

## Office Closed

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

*Happy  
4th of  
July!*

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

## Scholarship Winners

West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 16th 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: Bison School District – Sara Hatle, daughter of Julie and Arlen Hatle, Meadow; Hettinger School District – Jordan Hill, son of John and Tina Hill, Hettinger; Harding County School District – Shawnee Mollman, daughter of Jennifer Wickstrom and Craig Mollman, Buffalo; Newell School District – Cheyenne McTaggart, daughter of Colleen McTaggart and Lance McTaggart and Lemmon School District – Brandon Heil, son of Delilah and Timothy Heil, Lemmon. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help

serve as an investment in the economic future of our rural area. It is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students.



**Sara Hatle**



**Jordan Hill**



**Shawnee Mollman**



**Brandon Heil**



**Cheyenne McTaggart**

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

## Something New in SmartHub



You can now toggle between Grand Electric and West River 244-5543 Cooperative Telephone Company on the SmartHub app! Once you've log in with one company, you can click on settings and add a new provider. SmartHub will then store both of their 866-4488 providers or even more businesses if you have services with another cooperative that uses SmartHub! See below for an example:



## 2018 Directory Contest Kids & Their Pets



**Snap a photo capturing that special moment between children and their pets and you could win \$100! Deadline to enter is August 17, 2017. Entries may be emailed to [reggebo@sdplains.com](mailto:reggebo@sdplains.com) or mailed to WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.**

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

**Deadline to enter is August 17, 2017.**

**RULES:** The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a child (under the age of 18) who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to receiving the money. Child must be a dependent of a WRCTC member. 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 2018 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 456-2106 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 is 257-2250 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 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 375-3480 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 376-5873 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 \$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

(continued on page 4)



## The Importance of an Authorized User Form

To protect the privacy of information contained in your telephone account, WRCTC is only allowed to discuss account information with the person(s) listed on the account. Also, we must authenticate you (confirm your identity) before sharing account information. This is done by asking you two questions pertaining to your account that only you, as the account holder, would know.

If your account is listed ONLY in your name, you might want to consider adding another. For instance, if you are a 456-2177 parent or individual who relies on someone else to discuss account changes, payments or any other account data with our company, you will need to have the person's name added to your records as an authorized person. before our customer service representatives are able to assist them.

If you need an authorized user form, the 374-4124 form can be found on our website, [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop), or you may call our office at 777 or 605-244-5213.

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

## New WRCTC Members

### Buffalo

Baier, Ryne	375-3596
Coots, Roger	375-3621
Doane, Joe	375-3027
McGowan, Mary	375-3004
Newlander, Tina	375-3231

### Lemmon

Palmeter, Timothy	374-6321
Schroeder, Mike	374-4517
Ternes, Seferious & Marie	374-7603
Wentz, Lisa	374-6080

### Newell

Cordell, Chad & Amanda	456-7682
Simonson, Andrew & Kathleen	456-3838

### Nisland

Nolan, Niki	257-2932
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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**

## Find Your Phone #

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Greg Veal, Meadow; Dorothy Padden, Camp Crook; Josh Hoff, Lemmon and Orville Edwards, 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 June 22, 2017.**

# \$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 must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, 374-5881 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)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

### TRIBAL-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPPIR)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

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! 797-4426 Mail or Hotmail, please contact our office with a 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](mailto:westriver@sdplains.com) or give us a call at 605-244-5213 or 777 so we can update our records.