



# NETWORK CONNECTIONS

Quarter 3 | 2024

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

Greetings from DRN! Hard to believe that 2024 is half over and we are amid our summer construction season.

**Construction Update**—Our crews have been busy plowing and placing fiber across the territory. Contractors are continuing to build a fiber ring east along highway 27 from Lisbon to Milnor. Weather conditions have been optimal for construction thus far (except a bit wet) and our crew and contractors are busy completing new construction orders. Please remember to call our office if you need service or planning on needing service, we'll get an order started and get the fiber placed.

**Advanced Cybersecurity Protection**—Trends in cybersecurity are always changing, DRN is committed to staying ahead of the curve by adopting technology services like Ultimate Wi-Fi with our free DRN ReditTech Wi-Fi App to help manage your network and create the best online experience.

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 and managed router can provide both of these additional security services.

**Annual Meeting**—Please mark your calendar for DRN's Annual Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m. at the Ellendale Public School. This is your meeting to learn more about your Cooperative and elect directors. Arden Falk, Sidney Meidinger and Dan Girard are current directors up for re-election. The Nominating Committee will meet at the end of August and if you are interested in running for a director position, please contact our office for additional information.

**Picnics** — Gwinner and Fullerton are the locations of the DRN customer appreciation picnics this year. These picnics are a highlight of the summer for me. I enjoy seeing new and familiar faces alike. DRN ReditTech staff will be in command of the grill and service lines preparing some amazing burgers and brats. Please bring your appetite! I hope to see you there.

Thank you for your continued patronage. Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope you had a great 4th of July holiday!

**Kent Schimke**  
CEO/General Manager

HAPPY  
SUMMER  
TIME

## SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR DRN'S 2025 CALENDAR

DRN is reaching out to the community for help in creating its 2025 calendar. We are looking for photographs showcasing the culture of North Dakota and highlight the different seasons throughout the year: winter, summer, spring, and fall.

Submissions are limited to 10 entries per person, and each photo should be submitted with a name and address. The selected photos will be featured in next year's calendar, and the winners will receive a \$25 credit to their DRN account.



Please email high-resolution photos to [marketing@drtel.com](mailto:marketing@drtel.com), subject: **Calendar Photos, by Thursday, Aug. 1.**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

# DRN's Annual Member Appreciation Picnics

**Tuesday, August 6  
5–7 p.m.  
City Park, Gwinner**

**Wednesday, August 7  
5–7 p.m.  
City Park, Fullerton**

**Burger | Brats | Chips & Refreshments**



*Join us for complimentary food, fun and fellowship!*

# DRN READITECH WELCOMES NEW HIRES AND INTERNS

DRN ReadiTech has welcomed new members to its team. These individuals are all looking to advance their careers and make an impact while working for DRN ReadiTech.

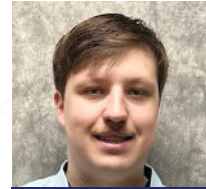
Kaden Anderson joined the DRN ReadiTech team as a technical support analyst in April. His focus is assisting in troubleshooting, diagnosing customer's technical malfunctions, and computer repair. He enjoys playing video games, watching sports, and reading. Anderson resides in Ellendale.

Kara Graeber, marketing specialist joined DRN ReadiTech in April and works from the ReadiTech Engineering office in Bismarck. She comes to DRN ReadiTech with a background in graphic design and communications. Kara interned at Kramer Chevrolet and Subaru as a marketing specialist. In her free time, Kara enjoys the great outdoors, whether she's hitting the pickleball court or taking her dog Coco for a stroll. And when she's not out enjoying sports and nature, she's giving back to her community through her service in the North Dakota National Guard.

Jake Wiebe recently joined the team as a marketing specialist. His focus will be on developing and expanding customer relationships and business development for ReadiTech Fiber in the communities of Casselton, Horace, and Mapleton. Wiebe graduated from Concordia College, with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He was most recently an intern at Concordia College's marketing department where he focused on SEO and social media content. Wiebe is originally from Northfield, MN.

DRN ReadiTech has welcomed two interns, Paige Henningsen and Levi Reis, to their team for the 2024 summer. Paige has been hired as the marketing intern. In the fall she will be entering her final semester of college at Northern State University (NSU) and will be graduating with an associates degree in Early Childhood Education. After graduation, she plans to work at a local preschool/daycare, and eventually, open her own daycare. While working at DRN ReadiTech this summer, she hopes to learn more about effective marketing strategies and powerful advertisements. When Paige isn't working, she enjoys being in her garden, baking sweet treats, and spending time outdoors. She is originally from Ellendale.

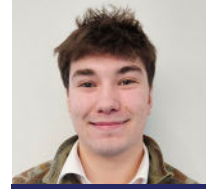
Reis, Ellendale, is the outside network operations assistant. In the fall, Levi will return to Northern State University (NSU) majoring in Biology. Levi throws javelin for the Northern State Track and Field Team. After graduation, he plans to enter graduate school and become a dosimetrist. When Levi isn't working, he enjoys participating and watching various sports and playing video games. While working at DRN ReadiTech this summer, he is looking forward to meeting and collaborating with new people and learning new skills.



Kaden Anderson



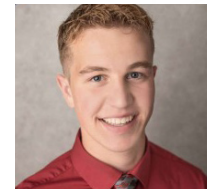
Kara Graeber



Jake Wiebe



Paige Henningsen



Levi Reis

## WELCOME to the Team!

### NEW LISTINGS

#### Fort Ransom 973

Eric Thorfinnson .....973-4307

#### Gwinner 678

Sam French .....678-2521

#### LaMoure 883

Tactical Brands LLC .....883-5277

Joe & Tara Greer .....883-5886

#### Lisbon 683

MX Concrete & Material ..683-2458

Tim Elijah .....683-4804

#### Milnor 427

Anthony Schmidt .....427-5451

Meet the

belle®  
series W



**Lightweight wrist-worn mobile medical alert system**

Belle W is an innovative, wearable mobile medical alert that offers you the confidence to live life on your terms, with the peace of mind that help is always available if needed.

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Belle W uses powerful microphones and HD voice technology to enable users to speak with expert operators 24/7 at a UL-Listed, TMA Five Diamond Certified central station. Operators can locate users in an emergency using WiFi and cellular location services and quickly send help.

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Powerful, high quality speaker for clear communication

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**Microphones**

Dual noise canceling microphones allow users to easily speak with an expert specialist



\*Optional Accessories:  
XL Wristband, Lanyard, Belt Clip

**Ready for more independence? Call DRN today at 344-5000!**

*DRN Read iTech is state qualified provider.*

# OUTSTANDING CAPITAL CREDITS

The following customer accounts have outstanding capital credits. If your name or business is listed or you have information regarding a name below, please call DRN at 877-559-4692 or 701-344-5000.

Ahmed Ilmi	Edward Hidani	Kaye & Kurt Louden	Phonetel Technologies Inc
Alawi Said	Edwin & Marcella Ulrich	Kelly & Adrienne Arndt	R L Schnell & Gary Schnell
Alexis Olson	Emma Bellmore	Kelsen's Bakery LLC	Rhonda & Corey Betz
Ali & Troy Graber	Encore	Kenneth & Dorothy Bockwoldt	Richard & Lindsey Carney
Alice Larson	Ervin & Betty Johnson	Kenneth Ray Wiley	Richard Lelm
Amir Idow	Ervin & Elaine M Anderson	Kenny Claus	Rivers Edge/Barb Yeats
Amy & Paul Otto	Farmers Union Oil-Milnor	KQDJ Radio	Robert E Stehr/Robert J Stehr
Andrew & Tracie Gerner	Farms Timber Creek Bell	Lee Rivers	Robert J Fay
Annita Martiznez	Fathi Mohamed	Leigh Hammond	Roger Hom Estate
Arvin & Patty Enderson	Fern Groethe	Leo Pritchard	Roman Braslavskyi
Ashton Wingate	Fort Café/Tammy Anderson	Leo Rust	Rutland General Store
Audrey Schutt/Ardis Metzen	Fredrich Wiedrich	Litchville Enterprises	Ryan Vine
Benjamin Anderson	Gordon Reiten	Little Gold Mine Bar	Sawyer Richardson
Bessie Matzke	Greg & Mari Jenkins	Loretta Shuff/Lori Brandenburger	Scott Alonzo & Laura Kempf
Beth & Mike Van Stiphout	Gwen Thompson	Louise Sminesvik	Securian Financial
Blaine & Debbi Lundgren	Heather Bell	Lucille Grotelueschen	Shake N Bake
Brad Froemke	Heather Hardy	Lyle & Harriet Anderson	Shane Egan
Brad Shirek/Leslie Johnston	Heather Lund	Lyle Grindahl	Shane Seaver
Bret Eichstadt/Britney Kempel	Henjum Plumbing & Heating	Lynn Nelson	Shannan Carlson
Briar Petermann	Irene R Ady & Leslie Witten	Lynnell & Danny Peterson	Shannon & Trina Fischer
Caitlin Scherer	Isabelle Bork	Maggie (Margie) Froehlich	Sharon & Robert Ayres
Carmine Johnson	Jack & Dorothy Holt	Margie Freolich	Sheri Glover
Catherine Cole	Jake Schrum	Marion Café/Susan Erlandson	State Of ND-ISD
Cheryl McAuley	James Hogwood	Mark Crider	Steve & Cheryl McAuley
Chris Anderson	James O Zimbleman	Mary J Sminesvik	Steven Nicholson
Christina & Todd Merry	Janel Erickson	Mary Keidel/Dennis Nelson	Tammy Anderson
Christopher Cox	Jason Winter	Matt & Susan Erlandson	Tammy Cary
Clarice Mairs/Geraldine Freeberg	Jeanna & John McIntosh	Matt Meyers	Taylor Witte
Clifton Bjur	Jeff & Tehryn Persons	Megan Eichele	Teresa Gemar
Cody Paggen	Jeffery Laity	Melissa & Chris Olson	Terri Kotz
Connie Fabian	Jerry & Leone Head	Mike & Brenda Leonard	The Sheyenne Saloon
Cottonwood Apartments	Jerry Vample	Milnor Insurance Inc	Tim & Stephanie Cavett
Darcy O'Clair	Jesus Muniz	Milton & Danene McLean	Tina Beyer
Darin & Rebecca Mitchell	Joan Otto	Mitch Gibbon/Hillside Motel	Todd Douglas
David & Lori Wipf	Jocelyn Bailey	Mykola Surovskyi	Tracy D Forde
David Martin	Jodi Lindvall	Nathan Leppert	Treston Butterfield
David Neeser	Joel Anderson	Norman Hurt	True Valu Oakes
David Peterson	Joel E Rogers/Jean Ryan	Patsy Hart & Enoch Denning	Tyler Vincent
Della M Johnson	John A & Tammy Anderson	Paul Groethe	United Methodist Parsonage
Dennis & Marlys Andereson	Jose Vasquez	Paul Marhula	Virginia Ellis
Derrick Nelson	Joseph Conder	Pedro Maravilla	Wallace Johnson
Don Johnson	Jud Fitness Center	Peter Stark	Wanda Schreiner
Donald Zundel	Karson Pennick	Pfeifle's Slough Duck Camp	William Inabinet
Donna Leppert	Kathleen Jensen		Woody & Laurette Nelson

# KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR HOME

## NOW AVAILABLE Video Doorbells from ReadiTech!

### Instant Front Door Awareness

- Alarm.com App
- Helpful Alerts
- Real-Time Conversations
  - Two-Way Audio
- HD Resolution
- HDR & Infrared Night Vision
- Instant Awareness
- Mobile-Optimized Experience
- Added Convenience & Security
- Flexible Installation
  - Wired or Wireless
  - Self or Tech Install



**WIRELESS**  
\$280 + CHIME



**WIRED**  
\$198

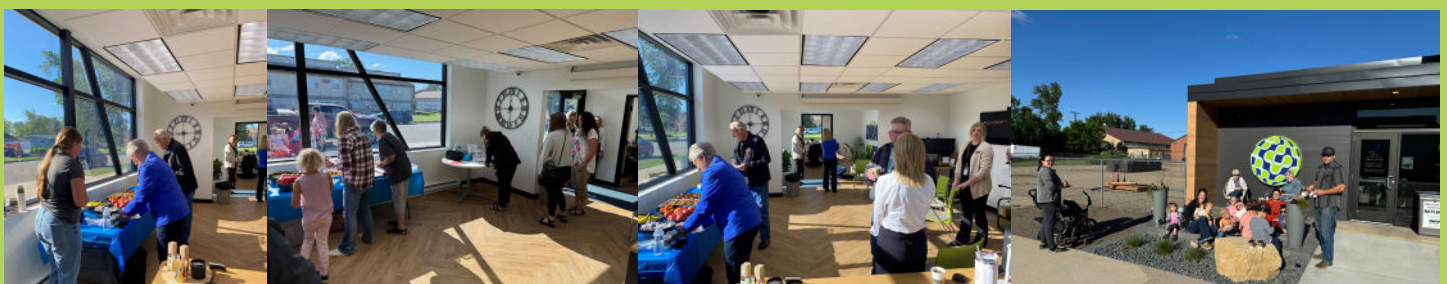


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Call 344-5000 to get yours today!

 **ReadiTech**  
A DRN COMPANY

Thank you for attending Donuts at DRN in Oakes!



The Oakes office is open for customers!

# WHAT FACTORS AFFECT CONNECTION SPEEDS?

**Getting fast, reliable Wi-Fi in our home networks is essential. We connect more devices than ever to Wi-Fi, including smart phones, tablets, laptops, and a growing list of smart devices. And we use them 24/7 for everything from video streaming and social media sharing to home automation and monitoring.**

But sometimes it seems like we're not getting the speeds we should be, such as when it seems to take forever to upload our summer vacation photos to a photo sharing site, or when Netflix freezes just when we're getting to the best part of the movie. And while it's possible that there's something wrong with your Wi-Fi setup or your Internet connection, there are other factors you should consider first before calling DRN's Help Desk.

## How much speed do I need?

The first thing to understand about Internet speeds is that certain minimum speeds are needed to enjoy different types of online activities. Video streaming is the best example of this. The better the video quality, the faster your Internet speed needs to be to enjoy it.

Streaming companies typically publish minimum speeds for the different levels of video quality: standard definition (SD), high definition (HD) and ultra high-definition/4K. Netflix provides its customers with these recommendations <sup>1</sup>:

VIDEO QUALITY	RESOLUTION	NETFLIX RECOMMENDS
SD	480p	3 Mbps
HD	720p - 1080p	5 Mbps
Ultra/4K	above 4,000p	25 Mbps

Other streaming companies, such as Hulu, make similar recommendations<sup>2</sup>. Keep in mind that these are minimum values, which means that even a slightly faster Internet package than the one recommended by your streaming service would likely give you better video performance.

So, before calling DRN's Help Desk to complain that there's a problem with your Internet service, you need to do two things. First, make sure you've purchased an Internet package that's fast enough to meet your needs for streaming services and when using multiple connected devices at the same time. And second, check to make sure that the device you're using to connect to the Internet is capable of supporting the speeds being provided by DRN.

## Is your device slowing things down?

The device you're using to connect to the Internet could be limiting your speed. Apple and Android-based smart phones and tablets have a maximum Wi-Fi speeds that they are capable of supporting.



*Continued on page 9*

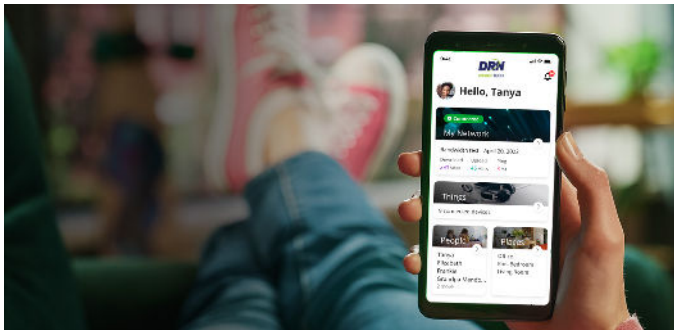


If you connect using a smart phone that's more than three years old, you may not get an accurate picture of the download and upload speeds you're getting in your home.

There are way too many devices to provide a comprehensive list here, but the first thing you should do is determine which Wi-Fi standard your device supports. If it's three or more years old, it likely supports the 802.11b, 802.11a/g, or 802.11n standard. If it's a new device, it likely supports the 802.11ac or 802.11ax (also known as 'Wi-Fi 6') standard. The next section provides details on the maximum speed supported by each of these Wi-Fi standards.

### Is your router slowing things down?

Another factor that could be slowing down your speed is your router, especially if your router is three or more years old. The Wi-Fi industry is constantly updating its technology to provide users with better performance, so new routers simply work better.



They're faster and provide more reliable connections. Here's a list of the maximum speed supported by each current Wi-Fi standard, assuming ideal network conditions<sup>3</sup>:

- 802.11b - 11 Mbps
- 802.11a/g - 54 Mbps
- 802.11n - 150 Mbps
- 802.11ac - 866.7 Mbps
- 802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6) - 2+ Gbps

Note that these speeds represent the maximum speed you can get in theory based on the different Wi-Fi standards. These speeds are not typically achievable in real-world conditions as Wi-Fi signals are affected by obstacles in your home (e.g., large mirrors and concrete walls) as well as other devices in your home that might be transmitting wireless signals (e.g., baby monitors, cordless phones, etc.).

**Bottom line: if you're using an old router, it may not be capable of providing the maximum speed supported by your Internet package. If this is the case, contact our Help Desk at 344-5000 and ask for our latest Wi-Fi router.**

<sup>3</sup> Data taken from Juniper Networks, Understanding the IEEE 802.11 Standard for Wireless Networks.

## DRN ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 17

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative's (DRN) annual meeting will be on Thursday, October 17 at Ellendale Public School. A meal will be served for members from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. The meeting will follow at 6 p.m.

Nominations by petition are due by September 27, 2024. For more information contact Janell Hauck, marketing manager at 344-5000.

This year the following districts and Board members are to be voted upon:



Arden Falk  
District 3



Sidney Meidinger  
District 4



Dan Girard  
District 10



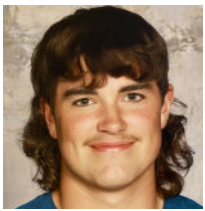
Mark your calendar and join us for DRN's Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 17 in Ellendale.

# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

DRN ReditTech is proud to support continuing education and reward the hard work of area high school graduates. The Board of Directors approved 27 scholarships in the amount of \$500 to graduates of schools within the DRN service territory, two scholarships within the ReditTech Fiber service area, two for students enrolled at Southeast Region Career and Technology Center and one enrolled in business at Trinity Bible College.

“Young people are a valuable asset to our communities and we are pleased to have established a scholarship program to help with the cost of a continued education program,” said Kent Schimke, CEO/General Manager. DRN has been providing scholarships for over 20 years. “As your local broadband service provider, it is our pleasure to award a \$500 scholarship to the following winners,” said Schimke.

The DRN ReditTech scholarship program supports area high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited two-year or four-year college, or a vocational-technical school after graduation.



Colin Goettle  
Ashley



Cheyanne  
Lindgren  
Ashley



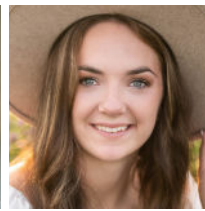
Dylan Andrys  
Edgeley



Abby Mathern  
Edgeley



Kali Norton  
Ellendale



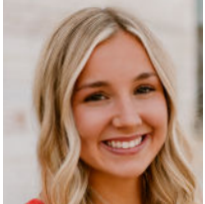
Siera Bollinger  
Ellendale



Aydan Entzi  
Kulm



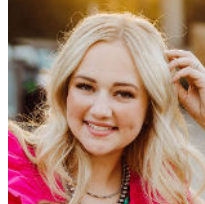
Austin Strobel  
Kulm



Tessa  
Rasmusson  
LaMoure



Blase Isaacson  
LaMoure



Paige Zimprich  
Lisbon



McKenna Keller  
Lisbon



Jacoby Hunt  
Lisbon



Wyatt Miller  
Litchville-Marion



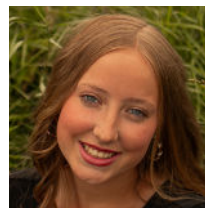
Josie Lang  
Litchville-Marion



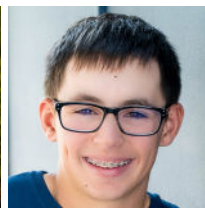
Amber Kjar  
Milnor



Matthew  
Wehseler  
North Sargent



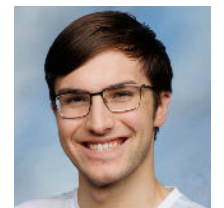
Kinsey Olson  
North Sargent



Rhett Miller  
Oakes



Ty Awender  
Oakes



Emmett  
Bergeman  
Sargent Central



Gabrielle  
Christianson  
Sargent Central



Tyler Cruchet  
Central Cass



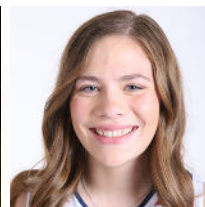
Kathryn Smith  
Horace



Eli Fernandes  
Edgeley (SRCTC)



Isabella Sundby  
Oakes (SRCTC)



Kayleigh  
Mannering  
Trinity Bible College

# Call for Artists: Mural Designs

## SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS & WIN!

DRN ReditTech is excited to announce a creative opportunity for artists and visionaries. We are seeking imaginative and original mural designs for our Oakes building.

**Theme:** The theme for the mural is open-ended, inviting a diverse range of ideas. Whether you draw inspiration from the rich heritage of North Dakota, the dynamic world of technology, or the history of the telephone Cooperative of DRN ReditTech, we encourage you to submit your unique vision.

**Guidelines:** The mural should represent the spirit of innovation, community, or the spirit of North Dakota.

Designs may be abstract or representational.

All submissions must be original artwork.

**Prize:** If a design is selected, the artist will receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card as a token of appreciation and will have the honor of their work being a permanent fixture on our Oakes building. DRN ReditTech will have the final decision of artwork.

**Submission Deadline:** All designs must be submitted by September 1, 2024.

**How to Enter:** Submit your design ideas via email to [marketing@drtel.com](mailto:marketing@drtel.com), including high-resolution images and a detailed description of your design concept. Please include 'Mural Design Submission' in the subject line.

We can't wait to see the creativity of our community come to life on the walls of DRN ReditTech. Unleash your imagination and let your art speak!

This is a fantastic opportunity for artists to showcase their talent and make a lasting impact on the community. If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach out.

**Submit ideas to [marketing@drtel.com](mailto:marketing@drtel.com)!**

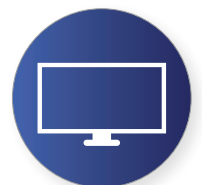
*DRN has the right to refuse all submissions.*



## TV Channel Lineup Changes

Periodically we receive notifications of changes to our channel line-up from the large programmers. The following changes have been made to the DRN channel lineup:

- Sports Pak: PAC-12 Network - Due to the PAC-12 Conference membership changes these network channels have shut down.
- World Harvest Channel 159 has been discontinued.



This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.



PO Box 69  
Ellendale, ND 58436

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