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Holiday Trail of Lights to have new features

BY MAGGIE MARTIN • MAGGIEMARTIN@GANNETT.COM • OCTOBER 21, 2009

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New features for the Holiday Trail of Lights, which incorporates six north Louisiana and East Texas Cities, were announced Tuesday at the Gardens of the American Rose Center.



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Participating cities are Shreveport, Bossier City and Natchitoches and, in Texas, Jefferson, Marshall and Kilgore.

The events kick off Nov. 20 with a lighting ceremony at Louisiana Boardwalk, Bossier City. It features a 40-foot Christmas tree, 5,000 twinkling lights, performances by musical groups, a snow blizzard and Santa's first area appearance, according to a press release.

It ends New Year's Day with events at Sci-Port and in Jefferson, Texas, Kilgore, Texas.

Among the new events:

- A laser light show in the conservatory of the Barnwell Memorial Garden & Art Center, Shreveport. Gumbeaux Event Productions is working with the Barnwell to create a light show that will project not only lasers and break-up patterns, but will incorporate such custom holiday light patterns as snowflakes, stars and candy canes. It will be projected on the dome and walls and throughout the conservatory on Dec. 3, 8, 15, 17 and 22.

- The Benton Christmas on the Square Parade on Dec. 12, replacing the Bossier Chamber of Commerce Parade held for several years in Bossier City.

- More lights and four new displays in Marshall, Texas, Wonderland of Lights. They've added a touch of mystery into the opening ceremony, which means a mystery guest will appear on stage to flip the switch and turn on the Wonderland Lights.

Also new in Marshall: A scavenger hunt, Christmas play, family fun run, craft fair and Battle of the Christmas Choirs Competition.

- Live nativity scene at Hidden Oak Farms Petting Zoo, just past Old Oaks Golf Course, Bossier City. Dates to be announced.

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During the festivities, there are home tours, fireworks displays, plays, movies and parties and ice skating and other events presented by participating organizations.

For more information, call (318) 222-9391.

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