

**Welcome,
New Customers!**

Cyrus...
Jost, Joe & Susan 795-2459
Laine, Dani 795-2461
Tolifson, Joshua (Tolly) 795-2233
Wolff, Carolyn 795-2474
Elbow Lake...
Fischer, Sandra 685-4396
Goerd, Heather 685-5439
Kensington...
Gilbertson, Levan & DeLores 965-2227

**CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

<http://directory.mwd-inc.com/runestone>

Digital TV Conversion...What's Happening?

Your TV signal is switching to digital. For more than 50 years, TV broadcasters have sent their shows to your TV using "analog" signals. By June 12, full power analog signals will be gone and most of the stations you watch will use only the new digital signals. However, your local broadcasters may make the transition before then and some already have.

What does it mean to you? Digital TV offers better picture and sound quality, as well as more channels and programming choices. If all of your TV's are hooked up to cable or satellite, you will continue to get your TV after the switch. If you have a digital TV, you are ready for the switch. If your TV is more than 10 years old, it probably is not digital. If it is less than 10 years old, ask the manufacturer if your TV is "analog-only". If you have an analog-only TV with a roof top antenna or "rabbit ears" you will not be able to watch most TV stations after June 12, unless you get a converter box.

The converter box will attach to your TV and allow you to get a better picture & more channels. The antenna you have should work with the box. You can buy a converter box at a retail store. We do not carry them here. The boxes cost \$40 to \$70. You can get two \$40 coupons per household from the US Government to help you pay for the boxes. (One coupon per box. Coupons expire 90 days after mailing. For more information about the converters and coupons, call 1-888-388-2009 or go to www.dtv2009.gov

The Connection

Runestone
Telecom Association

April 2009

Runestone Telecom/Lowry Telephone Scholarship Available

Runestone Telecom/Lowry Telephone is offering a scholarship, valued up to \$1,000, meeting the following guidelines:

- Applicant or parents of applicant must have phone service in one of our telephone exchanges: Barrett, Cyrus, Donnelly, Elbow Lake, Hoffman, Kensington, Lowry, Norcross, Tintah and Wendell
- Open to all members, not just high school seniors
- Will be attending college programs in the telecommunications areas such as telephone, TV, & Internet related areas
- Applicant will be required to give a presentation to the Board of Directors after one year of College or vocational training

It is our hope that through this scholarship program, students may be influenced and helped to achieve their potential through college or vocational training. Applications are available at local high schools, at our office or on our website and must be received or postmarked by Friday, May 1st.



GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

**Call 811
Call before you dig...It's the law!**

Many projects begin as the weather turns warm. When planning those projects, make sure your checklist has Gopher State One Call on it. This is the one call center you notify at least 48 hours before you begin your work. Gopher State One Call then notifies any utility in the area of the work being done. The utilities come out and locate, or mark, the areas where there may be underground utilities at no cost.

When calling into Gopher State, the operator takes down some information from you of what the project will be. Some of the information needed is the date of work, time of work, where is the work being done, contact names and phone numbers and other important information needed. When completed giving them the information, the operator will give you a ticket number. This number is your legal proof that you have notified Gopher State One Call of your intent of work.

Contact Us....Office Information

Runestone Telecom Assn
100 Runestone Drive
PO Box 336
Hoffman MN 56339-0336
Phone: 320-986-2013
Fax: 320-986-2050

www.runestone.net
Internet Help Desk: 320-986-6655

Lowry Telephone Company LLC
PO Box 336
Hoffman MN 56339-0336
Phone: 320-283-5101

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
8am to 4:30pm

Thank you for being our customer! We appreciate your patronage & support!

**Attention Runestone Internet Customers....
RED CONDOR to replace Postini Spam/Virus Protection on May 4th**

We have been using Postini as a spam/virus protection filter to help prevent unwanted emails, viruses, spyware, phishing schemes and other offensive content from entering your email box. In an effort to help our customers reduce these types of unwanted emails, we are replacing Postini with Red Condor effective May 4th.

There is no product or filter that can block 100% of these types of emails, Red Condor is very user friendly and easy to manage. You will continue to receive email notifications from Red Condor just as you did with Postini. However, you will now be able to set the frequency of the notification to either daily, weekly or monthly. Red Condor's email notification will contain the list of email messages that were blocked so you won't have to log in to view that information.

Overall, we feel the new Red Condor system performs better, is easier and straight forward to use. We hope you agree and continue to enjoy reliable internet service from us. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our office or drop us an email at helpdesk@runestone.net.

Minnesota Telecom Alliance honors Kent Hedstrom with Safety Leadership Award

The Minnesota Telecom Alliance (MTA) presented its 2009 Safety Leadership Award to Kent Hedstrom, plant manager for Runestone Telecom Association. The award was presented at the MTA centennial convention, March 3, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis. The award was presented to Hedstrom in recognition of his leadership and dedication to the safety and health of his company's employees.

"The MTA Safety staff greatly appreciates Hedstrom's efforts," said Erik Monsos, director of safety for the MTA.

Commenting on the award, General Manager Lee Maier said, "He has kept safety at the forefront of everything he does. This honor is also in recognition of the conscious effort by all our employees to work safely; they are the real winners of this award."

Kent has 20+ years of service with Runestone Telecom Association. Congratulations, Kent!

Meet Your Runestone Employee

Name: Kent Hedstrom

Job Title and Description:
Plant Manager

Schooling:

1986 graduate of Hoffman-Kensington High School
AA Degree, Fergus Falls Community College
Telecommunications Electronics Diploma, Wadena Technical College

Hometown (Where do you reside):

Grew up near Hoffman and now live in Elbow Lake

Family (spouse, children-with ages, grandchildren):

Wife: Gail, Director at the Elbow Lake Public Library
Daughter: Brittany, sophomore at University of Wisconsin Superior
Son: Scott, senior at West Central Area School

Years of Employment:

20+ years

Hobbies:

Motorcycling, fishing, carpentry, working on my parent's farm, member of Elbow Lake Fire Dept

Favorite part of your job:

Working with the latest technology, the customers and the great staff at RTA.



RETURNED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS - 2008

The following is a list of Capital Credit Checks that were returned to us. Please call our office if you have a CURRENT address or telephone number for any of these customers 320-986-2013...Thank you!

Aguilera, Gonzalo American Family Insurance- Defacto/C23859	Wendell	Johnson, Richard	Donnelly
Anderson, Clifford	Elbow Lake	Jorgenson, Michelle	Elbow Lake
Anderson, Dennis L & Elizabeth	Cyrus	Juergensen, Clarence & Evelyn	Cyrus
Anderson, Karen F	Elbow Lake	Kieffer, Steven & Sandy	Barrett
Automated Wagering MN	Barrett	King, Michael L & Mary E	Wendell
Bandimere, Lester D	Elbow Lake	Kloss, M Catherine	Barrett
Bartness, Harold & Adeline	Barrett	Koltes, Kelle	Tintah
Bear, Charles	Elbow Lake	Koob, Steven	Cyrus
Bennett, Brian & Sarah	Barrett	Kraft, Todd	Barrett
Benson, Goldie	Kensington	Krause, Angela	Elbow Lake
Berg, Timothy J & Christine M	Hoffman	Kruschke, Gilbert & Ethel	Kensington
Bernard, Miranda	Barrett	Kytonen, Kurt & Shelly M	Elbow Lake
Bigot, Mabel	Elbow Lake	Lagred, Gary & Vale, Vickie	Cyrus
Bjerke, C H	Barrett	LaValley, Greg	Elbow Lake
Bjorem, David	Barrett	Lundgren, Roy & Evelyn	Norcross
Bollman, Steve	Elbow Lake	Malley, Robert C Jr & Darci C	Tintah
Brown, Tim	Barrett	Manco, Susan M DVM	Kensington
Burgess, David & Shelley	Cyrus	McCord, Gerald & Patricia	Kensington
Captions Department Store	Elbow Lake	Mittelstadt, Carl Mrs	Hoffman
Carlson, David & Norma	Elbow Lake	Mix, Kenneth D & Eithlyn	Cyrus
Christofferson, Helen	Kensington	Nelson, Christopher	Hoffman
Clough, Ronald & Jackie	Donnelly	Nelson, Kari	Hoffman
Correll, Terry	Cyrus	Nelson, Robert & Nancy	Cyrus
Dahle, Donna	Wendell	Nelson, Wayne A & Kimberly J	Hoffman
Dahle, Karla	Elbow Lake/Barrett	Nord, Jerome T	Elbow Lake
Daleo, Lisa	Elbow Lake	Oberg, Randy J & Tami	Hoffman
Dalzell, Justin J	Cyrus	Olson, Silas	Hoffman
Davis, Stuart J	Elbow Lake	Patrin, Robert %Nancy Patrin	Hoffman
Diekmann, Frances S %Robert Abbott	Elbow Lake	Pederson, Kristen A	Kensington
Dinet	Kensington	Penke, Randall & Sandra	Norcross
Early Education Station	Elbow Lake	Perdoni, Louis & Paula	Donnelly
Eblen, Russell G	Elbow Lake	Plahn, James & Beth	Elbow Lake
Eitretim, Martin & Elaine	Barrett	Quernemoen, Marvin W	Elbow Lake
Ekern, Howard D Mrs	Elbow Lake	Raguse, Robbin	Tintah
Eklind, Kristine	Hoffman	Ranstrom, Dorothy	Elbow Lake
Elbow Lake Gravel Inc	Tintah	Ritter, Rick J	Cyrus
Ellingson, Gene	Elbow Lake	Roufs, William & Deborah	Wendell
Ellis, Richard T & Judy R	Elbow Lake	Sager, Judith Mrs %Lowell Sager	Barrett
Fabian, Darla S	Hoffman	Schultz, Leanne	Barrett
Farmland Ind Dept 42 Attn: L Rhodus	Elbow Lake	Shelden, David	Wendell
Financial Education Assistance	Cyrus	Shervey, Gladys Evelyn %Connie Lebeau	Elbow Lake
Findlay, Paul	Elbow Lake	Skarstad, Norm	Kensington
Grohn, Allen	Cyrus	Smith, Christine B & Kelly D	Elbow Lake
Gruhlke, Tom & Cindy	Hoffman	Somsen, Jerald & Teri	Donnelly
Guderjahn, Brian	Elbow Lake	Sproule, Kenneth A	Elbow Lake
Hahn, Wade C	Elbow Lake	Stevenson, Eric	Barrett
Hanson-Wegge, Nancy	Wendell	Sullivan, Steven G	Hoffman
Harris, Jason	Elbow Lake	Swanson, Duane	Elbow Lake
Hauter, Roy & Karen	Tintah	Swenson-Thomsen, Brenda M %Jerome Swensen	Hoffman
Heacox, Julie D	Elbow Lake	Taffe, Jim	Cyrus
Helget, Jeff W Jelan Products	Elbow Lake	Thompson, Arlene	Elbow Lake
Holm, Mark W	Hoffman	Thompson, Clifton	Elbow Lake
Hoppe, Kristin A	Kensington	Triax Midwest Associate	Elbow Lake
Hyskell, Glen P	Elbow Lake	Ulrich, Julie	Cyrus
Idso, Rachel	Hoffman	Wassmuth, Richard	Tintah
Ihnen, Gladys	Hoffman	Watson, Charles & Carolyn	Elbow Lake
Industrial Sales & Marketing Inc	Hoffman	Webster, Stacy Ann	Cyrus
Jarvis Foods %Marilyn Larsen	Hoffman	Werk, Wayne Mr & Mrs	Cyrus
John, Roger M	Elbow Lake	Winslow, Mary	Elbow Lake
Johnson, Bruce Lee	Kensington	Zobitz, Terry	Hoffman
	Cyrus		

ESPN-HD NOW AVAILABLE...

This channel is now available on Channel 28.1, for those of you who have our Basic package and a Digital TV. It is also on Channel 200 for those who have Choice, previously called Digital Choice, package. As more HD channels become available, we will let you know. If you have any questions, please call our office.

Federal Universal Service Charge to go up April 1...

Effective April 1, there will be an increase in the charge for the Federal Universal Service Charge as follows:

	Before April 1st	April 1st
Single Line access	62¢	73¢
Multi Line Access	87¢	\$1.04

The Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) Surcharge factor recovers the costs associated with Runestone Telecom Association contributions to the federal universal service fund program.



Question of the month:

Are we able to offer local channels out of Fargo?

Answer: by Lee Maier, General Manager

We do carry KVLV, known as channel 11 NBC from Fargo, and broadcast it on our channel 13. At this time we are not looking at other channels from the Fargo area.

THANK YOU, Dale Keller of the Tintah exchange, FOR SUBMITTING THIS QUESTION. HE WILL RECEIVE A \$10 CREDIT ON HIS April BILL FOR ASKING THIS QUESTION OF THE MONTH....

Submit your questions to RTA by mail or send an email to question@runestone.net. If we use your question, you will receive a \$10 credit on your bill. If we receive the same question from multiple people, we will draw to see who receives the credit. We will do a question each month.