

Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Friday, July 3rd for Independence Day.

Happy
4th of
July!

facebook.com/WRCTC

ARC to Increase

In November 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) made a ruling that over the next few years they were going to move more of the network cost to those who own the network. To do this, they have set benchmarks 456-2330 for local service rates and have implemented an Access Recovery Charge (ARC) that we are required to charge our members if we want to retain our USF funding. The Access Recovery Charge enables WRCTC to recover a limited portion of revenues lost due to FCC mandated reductions in intercarrier payments. **Effective July 1, 2015, residential members and single-line businesses will see their ARC increase by \$0.50 per month.** Multi-line business customers will not see an increase. Therefore, the ARC for residential members and single-line businesses will increase from \$1.50 per month to \$2.00 per month, and the ARC for multi-line businesses will stay at \$3.00 per month. This will be the fourth step of the six step increase. Every July for the next two years, the ARC will increase.

2016 Directory Photo Contest This year's theme is "WILDLIFE"

Snap a photo capturing our local wildlife and you could win \$100! Deadline to enter is **August 14, 2015**. Entries may be emailed to westriver@sdplains.com or mailed to WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

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



inside this issue

Anniversaries.....	2
FRS Youth Tour	3
Generator for Sale.....	4
Like Us on Facebook	4
From the Mailbox	4
New Members.....	4
Find Your Phone #	4

RULES: The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. Wildlife must be alive and unharmed in the photo. Photos must be of local wildlife within WRCTC's service area and include the location where the photo was taken. Each customer may submit TWO photos. Photos may also be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. The photos must be in full-color and will not be returned to the customer. 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 acknowledgement to the photographer. The photographer who captures first place will see his/her photo on the front cover of the 2016 directory and will be awarded a \$100 cash prize; second place will receive \$50 and third place will receive \$25. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

Anniversaries at the Cooperative



PAM KOLB, Administrative Assistant/Benefits Administrator, celebrated 20 years of service with WRCTC! She began her career with WRCTC on May 1, 1995. Pam's 374-7585 job responsibilities include assisting the General Manager and Board of Directors, administrating benefits, and making travel and meeting arrangements for employees and directors.

Pam and her husband, Jeff, farm and ranch southwest of Bison. They have three children – Jennifer, Alyssa (Marty) and Eric (Liz) and six grandchildren – Blake, Eli, Emma, Jaden, Addison and Jacob.

In her spare 244-7459 time, Pam enjoys spending time with family, traveling and gardening.

ERIC KAHLER, Journeyman Combination Technician, recently celebrated his 15 year anniversary in the telecommunications industry. Eric came to work for WRCTC on June 2, 2005.

Eric grew up in 375-3918 Wagner, SD where he graduated from high school. He attended two years at Black Hills State University and then went to school at Mitchell Technical Institute where he graduated with an AAS Degree in Telecommunications. Prior to coming to work for WRCTC on June 2, 2005, Eric worked for Northern Valley Telecommunications in Groton, SD for five years.

Eric and his wife, Darla, have 257-2312 two children, Jake and Allison. In his spare time, Eric enjoys fishing, hunting and spending time with his family.



Recently, Journeyman Combination Technician **ANDY ARTHUR** celebrated his 10 year anniversary with WRCTC. Andy grew up in Philip, SD, graduating from Philip High School and Mitchell Technical Institute with a degree in Telecommunications. Prior 866-4475 to coming to work for WRCTC, Andy worked for Venture Communications in Onida, SD as a Telephone Area Technician.

Andy and his wife, Kaye, have three children, 376-3127 Coby, Colt and Emma. In his spare time, Andy enjoys hunting, fishing and being outdoors.

Congratulations to Pam, Eric and Andy!

Marranda Hulm and Kim Kvale Return Home from Washington, D.C.

Marranda Hulm, Bison and Kim Kvale, Bison, attended the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour on May 30 - June 3, 2015. The girls joined 100 other high school students from across rural America to learn about the role telecommunications play in rural communities. The trip 788-2963 focused on the legislative and regulatory decisions made in D.C. that affect the telecommunications industry. The teens also visited several of the landmarks around the Nation's Capitol, including the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, National Cathedral, Smithsonian Institute, Arlington Cemetery, Roosevelt and Lincoln Memorials and the Washington Monument. Upon returning, Marranda and Kim wrote a little bit about their experiences.

Marranda 456-3202 stated, "I recently visited the city of Washington D.C. through the WRCTC FRS Youth Tour essay contest. While in D.C., we visited and did many things including museums, educational seminars, monuments, and many other things! It was a great opportunity to meet new people and learn what our telecommunications co-ops do to make a difference and impact our rural communities. My favorite part of the trip was getting to interact with all the new people I met while at the same time visiting all the major monuments in D.C."

According to Kim, "My favorite thing about the Washington trip was meeting new people. I enjoyed talking with other people my age from different areas of the country and figuring out what we had in common and what was different. I learned more of what our phone company does in a rural community. I saw many national monuments and veteran memorials and gained a further appreciation of the sacrifices many endured for our freedom. I think everyone should try to go on this trip because it is a great experience and you can learn a lot from it."

WRCTC was proud to sponsor Marranda and Kim on the trip to Washington, D.C., and we are glad they enjoyed 972-4563 the trip!



Kim Kvale (middle front) and Marranda Hulm (front right) pose for a picture with some new friends in front of the FCC emblem.



Kim Kvale at the South Dakota Pillar of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Marranda Hulm poses for a photo next to the Argus Leader newspaper (Sioux Falls) at the Newsuem in Washington, D.C.

New WRCTC Members

Bison, Meadow, Sorum

JX Ranch #3 (Brian Jensen) 866-4512

Buffalo, Camp Crook

Buck, Darren & Lori 797-4452

Graham, Paul & Joni 375-3643

Nelson, Chad 375-3399

Peaceful Prairie Estates 375-3381

Lemmon

Derschan, Adam & Tamara Bolte 376-4435

Ellison, Larry & Connie 374-4428

Newell

Lewis, Robert J. & Mary 456-3592

Zwetzig, Joe "JD" 456-3563



Like Us On Facebook!

Stay up to date on current events at your local cooperative. We want to keep our members informed of new services, contests, local and national events, legislative happenings and outages.

Visit us at www.facebook.com/WRCTC and like our page.

Find Your Phone Number

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were:

**\$10
bill credit**

Delbert Borchert, Lemmon; Keith Gaaskjolen, Meadow; Byron Ling, Lemmon; Vaughn Meyer, Reva and Lyle Wetz, Vale. 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 July 22, 2015.**

Generator for Sale

WRCTC is accepting sealed bids for a surplus 25 KW generator and transfer switch. The generator was placed in service in 1987 at the Buffalo Central Office in Buffalo, SD and has recently been replaced. The generator will be sold "as is" and it currently needs some repairs.

If you have any questions about the generator, please contact Colle Nash at 605-244-5213 or 777. **Please submit sealed bids by NOON on July 10, 2015. Mark envelope "Generator Bid" and send to WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.** WRCTC reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

From the Mailbox

I would like to thank Grand Electric/WRCTC for giving me the \$500 scholarship. I will use it towards my tuition at Black Hills State University.

Katie Sackmann, Lemmon
\$500 Scholarship Recipient

Thank you so much for the scholarship! It will help me greatly as I further my education in diesel at Western Dakota Tech.

Teigen Grubl, Faith
\$500 Scholarship Recipient

