

# NETWORK CONNECTIONS

**DRN**

Quarter 2 | 2025

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



**At DRN ReditTech, we have proudly served our members for 75 years, providing essential services that have become the backbone of our region. This milestone is a testament to our unwavering commitment to connecting members, empowering lives, and delivering high-quality broadband services.**

Our robust fiber network is the foundation of our efforts to empower lives. It allows us to expand our cooperative without compromising service quality. Through our network we are providing high speed, reliable connections in healthcare, education, economic development, and the quality of life of our members.

### **Economic Development**

Our western region is experiencing exciting growth, brought by the construction of Applied Digital, a new data center just outside of Ellendale. This project has brought several long term contractors to the area, leading to a increase in broadband service requests from homes, apartments, and long-term housing. Thanks to the strong foundation we've built with our fiber network, we are well equipped to accommodate this growing customer base while maintaining the high standards our current members expect.

Our broadband network is key in meeting the needs of construction companies at the Applied Digital site and new members in nearby communities. Fast, reliable broadband access ensures projects stay on schedule and are not hampered by our rural setting. Additionally, a new subdivision in Ellendale will soon bring 20 homes and an apartment building, all connected to our fiber network. We are ready to integrate these new connections seamlessly, without compromising our robust fiber network.

### **One Call - 811**

As you enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather, I urge you to keep safety at the forefront of your mind. Whether you're digging in your garden, embarking on outdoor projects, or simply enjoying the great outdoors, always be mindful of underground utilities. Calling 811 before you dig is not only a legal requirement but also a crucial step in preventing accidents and ensuring the safety of our communities. Learn more about 811 on page 11.

At DRN ReditTech, we're not just committed to keeping you connected; we're dedicated to fostering a culture of growth and safety. Together, let's make this summer one to remember for all the right reasons.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

**Kent Schimke**  
CEO/General Manager







# Welcome New Employees!

DRN Read iTech is pleased to announce the hiring of several new employees. "We are excited to welcome these new employees to DRN to meet the growing demands of our business," said Kent Schimke, DRN Read iTech CEO.

Our construction team has added two new team members, Mason Molan and David Wyatt. Mason joined DRN in 2024 as a technical support analyst and has now moved to the construction team as an outside network operations specialist(ONOS) in the Ellendale office. In his spare time, Mason enjoys watching sports and spending time with family. He currently resides in Ellendale. David recently joined the team. David resides in Ellendale with his wife and children and enjoys time outdoors, basketball, and gardening.

Tim Aberle was recently hired as a technical support analyst on the service and technical assistance team(STAT) in the Ellendale office. Most recently, he was working at Charter Communications in St. Petersburg, FL. In his spare time, Tim enjoys golfing, DJing, being outdoors, and spending time with his grandchildren. He currently resides in Edgeley. Also joining the STAT is Collin Bambury. He joins the team as a technical support analyst in Ellendale. Collin grew up in Mississippi and lived in Colorado for five years. He currently resides in Aberdeen, SD with his wife and two dogs. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, gaming and learning how to do things that are challenging.

Haylee Gunderson has joined the team as a Marketing Specialist in the Horace office. Previously, she worked at Off the Wall Advertising. She has a bachelor's degree in marketing from NDSU. In her spare time, Haylee enjoys working out, going on walks, reading, and spending time with family and friends. She currently resides in Fargo, ND.

For current job openings visit [www.drn.coop/careers](http://www.drn.coop/careers).

*Pictured above from L to R: Haylee Gunderson, David Wyatt, Collin Bambury, Tim Aberle, and Mason Molan*



Easter is all about joy,  
not online risks!  
Protect your  
family's digital nest  
with DRN's fiber  
Internet services with  
Parental Controls and  
stay one step ahead of  
cyber threats.  
**Call 344-5000  
to add to your wi-fi.**

## Crack Down on Online Risks



# WATCH ND RODEOS ON BEK TV

BEK TV announces the return of the North Dakota Rodeo Association (NDRA) season for another action-packed year of rodeo coverage. Through an exclusive broadcast agreement, BEK TV will once again bring viewers rodeo action from across the state for its third year, airing 21 NDRA and North Dakota High School Rodeo Association (NDHSRA) broadcasts. Viewers can watch live and over-the-air on BEK TV or live and on-demand on the BEK TV+ app. BEK TV can be found on DRN TV channels 104, 195, and 196.

New this year, BEK TV will present three high school rodeo broadcasts from the NDHSRA Finals, alongside NDRA's main rodeo lineup, giving young athletes a chance to showcase their skills to a wider audience.

The NDRA features cowgirls and cowboys of all ages. To learn more about the NDRA, visit [ndrodeo.com](http://ndrodeo.com).

To learn more about the NDHSRA, visit [ndhsra.org](http://ndhsra.org).

## 2025 BEK TV RODEO SCHEDULE

April 12	Minot NDRA
May 24	Bowman County Fair & Rodeo
June 8	Killdeer NDRA
June 13-15	NDHSRA Finals
June 21	McKenzie County Fair & Rodeo
June 28-29	Beaver Valley Horse Club Rodeo
July 11-12	Wing Rodeo
July 25-26	Sargent County Rodeo
August 1-2	Morton County Fair Rodeo
August 23	Ransom County Fair & Rodeo
September 6-7	Devils Lake NDRA Shootout
September 26-27	NDRA Finals



## Minnesota Twins Channel Added



### Baseball is back!

We are excited to announce that DRN TV has successfully secured the rights to broadcast the Minnesota Twins for the 2025 season! You can catch all the action on the TWINS Channel - Twins. TV (Channel 217), available in our Ultimate Family Package. If you are unable to see this channel or have any questions about your package, please call our office at 344-5000.

Never miss a moment of the 2025 baseball season with DRN TV.



# Keeping Americans Connected

## WITH BROADBAND BUILT TO LAST

The idea that all Americans should have reliable access to communications services at a reasonable cost has been a national objective for over a century. Today, the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) helps rural Americans connect to high-quality, affordable broadband and supports critical connections for low-income families, schools, libraries and healthcare facilities in rural communities.

Without USF support, it is difficult to make a business case to invest in many rural areas, to sustain networks once they are built, or to keep service rates affordable. According to an August 2024 survey of more than 200 community-based broadband providers across 35 states, the loss of USF support could be catastrophic for rural consumers, efforts to keep investing in broadband deployment, and the viability of existing rural broadband networks.

Respondents reported that rural consumers could see their bills increase by \$72 per month if USF support were eliminated. In addition, 68% of respondents said they could face the need to cancel deployment projects next year equaling over \$1 billion, representing nearly 80% of these companies' planned broadband investments for 2025.

Even as new broadband deployment programs offer great promise for reaching unserved areas, the USF remains critical to both getting and keeping rural consumers connected to high-quality, affordable services.

Learn more at [ntca.org/advocacy/issues/universal-service-infrastructure](https://ntca.org/advocacy/issues/universal-service-infrastructure)



## DRN'S GROWING IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

We're excited to share the progress and growth DRN has experienced with Applied Digital's new construction in Ellendale. Our focus remains on providing exceptional service to our community, particularly to the contractors working on the Applied Digital building.

Economic development has been steady for DRN, with an increasing

number of customers requesting broadband services for homes, apartments, and long term housing. This growing demand highlights the trust and reliance our community places in DRN's capabilities.

Thanks to our robust fiber infrastructure, we have the capacity to serve additional members. Our commitment to delivering reliable and high-speed Internet ensures

that we can meet the needs of our expanding customer base while maintaining the exceptional service standards our current members expect.

We are proud of the strides we've made and look forward to continuing to support our community's connectivity needs. Thank you for being a part of DRN's journey.



PHOTO FROM APPLIED DIGITAL ELLENDALE SITE





# PLANNING NEW CONSTRUCTION?

**As flowers start to grow, we all get anxious to start on projects outside. Are you planning to build a new home, shop, etc? Don't forget to contact DRN to request high-quality, reliable communications services for your new construction.**

In order to properly engineer, design and construct DRN fiber-optics to a new development we require a 120 to 180 day notice. If a new home or business is constructed within an existing development, 60 to 120 days is required to activate service.

DRN strives to provide accurate estimations of service availability, however delays may occur. Contact our team as soon as possible at 344-5000 or [drn.coop](http://drn.coop) to request service.

## Fast, Reliable Wi-Fi

**Are you ready for a FASTER, BETTER Internet experience? Now is the time!**

As we advance our technology and services to meet the growing needs of our members, we are committed to providing you with the best experience.

- Fewer delays & buffering with a faster speed
- No shared connections or data caps
- Wi-Fi 6 router whole-home coverage
- DRN ReadTech Wi-Fi mobile app
- Award-winning network security with ProtectIQ
- Advanced network controls with ExperienceIQ
- Free installation & ongoing technical support from your local team of DRN experts

**Don't Delay!**

**For questions or to learn more about DRN's Internet and Wi-Fi solutions visit [drn.coop](http://drn.coop) today or call 701.344.5000**



HELLO  
*Spring*

# Do you know what Internet connection speeds mean?

When you order your Internet package from DRN, you have a few options to choose from. Speed is often the most important factor since a faster Internet connection will improve your overall experience. The challenge is that the fastest Internet speeds are typically the most expensive. That's why it's important to understand how Internet connection speeds work to ensure you select the right package for the needs of your home or business.

**How is Internet speed measured?** Let's start with the concept of speed, or bandwidth, as it's sometimes called. Measured in Megabits per second (Mbps) or Gigabits per second (Gbps), your Internet speed is the amount of data that can be transferred every second over your Internet connection. Your speed determines the type of activities that you can do online and how quickly you can do them.

A connection speed of 1 Mbps, for example, allows you to browse web pages easily, but it's not fast enough for you to stream HD videos on Netflix. According to Netflix, that requires a minimum connection speed of 5 Mbps. If you tried to stream HD video at 1 Mbps, your video would be poor quality and would likely stutter or pause altogether. On the other hand, a speed of 1 Gbps - one thousand times faster than 1 Mbps - is blazing fast, allowing you to do almost anything, including letting multiple family members stream 4K video simultaneously.

**Download vs. Upload Speeds** When you are choosing an Internet package, there are two speeds you need to consider: the download speed and then upload speed.

The download speed is the speed at which data travels from a remote location on the Internet to your Internet-connected device. For example, if you are watching a video on YouTube, the download speed is the rate at which the information in the video stream travels from the YouTube server to your computer or phone.

The upload speed, on the other hand, is the speed at which data travels from your connected device to a remote location on the Internet. For example, if you post a video or a photo onto a social media site like Facebook, the upload speed is the rate at which the information travels from your device to the Facebook server.

DRN offers symmetrical speed packages. This means that the download and the upload speeds are the same. But why are download speeds generally faster than upload speeds? Because most of our online activities - like web surfing, video streaming, and application downloads - involve downloading a lot of data. And for certain activities, like online gaming and video streaming, the faster you can download data, the better.

The upload speed may be important to you, depending on the type of activities you plan to do online. If you upload high resolution photos to a photo sharing site. Or, if you work from home, or operate a small business from home, you might also require a faster upload speed.

**The bottom line?** The speed of your Internet connection has a big impact on the quality of your online experience. So when you're choosing an Internet package, make sure the speeds are fast enough for the kind of activities you plan to do online. If you are experiencing any issues with your speed or wi-fi, contact our support team and we can help make your experience better.



Call **344.5000** to speak with our support team to make sure you are receiving the best speed & wi-fi experience.

## Free GIG Internet?

Try our highest broadband package free for two months!

- 1) Call 344-5000
- 2) Mention this story and the code SPEED
- 3) Enjoy faster speeds at your home or business!



# SUMMER Events



**In honor of our 75th Anniversary in 2025, our team will be at many of our community celebrations, fairs, and parades this summer!**

We hope to see many of our members out supporting these local events.

## June

- Sat. 7 Milnor June Fest
- 12 - 15 Oakes Irrigation Days  
*6/12 - Grab & Go Breakfast, Oakes office | 7 - 9 am*
- 14 - 21 Lisbon Happy Days
- 20 - 22 Ashley Sizzling Summer Days
- Sat. 21 Edgeley Alumni Days
- 27 - 28 LaMoure Alumni Weekend
- Sat. 28 Fullerton Fest



## July

- Fri. 4 Forbes 4th of July Parade
- Fri. 4 Fort Ransom 4th of July Parade
- 12 - 13 Annual G.O.L.F. Classic
- 10 - 13 Dickey County Fair: **Black Out BINGO WIN \$750!**
- 10 - 13 Gwinner 125th Celebration *DRN Sponsoring a Meal*
- 18 - 20 Litchville 125th Anniversary
- 24 - 27 Sargent County Fair



## August

- 20 - 24 Ransom County Fair

**WATCH FOR**  
*free swim days*  
**AT LOCAL POOLS!**







Rural Development  
Finance Corporation  
GROWING COMMUNITIES

# RDFC PAUSES GRANT PROGRAM FOR 2025

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) board is pausing a grant program for 2025 due to a relatively low available fund balance. Under the grant program in 2024, member electric and broadband cooperatives, NDAREC and the Broadband Association of North Dakota could allocate \$3,000 toward community and non-profit projects within their service areas with approximately \$90,000 in assistance awarded in total.

Next year after the RDFC annual meeting, the board will discuss whether they will reauthorize a grant program for 2026.

The RDFC operates a revolving loan fund, providing low-interest loans for community and small business project in rural areas and towns under 10,000 residents in North Dakota.

For more information about the RDFC, please [ndarec.com/RDFC](http://ndarec.com/RDFC).

## NEW LISTINGS

### Ashley 288

Ulmer Auction Service.....288-2364

### Dickey 778

Jeff Stotts.....778-7437

### Edgeley 493

Leslie Hartman .....493-2716

### Forman 724

Alice L Fatland.....724-3301

### Oakes 742

The Legion Sports Bar.....742-2411

## GOLF TOURNAMENT SET FOR JULY 12 & 13

DRN ReadITech is proud to be the premier sponsor of the Annual G.O.L.F. Classic. This year's tournament is being held on July 12 and 13 at four area courses: the Grand Rapids Memorial Park Country Club, the Oakes Golf Club, the Lisbon Bissell Golf Course, and the Forman Golf Course.



G.O.L.F. is open to all golfers 16 years of age or older. Golfers are encouraged to create teams of four, but teams of two and three will also be accepted. Tournament golfers will enjoy 9-holes of golf at four of the area's finest golf courses.

An overall champion, women's & senior champions will be awarded as well as prizes being paid out to each flight. Watch for more information and register online at [drnreaditechgolf.com](http://drnreaditechgolf.com).

**Sign up for two fun-filled days of golf at [drnreaditechgolf.com](http://drnreaditechgolf.com)!**



DRN offices will be closed April 18<sup>th</sup>.

# CARE FOR COMMUNITY

## DRN Donates to Local Organizations

DRN has a long history of community involvement and supporting organizations to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. Whether it is through donating to youth activities, emergency response services or organizations that provide services and support to those with disabilities, DRN is proud to give back to area non-profit organizations.

A donation was made to Hero's Park in Gwinner. Located on Main Street in Gwinner, this park is being developed to honor all military service men and women. It will feature a tall pergola flanked by two six-foot wood signs honoring soldiers and will be handicap accessible. The park will include benches for reflection, picnic tables, and planted trees and poppy flowers. A Free Little Library will also be added to the park as well as a American Flag donation box for flags that are needing to be retired. *1. Jacob Herman, DRN, presents check to Hero's Park Representative.*

Marion is celebrating their 125th anniversary and are planning an All School reunion on June 27th, 2025, to kick off their three-day anniversary celebration. DRN recently donated to Marion to help support the celebration. *2. Janell Hauck, DRN, presents check to Marion 125th committee members.*

Kulm Ambulance has been serving the community for over 50 years and for their first ever fundraising drive, they are including a clinic building project for a bigger space that is more suited for their size. As volunteer first responders, they are excited about this opportunity. DRN recently donated to the drive and the funds will go towards a new ambulance and EMS equipment. *3. Janell Hauck, DRN, presents check to Kulm Ambulance.*

**“Investing in our area is an important way to invest in the future of our communities.” said DRN General Manager/CEO Kent Schimke.**

Donation requests can be submitted to DRN by email [marketing@drtel.com](mailto:marketing@drtel.com) or by mail to PO Box 69, Ellendale, ND 58436.



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**As a cooperative, DRN believes in giving back and supporting the communities where we live and work.**

Kent Schimke  
DRN GM/CEO

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# Contact ND One Call before you dig



Planning to tackle a big landscaping project soon? DRN reminds you to pick up your phone before you pick up your shovel. Call 811 at least 48 hours in advance to have all utility lines properly identified and clearly marked. It not only saves you time and protects you from costly damage, **it's required by state law.**

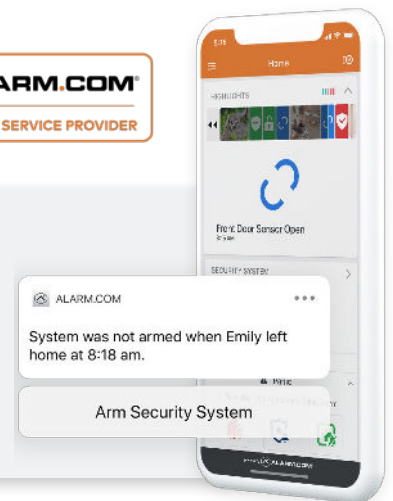
Many utility services such as phone, cable television, broadband, sewer, gas, water, and electricity come to your home via underground lines. By calling One Call, you can proceed with your landscaping knowing you

won't disrupt any utilities or compromise safety. Plus, this line identification is absolutely free.

As your local telecommunications service provider, DRN thanks you in advance for your cooperation. **DRN customers in both North and South Dakota can reach One Call by dialing 811 which forwards to your state's One Call. You may also contact One Call in North Dakota at [ndonecall.com](http://ndonecall.com) and in South Dakota at [sdonecall.com](http://sdonecall.com).**

## MONITORED SECURITY FOR HOME & BUSINESS

DRN RediTech's Alarm.com security systems are customized to your unique needs. Start small and build your system over time, or start with it all on day one. Alarm.com technology is sold, installed and serviced by our licensed security experts. Alarm.com includes a mobile app to keep you updated on your security services and allow you to manage settings, receive important notifications or arm doors.



### DRN RediTech offers:

Video Door Bell	Intrusion	Temperature Control
Door Access	Lights & Shades	Video Monitoring
Energy Management	Locks & Garages	Water Protection
Fire & CO Safety	Security & Safety	Wellness/Personal Safety
Home Management	Solar Monitoring	

**Please call DRN at 701-344-5000 to receive a FREE custom security quote.**

**DRN RediTech will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.**

## Memorial Day. A Day of Tribute.

To all those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom,  
we remember you.



This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.



PO Box 69  
Ellendale, ND 58436

# FIBER ALWAYS WINS

STAY ON TEAM FIBER FOR UNBEATABLE  
INTERNET SPEED AND RELIABILITY



Fiber internet brings much more to the game than 5G home internet ever will. So, stick with fiber internet to enjoy:

- **Winning speeds** – Up to 10 Gigs (10,000 Mbps) for buffering-free streaming
- **Winning reliability** – 99.9% uptime for a connection to count on for big March games and more
- **Winning customer experience** – Unlimited usage with no data caps or throttling

It's a slam dunk. Fiber internet always wins, and you deserve to be on the winning team. (5G home internet isn't even in the same league.)

**CALL 701-344-5000 FOR MORE STATS**