

Quote of the Month:

“A champion is someone who gets up, even when he can’t.”
~ Jack Dempsey

Welcome to Waldo Agencies, Lee Newman!



I’ve heard it said that ‘life comes full circle’, and this is certainly the case for me as I return to the Treasure Valley to live in the community where I grew up and to join the business where my parents spent their careers. In the early 1980s my folks made the very good decision to leave Central Oregon and move to Nyssa to join Dave and Barbara Waldo in the insurance business. Now nearly 40 years later, my wife Lisa and I are making a similar decision and we couldn’t be more optimistic. We are very much looking forward to living in this wonderful community, reconnecting with dear friends and enjoying everything Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho have to offer.

Please visit our updated Field-Waldo Insurance Agencies Website

<https://fieldwaldoins.com>

and

LIKE us on Facebook



January EVENTS

- 1-1 **Happy New Year!** OFFICE CLOSED
- 1-7 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** John!
- 1-9 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Rebekah!
- 1-19 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Robert!
- 1-19 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Debi!
- 1-26 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Mike!



You might have a greater chance of being audited in 2020

Filing taxes is stressful enough in its own right. Throw the idea of getting audited into the mix, and it can throw even the most diligent taxpayer into a panic. But audits have decreased in recent years, largely because the IRS has been underfunded and understaffed.

That’s all changing in 2020, though.

The IRS anticipates an uptick in funding for the upcoming year, which means the agency will have more manpower to handle taxpayer inquiries and process returns more quickly. The agency also plans to update its computer systems for more accuracy on the tax-filing front.

Much of this is good news for taxpayers. But the one drawback is that with more resources at its disposal, the IRS may get more aggressive in its audit practices. Consider yourself warned.

Who gets audited?

Statistically, your chances of getting audited are fairly low, with fewer than 1% of returns receiving a second look from the IRS each year. That said, some filers are more likely to land on the audit list than others — specifically, those who earn very little or no money and those who earn a lot.

Case in point: The audit rate among filers with income of \$10 million or more is 6.66% (as per statistics from the 2018 tax-filing season). For filers with incomes between \$1 million and just under \$10 million, it ranges from 2.21% to 4.21%. And among those who report no income, it’s 2.04%.

By contrast, the audit rate among filers with incomes of \$25,000 to \$500,000 is roughly 0.5%, which means that if you’re a typical earner, your chances of having your return further scrutinized are pretty low. Even filers with incomes between \$500,000 and just under \$1 million have an audit rate of 1.10% — twice that of more moderate earners, but not exceptionally high, either.

Lower your audit risk

No matter what your earnings look like, there are steps you can take to reduce the chances of landing on that dreaded audit list. For one thing, be sure to report all of your income. That includes earnings from a side gig, investments, commissions, and even the interest your bank pays you on your savings. Most of the time, income earned outside of your salary gets documented on a 1099 form, and for each of these forms you receive, the IRS gets a copy as well. When those details don’t match up because you fail to report your income, the agency could be inspired to give your return a closer look.

Additionally, keep accurate records so you know what deductions to claim. Guessing at those numbers, or coming up with remarkably round numbers (like an even \$6,000 on medical expenses, for example) is a good way to get your return flagged.

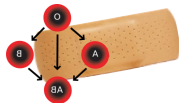
Furthermore, aim to claim deductions that are proportionate to your income — and if they’re not, be prepared with documentation. It could be that you genuinely *can* claim mortgage interest on a \$600,000 home loan despite only earning \$40,000 a year, but if that’s the case, expect the IRS to question how you can afford such a costly home on that income.

Finally, file your taxes electronically rather than on paper. The error rate for electronic returns is less than 1%, but for paper returns, it’s 21%. The IRS will often correct genuine math mistakes without putting you through the audit process, but you’re better off not making them in the first place.

Though tax audits aren’t always the harrowing process you might expect them to be, you’re generally better off avoiding them. Be mindful when filing your taxes to stay off that list.

By Maurie Backman

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/taxes/you-might-have-a-greater-chance-of-being-audited-in-2020/ar-BBY7jz5?ocid=se>

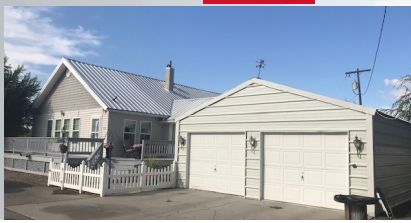


Featured Property!

\$500,000 - 50 acres in Nyssa city limits, subdivision possibilities. 3078 sq. ft. home, 6 bdrms, 2 baths, deck, 2 car garage. Additional garage, shop, barn and small rental. Call Dee Anne or Scott.

Waldo Real Estate

378 W Idaho Ave
Ontario, OR 97914
541-889-8160



Dee Anne Mosman
Broker, GRI, OR/ID
208-707-4444 cell
Scott Lamb
Broker, GRI, OR
208-739-2119 cell
See this property at
<http://www.waldore.com/>

What People Are Saying...



John Faw
Principal
Broker,
GRI,
OR/ID

"Thank you so much for all your efforts & support to make this a successful sale. I cannot express how much all you both did for me, and what it meant. Both of you are amazing and a blessing! You both went above and beyond with superior service. Thank you.

~ *Heather Yardley*



Anthony Hackman
Broker,
OR/ID



Wendy's Chili Copycat Recipe

The Slow Roasted Italian

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 lbs 93% lean ground beef | 2 t kosher salt, divided |
| 1 t fresh ground black pepper | 4 (8 oz) cans tomato sauce |
| 2 (15.25 oz) cans pinto beans, rinsed & drained | 2 (15.25 oz) cans kidney beans, rinsed & drained |
| 2 (14.5 oz) cans fire roasted diced tomatoes with garlic | 1 (7 oz) can roasted green chiles, diced & peeled |
| 2 t onion powder | 2 t ground cumin |
| 2 T New Mexico chili powder | 1 T smoked paprika |
| pinch - 1 t crushed red pepper flakes | 1 c water |

- In a large 12 quart heavy bottom pot over medium high heat, add ground beef, 1 t salt, and pepper. Cook until browned, drain drippings if necessary. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce to simmer.
- Simmer for 15 minutes or more.
- Serve and enjoy!

<https://www.theslowroasteditalian.com/2014/01/wendys-chili-copycat-recipe.html>

Suggested reading

As the pastor finished his sermon he said, "For next Sunday, I want all of you to read Mark chapter 17. It's going to tie in with the theme of my sermon."

The next week as the pastor stood before the congregation, he said, "Let me see a show of hands for those of you who reviewed the suggested reading of Mark chapter 17?"

Every member of the congregation raised a hand.

"Well, amen, brothers and sisters," the pastor responded. "Now I want you to pull out your Bibles and turn to Mark 17. I'll wait."

The sound of ruffling pages began to fill the sanctuary. Members of the congregation whispered amongst themselves.

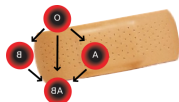
"What's that? You can't find the passage?" the pastor asked. "That's because Mark 17 doesn't exist, and that brings me to the topic of today's sermon — dishonesty!"

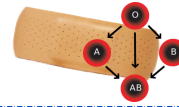
Support your child's interest in music

Research suggests that learning a musical instrument engages the same areas of the brain used for doing math and science, and that children who play a musical instrument tend to have higher IQs and score better on standardized tests. If your child is expressing an interest in music, support him or her by following this advice from *Parenting* magazine:

♪ **Help them choose.** Let them try a few different instruments so you can gauge their level of engagement and ability. Find out if your local library or music store lends or rents instruments, or hosts music nights where anyone can come and jam. Sometimes a group setting can inspire a sense of confidence and engagement while serving as a resource for a used instrument. Your child's school might also have a music program that can be a good introduction to this process.

♪ **Stay involved.** Your commitment is just as important as your child's. Help them stay motivated to practice daily by having them to play something for you, giving them a chance to show off what they are learning. You'll be their biggest fan and mentor. Spend time listening to music together, and expose them to artists they might not know about. Most of all, remember to keep things upbeat and fun.





January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month

The demand always exceeds the supply for those suffering from accidents and illnesses that require the transfusion of blood components. You can help. Consider making a donation now and throughout the year. Find out more at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>.

Mortgage Rates Fall Further, and Buyers Are Swooping In

The average rate on the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage dropped to its lowest level since October., at 3.69%, Mortgage News Daily reports.

The continued strength in consumer sentiment about the housing market "attests to the intention among consumers to purchase homes," says Doug Duncan, Fannie Mae's chief economist. Fannie Mae's housing sentiment index, a survey of consumers, remained near an all-time high in 2019, fueled by a 16 percentage point annual increase in the share of consumers who believe it is a good time to buy.

A decline in mortgage rates—down by more than 1 percentage point for fixed-rate loans compared to November 2018—is buoying higher sales activity, says Fran Nothaft, chief economist at CoreLogic. Nothaft adds that any slowdown in home prices in early 2019 likely ended in late summer. He predicts prices to rise well into 2020.

Source: Excerpts from Realtor Magazine, 1-8-2020

Creative thought starts in bed

Creativity is a vital skill that can enhance your career success. You can't always summon it out of the blue, so this advice from the Study Finds website should help: A survey of 2,000 British residents commissioned by Microsoft Surface found many of people's best ideas tend to occur as they're dozing off, when they first wake up in the morning, and sometimes in the middle of the night. Pay attention to your thought in bed, write them down when ideas and solutions come to you, and keep rolling through problems before and after you sleep. You might discover some surprising answers.

Laughing together is as close as you can get to a hug without touching. ~ Gina Barreca

Don't be rude about money

Money is a delicate subject. Too many people forget that, though, and ask impertinent questions or make rude mistakes with their friends. The Reader's Digest website points to these habits that can alienate others and make you look like a jerk:

\$ Making assumptions. Someone who sports an expensive wristwatch might not be rich; people who shop in secondhand stores aren't necessarily poor. Don't jump to conclusions about anyone's financial situation based on superficial appearances.

\$ Automatically splitting the bill. Four friends go to a restaurant. One orders multiple drinks and the most expensive meal on the menu, then suggests splitting the bill four equal ways. Don't be that person. Be sensitive to other people's preferences and financial situations, and be willing to pay your fair share.

\$ Asking for "friend discounts." If you hire a friend to do a professional service for you, don't ask for a break on the fee. This is how your friend makes a living. Be willing to pay full price or hire someone else to help you out.



Simple tips for a healthier heart

Close to 2,200 people die each day in the United States because of cardiovascular problems. That's one every 40 seconds.

Here's some advice from the WMC Action News website on how to keep your heart healthy:

- ♥ **Laugh a lot.** Laughter dilates your blood vessels, increases blood flow, and lowers your blood pressure.
- ♥ **Snuggle.** Hugging releases oxytocin, a hormone that relieves stress and can reduce blood pressure.
- ♥ **Get a pet.** A University of Maryland study found that survivors of a heart attack who had a dog were eight times more likely to be alive a year after their attack.

Light the way

Because of a big project deadline, the employees had been asked to work double shifts for the next few days.

"That's it, I'm going home," one employee said to his colleague,

"But there are three more hours left in our shift," the co-worker replied.

"Well, I'm exhausted now. Come to think of it, I'll take tomorrow off, too. Watch this," the worker said as he grabbed a lampshade and covered his head with it and stood atop a ladder in the center of the room.

The manager walked in, gasped, and said, "What on earth are you doing up there?"

"Isn't it obvious? I'm a lightbulb," the worker replied.

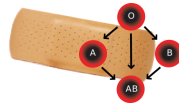
"Good grief," the manager said. "You've worked so long you've gone mad. Come down from there, and then take the rest of the day off. While you're at it, take tomorrow off, too."

The worker descended the ladder and began to walk away with the lampshade still on his head. His colleague decided to follow him out.

"Just where do you think you're going?" asked the manager. "I'm taking there rest of the day off, too," the co-worker replied. "I can't work in the dark."

Something to consider

When you step out for a bite to eat in January, remember that it is Be Kind to Food Servers Month. Though they may not be the ones in the kitchen creating a culinary masterpiece that will delight your taste buds, they will surely bear the brunt of your ire should your meal fail to measure up. They cater to your moods and demands to make sure that your dining experience is "just so." Show them the courtesy and appreciation you feel entitled to, and don't forget to tip your server.



Waldo Spotlights



John Faw presents a gift to Dave and Barbara from employees of the agency.



Dee Anne explains the rules of a game.



The merriment of Waldo Agencies shone through at our staff Christmas party. Evidence of such was demonstrated by garb proudly donned, food gratefully devoured, games boisterously played, and gifts happily bestowed. A very enjoyable time was had by all in attendance.

These nice gals in our agency (plus 1 not pictured) enjoyed making blankets that were given as Christmas gifts to children in the foster care system.



Congratulations to our December graduates!

Kimberly - Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Brittany - Bachelor's Degree in Education

