

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CHRISTMAS TREE ARRIVES AT U.S. CAPITOL NOVEMBER 24

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree is scheduled to arrive at the West Front of the Capitol along First Street, NW, at approximately 10 a.m. on Monday, November 24, 2008. Once it is secured in the ground, the tree will be decorated with more than 5,000 ornaments crafted by people from across Montana that reflects this year’s theme, “Sharing Montana’s Treasures.” The ornaments will depict the state’s heritage, historical events or people, and natural resources.

This year’s tree — a 70-foot Subalpine Fir — is coming from Montana’s Bitterroot National Forest. The tree was harvested earlier this month and is making its trek across the country on its way to Washington, D.C.

The tree will be lit by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi during a ceremony on Tuesday, December 2 on the West Front lawn of the U.S. Capitol beginning at 5 p.m. Acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, will serve as master of ceremonies.

As part of the Architect of the Capitol’s continuing commitment to save energy, for the 4th year in a row, strands of LED (Light Emitting Diodes) lights will be used to decorate the entire tree. LED lights use little electricity, have an extremely long life-span, and are environmentally friendly.

“The arrival of the Capitol Christmas Tree is a beautiful holiday tradition,” said Speaker Pelosi. “This year, the people of Montana have the unique honor of sharing their tree and ornaments with all Americans. May their tree light the way for a joyous holiday season. With future generations in mind, I am so pleased that energy-efficient lighting will again be used on the tree this year.”

The Capitol Christmas Tree has been a tradition at the U.S. Capitol since 1964. The tree will be lit from night fall until 11 p.m. each evening through December 28, 2008.

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