

Obama's 2013 Budget looks good for Grand Ronde

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

In a federal budget where almost everything is being cut or eliminated, the White House's 2013 budget has proposed increases for the Indian Health Service of as much as 2.7 percent.

The total proposed budget for Indian Health Service is \$4.42 billion, a \$116 million increase over the 2012 budget appropriation.

"This is a proposed budget," Mark Johnston, the Tribe's Health Services executive director, cautioned. "We don't know how it will filter out."

Within weeks, however, the Indian Health Service appropriation will be divided up among IHS offices nationwide, and when the Portland office learns what its share will be, the Grand Ronde part will become clearer.

The big item for Grand Ronde in the budget is Contract Health, which pays for medical and related services to members in the Tribe's

six-county service area, said Johnston.

From the White House's initial proposal, the clinic's portion could be as high as a 2.6 percent increase.

Regardless of the final funding decision, Tribal members will continue to enjoy the same health coverage and medical care. What the increased funds will do, Johnston said, is "enable the Tribe to make better use of its funds."

"This looks very favorable for the Tribe," said Johnston.

From an early look at the White House proposal, no other Tribal programs appear to be in line for as significant an increase in federal funding.

Indian Health Service is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and provides health services for approximately 2 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives who are members of federally recognized Tribes. ■

Medicare Part B reimbursement notice

If you are a Grand Ronde Tribal member, have reached the age of retirement (65) or have started to receive Social Security Retirement or disability benefits through Social Security (SSD), you may be eligible to receive Medicare Part B benefits through the Tribe. To find out if you are eligible, or to get enrolled in Medicare Part B, please do the following: call toll-free 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or go online at www.medicare.gov. You will need to request an application for enrollment in Medicare Part B and return it to your local Social Security Office. Once you are enrolled in Medicare Part B through Social Security, you will need to call our office to request a Medicare Part B Reimbursement packet to apply. As a Grand Ronde Tribal member, the Tribe will reimburse your Medicare Part B premium each month at the standard rate.

Note: If you are currently on the Skookum Tribal Health Plan it is required that you accept Medicare Part B when you become eligible. By not accepting Medicare Part B, your coverage for medical expenses could be drastically reduced.

If you need a Medicare Part B reimbursement packet sent to you or have any questions regarding the Tribe's reimbursement program, please call Reina Nelson in Member Services at 503-879-2223 or toll-free at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2223. You may call Barbara Steere with questions regarding our Skookum Tribal Health Plan coverage at 503-879-2487 or toll-free at 1-800-749-2928. ■

University of Oregon store seeks artwork for sale

The University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History's museum store, Past and Presents, is seeking a limited number of artists interested in selling their original artwork on consignment in the store. Pacific Northwest Tribal members interested in the opportunity should submit five images of their work for consideration to tracey@uoregon.edu. The university's Museum of Natural and Cultural History protects significant collections, enhances knowledge and encourages stewardship of human and natural history through research, preservation and education.

Past and Presents offers a comprehensive selection of regional books and gifts that reflect the museum's exhibits, collections and research, as well as the inspiration of the Pacific Northwest landscape. The store features handcrafted goods from local and regional artists, including jewelry, pottery, basketry, woodworking and more.

For more information, contact Tracey Bell at 541-346-1574. ■

Dictionary available through Cultural Resources Department

DICTIONARY continued from front page

ciation guide and the grammar of Chinuk Wawa. In addition, following the words, definitions and etymologies (origins) of words, the dictionary includes a picture gallery and biographical sketches of the Tribe's fluent Chinuk Wawa speakers.

Two Catholic missionary texts also are included since Catholic priests at Grand Ronde and elsewhere primarily used Chinuk

Wawa to communicate with local Native Americans.

The book is dedicated to former Tribal Elder Jackie Mercier Whisler, a Chinuk Wawa teacher at the Tribe who contributed much to the dictionary before walking on in December 2007.

The dictionary will be available for \$20 (not including a \$5 handling fee) through the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department and in the University of Washington Press' catalog. ■

Attention All Tribal Artisans

The Grand Ronde Royalty Committee is seeking bids for beaded crowns and sashes for the 2012 - 13 Royalty Court.

Crowns and sashes must be completed and delivered by **July 13, 2012**

Please submit your bid to Public Affairs,
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

The deadline for bids is March 15
(Deadline is firm and no bids will be accepted after 5 P.M. that day)

Questions: call 503-879-1418

Ad created by George Valdez

Regalia Making Class

Wednesdays from 3 - 6 p.m.

with Dara Dickinson (Simmons)

Learn applique design techniques

Girls Jingle, Fancy & Traditional Dress styles
Boys Grass, Fancy Traditional & Chicken

Open to the first 10 to register

For more information or to sign-up call:
Brian Krehbiel at 503-879-4639
brian.krehbiel@grandronde.org



Ad created by George Valdez