

The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

Manager's Moment with Rod Bowar

Foundations For The Future

Excitement builds at Kennebec Telephone as a great group of new staff come on board and others return to resume work during their summer break from school. We have two MTI graduates starting full time, four returning for the summer from tech school or college, and five that are new or returning staff from high school.

We are very supportive of our young people and want them to excel. Educating them with on the job training, encouraging the use of and funding programs for technical schools, such as Build Dakota and other avenues for helping with college, are proof in action of this support. South Dakota is noted for instilling great work ethic and Kennebec Telephone wants to be a part of that foundation these young adults expand from.

In this newsletter, Mitchell Technical Institute has provided an informative article on the telecom industry. Numerous opportunities are available in telecommunications, and MTI is one school that can provide the education necessary for this rewarding career. South Dakota has four outstanding technical schools to consider with a 99% career placement rate in the

graduate's field of study. If you have questions about the Build Dakota program or a career in telecommunications, Kennebec Telephone would be happy to visit with you.

Speaking of schools, I would like to thank our local school board and administration for moving forward with the building project in both Presheo and Kennebec. What a positive addition to our communities and assurance that our young folks will continue to get a high-quality education in a comfortable and energy-efficient atmosphere. I would like to note that having a modern facility is crucial to local businesses to attract staff with families which, in turn, keeps the community growing.

On a final note, I would like to announce that the building for the restaurant is almost done! This will be a great addition to Kennebec. Gaylene Gilman and Amy Bowar are leasing the building and are preparing "Kennebec Kafe" to open for business. I want to thank these two for stepping up and taking a huge risk to fill a need for the Kennebec community.

(Check out pictures of the Kennebec Kafe on page 3.)

ATTENTION: ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

(or anyone who knows a student)

With 50 Telecommunications job opportunities awaiting them, seven recent Telecommunications graduates from Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) have the pick of the litter. "Last year we graduated 18, and they probably had 70 job opportunities," said Mike Benjamin, a telecommunications instructor at the school. According to their website, MTI was named as one of the 10 finalists for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Within 6 months of graduation, 98% of their graduates are employed or continuing their education.

A Career in Telecommunications will pay off. Good wages and plentiful job choices are expected to remain in the telecom field for years to come. Starting wages for 2018 graduates averaged \$18.50 per hour, with the wage topping at \$28.00 per hour. That's

more than double South Dakota's minimum wage of \$9.10 per hour. As MTI points out on its website, the U.S. Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics list the median annual wage for telecommunications workers as \$47,150.

That's an inviting situation – one that high school students, recent graduates, their parents and other career advisers should keep in mind. Check out a career in Telecommunications! With this ever-changing industry, you will definitely find a rewarding career. For more information about MTI, go to www.mitchelltech.edu.



Mitchell Technical Institute

Urban Graduates from MTI

After two years working as a part time TCS Tech, Devan has graduated from MTI, and now takes his place as a full-time employee of Kennebec Telephone's TCS division.



Welcome Tom Kulm, Charley's New Store Manager!

Stop by Charley's to say hi to the new store manager!

Tom is a recent graduate of MTI with Business Management Degree. He and wife Marie have a 10yr old son Isaac. When he's not working, he enjoys hanging out with his family, bowling, and camping.



The "Kids" are back at work!

Summer can't be far off when we see our younger employees return! **Haley and Jordon** are back after completing their second year of college.

Bodie and Jack have just completed their first year at LATI, in the Auto Tech and Heavy Equipment programs respectively.

Carter is a 2019 LHS graduate and will attend MTI in their Electrician program.

Jade will be a senior, and **Colton** and **McCall** will be sophomores this fall at LHS.

All of us at KTCI are happy to have all of them back!



Haley Booth, BH
Accounting



Jordon Pond, DWU
Office Asst.



Bodie Thomas, LATI
Charley's



Jack Miller, LATI
Construction



Carter Collins
Powercom/Const.



Jade Collins
Multi Functional Asst.



Colton Collins
Multi Functional Asst.



McCall Garnos
Multi Functional Asst.

In Case we missed the introductions...

We've had more additions over the last several months,
and you may have met some of them already.



Samantha Knapp
Charley's Napa
Specialist
November 2018



Samantha (Sam)
Is a mom and a Veteran. Could be familiar to anyone who's stopped at Charley's throughout the winter.

Kaiden isn't just an electrician, he's also a farrier, and rodeo cowboy! Kaiden and his wife Brooke, have 2 kids, and live in Chamberlain.



Kaiden White Bear
Powercom,
Chamberlain
March 2019



Gregg Jankord
P/T Chamberlain
NAPA
December 2018



Gary Luke
Chamberlain NAPA
March 2019



Gary & Gregg joined John as the friendly faces at the Chamberlain NAPA Counter

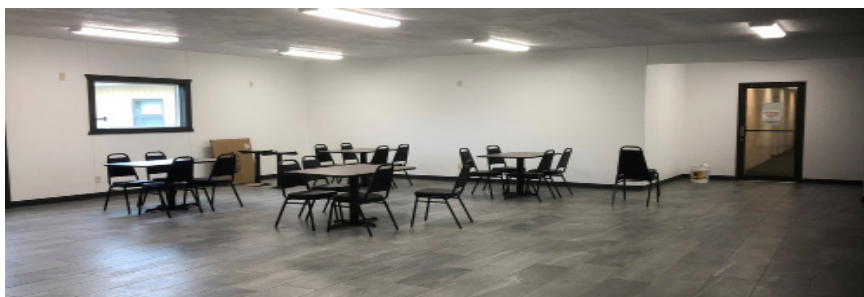
Dennis- Kennebec native, is returning to us for another stint with Trusty's crew!



Dennis Streitz
Central Office Tech
May 2019



Kennebec Kafe Opening Soon!



KENNEBEC TELEPHONE CO., INC.

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Our mission is to provide the highest quality telecommunications and information service to our customers at an affordable price.

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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.