

KNOX & DIMONE, LLC

www.knoxdimone.com
ph: 503.293.0093



Delay of Filing Season

It probably comes as no surprise that as a result of the 16-day government shut down, the IRS has announced a filing delay of 1 to 2 weeks for the 2014 tax season and estimates returns will begin to process somewhere between Jan 28 and Feb 4.

How will this affect you? Most likely, not at all, as Knox & Dimone will be accepting tax information early in January and processing this information promptly. As soon as the government is able to receive the returns, we will submit them through our electronic filing system.

And just to put this in perspective, some processing dates from earlier years...

- ♦ 2013: IRS began accepting returns on January 30th
- ♦ 2012: IRS began accepting returns on January 17th BUT the State of Oregon was delayed an additional few weeks due to a regulatory snafu

Your best choice is still to get your material in as promptly as possible. For clients whose children will be starting college next year, be sure to read the newsletter section on FAFSA. Call Laurie if you need any help at all with the FAFSA process.

More from the National Conference of CPA Practitioners (NCCPAP)...

Among other things, during a shutdown, the IRS would continue to require and accept tax payments -- but may delay refunds. Steve Mankowski, chair of NCCPAP's Tax Policy Committee, said, "The effect of the IRS accepting payments but delaying refunds is the same as pulling cash out of the economy, because people worried about their refunds won't spend as much money during the holiday season."

"When Americans spend less money, small businesses are hurt financially, in addition to the local governments who depend on those businesses for tax revenue," said Ed Caine, President of NCCPAP.

NCCPAP also expressed concern that the delayed tax season would impact both its members' businesses, and taxpayers who rely on early refunds, and said that its members across the country will be reaching out to Congress to oppose another shutdown.

NCCPAP's members are practicing CPA firms who represent over 1 million businesses and individual clients.

FAFSA

With more than \$236 BILLION available in financial aid to help pay for college, it just makes sense to file the federal financial aid application known as FAFSA. It's the REQUIRED first step in applying for over 90% of the available funds.

While completing the form may seem complicated, once the basic information is gathered, it's a process of answering questions and making some simple calculations. You'll need your tax returns and information about your current assets and liabilities.

The OFFICIAL site is FAFSA.ORG. At this site, you CANNOT complete the FAFSA for the current year till after January 1. At commercial sites (such as FAFSA.COM), you can complete the form earlier (say in the fall or winter) and pay their fee – anywhere from \$89 dollars to several hundred). Most commercial sites claim to place "early filed" clients in a queue. The forms are then submitted at midnight of January 1. While this might provide some benefit to students attempting to get aid for highly competitive schools, it is unlikely to make a difference for most people applying for aid.

For further help in completing the FAFSA, feel free to call our offices to speak to Laurie, or make an appointment and come in.

Obamacare, Health Insurance Exchanges & Cover Oregon, Oh My! What Does it Really Mean for Us?

If the late 70's innovation of The Cafeteria Plan were to be combined with 21st century internet capability, the result would be.....The Health Insurance Exchange!

In Oregon, our HIX is called "Cover Oregon" and serves as an online marketplace to provide an easy shopping experience for the consumer and for the employer. It includes:

- ♦ decision making tools
- ♦ extensive research data
- ♦ a broad range of resources to help consumers make the best choices for their circumstances

Individuals and families who pay for their own insurance may qualify for tax credits (APTC). Employers who provide insurance benefits may qualify for tax credits up to 50% of premium costs.

How does this affect you or your company and employees? Please call us or visit www.coveroregon.com for more information.

Help Desk

Our services and associates encompass all aspects of business and individual circumstances. Whether you need help with business accounting or your college FAFSA, computer systems or tax planning, managing your rental property or understanding the new Health Care Act, we are available to work with you! Please don't hesitate to call with questions!

Notes

Just a reminder that the legal structure of our company is an S-corporation (despite the LLC in our name) and, as such, our clients are NOT required to send us a 1099!