

# Telecom expanding service with new towers

## Cooperation with Public Safety means better service for all

By Adam Haas  
Converge Communications

Have you noticed new towers going up on the Reservation? Have you wondered what was going on?

By the end of this summer, four new communications towers will be installed or upgraded throughout the reservation to help bring better phone and internet service to homes.

The new towers will also improve two-way radio coverage for first-responders in Seekseequa, Simnasho, Schoolie Flats and Sidwalter.

Made possible through a series of Department of Homeland Security grants, these projects will improve inter-operable radio communications in and around the reservation.

In addition to the funding received from Homeland Security, Warm Springs Telecom will be able to expand its service area, as it

completes its \$5.6 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project.

More good news is that Warm Springs Telecom and the Public Safety Branch are working closely together to combine their funding resources for the benefit of all tribal members.

### New towers

W.S. Telecom installed two new towers just this past month.

The first, a 120-foot tower located on Schoolie Flats, will serve homes in Schoolie Flats and Simnasho with fixed-wireless phone and internet service.

The second tower, located above the Pelton Dam, will provide similar services to residents along the Deschutes River and to additional residents in the Warm Springs agency area.

The Telecom will activate service at those two towers by the end of September.

Also in the spirit of shared resources, a federal Homeland Security grant paid for the installation of an electrical system for the existing Sidwalter Lookout Tower.



Courtesy W.S. Telecom

New Seekseequa tower and Radio Shelter, a joint project of Warm Springs Telecom and the Public Safety Branch.

The grant was to the tribes' Public Safety Branch, while Warm Springs Telecom paid

for the installation of a radio equipment shelter at that location. Both were installed last month.

Within the next two months, the Public Safety Branch will install two new radio repeaters at Sidwalter Lookout. Warm Springs Telecom plans to have their new service available around the same time.

### Seekseequa project

Meanwhile, tribal members living in Seekseequa may have noticed recently that a new tower has been installed above Seekseequa Junction.

This 140-foot tower was funded through a Homeland Security grant and will house radio repeaters for the police and fire departments.

For this site, the Warm Springs Telecom covered the cost of a radio shelter, which will eventually house the tribal Telecom's equipment for residential phone and internet service.

Jose Matanane, Telecom general manager, said of these joint projects, "The sharing of telecommunication infrastructure between

*"We are also going to work on installing a fiber optic link from Warm Springs to Madras to attract more high tech opportunities to the tribes..."*

Lonny Macy, planner

the Public Safety Branch and Warm Springs Telecom is really unique within Indian Country, and could serve as a model for other tribal nations.

Matanane added, "By pooling resources, both organizations extend their capabilities and leverage each dollar invested for the benefit of all tribal members. This is another example of our commitment to serve the entire reservation with advanced communications."

According to tribal planner, Lonny Macy, these projects are the result of many years of planning.

"We have taken a phased approach to building out the

public safety radio network," Macy said, "with a total of seven grants being implemented since 2007."

Warm Springs Telecom has leveraged its installations, funded through their federal stimulus dollars, for the benefit of Public Safety. "This helps everyone on the reservation," Macy said.

He also acknowledged that there is still more work to be done.

"These new installations won't improve cell phone coverage, and we know that wider cell phone coverage is a strong need for tribal members," Macy said.

"That's something we are talking to the cell phone providers about. We are also going to work on installing a fiber optic link from Warm Springs to Madras to attract more high tech opportunities to the tribes, part of the next development phase of Warm Springs Telecom."

*The Warm Springs Telecommunications Company is a tribally chartered enterprise whose mission is to bring advanced broadband services to the Warm Springs tribes, including voice, data and video.*

## Warm Springs Community Calendar

Brought to you by KWSO 91.9 FM

### Wednesday, August 7

The Inaugural Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival will be held August 7-10 at the Parkrose High School Performing Arts Center in Portland. Performers include Joy Harjo & the Arrow Dynamics Band, The Pura Fe Quartet, John Trudell & Bad Dog, and more.

Recreation's Family Jamboree Day is today from 2-6 p.m. behind the Warm Springs Community Center.

A "Positive Brain Injury" Support Group for survivors will meet Wednesday from 4:30- 6 p.m. at 124 SW 8th Street in Redmond. FMI: Nancy 541-330-4428.

All Warm Springs Higher Education students should attend the **Cooking for College** class from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Education Building.

### Thursday, August 8

There is Thursday Night team roping practice at the Warm Springs Rodeo Arena, Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. To learn more call 541-325-2026.

The next **Wellness of Warm Springs Lunch** will be on today at noon in the Large Conference Room at the Family Resource Center. The topic will be Vision & Hearing and Lunch Will Be Served to Participants.

**Arts & Crafts** are on the agenda all day today at Warm Springs Recreation. In the game room - it's Throwback Atari Thursday from 1-2 p.m. and Wii from 2:15 til 4:15. There are ac-

tivities held every day at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the gym.

### Friday, August 9

The deadline to apply for Warm Springs **Head Start** is today. Head Start is a free preschool program for children 3-5 years old. Applications are available at ECE.

Today in **Carol's Room** at the Community Center - kids will work on arts and crafts projects and then it's Friday Popcorn and a Movie time at 2:30. There is a daily fitness program for youth at 9 a.m. in the gym.

### Sunday, August 11

Warm Springs Community Counseling has Adult Drop-In Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Adults are welcome to stop by between 8 and 9:30am for a light snack, conversation and an activity. FMI: Rick Ribeiro 553-3205.

### Monday, August 12

**Kids at Recreation** today will check on the pumpkin patch this morning and then go back to the center for Breakfast around the World - they are having a waffle party. It's craft time this afternoon in Carol's Room. It's "X-Box Monday" in the game room from 2 til 4:45 p.m. Daily outdoor activities from 1:30 to 3:45 include badminton, archery and croquet.

Warm Springs **Teen Prevention Conference** for youth 13 and older will be held today at the Community Center Social Hall. Registration will begin at

8:30 a.m. and sessions are from 9 til 4. A free concert for all participants will be at 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, August 13

Today at **Recreation** - they will be playing big board games from 10am until noon and there will be water play this afternoon from 2 til 4. There are activities held every day at 10am and 4pm in the gym.

The IHS Diabetes program will have a **Diabetes Self Care Session** on August 13 from 11 til noon and lunch after in the Health & Wellness Center Kitchen Conference Room. They will talk about being active and coping with diabetes.

There's a **Food Handler's Class** on August 13 from 2-4 p.m. in the IHS atrium.

There will be a **Warm Springs Chamber of Commerce** meeting on Tuesday at 5:30 at the Community Action Team office on Campus.

### Wednesday, August 14

Today at **Recreation** - "Art-bration" a Celebration of Art will be happening from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. An Ice Cream Social is planned for today too. There is a daily fitness program for youth at 9 a.m. in the gym.

### Thursday, August 15

There is Thursday Night **team roping** practice at the Warm Springs Rodeo Arena, Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. To learn more call 541-325-2026.

**Recreation** will take kids on a Mystery Trip today. In the game room - it's Throwback Atari Thursday from 1-2 p.m. and Wii from 2:15 til 4:15. Daily outdoor activities from 1:30 to 3:45 include badminton, archery and croquet.

### Friday, August 16

The **Spino Memorial Wildhorse Race** - in memory of Ronnie Morning Owl, Lowell Spino and Earl Spino - will be held during

the Wasco County Fair August 16-17.

Most offices in the tribal organizations will be closed for business this Friday.

### Saturday, August 17

A **potluck dinner and prayer gathering** for the Warm Springs Christian community will be at 6 p.m. at the High Looksee Lodge Tribal Room. You are invited to unite in prayer for the community, churches and families. This community gathering takes place the third Saturday of each month.

### Monday, August 19

**Kids at Recreation** today will check on the pumpkin patch this morning and then go back to the center for Breakfast around the World - they are having a pancake party. It's craft time this afternoon in Carol's Room. It's "X-Box Monday" in the game room from 2 til 4:45pm. There are activities held every day at 10am and 4pm in the gym.

The Native People's Circle of Hope Warm Springs **Cancer Support** Group meets from 5-7 p.m. at the Education Building.

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