

# Warm Springs part of novel *The Killing of Ishi*

James J. Callahan Jr., of Bend, is a self-taught expert on Ishi.

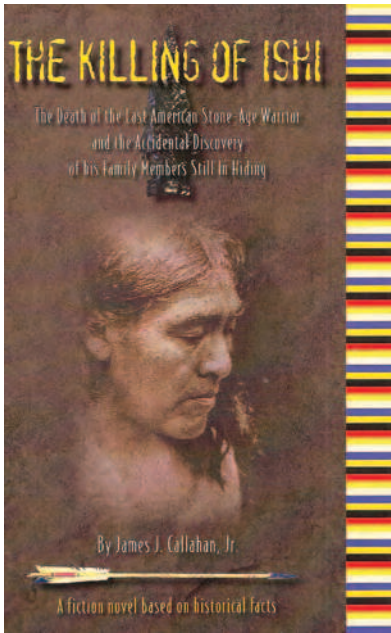
Ishi was the last member of the Yahi, a group of the Yana Indians of California.

Callahan's fascination with the story of Ishi has led him to create his own fiction novel based on the historical facts. And Warm Springs plays a part in the story, *The Killing of Ishi*.

Callahan is now retired. His career had been in health and plant safety with Pacific Corp. By chance his job also brought him to Warm Springs, where he taught the ONABEN business course.

After he retired, Callahan found he had free time on his hands, and he decided to write a book.

The subject that interested him the most was that of Ishi, and the



Cover of the novel. The book is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

Courtesy James Callahan

fate of the Yahi Indians. So Callahan decided this would be the historical source for the novel.

Callahan gives a brief history: The Yahi were killed by settlers—miners, for instance—in horrible massacres. In time all of the Yahi were killed, with one exception: Ishi.

Ishi was skilled at survival in the wilderness, and lived for years in California outside of modern culture.

As Callahan explains, Ishi avoided all contact with whites because he reasonably assumed they would kill him, as they had done to his family and tribe.

At about the age of 50, in the year 1911, Ishi emerged from the wilderness. He became a kind of celebrity in the U.S., known as the

“last wild Indian in America.”

Ishi ended up at the University of Berkeley, where he worked as a custodian, eventually learning approximately 660 words of English. Ishi would give demonstrations of the skills he used to live in the wilderness.

And Ishi was very famous, especially in the San Francisco area where he lived.

Callahan picks up the story in the present day. A premise of *The Killing of Ishi* is:

What if Ishi had not been the last of the Yahi?

What if, instead, some other Yahi tribal survivors had continued living in the wild. What if these few survivors, over time, made their way to Ochoco Mountains of Central Oregon?

Warm Springs Natural Resources becomes a part of the story, in their wolf-tracking work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The agency had set up cameras in the Ochocos, to track the wolves.

By chance, one of the cameras picked up something more, something no one ever expected:

“After filming a wolf pack led by a massive black wolf, four Native Americans were caught on camera hunting in the forest. Three of the four were male. The fourth was a young female.”

The Natives are wearing traditional clothing and carrying traditional Native hunting weapons... and so begins *The Killing of Ishi*.

The book is now available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## Congress must address tribal housing crisis on the Columbia

by Rep. Earl Blumenauer and Sen. Jeff Merkley

The Columbia River is the economic heart of the Northwest, a beacon of prosperity and beauty. More than 4 trillion gallons of water are drawn from it and its tributaries annually for agriculture, industry and other uses.

It provides electricity for millions of people and powers the region's economy. Nearly 17 million tons of cargo move along its waters every year—from Lewiston, Idaho, to the Pacific Ocean. The river provides world-class outdoor recreation, bringing millions of visitors annually to its picturesque shores. Native fish and wildlife depend on its waters to sustain diverse habitats.

But the Columbia River of today came at a steep price for the first people living along its shores

and fishing salmon from its waters.

The Columbia used to look very different. It was narrower and faster-moving, with massive waterfalls and rapids. It was teeming with salmon. The river formed a cultural artery, a network of places where families and nations congregated, sharing stories and history.

Western development, including the construction of the Columbia River dams beginning in the 1930s, severely and negatively impacted the vibrant cultures of tribes and bands now known as the Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla, and Nez Perce.

In just a few decades, as villages and traditional fishing sites were flooded, a huge part of the culture and identity of the tribes was lost forever. It has been devastating for these communities, which were never fully compensated for their losses. Today, many tribal

members live at 31 small sites along their beloved Columbia in makeshift housing without proper electricity, sewers or water. They're living in severe poverty — ironically next to the massive, expensive and profitable dams that forever changed the lives of their people.

These 31 sites were constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide the tribes treaty-protected river access to fish, compensating in small part for the access lost through the construction of the dams. The Corps designed the sites, now owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), to be used primarily for daily, in-season fishing access and temporary camping.

Out of both a need for housing that was never replaced, and a desire to be closer to the river where they have always lived, many tribal members now use

these areas as longer-term, even permanent residences.

We've visited some of these sites. The conditions we've seen first-hand are deeply distressing and unsafe, with entire communities living in makeshift housing, reliant on limited water sources and often without electricity.

No one should live like this.

Due to unacceptable bureaucratic inertia and congressional inaction, tribal members along the Columbia River have been living this way for far too long.

We cannot continue to ignore these shameful conditions. We're dedicated to providing both immediate and long-term relief to address the urgent need for adequate housing and infrastructure. We're working with the tribes, the Corps, the BIA and our colleagues in the Senate and the House to address this problem.

The federal government should

step up immediately and devote resources to improve the living conditions at these sites by constructing temporary dwellings and addressing current sanitation, safety and infrastructure needs. Longer-term, permanent housing must be built to replace what was flooded, providing compensation the tribes have too long been denied.

We have met with tribal leaders and have been profoundly affected, humbled and moved to action. Another year cannot pass without action to improve living conditions and provide more housing for the people whose culture and heritage are at one with the majestic Columbia River.

*Democrat Earl Blumenauer represents Oregon's 3rd congressional district in the House of Representatives. Democrat Jeff Merkley represents Oregon in the Senate.*



Jayson Smith photos

## Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home



The Vietnam Veterans Welcome Parade featured the Color Guard (above); many parade floats and vehicles, and the motor cycle procession. After the parade the veterans and families gathered at

the Longhouse, for lunch and expo hosted by the Eugene Greene Sr. American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 48.

