Saturday, 1.14.12

IRS Opens 2012 Tax Filing Season

Revenue Service opens the 2012tax filing season by announcing that taxpayers have until April 17 to file their tax returns. The IRS encourages taxpayers to e-file as it is the best way to ensure accurate tax returns and get faster refunds.

The IRS also announced a number of improvements to help make this tax season easy for taxpayers. This includes new navigation features and helpful information on IRS.gov and a new pilot to allow taxpayers to use interactive video to get help with tax issues.

"At the IRS, we're working hard to make the process of filing your taxes as quick and easy as possible," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "Providing quality service is one of our top priorities. It not only reduces the burden on taxpayers, but also helps in filing an accurate return right from the

Taxpayers will have until Tuesday, April 17, to file their 2011 tax returns and pay any tax due because April 15 falls on a Sunday, and Emancipation Day, a holiday observed in the District of Columbia, falls this year on Monday, April 16. According to federal law, District of Columbia holidays impact tax deadlines in the same way that federal holidays do; therefore, all taxpayers will have two extra days to file this year. Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until Oct. 15 to file their 2011 tax returns.

The IRS expects to receive more than 144 million individual tax returns this year, with most of those being filed by the April 17

The IRS will begin accepting efile and Free File http://www.irs.gov/efile/index.ht ml?portlet=106> returns on Jan. 17, 2012. Additional details about e-file and Free File will be announced next week. IRS Free File provides options for free brand-name tax software or online fillable forms plus free electronic filing. Everyone can use Free File to prepare a federal tax return. Taxpayers who make \$57,000 or less can choose from approximately 20 commercial software providers. There's no income limit for Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms, which also in-

cludes free e-filing. The IRS also reminds paid tax return preparers they must have and include a Preparer Tax Identifi-

cation Number (PTIN) on all returns they prepare. All PTINs must be renewed for 2012. Tax return preparers can obtain or renew PTINs online

The IRS continues to focus on taxpayer service. The best way for

http://www.irs.gov/ptin>

taxpayers to get answers to their questions is by visiting the IRS website at IRS gov. The IRS has updated the front page of the IRS website website http://www.irs.gov/ make it easier for taxpayers to get key forms, information and file tax returns. The front page also has links to taxpayer-friendly videos on the IRS YouTube channel. More improvements are planned for IRS.gov in the months ahead.

Last year, the IRS unveiled IRS2Go, its first smartphone application that lets taxpayers check on the status of their tax refund and obtain helpful tax information. The IRS reminds Apple users that they can download the free IRS2Go application by visiting the Apple App Store and Android users can visit the Android Marketplace to download the free IRS2Go app. Individuals making \$50,000 or

less can use the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

 $<\!http://www.irs.gov/individuals/ar$ ticle/0,,id=107626,00.html> pro-

gram for free tax preparation and, in many cases, free electronic filing. Individuals age 60 and older can take advantage of free tax counseling and basic income tax preparation through Tax Counseling for the Elderly. Information on these programs can be found at IRS.gov.

For tax law questions or account inquiries, taxpayers can also call our toll-free number http://www.irs.gov/help/arti- cle/0,,id=96730,00.html> (7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time) or visit a taxpayer assistance center. Locations are listed on IRS.gov.

Once taxpayers file their federal

return, they can track the status of

their refunds by using the "Where's My Refund? http://www.irs.gov/in- dividuals/article/0,,id=96596,00.ht ml> "tool, which taxpayers can get to using the IRS2Go phone app or from the front page of www.IRS.gov. By providing their Taxpayer Identification Numbers, filing status, and the exact whole dollar amount of their anticipated refund taxpayers can generally get information about their refund 72 hours after the IRS acknowledges receipt of their e-filed returns, or

three to four weeks after mailing a

paper return.

S.D. Public Libraries Recognized **For Accreditation Efforts**

PIERRE — Fourteen South Dakota libraries were accredited by the South Dakota State Library in 2011, under a new system of tiered accreditation. This is the second year the new system of accreditation has been in place. The libraries were recognized during the State Library Board meeting today.

Public libraries are accredited at one of three levels: Essential, Enhanced or Exemplary. Accreditation at the Essential level means a library satisfactorily provides the basic services required by state law and federal guidelines. Each subsequent level of accreditation builds on the previous level with additional indicators that libraries must meet. Exemplary is the highest level of

Libraries are evaluated in the following areas, as outlined in South Dakota Public Library standards: governance, administration, access, collections and resources, funding, staffing,

technology, and public relations. The three levels of accreditation are based on the number of indicators achieved in each of the standards.

This new system of accreditation opens communication about what libraries can be doing and ways to improve, said South Dakota State Librarian Dan Siebersma. "It provides concrete feedback, so we can better support them as they work toward a higher level of accreditation.

The following South Dakota public libraries were accredited in 2011 by the South Dakota State Library:

 Beresford Public Library, Enhanced*

Yankton Community Li-

brary, Enhanced*

Detailed requirements for each level of tiered accreditation, as well as a complete list of accredited libraries, is available on the South Dakota State Library's webpage at www.library.sd.gov.

SCHOLASTICS

Yankton High School Second Quarter Honor Rolls

ROLL OF EXCELLENCE SENIORS Adam, Andrew Robert Almond, Alex Leigh Andersen, Emily Barkley, Sarah Keating Beckmann, Desiree Beckmann, Dillon Binder, Thomas B. Bisgard, Margaret Rose Brasel, Shannon Marie Braun, Elizabeth Jean Busskohl, Rachel Amber Campbell, Stephanie Christopher, Megan Clark, Courtney Allison Cooke, Courtney Cornemann, Chloe Cunningham, Jordyn Doering, Mindy Sue Doerr, Nicole Jeanne Dolejsi, Morgan Rae Dumke, Tayler Anne Fanta, Lauren Elizabeth Fedders, Emily Christine Fitzsimmons, Connor Folkers, Brandon Lynn Fuks, Audrey Jean Gill, Danielle Lauren Gross, Tory Nicole Grossenburg, Jenna Gubbels, Matthew Alvin Hacecky, Jacob Daniel Haro, Haley Rose Hauger, Jordan Shae Heglin, Alex Michael Heine, Alex R. Henderson, Leslie Henrickson, Molly Ann Highland, Lexi Lynn Hollingsworth, Tanisha Hummel, Samuel Lynn Jensen. Joshua Larry

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Kinsley, Elizabeth Jean

Kinsley, Kipp Andrew

Klimisch, Alexandria

Koletzky, Katie Lynn Konvalin, Brittni Kay

Lange, Alyssa Ann

Lien, Lindsey Marie

Lewno, Megan Theresa

Lillie, Justin Todd Marlow, Steven Matthew

McKee, Alexander David

Megard, Kelsey Jordan

Mines, Madisen Marie

Morrow, John William

Muhmel, Kirsten Bernice

Neumann, Luke Steven

Opsahl, Alexander Paul

Rames, Matthew Paul

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Rowell, Ashley Marie

Russaw, Kaitlin Ann Sage, Zachary Allan

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Schultz, Rebecca Lee

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Soulek, Ty Alan

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Rust, Elizabeth Marie

Roy, Tristan Marie

Ruter, Taylor Rae

Preheim-Reindl, James

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