

Volume 17 Issue 6
June 2022

The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

Manager's Moment

Matt Collins
Assistant Manager

Matt Collins here, the assistant manager of Kennebec Telephone Company. I have been fortunate to be part of KTCI for over 35 years. My duties include working alongside Rod Bowar assisting with the day-to-day planning and operations that go on.

One of my main roles is overseeing KTC Construction. We have a talented crew of 5 full-time employees and 5 part-time employees. Summertime is obviously our busiest season just like many of our farm and ranch customers. Some of the services we have lined up for the summer are: trenching of waterline and installing waterers for livestock, boring of electrical and waterlines, hauling gravel and dirt, plowing to install sprinkler systems and also maintaining sprinkler systems, tearing down and hauling away old buildings and replacing or fixing sewer lines. In between all of that, let's not forget those emergency water leaks that seem to happen and require our immediate attention.

One major project for the community of Kennebec is the new Ronald and Beth Moore Addition thanks to Central Dakota Development Corporation. Developing this land will provide 15 lots for houses and small home-based businesses. Kennebec is in the same situation as most of South Dakota's small rural towns with a shortage of homes available or places to build, making it difficult for our communities to grow. Kennebec Telephone will be plowing fiber optics to every lot. Having high speed, reliable broadband is more important than ever, as we witnessed the strong need for it through COVID, and we are excited to be able to provide the addition with this service.

I would like to thank everyone that has worked with us over the years and to all our new customers as well! Our company would not be what it is today if not for YOU!!



What do we have to do?

You will now need to dial the area code when dialing a local call. So here in South Dakota, you will dial 605 prior to the 7-digit number you are already using to call someone in your community.

When do we need to start using all 10 digits when dialing?

The new dialing will be effective **June 22, 2022**. After that date, any 7 digit dialing will receive a “cannot complete this call” message and you will need to hang up and dial again. However, you can begin dialing 10 digits now, as it will work for placing calls you would normally use 7 digits for.

Why do we have to do this?

There are more and more 3-digit dialing numbers being utilized which can cause problems if your

prefix (the 3 numbers after the area code) is being used as one of these 3-digit dialing numbers. For example, 911 is not used as a prefix in any state in the US. If it were, and someone was trying to call someone else with that prefix, it would connect to emergency services before the full number was dialed.

Do we need to dial a “1” first?

You will only need to dial a 1 if the call is a long-distance call (same way you are currently calling long- distance).

Who decided we need to do this?

This decision was made at the FCC and Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc is required by law to comply with the requirements of the order.

FCC.GOV

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Kennebec Telephone in the Community!

At Lyman Elementary Career Day



The Lyman Elementary School provided an opportunity for Kennebec Telephone Company and other businesses in the community to explain to the kids what each business does and the services they provide. On Wednesday, May 4th, the telephone company had the second through fifth grade classes walk through the Golden West anniversary trailer.



Thanks to Golden West, the trailer provides a visual display of history about telephone and internet dating back to the early 1900's to current time. Kids were able to see an old switch board that operators used, old rotary phones, call each other on wired telephones, listen and wait for the dial-up internet to load (a sound many of us will never forget). The kids seemed to be in awe of the ways we used to communicate over the years. The thought of having to stand in the kitchen and talk to their friends while mom and dad listened was pretty entertaining to Christie and I.



We also had a new John Deere backhoe for them to look at, crawl up and sit in the seat and see all the different controls. Many of the kids in our area have had the opportunity to sit in big tractors or other pieces of equipment, but it was fun to see the look on the faces of the kids that had never seen something that big and all the different levers and buttons available and what they do. It was a great experience for everyone involved.

*Veronica Gerard
Marketing Manager*

And Taking Third Place in Syttende Mai Parade at Vivian, SD!

KTCI has participated in the Norwegian Constitution Day event for most of its 22 years! This year Executive Assistant Lesa Patrick, drove the parade entry. And Marketing Assistant Crystal Brakke, served as parade marshall!



Photos Courtesy of Penny Bower

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

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc is an equal opportunity provider and employer.