



## Free help offered for taxes

Tax filers with basic returns who made \$49,000 or below in 2009 can have their taxes done free by IRS-certified volunteers at five Billings locations, beginning on Saturday.

All volunteer tax preparers are required to be tested and certified by the IRS. As part of their training, the volunteers focus on helping low- to moderate-income residents receive all the credits and deductions for which they qualify. This year's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites will be staffed by more than 40 volunteers, including 14 Montana State University Billings students, one Rocky Mountain College student and three Volunteers in Service to America.

All sites offer free preparation and e-filing through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs.

Sites and times include:

- HRDC at 7 N. 31st St. (walk-in and by appointment: 247-4710): 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays and 2-8 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. Federal Credit Union is offering no-interest, no-fee refund loans at the HRDC site.
- United Way/MSU-Billings at 112 N. Broadway (walk-in only): 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and 5:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays. Enter at MSU-Billings downtown gift store Jackets and Co.
- By appointment only: Billings Federal Credit Union, 2522 Fourth Ave. N. (248-1127); Rimrock Credit Union, 952 Central Ave. (245-3685); AARP Tax Aide at Yellowstone County Council on Aging, 1505 Ave. D (259-9666).

All sites will remain open throughout tax season. For more information, call 254-9760 or go online to [www.unitedwayyellowstone.org](http://www.unitedwayyellowstone.org).

People with 2009 incomes up to \$58,000 can prepare and e-file their own taxes for free online at [www.MyFreeTaxes.com](http://www.MyFreeTaxes.com) (or at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for those with incomes up to \$57,000).

United Way of Yellowstone County's Financial Stability Partnership, HRDC 7, MSU Billings, Montana Credit Unions for Community Development, Billings Federal Credit Union, Rimrock Credit Union, and AARP Tax Aide joined forces this year to recruit and train volunteers and to coordinate the free tax preparation.

To read the full article visit: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article\\_5589ef8a-0c91-11df-b463-001cc4c002e0.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_5589ef8a-0c91-11df-b463-001cc4c002e0.html)