

NETWORK CONNECTIONS



Quarter 2 | 2024

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Communities**





A letter from our **General Manager/CEO** **Kent Schimke**

As we transition into the warmer months, I want to take a moment to reflect on our shared commitment to safety, community, and the exciting activities the summer months bring.

At DRN Read iTech, safety is our top priority, especially as we continue our underground construction projects to enhance connectivity throughout the Cooperative.

Construction Season

Underground construction plays a pivotal role in expanding our network infrastructure, ensuring you have a reliable connection, no matter where you are. As we embark on these projects, rest assured that we're taking every precaution to prioritize safety for both our team members and the communities we serve.

Ultimate Wi-Fi + Summer

Summer brings its own set of joys and challenges, and we're here to support you every step of the way. Whether you're planning outdoor gatherings, road trips, or enjoying the tranquility of your backyard, staying connected shouldn't be a concern. With our robust network, you can share your summer adventures with loved ones near and far, stream your favorite music, view your surveillance cameras, and stay informed about local events without missing a beat. Have company coming over? Make sure to add a guest network easily through the DRN Read iTech Wi-Fi app.

For families looking to keep their kids online experience safe and fun, or if you need to boost your home network protection from online threats, our Ultimate Wi-Fi can provide both of these additional security services.

One Call - 811

As you enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather, I urge you to keep safety at the forefront of your mind. Whether you're digging in your garden, embarking on outdoor projects, or simply enjoying the great outdoors, always be mindful of underground utilities. Calling 811 before you dig is not only a legal requirement but also a crucial step in preventing accidents and ensuring the safety of our communities. Learn more about 811 on page 11.

At DRN Read iTech, we're not just committed to keeping you connected; we're dedicated to fostering a culture of safety and innovation. Together, let's make this summer one to remember for all the right reasons.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Kent Schimke
CEO/General Manager

AVOID BECOMING A SOCIAL ENGINEERING VICTIM

Technology impacts much of our lives, both at home and at work. Everyone who uses the Internet is at some risk of being exposed to cyber attacks. The most common cyber threats are in the form of social engineering. Cyber criminals use social engineering in hopes of catching the recipient off guard. Often when victims fall for these tricks, they believe they are taking action to prevent a serious problem and inadvertently provide confidential information (username, password, etc.) or download and install malware believing it will remove a virus on their computer.

To keep your computer network and online identity safe, DRN Read iTech experts remind you to stay alert for phishing, and other types of social engineering.

DO NOT CLICK AND RESPOND TO:

- **Requests to perform an action.** These emails vary from "Click to verify" or "No, it wasn't me" and then direct you to a spoof website to login.
- **Urgent Requests.** Emails that display "Flag for follow up," and sent with "High Importance" are often scams. Typical phishing emails stress urgency to cause panic and solicit a quick response.
- **If you have not initiated a change on your account.** Many phishing emails verifying login or password changes will appear to be legitimately sent from Microsoft, Facebook, or other companies, but the header is also a spoof.

If you are unsure whether your account is secure, visit the company's website to contact them directly. Don't trust or use the links or phone numbers supplied in the email.

For questions about e-mail or scams, please call our technical support team at 701-344-5000.



OFFICE UPDATES

Exciting changes are happening in our buildings:

1. Ellendale Headquarters The Ellendale HQ office building is currently undergoing construction. Keep an eye out for signs indicating an alternative entrance for customer service.

2. Oakes Office Our office in Oakes has received a face-lift. The project is nearing completion as the final touches to the outside are being completed. Stop by to see the changes made!



Donuts at

DRN
READITECH

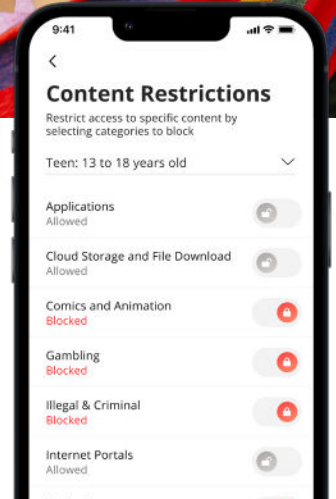
OAKES OFFICE OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, JUNE 6 7:30 - 10 AM

Help us celebrate the remodel of our Oakes office and stop by for donuts, coffee, and the chance to win a door prize!

KEEP ONLINE
CONNECTIONS
SAFE AT HOME



ULTIMATE WI-FI FOR PARENTS



While your kids are ready to dive into summer, parents get ready to dive into the DRN RediTech Wi-Fi app! Keep kids safe at home while on summer break with DRN's ultimate Wi-Fi service, exclusively on the DRN Wi-Fi app. You set the rules, we'll enforce them. Manage every device on your home Wi-Fi with our premier service.

With DRN RediTech Ultimate Wi-Fi, you can customize your connected devices with ExperienceIQ and protect them from unwanted ransomware on ProtectIQ. We're putting the control back in your hands.

TOP FEATURES:

- Restrict searches on Google, Bing or YouTube
- Block specific websites and restrict sites with inappropriate categories such as pornography or violence
- Turn on/off access to apps such as Snapchat by individual devices
- See where time is spent online



Filter: block entire Internet categories, apps and websites



Usage: compare time online today, last week, or in the month while viewing the total time spent online per category, app or website



Time Limits: limit time for individual apps, sites, or categories. You can set limits by day, category of content or for individual apps and sites.



Pause: pause the Internet for any individual family member, device or the whole house with a tap of a button.



Notifications: receive push notifications for various events like time limits or when a new device connects to your network.



Safe search: defaults Google and YouTube searches to remove inappropriate and explicit content from their search results.



Schedules: set schedules for dinnertime, bedtime, or daytime. Schedules shuts off Internet access for every device assigned to a profile.

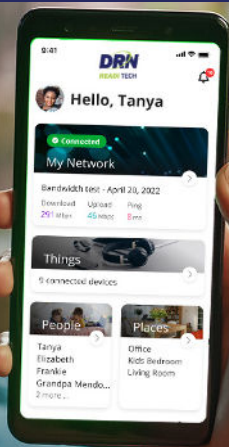


My Priorities: Prioritize the devices and/or activities on your Wi-Fi to ensure you're getting the best performance for what matter most. Ex: work from home or streaming.

**Let them explore - with ExperienceIQ.
Call 344-5000 to add Ultimate Wi-Fi.**

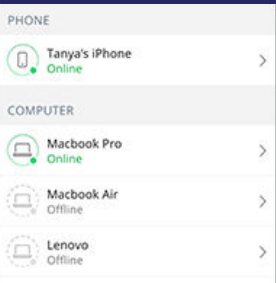
TAKE TOTAL COMMAND OF YOUR WI-FI EXPERIENCE.

Convenience
& control
at your fingertips.



Create and share custom networks that allow you to adjust your primary SSID and Wi-Fi password

Manage your devices – view what's connected to your network



Be notified of critical events like attempted virus infections or intrusions

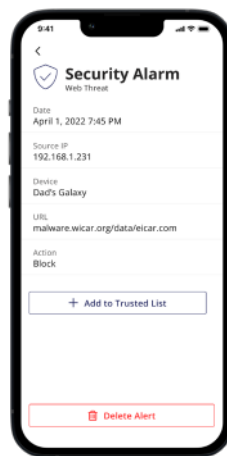
Ultimate Wi-Fi has the Ultimate App.
Download the DRN RT Wi-Fi App from your app store today or visit drn.coop/wifi



Receive the Internet security you need with ProtectIQ

ProtectIQ is a network-level security application that works quietly in the background and proactively keeps malicious websites, viruses, and intrusions away from your home 24x7.

Everything for your web browsing to mobile devices and the smart devices installed in your home has the potential to erode our privacy and personal security. We must all do whatever we can to safeguard our personal privacy from cyber attackers and scam artists.



Ready to get protected?

Contact DRN today!
701-344-5000
or drn.coop



PLANNING NEW CONSTRUCTION?

As flowers start to grow, we all get anxious to start on projects outside. Are you planning to build a new home, shop, etc? Don't forget to contact DRN to request high-quality, reliable communications services for your new construction.

In order to properly engineer, design and construct DRN fiber-optics to a new development we require a 120 to 180 day notice. If a new home or business is constructed within an existing development, 60 to 120 days is required to activate service.

DRN strives to provide accurate estimations of service availability, however delays may occur. Contact our team as soon as possible at 344-5000 or drn.coop to request service.

Want Faster Internet?

Are you ready for a FASTER, BETTER Internet experience? Now is the time!

As we advance our technology and services to meet the growing needs of our members, we are committed to providing you with the best experience.

- Fewer delays & buffering with a faster speed
- No shared connections or data caps
- Wi-Fi 6 router whole-home coverage
- DRN ReadITech Wi-Fi mobile app
- Award-winning network security with ProtectIQ
- Advanced network controls with ExperienceIQ
- Free installation & ongoing technical support from your local team of DRN experts

Don't Delay!

For questions or to learn more about DRN's Internet and Wi-Fi solutions visit drn.coop today or call 701.344.5000



HELLO
Spring



Stream the shows you love.

Today, there are more ways to watch your favorite shows. DRN is here to help you understand your streaming TV options and help find the best package for you and your family!

DRN is committed to helping you understand the latest services, including streaming TV.

What Is Streaming? Streaming is a technology used to deliver live or recorded content to computers, mobile devices or TV's over the Internet. Movies, podcast, TV shows and music videos are all forms of streaming content. Streaming transmits data—usually audio and video in a continuous flow.

How Does Streaming Work? Streaming transmits packets of data from your music or video file to your device or TV. When you download a file, it is saved on your hard drive. Streaming plays the file without needing to download it.

What Is A Streaming Service? A streaming service delivers entertainment via an Internet connection to your computer, TV or mobile device. A streaming service can offer pre-recorded shows, live content or both.

It's as easy as 1-2-3!

What do I need to start streaming TV?

- 1) Fast, Reliable Internet Connection from DRN.
- 2) Streaming Device (SmartTV, Roku, Fire TV Stick, Computer or Mobile Device app).
- 3) Streaming Service Subscription to Watch Your Favorite Channels & Shows.

What Is A Streaming Device? A streaming device allows you to stream content—movies, music, etc., from your streaming service to your TV or mobile device. It can plug into your TV's HDMI slot, be a set-top box, a mobile app or transmit directly to your computer or SmartTV.

Complete our quick questionnaire to learn which streaming service is the best option for you.



Visit mybundle.tv/drtel/start to discover which streaming service is the best and most cost-effective option for you.

STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME & BUSINESS

Ensuring the safety of your home or business can be a big task. ReadiTech has partnered with Alarm.com to bring members customized security solutions for home and business with 24/7 monitoring, no exceptions.

A security system is a top option to deter burglars and keep your home and business safe. With the right security system, your smart devices like doorbells, temperature sensors, thermostats, personal safety and video surveillance can all be accessed via your smartphone.

While there are many ways to protect your home or business, the DRN ReadiTech team recommends these 10 safety tips to help keep you, your business and your family safe.

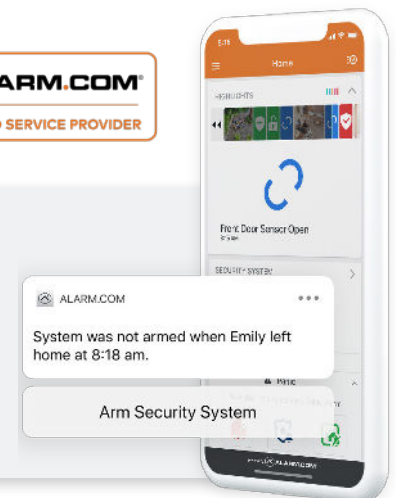
10 SAFETY & SECURITY TIPS

1. Install a Customized Security System from a Reputable Local Expert
2. Test Smoke Detectors Regularly
3. Have Fire Extinguishers Accessible
4. Put Indoor & Outdoor Lights On A Timer
5. Store Valuables IN Safety Deposit Box Or Safe
6. Use A Carbon Monoxide Detector
7. Lock Your Doors & Windows
8. Add Smart Devices (Lights, Thermostats, Etc.)
9. Have Mail Held While Away
10. Don't Share on Social Media You're on Vacation
Post Photos When You Get Back Home



MONITORED SECURITY FOR HOME & BUSINESS

Alarm.com security systems are customized to your unique needs. Start small and build your system over time, or start with it all on day one. Alarm.com technology is sold, installed and serviced by licensed ReadiTech security experts. Alarm.com includes a mobile app to keep you updated on your security services and allow you to manage settings, receive important notifications or arm doors.



DRN ReadiTech offers:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Video Door Bell | Intrusion | Temperature Control |
| Door Access | Lights & Shades | Video Monitoring |
| Energy Management | Locks & Garages | Water Protection |
| Fire & CO Safety | Security & Safety | Wellness/Personal Safety |
| Home Management | Solar Monitoring | |

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR COOPERATIVE AREA



Rural Development
Finance Corporation
GROWING COMMUNITIES

Area businesses and community organizations can now apply for the 2024 Rural Development Finance Corporation grant and receive up to \$2,000! Deadline to apply is Sept. 1, 2024.

Your local telecommunications cooperative is a proud member of The Rural Development Finance Corporation, RDFC. The RDFC is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation that encourages economic diversification and community vitality through funding.

Grant funds ranging from \$500 up to \$3,000 are available to eligible projects that benefit rural areas and lead to community progress and betterment. Examples of qualifying organizations and businesses are: Community-Owned Businesses—café, grocery store, motel, other; Community Facilities: ambulance, fire districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center, etc.; and Community-Based Projects: school or youth projects in rural areas leading to community betterment.

RDFC is making these funds available in order that more people become aware of their larger loan program that funds community-based projects and non-profit entities with low interest loans.

To apply for the Community Improvement Grant from RDFC:

- Complete grant application. A fillable PDF is available at drn.coop/rdfcgrant.
- Submit the application to: DRN, P.O. Box 69, Ellendale, ND 58436
- DRN will review submitted applications and submit the application to RDFC.
- Once received by RDFC, the RDFC board will make the final approval on the grant requests.

DRN ReadTech will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day. A Day of Tribute.

To all those that made the ultimate sacrifice
for our freedom, we remember you.



DRN awards donations to organizations

DRN has a long history of community involvement and supporting organizations to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. Whether it is through donating to youth activities, emergency response services or organizations that provide services and support to those with disabilities, DRN is proud to give back to area non-profit organizations.

Recently, DRN donated to the Havana Development Corporation to support their efforts in providing a fire suppression system in the Havana Farmers Inn. The Havana Farmers Inn was constructed in 1984. Last year, the Havana Development Corporation remodeled the Inn and leased the building to provide the community with a cafe.

DRN also donated to Service Dogs for America to support a security camera project at their facility in Jud. Service Dogs for America provides certified and trained dogs to qualified individuals for mobility assistance, emergency response and post-traumatic stress assistance. The service dogs support people from across the U.S. with disabilities and help allow them to be successful members of society.

Donation requests can be submitted to DRN by email marketing@drtel.com or by mail to PO Box 69, Ellendale, ND 58436.



GOLF TOURNAMENT SET FOR JULY 13 & 14

DRN ReadITech has teamed up with area golf courses to host the Annual G.O.L.F. Classic. This year's tournament is being held on July 13 and 14 at four area courses: the Grand Rapids Memorial Park Country Club, the Oakes Golf Club, the Lisbon Bissell Golf Course, and the Forman Golf Course.



G.O.L.F. is open to all golfers 16 years of age or older. Golfers are encouraged to create teams of four, but teams of two and three will also be accepted. Tournament golfers will enjoy 9-holes of golf at four of the area's finest golf courses.

An overall champion, women's & senior champions will be awarded as well as prizes being paid out to each flight. Watch for more information and register online at drnreaditechgolf.com.

Sign up for two fun-filled days of golf
at drnreaditechgolf.com!

SPONSORED BY 

Congratulations Brenda!

Thank you Brenda Sand
for 19 years of dedicated service
to DRN and our members.

BEST WISHES FOR
A HAPPY
RETIREMENT!



Contact ND One Call before you dig



Planning to tackle a big landscaping project soon? DRN reminds you to pick up your phone before you pick up your shovel. Call 811 at least 48 hours in advance to have all utility lines properly identified and clearly marked. It not only saves you time and protects you from costly damage, **it's required by state law.**

Many utility services such as phone, cable television, broadband, sewer, gas, water, and electricity come to your home via underground lines. By calling One Call, you can proceed with your landscaping knowing you

won't disrupt any utilities or compromise safety. Plus, this line identification is absolutely free.

As your local telecommunications service provider, DRN thanks you in advance for your cooperation. **DRN customers in both North and South Dakota can reach One Call by dialing 811 which forwards to your state's One Call. You may also contact One Call in North Dakota at ndonecall.com and in South Dakota at sdonecall.com.**

Tell Us About Your Experience!

OUR GOAL IS HAPPY CUSTOMERS!



When you contact DRN to add, change service or report trouble, we will follow up with a brief 30-seconds (or less) email survey.

Please take a moment to complete this survey and help us better understand your experience. Thank you for trusting us to provide your telecommunications services and helping us learn where we can improve.

For questions about the survey, please call our customer care specialists at 701-344-5000.

NEW LISTINGS

Ashley 288

Abstracts Of McIntosh Co Inc.....
.....288-3997

Ellendale 349

JoDel Henningsen.....349-2926
Nodak Cafe.....349-2811

Lisbon 683

Royce Dahl683-3085
Tim Elijah683-4804
Raymond Heiser.....683-5215

Kathryn 796

Sheyenne Saloon.....796-8441

SUMMER Events



The DRN ReadITech team will be at many of our community celebrations, fairs, and parades this summer!

We hope to see many of our members out supporting these local events.

This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.



PO Box 69
Ellendale, ND 58436

Always on duty to keep you safe.

Doing our part to keep our members safe with ProtectIQ®.

LEARN MORE AT
DRN.COOP/PROTECTIQ

