



What If the IRS Thinks You're Dead?

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CPA Helps American Legion Post Restore Tax Exempt Status

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Most Business Leaders Don't Expect Real Tax Reform Until 2018

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What If the IRS Thinks You're Dead?

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MICHAEL L. DIAMOND, ASBURY PARK PRESS - MCCLATCHY ON MAR 20, 2017



A woman tried to file her tax returns electronically this year, only to have it rejected because, she was told, her Social Security number belonged to a dead person.

For Neil Becourtney, a certified public accountant with Cohn Reznick in Eatontown, it was a first. He'd seen returns sent back because parents mistakenly claimed an adult child as a dependent or because a woman filed using her married name instead of her maiden name.

"But never, 'According to us, you're deceased,'" Becourtney said.

week filing clients' returns. And it shed light on the complicated lives of Shore residents.

The 2016 tax year is relatively stable. One change? The deadline is April 18 since since the traditional tax deadline of April 15 in on a Saturday, April 16 is on a Sunday and April 17 is Emancipation Day, a holiday in Washington, D.C., that recognizes the emancipation of slaves.

Still, Melanie Cobb, a CPA with Abacus Financial in Spotswood, encouraged taxpayers who think they will miss the April 18 deadline to file for an extension.

Nearly 200 readers called on Sunday with questions.

The woman told Becourtney that she had a letter from the Social Security Administration proving that she wasn't dead. He advised her to contact the IRS's identity theft division, hoping someone could steer her in the right direction.



There were other calls as well:

- A 96-year-old woman wondered if she needed to file taxes. Becourtney, after tallying up her income from Social Security and her deceased husband's pension, thought she might owe a few hundred dollars.
- A man finished rebuilding his home four years after it was destroyed in Superstorm Sandy and wondered if there were any tax credits available. There aren't, said James Toto, a certified public accountant with WeiserMazars in Edison.
- A woman, whose husband died in December, wondered if she should file a joint tax return. Barry Shapiro, a partner at WithumSmith+Brown in Middletown, said yes and noted she would probably benefit from lower rates than if she filed individually.
- A woman sold her house after living there for 37 years and wondered if she owed taxes on the capital gain. I. David Eliran, a certified public accountant in Freehold Township, said a gain of up to \$500,000 for a married couple is excluded.

After hearing his answer, "she was in the heavens," Eliran said.

The accountants seemed that way, too. While your eyes might glaze over with talk of, say, a 216 transaction or the tax treatment of stock options, their eyes light up.

The profession is in demand, the accountants said. Candidates need to know basic math. They need to pay attention to detail. They need to keep up with changing rules. They need a good memory. And they need a passion for a job that during tax season can keep them in the office 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

"It's like another language, like learning Spanish or German," said Ralph Evangelista, a CPA with Frazer, Evangelista & Co. in East Brunswick. "You just have to practice. And it becomes second nature. And you have to like it."

"I love this time of year, up until about April 8," said Stephen Mazur, a CPA with Mazur & Associates in Red Bank. "Then we have so much work to do and how are we going to get it done? Those are the clients that owe."

Also participating: Craig Johnson, a CPA at Holman Frenia Allison based in Toms River; Joseph Petrucelli, a CPA at PP&D Accounting Services in Woodbridge; and Robert Fodera, a CPA at Baker Tilly in Woodridge

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CPA Helps American Legion Post Restore Tax Exempt Status

March 19, 2017

March 16--Thanks to the efforts of a Helena certified public accountant, the non-profit status of American Legion Post 41 has been restored. John C. Edwards was named Post 41 commander in 2015. Soon after he discovered that the non-profit s

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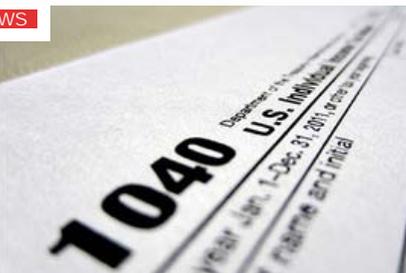


What If the IRS Thinks You're Dead?

March 20, 2017

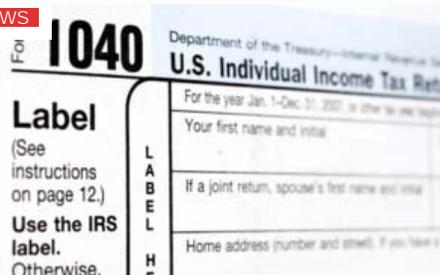
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6 Tax Tips for Self-Employed Workers

March 13, 2017

On-demand work is a rapidly growing alternative to the 9 to 5 job, and companies such as Lyft, HomeAway and TaskRabbit are effectively reshaping the economy.

Workers can set their own schedule, work a variety of jobs at the same time and find specific...



March Madness Tax Tips

March 13, 2017

It's March Madness, of course. If you're immune, good for you. For the rest of America, the NCAA Division I Basketball Championship is an annual rite that makes even non-sports and non-basketball fans get excited about the "Big Dance," "Bracketology..."



Trump 2005 Tax Return Shows \$150 Million Income, \$38 Million Federal Taxes

March 14, 2017

On Tuesday night, the 2005 personal 1040 income tax return for president Donald Trump was revealed on MSNBC. The network says the return was provided to an independent author and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, David Johnston, by an anonymous source.

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You Don't Have to File Income Taxes by April 15 this Year

March 13, 2017

Think April 15 is the deadline for Americans to file their federal tax returns with the IRS (or request an extension)? Nope.

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URGENT PRICING



Surge Pricing: Is It Right for Tax and Accounting Firms

March 13, 2017

In the on-demand economy, surge pricing is becoming a norm. But will surge pricing become the new trend in tax services? And could it be coming to accounting firms, too?

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Volunteers Wanted for IRS Advisory Panel

March 13, 2017

The TAP reports annually to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service and the National Taxpayer Advocate. The Office of the Taxpayer Advocate is an independent organization within the IRS that provides support for...

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New Mobile Workforce Law Would Simplify Taxes for Multi-State Taxpayers

March 9, 2017

In a rare display of bipartisanship, members of Congress

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Which States Have the Highest Beer Taxes?

March 10, 2017

How much tax revenue do the states rake in from alcoholic beverages like beer? It varies widely across the

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Taxes and the Sharing Economy - AirBnB

March 9, 2017

Are you going away on an extended vacation or business trip this summer? While you're gone, your house, apartment or vacation home will likely remain dormant. But there's a way for property owners to make some money while they are away from home.

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Tax and Payroll Legislation Updates for 2017

March 7, 2017

Forms 1094 and 1095 will most likely survive for at least this year, so make sure to keep tracking. The Cadillac tax will probably go away later this year, and it is possible that the employer mandate could go away this year, as well (not yet confirmed).

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IRS Enacts New Regulations for Gambling Income

March 3, 2017

are getting behind legislation that would simplify the tax reporting for employees who cross state lines. A 2016 version of the bill passed in the House late last summer, but died on the vine in t

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IRS Interest Rates Stay Level for Second Quarter 2017

March 7, 2017

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that interest rates will remain the same for the calendar quarter beginning April 1, 2017. The rates will be:

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Will Tax Reform Hurt Housing Market?

March 6, 2017

A proposal coming out of the White House to raise the standard tax deduction would be welcome news for most taxpayers, but some in the housing industry fear it could discourage new homeowners. Among the changes being proposed ...

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\$1 Billion in Tax Refunds to

country. For easy reference, the Tax Foundation has created a map listing the rates. It has yet to provide an update for 2017, but the figures ...

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H&R Block Likes Trump's Tax Plan and Obamacare Replacement Plan

March 7, 2017

H&R Block CEO Bill Cobb said Tuesday that he likes President Donald Trump's tax reform plans and the Republicans' tax-credit-driven replacement for the Affordable Care Act.

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Do you enjoy wagering at casinos and participating in other games of chance? The IRS requires you to pay tax on your fair share of winnings as reported by the "house."

Expire if Not Claimed

March 2, 2017

The IRS says that more than \$1 billion in federal income tax refunds from 2013 has gone unclaimed so far, and will be lost to the nearly 1 million taxpayers who failed to claim them. Taxpayers have three years to file for an income tax refund, after...



AICPA Asks Senate to Approve Income Tax Treaties

March 2, 2017

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) says the United States Senate should promptly consider and approve the bilateral income tax treaties and protocols currently pending before it.

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