



Photo by Toby McClary

Flooded — On Wednesday, December 28, torrential rains caused some minor flooding throughout the local Grand Ronde area. Here, Sgt. Nathan Goldberg of the Polk County Sheriff's Office drives through the high water on Grand Ronde Road.



Nurturing Parent Families Together

Wednesday Evenings
January 4 — March 15, 2006
5:30-8:30 p.m.

This is a program for the whole family to attend together to promote healthy family attitudes, beliefs and practices. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lisa Leno at 503-879-1471. This program is sponsored by Social Services, Education, Health and Wellness, and Housing.

Preschoolers Visit Clinic



Little Ones Have Big Holiday — Tribal Preschoolers pose for a photo with Clinic Information Tech Kandee Little at the clinic on Tuesday, December 20. Although their purpose was to vote on their favorite decorated window, they found the time to say Merry Christmas to everyone in the building.

Photo by Toby McClary

Tribal Members Requested To Participate In Online Survey Beginning January 23, 2006

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde strives to continue providing quality health care for Tribal members, with a focus on access of care, quality of care, and cost of providing care.

Your participation is requested to collect information for the Tribal Member Health Plan as currently administered by United Medical Resources (UMR). The purpose of the survey is to gather information about Tribal members, and their access to other health insurance coverage through alternative carriers (via your employer, Medicare, etc).

Tribal members eligible for primary coverage through other carriers are required to provide information about the alternative carriers. Providing this information will not change health benefits to Tribal members, but will assist the Tribe in continuing to provide access to quality health care for all Tribal members while helping to manage cost of care.

Responses to this survey will be strictly confidential and will be available only for the above mentioned purpose. The survey will be available online from **January 23, 2006 through March 10, 2006**. Members will also receive the paper survey via first class-mail the week of January 16, 2006, however, online participation is encouraged to (1) enter you promptly into the drawing, (2) reduce the chance that your responses may be lost in the mail, and (3) save on the cost and time of mailing. Although no action is requested at this time, the direct web address for the survey will be posted in January 15, 2006 edition of the *Smoke Signals*. Members will also have access the survey through the Tribe's website at www.grandronde.org. Information to be posted at the Tribe's website is also forthcoming.

Your input is crucial and so is a successful return rate; therefore, we are organizing a drawing with great prizes in return for your participation. In addition, there will be an extra incentive for those who 1.) Complete the online survey by March 10 or 2.) Who return the paper survey by March 6.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Debby Larsen, Financial Risk Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, at 503-879-2332. Thank you!

Grand Ronde Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Grand Ronde Tribe is anticipating a new federal award for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to assist income eligible Grand Ronde Tribal members with energy payments (utility bills, firewood, etc.), energy emergencies and weatherization (e.g. furnace repairs). Under the current program households with an adult Grand Ronde Tribal member are eligible to apply within Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Washington, Multnomah, Tillamook, and Clackamas counties.



CTGR members in these counties need to contact Grand Ronde to receive assistance instead of from the community action agency in their area. Grand Ronde's program enables more CTGR members to be served than would otherwise have been possible.

If you are interested in obtaining services contact Social Services at 1-800-242-8196 for energy assistance and the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority at 503-879-2405 for weatherization. The Tribe's LIHEAP program also serves all income eligible Indians on Grand Ronde Reservation or trust land.

[CORRECTION NOTE - In the December 15, 2005 issue of Smoke Signals a block ad was shown on page 8 for the Mid-Willamette Community Action Agency. This public service ad was faxed to Smoke Signals but it fails to note that Grand Ronde Tribal members are not eligible to obtain services from MWCAA because the Tribe receives direct federal funding to operate its own LIHEAP program. Indians from other Tribes, that do not have an adult CTGR member in their household, can apply to MWVCAA for services if they reside in Polk/Marion County. Another exception to this may be Siletz Tribal members since the Siletz Tribe also applied for funding to serve their own members. They should contact the Siletz Tribe to see if they are eligible for services with their Tribe.