Montana Newspaper Association

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Assistance with filing state tax returns keep getting better

Montana Department of Revenue provides assistance on individual income tax matters through its Internet website, call center, and statewide local offices.

But did you know that they also have an income tax specialist who will offer state side training for the volunteers that enter tax returns?

Brian Olsen has been traveling the great state of Montana for nine years, meeting with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) folks and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to train the volunteers that assist the primarily elderly and/or lower income citizens of Montana with their tax returns. In addition to training the volunteers on tax preparation, Brian also meets with paid tax preparers and accountants to go over law changes, rule changes, and any recent legal decisions.

He typically trains in Helena, Billings, Butte, Missoula, Great Falls, Kalispell, and Bozeman, but has been known to make a side trip to a smaller area if he happens to be nearby, such as stopping in Stevensville after providing training in Missoula.

When asked why he performs this onsite training, Brian said "I like that it brings questions to us that the tax preparers see. The face-to-face interaction is great!"

For questions, or to discuss these training sessions with Brian Olsen, please contact him at 406-444-2994 or email him at bolsen@mt.gov.