

Tax-Aide volunteers are being sought to assist others in filing their taxes in the coming year.

AARP FOUNDATION

Taxing times for new year

ANNETTE UTZ

SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

While leftover Halloween candy is still around the house and Thanksgiving has not yet arrived, it seems early to think about tax season but it will be here more quickly than expected.

In the meantime, there are people who may need some guidance in negotiating the process.

Since 1968, the AARP Foundation has sponsored the Tax-Aide program nationwide to help seniors and lowincome families and individuals file their taxes and qualify for eligible tax credits. The service is free, individualized, and comes with no strings attached. AARP membership is not required.

This opportunity is completely run by volunteers who aid in assisting others. The only hurdle comes in finding people who are ready to help.

"We are in need of additional volunteers to help dury ing the upcoming tax season, February through April,' said Steve Hochspeier, District 22 Tax-Aide Coordinator. "Without volunteers, we are unable to help those that need it the most. Last year, more than 3,000 tax returns were prepared for area residents by our district, which covers Salem, Keizer, Silverton and Stayton.'

Training begins in early January and no prior experience is required. The organization is looking for people to assist in areas ranging from greeting customers and helping to organize paperwork to filling out basic forms and technical support.

Without additional volunteers, we cannot adequately serve the communities. We foresee a need of over 500 families each in Silverton and Stayton that could use our service," Hockspeier said."Because of the lack of volunteers we were only able to help 200 total for the two communities last year.

"I do know that we closed Stayton during 2014 ... and then we were able to reopen in 2015 Last year 1,176 volunteers helped over 87,000 individuals here in Oregon."

For further information on how to assist, contact Steve Hochpeirer at SteveH.Tax-Aide.Salem@outlook.com or visit http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2004/about_aarp_taxaide.html

Harcourts realty group honored by company

LEE CLARKSON STATESMAN JOURNAL

Harcourts Northwest Oregon Realty Group in Silverton received recognition at the Harcourts Northwest 3rd Quarter Recognition event Oct. 28 at The Sheraton Portland Airport.

The event honored the company's top agents and offices throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Harcourts Northwest Oregon Realty Group received the following recognition: » Best Presented Office

» No. 3 Office for production» Platinum Award (highest level of achievement): Jackie Zurbrugg

» Gold Award: Donna Paradis and Cynthia Johnson

» Silver Award: Joe and Dana Giegerich

» Bronze Award: Valerie Boen, Robin Kuhn, Ginni Stensland and Marty Schrock

Mt. Angel plans paving work on E. College St.

CHRISTENA BROOKS SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

MT. ANGEL - The city has landed a grant to repave a portion of East College Street near St. Mary's Public Elementary School.

The \$50,000 Small Cities Allotment Grant will fund the repaying of the stretch of East College Street between Cleveland and Oak streets. Additionally, the city will install ramps at intersections built to ADA standards. The project will go out to bid next spring, with construction set for summer 2017.

The street improvements will benefit the community because this street is a major access way for pedestrians and school children to access the elementary school," said Mt. Angel City Manager Amber Mathiesen.

Silverton business offers free tech support

LEE CLARKSON STATESMAN JOURNAL

Compex, a technology solution provider based in Silverton, has established Savvy.help, a businessgrade service that provides answers to common technical questions.

The service is free and available only to Oregon businesses.

After enrollment, business owners and managers have the ability to ask technical questions and receive do-it-yourself instructions to resolve the issues

For information, please contact Heidi Hickok at heidi@compextech.com or 503-873-0188.



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at 503-873-1425 or see them on our website.