

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 1, 2011**

Company: Red River Rural Telephone Association

Address: 510 Broadway – PO Box 136  
Abercrombie, ND 58001

Telephone number: 701-553-8309

Company contact: Jack Plecity

Study Area Code: 381631

**Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities**

- Advertise in media of general distribution.\* (See attached ad from Richland County News-Monitor published Oct. 26, 2010.)
  
- Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.\* (See attached bill insert distributed Feb. 2011)
  
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory (See attached article from the directory distributed Jan. 2011)
  
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website. (See [www.rrt.net](http://www.rrt.net) under "Telephone")
  
- Company's information posted on USAC website
  
- Other (describe): Lifeline posters at telephone office, social service departments and local food pantry \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* Required



### Andrew 'Andy' J. Dunn, 24

Andrew "Andy" J. Dunn, 24, Lidgerwood, N.D., died Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010 in rural Lidgerwood.

The funeral Mass was held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010 at St. Martin's Catholic Church, Grand Forks, N.D., with the Rev. Robert Smith as celebrant. Burial will be at St. Martin's Cemetery, Grand Forks. Organist was Tammy Oler with special music by Tom and Linda Karzynski.

Visitation was held from 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010 with a 7 p.m. prayer service at St. Martin's Catholic Church. There was also visitation one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers were: Larry Smykowiak, Raymond Smykowiak, Ed Smykowiak, Danny Dunn, Scott Tyler and Christopher Smykowiak. Honorary pallbearers were: Keith and Paulina Skowroten and all his friends.

Andrew Jacob Dunn was born Oct. 19, 1986 in Fargo, N.D., the son of Steven and Alana (Smykowiak) Dunn. He grew up in Lidgerwood and graduated in 2005 from Lidgerwood High School. After graduation he attended North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton, N.D. He then worked at NAPA, Lidgerwood. He then worked for Stateman



County Harley Davidson for a short time and returned back to NAPA in Lidgerwood.

Andy enjoyed hanging out with his friends, his motorcycle and ice fishing. He was always outgoing and friendly to everyone and willing to help out.

He was a member of St. Martin's Catholic Church, Grand Forks, and the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his parents, Steven and Alana Dunn, Lidgerwood, a sister, Amanda Dunn, Wahpeton; grandparents: Joseph and Shirley Smykowiak and Ethel Dunn, all of Lidgerwood; a nephew and niece, David and Hannah Talleford; and numerous aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Adam Dunn; and grandfather, Donald Dunn.

Frank Family Funeral Home in Wahpeton was in charge of the arrangements.

### Jacklynn Kae Miller, 46

Jacklynn Kae Miller, 46, Hankinson, N.D., died Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010 at Sanford Health, Fargo, N.D.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010 at Frank Family Funeral Home, Hankinson, with the Rev. Adam Kellner officiating. The organist was Day Duckhouse.

Visitation was held one hour prior to the service.

Jackie Miller was born Feb. 15, 1964 at St. Gerard's Hospital, Hankinson, to Alfred and Judith (Simmons) Miller. She was raised and attended high school in Hankinson. Following high school she moved to the Fargo/Moorhead area where she attended Moorhead Tech. She worked for Custom Graphics for several years and other various jobs until she started her custom painting business in the Fargo/Moorhead area.

She was an avid softball player, loved to play pool, dance, fishing and a passion for riding her motorcycle and so many other things.

She just loved to be outdoors and spending



time with her daughters. She is survived by her daughter, Danielle Miller; four sons: Patrick; parents: Judith (Wayne) Lockert, Grand Forks, Minn., and Alfred (Sandy) Miller, Hankinson; two sisters: Peggy Miller, Moorhead, Minn., and Jody (Michael) Tuxdahl, Hankinson; a nephew, Tyler Tuxdahl, Hankinson; an aunt and uncle and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her maternal and paternal grandparents: Alfred and Eleanor Miller Sr., and Herman and Ethel Simonson; and a cousin, Jay Wilford.

Frank Family Funeral Home in Hankinson was in charge of the arrangements.

### Ruth Braaten, 83

Ruth Braaten, 83, Fargo, N.D., formerly of Wyndmere, N.D., died Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010 at Sanford Health in Fargo.

The funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010 at St. John Lutheran Church, Fargo. Interment was at Hill Creek Cemetery, Wyndmere.

Visitation was held from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010 with a 7 p.m. prayer service at Varlin-Munson Funeral Home, Wahpeton. There was also visitation one hour prior to the service at the church.

Ruth Versland was born April 1, 1927 to Julius and Cluice (Haugen) Versland in Rural Leonard, N.D. She grew up and attended school in Caribou, Township, near Wyndmere and graduated from Wyndmere High School. She went on to receive her teacher's certificate at Valley City Teacher's College and then returned to teach in her hometown.

Ruth was united in marriage to Alvin Braaten Dec. 27, 1947 and to this marriage were born five sons. They farmed in Wyndmere Township where Ruth helped with the farming. She was church member for Wyndmere Lutheran Church for many years.

In 1971, they moved into Wyndmere where Ruth became a Typewrite consultant and continued to raise foster children and provide boarding for local teachers. In 1981, Ruth moved to Fargo and worked as an administrative assistant for Gary Wilkin Opportunity Council and for Experience Works. She



worked until she was 73 years old.

Ruth was an active member of St. John Lutheran Church in Fargo where she was known for the brownies she baked for local drives. She loved playing the organ, reading and a good joke. She also enjoyed crocheting and made more than 500 name dolls for families and kept track of each one of them. Ruth loved each one of "her boys" and enjoyed being with their families.

Ruth is survived by her five sons: David (Peggy) Braaten, Sankhara, N.D.; Larry (Judy) Braaten, Burnsville, Minn.; Kevin (Debra) Braaten, Aulwer, Minn.; Paul (Sharon) Braaten, Leavitt, Minn.; and Ben (Dorlene) Braaten, Lakeville, Minn.; her 14 grandchildren; and her 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Julius and Cluice Versland; her granddaughters, Amy Braaten, her great-grandson, Logan Boyper; and her sister, Esther Rude.

Varlin-Munson Funeral Home in Wahpeton was in charge of the arrangements.

### Donna Mae Meyer, 72

Donna Mae Meyer, 72, Breckenridge, Minn., died Oct. 16, 2010 at St. Francis Health Care Campus in Breckenridge.

The funeral was held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton, N.D. Officiating was the Rev. Morris Stephens. Burial was at Hill Creek Cemetery, Breckenridge.

Visitation was held from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010 with a 7 p.m. prayer service at Joseph Varlin & Sons Funeral Home, Breckenridge.

Pallbearers were: Terry Marsh, Clara Soto, Sy Estepna, Chad Meyer, Curtis Marsh and Matt Panch.

Honorary pallbearers were: Shannon Wynn, Noel Soto, Kassy Meyer, Samantha Meyer, Nicholas Lacher, Desteen Lacher, Stephanie Paulsen, Janny Marsh, Jonathan Kowal and Christopher Bond.

Donna Marsh was born to Edmund and Dorothy (Greenberg) Marsh Sept. 17, 1938 in Darr Township, Richland County, N.D. She grew up on a farm south west of Lidgerwood, N.D., as the only girl of four children. She was baptized Oct. 16, 1957 at Immanuel Lutheran Church of rural Lidgerwood. Her name changed to Meyer when she was confirmed in May 24, 1958. Donna attended Darr No. 1 Country School. Upon moving to Wahpeton in 1966, she became a church member in the church singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school and seven VBS leader.

Donna was united in marriage to Edward Meyer Jr. July 25, 1958 at Grace Lutheran Church of Breckenridge. Donna

worked at various places including the Scottwood Motel and St. Francis Home as a cook while she and Ed were raising their children. In her spare time Donna enjoyed crafting embroidery and baking, particularly Christmas baking. Donna was especially fond of listening to Gospel and Country music and had a tender place in her heart for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, adoring every minute she got to spend with them.

Donna is survived by her husband, Edward Meyer, Breckenridge; her children: Bruce Meyer, Cloquet, Minn., and his children: Christopher (Monica) Meyer, Shannon (Andrew) Wynn, Noel (Christ) Soto, all of Minneapolis, Minn., and Casey Meyer, Duluth, Minn.; Thomas (Carolyn) Meyer, Breckenridge, and their children: Stephanie (Matt) Prusch, Chad Meyer and Samantha Meyer, Breckenridge; Lori (Robert) Richey, Fargo, N.D.; Pamela (Craig) Lacher, Gering, N.D.; and their children: Desteen Lacher and Jonathan Lacher. She is also survived by six great-grandchildren: Logan, Brandon, Mayson, MacMahon, Parker and Mitchell.

Her mother, Dorothy Maxwell, Breckenridge; her brother, Ray (Margaret) Marsh, Breckenridge; an uncle, Charles (Kathy) Marsh, Blair, Minn.; and her sister, Edna (Ed) Marsh, Blair, Minn., are also survived by her son, David (Mary) Meyer (Nov. 20, 1953) and her brother, Duane Marsh.

Joseph Varlin & Sons Funeral Home in Breckenridge was in charge of the arrangements.

## Businesses featured at world conference

### Dakota Defense Alliance

San Diego, CA (Oct. 19, 2010) Kristin Hedger, North Dakota businesswoman and regional alliance leader, provided remarks last week to some of the world's leading high technology and aerospace companies at the Association of Unmanned Systems International Conference in San Diego.

"We are working to create high tech products and high tech jobs in North Dakota and throughout our region," said Kristin Hedger, executive director of the Dakota Defense Alliance. "This conference and the Association of Unmanned Systems International as a whole have done so much to help us collaborate as companies to maximize our core capabilities and strengths."

"At this conference we are working to strengthen many of the ties we have established with high tech companies in California. We have cap-

abilities these companies need and they have opportunities we can benefit from," she said.

Hedger said she had already seen a great many positive results from Dakota Defense Alliance working with the Minnesota Defense Alliance and Wisconsin's economic development group to secure U.S. Small Business Administration Cluster Economic Development Grant funding. The regional clusters will strengthen companies and produce increased job opportunities.

The Dakota Defense Alliance, a non-profit organization located in North Dakota, aims to network and expand defense industry job opportunities in both North and South Dakota and provide greater visibility for homeland manufacturers. Dakota Defense Alliance has more than 35 member companies from within the state and across the country.

**Old City Hall Building**  
**LIDGERWOOD HAUNTED HOUSE**  
 Friday & Saturday Oct. 22 & 23 • 8-11pm  
 Sunday Oct. 24 • 7-10pm  
 Friday & Saturday Oct. 29 & 30 • 8-11pm  
 \$5.00 Per Person  
 Come to **Costume On The 30th** & Get J Treat!

**Walmart 1 STOP**  
 117 W. Hwy. S., Lidgerwood 581-1910

**Come In & Fill Your Tank & Your Tummy**  
**RECEIVE 5¢ OFF a Gallon of Gas or Diesel**  
(Cash or Check Only)

**Come Talk To Us About BULK FUEL PRICES NOW**  
**And Let Us SAVE You Money!**

Telephone Lifeline Assistance Available

Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, "universal service" means basic telephone service is available to all consumers. Enhanced services are available to those who subscribe to enhanced services, including local, long distance, payphone, single party service, access to emergency 911 services, access to operator services, access to conferring services, etc. Access to these services is available from Red River Rural Telephone Association in North Dakota. Applications: Office, Commercial, Grand Forks, Hankinson, Hegeland, Lakota, and Wahpeton, 410, Dakota Ave. West, Red and Reddy, MN.

2010 Changes for the Telephone Lifeline Service:

Basic service available to all	\$14.50/month (including long distance and CAS charges may apply)
Touchtone calling	No charge
Single party service	No charge
Access to 911 service (Local government agencies must pay for special equipment)	No charge
Access to operator services	25¢/charge
Access to directory assistance (25¢/call; 25¢/minute; long distance company fee additional; 5¢/line for 100 numbers may be charged for 100 numbers)	\$1.00 per call
Access to long distance telephone companies (Full rate per minute by local telephone)	\$9.50/month
Low income assistance	up to \$10/month
Toll blocking	No charge

Linkup and Lifeline are the most important services available to qualifying persons participating in this assistance program. If based on errors reported to the poverty line. State its ability. For more information on Linkup and Lifeline call Red River Telephone at 701-555-6468. 1-800-555-ACCS or visit www.rtrtda.com

See clear text on next page.

**GET \$50 Gift Card & DISH Network Installed FREE!**

Over 120 Top \$2499 HD Channels including local

**FREE HD for LIFE**  
**FREE HBO & Showtime** as well as  
**FREE** 2-year satellite installation up to \$500  
**FREE** local on demand TV

**EAGLE Satellite** 800-334-7272  
**DISH DUMPCABLE** 800-334-7272

**RE-ELECT JUDGE SIMONSON**

Experienced - Fair - Honest

As paid for by Michael Simonson



## Telephone Lifeline Assistance Available

Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, "universal service" means basic telephone service is available to all consumers. Universal service is voice grade access to the telecommunications network, including local usage, touchtone calling, single-party service, access to emergency 911 services, access to operator service, access to qualifying low-income consumers. All of these services are available from Red River Rural Telephone Association in these areas: Abercrombie, Colfax, Fairmount, Great Bend, Hankinson, Lidgerwood, Mooreton and Wyndmere, ND; Barnesville rural, Kent and Rollag, MN.

2010 charges for these universal services are:

Basic local residential service \$14.95-\$18.00/month  
(Rates vary by exchange and EAS charges may apply)

Touchtone calling	No charge
Single-party service	No charge
Access to 911 service (Local government assesses a tax to pay for special equipment.)	No charge
Access to operator services	No charge
Access to directory assistance (If you call a long distance company for assistance, that company may charge for its services.)	\$.60 per call for local info
Access to long distance telephone companies (Flat rate prescribed by federal agency)	\$6.50/month
Low-income discounts	up to \$10/month
Toll-blocking	No charge

**Link-up and Lifeline** are low-income discounts available to qualifying persons participating in certain assistance programs or based on income compared to the poverty level. State rules vary. For more information on Lifeline, call Red River Telephone at 701-553-8309, 1-866-553-8309 or visit [www.rtr.net](http://www.rtr.net).



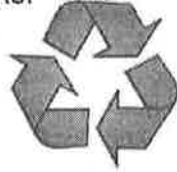
## Statement of Non-Discrimination

Red River Rural Telephone Association is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0703, or call (800) 787-8821 (voice) and select Option 2, or (202) 692-0107 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

### Recycle Your Old Telephone Books

Help conserve natural resources by recycling your old phone books. These can be dropped off at the business office in Abercrombie, ND or at the following recycling centers:



**Barnesville, MN — Tuesday & Thursday  
12-8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon.**

**Hawley, MN — Monday & Thursday 4-8 p.m.  
and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### Account Privacy Rules In Effect

Red River Telephone has always considered customer account information private. FCC rules now dictate how that information is protected. You need:

- ◆ **Authorized contacts** – Be sure anyone you authorize to access your account, including your spouse, is listed as an authorized contact.
- ◆ **Password** – If you aren't calling from the account telephone number, a password will be requested before information is shared.
- ◆ **Security questions** – These questions will be asked if the correct password isn't supplied.
- ◆ **Identification** – A photo ID may be required when accessing the account in person.



**Please do not be offended if these steps are taken to verify your identity.**



Contact the business office if you have any questions about the privacy of your account.

### **LIFELINE & LINKUP Telephone Assistance Programs for Low-Income Consumers**

Red River Telephone offers residential telephone assistance programs, referred to as Link Up and Lifeline, to help eligible persons establish and maintain telephone service.



**Link Up** can save those eligible 50% of the initial charges to hook up primary telephone service or \$30, whichever is less.

**Lifeline** applies only to primary local telephone service in your home. It lowers the monthly cost of telephone service by at least \$8.25. Eligible persons receive a form of assistance listed below or self-certify based on income.

#### **Certification for LIFELINE & LINKUP - MN & SD Residents -**

I certify under penalty of perjury that I currently receive benefits from the following program and agree to notify Red River Telephone immediately if I cease to participate in the program:

- Medicaid    Food Stamps    Supplemental Security Income    National Free School Lunch
- MN Family Investment Program    Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance    Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Low Income - at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (Proof of income is required - contact Red River Telephone for list of accepted documents or visit [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org))

Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Must be same name as on telephone bill)*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Must be same name as on telephone bill)*

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### **- ND Residents -**

If you participate in an assistance program you should contact social services for the necessary Lifeline form.

The form to the left can be used to self-certify your participation in Lifeline based on income only.

Return completed forms to Red River Telephone.





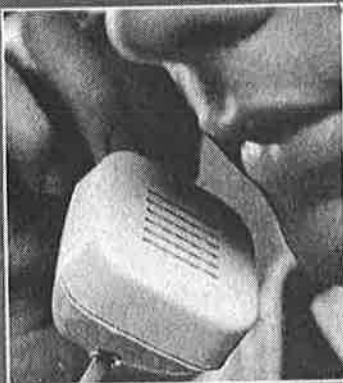
Information in Directory



### COVER PHOTO:

The cover photo was submitted by Seth Harles, Lidgerwood exchange.

The monarch butterfly was taken at the Harles home, rural Lidgerwood, ND.



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## TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Lifeline and Link-up are federal and state assistance programs which reduce telephone bills for qualified low-income customers. Lifeline offers a monthly credit up to \$10/month and the Link-up program reduces installation charges for qualified low-income customers. You may qualify for telephone assistance if you participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Supplemental Security Income
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- National Free School Lunch

or you may qualify if your household income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Methods for qualifying and applying vary by state. For more information; call Red River Rural Telephone Association or your county social services office or visit [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org).

## ACCOUNT PRIVACY INFORMATION (CPNI)

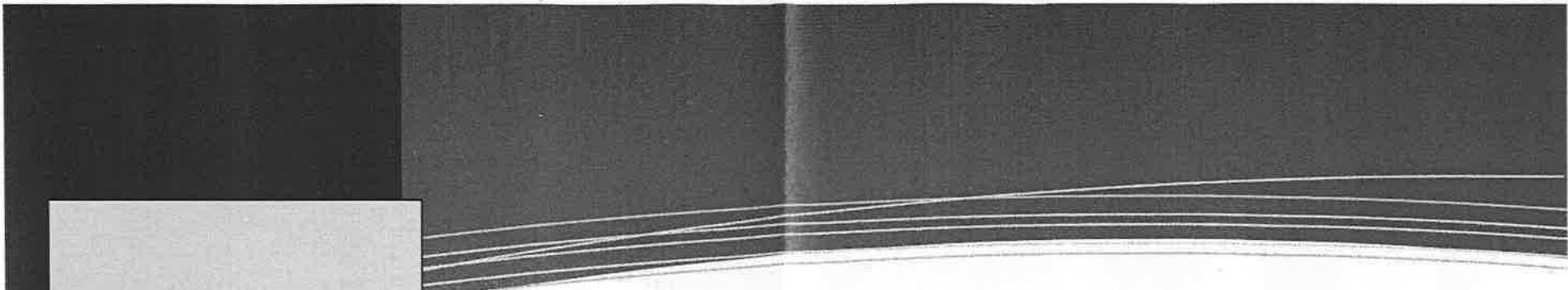
Red River Telephone has always considered customer account information private. FCC rules now dictate how that information is protected.

You need:

- \* **Authorized contacts** - Be sure anyone you authorize to access your account, including your spouse, is listed as an additional contact.
- \* **Password** - If you aren't calling from the account telephone number, a password will be requested before information is shared.
- \* **Security questions** - These questions will be asked if the correct password isn't supplied.
- \* **Identification** - A photo ID may be required when accessing the account in person.

Contact the business office if you have any questions about the privacy of your account.





**Yes, You Can Afford  
Telephone Service...  
and Red River Telephone  
Can Show You How.**

**Lifeline &  
Link Up  
are home  
telephone  
assistance  
programs  
that can help  
eligible**

Federal and state lawmakers believe that every person in America should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. In fact, they have created a system to do just that.

You may qualify for a discount on your telephone bill if you participate in any of the following program(s):

- *Medicaid*



eligible  
people afford  
telephone  
service.

- *Medicaid*
- *Food Stamps*
- *Supplemental Security Income (Not Social Security)*
- *Federal Public Housing Assistance*
- *Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program*
- *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*
- *National Free School Lunch Program*

*or if your household income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.*

**This “universal service” support includes:**

- *Lifeline* assistance that provides discounts for basic monthly local telephone service
- *Link Up* that reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service

For more information or to find out if you are eligible, contact Red River Telephone at 701-553-8309 or call your county social service office.



*“Your Total Communications Company ~  
Connecting You To The World”*

