

Calling on You

Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Monday, May 27th for Memorial Day.



Four Seasons = Four \$50 Winners!

We are looking for the Four Seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter) for the 2020 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of your favorite person, place or thing! They just need to represent one of the four seasons!

Submit your pictures to reggebo@wrctc.coop or mail them to WRCTC, % Rachel Eggebo, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

Deadline to enter the 2020 Directory Photo Contest is August 16, 2019.

Contest Rules can be found on page 4.



on facebook

facebook.com/WRCTC

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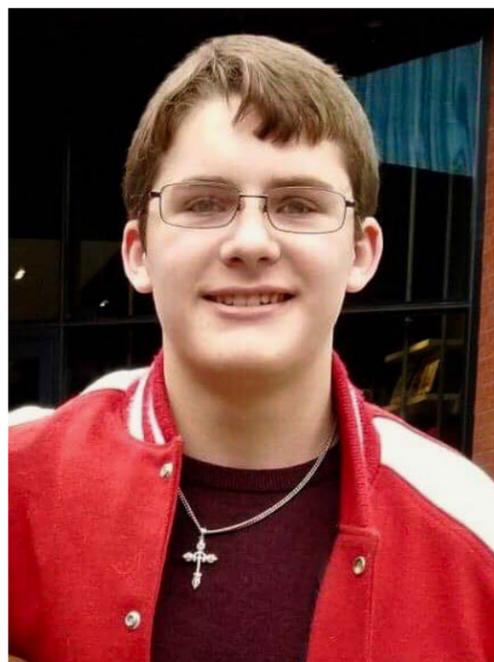
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TWO Students are going to Washington, D.C.

Rachel Larson, Lemmon and Rawlin Smith, Prairie City, won a FREE trip to Washington, D.C. by writing outstanding 500-word essays discussing what types of communications they use on a regular basis, and why. Rachel and Rawlin 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 people 244-5600 to attend the 22nd annual Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour on June 1-5, 2019, 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 the tour, Rachel and Rawlin will enjoy visiting the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, National Cathedral, 375-3566 Smithsonian Institute, Arlington 257-2662 Cemetery, Roosevelt and Lincoln Memorials, Washington Monument and several other landmarks around the Nation's Capitol.

Rachel is the daughter of Todd and Judy Larson, Lemmon, and she is currently a sophomore at their homeschool. In her essay, Rachel wrote: *I would have to admit as a teenager in this modern day and age that I tend to use the form of texting more than other forms of non face-to-face communication. This is partially due to the convenience of having a way to contact someone at a moment's notice. Lately, I have been using my device to alert my father of calves born at night in our barn yard, having set up wifi in a bridge from the barn to our house. On any given night from late February to early April, you might see me standing outside the barn, one glove off and clamped in my armpit, my still gloved hand clutching my Ipod, laboriously sending a message with slightly frozen fingers. The text may read something like "105 pound calf far side of barn yard" or "heifer been calving two hours. Pull?" I would then stand there for a moment wondering what to do until I received a one or two syllable reply, solving my problem.*



Rawlin is the son of Will and Wendi McCall, Prairie City, and he is currently a sophomore at Bison High School. In his essay, Rawlin wrote: *Communication is one of the most important things in our daily lives, we use it all the time. In our community, communication is especially important because we are so spread out rurally and without good internet service, such as that provided by our telephone cooperative, our farmers and ranchers wouldn't be able to stay connected to our ever changing modern world. We all use communication everyday whether it is to tell someone to pick something up for you at the store or when you want to connect with your best friend from college that you had lost connection with. There are many ways to communicate with someone, some of which include calling, texting, emailing, or the old-fashioned way by talking to someone in person. Personally I would chose to talk to somebody in person or over text rather than calling or emailing them.*

Congratulations to Rachel and Rawlin! We hope you enjoy your trip!



SDTA to Award \$3,500 in 2019 Scholarships

South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) is offering SDTA Memorial Scholarships in the 456-2632 amounts of \$2,000 and \$1,500 for the 2019 fall semester.

- Applicant must be majoring in a program with technical skills or a field of study useful for work in the telecommunications and/or broadband industry and have completed 24 credit hours at any accredited post-secondary institution in South Dakota (this includes high school dual credits).
- Applicant or applicant's parents must be a member/customer of an SDTA member 244-5971 company.
- Eligible majors include, but are not limited to: Telecommunications; Information Systems Technology or Management; Satellite Communications; Health Information Technology; Office Technology Specialist; Programming Specialist; Network Specialist; Engineering (Computer Science or Systems, Electrical, CAD, Software, Industrial, Communications Systems, Network Security); Technologies or Computers (Communications Systems Engineering Technologies, Computer Programming, Computer Software Specialist, Computer Systems or Software, Computer Applications, Satellite Communications, Utilities Technologies, Network 972-4665 Technician, Internet Apps Developer, Laser/Electro-Optics, Marketing, Network Administration, System Administrator); Technology Education; Communication Arts (Graphic or Mass Communications, Commercial Arts, Multimedia/Web Development).

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is May 31, 2019. Selection of awards will be announced by July 15. The scholarship application can be completed online at <https://www.sdtaonline.com/sdta-scholarships>. Applications are also available from any South Dakota post-secondary institution student financial aid office, the SDTA office (605-224-7629 or info@sdtaonline.com) or any SDTA member company.

SDTA member companies include West River Cooperative Telephone Company; Alliance Communications; Beresford Municipal Telephone; Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority; Faith Municipal Telephone; Fort Randall Telephone; Golden West Telecommunications; Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative; James Valley Telecommunications; Kennebec Telephone Company; Midstate Communications; RC Technologies; Santel 374-5208 Communications; Swiftel Communications; TrioTel Communications; Valley Telecommunications; Venture Communications and West River Telecommunications Cooperative.

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 374-7844 know first:

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners 788-2903 often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small 456-1426 projects like planting trees and shrubs.

New WRCTC Members

Lemmon

Lenerville, Doyle & Tottie

374-4541

SECURE PAY

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

Available 24/7!

844-252-5267

Find Your Phone

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in the last newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Philip Jerde, Reva; Jim Reid, Nisland; Gary Lensegrav, Meadow, Les Wolff, Lemmon; Bernard Kling, Lemmon; Lowell Cordell, Camp Crook; Jerauld Miller, Buffalo and Bob D. Crow, Bison. 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 22, 2019.**

PHOTO CONTEST RULES: *The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a person who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the subject is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit THREE 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 winners will see their photo on the front cover of the 2020 directory and will be awarded \$50. Employees and Directors are not eligible.*

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?

Past Due

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.

LOCAL GRADUATION SCHEDULE

May 11	3:00 p.m.	Bison
May 11	2:19 p.m.	Buffalo
May 11	3:00 p.m.	Faith
May 18	2:00 p.m.	Newell
May 19	2:00 p.m.	Lemmon
May 26	2:00 p.m.	Hettinger

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

