

In Touch

JUNE 2023

Always Call 811 Before You Dig

All kinds of utility lines could be buried underground on your property. So, before you dig into outdoor projects that involve digging — from installing a new mailbox to planting trees and shrubs — call 811 first. That way, the utility lines in the project area can be located and marked, preventing accidental damage.



Happy Father's Day

Venture Communications extends our best wishes to all the fathers in our community. Enjoy your celebration!

Contact

Venture Communications
P.O. Box 157
218 Commercial Avenue S.E.
Highmore, SD 57345-0157
Phone: 605-852-2224
24/7 Support

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST

Email
venture@venturecomm.net

Visit Us Online
www.venturecomm.net

venture
communications
cooperative

America STRONG

In our community, we're better together.

We weather storms together, both literally and figuratively. We build lasting relationships together. We work together, play together, and grow together.

As your local communications provider, Venture Communications is proud to support the connections that make our community and our country stronger. We invest in advanced technology. We give good jobs to our neighbors. We donate time and financial resources to this area's life-changing organizations.

You can always rely on us, just as we always rely on each other.

Happy 4th of July!

Our office will be closed for the holiday.



We Welcome Two New Employees

We're excited to announce the addition of two new members to our Venture Communications team in the Highmore community! Jessica Sheffield joined us in March as a Customer Advocate, and Britney Geppert joined us in May as a Support Specialist. We're thrilled to have such talented individuals join our team and believe they'll play integral roles in our efforts to provide exceptional telecommunications services to our valued customers.



Jessica Sheffield



Britney Geppert

Is Your Contact Information Current?

Venture Communications is committed to providing you with the best possible service, and we want to make sure we have the most up-to-date contact information on file for you.

To update your information, please call us soon at 605-852-2224 and provide your current cell phone number(s) and email address.

Thank you for choosing Venture Communications as your service provider. We look forward to keeping you connected for many years to come.

Affordable Connectivity Program Helps Households Connect

The Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. It 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.

To learn more about eligibility criteria, visit www.affordableconnectivity.gov.

Two Steps to Enroll

Go to www.affordableconnectivity.gov to submit an application or print out a mail-in application. Following approval, contact your preferred participating provider (such as Venture Communications at 605-852-2224) to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill. 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. Upon its conclusion or when a household is no longer eligible, customers will be subject to the provider's regular internet rates, terms, and conditions.

Call 877-384-2575 or find more information about the Affordable Connectivity Program at www.affordableconnectivity.gov.

2023 Citizenship and Community Service Scholarship Recipients

Venture Communications Cooperative recently awarded 15 \$750 Citizenship and Community Service Scholarships to graduating seniors. These scholarships are based on school and community involvement, citizenship, academics, and leadership skills. We congratulate this year's scholarship recipients and wish you the best in your future endeavors!



Alex Tanner
Gettysburg
SDSU or NSU
Business/Economics



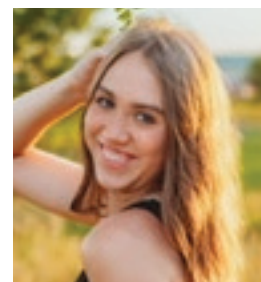
Ashlee Kaup
Hoven
NSU
Accounting &
Instrumental Music



David-Abraham Staggs
Highmore-Harold
USD
Kinesiology &
Sports Management



Erika Symens
Britton-Hecla
SD School of Mines
& Technology
Chemistry



Gabrielle Kast
Faulkton
SDSU
Biochemistry



Gage Storley
Britton-Hecla
SDSU
Nursing



Gavin Sannes
Webster Area
SDSU
Human Biology



Lydia Hill
Onida
SDSU
Agricultural
Communications



Mackenzie Tchida
Sisseton
USD
Kinesiology &
Sports Management/
Physical Therapy



Morgan Navratil
Rosholt
ND State College
of Science
Business Administration



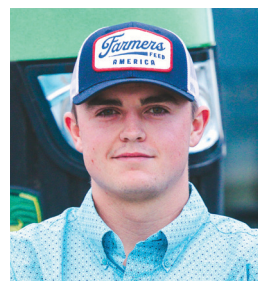
Reese Voorhees
Onida
SDSU
Animal Science
or Ag Business



Sydney Simonson
Webster Area
SDSU
Graphic Design &
Computer Science



Tate Hoffman
Highmore-Harold
NSU
Sports Marketing/
Management



Trevor Werdel
Miller
SDSU
Agriculture



Wyatt Tosse
Britton-Hecla
NDSU
Business Admin.



News for Our TV Subscribers

Venture Communications is excited to announce the addition of five new channels to our Core TV and Basic TV package lineups. The new channels are as follows:

- **Channel 15 - Grit**
(Western movies and TV shows)
- **Channel 52 - Court TV**
(Live trials and crime news)
- **Channel 55 - ION Mystery**
(Thrillers and docuseries)
- **Channel 61 - Laff**
(Sitcoms and comedy movies)
- **Channel 79 - Bounce**
(First African American broadcast network)

We encourage you to check out these channels and enjoy their programming.

In an effort to manage cable TV programming rates, Venture Communications won't be renewing the Stingray Music contract effective June 30, 2023. As of that date, music channels 901–950 on the Venture Communications cable TV programming lineup will no longer be available. You can still access the Stingray Music stations at music.stingray.com or download the free Stingray Music mobile app for your devices. We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause.

Take a Shot at Our Photo Directory Contest

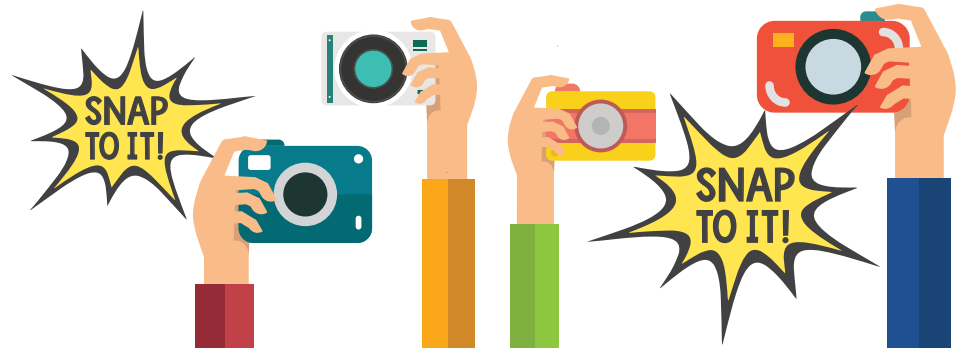


Preparations are underway for the 2023-2024 phone directory, "The Phone Book." This directory will include a submitted photograph chosen to be on the cover.

- Photo must be taken by a Venture Communications subscriber or family member who resides in a Venture community.
- Photo may consist of people, scenery, animals, etc.
- Professional photographers are not eligible.
- Photo must be a VERTICAL 3" x 5" or 4" x 6". (Photo will not be returned.)
- Photo must be taken in Venture Communications exchange, not in another state or country.
- When submitting the photo, please attach a short paragraph describing the photo and also note the photographer's name.
- The WINNER will be required to sign a copyright release to allow us to print the photo on the cover of the directory and will receive a \$50 cash prize.
- All entries are due no later than Monday, July 24th in the Venture Communications office.
- For details, call Mary or Jen at 605-852-2224.
- Mail entries to: Venture Communications, PO Box 157, Highmore, SD 57345.

2023-2024 White Page Directory Listing Deadline

Contact us prior to July 10th if you'd like to revise your listing. Changes made after July 10th will not appear in the new directory. Call us at 605-852-2224.



Update on Our Board of Directors

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 2023. Director elections for Districts 2, 3, 5 and 9 have been cancelled with only one petitioner filing petitions. These individuals will be seated on the Venture Communications Board of Directors for a three-year term at the annual meeting in September:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------|--|
| • Brian Bergeleen | District 2 | Wessington Springs Exchange |
| • Kyle Gilmour | District 3 | Highmore, Ree Heights, Orient and Seneca Exchanges |
| • John Hoffman | District 5 | Wessington, Hitchcock and Tulare Exchanges |
| • Ron Simonson | District 9 | Langford, Pierpont and Roslyn Exchanges |