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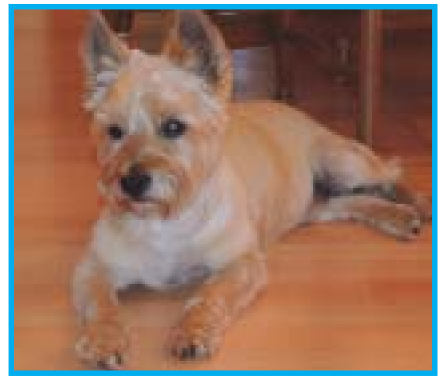
*There is not much time for relaxing with the pack these days. Tax season is marching along at a brisk pace!*



**March 2015**

## Locked Drop Box

We recently installed a locked drop box at our office front door! You can safely leave important information inside the box for us when the office is closed. We will be checking the box everyday during tax season.


## Health Care Clarification

When we sent out our initial tax season letter, we said taxpayers would receive one of three forms to verify 2014 coverage. We were wrong – only people who got their insurance through a healthcare exchange will receive a 1095-A. The other two forms, 1095-B and 1095-C, will not be required until next year.

If you (and your spouse and dependents) were covered by your employer for all of 2014, you only need to verify this for us. If you and/or your spouse and dependents were without health insurance for any part of 2014, we need to know which months you did not have coverage. If you (or spouse, or dependents) were on Medicare, Tricare or Veteran's health care for all of 2014, we will verify this with you.

As a reminder, the Affordable Care Act requires nearly everyone to have health insurance coverage. The questions we ask apply to the taxpayer and spouse, and everyone listed on the tax return as a dependent. If you have children who prepare their own return, be sure they know you will be answering the questions about health insurance coverage in 2014 on your return.

The special Oregon subtraction for medical expenses applies to taxpayers born in 1951 or earlier. If you qualify and are filing joint, remember we need to have the expenses organized by category (prescriptions, co-pays, insurance, mileage, etc.) and by the taxpayer or spouse.

## Non-Cash Charitable Contribution Reminder

Doesn't it feel great to clean out your closets and donate the good-quality "discards" to charity? And it feels good to be able to take a tax deduction for your donation. Everybody wins!

To take the tax deduction, you must have a receipt and/or donation letter from the organization to which you donated. You also need an itemized list of what you donated and the donation value of the items, generally using thrift-shop values. When all of your non-cash donations are valued at $500 or more, we also must have an estimate of your original purchase costs of the donated goods.

We have log sheets on our website to help you value your donations. **Go to mrbilltaxman.com and link to the Itemized Deductions page. The log sheets can be found with the Non-Cash Donations information.**

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## Joining the BRM Team

Brandon Johnson, Licensed Tax Preparer, joined our staff in January. He received his degree in accounting from Portland State University last June. Brandon has completed over seven years of service in the Army National Guard and currently serves as a Platoon Leader in command of over twenty-five soldiers. While new to the tax field, he is quickly gaining the wisdom he needs from Bill and Tim. He says he is learning something new every day from the variety of tax situations he encounters. Brandon is enjoying meeting clients when they call or come into the office. In his “spare” time, Brandon is a volunteer tax preparer with the Oregon C.A.S.H. program and he is working to obtain his IRS Enrolled Agent credential. Please join us in welcoming this talented young man to our team.

Tim Kittleson, Bill McCracken and Brandon Johnson -- almost 100 years of combined business experience!

## Going, Going, Gone!

Bill’s available slots for tax appointments are nearly booked up. If you cannot get an appointment, we encourage you to drop off your materials so our staff can prepare your return. Bill will contact you to review the results. Any drop-offs that come in after 4 April may be put on extension so we have time to accurately complete them. **When a return goes on extension and you owe taxes, those must still be paid by 15 April.** We will do our best to estimate your tax liability prior to the deadline.