

# MADISON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Nov / Dec - 2009 - Jan 2010

by Steve DiGiovanna Communications / DES2

*"behind every great fortune is a crime - to one degree or another"*



## Concrete is poured for the IM Repeater Towers

The concrete foundations for both the Sierra and the Virginia City Pass repeater sites have been completed. The sites were excavated in October and November and the concrete work was done shortly thereafter.

The Sierra repeater site, located deep in the Ruby mountains was completed first. A lot of help was given by the Madison County road crews to clear the snow and improve the road conditions so the concrete trucks could make the climb.

Though the sun was shining, the winds were cold and steady with temperatures only in the upper twenties by the end of the day.

The all day pour went well, even with limited accessibility and snowy roads. The round trip drive for each concrete truck was near 80 miles. A large part of that trip being forged through winding mountain roads to the 8136' site

elevation at the top of the Ruby's.

The second site to be completed was the Virginia City Pass site, which is located next to the existing FAA tower. The site can be seen from the road that runs from Virginia City to Ennis.

According to Titan Concrete manager Ryan Hill, that was one of the most difficult jobs they have done recently. With only 4 miles of fairly tame dirt roads, the site is not hard to reach. However, weather conditions turned completely unfavorable once the job began.

Blinding snow conditions, wet, slick, snow covered roads, temperatures in the teens and an unrelenting wind created miserable work conditions.

When the snow clears and Spring returns, the towers and pre-fabricated radio structures should be installed.

# Sheriff's Office Communication Department

## NEW PART TIME DISPATCHER HIRED



L to R Asst. TAC Officer Lynda Holt, Trainee Connie Bauer and TAC Supervisor Janet Fortner on Connie's first training day.

Sheridan resident Connie Bauer started training with the Sheriff's Office Communication Center on January 4th, 2010. Connie will spend two weeks training with TAC Supervisor Janet Fortner. She will then rotate through several different shifts for two more weeks working "hands on" with a variety of experienced Communication Officers.

Connie's final two weeks will be spent fine tuning her skills, as she works again with Janet Fortner. The initial six week training should prepare Connie for a multitude of tasks and requirements in the Communication Center. Connie will attend a week long training at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy in Helena later this year.

Connie is a native of Elko, Nevada where she spent more than 20 years as a Police Officer in that city. Connie and her ex-police officer husband moved to Madison County after both retired from law enforcement careers.

Communication Officers are special county employees with some of the most difficult "multi tasking" expectations that can be asked of an individual.

In addition to remembering a lot of complicated computer based information, Communication Officers are tasked with performing under incredible pressure, with demanding callers and inquisitive first responders.

## Altered Dispatch Procedures

The Communication Center dispatch procedures have been altered in an effort to streamline the dispatch process.

Starting January 1st when a call is dispatched, Communication Officers will tone the responding agencies for a series of three tone alerts (just as in the past) - however - on the first two tone alerts - only the agency, chief complaint and address will be announced.

The third tone alert in the series will carry all the pertinent information about the incident (agency responding, chief complaint, address of incident and pertinent instructions or applicable information).

Once the units are responding, the dispatcher can fill in the first responders with any additional information gathered after the initial page out.

Priority (Immediate Need) Law Enforcement calls will be handled in a different manner as well.

When a Communication Officer receives a priority law enforcement request, the Communication Center will immediately issue a radio generated tone alert for 5 seconds. Following the tone, the dispatcher will announce the call to the law enforcement units.

The law enforcement change comes in this manner: The Communication Center will no longer hail an officer on the radio before announcing the call.

All on duty law enforcement personnel should continuously monitor their radios. When a priority call (immediate need) is phoned in to dispatch, the Communication Officer only needs to generate the radio tone and announce the call.

For priority law enforcement calls that also require Fire or EMS to be dispatched, the radio generated tones will not be utilized because the pager tones will be activated for first responder notification.