

Office Closed

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

Happy 4th of July!

[facebook.com/WRCTC](https://www.facebook.com/WRCTC)

Scholarship Winners

West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 15th year to award \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from area school districts. Winners have been awarded their certificates at the Academic Awards programs at their respective schools.

Graduating seniors receiving the \$500 scholarships are: Harding County 244-5460 School District – Alexandra Hansen, daughter of Tonja and Kurt Hansen, Camp Crook; Lemmon School District – Colton Damjanovich, son of Gillian and Bart Damjanovich, Lemmon; Bison School District – Tori Voller, daughter of Karen and Allen Voller, Bison; Hettinger School District – Paden McFarland, son of Roxann and Steve McFarland, Hettinger and Newell School District – Nicholas Nelson, son of Lisa and Gary Nelson.

WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as an 456-2505 investment in the economic future of our rural area. It is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students.



Alexandra Hansen



Tori Voller



Colton Damjanovich



Paden McFarland



Nicholas Nelson

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**Congratulations to these outstanding students.
WRCTC and Grand Electric wish you the best of luck!**

Is your TV getting enough Fiber?

With West River's FiberVision Digital Video, you and your TV are sure to get your daily dose of fiber! FiberVision is delivered over the fiber optic lines that carry your Internet and phone services - and now, VIDEO! Don't ever miss a TV show again because of bad weather. We've got you covered.

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\$28**

**For your perfect FiberVision package, please contact our office at
605-244-5236 or 888-411-5651**

2017 Directory Photo Contest This year's theme is "SUNSETS & SUNRISES"

Snap a photo capturing one of our beautiful sunsets or sunrises, and you could win \$100! Deadline to enter is August 17, 2016. 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

RULES: The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. Photos must be of a sunset or sunrise within WRCTC's service area and include the location where the photo was taken. Animals or people may be included in the photos; 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 prize. 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. 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 2017 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.



Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Background

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline 375-3968 is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household. That is, eligible low-income consumers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both 866-4872 services at the same time. Additionally, only ONE Lifeline service may be obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline support is available to eligible low-income consumers living in group living facilities. Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a separate household.

Lifeline can also include Toll 376-5981 Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$375-\$659 to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers



Local Service Rate and 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 456-1027 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. **On July 1, 2016, the local telephone service rate will increase by \$2.00 per month. This increase will affect ActPak bundling prices as well.**

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, 2016, residential members will see their ARC increase by \$0.50 per month.** Multi-line business customers will not see an increase. Therefore, the ARC for residential members and single-line businesses will increase from \$2.00 per month to \$2.50 per month, and the ARC for multi-line businesses will stay at \$3.00 per month. This will be 797-4489 the fifth step of the six step increase. The last increase in this process will be in July 2017.

West River Cooperative Telephone Company is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

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New WRCTC Members

Bison, Meadow, Sorum

Anderson, Anna Marie	866-4728
Anderson Tenant	788-2250
Enright, Travis & Brooke	788-2997
Hendrickson, Layton	244-5116
Lorius, Shiloh	788-2447

Buffalo

Lanning, Don	375-3391
Sabo, Waylon	375-3676
Wilson, Derick & Tanya	375-3749

Lemmon

Lien, Terry & Corie	374-4491
O'Donnell, Stacy	374-4487
Richardson, John K.	376-4494
Scoops Ice Cream Shop	374-4365
Spangler, Melissa	374-1064

Nisland

Crago, Kim	257-2831
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SECURE PAY

Make a payment on your bill over the phone
using a debit/credit card or check.

Available 24/7!

844-252-5267

**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: Greta Wall, Redig; Zac Thompson, Lemmon; Kelly Parks, Nisland; Nellie Moore, Lemmon; Owen Haas, Lemmon and Elsie Bartels, Newell. 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 June 22, 2016.**

\$10

bill credit

Lifeline (continued)

may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You 456-2591 must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- State assistance programs (if applicable)

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or 777.



Not Using Your SDPlains Email?

If you are an sdplains Internet customer and you are using something other than sdplains for email such as Yahoo! Mail or Hotmail, please contact our office with a 374-3397 current email address where we can send you important notifications as well as our e-newsletter. **This will not affect your WRCTC Internet connection.**

Please email us at westriver@sdplains.com or give us a call at 605-244-5213 or 777 so we can update our records.