

# Phonotes

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The Official Newsletter Of Halstad Telephone Company



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# CEO's Report

## The long wait for digital video recorders (DVRs) is almost over!

*Well, we've heard this before ... where is it?*

Due to a number of factors, including problems with software in the set-top boxes and problems with getting delivery of new equipment due to large companies selling off their inventory as a way to survive the recession, HTC has not started installing the new DVR TV service we've talked about.

The good news? The large companies are now starting to build orders as they come in, and we have the names recorded of all those who called or signed up for the DVR TV service. We plan to start installation as soon as equipment arrives.

## Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces \$310 million in Recovery Act Funds for Rural Broadband Projects

While most of the industry was skeptical about the Recovery Act funds for rural broadband projects, Halstad Telephone Company decided to take a shot and apply for these funds to help with new construction, providing service to the rural Hillsboro area, and upgrading the current system.

We were sure of one thing, if we did not ask, we would not receive.

HTC submitted four separate applications and is proud to say that all four were good enough to reach at least the second step in the process. We were awarded

a \$4 million 50/50 grant and loan package to provide rural Hillsboro with service.



Tom Maroney

While this is great news, the grueling project of securing Recovery Act funds had an effect on our plans for deploying the new DVR TV, as well as anything else we had in the works. But we feel it was well worth the time spent. A major goal of the HTC Board has been to provide service to rural Hillsboro; these funds make that goal a reality.

## We still have three pending applications, so there is hope for more funds.

If we get these funds, they will be used for the following projects:

1. Network enhancements to the city of Hillsboro
2. Wireless WiMAX system for the city of and rural Crookston
3. Rebuild of HTC network to an all fiber-optic system



CEO  
Halstad Telephone Company  
tmaroney@rrv.net



# Annual Meeting Scheduled For June 16 In Halstad

Nomination Process for Director of Halstad Telephone, Section 4.5 of the Cooperative's Bylaws

(1) It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) members. At least one (1) member of the committee shall be selected from each geographic area where a director is to be elected. No member of the Board, close relative of a Board member, or employee may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for Board members, which shall include as many nominees for each Board position as the committee deems desirable.

(2) The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with a notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) business days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations.

(3) Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition, and the

secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, if any, received at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, shall be included on the official ballot. Such ballot shall arrange the names of the candidates by geographic areas and shall also designate the candidates nominated by the committee and those nominated by petition.

(4) Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one (1) minute has passed during which no additional nominations has been made.

(5) Incumbent Board members must be renominated by the committee, by petition, or from the floor in order to be re-elected.

Watch for the Official Notice and additional information regarding the June 16, 2009 Annual Meeting, including nominations for directors.

The following directorships are up for election this year: Bygland Exchange currently held by Kent Wavra, Nielsville Exchange currently held by Elroy Hedde, and Shelly Exchange held by Chester Mauritson.



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**Officers and Directors**

- Chester Mauritson – President ..... Shelly
- Steve Williams – Vice President ..... Fisher
- Lori DeLong – Secretary/Treasurer ..... Halstad
- Dan Christianson..... Hillsboro
- Duane Evenson ..... Climax
- Ron Gotteberg ..... Halstad
- Elroy Hedde ..... Nielsville
- Kent Wavra ..... Bygland
- Tom Maroney ..... CEO

**Employees**

- Mark Forseth.....Operations Manager
- Keith Meyer ..... Business Systems Technician
- Kathy Maroney ..... Customer Service Coordinator
- Pauleen Hinkley ..... Customer Service
- Tracy Holte ..... Customer Service
- Sheri Ketterl..... Customer Service
- Melanie Nelson ..... Customer Service
- Brandon Mickelson.. Network Service Coordinator
- Chad Tice ..... Network Service Technician
- Kevin Richter ..... Operations Coordinator
- Andy Shulstad..... Technician
- Ole Van Den Einde..... Technician
- Dave Weeding ..... Technician
- John Hilley ..... Technician
- Jake Quern ..... Technician
- Arden Buchholz ..... Custodian
- Tom & Laurel Keeney ..... Custodians



**Halstad Office**

345 2nd Ave. W. • 218-456-2125

**Hillsboro Office**

124 E. Caledonia Ave. • 701-636-2125

**After Hours Troubles 800-300-1687**

**Help Desk 218-891-3006  
or 888-891-3006**

**[halstadtel.com](http://halstadtel.com) • 800-457-2125**





## Win Cash From HTC!

Submit your entry to be one of two \$25 winners. Also, all entries that we receive during the year (winners or not) will be eligible for two \$100 cash prizes, to be drawn at the annual meeting in June 2010! (Must be present to win the \$100.) Just return this coupon by **April 15, 2010**, to be eligible for the drawing.

### Congratulations To Last Issue's \$25 Winners:

Lorraine Knecht, Hillsboro, ND

Lorna Nysveen, Hillsboro, ND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blank in this sentence:

“We were sure of one thing, if we did not

\_\_\_\_\_ we would not receive.”

(Answer can be found somewhere in this issue.)

## New Phone Directory Arriving Soon

The Red River Regional Directory will be arriving in your mailbox during the months of April and May. This directory is a collaboration with Felton Telephone Company and Loretel Systems, and contains listings from several communities.

According to Minnesota law, all phone books must be recycled. HTC encourages all customers in both Minnesota and North Dakota to drop off their old directories for recycling after their new directory arrives.

Drop-off locations are:

- Halstad – HTC office at 345 Second Avenue West
- Hillsboro – HTC office at 124 East Caledonia Avenue  
Dale's Food Pride  
Olsen Hardware & Appliance
- Shelly – Judy's Café
- Nielsville – HTC Central Office
- Climax – Pete's One Stop
- Fisher – Cenex Convenience Store

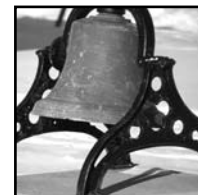
## HTC Broadcasts State Tournament

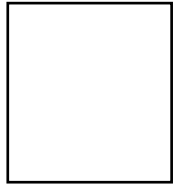
Halstad Telephone Company recently broadcast North Dakota State Class A and Class B Wrestling to members' homes. The three-day event, February 18–20, 2010, was televised live from the FargoDome. HTC, along with BEK Communications and several other telecommunications companies, brought the state tournament to thousands of homes across North Dakota.

“We're always looking for ways to improve customer satisfaction at HTC,” says Tom Maroney, CEO of HTC. “Bringing North Dakota State Wrestling into members' homes is a great way to do that. We hope everyone

enjoyed it!”

A number of local businesses helped sponsor the broadcast. They include: Dakota Heritage Bank, Dale's Food Pride, Farmers Union Insurance, Goose River Bank, Hillsboro Banner, Hillsboro Drug & Gift, Hillsboro Lumber, Hillsboro Vets Club, Kozojed Enterprises, NAPA Auto Parts, Olsen Hardware & Appliance, Oppegard's, Paul's Hometown Repair, Pizza Ranch, Sorum Oil, Stop-N-Go, Subway, Uniquely Yours, Wells Fargo, and Wright Implement.





### HTC Offices Closed

The HTC offices in Halstad and Hillsboro will be closed on Friday, April 2, 2010, for Good Friday and Monday, May 31, 2010, for Memorial Day.



## New Connections

### BYGLAND

- 893-2103 Bichler, Kenneth & Carla
- 893-2101 Kemnitz, Ryan
- 893-2102 Olson, Don
- 893-2351 Risky, Brenda

### CLIMAX

- 857-2002 Nettum, Myles

### FISHER

- 891-2103 Ott, Sara
- 891-2102 Peterson, Barry

### HALSTAD

- 456-2286 Jacobson, Peter & Christin
- 456-2216 Johnson, Lester R
- 456-2318 Kolness, Mildred

### HILLSBORO

- 636-2234 Arneson, Royce
- 636-2229 Grothmann, Herb
- 636-3000 Hefty Seed Company
- 636-2224 Jacobson, Kimberly
- 636-2226 Kappes, Monica

- 636-4413 Kunze, Robert & Corrine
- 636-2227 Miller, John
- 636-2222 Nelson, Daniel
- 636-2231 O'Leary, Kristi
- 636-2230 Schill, Kathy
- 636-4576 Tweten, Judy

### SHELLY

- 886-6008 Hellerud, Evan
- 886-6013 Shulstad, Andy
- 886-6030 The Wife's Company

