

The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

Manager Moment

At the recent NTCA Annual meeting in Tampa, Florida, I was both surprised and very honored with the NTCA Special Achievement award. I want to take this opportunity to thank Consortia Consulting for submitting me for this award. I would also like to thank the Kennebec Telephone Co. staff that worked with Consortia.

Rod Bowar
Pres./Mgr.

5 Year Anniversary

Trusty Mertens
Central Office Manager



Easter Coloring Contest

Stop in or visit www.kennebectelephone.com to get your coloring contest page. Please have them turned into the office by March 26th. You must be between the ages 2 and 6 to participate.

If you are looking for some office space, look no further; we have the space available for you!

Rates starting at \$200 per month with discounts for your phone, cable, and internet.

Call us today at 869-2220.

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Lifeline / Linkup

Lifeline is a program that can provide you with basic telephone service at a reduced rate, and if you are a first time customer, you may apply for the Link Up to help pay 50% of the installation charge. To sign up for Lifeline, you need to qualify for one of the following programs:

- * Medicaid
- * Food Stamps
- * Supplemental Security Income
- * Federal Public Housing Assistance
- * Low Income Energy Assistance
- * Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- * National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program

You may also qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. With this you must provide documentation of your income eligibility. To sign up for Lifeline, contact our office and we can send out an application.

Blackberry 8330

Would you like to be able to keep track of your day to day schedule by using your cell phone? With a Blackberry 8330 you can receive your emails and have your monthly calendar with you at all times. This phone also has a camera with video capture, Bluetooth capabilities, a memory card, and a headphone jack. Other neat features include a GPS navigation, QWERTY keyboard, and a track-

ball navigation. If you would like to purchase one with no contract, it will cost you \$360, \$296 for a 1 year contract, or \$248 for a 2 year contract. If you are interested in this phone or any other phone we offer, feel free to give us a call.



The leaping leprechaun says to hop on into Kennebec Telephone and sign up for KLD's Unlimited Long Distance and save a pot of gold. Sign up by the end of March and receive \$5 off your next month bill.



We would like to thank everyone whom stopped by our booth at the Kennebec Business Appreciation and the Farm and Home Show in Presho.



Universal Sports

If watching sports is what you like, then we have the channel for you. It's Universal Sports on channel 17 of your basic cable. Universal Sports offers over 1,000 live events each year plus many other programs that you are able to watch whenever, wherever, you



are, whether it be on TV, online, on a mobile device or listening to, satellite radio. By watching

Universal Sports or online at www.universalsports.com you can experience the live or on-demand coverage of the world-class competitions, interactions with the

top athletes, and in-depth access to sports news and information year round. When interacting through Universal Sports, you can get to know the world-class champions and the new and up coming athletes through blogs, interviews, and their own commentary. They are dedicated to bringing you the latest information on your sport.

Bowar Receives National Special Achievement Award

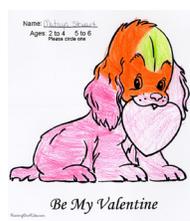
Rod Bowar, owner and CEO of Kennebec Telephone Company, Kennebec, South Dakota, received the Special Achievement Award at the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL. Rod Bowar was selected for his tireless dedication to the success of his hometown telephone company, the betterment of the communities he serves, to the well-being of his employees and family, and to the strength of the rural telecommunications industry.

"Rod Bowar and Kennebec Telephone epitomize the type of individual and organizational

efforts routinely made by rural telephone companies to sustain the good life in rural America," said Dan Caldwell of Consortia Consulting that nominated Bowar for the award. "We are proud to be associated with Rod, his family, and the Kennebec Telephone Company and are thrilled that his efforts were recognized with this well deserved national honor. While the list of individual accomplishments and contributions that Rod has made to his company, community, and industry during the past thirty years are impressive in their own right, the overall body of his efforts is staggering."

Bowar currently serves as the President of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) Board of Directors. Prior to his role as President, Bowar served as the Vice President of the SDTA Board of Directors. Bowar is also a current Board of Directors member and a former President of the Fiber Ring Revenue Pooling Association (FRRPA) established to provide an equity-owned network system for South Dakota local exchange carriers.

To see the entire article visit our website at www.kennebectelephone.com and click on the News link.



Above find the lucky winners of the Valentine Coloring Contest. Skyler Volmer, Mataya Stewart, Emma Ches-ter, and TJ Moran.

Directory Changes:

Ike Reumann 895-2102

Important Date:

Daylight Saving	March 14
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Spring Begins	March 20

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Our mission is to provide the highest quality telecommunications and information service to our customers at an affordable price. We will strive to offer prompt, friendly, and dependable service along with the latest technology to attain the highest possible customer satisfaction.

If you would like more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter, feel free to contact us at 605-869-2220.

Thinking of Purchasing a Computer?

If you are interested in buying a new computer but just aren't sure what to get or if it's a good one, then hopefully this will help you out a little.

The first thing is to decide whether you want a desktop or laptop computer. Both have their pros and cons. Laptops are more mobile and with a wireless router can be used anywhere in your house without having an attached cable. Desktops are a stationary computer and can be purchased at a fraction of the cost of a laptop.

In my opinion your RAM (random access memory) is the next most important item in your computer. The more RAM you have the faster your computer will act and will be less likely to freeze up. These days

you shouldn't settle for anything less than 4 GB of RAM. You should be able to find it located on the box or the summary if ordering online.

The hard drive used to be a big deal; now they come standard with such big ones that it isn't that big of a deal unless you are going to be saving every picture you ever take or download every song you've ever heard. Most come with a minimum of 250 GB, which is plenty for home use. The processor speed doesn't seem to be noticeable to the user, so you can stick with the standard on the computer you are looking at. The brand of computer is highly debatable since everyone has a favorite: Dell, HP, Toshiba, etc. We are using HP in our office and

have had good luck with them. Unfortunately you never know when you are going to get a bad one right out of the box; usually if you do, the problem shows up right away while the computer is under warranty. Applications that come with your computer can be purchased and added later since everyone's needs are different.

To get the best deal, shop around and check stores and the internet to compare models. Most of the time you can find a sale and get a fairly good deal. We are available to assist you and answer any questions you may have. After all, the happier you are with your computer, the happier you'll be with our internet service.