

Telecom dedication

The Warm Springs Telecom ribbon cutting ceremony is this Friday, Jan. 27, starting with greetings at 11 a.m., opening prayer and songs at 11:30. The Telecom offices are located by the industrial park, at 3240 Walsey Lane.

Wasco Dancers, and lunch start at 12 noon, with speakers beginning shortly after. The keynote speaker will be Dallas Tonsager, Under Secretary, Rural Development U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Introduction of the Warm Springs Telecom staff, and the ribbon-cutting are at 1:30. "I am so excited," said Danica Greene, Telecom customer service manager. "I'm excited that we'll be providing this service, working one-on-one with people."

With the service provider on the reservation, she said, "I think that gives people a sense of comfort."

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The Warm Springs Telecom will build a state-of-the-art fiber and fixed wireless network and eventually serve everyone on the reservation with telephone and Broadband.

As the Telecom has received its federal certification, the company will also be able to offer Tribal Lifeline services, enabling eligible tribal members to receive telephone services for \$1 per month.

The ribbon cutting and welcoming ceremonies will be at the Telecom central office and customer service center by the industrial park, 4202 Holliday St.

The ceremonies will dedicate

the newest enterprise of the Confederated Tribes. The Warm Springs Telecom is only the ninth tribal telecommunications company in the U.S.

The W.S. Telecom, five years in planning and development, received \$5.6 million in federal funding in 2010.

This enabled the years of planning to come to fruition.

About 5,000 members and others live on the Warm Springs Reservation.

Unlike most American communities, only approximately 60 percent of reservation residents have access to basic telephone service, and less than 30 percent have DSL service.