

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

- ▶ April 24
Administrative Professionals Day
- ▶ April 26
Arbor Day
- ▶ May 1
May Day
- ▶ May 3
N.D. Arbor Day
- ▶ May 12
Mother's Day
- ▶ May 18
Armed Forces Day
- ▶ May 27
Memorial Day
(BEK Office Closed for Holiday)

Students praised for dedication to broadcasting of BEK Sports

By Terri Lang, Emmons County Record - reprinted by permission

"I think the best part of working with the students is getting to see the looks on their faces when they do a good job," Jordan Hassler, Broadcast Operations Manager for BEK Sports Network, said.

Hassler oversees the operational duties, scheduling, training and supervising of the BEK Sports staff. The focus of BEK Sports Network is to spread out games across the territory of 11 communication companies showcasing the area's athletes as well as have students assisting in the broadcasts.

BEK Sports focuses on educating a team to broadcast an event. From the beginning, Hassler has been instrumental in providing the team step-by-step instruction in camera operations, audio, instant replay, graphics and commentary. "Working with such a diverse group of people is great," Hassler said. "The ones who really enjoy it just light up when they get a chance to play with the technology."

In 2006, BEK implemented a program offering local high school sporting events on their network. They needed to look at what would be cost effective and, at the same time, focus on getting the community involved in the process. The BEK staff visited several schools about the possibility of having high school students assist in the broadcasting duties at the games.

"At first, students from all over were excited about the opportunity," Hassler said. "Many of them lost interest, but, fortunately, not the Strasburg crew."

Students involved in the BEK Sports broadcasting team get exposed to up-to-date technology. "This not only gives them the opportunity to learn technology but a time to be in the spotlight and feel successful," Hassler said.

BEK lists the students' names in the credits at the end of each broadcast event. Students have also been provided with bright lime green BEK Sports Crew T-shirts. "We want them to stand out and not just be another face in the crowd," he said.

This school season, BEK Sports has televised over 200 games in 206 days from 55 towns across North Dakota. That not only took a big commitment from BEK and the students, but support and dedication from the parents. "Thank God for their parents, who allow their kids to travel all over the state with us," he said. "We need to give those parents a lot of credit." Hassler said parents have been supportive and have said they like the program and what it offers. "Students have told me their parents actually brag about them being involved in the broadcasting of these events," Hassler said.



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Continued from page 1

There are nearly 250 students across the state that are part of the BEK Sports team. “The Strasburg kids keep coming back,” he said. “They have their roles and responsibilities and they do a great job.”

Hassler attributes much of the Strasburg BEK team success to Senior Jesse Schwab. “Jesse takes care of everything. He gets the crew together for each event and organizes it all,” Hassler said. “He does a phenomenal job, and I do not know what I will do without him when he graduates.” Hassler said Jesse has a good knowledge of each task of broadcasting, and he understands the concepts. “Jesse is one of those individuals who is successful at any role,” he said.

Hassler said he has enjoyed working with all of the students. He assists in training the students prior to each game. “Some kids get it right away, and others have some trouble,” he said, “but that could be because I may have given them a role that was not their strong suit, so I find another spot for them.”

Hassler is proud of what the students have accomplished in the years they have been doing the broadcasting. “Those kids do not even know how much they have done,” Hassler said. “They deliver the product constantly, consistently and they do it remarkably.”

Students are not BEK paid employees, but they do get reimbursed for their expenses. Some students have made over \$1,000 in one year, and at \$30 per event, that is a lot of games.

Schwab has been working for BEK Sports since 2009. “It has been a lot of fun,” Jesse said. “It has been a great experience working with all kinds of people through BEK and the events we have done.” Jesse is proud to be part of a team that is providing a need to the community, especially for those who are unable to attend the local high school events but enjoy watching them on the BEK network. “It’s all about providing a good service to the communities,” he said.

Jesse said getting together students for each event has not always been easy, but he is thankful they have a team of up to 15 students. “Sometimes, it is pretty tough to line up people, and some back out so we sometimes have to find someone at the last minute,” Jesse said. “We need six to seven people for each event.” They need four on video, two on graphics and one on audio and instant replay.

Jesse, along with senior Kyle Roth, train newcomers on the equipment. “We try to start each one with the easiest job first,” Kyle said. “We usually start them with audio just to see how it works.” After the students gain basic knowledge, Jesse and Kyle assign them to cameras or replay. “Then we try to find what task each student enjoys and does the best at, and we give them that duty for each event,” Kyle said. Jesse said they do try to move the students around some, though, to keep it fresh and to give them a chance to learn all aspects of broadcasting.

The Strasburg students have covered nearly 30 events this school year. Events have included football, volleyball, wrestling, girls and boys basketball, Acalympics and a country cook-off. They also broadcast the state wrestling tournament from the Fargo Dome, the Class AAA semi-final football game from the BSC Bowl and the Badlands Bowl from Dickinson.

Students agree the experience and training on the technology are the most beneficial aspects of the opportunity to working with BEK Sports. Sophomore Robin Mosset said at first she was nervous and nearly backed out of working for BEK Sports.

“I thought ‘I am not doing this,’ but I stuck with it as they told me it is not that hard after you get used to it,” she said. “And they were right, it isn’t, and it is actually fun!”

The Strasburg students said the BEK staff have been great people to work with and they appreciate that they have been given the opportunity to work with BEK Sports. “They are easy-going, fun, comfortable to be around, and they have given us an awesome atmosphere to work in,” students said.

Jesse and Kyle recommend that students give it a try. “Don’t be afraid to try it—it is a lot of fun and you learn a lot,” they said.



Strasburg students assisting in broadcasting with the BEK Sports network this school year include: front, freshman Alissa Leier; second row, left to right, freshman Artie Voller, seniors Kellie Tougas and Emily Luebke and freshman Shantel Lang; third row, senior Laura Huber, sophomores Anthony Roth and Robin Mosset and senior Suzanne Ternes; back row, junior Teddie Lawler, seniors Kyle Roth and Jesse Schwab and junior Trent Mattern.

BEK Donates to Local Communities

BEK headquarters in Steele, N.D. is located just a few blocks from the Kidder County Ambulance building and the fire hall. When the emergency alarm sounds, BEK employees anxiously wait for the alarm to stop. They relax when the alarm ends because they know the local response crews are on their way to assist in the emergency and they know whoever is in trouble, is in good hands.

Steele is just one of many BEK communities that operate with the assistance of volunteers and the Board of Directors of BEK Communications recognizes that. They believe that investing in your local communities is so very important. They realize that many volunteers donate their time and skills to repair, improve and provide needed services to the communities where BEK provides its phone, Internet and TV services.

Since 2004, BEK Communications Cooperative has donated more than \$73,000 through its Common Cents Grant Program which is designed to help with community outreach and economic development in the BEK service area.

The Board of Directors of BEK Communications Cooperative is happy to announce the latest contributions made by the cooperative through this program:



Julie Peterson (left) & Mona Thompson (center) representing Kidder County Ambulance, accept a Common Cents grant check from Director Doug Kallianoff (right).

BEK Communications has awarded \$500 to the Kidder County Ambulance for their fundraising efforts to purchase a Miniature Infusion Pump (MTP) for administration of advanced life support medications in an emergency medical situation.



Rosalia Dewald (right) from Wilton Senior Center accepts a Common Cents grant check from Director Lois Sundquist (left).

Kidder County Ambulance has provided emergency medical services for 39 years. They serve the communities of Steele, Dawson, Tappen, Pettibone, Robinson, Tuttle and Driscoll. BEK Communications

Wilton Senior Center has been granted \$300 from BEK Communications to use towards their fundraising to replace the weather worn windows at their senior center.



Dean Schumacher, Fire Chief (left) of The Zeeland Volunteer Fire Fighters, accepts a Common Cents grant check from Director William (Bill) Becker (right).

The Zeeland Volunteer Fire Fighters consist of community businessmen and farmers in McIntosh County who supply fire protection and first response service. They plan to add on to their current fire hall in the Spring of 2013 to allow added storage for equipment and trucks. BEK Communications has awarded \$500 towards this project.

Other organizations receiving support through the Common Cents grant program in January were:

- **Active Senior's Club** - \$200 towards complete kitchen remodel.
- **Harry L. Petrie Public Library** - \$150 towards special programs including the summer reading program.
- **Helping Hands** - \$200 for assistance with community household and personal items.
- **Linton Fire Department** - \$250 towards hose fittings and rural water wrenches.
- **Napoleon Fire Department** - \$500 towards three work benches for new building.
- **Pettibone Community Club** - \$200 towards insulation for the Pettibone Community Building.
- **Sterling Rural Fire Department** - \$500 towards replacement of 1972 tanker truck.
- **Strasburg Care Center** - \$500 towards the purchase of a van to transport residents.
- **Wing Rural Fire Protection District** - \$500 towards turn out gear for volunteers.

BEK Communications Cooperative believes that supporting community projects and organizations in the towns throughout its service area is just common sense. The Board of Directors developed a community grant program in 2004 as a means to provide support through a structured program designed to meet the current and future needs of our communities through *Community Outreach* and *Economic Development*.

Common Cents grants are awarded twice a year in January and July.

For more information go to www.bektel.com/grants or call our office at 1-888-475-2361.

New Listings

BISMARCK-MANDAN-BALDWIN AREA

Aesthetic Center	255-3311
Animal Kingdom.....	222-2260
BIS-MAN Chiropractic & Acupuncture.....	425-0797
Dimond W W.....	595-7225
Getz D & C.....	255-2323
Hruby Kristi.....	663-8042
Image Printing.....	222-4000
J & R Vacuum & Sewing Center	258-5619
K & L Homes Inc	258-4584
Koppang Chris & Doreen	255-5058
Levi Grant.....	425-0709
Missouri River Contracting Inc.	258-9140
Modern Machine Works Inc	223-1375
North Dakota Newspaper Association.....	223-6397
Parker Riley DMD.....	204-7232
Paulson Rick.....	255-3311
Roughrider Hardwoods.....	258-5201
Salmon Tom & Tricia	595-7229
Sayler Kari & Shane.....	425-0704
United Printing and Mailing.....	663-6555
United Printing Spit'N Image.....	223-0505
Wiest Cordell & Dorinda.....	223-2166
Zins J & H	751-4395

HAZELTON-TEMVIK

Buck Joanne.....	782-4573
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KINTYRE-BRADDOCK

Leier Bob.....	332-6506
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LINTON

Hulm Chris & Candace.....	254-5774
Huus Ken & Bev	254-5760
JD's Deli & More.....	254-4018
Kramer Maggie.....	254-4148
Serfontein Jacob & Amy.....	254-5764
Veer Phyllis & Ronnie.....	254-5580

MCKENZIE-MENOKEN

Anderson Lee.....	673-3505
Thorsteinson Chad & Kari.....	673-3510

NAPOLEON

Gross Donovan.....	754-2052
Wurl Arlen K.....	754-4113

STEELE

Hooker Robert.....	475-4433
Minnick Kenny & Jennifer.....	475-4023
Monroe Carrie & Scott	475-4025
White Marlys.....	475-2462

STERLING-DRISCOLL-MOFFIT

Flash's Place	387-5817
Moffit United Methodist Church.....	387-4464
Rohrich Jacob.....	387-4473

STRASBURG-HAGUE

Hulm Eric & Andrea.....	336-2805
Ibarra Angeline & John	336-7953
Keller Alan & Marti.....	336-7959
Kleinsasser Brent.....	336-2690
Larson Mary	336-2711
Nicholas Vern.....	336-7951

TAPPEN-DAWSON

CRYSTAL SPRINGS-LAKE ISABEL

Fettig Chris.....	327-2221
Gunderson Bruce	327-2295
Mattern Rod.....	327-2107
Schleining Robert.....	327-2243
Stroh Jacob.....	327-2216

TUTTLE

Braun Jason & Keri.....	867-2814
Meier Ronda.....	867-2901

WILTON

Dakota Bio Products Inc.....	734-6289
Delacruz Blanca	734-2226
Keidel Patty.....	734-2272
Mathys Clifford.....	734-6019

WING-ARENA

Zoller Leah.....	943-2896
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WISHEK

Bettenhausen Matt.....	452-4640
Boschee Linda	452-4619
Humann Travis.....	452-2201
Rath Jayson	452-2055
Schilling Brandon.....	452-2072

FCC Announces Level 3 Communications Will Pay Voluntary Fine for Rural Call Failures

In an important step for rural Americans, their communication providers (like BEK Communications) and the integrity of the country's communications networks, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced on March 12, 2013 that Level 3 Communications, LLC, will make a voluntary \$975,000 contribution to the U.S. Treasury as part of a consent decree that addresses the company's efforts to route calls to rural communities.

In a statement accompanying the announcement, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said, "When calls to Americans in rural communities aren't reliably completed, the consequences are both life-threatening and damaging economically."

The announcement marks an important milestone in the two years-plus campaign that the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) – the Rural Broadband Association waged to find a solution to the rural call-completion problem. BEK Communications and other rural telephone companies across the United States have been experiencing problems with completion of long distance calls. In addition to calls simply not completing, the quality of some of the calls when they do complete, is very poor.

In the consent decree with the FCC Enforcement Bureau, Level 3 agreed to:

- Complete long-distance calls to incumbent local exchange carriers in rural areas within 5% of that in nonrural areas over a two-year period.
- Report compliance with the 5% benchmark every quarter, beginning in January 2014, and pay an additional \$1 million voluntary contribution if it misses the 5% benchmark in any quarter.
- Develop scorecards for intermediate providers that it uses to route calls, assessing their performance in the areas of post-dial delay in connecting calls, network failure and call completion rates.
- Identify problematic routes to intermediate providers monthly and cease using poorly performing intermediate providers.
- Assist the commission in other investigations by providing data concerning the performance of intermediate providers.

This is a very important step forward. BEK Communications will continue to address the issue of Long Distance Call Completion by working with NTCA and other providers to report our concerns with representatives in Washington, D.C.



Family Net and Rural TV have merged

In October 2012, Rural Media Group, Inc., the parent company for both RFD-TV/RFD HD and Rural TV, announced the purchase of FamilyNet, a 32-year old basic cable channel from Interactive Television and Gaming Networks, LLC.

As a result, FamilyNet and Rural TV merged as a combination of the highest rated TV content with the most popular programming. Now, FamilyNet – Channel 235, is available in the following BEKTV packages: Expanded, Variety, Business Office, Business Office Entertainment, Business Office Lite, Tavern Lite, Tavern Entertainment and Schools.

BEKTV Channel Additions

The Blaze is the exclusive home of The Glenn Beck Program and thousands of hours of original content. The Blaze proudly claims to offer programming that is a resource of information that you'll never get from mainstream media.

The Blaze is Channel 39 in BEKTV's Limited, Select, Expanded, Variety, Business Office BEK, Business Office Entertainment, Business Office Lite, Business Office, BEK Tavern Lite, Tavern Entertainment, Tavern and Schools.

The BlazeHD – Channel 1039 is in Limited HD, Select HD, Expanded HD, Variety HD, Business Office HD and Tavern HD.

Three additional PBS channels are available in Limited, Select, Expanded, Variety, Business Office Lite, Business Office Entertainment, Business Office BEK, Business Office, Tavern, Tavern Lite, Tavern Entertainment, Tavern BEK and Schools:

KBME – PBS Word – Channel 31

KBME – PBS MN Channel – Channel 32

KBME – PBS Lifelong Learning – Channel 33

BYU is a TV channel that is operated by the Brigham Young University which offers inspirational programs and it is the primary broadcaster of **BYU Cougars** athletics. **BYU is Channel 49** in BEKTV's Limited, Expanded, Variety, Business Office BEK, Business Office Lite, Business Office Entertainment, Business Office, Tavern BEK, Tavern Lite, Tavern Entertainment and Tavern.

BYU HD – Channel 1049 in Limited HD, Expanded HD, Variety HD, Business Office HD and Tavern HD.

CW HD – Channel 1018 in Limited HD, Expanded HD, Business Office HD and Tavern HD.

BEKTV Channel Changes:

On March 21, 2013 – BIO – channel 205 and H2 – channel 207 moved from the Variety to the Expanded package.

On April 1, 2013, both were added to the Select package.

On April 1, 2013 – Hallmark Movie Channel – channel 143 moved from the Variety to the Expanded package.

April 24, 2013 - G4 – Channel 164 rebranding to Esquire.

April 30, 2013 – Mun 2 – Channel 308 will no longer be available in the Variety package; continued availability in the Hispanic package.

April 30, 2013 - E! – Channel 147 will be removed from the Select package; E! HD – channel 1147 will be removed from the Select HD package.

BEK works hard to keep TV pricing competitive while continuing to offer a great TV experience:

Local Content

- BEK Sports
- BEK Local Weather – KX Weather Channel – the Weather Channel
- BEK Bulletin Board – up-to-date community events and information from around the area
- BEK eXtra Channels – unproduced content from the BEK area such as LIVE Livestock Auctions and church services.

Local Customer Service and Local Support – we're right here in Steele, N.D. ready to connect you and we offer quick installations and service response. 1-888-475-2361.

Free Stuff

- FREE HD's on all TV's.
- Up to two streams of DVR to every household.
- Equipment for up to three TV's for every household.
- On-screen caller ID to all TV's in your household.
- Remote DVR scheduling.



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January/February Trivia Winners:

Ed Braun, Steele, N.D.

Marlys Enzminger, Tappen, N.D.

Patrick Feist, Linton, N.D.

Everett Holweg, Hazelton, N.D.

Harry Serr, Linton, N.D.

BEACON Trivia Questions

1. _____ School students were praised by the *Emmons County Record* for their help with BEK Sports broadcasts.

2. The BEK office will be closed on Monday, _____, 2013 for Memorial Day.

3. BEKTV is now offering _____ HD's on all TV's.

Entries must be received by May 8, 2013.

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.

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FREE HD's on all TV's!

News, Sports, Family, Nature, History,
Movies.... HD Channels available for
FREE in all BEKTV packages!

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