

## Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Friday, July 4th for Independence Day.

Happy  
4th of  
July!

[facebook.com/WRCTC](https://www.facebook.com/WRCTC)

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## Scholarship Winners

West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 13th 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:  
Hettinger School District – Ashley McFarland, daughter of Steve and Roxann McFarland, Hettinger; Bison School District – Christopher Morris, son of Brian and Lori Morris, Bison; Lemmon School District – Marissa Lyon, daughter of Mike and Shelly Lyon, Lemmon; Newell School District – Prestyn Novak, son of Christopher Novak and Danelle Mutchler, Newell and Harding Co. School District – Steven Koch, 456-2217 son of Wayne and Nancy Johnson, Buffalo.

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.



**Ashley McFarland**



**Christopher Morris**



**Marissa Lyon**



**Prestyn Novak**



**Steven Koch**

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





*Manager's Column*  
*Reed Metzger*

## We Proudly Present our \$2,500 Scholarship Winner - Joshua Sackmann



West River Cooperative Telephone Company is pleased to announce that Joshua Sackmann, Lemmon, is the recipient of a \$2,500 college scholarship from WRCTC and the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) the philanthropic arm of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association. This is the first time in the history of WRCTC that we have had the pleasure of presenting this scholarship. It is truly an honor to award \$2,500 to such a bright student as Joshua.

The FRS scholarship program awarded 374-5433 over \$98,000 in scholarships to rural youth across the United States. Out of over 1,500 applications received this year, thirty six scholarships were awarded. The goal of the scholarship program is to help further higher education opportunities among rural high school students. WRCTC strongly supports the youth of our community and is thrilled to sponsor this worthy program.

Scholarship recipients were selected by an independent team of reviewers from the education field. To be eligible, recipients must be sponsored by a NTCA member 456-2833 system, and must indicate a desire to return to their rural communities once their collegiate studies have been completed.

We are thrilled to offer this program, with the goal of leveling the playing field for rural students who often face financial obstacles in their pursuit of higher education. The FRS scholarship program enables rural telecommunications providers to show their support of the youth living in the communities they serve. It is a source of tremendous pride for us and for the entire community of Lemmon.

The scholarship program is open to all graduating high school seniors that receive local telecommunications service from WRCTC. Applicants must be enrolled in an 866-4547 accredited two-year or four-year college or university, or vocational technical school, and have at least a C-grade point average.

Joshua graduated from Lemmon High School this May. He plans to attend Black Hills State University in Spearfish and obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education/Elementary Education with a minor in Coaching. Joshua is the son of Jeffrey & Carla Sackmann, Lemmon.

### ***Congratulations Joshua!***

**Employee Pam Kolb presenting the \$2,500 scholarship to Joshua Sackmann.**



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

### **Background**

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that 374-3298 telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

### **What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?**

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household. That is, eligible low-income consumers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both services at the same time. Additionally, only ONE Lifeline service may be 972-4578 obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline support is available to eligible low-income consumers living in group living facilities. Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a separate household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a 375-3986 telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

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



## **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 to 244-7418 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 every digging job requires a call – even small 374-3398 projects like planting trees and shrubs.

*(continued on page 4)*



## New WRCTC Members

### Bison, Meadow, Sorum

Weinreis Bros. 866-4526

### Lemmon

Henderson, Andrea 374-4359

Kearns, Heather 374-4361

### Newell

Baxter, Dan 456-3713

Blake, David & Rachael 456-3733

Goeringer, Todd 456-2826

Parrish, Jeremy & Heidi 456-3635

Russell, Taylor & Elise 456-3715

### Nisland

Davis, Rick & Kay 257-2873

Garrigan, Riley & Cally 257-2874

## Find Your Phone Number

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter.

Those members who hunted and found their number were: J.

Wulf, Vale; Boyce Reede, Lemmon; Dean Penor, Bison; Will McCall, Prairie City; Nick Mackey, Jr., Buffalo; Scott Larson, Lemmon; Warren C. Dunn, 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 June 20, 2014.**

**\$10**  
**bill credit**

## Lifeline (continued)

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 for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in 257-2740 one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (Tribal lands only if eligible)
- State assistance programs (if applicable)

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or 777.

## Lifestyles & Landscapes!

### 2015 Directory Contest

**Deadline to enter is Aug. 15, 2014.**

Entries may be emailed to [westriver@sdplains.com](mailto:westriver@sdplains.com) or mailed to WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

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

*More information and rules can be found online at [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop).*

