

Supriano, who interviewed Pilgrim for her web-based radio series at www.suesupriano.com

“Agnes is an ambassador for our Mother Earth. She is a spiritual elder of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and granddaughter of Chief George Harney, the first elected chief of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz,” says Supriano. “She is a world-renowned spiritual leader, elder mentor to the Native American Student Union of Southern Oregon University, and keeper of the Sacred Salmon Ceremony.”

Pilgrim is also chair of the International Council of the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers, and she is expected to make an announcement at the Sunday event regarding an upcoming visit to Oregon this summer by the global organization.

“We grandmothers are speaking out, singing out, praying out to enact and teach right relationship with our sacred and precious river water,” she says on her website, www.agnesbakerpilgrim.org — *Ted Taylor*



Grandma Aggie

and political and economical issue to a practical life issue for people,” which he attributes to changing economic and political climates.

Looking ahead, Botti says, “We are adding more shorter term programs for developing skills further,” enabling those who may not have the time to commit to longer courses to still learn about permaculture and sustainable living. “There is a place for people to come and learn.” — *Sam Marx*

ACTIVIST ALERT

• Author and NPR foreign correspondent **Reese Erlich** will be speaking about Cuba and the Middle East beginning at 1 pm Thursday, April 23, at LCC Building 17, Room 309. That evening at 7 he speaks at Harris Hall, 8th and Oak. He speaks in Corvallis at noon Friday in OSU’s Waldo Hall, Room 201. He’s back at the UO at 2:30 pm Saturday, April 25, in the EMU River Room at the Environmental Justice Conference. That evening at 7 he will be at the Siuslaw Public Library. At noon Sunday, April 26, he will be at the Newport Public Library. For more information, email dzupan@msn.com

• The 14th annual Coalition Against Environmental Racism’s **Environmental Justice Conference** begins at 9:30 am Saturday, April 25 at the UO EMU River Room. See www.uoregon.edu/~caer for the schedule. Speakers, panelists and performers include Ben Duncan, Louise Benally, members of Huerto de la Familia, Reese Erlich and Ariel Luckey. Evening keynoter at 7 is Dr. Benjamin Chavis Muhammed. The event continues with Sunday morning volunteering at a local community garden.

• **Sen. Floyd Prozanski and Rep. Bruce Hanna** will host a town hall at the Cottage Grove City Hall at 1:30 pm Saturday, April 25. They will be joined by Rep. Paul Holvey and will be available to answer questions and will provide updates about the ongoing 2009 legislative session.

TWENTY YEARS AT LOST VALLEY

This year marks the 20-year anniversary for Lost Valley Education Center, a Dexter community dedicated to teaching permaculture and living in a sustainable environment. “Lost Valley has been teaching people about sustainable living basically since the beginning of its time,” says James Cunningham, the volunteer development coordinator. “The first permaculture course in Oregon was held in Lost Valley in 1990,” he says.

Since then, Lost Valley has seen nearly 2,500 people participate in the residential programs that tackle both ethical and practical issues regarding permaculture and sustainability. “There is that need as we move forward to bring our relationships back to a human-based level,” says Cunningham.

The anniversary celebration will take place during three event weekends beginning on May 1, July 31, and Sept. 18. “We wanted to have a number of opportunities for people to come,” Cunningham explained. The weekend in May will be focused on celebrating the past students and interns who worked at the education center, and the July/August weekend will honor people who have lived at Lost Valley. The final weekend is a birthday party and founder’s day.

Cunningham emphasized that the theme of all the anniversary celebrations will be, “Come back, enjoy, and if you haven’t been there, come out, enjoy.” He says Lost Valley is planning both education and fun, with an emphasis on tying community to the land.

“Lane County is really one of the hot beds of sustainability education,” says John Botti, the executive director of Lost Valley. “We’re going to need practical ways of coping with changes and continuing to maintain some sort of quality of life during the hard times.” Lost Valley, its proponents say, is a viable model for sustainable living education.

Cunningham calls the center’s educational programs personal and hands-on. Over time, “It has moved from a theoretical

• The trial of Taser victim **Ian Van Ornum** is over, except of course for the sentencing Friday, a likely civil suit against the city and Eugene Police Department, and the now unfettered investigation by EPD Internal Affairs, the police auditor and Civilian Review Board. *The Register-Guard’s* report April 18 about jury members being shocked and disturbed by police behavior does not bode well for the police in the next couple of rounds. Taxpayers will also hold the police and district attorney accountable. Remember all the cries that the DA and cops couldn’t keep dangerous felons off the street without massive tax increase? Well, they just spent countless hundreds of hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars prosecuting a mouthy jaywalker.

We’re still amazed that the EPD and district attorney even allowed this case to go to trial. The charges should have been dropped. Were they so clueless as to not know what the public would get to see in the video recordings and hear in the damaging testimony? Once again we are reminded of how out of touch some of our police officers are with the people they are paid to protect and serve. This has been a wrenching experience (in more ways than one) for Van Ornum, but his courage and willingness to go to court have served the public interest.

• Also serving the public interest was **KVAL-TV’s work** to get a video camera in the courtroom as a “pool” for all the local media to use. News anchor and reporter Denae D’Arcy did her research and discovered that Oregon law allows cameras in courtrooms unless judges “set forth substantial reasons for the denial.” Even when backed by state law and an Oregon Supreme Court decision favoring cameras in the courtroom, D’Arcy and the KVAL newsroom still endured a long, dragged-out struggle. “In my experience of fighting this, they don’t want us there,” she told a gathering of media people during the trial. “I don’t think our battle is against each other. It’s against the courts.”

The media meeting at KVAL April 16 was an attempt to hash out problems *EW* and other media had in getting video from KVAL in a timely manner. Judge Jack Billings had agreed to the video camera access April 6 with a number of provisions, including “KVAL is expected to make the video available to any media which requests it.” Sounds simple enough, but it soon got complicated, and even the court staff got involved, finally asking the squabbling media to work it out among themselves. More meetings are planned to avoid technical and policy problems with future pool coverage.

• **Moving the police** out of downtown to a suburban office building across from the Country Club in north Eugene is a very bad idea. The radical departure from previous city planning will defy the will of the voters who have thumbed down the police station three times and continue to oppose it in recent polls. It will blow at least \$16 million of city reserves at a time the city is raising taxes and slashing services to deal with huge deficits in a recession bordering on depression. It will isolate police desperately in need of closer supervision and contact to reduce their us-vs.-them mentality. It will hurt the struggling downtown by moving employees and visitors to an inconvenient location across the river while reducing the police presence in the heart of the city.

• Springfield is blowing millions of dollars of taxpayer money on a **huge jail it can’t afford** to run. We’ve seen this before: A decade ago, the county built a huge new kid jail across from Autzen but only has enough money to operate part of it. Meanwhile, struggling taxpayers are left holding the bag on the millions of dollars in bond payments, plus interest. The tough-on-crime crowd is big on bluster but small on the taxes to pay for it. Rather than locking up taxes, a better cheaper approach is youth programs and mental, drug and alcohol treatment.

• Oregon now has the **second highest unemployment** rate in the nation. Why? Oregon has showered some of the largest tax breaks in the nation on big corporations for more than a decade. This policy is a demonstrated failure. Our unemployment rate now couldn’t be much higher. Politicians who were quick to claim credit for corporate relocations that would have happened anyway should now step forward and take responsibility for the wasted taxpayer subsidies and job losses.



WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003
(last week’s numbers in parentheses):

- **4,274 U.S. troops killed*** (4,273)
- **31,193 U.S. troops injured*** (31,169)
- **177 U.S. military suicides*** (176)
- **1,123 U.S. contractors killed** (accurate updates NA)
- **99,861 to 1.2 million civilians killed***** (99,774)
- **\$661.7 billion cost of war** (\$613.1 billion)
- **\$188.2 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** (\$174.4 million)

* through April 20, 2009; source: icasualties.org;

some figures only updated monthly

** sources: icasualties.org, defenselink.mil

*** highest estimate; source: iraqbodyscount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 (Lancet survey, 2006) to 1.1 million (Opinion Research Business survey, 2008)