

**BEK**

VOLUME 4 | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

BEACON

DATES TO REMEMBER

BEK bill payments are due on the 20th of each month.

- ▶ February 11-12
KFYR Agri International - Bismarck Civic Center
- ▶ February 14
Valentines Day
- ▶ February 17
Presidents' Day

- ▶ March 5
Ash Wednesday
- ▶ March 9
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- ▶ March 12
BEK Scholarship Applications Due
- ▶ March 14-16
Bismarck Mandan Home Builders Show - Bismarck Civic Center
- ▶ March 17
St. Patrick's Day
- ▶ March 20
First Day of Spring

- ▶ April 4-7
FREE HBO Cinemax Preview Weekend



BEK Construction Year in Review

BEK Communications had a very exciting construction year in the rural Bismarck and surrounding areas in 2013.

BEK sales and construction crews presence in many new developments in the Bismarck area have made BEK a household name and we are so excited that neighbors are telling neighbors about us. We added over 200 customers to our Rural Bismarck exchange. Here's where some of our new and prospective customers live:

- Country Hills Addition - 71st Avenue Northeast of Bismarck
- Copper Ridge - 3rd Addition - SE of Bismarck; near Lincoln
- Majestic Street near Lincoln
- Apple Creek Industrial Park
- TJ Lane
- Russell Road

BEK's investment in rural Bismarck is a huge commitment and it's one we are proud of - delivering our products over fiber to areas hungry for state-of-the-art technology, what's not to be excited about!

BEK sponsored two outdoor events in the Copper Ridge and Rock Creek Developments to demonstrate our blazing fast 200M Internet, BEKTV and surveillance products. We enjoyed these visits to interact with the families about our services and field their questions and curiosity about BEK.

In the Year Ahead

As we approach a new construction year, here's a peek at some of our upcoming projects:

- Finish work at Whispering Ridge - near Hawktree
- The Ranch - a development north of Bismarck; approximately 70 lots
- Apple Creek Ridge - South of old highway 10; approximately 70 lots

Christmas at BEK

On Thursday, December 19th, BEK opened its doors for a Christmas open house welcoming guests to food, fun and games.

BEK and other Steele Area Betterment businesses hosted Christmas open houses on December 19, 2013 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. offering attendees a progressive holiday celebration of eats, treats, games and prizes.



Guests enjoy sweet & salty treats.

Each BEK guest had an opportunity to participate in the Steele Area Betterment's third annual Christmas poker run*. Only one person could win for best hand, but some BEK open house attendees were lucky winners also. If a card was drawn that had a colored sticker attached, the player was given a surprise gift. Many great prizes were given away.

Additionally, our door prize winners were:

- Android Tablets – Pam Wetzell and Jewell Mehlhoff of Tuttle
- Poinsettia – Margaret Mittleider of Tappen

Thank you to all who attended. It's always great to visit with you!

**Marlene Heim was the progressive poker run winner of \$55 in Steele Bucks donated by the Steele Area Betterment Open House businesses.*

PLEASE JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE BISMARCK CIVIC CENTER

- **KFYR Agri International trade show:**
Tuesday & Wednesday, February 11 - 12, 2014
- **Bismarck Mandan Home Builders Association trade show:**
Friday through Sunday, March 14 - 16, 2014



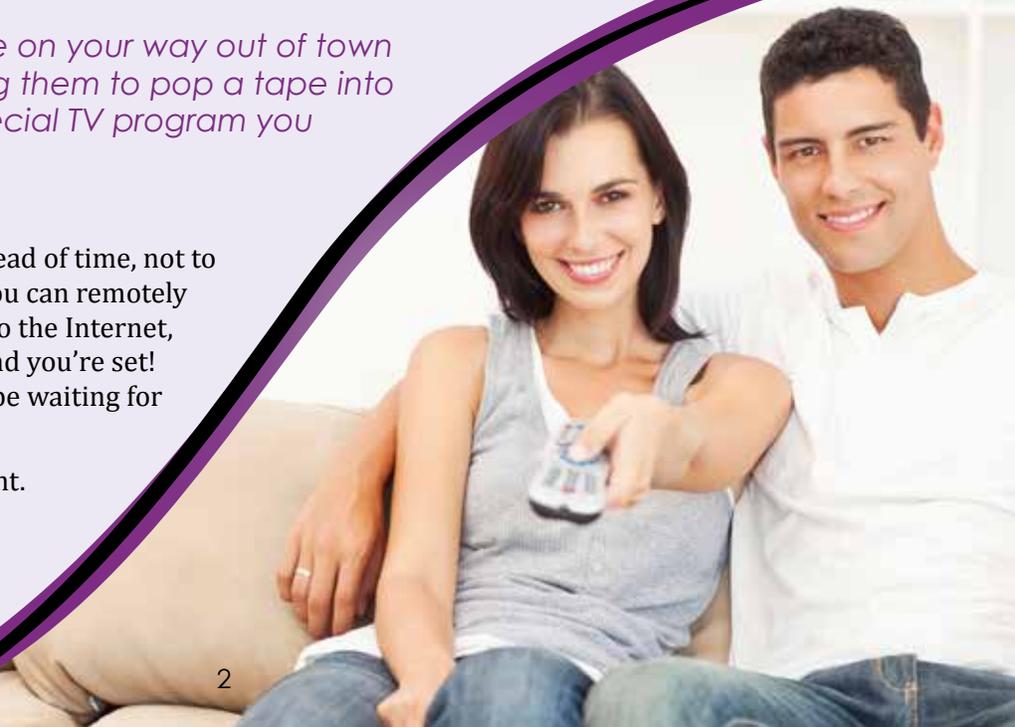
BEKTV Tip

Remember the days, when you were on your way out of town and you called your neighbor to beg them to pop a tape into their VHS recorder to record that special TV program you were going to miss?

Now what do you do?

Well, if you didn't set up your BEKTV DVR ahead of time, not to worry. Subscribe to Whole Home DVR and you can remotely record anything you like. If you have access to the Internet, you can login to the BEKTV DVR Scheduler and you're set! Pick your programming to record and it will be waiting for you when you get home.

Then invite the neighbors over for Movie Night.





BEK Tek Tips

Security and Making Sure You're Secure

Happy New Year! New computers and digital devices were a popular gift item again this past Christmas because each year technology makes things easier and a lot more fun! The web is a powerful tool full of information, both useful and useless; both safe and dangerous. Here are a few tips to protect your computer, you, and your loved ones on the web.

- 1. Antivirus and Anti-Malware software.** The World Wide Web is full of outdated websites that do not run well and yet we continue to go to them and get stuff. Be it weather forecasts, a quick online gaming experience, or whatever the case may be. The fact is, we allow ourselves every time we get on those sites to possibly get some nasty uninvited guest by clicking a link that says we should download. A couple of things we can do to prevent horrible things from happening to our computer and possibly compromising our private information are: **Read the disclaimers!** Never skim through an agreement that you've never read before. Never trust anything that you think might be potentially harmful to your computer. Understandably, some things just happen. And for this we recommend an Anti-Virus and/or Anti-Malicious Software Utility. Internet Security is another option you might want to try. This type of security will help you prevent threats. They typically have a built in feature that will warn you about the security of a website and tell you your best course of action.
- 2. Piracy is a crime!** It's also extremely dangerous. If you're downloading the newest flick off the net, bear in mind the more than possible altercations that can ensue. You could be caught by the FBI. You could get caught and fined by an investigator who represents the company that you are stealing from. You could also be infected with malicious software, allowing for another human to copy your credentials down for their purposes. They could not just simply get their hands on your passwords, but if you use the Internet to do banking or stocks, you could have your investments stolen right out from underneath your nose. Be wary what you do on the web. It's not all Facebook and cat pictures; use your best judgment. Your best bet: **Don't be a pirate, don't break the law.**
- 3. Change your passwords!** Not every day mind you. If you want to, that's ok, but we would suggest something a little more reasonable. Once a month or so would be more than fine. But at any point your email can be compromised by a stray click of a link or a random email hack from someone somewhere completely different than you. If someone hacks your account, they can send out spam emails, advertising products AS YOU but obviously not you. We at BEK block these accounts by disabling them as they are potentially harmful to those in your contact list. If one day, you discover that you cannot log into your account, that's more than likely the reason. Lesson here: **Don't let your password become stagnant.**
- 4. Please watch your kids.** It's not unusual for young kids to have a cell phone, a tablet or their own laptop, but everything is connected to the Internet. Thus, everything is exposed to the world. All the good and bad in the world is at our children's fingertips and they don't even know it. It's become easy to sit them in front of something for a moment so we can go do our own thing, but they don't have the same mental reasoning that we have developed as adults. **Kids will click ANYTHING with a superhero on the picture or something shiny about a new video game or something involving pocket monsters.** In some scenarios, much, **MUCH worse.** If you have any questions about **Parental Controls** on computers, tablets or otherwise, do some research on those devices. There might be multiple options to choose from and you and your family will be better for it in the end.



CONGRATULATIONS - BEK PICK-IT BOWL CHALLENGE WINNERS!

The top three scorers of the BEK Pick-it Bowl Challenge won some fantastic prizes; check it out:

Maria Regner of Napoleon - \$1500

Joddie Herald of Steele - \$500

Angie Benz of Moffit - a 32" HD TV

WATCH FOR OUR NEXT PICK-IT MARCH MANIA CHALLENGE COMING IN MARCH!

Here to Serve You

According to the U.S. Census website, North Dakota experienced an estimated population growth of 22,000 between 2012 and 2013. We're getting new arrivals from all over the country and lucky for us, some of them have arrived at BEK's doorstep to help serve you.



JASON RUTLEDGE

Jason Rutledge joined the BEK Central Office team on November 27, 2013 as Network Technician. His technical background makes him a good fit for BEK. In order to deliver high tech services, someone like Jason is needed to identify, troubleshoot and resolve issues that may arise with the network infrastructure and product line.

Jason really enjoys working with the cutting-edge technology that BEK offers. He says, "It changes so fast, you never get bored with what you're doing!"

Jason comes from the "Music City", Nashville, Tennessee where he worked as a Chief Information Officer for National Toxicology Specialists. Prior to that, he worked as Technician/Broadcast Engineer for Cumulus Media. North Dakotans are curious by nature, so a common question from a local is...What brings you to North Dakota Jason? In a bold friendly drawl he tells us, "I kept hearing about the wonderful opportunities from a friend who works for BEK." And so he packed up the family and moved to N.D.

Jason and his wife April celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2013 and their son Kingston will be two in a few months. Amateur Radio is a hobby and with his great voice and sense of humor, Jason would have no problem captivating an audience. Young Kingston is lucky to have a cool dad who is also interested in camping and Eagle Scout.



DAWN HOPKINS

Dawn Hopkins is the new Product and Promotions Marketing Analyst and she began her BEK journey on December 10, 2013. Hired to assist with marketing, product, brand and corporate communications strategy and execution, she has a structured, detailed and follow-through personality. She likes the "Ah-ha"

idea moment; but loves it when the results of that idea show themselves in the bottom line – cash victory!

Dawn grew up in Steele and returned home about 7 years ago. In between that time, she graduated from Moorhead State University with a Bachelor of Science, Mass Communications degree and worked for a variety of companies in Marketing Communications / Management. Her latest and longest stint of employment (12 years) was with Brave New Workshop Comedy Theater in Minneapolis, M.N. where she was VP of Marketing, Creative Outreach. Though she says she was by far the least funny of all the people working there, the BNW taught her to laugh, learn, think and play in a very spontaneous way. And the wonderful network connections that BEK provides allowed her to work from Steele for the last several years. She now hopes to repay the favor!

Dawn's family, mother Carol and Carol's husband Merle, live in Steele; and Dawn frequently enjoys being within a stone's throw of their fine company and Merle's wonderful cooking. Dawn also enjoys photography, classic movies, travelling, a man named Eric, and a dog named Charlie.



ROY KUIL

Roy Kuil was hired as BEK's Customer Service Manager on December 9, 2013. He manages the customer service: and BEKTek staff and he arrived in time to experience the customer service department in full swing with an end of the year promotion on all services.

Roy says he was looking for an opportunity to grow with an organization that allows him to use his 30 years of experience in customer service. Roy's skills were developed in Call Center work environments. He loves customer contact. He earned a certificate in Human Resources from the University of Phoenix and his work has taken him all over the U.S. including Sacramento, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and Denver. He is currently living in Streeter, N.D. which is just less than 300 miles from his hometown of Wagner, S.D.

Roy and his family will soon be establishing a home in the growing community of Lincoln. Roy's hobbies include his 66 Mustang and model trains. His six year old and three year old sons may get to play with (or enjoy) the model trains, but Roy will get a few years reprieve before they ask for the keys to the Mustang to cruise down Highway 1804!



SCOTT OTHOUDT

Scott Oothoudt, pronounced "oh thowdt", is a Sales Executive representing and selling BEK products and services to residential and business customers. Scott slipped in at the end of the year on December 30, 2013.

Sales people have many different approaches. Scott likes to investigate a little bit. He enjoys visiting with customers to discover their needs and then he helps them to decide which BEK products best meet those needs.

Scott is from Minot, North Dakota. He attended Bismarck State College, Minot State and the University of Mary and attained his Associate of Arts Degree. Scott has fourteen years in the communications industry and has experienced the best of both worlds – the corporation-Qwest Communications and the cooperative-SRT Communications. He left Northwestern Mutual to work at BEK. He says, "I worked for a telecom coop before and I really missed the atmosphere and great people in the field. I heard great things about BEK and I wanted to be a part of BEK's growth and future."

Scott is a community and family man. He and his wife Miranda-She (Randi) have five children: Nathan (8), Mari (8) – (Mari is their adopted child from Ethiopia), Brynn (6), Reed (4) and Cullen (1). They live in Mandan. Scott is a member of the Knights of Columbus and he is very involved in his local parish. He enjoys watching sports and activities with his children.

Continued on page 5



TAD CROWSON

Tad Crowson is a Customer Support Technician who has also joined the Customer Service Department at BEK. His newly acquired job which began on December 17, 2013, put him in the front line of customer service and support, BEK I.T. and computer clean-up and repair.

Tad is one of those people who really enjoy repairing computers; isn't that great! Computer repair is his hobby. That's a good thing for our customers. Here's a guy who puts on his smiley face, sometimes a tie and vest and is always professional and polite - he sits at his desk and is always ready to help someone with their computer problems, and he is pumped about it because (1) he thoroughly enjoys it and (2) he gets paid for it! Those are his words; and he has more to say...

"BEK sounded like a good company to grow in; being a smaller company with such a lucrative product that is HANDS DOWN the best of its class. I would have been foolish not to jump for the chance to be part of such a promising career."

Thank you for coming to BEK, Tad, and we applaud you for making the transition from Florida to North Dakota in the middle of December! Skills and Guts! Tad earned top honors and an Associates of Science Degree in Drafting and Design from ITT Tech, Tallahassee, Florida. Work does not scare him. He has been a chef, satellite technician, waiter, clerk, grocer and carpenter's assistant while repairing computers.

Tad credits his parents and particularly his grandparents as the positive forces in his life and his wife Amy has been supportive of all his endeavors for nearly 10 years. He is originally from Oklahoma and has also lived in Illinois, Alabama, Missouri, and the United Kingdom. He and Amy are currently living in Bismarck but hope to relocate to Steele soon.

Tad enjoys all types of art mediums and he loves music. He claims to be a video game nerd as well.



BRIAN HOWELL

In August 2013, Brian Howell accepted a job at BEK as Sales Executive and we've kept him so busy he's barely had time to stop and get his photo taken! Brian sells advertising for BEK Sports, BEK phone, Internet and TV packages as well as surveillance products and services. He is ready to sell the next best thing BEK puts in his hands.

If you are going to be in sales, it's because you like people and that's why Brian sells - he likes to interact with customers because he always meets people who are friendly and interesting. He pursued a job at BEK because of its reputation in the industry.

Brian is from northern New Jersey, "The Garden State" and he attended Stonehill College in Massachusetts where he earned a B.A. in Political Science and Business Administration. He has had many years of sales experience in real estate, insurance and advertising. Additionally, he has a background in TV and newspaper journalism.

Brian and his wife Molly (a Grand Forks native) live in Bismarck with their canine companion Winston. If you cross paths with Brian and you are trying to keep the conversation brief, it's best to avoid the topics of politics and sports because he listed them as his hobbies.

To Jason from Tennessee, Dawn from Steele, Roy from Colorado, Tad from Florida, Brian from New Jersey and Scott from Minot, North Dakota -

Welcome to BEK!



Winter in ND - Be Informed, Be Prepared

It's been a tough winter so far - be sure to check the weather conditions before travelling and making outdoor activity plans!

Several resources are available to BEK customers for keeping abreast of changing weather conditions, warnings and road closings:

BEKTEL - Phone Info: Call 511 for weather and road condition updates. You can easily access information for North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota.

BEKNET - Internet Info: Go to BEK's website at www.bektel.com to get current road conditions, forecasts, warnings, etc. right from the "Resources" link.

BEKTV - TV Info: Watch and listen for travel alerts, school closings and current conditions on BEKTV:

- BEK Local Weather - Channel 27
- KX Weather - Channel 13
- The Weather Channel:
 - Select, Expanded and Variety packages - Channel 191
 - Classic Cable - Channel 11

POWER OUTAGE TIPS

1. Conserve energy. Your electrical connections are a precious commodity during adverse weather conditions.
2. Use your phone sparingly. Limit your usage to extend the battery backup life. If the battery fails, service can be restored if the BEK power supply is connected to the outlet that is powered by a generator.
3. Remember, cordless phones will NOT work during a power outage as they require power from an outlet.
4. Know how a power outage will affect your services and report outages as soon as possible.

Say “Do-Not-Call” to Unwanted Telemarketers

The National Do-Not-Call Registry gives you a choice about whether or not to receive telemarketing calls at home.

The registry applies to all telemarketers with the exception of businesses with whom you have an existing relationship and certain non-profit and political organizations. Commercial telemarketers are not allowed to call you if your number is listed on the registry.

Consumers may register their residential telephone number, including wireless numbers, on the National Do-Not-Call Registry at no cost, either by telephone or via the Internet. To register by telephone, call 1-888-382-1222. For TTY, call 1-866-290-4236. You must call from the telephone number you wish to register. To obtain additional information or register online, please go to www.donotcall.gov.

Inclusion of your telephone number on the National Do-Not-Call Registry is effective 31 days following registration. You may remove your number from the list at any time.

BEK Communications is happy to provide you with this information each year as required by the Federal Communications Commission.

Non-Discrimination Statement

BEK Communications Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

The person responsible for coordinating this organization’s nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Derrick Bulawa, Chief Executive Officer of BEK Communications Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above and/or file a written complaint with this organization or write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S. W., Washington, D. C. 20250-0703, or call (800) 787-8821 (voice) and select Option 2, or (202) 692-0107 (TDD). “USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.”

Protecting Your Privacy

As mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), BEK protects its customers’ personal information and Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI). As a BEK customer, it is important that you set up authorized account contacts and a password in order to manage your account.

Without this information on file, BEK is not able to discuss specific information with you regarding your account. This may cause some frustration. BEK would like to avoid any inconvenience to you, so we ask that you take control over how your account will be handled when you contact BEK with questions or changes to your account.

Here is how BEK handles calls and personal contacts:

- When you, or an authorized contact, stops by our office or calls us to receive or discuss information on your account, we ask for a photo ID or a password that has been previously supplied by you or other authorized contacts listed on your account.
- If you are the only person listed on your account, you are the only one who can call to discuss or change your information with BEK. For example, your spouse will not be able to receive information unless they are listed on the account.
- Each time a change is made to your records or certain information is accessed (i.e., address changes, password changes, security questions utilized, etc.), you will receive a letter in the mail to notify you of such changes or access to your account.

If you have any questions about CPNI, authorized account contacts or account passwords, please call our office at 1-888-475-2361 and we will be happy to assist you.

New Listings

BISMARCK-MANDAN-BALDWIN AREA

Advanced Billing Services	221-9810
Bismarck KOA Kampground.....	222-2662
Box Shop	222-1538
Burning Desires	663-4007
Gramm David & Cheryl.....	595-7227
Jobbers Moving & Storage.....	222-1111
Johnson Dominick.....	595-7198
Juel Distribution	222-0060
Knopp K.....	751-1443
Lien Marlin.....	751-0307
Medicine Shoppe The.....	663-1151
Munsch Bonnie	323-0929
North Dakota Right to Life Assn	258-3811
Taylor Endodontics	212-1206
Trom Cody.....	258-2570

HAZELTON-TEMVIK

DJ's Hitching Post.....	782-4331
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KINTYRE-BRADDOCK

Vetter Tyler.....	332-6509
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LEHR

Graham Coral.....	378-2412
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LINTON

Caruso Enrico	254-4997
Jochim Justin	254-5767
Leier Renee & Preston	254-5763
Mulske Todd Jr	254-5728
Praus Bob	254-4039
Sehn Brandon	254-5724
Werlinger Mike.....	254-5706

MCKENZIE-MENOKEN

Blood Amanda.....	673-3566
Schirado Casey	673-3573
Weiland Amy	673-3589

NAPOLEON

Glatt Johanna.....	754-4149
Grahn Brian & Jessica.....	754-4104

STEELE

Crosby Brian.....	475-4456
Fitterer Alphonse.....	475-4480
Flanders Sanford.....	475-2086
King James L.....	475-4482
Lang Jeremiah.....	475-4481
Malinowski Alan Jr	475-4494

STERLING-DRISCOLL-MOFFIT

Fallgatter Meghan & Steve	387-4220
Sterling RV/Mobile Home Park.....	387-5819

STRASBURG-HAGUE

Eckroth Leonard.....	336-7926
Herr Irene.....	336-7985
Masset Pius.....	336-7143
Schuck Tom.....	336-7978
Silbernagel D.....	336-2703

TAPPEN-DAWSON

CRYSTAL SPRINGS-LAKE ISABEL

Fettig James	327-2294
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WILTON

Basaraba Myron.....	734-6491
Harvey J.....	734-2246
Holzer Kiri.....	734-2210
Winterberg Haley.....	734-2209

WING-ARENA

Krein Darin	943-2812
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WISHEK

Meier Robert Amos	452-4697
Raile Jared	452-2095
Sayler Jessica.....	452-2056
Vetter Kacy & Travis	452-4659

ZEELAND

3 Mile Inn.....	423-5569
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Directory Listings Deadline: March 17, 2014

*Have you checked your directory listing lately? Northern Directory Publishing (NDP), publisher of the BEK / West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory, will distribute the 2014/2015 telephone directory in June of 2014. **NOW** is the time to look at your current listing.*

March 17, 2014 is the deadline for making changes or additions to the 2014/2015 directory. Directory advertising requests should also be made as soon as possible, prior to March 17th. Changes or additions to directory listings are only accepted from the person whose name appears on the account or an authorized account contact. (See Protecting Your Privacy on page 6)

Our goal is to improve each issue of the BEK / West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory and to eliminate all errors. Occasionally, however, errors will be found. After you have had an opportunity to check your current listing in the directory, we would appreciate you advising us of any corrections or additions that need to be made.

BEK Communications Cooperative and the publishers of the directory do not assume any liability because of errors and omissions that may occur in the telephone directory.

If you have any listings you would like to add to this directory, or need to make any corrections or changes to your present listing in the BEK / West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory, please contact BEK Communications toll free at 1-888-475-2361.

Note: Your listing as it appears in other area telephone directories is handled by the company producing that particular directory.





200 East Broadway • PO Box 230
Steele, North Dakota 58482

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BEK Beacon

Published by BEK Communications

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Steele, North Dakota 58482

P (701) 475-2361 • F (701) 475-2100

www.bektel.com

November/December Trivia Winners:

Jolene Dewitz, Steele, N.D.

Lester Ibach, Linton, N.D.

Verna Johnson, Wilton, N.D.

Floyd Lang, Napoleon, N.D.

LeRoy Scherr, Strasburg, N.D.

BEACON Trivia Questions

1. If you want to make changes or corrections to your current directory listing, contact BEK by _____.

2. BEK _____ applications are due March 12th.

3. _____ is nicknamed "The Garden State."

Entries must be received by March 7, 2014.

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Clip and send to the BEK office with your phone payment. You can also email to bekcomm@bektel.com. We will be drawing for five \$5.00 credits to be applied to the winners' phone bill.

Watch the 2014 Winter Olympics



Visit www.bektel.com
for more information