

Tribal member prescription benefit change on Feb. 1

Based on the recommendation of the Healthcare Task Force, Tribal Council has approved beginning Feb. 1 that all Tribal members utilizing the Skookum Health Plan obtain their maintenance medications from a mail-order facility approved by the plan.

There are two facilities to choose from: Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Pharmacy and The Express Scripts mail-order pharmacy.

Any medication filled every month — most likely for blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, allergies, long-term pain management, etc. — will now need to be filled by one of the two pharmacies.

Medications taken for acute symptoms, such as infections, short-term pain management, etc., will be able to be filled at your local pharmacy.

This plan change will save the Tribe approximately \$900,000 per year.

The Grand Ronde Pharmacy receives discounts from Indian Health Service to serve Native Americans. These discounts are generally 60 percent less than what the health plan has to pay for prescriptions to be filled at your local pharmacy for the same medication, and results in a huge savings for the Tribe.

In addition, as a convenience for you, prescriptions filled through mail order will be dispensed at a 90-day supply if that is what your provider writes. This will be the case regardless of which mail-order facility is chosen.

Tribal members utilizing the Health & Wellness Clinic Pharmacy will have their co-pay waived regardless of their location and can either choose to have the prescription mailed or picked up in person.

In preparation for this change, we are asking that Tribal members not already utilizing the Grand Ronde Pharmacy have their prescriptions transferred from their local pharmacy.

Please contact the Tribal Pharmacy at 503-879-2342, option 1 and then option 0, as soon as possible so Tribal staff can assist you with this process and you can be assured that you do not run out of medication. Once we have transferred or received a new prescription, we will have your prescription in the mail within 24 hours.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pharmacy staff at the phone number above or Pharmacy Director Julie Davis at 503-879-2342 (option 3). ■

'I am proud of our people for taking the initiative to help'

HAITI continued
from front page

donations within the casino," Ferguson said.

Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor said Tribal Council will promote donations throughout the Tribal governmental offices as well.

The Jan. 12 earthquake that struck Haiti leveled the poor country's capital, Port-au-Prince, killing an estimated 200,000 people, injuring another 250,000 and leaving 1.5 million people homeless.

A massive, worldwide effort led by the United States and its charitable organizations have been trying to help the victims since then.

"We have been blessed with so many gifts that we can't even begin to count them while so many in this world suffer each day from poverty

and starvation," Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. said.

"As Native Americans, we always proclaim to be the protectors of this earth. If we truly are, then we need not only care for our people, but all peoples of the world."

"The events that have taken place in the country of Haiti are catastrophic," said Tribal Council member Toby McClary. "It will take years for them to recover and I am proud of our people for taking the initiative to help."

"We will reach out to the people of Haiti in an attempt to lighten their burden as much as possible."

"As a Tribe, I think we've always proven ourselves to be a caring people," said Tribal Council member Chris Mercier, "and in situations like this it would be hard to come up with a reason not to help." ■

Donations needed

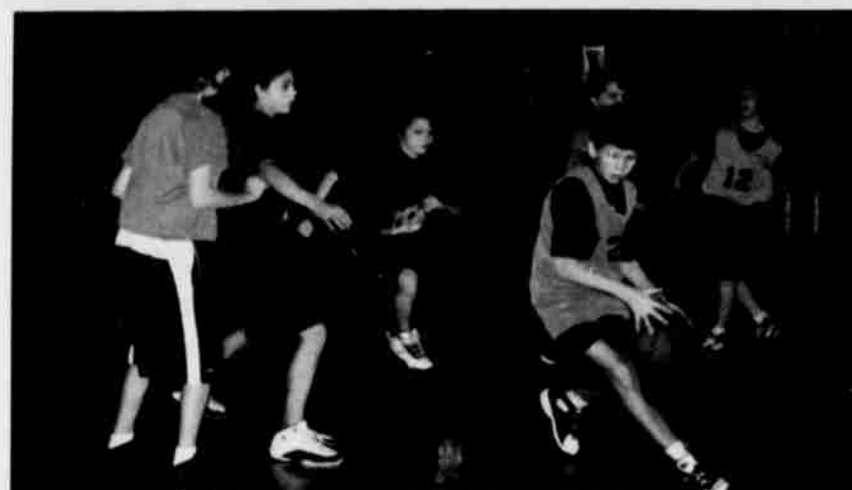
The Grand Ronde Community Resource Center has a few fundraisers and other projects planned and is seeking donations, etc.

- **Community Cookbook:** Looking for your favorite recipe. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please e-mail it to grcrc@hotmail.com or mail to GRCRC, P.O. Box 55, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. Please include the name of dish, recipe, your name for publication in the cookbook and a phone number to contact you if there are any questions.

- **Food Preservation:** The center is still seeking food dehydrators for its food preservation program. If you have one you'd like to donate, please e-mail or call and leave a message at 503-879-5731.

- **Coupon Program:** The center is looking for food and non-food item coupons for its coupon program. ■

Driving down the lane



Photos by Ron Karten

Above, Tribal member Brody Bruckner, playing for Willamina, sets up for a shot as the team took on Yamhill-Carlton in the second game of the morning on Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Tribal gymnasium. YC won 37-29. Seven teams played in the Valley Basketball League games. Below, Tribal member Leonard Logan III, No. 6, drives against Amity defenders in the third game of the morning. Grand Ronde lost a close one against Amity, 28-22.



Leggett's first station has been the Tribal Health & Wellness Center

LEGGETT continued
from front page

uniformed services.

Leggett, 43, who moved to Oregon from Florida, was commissioned into the Public Health Service in October 2006 and her first station has been the Grand Ronde Tribal Health & Wellness Center.

According to the Public Health Service Web site, there are more than 6,000 full-time public health professionals in its Commissioned Corps who are "dedicated to delivering the nation's public health promotion and disease prevention programs and advancing public health science."

For a Public Health Service member to be deployed to disaster areas, they need permission of their regular workplace supervisor.

"We're now staffed with nurses and there is a great need," Leggett said. "It's pretty likely I will go. I actually do want to go. I want to help. It would be a great learning experience and I want to serve my country."

After getting all of the immunizations she will need, Leggett would likely fly out of Seattle in early February and spend two weeks aboard the Navy hospital ship The Comfort, which is docked in Port-au-Prince, the devastated Haitian

capital.

Leggett thinks she will likely be deployed with only three days notice, which might create a little trouble.

A single parent, Leggett has a 15-year-old son at home in McMinnville.

Leggett said her retired father, who lives in North Carolina, has volunteered to travel to Oregon to be with his grandson so that he doesn't have to travel to his father's home and miss classes at McMinnville High.

"You have your go bag, combat fatigues and your shots," Leggett said matter-of-factly.

On another front, Tribal Health Director Mark Johnston said that past Public Health Service deployments can and do affect clinic access at federal sites, such as Chemawa Health Clinic in Salem.

"This has the potential to affect the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in two ways," Johnston said. "First, it could affect our members living in the Salem area who normally seek their care at Chemawa and, second, if access is reduced at Chemawa, we could see an influx of Native patients seeking care at the CTGR Health & Wellness Center."

"We are prepared to meet any changes in demand that arise from the deployments and the tragedy occurring in Haiti." ■