

Office Closed

West River
Cooperative
Telephone
Company's
office will be
closed Friday,
July 4th for
Independence
Day.

Happy
4th of
July!

facebook.com/WRCTC

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Lifestyles & Landscapes! 2015 Directory Contest

Snap a photo capturing our rural lifestyle or a unique photo of our service territory and you could win \$100! Deadline to 456-2559 enter is Aug. 15, 2014. Entries may be emailed to westriver@sdplains.com or mailed to: WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

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

The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. The photo MAY include people; however, if the person or people are highly recognizable in the photo and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit TWO photos. Photos may also be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. The photos must be in full-color and will not be returned to the customer. Photos must be pictures of WRCTC's service area. Submission of the photo releases all right of ownership of the photo and authorizes WRCTC to publish the photo on the directory cover, or use as WRCTC desires, allowing proper acknowledgement to the photographer. The photographer who captures first place will see his/her photo on the front cover of the 2015 directory and will be awarded a \$100 cash prize; second place will receive \$50 and third place will receive \$25. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

Sample photos taken by Tally Seim.





Brandon Heil Returns from Washington, D.C. with a Story to Tell

I would recommend that other students apply for the Foundation for Rural Services trip. The trip was a great learning experience in many ways.

It was my first time on an airplane which was pretty insane and awesome at the same time. The only thing that scared me was the

Brandon Heil, Lemmon, standing in front of the White House.

big Minneapolis Airport. I wasn't sure I would be able to navigate such a large area and get to my next gate in time. Once I was on the ground and got my bearings and a few pointers from friendly bystanders, it really was fun. I had another new first with the moving sidewalks to get from one area to the next more quickly. At this point, I found some other FRS kids so we were in a little group by the time we met a chaperone. Flying over the Washington area and seeing the monuments and other sites from the air was really cool. Meeting roommates and people from many different areas as we settled into our routine for the next few days was a great way to learn about other areas of the country. The different accents we each brought to the group were funny and interesting.

On our first full day, we went to Arlington National Cemetery. The thing that amazed me most was how they got the head stones aligned to form a perfect pattern. I also viewed the changing of the guard ceremony. Surprisingly, it was a really quiet event. Our next stop was the Smithsonian Museums. I was particularly interested in The Air and Space, National Holocaust, Art, and the National Museum of Natural History areas. The National Holocaust Smithsonian was my favorite. The final event that was most memorable was the night tour of the White House, the WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War 375-3755 Memorials, and the Lincoln Monument.

We started our second full day with an educational session which was very interesting. We learned that a large goal for the rural areas is to make the same technology and tools available to smaller, rural communities as the urban areas. Later we toured Mt. Vernon and the National Cathedral which were both great places to see. The way these places were built was an interesting part of history.

Our third full day started with another educational session at the FCC headquarters. This education session dealt with different issues and controversies. Once again these controversies focused on the need to keep the rural communities at the same level of technology as the urban areas with special emphasis on having appropriate technology to benefit all student



Brandon at the South Dakota Pillar of the National World War II Memorial.

education. Our next stop was the Newseum where we got to spend time looking at old newspaper articles. My favorites were the information on the Hindenburg Catastrophe, Babe Ruth's rise to baseball fame, and 9-11. I also got to see the props that they used on [the movies] *Anchorman* 1 and 2. We ended our last day with good food and a dance. And while this last event was fun, it was also a sad time. It is amazing how quickly we all became friends and how sad it was to know we didn't have more time together; however, I am sure there are many people we can stay in contact with through the use of the technology. Facebook, Twitter and Snap Chats were 374-3533 exchanged so that the friendships would not end after these three days.

The return airplane rides were a little less hurried, not because there was more time but because I knew 456-2744 what to expect. In the end, I enjoyed the trip but at the same time I also found a renewed love for the Dakota prairies and openness that I grew up around.

Thanks for the wonderful experience,

Brandon Heil, Lemmon

WRCTC's 2014 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour Winner

June Storms Wreck Havoc to Service Area

Many of our members have seen large amounts of precipitation during the month of June. The storm that struck in the middle of June not only resulted in several inches of rain and severe flooding, but also produced hail 375-3426 and at least one tornado. We hope everyone remained safe during these storms.

As for WRCTC, we were pleasantly surprised we didn't have more communications outages. We had two cabinets (Capitol and Sheep Mountain) in Montana that lost power. The power outage 244-7125 was due to a tornado that impacted SE Electric's facilities which provided power to our two cabinets. WRCTC delivered generators to the two sites to provide power while SE repaired their damaged facilities. Thus far, we have not had any communications outages due to the severe flooding within our service territory. If you have any interesting storm photos, please share them with us on our facebook page (www.facebook.com/WRCTC).



Brandon (second from the left) with some new friends standing in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial.

From the Mailbox



Dear Mr. Metzger,
I would like to thank you and the Grand Electric [and WRCTC] staff for selecting me as the recipient for the scholarship. I greatly appreciate it! All of the money will help me to achieve my dream of attending college. I will be going to Black Hills State University in the fall and plan to major in accounting.

Thanks again so much!
Ashley McFarland,
Hettinger
\$500 WRCTC/Grand
Electric Scholarship
Recipient

West River Cooperative
Telephone Company & Grand
Electric Cooperative,
Thank you so much for
awarding me this scholarship!
It will be helpful while I'm
attending the University of
Mary. I plan on pursuing a
degree in nursing. Thanks again
for the generous award!

Marissa Lyon, Lemmon
\$500 WRCTC/Grand
Electric Scholarship
Recipient

Thank you for presenting me
with the \$500 scholarship. It
will help me pay for college as I
attend Chadron State in the fall.
And thank you for all you do to
support our community.

Sincerely,
Prestyn Novak, Newell
\$500 WRCTC/Grand
Electric Scholarship
Recipient 866-4545

New WRCTC Members

Bison, Meadow, Sorum

Carmichael, Riley	788-2977
Escott, Bailey	788-2257
Lawson, George	866-4558
Storm, Daryl (West Place)	788-2221

Buffalo, Camp Crook

Henderson, Jenna	375-3587
Lewis, Melvin	375-3565
Williamson, Todd	375-3297

Lemmon

Barnes, Marisa	374-4374
Beckman, Cassandra	374-4377
Donner, LeRoy	374-4373
Froelich, Ed	374-5231
Kessler, Darin & Mary	374-4372
O'Connor, Chris	374-4375

Newell

Bartlett, Ricky	456-3735
Christenson, Don	456-3644
Deranleau, James & Kyli	456-3728
Parrish, Jeremy & Heidi	456-3635
Stevens, Rebecca	456-3725

Nisland

Britton, Jamie	257-2875
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Change

Carmichael, Carol	from	788-2977
	to	374-4371
Kari, Chase	from	866-4541
	to	375-3985

Find Your Phone Number

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Donald

Adams, Newell; S. J. Ebert, Lemmon; Tyler Hett, Buffalo; Delbert Hintz, Lemmon; Myron Lemer, Bison; Kenneth Mailloux, Vale and Jack Teigen, Capitol, MT. 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, 2014.**

\$10
bill credit

Charges to Change

ARC to Increase

In November 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) made a ruling that over the next few years they were going to move more of the network cost to those who own the network. To do this, they have set benchmarks for local service rates and have implemented an Access Recovery Charge (ARC) that we are required to charge our members if we want to retain our USF funding. The Access Recovery Charge enables WRCTC to recover a limited portion of revenues lost due to FCC mandated reductions in intercarrier payments. Effective July 1, 2014, residential members and single-line businesses will see their ARC increase by \$0.50 per month and multi-line business customers will see an increase of \$1.00 per month. Therefore, the ARC for residential members and single-line businesses will increase from \$1.00 per month to \$1.50 per month; and the ARC for multi-line businesses will increase from \$2.00 per month to \$3.00 per month. This will be the third step of the six step increase. Every July for the next three years, the ARC will increase.

FUSC to Increase

Due to the ARC increase, 257-2784 West River Cooperative Telephone members will see an increase in the monthly Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) on their telephone bill effective July 1, 2014. A Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order changed the way telephone companies can recover their Federal Universal Fund contributions. The Federal Universal Service Fund Program is designed to help keep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers, in all areas of the United States.

Residential and single line 788-2938 businesses will increase from \$1.08 to \$1.26 (.18 cent increase). Multiple line businesses will increase from \$1.53 to \$1.92 (.39 cent increase). Also, all 376-3280 members with DSL, which is high speed Internet, will see their FUSC rate increase from \$2.61 to \$3.34 (.73 cent increase) per month.

If you have any questions regarding these charges, please contact our office at 777 or 605-244-5213.