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BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018

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Downing's accountant: 'He said he had a home in Montana'

By **FREDDY MONARES**
Chronicle Staff Writer

U.S. Senate candidate Troy Downing's accountant says she did not specifically research administrative rules when the Republican candidate asked her to amend past tax returns to change his status as a Montana resident.

Downing recently asked Gallatin County Justice Court Judge Bryan Adams to throw out several charges alleging he was not a Montana resident when he bought resident hunting licenses from 2011 through 2016, claiming past accountants made errors in his tax filings.

In a pretrial motion hearing in Justice Court on Tuesday, Majorie Knaub, a certified public accountant from Big Sky, said she helped Downing amend his tax returns from 2012 through 2014 "because he had filed as a non-resident and he should have filed as a resident (of Montana)."

Downing couldn't amend his 2011 tax return, Christopher Williams, his attorney, maintains, because Brian Lloyd, the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks game warden who investigated the case, didn't tell him of the issue until it was too late to correct the older returns.

Gallatin County Deputy Attorney Bradley Bowen grilled Knaub on the questions she asked Downing to determine his residency and whether she had researched standards to determine residency with the Montana Department of Revenue. Knaub said she had read the instructions that come with the tax forms, but hadn't done any research beyond that.



Downing

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Buried by cemetery costs, city ups Sunset Hills fees



RACHEL LEATHE/CHRONICLE

A headstone is silhouetted against the snow on Tuesday, in city-run Sunset Hills Cemetery. This week the Bozeman City Commission voted to raise cemetery fees in order to keep up with operating costs.

By **KATHERYN HOUGHTON**
Chronicle Staff Writer

Burying the dead can be expensive. It can get pricey for cities, too. This year Bozeman will spend more than half a million dollars on the upkeep of Sunset Hills Cemetery. To crawl out of that financial hole, city leaders agreed to up the cost for land in the sole city-run graveyard.

This week the Bozeman City Commission voted to raise the cemetery fees by 25 percent, from \$1,200

During the decision to raise fees, Commissioner Terry Cunningham said he was surprised Bozeman spends more on after-life housing than affordable housing.

to \$1,500 for an adult burial plot, starting in July. During the decision, Commissioner Terry Cunningham said he was surprised Bozeman spends more on after-life housing than affordable housing.

Sunset Hills Cemetery has more than 16,000 burial sites. Bozeman expects to make

\$174,200 from cemetery fees in 2018. But city staff estimate they'll spend \$721,904 in operating and repairing the 73-acre property.

It's been more than six years since Bozeman changed the price to bury someone in the cemetery.

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Taxpayers have extra day to file after IRS site issues

By **SARAH SKIDMORE SELL**
AP Personal Finance Writer

Americans are getting an extra day to file their taxes after key elements of the IRS website crashed on deadline day.

The IRS said that individuals or businesses with a filing or payment due Tuesday now have until midnight Wednesday to complete the task.

Earlier Tuesday, Americans who had waited until the final day to file online got an unwelcome surprise: The agency's website for making payments and gaining access to other key services was down due to what Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

later described as a "high-volume technical issue."

The website was back online late Tuesday.

"This is the busiest tax day of the year, and the IRS apologizes for the inconvenience this system issue caused for taxpayers," Acting IRS Commissioner David Kautter said in a statement. "The IRS appreciates everyone's patience during this period. The extra time will help taxpayers affected by this situation."

No additional paperwork is needed to get the one-day extension, the IRS said.

The IRS snafu also caused problems for popular third-party tax preparers such as Turbo Tax and H&R

Block. Both said that they would hold on to customer tax returns and file after IRS system reopened.

The agency did not say how many people were affected by the outage. But last year, about 5 million tax returns were filed on the final day of the traditional tax season. Electronic filing is the most popular way to file in the US.

The IRS said that at this point, the problem appears to be a hardware issue. It provided no further details on the cause or severity of the problem.

Tax day fell on April 17 this year because April 15 was a Sunday and April 16 was Emancipation Day, a holiday in Washington, D.C.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Chilly with clouds, sun
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