

Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Monday, July 5th, in observance of Independence Day.

Happy 4th of July!

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

Scholarship Winners



*WRCTC Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for selecting me as the recipient for this scholarship! It will definitely allow me to pursue my degrees more easily!*

*Thanks again,
Zayda Dirk*



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

West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 20th 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: Lemmon School District – Zayda Dirk, daughter of Brent and Jenny Dirk, Lemmon; Bison School District – Veronica Voller, daughter of Alan and Karen Voller, Bison; Harding County School District – Logan Kautzman, daughter of Ted and ReAnn Kautzman, Capitol, MT and Newell School District – David Morell, son of Keith and Stacie Morell, Vale. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as 19645 Foster Rd, Meadow; an investment in the economic future of our rural area. It is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the areas we serve.

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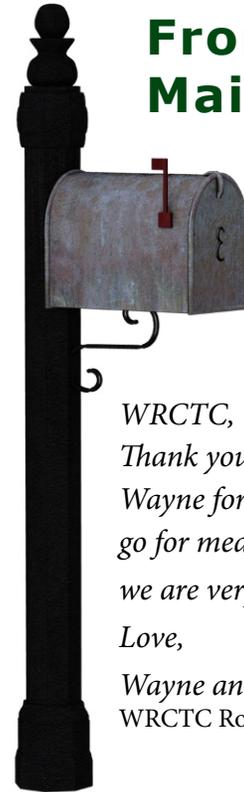
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Kahler Graduates

ERIC KAHLER graduated in 2020 Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Rasmussen University. Commencement was held virtually on April 23, 2021! He spent countless early mornings, late nights and weekends listening to lectures, studying and writing papers. Congratulations, Eric!

From the Mailbox



WRCTC,
Thank you for thinking of Wayne for the money. It will go for medical expenses and we are very grateful.

Love,

Wayne and Vicki Barnes
WRCTC Roundup Recipient

Call Before You DIG!



As the weather warms up and more projects are started outside, make sure to call 811 or (800)-781-7474 before doing any digging. There are multiple underground utility lines that need to be marked before you start your project. Call 811 at least two business days before you plan to start construction. Remember, calling 811 is mandatory 18258 Winkler Rd., Newell; and is a step that cannot be skipped. If you have any questions regarding this procedure, call 811 and they will explain the process.

WEATHER

We are looking for photos for the 2022 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of any form of WEATHER! Frost, lightning, storm clouds, rainbows – Any type of WEATHER you can catch on camera! We want to see the view through your lens!

Please submit your pictures to bschecher@wrctc.coop

This year, all photos are required to be submitted digitally. Digital photos are more vibrant and clear, they keep their quality and are easy to access while designing the directory.

Deadline to enter the 2022 Directory Photo Contest is August 2, 2021.

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 a age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit FOUR photos. Photos may be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. 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 acknowledgment to the photographer. The winners will see their photo on the front cover of the 2022 directory and will be awarded \$100 cash prize for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers in the marketplace. The discounts, which can be applied to stand-alone broadband, bundled voice-broadband packages - either fixed or mobile - and stand-alone voice service - will help ensure that low-income consumers can afford 21st-century broadband and the access it provides to jobs, education and opportunities.



The History of Lifeline

The FCC established the Lifeline program in 1985 to ensure that qualifying low-income consumers could afford phone service and the opportunities and security it provides. Congress supported and strengthened Lifeline in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, requiring that affordable service and advanced communications be available to low-income consumers across the country. In March of 2016, the FCC modernized Lifeline for advanced services by beginning a transition toward support of broadband service.

How Lifeline Works

Lifeline provides a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a discount on both services at the same time. Lifeline also supports broadband and broadband-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal 608 1st Ave E, Lemmon; lands.

To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs. You can see if you are eligible with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline>.

How Do I Qualify?

The following is a list of assistance programs that qualify a participant for Lifeline:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Program

How Tribal Link Up Works?

Tribal 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 may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

(continued on page 4)

Securing Your Account

To protect the privacy of information contained in your telephone account, WRCTC is only allowed to discuss account information with the person(s) listed on the account. This includes businesses. We must authenticate you (confirm your identity) before sharing account information. This is done by asking you two questions pertaining to your account that only you, as the account holder, would know. We can add more security to your account by adding personal questions that only the authorized users would know. Call the office to update your security PO Box 191, Buffalo; questions or update via SmartHub.

If the account is listed ONLY in your name or the business' name, you might want to consider adding an authorized user. For instance, if you are a parent or individual who relies on someone else to discuss account changes, payments or any other account data with our company, you will need to have the person's name added to your records as an authorized contact before our customer service representatives are able to assist them.

If you need to add an authorized user to your account, the form can be found on our website, www.wrctc.coop, or you may call our office at 605-244-5213.

New WRCTC Members

Lemmon

Chase, D.I. (Corky) 374-6100

Meadow

Dauwen, Taylor 788-2299

Sorum

Wells, Tate & Bobbi 866-4804

SECURE PAY

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

Available 24/7!

844-252-5267

INTERNET HELP
IS ONLY A PHONE
CALL AWAY
(24/7 Support)

SDPlains Help Desk
888-464-9513

Find Your Address

Five addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new addresses. If you find YOUR address, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$20 will then be deducted off your telephone bill. Changes of address in the New WRCTC Members section do not count.

Deadline is June 25, 2021.

\$20
bill credit

Lifeline (continued)

Tribal Lifeline takes up to an extra \$25 off your monthly bill, for a total Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month. You can get Tribal Lifeline if you live on Tribal lands. Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions, Hawaiian Home Lands, or Indian Allotments. The following is a list of Tribal assistance programs that also qualify a participant for Lifeline:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at www.wrctc.coop.

Submit applications to:

USAC
Lifeline Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

EBB Program

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month

toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

Eligible households can enroll directly with the Universal Service Adminis-

trative Company (USAC) by visiting the website <https://getemergencybroadband.org> or by a mail in application. Paper applications can be printed from the website (<https://getemergencybroadband.org>) or you can call or stop by our office to pick one up. Paper applications must be mailed directly to the USAC office for approval. The program will end when the fund runs out of money, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares PO Box 32, Nisland; an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner. You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, or by calling 833-511-0311.

