



Warm Springs Police Chief Jim Soules prays with Dallas Winishut (left), Charles Tailfeathers and Sarah Frank in front of the Warm Springs Fire and Safety building as part of the Warm Springs Victims of Crimes' Healing the Heart Prayer Walk April 7. The group of about 20 citizens matriculated through a series of buildings on the Warm Springs campus to pray for safety and protection. The event held to remember Sexual Abuse Awareness Month this month.

# Spring break in California an adventure for local youth

By Brian Mortensen  
Spilyay Tymoo

When a group from Warm Springs, including 13 boys and girls, traveled to Southern California to ride in the annual Swallows Day Parade in San Juan Capistrano, it became more than a trip over Spring Break.

As it was, the six-day trip was a chance for the high school-age kids, of whom some had never been out of Central Oregon, to see another part of the country and a different cultural setting. At the same time, it was a chance for them to be seen by people from that same "foreign" place, and for those people to accept them, as guests and as people.

The group caravanned to San Juan Capistrano with 10 horses, each of them wild horses from reservation land the kids trained under Chris Buller's guidance, with the intent to ride them in the Swallows Day Parade and then sell them to local buyers.

Buller is the youth pastor at the United Methodist Church in Madras and former leader of the Rockin'4-H horsemanship club. He said before the trip that he wanted to give the group a full California experience, including time spent on Southern California's beaches. And although he had made arrangements with people he had met or been put in touch with to help accommodate the group, Buller said he was still surprised by what he calls the "outpouring" of support from people he and the group met more than 750 miles from Warm Springs.

"We didn't go to Yakama for a basketball tournament. We didn't go to Umatilla for a basketball tournament," Buller said. "Those are great things, but we went to a completely outside event, and we were incredibly welcomed and taken care of."

"There was an outpouring of, 'what can we do to help next time,' you can come stay at my place, that kind of thing. People care about families. That's a big lesson."

And it's a lesson not lost on the adults who helped with the driving, the supervision, and the experience.

"If you ask the adults, they may have been uncomfortable, but they'd say something happened for these kids," Buller said. "I think they'd say, 'Yeah, this was a pretty unique eye-opening experience for these kids.'"

With a rare Southern California shower that literally rained

on the group's parade, the trip wasn't perfect, but, as Buller said, it was an opportunity to see the blessings that such an endeavor can show.

The first blessing came in the amount the \$600 the group earned from a dance at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds March 4. Then after finding out that a group of youths is not allowed to travel in vans as large as 15-seaters in California, parents volunteered the use of their own vehicles to transport the group.

"And then a church member in town donated rental of an Avis van," Buller said. "Six hundred bucks to do all that. This was supposed to happen."

The convoy left from the parking lot of the Deschutes Crossing restaurant in Warm Springs at 7 a.m. March 16.

While most of the drivers switched every now and then, Jason Smith, whose vehicle towed the trailer full of horses, drove the entire trip, back and forth.

The group stayed at the Casper Wilderness area in Orange County Park, where a corral for the horses was in place.

"We prepared the horses, let them rest from the 'jetlag,' did some things in the area, rode in the parade on Saturday," he said.

With the unusual rain on the day of the parade, Buller said only about 38,000 people were in attendance, about half of normal.

"The parade is right in town, so that's an interesting experience," he said, "finding where we had to get out and unload the trailer and get everything ready."

For being wild horses, Buller said the horses were well-behaved even in the midst of a big city parade.

The rain eventually subsided, but it had interfered with the group's plans to sell the horses.

"Where I wanted to do the horse sale, you had to go through this gully, and then you had to go up to where this guy's ranch is," Buller said. "The gully was full of water, two feet deep."

In the end, the group and the ranch owner decided to put some panels up in a wide spot on the road to the ranch and sell the horses there.

"Not the best location but four of them were pretty much sold that day," Buller said. "The next day, we sold the rest. We didn't get the money we should have gotten for them, because people knew we didn't want to

*The Orange County Register newspaper published a feature story on several of the youths from the club, in previewing the San Juan Capistrano parade.*

bring them back."

The other factor was that because of the great influx of available media in Southern California, prospective buyers only go to a sale if they find out about it from someone they trust, Buller said.

"I had people tell me, next time, we'll do a barbecue and horse show on the Friday before the parade, so people can see them and buzz about them, and then we can sell them on Monday after the parade," he said.

But even if the sale didn't work as well as hoped, it generated enough word of mouth among horse enthusiasts who were in town for the parade but didn't hear about the sale.

Bullard said the wild horses from the reservation have been sold to dog food makers for cheap. The fact that they sold to other buyers in California provided a lesson to the kids in his group, who spent their time training and riding the horses.

"I say you are not disposable," he said. "The beauty is in you, and I believe God, the creator, put it in you."

After the sale, the group went to Doheny State Beach in Dana Point, where Glenn Laub, the fire captain of Los Angeles County, built a big bonfire for the group.

"The kids were playing in the ocean, and they had a basketball game going right there on the beach," he said. "That was a neat experience."

The next day, the group went back to Doheny State Beach and then to a beach on exclusive Three Arch Bay in South Laguna.

"It's private. You can't get there unless you're one of the homeowners," Buller said. "Well, I have a friend who's a doctor who got us a pass through the gate. We did a hot dog roast and everything. The kids were good and tired."

The group, all except for Buller, went home the next day. Buller stayed behind an extra four days.

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# Sister Pauline saying goodbye

By Brian Mortensen  
Spilyay Tymoo

Sister Pauline never thought she would leave Warm Springs.

But after 16 years, her sisterhood of Dominican nuns has called her back to Tacoma, Wash.

Sister Pauline, who took her vows 50 years ago this year, met with parishioners at the Warm Springs Catholic Church for the last time March 29 and is moving to Washington State.

"The community decides what's best for us, and I've been here for 16 years, and my community wants me to be closer to the home base of our sisters," she said. "So I'm going into a new ministry, and I'll be close to my sisters."

After 28 years of working with Native Alaskans in far west Alaska, and then in Warm Springs, Sister Pauline, who will be 74 in June, will work with the black and Oriental communities in Tacoma.

"It's my life that I've chosen, and I'm excited about the new ministry," she said. "But I'm very sad to leave. I do want the people to know I'm leaving because I have vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience, and I belong with the nuns' community. I have to go where I'm sent."

She said she liked the wide-open spaces of the Warm Springs reservation when she moved here in 1989, having been in the western Alaskan bush before that.

"But I'll miss the people most of all, and I'll miss the ministry, and I love the things that I did here," she said. "And, of course, I'll miss beautiful Central Oregon."

She said in the recent weeks a teenager approached her, gave her a hug and asked her this question: "Don't you like us anymore?"

"I said, 'I'm not leaving because I don't like it here anymore,'" she said. "I'm leaving because that's my life. It was 50 years ago this year that I took those vows, and they're for my life."

Pauline first arrived in Warm Springs on April Fool's Day, 1989, after a sabbatical.

"I was on sabbatical at the Catholic Theological Union that year, and my sisters were anxious for me to be a little bit closer to home than western Alaska," she said. "When they started looking for someone to come here, they found out I was on sabbatical and they called me in Chicago and asked me to come."

She said she would only come if she felt wanted in the Warm Springs community and only if she could live "with the people, and if they gave me my job description."

Her job description has been, she said, "to be a Catholic presence on the reservation." With a wry smile, she said this has been "very simple and all-encompassing."

Actually, Sister Pauline has done everything at the Warm Springs Catholic Church except for performing mass and hearing confession.

The church includes about 36 regular parishioners, along with those who come only on special occasions. A priest comes to Warm Springs for mass and confession.

Sister Pauline's work has been almost everything else involving the administration of the local Catholic body.

"But that's a very small part of my ministry here," she said. "A lot of my ministry is jail ministry, Victims of Crime Services, hospital ministry, counseling, marriage counseling, just a variety of things."

*"Everything is bound up in spirituality. We don't have work here, family there, and spirituality here - it's all blended together."*

Sister Pauline

In fact, she has offered counseling to couples who had neither attended the Catholic church nor planned to get married there.

Before she moved to Alaska, Sister Pauline studied on Indian reservations in Montana and South Dakota.

"It helped greatly because my teachers were Native people, and what they were doing was preparing people like me to come and be with them," she said. "You can't learn from better teachers than the Native people themselves."

And she said she loved attending tribal gatherings at the Agency Longhouse.

Sister Pauline has lived on the Warm Springs campus throughout her time here, living in a big white house on Warm Springs Street before it was condemned, and then moving to a duplex next door.

"I've loved living here," she said. "It's quiet. It's a lovely neighborhood. It's central. People can come and go. And there's a lot of privacy."

Sister Pauline said she was excited by the possibility of ministering on a reservation that had no established Catholic community. "I come from Ireland, and my culture and my basic values from my culture are closer to those of the Indians than they are to the white Americans," she said.

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