



Volume 17 Issue 5
May 2022

The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

Manager's Moment

Christie Collins
HR Manager

This month is just short of being a year for me as the Human Resources Manager at Kennebec Telephone Company. The last 11 months have certainly gone by fast as I kept busy learning all the tasks of my new role. Being the HR person for a telephone company with five additional divisions; KTC Construction, TCS, PowerCom, Charley's Welding and Auto and Chamberlain Napa comes with a learning curve and a lot of moving parts. All of the employees of Kennebec Telephone are never under one roof. To gain a strong foundation and better understanding, each division's operation needed to be broken down and the staff and their roles detailed. This in itself took time.

The first week of employment took me to a Build Dakota Scholarship presentation for our automotive department scholar, Nathan, at Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls. Nothing like jumping right in! July arrived and we had a twenty-year employee retire from our customer accounts department and had two current employees reach their twenty-year employment anniversaries with us. In the middle of July, we added a new employee. As the Human Resources Manager I am in charge of hiring and on-boarding of new staff as well as exit paperwork for employees that are leaving the company. As fall rolled around it was time for insurance renewals and working on employee benefits. February found Veronica, Marketing Manager, and myself traveling to Mitchell Technical College for a career fair on campus. In March, Kennebec Telephone Company hosted a Junior/Senior visit day. We enjoyed talking to the students about the types of services the company and its divisions offer. The students were able to do "hands on" learning such as fiber splicing, operating a backhoe and some electrical work. Also in March, we signed with Jacob Sazue as his industry sponsor for his Build Dakota Scholarship.

These are just some of the highlights of my first year. Keeping up to date on employment laws and policies are only one part of my job. The complete description is a "work in progress" and there has not been a dull moment. I truly enjoy the variety of tasks that come along with being the Human Resources Manager for such a unique company as Kennebec Telephone.



WE WILL BE
CLOSED
..... FOR
MEMORIAL DAY

**All Divisions of
Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.
will be closed May 30th
in honor of Memorial Day**

If you need assistance please call (605) 869-2424

Congratulations Lyman High School Seniors!



Ambrus Brakke
Charles Steven Brave IV
Blake Brodrecht
Emma Chester
Colton Collins
Ellie Erikson
Toby Estes
Rachel Hoffer
Sam McClanahan
Stockton McClanahan
Trenton J. Moran

Shilo Mowry
Zachary Oldenkamp
Tristan Penny
CJ Reindl
Madison Rouillard
Carly Samco
Jacob Sazue
Kennadee Shook
Isaac Thomas
Jordan Zirpel



photo courtesy of Christie Collins

Congratulations Joan! 25 years at Kennebec Telephone!

Chris Zirpel presented Joan Hills with a custom picture throw on the 25th anniversary of her employment with Kennebec Telephone Co. Inc. Joan started with the company on April 1, 1998, after working 20 years at Don's Market, Which is now BJ's Market in Kennebec. She started out in customer service, then billing, and finally in her current position as accountant. Joan and Steve Hills have been married for 45 years in June, they have two children, Tessa Erikson and Tom Hills, and six grandchildren Ellie, Aaron, Miley and Owen Erikson, and Hase and Haddie Hills. When she's not working, Joan enjoys attending events the grandkids take part in as well as spoiling them. She also enjoys horseback riding and being outdoors.

Lyman High School/Middle School Job Fair



April 14th the Lyman School District hosted a career fair in conjunction with South Dakota Week of Work, April 11-15.

The Week of Work is about exploring different career options, with the aim of guiding students, engaging local businesses, and introducing employers to their future workforce. Kennebec Telephone Company had four employees present at the event. Christie Collins- Human Resources Manager, along with Jake

Longville- PowerCom, Jadeon Biggers- Charley's Welding and Auto and Devan Urban-TCS. Jake demonstrated bending conduit, stripping wire, hooking up outlets and switches, and had a panel with lights and outlets to show them. Devan had a security camera set up and demonstrated how it worked. Devan also explained how the camera can be hooked up through a router and checked by a cell phone. Jadeon demonstrated how to use a battery tester and gave

information on the scan tool which is a common tool in many mechanic shops. Christie explained the different division's that Kennebec Telephone Company has, showed a slide show with examples of the work that it the company has done and talked about the Build Dakota Scholarship program.



Congratulations Jake! 10 years at Kennebec Telephone!

Powercom Manager Chaz Bowar presented Jake Longville with his 10 year plaque and loyalty check in April. Jake started as a part-time summer employee during his senior year at Lyman High School. He also worked for a while in Trusty's tech crew, before attending Mitchell tech for Electrical training. After graduation he returned to Powercom as an electrician. With a breif stint at Agtegra, Jake has been here ever since.

Jake and wife Jordi live in Kennebec with their two daughters, Jaylie and Sadie.

Congratulations, Jake, on your ten year anniversary!



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After Hours Please Call 869-2424

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More than "just" a telephone company!



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- *Sell & install tire tank, Ritchie, Cobett, and Geothermal waterers
- *Excavation
- *Directional boring
- *Gravel hauling
- *Demolition work



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- Renovation
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- Video Monitoring systems
- Networking
- Computer repair
- Key systems
- PBX systems
- Smart home applications

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.