

# SRT.NEWS

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## The Internet Divide - Issues Facing Rural America

The "Universal Service Fund" – a program overseen by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and funded through contributions paid by telecom providers across the country – has been essential in making sure rural consumers like you have access to high-quality networks and affordable telecom services. But rule changes just made by the FCC and others still being considered put rural networks and services at risk.

The FCC's stated goal in making these rule changes – to ensure that all of America has comparable access to the Internet – is admirable. Reliable, high-speed broadband has become the essential service of today, like electricity and telephone service were decades ago. Broadband can improve the lives of all consumers, but access is especially important for those of us living in rural America. The Internet

enables farmers to monitor weather patterns and ranchers to buy and sell livestock in markets far from home. It also gives small businesses the opportunity to reach customers nationwide, offers local students the chance to take classes online, and allows doctors to remotely diagnose patients and even offer remote emergency care.

But the new rules don't promote these objectives. Instead, they cut support revenues from the Universal Service Fund for many smaller, locally-based cooperatives and commercial telecom providers such as ours. And the rules still being considered by the FCC threaten to cut even more support for many more small telcos. It's hard to reconcile the commentary about connecting all of America with the actual impact of the new rules and the threatened impacts of the rules still being considered. The Universal Service Fund

*continued on page 2*



YOU could win  
\$1,000 for college!

SRT will award four \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding high school seniors from our local communities. SRT is proud to support students who recognize the importance of volunteerism and community involvement as well as academic achievement.

A committee of SRT employees and board members will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- Community Involvement
- School Activities
- A 300-word Essay
- Grade Point Average
- Appearance of Application

Applications are available at area high schools, SRT's Minot offices at 3615 North Broadway or 1400 20th Avenue SW, or can be found online at [www.srt.com](http://www.srt.com). Applications are due to SRT by March 7, 2012. The scholarship recipients will be announced and awarded in May.

# The Internet Divide - Issues Facing Rural America

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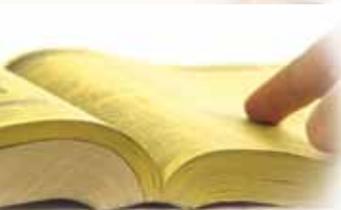
cuts arising out of the new rules will put existing investment in rural broadband at risk, and they will chill investment in new broadband-capable networks by small companies going forward. The FCC's cuts could also lead to increased rates for many customers for telephone, broadband and other services.

Years ago, Congress established a universal service policy for telephone service. It required that those living in rural areas have access to communications services at prices that are affordable and reasonably comparable to those available in urban areas. The Universal Service Fund is essential to carrying out this policy. But rather than supporting true universal service, the FCC's new rules promise faster, better service to some Americans while guaranteeing lesser service at higher cost for others.

Don't let the FCC keep our rural community on the slow side of a broadband digital divide. Don't let the FCC adopt policies that will require rural consumers to pay higher rates for telephone service and slower broadband. Contact your congressional representatives and urge them to support regulatory action that ensures equal and affordable access

*Contact your congressional representatives and urge them to support regulatory action that ensures equal and affordable access to broadband for all Americans.*

to broadband for all Americans. Ask your representatives to help make sure that the new rules are implemented in a manner that is fair for all rural consumers and consistent with true universal service. Ask your representatives to tell the FCC to stop pressing for new rules that will only make matters worse. Contact our office to learn more about this issue and how you can help or visit [saveruralbroadband.org](http://saveruralbroadband.org).



## Yellow Page Sales Begin

On February 28, SRT's directory publisher, Classified Directories, will start calling on area businesses to help plan yellow page ads for our 2012 telephone directory.

- SRT's directory coverage area includes your potential customers; over 70,000 people in 65 area communities
- Over 108,000 directories (including the popular mini directory) are printed and distributed each year
- An online directory offers direct links to your business website
- Classified Directories is a North Dakota company
- All six sales representatives reside in North Dakota: Larry Scott, Ed Dressler, Randy Gowin, Jason Dressler, Ryan Scott and Nancy McKinnon

If you have any questions prior to their visit, please call 1-800-510-9450

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

SRT Communications, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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USDA and SRT are equal opportunity providers and employers.

# Connecting Our Communities



SRT's Teal Myre speaks with students at **Velva High School's Career Exploration Day** about a future job in technology.



## Xoom Winners

Congratulations to Cheryl Clott & Bob Stockwell on winning **Motorola Xoom tablets from SRT!**

The Xoom tablet brings you the power of a computer, in a convenient, easy-to-carry size. Not to mention, it works on the #1 Operating System, Google Android technology.



## Mark Your 2012 Calendar!

**Minot Association of Builders Home & Garden Show**

March 3 – 4  
ND State Fair Center

Be sure to stop by SRT's booth!

**SRT Annual Meeting**

June 21st  
ND State Fair Center



## MSU Tech Day

Area high school students visited Minot State University for the Department of Business Technology's (BIT) 14th annual "Technology Day". Students competed in the one-day competition in categories such as accounting, business law, desktop publishing, document production, business principles, Web page design and business presentations. Awards were given in each category and students

also took home a t-shirt. SRT Board Member and MSU professor Tom Seymour said this about the day, "Not only do we get to showcase MSU to potential students, but it's great to see so many young people interested in the business field. I enjoy hearing their ideas each year and observing their work."

SRT sponsored the event along with other area businesses.

# Directory Corrections

Corrections to SRT's 2011 Telephone Directory are listed below. Please note these changes in your telephone book for quick reference. The updated directory can also be found online at [www.srt.com](http://www.srt.com).

## Minot/Burlington/Surrey

Allard, Marvin & Connie		852-4263
Bostow, Aaron	1111 7th St SW, Minot	838-6411
Butz, Allen & Nada	138 28th St SW, Minot	839-4996
Eid Passport Inc	105 1st St SE Ste 101, Minot	420-1190
Hair Trix	443 21st St NW, Minot	833-9119
Heily, Hugh P	3120 7th St SW Apt 22, Minot	838-6451
Hogoboom, Marge R	1900 28th St SW, Minot	839-4036
National Guard (Army)	HQ 164th Engineer Battalion	420-5800
Ogden, Doris A	1900 28th St SW Apt 117, Minot	838-2919
Pearce, Gregory D	706 Foxtail Dr SE, Minot	838-3228
Penney, Robert A	1721 Evergreen Ave SW, Minot	852-6864
Power Fuels	4900 Highway 2 & 52 W, Minot	837-0426
Rambur, M	1900 28th St SW, Minot	839-4036
Verhey, Jeffrey MD	20 Burdick Expy W #504, Minot	857-5741

## Bottineau

Otter Tail Power	Customer Service	1-800-257-4044
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## Butte

Olson, Richard & Vicki	2875 8th Ave NW, Ruso	626-7164
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## Garrison

Hoffer, Leonard	26 2nd St NE, Garrison	463-2036
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## Maxbass

Huber, Chauncey (Mick) & Sarita	9591 Highway 5 NW, Maxbass	268-3115
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## Yellow Pages

Weiskopf Truck Salvage	8100 County Rd 15W, Minot	839-5758
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# Congratulations Retirees!



**Sherry Kondos** is retiring from SRT after over 26 years of service. She has served in several roles, and has been the Safety & Training Coordinator since 1998. Sherry is looking forward to traveling south in the winter with her husband Craig, and spending more time her granddaughter.



**Wayne Larcombe**, Product Manager, retired after 35 years with SRT. Has held a variety of positions through out his career. He enjoyed being a member of Minot's Sertoma club for 20 years. Wayne and his wife Lola are looking forward to riding their Harley "one mile more" and go hunting "one day more" than the year before, and will be spoiling their new grandson!



Accounting Supervisor **Lola Larcombe** has retired after over 38 years of service. She worked as a toll clerk, accounting clerk, accountant junior and Accounting Supervisor. Her retirement plans include working part time, spending time in her rose garden, enjoying her new grandson and spending time with family. Lola and her husband Wayne plan to travel more on their Harley year round.

## Heavy Duty Wireless Phone Handles Dirty Jobs

Rugged, waterproof, long battery life, and shock resistant, can you say that about your wireless phone? The new Sonim XP3400 Armor offered by SRT Communications is made for people whose equipment takes a beating - farmers, ranchers, oil workers, truckers, and hunters. It is dust proof, water-submersible, drop tested, and features Corning's GorillaGlass on its two inch display. It even has strong antenna performance, extra long battery life, and active noise cancellation.

Although the Armor is made for abuse, you do not have to give up all of the bells and whistles you want in a phone. It also has 3G speed, a camera, music player, flashlight, and even an FM radio!



Dawn Benner, who works at Sund Manufacturing in Newburg, recently purchased the Armor & said, "Working out in the shop, I'm around dust and particles all the time. With this phone, I don't have to worry about dust getting in the phone and ruining it. We also do a lot of hydrotesting and I never worry about my phone getting wet. I know for a fact it can withstand drops because I've dropped it a few times already too, and haven't had any problems."

SRT employees performed a series of field tests, (videos available on [srt.com](http://srt.com)) and in each test, the phone came out working just as good as new. In a time when many are moving towards Smartphones, this is a great option for anyone wanting a rough and rugged multi-feature phone.



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# Mid Winter Sale!

**LG 270** \$32.95 savings  
**FREE**  
24 month contract

Plus **FREE** Screen Protector



**LG 855**  
\$32.95 savings

**\$199<sup>95</sup>** 24 month 200MB contract  
**\$139<sup>95</sup>** 24 month 2GB contract

Plus **FREE**  
Screen Protector

SRT Connections • 1400 20th Ave SW • Minot, ND

[www.srt.com](http://www.srt.com)  



While supplies last. LG 270 is M4/T3 Hearing Aid Compatible. LG 855 is M4/T4 Hearing Aid Compatible.