



NETWORK CONNECTIONS

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A letter from our **General Manager/CEO Kent Schimke**

As we transition from the warm and vibrant summer months into the cooler and cozier days of fall, I'm excited to update you on the latest happenings at DRN ReadITech. Our commitment to you, your communities, and the quality of your experience remains as strong as ever.

Construction Update— Our dedicated teams have been working diligently to upgrade our network infrastructure. I'm pleased to report that our efforts over the summer have yielded positive results. Crews completed 63 plow jobs, including approximately three miles of new duct and fiber to Applied Digital's data center west of Ellendale for redundancy for their service needs and for DRN's network as well. Temporary lines that were laid due to gopher chews have been buried and replaced with protective inner duct in Crete, LaMoure, Verona, and Lisbon. Crews horizontal bored at five different locations to place fiber to new customer installations. Overall, crews completed 32 new construction orders, added over 50 miles of new ducted fiber, completed the transport project from Nelvik to Kulm and have completed approximately 85% of the Lisbon to Horace transport fiber build. There are 28 pending new construction orders that crews will be working on diligently until frost halts construction for the season.

Connected to Community—At DRN ReadITech, our commitment to our communities extends far beyond simply providing high-speed Internet services. We wholeheartedly believe in the power of community and understand that being actively involved is essential to fostering strong, vibrant neighborhoods.

As we transition into the final quarter of the year, you can count on DRN to remain actively engaged in your community. October is National Cooperative Month, and we are celebrating! I invite you to attend DRN's Annual Meeting on Oct. 19 at the Ellendale Public School. The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to review your cooperative's financials and learn of any new industry updates and developments. Plan to join

us for a complimentary meal served from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6 p.m.

Streaming TV—Over the past five years, there has been a major shift in how people watch television. More consumers are viewing their entertainment via streaming. This shift along with our aging television equipment has left us to make the decision to no longer offer television services to any **new customers** or allow current customers to **add TV service** to their account. **This change will take effective Jan. 1, 2024.** To learn more about streaming TV and how you can get a free TV with an Internet upgrade, please visit our website at drn.coop/services/tv.

Thank you for being a part of our community. Stay warm, stay connected, and enjoy the beauty of the upcoming season.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCT. 19



Mark your calendars for DRN's annual meeting on Thursday, Oct. 19 at Ellendale Public School.

ANNUAL MEETING REPLAY
Daily Mon., Oct. 23 – Fri., Oct. 27
7 p.m. on DRN TV Channel 102.





VACATION RATES FOR SNOWBIRDS

Going south for the winter and wondering what to do with your telecommunications services while you're gone? DRN offers vacation rates for customers who leave their residence for less than six months.

You can lower your monthly bill by putting your services on vacation rate. To place your service on vacation rate, simply call DRN at 344-5000 to sign up or request online at drn.coop. A one-time service fee of \$25 applies. There is no charge to reconnect within six months of placing service on vacation rate.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Attention students—earn money for college!

DRN is passionate about supporting area youth and is proud to announce it will continue its Scholarship Program in 2024 and will again participate in the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) Scholarship. Students will need to complete both online applications separately.

Watch for a new scholarship application at drn.coop. DRN will begin accepting applications December 15, 2023 for the 2024 scholarship program.

High school seniors are eligible if they attend a high school in one of the Cooperative exchanges and/or their parents or guardians are DRN subscribers. Applicants also must plan to attend an accredited college, university or vocational school and indicate an interest in returning to a rural community following graduation to further their career. Students meeting these criteria are encouraged to apply. DRN will also award a scholarship to a student attending the Southeast Regional Career & Technology Center and to a student majoring in business administration at Trinity Bible College (TBC).

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28, 2024.

**For more details and to apply online visit:
drn.coop/scholarship**

DRN READITECH GIVES BACK



DRN ReadiTech's Janell Hauck presents a donation to Ellendale Area Arts Council, Lana Schlect.

Helping our communities connect and thrive has been a goal of DRN's for over 70 years. Over the past several months, DRN has awarded over \$11,000 in donations to area organizations looking for assistance in community sponsored events or community improvements

As a member-owned cooperative, DRN prides itself in supporting community needs throughout its service territory. As an investment in the future of area citizens and Cooperative members, DRN supports programs and projects that encourage youth, builds communities through partnerships and in education.

"We are proud of our communities and are committed to supporting efforts that keep our area vibrant and healthy for generations," said DRN GM/CEO Kent Schimke.

Ellendale Area Arts Council—The Ellendale Area Arts Council promotes the arts in various way—art classes, art shows, speakers and free summer concerts. DRN is proud to support EAAC with a Corporate Sponsorship for the 2023 Medora Christmas Musical which will be held in Ellendale on Thursday, December 14.

Kulm Friendship Club—South Central Adult Services rents the building for its Senior Meals. The state health department is requiring the group to install four sinks to meet state standards. During this remodel the group also decided to install new counter tops. The DRN donation will go towards the purchase of building supplies for the building remodel.

Dickey County Fair Board—The fair board continues to look for new and innovative ways to attract fairgoers to the event. This year DRN's donation sponsored free stage entertainment.

The Hayloft—Twice a year, The Hayloft of rural Ashley is home to family entertainment with theatrical plays which usually include local comedy one-liners and German humor. DRN's donation will be used for critical repairs to the roof.



DRN ReadiTech's Janell Hauck presents the donation to The Hayloft.



Janell Hauck, DRN ReadiTech, presents the donation to representatives from Trinity Bible College.

Ransom County

Fair—The Ransom County Fair has been a staple in Ransom County since 1952. The Fair Board is looking to upgrade its facility by building a new multi-purpose facility which will be used for car shows, livestock judging, youth archery, auction sales and during the fair house the goats, sheep and pigs.

Trinity Bible College—DRN's donation assisted with the resurfacing and repainting of the Ray Ulmer Field House gym floor.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Ellendale Public School

4:45 pm Meal | 6 pm Meeting

The names listed below were nominated by the Nominating Committee on Aug. 29, 2023.

- District 2 (Dickey, Litchville & Marion exchanges)—Ralph Greer, Marion
- District 6 (Crete & Milnor exchanges)—Myron Yagow, Milnor
- District 9 (Fullerton & Guelph exchanges)—Dan Barton, Ellendale
- Nominations by petition: None

DOOR PRIZES
Win up to
\$1,000 in CASH!
*must be in attendance to win.

Help shape the future of your cooperative— attend your Annual Meeting

The significance of the cooperative elections is an important governance tool – a vital cooperative pillar and allowing members to shape the future of your organization. The rights, responsibilities, and privilege of being a cooperative member, grants each member an equal vote regardless of what volume of business they do with the cooperative. The voting process is there to serve the best interests of the cooperative.

All members are encouraged to attend their annual meeting to learn more about their cooperative and vote. According to DRN Board President Ralph Neu, “The more input by our members, the more closely DRN can meet your needs.”

"DRN asks each voting member to take advantage of your unique responsibility to directly influence the future of your cooperative. Your opinion is important and valuable to us."

**DRN CEO/GM
Kent Schimke**

Make your voice heard! Join us at this year's Annual Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m. at the Ellendale Public School. A complimentary meal will be served from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. before the meeting. One lucky member in attendance will receive \$1,000!

ADD A JOINT NAME TO YOUR ACCOUNT

If you've never given authorization to add a joint name to your account, DRN cannot allow him/her, whether it be a spouse or roommate, to vote at the annual meeting or make changes to your account. By adding a joint name, the primary person is allowing the joint name to add services, inquire about billing, charges, etc. Call 344-5000 now to add a joint name to your account, or download and print the "Joint Name & Voting Rep. Form" at drn.coop/annual-meeting23. E-mail completed form to: customerservice@drtel.com or mail to: DRN, P.O. Box 69, Ellendale, ND 58436.

NEW LISTINGS

Ashley 288

Kevin Huber..... 288-3081

Dickey 778

Daymond Syversen.....778-7361

LaMoure 883

Ryan Love 883-5487

Lisbon 683

Burnie Webb..... 683-2416

Norma Berg 683-4511

Litchville 762

John Paszkeicz.....762-4813

Milnor 427

Jerome M Bixby 427-5384

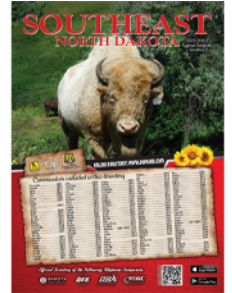
Oakes 742

Mark Geiss..... 742-7457

NEW TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

In August, the 2023-2024 Southeast North Dakota telephone directories were delivered to all current residents in DRN's service territory. Additional copies are available at:

- McIntosh County Bank, - Ashley
- Heartland State Bank - Edgeley & Kulm
- Stock Growers Bank - Forman, Gwinner, Lisbon & Milnor
- Starion Financial - Oakes
- DRN offices - Ellendale, Lisbon & Oakes



Please check your listing and contact a customer care specialist with changes at 344-5000, so that corrections can be made for the 2024-2025 directory.

You can also go online at www.sepages.com to find telephone numbers. There is also a mobile app which can be downloaded. Search your device app store for "SE pages".



Thank you for celebrating with us this summer!

Thank you to all our members who joined us this summer while we were out and about in the community! DRN employees took part in the Dickey County Fair, Ellendale; the Ransom County Fair, Lisbon; and the Sargent County Fair, Forman. We also joined several summer parades throughout the cooperative area.

In August, we had a fun time serving nearly 200 people in Forbes and Forman at the Annual DRN Customer Appreciation Picnics. DRN also sponsored free Wi-Fi Internet to visitors at this year's Annual Sheyenne Valley Arts & Crafts Association (SVACA) Marketplace held in Fort Ransom and in Guelph at the annual 'Fall Off the Shuelph' event supporting the Guelph Community Center.

Thank you to all our customers who attended these special events! Watch for DRN ReadITech at fun, family events near you next summer!

THANK YOU MEMBERS

We can't wait to continue the fun next summer!

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

October is Co-op Month. A time to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of member-owned cooperatives across America.

Cooperatives are different from other businesses. As a co-op, DRN doesn't have to answer to distant investors. Instead, we focus on meeting the needs of our member-owners and building connections within our communities.

DRN's theme for the 2023 Cooperative Month is "Your Network, Your Connections, Your Community, Your DRN." "This theme is very fitting for DRN as a cooperative because we are proud of the network we have built together for your connections and your community. For the past 70 plus years, DRN has been providing state-of-the-art telecommunications services and now is serving our members with fiber-optic broadband Internet," said Janell Hauck, DRN marketing manager.

Co-Op Statistics

1.2 million people: Over 1.2 million rural Americans are served by 260 telecommunication cooperatives in 31 states.

2 million: US cooperatives generate 2 million jobs each year, contribute \$652 million in annual sales, and possess \$3 trillion in assets.

Co-op Month has been celebrated annually in October across the United States for more than half a century. It is a time for cooperative businesses to reflect on their shared principles and to educate others about the value of belonging to a cooperative.

Turn the Page! Reading & Coloring Challenge

For the month of October, students from Pre-K to 12th grade are invited to embark on an exciting reading and creativity adventure. Simply download reading trackers and coloring sheets from the DRN website, complete them, and return them to a DRN office or online. As a reward, each participant will receive a cozy stocking cap to stay warm and a delicious \$5 Dairy Queen coupon to satisfy their sweet tooth.

Win Big!

But the excitement doesn't stop there! By participating, students are automatically entered into a drawing for a chance to win fantastic prizes:

- Pizza Coupon (\$50 value)
- Apple iPad (6-12 grade)
- Movie Tickets (\$50 value)
- VTech KidiZoom Smartwatch (K-2 graders)
- Handy Digital Bookmark
- Nintendo Switch Lite
- Kindle Kids

Let's make October a month of exploration and learning for all our young readers!



Scan to get started today!



drn.coop/turn-the-page

WATCH YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS ON BEK TV



For a full schedule visit www.bek.tv

Catch local sports action on BEK TV East - channel 104, BEK Sports 2 - channel 196, and BEK Sports 3 - channel 195

Date	Description	Time	Channel
Mon. Oct. 16	High School Volleyball Divide County vs Alexander	7:30 PM	195
Mon. Oct. 16	High School Volleyball Shiloh Christian vs Linton-HMB	7:30 PM	196
Tue. Oct. 17	High School Volleyball West Fargo Horace @ Fargo South	7:00 PM	104
Tue. Oct. 17	High School Volleyball Wyndmere-Lidgerwood @ Sargent County	7:15 PM	195
Tue. Oct. 17	High School Volleyball Napoleon-GS vs Carrington	7:00 PM	196
Wed. Oct. 18	College Volleyball Valley City State @ Mayville State	7:00 PM	104
Thu. Oct. 19	High School Football West Fargo Sheyenne @ Mandan	7:00 PM	104
Mon. Oct. 23	High School Volleyball Edgeley-KM @ Napoleon-GS	7:30 PM	196
Tue. Oct 24	High School Volleyball West Fargo vs Fargo North	7:00 PM	104
Wed. Oct 25	College Volleyball Morningside vs University of Jamestown	7:30 PM	104
Thu. Oct 26	High School Volleyball Mandan vs Minot	7:00 PM	104
Mon. Oct 30	High School Volleyball Dickinson vs Mandan	7:00 PM	104
Mon. Oct. 30	High School Volleyball District 5 Tournament @ Oakes	TBD	196
Tue. Oct. 31	High School Volleyball District 6 Tournament @ Napoleon	TBD	196
Tue. Oct 31	High School Volleyball Fargo South vs Fargo North	7:00 PM	104
Wed. Nov 1	College Hockey Minot State University vs University of Mary	7:00 PM	104
Sat. Nov 11	College Hockey Waldorf University vs University of Mary	5:00 PM	104
Sat. Dec 2	College Hockey University of Jamestown vs University of Mary	7:00 PM	104
Sat. Jan 13	College Hockey Northern Illinois vs University of Mary	7:00 PM	104
Sat. Jan 20	College Hockey Illinois State vs University of Mary	7:00 PM	104
Wed. Jan 24	College Hockey Minot State vs University of Mary	7:00 PM	104
Sat. Feb 3	College Hockey Colorado State vs University of Mary	7:00 PM	104
Fri. Feb 9	College Hockey University of Jamestown vs University of Mary	7:00 PM	104

Dates and Times are Subject to Change.

On the go? Stream games online at bek.tv/watch-now



Pictured L to R: Dakota Dirt owners Wyatt Mund, Beau Goolsbey, and Landon Mund.

NESTLED AMIDST THE SERENE LANDSCAPES OF MILNOR LIES A COFFEE HAVEN THAT ISN'T JUST ABOUT A CUP OF JOE—IT'S ABOUT CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

Established in 2020, Dakota Dirt started its journey with friends Wyatt and Landon Mund and Beau Goolsbey who all grew up in the small town of Milnor. The trio, who played basketball together and hung out as friends, always had a desire to start a business together but never knew what to do.

A coffee company idea came from drinking coffee that didn't deliver. After experimenting with different roasting techniques in a basement the guys quickly realized "damn that's good coffee" as they like to say at Dakota Dirt.

The name "dirt" is a slang term for a cup of coffee which they incorporated into their company name. The coffee roasted at Dakota Dirt is for the everyday coffee drinker looking for a premium cup of coffee.

The process starts by importing unroasted premium coffee beans. After the beans are roasted, they are then ground, bagged,

and shipped. To ensure coffee freshness, the whole process from start to finish takes less than five days.

Dakota Dirt focuses on the Midwest niche with their names of signature blends tied into dirt or the Midwest. Signature blends include Kickin' up Dust, Frozen Tundra, Flatlander, Buck Fever, 6 Feet Under, and Stick in the Mud. Their coffee isn't limited to but is very tailored to every hardworking Midwest guy or gal who is looking daily for a premium cup of coffee. More coffee options include their single origins roast which are Mexican, Costa Rican, Tanzanian, and Colombian.



All photos courtesy of Dakota Dirt Coffee Company.

The coffee is sold by the bag, but Dakota Dirt now has some roast options in Keurig cups. You can purchase Dakota Dirt's coffee online through their website and at some smaller coffee shops. At the beginning of this year, the guys were able to get their products on the shelves at Scheels, the biggest retailer in Fargo.

Maintaining a growing business that focuses heavily on selling coffee directly to its consumers requires fast and reliable broadband.



“

We process and ship a ton of orders every day. Not having to worry about the Internet going down allows our team to focus more on growing Dakota Dirt!”

Landon Mund

”

Dakota Dirt uses DRN's Internet service in many ways for checking orders, printing off orders, checking the roast profiles to make sure everything is consistent, and maintaining its online direct-to-consumer store.

“As a direct-to-consumer coffee company, our customers are online, and fast, reliable Internet is critical to serving them. We process and ship a ton of orders

every day. Not having to worry about the Internet going down allows our team to focus more on growing Dakota Dirt!”, said Landon Mund, owner of Dakota Dirt.

DRN is proud to be able to maintain the fast and reliable broadband connection needed for the Dakota Dirt Coffee Company.

From the beginnings of a start-up in a basement to a new facility along Highway 13, three men poured their heart, soul, and conversations of being successful entrepreneurs into a cup of “damn good” coffee.



SPECIAL OFFER

Get your caffeine fix!

Visit Dakota Dirt's website at DakotaDirtCoffee.com.

During checkout use the code “**DRN15**” for 15% off the fresh dirt which can be applied to all coffee bags and Keurig cups.



This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.



PO Box 69
Ellendale, ND 58436



TAKE THE PLUNGE INTO STREAMING

Our MyBundle.TV website makes everything easier.

Go ahead and dip your toes into streaming. The water's fine at our MyBundle.TV website, and you may be surprised how simple it is to replace your cable or satellite TV with streaming services.

Disconnect your DRN TV service + upgrade your Internet speed to receive a Smart TV. Call 344-5000 for details.

Visit mybundle.tv/drtel/start