

Tax schedules for Oregon employers expected to remain steady

Unemployment tax rates for Oregon employers will remain at tax schedule three for 2019. Tax schedule three includes an average rate of 1.97 percent for the first \$40,600 paid to each employee. The specific rate each employer will pay under the new schedule depends on how much they have used the unemployment insurance system.

Oregon adjusts employer tax rates annually using eight tax schedules based on the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance

Trust Fund.

Movement between the eight schedules of tax rates represents part of the self-balancing aspects of Oregon's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund law. Each September, a formula contained in statute, determines how much should be collected during the next year to maintain a solvent fund.

Each schedule has a range of tax rates based on an employer's previous unemployment insurance experience. Employers with more

unemployment insurance claims have a higher tax rate than those with fewer claims.

As a result of this approach, Oregon has one of the strongest trust funds in the nation. The trust fund provides support for temporarily unemployed workers, their families, and communities while minimizing the impact on employers. This approach allows support without having to reduce benefits to workers, increase employer taxes, or borrow from the federal gov-

ernment, as most other states had to do for the Great Recession.

Because of Oregon's innovative Unemployment Trust Fund model, we are well positioned to pay benefits in the next recession. Unlike other states where employers had to pay additional taxes or surcharges when states borrowed to pay benefits, Oregon's trust fund is earning interest.

This reduces the amount that needs to be collected from Oregon employers to maintain the trust

fund.

Oregon's unemployment rate continues a downward trend in 2018. The low number of unemployed workers reflects a very tight job market. This creates some challenges for employers maintaining their workforce, but means that there are far fewer Oregonians who are unable to find a job.

The jobs employers provide contribute to a vibrant Oregon economy and support the quality of life for Oregonians.

Cottage Grove students may qualify for scholarship money through A1 Auto Transport

Located out of Aptos, Calif., A-1 Auto Transport Inc. is a global leader in the auto transport industry. The car shipping company's national recognition has made it possible for them to extend their scholarship program to all eligible students in and near Cottage Grove. Scholarship programs award financial relief in the sum of \$250, \$500 or \$1,000 per year.

Any student currently enrolled

in college, a trade school, university or other accredited institute may enter if they have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. To enter for the scholarship, qualified students must write an essay of 1,000 or more words in relation to the auto transport industry. Some examples of topics to use for these essays include the following:

- International auto transport
- Auto transport services

- Enclosed car shipping
- Open-air car shipping
- Door to door vehicle transport
- Shipping classic or antique cars
- Motorcycle shipping
- Container shipping
- Moving local or long distance and more.

All essays must be completely unique and not published anywhere else online. A-1's Scholarship Committee is responsible for

reviewing all entries and will check for plagiarism.

Students may submit their essays to scholarships@a1autotransport.com. Students must include their name, name of the school, email address, mailing address and a contact number with their essays. The deadline for submissions is March 10, 2019. At the end of March, qualified essays will be released on A-1's website along with

the student's byline. These essays are then voted on by the Scholarship Committee. Winners will be announced on the website as well through email. Students are allowed to share the link to their content on their social media if they'd like to share their finished work.

To learn more visit www.a1autotransport.com/a-1-auto-transport-scholarship.

DRAIN from A1

of communities across the country, and of grassroots democracy itself, in linked to the vitality of local journalism."

The lack of readily available, local information leading to a decline in community participation is a large part of the reason Akins has opted to embark on such a project.

"Even voter turnout is affected," she said of the absence of local news. "I think part of it is that people don't know. They just don't know."

In the absence of local newspapers, communities haven't taken to the internet and social media. In Drain, the Facebook page Drain Oregon Community Board has nearly 500 members and provides information about job openings, photos of missing pets and property, as well as announcements about upcoming events. But a 2017 count has the population of Drain at approximately 1,200, meaning more than half of the city's residents aren't hooked up to the local news source.

"I'm surprised how many people don't use the internet and don't use computers here. It's far more than I would have guessed," Akins said. "We're at 65 percent rentals here and I am surprised even by the renters. They just can't afford it."

The *Community News* is

hoping to fill the void left by the growing internet groups and shrinking local coverage. There's no subscription fee but residents who want to purchase a copy in addition to the one they receive in the mail can do so. Akins plans to print 500 extra copies a month.

And even though Akins says the staff is small, she still hopes to cover Drain, Yoncalla and Elkton by counting on residents to submit information. In addition, an entire page will be dedicated to the local school with information provided

by the district.

"I feel our communities losing touch," Akins said. "They don't get involved because they don't know what's going on and we hope the community comes back together. The communities wanted this back."

The first edition of the *Community News* was mailed out to residents on Nov. 21.

For more information or to receive a newspaper contact Akins at drainyoncallaelktonnews@gmail.com.

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