



**OFFICE  
CLOSED**

**West River Cooperative  
Telephone Company  
will be closed Tuesday,  
July 4, 2023 in  
observance of  
Independence Day.**



**facebook.com/WRCTC  
Leave us a Review!**

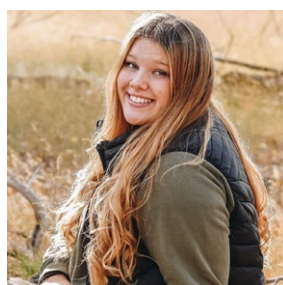
## inside this issue

CommandIQ App .....	2
Directory Photo Contest ....	2
Lifeline Information .....	3
Secure Your Account .....	3
New Members .....	4
Farewell .....	4
New Employee .....	4
Tech School Scholarship ....	4
IPTV DVR Update .....	4
Find Your Address.....	4

**West River Cooperative Telephone Company**

# Calling on You

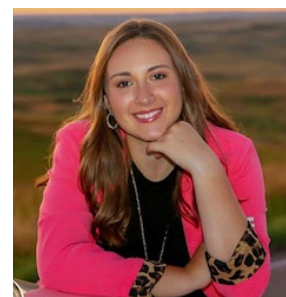
## 2023 Scholarship Winners



**JALE YALOWIZER**, daughter of Shane Yalowizer and Dacia Hilkemeier, graduated May 14, 2023 from Lemmon High School. Ranked 2 of 15 in her class, Jale graduated with a 3.981 GPA. She plans to attend Black Hills State University, where she will major in Social Science Secondary Education. Jale participated in many extracurricular activities throughout her high school career such as National Honor Society, Student Council, Regional Reporter, FFA, Youth Group, Saturday Morning Physics, FCCLA, Bible Study, Oral Interpretation, Theater, Track, Basketball, Volleyball, Volleyball Manager, Football Manager and many hours of volunteer work. Upon college graduation, Jale plans to return to a rural South Dakota town and become a High School Social Studies Teacher. Jale hopes to become an adviser for NHS or FCCLA and would like to help out as an assistant coach to one of the sports teams.

### MARY CARMICHAEL,

daughter of Kyle and Shawnda Carmichael, graduated May 13, 2023, from Bison High School. Ranked one of the top two in her class of 5, Mary graduated with a 4.129 GPA. She plans to attend University of Mary and will major in Nursing, as she has been accepted into UM's new accelerated nursing program. Mary was involved in many activities during high school such as FCCLA, Student Council, National Honor Society, Academic Olympics, Theater, Band, Volleyball, Basketball, Golf and has volunteered countless hours to local organizations. Once Mary graduates from nursing school, she plans to pursue her Doctor of Nurse Practitioner Degree and go on to practice Pediatric Oncology.



**GREY GILBERT**, son of Lloyd and Patricia Gilbert, graduated from Harding County High School on May 20, 2023. Grey ranked 2 of 14 in his class and graduated with a 4.0 GPA. He plans to attend the Laramie County Community College to major in Ag. Business Management and minor in Pipeline Welding. Grey participated in many activities during high school such as, National Honor Society, FFA, football, wrestling and rodeo. Once Grey graduates, he plans to move back to the family ranch and use his welding degree to pursue a business of his own. He would eventually like to work with programs that educate the nation about the importance of Agriculture and he would also like to work to find more beneficial ways to grow our food.

**TAYLOR GAER**, daughter of David and LeeAnn Gaer, graduated May 20, 2023, from Newell High School. Ranked 4 of 25 in her class, Taylor graduated with a 3.8 GPA. She plans to attend Dickinson State University to study Elementary Education with a minor in Math or Science. Taylor has been involved in many extracurricular activities such as Student Council, Leo Club, National Honor Society, High School Rodeo and Rodeo Club, Basketball, Volleyball, Track and 4-H. Once Taylor graduates from college, she plans to move to a rural area where she hopes to become a teacher and volleyball coach in her community.



**JESS HARPER**, son of Brian and Darci Harper, graduated May 13, 2023, from Faith High School. He ranked 15 of 21 and graduated with a 3.289 GPA. Jess will be attending Black Hills State University in the Fall where he will major in Education with a minor in Coaching. Jess spent a lot of time in extracurricular activities including, National Honor Society, Student Council, Football, Basketball, High 19280 Vale Cemetery Rd, Vale; School Rodeo and 4-H. Once Jess finishes college, he plans to move back home to the family ranch, teach elementary education in Faith and also coach football and basketball.



WRCTC and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 22nd year to award \$750 scholarships to graduating seniors from area school districts. 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 in the areas we serve. Winners have been awarded their certificates at the Academic Awards programs at their respective schools. Congratulations Class of 2023!



# COMMANDIQ

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ME?

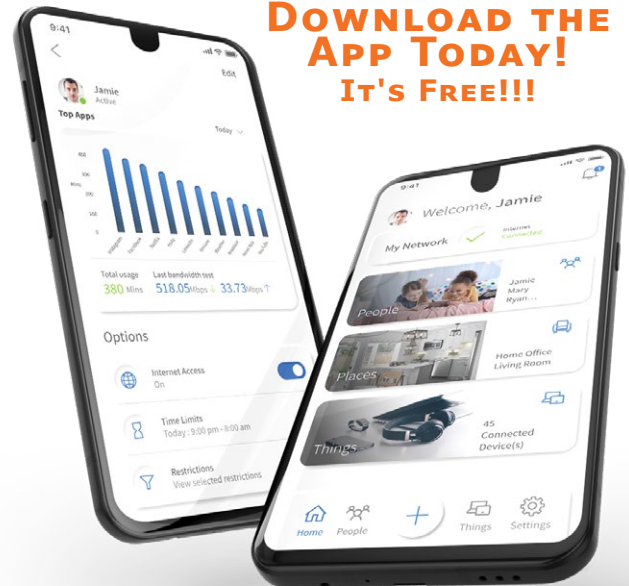
In the next few months, we will cover COMMANDIQ, PROTECTIQ AND EXPERIENCEIQ and discuss WHY these options are beneficial to YOU!

**COMMANDIQ** is a **FREE** application on your smart device that allows YOU to control your internet! It's like a remote for your Wi-Fi - HOW COOL IS THAT?! While running the app from the palm of your hand, you can change Wi-Fi passwords and Wi-Fi Network names, run speed tests, turn Wi-Fi on and off for specific devices and get notifications when a new or unknown device connects to your network! Did we mention it's **FREE**?! Having access to your internet wherever you are gives YOU the power!

There are so many benefits to the COMMANDIQ App! The list goes on and on! Call the office today PO Box 10, Redig; for more information!

- ❑ **COMMANDIQ** is available to all Managed Wi-Fi subscribers. **PROTECTIQ** and **EXPERIENCEIQ** require our GigaSpire and a subscription.
- ❑ **Have a GigaCenter? Call us today to upgrade to a GigaSpire for FREE!!**

**YOUR WI-FI  
REMOTE!  
DOWNLOAD THE  
APP TODAY!  
IT'S FREE!!!**



# CELEBRATE SOUTH DAKOTA

## GREAT FACES – GREAT PLACES 2024 DIRECTORY PHOTO CONTEST

**We are looking for photos for the 2024 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of anything that represents South Dakota! We want to see the view through your lens!**

Please submit your pictures to [bschecher@wrctc.coop](mailto:bschecher@wrctc.coop)

WRCTC requires that all photos be submitted digitally. Digital photos are more vibrant and clear, they keep their quality and are easy to access while designing the directory.

- We will not crop your photos for the contest, they will be used as submitted.
- Photos must be taken in WRCTC's territory.

**Deadline to enter the 2024 Directory Photo Contest is July 31, 2023.**

**PHOTO CONTEST RULES:** The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a person who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the subject is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit FOUR photos. Photos may be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. 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 acknowledgment to the photographer. Photos must be taken in WRCTC's service territory. The winners will see their photo on the front cover of the 2024 directory and will be awarded a \$100 cash prize for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

## Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications service more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers in the marketplace. The discounts, which can be applied to stand-alone broadband, 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 telephone and/or broadband services 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 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 with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline>.

### 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 (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Program

### How Tribal Link Up Works?

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

**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 (BIA) 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 for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop).

Submit applications to:

USAC  
Lifeline Support Center  
P.O. Box 7081  
London, KY 40742



## Securing your Account

**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) 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. We can add more security to your account by adding personal questions that only the authorized users would know. Call the office to update your security questions or update via SmartHub.

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 Member Relations Representatives are able to assist them.

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



## New WRCTC Members

### Vale

Hilltop Diesel  
Vale Bar

605-456-6972  
605-456-3939

## Farewell



KAYE SENN's final day at Grand Electric was May 1, 2023. Kaye and her husband, Steve, will be moving to Rapid City to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Kaye worked at Grand Electric and West River Cooperative Telephone Company for a little 602 6th Ave W, Lemmon; over a year. She worked as the Head Custodian and took care of

all of the indoor and outdoor maintenance.

Once moved, Kaye plans to go to work for her daughter at Black Hills Receptions and Rentals, where she will put her fabulous decorating skills to use. Kaye is very excited for her new adventure, but her fun personality will be missed at the office. Good luck with your future endeavors, Kaye!

## New Employee



TOMMI JO RICE began working for Grand Electric and WRCTC on April 17, 2023, as the new Head Custodian. She is responsible for the everyday cleaning and maintenance of the building and grounds. Tommi Jo has most recently worked at the Lazy Spurr Restaurant as a cook. She graduated from Sturgis High School and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Wellness at BHSU in

Spearfish. A massage therapy certification from the Cottonwood School of Massage in Aurora, CO, led to a 20 plus year career serving the 403 5th Ave E, Lemmon; surrounding area with deep tissue massage.

Tommi Jo lives in Bison with her husband, Lucas, and has five children, Levi, Mesa, Lane, Mattie and Mecarty. She is a member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. When she is not working, Tommi Jo enjoys hobbies that include team roping, crafting, DIY projects, movement therapy and learning new things. Welcome, Tommi Jo!

## 2023 Technical School Scholarship Winner



West River Cooperative Telephone Company and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together again to award a \$750 scholarship to a graduating senior pursuing a degree in the electric or telecommunications field. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to serve as an investment in the economic future of our rural area. This scholarship is used to help a student pursue their goals in the line of work the cooperatives employees work in each and every day. This year, the winner of the Technical Scholarship was Andrew Dirk, Lemmon. Congratulations, Andrew!

**ANDREW DIRK**, son of Brent and Jenny Dirk, graduated May 14, 2023, from Lemmon High School. Ranked 1 of 15 in his class, he graduated with a 4.0 GPA. He plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science to study Plumbing and HVAC/R. Andrew has been involved in many extracurricular activities such as National Honor Society, Student Council, Quiz Bowl, Academic Olympics, Football, Track, and Wrestling. Andrew states "My career goals consist of me obtaining my journeymen license and then, down PO Box 595, Buffalo; the road, possibly starting my own plumbing or HVAC/R business. The reason I want to work in one, or both, of these fields, is that I like using my hands and I like physically seeing what I have accomplished. Another reason I want to work in one of these fields is because of the highly needed service that it offers for people."

## IPTV DVR UPDATE



### IMPORTANT

On August 1, 2023, a system update will take place for all DVR's on West River Cooperative Telephone Company's IPTV system.

This update will, unfortunately, reset all DVR's and any recordings you have saved, will be permanently deleted. This should not affect any scheduled recordings, but recordings should be checked by the members after the update. Once the update is complete, you will be able to record again as normal.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please call the office if you have questions at 605-244-5213.

## Find Your Address

Five addresses were hidden in the last newsletter.

Hidden in this issue are five new addresses. If you find YOUR address, all you have to do is notify our office.

The \$20 will then be deducted off your next telephone bill.

Changes of address in the New WRCTC Members section do not count.

**Deadline is June 28, 2023.**

**\$20**  
**bill credit**