

# Aguilar takes school kids back to time of Chinooks

## Author speaks at Warm Springs Elementary

By Brian Mortensen  
Spilyay Tymoo

George Aguilar told the children he would take them back to a time 300 years ago.

Aguilar is the author of the "When the River Ran Wild," a history of the Chinookan people who lived along the Columbia River. He presented a slide show and answered questions for an audience that included fourth- and fifth-grade students from each of the Jefferson County School District (509-J) elementary schools at the Warm Springs Elementary School gym March 17.

He described the Chinook people as people who lived along the river "10,000 to 12,000 years ago," he said.

"Along the Columbia River, up into Washington, there were Chinookan-speaking people," he said.

Aguilar, who turned 76 last month, said the Chinook people were one of two cultures on the American continent that had one particular thing in common.

"Only two groups flattened their heads," he said, "the Chinooks and the Mayans."

Aguilar said his great-great grandfather, Kli-Mat, was one who did just that, as his head formed a perfect slope down the forehead to the tip of the nose. This characteristic was documented when Lewis and Clark made their famous explo-

ration voyage 201 years ago, employed by the U.S. government to investigate the lands it bought in the Louisiana Purchase.

He described Alice Jim, of whom he had a photo from 1936, as being "the last of the Chinooks." Indeed, he said, of the 2,500 Chinook people Lewis and Clark reported as having seen along the Columbia River in the early 1800s, disease, mainly whooping cough and measles, rendered the number of people who relocated to what is now the Warm Springs Reservation to only 80.

"Now they are no longer known as the Chinookan people," he said. "They are gone."

Following the slide show, Aguilar answered questions sev-

eral of the visiting students had prepared.

They asked what animals he hunted when he was younger, and if he fished for salmon. And he was asked how he decided to write "When the River Ran Wild."

"The children were learning these languages, the Indian languages, and because if they learn the language, then they have to know the history also," he said. "This is why the book was started."

He said the most surprising thing he learned while writing and researching the book was that there was so much to write about.

"The research," he answered. "I never knew there was so much documented material about our languages, about our

customs."

He said his favorite part of writing the book was finding that he could, and then he found it hard to stop writing.

"To me, it was kind of fun. I didn't know this. I didn't know that," he said. "The more I kept on digging in, the more fun it got."

Growing up on the Warm Springs Reservation in the 1930s and 40s, Aguilar said that, in fact, he didn't know there were other races of people besides his own.

"To me, there was an inside world and an outside world," he said. "Growing up on the reservation was my 'inside world.' When I first went out to the 'outside world,' whoa! There was all this candy, and good stuff."

And he described sledding down the hill where High Lookee Lodge is now.

But, he admits, life wasn't easy growing up.

"In the early years, in the early 1930s, the tuberculosis epidemic was still in force. A lot of the older people were dying as a result of the tuberculosis, and I saw my grandmother die, and I experienced tuberculosis."

Aguilar said he is not finished writing and, in fact, has two more volumes to write.

Of "When the River Ran Wild," he said, "I wanted to leave something for other people to know, that this was our civilization of many, many winters ago," he said. "I'm leaving a legacy of things that happened a long time ago."

## Officials

(Continued from page 1)

Nina Hatfield, WCLF chairperson and the deputy assistant secretary for Business Management and Wildland Fire, will attend the meeting.

Hatfield is from the Department of Interior, as leadership in the wildland fire council shifts between the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture each year.

From the Department of Agriculture, Mark Rey, the undersecretary for resources and environment, will attend, as will

David Tenny, the deputy undersecretary for resources and the environment, and Dale Bosworth, chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

"Mark Rey has oversight of agriculture, not just over the Forest Service, but the Natural Resource Conservation Service and a number of other ag programs," Shaw said.

Each of the bureaus under the Department of Interior umbrella within the committee will be represented in Warm Springs at the meeting.

Arch Wells, deputy director of the BIA, is on the committee but will not be at the meeting, but Pat Ragsdale, the BIA director, will. Ragsdale has not yet been to Warm Springs.

Shaw said Warm Springs has received considerable attention in Washington for its work in developing biomass energy.

The work so far includes the recent completion of the 15.5 megawatt boiler at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries and the Memorandum of Understanding the Tribal Council signed with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management last month ensuring a fuel supply for the biom-

ass project. The Department of Interior gave Warm Springs \$200,000 for a due diligence study in 2004.

"Now we're seeing the fruits of all that labor," Shaw said. "This is what they want to see, to get out of Washington, D.C., for a week and see how it is in application."

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council began in 2002 to help implement the 10-year National Fire Plan the Clinton Administration developed to restore lands affected by past management practices.

Erickson said he is aware of the fact that fire affects Indian reservations more so than other

public lands.

"It's your land, and you live on the land," he said. "In other places, other public lands, they don't live on it. When a fire burns the forest down, it really hurts you more than it does some of the other people, because you live right there."

He commended the biomass project in Warm Springs because "you're not just letting the wood rot and waste on the ground. You're trying to use it."

"I've been around Warm Springs clear back almost 30 years, and I've seen the good things you've done with your land," he said. "And I think you

need to share that. Nancy talks about us being a fire leadership council, but in my mind, that's pretty narrow thinking. It's not just about fire. It's about all those resources."

Eighteen members of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council are expected to attend the meeting in the Warm Springs.

Along with their staffers and other guests, the tour will include about 60 people.

Attending members of the WCLF council will meet with the Warm Springs Tribal Council for dinner during the week.

## Biomass

(Continued from page 1)

The hope is to have the power sale agreement in place in the near future, said Noteboom. This would then provide the basis to seek financing, he said. The tribes are negotiating with two companies toward a power sales agreement.

Jim Manion said that the most economical way to deliver power from the plant to PGE's system may be through construction of a transmission line from the plant to the facilities at Pelton-Round Butte.

With its own transmission line the tribes could avoid having to

pay Pacific Power & Light for use of the PPL line, said Manion.

Bobby Brunde told the Council that the Environmental Protection Agency has shown great interest in the tribes' biomass project.

He said there may be grant money available, as the plant could be considered as an air-quality improvement project. The wood and slash would burn cleanly in the plant, rather than being burned in slash piles or during wildfires.

The construction cost of the plant is estimated at \$26 million.

## Relief

(Continued from page 1)

Still, a spokesman for Kulongoski said the governor was pleased and relieved to learn of the disaster declaration.

Kulongoski "sees this as a definite help to the taxpayers of Oregon," said spokesman Lonn Hoklin. "He's eager to get the (federal) money in place so these agencies and local governments can get their reimbursements."

The declaration means the

federal government will reimburse state and local agencies 75 percent of the money spent to fix roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure, said Nicol Andrews, a spokeswoman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

R. David Paulison, the agency's acting director, named Lee Champagne as coordinating officer for the federal recovery operations.

A series of wet, winter storms hammered the state in December and January. Mudslides closed Interstate 5 over the Siskiyou Summit south of Ashland on Dec. 30, and rising waters on Bear Creek prompted evacuation of two trailer parks in Ashland and Phoenix. The Rogue River went over its banks, flooding some homes on the outskirts of the town of Rogue River and damaging a

park in Gold Hill.

Damage was heaviest in the southwestern part of the state, although it stretched from Clatsop County in northwestern Oregon to Wheeler County in the central part of the state.

Coos County suffered nearly \$5 million in damages, including a broken dike that flooded about 20 homes in late December.

## Transfer

(Continued from Page 1)

timber sale, and determined how large the trees were that had been there and how much the timber would have been worth. "The key to the case was going to the stumps and determining how large the trees had been, judging from the stumps," said Arnett.

The experts also had to determine whether trees that had been harvested had actually been damaged by the windstorm, or whether the trees were standing green timber.

Dewey mentioned that the late Zane Jackson had served the tribes very well during the time that the blowdown harvest was taking place. "He was very

alert in looking out for the interest of the tribes," said Dewey. Jackson at one point had to call the tribal police to bring a halt to the improper logging of the McQuinn area.

At the luncheon last week, tribal secretary-treasurer Jody

Calica said it was good to see several of the people who helped the tribes with the lawsuit. "Too often we don't take the time to say thanks to the people who make a difference in our lives," he said.

**Time for Spring Cleaning!**

**CLEAN EXPRESS**

"We don't just clean we care"

**Commercial & Residential**

**\$ GUNS ~ GOLD ~ JEWELRY \$**

**at**

**CASH AND RELEASE**

**We consign**

**Flat Bed Trailers, Horse Trailers, Tractors, and Boats**

579 S.E. 5th Street  
Madras, OR 97741

For information  
call Jay at  
1-541-475-3157

**Best Buys** 475-7314 • 389-2742 1765 SW HWY 97 • MADRAS, OR 2460 NE DIVISION • BEND, OR

<p>94 GMC VANDURA CONV. AT, AC, PW, PL, CR, TI, AMFM, CD, PS, 112K</p> <p>\$4,995 OBO</p>	<p>91 FORD EXPLORER 4X4 ONE OWNER, RUNS GREAT, 4DR</p> <p>\$2,495 OBO</p>	<p>89 HONDA ACCORD 2 DR 2DR, LXI, LOADED</p> <p>\$2,995 OBO</p>	<p>02 FORD TAURUS SEL (SEE OWNER, FULLY LOADED, POWER MOONROOF, LIKE NEW, SAVE THOUSANDS OVER NEW.)</p> <p>\$10,900 OBO</p>	<p>95 DODGE B200 VAN CONV MARK III, 4 CAPTAIN CHAIRS, POWER SOFA, 112K MILES</p> <p>\$4,995 OBO</p>	<p>98 FORD WINDSTAR LOADED, 7 PASS, PW, V-6, NICE</p> <p>\$4,995</p>	<p>93 PONTIAC SUNBIRD CONV AUTO, PS, PB, AC, NICE CAR</p> <p>SALE \$2,195 OBO</p>	<p>96 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SE 7 LOADED, DUAL SUNROOFS, LEATHER</p> <p>SALE \$5,995 OBO</p>	<p>94 FORD EXPLORER 4X4 NICE RIG, 5 SPD</p> <p>\$3,695 OBO</p>
<p>97 FORD ESCORT LX 4DR, AUTO, AC, PS, PB, RUNS GREAT</p> <p>\$1,595 SALE</p>	<p>94 CHEVY 1/2 TON 4X4 NICE TRUCK, LOW MILES</p> <p>\$4,995 OBO</p>	<p>95 PONTIAC GRAND AM AUTO, PB, PS, AC, PW, NICE</p> <p>\$2,995 OBO</p>	<p>97 FORD TAURUS AC, AUTO, LOADED, PW, PL, TILT, CR</p> <p>\$3295 WAS \$3699</p>	<p>96 FORD AEROSTAR 7 PASS, SUPER NICE, V-6</p> <p>SALE \$2,495 OBO</p>	<p>91 FORD F-150 4X4 4 SPD, AC, STEREO, CAMPER SHELL, NICE</p> <p>\$3,495</p>	<p>87 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL LOADED, NICE, GRANDPA'S CAR</p> <p>SALE \$2495 OBO</p>	<p>96 FORD WINDSTAR 7 PASS, LOADED</p> <p>\$3,995 OBO</p>	<p>95 INFINITI Q45 LOADED, LEATHER, MOONROOF, NICE RIDE</p> <p>\$4,995 OBO</p>