

Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day.



TWO Students are going to Washington, D.C.

Marranda Hulm, Bison and Kim Kvale, Bison, won a FREE trip to Washington, D.C. by writing two outstanding 500 word essay discussing what industry 375-3632 or opportunity would entice them to return to a rural community after they complete their education. Marranda and Kim will join 100 other high school students (ages 16 or 17) from across rural America to learn about the role telecommunications play in rural communities. West River Cooperative Telephone Company is proud to be sponsoring these young ladies to attend the 19th annual Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour on May 30 - June 3, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

Kim chose medicine as her preferred profession. In her essay, she stated: Many rural areas are medically underserved. With such a great distance to travel for medical care, I feel it is important for youth to return back to their home towns to provide this service or move somewhere equally in need...When I'm done with my education, I will be looking for a small community to settle in, like the one I was raised in.

The trip will focus on the legislative and regulatory decisions made in Washington, D.C. that affect the telecommunications 456-1005 industry. Students will learn about the career opportunities the telecommunications industry has to offer.

(story continued on page 2)



Kim Kvale



Marranda Hulm

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Manager's Column
Reed Metzger

Fiber-to-the-Home Easements

You may have received - or will be receiving - an easement to complete one of our many Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) projects. These easements need to be signed, notarized and sent back to us as soon as possible to ensure construction will proceed on time. These projects are necessary to transition our members from copper to fiber, which will enable them to receive future technologies from WRCTC.

Before construction can start, 375-3448 there are a couple of procedures that need to be completed. The first is the process of signing and sending the easement back to us. The second is staking where the fiber optic will be placed underground. In this stage of the project, you may see someone walking and inspecting where the line should go. Please do not be alarmed if you see a Vantage Point technician staking out the path for our fiber optic cable.

As I stated, we have several projects scheduled for this year. In the Lemmon and Newell rural areas we have 300-plus miles of fiber construction planned. We also have over 100 miles in rural areas near Bison, Meadow, Camp Crook and Buffalo to complete. Since we have several miles to plow, it was in the best interest of WRCTC to hire contractors. Anderson Underground was selected 456-2975 to plow in the fiber optic cable in the Lemmon and Newell areas. Stateline Construction will be in the Camp Crook and Buffalo areas and WRCTC will be plowing in the Bison and Meadow areas. Once all the easements 244-5930 have been received, construction will begin.

If you have received an easement and you have questions regarding it, please contact our office at 777 or 605-244-5213.

SDTA Scholarship Available

WRCTC, along with the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA), is encouraging college students to apply for one of two \$1,000 SDTA Memorial Scholarships for the coming school year. The SDTA Memorial Scholarships are available to applicants who have completed at least two semesters of course work at an accredited post-secondary school in South Dakota and who are members/customers or whose parent(s) are members/customers of an SDTA member company. The scholarship can be used at any post-secondary educational institution in South Dakota. Previous recipients are not eligible to apply again and preference will be given to students with majors within the communications industry. A sample of these majors include:

- **Technologies (Communications Systems Engineering Technologies, Computer Programming or Software Specialist, Computer Systems or Software, Satellite Communications, Utilities Technologies, Network Technician)**
- **Computers (Internet Apps Developer, Laser/Electro-Optics, Marketing, Network Administration, System Administrator, Computer Applications)**
- **Engineering (Computer Science or Systems, Electrical, CAD, Software, Industrial, Communications Systems, Network Security)**
- **Technology Education**
- **Communication Arts (Graphic or Mass Communications, Commercial Arts, Multimedia/Web Development)**
- **Business (Economics, Marketing, Human Resource, Accounting, Management, Communications, Business Law)**

The application deadline is May 31, 2015. Applications 374-7773 are available at www.sdtaonline.com, or from any South Dakota post-secondary institution student financial aid office, the SDTA office (605-224-7629 or info@sdtaonline.com), or WRCTC at 777 or 605-244-5213.

Washington, D.C. Tour (continued)

In her essay, Marranda also chose medicine as her preferred career. She stated: *Being raised in a rural setting, I realize how important health care professionals, electricians, bankers, police and other service professionals are to my community and local area. I would love to be a doctor and be able to come back to a rural community to assist those who helped and supported me throughout the years while I obtained the education necessary to achieve my goals.*

The tour provides a forum for teens to meet and interact with their peers from other rural communities as well as key legislative, regulatory and government figures. On the tour, Kim and 866-4466 Marranda will enjoy visiting the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, National Cathedral, Smithsonian Institute, Arlington Cemetery, Roosevelt and Lincoln Memorials, Washington Monument and several other landmarks around the Nation's Capitol.

Marranda is the daughter of Keith Hulm, Meadow and

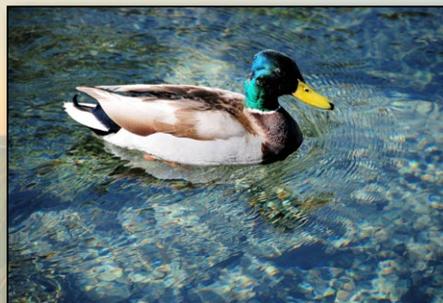
Carrie Roth, 788-2854 Bison, and she is currently a junior at Bison High School. Kim is the daughter of Dan and Stacy Kvale, Bison, and she is a sophomore at Bison High School. Congratulations to Marranda and Kim!

2016 Directory Photo Contest This year's theme is "WILDLIFE"



Snap a photo capturing our local wildlife and you could win \$100! Deadline to enter is August 14, 2015. 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**



Please visit our website (www.wrctc.coop) for the contest rules.

Call Before You Dig



Don't assume you know what's below. Protect yourself and those around you – Call 811 every time.

Planning a home improvement job?
Planting a tree?
Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first:

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

New WRCTC Members

Bison, Meadow, Sorum

Burke, Clint	866-4448
Gerbracht, Tony	788-2249
Hendrickson, Logan	244-7663
Murray, Jordan	244-7624
Nelson, Betty (Town Residence)	244-5288

Buffalo, Camp Crook

Burke, Chase & Kristin	375-3287
J V Bailey Co. Inc.	375-3631
Westers, Tory	375-3312

Lemmon

Block, Daniel & Becky	374-4423
Briscoe, Sam	374-4422
Dauwen, Donna	374-4424
Industrial Builders, Inc.	374-4426
Kolb, Ernest & Darlene	374-5483
Moyer, Courtney	374-4425

Newell

Boesem, Nora	456-3241
Buurkarl, Larry & Marti	456-3523
Timm, Gary & Di	456-2421
Wolff, Lloyd	456-2360

Nisland

Caruso, Charles	257-2887
Lewis, Tyrel & Coleen	257-2890
Luckburner, Courtney	257-2891

HELP is only a phone call away (24/7 Support)

SDPlains Help Desk 888-464-9513
WildBlue Help Desk 888-212-5370

Find Your Phone

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Rola Coster, Nisland; David Donahey,

\$10
bill credit

Capitol, MT; Chancey Hall, Meadow; Tom Holdahl, Buffalo; Benjamin Keller, Newell and Karin Talbot, Prairie City. 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 May 21, 2015.**



4th Graders receive South Dakota Books

WRCTC recently provided a copy of the book entitled *My South Dakota Book - Hometown Snapshots* to each 4th grade student to take home. The book simulates a fun, photographic road trip of 33 257-2841 South Dakota towns and their interesting landmarks.

The book was published by SDN Communications out of Sioux Falls, SD of which WRCTC is a member. The project grew from a request by SDN's member companies. We hope this book will provide the students with the 374-3187 cultural and historical value of the small communities within this wonderful state and all the attractions they have to offer.

TOP: The 4th Graders in Newell showing off their new books. RIGHT: Students in Buffalo line up for a picture with their new South Dakota books.



Local Graduation Schedule



May 10	2:00 p.m.	Lemmon
May 16	2:00 p.m.	Bison
May 16	2:15 p.m.	Buffalo
May 23	2:00 p.m.	Newell

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!