

Tournament champs



Photo courtesy of the Tribal Recreation Department

From left, Tribal member Julian Rock, Tribal descendant Anthony Rock and Steve Blanton show off the sweatshirts and T-shirts they received after winning the three-on-three basketball tournament held Friday, Nov. 12, and Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Tribal gymnasium. The team went undefeated, winning five games in a row in the round robin event. Six predominantly Tribal teams participated and the event was sponsored by the Tribal Recreation Department.

Marketplace dates

■ Dec. 3-4, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dates subject to change due to conflicting Tribal or SMC events. Located across from Cedar Plank Buffet. For more information, contact Buzz Simmons at 971-226-9799.

Dickie cited by Arkansas Business

Tribal member Christopher Dickie, 28 was recently honored by Arkansas Business magazine as one of its "20 in their 20s," which honors young entrepreneurs in the state.

Dickie, who lives in Batesville, owns the Smokehouse Grill & Café.

An Oregon native, Dickie moved to Miami, Fla., in 2006 to start a real estate career. He realized quickly that selling real estate wasn't the job for him and he moved to Batesville, where his grandmother lived.

He's earning an accounting degree at Lyon College and opened the restaurant.

"Accounting is best defined as the language of business," he was quoted as saying. "From the ground up, I need to understand the language, how to speak numbers."

The business magazine says Dickie's restaurant is earning repeat customers and that he is "excited about his future opportunities."

Dickie is descended from Marie LaChance, is the grandson of Shirley Snell and the son of Andrea Singleton. ■



Christopher Dickie

Casino begins Holiday Toy Drive

For the third consecutive year, Spirit Mountain Casino is holding its annual Holiday Toy Drive to benefit Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

New, unwrapped toys or games are being accepted at the casino's Coyote Club desk through Friday, Dec. 17. In exchange, Spirit Mountain Casino will give \$10 in free slot play for every toy or game donated with a maximum of \$30 in bonus play per person.

"This is our third year of helping make Christmas a little brighter at Doernbecher," said Spirit Mountain Chief Executive Officer Rodney Ferguson. "Our guests have stepped up in the past, even during tough economic times, to bring a smile to a child's face and we hope we can replicate last year's donation, which was our largest number of toys yet."

Last year, a semi-trailer donated by TP Freight Lines of Portland transported more than 50 pallets of toys to the receiving dock at Doernbecher, the world-class facility that is part of Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. ■

'We're sitting good right now'

OPEN HOUSE continued
from front page

greater access to Grand Ronde Tribal members and improved access should translate into better health care for Tribal members and other Native Americans who visit the Grand Ronde facility.

"Some of the feedback we received from patients and Tribal members over the few years that I've been here, and previous to my time here, is that we had issues with access," Johnston said. "Certainly, that is what predicated all of this remodel. ... Greater access usually leads to better outcomes for medical care."

Health Services Assistant Executive Director Allyson Lecatsas said an important part of the Health & Wellness Center remodel is improved patient confidentiality, especially at the Pharmacy.

Beforehand, consultations occurred at the Pharmacy counter and potentially could be overheard by other patients waiting in the lobby or those standing in line.

Now, Lecatsas said, there is room for Pharmacy staff to privately consult with patients about their prescriptions.

"Patients were turning down consultations," Lecatsas said. "We had a lack of confidentiality because we were so squeezed in that space."

In addition, Plexiglas dividers will be installed to allow receptionists to conduct private conversations with patients on the phone without the fear of being

If you plan to attend

What: Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Open House

When: 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9

Why: Refreshments and tours of the newly remodeled Health & Wellness Center offered to Tribal members to see what is now available nearby to meet their health care needs.

More information: 503-879-2236.

overheard.

Johnston said the remodel is a continuation of goals he set out to meet when he started as executive director in June 2007.

The clinic has received accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, access and quality of care have improved and the clinic is close to being financially self-sufficient.

Future long-term projects include transferring all health records from paper to electronic formats.

The Open House will feature tours of the expanded Health & Wellness Center, except for the Pharmacy, light refreshments and an opportunity to visit areas that people might not have had a chance to see before, said Senior Administrative Assistant Jill Hafziger.

"We will open up all the clinic if people want to go see it," Hafziger said.

Johnston said the recent remodeling should suffice for awhile, but that is dependent on how many

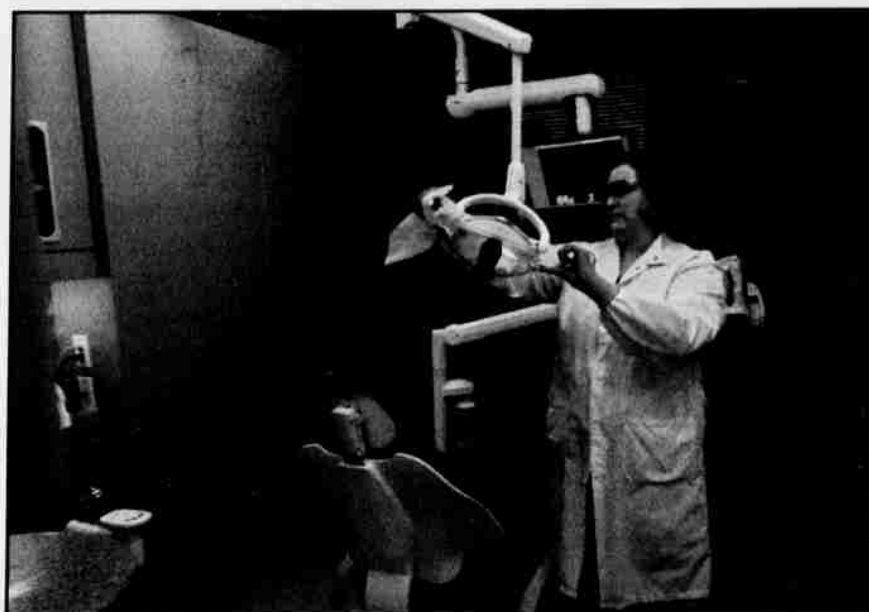


Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Genifer Grout, a dental assistant II for the Tribe, cleans one of the Dental Department's new exam rooms in the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center on Thursday, Nov. 18. The clinic is having an open house on Thursday, Dec. 9, to show off all the changes that have occurred to it.

Tribal members return to the ancestral homelands.

"There is a real emphasis on building the community to bring more Tribal members back," Johnston said. "If that occurs, there is probably going to be a greater demand on the clinic and, at that point in time, we'll have to take a look at the space we have and whether or not it meets the demand."

"We're sitting good right now," Lecatsas said.

Until then, Johnston said he is hoping the current health center remodel will lure Tribal members

who previously had problems with access back to the Tribal Health & Wellness Center.

"With the Open House, we're hoping people will come and find something that is available that they were not aware of," Johnston said.

"We want to bring back as many people as possible to the clinic," Lecatsas said.

"Certainly that was the goal of Tribal Council," Johnston added. "Create greater access, improve quality of care and bring back more Grand Ronde members here." ■