill Bertram Triska, 92, of Eugene, died Jan. 19, 2020.

Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

Bryan Paul Linse 1975-2020



Bryan Paul Linse of Cottage Grove, OR, passed away January 14th, 2020 at the age of 44. Bryan was born May 27th, 1975 in Watsonville, CA to parents Robert Paul Linse and Sandra Kaye (Barth) Linse. Bryan worked as a dump truck driver and was passionate about his work. He loved his children and pets and enjoyed fishing and four wheeling in

his spare time. Bryan married Naomi Sansburn on August 8th, 2008 at the Mosby Creek Family Ranch in Cottage Grove, OR. Together they had two daughters. He was a member of the Cottage Grove Bible Church. Bryan is survived by his wife Naomi Sansburn of Cottage Grove OR; their children Mykala Marie Linse and Myah Kaye Linse of Cottage Grove OR; his parents Robert and Sandra Linse of Cottage Grove, OR; and his sister Bobbie Kaye Wilson. A Celebration of Life will be held following interment at Sears Cemetery at the Cottage Grove Bible Church on Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at 4PM. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove, OR.

Betty J. Schnell 1932-2020



Betty J. Schnell, 87, of Cottage Grove, OR passed away on January 9, 2020. She was born on October 24, 1932 in Eugene, OR to the parents of Claude and Mamie (Wilson) McMullen. Betty received an Associate's degree in dental hygiene from Lane Community College in 1972 and a bachelor's degree in Community Health Education from the University of Oregon in 1980. She married Neil M. Jacobson on December 9, 1948; they later divorced. On May 29, 1953 she married Henry H. Whetham; they also divorced, and she married Carl

A. Schnell on October 5, 1985. Betty enjoyed sewing, knitting, reading and traveling. She was the president of the Cottage Grove branch of Habitat for Humanity in 2007 and volunteered for many years. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Schnell and grandson, Casey R. Whetham. Betty is survived by her daughter, Linda Trombly (John); son, David S. Whetham; daughter, Sarah Turpin (Randy); son, Jd Whetham (Susan) all of Cottage Grove, OR; step-son, Alan A. Randol (Sacra) of Vancouver, WA; step-daughter, Erica Randol; sister, Reta Porath, Springfield, OR; 6 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be held at the Dorena Grange at 4:00 PM on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Arrangements in the care of Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR.

POLICE LOG

Jan. 13

- Trespassing was reported at Kentucky Fried Chicken as a subject refused to leave after smoking cigarettes in the bathroom. The individual also impeded vehicle traffic in the area.

Jan. 14

- Video evidence of shoplifting was reported at Grocery Outlet.

Jan. 15

- Graffiti written in "Hispanic language" was found by school staff in the rear of Cottage Grove High School on the garbage bins and surrounding wall

Jan. 16

- Criminal mischief was reported when an unknown suspect caused

an estimated \$6 of damage to a private fence.

Jan. 17

- An unknown person cut four tires of a 2001 Volvo sedan on North 19th Street.

Jan. 18

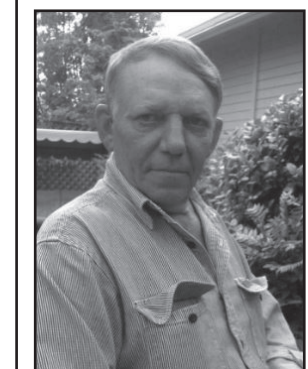
- Personal items were

reported stolen from a parked vehicle at El Tapatio after the vehicle's passenger side window was damaged to gain access.

Jan. 19

- Graffiti was reported at the Chambers Covered Railroad Bridge.

Rex L Mitchel 1952-2019



Rex L Mitchel, 67, of Anchorage, Alaska, passed away at home on December 25th, 2019 peacefully, in his sleep. Rex was born to parents Dan & Billie Mitchel, on July 20th, 1952 in Eugene, Oregon and grew up on Buck Creek. He graduated from North Douglas High School in 1971 and was one of the last men drafted for Vietnam in 1972. Rex was a gypo logger for over 20 years, primarily with Harris Logging out of Drain, Oregon. He moved to Alaska in 1990, entering into partnership with Todd Mueller to run Cedar Source, a high quality cedar lumber yard in Anchorage. After 16 years, they closed the yard down in October of 2006. Rex went on to run the Anchorage location of Valley Sawmill until he retired in 2014. Rex was a veteran and pa-

triot who loved his country and proudly displayed the American flag at all times. He enjoyed woodworking, writing poetry, and watching old western movies. Rex met his best friend & loving wife, Judy, while attending High School. They were married on December 23, 1972 in Drain, Oregon. Together they raised one child: Carrie A Mitchel (also known as Jess). Their home was always open to many other children who grew up with admiration for the loving home they kept and the support they willingly provided to all who entered. Rex is survived by his wife, Judy, daughter, Carrie (Jess), grandson, Mason, sisters LaDonna & Diane, three brother-in-laws, and many nieces, nephews, and beyond. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dan & Billie Mitchel, and his sister, Sue Cox. The family has entrusted Anchorage Funeral Home & Crematory with the arrangements. A private viewing was held for Rex's wife and daughter; no funeral is scheduled at this time. His ashes will be interred into his family burial plot at Pleasant Hill, Oregon.

Melvin Columbus Walston 1924-2020

Born in the hills of Shady, Arkansas on September 16, 1924. Passed away on January 7, 2020 at home in Cottage Grove, Oregon. He loved to hunt, grow his garden, go to church and watch his fire. His wife, Marquita Walston, preceded him in death on January 2, 2015. He is survived by his son, Jim Walston and his wife Sharon of Rose-

burg, Oregon; granddaughter, Tami Miles of Cottage Grove, Oregon; a grandson, Tanner Walston and his wife Heidi of Cottage Grove, Oregon; and his grandkids, including Erin Howell of Cottage Grove, Oregon and Brynden Howell of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Also, numerous nephews, nieces and cousins. We all miss you but will see you again in heaven.

Pete Gerstner 1934-2020



Pete Gerstner died January 9, 2020 at the age of 85. He was born September 5, 1934 in Montrose, Colorado. He moved to Culp Creek, Oregon with his family in 1942. He went to work at Bohemia Plywood at the age of 16 and worked there until they shut

down and he retired. He married Joyce Barton in 1957, they later divorced. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and loved driving the mountains and the coast. He is survived by his daughter Shelia Lazzar and husband J.R., sisters Irene Hird and Gerty Pritchard, 6 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and sister in law Dorothy Gerstner. He was preceded in death by his parents Pete and Genevieve Gerstner, son Thomas Gerstner, brothers Juluis, Isadore, John, and Martin Gerstner, sister Lorene Williams, and long-time companion Pansy Stranton. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Final Arrangements

Handled with Care

- Cremation Options
- Memorial & Funeral Planning
- Monuments & Memorials • Cemetery Options
- Family Owned & Operated

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