

## Teleco prepares for beta testing

By Duran Bobb

*Spilyay Tymoo*

With facility construction complete at the old apparel building, next month the reservation will take one more step towards the 21st century when Warm Springs Telecommunications Company fires up the equipment to begin beta testing.

Beta testing allows a company to test a product or service by providing it to a few customers to try out.

Last week the teleco staff began moving into the new office, located next door to Construction.

"Finally we're starting to get the central office equipment installed," Warm Springs Ventures general manager Jeff Anspach said. "We've purchased the meta-switch, which is the big switch-

board. This is state-of-the-art equipment, with all sorts of bells and whistles."

This is an important step towards the goal of an opening date this November.

"Generally, you have your first customer as a beta tester who is on for a month while you work through the bugs in your system," Anspach said. "You have to make sure it's pretty air-tight before you end up taking on other customers, so you know your system will perform as advertised. But we're moving along pretty fast. Now, we start moving in and install the equipment before we deploy the plan."

The plan is to build two extra towers, one in Simnasho and one in Seekseequa.

See TELECO BETA TESTING on 7

## Teleco beta testing

(Continued from page 1)

"These towers would be tall enough to supplement the Sidwalter tower. Once we get those in place, we'll get the fiber running in."

Bandwidth on the reservation is expected to more than quadruple in capacity, which many broadband customers should notice right away.

Some of the fiber optic lines have been buried on the reservation. However, there's more work to do, more fiber to lay. "When we applied for funds, we didn't think the casino would be right down the road. So we have to change some thing around. This project is constantly moving."

But so far, the project is entirely on budget and within the

expected timeline.

When the telco begins providing residential customers with service in November, the broadband connection will be on a fixed loop.

Customers will receive a wireless router which will connect to a canopy antenna on the roof of their home. This antenna will be aimed at one of the towers.

"This is going to deliver the telephone line dial tone and also the broadband through the same little antenna. That's the quick and easy way to deploy broadband."

The Warm Springs Telecommunications Co. plans to get the service into place this year and then cover the reservation entirely next year.