

Number of health care providers keeps growing



Dr. Jim Molloy, MD

Office hours: Weekdays (except for Wednesday), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Originally from Texas, Dr. Molloy gave up his 10-year-old private practice in Sheridan to join the clinic last September. The family practitioner says the autonomy to make swift policy changes he lost as a private physician is a bargain tradeoff for the opportunity his new position gives him to work in a well-equipped clinic that is "making progress every day." He notes, "we have options here which are not available in Sheridan."

Molloy encourages patients to help the clinic better serve their needs by setting appointments at the first sign of illness instead of letting it develop into a crisis requiring emergency care.

"I think a number of people out there do not access healthcare soon enough," Molloy says. "I'd like to see more people take advantage of what's available."

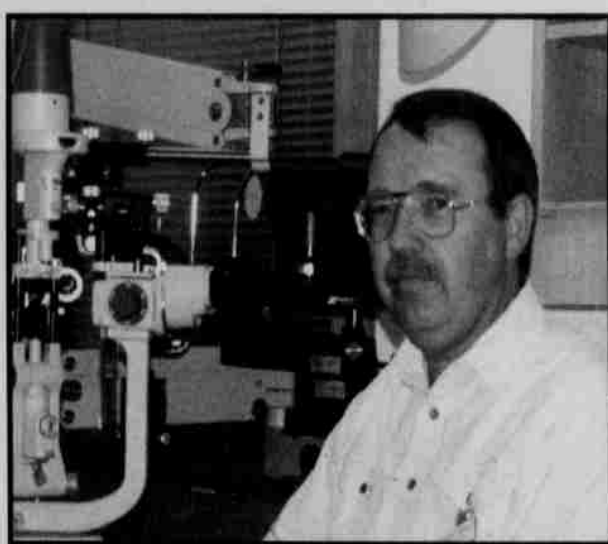


Dr. G. Shayne Toliver, MD

Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dr. Toliver graduated from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1992 and worked at the Urgent Care Clinic in Longview, Washington before joining the clinic in December. A native of California he says his family "goes back generations in Oregon" and he enjoys living in Portland and working both in Newberg, where he has a part-time private family practice, and Grand Ronde where he says the new, well equipped clinic has more to offer than most.

"I like the fact that we have a lot of resources available for patients," says Toliver who admits that in most facilities some patients don't have resources for medication, special equipment or alternative housing. "Here, at least they're aware of it and make an effort to meet such needs."



Dr. Jerry Sheere, Optometrist

Office hours: Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

An almost 10-year veteran officer of the Public Health Services' Commission Corps, Dr. Sheere's weekly schedule also covers Chemawa Indian Health Center in Salem and the Siletz Indian Reservation. Before taking on his busy Oregon schedule, he practiced optometry for 14 years at the Blackfeet Reservation in his home state of Montana. Sheere admits a challenge in meeting Grand Ronde's needs with just one day a week but says Optometry Assistant, Elaine Thomas shoulders a lion's share of the burden by helping clients in his absence.

Sheere encourages patients to set appointments well in advance and to have an annual exam due to the high rate of diabetes related eye disease among Native Americans. He also reminds patients that his office can also fill eyeglass and contact prescriptions written by other optometrists.



Kathleen Marquart, PA/C (Physicians Assistant/Certified)

Office hours: two days per week — call for times.

Marquart brings a wealth of experience in Indian and Native women's health practice to Grand Ronde. Before she left a two year stint at Portland's Kaiser Permanente to join the clinic last October the Tlingit/Haida Native from Alaska worked on the Navajo reservation in Arizona, and the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota. She has also provided women's health care at an urban Indian clinic in Oklahoma and currently works two days a week doing the same at the Native American Rehabilitative Association (NARA) health clinic in Portland, from where some of her Grand Ronde patients already know her.

"Being an Indian person, I see a lot of our health problems are acute when they could be preventative instead," Marquart says. "I'm excited to work with a program that's not just acute but preventative."



Lisa Clift, MT (Medical Technologist)

Clift was hired last month to manage the clinic's newly equipped laboratory. Before she left McMinnville's Willamette Valley Medical Center where she worked for two years, the Montana native resided in Los Angeles, California.

"I'm very excited to work here, people are very friendly and knowledgeable," Clift says. "We have a lot of very nice equipment here that will make a very comprehensive lab."

Thanks to the new state-of-the-art equipment which she will use to analyze specimens ranging from thyroid and liver products to urine and blood, the clinic will no longer have to send specimens to Salem and beyond for testing. Clift also says that soon the clinic lab will apply for a state license allowing them to conduct high level testing for other medical facilities in the area.



Kathy Faber, FNP (Family Nurse Practitioner)

Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Faber began working in Intensive Care in 1984 and also brought her experience in public health education to the Grand Ronde clinic last September. Although she is a native of Pennsylvania, she is a graduate of Oregon Health Sciences University and has been a resident of this state for 12 years. Faber says what she likes most about working in Grand Ronde is the diversity of her clients.

"I enjoy the variety of patients — young and old; both tribal and non-tribal members," says Faber. "I enjoy being part of their life experiences."

Faber believes one way to improve patient experiences at the clinic is to use appointments over walk-ins whenever possible.

Stories and photos by Oscar Johnson