

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2015**

Company: Red River Rural Telephone Association
d/b/a Red River Communications

Address: 510 Broadway – P.O. Box 136
Abercrombie, ND 58001

Telephone number: (701) 553-8309

Company contact: Jeff Olson or Donna Thiel

Study Area Code: 381631

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities

- Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached ad from Richland County News-Monitor published October 14, 2014.)

- Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Tribal Link Up.* (See attached bill insert distributed February 2015.)

- Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory. (See attached article from the directory distributed January 2015.)

- Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. (See www.rrt.net/your-cooperative/required-notice)

- Company's information posted on USAC website.

- Other (describe): _____

* Required

Obituaries

Vicki Lynn Stahl, 60

Vicki Lynn (Baker) Stahl, 60, Breckenridge, Minnesota, died peacefully Friday, Oct. 10, 2014 at Elim Nursing Home in Fargo, North Dakota, with family by her side.

The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2014 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton, North Dakota, with a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery in Wahpeton.

Visitation will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014 with a 7:30 p.m. prayer service at Joseph Vertin and Sons Funeral Home in Breckenridge.

Vicki grade was born Sept. 24, 1954 in Breckenridge, Minnesota, to Herbert and Mary Ann (Granlund) Baker. She attended grade school in Wahpeton and graduated from high school in Wymdmore, North Dakota, in 1974. During high school, she worked at Wyndmere Cafe.

Vicki married Cecil Stahl July 26, 1975 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton. Of this union, the couple had two children, Trish and Jeremy. Vicki delighted in being a homemaker and raising her children.

Vicki enjoyed making ceramic items and collecting other trinkets. She loved jewelry, the more "bling" the better. A few favorite pastimes included reading the daily paper, attending Bible Study, doing word search puzzles, cheering on the Vikings, and playing Bingo and Yahtzee with family and friends. She also appreciated time spent with family shopping, going out to eat and all other family gatherings. Vicki was very festive and loved every holiday. She would



always dress up and decorate and participate in holiday activities. One of her favorites was being a volunteer bell ringer for the Salvation Army at Christmas.

Vicki greatly enjoyed her 6 1/2 years of residency at Elim Nursing Home. She was quite the mingler, always chatting with folks and participating in activities. She brightened up everybody's day, and touched many people's lives during her time there. Her family would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to all of her caregivers, friends, and "family" that she had at Elim.

Vicki is survived by her husband, Cecil, Breckenridge; her two children, Trish and Jeremy, both of Breckenridge; her sisters, Debbie (Tim) Tucker, Fargo, Rosemary (Calvin) Calkins, Fargo; her brother, Terry (Anita) Baker, Fergus Falls, Minnesota; an aunt, Grace Borchardt, Breckenridge; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Vicki was preceded in death by her grandparents; her parents, Herbert and Mary Ann; a brother, Dean Baker; her parents-in-law, Harlow and Betty Stahl; and a brother-in-law, Andrew Stahl.

Joseph Vertin and Sons Funeral Home in Breckenridge is in charge of the arrangements.

David William Rick, 75

David William Rick, 75, died Friday, Oct. 10, 2014 with his wife, Bev, by his side, in Fargo, North Dakota.

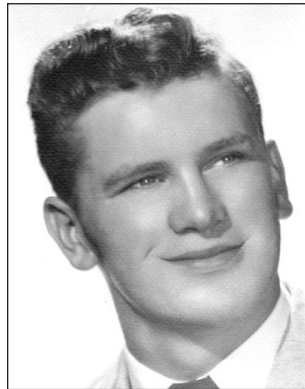
The funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014 with visitation from 10-11 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery following lunch.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, 2014 with a 7 p.m. prayer service at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Moorhead, Minnesota.

David was born July 2, 1939 in Breckenridge, Minnesota. He was the son of Harold Frederick Rick and Alice Matilda Neuman Rick. David graduated from Breckenridge High School in 1957 and attended North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota, for electrical technology in 1958.

David was united in marriage to Bev Hodgson in 1959 and they moved to Moorhead in 1959 to establish roots there. Dave was employed by Edling Electric, where he worked for three years. In May of 1964, David and Bev founded Rick Electric, Inc. Throughout the years, he was also involved in many other businesses including, Moorhead Cycle (Honda), Mayfair Builders, Moorview Development, Riverview Estates, Re-Act Development, Tree Top Restaurant and Vikings Oaks Restaurant.

He retired in 1998 from Rick Electric, Inc., and his two sons, Greg and Denny, purchased the business. Alongside his family and hundreds of guests, Dave was able to celebrate Rick Electric's 50 years of business this past July, as well as his



75th birthday. David and Bev spent their years together residing in Moorhead on Ottertail Lake, Minnesota, Dunvilla on Lake Lizzie, Minnesota, as well as Mesa and Gilbert, Arizona, during the winter months. They had a love for traveling the world and spent their time exploring new destinations by plane, car and cruises.

He is survived by his wife Bev, of 55 years; his children, Greg (Stacy) Rick, West Fargo, North Dakota, Linda (Robert) King, Edina, Minnesota, Steve (Stephanie) Rick, Middleton, Wisconsin, and Denny (Elise) Rick, Fargo; 12 grandchildren; siblings, Marian (George) Greenwood, Moorhead, Darlene (Gayle) Hennent, Mesquite, Nevada, Donna (John) Steer, Hot Springs, Arkansas; and brother-in-law, Fred Fleisher of Staples, Minnesota.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Alice Rick; brothers, Harold Rick Jr., Dennis Rick, and Duane Rick; and sisters, Delores Rick and Hazel Fleisher.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to St. Joseph Catholic School in Moorhead.

Korsmo Funeral Service in Moorhead is in charge of the arrangements.

Allen Schiltz, 78

Allen Schiltz, 78, Hankinson, North Dakota, died Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014 at his home in rural Hankinson.

The funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 17, 2014 at St. Philip's Catholic Church, Hankinson. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery, Hankinson.

Visitation will be held

from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014 with a 7 p.m. prayer service at St. Philip's Catholic Church, Hankinson. There will also be visitation one hour prior to the funeral Mass at the church on Friday.

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

John Muehler, 84

John Muehler, 84, Fairmount, North Dakota, died Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014 at Sanford Medical Center, Fargo, North Dakota.

The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 17, 2014 at First English Lutheran Church, Fairmount, with the Rev. Anthony Ahrendt officiating. Interment will be at Fair-

mount Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014 with a 7 p.m. prayer service at Willow Creek Chapel, Wahpeton, North Dakota. There will also be visitation one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Arrangements are entrusted to Vertin-Munson Funeral Home, Wahpeton.

James Eggum, 74

James Eggum, 74, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, died Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014 at his home surrounded by his family as a result of cancer.

The funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, 2014 at Pioneer Care Chapel, Fergus Falls, with the Rev. Christopher Eldredge of-

ficiating. Interment will be at 3:30 p.m. Friday at Ness Cemetery, rural Elbow Lake, Minnesota.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014 at Olson Funeral Home, Fergus Falls.

Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls is in charge of arrangements.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Safety policy approved to meet upcoming audit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

everything," Miranowski said.

In other news, committee members were informed of a recommendation from Wahpeton Finance Director Darcie Huwe to comply with the Affordable Care Act by labeling itself as an employer of 50 or more.

The reason for the recommendation, according to Huwe, is that certain provisions apply to different types of businesses, depending on the number of employees. The policy applies to those with fewer than 50, 50 or more or 100 or more.

Huwe explained that

because the city averaged 48 employees in 2013, it would be safer to be comply with the 50 or more level.

The recommendation was approved by the Finance Committee.

A policy regarding safety policies for the city was also approved during the meeting. Because of an upcoming audit, city officials want to ensure that a firm policy is in place. The draft presented during the finance meeting included sections on offenses if protocols aren't met and procedures for reimbursement for gear such as safety glasses and steel toe boots. A motion to approve the policy was passed.

CERTIFICATE: Veteran clearly remembers the night he was wounded

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ago and you can still see there is shrapnel in my chest," Meyer said. But without that certificate, the VA just can't recognize the war injury.

It wasn't as if Meyer didn't try to obtain the certificate. He said he asked for it when he was overseas serving in Vietnam. He approached the VA a few years ago and was told then they would work on his behalf and obtain the certificate. He even sent in letters himself. No responses. He was finally told his best chance of obtaining the certificate was to get a Senator involved, so Meyer turned to Heitkamp, who was born in Mantador, North Dakota. "Almost immediately I found out she would go for it," he said.

It only took a few months and much of that was waiting for a date to actually meet for the certificate and medal presentation. In addition to the certificate Meyer received the Army Good Conduct Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal and the Gallantry Cross from Vietnam. He had previously earned these medals, but his military record did not correctly indicate his eligibility for them.

"We must never forget what makes us strong and who has sacrificed to keep us safe. Honoring American heroes like Sgt. Richard Meyer, who fought for the freedom of future generations, is an intrinsic part of making sure we continue to thank those who served. That's why I'm deeply committed to making sure that our veterans are never forgotten," Heitkamp said.

Meyer clearly remembers the night when the mortar round hit. He was a private first class at the time and served as a helicopter mechanic. His job was to recover downed helicopters and he was in the battle zone for only one month before being injured. Meyer said he thought he was going to die since he was in shock and didn't know how badly he was injured. Medics in camp came on the run and medivacked the wounded out by helicopter.

The medic told Meyer he wasn't too badly injured and he was able to walk to the helicopter. He said that is when he figured he would survive the wounds. He first was transferred to a first aid center and then to a military hospital in Japan. Meyer was in that hospital for about 45 days as he healed from his injuries. Meyer did return to action after he healed.

The Meyer family has a grand tradition of serving during wartime. His uncle, Peter Meyer, was in World War I, while his father, Nick, was in World War II. A cousin, Donald, served in Korea, Meyer served in Vietnam and his daughter Joan's oldest son, Nathan, served in the Persian Gulf.

Meyer and his wife, Joan, have six adult children including Bradley Meyer, Fargo, Pamela (Chris) Wagner, Grand Forks, who are both retired from the U.S. Air Force, Bryan (Kim) Meyer, Gardner, Wendy (Dan) Wang, Alexandria, Minnesota, Jennifer (Jason) Fuchs, Jenkins, Minnesota, and Matthew Meyer and his fiancée, Rachel, Bellevue, Michigan. He also has 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Wilkin County Sheriff's Office

Foxhome house fire

At 1:18 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, Wilkin County Dispatch received a call of a house fire at 3133 320th Avenue, Foxhome, Minnesota.

According to a press release issued by the Wilkin County Sheriff's Office, the homeowner, Wade Steiner, was the only occupant of the house and had made it out safely.

The fire appeared to have started in the garage area and spread through the rest of the house. The home is considered a total loss. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The Wilkin County Sheriff's Office, along with Foxhome and Rothsay, Minnesota, fire departments responded to the call.

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Telephone Lifeline Assistance Available

Lifeline is a low-income telephone service discount available to qualifying persons participating in certain assistance programs or based on income compared to the poverty level. States rules vary. For more information on Lifeline, call Red River Communications at 701-553-8309, 1-866-553-8309, visit www.rrt.net or www.lifelinesupport.org.

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 Communications in these areas: In ND, Abercrombie, Barney, Colfax, Fairmount, Great Bend, Hankinson, Lidgerwood, Mantador, Mooreton and Wyndmere; In MN, Barnesville rural, Kent and Rollag; In SD, South Lidgerwood.

2014 charges for these universal services are:

- 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 No charge (Local government assesses a tax to pay for special equipment.)
- Access to operator services No charge
- Access to directory assistance \$.60/call (If you call a long distance company for DA, that company may charge for its services.)
- Access to long distance \$6.50/month telephone companies (Flat rate prescribed by federal agency)
- Low-income discounts \$9.25/month
- Toll-blocking No charge

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Red River Rural Telephone Association dba Red River Communications is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form.

You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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 noon - 8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon.

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

Winter Hours starting November 1 Monday & Thursday 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Account Privacy Rules In Effect

Red River Communications 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 Telephone Assistance Programs for Low-Income Consumers

Red River Communications offers residential telephone assistance programs, referred to as Lifeline, to help eligible persons and maintain telephone service. Only ONE Lifeline discount per customer or household allowed.

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

- MN & SD Residents -

- ND Residents -

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

- Medicaid Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- National 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 Communications for list of accepted documents or visit www.lifelinesupport.org)

Customer Name _____
(Must be same name as on telephone bill)

Date _____

Signature _____
(Must be same name as on telephone bill)

Phone _____

Social Security # _____

Return completed forms to: **Red River Communications**
P.O. Box 136
Abercrombie, ND 58001

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

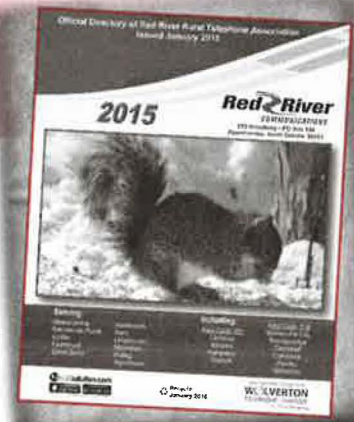
The form to the left can be used to self-certify your participation in Lifeline based on income only. Additional information may be required.

Return completed forms to
Red River Communications
P.O. Box 136
Abercrombie, ND 58001

Statement Of Nondiscrimination

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



COVER PHOTO:

The cover photo "Squirrel Munching" was submitted by Jo Mertes from the Hankinson Exchange.

Telephone Assistance Programs

Lifeline is a federal and state assistance program which reduces telephone bills for qualified low-income customers. Lifeline offers a monthly credit up to \$9.25/month per eligible household. You may qualify for telephone assistance if you participate in one of the following assistance programs:

Supplemental Security Income	Medicaid
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	Federal Public Housing Assistant
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	National Free School Lunch
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	

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 Communications or your county social services office or visit www.lifelinesupport.org.

Account Privacy Information (CPNI)

Red River Communications 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.

