

West River Cooperative Telephone Company
Calling on You



SmartHub is available 24/7 through the app or website to view your bill, update your account, make a payment or simply check your balance!

We are currently running a paperless promotion! Register or login to your SmartHub account, click on "Go Paperless" and receive \$1 off your monthly bill (**every month!**)

Sign up today!
<https://sdplains.smarthub.coop/Login.html#registration>

If you are currently signed up for paperless billing and are not receiving the \$1 credit, call the office PO Box 412, Bison; and we will add it to your bill!



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

2025 FRS Scholarship Program

Who is eligible to apply?

Each applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior.
- Be a United States citizen.
- Be sponsored by a current member of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association (Contact your local telecommunications provider to determine if the company is an NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association member and if they are participating in the FRS Scholarship program.
- Express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation, as discussed in the essay.

What does the application include?

To complete the online application, you will need the following items:

- A 500-800 word essay about your intended area of study and how it could benefit your rural community. Proofread your essay before submitting because the essay is the most important part of the application.
- Email addresses for two people who can provide a letter of recommendation. Only one of these people may be a teacher, counselor, or educator.
- High school transcript with 7 semesters. It does not need to be an official copy.
- The correct name of the NTCA member company that will sponsor your application.

Terms and Conditions

- All applications will be reviewed, and awardees selected by a qualified selection committee.
- Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, or disability.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) to answer any questions on this application is not permitted. Plagiarism is also not permitted. Each application will be checked for (AI) and plagiarism, and if either are found, the application will be immediately removed from consideration.
- Scholarships are a one-time award. Scholarships can be deferred for one year.
- Awards will be paid upon proof of registration at a 2-year, 4-year, or vocational college or university.
- Awards will be issued by August 2025.
- All awards will be paid directly to the educational institution the student will attend.
- Awardees will forfeit their scholarship if mandatory paperwork is not received by FRS within 60 days of notification that they have been selected.
- Recipients will be contacted directly and names will be posted to www.FRS.org/scholarships in the spring.

One application qualifies a student for all available FRS scholarships.

FRS General Scholarship

\$2,500 awarded for the first year of 2-year or 4-year college or vocational school.

V+C Trust Scholarship

\$9,000 awarded to two students from rural communities who are interested in pursuing studies related to environmental sustainability, social justice, telecommunications, or economic development.

Everett Kneece Scholarship

\$7,000 awarded in honor of the generous philanthropist Everett Kneece, who had a passion for rural America.

Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship

\$5,000 to one student who exhibits a strong dedication to rural America.

JSI Scholarship

\$5,000 awarded to students interested in science, math, medicine, or engineering.

Sarah Tyree Good Neighbor Scholarship

\$5,000 awarded to students who demonstrate what it means to be a "good neighbor" through humanitarianism, inclusion, and kindness to others.

Cronin Communications Scholarship

\$2,500 awarded thanks to the generosity of the Timothy Evan Owens Foundation.

Diana Jo Dreyer Memorial Scholarship

\$2,500 awarded thanks to INDATEL Services LLC to a woman who intends to study business.

For more information and the link to the application on Kaleidoscope, visit www.frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships.

You must access the application via the Kaleidoscope link.

All applications must be submitted by February 14, 2025 at 11:59pm EST.

inside this issue

Help us find these People..... 2
 Vale Ag Show 2
 Managed Wi-Fi 3
 CommandIQ App 3
 New Members 4
 Secure Pay 4
 Internet Help Desk 4
 Find your Address 4
 Stay in the Know 4
 Career Showcase 4

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!

Please Help us Find these People:

In the fall of 2024, many of you may remember receiving a capital credit check or credit towards a bill from WRCTC. However, there are some who have yet to receive their checks or allocation notices because we do not have 13823 Harding Rd, Buffalo; current addresses for them. If you know the current address for any of the people listed below, please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or email us at westriver@sdplains.com.

Agnes M Garcia Estate
Blake, Ian
Brennan, Tamra
Brown, Joseph Jr & Heather
Clanton, William Cody & Erin
Crippen, Theresa
David, Brent
Dell, Jake
Durick, David
Edwards, Lynette
Englert, Bob
Fuerst, James
Geigle, Merle
Gunderson, Marcella
Harris, Lisa
Harrison, Roxanne
Hindman, Joseph
Jacobson, Marvel
Junek, David
Klueckman, Brendan
Larson, Vernon C.
Linder, Roxsanne
Linn, Bob
Maier, June
Maxson, James
McGaugh, Deb
Miles, CJ
Mundell, Richard A.
Newell, Jan
Nickels, Robert

Hulett, WY
Fort Collins, CO
Greenhaven, AZ
Spearfish, SD
Belle Fourche, SD
Belle Fourche, SD

Nisland, SD
Lemmon, SD
Billings, MT
Nashville, TN
Spearfish, SD
Rapid City, SD
Spearfish, SD
Prairie City, SD
Sioux Falls, SD
Belle Fourche, SD
Piedmont, SD
Belle Fourche, SD
Newell, SD
Lemmon, SD
Newell, SD
Whitewood, SD
Lemmon, SD
Whitewood, SD
Rapid City, SD
Cherokee, OK
Wright, WY
Columbus, MT
Fruitdale, SD

Olson, Mike
Overstreet, Rosalie
Patrick, James H.
Pearce, Jon
Pharris, Peggy
Reif, Bill
Robinson, Eugene
Ruff Bros
Seaman, Char
Shadehill Resort
Sigler, Brianna
Silverman, Ron
Simpson, Herb
Steele, Andrea
Sumner, Jessica
Svihovec, Eugene
Tokar, Brenda
Wallingford, Richard

Mitchell, Sd
Belle Fourche, SD
Hettinger, ND
Belle Fourche, SD
Newell, SD
Spearfish, SD
Rosemount, MN
Belle Fourche, SD
Nisland, SD
Hettinger, ND
Newell, SD
Lemmon, SD
Newell, SD
Vale, SD
Jerome, ID
Bismarck, ND
Lead, SD
Morrill, NE

**JOIN US
AT THE
VALE AG SHOW!!
January 8, 2025
10AM-2PM**

**If you haven't updated your router in the past 5 years,
IT'S TIME!!**

Managed Wi-Fi

- Ask us what speed is right for you and experience a LAG FREE Wi-Fi connection!
- We take care of router updates – we will keep the malware and firmware out of your router!
- We 615 Cornell Ave, Newell; store your passwords!
- You can control your router from the FREE CommandIQ application on your cell phone or tablet.
- Add ProtectIQ - monitors incoming traffic on your router, which automatically blocks harmful content.
- Add ExperienceIQ - prioritize devices and block inappropriate content.

**Try Managed Wi-Fi today!
\$10/month**

FREE CommandIQ App - Download Today!

In order for the CommandIQ app to work, you must have West River Cooperative Telephone Company's Managed Wi-Fi.

The CommandIQ app allows you to control your home Wi-Fi network from the palm of your hand!

- Change or reset 15541 Cedar Canyon Rd, Faith; your Wi-Fi Network name or password.
- See all devices currently using your Wi-Fi.
- Pause the internet for any device, at any time.
- Create routines for scheduled downtime (i.e. bedtime).
- Create temporary or shareable guest network without sharing your main network name and password.
- Receive updates about planned network maintenance.

If you are interested in learning more out about Managed Wi-Fi or the CommandIQ 1332 45th Ave W, Dickinson; App, call the office at 605-244-5213 and speak with one of our Member Relations Representatives!



New WRCTC Members

Meadow

Smith, Kevin 605-788-2293

Nisland

Tvedt, Dan & Kathryn 605-257-1537

SECURE PAY

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

Available 24/7!

855-960-3237

INTERNET HELP IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY

(24/7 Support)

SDPlains Help Desk

888-464-9513

Find Your Address

Five mailing addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new mailing 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 are not eligible.

Deadline is January 28, 2025.

\$20
bill credit

Stay in the Know

It is important to have up-to-date information on events occurring at your local cooperative. When service outages occur, we are able to give updates as soon as we have information to share. This keeps you, our member-owners, in the know!

If you have a Facebook or Instagram account please use your smartphone, tablet or computer to like our pages!

Make sure to stay up to date and in the know when it comes to news and upcoming events going on throughout WRCTC's territory!



www.facebook.com/WRCTC



www.instagram.com/westrivercoop.telephoneco/

Western Dakota Career Showcase

West River Cooperative Telephone Cooperative Telephone Company and Grand Electric Cooperative participated in the Western Dakota Career Showcase held on November 18th at the Lemmon Armory. Connie Bootz, Assistant Director of Finance; Tyrell Ellingson, Lemmon Area Journeyman Combination Technician, and Scott Riley, Lineman, were present to field questions regarding careers at both cooperatives.

The event's primary goal was to inspire young individuals to consider returning to our small communities after completing their education and to enlighten them about the diverse career prospects available. While there are many opportunities in small-town South Dakota it is our job to share and educate local students about the many options they have if they choose to return to the area!