

Scholarship Reminder!

There is still time
to get your scholarship
applications in!
Deadline for the
\$500 WRCTC/
Grand Electric
scholarship is
March 28, 2014!
For more info and
an application,
please visit us at
www.wrctc.coop.



on facebook

facebook.com/WRCTC



Students ages 16 or 17: Experience History in the Making!

Join students from across the U.S. for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Tour to WASHINGTON, D.C. on May 31 - June 4, 2014!

To apply for this trip, please submit a 500-word essay on the 456-1236 following topic:

What new service(s) should WRCTC consider offering to our membership and why?



All essays must be typed and include a cover sheet which states the title of the essay, the entrant's name and the school they attend.

Essays must be postmarked by Friday, March, 28, 2014.

Please submit essays to:
West River Cooperative Telephone Co.
Attn: Rachel Eggebo
PO Box 39 • Bison, SD 57620

OR email your essay to reggebo@wrctc.coop
Questions? Call 777 or 605-244-5213

Students must be 16 or 17 years of age at the time of the tour and a dependent of a WRCTC member to be eligible.

**"It was an amazing
experience that I
will never forget!
Thank you!"**

**Tyler Heil, Lemmon
2013 Youth Tour Participant**

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Number Unknown? Leave it alone!

Source: www.bbb.org

Better Business Bureaus (BBBs) across the country are seeing a rash of reports of 'ring and runs' or "The One Ring Scam" on cell phones recently where returning a missed call from an unknown number might be tempting, but it could cost you. Even though this is currently happening to cellphone users, WRCTC wants you - our member - to be aware of it just in case this scam shifts its attention to land line 797-4446 phones.

Here is how it works:

- Your phone rings once, maybe twice and these days with most phones 374-4159 having Caller ID it will show as Unknown or a long distance area code you're not familiar with on the screen.
- By the time you answer it, no one is on the other end of the phone and they do not leave a voicemail. So, you try calling back only to find no one is answering or there is some weird noise on the other end.

It's called "The One Ring Scam" as part of a practice called phone cramming. Victims are subsequently billed not only for the incoming international call if they answer, but also the unwanted "premium service," which typically appears as a \$19.95 charge. In some cases, crammers may only put a small charge of several dollars, so as not to arouse suspicion.

Several BBB's across the country are reporting this is happening to consumers as the 257-2819 number pops up as Unknown or an international phone number. Victims have reported calls originating from the Caribbean Islands, like Grenada, Antigua, Jamaica, and the British Virgin Islands.



**Beware of the
One Ring Scam**

Area codes you should watch out for are as follows: Antigua (268), British Virgin Islands (284), Dominican Republic (809), Grenada (473), Jamaica (876) and Turks & Caicos Islands (649).

BBB warns if you think you've fallen for the scam, immediately notify your phone provider and keep an eye on your phone bill. The 375-3958 earlier the fraud is documented, the better your chances for having some or all of the charges removed.

Bottom line – if the number is unknown, leave it alone!

Unclaimed Capital Credits

Please help us find these 376-3194 people. If you have a current address for any of the people listed, please contact our office at 777 or 605-244-5213 or email us at westriver@sdplains.com

Andersen, Dale – Wilbaux, MT

Brist, Todd – Newell, SD

Hollrah, Jerry or Cheryl – Rapid City, SD

Lewis, Pastor Richard – Miles City, MT

Shape, Robert or Teresa – Nisland, SD

Anderson, Donald – Hettinger, ND

Butler, Ted – Buffalo, SD

Hurlbut, Mark or Jennifer – Bowman, ND

Sebree, Crystal – Longview, WA

Western Wireless – Little Rock AZ

Bauer, Daniel – Lemmon, SD

Douglas, Keith – Belle Fourche, SD

Iverson, Bruce – Camp Crook, SD

Piekkola, Ron (estate) – Buffalo, SD

Thinking of Ditching Your Landline?

NOT SO FAST!

Everyone wants to save a little cash. However, there are money-saving ideas out there that trade short-term savings for long-term reliability or safety. One of those ideas is saving money by ditching your landline, and it's a tempting one. If you're like the growing majority of Americans, you probably use a cellphone for most of your calls. And everyone can put the \$14 or more you spend in a landline to good use elsewhere.

Well, here are a few reasons why you might want to keep your landline anyway:

1. You have DSL

If you have DSL Internet, then you still need your landline for it to work. If you want to drop your landline, you'll need to switch to a wireless or satellite provider; however, in that case you will have to abide by the data caps they place on your usage. WRCTC does not have data caps on your DSL usage. For instance, the average West River member uses approximately 32 Gigabytes (GB) worth of data each month. Data plans with a wireless or satellite provider usually range from a few Megabytes (MB) to approximately 50 or 60 GB. These plans range from just a few dollars to several hundred dollars depending on the carrier.

Another thing to keep in mind is that in the near future the next version of DSL will be coming out. It promises gigabit speeds over your phone line,

which is at 244-7775 least 300 times faster than the average DSL speed.

2. You live in a rural area

While cellphones are convenient, they aren't always reliable. You might live in a rural area that relies on a limited number of cellular towers - and they're probably older, too. That could mean spotty communication. And if you lose one or more cell towers in a disaster, you're out of luck.

3. You're in the path of natural disasters

Speaking of disasters, we've seen in the last couple years that cellphone networks aren't as disaster-proof as you would hope. Blizzards and power outages can knock holes in coverage.

If too many people try to make calls at once, the cell towers 456-3254 can't handle the traffic and everything jams up.

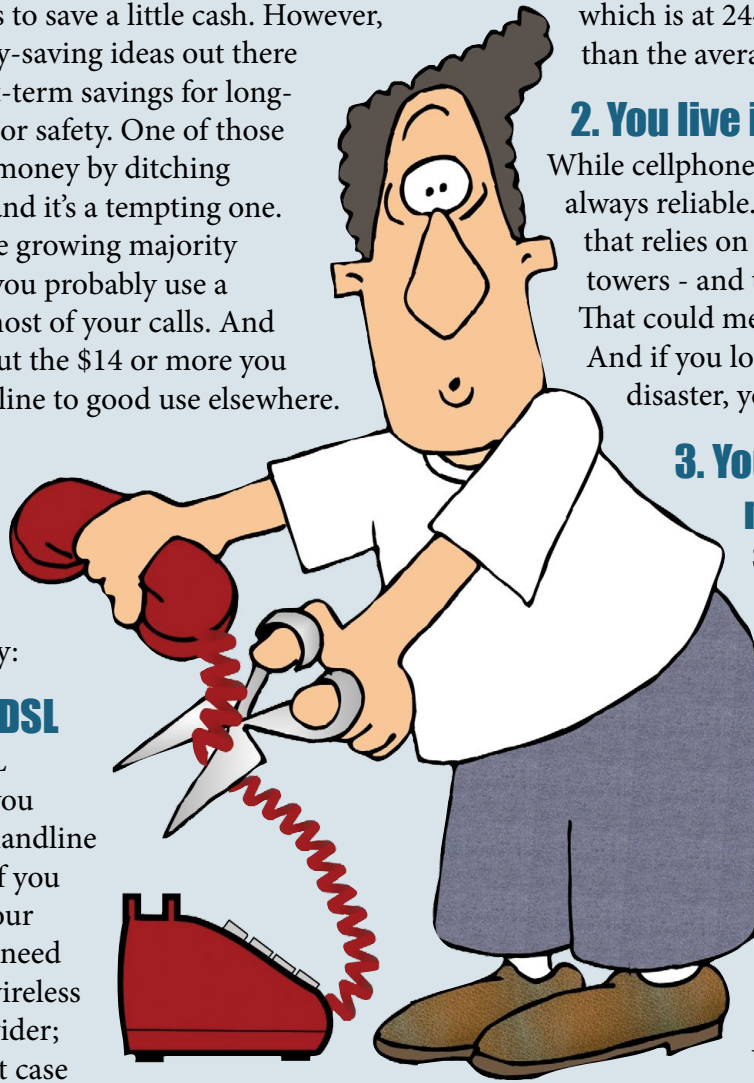
Your landline and DSL have a battery backup, and 788-2890

WRCTC works very hard to keep those batteries running during outages.

4. You require medical assistance

In a medical emergency, using a landline can save valuable seconds. While cellphones can transmit your GPS location, it does take extra time for emergency services to figure out where you are.

A landline still gives them your address the quickest. Plus, some medical alert systems 374-7978 require a landline to work.



New WRCTC Members

Buffalo, Camp Crook

Changing Times LLC (Tom Johnson)	375-3611
Flying Y Ranch of SD (Tim Obrigewitch)	375-3186
Sanders, Danial & Lacey	375-3540

Lemmon

Anderson, Shirley	374-4352
Crawford, Rusty	374-7944
Etherton, Kevin & Tiffany	376-4349
Ruen, Justynn & Brittany	374-4351
Schopp, Katie	374-4343

Newell

Gaer, David & LeeAnn	456-3559
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Nisland

Kenstler, Steven & Lindsay Keil	257-2871
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Find Your Phone

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in the last newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: R. Foos, Nisland; Don Hunt, Newell; W. A. Lloyd, Lemmon; Don Merriman, Lemmon; Bill Morris, Bison; John Ovitz, Buffalo; Ryan Stark, Vale; Mac Thompson, Buffalo; Patsy Wilkinson, Prairie City and Irene Young, Lemmon.

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 March 21, 2014.

2015 Directory Contest—Lifestyles & Landscapes!

Get your cameras out and start snapping photos. It's time for another directory photo contest, and we are excited about this one. It's all about lifestyles and landscapes! Snap a photo capturing our rural lifestyle or a unique photo of our service territory and you could win \$100!

- **1st Place – \$100**
- **2nd Place – \$50**
- **3rd Place – \$25**



*Example photos
provided by
Tally Seim.*

**Deadline to enter
is Aug. 15, 2014.**

Entries may be
emailed to
westriver@sdplains.com
or mailed to
WRCTC, PO Box 39,
Bison, SD 57620.

For more information and rules, please
visit www.wrctc.coop.

WIN RUSH HOCKEY TICKETS!

**WRCTC IS GIVING AWAY 4 TICKETS TO A
RAPID CITY RUSH HOCKEY GAME**

Go to www.facebook.com/WRCTC (you must "LIKE" our page to enter)
Click on the **WIN RUSH TICKETS** tab and
Fill out the form and click **SUBMIT!**

Tickets are good for the Saturday, March 22nd game
against the Brampton Beast. Game starts at 7:05 p.m.
Must be a member of WRCTC to enter.

Deadline to enter is 3/14/14 @ 3 p.m.

Winner will be randomly drawn.



Travel and accommodations are not provided.