

Lights parade adds holiday spirit

Five floats, 259 hot dogs, a lot of kids and a lot of Christmas spirit made the first-ever Warm Springs Christmas Light Parade a success.

The Dec. 14 parade included floats from local services, a local ranch and a visitor from Redmond. The procession began on Wasco Street, in front of Warm Springs Elementary School, traveled south on Paiute Street, turned left on Warm Springs Street, turned right on Hollywood Street and stopped at Elmer Quinn Park.

There, the sum total of 259 hot dogs and countless marshmallows were grilled and roasted in fire pits for the great number of local children who came on the relatively balmy night.

The revelers then congregated in front of the Warm



Simnasho Community Church's float had a manger scene.

Springs Community Center to witness the lighting of the Christmas tree dedicated to "Caroline and Popeye," and to ring in the Christmas season with the singing of carols.

The parade and marshmallow/hot dog roast are new

wrinkles in the Christmas celebration at Warm Springs, event coordinator Carol Allison said.

"We've expanded this year," she said. "This is the first time we've had a light parade. We'll be having classes to teach people how to put lights on their

vehicles, and we're encouraging people to join other light parades in the area."

Terry and Wanda Tidwell, with their white sport utility vehicle decorated with white lights, joined the Warm Springs parade.

"It was my wife Wanda's, idea," Terry Tidwell said.

"I was coming through Warm Springs Sunday, and I heard about it on the radio," Wanda Tidwell said.

Allison, who lives in Madras and says she has worked for the Confederated Tribes for "40-some years," said an all-time high total of 120 vendors participated in the annual Warm Springs Christmas Bazaar Dec. 11. Vendors who are tribal members had one last chance to deal their wares in the "Last Minute" Christmas Bazaar Wednesday.

- By Brian Mortensen

Pageant is Dec. 29

The Miss Warm Springs Pageant will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at the Agency Longhouse. The pageant is open to young tribal ladies who are over the age of 18, single with no children, and who have completed high school.

Anyone interested in participating can pick up an applica-

tion, the sooner the better, from Doris or Fritz at the Tribal Council offices. Or call 553-3257 for more information.

The pageant includes talent competition, and answering questions asked by a panel.

The winner represents the Confederated Tribes at events throughout Indian Country.

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CHRISTMAS

Permits needed to float Deschutes River

(AP) - Federal officials plan to limit the number of boater permits that can be sold on a popular section of the lower Deschutes River during weekends on the height of the summer tourist season.

Currently, each person who boats any part of the lower Deschutes must have a pass - but there is no limit on how many passes may be sold.

Under the new system, boaters headed for the lower Deschutes between July 1 and Labor Day on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday would be required to purchase one of a limited number of permits, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Commercial rafting and fishing guides will have to purchase

permits from the same available pool as the general public.

The permits will only be needed for the stretch of the river between the Warm Springs boat ramp and one south of Maupin.

Tom Mottl, Deschutes River manager for the Bureau of Land Management, said if the limits had been in place last year, about 100 people would have been turned away all summer.

The new system is the result of a lawsuit filed last year by a Portland resident, the Northwest Rafters Association and the National Organization of Rivers.

The lawsuit claimed that agencies responsible for managing the lower Deschutes River

hadn't enforced an agreement to require permits on the river, if use exceeded designated limits.

The suit said limits were necessary to protect the river from overuse and resource damage.

The lawsuit was opposed by local governments and businesses, who said limits would hurt the rafting and fishing businesses and reduce public access to the river.

Michael Dillard, a lawyer involved in negotiations over the permit system, said the new agreement - which is not yet public - includes a plan for possibly imposing similar limits on other sections of the river in the future.

If target-use numbers for

another section of the river are exceeded one year, he said, limits will be imposed the following year.

Dennis Oliphant, founder of Sun Country Tours, a whitewater rafting outfitter, said he was disappointed about the new system.

"We all tried so hard to reduce use on the river, and really did a great job of doing it... So we're going into this (system) when, in most people's opinion, it's not needed," Oliphant said.

Mottl said 50 percent of all limited permits will be made available Jan. 4. More permits will be made available 30 days, 14 days and 3 days before any given date.

Judge's plan faulted in Indian trust case

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - In a victory for the government in a long-running dispute with American Indians, a federal appeals court has thrown out most of a judge's plan for making the Interior Department account for billions of dollars the Indians say they are owed.

The appeals court told the judge he could no longer "micromanage" how the system gets fixed.

The ruling means Interior can propose its own plan rather than create a recipe based on ingredients preordered from the bench. U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth then would assess the result.

"Yet the court may not micromanage court-ordered reform efforts ... and then subject defendants to findings of contempt for failure to implement such reforms," Judge Stephen Williams wrote for a unanimous three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Deputy Interior Secretary J.

Steven Griles called the decision "a watershed victory for individual Indian account holders, for the Interior Department and its employees, for Congress, and for American taxpayers."

"The Interior Department has invested hundreds of millions of dollars on this issue since this lawsuit was filed back in 1996," he said in a statement. The department "has conducted more than 30,000 intricate accountings of individual Indian money accounts, found almost no discrepancies exceeding \$1, and no evidence of systemic accounting irregularities. When combined, the net of the discrepancies uncovered in this multimillion-dollar effort amounts to merely hundreds of dollars."

Lamberth ordered the accounting last year from the Interior Department to find out how much the government owes more than 300,000 Indians from mismanaged oil, gas, timber and grazing royalties going back more than a century.

He and department officials have grappled repeatedly. In 1999, Lamberth found President Clinton's Interior and Treasury secretaries, Bruce Babbitt and Robert Rubin, in contempt for failing to turn over documents. He also has found current Interior Secretary Gale Norton in contempt of court for failing to follow his orders, a ruling later overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals.

"Rather than acting to assure that 'agency action' conforms to law, the court has sought to make the law conform to the court's views as to how the trusts may best be run," Williams wrote.

Interior officials had complained that such a massive historical audit could cost up to \$12 billion. At the urging of the White House, Congress intervened in November 2003 and passed legislation that prevented an accounting from going forward until Congress had defined the scope and methods to be used.

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