



West River
Cooperative
Telephone
Company

Calling on You

Make Your Career Dreams Come True!

\$2,500 FRS Scholarship Available

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), along with WRCTC, is offering a \$2,500 scholarship! Preference will be given to individuals expressing an interest in returning to work in a rural area following college 244-5593 graduation.

Applications are available online at www.wrctc.coop, through the Guidance Counselor at your school or from WRCTC in Bison. **Completed applications require the signature of the manager, board president or designated employee PRIOR to March 1, 2021, to ensure applications are postmarked to FRS before the deadline.**

\$500 Scholarships Available

ATTENTION High School Seniors from Bison, Buffalo, Lemmon, Faith and Newell: Here is your chance to win a \$500 scholarship! One senior from each school district 375-3174 will be awarded a scholarship from WRCTC and Grand Electric for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year! Applications are available online at www.wrctc.coop, through the Guidance Counselor at your school or from WRCTC in Bison. Please mail your completed application and any extra documents to: WRCTC, Attn: Scholarship Program, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620. **Applications must be postmarked by March 12, 2021.**

**Scholarship details
available at
www.wrctc.coop**



SmartHub: It's the Smart Way to Pay your Bill

The SmartHub communications tool provides more information 374-3163 than ever before on your computer, smart phone or tablet.

Check it out at www.wrctc.coop or download SmartHub from your app store. 374-3858

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Manager Telecom Operations
Eric Kahler

Kicking off the New Year the Right Way

100% Fiber-To-The-Home

West River Cooperative Telephone Company is excited to announce that as of the end of 2020, it has successfully upgraded its entire communications infrastructure to a fiber optic-based system. That's right, 100% of West River Cooperative Telephone Company customers are now served via fiber! Over the 375-3134 course of this upgrade, West River installed approximately 2,700 miles of fiber optic cable to nearly 3,000 customers located in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. By upgrading to a fiber optic-based network, West River has strategically positioned itself to deliver world-class 456-3026 services to our members for years to come. Also because of this upgrade, as future communications and entertainment technology advancements require our members to have more bandwidth, West River will be able to meet your communications needs. 456-2531

Connect SD

In 2019, South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem issued a challenge to bring sustainable, high-speed Internet 374-3990 to every home and business in South Dakota. The legislature approved a \$5 million allocation that launched the Connect SD broadband program, a public-private partnership with a goal of bringing high-speed 257-2174 Internet service to all South Dakotans. We realize that quality high speed Internet brings economic stimulation to our 866-4630 rural communities and how important it is for tele-health needs and online learning for our local school districts. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we have realized how essential quality high-speed Internet has been for the organizations that we service in order to continue to maintain operational 375-3612 continuity by conducting virtual business proceedings via video conferencing.



Construction on-going to deliver high-speed Internet to the Town of McIntosh. 788-2822

Over the summer of 2020, we participated in the State of South Dakota's 376-5892 Connect SD broadband program to bring high-speed Internet to the community of McIntosh, SD. We began installing the underground fiber in McIntosh in July and finished in September. It was a big project to complete in a short period of time. 456-2559 However, we are happy to announce that all residents and businesses in the Town of McIntosh have access to quality high-speed Internet.

FUSC Increase

West River Cooperative Telephone members will 374-7874 see an increase in the monthly Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) on their telephone bill effective January 1, 2021. A Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order 257-2632 changed the way telephone companies can recover their Federal Universal Fund contributions. The Federal Universal Service Fund Program is designed to help keep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers, in all areas of the United States. Residential and single line businesses will increase from \$1.76 to \$2.07 (.31 cent increase). Multiple line businesses will increase from \$3.31 to \$3.88 (.57 cent increase). Please keep in mind that if you bundle your services, you do not see these charges as they are included in your flat bundle fee. Just one more reason to bundle! 456-2214

Get the MOST out of your WiFi with a gigacENTER!

- We can troubleshoot issues over the phone without making a trip to your house
- With the CommandIQ app, control and manage your own network easily
- We store your password OR you can change it on your own device
- Set up Guest and Private networks
- Turn On/Off Internet to specific devices
- We take care of all of your WiFi equipment updates, protecting you from viruses

only \$10/mo.

Try Our
804MESH WiFi
Extender!
only \$6/mo.

Issues with WiFi
connection in certain
rooms of your house?

Once the WiFi extender has
been installed, you will gain
access to the areas in your
home that used to have a
weak signal!

gigaCENTER™

804MESH™



New WRCTC Members

Lemmon

Dittus, Jim 374-2196
Geigle, Violet 374-9714
Kostelecky, Lacey 374-9438

Newell

Brown, Sean & Alexandra 456-3947
Ismay, John & Bonnie 456-8058

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

Last month, we accidentally forgot to include ten telephone numbers. To correct the mistake, there are 20 numbers in this newsletter!

\$10
bill credit

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 Jan. 18, 2021.



From the Mailbox

Dear WRCTC, 456-1794

Thanks so much for the \$50.00 bill credit! It was greatly appreciated.

Heath & Crystal Page, Buffalo
Christmas in October Bill Credit Winners

Thank you for the bill credit "Christmas in October."
Tom & Lela Bowen, Newell

Thank you for the increased Internet speed! You guys are AMAZING! 244-5670

Gerald & Becky Burghduff, Camp Crook

Dear Grand Electric & West River, 788-2854

Thank you so much for sponsoring the Quiz Bowl. I love learning new things when studying for the Quiz Bowl. I studied for almost a month. My partner is Kaydence Gilbert. We have got first together for almost 3 years in a row. I can't wait to see what we do in the future. Thanks again.

Sylvia Turbiville, Ludlow
2020 Harding Co. Quiz Bowl Participant



Sylvia Turbiville with her dog and her achievements from the Harding Co. Fair.