

- ✓ **2022-23 White Page Directory Listing Deadline:**  
Contact us prior to July 14th if you'd like to revise your listing. Changes made after July 14th will not appear in the new directory. Call us at 605-852-2224.
- ✓ Our Venture Communications **office will be closed** on Monday, July 4th for the Independence Day holiday.



KEEPING YOU...

# In Touch

June 2022 ■ Volume 46 ■ Number 503

**venture**  
communications

## 2022 Citizenship & Community Service Scholarships!

Venture Communications Cooperative recently awarded \$750 Citizenship and Community Service Scholarships to fourteen graduating seniors. The scholarships are based on school and community involvement and citizenship, with credit also being given for academics and leadership skills.



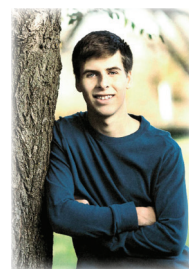
**Madison Hofer**  
HITCHOCK  
SDSU  
*Family & Consumer  
Science Education*



**Cheyenne Burg**  
WESSINGTON SPGS  
SDSU  
*Agriculture/Management*



**Chloe Furman**  
BRITTON  
USD  
*Nursing*



**Bryce Kopfmann**  
WESSINGTON SPGS  
Mitchell Tech College  
*Building Trades*



**Matthew King**  
PIERRE  
Lake Area Tech  
*Heavy Diesel Equip.*



**Kathryn Rausch**  
HOVEN  
SDSU  
*Ag Education*



**Carter LaMont**  
HIGHMORE  
SDSU  
*Civil Engineering*



**Madeline Knox**  
HIGHMORE  
USD  
*Biomedical  
Engineering/  
Pre-Med*



**Danielle Nowell**  
HITCHOCK  
SDSU  
*Ag Comm./Business*



**Jaslyn Peterson**  
ROSHOLT  
NDSU  
*Radiologic Science*



**Bryce Beitelspacher**  
BOWDLE  
SDSU  
*Animal Science  
& Precision Ag*



**Isabella Saunter**  
HOVEN  
NSU  
*Elementary Ed/Coaching*



**Porter Walz**  
WESSINGTON SPGS  
Lake Area Tech College  
*Law Enforcement*



In July 2020, the Federal Communications Commission adopted an order approving the designation of 988 as the 3-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To facilitate implementation, area codes across the country where the 988 prefix is a working prefix and which now use 7-digit local dialing must transition to 10-digit local dialing. This includes the 605 area code in our service area.

**As of July 6th, you must dial the 605 area code plus the 7-digit phone number to make local calls. You'll also have to reprogram 7-digit local numbers to 10-digit numbers if you use speed dial or any other system that automatically makes calls for you.**

For more details, please visit [www.venturecomm.net](http://www.venturecomm.net) or call 605-852-2224.

**venture**  
communications

Cornerstone Group © 2022

## Directory Photo Contest!

Preparations are underway for the 2022-2023 phone directory, "The Phone Book." This directory will include a submitted photograph chosen to be on the cover.

- The photo must be taken by a Venture Communications subscriber or family member who resides in a Venture exchange. Professional photographers not eligible.
- The photo may consist of people, scenery, animals, etc.
- The photo must be a VERTICAL 3"x5" or 4"x6" and it will not be returned.
- The photo must be taken in a Venture Communications exchange, not out-of-state or in another country.
- When submitting the photo, please attach a short paragraph describing the photo.
- Also note the photographer's name.
- The WINNER will be required to sign a release to allow Venture to print the picture on the cover of the book.
- He/she will receive a \$50 cash prize.
- All entries are due no later than Monday, July 25th in the Venture office.
- For details call Amy or Janice at 605-852-2224.
- Send all entries to: Venture Communications  
PO Box 157, Highmore, SD 57345

YES

NO

## Affordable Connectivity Program!

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service.
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount per household.

**Who is Eligible?** A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in one of several Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal Head Start, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Participates in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Check out [www.fcc.gov/ACP](http://www.fcc.gov/ACP) for a Consumer FAQ and other program resources.

### Two-Steps to Enroll:

1. Go to [ACPBenefit.org](http://ACPBenefit.org) to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.
2. Following approval contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill at 605-852-2224.

Eligible households must **both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.**

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a federal government benefit program operated by the Federal Communications Commission and, upon its conclusion or when a household is no longer eligible, customers will be subject to the provider's regular rates, terms, and conditions.

Call 877-384-2575 or find more information about the Affordable Connectivity Program at [fcc.gov/ACP](http://fcc.gov/ACP).

## Board of Directors – 2022 Elections!

In accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative, director elections were scheduled and notices were mailed to members in the four districts where directorships are to expire in September 2022. Director elections for District 1, District 6, District 10, and District 11 have been cancelled with only one petitioner filing in each of the respective districts. The following members have filed petitions and will be seated on the Venture Communications Board of Directors for a three-year term at the annual meeting in September.

• Tracy Wientjes	District 1	Blunt, Harrold, Onida, East Onida & West Onida Exchanges
• Charles Birkholt	District 6	Bowdle, Roscoe & Selby Exchanges
• Tom Wagner	District 10	Rosholt Exchange & Sisseton Exchange (rural)
• Marlin Jenner	District 11	Sisseton Exchange (within city limits)

**NOTICE:** As of July 6th, 2022 the mandatory 10-digit dialing will be required on all local calls placed from Venture phone lines. This affects all local calls whether across the street or across the state. This requirement is placed to comply with the Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) mandate. Adding the area code to local calls will NOT cause long distance charges to apply. Please remember to reprogram automatic dialing equipment to include the 10 digits.

**venture**  
communications

Venture Communications is an  
equal opportunity provider and employer.

PO Box 157 ■ Highmore, SD 57345

605-852-2224 ■ [venture@venturecomm.net](mailto:venture@venturecomm.net) ■ [www.venturecomm.net](http://www.venturecomm.net)

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