

NOTICES

Veterans Information

by Tina Retasket

Most veterans are aware of the Portland Veterans Hospital. But did you know there is a veterans hospital in Roseburg, Ore.? This clinic might be able to see you sooner than the Portland VA Hospital.

Additionally, there is a Southern Oregon VA Rehabilitation Center and Clinic in White City, Ore. They are located at:

Roseburg VA Healthcare System

913 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR, 97470
541-440-1000, or 1-800-549-8387
541-440-1225 (fax)

Southern Oregon Rehab Center and Clinic

8495 Crater Lake Highway
White City, OR 97503
541-826-211; 541-830-3500 (fax)

Additionally, a number of community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC) might be able to provide outpatient health care to you:

Bandon Clinic

1010 First St. SE, Suite 100
Bandon, OR 97411
541-347-4736; 541-347-1098 (fax)

Bend Clinic

2115 NE Wyatt Court, Suite 201
Bend, OR 97701
1-800-949-1004, ext. 51494

Brookings Clinic

555 Fifth St.
Brookings, OR 97415
541-412-1152; 541-412-1842 (fax)

Eugene Clinic

100 River Ave.
Eugene, OR 97404
541-607-0897; 541-607-7573 (fax)

Ontario Clinic

20 SW Third
Ontario, OR 97914
208-422-1303

Salem Clinic

1660 Oak St. SE
Salem, OR 97301
503-316-8817, ext. 51499

Camp Rilea Clinic

91400 Rilea NE Acoxie Road
Bldg. 7315
Warrenton, OR 97146
1-503-861-9513, ext. 52593

Access to these hospitals and clinics may be free or reduced-price (co-pays), depending on whether or not your care is related to a service-related disability.

In order to apply for service at one of these clinics, you first must obtain a copy of your DD-214 (discharge papers) and apply for services at the clinic of your choice. You can even apply for your DD-214 online by visiting <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>.

If you need assistance with this or any other application process, a number of resources are available to assist you:

Eugene Veterans Center

1255 Pearl St., Suite 200
Eugene, OR 97401
541-465-6918; 541-465-6656 (fax)

Grants Pass Veterans Center

211 SE 10th St.
Grants Pass, OR 97526
541-479-6912; 541-474-4589 (fax)

Portland Veterans Center

8383 NE Sandy Blvd., Suite 110
Portland, OR 97220
503-273-5370; 503-273-5377 (fax)

Salem Veterans Center

617 Chemeketa St. NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301
503-362-9911; 503-364-2534 (fax)

Additionally, each county has a designated veterans representative. In Oregon, the veterans representatives in our 11-county service area are:

Benton County – Don Johnson

541-758-1595

Clackamas County – Janice Raisl

503-650-5631

Lane County – Joseph Reiley

541-682-4191

Lincoln County – John Reed

541-574-6955

Linn County – Pat Brillon

541-967-3882

Marion County – ODVA

503-373-2085

Multnomah County – Fred Freyer

503-988-3620, ext. 26123

Polk County – ODVA

503-373-2085

Washington County – TBA

1-888-804-1817

Yamhill County – Debbie Gill

503-434-7503

Northwest Indian Veterans Association –

Dan Foster, 503-220-8262, ext. 31779

For additional information about services and benefits you might be eligible for, please visit the Veterans Administration's Web site at www.va.gov.



VA Benefits, con't from page 11

Toll-Free Service Benefits Information and Assistance

For more information about specific benefits, visit the nearest Veterans Administration regional office or call 1-800-827-1000.

Special Toll-Free Numbers

Health Care – 1-877-222-8387
Education and training for veterans, dependents, and survivors – 1-888-442-4551
VA Life Insurance – 1-800-669-8477
Office of SGLI – 1-800-419-1473
CHAMPVA – 1-800-733-8387
Helpline (Agent Orange and Gulf War) – 1-800-749-8387
Direct Deposit – 1-877-838-2778

Headstones (status of claims only) – 1-800-697-6947

Telecommunication Device for Deaf (TDD) – 1-800-829-4833

Internet: For detailed information about all VA benefits and services, visit www.va.gov.

Survivors. Information specific to survivors is available. Select "Benefits," then "Survivors' Benefits."

Applications. Apply for compensation, pension, health care, education, or vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits by selecting "Apply Online."

Inquiries. A "Contact VA" link is available for e-mail inquiries.

National American Indian Heritage Month

by Juanita Whitebear, LCSD Indian Education Program in the Lincoln City area

This history goes way back to 1915. To be given a day for the "significant contributions the First Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States" has resulted in the month of November being designated for that purpose.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint resolution designating November as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued every year since then.

In 1997, the Lincoln County School District Board passed a similar resolution proclaiming that November also be designated as "Native American Month."

The Indian Education staff is committed to teaching about and supporting students and teachers understanding and appreciation of the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous people of this land throughout the year. Our program is asking the local community to have Native articles and artwork posted throughout all the schools in your district in this honor.

It's my dream to see this happen throughout the whole nation of America, to have every school district pass a similar resolution in honor of American Indian people. If we begin to work together here in Oregon, we can make this a reality. Please contact the Indian Education Program in your school district and take this to your local school district board.

Today's American Indians are among the youngest segments of the population. A new generation of young people who if empowered with the education, skills, opportunity, and encouragement they need to thrive can lead Indian Country into a future as bright and promising as our strong and extraordinary past.

American Indians and Alaska Natives – the first Americans – have made

enormous contributions to the life of our country. When the first Europeans arrived on this continent, they did not find an empty land. They found instead a land of diverse peoples with a rich and complex system of governments, languages, religions, values, and tradition that have shaped and influenced American history and heritage.

Generations of American Indians have served and sacrificed to defend our freedom and no segment of our population has sent a larger percentage of its young men and women to serve in our Armed Forces.

But American Indians are not just an important part of our country's past. They also are a vital part of today's America and will play an even more important role in America's future.

November should not be the only month to celebrate and recognize intertribal cultures and educate the public about the heritage, history, art, and traditions of the Indigenous people of this land. But it's a start.

Update! Che' Butler, a Siletz Tribal member, is the Oregon Indian Education Association youth representative. He has asked the OIEA Board to pass a resolution to seek support in declaring November as "Native American Heritage Month." He is seeking community support by writing letters to the Oregon Department of Education, 255 Capitol NE, Salem, OR, 97310.

First Fatherhood Conference

The Native American Fatherhood & Family Association (NAFFA) cordially invites you to participate in the First National Native American Fatherhood Conference on Nov. 13-15 in Mesa, Ariz.

The conference's theme is *Weaving Fatherhood into Criminal Justice, Education, and Human Services*. It will focus on how American Indian fathers are served and treated, and how these systems impact them. In addition, the conference will address how men and families benefit from fatherhood programs and foster positive changes within their community.

Conference objectives include demonstrating how American Indian fatherhood programs can benefit the criminal justice, education, and health and human services systems through increased accountability and responsibility by American Indian fathers; increasing awareness of culturally sensitive treatment in our service programs; providing results of successful *Fatherhood Is Sacred* programs; promoting self-sufficiency and decreasing dependency on the system; and providing bridges to overcome mistrust.

Please visit www.nativeamericanfathers.org/ for more information.