

Program cuts time and personnel

**LIFESAVER continued
from front page**

“They said, ‘No one asked.’”
So, he asked.

The program involves a location transmitter watch that the client wears and a receiver generally staffed by a police agency. Every month, Project Lifesaver personnel visit clients and replace the watch batteries.

The program cuts time and personnel required “drastically,” said Wellborn. The time is cut to minutes and personnel can be limited to two officers — one to drive and another to operate the equipment.

Wellborn is statewide coordinator for the program and a national instructor. He has held the two-day training sessions — an online course and field training — all over the United States. Part of the training, he said, describes background information about how people with

different brain types may act.

Alzheimer’s patients try to go home, he said. With short-term memory gone, they can start in a direction they think leads to home even though that home may be long gone or far off.

Usually, whatever the intention, clients are still close to their current home when Project Lifesaver swings into action.

One client that Wellborn recently found was hiding in the bushes outside of a store. Some people wander off because they think they have done something wrong or because they are in a place they don’t want to be.

The program works with a clientele that meets certain requirements, Wellborn said. Those that might not fit the program could have a discipline problem not related to any physical or brain status issue. It may be that the potential client can’t keep the band on or cuts

it off intentionally.

The Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office now has about 20 clients, including two who joined in the last month. Others have since passed on or moved away. The county unit has responded to 12 calls with successful finds in less than 20 minutes in every case, faster than the national average of 30.

With a grant from the federal Department of Justice, the Grand Ronde Police Department has purchased two receivers and four transmitters. The local program is looking for its first client.

Wellborn also started an air-

borne program for Yamhill County because it had access to helicopters and police officers trained to fly them. To get that part of the program going in Grand Ronde, Wellborn said, he intends to contact the helicopter company again. The airborne program is growing across the country.

A newer addition is the PAL (Protect and Locate) Program, an Internet-based system that works with cell phones and GPS.

To get someone into the program, contact the local police department. Wellborn’s phone number is 503-879-1822. ■

WIC to visit Tribe

Pregnant? Breastfeeding? Family include a child under the age of 5?

You may qualify for the Women, Infants and Children program. With WIC, you can get answers to nutrition questions and access fruits and vegetables, whole grains, eggs, milk, cheese, juice, cereal and more.

A WIC representative will be at the Tribal Youth Education Building on the first and third Tuesday of the month between 9 and 11 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 503-623-8175, ext. 2297. ■

Mothers of Tradition training set

The White Bison Mothers of Tradition training returns to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on Tuesday through Thursday, May 20-22, at the Community Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. The training’s purpose is to increase awareness of how intergenerational trauma interrupted the culture, language, family ties and parenting practices among Native peoples.

Participants will learn how to apply cultural teachings to bring healing to children and relationships.

The training is free, but people must register to attend. Participants must make a three-day commitment and attend from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information or to register, contact Alcohol and Drug Counselor Karan Scharf at 503-879-2029.

The training is sponsored by the Tribe’s Behavioral Health Program and funded by a Meth and Suicide Prevention Initiative grant. ■

Memorial Day Observance MONDAY, MAY 26

**Meal served at noon
Program begins at 1 P.M.**

**9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347**

**For more information about the Memorial Day event, contact
Grand Ronde Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor at 503-879-1920 or
Siobhan.taylor@grandronde.org.**

