

Traffic counters aim to assist local pedestrians

By Leslie Mitts
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Pedestrians are being helped with a new counting system in Warm Springs.

Electronic devices attached to metal stands are counting pedestrians one by one—and the goal is to ultimately make walking through Warm Springs a little easier.

Thomas Shuman, a civil engineer with the BIA Branch of Roads, said the traffic counters will ultimately help the reservation in a variety of ways.

It's one of the first projects of its kind, Shuman said, and this reservation is one of the first to experiment with this type of technology.

"At some point this will generate money for the reservation," Shuman added.

The traffic counters function by measuring the number of pedestrians that walk between two devices.

"If you walk through this electronic high beam, it counts," Shuman explained.

Eventually the data will be provided to the Planning Department in order for them to construct a pedestrian path system.

The goal is to adequately connect subdivisions and heavily trafficked areas throughout the



Thomas Shuman explains the purpose of new pedestrian traffic counters.

community.

But pedestrians shouldn't worry about the mysterious devices throughout town.

"There's nothing secret about them or anything to hide," Shuman said.

The counters will be placed in various locations for about a week—assuming sufficient

data is collected. The counters will then be moved throughout the reservation to identify high-traffic areas for pedestrians.

The Road Crew also constructed the stands used for this purpose. "It's the first time anything like this has been made," Shuman said.

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Grand Ronde: Salem site wouldn't be for a casino

(AP) — The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde sees a prime piece of downtown Salem as a possible investment, not a potential casino site, a spokesman says.

The tribe was identified last week as one of seven potential buyers of Boise Cascade's 13-acre riverfront

complex in Salem, as well as 310 acres the company owns on Minto-Brown Island.

Boise Cascade in January said it would close its downtown paper-converting plant this year, ending its 45-year presence on the Willamette riverfront.

Since then, city officials have envisioned a mixed-use water-

front development condominiums, offices, shopping and restaurants. Developers say the site is promising, but a railroad line through the property will pose problems.

The tribal spokesman said it was too early to say whether the tribe would make an offer.

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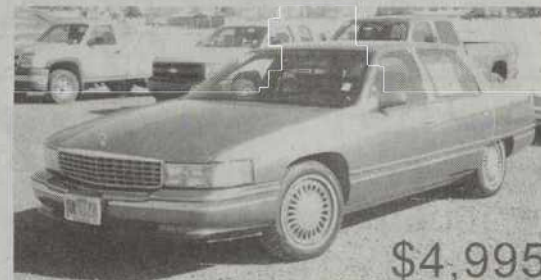
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