

# Canoe Family preparing for 2013 Journey

By Jefferson Greene  
Canoe Family

A journey has begun where youth and elders grow together, developing leaders, revitalizing indigenous cultural knowledge, and really, becoming a family.

N'chi Wanapum is a Native community Canoe Family of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, where students and teachers learn from each other in a circle of kinship.

Their 2-3 week Journey, Tribal Community to Community by Way of the Canoe, is a forever life changing experience for participants. The journey is filled with cultural and moral teachings, spirituality, personal healing, and growth.

Starting in 1989 with five canoes, the Canoe Journey has grown to nearly 100 tribal canoes annually from throughout the Northwest and beyond.

This year will be Warm Springs' fourth Journey, our third year in existence, and the need for help continues to grow.

"When I first heard of the Canoe Journey, I didn't think it would be a big deal but once I participated in practices and activities along with it, that let me see life in a different way. It showed me how important family is, and also that things don't come easy in life." ~ Ike-Lopez, age 16.

### Background

The Columbia River Gorge tribes referred to the river as We'Mul (Kiksht), N'Chi Wana (Ichishkin), and Pabahuudu (Numu).

Tribes were relocated in 1855 from the mighty Columbia Gorge, where they had resided for thousands of years. One-hundred and fifty years later, in 2009, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs acquired a 36-foot canoe.

The canoe received the name N'chi Wana in March



Canoe Family on Journey last summer.

Courtesy/FILE photo.

2010 and currently rests at the Museum at Warm Springs.

The intent of the Canoe Family is to revitalize cultural history and practices, and share such education with generations amidst a circle of sobriety and prevention.

The N'chi Wanapum Canoe Family has journeyed to the Native Nations of the Makah (2010), Swinomish (2011), and Squaxin Island (2012).

### Fundraising for Journey

N'chi Wanapum will depart their ancestral waters of the Columbia Gorge on July 18 to land on the western Washington ocean shores of the Quinault Indian Nation July 31. The journey will be 310 miles.

Landing will be followed by a week of cultural exchange and feasting amongst the hundreds of tribes in attendance.

N'chi Wanapum is fundraising once again to partake in the life changing experience. N'chi Wanapum's participation has grown consistently since 2010.

The first year saw 39 people participating; then in 2011 there were 59 participants; and in 2012 a total of 79 took part in the Journey. Overall community participation has grown to over 225 in only three years. This is still the fastest growing project on the reservation.

Sixty-four of the Canoe Family members have at-

tained Cold Water Safety and Rescue Training.

This year's journey will require vehicles for 80 members. The funds and assets to sustain such a growing group of youth and elders have not been able to keep up with such progression.

Cultural gifts and donations are exchanged along the journey amongst host communities and nations, followed by their largest giveaway at their final destination.

Financial gifts to the project can be made through the project's fiscal sponsor the Museum at Warm Springs, a 501(c)3 non-profit, meaning your donations are tax-deductible.

The group is also seeking a large passenger bus, several passenger vans, and a 4x4 pick-up truck for towing their canoe.

### For donations

For your donations, the Canoe Family would like to acknowledge and recognize you by:

Printing your name, business name, or logo on apparel, all fundraising posters from now until August 2013, press releases, news coverage leading up to the Journey, and radio talk show mentions.

The Canoe Family has current interest in apparel including:

Weather-proof coats (100), bandanas (500), wweatshirts (100), and sweat pants (100).

For your logo to be on all

apparel, we are seeking a minimum \$100 donation. We would be greatly honored to receive your help.

Mission: The Warm Springs Canoe Project (N'chi Wanapum) is for Native American youth of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation to connect with, interact, and bond with their adult community in a positive way that inspires, encourages, and empowers one another.

Vision: The N'chi Wanapum project is to be led by Native American Youth of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation while adults and young adults will serve as the advisors to encourage a sustainable and empowering project for generations to follow.

### Invitation to Canoe Journey volunteers:

N'chi Wanapum sincerely invites you and your families to attend Canoe Journey.

Canoe families and Native Nations unite from throughout the Northwest to partake in this monumental event.

You will have the honor in witnessing a journey of spirituality and ceremony as we reintroduce the canoe to our people of Warm Springs.

"I, myself, felt like it was the right thing to do because I love coming together and it also gives us more memories to keep." - M. Smith, age 15.

N'chi Wanapum meets weekly to discuss ideas and plan for the annual Canoe Journey. They hope to one day establish their own 501(c)3 Non-Profit Status along with a cedar strip canoe and a canoe carved from a whole cedar log.

The ambitions of the family currently require a canoe shed large enough to house such works of art and an office.

(This article will continue in the next Spilyay Tymoo.)

# Washines retiring from CRITFC Enforcement

Chief Davis Yellowash Washines has decided to retire in August as Chief of Police of the Columbia River Fisheries Enforcement Department.

Chief Washines has been Chief of CRITFC enforcement since March of 2010. He is retiring for medical reasons.

"One of the best things to happen to me in my life is to lead CRITFC, an opportunity and privilege for which I will always be grateful," said Chief Washines.

"I have been fortunate to work with some of the best enforcement people in Indian country and an honor to serve the tribal fishers and the tribal communities along the Columbia River."

During his tenure, Chief Washines worked with CRITFC's leadership to secure new enforcement commissions with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and restore enforcement commissions with the Yakama Nation. The tribal enforcement presence along the Columbia River was improved substantially with the new BIA 638 contract for the in-lieu and treaty fishing access sites. CRITFC was also able to secure resources for a mobile command center.

CRITFC executive director Paul Lumley said, "Chief Washines was instrumental in the significant improvement in the relationships with tribal, federal and local jurisdictions. He will be missed as the senior officer of CRITFC's enforcement department."



Chief Washines

Chief Washines has a combined 30 years in law enforcement that spans four decades.

He began his career as a dispatcher-jailer for the Yakama Nation in 1973.

A year later he was promoted to police officer and was the top graduate of his U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Basic Police Academy class in March 1975.

After moving through the ranks, including seven years as a criminal investigator, he was appointed Yakama Nation Chief of Police in February 1986, a position that he held until 1996. A second appointment as Yakama Nation Police Chief came in 2005.

Chief Washines explained that he hopes to remain engaged in addressing tribal fishery and justice needs.

He said, "Although I'm retiring as the chief of enforcement, I look forward to find ways that I can continue to support and protect the tribes' treaty fishing rights along the Columbia."

# Howlak Tichum

## Mary Lou Brigham Ringering Long



Mary Lou Brigham Ringering Long died peacefully at her home in Crooked River Ranch, on Friday, March 1, 2013, surrounded by family. She was 77.

Mary Lou was born in LaGrande on April 25, 1935, to John Robert Brigham and Nancy Emily Casteel Brigham, a Native American woman.

She was the middle of three daughters who all spent their childhood growing up in the Meacham, Squaw Creek and Gibbon areas of Eastern Oregon.

Mary Lou was a Walla Walla tribal member, one of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Throughout her lifetime, she was very proud of her Native heritage.

Mary Lou graduated from Athena High School, and in 1952, she married Floyd Ringering of Pendleton. They lived

with her coworkers. She made lifelong friends everywhere she went.

Mary Lou held that position from June of 1974 until she retired in June of 1990.

She decided she wanted to spend more time with the kids and grandkids. She spent the next 20 years keeping up with all the sporting and after school activities that all of them had going on.

On January 2, 1977, Mary Lou married Robert Long of Madras. Robert left his employment at North Unit Irrigation District, as a ditch rider, and soon after he began working at John Deere Corporation in Portland.

He continued there until 2007, retiring after 30 years. With Mary Lou's three kids grown, she and Robert were able to make the most of long weekends and their annual 3 or 4 week vacations to travel about while still working full time.

Mary Lou is survived by her husband of 35 years, Robert Long, of Crooked River Ranch; her son, Rob-

ert, and Diane of Madras, with grandsons Brian of Redmond, and Eric of Portland, daughter Pamela Friend of CRR/Terrebonne, with grandson C.W. and Mandy and great granddaughter Nymewae of Portland, grandson Joshua and Ashley and great grandson Gillian of Terrebonne, and granddaughter Cheyenne of Pendleton, daughter Kristi Lou and Craig Erickson of Pilot Rock, with grandson Boyd of Salem, and granddaughter Ashley of Pilot Rock, sisters Jeanne, of Prineville, and Betty of Pendleton, along with many nieces and nephews and cousins. We loved her so and will miss her everyday.

If you would like to make a donation it can be made to your local Alzheimer's Association in Mary Lou's name. Cards of sympathy can be mailed to The Ringering Family, PO Box 74, Madras, OR 97741.

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### Legal Aid offers free service

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Phone Legal Aid Services of Oregon to schedule an appointment to speak with an attorney on the first Monday of the month (excluding Holidays) at the Warm Springs Community Action Team building, 1136 Paiute Ave., Warm Springs. Call (541) 385-6944 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon, or on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.