

Tax Help is Out There – Here's Where

continued ▲ from Front

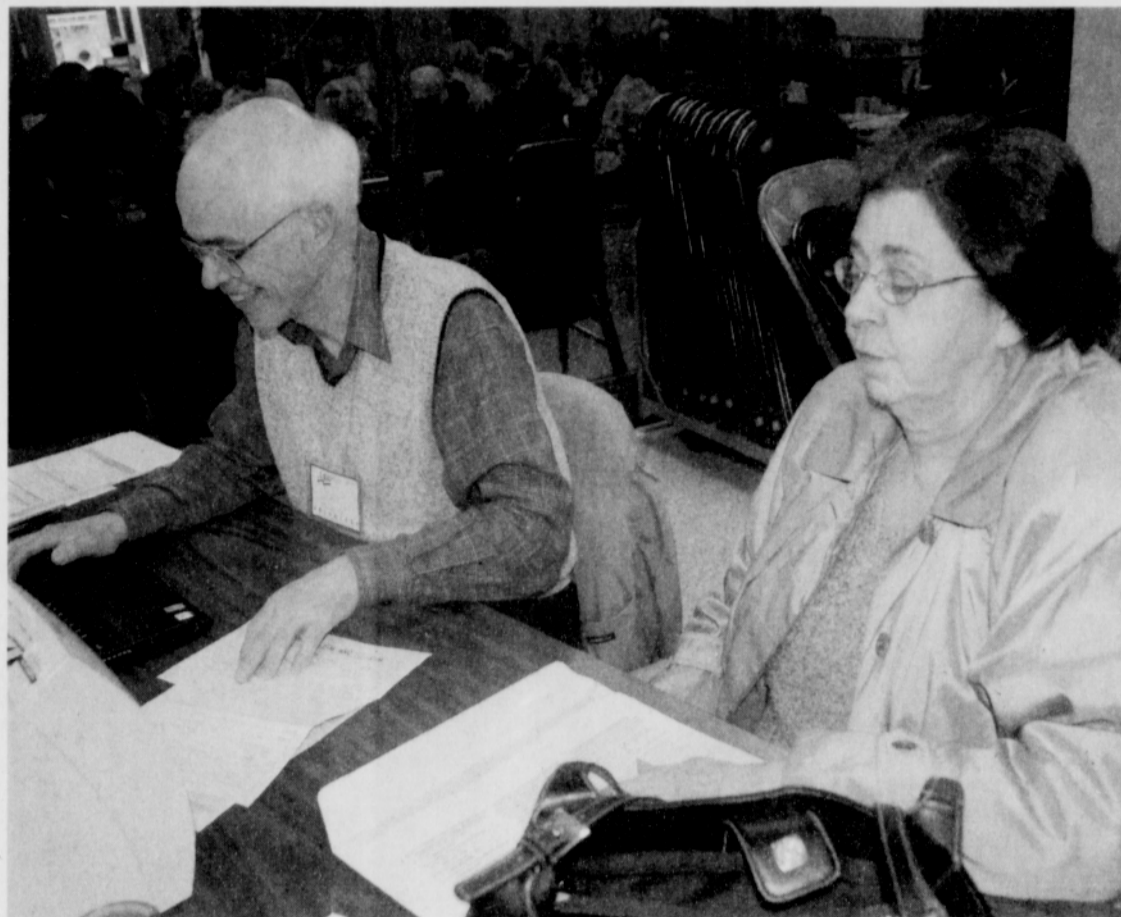
adults and seniors at several Multnomah County Library locations throughout the metro area. Registration is required at some locations, and you must bring last year's return plus this year's paperwork. For more information visit www.multcolib.org and click on Events and Classes.

• The IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers offers free tax face-to-face assistance at their downtown offices, 1220 S.W. Third Ave., Mon-

day through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 503 326-5441 for more information.

• Visit the IRS website for a free federal tax preparation and electronic filing program for eligible taxpayers. Free File allows taxpayers with an Adjusted Gross Income of \$52,000 or less in 2006 to e-file their federal tax returns for free. Military members may be eligible to receive free assistance.

• For Oregon state tax forms and instructions, visit www.oregon.gov/DOR or call 1-



800-356-4222 or in Salem at 503-378-4988.

• The Oregon Department of Revenue offers state income tax assistance near the Lloyd Center at 800 NE Oregon St., 5th floor, and in Gresham at 1550 N.W. Eastman Parkway, Suite 220. Both offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and for extended hours closer to April 17. Call 503-674-6272.

Jane Steele of northeast Portland looks on as DuWayne Dockter prepares her 2006 tax return. Each tax season Dockter, a professor of accounting at Concordia University, lends his expertise as a volunteer advocate.

PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rose Court's Final Selections

Ellen Louise Robson of Franklin High School joined the 2007 Rose Festival Court on Tuesday, March 20. Robson, 18, is the daughter of Christina and Scott Robson and sister to Jane and Kenny Robson. Her interests are focused on drawing, creating and designing. She likes to work with photography and film, enjoys writing and acting, and would consider a career as bakery owner, doctor or surgeon.



Ellen Louise Robson, Franklin High School

This past year she was involved in Franklin's Constitutional Law Program, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and National Honor Society. She attends First Covenant Church and has volunteered for children's ministries, her church's Sunday Day Care and the Oregon Food Bank.

Vietnamese at Sunday school. She teaches first grade Bible study at her church and has volunteered with Doernbecker Children's Hospital. In her free time Le enjoys cooking, swimming, watching movies and playing with her dog, Rolo.

Audra Shaw was crowned Madison High School Princess on Thursday, March 22. Shaw, 17, is daughter of Randy and Kendra Shaw and sister to Karalie and Grant. She is the editor in chief of the Constitution, Madison's high school newspaper, and is also involved in National Honor Society, Mad Mouths Speech Team and track and field. She plans to attend Seattle



Hong Van Le, Marshall High School

Marshall High School senior Hong Van Le was named Rose Court Princess on Wednesday, March 21. She is the daughter of Ba Le and Huong Nguyen, and sister to Thao Linh Le, Thanh Le and Huynh Le.

The 18-year-old attends the Pauling Academy at Marshall High School and plans to go to Portland State University next year to study veterinarian medicine.

Le is very much involved in the Asian Pacific/American community and studied



Audra Shaw, Madison High School

University to major in international studies, which will guide her into a humanitarian career.

Locally, Shaw volunteers for Portland Impact, and has traveled to South America to take part in the Helping Hands Project of Trujillo, Peru. Shaw also volunteered with a International relief agency, providing emotional support to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Brooke Bell was crowned Wilson High School Rose Festival Court Princess on Friday, March 23. Bell, 17, is the daughter of Kim and Brian and sister to Lauren Bell. She plans to major in biochemistry at a university in Washington or Colorado, or perhaps Trinity Western University. Bell eventually wants to become a doctor and maybe someday teach.



Brooke Bell, Wilson High School

At Wilson, she is involved in student government and is senior class president. She acts in school plays and is captain of the women's basketball team.

During the summer Bell attends leadership camp and is a counselor

of Girl's Night Out. She works part-time at Jamba Juice and at home loves to perform comedy, tutor, spend time with family and study the outdoors.

Urban League Has Job Fair

The Urban League of Portland will host its 15th annual Career Connections Job Fair on Tuesday, April 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel Lloyd Center Exhibit Hall, 1000 N.E. Multnomah St. The fair is free and open to the public.

This year's theme is "Diversity and Opportunity," and will provide jobseekers a chance to connect with the top employers in the state, including more than 50 exhibitors from banking, education, government, health care, media, insurance, social services and utilities industries.

The Urban League of Portland is a non-profit, community-based organization headquartered in north/northeast Portland that serves the greater Portland metropolitan area. The League helps empower African Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment and economic security through a combination of direct services, outreach and advocacy.

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Gay Rights Bill Advances

A bill to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation goes to the Oregon House after being passed March 21 in the state Senate.

The measure passed 21-7 despite criticism from some Republicans, who said there is no widespread and serious discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Backers said, however, that even if the number of cases is relatively small, Oregon shouldn't tolerate discrimination against any of its citizens.

The bill would bar discrimination based on sexual orientation,

along the same lines as protections based on race, national origin, gender, religion and other factors.

That means gays and lesbians could not be fired from jobs, evicted from apartments or denied access to public places because of their sexual orientation. Churches and other religious institutions would be exempted.

If the bill becomes law, Oregon would join 17 other states in offering such protections to gays and lesbians. A dozen Oregon communities also have such laws.