

Howlak Tichum

Neda Neva Brown Wesley - Wila-ii-ii ~ July 18, 1938 - December 23, 2020

Neda was at home surrounded by her family, as she had requested for her final journey. Neda had an honorable life of love of her language, children, adventure, and her Louis L'Amour book collection.

She was one of the last fluent speakers of the Ichishkin language, as an instructor and for her important role as an 'Echo' in the medicine society ceremonies.

As a child, Neda and her late sister Charlotte Shike were selected to learn to operate a sewing machine. A few months later, they made over a dozen quilts to gift the Elders in the Simnasho community. Her skills advanced to the master level as a seamstress for traditional regalia and as a bead worker, too. Her fine beadwork was entered in numerous county fairs for ongoing awards for decades.

As the wife of a Treaty fisherman, she prepared all the traditional foods for the annual First Salmon Feast Ceremony at Cascade Locks, Oregon. Her late husband Harold Greene was appointed by the Tribal Council to fish at each of the 22 tribal ceded fishing sites, to reinforce tribal fishing rights.

We saw her patch huge fish nets and do major repairs to the boats. The business required both Neda and Harold to work closely with the tribal attorneys as the law enforcement were constantly involved. Additionally, Neda was knowledgeable about tribal lands as a member of the Tribal Council executive Land Use Committee as well as the Elections Committee.

Neda responded to the City of Cascade Locks call for the name for the main street, for which she provided the name, 'Wanapine Street', which translates as 'by the river.' She always taught us to be proud of "N'Chi-Wana", Our Big River.



Neda was the 2017 ECE Headstart Elder of the Year

The majority of Neda's career was for the Tribe's Housing Enterprise as a Client Manager, who was well-known for regular home visits with clients.

More recently, Neda was an instructor for a variety of classes at the Museum at Warm Springs, and individual home-based classes for beadwork, yarn bag knitting, campfire cooking classes, and advanced classes.

Neda touched many lives when she taught traditional food preparation; when she collected coats and blankets and prepared food for those in need; when she served as a Chaperone for the Tygh Valley All Indian Rodeo Queen and Court; when she worked for several summers as an instructor for the Culture Camp at the mountains; when she continued the Wesley family tradition to set up four tepees at the Pendleton Round-Up Tepee Village; when she sponsored the annual Horse Race competition in memory of her late daughter Eliza Greene-Redhouse; when she cooked at the traditional Salmon Bake area for large conventions at Kah-Nee-Ta; when she coordinated traditional fashion shows for large conventions at Kah-Nee-Ta; and when she supported her late son Roger Stwyer Sr. and son Wendell Stwyer-Greene for their participation in rodeos in the saddle bronc events and sup-

port for her late daughter Eliza Greene-Redhouse at rodeos throughout the country for her participation in the horse races and as a trick rider.

In dedication to her late brothers who served in the military—the late Lawrence Brown, World War II veteran and the late Curtis Brown, Korean War veteran—Neda was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for over 50 years.

She conducted ongoing fundraising activities for donations to the Veterans families to assist with the funeral expenses. The existing veterans in service for our country were also in her heart for fundraising so that they could have a laptop computer to communicate with their family.

Neda was known for coordinating an annual Healing Conference along with her two relatives, atwai Hilda Culpus and her cousin Charlotte Herkshan. This was an annual event in which they strived to help families and children to process grief. They included fun activities, such as painting rocks for each person to place on the grave in remembrance.

Neda is preceded by her late husband, Columbia River fisherman, Tribal Utilities maintenance manager Jimmy Wesley Sr.; her brothers Lawrence Brown, Curtis Brown, Lamont Brown, and her sisters Charlotte Shike and Gloria Brown; her daughters Eliza Greene-Redhouse and Melissa Wesley; and her sons Roger Stwyer Sr., Arnold Stwyer Jr., Jimmy Wesley Jr. Her survivors are her sister Eliza Brown Jim, and her daughters Aurolyn Stwyer and Jamey Wesley, and her sons Henry Stwyer, Davis Stwyer, Wendell Stwyer-Greene. She has numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, grandchildren, and a few great grandchildren.

Restoring Native presence at Metro waterfront

The Portland Metropolitan Area—Metro—just awarded a grant to plan for a Center for Tribal Nations on property of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Metro awarded the \$750,000 grant to OMSI and the City of Portland.

The grant will support strategic planning and engagement efforts for the Center for Tribal Nations, and a waterfront education park at the OMSI District.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians will lead the visioning process with tribes, tribal and inter-tribal organizations, and Indigenous community members. For background:

Last October, the Portland Metro Council proclaimed the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day across greater Portland.

The Metro resolution recognized that this region "is built upon the ancestral homelands, villages and traditional use areas of the Indigenous People and tribes who have been caretakers of these lands we cherish since time immemorial."

Metro then awarded the \$750,000 to the city OMSI, who are engaging a broad coalition of partners to explore development of the Center for Tribal Nations and a waterfront education park.

The project seeks to leverage the redevelopment of the OMSI property to model a new partnership between OMSI, tribal and inter-tribal

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organizations, the greater Portland Native American community and the City of Portland to restore the Native community's presence on the Willamette.

Metro said, "The United States has a history of violence against Indigenous People, including termination and assimilation policies, broken treaties and relocation—wrongs that have taken place in Oregon and across the country."

Metro Councilor Bob Stacey said, "The grant is part of Metro's efforts to acknowledge that history. We recognize the fact that Indigenous People have made, and continue to make, immense contributions and innovations to the arts, education, health, economic development, environmental stewardship and civic community that make greater Portland a better place to live and work."

"The grant will help project partners create access and opportunity for the greater Portland Native American community through this project."

The planning grant will allow the project partners to engage tribes, tribal organizations and the Native American community to identify and begin planning for a broad range of uses on the site.

The award is part of Metro's 2040 planning and development grants program, which supports regional and local planning, economic development and community stabilization, and equitable development projects throughout the region. The grant program is funded by Metro's Construction Excise Tax.

The Center and waterfront education park seek to meaningfully restore Native peoples' connection to the Willamette River in the Portland area.

The Center and adjacent park will be part of an integrated package of redevelopment that will include riverfront restoration, and office and community gathering spaces for Native people and tribal and intertribal organizations who live, work or visit in the Portland metropolitan region.

"This effort—this type of partnership and this type of visibility—is something that tribes and the Native communities have been wanting for decades," said Laura John, Tribal Relations director for City of Portland.

"It shows a turn of the times that Native people need to be present, acknowledged, visible and provided space. Having that space will help to accomplish the City of Portland's vision as it works towards making the city a desirable destination for Native people—whether they're coming to visit or they're coming to live and work here."

Water reservoirs serving Agency area are low, boil water at Wolfe Piont

Reservoirs serving the Agency Water area are at critical levels. This is due to equipment failure at the water treatment plant.

Parts have been ordered for repairs: In the meantime, only one pump and motor were supplying water to the entire Agency Water system. This includes:

Kah-nee-ta, Wolfe Point, Sunnyside, Upper Dry Creek, the industrial park, Miller Heights, Campus Area, West Hills, Tenino Valley, Tenino Apartments, Elliott Heights, Senior Housing, Trailer Courts, Greeley Heights, and the High-

way 26 corridor.

Contingency plans continue to be made to address the ongoing water outage at the Kah-Nee-Ta Hamlets due to two line breaks near the Warm Springs River.

Temporary showers set up at the Kah-nee-Ta Village are available. Wolfe Point residents remain on a boil water notice due to loss of water pressure a week ago.



Vaccines for educators and staff; childcare providers and staff

Teachers and school staff are now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine. This includes the staff of k-12, and early childhood educators and staff; and childcare providers and staff.

This is through the state of Oregon vaccination program, as administered through the Oregon Health Authority. For educators and staff on the reservation, call the Jefferson County Covid-19 Vaccine Information Line, 541-475-

4456. For educators, also see the website: PublicHealthInformation@publichealth.jeffco.net

If you are an employer of childcare workers, or an in-home-provider, your county or other local vaccine partner will reach out to you to provide you with information to schedule a vaccine for yourself and for your employees.

CRITFC hiring

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is looking to hire a Genomics Laboratory Specialist. Location: Hagerman, Idaho.

Starting salary range: \$53,529 to \$70,490. Closing date: February 28. Employment application and full job announcement located at www.critfc.org

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