

Pow-wow Committee Seeking Help

The Pow-wow Committee is looking for workers during the pow-wow, August 20-22. Volunteer and paid positions are available. Please contact Lisa Leno at 503-879-1471.

Letters

Dear *Smoke Signals*,

We would like to give a big thanks to Penny DeLoe and all those that helped make our Elder Honor Day another huge success. Also, thanks for all those who gave gifts.

Elder Committee

New Healthcare Insurance Plan For Members To Start September 1

TRIBE SELECTS SELF-FUNDING TO ADDRESS RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

Quality of care, choices, the ability to address rising health care costs have been key issues for the Tribe during the past few years. The Tribe has searched to find ways to lower this trend of higher health care costs while continuing to provide quality health care to Tribal members. Self-funding the Tribal member health care utilizing a Third Party administrator (TPA), United Medical Resources will now provide the path to address these issues and challenges, effective September 1, 2004.

WHAT THIS CHANGE WILL MEAN?

Over the last few months, presentations at community meetings and letters have been sent out to members outlining this change and what it will mean in terms of how the plan will be administered along with the potential impacts on those who receive this coverage.

Essentially Tribal Members should experience little or no change in benefits, co-pays, services or providers. The only real difference is that members will be receiving new insurance cards very soon, and information about the plan. Tribal administration has worked very closely with the new plan administrator to make sure that this change will be seamless, and cause minimal disruption. If there are problems that occur, processes have been put into place to address individual concerns quickly.

BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN

Self-funding allows the Tribe to identify what options and choices relative to insurance benefits are best and right for the Tribal Members. This flexibility of the plan will allow the Tribe to analyze trends of services and utilization, so the plan will have tailored benefits to meet the specific health care needs of the Tribe in the most cost effective manner.

Members will also enjoy easy access to the new plan administrator by a dedicated phone line and website, exclusively designed for CTGR. The phoneline customer services professionals will provide information and personal consultation to members as needed. The number for this is 1-888-CTGR-BEN (1-888-284-7236).

The website will allow members to review their benefits, identify providers, and view additional information related to the plan. The web address is: www.grandronde.org/misc/insuranceinfo.htm. Members can also always access their benefits through the current UMR website at www.myurm.com.

There are also new programs members will have access to. One of these programs is P.R.I.D.E. (Preventing and Reducing illness through Detection and Education). A new benefit provided at no extra cost to you, P.R.I.D.E has been designed to help you and your family make well-informed decisions regarding your healthcare. P.R.I.D.E will provide educational materials, resources and personal, confidential advice regarding individual medical conditions and treatment options. The objective of P.R.I.D.E is to provide you with a resource that will give you the opportunity to make informed decisions regarding your healthcare by helping you better understand your illness and treatment options.

EXPECTED SEPTEMBER 1 START DATE

While it has taken somewhat longer than anticipated to implement this plan, Tribal management have taken this time to ensure that legal issues relative to the plan were resolved, and that the agreements with the third party administrator reflected the self-insured status of the Tribe as a sovereign nation. This is important, as it will ensure that benefits for members in all locations are equitable and consistent.

Expect to receive your new identification cards in the next few weeks. In the meantime, if you have questions about the plan, or how it may effect you, please contact Member Benefits at 503-879-2490 or Debby Larsen, Financial Risk Manager at 503-879-2332. If you have not received your new Insurance ID card by August 27, call Member Benefits immediately.

FREE SUBSCRIPTION

SMOKE SIGNALS is available to anyone at no cost. Fill out this form with your name and address, mail to: **Smoke Signals, Attn: Subscriptions, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347**

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Smoke Signals 2004 Deadlines

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Fri., Aug. 20	SEP. 1
Fri., Sep. 3	SEP. 15
Fri., Sep. 17	OCT. 1
Tues., Oct. 5	OCT. 15
Wed., Oct. 20	NOV. 1
Fri., Nov. 5	NOV. 15
Wed., Nov. 17	DEC. 1
Fri., Dec. 3	DEC. 15
Thurs., Dec. 16	JAN. 1, 2005



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EDITORIAL POLICY

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SMOKE SIGNALS reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on individuals, staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council. Not all letters are guaranteed publication-upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of **SMOKE SIGNALS**, Tribal staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council.

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In order to ensure a balanced election campaign and fairness to all candidates, the **SMOKE SIGNALS** 2003 Tribal Council Election Editorial Policy for letters to the editor will be as follows: Subject to existing editorial policies regarding libel, personal attacks and unsubstantiated facts.

1. Letters in support of candidates will **NOT** be published in regular editions of **SMOKE SIGNALS**.
 2. Letters to the editor from candidates will **NOT** be published during the time period from nominations to the conclusion of the Tribal Council Election.
 3. Feature articles and spotlights involving candidates will be suspended during the time period from nominations to the conclusion of the Tribal Council Election.
- This policy is intended to ensure an equal forum for all candidates.

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