

Choctaw County Arrest Records

BUTLER - The following are individuals who were logged as having been arrested by officers with the Choctaw Co. Sheriff's Department, local municipal police departments, and officers with the Alabama State Troopers/Alabama Department of Public Safety over the past two weeks. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in court.

- Unlawful distribution of controlled substance, Drug paraphernalia, Pistol without permit - Jessie D. Conner, Silas; arrested on 03/13/20; by Graham and Busby, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Possession controlled substance, Drug paraphernalia, Driving under influence - Brian R. Griffith, Meridian; arrested on 03/12/20; by Graham, Arnold, and Dew, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Unlawful carry pistol - Louis Causey, Jr., Silas; arrested on 03/14/20; by Graham and Arnold, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Failure to appear, driving revoked, Failure to appear, expired tag - Elliott Johnson, Lisman; arrested on 03/11/20; by Pinkerton, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Reckless endangerment - Angela Carlisle, Gilbertown; arrested on 03/10/20; by Graham, Dunn, Ehteridge, and Busby, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Financial exploitation of elderly - Patrick O. Office, Butler; arrested on 03/07/20; by Jackson, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Failure to appear - driving while suspended x2, Failure to appear - no drivers' license - Ashlee N. Hendley, Butler; arrested on 03/11/20; by Graham, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Domestic violence 3rd - Charles Arillistand, Lisman; arrested on 03/12/20; by Jackson, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Domestic violence 3rd - Christie B. Bradley, Lisman; arrested on 03/07/20; by Jackson, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Possession of controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, Shooting from public place, Receiving stolen property, Reckless endangerment - Samuel Davis, Millry; arrested on 03/10/20; by Graham, Dunn, and Etheridge, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Violation of probation - Harry Jerome Smith, Citronelle; arrested on 03/17/20; by Pinkerton and Dew; Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

- Transmitting obscene material x2 - James W. Pierce, Butler; arrested on 03/23/20; by Pinkerton, Choctaw County Sheriff's Dept.

Tax filing deadline extended

New filing deadline is July 31

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

Alabama residents will have until July 15 to file their state income tax returns.

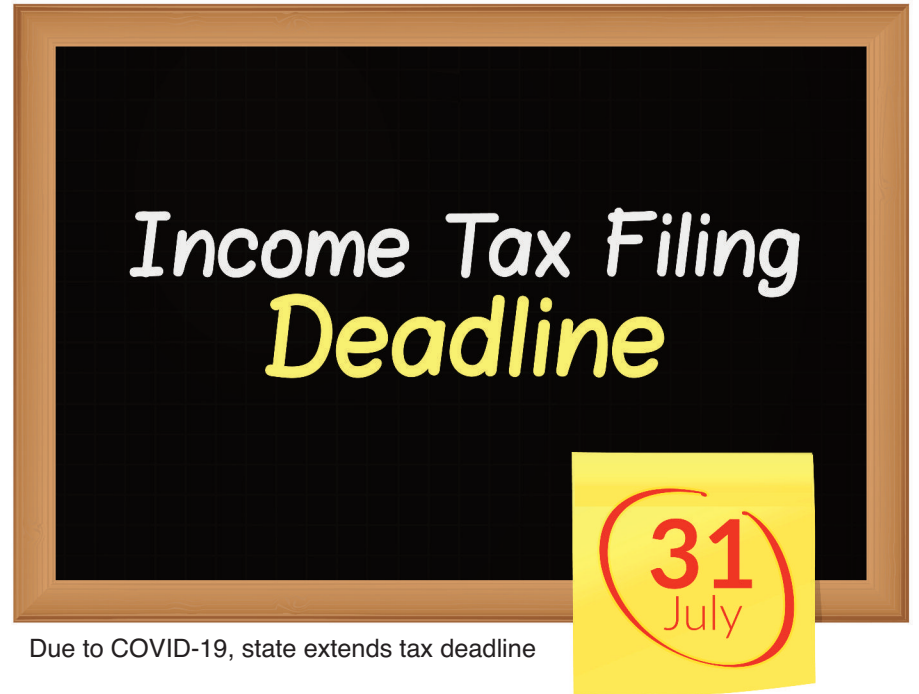
According to a press release from the Alabama Department of Revenue, the usual tax filing deadline of April 15 has been extended for three months due to efforts to deal with the spread of COVID-19.

The extension was granted to reduce the burden on taxpayers and allow time for residents to get back to normal routines, Gov. Kay Ivey said.

No late penalties or interest will be charged to taxpayers who defer tax payments until the new deadline. No additional forms are necessary in order to qualify for the extension.

The change applies to individuals, trust and estates, corporations, and other tax filers.

The filing deadline for federal returns was also extended until that date.



DOLLARS and SENSE How effective are fed's actions?

That we are living in challenging times — my cousin called this epoch a combination of the 1918 flu pandemic and the Great Depression — is illustrated by the recent actions of the Federal Reserve (Fed). In two unusual emergency meetings only twelve days apart, the Fed addressed the novel coronavirus pandemic.

On March 3, the central bank reduced the benchmark federal funds rate by one-half percent. And on Sunday, March 15, the Fed cut the rate by 1 percent, bringing it to near zero. Both moves caught the financial markets by surprise.

In addition to cutting the funds rate—the rate at which banks lend their excess funds on an overnight basis—the Fed announced a new round of massive purchases in the open market designed to inject liquidity into the financial system. They will purchase \$700 billion in securities — \$500 billion in Treasuries and \$200 billion in agency-backed mortgage securities. This is a reinstatement of quantitative easing that was used by the Fed during the 2008-2009 recession.

The Fed also slashed the rate at the discount window by 1.25 percent, bringing it to 0.25 percent. The discount window is sometimes referred to as the “lender of last resort.” Financial institutions use it for emergency liquidity needs.

The immediate reaction by the markets was not favorable, exhibiting skepticism about monetary policy as the answer to the crisis. After the March 3 action, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (Dow) fell by 786 points. But the reaction on March 16 was far more damaging. The Dow fell by 2,997 points, a decline of 12.9 percent.

How effective is monetary policy in combatting the coronavirus? The consensus is that it is not extremely effective. Moreover, it appears the Fed has now run out of ammunition. It cannot reduce the fed funds rate further. While it can continue to flood the financial markets with liquidity, there is not much evidence that this worked during the Great Recession.

Putting aside the coronavirus issue, how will the rate cut affect the various lending markets? In short, it will be beneficial to borrowers but penalize savers. The first rate to change was the prime rate, which immediately fell from 4.25 percent to 3.25 percent. Other short-term rates are based on it.

Look for credit card rates to fall. Likewise, rates on auto loans, personal loans, and business loans should fall as well. Unfortunately, savers will see rates drop to near zero.



Dr. Wayne Curtis
Contributing columnist

Workers affected by COVID-19 can get paid leave; employers reimbursed

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

Workers who must lose work hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic are now entitled to paid leave in some circumstances.

The federal government passed legislation last week that allows for paid leave for workers who may not ordinarily get such benefits.

Qualified workers can get two weeks paid sick leave if they are sick, quarantined, awaiting test results from coronavirus, or must care for family members who are sick or quarantined due to the virus. The plan gives 12 weeks of leave for people who must care for kids whose schools are closed due to the virus.

Workers with most small or midsize companies qualify, but companies with

more than 500 workers are excluded. Companies employing 50 or fewer workers are included but could be exempt if providing such leave would put them out of business.

Part-time workers can get paid leave up to the amount of time they would put in during a two-week pay period.

Those who are sick or seeking care for themselves can get the full amount of their usual paychecks, up to \$511 per day, while those caring for family members or children can get up to \$200 per day.

Employers will be reimbursed for the full amount paid out for such leave for their employees through payroll tax credits. The reimbursement will also cover the amount paid for healthcare benefits.

Guidelines for employers will be issued by the Department of Labor by April 2.

Small businesses offered tax relief

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Department of Revenue is extending relief to small retail businesses that are unable to timely pay their February, March, and April sales tax liabilities.

Small businesses whose monthly retail sales during the previous calendar year averaged \$62,500 or less may file their monthly sales tax returns for the February, March, and April 2020 reporting periods without paying the state sales tax reported as due. Late payment penalties will be waived for these taxpayers

through June 1, 2020.

Similar sales tax relief may be available on a case-by-case basis to other businesses significantly impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the preventative measures being taken to limit its spread in Alabama.

For more information about this small business tax relief measure, taxpayers are encouraged to visit the Department of Revenue's COVID-19 Updates page or call the Department's Sales and Use Tax Division at 334-242-1490.

Workers laid off due to COVID-19 can get unemployment benefits

MONTGOMERY — Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington has announced that Alabama workers who are not able to work due to COVID-19 will be eligible to file for unemployment benefits.

The state is modifying existing unemployment compensation rules to allow workers to file a claim for unemployment compensation benefits who are affected in any of the following way:

- Those who are quarantined by a medical professional or a government agency,

- Those who are laid off or sent home without pay for an extended period by their employer due to COVID-19 concerns,

- Those who are diagnosed with COVID-19,

- Or, those who are caring for an immediate family member who is diagnosed with COVID-19.

The requirement that a laid-off worker be “able and available” to work while receiving unemployment compensation benefits has been modified for claimants who are affected by COVID-19 in any of the situations listed above. Additionally, claimants will also not have to search for other work provided they take reasonable steps to preserve their ability to come back to that job when the quarantine is lifted or the illness subsides. The waiting week, which is typically the first week of compensable benefits, will also be waived.

Workers can file for benefits online at www.labor.alabama.gov or by calling

See **WORKERS**, page 10

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