

## Dispatch upgrade improves fire, safety

The new dispatch console system at the Warm Springs Police Department addresses a long-standing public safety issue on the reservation.

"We call it our lifeline," Fire and Safety Chief Dan Martinez said of the dispatch system. "It's a vital component of the 911 system, and it has to have 100 percent reliability."

Until recently, Warm Springs Fire and Safety, and the police department were relying on an old console system that would at times fail, sometimes during critical incidents. Also, the fire responders and the police were on the same frequency; so dispatch could not address the departments separately, even when they were responding to separate incidents.

The Warm Springs Public Safety Committee a few years ago identified the replacement of the old dispatch console as a top priority.

"We looked at all of the telecommunications issues



Dispatcher Earlene Tufti and Lt. "Bear" Tias at the new console system.

Courtesy photo.

facing the reservation," said Adam Haas, telecommunications strategic planner who has worked with the tribes. "And the number one priority was identified as police, fire and public utilities communications."

Total cost for a new system is about \$110,000. Through the Planning Department, the tribes obtained a Homeland Security grant to cover the cost, and the

new system was recently installed.

There is a primary console, and a backup. Also, police and fire can talk with dispatch on two separate frequencies.

The new system is a major improvement for the reservation, but a lot still needs to be done, Haas said.

"This was a first step in a long-term process," he said.

A next step will be a 120-foot telecommunications tower on Miller Flat, at a site owned by the tribes.

This would provide greater coverage of the reservation. Ultimately, Haas said, the goal would be to connect the reservation with fiber optics.

— by Dave McMechan

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## Warm Springs Community Calendar

### Wednesday, Dec. 30

**Simnasho End of the Year Round Dance**, potluck starting at 6 p.m. Simnasho Longhouse. Call Captain for more information, 553-7014. Everyone welcome. Help and donations welcome.

**Mad Hatters Party** from 2-4 p.m. at the Warm Springs Community Center. There will be a hat designing contest with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Yummy food, fun games. See you there. For more information, call the Community Wellness Center at 553-3243.

Today at noon there will be **Yoga class** at the Community Center.

**The Red Road For Parents** meets every Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the upstairs lecture room at the Warm Springs Community Counseling Center.

### Thursday, Dec. 31

**Simnasho New Years Eve Powwow**, starting with potluck at 5 p.m. Call Captain for information, 553-7014. (Also see page 12.)

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will allow **early release** for New Year's Eve. Employees who are present for a full day of work on Wednesday will get off work at 3 p.m. Employees with kids at Early Childhood Education need to pick them up by 3:30.

### Monday, Jan. 4

Today at noon there will be **Cardio class** at the Community Center.

A combined **culture activity and language class** will be in Carol's Room at the Community Center with 4-H and the Language Program. Mondays 4-5 p.m. is Ichishkin day, Wednesdays 4-5 p.m. is Kiksht, and Thursdays 4-5 p.m. is Numu.

A **woman's support group** meets this evening from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services office.

### Tuesday, Jan. 5

Today at noon there will be **Body Flex class** at the Community Center.

Community Counseling

presents the **Red Road For Youth**, a weekly program designed to help kids find their role in community. They meet every Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the upstairs lecture room of the Warm Springs Community Counseling Center.

### Wednesday, Jan. 6

Today at noon there will be **Yoga class** at the Community Center.

There's a **4-H "for fun"** after school activity every Wednesday afternoon 4-5pm downstairs at the Education Building with Merle Kirk.

**The Red Road For Parents** is a 12 week program that teaches parents the tools required to meet the challenges that raising adolescents can bring. They meet every Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the upstairs lecture room at the Warm Springs Community Counseling Center.

### Thursday, Jan. 7

Today at noon there will be **Core Strength class** at the

Community Center.

There's a **4-H after school activity** Thursday 3:30-5pm at the Education Building. It's "Dance For Fun" with Merle Kirk.

There is **group dance practice** every Thursday from 5-6:30 in the aerobics room at the Warm Springs Community Center. The group is open to all ages.

**Narcotics Anonymous** will meet Thursday from 6-7:30pm in the Family resource Center conference room.

### Friday, Jan. 8

Today at noon there will be **Body Flex class** at the Community Center.

The Madras High School boys basketball team takes on Summit at 7 p.m.; listen to KWSO for live play by play coverage of the game.

### Monday, Jan. 11

Today at noon there will be **Cardio class** at the Community Center.

A combined **culture activity and language class** will be in Carol's Room at the

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