

In Case of Emergency

Calling on the ham radio operators

How would you communicate from the reservation in the case of a widespread disaster?

After an earthquake, or during a major storm, when the internet, phones and power are not working—How could the emergency response teams communicate with each other?

The best way would be with an Amateur, or ‘ham’ radio.

The tribes’ Emergency Management Department, working with the Warm Springs Telecom, acquired one of these radios earlier this year.

The tribes made the purchase with a state grant, after Emergency Management director Dan Martinez lobbied on behalf of the tribes.

Law requires training and an FCC license before a person can operate a ham radio. Josh Richesin at the Telecom has a license, but it was important for Emergency Management to have licensed operators as well, Martinez was saying recently.

Lorena Medina and Neal MorningOwl were the perfect candidates, he said. And this month they both received their Amateur radio licenses.



Lorena Medina and Neal MorningOwl demonstrate the use of the ham radio at the Warm Springs Telecom.

They took the required course in Spokane during the 2016 Emergency Preparedness Conference, and received their licenses and call numbers last week. They can now operate the tribes’ Amateur radio system, housed at the Warm Springs Telecom.

Lorena and Neal are 2014 graduates of Madras High

School. Neal has been working at Emergency Management for two years, and Lorena for five years. She started with the department as a summer youth worker while still in high school.

Warm Springs is now the only tribe in the U.S. with certification as a ham radio hub in case of emergency.

Lorena is first Native American woman licensed to operate this type of radio.

Ham radio is the best form of communication during extreme emergencies because this type of radio can communicate for distances of hundreds, or even thousands of miles. By comparison, a walkie-talkie can reach in the range of around 30 miles.

The emergency response to Hurricane Katrina, and the 9-11 attack, for instance, relied on the ham radio operators.

Public safety radio

Over the past 10 years, Warm Springs Public Safety Branch and Emergency Management have been working to build out the public safety radio network on the reservation.

This is critical for the protection of the people reservation, enabling first-responders to have two-way, inter-operable communications.

The emergency preparedness team has built new towers, shared with the Warm Springs Telecom, to place the necessary equipment.

They have purchased new repeaters, hand-helds,

and mobile equipment, meeting the new federal standards.

These upgrades ensure inter-operable communications between the various Warm Springs departments, including police and fire, and outside agencies.

The team secured the purchase of new dispatch consoles and software, and created a new inter-operable microwave link with the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department.

All of these initiatives enhance the protection and safety of the people on the reservation.

The ham radio project is a recent example of this public safety program. A ham radio repeater was installed on Eagle Butte last year.

The tribes and Warm Springs Telecom developed a plan calling for the Telecom to serve as the back-up communication site and secondary command post for disaster preparedness and communications.

The two new licensed ham radio operators at Emergency Management are the most recent addition to the program.

— Dave McMechan

Recreation Bead Swap

Warm Springs Recreation is having a Bead Swap at 5:30 p.m. this Thursday, May 26.

The swap will be at the community center social hall. This is a get-together for bead lovers to swap or sell beads, and to share their projects and techniques.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the fiscal year 2016 Indian Reservation Roads Transportation Improvement program for the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

The 2016 Indian Reservation Road Transportation Improvement Program for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is available for public review and comment at the Warm Springs Planning Department.

Planning is located in the administration building, 1233 Veterans Street, Warm Springs.

Written comments can be mailed to the Planning Department at P.O. Box C, Warm Springs, OR, 97761.

The Transportation Planner will be available, in person, at the Planning Department from 2 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1. This will be a chance to present information, answer questions and take comments on the proposed project list.

Comments should be received before close of business on Friday, June 10, 2016.

For more information, call the Planning Office at 541-553-3509.

Alcohol Education classes at Community Counseling are every Tuesday from 1:15-2:30 p.m. at the center. For any questions, please call Flint Scott or Robert Main Jr., at 541-553-3205.

Boys & Girls Club summer program starts June 13

The Boys & Girls Club of Warm Springs will begin the summer program on Monday, June 13.

Club hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The club provides a positive place where youth, ages 5 years and older, can

participate in gym activities, outdoor play, special projects and more.

The summer membership fee is \$25. There is a \$10 daily fee for non-member attendees. The club will be open Monday through Friday in

June, July and August.

The summer meal program will be for youth up to the age of 18. The lunch will be provided on site. The club is located at the Warm Springs Youth Center, 1112 Wasco Street.

You can reach the club at 541-553-2323.

Returning members this summer will have to update their medical information and emergency contacts (see Alexxis). New members will need to complete a member-

ship form.

There are three basic rules that youth must follow while attending the club: Respect each other, respect all staff, and respect the equipment and facility.

Forty-Seventh Pi-Ume-Sha coming up in a month

Food Gathering—Usual and Accustomed is the theme of this year’s Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days, June 24-26.

This year the powwow is marking the One-Hundred and Sixty-First anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of

1855.

This will be the Forty-Seventh year for the individual and team dance competitions, held at the Pi-Ume-Sha field.

There will be Ol’ Style, and other Specials. Men’s Round Bustle and Women’s Shell

Dress. Three-person hand drum. Owl and Rabbit Dance; and Queen’s Special. The Miss Warm Springs Special. And the Traditional Dress Parade.

You can reach Cassie Katchia at 541-325-1573 (c);

541-553-6293 (w); and Louise Katchia, 541-460-0224. Here are some other contact numbers:

Traditional Dress Parade, Ramona Greene Bacz, 541-553-2406; 460-0077.

Stick Game Tourna-

ment, Sam Starr, 541-553-1131.

Endurance Horse Race, Ricky Graybael, 541-553-1161. **Rodeo**, Cheryl Tom, 541-460-1454.

Boxing, Austin Smith, 541-325-2798. **Softball**, Sandra Greene/Jerry Sampson, 541-553-6619; 325-1866.

COCC commencement on June 11

The Central Oregon Community College commencement ceremony will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, at the Mazama Field on the COCC Bend Campus.

Of the more than 880 graduates receiving degrees and certificates, approximately 350 are expected to participate in the ceremony. Five students will be hon-

ored by the college for their outstanding achievements. A reception will follow in the courtyard of the Coats Campus Center.

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