

BEACON

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE



EPIC IPTV UPDATE

We share questions that customers have been asking and provide the answers.

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MOOOVE OVER!

Livestock auction broadcasts help serve local producers.

PAGE 4

DAKOTA TABLE

KNOEPHLA SOUP

Not your average Knoephla recipe. A recipe influenced by Germans from Russia.

PAGE 5



888.475.2361



bek.coop

70th Annual Meeting

Honoring the Past, Building the Future

Join us for the 70th BEK Communications Cooperative Annual Meeting! The annual meeting gives members the opportunity to hear about the cooperative's financial status and topics that could affect the organization's future.

As a shareholder in a cooperative business, your voice and vote are important to the well-being of the business.

The 2022 Annual Meeting will take place Thursday, June 9th at the Steele High School Gymnasium. Registration and a beef supper will be served from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. For your convenience, free childcare will be provided.

BEK members will receive a 2021 annual report in the mail at the end of May. Along

with the expected 2021 financial and director reports, the annual report also will include sample voting forms and the proposed meeting agenda.

Official Voting Form:

All members will receive an official voting form in the mail relative to their cooperative district. Also including in this mailing are the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes and the 2022 official meeting agenda so members can follow along at the meeting, or from home watching the broadcast of the annual meeting. The official voting form will be used for procedural and director voting. We encourage you to participate by filling out and returning your signed voting form no later than June 2, 2022.

Here's what you should know:

- Your official voting form will be mailed around May 19th and should be postmarked or submitted in person no later than June 2, 2022.
- Voting forms will include sections for approving the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes and Board of Director elections where applicable.
- Please clearly mark your vote with blue or black ink and sign the ballot to be counted.
- If you vote by mail and later decide to change your vote, you may do so in person at the Annual Meeting on June 9, 2022.

If you are unable to attend but would still like to participate, please consider joining us on TV or online:

BEK EPIC IPTV Channels

- 26 in the West
- 4 in the East

BEK TV Over the Air

- Bismarck/Mandan: KNDB 26.1
- Minot: KNDM 24.1
- Fargo: KRDK 4.1

Online

- Facebook
- bek.tv

FROM THE CEO



Growing Pains Often Lead to Great Things

DERRICK BULAWA
Chief Executive Officer

Change is never easy. We know that all too well at BEK. As a telecommunications cooperative, we've become accustomed to adapting to new technology since we started nearly 70 years ago. The copper party-line that once shared neighbors' phone calls is now a private strand of fiber-optics that not only transmit your digital phone calls but also delivers your high-speed internet service. New technology is paving the way of the future. The better the technology, the better we can serve our customers.

EPIC IPTV is no different. Last year, we began the implementation of this streaming television service. But before that happened, we did a tremendous amount of research and considered the many options for the best product. At the time, there was one thing we knew for sure: Streaming is the future of television, and to stay ahead of that, we needed to align ourselves with a streaming service.

We chose EPIC for several reasons. For one, EPIC is a much smaller streaming business than many others. The larger providers aren't as easy to work with when it comes to choosing and coming up with new features that best serve our customers. With EPIC, we don't have to settle with what's offered. EPIC is willing to work with us to develop an overall product that will not just satisfy our customers but will make streaming television a great experience.

With anything new comes growing pains. You may have experienced some upgrades to your EPIC IPTV recently. These upgrades are fixing the issues we've encountered since launching it towards the end of last year. We understand that these interruptions are inconvenient, but we also know how important they are to crafting and fine-tuning your streaming television experience. The issues and upgrades will become fewer and fewer as we move forward.

Growing pains are an unpleasant part of the change, but they help us to get our products to where they need to be. I like to think of it this way: There will always be challenges when you believe in something and you're willing to put the work into it. Keep moving forward and work through those challenges, and soon enough, you'll end up with something great.

On behalf of the BEK Board of Directors, I want to thank you for being a loyal BEK customer. We appreciate your patience as we navigate through new technology.



MAR/APR 2022

The BEK Beacon is a bimonthly newsletter published by BEK Communications, © 2022. It is distributed without charge to all customers.

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE was founded in 1952 as a local telecommunications cooperative serving Burleigh, Emmons and Kidder Counties. Since then, we've invested in state-of-the-art infrastructure, developed new products and services, and expanded to also serve Morton, Oliver, McLean, Logan, McIntosh, Barnes, Griggs, Cass, and Steele counties. BEK has changed quite a bit in 70 years, but we're still a small-town cooperative at heart.

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

888-475-2361

P.O. Box 230
200 East Broadway
Steele, ND 58482

220 4th Street Northeast
Valley City, ND 58072

923 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT I

Secretary/Treasurer Shane Morris
Regan
Sanford Williams
Wing

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Robinson
President Brett Stroh
Tappen

DISTRICT III

Vice President Kevin Bernhardt
Linton
Vickie Martin
Linton

DISTRICT IV

William (Bill) Becker
Wishek
Gerald Burlack
Wishek

BEK PLAY

STREAM BEK'S LIVE LOCAL SPORTING EVENTS, BEK NEWS, LOCAL WEATHER AND MORE BY SUBSCRIBING TODAY!
CANCEL ANYTIME, NO CONTRACTS!

FEATURING

- EXCLUSIVE BEK CONTENT 10 CHANNELS
- TRICKPLAY PAUSE & REWIND LIVE TV
- RESTART TV RE-START ANY PROGRAM FROM GUIDE UP TO 72 HOURS
- CLOUD DVR ADDITIONAL \$5/MONTH FEE

BEK PLAY \$4/MONTH
Sign up today at bek.news/bek-play

When It Comes to EPIC, We Hear You!

Frequently Asked Questions

EPIC IPTV is new to all of us. As we navigate through this new technology, we recognize that customers have been frustrated with the product. We understand because we're EPIC IPTV users too! We hope that our gift of one-month of service at no cost to you shows that we hear you and that we care.

Here are some most frequently asked questions:

Does BEK own EPIC?

BEK does not own EPIC.

I'm a BEK television customer. Do I have to take EPIC?

No. BEK television customers were not required to sign up for EPIC. If customers are looking for a streaming option for television, the EPIC IPTV product is a great option. However, customers are not penalized for going with a different television viewing option.

I don't watch all the channels in my EPIC package. So why am I paying for them?

That's one of the great things about EPIC! We offer six different packages to choose from, depending on your own personal viewing tastes and budget.

If I don't sign up for EPIC, will BEK cancel all my other services?

Whether you're an EPIC customer or not, your other BEK services (like telephone or internet) will not be impacted.

If I'm having troubles with EPIC, can someone come to my home and fix the problem?

Thanks to ever-advancing technology, fewer customer visits are required with a streaming product. It gives the customer the ability to log in with their own credentials, on a device of their choosing, with little assistance needed from BEK. Most issues can be resolved by phone with a couple simple steps. If there is a system or equipment failure that requires an onsite visit, BEK will continue to provide a technician to assist.

Why can't EPIC upgrades be done in the early morning hours instead of during Primetime?

Because we don't own EPIC, we cannot control when the upgrades are made. We can, however, request that all updates be made during the hours when most people are not watching TV.

We've been experiencing error messages and sometimes missing channels. Will these interruptions be corrected soon?

EPIC has unique features that other streaming services do not have, making it unique to the market. We are seeing functionality improvements every day and are confident that these will become fewer as EPIC continues to fine-tune the product.



Due to contractual reasons, Discovery content is only available on the BSD and TV Everywhere at this time. Follow the directions below to access TV Everywhere:

- 1** Go to your **EPIC** app on your Amazon Firestick.
- 2** Select the **Settings** option (looks like a gear) on the home page. Once in **Settings**, select **Help**.
- 3** Scroll down to **Account & System Info** and then click **Account Information**.
- 4** Take note of the second line of the **Subscriber Name** and the **Watch TV Everywhere ID**.
(Write these down. You will need it in a few steps.)
- 5** The next step is done on your phone, tablet or web browser. Go to www.wtve.net and select **Skitter TV** as your provider.
- 6** Select **Register**. Fill out the registration form. Refer to the information you wrote down in step 4.
- 7** **Create a username and password**. Once you've completed that step, log in and begin watching your favorite programming.
- 8** For some content you may need to find the corresponding app on your streaming device in the app store. (e.g. Discovery content, search for "Discovery GO" and download the app.) Use your **WatchTVEverywhere** login credentials and follow the on-screen prompts to access the content.

Live Auction Broadcasts Help Serve Producers

WATCH: Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays at 8:00 am
BEK Livestock - EPIC Channel 70

BEK understands the role agriculture plays in the communities we serve. That's why we aim to offer programming that affects producers.

BEK is happy to bring viewers live broadcasts from three livestock auctions each week. Each auction begins at 8:00 am.

TUESDAYS Jamestown Livestock

THURSDAYS Napoleon Livestock Auction

FRIDAYS Herreid Livestock

And now, you can DVR any auction, any time! Watch BEK Livestock on EPIC Channel 70.



Napoleon livestock auction on BEK Livestock Channel 70.

Game & Fish Report

WATCH: Sundays at 6:30 pm on BEK TV
Channels 4 or 26, EPIC Channel 64

BEK has added a new program to its lineup. "North Dakota Game and Fish Weekly" is a half hour show hosted by Mike Anderson of the ND Game and Fish Department.

"North Dakota Game and Fish Weekly" features people who have dedicated their lives to the outdoors and discusses topics from fishing and hunting to boating and conservation.

Watch the program on BEK TV, on EPIC Channel 64 or over-the-air on Channels 4 or 26.

NEW PHONE LISTINGS

NAME	PHONE	CITY
Burrer, Byron	943-2424	Wing
First Community Credit Union	668-2224	Page
Henricks, Lynnell	668-2961	Tower City
Landsiedel, Perry	734-6716	Wilton
Moeckel, Ardella	452-4492	Wishek
Schauer, Melvin	452-4477	Wishek
Thommes, Ashley & Guy James	254-5117	Linton






RUN WITH US!

APR 10 VS

3:05P



**MASSACHUSETTS
PIRATES**

MILITARY APPRECIATION

APR 23 VS

7:05P



**QUAD CITY
STEAMWHEELERS**

SENIOR NIGHT



BISMARCKBUCKS.COM







Dakota TABLE

In just about every culture in the world, food is the communal and binding factor when friends and family come together. We launch this new segment of our Beacon publication to help inspire the cooks in all of us!

Knoephla Soup

SUBMITTED BY: CARMEN RATH-WALD

ORIGINAL RECIPE FROM: JULIE GARDEN-ROBINSON - NDSU

INGREDIENTS:

Soup:

1/4 c. butter, unsalted
6 c. baking potatoes (about 3 large), peeled and cubed
1/2 c. onion (about 1 small onion), diced
3/4 c. celery, diced
3/4 c. carrot, diced
1/2 tsp. pepper (or to taste)
3 c. whole milk
6 c. chicken broth

Knoephla (dumpling) recipe:

3/4 c. whole-wheat flour
3/4 c. white flour
7 Tbsp. whole milk, or more as needed
1 egg
2 tsp. dill weed
2 tsp. parsley
1/2 tsp. ground black pepper (or to taste)
1/2 tsp. salt

DIRECTIONS:

1. Melt butter in large skillet over medium heat. Saute potatoes, carrot, celery, onion, and pepper until vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes.
2. Stir 3 c. milk into potato mixture and heat until almost boiling, about five minutes. Remove skillet from heat. In separate pot, bring chicken broth to a boil.
3. To make knoephla (dumplings): Combine whole-wheat and white flour, 7 tablespoons milk, egg, dill, parsley, salt, and pepper. Add more milk a tablespoon at a time until dough is stiff.
4. Roll dough into 1/2-inch-thick ropes. Cut ropes into 1/4-inch pieces with a knife or kitchen shears. Drop pieces into boiling broth. Cover pot and reduce heat to simmer until knoephla begin to float, about 10 minutes.
5. Stir potato mixture into broth and knoephla. Simmer until potatoes are tender.

Notes: Makes 10 (1-cup) servings.

Submit your favorite recipe to Dakota Table by mailing it to:
PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482 or email bekcomm@bektel.com
Recipes will be randomly drawn for a chance to be published in the Beacon.

Nominations for Directors Announced

The 2022 Nominating Committee of BEK Communications Cooperative met Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022 to nominate members of the cooperative to run for the Board of Directors. BEK Communications Cooperative member-owners residing in Districts I, III and IV will elect one director from each district to serve a three-year term.

District I:

McKenzie, Regan, Sterling, Wilton, Wing
Shane Morris, Regan (Incumbent)

District II:

Pettibone, Robinson, Steele, Tappen, Tuttle
No Election

District III:

Hazelton, Kintyre, Linton, Strasburg
Vickie Martin, Linton (Incumbent)
Holly Will, Hazelton

District IV:

Lehr, Napoleon, Wishek, Zeeland
William (Bill) Becker, Wishek (Incumbent)

Serving on the 2022 Nominating Committee of BEK Communications Cooperative are Steve Fettig (Wishek), MaryAnn Gefroh (Linton), Sara Gross (Wishek), Burnell Paul (Wing), Jim Porter (Wilton) and Holly Will (Hazelton).

There are two ways to be nominated for Director: 1.) by the

nominating committee, or 2.) by petition, as provided in the Cooperative's bylaws (Article IV, Section 4). The bylaws are printed in the BEK/West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory and are available on the BEK Communications Cooperative website.

The 70th Annual Meeting of BEK Communications will be held Thursday, June 9, 2022.



Back L to R: Burnell Paul - Wing, Sara Gross - Wishek, Holly Will - Hazelton, Jim Porter - Wilton
Front L to R: MaryAnn Gefroh - Linton, Steve Fettig - Wishek

BEK Communications Privacy Policy

1. Privacy Policy and Statement.

(a) Customer Privacy. Protecting the privacy of our customers is important to us. Any contact information you provide in an information request will be used only for purposes of selling, distributing, fulfilling or settlement of the Services or Products. Without your express authorization, we will not divulge any information to third party for purposes other than the sales, distribution, fulfillment or settlement of Services and Products except as otherwise provided herein.

(b) Use of Customer Information. The privacy of your information is important to us. The privacy policy and statement in this Section 20 tells you how we collect information from you and how we use it.

(i) BEK Partners. BEK sells various "co-branded" services on its website, in newspapers, via phone sales and other mass media. Although BEK requests all partners to have a privacy policy consistent with the

policy listed below, it is recommended that you view the privacy policy adopted by the BEK partners when taking their services.

(ii) Customer Information. It is a fact of modern life that companies, including BEK, must collect information about their customers in order to carry out business and offer services. Privacy concerns focus on protecting customer information that an individual expects to be kept private. Such information is information associated with a specific individual or entity, including, for instance, email address, Services offered and information about that customer's usage activities. You consent to BEK's collection of such information from you.

(iii) Customer Proprietary Information. From time to time, BEK Communications changes its Service and Product offerings and makes available additional features and Services and Products, which may enhance and augment the Service or Product to which

you are already subscribed. For us to determine which customers may benefit from the new Services and Products, we will use information about your account from our databases, legally referred to as Customer Proprietary Network Information (“CPNI”) unless you restrict that use in the manner described below. CPNI includes information such as the long-distance carrier and calling plan to which you are subscribed, calling features and plans to which you are subscribed, calling patterns and usage of various features, and charges associated with the Services you subscribe to. Use of this data will allow BEK to identify Service and Product offerings to meet your individual needs. For this purpose, CPNI data will be used by BEK only. This data will not be shared by BEK with any other outside source except as necessary to provide the Services and Products to which you are already subscribed and when we are legally compelled to do so.

(iv) Restricting CPNI Usage. You have the right under federal law to protect the confidentiality of your account information and restrict the use of CPNI data, and we have a responsibility to protect your data. To restrict the use of your CPNI data, you must call the business office toll free at 1-888-475-2361 during regular business hours, or email us at bekcomm@bektel.com within 30 days of your receipt of this notice to request that we not utilize your CPNI data. Your denial or approval for BEK to use this data will not affect the provision of any Services or Products to which you subscribe. You may change your decision at any time and your decision will remain valid until you tell us otherwise. Again, we will only use your account information to market other communication Services and Products offered by BEK. No action is required unless you wish to restrict our use of your CPNI. You will still receive monthly bill inserts, newsletters and other publications that are sent to all customers at the same time, so that you are kept up to date on what is happening at BEK.

(v) Non-CPNI Collected Automatically. In some cases, we may collect information about you that is not personally identifiable such as the type of Internet browser you are using, the type of computer operating system you are using, the domain name of the website and/or Internet Service Provider from which you linked to our site advertisements, and the like. You consent to BEK’s collection of such information from you.

(vi) “Cookies”. Pieces of information that a website transfers to a customer’s hard drive are called “Cookies.” When you view our website or advertisements, we store some information on your computer. This information will be in the form of a “Cookie” or similar file and will be used to determine ways to improve our website, advertisements, Products or Services. For example, Cookies allow

us to tailor a website to better match your interests and preferences. You consent to BEK’s storage of “Cookies” or similar files on your hard drive.

(vii) BEK Freedom App. BEK collects and processes information provided directly by you when you install the BEK Freedom App on any device and register for an account to use the BEK Freedom App, including: (a) your name, email address, location, user’s phone or contact book data, user’s inventory of installed apps, and user’s screen recording; (b) browser information and session cookies related to your access and use of the BEK Freedom App; (c) data insights BEK attains based on correlation and analytics of your

information collected in providing the BEK Freedom App, which may be used in aggregated and dis-aggregated formats or to obtain trend analytics, to provide the BEK Freedom App; and (d) use of the above-described collected information in aggregated and dis-aggregated formats to enhance BEK’s current BEK Freedom App or to provide BEK Freedom App features. BEK uses the information collected as described in this Section 20, including personal information, to: (a) provide you with the BEK Freedom App; (b) implement improve and/or enhance the BEK Freedom App, including to make future releases available to you; (c) carry out BEK’s obligations as described or authorized in any applicable Service Order and these Terms and Conditions; (d) enforce BEK’s rights arising from any applicable Service Order and these Terms and Conditions; and (e) fulfill any other purpose authorized by you and reasonably required for the BEK Freedom App. You consent to BEK’s collection, processing, and use of the information collected and processed as described in this Section 20.

(viii) Information Security and Data Retention. BEK maintains strict customer information privacy policies and uses current technology to safeguard customer information from unauthorized disclosure. Employees are trained on the importance of protecting privacy and on the proper access to, use and disclosure of customer information. Personally identifiable and other sensitive records are retained only as long as reasonably necessary for business accounting, tax, or legal purposes. If during the provision of services for customer, private information provided to customer by third parties, as part of customer’s business activities, is unintentionally or unavoidably disclosed to BEK, BEK will not copy, tamper with, remove from the place where found, retain, disclose, or use in any way the information. Although we work hard to protect personal information that we collect and store, no program is 100% secure and we cannot guarantee that our safeguards will prevent every unauthorized attempt to access, use, or disclose personal information.



BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE
200 East Broadway, PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482

ECRWSS
LOCAL POSTAL
CUSTOMER

BEACON TRIVIA

- 1 On what date will the 2022 BEK Communications Cooperative Annual Meeting be held?
- 2 What is the full name of the new outdoors report that BEK is broadcasting?
- 3 How many people currently serve on the 2022 BEK Nominating Committee?

TRIVIA ENTRY

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 29, 2022

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Town: _____

Clip and send to BEK at:

PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482

You can also email answers to bekcomm@bektel.com.

We will be drawing for twenty \$5.00 credits to be applied to the winners' bill.

CONGRATS!

TO OUR BEACON JAN/FEB WINNERS

Lois Sundquist | Wilton
James Verwey | Valley City
Wing Senior Center | Wing
Peggy Bettenhausen | Wishek
Stephanie Morse | Valley City
Bryan McNeal | Strasburg
Deb Sorsen | Grandin
Corbley Ogren | Linton
Kenneth Weshnevski | Tower City
Diane Boyle | Alice
Vangie Mueller | Wishek
Estelle K. Hanson | Valley City
Paulette Rasmussen | Wing
Holly Bender | Hazelton
DelRoy Ketterling | Wishek
Rodney Feist | Zeeland
Rodney Eberle | Hague
Laura Holzer | Linton
Jeremy & Amanda Knutson | Wilton
Dale K. Fish | Pollock

2022 APPOINTMENT OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

If you are attending the Annual Meeting of BEK Communications Cooperative as the Voting Representative of a church, school district, cooperative or other organization, the following "Appointment of Voting Representative" form must be completed. This form may be submitted to BEK Communications Cooperative **anytime before 12:00 noon on June 9, 2022** (the day of the Annual Meeting).

This is not a Proxy Statement. Residential and sole proprietorship business customers cannot use this form. They must vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

Completed forms may be dropped off at the BEK headquarters office in Steele by noon on June 9, 2022.

Forms may also be mailed to the following address:

BEK Annual Meeting
BEK Communications Cooperative
PO Box 230
Steele, ND 58482-0230

Be sure to mail your forms early.

Submit Appointment of Voting Representative Form anytime before noon - June 9, 2022!

2022 APPOINTMENT OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

2022 Appointment of Voting Representative Form

A membership in the BEK Communications Cooperative may be held in the name of a church, school district or other political subdivision, corporation, cooperative, association or other organization. If your organization is to be represented at the Annual Meeting, complete this form and deliver to BEK Communications Cooperative **anytime before 12:00 noon the day of the Annual Meeting**.

This certifies that _____ is appointed the voting representative for the following organization _____ at the June 9, 2022 BEK Communications Cooperative Annual Meeting.

Said voting representative is authorized to cast the vote of, and otherwise represent this organization in all matters at the Annual Meeting of the members of BEK Communications Cooperative or any adjournment thereof. **Only ONE Appointment of Voting Representative Form per organization is allowed.**



BEK Annual Meeting
BEK Communications Cooperative
PO Box 230
Steele, ND 58482

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Organization's Business Phone No. : _____