



S.A.L.T. TIMES

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Garry E. Lucas

The Official Internal Revenue Service Web Site is irs.gov

Millions of taxpayers this filing season will go online to retrieve tax forms, publications and other information from the Internal Revenue Service. Unfortunately, some of them will end up at Web sites that have no affiliation with the IRS. The official Web site for the Internal Revenue Service is irs.gov, and all irs.gov Web page addresses begin with <http://www.irs.gov>.

There are many phony Internet sites that impersonate federal or state tax agency sites. Scammers operate these sites as a means of getting visitors to reveal personal and financial information that can be used to steal the visitors' identity and access their bank accounts, credit cards and more.

In addition to Web sites

established by scammers, there are commercial Internet sites that often resemble the authentic IRS site or contain some form of the IRS name in the address but end with a .com, .net, .org or other designation instead of .gov. These sites have no connection to the IRS.

Be aware of e-mail scams that fraudulently use the IRS name or Logo as a lure. The IRS does not send unsolicited e-mails about a person's tax account or ask for detailed personal and financial information. Additionally, the IRS never asks people for the PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank or other financial accounts. The safest way to access a federal or state tax agency Web site is to close the e-mail and type the address of

the site directly in the Internet browser address box.

If you receive an e-mail from someone claiming to be the IRS or directing you to an IRS site,

- Do not reply.
- Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain malicious code that will infect your computer.
- Do not click on any links.

If you have received a questionable e-mail claiming to come from the IRS, please forward it to a mailbox the IRS has established to receive such e-mails, phishing@irs.gov. Read [How to Report and Identify Phishing, E-mail Scams and Bogus IRS Web Sites](#) for instructions. Following the instructions will help the IRS track suspicious e-mail to its origins and shut down potential scams.

Chief's Forum Addresses Community Concerns



Left to right: Interim Chief Mitchell, Washougal PD; Chief Lackey, Camas PD; Chief Evans, Clark County Sheriff's Office

Chiefs from the Washougal and Camas Police Departments and Clark County Sheriff's Office were on hand to answer questions from seniors at the January S.A.L.T. meeting in Camas. There were several good questions ranging from firework regulations to the impact of budget cuts and speeding complaints.

Here is just one of many helpful tips that was mentioned in response to a question about traffic accidents:

Accident tip: Write down details of an accident as soon as possible. It could be several months before you may need them, but having notes to remind you of the details of what happened is both easier and more reliable than counting on your memory.

We appreciate the Chief's taking their time to address the S.A.L.T. group and look forward to next year's forum!

Kinship Caregiver Conference

Saturday, February 28
from 10 AM to 4 PM

(Registration starts at 9:30 am.
Workshops begin at 10 am)
at the Clark County
Center for Community Health
1601 E Fourth Plain, Building 17
Vancouver, Washington

Guest Speaker:
Joan Callander

Author of 'Parenting the Second Time
Around Help for Grandparents Who Raise
their Children's Kids'

- Information and resources for grandparents raising grandchildren and other relatives raising related children
- Workshops on legal, funding supports, parenting issues and more!
- Free childcare (ages 4 to 10) **by pre-registration**

For more information call
360-695-1325 ext 4224
or e-mail laurenh@chs-wa.org
Cost is \$10 Individual/ \$15 Couple



Presented by the Clark County Kinship Care Coalition with generous support from the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington and Southwest Washington Area Agency on Aging

Time to get your Free Annual Credit Report

The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion – to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. The three companies have set up one central website, toll-free telephone number, and mailing address through which you can order your free credit report. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation’s consumer protection agency, wants you to know that, if you want to order your free annual credit report online, there is only one authorized website: **annualcreditreport.com**.

Many other websites claim to offer “free credit reports,” “free credit scores,” or “free credit monitoring.” But, be careful. These sites are not part of the official annual free credit report program. These sites often look like the official site at annualcreditreport.com. Some sites have website names that

purposely misspell annualcreditreport.com in the hope that you will mistype the name of the official site. Some of these “imposter” sites direct you to other sites that try to sell you something or collect your personal information.

To Order Your Free Annual Credit Report

- visit annualcreditreport.com
- call toll-free: 1-877-322-8228
- mail your completed Annual Credit Report Request Form to:

Annual Credit Report Request Service
P.O. Box 105281
Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

You have the right to ask that nationwide consumer credit reporting companies place “fraud alerts” in your file to let potential creditors and others know that you may be a victim of identity theft. A fraud alert can make it more difficult for someone to get credit in your name because it tells creditors to follow certain procedures to protect



you. It also may delay your ability to obtain credit. You may place a fraud alert in your file by calling just one of the three nationwide consumer credit reporting companies. As soon as that agency processes your fraud alert, it will notify the other two, which then also must place fraud alerts in your file.

Equifax: 1-877-576-5734;
www.alerts.equifax.com

Experian: 1-888-397-3742;
www.experian.com/fraud

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com

Too much junk mail?

You may request that consumer credit reporting companies exclude your name from lists for pre-approved, unsolicited credit and insurance offers. To find out more, please call 1-888-5OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688).

To be placed on the mailing list or e-mail distribution list to receive the FREE S.A.L.T. Times monthly newsletter, call the Clark County Sheriff’s Office Outreach Unit at (360)397-2211 ext. 3380 or e-mail Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov.

Clark County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 410
Vancouver, WA 98666

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S.A.L.T. Advisory Board Elects New Leaders

Elections were held in January for the 2009 S.A.L.T. Advisory Board. We would like to congratulate Marion Swendsen as our new president and Virginia Jester as vice-president! We would also like to thank former president Mildred Piontek and vice-president Everett Cook for their service and leadership in 2008!

Marion recently retired from Vancouver Police where she worked closely with the S.A.L.T. program. We are pleased that she is continuing her involvement with S.A.L.T. as a volunteer! Virginia has been a devout volunteer for several years with the S.A.L.T. program and we appreciate her willingness to continue her service on the Advisory Board.

Seniors are welcome to attend the Advisory Board meetings which are held on the first Thursday of every other month. The next meeting is March 5 at 11:30 a.m.. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Outreach Unit at 397-2211 ext. 3380.



For other formats: Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000 Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov