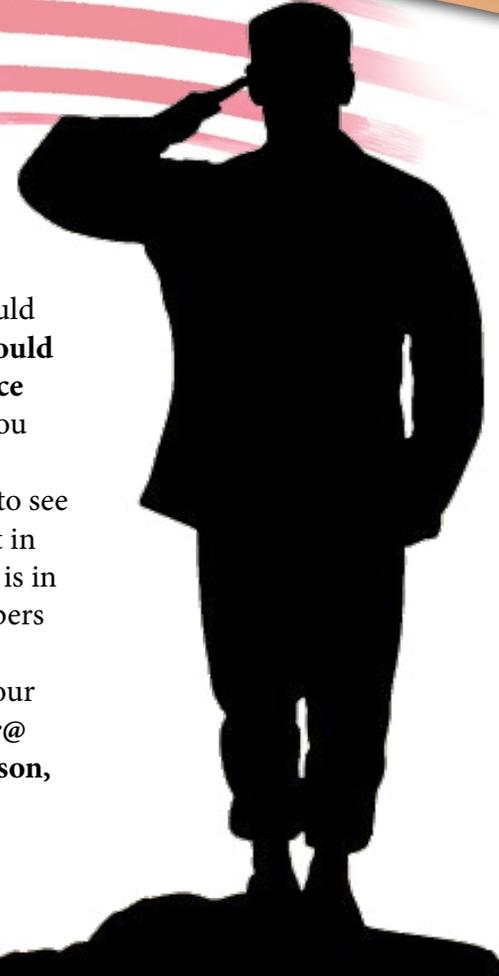


## Note to WRCTC and Grand Electric Members

Please remember to write separate checks to WRCTC and Grand Electric when paying your bills. Although both companies are located in the same building, they are separate entities. Thank you!

## WANTED: Pictures of Veterans

For the past several years, we have shown a video at our Annual Meeting to honor our veterans. This year we would like to make the presentation a bit more personal. **We would like to feature photographs of veterans from our service area!** Have you served in any form of the military? Do you have a dad, mom, son, daughter, aunt or uncle who has served or is currently serving? 797-4446 We would love to see YOUR photos! We are looking for pictures of the subject in uniform, from years past to present. Please identify who is in the picture and their military rank. Help us honor members of the communities West River Cooperative Telephone Company serves by allowing us to share your photos at our Annual Meeting. **Please email your photos to westriver@sdplains.com or mail them to WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620, by August 30, 2013.**



Like us  
on facebook

facebook.com/WRCTC

## 2014 Directory - All things BARNS!

Barns often hold a mystery to them, whether they are new or old. Each one tells a story. That's why we have 456-2628 chosen barns as the theme for our new 2014 WRCTC directory. Capture a photo of a barn, send it to us, and you could win \$100!

**Deadline for entering is Friday, August 23, 2013.**

Email pictures to westriver@sdplains.com or mail to: WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

For full details on rules and restrictions, please visit [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop).



### inside this issue

Guest Column .....	2
Tyler Heil's FRS Trip.....	2-4
Anniversary .....	3
From the Mailbox .....	4
New Members.....	4
Find Your Number .....	4



*Guest Column  
by Colle Nash, Director of Operations*

## Construction is Upon Us Again

WRCTC's construction season is upon us. If you are planning to do any new construction (new home, business, out building, etc.), please don't wait until fall to put in your request. Contact WRCTC at 777 or 605-244-5213 and get put on the list now to 376-3140 ensure we can get the service built in 2013.

We continue to upgrade our plant. This year we have scheduled builds in the Towns of Newell and Vale and the rural Buffalo Exchange. This process involves many people to ensure the projects get completed on time. In addition to seeing WRCTC employees working in your area, you may also notice our consulting engineering firm who will have people in the area to do staking, acquiring permits, etc. WRCTC greatly appreciates your patience and cooperation

with all entities involved. As always, WRCTC strives to bring you the latest technologies and improved services at the lowest cost possible.

Although we appreciate the recent 866-4547 rains our area has been blessed with, we have experienced two washouts with the much needed rains that affected our fiber optic cables. We had a cable wash out near Sand Creek along Highway 212 and another fiber optic cable washed out near Frog Creek along Highway 79. If in your travels you see an exposed cable or an area where a cable may run that is washing out, please contact our office and let us know. We would be more than happy to check it out and make the necessary repairs.

## Tyler Heil Returns from Washington, D.C. with a Story to Tell!

Wow, what a wonderful trip to our Nation's Capital! In the few days that the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) group was there, we did so much! Every aspect of the trip was amazing, there was really nothing that could have gone any better! The day I left (June 1), I became nervous after I went through the airport security in Bismarck! I was a little nervous to be flying for the first time and also was really nervous about the next airport, but at the same time I was very excited to finally get the chance to see the town in which all our governmental issues take place! I was also very excited to be meeting new people! That day when I got to Minneapolis to make the plane switch it took me a little bit of time to figure out where the next gate was and once I did, in front of the gate I met other FRS group members.

Sunday was amazing. I woke up right as the sun was rising which really made my day! It was beautiful! Then it was time for the day's activities to unfold! The first stop was Arlington National Cemetery. This was probably the greatest part of that day! As we drove through the cemetery on the tram, all that could be seen were the headstones of fallen soldiers many of which had wilted roses placed on top or beside them (Gave me chills). Here, we also got 374-3632 to see the Kennedy Memorial, and the eternal flame, which was amazing! At about five to the hour, we arrived at The Tomb of the Unknown, it was so quiet here I could have easily heard a pin drop. At the top of the hour, we witnessed the changing of



**Tyler with the Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol building and monuments in the background.**

## Anniversary



Andy Arthur recently celebrated 10 years in the telecommunications industry. Andy is a Journeyman Combination Technician for West River Cooperative 456-2532 Telephone Company. Prior to coming to work for WRCTC on May 27, 2007, Andy worked for Venture Communications in Onida as a Telephone Area Technician.

Andy grew up in Philip graduating from Philip High School and Mitchell Technical Institute with a degree in Telecommunications.

Andy and his wife Kaye live at Shadehill and have three children: Coby, Colt and Emma. In his spare time, Andy enjoys hunting, fishing and being outdoors.

the guard which was a very memorable experience for me. We also visited the Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial. From here, my group members and I walked back to our bus through the cemetery. The next place we visited was the Smithsonian Museums where my group and I toured the National Museum of the American Indian, The Sculpture Garden, the National Air and Space Museum, and the National Museums of American and Natural History. Out of all of these, the National Museum of 257-0076 American History was probably my favorite.

Later that evening, we got to go on a night tour of D.C. which included The White House, The Lincoln Memorial, and many more which was very beautiful and made me think of the song

“The Eighth of November,” by Big and Rich! Then it was time to go back to the hotel and socialize with friends and get ready for bed.

Monday was also very amazing! The day started with an educational session where I learned a lot about the Rural Broadband Association, and how we got to where we are and what is probable in the future. The best part of this session was the video documentary entitled, “Connecting Rural America.” After that, we were off to Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington! It was completely beautiful here. The views of the Potomac River were phenomenal. The most memorable part, however, was being told that I was standing about three feet from the exact bed where Washington was found dead! Later, we also toured the National Cathedral which was very breathtaking! Then it was time to get back to the hotel to change and get ready for the “Team Name Skit and Contest.” There were many great skits and names. We would not know which team won until the next morning at breakfast. The skit and team name bonded us as a small group and was also fun.

After very little sleep, I arrived at Tuesday breakfast where I learned that the team I was on had won the skit and name contest. We were the black dot 375-3968 team and had chosen the name Black Rangers. After breakfast, we attended an interesting educational session at the Federal Communications Commission! Here we learned all about what the FCC does and about distracted driving. Then we took group photos and were off to the Newseum! The Newseum was amazing especially all the parts



Tyler (right) poses with some new friends in front of the FCC emblem.

(continued on page 4)

Tyler shaking George Washington's hand.



## New WRCTC Members

### Bison, Meadow, Sorum

Besler, Brad (Shop)	244-5674
Bootz, Pat & Connie (Lake Cabin)	788-2844
McKnight, Aaron	244-7644
McNulty, Jerry & Jean	866-4436
Seim, Justin & Joanna	788-2228
Senn, Tanner & Breann Nelson	244-5510

### Buffalo, Camp Crook

Eddie, Craig	797-4674
Garrett, Jesika	375-3148
Richards, Sonny	375-3596

### Lemmon

Becker, Alex	374-4296
Dickinson, Bill & Margaret	374-4300
Lynch, Ryan	374-4307
Moore, Nellie	374-5503
Schiley, Roy & Karin (Grand River Ranch)	374-4308
Sigvaldsen, Tyler	376-4306
Sonesen, Tyler	376-4311
Wheeler, Lyndsey	374-4274

### Newell

Blalock, Clint & Jeanne	456-4357
Carney, Sean & Jani	456-3692
Hopper, Les & Gena	456-3585
Mahaffy, Ronnie & Vonda	456-3677
Rolph, Matt	456-2015

### Change

Albright, Jessica	from	257-2811
	to	456-3696
Kari, Chase	from	244-7539
	to	866-4541
Kari, Ernie	from	866-4416
	to	244-7532

## Find Your Phone #

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in the last newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Keith Franke, Belle Fourche; Kurt Hocking, Newell; Lennice Parker, Lemmon and Betty Terrill, Vale. Hidden in this issue are ten new numbers. If you find your number, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$10 will then be deducted off your telephone bill. New connect numbers do not count. **Deadline is July 22, 2013.**

## From the Mailbox



WRCTC Scholarship Committee,  
*Thank you so much for the opportunity to apply for and receive the WRCTC scholarship. This money will help in defraying college costs. Thank you again. I truly appreciate it.*

*Sincerely,*

Megan Serr, Bison

\$500 Scholarship Recipient

## Tyler's Story (continued)

about 9/11 and spies and such. Another great part was the Kennedy section! The last place that we visited was Capitol Hill where we took a group photo! Here we also had a staffer talk to us about the governmental process. We toured the capital, which was amazing and comes in second on the three buildings that we visited! Then we visited the Supreme Court, this came in third on my list! The last place that we visited that day was the Library of Congress, which was in my opinion the most beautiful place on Capitol Hill! We then went back to the hotel for dinner and the dance.

On Wednesday morning, I realized the hardest part of the trip was still in front of me. I was up by five o'clock to say goodbye to my roommate and this was followed by many, many more goodbyes. By far the worst part of the trip was seeing new found friends leave one at a time not knowing if we would ever see each other again, 244-7128 but we did have many new people to keep in contact with through social networking. Overall, the entire trip was an amazing, fun-filled, learning experience that I would 456-1406 recommend to anyone.

I would like to thank all the staff at FRS for organizing this trip. I would also like to thank WRCTC, their members, and employees who made this trip possible for me. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to meet so many new people and have new experiences through this wonderful program! It really opened my eyes and showed me there was more to our country than what I see daily in my little South Dakota town. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget!

Thank You,  
Tyler J. Heil, Lemmon