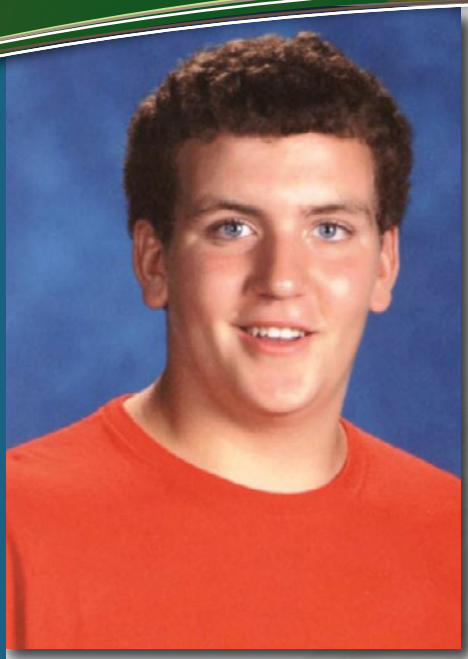
West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Calling on You

May 2014



Brandon Heil is going to Washington, D.C.

Brandon Heil, Lemmon, won a FREE trip to Washington, D.C. by writing an outstanding 500 word essay discussing services that would benefit WRCTC's members. Brandon 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 Brandon 456-2531 to attend the 19th annual Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour on May 31 - June 4, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

The trip will focus on the legislative and regulatory decisions made in Washington, D.C. that affect the telecommunications industry. Students will learn about the career opportunities the telecommunications industry has to offer.

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 the tour, Brandon will enjoy visiting 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.

Brandon is the son of Tim and Delilah Heil of Lemmon, SD, and he is currently a sophomore at Lemmon High School. Congratulations Brandon!

Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day.

Like us on facebook

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"As technology advancements continue, there are several options that may be considered appropriate additional services for telephone cooperatives such as WRCTC...The personal home security system would benefit WRCTC customers, especially the older consumers who may not have people to check on them often, but who still want to remain in their own homes."

– Brandon Heil, Lemmon

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Manager's Column
Reed Metzger
source: www.call811.com

South Dakota One Call - Dig Safely

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? The number you should call before 374-7646 you begin any digging project is 811.

A federally-mandated national "Call Before You Dig" number, 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. People digging often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked due to concerns about project delays, costs and previous calls about other projects. These assumptions can be life-threatening. The South Dakota One Call system provides for communication between excavators and underground facility operators so buried utilities can be marked in advance of any digging.

Every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs. Make your locate requests by simply calling 811 (in-state) and (800) 781-7474 outside of South Dakota. Locate requests are accepted 24/7. The One Call service is free.

Call Before You Dig 811

Smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Whether you are a homeowner or a professional excavator, one call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for FREE.

Don't assume you know what's below. 456-2918 Protect yourself and those around you – Call 811 every time.

Protect Yourself – Don't Get "SLAMMED"!

With all the One-Ring Scams taking place throughout the country, WRCTC would also like you to be aware of "slamming." "Slamming" is the process where a long distance company switches someone's long distance provider, 374-3990 without that person's consent or knowledge. If West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) receives a request from another long distance company to change your long distance provider, we are required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to do so. The FCC will not allow us to check with you for authorizations prior to changing your provider.

To PROTECT Yourself from getting "slammed", sign up for a PIC FREEZE through WRCTC. The PIC FREEZE 244-5426 requires that you (not the long distance company) must notify WRCTC before your long distance service can be switched to another provider. To request a PIC FREEZE at no charge, simply contact our office at 777 or 605-244-5213 or visit www.wrctc.coop and fill out the online form.

SDTA Scholarship Available

West River Cooperative Telephone Company, along with the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA), is encouraging college students to apply for one of three $1,000 SDTA Memorial Scholarships for the coming school year.

The SDTA Memorial Scholarships are available to 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, such as 456-2972 West River Cooperative Telephone Company. The scholarship can be used at any post-secondary educational institution in South Dakota, including public and private universities, technical schools, and community colleges.

Previous recipients are not eligible to apply again and preference will be given to students with majors within the communications industry. A sample of 257-2278 these majors include:

- **Technologies (Communications Systems Engineering Technologies, Computer Programming, Computer 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, 2014. Applications are available at www.sdtaonline.com, or from any South 866-4885 Dakota 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.

4th Grade Books Delivered

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 375-3384 towns and their interesting landmarks. 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.

The Buffalo 4th Grade class pose for a picture with their new books.

Avoiding Spam

The best way to avoid spam is not getting on spammers' lists in the first place. Many web sites require you to sign up to access their services. Often, you need to provide a valid email address during the sign-up process. There's nothing wrong with that. But you never know what will happen to the email address you give to the site. For that reason it's a good idea not to use your primary email address when you sign up at a web site. Rather use an account at one of the free web-based email services such as Yahoo! Mail or Hotmail, or another secondary email 375-3584 address that is not critical.

Although it is not possible to eliminate all spam messages from your inbox, we are continuously working with the filter software to report spam that gets through and put additional rules in place to catch some of the new waves that are inevitable.

New WRCTC Members

Bison, Meadow, Sorum

The Feed-Lot	244-7777

Buffalo, Camp Crook

Dilks, Joe & Ashley	375-3388
Hewson, August	375-3283

Lemmon

Robinson, Jessica	374-4355

Newell

Geddings, Danielle	456-3739
Hanson, Sandy & Kristina	456-3658

HELP is only a phone call away (24/7 Support)

SDPlains Help Desk 888-464-9513
WildBlue Help Desk 888-212-5370

Find Your Phone

$10 bill credit

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter, and all TEN members found their number! Those members who hunted and found their number were: Ken Amor, Bison; Harold Flatmoe, Meadow; J. B. Gold, Lemmon; Hazel Jensen, Newell and Troy Stugelmeyer, Camp Crook. 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, 2014.**

Local Graduation Schedule

May 11	2:00 p.m.	Lemmon
May 17	2:00 p.m.	Bison
May 17	2:14 p.m.	Buffalo
May 24	2:00 p.m.	Newell

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

Winners of the Coloring Contest

WRCTC, along with Grand Electric, sponsored an Easter coloring contest. The contest was open to all children fifth grade and under in both service areas. Once again, it was a huge success! Winners in the four categories are as follows:

Preschool: 1st Place– Bethany Mahaffy, Newell; 2nd Place – Julia Carmichael, Bison and 3rd Place – Elizabeth Piehl, Newell.

Kindergarten & Grade 1: 1st Place – Karly Riley, Lemmon; 2nd Place – Cheyenne Hendrickson, Meadow and 3rd Place – Mattie Krautschun, Prairie City.

Grades 2 & 3: 1st Place – Hannah Kari, Newell; 2nd Place – Kiley Sue Gress, Ludlow and 3rd Place – Asiah Schaefer, Newell.

Grades 4 & 5: 1st Place – Jecoliah Anderson, Lemmon; 2nd Place – Lauren Weishaar, Lemmon and 3rd Place – Sammi Comes, Camp Crook.