

IRS 2012 Electronic Tax Filing Season Opens

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service has opened the 2012 electronic tax return filing season with a reminder to taxpayers that e-file remains the best way to get fast refunds and ensure accurate tax returns.

IRS e-file has surpassed the milestone of 1 billion returns processed. The electronic transmission system revolutionized the way the IRS processes tax returns and made speedy refunds possible. Nationally, more than 112 million income tax returns were e-filed last year, or 77 percent of all individual returns filed.

"E-file is the best option for taxpayers. E-file enables taxpayers to file more accurate returns and receive their refunds quickly and safely," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman.

In general, for people concerned about security, e-file has proven itself year in and year out as a safe and secure method of filing a tax return. E-file has a proven track record. Software vendors and paid tax return preparers use the latest encryption technology. Plus, within 48 hours, an electronic acknowledgment is issued that the return has been received by the IRS and either accepted or rejected.

When using e-file, you also use an e-signature and an electronic filing PIN. If you prepare your own return using software you must use the self-select PIN method on the return.

With most people receiving a refund, the fastest way to get a refund is by e-filing and using direct deposit. Taxpayers can get their money automatically in as few as 10 days. Last year, more than 79 million refunds were electronically deposited into taxpayers' accounts, saving them a trip to the bank.

For people who owe taxes, e-file offers payment alternatives such as filing now and

scheduling payment on the April tax deadline. Taxpayers who still want to pay by check can do so by e-filing and then mailing a payment voucher.

Taxpayers can e-file their tax returns one of three ways: through a tax return preparer, through self-preparation software or through IRS Free File. The IRS does not charge for e-file. Many tax return preparers and software products also offer free e-filing with their services. Free File offers free tax preparation and free electronic filing.

Starting this filing season, any paid preparer who prepares and files more than 10 returns for clients generally must file the returns electronically. Taxpayers are encouraged to use tax return preparers who offer IRS e-file.

Taxpayers should also only use paid preparers who sign the returns they prepare and enter their Preparer Tax Identification Numbers (PTINs). Preparers are required to sign the returns they prepare and include their PTINs. Although paid preparers sign returns, taxpayers are legally responsible for the accuracy of every item on their return. Preparers are also required to give taxpayers a copy of their returns.

IRS Free File, which has been making taxes a little less taxing for a decade, is also now available. Everyone can use Free File, either the brand-name software offered by IRS' commercial partners or the online fillable forms. Individuals or families with 2011 adjusted gross incomes of \$57,000 or less can use Free File software. Seventy percent of taxpayers — 100 million people — are eligible for Free File software. It's perfect for first-time filers, families looking to save money or older Americans adept at using the Internet.

Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms, has no income

restrictions. Free File Fillable Forms performs some math calculations and provides links to some IRS publications. It does not use the familiar question-and-answer format used by software. Taxpayers can e-file the forms for free. It also does not support state income tax returns.

"Free File can save you time and money. You can prepare and e-file your tax return at no charge. And, the software helps you find the tax breaks you are due," said Diane Fox, director, Free File program. "Free File helps make taxes less taxing."

Free File software is a product of a public-private partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, LLC. The Alliance is a consortium of approximately 20 tax software providers who make versions of their free-file products available exclusively at www.irs.gov/freefile.

All Free File members must meet certain security requirements and use the latest in encryption technology to protect taxpayers' information.

The easiest way to locate a software provider is to use the online "get help" tool at www.irs.gov/freefile that, with a little of a taxpayer's information such as income, age and state residency, can identify matching free-file products. Or, taxpayers can review all providers and their offers. Some software providers also offer state income tax preparation for free or for a fee.

Also, the IRS is working with select volunteer tax sites such as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly. There are 200 locations nationwide that have set up Free File kiosks where taxpayers can use computers to prepare their own returns with Free File.

Quilt Art Show Set For Tyndall

TYNDALL — Quilters of all ages are reminded to bring their small-sized quilts, art quilts and wearable art of original design (jackets, bags and purses) to the Art & Antique Gallery in Tyndall starting Monday, Jan. 23, through Jan. 28, for the second annual Quilt Show.

Due to space, smaller quilts (crib-size or smaller) are desired, unless otherwise arranged.

The show will run Feb. 1-26. The Art & Antique Gallery, located at 1610 Main in Tyndall, is regularly open Wednesdays through Saturdays, other days by appointment or chance. Call 605-589-4050 for more information.

Cenex Celebrates Good Deeds In South Dakota Communities With Free Fuel

ST. PAUL, Minn. — As a way to recognize and reward people who go above and beyond for their community, Cenex® — the CHS energy brand — is launching Tanks of Thanks, a new program that gives free fuel to those who make their communities just a little bit better.

In every South Dakota community, there are people doing good things every day. A neighbor who organizes the summer barbeque, a parent who volunteers to coach the youth soccer team, the teenager who helps shovel a neighbor's driveway.

The Tanks of Thanks program gives Cenex retailers, customers and anyone else in the community a new way to say "thank you" to neighbors, friends and family by recognizing their good deeds and nominating them for free fuel from their local Cenex retail location.

"The Cenex brand has a deep-rooted history in serving rural communities and smaller towns across the country, so we realize that it's the little acts of kindness that make these communities healthy and happy places to live," says Kayte Haaland, CHS refined fuels brand marketing manager. "These acts of kindness do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Tanks of Thanks is our way to celebrate these good deeds and encourage others to contribute to their communities."

Al Seckinger, vice president of retail for Country Pride Coop, which operates five Cenex convenience stores in South Dakota says, "As a local business, I'm proud to be a part of the community we serve." Seckinger adds, "I know there are a lot of great people doing a lot of good things in smaller towns across South

Dakota, so I hope to see a lot of Tanks of Thanks nominations from our communities."

Nominating someone for Tanks of Thanks is easy, and anyone can nominate or be nominated for any act of kindness — big or small. Visit TanksOffHanks.com and briefly describe why someone deserves a Tank of Thanks. The site also shares other nominations and stories from communities across the country. Each month, 12 nominees will be drawn at random to receive a Tanks of Thanks gift card worth \$50.

"There is no limit to the number of people you can nominate," adds Seckinger. "Nominate as many people as you think deserve recognition for making your community a better place."

In addition to the monthly drawing, each Cenex dealer or retailer can also give away Tanks of Thanks gift cards to reward individuals they see doing good in their local communities. By the end of 2012, it is anticipated that Tanks of Thanks will have recognized more than 2,500 people in small and rural communities across the country.

"Nearly all of the more than 1,400 Cenex brand dealer and retail locations are locally owned and operated, and play an active role in their communities," says Haaland. "The Tanks of Thanks program is simply another way for our Cenex dealers and retailers to show their communities that 'We're with you.'"

Cenex brand dealers and retailers are proud to be an active part of the communities they serve. To find the Cenex retailer closest to you, use the Cenex store locator at Cenex.com.

W.O.D. Awards Luncheon Tickets Available

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Women Community Leaders Committee will be recognizing two women at the fourth annual "Woman of Distinction" Luncheon on Monday, Feb. 20, starting at 11:30 a.m. in the main dining room at Mount Marty College. Doors open at 11 a.m.

There will be two awards, one for "Professional Leadership" and one award for "Community Leadership". The Women Community Leaders Committee received 15 nominations from people in the community that recognized outstanding women in the Yankton area for their contribution to community service and professional leadership as an employee or volunteer.

The winner from each category will be announced at the Feb. 20 luncheon. The nominees in the Community Service Category include: Sarah Carda, Joanne Christensen, Denise Cody, Lelia Elder, Jane Gilmore and Allison Spak. In the Professional Category the nominees include: Carolyn Becker, Lois Halbur, Dr. Paula Hicks, Lori Lincoln, Dr. Mary Milroy, Micki Schievelbein, Sister Margo Tschetter, Pam VanMeeteren and Betty Viau.

The luncheon will also include featured speaker, Yankton native Alice Dendinger, SPHR, on "Is There an It You Don't Get." Dendinger is co-owner of the Alice Dendinger Alliance Group, a small, minority owned Austin based consulting firm.

Luncheon tickets are available at the Yankton Chamber & Visitors Center or you may contact any of the members of the Women Community Leaders Committee which include: Nancy Sternhagen, Carla Addy, Kathie Gerstner, Kathy Greenaway, Jean Hunhoff, Emma Laird, Sister Doris Oberembt, Joleen Smith, Paula Tacke and Gert Thomas.

To order luncheon tickets, request special needs for parking, handicap accessibility or special food requests contact the Yankton Chamber by Feb. 6 at (605) 665-3636.

Girl Scout Cookies Slated For Sale

Girl Scout Cookies may be purchased from individual Girl Scouts and at local cookie shops in Yankton and the surrounding areas in South Dakota Feb. 18-March 24.

The eight flavors are: Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Shortbread, Thin Mints, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Thanks-A-Lot, Lemonades and Shout Outs! Watch for your local Girl Scouts coming soon to a door near you.

If you are not contacted by a Girl Scout during this time, call Shawn at (605) 668-0545 or the cookie hotline at (605) 336-2978 to place a cookie order.

Annual Essay Contest Entries Sought

RAPID CITY — The Black Hills Chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society has announced its annual essay contest for middle school, high school and undergraduate students. The essay can have many formats but must deal with some aspect of German-Russian history. Students need not be German-Russian to enter.

The purpose of the essay is to encourage students to study the colorful history of the German-Russian people.

Deadline for submissions is March 20.

Chapter entries are also automatically entered in the essay contest sponsored by the Germans from Russia Heritage Society. Winners earn trophies and cash prizes. More information and entry forms can be found at the chapter website <http://members.rushmore.com/~bhgrhs/index.htm> or by contacting Bill Bosch at wbosch@spe.midco.net.

Also available on the website are free teaching modules about German-Russian history for teachers and parents.

Farmers U. Insurance Scholarships Available

HURON — For the fifth straight year, Farmers Union Insurance, in cooperation with the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation, is offering \$25,000 in scholarships to eligible high school seniors in South Dakota through the "Insuring a Brighter Tomorrow" scholarship program.

Twenty-five high school seniors from across the state who plan to continue post-secondary education at a college, university, or technical school in the state of South Dakota will each receive \$1,000.

The scholarships are funded with support from Farmers Union Insurance agents in South Dakota and the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation. The application deadline is April 15, 2012. Scholarship recipients will be selected based on the applicant's academic records, school and community involvement, and financial need. The applicant will also be required to submit a written essay entitled, "How do you hope to impact a Brighter Tomorrow in South Dakota?"

Applicants must meet one of the following requirements:

- South Dakota high school senior whose parent or parents are current policyholders of Farmers Union Insurance;
- Member of South Dakota Farmers Union;
- A "Friend of the Farmers Union Foundation" (defined as those who have contributed \$25 or more to the Foundation in the past year);
- Participant in any South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) sanctioned event.

Applicants must:

- Complete the application form (available from school counselors, local Farmers Union Insurance Agents, or at www.sdfufoundation.org);
- provide a copy of high school transcript and ACT/SAT score;
- provide a letter of recommendation;
- submit a written essay (less than 500 words)
- provide a billfold-sized portrait photo.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15. Return materials to: Farmers Union Insurance, Attn: Wayne Bartscher, P.O. Box 1388, Huron, SD 57350.

For more information, call Farmers Union Insurance at 1-800-933-2841.

OBITUARIES

Marilyn Dangel

Marilyn A. Dangel, age 85, of Yankton, SD died Monday, January 16, 2012 at the Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 21, 2012, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with Fr. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton, SD.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, January 20, 2012, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, SD, with a rosary at 7 p.m., the VFW Women's Auxiliary service at 7:15 p.m. and a Scripture service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Erica Anderson, Bernadette Natt, Megan Ball, Larry, Jeff and Duane Dangel, Teresa Burgi, Erin Tjeerdsma, and Jennifer and Christopher Pinkelman.

Marilyn Ann Dangel was born December 1, 1926 in rural Irene to Leo, Sr. and Genevieve (Huber) Wood. She grew up in the Mayfield area and graduated from Irene High School in 1943.

On December 2, 1944, Marilyn married James Dangel and together they have two sons, Aloysius and Gregory, and two daughters, Cynthia and Denise.



Dangel

She enjoyed sewing, crafts and gardening.

Marilyn is survived by her husband of 67 years, James of Yankton, SD; her children, Aloysius (Marsha) Dangel of Spearfish, SD, Gregory (Violet) Dangel of Yankton, SD, Cynthia (Raymond) Pinkelman of Yankton, SD, and Denise (Dale) Luckhurst of Pierre, SD; 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild; and sisters, Audrey Lubbers of Yankton, SD and Clarine (Harold) Feifar of Yankton, SD.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leo, Sr. and Genevieve Wood and her brother, Leo Wood, Jr.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 19, 2012



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Margaret Quintal

VERMILLION — Margaret (Meg) Quintal, 67, of Vermillion died December 25, 2011 at her home in Vermillion.

Memorial service will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 20, 2012, at the Native American Cultural Center, 409 E. Clark St, Vermillion.

Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion, was in charge of the arrangements.

Alvina Frier

WAKONDA — Alvina E. Frier, 92, of Wakonda died Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012, at Wakonda Heritage Manor Nursing Home, Wakonda.

Arrangements are pending with Hansen Funeral Home, Irene.

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Gary Johnson
Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel

IN REMEMBRANCE

Bernice E. Miller
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 Holy Family Catholic Church
 Hartington

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and Cremation Service, Inc.
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Hearing Loss Support Group

Dr. Jeff Liudahl

Dr. Matt Rumsey,
Audiologist

January 23 Effective Communication Strategies

Topics Include:

- Understanding Hearing Loss
- Communication Tips for People with Hearing Loss
- Communication Tips for Partners of People with Hearing Loss

Upcoming Classes

February 20	Coping with Hearing Loss
March 19	Hearing Aid Care & Maintenance
April 16	Assistive Listening Devices & Hearing Aid Accessories

All Classes 10am-11am

Avera Professional Office Pavilion, Conference Room 1

Refreshments will be served

Please call 605-665-6820 to register

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