

The Connection



Manager's Moment- Matt Collins

Hello all,

I know everyone is ready for spring as we are here at Kennebec Telephone Company!

We had the pleasure of hosting the Lyman High School Juniors and Seniors on March 18 for a Work Force luncheon event.

What a great bunch of kids they are!

This event gave the students the opportunity to see the wide range of things we do here at Kennebec Telephone Company. Our divisions set up stations at the Kennebec Fire Hall with various activities that would give them a hands-on experience.

Our **Central Office** had a great display of fiber optics testing and splicing. **Powercom** demonstrated how to hook up an electrical circuit and gave the kids a chance to bend metal and plastic conduit.

Charley's Welding and Auto and Chamberlain NAPA offered a look at how they test vehicle batteries and also to see how a scan tool works.

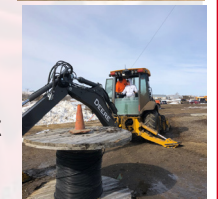
TCS demonstrated how a surveillance camera system is set up and how it works.

KTC Construction let the kids actually operate some equipment like bobcats, rubber tire backhoe, and excavator.

KTC Warehouse- Brought over items like a waterer and demonstrated how a pipe fitting worked... since there was a torch involved, it was a very popular station!

The point of this event is to remind the kids that Kennebec Telephone and other businesses in our area, offer some great opportunities to them after college or Tech School.

Another point we wanted to stress to them is that KTC does offer tuition assistance, providing they are considering one of the fields we cover in exchange for a commitment to employment when they finish their school experience.



**Happy
Easter!**

Kennebec Telephone will be closing at Noon
Good Friday, April 19th



Powercom's Newly Licensed Journeyman Electricians



Congratulations to Josh McLain and Mike Schwartz! Both completed their exams to be Journeyman Electricians!

Josh has been employed by Powercom since March 2018. Prior to Powercom, he worked at DeYoung Electric in Ashton, SD.

Mike was employed at Shep's Electric which was purchased by Kennebec Telephone in the spring of 2018.



To become an electrician and obtain a license in South Dakota, the first step is to complete an application to become an apprentice electrician.

Four years (for a total of 8,000 hours) as an apprentice working under an electrical contractor is required prior to taking the journeyman's exam.

Powercom is made up of Licensed Contractor Electrician and Foreman, Chaz Bowar; Licensed Journeyman Electricians, Mike Schwartz and Josh McLain, and Licensed Apprentice Electricians, Trent Johnson, Hayden Schelske, and Kaiden White Bear.

Are you planning to do some electrical work? Contact Powercom today!

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Easter Coloring !



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Open to ages 1-7



In observance of National Safe Digging Month in April, Kennebec Telephone would like to share the results from a recent national survey. The results revealed that 42 percent of homeowners who plan to dig this year for projects like landscaping, installing a fence or mailbox, or building a deck, pond or patio and other DIY projects, will put themselves and their communities at risk by not calling 811 a few days beforehand to learn the approximate location of underground utilities.

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in serious injuries, service disruptions and costly repairs when gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines are damaged.

The national public opinion survey of homeowners conducted in March by the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), the national association dedicated to protecting underground utility lines, people who dig near them, and their communities, also revealed that nearly half of American homeowners who plan to dig this year will complete landscaping projects that require a call to 811 at least a few days prior to digging. The most popular planned projects cited among surveyed homeowners who plan to dig include:

- Planting a tree or shrub (47 percent)
- Building a patio or deck (24 percent)
- Building a fence (21 percent)
- Installing a mailbox (8 percent)

“Tens of millions of Americans plan to do DIY digging projects this year, but according to our survey, 42 percent of them admit that they will not call 811 beforehand, which puts homeowners and their communities at risk. Calling 811 a few days before any planned home improvement projects that require digging – including common landscaping projects like planting trees and shrubs – is critical to preventing incidents like service outages and serious injuries.” CGA’s 1,700 members, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and most governors have proclaimed April as National Safe Digging Month to bring extra attention to the issue of underground utility line safety and reduce the risk of unnecessary infrastructure damage.

As part of National Safe Digging Month, Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc, encourages homeowners to take the following steps when planning a digging project this spring:

- Always call 811 a few days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Call on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has called 811. Don’t allow work to begin if the lines aren’t marked.
- Visit www.call811.com for complete info.



Spring is here!
Is this the year
you install sprinklers?
Call KTC Construction for your
lawn irrigation project!
(605) 869-2220

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We will strive to offer prompt, friendly, and dependable service along with the latest technology to attain the highest possible customer satisfaction.

If you would like more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter, feel free to contact us at 605-869-2220.

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