

January 2022 New Directory Listings:

Rosholt
Perfetto Finishes 537-4747



**Call 511
BEFORE
Traveling!**

Along with winter comes the ever-dreaded travel worries. Before you travel, remember to call 511. This toll-free number, provided by the South Dakota Department of Transportation and the South Dakota Highway Patrol, offers up-to-the-minute information about weather and road conditions.

By dialing 511 on your land-based or cellular phone, you can receive location-specific road and weather information for any Interstate, US or State highway in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota.

Travelers should not confuse 511 with 911, the nationwide emergency response number. 911 should be called for any situation requiring police, fire department, ambulance or other emergency services. 911 is manned by trained public safety dispatchers throughout the state of South Dakota.

**HAPPY
Valentine's Day**

on Monday, February 14th

**venture
communications**

Venture Communications is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.

PO Box 157 ■ Highmore, SD 57345

605-852-2224 ■ venture@venturecomm.net ■ www.venturecomm.net

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. ■ Monday - Friday



PROVIDER

Fiber Optics *Battery* Backup:

A backup power supply (battery) is required in order for your digital voice service to be in service, in the event of a power outage. A backup battery, like the one Venture Communications has provided and installed, allows regular corded landline phones to work during a power outage. This allows customers the ability to connect to 911 emergency services. In the event that a power outage should occur, customers should ensure they have a corded single-line touchtone phone connected directly to the ONT (optical network terminal) or your in-home wiring (wall jack) and the ONT connected directly to the Battery Backup Unit. If you connect a cordless phone, it will not function without a sperate battery backup, and most cordless phones are not so equipped.

Venture's battery backup allows you to continue to use your home voice telephone service during a power outage. Without a battery backup, customers will not be able to make any calls, including emergency calls to 911. Venture's battery backup does not provide power to any service other than voice. Security systems, medical monitoring devices and other equipment will not run on a home phone backup battery.

The backup battery provided by Venture is expected to last up to eight hours in the event of a power outage depending upon battery age, usage and environment. Proper care of batteries includes storing at normal room temperatures. Battery backup units will display a battery light when the battery needs to be replaced. If you find the battery needs replacement, call Venture Communications at 852-2224.

Venture Communications offers a 24-hour battery backup solution for customers who feel they need additional backup time for their home voice services. An alternate 24-hour backup system is available at a price of \$100. Contact Venture for warranty information.

Please contact us at 852-2224 for details. The FCC mandates this message. It is not necessary for customers to take action.

New VOD Releases!

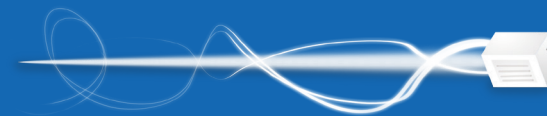
VIDEO ON DEMAND



Happy New Year!

2022

KEEPING YOU...



In Touch

January 2022 ■ Volume 46 ■ Number 498

Brad Ryan & Kay Burnham *Retirement:*



Brad Ryan



Kay Burnham

Our heartfelt appreciation and sincere thanks to Brad Ryan and Kay Burnham for their many years of service to Venture Communications. Collectively, the two have dedicated over 43 years to the cooperative – both starting when the company operated as Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative. Kay and Brad joined the cooperative team at a time of major company growth and have experienced significant change in technology and the services provided to our members.

Brad Ryan joined the cooperative in 1994 as a central office technician. In 1997, he transitioned to the position of central office supervisor – a position he held until his retirement. Throughout his years at Venture, he played an instrumental role in developing quality products for our members such as the first internet services, a top-notch video product, and hosted PBX services just to name a few. The technology of the communications industry is ever-changing. During his 27 years at Venture, Brad successfully managed the many changes and challenges set before him. His expertise in the central office field was exceptional and his willingness to share his knowledge has left the cooperative in good hands.

Kay Burnham began her duties at Venture in the fall of 1995 as a customer service representative. Kay provided exemplary customer service to our members on a daily basis for 26 years. Throughout her years at Venture, Kay played a significant role in transitioning new customers to the Venture system. In 1996, Kay was part of the team that transitioned 6900 new subscribers included in the purchase of seven US West exchanges. In later years, she also helped convert the purchased exchanges of Sisseton, Faulkton, Cresbard, and Orient. Kay's knowledge of the Venture services was impeccable and a huge asset to both Venture and its members.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Brad and Kay for their many years of dedicated service to Venture Communications. While both will certainly be missed, we wish them the very best in their retirement years.

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Congratulations Brad Ryan & Kay Burnham!



ATTENTION Students: Don't miss this opportunity!

Venture Communications *Scholarships Increase:*

The Venture Communications Board of Directors has an exciting announcement to make! Students who apply for the 2022 Venture Scholarship will have the chance to be awarded one of fourteen \$750.00 scholarships. After 23 years of presenting twelve \$500.00 scholarships to numerous students the board felt that it was time for an increase in the amount of the scholarship and the number of scholarships awarded. Investing in the future of our customer's children has always been one of the priorities of Venture Communications. To be considered for the Venture Communications Citizenship and Community Service Scholarship a student must:

- ✓ Graduating High School Senior in 2022
- ✓ The student's parent or legal guardian must be and active subscriber of a Venture Communications service.
- ✓ Student must have a cumulative B average or above.

Guidelines for this year's scholarship can be obtained from the high school guidance counselor, or by visiting www.venturecomm.net.

Lifeline & Link-Up *Programs:*

Venture Communications is proud to have helped many customers this past year through the FCC's Lifeline Link-Up Program, providing discounted installation and monthly telephone service to qualifying consumers.

Lifeline Program:

You may be eligible for the Lifeline Program and it's up to \$9.25 monthly savings if you are a participant in at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit.

Enhanced Lifeline Program:

The Enhanced Lifeline Program provides telephone service to anyone who lives on tribal lands. It expands the eligibility requirements listed under the Lifeline Program to also include participation in: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance programs, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Tribal Head Start, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. In addition, you may be eligible for the monthly savings if your household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. Qualifying income levels for the year 2020 range from \$17,388 for a single person household to \$60,291 for a family of eight.

Link-Up Program:

Another Federal Program, Link-Up, provides for financial assistance with no connection charges for new customers living on tribal land. If you meet the eligibility requirement, you can apply 1 of 3 ways:

1. For a quicker response – enter your application online at www.checklifeline.org.
2. Mail your paper application to the Lifeline Support Center.
3. Fill out and submit your application online at the Venture Communication office. Applications are available online at www.lifelinesupport.com or at your local Venture Communications office.
4. If you have any questions about Lifeline or Link-Up, call us at 852-2224.

Venture Communications Cooperative Statement of Nondiscrimination:

In accordance with Federal civil right law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institution participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communications for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice & TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint-filing_cust.html and at any USDA office and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Winter High School *Sports* on Venture Digital TV:

Feb 5 Highmore-Harrold Action Club Basketball Classic – Channel 399

Feb 12 & 13 SD State Gymnastics Tournament – Channel 399

March 10-12 Class B Girls Basketball Tournament – Channel 399

March 10-12 Class A Girls Basketball Tournament – Channel 400

March 10-12 Class AA Girls Basketball Tournament – Channel 401

March 17-19 Class B Boys Basketball Tournament – Channel 399

March 17-19 Class A Boys Basketball Tournament – Channel 400

March 17-19 Class AA Boys Basketball Tournament – Channel 401



Do-Not-Call *Notification:*

You can REGISTER:
Online at www.donotcall.gov
OR call 888.382.1222

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have established a national Do-Not-Call Registry that applies to all telemarketers (with the exception of certain non-profit and political organizations) and covers both interstate and intrastate telemarketing calls. Commercial telemarketers are not allowed to call you if your number is listed on the registry.

You may register your phone number free, and it will remain on the national Do-Not-Call Registry. You may remove your name from the list at any time. The Do-Not-Call Registry will not prevent all unwanted calls.

It does NOT cover the following:

- calls from organizations with which you have established a business relationship
- calls for which you have given prior written consent
- calls which are not commercial or do not include unsolicited ads.
- calls by or on behalf of tax-exempt non-profit organizations

Consumers may register their residential telephone number, including wireless cellular numbers, on the national Do-Not-Call Registry at no cost by telephone or on the Internet. To register by telephone, consumers may call **1-888-382-1222**. For the hearing impaired, TTY call 866-290-4236. You must call from the phone number you wish to register. You may also register online at **www.donotcall.gov**.

Inclusion of your telephone number on the national Do-Not-Call Registry will be effective three months following your registration.

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