

## Office Closed

**West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Wednesday, 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 17th 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 – Racquel Dennison, daughter of Nicole Dennison, Buffalo; Lemmon School District – Gayge Schopp, son of Ken Schopp and Stacy Lloyd, Lemmon; Harding County School District – Jacie Teller, daughter of Brian and Lori Teller, Buffalo; Faith School District – Kailyn Groves, daughter of William and Gzelle Groves, Faith and Newell School District – Delaney Leber, daughter of Dave and Lori Leber, Vale. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as an investment in the economic future of our rural area. It 456-1999 is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students.



**Racquel Dennison**



**Gayge Schopp**



**Jacie Teller**



**Delaney Leber**



**Kailyn Groves**

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



## 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 South Dakota towns and their interesting landmarks.

You can learn some pretty interesting facts from this book. For example, the petrified wood park in Lemmon is not only the largest in the world, but it took over 4,200 pounds of petrified 374-3588 wood to create the 400-plus structures!

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



## 2019 Directory Contest

# Looking out My back door

Whether it's your gorgeous garden, a wonderful sunset or furry, farmyard friends, we want to see the beauty looking out your back door! Submit your pictures to [reggebo@wrctc.coop](mailto:reggebo@wrctc.coop) or mail them to WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

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

Deadline to enter is August 17, 2018.

**PHOTO CONTEST 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. 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 2019 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

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone service purchased from participating providers in the marketplace. Subscribers can also purchase discounted broadband from participating providers. The discounts, which can be applied to stand-alone broadband, 375-3841 bundled voice-broadband packages - either fixed or mobile - and stand-alone voice service - will help ensure that low-income consumers can afford 21st-century broadband and the access it provides to jobs, education and opportunities.

### The History of Lifeline

The FCC established the Lifeline program in 1985 to ensure that qualifying low-income consumers could afford phone service and the opportunities and security it provides. Congress supported and strengthened Lifeline in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, requiring that affordable service and advanced communications be available to low-income consumers across the country. In March of 2016, the FCC modernized Lifeline for advanced services by beginning a transition toward support of broadband service.

### How Lifeline Works

Lifeline provides a discount on monthly service of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a discount on both services at the same time. Lifeline also supports broadband and broadband-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income 257-2246 subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands.

To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs. You can see if you are eligible 456-2555 with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org).

### How Tribal Link Up Works

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

(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. This includes businesses. We must authenticate you (confirm your identity) 375-3273 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 the account is listed ONLY in your name or the business' name, you might want to consider adding an authorized user. For instance, if you are a 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 contact before our customer service representatives are able to assist them.

If you need an 788-2978 authorized user form, the 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.



## New WRCTC Members

### Buffalo

Clark, Tyrnan	375-3407
Collins, Andrea	375-3238
Stenerson, Trae	375-3646

### Lemmon

Homandberg, Cole	374-4534
Loiseau Construction Inc.	374-7470
Papka, Ryan & Mindy	374-1049
Paris, James	374-4533
Ulmer, Sebastian & Shelley	374-5371
Voshall, Claire	374-8468

### Newell

Garcia, Tim	456-7819
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### Nisland

Fleming, Mark & Kris	257-6755
Oedekoven, Jason & Maureen	257-1863

## 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: Brent Elmore, Camp Crook; Cody Schuelke, Faith; Christina Block, Lemmon; Bill Hourigan, Lemmon; Terry Bonnet, Newell; Stephen Keiry, Nisland; Greg Wammen, Reva and Michael Sheeler, 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, 2018.**

**\$10  
bill credit**

## Lifeline (continued)

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 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?

The following is a list of assistance programs that qualify a participant for Lifeline:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit

**Tribal Lifeline** takes up to an extra \$25 off your monthly bill, for a total Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month. You can get Tribal Lifeline if you live on Tribal lands. Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions, Hawaiian Home Lands, or Indian Allotments. The following is a list of Tribal assistance programs that also qualify a participant for Lifeline:

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

### How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify 375-3539 for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can fill out an application online at [www.wrctc.coop/lifeline-and-link-up](http://www.wrctc.coop/lifeline-and-link-up). If you need assistance, please call 777 or 605-244-5213.