



Band-Aid Brief

Sponsored by the Tribal Clinic: Glenn A. Gerritz, M.D.; Donna Breneman, F.N.P.; Darlene Lagoy, C.N.A.; and Sharon Herrin, C.N.A.

Please make clinic appointments now for:

- 1) back to school physicals
- 2) sports physicals
- 3) immunization updates

Be sure to bring your personal immunization records when coming to the clinic. Below is a recommended schedule approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics. You would be able to tell which immunizations are needed by comparing your personal record with the chart below. Children over the age of five and adults need DT injections (tetanus) every ten years. If there is an injury that breaks the skin, tetanus should be reported if last dose was given greater than five years ago.

Remember that those exposed to hepatitis A need to get gammaglobulin injections as soon as possible after exposure. Patients over 65 need to get flu injections and pneumonia vaccine in November of each year. Adults under the age of 65 with chronic heart disease, diabetes, lung disease and kidney disease need to get above vaccines also.

Tuberculosis: Tuberculosis is transmitted by droplets from an infected person coughing, sneezing, or talking loudly to another person usually in close quarters. Recently, sev-

eral Grand Ronde tribal members have turned positive to tuberculosis skin-testing. A positive skin test does not necessarily mean that you have been exposed to someone with tuberculosis. We request that everybody with a new positive skin test have a chest x-ray to rule out active disease.

Tribal members and employees who develop a positive skin test need to be treated with isoniazid (INH) to prevent active disease from occurring.

Tuberculosis is on the rise in our country and malnutrition, alcoholism, drug addiction and HIV positivity increase the risk of getting tuberculosis.

Please call the health clinic about questions concerning tuberculosis 879-2002 or 1-800-775-0095. We do skin testing from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the Tribal Clinic on weekdays. Employees whose risk of exposure to tuberculosis is greater, need a skin test every six months. Others need a skin test annually.

Prevention is a vital part in ensuring a healthy community. Please participate in our vaccine programs. Also remember that tuberculosis is coming back. In the 1930's tuberculosis was the leading cause of death in our middle-aged productive population.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Brian Coburn brings humor to TFAP

By Chris Mercier

"Do you know my cousin James?"

We are sitting in the conference room of the TFAP building, myself having been assigned to cover a story requested by Mychal Leno to welcome yet another Native person into the Tribe. Indeed, Brian Coburn is a full-fledged Native



American, but his blood is that of the Haida, an Alaskan tribe, and not of local origin. Yet he acts with the ease and humor of any Grand Ronde insider (we do not take ourselves too seriously). He cracks that joke mid-interview, and convincingly insists that it is true, while Mychal and I look at each other briefly with surprised expressions, stupidly believing him for a few seconds. The ruse is up when he laughs.

Such moments, Mychal assures me, are very common when working with Brian, the latest addition, as a Case Worker to the Tribal Family Action Program. Although he has been working at TFAP for only a month, the camaraderie between the two is equivalent to that of old college buddies. The levity is very appropriate, to be honest, as Brian was also brought on to help ease the burden of what is an extremely difficult job.

Although it is a social service, Mychal and Brian prefer to not think of themselves as Social Service workers. What they are in actuality is the center of a highly elaborate process. Custody fights, foster care, investigations, unstable households, etc. — just about every issue dealing with Indian child welfare is what the case workers are required to work with. They are, as Mychal puts it "the people who tie everything together." Although TFAP has a number of workers who specialize in the specifics, the job still has its imperfections, notably a heavy workload. Clients are generally worked with for one or two years, and cases can come in at any time. Naturally, such a position can take its toll on an individual.

Enter Brian Coburn.

Brian graduated from the University of Oregon in 1991, having completed his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, with a minor in English. Portland State was his next destination, where he pursued his Master's Degree in Social Work, emphasis on direct human social work, and attained that in 1995. Mychal discovered him in her search for somebody to form a job share with.

Fessing up, Mychal claims she had concerns as to the effect of two workers splitting time on the same case, especially should they not see eye to eye. Perhaps it would detract from work on the cases. That problem hasn't materialized.

The job share has Brian working on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; and Mychal on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. They meet on Wednesdays to discuss cases, making sure that neither one is handling the case differently. In a sense they are guardian angels, to each other and to the children they work with. They laugh when I say this to them, but agree that it is not far from the truth. TFAP was lucky to catch him, as he was entertaining an offer from a Portland based company. His devotion to Native peoples is what brought him here, and he has not regretted it since.

He does, incidentally, have an Indian name. Gitkun. "What does it mean?" I ask.

"I don't know. Its too complicated."

Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule

age ▼ vaccine	birth	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months ⁵	15 months ⁵	18 months	4-6 years	11-12 years	14-16 years
hepatitis B ¹	HepB	HepB		HepB						
diphtheria ² tetanus pertussis		DTP	DTP	DTP	DTP or DTaP if ≥15 mo.			DTP or DTaP	Td	
H. influenzae type b ³		Hib	Hib	Hib	Hib					
polio		OPV	OPV	OPV				OPV		
measles ⁴ mumps rubella					MMR			MMR or MMR		

Vaccines are listed under the routinely recommended ages. Shaded bars indicated range of acceptable ages for vaccination.

Read all footnotes carefully (detailed on back).

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People Conference -- October 25-27 -- Portland

Conference attendees will be able to learn about the latest development in hearing aids, assistive listening devices, cochlear implants, tinnitus, and telecommunications. There will be seminars on effective coping strategies people can put to work with their family, friends, and co-workers.

Speakers include Donna Sorkin, Executive Director of SHHH National; Rocky Stone, founder of SHHH National; Dr. Sam Trychin, Dr. George A.

Gates, and Thomas S. Rees.

The schedule for the conference includes exhibits areas with the latest equipment available for improving hearing. For more information on the conference call (541) 689-7242.

The conference will be held at the Monarch Hotel and Conference Center and is sponsored by the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People of Lane County (SHHH). For reservations call 1-800-492-8700.