



National Incident Management Team

Rainbow Family National Gathering Great Basin Region

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service



NEWS RELEASE

Date: Monday, June 14, 2004

Contact: Donna Wilson, Incident Information Officer, (540) 797-6241

A large group of individuals known as the 'Rainbow Family of Living Light' has started gathering on the Warner Mountain Ranger District of the Modoc National Forest. Each year since 1972 the Rainbow Family has held national gatherings on National Forest System lands. In the last 9 years the group has ranged in size from approximately 10,000 to 20,000 participants.

In 1995 the Forest Service implemented regulations requiring a noncommercial group-use permit for noncommercial gatherings of 75 or more people on National Forest lands. These regulations serve three significant purposes: promotion of public health and safety, protection of forest resources, and prevention of conflicts among uses of National Forest System lands. Last year the national Rainbow Family gathering obtained a noncommercial group-use permit.

Rainbow Family members claim that they have no leaders, that no single member speaks for the group, and that the permit requirement violates their First Amendment rights. As of June 14, no permit has been signed by any member of the Rainbow Family. Organizers and participants of the gathering are subject to being cited for failure to obtain the required permit. These violations have been successfully prosecuted for past gatherings. To date, 17 District Courts and five Federal Courts of Appeals have upheld the constitutionality of the Forest Service's noncommercial group use rule.

Since 1998, a National Incident Management Team has been used to manage the Rainbow Family Gatherings. This team, which was established in 1997 to manage large group events, consists of an Incident Commander and support staff, natural resource specialists and advisors, and approximately 40 law enforcement officers, including K-9 officers, mounted police officers, and patrol officers from the Forest Service, State Highway Patrol, County Sheriff's Department and State Fish and Wildlife Division.

"The Forest is extremely fortunate to have United States Special Agent Tim Lynn as the Incident Commander on the National Incident Management Team for this year's gathering," said Forest Supervisor Stanley Sylva. Special Agent Lynn is assigned to the Washington Office Enforcement and Liaison Staff and has over 5 years experience with Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations. Lynn also served over 7 years with the U.S. Secret Service in Washington D.C. and over 3 years with the U.S. Navy-SEABEES assigned to Camp David.

Under a unified command system the National Incident Management Team will work with all government agencies (local, State, and Federal) that are affected by the national gathering. The Team has already started working with affected local communities and agencies to mitigate social, economic, and resource impacts during the gathering.

USFS

The gathering was peaceful, marred only by one injury/assault incident

Last 30 days, the family, the camp was a peaceful city with a population greater than any nearby town, including Afton. There were no guns, no first aid stations, and no temporary pipes laid out for a variety of potable drinking water.

The gathering was peaceful, marred only by one incident of assault that was left one person hospitalized and another in jail facing felony charges. Numerous petty crimes were also reported and more than 200 citations for minor violations were issued.

Residents of the two towns that served as jumping off points, Madeline in Lassen County and Lakeview in Modoc County, were annoyed and irritated by the flood of what they viewed as unwelcome visitors. Many in the communities took special precautions such as locking doors, taking key out of vehicles, and posting signs to ward off Rainbow Family members.

Once again, the two small towns are suffering the brunt of the exodus as the flow of Rainbow Family

members recedes.

The gathering, also, attracted the attention of several local Indian tribes, including the Fort Bidwell Paiutes. Tribal elders complained bitterly about the adverse impact of the massive concentrations of people on lands the tribes consider sacred. During the gathering, a heavily armed Rainbow council heard tribal elders state their grievances. As a result, sensitive areas were marked with signs and cordoned off to protect them.

Forest Service officials estimate most of the Rainbow Family members will have left by this weekend.

In keeping with forest leave no trace policy where gathering sites are concerned, Rainbow Family volunteers are venturing behind to provide the labor for clean-up and forest rehabilitation work supervised by Forest Service resource specialists. Rainbow members have also offered to purchase the native seed necessary to re-vegetate the site.

Marijuana is everywhere but alcohol is discouraged. The reason is that 10,000 drunken hippies are a riot waiting to happen, while 10,000 stoned hippies are merely mellow, explained Glowing Feather, a Rainbow since the first event in 1972.

Though donations are accepted, the food is free, served communally at kitchens that have specialties: organic food, vegetarian, vegan, Hare Krishna, coffee, even a bakery — the only place where drumming was discouraged because the cakes might fall.

The drums fill the woods with a hypnotic tribal beat when the full moon came up. Rainbows consider themselves a tribe, or a gathering of tribes, and have drawn much of their language and tradition from American Indians.

However, their choice of a site drew protests from the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council, which worried that digging of latrines in particular would harm ancestral artifacts.

The U.S. Forest Service has been trying to regulate the Rainbows' activities since the Gatherings started, but only since last year has it succeeded in issuing the group a group-use permit for what previously had been officially illegal events.

The Rainbows say they have no leadership, only unofficial elders and organizers, and decide everything by consensus at council meetings. Most refuse to acknowledge they need a permit to freely assemble on public land.

"They spend an enormous amount of money for no purpose, to harass Americans camping in the national forest for the Fourth of July. What's more American than that?" said Kalif, the head gatekeeper.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/0704/04rainbow.html?>

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THE MODOC COUNTY

RECOIL

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Vol. 113, No. 6

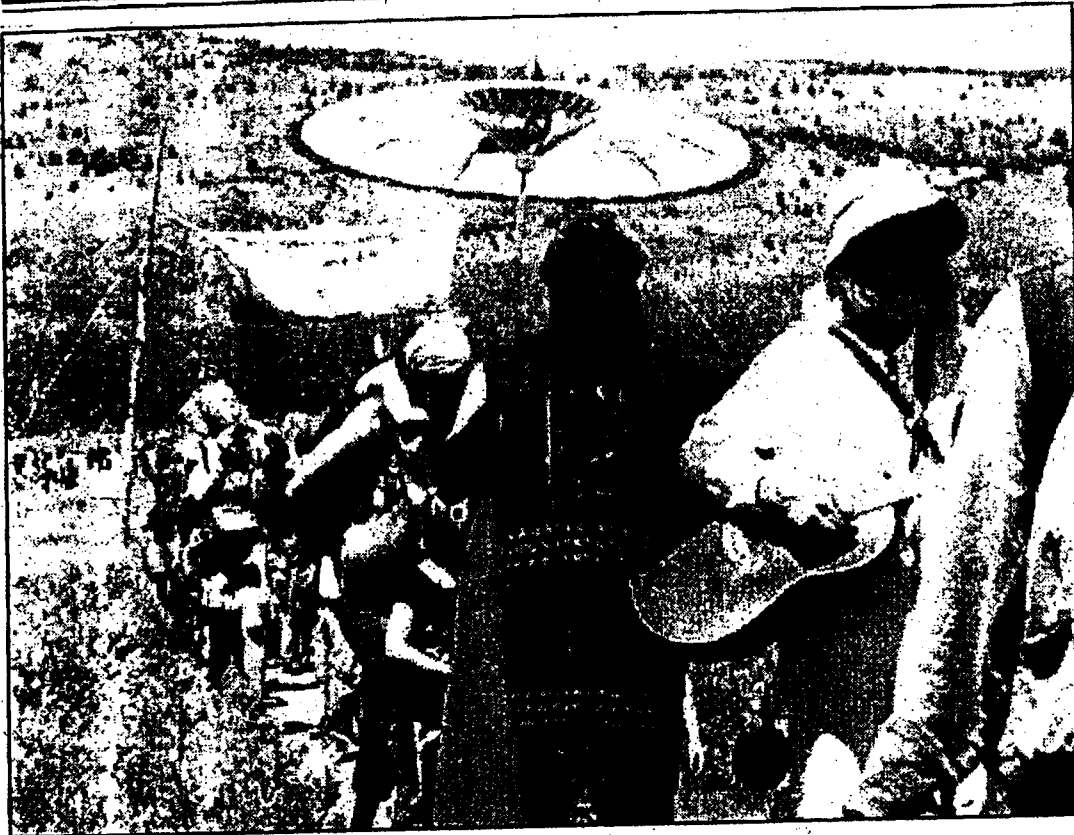
Alturas, California

July 8, 2004



THE GATHERED multitude celebrated in a solemn period of quiet and meditation. Following the

morning of reflection, the revelry continued well into the evening. Tony Larson Photo



ON THEIR way to the midday gathering in the expansive meadow at Bear Camp, Rainbow family members filed past others along the path celebrating each in his or her own way. Tony Larson photo

Rainbow from front page

to lower levels of soil.

The rehabilitation, done primarily by Rainbow volunteers, will focus on raking the top one inch of soil to break it up and then spreading woody forest debris to protect the soil. Some trail areas will need water bars to divert water off the trail at various intervals.

Participants at the gathering have indicated that the Rainbows will purchase any native seed to re-vegetate the site.

Alturas Police report the recovery of a Honda belonging to Donna Garcia of Alturas. That vehicle was stolen June 29

from the Chevron in Alturas.

Barnes said the vehicle was recovered in Redding by the California Highway Patrol, June 30, and two people who had been to the Rainbow gathering were arrested.

Charged with vehicle theft and possession of stolen property were Edna Dorman, age 18, and Cody Baxter, age 20, both of Redding.

Garcia regained possession of her vehicle, which had minor damage.

Both Mix and Barnes remind residents to lock their cars and home doors to keep temptation to a minimum.

Letters

from page 2

baskets, until I realized they wouldn't know what to do with it, whether to eat it or hang it around their neck as a talisman. That's a good luck charm to the unsophisticated, kind of like freedom to an Iraqi.

I've talked to a couple of clean Rainbow people and yes some of them are clean. The ones I talked to were real nice folks but a bit politically naive, actually quite a bit. I wasn't even tempted to enlighten them. I figure I'll let them swallow in their ignorance.

My main concern is someone is going to try to create a Waco in our beautiful Modoc County and the taste is like ashes in my mouth. That's why I'm writing this letter.

I eat on average one egg a day. Since I moved here full time I've eaten over 400 dozen eggs and only had one bad one. Something to think about when applied to people.

Thank you.

-- Sam Rossington
Alturas

City from front page

fordable, according to Alves, a new proposal which adds positions could stretch the budget. One idea bandied about Tuesday was for part time or contract planners and building inspectors and pretty much leaving the structure of management the same.

Ochs said he was not in favor of losing a job in the reorganization and would not come to grips that no job would be lost. Andreassen pointed out that under the proposal, Public Works would have the same number of employees it does now only the responsibilities and accountability would change.

"We thought we came in with a fair, streamlined proposal that met the requirements and put a better organization in place," said Andreassen. "The rest of the council didn't feel that way, but we certainly made the effort to make the city more efficient."

The City had paid the county \$40,000 per year for planning services and has that funding available for the new proposal. Part of the proposal would have been to hire a part-time clerk for Public Works and Planning.

In the original proposal, from Councilman Smith and former councilman Joe Coffin, who passed away this spring, economic development in the city was a central issue. That was not discussed Tuesday night.

The original proposal called for a new position as Director of Public Works, Planning and Economic Development, with a Deputy Director of Public Works and a Deputy Planner and Building Inspector under that position. There would have been a Maintenance Worker 3, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator 3, Maintenance Worker 2, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator 2, and two Maintenance 1 positions.

According to the proposal, the goals were to bring the planning and economic development functions of the city under the direct control of the City.

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CELEBRATE From page A1

The Rainbows treated the 1 o'clock gathering 'like a church' service;

"That's the miracle," said Vee. "There is no 'one.' Everybody volunteers every year."

Access to the gathering site was by a narrow, gravel road that winds through heavily forested woods, which made driving to the campsite a long, rough and dusty venture. The campsite parking lot was packed with thousands of vehicles, giving it more the appearance of a busy day at a large urban mall than a gathering in a remote national forest.

Tucked under the pine canopy were tents and camps of every kind and description.

At mid-morning Sunday, people began their pilgrimage to the mountain meadow celebration. A long procession filtered out of the camps and parking lots, shuffling along the dusty mountain path that wound around the tree line, past many hundreds more tents and cars.

A makeshift first aid station at the halfway point was available for medical needs.

Signs said Bearcamp Flat had been renamed "Area 51" by the Rainbow members.

People moved quietly along the nearly two-mile path to a broad open meadow, where a throng had already begun to gather by mid-morning. As hikers approached the meadow where the ceremony was to take place, most were silent. Those who spoke did so in hushed tones.

"It's no different than a church," explained Vee, whispering. "It's a sacred

time. We all stop (talking) and are silent."

While the celebration has traditions developed over the years, much is individual and spontaneous.

To say the Rainbows are colorful is an understatement. Clothing was reminiscent of the Haight-Ashbury flower child hippie era. Tie-dye was the norm. One or two people wore nothing at all.

At noon, the multitude gathered in earnest at the meadow. By 1 p.m., they were thousands strong.

As the throng grew to a multitude, sounds rose from the meadow as the gathered began to intone a hum or mantra. While many sat on the ground meditating, others joined hands and began forming numerous human circles within other circles.

Vee said joining hands to form a circle is symbolic of unity.

Before the human circles could be completed, a column of children and adults approached from across the meadow, singing, playing drums and musical instruments, a procession which Vee said is "symbolic of the next generation bringing in change."

As the children approached, the subdued multitude transformed into enthusiastic revelers. The solemn assembly turned into a celebration. Some danced and smiled joyfully. Some wept. Others prayed.

The celebration continued through the afternoon and into the evening.

Redding

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URL: http://www.redding.com/redd/nw_local/article/0,2232,REDD_17533_3011826,00.html

Collective soul

Rainbow Family builds community on a quest for peace

By Alex Breitler, Record Searchlight

July 4, 2004

LIKELY — "Welcome home, brother! I'm lovin' you."

A shaggy man in an oversized tank top greets drivers before pointing toward a harrowing "parking" area swept with dense sagebrush.

Dusty from the washboard dirt road, it doesn't matter whether your car is a sparkling sport utility vehicle or '60s-era purple bus.

From this point on, you're just a Rainbow.

Untold thousands of hippies, anarchists, philosophers and partygoers are migrating this week to a high desert valley in northeastern California for the annual Rainbow Family gathering, held here for the first time in two decades.

A vast city of tents crowds the two-mile-long camp. Sparks fly high into the night from bonfires raging at 3 a.m. Guitar-strumming minstrels are perched under every tree and prayer circles encompass entire meadows.

It's a sense of community that Rainbows seek. Still, they say the gathering might have 10,000 different purposes for 10,000 different Rainbows.

"People are looking for something — they just don't know what," said Humboldt County resident "Phenop," 54, who handed out copies of the Bhagavad-gita scripture at a Hare Krishna camp. "It's a trip, for sure."

The journey to the 7,000-foot camp starts in the outpost of Likely. In the past, ranchers near Rainbow gatherings were disgusted at hitchhikers, panhandlers and naked hippies in public car washes. But Likely — population 200 — seems more tolerant, perhaps because the town also experienced the 1984 gathering on the Modoc National Forest.

"I've had people from all over the world," said saloon owner Tom McDonald, who sat on a bench out front. Next to him was a New Yorker in a tie-dyed shirt, using a laptop to check his e-mail.

"I haven't had any problems — none," said McDonald, gray hair peeking out from under his Bush/Cheney 2004 cap. "I've met people I'm going to be in contact with for a long time."

At camp, license plates show visitors from 32 states, and Rainbows from Israel, Quebec, Costa Rica and Austria.

Like a city, it's got roads lined with peddlers. "Jokes for smokes!" one yelled, hoping for a cigarette. Another offers "Free Rainbow hugs," claiming he's given 6,000 in four days.

Bulletin boards are crammed with announcements, including a sign pleading with a Trinity County girl to call her sister — "she will NOT tell anyone where you are."

A schedule lists events. Noon Saturday: Psychedelic workshop at the Sprout Garden. 5 p.m.: Creative brainstorming for the National Day of Action for Food Safety. After sunset: Soup talent show (sign up early).

"It's a mind-blowing experience for anyone willing to have their minds blown," said 50-year-old Fredley, from San Francisco. (Just as Rainbows don't like rules, they're not big on full names, either.)

The camp is divided into more than 100 minicommunities, or kitchens, each with a different theme. There's "Deep Faith Coffee," "Jerusalem Kosher" and the "Jesus Kitchen."



Andreas Fuhrmann/Record Searchlight

RAINBOW LOVE: Heather Korotie of San Francisco and Paul Byron of Alameda, right, sit in the "Main Meadow" at the Rainbow Family's annual gathering on the Modoc National Forest. This was the couple's first gathering.

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Herald and News

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Klamath Falls, Oregon - Daily Circulation

A4

Sunday, July 4, 2004

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Tribes, Rainbows meet to discuss impacts

By JEAN BILODEAUX
H&N Correspondent

BEAR CAMP — Elders of two tribes say campers at the Rainbow Family's annual gathering in the Modoc National Forest are using their burial grounds for latrines.

"You tricked me," said Dan Meza, who acts as a liaison between two tribes and the U.S. Forest Service. "My son caught his first fish here, we prayed together here. My son's mother told you to leave and you are still defecating on my relatives. ...

"Don't you understand we prayed here? Stop the digging."

Rainbow family members said they were mortified by the charge that they had broken a promise not to cause damage on the site of their annual gathering, which encompasses an ancient Indian village and burial ground.

"Our actions toward you saddens me," said a Rainbow camper who gave her name only as Karen. "I apologize for my lack of understanding." She said the lack of leadership, the lack of elder leadership, has caused hardship in the Rainbow group and with others.

actions.

"You call yourselves a tribe on your Web site. You say you follow and honor the Indian ways. Respect the Native Americans. I would not camp at any of your homes, dig in your grandmother's grave and crap on it. Yet that is what you are doing here," said Paiute Tribal Chairman Frances Benally.

"You say you're a tribe, you don't trust the government," he said. "Well, we as a people don't agree with the government all the time either, but we work with them. It takes our tribe three months and three permits to put a shovel into the ground. We follow the rules. You are all leaders here, I'm a leader. I must respect the elders and the land, I can't just party all the time. We all need to communicate."

Benally said the Rainbow campers should emulate the respect shown by the tribes, who had asked to speak at the Rainbow's council. If the Rainbow group is indeed a tribe, he said, its members need to address the tribal councils of the Paiute and Pit River tribes and the leaders of every other tribe on whose lands they want to camp.



Photo by Jean Bilodeaux

Dan Meza, tribal liaison between the Forest Service and Indian tribes, addresses a council Friday at the Rainbow Family Gathering.

The Rainbow group refuses to use portable toilets. Instead the campers dig trenches 5 to 6 feet deep and a foot and a half wide, with a couple of boards across the trench and a seat surrounded by a plastic privacy curtain.

Toilets and respect were the subjects of a three-hour meeting among about 250 Rainbow people.

and leaders of the the Fort Bidwell Paiute and Pit River tribes.

After the meeting, Rainbow members began to discuss alternatives such as using lined plastic buckets, but as night fell Friday they had not reached a conclusion.

They were, however, mortified by the criticism, which took them to task for their language and

Please give to Donna

at night. The children are cared for. Teenagers are washing dishes here tonight in water heated over propane. All by choice."

The event officially began Thursday and ends Wednesday. Last week, felony charges were filed against a man who attacked two people with a shovel. As of Friday night, officers issued 201 citations, generally for dogs off-leash, marijuana possession, speeding and not wearing seat belts. There have been 11 arrests, primarily for interfering with an officer in the line of duty -- as well as complaints by residents of Madeline, a tiny town that served as a jumping-off point for the gathering.

And what a gathering.

The pierced, the gnarled, the robed, the turbaned, the pony-tailed, toddlers, teenagers, infants, traders and a menagerie of animals mingle and make merry.

Camps of backpacking tents, lean-tos and teepees have sprung up from sage, mule ears and wildflower-filled fields or under stands of pine. Some are geographically themed, such as Montana Camp or BARF -- Bay Area Rainbow Family. Others are lifestyle-themed -- yoga, faerie, Christian, Krishna, Jewish. A Kid's Village with adult monitors has been created.

Kitchens, with names like Musical Veggie and Lovin' Ovens, ladle out free food, just as they did 20 years ago. The newer rocket ovens, which heat to 350 degrees on kindling, are a huge step forward in Rainbow technology.

Decisions are made by councils at which anyone can speak. On Friday, elders of the five Indian tribes requested to meet with the Rainbow Council to express their anger and disappointment over the slit trenches dug by the family, which one tribal member called "defecating on the bones of their ancestors." More than 100 family members poured into the tent to speak with them.

Rainbows agreed to leave several sensitive areas cited by the tribes.

An intricate system of hoses taps a spring, bringing fresh water to each camp. CALMs -- Centers for Alternative Living Medicines -- hand out herbal and other treatments for everything from staph infection to sunburn.

At night, campfires dot the area and voices, drums, horns and string instruments can be heard.

This year's gathering will climax like every other gathering since the Rainbow Family sent its first invitation in 1971, with family members linking hands in an enormous circle offering a silent prayer at noon on the Fourth of July for world peace and the improved

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07/04/2004 09:15 AM

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Subject Colorful hippie families make annual pilgrimage; AP 7/4

Colorful hippie families make annual pilgrimage

By Don Thompson
Associated Press

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. -- Lucky Sunshine Day
says he arrived at this year's Rainbow Family
Gathering "a moon cycle ago," measuring time much as
he has the 20 years of his life.

He spent much of his youth traveling aboard a Rainbow
bus with his parents, Flower and Two Rock. To reach
this year's Gathering, he hitched a ride deep into the
woods of Northern California.

"It's about love, it's about community, it's about
family," he said. "We're here to restore the earth to
its natural state."

This year's annual peace Gathering got off to a bad

Please give to Donna

specialty: organic food, vegetarian, vegan, Hare Krishna fare, coffee, even a bakery -- the only place where drumming was discouraged because the cakes might fall.

Elsewhere, as the full moon came up the drums came out, filling the woods with a hypnotic tribal beat. Rainbows consider themselves a tribe, or a gathering of tribes, and have drawn much of their language and tradition from American Indians.

Yet their choice of a site drew protests from the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council, which worried diggings of latrines in particular would harm ancestral artifacts.

The U.S. Forest Service has been trying to regulate the Rainbows' activities since the first Gathering in 1972, but only since last year has it succeeded in issuing the group a group-use permit for what previously had been officially illegal events.

The Rainbows have no leadership, only unofficial elders and organizers, and decide everything by consensus at council meetings. Most refuse to acknowledge they need a permit to freely assemble on public land.

<http://www.dailynews.com/Stories/0,1413,200~20954~2251847,00.html>

July 2
K Falls Herald

Rainbow Family's reign unwanted

Area 'being invaded,'
local residents say

By ANTHONY LARSON
For the Herald & News

MADELINE, Calif. — Not everyone is enjoying the Rainbow Gathering, a convergence of thousands of people in the South Warner Mountains between Likely and Eagleville about 30 miles southeast of Alturas.

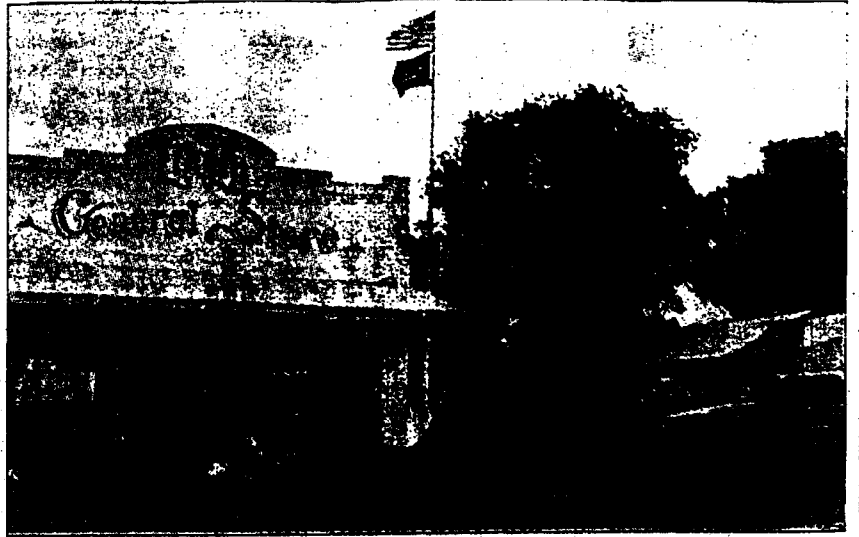
"I feel like I'm being invaded," said Sherri Ratliff, a Madeline resident with a young family. She's frustrated by the problems caused by the influx of "Rainbows."

"They're driving us crazy. They are knocking on the door at all hours of the night," said a frazzled Ratliff. "They're rude, and they are arrogant. They just won't leave us alone."

Deputies from the Modoc and Lassen county sheriffs' departments have beefed up patrols in key locations.

Still, residents of both counties attempt to deal with the influx of the self-described hippies.

Madeline and Likely, both located along Highway 395, are junctions where Rainbows tend to gather during their trek to this year's national gathering at the Bearcamp Flat in the Modoc



To display a more visible presence, units from several Northern California sheriffs' and police departments joined Modoc and Lassen counties in a "mutual aid" effort.

National Forest.

People living in Madeline are expressing frustration and exasperation with the uninvited guests.

"I have to lock all my doors," Ratliff said. "I never lock my doors. We're worried they're going to break in. They help themselves to our water faucet. They're going into the garages over at the old Madeline store, going through stuff. They're supposed to be friendly, but that's not peaceful to me. It's scary!"

"I've had it with them," said her

angry husband Stan Ratliff, liberally lacing his acerbic comments with expletives. "I'm done with them."

"They don't respect anybody," affirms Toby McAdams, another Madeline resident. He says the Rainbows have no consideration for the locals, their property or their privacy. He wouldn't mind "if they would just leave everybody alone. I wouldn't have any problem with them."

See RAINBOW, page A2

Klamath Falls, Oregon
July 1, 2004

Rainbow family's latrines worry tribe

**Paiute official says
latrine digging at
Rainbow gathering
may harm artifacts**

By JEAN BILODEAUX
H&N Correspondent

FORT BIDWELL — Participants of the Rainbow Family Gathering are digging latrines by the hundreds on the Modoc National Forest, and thereby raising the ire of the Fort Bidwell Paiute Indian Tribe.

The tribe based in northeastern Modoc County called on the Forest Service to remove the Rainbow Gathering to protect archaeological resources, and faulted the agency for issuing a permit for the gathering.

"We don't question their right to assemble. We protest their right to dig up cultural artifacts," said Ken Williams, tribal administrator.

Some of the trenches are 18 inches wide and 6 feet long.

"We know that Forest Service archaeologists ran around the site picking up all the surface artifacts they could find," Williams said. "But the Forest Service will save and catalog them, then put them away in a vault."

Gathering impacts Likely Fire Department

Repeated calls to the Rainbow Family Gathering have taxed the Likely Volunteer Fire Department. Page A4.

Tribal Chairman Frances Benally said the Bearcamp Flat area where the Rainbow Family is gathering is rich in Indian heritage and culture.

"Yet, in such a rich area a permit has been issued which is allowing thousands of people to gather and dig," Benally said. "Dig into soil no Indian person would ever disturb. Dig into thousands of years of history, memory and connection. Dig into tribal villages and cemeteries in order to dispose of human waste."

Benally disputed a statement by Warner Mountain District Ranger Edie Asrow that there would be losses, but that they would not likely be permanent losses.

"Our committee was told that the artifacts will never be returned to the site, nor will they be handed over to the tribe or one of the other three federally recognized tribes in the area," Benally said.

"We see the digging of slit trenches, potentially thousands of slit trenches, and hundreds of compost pits as permanent losses to the heritage resource and to us as a people."

The Forest Service said the agency would address the tribe's concerns.

Loyette Meza, a tribal cultural committee member, said she visited the Rainbow Gathering site and was aghast at what she saw.

"We pointed out they were digging our cultural artifacts," Meza said. "They asked us what they could do to pacify us. We told them they could leave. They said they would — in a week."

A statement from the Forest Service said the agency would address the tribes'

concerns.

"We have numerous resource and law enforcement people working together at the site daily with the gathering individuals to relay information about public health and safety and regarding protection of cultural resources."

Correspondent Jean Bilodeaux covers Surprise Valley. She can be reached at (530) 279-2031, or at P.O. Box 5 Cedarville, CA 96104, or by sending e-mail to jeanb@hdo.net.

July 1964
Modoc Record "O'Neill"

She's "outspoken," "outgoing," "ash," "involved," "amazing," "ring," "friendly," "energetic," "mpassionate" and "genuine," say ends and family of Patricia ntrall, a Modoc County supervisor i the woman chosen to be Grand rshal for the Fandango Days cele- tion this year.

"I was completely astounded—es- ially by the way they did it," says atrall, reflecting on how she ned of the award.

he relates that six people came a recent Board of Supervisors ating and patiently waited for the tion of the meeting set aside for lic comment.

hen, Jim Cavasso, a local busi- sman and member of the mber of Commerce, somberly to his feet. Speaking in mea- d tones, he gravely noted that they "a great problem with the Modoc nty Board of Supervisors—and in particular. And that one is icia Cantrall."

he put her head in her hands as mind raced. Explains Cantrall,

because mine sure did! All I could think of was, 'Oh, my God. What have I done now?' It's a wonder I didn't faint!"

"I could just see the look on her face," says Donna Garcia, Cantrall's daughter, noting that her mother looked stunned.

"And our problem is," continued Cavasso, grimly, "we wonder ... if she will be Grand Marshal?"

"I just kind of collapsed," gushes Cantrall, feigning exasperation.

"And then when he told her, Mom just started crying," continues Donna. "It was the first time I've seen her surprised in years."

"This is truly the greatest honor of a lifetime," insists Cantrall, emotionally. "I don't know how I fell into this, but I am extremely grateful."

She also insists that she will get even with Cavasso for his practical joke "if it takes the rest of my life!"

All joking aside, the approbation and appreciation for Cantrall's service to the community is seemingly unanimous.

"Money and political favoritism see Cantrall, page 6

principals Gale Easley and Tony Cruse, their wives, Eagle Peak and insurance companies.

At the time of the overpayment Easley was the owner of Fitch Sand and Gravel and Cruse was a 15 percent partner. Cruse argues that he told Easley of the overpayment at the time. Cruse has stated he offered to pay his 15 percent share of the overpayment back to the county. While he said the county refused, County see Eagle, page 6

Rainbow shovel assault attack victim stable

The victim of a shovel attack at the Rainbow Gathering last week, Christopher Witcher, 47, of Round Mountain, Tenn., is now listed in stable condition

He was seriously hurt when Harry E. O'Neill, 47, (also known as Harry Huggs) of Whitehorn, Ca., struck him with the shovel. He sustained a punctured lung, ruptured spleen and head injuries.

According to Modoc County Sheriff Bruce Mix, the incident occurred when a vehicle was apparently driving too fast through the parking area.

O'Neill is alleged to have grabbed a shovel and smashed the windshield of the vehicle. When the driver, Kelly Cook, 44, of Brosnan, Texas, rolled down the window to find out what was going on, O'Neill allegedly hit him in the head with the shovel, causing severe lacerations.

Witcher was struck apparently while trying to aid Cook.

O'Neill was detained by the Rainbow Family security, said Mix, and was arrested and transported to the Modoc County Jail by the California Highway Patrol.

Modoc District Attorney Jordan Funk has filed two counts of felony assault, two counts of felony battery with serious bodily injury and two allegations of personal infliction of serious bodily injury against O'Neill. A preliminary hearing is set for Friday.

inning nude protest July 1

the Rock Opera 1 at noon, if a iduals upset over n-on nudity at the y.

pants hope to pressure the U.S. Forest Service to revoke the anti-nudity closure order," the letter states. "The USFS states that people who are offended by nudity may stumble across the gathering. No way. It's 20 miles from nowhere and a long haul down a gravel road. Then you have to park your car at the 'rainbow gather-

is involved searching for one person. He said officials in charge were evasive when he asked for specifics.

He is suspected in the burglary of several places in western Nevada and Nye County and recently is suspected of burglarizing two buildings on a ranch in Long Valley. He apparently took food stuffs, alcohol, and small caliber firearms.

According to local authorities, the suspect is considered armed and dangerous.

Protest from front page

According to the Forest Service, there were at least 6,500 people on the Gathering site as of Wednesday, but that estimate may be low. Other observers put the number at well over 10,000 with many more pouring through and into the camp.

The USFS states there are license plates from 32 states on cars at the site; and participants from Israel, Quebec, Costa Rica and Austria.

Modoc County Health officials are saying the event is going well and that participants are working hard to make their camps safe and sanitary, with an emphasis on food preparation and medical areas.

Health officials are recommending that all drinking water from the site be boiled a minimum of 20 minutes, regardless of the source or prior treatment.

A U.S. Magistrates court has been set up in Likely to deal with the citations issued by the Forest Service.

City from front page

building, streets, and economic development.

Alturas Treasurer Kathie Alves, who had concerns over the past proposal, said this new proposal is financially more feasible.

The council will debate the issue and hear the options July 6.

Alturas Pool closed July 3

The Alturas Swimming Pool will be closed for the July 3 Fandango Days celebration, but will be reopen July 4.

Regular pool hours are 12-1 p.m. for lap swimming, 1 to 8 p.m. for general public swimming, and 8-9 p.m. for lap swimming.

General admission to the pool is \$2.50. An individ-

he lost control and the car then rolled over and came to rest on its wheels. Saunders sustained moderate injuries and was flown to Washoe Medical Center in Reno. A passenger, Travis Long, 22, of Anderson, was not hurt.

The driver of a California Pines Fire Department water tender escaped serious injury June 27, 8 p.m. in an accident on US Forest Service Road 22.

The CHP reports that James M. Arms, 70, of Alturas, was driving the 1989 Kenworth and allowed the truck to drift to the left side of the road. It left the road and rolled down a steep embankment. The truck was prevented from rolling several hundred feet more down the embankment because it struck and got caught up on trees. Arms' use of seatbelts prevented serious injury. He was treated and Modoc Medical Center in Alturas.

New additions

Blue Lake Camp offers

adventure, fun for youths

It is time for Blue Lake Camp. Youths interested in a week of fun camping, swimming, canoeing, spiritual growth and great food are welcome to sign up for Blue Lake Camp.

This year, the fourth and fifth grade camp will also be offering archery and scuba instruction, as well as supervised fishing.

The Camp is operated by the Federated Community Church in Alturas on a site leased from the U.S. Forest Service.

Two camps will be held this year, one for kids who have completed sixth, seventh and eighth grades, and one for kids who have completed the third, fourth and fifth grades. The Middle School camp will be held July 12 through 23 and will be \$95 per camper.

The lower grade camp will be held July 26 through 30 and is also \$95 per camper.

Camp registration nights will be offered Monday, July 5 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Federated Church on the corner of East and First Streets, Alturas. Camp registration is on a first-come, first served basis and each camp is limited to 10 girls and 10 boys.

Young adults from tenth grade through college are welcome to apply for volunteer counselor positions. Counselor application forms may be picked up on a registration night, or by calling (530) 233-2718 or 233-2647. All counselor applications must be returned by Friday, July 9. Blue Lake Youth Camp is non-denominational and is open to all youth. For more information, please call the Federated Church at 233-2718 or call 233-2647.



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Shovel attack brings felony charges at Gathering

A shovel attack Saturday on two people at the Rainbow gathering has resulted in felony assault charges against Harry Eugene O'Neill, also known as Harry Huggs, 47, of Whitehorn, Ca.

According to Modoc County Sheriff Bruce Mix, the incident occurred Saturday evening when a vehicle was apparently driving too fast through the parking area.

O'Neill is alleged to have grabbed a shovel and smashed the windshield of the vehicle. When the driver, Kelly Cook, 44, of Brosnan, Texas, rolled down the window to find out what was going on, O'Neill allegedly hit him in the head with the shovel, causing severe lacerations. He initially opted to stay at camp and have the medical personnel there deal with his injury, but the next day was transported by ambulance to Modoc Medical Center.

Mix said O'Neill then struck Christopher Witcher, 47, of Round Mountain, Tenn., with the shovel. That victim was hurt seriously and was flown from the camp to Redding in critical condition. He sustained a punctured lung, ruptured spleen and head injuries. As of Wednesday afternoon, he was still listed as critical.

O'Neill was detained by the Rainbow Family security, said Mix, and was arrested and transported to the Modoc County Jail by the California Highway Patrol.

Modoc District Attorney Jordan Funk has filed two counts of felony assault, two counts of felony battery with serious bodily injury and two allegations of personal infliction of serious bodily injury against O'Neill, who was arraigned June 22.

Sheriff's Deputies also arrested Mark James Blossom, of Minnesota, alleging possession of stolen property this weekend. He was found to be in possession of items stolen from the Adin Transfer Station, which belonged to the pay station attendant.

City providing real relief for Rainbows, stores

The City of Alturas is providing some serious relief for the Rainbow family as well as local businesses, in the form of Porta-potties.

Alturas Chief of Police Ken Barnes said he hopes the public restrooms will alleviate problems before they start. There are five chemical toilets placed at areas where they are most convenient in town. The units are at Carlos and Main, 5th and Main, 12th and Main, Holiday Market and City Hall. The county has also placed the facilities in Likely and in Adin.

"We've had some complaints about the Rainbow members going into local business restrooms and basically showering up," said Barnes. "We just want to give them a choice and give the business folks in town a little help. We're also going to place some dumpsters in town to take care of increased trash."

Barnes said his department is working well with the Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol and the Rainbow Incident Team, of the Forest Service, to keep things under control.

"We're not trying to be heavy-handed at all," said Barnes. "Our goal is to keep the peace and maintain the best for public health and safety. We're not targeting the Rainbows, but if anyone breaks the law, they'll be dealt with. We're trying to keep things going smoothly throughout this event."

Barnes suggests that residents use some common

see City, page 4

City from front page

sense as the Gathering nears and lock their home doors, their cars and not leave their keys in the vehicles.

"We'll have a lot of people coming through, and while most will be honest people going to vacation, there's always a percentage who aren't," said Barnes. "Practice a little preventive action and it will stave off some problems."

Barnes said his office has dealt with a few shoplifting cases, and some citations for driving without a license, but for the most part, the flow of people through Alturas to the Gathering has been relatively smooth.

"We expect the major influx of people at the end of this week and through next week," said Barnes. "We'll also have some extra law enforcement here for the Fandango Days celebration."

During Fandango Days, Barnes said they are going to close McDowell Street on the south side of the park to through traffic and Water Street will be open to one way traffic with diagonal parking. Detours through town will be clearly marked, he said.

With Main Street closed for the parade and so on, there will be more people going throughout the detours and neighborhoods," said Barnes. "We have more people to patrol those areas, but if residents do their part, it should go without any problems."

Cool heads on Rainbow event are needed

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Board of Supervisors during the last Rainbow gathering in 1984, I was involved with the front line planning of county agencies and updated periodically as the gathering progressed.

It is my hope that cool heads will prevail as we all cope with the projected mass of people for this year's event. 20,000 additional people any place in our county requires major considerations by all agencies, businesses and residents. The experience of 1984 demonstrated that problems do occur, however we were all greatly relieved that the incidents such as those stated in a letter to the editor last week were not the norm but few and far between. The mother who injured her infant was mentally ill, and has spent numerous years in state confinement. Her child was successfully treated and adopted into a wonderful home out of state. The youth who stole a pickup truck was a runaway from a juvenile detention facility.

I accompanied several county officials on a site visit during the 1984 gathering. We were all impressed with the orderly nature of the massive camp site, including walking trails designated by rocks, recycling centers and members monitoring parking, camping areas and visitors to the site. Local businesses did see some pilferage of items, however many local businesses profited from sales of food items in large quantities. It has been stated that the area used by the Rainbows was returned to at least pre-gathering condition. Our initial fears of mass chaos and huge financial drain on county resources were unfounded.

Health care emergencies were treated locally, with camp officials "passing the

bat" to collect money to pay for treatment. Many other expenses were dealt with in this same manner.

We certainly have to prepare for the 20,000 projected participation, and the inconvenience this poses for us all. I believe that by continuing to meet with the leaders of the Rainbow group we can minimize any potential issues.

In 1984 we found that this unique experience was far less problematic than anticipated, however I must admit we all breathed a huge sigh of relief after the participants left Modoc County.

-- Lesley Chace
Alturas

Modoc Record

6-24-84

Incident at Rainbow Family camp results in felony arrest

Suspect, 47, accused of attack with shovel

By LEE JUILLERAT
H&N Regional Editor

People attending the "Rainbow Family Gathering of Living Light" may be espousing peace and love, but one person in the group is facing felony assault charges after an incident at the camp in Modoc County last week.

The arrest came as people began arriving for the Rainbow Family's annual gathering, which is held annually on different, remote For-

est Service lands through the U.S. At least 650 people have already arrived for this year's gathering, which is expected to attract 8,000 to 20,000 people. Peak numbers are expected July 4, when attendees will gather in a "Circle of Peace" to hold hands and pray for peace.

The peace of this year's encampment was broken Saturday night.

Spokesmen for the Modoc County Sheriff's Office said Harry "Hugs" O'Neill, 47, of Whitehorn,

Calif., was arrested Sunday after shattering a pickup truck's windshield with a shovel, then using the shovel to repeatedly strike the vehicle's two occupants.

O'Neill remained incarcerated today at the Modoc County Jail on two charges each of felony assault, felony battery with serious bodily injury, and personal infliction of serious bodily injury.

One victim, Christopher Witcher, 47, of Roan Mountain, Tenn., was flown from the camp to the Mercy Medical Center in Redding, Calif., where police said he was listed in critical condition with a punctured lung, ruptured spleen and head injuries.

Kelly Cook, 44, of Brosnan, Texas, was knocked unconscious but declined medical treatment.

Police said the incident happened between 8 and 9 p.m. Saturday. It was originally reported as a traffic accident, so the initial inves-

See RAINBOW, page A2



O'Neill

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Contreras/R5/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Stan
Sylvia/R5/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Gil
To Quintana/R5/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Daniel
Jiron/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Joe
Walsh/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Heidi
Valetkavitch/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES, John C
Twiss/R2/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Kent
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Subject AP--felony charges at Rainbow gathering

This is the first AP wire service story I've seen on the gathering. Largest news media carrying a story prior to this was the Redding Record-Searchlight. This will probably make a lot of Calif. news media aware of the gathering.
Matt

Tuesday, June 22, 2004 (AP)
News in brief from California's North Coast
The Associated Press

ALTURAS, Calif. (AP) -- A man faces felony charges for attacking two people with a shovel at a peace gathering in Modoc National Forest, authorities said.

Harry "Hugs" O'Neill, 47, of Whitehorn, Calif., was arrested Sunday after he used a shovel to smash the windshield of a pickup truck and then strike the vehicle's two occupants, the Modoc County Sheriff's Office said.

O'Neill was jailed in Modoc County on two charges each of felony assault, felony battery with serious bodily injury, and personal infliction of serious bodily injury.

One victim, Christopher Witcher, 47, of Roan Mountain, Tenn., was taken to the Mercy Medical Center in Redding. He suffered a punctured lung, ruptured spleen and head injuries.

The other victim, Kelly Cook, 44, of Brosnan, Texas, was knocked unconscious but declined medical treatment.

Police said the attack happened at a camp between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday during the "Rainbow Family Gathering of Living Light" -- an annual gathering of hippies and followers of unorthodox religions that's held at a different place each year. This year's event is expected to gather between 8,000 and 20,000 people.

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weather.com

Rainbow Family gathers on Modoc National Forest

Posted on Monday, June 21 @ 16:20:53 PDT

Each year for over thirty years, the Rainbow Family has held an event on public lands they call the Gathering. This is a very loosely structured event that attracts anywhere from 8,000-20,000 people. Gatherings are held in rural areas, usually some distance from the nearest town. The climax of the Gathering is on July 4, when participants gather in one place to pray for world peace and Mother Earth.

This year the main location for the gathering is located in the southern Warner Mountains in Homestead and Bearcamp Flats. This area is just south of the South Warner Wilderness on the Warner Mountain Ranger District.

Rainbow family national gathering

A large group of individuals known as the 'Rainbow Family of Living Light' has started gathering on the Warner Mountains Ranger District of the Modoc National Forest. Each year since 1972 the Rainbow Family has held national gatherings on National Forest System lands. In the last nine years the group has ranged in size from approximately 10,000-20,000 participants.

In 1995 the Forest Service implemented regulations requiring a noncommercial group-use permit for noncommercial gatherings of 75 or more people on National Forest lands. These regulations serve three significant purposes: promotion of public health and safety, protection of forest resources, and prevention of conflicts among uses of National Forest System lands. Last year the national Rainbow Family gathering obtained a noncommercial group-use permit.

Rainbow Family members claim they have no leaders, that no single member speaks for the group and that the permit requirement violates their First Amendment rights. As of June 14, no permit has been signed by any member of the Rainbow Family.

Organizers and participants of the gathering are subject to being cited for failure to obtain the required permit. These violations have been successfully prosecuted for past gatherings. To date, 17 District Courts and five Federal Courts of Appeals have upheld the constitutionality of the Forest Service's noncommercial group use rule.

Since 1998, a National Incident Management Team has been used to manage the Rainbow Family Gatherings. This team, which was established in 1997 to manage large group events, consists of an incident commander and support staff, natural resource specialists and advisors, and approximately 40 law enforcement officers, including K-9 officers, mounted police officers, and patrol officers from the Forest Service, State Highway Patrol, County Sheriff's Department and State Fish and Wildlife Division.

For the rests of the story pick up a copy of the Lassen County Times.

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Modo-
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Rainbow folks drifting into gathering

by Anthony Larson
Special to the Record

If you recently saw a colorfully painted van or bus on the highway occupied by what looked to be a hippie or two, it was not *deja vu*.

If you passed some backpacking hitchhikers that reminded you of the Haight-Ashbury flower children of yesteryear, you were not having a '60s flashback.

The gathering of the Rainbow Family Tribe has begun.

"It's a gathering full of hippies ... a bunch of dirty hippies," mocks Cierra, (the only name she would give) obviously pleased at the chance to 'put on' a reporter. With half her head 'butched' and the other half 'spiked,' the 18ish scoffer is a passenger on what looks to be an old school bus with a Volkswagen bus body inserted on top and the words "peace to you" scrawled graffiti-style on the side.

The designated venue for this year's national gathering is the Bear Camp Flat in the South Warners. So, beginning now until the primary celebration on the Fourth of July, groups will be immigrating from all directions in all manner of conveyances.

Estimates of attendance vary dramatically—some as high as 20,000. But all agree it will be in the thousands.

"The national is a huge one ... the Fourth of July and everything," gushes Cierra.

According to Paul John of East Texas, another of the diverse passengers on the bus, they are "just a lot of good people" looking for " ... a lot of good vibes. You know what I'm saying? Just here to learn a lot, you know."

One passenger, who gave his name as "Smokey," was asked what would happen at the gathering. "Magic, man!" he responds eagerly as his face lights up, which brought giggles and chuckles of delight from his traveling companions.

Kristopher Kenney, who gave his origin as, "U.S. of A ... Born and raised," seemed inseparable from a shy girl with blonde and reddish hair.

"They call me Harry Huggs," offers the bus driver and unacknowledged leader of this eclectic group with a straight face. "There's a lot of people in the world

right now with a lot of problems and stressed, you know ... a lot of people on the street who are thrown away like these kids you just talked to a minute ago."

The invitation the Rainbow literature offer reads, "We, calling ourselves The Rainbow Family of Living Light, with great joy and humility, invite you and your relations to join us on the land in the celebration of life! Share our heartfelt desire for true World Peace and Harmony among all sentient beings. Please join us in visions and heartsongs, chants and prayers, meditation and jubilation, smiles and tears, and follow your

bliss at this sacred gathering of the tribes."

"When I was a young boy, the Navajos and the Hopis used to come to our house and they would trade," explains Huggs. "They would always tell me, 'Yes, we know you are rainbow. We love you.' And they would tell me stories of the rainbow. And so now I come to Rainbow. I live it; I like it."

"We are not an organization and have no leaders," insists the Rainbow Guide, an unofficial group publication. **see Rainbow, page 3**

Rainbow from front page

tion. "We live a vision of cooperation and coexistence."

"When the people of the earth are tired of all the killing, death and destruction, there will come a tribe upon the earth known as the Rainbow," explains Huggs, attributing this belief to a Hopi tradition or prophecy he learned as a boy. "And this tribe will be for the healing and the betterment of humankind."

The Forest Service, local law enforcement and fire officials are keeping a close eye on the event since it falls to them to provide various services to the Rainbow gathering. In fact, the Forest Service has a designated team dedicated to working with the Rainbow group to facilitate their festival.

Residents in Likely are a little anxious about such a large assembly near their town, but they also seem accommodating. They experienced this phenomenon once before in 1984 when the Rainbow Family Tribe gathered at Camp One.

Residents in Madeline are frustrated by Rainbow members that come knocking on their door at all hours of the day and night, asking directions to the gathering.

Instructions posted on the Internet direct travelers to Madeline, then eastward on the gravel road to Blue Lake and thus on to Homestead Meadow and Bear Camp Flat. After traveling a few miles down that rough road, many become exasperated and return to Madeline to ask directions.

Forest Service and law enforcement officers are keeping an eye on the event

Kristopher Kenney, who gave his origin as, "U.S. of A. born and raised," seemed inseparable from a shy, slightly chubby girl with blonde and reddish hair who wanted to be called Bonnie.

"I don't like my name in the paper," shrieked Bonnie. "Bad things happen when my name's in the paper."

"They call me Harry Huggs," said the bus driver, the eclectic group's unacknowledged leader. "There's a lot of people in the world right now with a lot of problems and stressed, you know, a lot of people on the street who are thrown away like these kids you just talked to a minute ago."

The invitation the Rainbow Family offer reads, "We, calling ourselves The Rainbow Family of Living Light, with great joy and humility, invite you and your relations to join us on the land in the celebration of life! Share our heartfelt desire for true World Peace and Harmony among all sentient beings. Please join us in visions and heartsongs, chants and prayers, meditation and jubilation, smiles and tears, and follow your bliss at this sacred gathering of the tribes."

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now I come to Rainbow. I live it. I like it."

"We are not an organization and have no leaders," insists the Rainbow Guide, an unofficial group publication. "We live a vision of cooperation and coexistence."

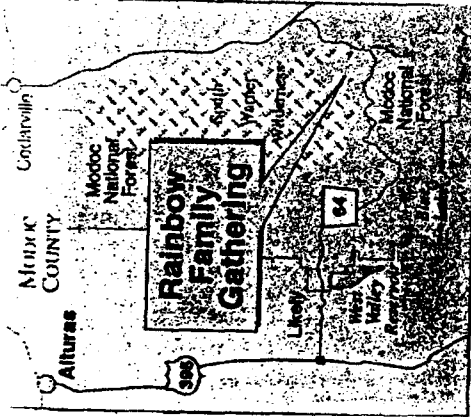
"When the people of the earth are tired of all the killing, death and destruction, there will come a tribe upon the earth known as the Rainbow," says Huggs, attributing this belief to a Hopi tradition or prophecy he learned as a boy. "And this tribe will be for the healing and the betterment of humankind."

Forest Service, local law enforcement and fire officials are keeping a close eye on the event since they provide various services to the Rainbow gathering. The Forest Service has a team designated to work with the group to facilitate the gathering.

Likely residents are a little anxious about such a large assembly near their town, but they also seem accommodating. They experienced the phenomenon once in 1984 when the Rainbows gathered at Camp One, also in the South Warners.

Madeline residents have been frustrated by Rainbow members who have knocked on doors all hours of the day and night asking directions to the gathering. After trying to follow instructions posted on the Internet, many have become exasperated and returned to Madeline to ask directions.

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Inside
For stories about memories of a previous Rainbow Family Gathering 20 years ago, and Forest Service restrictions on the current gathering, see page A1.

er bus passenger, says the Rainbow Family is "just a lot of good people" looking for "a lot of good vibes. You know what I'm saying? Just here to learn a lot, you know."

A passenger who gave his name as Smokey was asked what would happen at the gathering. "Magic, nan!" he said as his face lighted up, which brought giggles and huckles from his traveling companions.

See RAINBOW, page A2

June 17, 00
MODOC
RECORD

Rainbows choose Bear Flat for 2004

The Rainbow Family of Light Gathering will be held at Bear Camp Flat, in the south Warners, July 1 through July 7 this year. The selection of the site was made last Friday by the Rainbow Spring Council.

The Rainbow Family held its 1984 gathering near the same spot at Camp One.

The Rainbow Family is advising members that the weather at that site will be a mixture of rain and snow and they should be prepared with the proper shelter, clothing and adequate foot gear.

According to the Rainbow information, the parking area for this year's event will be at Homestead Meadow.

Forest Service sends team for Rainbows

The U.S. Forest Service has sent a "National Incident Management Team" to manage the Rainbow Family Gathering, scheduled July 1-7 at Bear Camp Flats in the South Warners.

The team was formed in 1997 to manage large group events and consists of an Incident Commander and support staff, natural resource specialists and advisors, and approximately 40 law enforcement officers, including K-9 officers, mounted police officers, and patrol officers from the Forest Service, California Highway Patrol, Modoc County Sheriff's Department and Department of Fish and Game. Reports in other papers have put the number of people on the team at around 90.

The Forest Service insists the Rainbow gathering is required to have a non commercial group-use permit, required for gatherings of 75 or more on National Forest Lands. The Rainbow Family argues that they have a right to gather under the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. According to the U.S. Forest Service, as of June 14, no permit has been

signed by the any member of the Rainbow Family.

Actually, last year was the only time the Rainbow Family obtained a group-use permit, and that caused some consternation in the group. It's not clear whether anyone will sign the permit for this gathering. The Rainbow Family considers itself a leaderless organization and stated emphatically that no one person speaks or represents the group. The Forest Service has some difficulty accepting that definition.

What is clear is whether they sign the permit or not, the Gathering will still take place this July. While the Forest Service states that organizers and participants of the Gathering are subject to being cited for not obtaining a permit, it also realizes that forcefully removing them from the area is "not practical."

The permit issue weighs heavily on the Forest Service, while the Rainbow Family pretty much feel it's an infringement on their rights and has, for the most part, ignored the permit process for past events. In addition, The Rainbow Family feels it see Team, page 3

Modoc Forest to get family of 20,000

Published June 15, 2004

Rainbow Family to meet near Likely in July

By LEE JUILLERAT

The mountains near Modoc will be invaded by upwards of 20,000 people in coming weeks.

People from a group known as "The Rainbow Family of Living Light" have started gathering near Bearcamp, a remote mountain area in the Modoc National Forest's Warner Mountain Ranger District between Eagleville and Likely.

The location, which was not announced until late last week, is near the site of the Rainbow's 1984 gathering that was held at Camp One. An estimated 22,000 people of the loosely knit, counter-culture group attended that encampment.

National gatherings have been held annually on Forest Service lands since 1972. Over the past decade, gatherings have drawn between 10,000 and 20,000 people.

This year's gathering officially runs from July 1 to July 7. The expected high-point will be July 4 when people gather in a "Circle of Peace," a silent gathering to pray for world peace.

Modoc National Forest and Modoc County area law enforcement personnel have been meeting with Rainbow members since Friday. The group claims it has no leaders and says no member is an official spokesperson. A National Incident Management Team has been used since 1998 to manage Rainbow gatherings, which are held on different national forests. The specific gathering locations are announced only a few weeks before each gathering.

"At this point in time it is an illegal gathering," said Donna Wilson, the incident team's media representative. "We are hoping they will sign a permit and make this a legal gathering."

In 1995 the Forest Service implemented regulations that require group-use permits for noncommercial gatherings of 75 or more people on National Forest lands. Wilson said the regulations serve three purposes: promotion of public health and safety, protection of forest resources, and prevention of conflicts among users on National Forest System lands.

Rainbow members claim the permit requirement violates their First Amendment rights. If no permit is obtained, organizers and participants could be cited for failure to obtain the required permit. Violations have been successfully prosecuted for past gatherings. So far, 17 district courts and five federal courts of appeals have upheld the constitutionality of the Forest Service's noncommercial group use rule.

The gatherings create concerns because of impacts on small towns and resulting resource damage. This year the gathering will be near Likely, Eagleville and Alturas. Although the 1984 gathering went mostly without incident, some people say it took three years for water quality and other resource damage to be corrected.

In recent years, county and state governments have attempted to bill the Rainbow Family for resulting costs for law enforcement, hospital, garbage and other costs.



Herald and News

Klamath Falls, Oregon

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

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Archives

Modoc Forest to get family of 20,000

Published June 15, 2004

Rainbow Family to meet near Likely in July

By LEE JUILLERAT

The mountains near Modoc will be invaded by upwards of 20,000 people in coming weeks.

People from a group known as "The Rainbow Family of Living Light" have started gathering near Bearcamp, a remote mountain area in the Modoc National Forest's Warner Mountain Ranger District between Eagleville and Likely.

The location, which was not announced until late last week, is near the site of the Rainbow's 1984 gathering that was held at Camp One. An estimated 22,000 people of the loosely knit, counter-culture group attended that encampment.

National gatherings have been held annually on Forest Service lands since 1972. Over the past decade, gatherings have drawn between 10,000 and 20,000 people.

This year's gathering officially runs from July 1 to July 7. The expected high-point will be July 4 when people gather in a "Circle of Peace," a silent gathering to pray for world peace.

Modoc National Forest and Modoc County area law enforcement personnel have been meeting with Rainbow members since Friday. The group claims it has no leaders and says no member is an official spokesperson. A National Incident Management Team has been used since 1998 to manage Rainbow gatherings, which are held on different national forests. The specific gathering locations are announced only a few weeks before each gathering.

"At this point in time it is an illegal gathering," said Donna Wilson, the incident team's media representative. "We are hoping they will sign a permit and make this a legal gathering."

Redding

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North state forests brace for Rainbow' gathering

By Alex Breittier, Record Searchlight

June 4, 2004

There are no leaders, no laws and anyone with a bellybutton is invited.

One month from now, the "Rainbow Family" will flock 1960s-style to a national forest somewhere in Northern California for an annual gathering that could attract as many as 25,000 people.

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The loose-knit group of everyone from pierced teenage runaways to pleated Wall Street stockbrokers hasn't met in this state for 20 years.

Exactly where they'll set up their sprawling camp this time may not be decided until the end of next week, but Forest Service officials are bracing for crowds.

About a dozen forests have recommended remote spots for the Rainbows to consider. On the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, that includes locations near Hayfork and Mount Shasta.

Not only is it hard to find a spot for 5,000 cars to park, but officials have environmental and health and safety concerns, too. They'll form an "incident command team" just as they would for a major forest fire. As much as \$500,000 has been spent keeping past gatherings under control.

"In general, these folks do seem to have a fair amount of respect for the land and the planet," said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Matt Mathes. "There are always exceptions."

Rainbows say legendary stories of nude hippies, drugs and violence toward officers paint an unfair picture.

Just ask Karin Zirk, a 43-year-old database administrator from San Diego who has attended gatherings since the late 1980s. They appeal not just to the liberally minded, but conservatives as well, including Christians who hold Bible studies, she said.

"If you talk to 100 different people, they're going to explain to you that the gathering is about 100 different things," Zirk said.

Although scouts are already in the area, the gathering begins July 1 and culminates on Independence Day with roughly six hours of silence during which Rainbows stand in a massive circle and pray for peace. They camp in huts or lean-tos, dig their own latrines and establish their own kitchens, and keep busy hiking, singing, dancing or taking yoga classes.

Although the Forest Service says it would like the Rainbows to sign a permit, the group opposes that principle.

"They're citizens and they have a right to gather on public land," Mathes said.

Rainbows have been meeting across the continent since 1972. Although smaller groups have met near Castle Crags and Mount Shasta, the last full gathering in California was in the Modoc National Forest in 1984.

There, Rainbows volunteered to wait tables at the local cafe. One restaurant manager called them "well-behaved and good tipppers." But the Rainbows also used gas station restrooms to bathe, and residents reported Dumpster-divers in their neighborhoods.

To keep things safe, the group keeps its own pseudo-security force, called "Shanti Sena," or "Peace Army." And teams of Rainbows have stayed after for as many as several weeks to fill in the latrines, pick up garbage and cover up fire rings.

Klamath National Forest spokesman Brian Harris said his forest recommended two locations near Cedar Lake and

Rainbow remarks

The Rainbow Family's possible gathering in the north state this summer will be discussed at the Shasta County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday. The board meets at 9 a.m. at the Shasta County Courthouse, 1500 Court St., Room 203, in Redding.

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It was an eye-opening experience

Who could forget 40 naked people in car wash in a conservative community?

By Alex Brettler, Record Searchlight
June 4, 2004

EVANSTON, Wyo. — It was the summer no one in this Rocky Mountain town of 12,000 will ever forget.

The summer of the Rainbows.

Ask what it was like last year when the Family came to town, and folks seem to either snicker or sigh.

Grocer Gary Nelson recalls when 40 Rainbows crowded into a public car wash, stripped off their clothes and took a much-needed shower. Then again, how could he forget?

"That was quite the deal," he said with a country drawl.

For several weeks in June and July, conservative Evanston, which digs its roots in a rich railroad history, plowed head-on into a cultural freight train as the Rainbow Family held its annual gathering in the snowy mountains on the Utah-Wyoming border.

This town, which on its Web site promises visitors "a generous sharing of Wyoming friendship, a firm handshake and a genuine Howdy," suddenly found itself greeting panhandlers on every corner, said Nelson, who owns the Jubilee Market on the main drag.

One Rainbow member supposedly went into Wal-Mart and gave his hair a quick scrubbing with a produce hose. When store officials discarded those fruits and vegetables, the Rainbows wanted to scoop them up and take them with them.

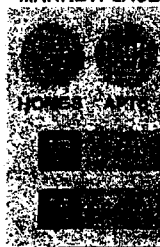
But most stayed at their camp, almost an hour's drive away, said Peggy Rounds, director of the Evanston Chamber of Commerce. And 10 inches of snow on the ground kept the gathering to a paltry 9,000 souls.

"We had just heard some horrific things," Rounds said. "But it really wasn't as bad as people thought it was going to be."

Things were fairly sane at the camp, said Bernard Asay, a U.S. Forest Service cultural resources expert who spent weeks at the 100-acre site with officials from as far away as North Carolina.

A car-towing prompted some Rainbows to toss snowballs and rocks at authorities, but most were conscientious campers who not only picked up their own garbage but trash left behind by hunters, Asay said.

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