

Medicare Drug Cards Tout Savings

Which card is right for you?

A new Medicare Drug Discount Card began this month and for many local seniors, it represents both savings and confusion.

This is the first phase of a temporary program that ends when the second stage of assistance, a Medicare drug benefit, goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2006. Once this begins, the discount cards will no longer be used.

In the meantime, starting in June, discount cards with a Medicare-approved seal will save you about 10-15 percent on your total prescription drug costs. Medicare will contract with private companies to offer these

can get additional help. If your income is less than about \$12,000 a year for one person or \$16,000 for a married couple, you may get up to \$600 to help pay for prescription drugs this year and again in 2005. Also, you will not have to pay a fee for your discount card.

But while you have money on your card, you will have to pay a co-pay of 5 to 10 percent each time you use it. If you use up the \$600, the card can still be used for discounts.

For low-income seniors and people with disabilities who already have prescription drug coverage

Remember, Medicare-approved discount drug cards will provide different discounts on different drugs.

cards. The cost for a card will be no more than \$30. This card is optional — you do not have to get a discount card if you don't want one.

With many different cards available, and different discounts offered for different drugs on each card, how do you decide which card is the right one for you?

The AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons) recommends that you start by making a list of the medicines you currently take, and include how much you pay each month for each prescription drug. Then, as you learn more about the different Medicare-approved discount drug cards that are available, find out which cards offer the best discounts on the drugs you need.

If you have a low income, you

from Medicaid, you cannot get the discount card. If you have drug coverage from an employer or the federal government, you cannot get the special low-income features of the discount card.

Remember, Medicare-approved discount drug cards will provide different discounts on different drugs. It's important to figure out which discount card will provide the most savings for you. Shop around to see which card best meets your needs.

Medicare has a Web site (www.medicare.gov) and a toll-free telephone number (800-MEDICARE or 800-633-4227) and AARP also has a Web site (www.aarp.org) and a phone number (888-OUR-AARP or 888-687-2277) to give you information to help you understand your Medicare and prescription drug choices.



Phyllis Meyer's abstract painting is from a collection that begins a special series of art and culture by area seniors.

Senior Culture

Older adults are showcasing their creativity and culture this month and through the summer at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center's Center on Aging Gallery.

One of the first artists to be featured is Phyllis Meyer who switched careers later in life to become an artist. She often paints nature scenes featuring animals in hues of red and blue.

COURAGEOUS

AFRICAN AMERICANS



Ron Weber
The Portland Observer

Pioneer black aviator proves women can fly

With a giant toothy smile that could be seen from high up in the sky, the gorgeous Bessie Coleman raced, turned, flipped, and spiraled in circles. Excited audiences below gazed up into the blinding sun in sheer awe of our nation's first and only black woman pilot. In a time when black men and women were considered second-class citizens by much of America, Coleman broke down the color lines on several fronts. First there would be that of a black pilot and then a women flyer as well. When she became famous throughout the world, Coleman broke an international barrier, becoming the envy men and women throughout the world regardless of age, sex, or color. With the invention of the airplane only twenty years in the past, this feisty young African-American woman now ruled the sky all by herself.

Confused and angered by her success, racist promoters would bar African Americans from attending Coleman aerial shows. When she found this out, Coleman would refuse to take off until her people were treated as equals and allowed in. Although her mother preached equality between the races, she taught young Coleman to "act white," by refining her speaking skills and overall manners. She told Coleman that it would help her advance farther in society that way.

After working two jobs and saving enough money to go to France for flying lessons, Coleman got her pilot's license and began flying in June of 1921. A recent World Book Encyclo-

pedia notes that Amelia Earhart "had received her flying license by 1922." As other sources also mention Earhart's aviation days beginning in 1922, the possibility exists that she Bessie Coleman, a black woman, may have been America's first female pilot. As Coleman was refused flying lessons here and had to get her license in Europe, Earhart was acknowledged as our first female pilot. While the controversy was never formally settled, it appears as though Coleman was first. This secret was well hidden as many early nineteenth century Americans would not have wanted this to be the case. Also noted in history books is a white woman by the name of Blanche Scott who was said to have possibly flown as early as 1910.

Long before Earhart's famous 1928 crossing the Atlantic, Bessie Coleman was stunning audiences of all colors with her aerial acrobatics. Upon completion of her training at France's Condrau School of Aviation, she was given her International Pilot's License in June of 1921. She was the first woman of any color to receive this honor from the Federation Aeronatique Internationale. On September 29, 1921, she sailed back to America where she was met by throngs of reporters at the dock. Shortly after her return, she sailed back to Europe one more time, where she then received her advanced training in Germany, Holland, and Switzerland.

In 1922, while Amelia Earhart



Bessie Coleman

way with her. While surveying a field for a landing spot to be used the next morning at a May Day performance in Jacksonville, Florida, an accident took her life. A mechanic had left a wrench in the gearbox of her plane and it caused the plain to spiral out of control, tossing Coleman out of the back seat. Coleman fell five hundred feet to the ground and was killed instantly. America's first African-American pilot disappeared from the skies. Many people of the day complained that she was forced to fly outdated and dangerous equipment because of her color. A memorial has been set up at the site where Coleman died doing what she loved best, flying an airplane and proving a woman could do anything a man could. Even in the twenty-first century, pilots from around the world come to the site of her accident and drop flowers from the sky in her memory.

Despite Bessie Coleman dying tragically and young, she inspired African Americans across the country to break down the color barriers and succeed in life. Proving that piloting was not for white men only, she opened up the doors for many women and black aviators to follow. Coleman's long-term dream of establishing a school for African-American pilots was taken on by a friend and supporter. Today, Bessie Coleman is still regarded as a pioneering woman in the field of aviation. The fact that she accomplished more in her few short years than most people do in a lifetime has given hope to all minority populations throughout America then, now, and in the future.

High Cancer Rates Found

African-Americans suffer more than others

African-Americans have the highest cancer rates in the country and are also more prone to die from cancer than any other racial or ethnic group.

The findings by the National Cancer Institute mirror the broader challenges of cancer health disparities that place a heavier burden for the disease on some communities of color.

Among men, African-Americans had the highest rates for new cancers and cancer deaths. Among women, African-Americans had the highest death rates for all cancer sites combined.

The age-adjusted incidence rate of prostate cancer for African-American men was 62 percent higher than for white men, and the death rate was more than twice that of white men. African-American female breast cancer death rates were about 34 percent higher than whites, despite lower rates of new cases among African-American women.

"If we are going to reduce or eliminate the suffering and death due to cancer in our society, then we must eliminate cancer health disparities. It is not acceptable that the greater number and more advanced cancers are associated with communities of color," said Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, institute director. "The fact that any segment of the population bears a larger cancer burden is something we must strive to eliminate."

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOTAL VEHICLE DISBURSEMENT!

EVERY USED CAR, TRUCK, VAN, SPORT UTILITY, OVER 300 TO CHOOSE FROM, MUST BE DISPOSED OF IMMEDIATELY!
\$59 DOWN!* PAYMENTS AS LOW AS \$79 PER MONTH!*

There will be over \$2 million dollars of used cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles offered to the public with \$59 DOWN! There will be monthly payments as low as \$79 per month* on many of these vehicles. Additional vehicles will be arriving daily.

LEAVE YOUR MONEY AT HOME... YOU WON'T NEED IT! Only during this three day sale at Thrifty Auto Centers, you may finance your new vehicle with \$59 DOWN and PAYMENTS AS LOW AS \$79 PER MONTH! This is made possible due to special arrangements with many national lending institutions which have been specifically retained for this event. Banks and lenders will be seeking new customers for this three day event.

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY! At these low prices, you MUST take immediate delivery of your vehicle. Vehicles will not be able to be held on the lot because of consumer demand. You must choose your car, truck, van, or sport utility and take immediate delivery during this three day event! No exceptions will be made. Vehicles will be available from the following manufacturers: Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, Chevrolet, Pontiac, Nissan, Kia, Mazda, Toyota, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Volkswagen, Honda; along with many others too numerous to mention.

NO DEALERS ALLOWED! Because of disposal pricing, no dealers will be able to purchase or trade during this three day event.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:
* Valid Driver's License
* Current Pay Stub or 2003 W2 Form
* Copy of Current Utility or Home Telephone Bill
* Your Current Vehicle Payment Book

4.09% APR For 72 MONTHS**

**4.09% for 72 months. On approved credit.

TRADE-INS ACCEPTED! Trade-ins will be accepted during this three day event. If you trade your existing vehicle during this three day event, Thrifty Auto Centers will pay off your trade, no matter what you owe! (A portion of negative trade equity may be applied to new loan.) No matter what your trade situation, \$59 DOWN and as low as \$79 MONTHLY PAYMENTS* will still be available to you! Please bring current title, registration and/or payment book. Lenders will also require proof of insurance.

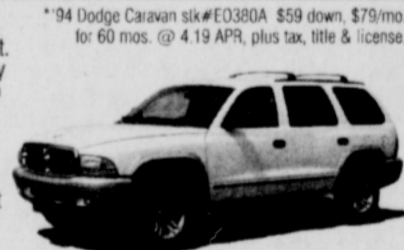
BAD CREDIT? BANKRUPTCY? NO CREDIT?

Then this sale is for YOU! We have helped thousands of financially troubled customers in the past and we are looking to help you get the vehicle you want... at the price you want to pay. To guarantee the success of this event, national lenders will be providing over 14 million dollars in funding for new loans.

UPSIDE DOWN IN YOUR CURRENT VEHICLE? WANT A NEW VEHICLE WITH A LOWER PAYMENT? Don't miss this three day disposal event at Thrifty Auto Centers. We want to put you into the car of your dreams, no matter what your current vehicle situation. Let us get you out of your current ride and into the car, truck, van or sport utility you really want to drive.

ALL VEHICLES ON THE LOT QUALIFY! Every single new and used vehicle on the lot qualifies. You will not hear "this vehicle does not qualify" at Thrifty Auto Centers. We absolutely must move inventory during this three day sale.

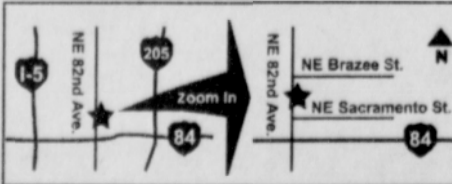
*All deals on approved credit. Special finance rates, terms and payments will vary by individual vehicle and are on approved credit through dealer's lender. Delivery must occur. Offer may not be used with prior sales or any other advertised offer. See dealer for complete details. *94 Dodge Caravan stk#E0380A, \$59 down, \$79/mo. for 60 mos. @ 4.19 APR, plus tax, title & license. On approved credit.



ZERO DOWN



AVAILABLE



Credit Problems? No Problem!
No Payments for 90 Days!

Your trade will never be worth more!

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Portland, OR 97220
1-866-887-4444



3 Day Event!
THIS FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY
9:00 am - 8:00 pm

Nobody Beats a Thrifty Auto Centers Deal!