

PSU sponsors suicide prevention poster contest

Our Healing Feathers Project, a suicide prevention awareness and wellness program at Portland State University, is sponsoring a poster contest for Native American/Alaskan Native junior high and senior high school students attending Oregon, Washington and Idaho schools.

The theme is "Breaking the Silence" and entrants are asked to create posters that encourage young people to step forward and help their friends who may be expressing suicidal thoughts or have threatened to commit suicide. Posters must be 8.5-by-11 inches and can use photography, pencil, charcoal, paint and digital mediums. Applicants must be enrolled in sixth through 12th grades and be of Native descent.

First-place winner receives a \$100 gift certificate, second gets a \$75 gift certificate and third receives a \$50 gift certificate.

Entries should include a separate piece of paper with the entrant's name, age, address, Tribal affiliation, e-mail address, school and phone number. One entry per student is allowed.

Entry deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, May 16, and entries should be mailed to Healing Feathers Program, c/o Dean Azule, Native American Student & Community Center, 710 S.W. Jackson St., Portland, OR 97217.

For more information, contact Azule at azule@pdx.edu or call 503-725-5348. ■

All of the collection has been scanned

PHOTOS continued from front page

before seen one photo of her oldest brother, Harold, as a baby.

One of the letters, from the 1950s, "is telling grandma to get down here (to Grand Ronde) to get on the rolls," Danforth said.

Victoria Howard's chants, stories and creation myths have made her the subject of books and academic studies.

"My intent was to share these pictures, and to see if anyone knows who they are. I also wanted Tribal members to gain access to family member pictures that they didn't have," said Danforth.

"(Howard) worked with (University of Washington anthropologist) Melvin Jacobs," said Danforth's daughter, Sara, of Portland. "Howard's work is in both UW and Smithsonian collections."

Sara's interest in her great-great-grandmother has landed her on the board of a North Carolina-based organization dedicated to preserving indigenous languages and verbal traditions.

Here in Grand Ronde, Barbara Danforth has allowed the Cultural Resources Department to scan all of the pieces in the collection.

"I'm just very proud of her contributions to Chinuk language," said Barbara. "She was one of the last few that knew the language and she recorded it on disks. I think that's important for our sustainability."

"I wish the last generation was still around," said Harrison, "especially the Hudson girls." She inspected picture after picture with a large magnifying glass. Some were so faded that she could barely make out a face.

For those with clear faces but no known identity, Harrison added, "I'll bet (former Tribal Elder) Rosetta (LaBonte Manangan) would remember."

"This is just the beginning. Next, we're going to take the copies around and see who recognizes

these people."

Many pictures, however, had already been recognized by members of the group of Elders looking through them on Friday, March 25. In addition to those noted, the Elders included Olson's sister, Joyce DeHart, and mother, Marion Davidson, as well as Peachie Hamm, Dale and Ivan Langley, Marilee Norwest and Laura Gleason.

"There's a lot of information here about her family and neighbors," said Olson, "and our culture. These are the experiences of the first 50 years on the Grand Ronde reservation."

Some of the identified tintypes and pictures show the following early members of the Tribe, all passed on now: Henry Curl, John Silas, Rena Hoffer, Sally Hudson, Scott Jones, Susette Norwest, Paul Lafferty, Charlie Wacheno, Lillie Tipton, Joe Day, Frank Wheeler, John Wheeler and many others.

"These are the children of the first generation at Grand Ronde," said Olson.

What makes the collection so valuable, she added, is that "a lot of the folks identifying these pictures are directly related or more intimately connected to Victoria."

Three large oval pictures that look like hand-colored reproductions of photographs from 1919 show Howard and her husband, Eustace, along with Danforth's grandmother, former Tribal Elder Agatha Howe.

"This is the photo that it came from," said Sara Danforth, referring to the hand-colored reproduction of Victoria Howard. The original was maybe 3-by-5 inches.

"It's amazing," said Sara. "So cool."

"That's the Indian agent," said Olson. "And these are the Hudsons."

Some mysteries, however, may never be solved.

"This one says something about a dog dying," said Olson. She looked on the back. "The year is 1919," she said, "but I don't see a dog in the picture." ■

Veterans Powwow set

The 2011 Veterans Powwow will be held Friday through Sunday, July 8-10, at Uyxat Powwow Grounds off Hebo Road near Fort Yamhill State Park.

Grand entries will be held on 7 p.m. Friday, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Master of ceremonies will be Nick Sixkiller and whip man will be Tony Whitehead.

All veterans, dancers and members of the public are invited to attend. There will be arts and crafts and food vendors. Free camping and parking will be available, but no drugs, alcohol or pets will be allowed.

For more information, contact Veterans Committee member Chris Tinney at 503-883-3610 or chris.tinney@grandronde.org. ■

Tribal Clinic keys in on diabetes care

By Jennifer Leggett

Tribal Nurse Supervisor

We hear in the news almost every day about the problems with health care and the increasing prevalence of diabetes.

The Health and Wellness Center also has been thinking about these things and how we can make an impact for the positive. Beginning with the 2010 year, the Grand Ronde registered nurses took on some new duties. Their job description is no longer to only triage medical concerns, but also to "case manage" our diabetic population.

Clinic staff hoped that this approach would both improve health outcomes and help provide a personal touch, strengthening our bond with the community.

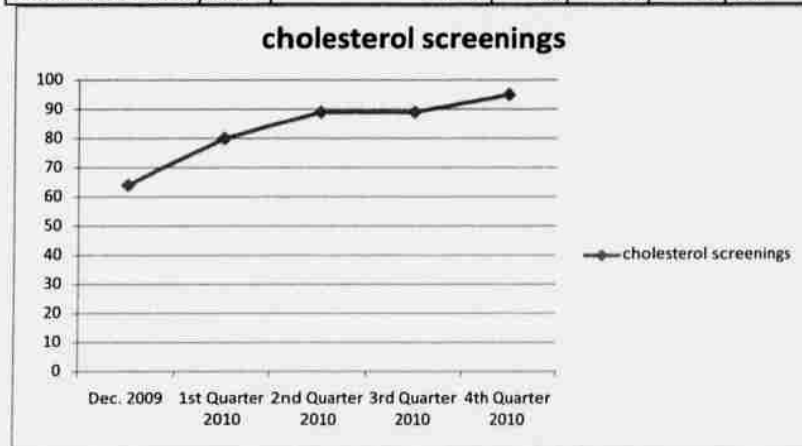
The registered nurses spent weeks combing through the records of our patients and began placing the active clinic user with diabetes on a diabetic register. Once the register was populated, they began the process of reviewing their care.

The goal was to improve the rate of compliance by the patient and the clinic with two targeted standards of care outlined by the American Diabetes Association and the Indian Health Service. Those being the annual testing of cholesterol and blood pressure control.

These topics were chosen because of the significant correlation between diabetes and heart disease. The Indian Health Service factsheet on diabetes indicates that the rate of developing heart disease is three to four times higher than for those without diabetes. And heart disease continues to be the No. 1 reason for death year after year in the Indian health care statistics.

Below is an excerpt from our 2010 Quality Improvement study. We hope that you find this both as informative and positively affecting our community.

	Baseline 2009 Diabetes Audit	1st Q.	2nd d Q.	3rd d Q.	4th Q.
Cholesterol screening	64%	80%	89%	89%	95%
BPs equal to or less than 130/80	27%	43%	43%	43%	31%



As you can see, there has been a significant improvement in the care of diabetics who receive their primary care at the clinic. While the blood pressure control did decline in the winter months, we did see an improvement for three quarters of the year exceeding the national standard. We are expecting that to rebound after the winter cold and flu season is past.

The Tribal Clinic will continue to work this method as it has shown to be beneficial, and we hope to bring you more good news about other aspects of our efforts to improve the health of our community. ■