

**Office
Closed**

**West River
Cooperative
Telephone
Company's
office will
be closed
Monday,
May 29th for
Memorial Day.**



TWO Students are going to Washington, D.C.

Sierra Sattler, Lemmon and Nora Larson, Lemmon won a FREE trip to Washington, D.C. by writing outstanding 500-word essays discussing why they wanted to participate in the FRS Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. Sierra and Nora will join 100 other high school students (ages 16 or 17) from across rural America to learn about the role telecommunications play in rural communities. West River Cooperative Telephone Company is proud to be sponsoring these young ladies to attend the 20th annual Foundation for Rural 866-4683 Service (FRS) Youth Tour on June 3-7, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

The tour provides a forum for teens to meet and interact with their peers from other rural communities as well as key legislative, regulatory and government figures. On



Sierra Sattler

the tour, Sierra and Nora will enjoy visiting 788-2266 the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, National Cathedral, Smithsonian Institute, Arlington Cemetery, Roosevelt and Lincoln Memorials, Washington Monument and several other landmarks around the Nation's Capitol.

Sierra is the daughter of Billy and Lorilei Sattler, Lemmon, and she is currently a sophomore at Lemmon High School. In her essay, Sierra wrote: *The educational benefits that come with going on this trip are endless. By visiting places like the Capital, I will be able to learn about how our government works. I will also be able to see places that I have wanted to visit my entire life, such as the Arlington National Cemetery, where the eternal flame lights JFK's tomb. I also wish to visit the Smithsonians, to see the expansive set of museums that are world famous for the artifacts held there. If chosen, it would truly be an eye opening experience for me. I have a fierce love for anything historical, and I have had very little opportunity to travel in my life.*



Nora Larson

There also is the perk of representation by going on this trip. I will be an ambassador of South Dakota and able to share with others the greatness of our state, by being a respectful and gracious representative of our state. I have pride in my own state, I would love to learn about other states as well while on this trip.

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Avoid costly fees Make a Pay Arrangement

Did you know you can avoid having your services disconnected for non-payment by simply calling the office and setting up a pay arrangement?

We understand hardships arise and you may need more time to make your monthly payment. Simply call the office at 777 (toll-free from any WRCTC landline) or 605-244-5213 and ask to set up a pay arrangement that you can meet. Doing so will prevent us from disconnecting your services and charging you costly reconnect fees.

Past Due

Youth Tour Winners (continued)

Finally, I would appreciate being able to pay my respects to those who have fallen in service to our country. Their sacrifice has helped us to stay great and deflect threats to our country. For every soldier, both alive and passed on, deserves the respect of a hero.

Nora is the daughter of Todd and Judy Larson, Lemmon, and she is a 456-2879 sophomore at their homeschool, Larson Homeschool. In her essay, Nora wrote: *The Youth Tour Sponsor, Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)*

states its vision: "To harness the power of the rural communications industry to enrich lives in America". My life has definitely been enriched by rural telecommunications. I live on a 5th generation farm. The history of the farm's telephone service is quite interesting. My great grandparents told me that when someone would call their party line it would ring in all the neighbor's houses. Everyone had to pick up their phones to see if the call was theirs. My grandma recalls that when she and grandpa were dating they had to talk on a shared party line. To my generation, it seems unbelievable that there was a time when you couldn't call someone privately. It wasn't until the 1970s that our farm had its own private phone line. These days, when almost everyone has their own personal pocket sized telephone with Internet, the thought of party lines and even dial up Internet seems so old-fashioned. Rural telecommunications have come a long way! Participating in the Youth Tour would give me even more insight into our nation's scientists and inventors who have advanced communications so much in the past 90 years.

I would like to be a well-informed United States citizen who knows the principles the Founding Fathers laid out for governing this country. If I were able to participate in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, I would take the opportunity to learn all I could about our country's history and the role of the rural telecommunications industry.

Congratulations to Sierra and Nora!



SDTA \$1,500 Scholarships Available

WRCTC, along with the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA), is encouraging college students to apply for one of three \$1,500 SDTA Memorial Scholarships for the coming school year. The SDTA Memorial Scholarships are available to 244-7793 applicants who have completed at least two semesters of course work at

an accredited post-secondary school in South Dakota and who are members/customers or whose parent(s) are members/customers of an SDTA member company. The scholarship can be used at any post-secondary educational institution in South Dakota. Previous recipients are not eligible to apply again and preference will be given to 972-4546 students with majors within the communications industry. A sample of these majors include:

- **Technologies (Communications Systems Engineering Technologies, Computer Programming or Software Specialist, Computer Systems or Software, Satellite Communications, Utilities Technologies, Network Technician)**
- **Computers (Internet Apps Developer, Laser/Electro-Optics, Marketing, Network Administration, System Administrator, Computer Applications)**
- **Engineering (Computer Science or Systems, Electrical, CAD, Software, Industrial, Communications Systems, Network Security)**
- **Technology Education**
- **Communication Arts (Graphic or Mass Communications, Commercial Arts, Multimedia/Web Development)**
- **Business (Economics, Marketing, Human Resource, Accounting, Management, Communications, Business Law)**

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 31, 2017.

Applications are available at www.sdtaonline.com/resources/sdta-scholarship, or from any South Dakota 374-7782 post-secondary institution student financial aid office, the SDTA office (605-224-7629 or info@sdtaonline.com), or WRCTC at 777 or 605-244-5213.



Call Before You Dig



Don't assume you know what's below. Protect yourself and those around you – Call 811 every time.

Planning a home improvement job?
Planting a tree?
Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need 374-5593 to know first:

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but 257-2756 every digging job requires a call – even 375-3821 small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

New WRCTC Members

Bison, Meadow, Sorum

Kolb, Jeff (trailer - tenant) 244-7606

Buffalo, Camp Crook

Nelson, Coty 375-3896
Zolnoski, Clint & Denise 406-972-4458

Newell

Bartels, Richard & Emma 456-4330
Burke, Glenda 456-5744
Muller, Tysha 456-3789
Newell Hardware & Supply 456-2313
Penner, Chris & Jana 456-6259

Nisland

Sprague, Lyle & Kim 257-2589

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)**

**Having difficulty with your SDPlains
Internet? Please contact our tech
support anytime of the day.**

**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: Clara Braun, Buffalo; Dale Cundall,

Belle Fourche; Rosemary Dreiske, Lemmon; Stanley Fried, Bison; Kurt Hansen, Camp Crook; Ernie Kar, Prairie City, Cindy Melling, Lemmon and Dale Seppala, Buffalo. 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 May 23, 2017.**

\$10 bill credit

Social Room Use

West River Cooperative Telephone Company and Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. would like to remind you about our social room. The social room is located at the main headquarters in Bison, SD and is equipped with tables, chairs and a small kitchen 456-3340 that may be used for many different functions. **While it is available for public use, we would like to remind you that the social room is for NON-PROFIT functions only – meaning it cannot be used for any event that charges a fee, collects monetary donations or sells a product or service.** While WRCTC and Grand Electric are happy to offer a gathering place for free, we ask that you be mindful to the social room use policy.

When reserving the social room, members must be upfront about the event they are reserving it for, or they will no longer have the privilege to use the space.

If you are interested in booking the social room for a non-profit function, please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or 777.



LOCAL GRADUATION SCHEDULE

May 13	2:17 p.m.	Buffalo
May 13	3:00 p.m.	Faith
May 14	2:00 p.m.	Lemmon
May 20	2:00 p.m.	Bison
May 20	4:00 p.m.	Newell
May 28	2:00 p.m.	Hettinger

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017!