

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2023**

Company: West River Telecommunications Cooperative

Address: 101 Main St W, Hazen, ND 58545

Telephone number: 701 748-2211

Company contact: Shannon Wendel

Study Area Code: 391671

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

- ☒ Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)
- ☒ Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Tribal Link Up within 1st 30 days of service.* (See attached letter.)
- ☒ Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
- ☒ Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website.
- ☒ Company's information posted on USAC website.
- ☒ Other (describe):

Membership Notification Brochure

*Required

WRT Board of Director opportunities in 2023

WRT is a local cooperative providing fiber optic broadband internet, voice, and security camera services, as well as Co-Op Cashback to members in 25 communities across central North Dakota and South Dakota. WRT is currently accepting Board of Director petitions for two positions open in 2023.

WRT's service area is divided into seven districts, with representation by one director for each district. Directors are elected, by the WRT membership, to serve three-year terms and may run for re-election. WRT members living in District 4 or District 7 wishing to run for the cooperative board can do so by submitting a petition for nomination. Petitions must be signed by at least 15 WRT members and submitted by 5:00pm CT on Friday, March 3, 2023, in accordance with WRT Bylaws.

The current WRT members representing the open positions are District 4 Director Joy Kitzan, Hebron, and District 7 Director Gene Wolf, Hazen. WRT members living in District 4 and District 7 can represent their local area on the cooperative board. WRT District

4 consists of parts of Morton and Stark Counties in North Dakota including the parts of the St. Anthony, Flasher, New Salem, Glen Ullin, and Hebron exchanges lying within those counties south of Interstate 94. WRT District 7 consists of parts of Mercer County in North Dakota including the parts of the Hazen, Stanton, Pick City, and Center exchanges lying within Mercer County.

The election will take place at WRT's 71st Annual Meeting on Friday, June 2, 2023, in Hazen. Any WRT member may vote for the two director positions electronically via online voting, by mail/absentee ballot, in person at the Annual Meeting registration, or during the Annual Meeting. Online voting and mail/absentee will be available prior to WRT's annual meeting. Members interested in running for the WRT Board should contact WRT CEO/GM Troy Schilling at the WRT Hazen office, email myWRT@wrtc.com or call 701-748-2211 to request a petition. Additional information can be found in the WRT telephone book.



WRT, PO Box 467, Hazen, ND 58545
 Offices in: Hazen & Beulah, ND • Mobridge, SD
 701-748-2211 • www.westriv.com • myWRT@wrtc.com
 "WRT is an equal opportunity provider & employer"

MONTHLY SERVICE RATES: Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, "universal service" means basic telephone service that is available to all consumers. WRT provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates: Single Party Residence & Business Service - \$22.50/mo. Local residence & business service includes: Voice grade access to the public switched network; flat-rated local exchange service free of per minute charges; access to emergency services such as 911 & enhanced 911; and toll blocking/hold limitation. Broadband Internet access service which is the capability to transmit and receive data is available in various packages.

BATTERY NOTICE: When WRT installs fiber optics, we offer to install a battery backup unit (at no extra fee) - as fiber needs power to operate. If you strictly fail, the backup unit will power the equipment & provide voice service for approx. 8 hours. WRT offers additional battery packs to extend the length of voice service and provide internet service backup - for \$2/mo. Please keep in mind these basic emergency tips: 1) Keep at least one basic CORDED phone on hand to use in case of power outages, as cordless use additional power. 2) If you have a generator, make sure the battery backup unit is plugged into an outlet that is served by the generator. 3) Periodically check the indicator light on your battery backup unit to see if it is getting low or out of charge. Batteries should be stored above 41° F and below 104° F. General battery life is 2-4 years, pending usage & storage conditions and have a limited 3-year manufacturer's warranty. If you have any questions or would like to extend your battery backup time, call WRT at 701-748-2211.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS - LIFELINE, LINKUP & ACP: Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on qualifying monthly telephone, broadband internet, or bundled voice-broadband packages. Lifeline provides a discount up to a \$9.25/mo. on service for eligible low-income subscribers and up to \$34.25/mo. for those on Tribal lands. To be eligible for Lifeline assistance, an applicant or subscriber, one of their dependents or their household must participate in one or more of the following programs: Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance; or Veterans & Survivors Pension Benefit. Individuals whose household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. Additional Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up support is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. Tribal Lifeline/Link Up provides for additional telephone service discounts, and in addition to the previously cited programs, for those individuals residing on Tribal Lands, participation in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program, Head Start, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or Tribal TANF qualifies them for this support. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. For more information on Lifeline, call WRT at 701-748-2211 or go to <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>. WRT is also an Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) service provider. ACP is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to assist low-income households pay for broadband internet. You may be eligible if your household's income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if you have someone in your household currently receiving a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch. If your household is eligible, you could receive: Up to \$30/mo. discount on your internet or up to \$75/mo. discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal land. If you are currently receiving the Lifeline benefit, you may automatically qualify for ACP. For more information on ACP, call WRT at 701-748-2211 or go to <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: West River Telecommunications Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/soo/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20259-4116; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WRT, PO BOX 467, HAZEN, ND 58545 OR CALL 701-748-2211.



PHOTO BY DANIEL ARENS

The Travis Anderson Trio provides a unique jazz rendition to classical TV show and Disney movies during their performance in Hazen. The show was the third of four performances hosted by the local Concert Series for music aficionados.



Don Murschel

80th Birthday Party

Hazen City Hall (Small Hall)
Sunday, January 29, 2023
 1:00-4:00pm
 No Gifts Please



Elaine Buchholz

Estate Sale

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Sunday, Feb 5 3pm-6:30pm
 St. Matthew Lutheran Church
 302 3rd St NW
 To-go orders are also available.

A free will offering will be sent to the LCMS to assist the important ministry in Chile.

Wanted

Looking to purchase a pull type ice shack that drops flush to the ice. Please call 605-230-0277 if you have one for sale.

Top prices paid: Silver, Gold, coins, collections, estates, appraisals, repairs. Larsen's Jewelry 605.580.9963

Work Wanted

Piano Tuning: Call Paul McCorkle 605-848-0268

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POTTER COUNTY NEWS - 605-765-2462 - Paid Circulation - 1,350

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Local News from Area Communities

Watauga News

By: Betty Tomac
522-3347

Lovely sunshine this Monday morning, with a little wind blowing. It melts just a small amount each day, making more icy spots to watch out for.

Dale and Teresa Dillman

Anderson and son Hunter, of Lemmon stopped to visit.

Frank and Krista Tomac were in Lemmon Friday afternoon.

Coffee guests at Paul and Marlene Soebbing this week were Bea Baumeister and Debbie Nehl.

Friday, Frank and Lois Mollman went to Miles City, Mt. to visit Emmett, Marci, Tristin, Reese and NovaLee Mollman. They delivered the Christmas Gifts to Emmett's family. While there, they attended the "Bobbie Burns Scottish Celebration"; This Celebration was started

in 1923 to honor the Scottish people in the area. Their granddaughter, Novalee, who is 7 years old, wore the McGregor colors and also wore a Kilt, and did a Scottish Highlander Dance.

Toni Jacobs took me to Mandan on Tuesday, where I got a shot in my eye.

Friday, Bea Baumeister made a trip to McIntosh to get 'tags' for her car, she also visited Dale Baumeister in Watauga.

Tom Ruhoff was a Sunday dinner guest at John and Scott Ruhoffs.

Last Weekend, Bob and Jonabeth Mollman went to Aberdeen to watch Grandson, Keston in his Hockey Games; They then went on to Bo and Soya Mollmans in Yankton to watch Granddaughter Karissa play Soccer; This Friday, Page Mollman had dinner with his parents; Saturday, Bob and Jonabeth visited Delores Long at the Lemmon Nursing home. They stopped at Preston and Mandy Mollman on the way home for Joanna's Birthday party; After Mass, Bonnie and Greg Mollman were supper

guests at their house. On Sunday, Bob and Jonabeth took Jay Evenson and his friend, Laurie out for a bobsled ride, behind the matched team of horses, they have. Bob made the Bobsled this winter, he also has made a buggy.

Morristown News

the boys basketball game in Lemmon against Bowman. Saturday evening, after Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Morristown, Rae, Ronette, Kieren and Maiken enjoyed supper at Fast Eddies; Teyvyn Lutz had attended the Little Moreau Conference girls basketball games in Dupree and had the school bus drop her off there, to join them a little later.

Neva Mistelski, Dorothy Chase, Brenda and Phil Mitzel brought cupcakes and coffee to celebrate Rosemary Goldsmith's 92 Birthday at the Lemmon Nursing Home on Friday morning; Friday afternoon, the Nursing Home served cake for Rosemary's Birthday to the Nursing Home Residents.

Saturday, while Greg Tatro went to Trail City, Gwen Tatro went to Lemmon; Sunday afternoon, Mike Zentner visited Greg and Gwen; Sunday supper guests at Tatro's were Devin, Kayla, Izzy, Olivia and JP O'Donnell.

Toni and Sylvester Jacobs gained a new Grandson and a new Great Granddaughter this week. On January 20th, Stephen and Imelda Jacobs had a son, Isadore James; The little man weighed 8 lbs 9 oz. and was born at the Hettinger Hospital. His Grandparents are Jim and Sandy Jacobs of Eyota, Minnesota and Toni and Sylvester. Great Grandmothers are Mrs. Schaff of Bismarck and Betty Tomac of Lemmon.

On January 21st John and Clara Goldade of St. Marys, Kansas had a daughter, Erin

Ines. The little Miss weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. Grandparents are Jessica and Rob Goldade of Long Prairie, Mn. and John and Laura Peters of St. Marys, Kansas; Great Grandparents are Toni and Sylvester Jacobs and Betty Tomac is the Great Great Grandmother.

Shields News

get together was on Saturday January 14th at the Allan Bahm home. Those in attendance were Ron and Glenda Gross, Ashley Bercier and family; Josh and TaSheena Meyer and family; Courtney Bahm and family Mandan; Kevin and Wendy Bahm, Carrington and Arlene Bahm.

Shields/ Selfridge Sportsman Club had their Christmas supper plus election of officers and drawing for the Prairie Dog hunt in June. Shields Bar and grill served the supper, which was very good.

Arlene Bahm visited her sister Judy McDowall, Mandan a few days this week.

Selfridge News

By: Debbie Vollmuth & Jayne Laintz

With all the fog comes frost. Although it may look pretty, it can cause problems. The electricity has been blinking and going out for hours at a time. Hopefully, that will soon end. But, does all the fog mean lots of precipitation in the future??

There will be a "Winter Fun Day" at the Selfridge High School on Saturday, January 28 from 1:00-3:00pm. This event is open to students in grades K-6. MaryJean Hunter will be hosting another of her wonderful parties for the children. Have fun everyone!

Lenore and Willy Mosset went to Bismarck on Friday for errands.

Nick and Debbie Vollmuth got together with 17 other couples for a game night on Sunday evening. It was lots of fun. Happy Birthday to Arlynne Walker and Nick Vollmuth.

Trail City News

By: Peyton Keller
605-845-5644

The weather over the week in Trail City has finally been sunny allowing some of our snow to melt.

(4.0-3.5)

**Kathryn Volk, Gavin Lynch, Chloe Sandland, Shelby Edinger

JUNIOR HIGH HONORS {4.0-3.5}

Wyatt Schell, Emmitt Maher, Cheyenne Lynch, Dena Yellow Earrings

JUNIOR HONORS {3.499-3.0}

Alonna Campbell
SOPHOMORE HIGH HONORS {4.0-3.5}

Brandi Baumeister, Temprence Geigle
SOPHOMORE HONORS {3.499-3.0}

Joshua Diamanti
FRESHMEN HIGH HONORS {4.0-3.5}

Mia Hansen, Kaitlyn Lynch, Jessmyn Hertel

Running Hawk, Gus Brenner, Hayden Hollow, Zayden White Eagle

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Students named to the NDSU Dean's list

Area North Dakota students were among the 4,226 North Dakota State University students to be placed on the fall 2022 dean's list.

A student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify for the summer list.

Breanna Hosman, Agricultural Education
 Braxton Rolle, Computer Science
 Kiana R. Soupir, Nursing
Students from New Salem include:
 Brenna M. Hoger, Nursing
 Travis Kunkel, Management
 Information Systems

Glen Ullin-Hebron Bearcats Boys C Team Basketball Action January 13-21

By Coach Robert Moorehouse

The Bearcats C-Team went to a tournament in Hettinger on January 13th and 14th. The Bearcats first game was against the Richardson-Taylor Raiders. The Bearcats won the game 61-15. The Bearcats came out of the chutes quick and never looked back. All players contributed and there were four that scored 10 or more points.

The second game was against the Dickinson Trinity Titans. The Bearcats lost the game 43-41. The Bearcats had a slow start and were out-scored 9-1 in the first quarter. This would come back to haunt them as the Bearcats out-scored the Titans 40-34 the second through fourth quarter.

This put the Bearcats in the third-place game against the Heart River Cougars. The Bearcats won this game 69-64 in a double overtime thriller. The Bearcats came out hot and cooled off the fourth quarter. Free throws were a killer for the Bearcats as they shot 40% from the stripe. The Bearcats were able to pull off the win with some phenomenal defense in the second overtime. Five players scored in double digits in this game.

The Bearcats C-Teams next matchup was the Hazen Bison on January 19th. The Bearcats won the game 52-41. The Bearcats came out slow and struggled to make shots the first half, but were able to get hot the second half and win the game. It was a back and forth game until the third quarter where the Bearcats outscored the Bison 25-16. The Bearcats shot 75% from the stripe and were able to hit 5 three pointers that were crucial in the win. The posts were huge in

PUBLIC NOTICE Morton County Commission Minutes

MORTON COUNTY
Commission Regular Meeting
December 27, 2022

The Morton County Commission Regular Meeting was called to order on December 27, 2022 at 5:31 PM by Chairman Boehm at the Morton County Courthouse, 210 Second Avenue NW, Mandan, North Dakota. Others present were Commissioners Zachmeier and Leingang and Auditor Rhone. Commissioner Buckley was present virtually. Absent was Commissioner Morrell. Also present was States Attorney Koppy, Sheriff Kirchmeier and Recorder Seefeldt.

Leingang moved and Zachmeier seconded to approve the agenda with an addition. All voting aye, motion carried.

Buckley moved and Leingang seconded to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2022 regular meeting. All voting aye, motion carried.

Zachmeier moved and Boehm seconded to approve the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC to use Morton County Development Funds in the amount of \$22,500 for 6 in 1 Meals LLC of New Salem for their expansion. All voting aye, motion carried.

Buckley moved and Leingang seconded to approve abatement #6139 which is a reduction of \$57,200. All voting aye, motion carried.

Zachmeier moved and Leingang seconded to approve out of state travel for Recorder Seefeldt to attend the national Property Records Industry Association Symposium in

Phoenix, AZ on February 20-24, 2023. All voting aye, motion carried.

Zachmeier moved and Leingang seconded to appoint Michael Kemnitz to a 3 year term expiring 12/31/25 on the Morton County Water Resources Board. All voting aye, motion carried.

Zachmeier moved and Buckley seconded to appoint William Robinson and Mitch Biz to 3 year terms expiring 12/31/25 on the Lower Heart Water Board. All voting aye, motion carried.

Leingang moved and Buckley seconded to appoint Roger Hille to a 4 year term expiring 12/31/25 on the Morton County Road Commission. All voting aye, motion carried.

Zachmeier moved and Buckley seconded to approve liquor licenses for 2023 for The Watering Hole, MK Events and The Wet Spot. All voting aye, motion carried.

No bills were approved at this time due to sessions not being com-



Jim and Marlene Gerving were surprised when all their children were present when they were honored with the "Forever Fan" award on Saturday during the basketball game with Flasher. Pictured l-r: Glenn, Allen, Jim, Marlene, Tamera and Dean.

Participation Needed in Hunter Harvest Surveys

While North Dakota's 2022 hunting seasons have come and gone, hunter success, or lack thereof, still matters to wildlife managers.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has conducted hunter harvest surveys for more than a half-century, using the findings to help manage the state's wildlife populations.

Thousands of surveys are sent annually, and participation is strongly urged because hunter harvest plays a noted role, for example, in setting hunting license numbers for the upcoming season.

Hunters are surveyed about their hunting activity because understanding how many animals were removed from the population is an important ecological piece of information. The information collected from the hunter harvest surveys is compared against

Just Joyce

Hello Readers,

Although the weather was ally pretty on the trees with the f it played havoc on our electric Thursday our power kept blink on and off. Friday, we were with power for about 15+ hours, it was restored. Saturday the se thing for about 7+ hours, then b on. Then the sun finally came Saturday afternoon and all day 8 day. I was a happy camper. Yeah sunshine!

During a recent password at it was found that a blonde was u the following password: Mickey niePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDon GoofySacramento.

When asked why such a l password, she said she was told it had to be at least 8 characters and include at least one capital.

An overlooked part of clean the floors in your house is main ing your cleaning tools. Using a mop or vacuum with a full be container is much less effective

Boys C squad earned third place in Hettinger Tourney

By Coach Bo Moorehouse

The Bearcat C-Team competed in a tournament in Hettinger Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14.

In the first game of the tournament they met the Richardton-Taylor Raiders and won the game 61-15. The Bearcats came out of the chutes quickly and never looked back.

All players contributed and there were four on the team that scored 10 or more points.

The second game was against the Dickinson Trinity Titans and in this one they lost, 43-41. The 'Cats had a slow start and were outscored 9-1 in the first quarter. This would come back to haunt them as the Bearcats outscored the Titans 40-34 from the second through fourth quarters.

The loss put the Bearcats in the third-place game against the Heart River Cougars which they won 69-64 in a double overtime thriller. The team had come out hot and cooled off in the fourth quarter.

Free throws were a killer for the Bearcats as they shot 40% from the stripe. The 'Cats were able to pull off the win with some phenomenal defense in the second overtime.

Five players scored in double digits in this game.

Bearcats - Hazen Bison

The Bearcat C-Teams next matchup was the Hazen Bison Thursday, January 19. The Bearcats won the game 52-41. They had come out slowly and struggled to make shots during the first half, but were able to get hot the second half and win the game.

It was a back and forth game until the third quarter when the Bearcats outscored the Bison 25-16. The team shot 75% from the stripe and were able to hit five three pointers that were crucial in the win. The posts were huge in the game as the Bearcats had a very big size advantage.

Shiloh Christian Saints

The team had another busy weekend as they played the Shiloh Christian Saints Friday,

January 20 and the Flasher Bulldogs on January 21.

The Bearcats lost to the Shiloh Christian Saints 79-46. The 'Cats came out of the chutes very slow and struggled to put the ball in the hoop in the first half but in the second half they were red hot. They cut the lead down to 14 in the third quarter, but were not able to keep up with the Saints.

The Bearcats were able to make seven three pointers in

the game and shot 50% from the free throw line. Scoring in the game was balanced.

Flasher Bulldogs

Saturday, January 21 the team took on the Flasher Bulldogs. The Bearcats ended up winning the game 43-35.

They struggled to score in the second and third quarter but were lifted by a solid fourth quarter where they outscored the Bulldogs 10-5. The Bearcats were very

balanced in scoring versus the Bulldogs.

Coach Moorehouse reported "I am very proud how the C-Team has played over the past week. A lot of players are really figuring themselves out as basketball players. They are playing as a team and getting better every day. I can't wait to see what the team can do the second half of their season against some tough opponents."

SELL IT WITH A FREE CLASSIFIED AD IN THE HEBRON HERALD, RICHARDTON MERCHANT GLEN ULLIN TIMES NEW SALEM JOURNAL

To say "thanks for your patronage" in 2022 the Richardton Merchant, Hebron Herald, Glen Ullin Times and New Salem Journal are joining together to offer everyone FREE classified ads. They will be published in the Hebron Herald Wednesday, February 8.

Deadline to submit an ad is

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

Just send us your classified advertisement.
We will publish it free of charge for you.

Mail your advertisement to:

The Hebron Herald, Box 9, Hebron, ND 58638

COPY FOR ADVERTISEMENT

Name _____

PhoneNumber _____

Your name will be included on the ad unless you inform us that you only want the telephone number published.



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Our Voices in Pierre

House fails to pass Infrastructure bill

As we gaveled out, completing week two of the South Dakota legislature, I have several updates/comments. South Dakota Tourism had their annual convention, which I was able to attend. After listening to some discussion and sitting through the awards presentation, it is obvious the past and current members and state employees had and still have a vision to build on tourism.

In 2022, 14.4 million tourists visited the state and spent \$4.7 billion, an increase of 8% over 2021. South Dakota tourism employs 56,826 people with a payroll of \$2.1 billion. When we think of tourism we think of the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, the Missouri River, and the Badlands. Every small town and every corner of the state has something to offer in-state and



District 23 Rep. Scott Moore

out-of-state visitors. The individuals and businesses receiving awards not only promoted South Dakota, they had one common message: "Customer Service." I would encourage you to invite your family and friends to visit South Dakota.

We finished out the second week without the House of Representatives passing SB41 which is the \$200 million housing infrastructure bill. House members have had some good/passionate debates on this bill which was a holdover from 2021.

We had multiple groups visit the capital this past week with many more to come. Each group has concerns and topics to discuss, and many groups just like to keep informed of topics/bills that affect them or their trades.

Please plan to attend a cracker barrel in your area starting Saturday, Jan. 28. If you see legislation that interests you, please reach out with your concerns.

Bills on housing, veterans care advance in legislature

Last week saw Gov. Noem, Chief Justice Steven Jensen, and Peter Lengkeek, Chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, give the State of the State, State of the Judiciary, and the State of the Tribes addresses, respectively. Now in its second week, the legislative session is beginning in earnest.



District 23 Rep. James Wangness

One of the first things addressed were changes in the legislative rules. One of the most notable of these changes is repealing Joint Rule 2-5 and other small changes made during the COVID-19 pandemic. Joint Rule 2-5 allowed members to be excused from committee meeting or floor session if said member had the virus or was quarantined because of it. That member would then be allowed to participate and vote remotely. On Friday, Jan. 13, the Joint Legislative Procedure Committee met and approved to have Joint Rule 2-5 and other COVID changes repealed and return the legislature to its original procedure. On Wednesday, Jan. 18, the House voted to approve these changes.

Two consequential bills that appeared this week are Senate Bill 41 and House Concurrent Resolution 6003. SB 41 would "establish a program for housing infrastructure loans and grants, make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency."

This bill would greatly increase state expenditure by millions of dollars on housing development so thousands of people would have a better opportunity to purchase a house. After passing the Senate, SB 41 came before the House State Affairs Committee on January 18 and was passed with little opposition.

HCR 6003 would encourage the Executive Board of the Legislature to create an interim legislative study that would address the needs of South Dakota's veterans and help them access long-term nursing home care. The problem comes from a lack of state veterans nursing homes (the only one being in Hot Springs), and the difficulties veterans sometimes face in obtaining adequate long-term nursing care. On Wednesday, Rep. Teunissen (District 9) brought this before the House State Affairs Committee and called upon the members to support South Dakota's veterans. It passed unanimously.

HCR 6003 was passed by the House 67 to 2 on Thursday, Jan. 19. SB 41 was slated to come before the House Floor on Friday, Jan. 20.

On Thursday, the Joint Memorial Service was held to honor former legislators Carrol (Red) Allen, Debra Anderson, O.L. (Larry) Anderson, Henry Carlson Jr., Sheldon Cotton, Gary Jerke, Marguerite Kleven, Gordon J. Mydland, James (Jim) Peterson, John (Joe) Reedy, and Harvey Wollman, who also served as Governor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Profanity, name calling or personal attacks will not be published, nor will letters deemed to be in poor taste. Libelous or slanderous statements will also not be published.

Letters to the editor must be clear, accurate and signed by the author. For verification purposes, letters to the editor must include full name, home address, and day and evening phone numbers. Contact information is for our purposes only — we will not share it with anyone else. Anonymous letters and letters written under a pseudonym will not be printed.

Letters may be edited for length, grammar and accuracy. Letters will be published on a space-available basis, and there are no guarantees they will be published the week they are submitted.

The Mobridge Tribune will not accept letters to or about political candidates within two weeks of an election unless they are a rebuttal to a previously run letter.

*Letters to the editor are not the views of The Mobridge Tribune staff — they are solely the opinions of the author.

To submit a letter to the editor, send an email to news@mobridgetribune.com



Gov. Kristi Noem, Coach John Stiegelmeier and Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden celebrate South Dakota State University's win over North Dakota State University in the FCS National Championship in early January.

Stiegelmeier honored at Capitol

By Governor Kristi Noem

This week, we welcomed the South Dakota State University football team to the South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre. On Sunday, Jan. 8, the Jackrabbits brought home a Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national championship win against North Dakota State University! This was not just any victory — it was a win against their rivals. And thanks to SDSU's excellent play, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum has to keep a Jackrabbit helmet in his office for the rest of the month.

This historic win was the second time this season that the Jackrabbits beat the Bison. Back in October, SDSU won the Dakota Marker 23 to 21. The rivalry between SDSU and NDSU is one rich with tradition, with the first faceoff between the two teams happening way back in 1903. Since then, these rivals have met 113 more times. In 2004, the regular season match-up officially became the "Dakota Marker," where SDSU and NDSU play for a 75-pound replica of the quartzite monument that marks the border between South Dakota and North Dakota.

SDSU is a well-seasoned veteran, having won a total of 17 national championships in program history. But SDSU did not let that shake them. Instead, they steamrolled into the championship game, beat the Bison 45 to 21, and won the first national title in school history. SDSU showed the grit and grind of South Dakota, and we couldn't be prouder.

I want to talk a little about two men that helped lead SDSU to victory in different roles: Coach John Stiegelmeier and quarterback Mark Gronowski.

Coach Stiegelmeier is a native of Selby, South Dakota, attended SDSU himself, and has been the SDSU head football coach since 1997. In his 26 seasons with the Jackrabbits, Coach Stiegelmeier has built the program into a yearly playoff contender. He has led the team to the FCS playoffs 11 times. Now, he'll retire as the winningest football coach in South Dakota State history after leading the Jackrabbits to a national championship victory. I want to wholeheartedly congratulate Coach John Stiegelmeier on being named the winner of the 2022 Eddie Robinson Award, an award given to the top head

coach in the Football Championship Subdivision. And I hope he enjoys his retirement.

SDSU's starting quarterback Mark Gronowski won Most Valuable Player in the national championship game. He completed 223 passing yards during the game and rushed for 57 yards. But what's even more impressive than his skills on the field is Gronowski's heart, his love for the game, and his determination.

In 2021, Gronowski led the Jackrabbits all the way to the national championship game. Then, just minutes into the game, he suffered a torn ACL. Gronowski spent the next year rehabbing, determined to get his team the national title they deserved. I admire the ambition and the

work ethic of this young man, and I commend him on a job well done, a season of games well played, and a national championship well earned.

It is no secret that, as an SDSU alumna myself, I am a huge Jackrabbits fan. I'm so proud of this team and all that they have accomplished. When I met them, it was hard to contain my excitement. I shared with them how proud I am of their fantastic work. They have made history here in South Dakota. The dedication of the entire coaching staff, as well as of every single member of the SDSU football team, led them to victory. Congratulations to SDSU on their national championship, and, always, Go Jacks!



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THANK YOU

Elm Crest Manor would like to thank all of their employees for their compassion and continuation of care for the residents and tenants. There have been many transitions and challenges over the past few years but the experience and dedication of ECM employees continues to be inspirational. These dedicated employees would not allow any obstacles to keep them from compassionately serving their residents. We would like to thank all who have played such an important role in maintaining the success of Elm Crest Manor. We also thank the community for their support, and ask that they continue to help us let the Elm Crest Employees know how much we value the love and care they provide every day to our families. We would like to welcome you to join us in celebrating the following years of dedication recognized in 2023! Please feel free to offer them a thank you for their amazing talent and hard work.

41-50 Years of Service

Lynn Keller 47

31-40 Years of Service

Cheri Schroeder 38
Dawn Bornemann 35
Roxanne Eggers 34
Ruth Winckler 34
Dorothy Kobs 34
Joyce Rademacher 33
Cindy Gerhardt 33
Sheila Christian 33
Kathy Bauer 32
Joyce Boehm 31

21-30 Years of Service

Darlene Lennie 29

1-5 Years of Service

Tina Hardesty 5
Tamara Kroh 5
Jacklyn Pazdernik 5
Cynthia Pint 5
Eunice Morgenstern 5
Tony Blaich 5
John Hasley 5
Lindell Kroh 5
Rita Schulz 5
Brenna Hoger 4



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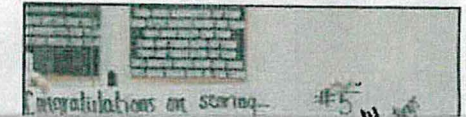
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Kari Thompson puts up a shot in the lane here against the Shiloh Christian Skyhawks Thursday.

Congratulations Ashtyn!

Keep it up Anaya!



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Congratulations to Elias for his "1000" points this evening. We are so proud of you!

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Happening This Week

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25

Mercer County Veterans Service Office, open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beulah City Council meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall
Faith Weavers Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, All ages nursery to adult, 6-7:30 p.m.

Kids Bible Study with Mrs. Woods u Truth Community Church, 220 3rd St NW, Beulah, all ages, 7-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 26

West River Mothers of Preschoolers meets 8:45-11 a.m. at Immanuel Church, Beulah, for moms of kids ages newborn-kindergarten in surrounding area. Email westrivermoms@gmail.com for more information.

Pinochle game Beulah Senior Citizen Center, 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 28

Night at the Races, Sponsored by Beulah Lions Club, Beulah Civic Center, 6-9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 29

New Awakenings AA meeting at Prince of Peace, 4 p.m.
Birthday party for Don Murschel, who is turning 80 years old. Open house from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Hazen City Hall (small hall). No gifts please.

MONDAY, JAN. 30

Flood Preparedness Town Hall, Beulah Civic Center, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 31

McLean-Mercer Regional Library Bookmobile, Dodge Park 9:15-10 a.m., Golden Valley-Sr. Housing 11:15 a.m.-noon, KRCC 1-1:30 p.m., Prairie Estates 1:30-2 p.m.
NA meeting at Zion Lutheran Church, 8 p.m.
Mercer County Veterans Service Office, open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beulah P&Z supports Gazur's reappointment

*Miller set to challenge mayor's
decision delaying appointment at
council's Jan. 25 meeting*

By Bill Schmalfeldt
bill@centralnordak.com

Beulah Mayor Jeff Gooss' decision to postpone the reappointment of Roger Gazur to a new five-year term on the city's Planning & Zoning Commission was refuted at the commission's Jan. 23 meeting.

On a unanimous vote, the commission approved a motion to resubmit Gazur's name to the mayor for a final decision at the city council's Jan. 25 meeting.

At the council's Jan 11 meeting, Gooss postponed taking final action on Gazur's reappointment, saying a couple individuals had expressed interest in serving on the commission. He did not identify the individuals.

Commission member and city councilman Gary Miller, who spoke in favor of Gazur's reappointment at the Jan. 11 council meeting, asked Economic Development Director Beaver Brinkman if there had, indeed, been applications for the seat on the P&Z Commission.

"Not to my knowledge," Brinkman said.

"And there won't be by Wednesday, either," Miller said.

Miller said said he would ask Gooss to identify the supposed applicants at the Jan. 25 council meeting. If the mayor declines to do so, Miller said he would present a motion to direct Gooss to make an appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Miller said he contacted City Attorney Scott Solem to see if such a motion would be legal.

"He told me he was going to research whether that would be a legal mo-

tion and get back to me. But he hasn't so far," Miller said.

Gazur told the commission that by his understanding of Robert's Rules of Order – the rules that govern parliamentary procedure – a mayor can reject a motion for being "out of order."

"But there are distinct guidelines that have to be followed to allow him to do that," Gazur said.

According to the website Roberts-Rules.com, there are motions that are always considered to be out of order, including:

Motions which conflict with laws, bylaws, constitution or rules of the organization.

Motions which present something that has already been rejected during the same session, or conflict with a motion already adopted.

Motions which conflict with or present substantially the same question as one that has been temporarily disposed of.

Motions which propose actions beyond the scope of the organization's bylaws, although a two-thirds majority vote would allow that kind of motion.

"If I make the motion," Miller said, "I'm certain I will get the council's approval. What the mayor will do after he gets that, I don't know."

Under the current structure, the mayor makes appointments to city boards. The appointments are either approved or rejected by the city council. It's not clear if the council can force the mayor to make an appointment, but the council does have the authority to reject whoever gets the mayor's nod.

Continued on Page 15

WRT Board of Director positions open

WRT is currently accepting Board of Director petitions for two positions open in 2023.

WRT's service area is divided into seven districts, with representation by one director for each district. Directors are elected, by the WRT membership, to serve three-year terms and may run for re-election. WRT members living in District 4 or District 7 wishing to run for the cooperative board can do so by submitting a petition for nomination. Petitions must be signed by at least 15 WRT members and submitted by 5:00pm CT on Friday, March 3, 2023, in accordance with WRT Bylaws.

The current WRT members representing the open positions are District 4 Director Joy Kitzan, Hebron, and District 7 Director Gene Wolf, Hazen. WRT members living in District 4 and District 7 can represent their local area on the cooperative board. WRT District 4 consists of parts of Morton and Stark Counties in North Dakota including the parts of the St. Anthony, Flasher, New Salem, Glen Ullin, and Hebron exchanges lying within those counties south of Interstate 94. WRT District 7 consists of parts of Mercer County in North Dakota including the parts of the Hazen, Stanton, Pick City, and Center exchanges lying within Mercer County.

The election will take place at WRT's 71st Annual Meeting on Friday, June 2, 2023, in Hazen.

Tradition

Continued from Page 1

Weatherby 6.5 Creedmoor
Savage model 16 300 WSM
Winchester XPR Win Mag
Savage 110AP with scope
243 win

Ruger American 450

Bushmaster

Mossberg MVP 7.62

Remington 700 300 Win

Mag

Ruger 5.7x28

Springfield Hellcat 9mm

FDE

Other sponsors for the 2023 Big Buck Contest included American Family Insurance/Jens Braaten, Beulah Dairy Queen, the Beulah Beacon, Country Kettle, Downtown Gas, Dirt Pro/Kelly Heinsen, Farm Credit Services, Lignite Tire, NAPA, Solem Law Office, Erickson Chiropractic, The Union Bank, Winkler Chiropractic, Lakeview Services, and Sagen Saw/Jason Isaak.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WRT, PO BOX 467, HAZEN, ND 58545 OR CALL 701-748-2211

Happy Birthday Marvin!

**OPEN HOUSE FOR
MARVIN SIGMAN'S
80TH BIRTHDAY
ON SUNDAY/FEB. 5TH 2023
2PM - 4PM
AT/PRINCE OF PEACE
CHURCH IN BEULAH.**



a little over 23 years before deciding it was time to experience retire-

own replacement, so I'm very proud I could be a part of that and I'm confident he can take care of my

company," Osterbauer said. The transition for

Carson

No. 4 • Thursday, January 26, 2023 • \$1.00

WRT Board of Director opportunities

West River Telecommunications is a local cooperative providing fiber optic broadband internet, voice, and security camera services, as well as Co-Op Cashback to members in 25 communities across central North Dakota and South Dakota. WRT is currently accepting Board of Director petitions for two positions open in 2023.

WRT's service area

is divided into seven districts, with representation by one director for each district. Directors are elected, by the WRT membership, to serve three-year terms and may run for re-election. WRT members living in District 4 or District 7 wishing to run for the cooperative board can do so by submitting a petition for nomination. Petitions must be signed by at least

15 WRT members and submitted by 5:00 p.m. CT on Friday, March 3, 2023, in accordance with WRT Bylaws.

The current WRT members representing the open positions are District 4 Director Joy Kitman, Hebron, and District 7 Director Gene Wolf, Hazen. WRT members living in District 4 and District 7 can represent their local area on

the cooperative board. WRT District 4 consists of parts of Morton and Stark Counties in North Dakota including the parts of the St. Anthony, Flasher, New Salem, Glen Ullin, and Hebron exchanges lying within those counties south of Interstate 94. WRT District 7 consists of parts of Mercer County in North Dakota including the parts of the Hazen,

Stanton, Pick City, and Center exchanges lying within Mercer County.

The election will take place at WRT's 71st Annual Meeting on Friday, June 2, 2023, in Hazen. Any WRT member may vote for the two director positions electronically via online voting, by mail/absentee ballot, in person at the Annual Meeting registration, or during the

Annual Meeting. Online voting and mail/absentee will be available prior to WRT's annual meeting. Members interested in running for the WRT Board should contact WRT CEO/GM Troy Schilling at the WRT Hazen office, email my-WRT@wrt.com or call 701-748-2211 to request a petition. Additional information can be found in the WRT telephone book.

Do you have a story idea? We want to know! jill@gspublishing.net | 584-2900

News & Press

Carson Manor Bahm Rentals, LLC
The Carson Manor, in Carson, ND, is a Senior Citizen Independent Living Complex

- ALL apartments are ground level.
- Rental Assistance is available.
- Within one block of the business district and four different churches.
- Daily meals program located on the premises.

At this time, there is an apartment for rent.

For more information, call 597-3249, or email albahm@westriv.com TDD/TTY 1-800-366-8888



WRT, PO Box 467, Hazen, ND 58545
Offices in: Hazen & Beulah, ND • Mobridge, SD
701-748-2211 • www.westriv.com • myWRT@wrt.com
"WRT is an equal opportunity provider & employer."

MONTHLY SERVICE BATES: Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, "universal service" means basic telephone service that is available to all consumers. WRT provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates: Single Party Residences & Business Service - \$22.50/mo. Local residence & business service includes: Voice grade access to the public switched network, flat rated local exchange service free of per minute charges, access to emergency services such as 911 & enhanced 911; and toll blocking/hold features. Broadband Internet access service which is the capability to transmit and receive data is available in various packages.

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Handling hydraulic hoses requires extra caution in winter

The hydraulic hoses on tractors and implements must be in prime condition to withstand the extreme temperature changes of the winter months.

By NDSU Extension and Ag Research News
Extreme cold temperatures throughout the winter months can cause challenges to hydraulic hose lines in tractors and machinery. "The temperature of a piece of machinery can fluctuate from -20 degrees Fahrenheit to 200 degrees Fahrenheit in a matter of minutes," says Angie Johnson, North Dakota State University Extension farm and ranch safety coordinator. "The hydraulic hoses on tractors and implements used in the winter months must be in prime condition to withstand the extreme temperature changes we face in the northern Plains."

Hydraulic systems are critical for tractors and machines to work properly and conduct tasks year-round. These systems store fluid under high pressure, typically 2,000 pounds of pressure per square inch (psi), up to 3,000 psi.

A hydraulic hose failure could cause extreme machine malfunction, potentially causing severe harm to the operator. Other hydraulic hose hazards include burns, skin penetration, and component failure or collapse.

Burns
Unhooking an implement or making a repair on a hydraulic system can be dangerous if the operator has not released the hydraulic pressure from the hydraulic system. This means that if the implement or loader on the tractor is in the raised position, it contains trapped hydraulic fluid that is pressurized. As pressure increases, the operating temperature of modern hydraulic systems can become high enough to cause severe burns if an operator is sprayed with escaping hydraulic oil from a puncture in the line or the immediate release of high pressurized oil from a loose hydraulic fitting.

Safety tips:
Always relieve hydraulic pressure before loosening hydraulic fittings. This includes lowering the implement (or loader) to the ground and testing your pressure relief valves to ensure they are reducing pressure buildup, if applicable on your tractor. Move the hydraulic control lever (found inside the tractor if hooked up to an implement) back and forth several times to help relieve hydraulic pressure. Follow instructions in the operator's manual. Specific procedures for servicing hydraulic systems provide safety guidelines

to follow when performing maintenance or repair.
Skin penetration
Pinhole leaks in hydraulic hose lines are extremely dangerous. With the naked eye, pinhole leaks can be impossible to see. A common injury involves an operator running their hand or finger over the hose line, where the invisible pinhole leak then penetrates oil into the operator's skin without even knowing it. Immediately after the fluid injection, the operator may only experience a slight stinging sensation in their hand or finger and think nothing of it. After a few hours, the injury can result in a condition called gangrene, where amputation of the hand or finger is required because of the tissue damage.
Safety tips:
Shut down all equipment and release pressure before checking for hydraulic fluid leaks.

Use a piece of paper or cardboard to check for pinhole leaks in hydraulic hoses, not your hand or finger. Run the piece of paper or cardboard across the hose to identify any pinhole leaks.

Always wear safety glasses and heavy gloves when working with hydraulic systems. Note: Gloves will not prevent oil from a pinhole leak from penetrating your skin. Seek medical attention immediately if you suspect hydraulic oil has penetrated your skin.

Component failure or collapse
Failure of a hydraulic hose, fitting or seal can cause a rapid release of hydraulic oil, causing the supported component to collapse. Examples of this include a loader on a tractor or a header on a combine. Gradual leaks can also cause components to drop unexpectedly, crushing a worker under the component. A combine header can weigh three tons and crush anyone who may be working underneath it.

Safety tips:
Never work under an implement, truck bed or other machine supported by a hydraulic ram/cylinder without the lock in place or other means of support. Make sure all equipment is turned off when working on it.

Even if an implement is not attached to the tractor, the hydraulic system may still be pressurized. If making repairs to the hydraulic system, never

assume the implement is no longer under pressure just because it is not attached to the tractor.

Hydraulic hose and system maintenance
Hydraulic hose systems on tractors and machinery can fail when hoses and oil are not properly maintained. When conditions become cold, hydraulic hoses can become stiff, inelastic, brittle and lose their ability to bend. Cracks in hydraulic hoses can become more prevalent during cold temperatures, meaning visual inspection for cracks, abrasions and oily residues is crucial for equipment maintenance and operator safety.

Take time to check for oil leaks and worn hoses. If you can see the metal wire layer of a hydraulic hose, or an oily film on the hose or near the fittings, it needs to be replaced.

Change the hydraulic oil and filter in your tractors and machines. Hydraulic oil that is contaminated with dirt, dust, particulates, etc., can cause damage to your hydraulic system. Monitor your tractor's hydraulic oil sight glass to determine if more hydraulic oil needs to be added. Read the operator's manual to determine how often the hydraulic oil and filter should be changed.

Allow your tractor to warm up in cold conditions. The more your tractor's fluids warm up before use, the better your hydraulic hoses can respond. In extreme cold, you may need to allow your equipment to warm up for an hour before use.

Connect the correct hydraulic lines from the equipment to the tractor couplers. If the hose lines are not coupled to the tractor correctly, the implement will not rise and drop as expected. Use colored zip ties or tape to label the hoses to match which coupler end they need to attach to on the tractor.

Always lower the hydraulic working units to the ground before working on or leaving the machine, making sure the machine is off once you begin to work on it.

"Remember, tractors and equipment can be replaced — you, on the other hand, cannot be replaced," says Johnson. "Take time for safety this winter by keeping equipment in proper shape and using safe techniques when equipment repairs and maintenance needs to be made."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pinhole leaks in hydraulic hose lines are extremely dangerous and can be impossible to see with the naked eye. Using a piece of cardboard to check for leaks protects hands and fingers. (NDSU photo)



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Center Republican

Happenings

748-2255

Congrats ASHTYN SMITH 1000 POINTS

CENTRAL MCLEAN COUGARS

The Central McLean Cougars Athletics program celebrated Ashtyn Smith's 1,000 point milestone after Monday's game against Flasher.

Smith reaches basketball milestone

BY CAMMIE WRIGHT
cammie@nordaknorth.com

CMC senior Ashtyn Smith scored her 1,000-career point during the game Monday in Flasher. Smith scored 29 points total to help the Cougars secure an 80-33 win.

"I'm very proud and excited for Ashtyn and her accomplishment. She's been a great player to coach and is an even better person on and off the court," Coach Ethan Vaagene said.

Smith says she couldn't have reached her goal without support.

"Getting my 1,000 points was always a goal I've wanted

to achieve since watching basketball when I was little," Smith said. "It was an amazing feeling to get it. I never would've achieved this accomplishment without the support and help from my teammates and coaches and I cannot thank them enough."

Smith is a leading scorer for the Cougars, who continue to rack up wins at home and on the road as February regionals approach. The Cougars defeated Washburn, Flasher and Surrey recently after a big win at home against Shiloh.

The CMC girls basketball team plays next in Wilton on Thursday, with varsity starting at 7 p.m.

Cougar girls jump to fourth in Class B

Beulah, Garrison seventh in most recent poll

BY: ALYSSA MEIER
Alyssa@nordaknorth.com

This week's Class B basketball polls show Central McLean jumping to the top five for girls teams, a leap from ninth place last week.

Polls released Monday show Central McLean (13-1) girls moving into fourth place after receiving 96 votes from members of the North Dakota Associated Press Sports Writers and Sportswriters Association. Central McLean currently holds a 13-1 record for the season.

Rugby (14-0), Thompson (12-1) and Kenmare-Bowbells (13-2) girls maintain their same placements as last week, polled at first, second and third respectively.

Central Cass (9-3) and May-Port-CG (12-2) take fifth and sixth.

Garrison comes in at seventh in the girls' polls, earning 84 votes.

Shiloh Christian (12-2) takes eighth, with Oakes (10-2) ninth

Class B Girls Basketball Poll
1. Rugby (14) 14-0 176
2. Thompson (4) 12-1 165
3. Kenmare-Bowbells 13-2 97
4. Central McLean 13-1 96
5. Central Cass 9-3 94
6. May-Port-CG 12-2 93
7. Garrison 13-1 84
8. Shiloh Christian 12-2 65
9. Oakes 10-2 47
10. Bowman County 13-1 37
Others Receiving Votes:
Carrington, Kindred, Northern Cass, Beulah
Note: First-place votes in parenthesis

Class B Boys Basketball Poll
1. Four Winds/Minnewaukan (18) 9-0 180
2. Central Cass 11-0 161
3. Bishop Ryan 9-1 136
4. Sargent County 11-0 124
5. Ellendale 12-0 109
6. Thompson 7-3 81
7. Beulah 8-1 67
8. North Border 9-1 56
9. Grafton 7-2 30
10. Standing Rock 10-1 13
Others Receiving Votes: Shiloh Christian, Bowman County, North Star, Hazen, North Prairie
Note: First-place votes in parenthesis

and Bowman County (13-1) tenth.

Region 7's Beulah girls team wouldn't break the top ten but received votes in the poll.

Boys

Four Winds/Minnewaukan (9-0) took all 18 first-place votes in the Class B boys poll, leading second place Central Cass (11-0) and third place Bishop Ryan (9-1).

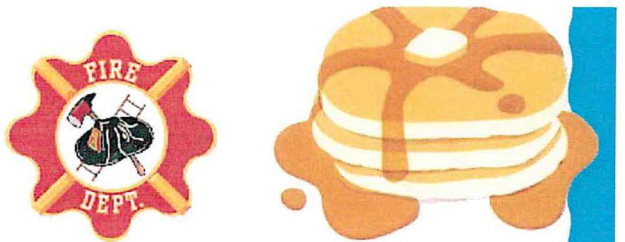
Sargent County (11-0), Ellendale (12-0) and Thompson (7-3) come in fourth, fifth and sixth.

Beulah represents Region 7, taking seventh place in the rankings. Neighboring Hazen earned votes but didn't make the top ten.

North Border (9-1), Grafton (7-2) and Standing Rock (10-1) round out the top ten.

Catch the Great Bargains in the Classifieds!

Call: 462-8126



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Where: Turtle Lake Fire Hall

216 Putnam St.

When: Sunday, January 29

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'It was a joke'

Roseglen woman charged with arson, endangering lives in homestead fire

BY JAMES C. FALCON
JAMES@NORDAKNORTH.COM

ROSEGLEN — A Roseglen woman has been charged with two counts of endangering by fire or explosion after she admitted to setting her house on fire earlier this month.

Stacy Ann Pederson, 60, will have a preliminary hearing on Feb. 15 following her actions which placed her husband and son, as well as two McLean County deputies "in danger of death under circumstances manifesting an extreme indifference to the value of human life," an affidavit signed by McLean County Sheriff's Detective Aaron Matties said.

The incident occurred on Jan. 4 when Sgt. Cody Meadows responded to a house fire on a rural northeastern Roseglen Township farmstead, located east of Roseglen on Highway 37 (23rd Street NW).

Meadows was told by Van Pederson that his wife "had been mad that she couldn't find her phone earlier in the night and made statements to him on this night and previous times that she was going to start the house on fire."

Meadows and Deputy Chad Wiege entered the home and forcefully removed Stacy from a first floor bedroom while the fire was brewing upstairs. When he told her that she needed to leave the home as it was on fire, Meadows said that she stated "It was a joke," without giving further explanation.

At that moment, Meadows told Matties that he heard

"a loud crash and it sounded like the roof was caving in from the fire." After forcefully removing her from the house — as she did not want to leave — she was arrested and placed in detox because "she was being belligerent on scene, arguing and yelling at officers, not following directives and was intoxicated," the affidavit said.

According to an interview that Matties and Bureau of Criminal Investigation Agent Matthew Hiatt conducted with Van Pederson that same evening, "Mr. Pederson said that Mrs. Pederson had talked about burning the house down tonight and several times during the last couple of weeks," the affidavit stated.

In an interview with the accused the following morning, she said that she was "fed up."

"(She) said that she was mad that people are taking her money, including her husband Van Pederson," the affidavit stated, adding that Matties had to interrupt her to give her her Miranda Rights as she "immediately started talking" once the interview began.

During the interview, she reiterated that she was continually a victim of theft, noting that "people had stolen her Christmas present money from her bank in Stanley, North Dakota and was just

sick of her family stealing from her," the affidavit said. "Mrs. Pederson said that she told Van Pederson she was sick of him stealing her stuff when she went downstairs, and then went upstairs to her room after that."

After she was read her Miranda rights, Stacy "eventually told us that she started the fire on purpose"; this was done when she "started lighting her Marlboro Light cigarettes and lit about five with her lighter and started throwing them on the bed in her room, and threw some into a garbage can next to where she was sitting by the desk in her upstairs room."

In an interview which also took place the evening of the fire, her son Nicholas Pederson stated that he removed her from the room and got her outside of the home by the doorway. However, she went back into the house.

"Mrs. Pederson made the statement about the house and said that if she couldn't have it, nobody could," the affidavit concluded. "Mrs. Pederson said that she wanted the house to burn down with her in it and wanted her life to end."

The house burned down into the basement, amounting to damage to "well over \$10,000," the affidavit said.



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Big Mac Sloppy Joes

Ingredients:

Ground Beef Mixture

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef, (85/15)
- 1/2 yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup hamburger pickles, chopped
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse ground pepper
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

McDonald's Secret Sauce Recipe:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup French dressing
- 2 tablespoons sweet relish
- 1 tablespoon ketchup
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

To Assemble (Double Decker):

- 8 hamburger buns, (with seeds)
- 2 cups iceberg lettuce, shredded
- 12 hamburger pickle chips
- 4 slices American cheese
- Additional sauce, optional

Instructions: Brown your ground beef halfway, about 3-4 minutes, in your large skillet then add in the chopped onions, salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce.

Cook the beef until fully browned, about 3-4 minutes, then add in the chopped pickles and stir.

Mix the McDonald's Copycat Big Mac Sauce ingredients in a medium bowl and stir well.

Add 1 cup of the secret sauce to the pan, reserve the rest for your buns.

Cook 1 additional minute then serve on sesame hamburger bun.

4 Ingredient Meatloaf

Ingredients:

- 1 box Stove Top Stuffing (any flavor)
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup ketchup (or more if you'd like)
- 1/2 cup water (or a little more if your beef is super lean)

Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease a bread loaf pan.

In a large bowl, mix together the dry stuffing mix, ground beef, eggs, water and HALF of the ketchup.

Fill the prepared pan with your mixture and use your hands to evenly squish it down into the pan.

Top it with the remaining ketchup and spread it evenly over the top. You can also use BBQ sauce, chili sauce, or a combination of sauces.

Bake for 45-60 minutes (it takes about 50 minutes in my oven).

Enjoy! I'd wait a few minutes before slicing it up. Serve with mashed potatoes, veggies, salad, or anything thing else you'd like.

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Area alumni named to NDSU dean's list

Three local graduates have been recognized for their academic success at North Dakota State University.

Hannah Retterath, Tavi Hirschert, Erin Thompson and Jade Koski were named to the NDSU Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester.

Retterath, a graduate of Washburn High School, is studying business administration.

Hirschert, a Wilton High School alumna, is studying Pharmaceutical sciences.

Thompson, who graduated from Wilton High School, is studying nursing.

Koski, a Wing High school alumna, is studying animal science.

A student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify for the list.



We the People

By David Alder, The Alturas Institute

Tinker v. Des Moines: Anchoring Students' Free Speech Rights

Half a century later, *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969) remains the Supreme Court's authoritative ruling on symbolic speech and the First Amendment rights of K-12 students to express their political views.

Delivered in the context of the widespread social activism that defined the 1960s—anti-racism, anti-sexism and anti-war protests—Justice Abe Fortas's 7-2 landmark opinion upheld the right of students to wear black armbands in school as means of demonstrating their opposition to the Vietnam War. Justice Fortas famously declared that students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate," unless it "materially disrupts classroom or involves substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others."

Mary Beth Tinker, a 13-year-old 8th grader, and her brother John and a friend, Chris Eckhardt, both high school students, displayed their opposition to the war on December 16, 1965, by wearing a black armband in their respective schools in Des Moines. School district officials had gotten wind of their plans and had issued an order prohibiting armbands from city schools, even though students often displayed political campaign buttons, Iron Crosses and engaged in other forms of symbolic speech. The prohibition was aimed at anti-war speech, which, on its face, violated Supreme Court rulings that banned the state from practicing "viewpoint discrimination." Nonetheless, as expected, the students were suspended from school for violating the district's policy. Members of the school board, after a heated public meeting, voted to maintain the ban and suspension of students.

The students went to court, represented by the Iowa Civil Liberties Union. A federal district judge acknowledged that the armbands represented a form of symbolic speech and thus deserved First

Amendment protection. But that right, the court ruled, was secondary in importance to the school's greater need to maintain a "disciplined atmosphere" in the classroom. On appeal, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals was equally divided, leaving the lower court ruling in place and setting the stage for a showdown in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Until *Tinker v. Des Moines*, the Supreme Court had said little about the rights of schoolchildren, but what it had said was memorable. In 1943, in *West Virginia Bd. of Education v. Barnette*, Justice Robert H. Jackson's opinion for the Court upheld student's freedom of religion and speech but established no test or standard. Jackson wrote of the role and duty of public schools: "That they are educating the young for citizenship is reason for scrupulous protection of Constitutional freedoms of the individual, if we are not to strangle the free mind at its source and teach youth to discount important principles of government as mere platitudes."

Justice Fortas's opinion grasped the opportunity to thread the needle between the school's interest in classroom discipline and the right of students to express themselves. The *Tinker*'s armbands, he agreed, "may start an argument or cause a disturbance. But 'our Constitution says we must take this risk.' He added, "this hazardous freedom—this kind of openness—is the basis of our national strength and independence" in an often "disputatious society."

The record, Justice Fortas explained, indicated no evidence of disruption in the schools, no finding or showing of forbidden conduct in the classroom. School officials' "undifferentiated fear or apprehension of disturbance is not enough to overcome the right to freedom of expression." The test or standard, he wrote, must be evidence of a "material disruption" of classroom activities to censor speech.

The "material disruption"

test is fair and reasonable. A lesser standard would drain freedom of expression of its meaning. The state's interest in imposing a prohibition on a "particular expression of opinion," Fortas wrote, cannot be justified by a "mere desire to avoid the discomfort and unpleasantness that always accompany an unpopular viewpoint." If discomfort became the standard for denying constitutional protection, there would be little or no protection for speech that challenged convention, strangling, as it were, in the words of Justice Jackson, "the free mind at its source."

Students are "persons" too, Justice Fortas pointed out, "in school as well as outside school, possessed of fundamental rights that the state must respect." Three members of the Court challenged the idea that students enjoyed the same constitutional rights as those possessed by adults. Justice Potter Stewart wrote a brief concurring opinion, indicating his doubts about such constitutional equivalence.

But it is Justice Hugo Black's stinging dissent, joined by Justice John Harlan, that surprised many familiar with his long and distinguished record of defending freedom of speech, to the point where he was described by some as nearly an "absolutist" when it came to the First Amendment right of expression.

Black, in his eighties and, in the estimation of some friends, growing "crotchety," was of the old school that believed children should be seen and not heard. Black's dissent asserted that the Court's opinion was ushering in "the beginning of a new revolutionary era of permissiveness in this country fostered by the judiciary." He lumped the students, who were entirely peaceful and passive in their symbolic protest, with the "loudest-mouthed" students who "have too often violently attacked" their classmates. Justice Black wasn't the first, and won't be the last Justice, to engage in hyperbole.

WRT Board of Director Opportunities in 2023

WRT is a local cooperative providing fiber optic broadband internet, voice, and security camera services, as well as Co-Op Cashback to members in 25 communities across central North Dakota and South Dakota. WRT is currently accepting Board of Director petitions for two positions open in 2023.

WRT's service area is divided into seven districts, with representation by one director for each district. Directors are elected, by the WRT membership, to serve three-year terms and may run for re-election. WRT members living in District 4 or District 7 wishing to run for the cooperative board can do so by submitting a petition for nomination. Petitions must be signed by at least 15 WRT members and submitted by 5:00pm CT on Friday, March 3, 2023, in accordance with WRT Bylaws.

The current WRT members representing the open positions are District 4 Director Joy Kitzan, Hebron, and District 7 Director Gene Wolf, Hazen. WRT members living in District 4 and District 7 can represent their local area on the cooperative board. WRT

District 4 consists of parts of Morton and Stark Counties in North Dakota including the parts of the St. Anthony, Flasher, New Salem, Glen Ulin, and Hebron exchanges lying within those counties south of Interstate 94. WRT District 7 consists of parts of Mercer County in North Dakota including the parts of the Hazen, Stanton, Pick City, and Center exchanges lying within Mercer County.

The election will take place at WRT's 71st Annual Meeting on Friday, June 2, 2023, in Hazen. Any WRT member may vote for the two director positions electronically via online voting, by mail/absentee ballot, in person at the Annual Meeting registration, or during the Annual Meeting. Online voting and mail/absentee will be available prior to WRT's annual meeting. Members interested in running for the WRT Board should contact WRT CEO/GM Troy Schilling at the WRT Hazen office, email myWRT@wrtc.com or call 701-748-2211 to request a petition. Additional information can be found in the WRT telephone book.

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TOMATO from page 4

The vines were healthy and productive. Several gardeners reported harvesting bucket loads of fruits. One gardener picked a gallon of tomatoes each day from 10 plants.

Sungold vines were especially healthy and vigorous. The 6-foot vines grew like "monsters," one gardener reported. Sungold produced early in summer and continuously until frost. The plants were covered with clusters of tangerine-orange fruits. Its fruits were sweet with a hint of citrusy, tropical flavor.

As good as Sungold was, most gardeners preferred SunSugar. SunSugar fruits were golden yellow with

slightly thicker skin and were much less prone to cracking.

But the biggest difference was in its taste. SunSugar tomatoes were sweeter and extremely delicious. Families absolutely loved its flavor. It was almost like eating candy, reported one gardener.

Both Sungold and SunSugar have vigorous, indeterminate vines. Pruning and trellising is required.

I'm grateful that a friend introduced me to golden cherry tomatoes. Today, I invite you to try one of these golden gems. Go online and search for seed sources. You won't be disappointed.

ANGEL from page 1

um/mini garden kit.

The younger boys asked for dinosaurs, tractors, superhero action figures, and Hot Wheels. Teen boys asked for gaming items, hunting stuff and tool sets. One teen asked for military-related items. Books, coloring books, and learning books were popular requested item for the younger children.

Bruce Sease, McClusky, donated a framed Christmas puppy puzzle as a gift to one of the angel tree kids.

Tanner placed all the names in a bowl and drew the name of a preschooler. The winner's mother added to their sheet that they "love Santa Claus a whole bunch!"



WRT IS HERE TO HELP

Assistance Programs

Lifeline, Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up, as well as the Affordable Connectivity Program, can help eligible people pay part of their service costs.

Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a U.S. government program run by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help low-income households pay for internet service.

You are likely eligible if your household's income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if you or someone you live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch.

If your household is eligible, you could receive:

Up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service

Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands

A low cost service plan that may be fully covered through the ACP*

* Through a separate non-FCC initiative, additional no cost plans may be available to Affordable Connectivity Program enrollees. To learn more please visit [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov). Provision of a link to this initiative does not imply FCC endorsement of any particular participating provider.

Only one monthly service discount is allowed per household.

[Learn More](#)

Lifeline

Lifeline provides a monthly credit of \$9.25/month for internet services and \$5.25/mo for voice-only service. The Lifeline credit is applied to the main home phone number and will be applied to local voice &/or internet service.

The Lifeline plan does not include long-distance calls. Lifeline subscribers may opt to block long-distance calls on their line at no cost.

Who is Eligible?

Applicants are eligible if they participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs as follows or have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (documentation required):

Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8

Medicaid

Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP / formerly known as Food Stamps)

You may also be eligible if your household income is equal to or less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

FEDERAL MANDATE: Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility annually. Failure to properly recertify a recipient's continued eligibility for the Lifeline program will result in termination of the Lifeline recipient's monthly Lifeline discount and de-enrollment from the Lifeline Program.

Apply for Lifeline

For More Information

If you are applying based on income, please remember to include mandatory documentation as listed on the applications. For questions or assistance please call WRT at 748-2211.

Federal Poverty Guidelines

Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or Below 135% of the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines:

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$19,683
2	\$26,622
3	\$33,561
4	\$40,500
5	\$47,439
6	\$54,378
For Each Additional Person, add:	\$6,939

Persons in
Family or Household

48 Contiguous
States and D.C.

7	\$61,317
8	\$68,256
For Each Additional Person, add:	\$6,939

Tribal Lands Lifeline and Expanded Link Up

The Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up program provide up to an additional \$25 in federal support to qualifying residents of Tribal lands and applies on the main home phone line. This \$25 is in addition to the \$9.25 monthly credit for Lifeline as noted above. Tribal Link Up is available to qualifying consumers and covers 100% of the charges (up to \$100) that the carrier customarily assesses for installing/connecting subscribers to the network.

Who is Eligible?

Applicants are eligible if they participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs as follows or have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (documentation required):

Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP / formerly known as Food Stamps)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
Head Start (if income criteria are met)
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations You may also be eligible if your household income is equal to or less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see information above).



Apply



April 10, 2023

Dear WRT Member,

Lifeline, Tribal Lifeline/Link Up, Toll Blocking, and the *Affordable Connectivity Program support is available from WRT. These programs provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone or broadband internet service.

What type of discount is available?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone or broadband internet service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline.

Tribal Lifeline provides up to an additional \$25 in federal support to qualifying residents of Tribal land and applies on the main home telephone line or broadband internet service listed in the name of the eligible WRT subscriber. (The Tribal Lifeline discount cannot exceed \$34.25.)

Tribal Link Up is available to qualifying consumers residing on Tribal lands and covers 100% of the charges (up to \$100) of installing/connecting subscribers to WRT's network.

Toll Blocking support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring large, long-distance fees to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

How do I know whether I am eligible?

An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing (FPHA)
- Medicaid
- Supplement Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribal Head Start (income eligible)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Program

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines:

(Continued on back)

**2023 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or Below
135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**

Persons in Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$19,683
2	\$26,622
3	\$33,561
4	\$40,500
5	\$47,439
6	\$54,378
7	\$61,317
8	\$68,256
For each additional person, add	\$6,939

WRT's voice and broadband internet service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline, wireless or broadband service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. WRT is required to access the FCC's National Lifeline Accountability Database to verify if a customer is currently receiving Lifeline, as well as provide information to the database regarding new Lifeline subscribers.

How do I apply to receive Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Blocking discounts? To apply for assistance, please call WRT at 701-748-2211 or 605-845-3100 or go to the website checklifeline.org/lifeline to apply online.

***ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE: Affordable Connectivity Program** is a U.S. government program run by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help low-income households pay for internet service. You are likely eligible if your household's income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if you or someone you live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price School Lunches. If your household is eligible for ACP, you could receive up to \$30 per month in discounts. Households residing on tribal lands are eligible for up to \$75 per month in discounts. To see if you qualify for ACP, please call WRT at 701-748-2211 or 605-845-3100 or go to the website affordableconnectivity.gov/do-i-qualify to apply online.

Sincerely,



Pamela Schott

WRT Customer Service Manager

West River Telecom
PO Box 467
Hazen, ND 58545

*****E*****B-005
CURRENT RESIDENT OR P017
BOX HOLDER 1136
PO BOX 357 10831
HAZEN ND 58545-0357

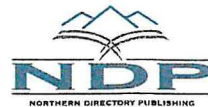
PRSRT STD
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PAID
GREAT FALLS, MT
PERMIT 117

It REALLY DOES PAY to be with WRT!
BROADBAND INTERNET up to 10 GIG

- #1 Faster Fiber Up to 10 GIG with or without phone
- 100% Wi-Fi Coverage Guaranteed
- Stream TV, Work from Home & More!
- FREE Installation & Equipment
- Top Rated 24 Hour Tech Support
- NO Contracts or Hidden Fees!
- + EARN CO-OP CASH!

YES!
WRT
PAYS you
CO-OP CASH!

WRT
www.westriv.com
701.748.2211 • myWRT@wrtc.com



WRT — **2023-2024** —
It Really Does PAY to be with WRT! **CO-OP CASHBACK**
Faster Fiber Broadband Internet, 100% Wi-Fi, Unlimited Local & Long Distance Phone Service

BEK/West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory, LLP.

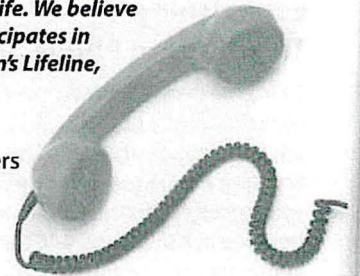
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701.748.2211

SD: 605.845.3100 | www.westriv.com | myWRT@wrtc.com
photo by Kasey Kinner, Studio

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

WRT knows how vital access to reliable communications is to everyday life. We believe it is important to help connect those who can't afford service. WRT participates in Affordable Connectivity Program, Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline, Toll Limitation, Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up assistance programs.



LIFELINE: Assistance program for qualifying low-income subscribers who are not already receiving a Lifeline discount from another provider. Lifeline provides a monthly service discount on eligible telephone or eligible broadband service. By applying for and receiving the Lifeline discount.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for Lifeline, an applicant or subscriber, one of their dependents, or their household must participate in one or more of the following programs: Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance; or Veterans & Survivors Pension Benefit. Individuals whose household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance.

Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits also available.

TRIBAL LIFELINE & TRIBAL LINK UP: Additional support is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. Tribal Lifeline/Link Up provides additional service discounts, and in addition to the previously cited programs, for those individuals residing on Tribal Lands, participation in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program, Tribal Head Start, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or Tribal TANF qualifies them for this support. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program.

VERIFICATION: Applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. Lifeline is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of eligible telephone or broadband service. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Lifeline Support (toll-free) at 1-800-234-9473, go to www.lifelinesupport.org or contact your local WRT office. WRT is an equal opportunity provider.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM: The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. The Affordable Connectivity Program provides: Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service; and Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands. It is limited to one monthly service discount per household. Members eligible for Lifeline may also qualify for ACP. For more information on the ACP, please call 877-384-2575 or go to www.GetInternet.gov

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3201

North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0485
701-328-2400



Companies Near Me

This tool can help you find companies in your area that offer [Lifeline](#) and the [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#) service. These programs can reduce the cost of phone or internet service by providing a monthly discount.

ACP service providers may have their own application process, so consumers should contact their preferred service provider for more information. Consumers may also be eligible for a one-time discount on a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet through ACP. Ask your service provider if they offer devices or use this tool to see a list of providers who offer discounted devices.

Find a Company

Enter Your Zip Code

OR

Example: 12345

Enter Your City and State

Select A Program:

☒

ACP

☐

Lifeline

[Clear Results](#)

Companies near Mobridge,SD

The order of these companies are random and may be different the next time you search.

An asterisk (*) after the company name means that this service provider offers both ACP and Lifeline.

The **"\$0 with ACP"** column indicates that a service provider offers one or more plans that are covered in full by the ACP discount and by choosing one of those plans your monthly cost for service is \$0.

The **"Discounted Device"** column indicates that a service provider offers a discounted laptop, desktop computer, or tablet. To get this discount, you must pay more than \$10 and no more than \$50 toward the purchase price. The device must be purchased through the provider.

Types of Service:

Home Internet: ACP home Internet service

Mobile Internet: ACP mobile Internet service

Showing 67 of 67 companies

Download List: 

Company Name	Phone	Type of Service	\$0 with ACP	Discounted Device
Hoop Wireless, LLC	833-367-4667	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes
Nexus Telecom	832-579-0193	Mobile Internet		Yes
Wrizzle, Inc.	800-380-0547	Mobile Internet		Yes
Via Wireless, LLC	877-346-1501	Mobile Internet		Yes
K20 Wireless	717-400-5573	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes
West River Telecommunications	701-748-2211	Home Internet		

Company Name	Phone	Type of Service	\$0 with ACP	Discounted Device
Cooperative				
Whoop Connect Inc.	888-200-1076	Mobile Internet		Yes
Viasat	855-463-9333	Home Internet		
InterConnection	206-633-1517	Mobile Internet		Yes
Cintex Wireless, LLC	800-931-0141	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes
Park Region	218-826-6161	Home Internet		
Assurance Wireless	888-321-5880	Mobile Internet		
SWA Connect, LLC	866-350-0222	Home Internet		Yes
Q Link Wireless LLC	855-754-6543	Mobile Internet	Yes	
Verizon Wireless	800-922-0204	Home Internet		
Sano Health LLC	866-970-7299	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes
Maxsip Telecom Corporation	866-629-7471	Home Internet		

Show 25 records/page

<

3

>

of 3 pages

If you want to see more companies, [see the list of companies in SD](#)

More About the Data

- Search results are based on program enrollment and information provided by the companies.
- Information on the availability of devices and plans free with the ACP benefit are self-reported by providers and subject to change.
- The search results may include a company listed in your area that may not provide service to your address.

- *Also, the search results might not show every company that is near you. A company may still offer Lifeline and/or ACP service even if it is not on the list. Please contact the company to confirm if they offer Lifeline or the ACP service for your address.*
-

Tell Us What You Think

We will continue to update this tool, so please check back often. If you have any comments or see something wrong - or if you are a company that needs to add or update your Lifeline or ACP information, email us at LifelineProgram@usac.org or ACProgram@usac.org.

DIAL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG - IT'S THE LAW!

Do you plan to do any digging - plant a tree, install a fence, excavation? You must call 811 at least 48 hours before you dig to get all underground facilities located. The service is FREE and it's the LAW! Simply Dial 811 or TOLL-FREE 1-800-795-0555. Access online at www.ndonecall.com (ND) or www.onecall.sd.gov (SD).

BILLING NAME & ADDRESS DISCLOSURE

The FCC requires WRT, under certain circumstances, to release the Billing Name and Address (BNA) of telephone customers to telecommunications service providers. The main reason for releasing BNA information is to ensure proper billing for collect, third number billed or calling card calls. WRT is required to provide the information to the telecommunications service provider that handled the call, if it is requested by the carrier.

BNA can also be released to telecommunications service providers for other reasons, such as verification for presubscription, servicing your account, to prevent fraud or when you move from one location to another.

If you have an unlisted or non-published telephone number, you have a choice. If you do not want your BNA released by WRT, we need affirmative notification from you within 30 days. If you provide us with such notification, your ability to make calling card calls or to receive collect calls or third number billed calls could be denied. Should you have questions regarding this matter, please call WRT at 701-748-2211.

SET UP OR CHANGE LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

1. Contact WRT or the long distance provider/company of your choice to sign up for service.
2. Authorize your long distance company to contact WRT to set up or change your long distance service.
3. If a PIC FREEZE is in place, contact WRT to remove the PIC FREEZE and authorize the change to your long distance service. You may also request a new PIC FREEZE form from WRT at this time. (PIC FREEZE blocks service from being changed)

QUESTIONS? call WRT @ 701-748-2211

email: myWRT@wrtc.com

mail: WRT, PO Box 467, Hazen, ND 58545

Offices in Hazen, Beulah & Mobridge

CUSTOMER PROPRIETARY NETWORK INFORMATION

The FCC has adopted rules to protect your privacy with regard to telecommunications information that is personal to you. This information is called "Customer Proprietary Network Information" or "CPNI" and includes the type of services you subscribe to, the equipment and facilities used, and the numbers, dates, times and duration of the calls you place. From time to time WRT may make new features and services available that may enhance the services to which you are already subscribed. Allowing us to use your CPNI gives WRT the ability to give you more personalized service and offer you the products and services that best fit your needs.

If you allow us to use your CPNI, it will ONLY be used by WRT. We DO NOT sell or in any way provide this information to any other company, other than the 911 records we are required by law to provide if you are a phone customer.

Under federal law, you have the right, and we have the duty, to protect the confidentiality of this information. Therefore, your account will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether you consent or not to allow us to continue to provide you with educational mailings.

If you agree to let WRT use your CPNI, no further action is necessary. If you want to restrict use of your CPNI, you must contact WRT within 30 days of receipt of this notice. You may miss the opportunity to learn of new services, new packaging that could reduce your monthly bill, and other information that keeps you informed of the happenings at WRT. Your decision on the use of CPNI by WRT will remain valid until you change it, which can be done at any time by contacting WRT.

MEMBER NOTIFICATIONS



Policies
& Bylaws

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

PRIVACY

Services & Info



FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP): Assistance program run by the FCC to help low-income households pay for internet service. If your household is eligible, you could receive up to \$30/month discount on your internet service or up to \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying tribal lands. You are likely eligible if your household's income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if you or someone you live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free & Reduced-Price Lunch. Only one monthly service discount is allowed per household. Discount can be combined with Lifeline.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Lifeline Support at 1-800-234-9473, go to www.checklifeline.org/lifeline or contact your local WRT office.

WRT is an equal opportunity provider.

WRT BYLAWS | ARTICLE I / MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1.1. MEMBERSHIP.

Any adult person, organization, government, political subdivision or governmental agency, or other legal entity shall become a member of this Cooperative and membership shall be automatic on the date of receipt of retail voice or broadband service. In receiving such services from the cooperative, each member, by such action, agrees to comply with and be bound by the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Cooperative and any rules, policies and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. No member may hold more than one membership in the Cooperative, and no membership shall be transferable except as provided in these bylaws. The status of all membership shall be as reflected upon the books of the Cooperative, and no membership certificates will be issued.

SECTION 1.2. DEFINITION AND CLASSIFICATIONS.

(a) A condition of membership is Voice or broadband service from the Cooperative at a premise within its established service area. In addition, the Board may determine certain types and amounts of patronage that give rise to the privileges and obligations of membership. (b) Exchange and interexchange carriers who participate with the Cooperative in the provision of telecommunications services are neither members nor patrons except as such carriers may receive voice or broadband services. *A complete printing of the WRT Bylaws available in the WRT telephone directory or online at www.westriv.com*

BATTERY BACK-UP

When WRT installs your new fiber optics, we also install a battery backup unit (at no additional charge) – as the new fiber needs power to operate. If your electricity would happen to go out, the back-up unit will power the equipment and provide voice service for approximately 8 hours. WRT does offer additional battery packs to extend the length of voice service and also provide internet service. We call it the "WRT 2 Buck Back-Up" and it's available \$2 per month.

Please keep in mind these basic emergency tips:

- Keep at least one basic CORDED phone on hand to use in case of power outages. (Cordless use additional power)

- If you have a generator, make sure the battery backup unit is plugged into an outlet that is served by the generator.

- Periodically check the indicator light on your battery backup unit to see if it is getting low or out of charge. Batteries should be stored above 41° F and below 104° F. General battery life is 2-4 years, pending usage & storage conditions and have a limited 3-year manufacturer's warranty.

If you have any questions or would like to extend your battery backup time, please call WRT at 701-748-2211.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

West River Telecommunications Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint (<https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. *WRT is an equal opportunity provider & employer.*

NATIONAL DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY

The National Do-Not-Call Registry has been established to offer you a choice about receiving telemarketing calls. Registering will stop most telemarketing calls but it will not stop calls from certain non-profit and political organizations and calls from organizations with which you have established a business relationship. Consumers can register their telephone numbers (including wireless), on the National Do-Not-Call Registry by telephone or by internet at no cost. The number will be on the Do-Not-Call list the day after registration; however, telemarketers have up to 31 days to remove the number from their call lists.

REGISTER ON THE DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY,
go online to www.donotcall.gov, call 1-888-382-1222,
for TTY call 1-866-290-4236.