

The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

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May 2015

Manager's Moment Chris Zirpel

By the time you read this article, we will have completed our second audit of the year. The first was our normal annual audit, which is completed by an accounting firm we hire. They review our financials to make sure we are following all the rules of accounting and also file our tax return with the IRS.

The second audit, which as I write this article hasn't started yet, is handled by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). RUS is a part of the federal government, and one of their functions is to lend money to rural utility companies like ourselves. They show up every few years to verify we are following all the government regulations that are out there for their borrowers.

As you can probably guess, the first part of the year is the busiest time for our department. Closing out the past year and reviewing everything, opening up the new year, and gathering info for auditors gets to be a stressful time. My patience gets a little thinner along

with my hair, but that second item is hardly noticeable anymore.

Anyways, if you are as busy as we are or even busier, the one thing we don't want to have happen to you is missing your payment and incurring a late fee. To help avoid that, we offer the option of automatic payments and have two different ways to accomplish it. The first option is via ACH from your checking account, which comes out the 10th of every month. The second option is by debit/credit card, which gets processed the 5th of each month. Either way, you still receive a copy of your bill by mail for your records.

If you think automatic payments may work for you, please give us a call at 869-2220 or stop by our office for more information. Thanks for being a valued customer!

Chris Zirpel
Office Manager



**Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc
Will be closed on
Monday, May 25th**



Directory Changes

Julie Barnhill895-2106
Katie Haak.....895-2617
Logan Reuman895-2134

**KENNEBEC TELEPHONE CO., INC. HAS A
JOB OPENING FOR A TECHNICIAN FOR
THE TCS DIVISION.**

This job would consist of installing, testing, and repairing alarm and monitoring systems along with phone systems and computer networks in residential, agricultural and commercial environments. This is a great opportunity to be in a high tech environment and work for a progressive company.

Would be willing to train the right candidate. If you would like to know more call Debbie Miller at 605-869-2220 or email her at debbiem@kennebectelephone.com.

TELECOM CAREERS IN HIGH DEMAND!

Are you seniors still undecided about what you want to be when you grow up? What would you think about a career in Telecommunications? According to Mitchell Technical Institute's February Telecommunications newsletter, there are **92 telecom job openings for the 15 pending graduates. That means there is more than six times the number of jobs than graduating students at MTI.** There is an obvious need to get more students to enroll in the telecommunications program.

This is an industry that almost guarantees employment once school is finished. For someone who would like to go back to school but wants to make sure their educational investment pays off, this is a great opportunity.



Here's more good news- in late 2014, it was announced that Build Dakota Scholarships would be available for new,

incoming students for certain programs, including telecommunications. These scholarships are available to both in-state and out-of state students for the 2015-2016 year. Covered expenses include tuition and fees, books, equipment, and other related program expenses. Students must keep grades to a minimum 2.5GPA. In return, scholarship recipients must commit to staying in South Dakota to work in their field of study for three years following graduation. For more information regarding eligible degrees, and these full-ride scholarships, contact your local technical school. You can also go to <http://doe.s.gov/builddakota>.

If you are considering a career in the telecommuni-

cations industry, now is a good time to check out MTI, located in Mitchell, SD.

MTI, founded in 1968, is ranked in the top 10% of America's two-year colleges by the Aspen Institute for the second year in a row. Their job placement rate for graduates is at an impressive 98%. MTI offers the regions only "Telecommunications Training" program. The two-year program includes learning the latest technology including data, voice, and video. Telecommunications companies such as Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc, are always looking for good, technical employees. Telecom careers offer good wages, a stable work environment, and excellent benefits. KTC encourages area youth to consider a telecommunications career.

The Admissions office at MTI is happy to provide information, tours, or campus visits to help answer your questions. To learn more, contact MTI at 1-800-684-1969 or visit mitchelltech.edu. Classes begin in August!

Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc. Is proud to have at least 6 Mitchell Technical Institute grads on staff in both management and technical positions.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS at MTI

Career Opportunities:



- Telephony Technician
- Programmer
- Cable Technician
- Network Technician
- Outside Plant Technician
- Central Office Technician

Congratulations to the Lyman High School Class of 2015!

Rachel Chester
Trey Gourneau
Daylon Grassrope
Gabriel Grasrope
Nicholas Hayes

Lacey Hollenback
Emmitt Houchin
Chelsea Iron Thunder
Cedar Jandreau
Bryce Janis

Brandon Jones
Sawyer Lacroix
Courtney Sheehan
Lindsey Langdeau
Tell Langdeau

Lanny Langenbau
Rebecca Meyer
Grayson Mitchell
Ashley Mortenson
Jackie Spears

Trey Mundlein
Garret Peterson
Hayden Schelske
Latrisha Schindler
Kateri Schweitzer

Employee Spotlight on Crystal Brakke



This month's spotlight is on Crystal Brakke, Lyman County native, LHS Graduate, and BHSC (that's right, when she graduated it was Black Hills State College, not BHSU).

Crystal was hired on at Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc, in June of 2007, as a Customer Service Rep.

It is sort of what she's done in most of her jobs, helping people.

Prior to Kennebec Telephone, the list of jobs is pretty long; sometimes it takes a while to find the right fit! Let's just say it includes Restaurant work (waitress, cook, manager) Teaching Music, and Travel companies. And where did she live between high school graduation and the return to South Dakota? Spearfish, SD, Crawford, NE; Santa Fe, NM, Espanola, NM; Aurora, CO;

Denver, CO, then back to Presho, SD.

Crystal traveled to Mexico several times while in the travel business, along with going to Germany, Austria, England, Scotland, Italy, and some other nearby countries with a traveling church choir, while living in Colorado.

As marketing assistant, Crystal really enjoys the creative side of what she does including brochures, ads, and channel 15 slides. "I can't draw for anything, but give me PowerPoint, Publisher, and InDesign and I amaze myself."

"I really enjoyed being part of the marketing department the year of the 100th anniversary. I had a great time delivering chairs, caps, & t-shirts directly to our customers. It gave me a great refresher course on traveling around the old stomping grounds and renewing friendships!"

Are you Eligible for Lifeline?

Kennebec Telephone Company recently mailed out a recertification sheet on Lifeline to our current Lifeline customers that need to be recertified. KTC would like to remind all of our customers that we do offer Lifeline to everyone who qualifies. For those of you that may want additional information about Lifeline, here is what it is:

Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

A subscriber who lives on Tribal lands and is an eligible resident of Tribal lands is eligible for Tribal Lifeline service if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following Tribal-specific federal assistance programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary

Assistance for Needy Families; Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

KTC's voice 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 or wireless 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 in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

The services described above are offered to all qualifying consumers in Kennebec Telephone Company's service area. If you have any questions regarding our services, please call our office at 869-2220. You are also welcome to visit our business office at 220 S Main Street in Kennebec.

This notice is posted in accordance with South Dakota Public Utilities Commission order IC97-092 and pursuant to 47 United States Section 214 (e) and 47 Code of Federal Regulations Sections.


KENNEBEC TELEPHONE Co., INC.

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 Visit us on
Facebook

Technology & Communication Specialists
Kennebec Telephone Construction
PowerCom Electric

  

Protect your Electronics this Summer

Ah, summertime! The sun, the warmth.... the thunderstorms! How do you protect your computer, router, and modem when the power keeps going off? The safest action is to turn everything off and unplug all your equipment as soon as you start hearing warnings.

Power strips and surge protectors make the whole process easier. Instead of unplugging your equipment one at a machine at a time, with these devices only one button needs to be pushed, or one cord unplugged.

What is the difference between a power strip and a surge protector? A power strip is basically a glorified extension cord; they don't give any protection from power surges. However, they do make turning off the

equipment more convenient!

Surge protectors, on the other hand, offer varying degrees of protection. Most "power strip" type protectors will have several 3 prong outlets and may also have in and out ports for phone lines and other connections. Whole house surge protection systems are also currently on the market which will protect all your electronic equipment. So the price could range from \$15 for a strip type to big money for the whole house systems!

When you consider what you have invested in electronics, a few dollars spent on protection is a very good idea.

KENNEBEC & PRESHO SIREN "DICTIONARY"

FIRE: Siren winds all the way up and comes back down, continues for three minutes. May repeat if additional volunteer firemen are needed.

STORM: Siren blows constantly for three minutes.

FIRE MEETING: Monthly Fire meetings in Presho and Kennebec. The siren winds up once.

NOON IN PRESHO: The siren winds up once

