



Volume 16 Issue 12

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# The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

## Manager's Moment

### Rod Bowar

I had the privilege of meeting Clark a few years back. He was not from this area, but was visiting family. It was at the 100th anniversary of Dakota Prairie Bank in Presho when I was introduced to him. When you met him or, afterward, received a phone call or correspondence from him, you just knew your day was going to get better. He had that kind of effect on people.

I have always known we are fortunate to live in the area we do, but Clark helped renew that feeling by his wonder and amazement of our little mark on the map in this great, big world. He was so impressed with how this rural area was thriving and growing while others were dwindling. His observation and admiration of the communities we serve came from experience. He was well traveled, within the United States and abroad, for work and also for curiosity. He wanted to know what made communities tick.

I recently learned Clark passed away in July of this year. His daughter found an email addressed to me in his draft box. She sent it and informed me of his passing. She also shared how impressed he was with this area and that he spoke of it often. It made me pause and reflect how grateful I am to have met him and to live where I do.

Going forward into 2022, let's keep it fresh in our minds how blessed we are to live where we do. Let's look for opportunities, big or small, to make a

difference in someone's life. Whether you realize it or not, you probably already are.

I will take this opportunity during the holiday season, with Thanksgiving just past and Christmas ahead of us, to thank each and every employee of Kennebec Telephone and all of its' divisions. I consider myself very fortunate to be surrounded by exemplary staff willing to go the extra mile to make sure customers receive great service and the job is done right. I would also like to thank each of their family members for their support and to let them know it is not taken for granted. It is greatly appreciated.

I am grateful for the surrounding area Volunteer Fire Departments. It was an extremely busy year for all of them, but each member kept showing up and proving that communities could count on them. I thank each department's members and their families as well. I am sure there were empty spots at dinner tables and family events during the past fire season.

I will close by thanking each of you that make up these great communities we serve. You are what makes them tick. All of us at Kennebec Telephone, PowerCom Electric, Charley's, TCS, KTC Construction and Chamberlain Napa truly appreciate your business! Merry Christmas and a bright and healthy New Year. Cheers!



**ALL DIVISIONS OF KENNEBEC TELEPHONE CO., INC  
WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 24TH AND DECEMBER 31ST  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

# Winter Survival Kit Checklist for South Dakota Traveling

Winter weather will be in our area soon enough. With that comes driving in snow, slush and all-around muck.

It's important to get your vehicle ready for another South Dakota winter, but cars can be replaced. Making sure you and your family are prepared for an emergency while you are on winter roads is the most important step you can take while venturing out into the great white tundra.

AAA recommends motorists have these items in an emergency survival kit:

- Cell phone and car charger
- First aid kit
- Blanket

- Drinking water and snacks for everyone in the car including pets
- Flashlight with extra fresh batteries or a crank rechargeable flashlight
- Rags, paper towels or moist wipes
- Basic set of tools and duct tape
- Car emergency warning devices such as road flares or reflectors
- Ice scraper and/or snow brush
- Jumper cables or jump pack
- Sand, salt or non-clumping cat litter for traction aid
- Tarp, raincoat, and gloves
- Shovel
- Empty soup can, candle and matches to create a heat source

## POWERCOM ELECTRIC, A DIVISION OF KENNEBEC TELEPHONE COMPANY, DONATES ENCLOSED TRAILER TO LYMAN YOUTH FOOTBALL



Many of our youth activities are organized and coached by local individuals or families who volunteer their time and talents. The funding for supplies and equipment are almost always acquired through donations or fundraising within our communities. Without the support of many local families and businesses these activities would not be possible.

It was brought to the attention of Chaz, manager of PowerCom Electric, that Lyman Youth football was in need of an enclosed trailer to house all of their equipment. Chaz, Rod and Matt considered the companies' inventory, chose the perfect sized trailer, and then went one step further and donated it to the Lyman

Youth football program. Kennebec Telephone and its divisions believe that the success of any project is based on working together as a team. What better way to set an example for our youth than to support such a program that teaches this very concept.



# Holiday Decorating Safety Tips

*A few things to remember this “decorating season,  
from Electrical Safety Foundation International*

## **Indoor Lights and Electrical Décor**

- Always purchase electrical decorations and lights from reputable retailers.
- Use lights approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together.
- Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.
- Before decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located. Plan your displays accordingly.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Follow the manufacturer’s use and care instructions that accompany electrical decorations.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.
- Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord’s insulation.
- Do not mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord’s insulation.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

## **Outdoor Decorations**

- Make sure all extension cords and electrical decorations used for outdoor decorating are marked for outdoor use.
- Match power needs (amperage) of electrical products with amperage rating of extension cords.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If circuits are not GFCI-protected, portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold and require no special knowledge or equipment to install.
- Inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage before using.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, the house, or other firm supports to protect them from wind damage, but take care not to attach the lights in a way that could damage the cord’s insulation.
  - Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- Make sure spotlights used to illuminate decorations are well-ventilated, protected from weather, and a safe distance from flammable items.
- Inspect ladders for loose or missing parts before using.
  - Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when decorating outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity.
  - Use the right ladder height, ensuring ladders extend at least three feet past the edge of the roof.
  - Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.



**Santa is waiting to  
hear from you!  
Give him a call at  
(605) 869-TOYS  
(605) 869-8697**



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**DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON MORE THAN EVER, OUR THOUGHTS  
TURN GRATEFULLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE OUR PROGRESS POSSIBLE.**

**AND IN THIS SPIRIT WE SAY, SIMPLY BUT SINCERELY**

**THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES FOR THE  
HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**KENNEBEC TELEPHONE CO, INC.**

**KTC CONSTRUCTION, POWERCOM ELECTRIC, TCS,**

**CHARLEY'S WELDING & AUTO REPAIR, AND CHAMBERLAIN NAPA**

*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.*

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