

CONNECTIONS

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POLAR DELIVERS

Polar surveillance systems provide peace of mind for local ranchers

It takes, on average, three hours to give birth to a calf. For cattle ranchers, those three hours are vital. If a calf is born breech or with the water bag around its head, stepping away for just a moment can mean the difference between life and death.

“Cows don’t have a schedule when they decide to calve,” said Terry Ellingson, owner of Ellingson Simmentals. “They don’t tell you when they’re ready, so you need to monitor them pretty much 24/7.”

Terry founded Ellingson Simmentals in 1990 with his father, Trueman. The farm, located in eastern North Dakota between Grand Forks and Devils Lake, produces certified wheat and barley seed and pinto beans, along with alfalfa, corn, and grass hay for the 100-cow herd.

When calving season begins in the winter—as early as January for Simmental cattle—this constant monitoring can mean long hours and late nights for ranchers outside in the cold. To protect their ranchers and cattle from the frigid North Dakota winds, the Ellingsons converted an old dairy barn on the property into a facility for indoor calving.

The calving facility was equipped with a camera system to allow Terry to monitor the cows from his home.

“When we get busy calving, we’re probably checking cows every two to three hours,” Terry said. “I had a camera system in the barn here, about 10 years ago, but eventually it kind of failed. And it was



from a company that was about three hours away and I wasn’t getting very good service.”

Terry needed a solution. He needed to keep the cows inside, but he also needed to be able to monitor them anytime, from

anywhere. He needed the cameras to work, and to receive on-the-spot service if they ever went down. He needed a local provider.

He needed Polar.

Terry first discovered Polar’s security camera systems at their booth at the Walsh County Fair. With headquarters only 30 minutes away from the farm, not three hours, Polar was a perfect fit for Ellingson Simmentals.

“I knew I needed to upgrade, to do something, and I talked to Polar about what I could do,” Terry said. “I decided to look into their camera system and I really thought what they had to offer was quite a bit better than what I had.”

Terry invested in an eight-camera system that allows him to monitor his cows 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whether on his television at home or on his smart phone at a basketball game—and in one year, his investment has already paid off.

One morning, Terry took a break from calving, went back into the house, and pulled the surveillance footage up on his television screen. He could see one cow beginning to calve, and as he watched, he noticed a blob where the calf’s head should have been.

The water bag was covering the calf’s head, a common but potentially fatal complication that occurs during calving.

Terry threw on his coat and ran back out to the barn to cut the water bag.

“If we hadn’t had the camera system, the calf would have suffocated,” Terry said. “That’s happened probably four different times already this year. It doesn’t take very long to pay for a system when you actually can see the results like that. It doesn’t owe me a dime, you know, for the return I’ve already gotten from these live calves.”

Perhaps even more impactful than the cameras themselves has been the service Terry receives from his Polar technicians. With his previous camera system, it could take weeks or even months for a repair to be made after Terry reported an issue. But with Polar’s local presence, when Terry reports an issue with one of his cameras, a

technician will either walk him through the solution over the phone or be on the farm within a day to take care of it.

“As a business person, every time you make an investment, you try to get a return. And I think that with Polar, they want to make sure that you’re not only buying something from them, but you’re getting the benefits from what you’re purchasing,” Terry said. “They want to make it work and they want me to be able to utilize it for my purpose and not just for their checkbook at the end of the day. And I think that’s what I really appreciate about them.”

Polar doesn’t just provide security systems and on-location services; we provide peace of mind. With 24/7 access to surveillance footage on his television and

mobile devices, Terry can rest assured that his cows are safe and his business is protected—without stepping foot outside.

Visit www.polarcomm.com/business/security to discover how Polar’s security systems can help protect your business! 📺



BENEFITS & FEATURES

- Unprecedented performance and value
- HD NVRs available in 4, 8, 32 and 64 channel
- Versatile camera designs for every budget and application, including fixed, vari-focal and vandal/weather resistant
- 24/7/365 technical support
- Simple and intuitive viewer software & app. View live footage or activity with email and/or text alerts.

1 CAMERA SYSTEM

\$19.95/month

INCLUDES

- 1 - 5 MP Camera
- 1 TB 4-channel NVR
- Free viewer app
- Battery backup

INSTALLATION

- \$270 with a 3-year contract

2 CAMERA SYSTEM

\$25.95/month

INCLUDES

- 2 - 5 MP Cameras
- 1 TB 4-channel NVR
- Free viewer app
- Battery backup

INSTALLATION

- \$440 with a 3-year contract

3 CAMERA SYSTEM

\$31.95/month

INCLUDES

- 3 - 5 MP Cameras
- 1 TB 4-channel NVR
- Free viewer app
- Battery backup

INSTALLATION

- \$610 with a 3-year contract

4 CAMERA SYSTEM

\$37.95/month

INCLUDES

- 4 - 5 MP Cameras
- 1 TB 4-channel NVR
- Free viewer app
- Battery backup

INSTALLATION

- \$780 with a 3-year contract

Three-year contract required. Extra installation charges may apply for brackets, mounts or other materials used. Contact our office for purchase options. Businesses may require a site visit. Signing customer acknowledgment authorizes Polar Communications to order equipment and bill customer upon completion of installation and completed lease agreement. Some exclusions apply.

Kyle Halvorson Promoted to Chief Business Development Officer

Polar Communications is pleased to announce that Kyle Halvorson has been promoted to Chief Business Development Officer.

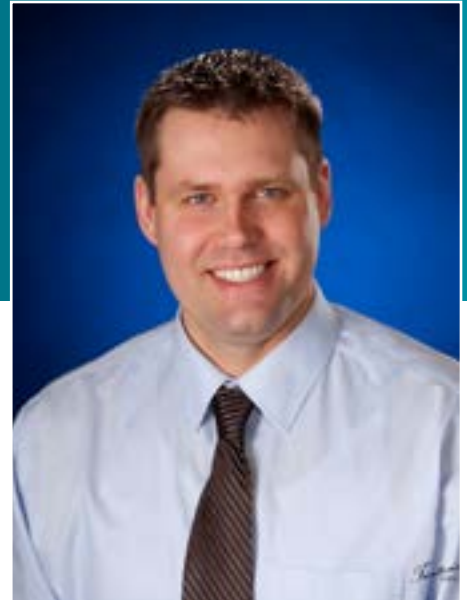
Kyle started at Polar working on the seasonal construction crew in the summers of 1999 and 2000. He started full-time employment on November 27, 2007, as an Area Service Technician. He transitioned to the Special Services Department in 2011, working with business systems. Kyle was hired as Polar's Customer Service Supervisor in July of 2016, his most recent position. As the Chief Business Development Officer he will oversee all business services and products sales and

maintenance including phone systems, video surveillance, alarm systems, and managed services.

Outside of Polar, Kyle serves on the Park River City Council and is active in the Employee Relations Committee, City Library Committee, Job Development Authority Committee, Economic Development and Parks & Recreation Committee.

Kyle and his wife, Kimberly reside in Park River with their three children.

Congratulations Kyle!



Matthew Almen is 2019 Eagle Award Recipient

Matthew Almen has been named Polar Communications' Eagle Award recipient for 2019. He has been with the company for 12 years, beginning in June of 2007. Matt works as a Network Technician III in the Network Operations department. His duties include designing, installing, and maintaining Polar's core ISP network, FTTH customer access network, redundant datacenters, and ISP servers.

Matthew was nominated for this distinguished award and voted on by his peers, based on the following qualifications:

goes above and beyond normal job responsibilities, will do whatever it takes to get the job done, provides new and creative ideas, shows outstanding company dedication, demonstrates teamwork and accepts challenges, is involved in the community and/or volunteer work, demonstrates outstanding customer service and/or assistance, and promotes a positive attitude.

Congratulations Matthew!



APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Applications for the Polar Communications Board of Directors will be accepted for the election to be held during Polar's Annual Members Meeting on June 4, 2020. Positions to be filled are as follows:

District 1 –Position currently held by Gordon Johnson is up for re-election.

District 2 –Position currently held by Chris Nelson is up for re-election.

District 3 –Position currently held by Lori Dahl is up for re-election.

POLAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION PROCEDURE STEPS:

1. Any qualified member meeting the requirements of Section 3, Article IV of the company by-laws may request an application and petition from the cooperative headquarters. The forms can be picked up at Polar's front desk or can be found on Polar's website at polarcomm.com/careers.
2. Members shall submit a completed application and a petition containing a minimum of thirty (30) signatures of cooperative members from the district in which the applicant resides. Please note that a husband and wife constitute one membership. Either spouse may sign the petition as a member; however, the signature of a husband and wife on the petition may only be counted as one.
3. Completed applications and petitions should be submitted by March 20, 2020, at 4:00p.m. to Polar Communications, Attn: Shari Flanders, PO Box 270, Park River, ND,58270. Please contact Shari at 701.284.4343 with questions or email sflanders@polartel.com.
4. All nominations by petition are subject to verification. Once verification is complete, the candidate will be notified and their name will appear on the ballot at Polar's Annual Members Meeting.

To find the service areas that make up each district, please refer to Article IV, Section 2 of the bylaws of Polar Communications found in your telephone directory.

WASHINGTON, DC

2020

YOUTH TOUR

High School students ages 16 or 17, apply for the 2020 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 6-10!

All Expenses
Paid Plus \$50
Spending Cash!



WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

- Educates students about the policy making process through meetings with Congressional and FCC staff members.
- Students gain insight into the challenges of providing quality broadband in their rural communities.
- An opportunity to visit famous historical sites including the Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery.
- Allows students to meet youth from rural areas across the country, develop leadership skills and help point their communities toward the future.

DEADLINE
MARCH 2, 2020

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ESSAY TO:

Polar Communications, Attn: Carol LaHaise, PO Box 270, Park River, ND 58270

Sponsored by

DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION AT
POLARCOMM.COM/ABOUT-US/#SCHOLARSHIPS



Parents or Guardians must be a voice or broadband customer of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Students must be a high school student ages 16 or 17 at the time of the Youth Tour. FRS will not accept any student age 18 or over.

POLAR AWARDS GRANTS TO AREA SCHOOLS



Polar Communications recently announced they have awarded two schools in their service territory \$4,000 in Polar Technology Grants. Polar's Technology Grant provides funding for PK-12 schools enabling the purchase of hardware, software, contracted services and other technologies that target student achievement through technology integration.

Applicants were required to submit their proposals, including an overview of their project abstract, goals, narrative, and budget information. Accredited PK-12 schools in Polar's service territory were eligible to apply. Polar Communications awards up to \$5,000 per year, with each grant not to exceed \$2,500.

Schools winning the 2019-20 Polar Technology Grants were the following:

**Lakota Public School:
Lakota Lego League - \$1,500**

**Northern Cass Public School:
Personalized Learning and
Coding - \$2,500**

This is the 12th year that Polar has provided this grant to schools they serve, totaling almost \$60,000 given to enhance technology in the classroom. Polar is proud to invest in our schools and the community providing value for the future.



Pictured above are: Top L to R, Polar Board Member Lori Dahl, Lakota Instructor Stephanie Nelson, Lakota Technology Coordinator Michelle Fisk, and Lakota Superintendent Kevin Baumgarn. Bottom L to R, Northern Cass Technology Integration Specialist Ben Hannasch, Northern Cass Technology Director Darin Eller, and Polar Board Member Cindy Hejl.

Be sure to check our website for scholarship opportunities.
polarcomm.com/about-us/#scholarships

If you know a student, please encourage them to apply. Applications are due soon!

For questions on any of the scholarships, please contact
Carol LaHaise: 701-284-4361 or clahaise@polartel.com.

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HOW NETFLIX GETS TO YOUR HOME

DCN, Rural Broadband Providers, and the Open Connect Network

It's that time of year again: temperatures are falling, snow is falling, and all you want to do on a Friday night is curl up on the couch with a blanket, a bowl of popcorn, and a marathon of your favorite TV show. Thanks to Netflix, accessing all 234 episodes of *Friends* is now as easy as pressing play—but have you ever wondered how all that content gets to your home?

Netflix's United States library alone holds more than 6,000 titles, and delivering this much content across the country depends on a reliable, high-speed Internet connection. If you live in North Dakota, chances are the show or movie you are currently watching was brought to you by one of the 14 broadband providers that are owners of

Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) and members of the Broadband Association of North Dakota (BAND).

From the server to your screen, here's how Netflix arrives in North Dakota homes.

CREATING A GLOBAL NETWORK

Netflix has evolved from a subscription-based DVD-by-mail service into the most influential video streaming service in the world, with the number of global subscribers increasing from just 4 million in 2005 to nearly 150 million in 2019. In order to keep up with its rapidly growing viewer base,

Netflix has had to make drastic changes to the way it operates.

In the early years of its streaming services, Netflix owned and operated all of its own servers—but these servers simply could not keep up with the breakneck speed at which demand was growing. In order to deliver more content at faster speeds and lower costs, Netflix launched a content delivery network (CDN) called Open Connect in 2011.



A CDN takes content from an original source and copies it onto servers located all over the world. To establish this network, Netflix has reached out to Internet service providers around the globe and provided them with Open Connect appliances to install in their data centers.

These small, rack-mountable boxes contain the Netflix content library, downloaded from the original Netflix servers. Now, every time you log in to Netflix, the app scans for a nearby Open Connect box.

The content you request will be delivered by the Open Connect box nearest you, so your movie or episode can play at the push of a button.

NETFLIX IN NORTH DAKOTA

Netflix has Open Connect appliances in close to 1,000 locations around the world—in cities as large as New York, London, and Tokyo, as remote as the Amazon rainforest, and right here in North Dakota.

“Netflix reached out to DCN in 2014, when they noticed that the majority of subscribers in North Dakota were coming to Netflix through the DCN network,” said Seth Arndorfer, CEO of DCN. “As a result of that, we have worked with Netflix to place a copy of the entire Netflix library in DCN’s data center in Bismarck as well as in Fargo.”

Before Open Connect, when you selected a movie from Netflix on your television in North Dakota, the app would need to request that content from Netflix’s main server in Chicago.

“Think of it as a highway system, and the amount of time that it would take to get from Hettinger, North Dakota to Chicago,” Seth said. “Then, factor in the amount of traffic you would have to compete with to get there.”

On the information superhighway that is the Internet, the farther away a piece of content is located, the more traffic you must compete with to reach it and the longer it will take to load—a phenomenon known as latency.

When it comes to streaming, latency means more buffering, low video quality, and a subpar experience for the viewer.

“Latency is a very important term in our industry. We want to have low latency in all applications,” Seth said. “That’s why we work with Netflix and other content providers to get the content as close to the customer’s eyes as possible, so that the end user experience is as simultaneous as possible.”

Now, instead of traveling all the way to Chicago and back, your request is sent across the state to the Open Connect box in either DCN’s Fargo or Bismarck data centers.



2014

Netflix noticed that the majority of subscribers in North Dakota were coming to Netflix through the DCN network. As a result of that they placed their entire Netflix library in DCN’s data center in Bismarck as well as in Fargo.

Seth Arndorfer, CEO of DCN



2019

As more and more households make the switch from cable and satellite to streaming, the decision to partner with Netflix on the Open Connect network reflects DCN’s ongoing commitment to evolve along with the needs of North Dakotans.

Seth Arndorfer, CEO of DCN



From there, the content travels along NCC’s fiber and appears on your screen within milliseconds.

As more households complement their traditional TV viewing with streaming services, the decision to partner with Netflix on the Open Connect Network reflects DCN’s ongoing commitment to evolve along with the needs of North Dakotans.

“That’s really what DCN does,” Seth said. “We

make investments in North Dakota that are highly technical and complex, but for an end user, it simplifies their life.”

Through this relationship with Netflix, the owners of DCN—North Dakota’s rural broadband service providers—and BAND members are able to deliver content to North Dakota homes at a higher quality and faster speed than ever before, so you don’t have to wait for your next episode of Friends to start.

Interested in getting the best streaming quality possible? Contact your local broadband provider about upgrading your speed!

DIRECTORY AD SALES

Sales executives from Pinnacle Marketing Group will be in our area soon to sell advertising for the official 2020–21 Polar directory. When you advertise in the Polar directory your ad will automatically be featured in our online directory at no additional charge! All website and email addresses are linked. Both the printed and online directories are great tools to connect with your customers and increase visibility. Get the most out of your advertising investment by placing an ad in the Polar Yellow Pages and online directory. For more information regarding advertising, contact Pinnacle Marketing Group at 800.343.8086 or visit www.pinnaclempg.com.



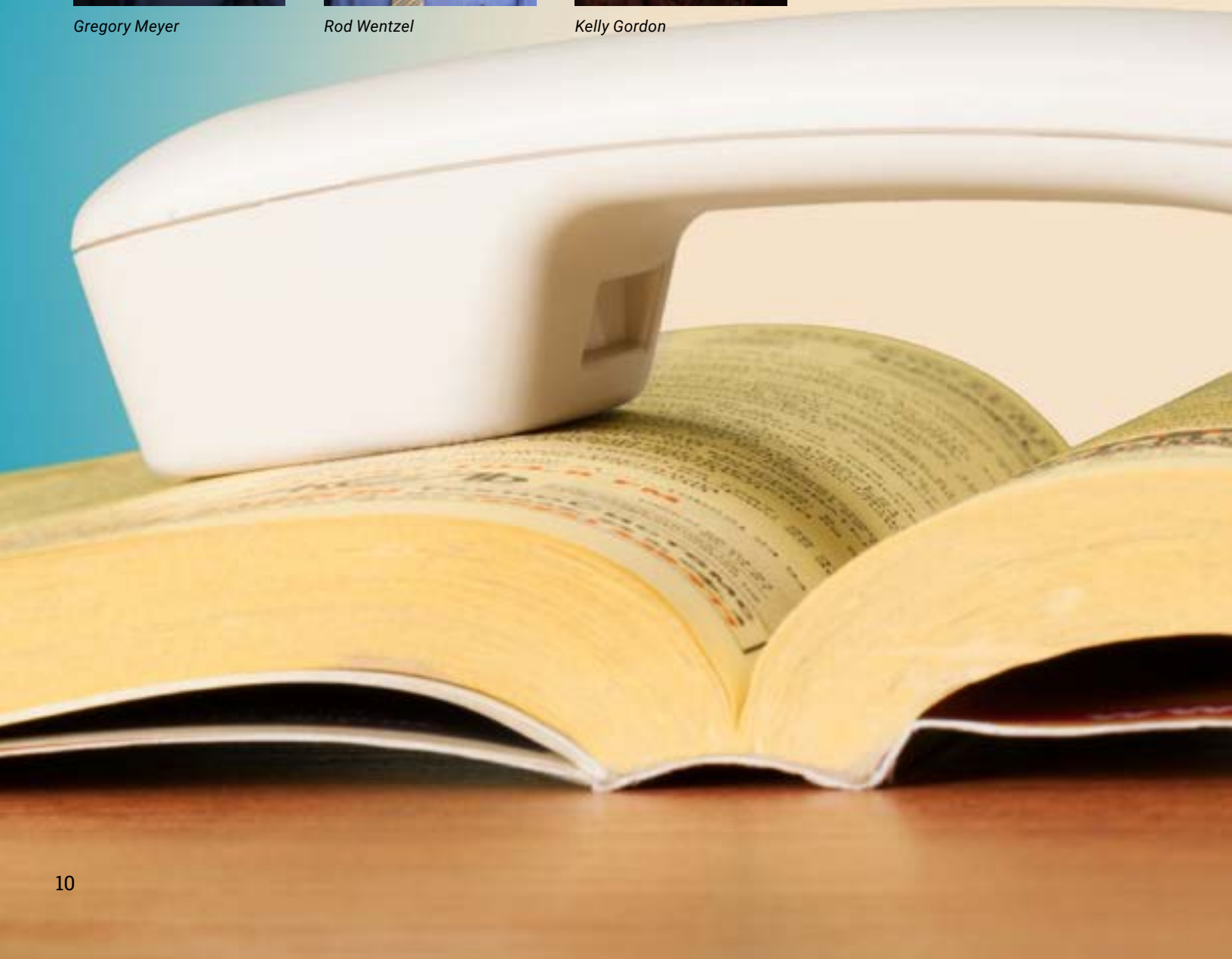
Gregory Meyer



Rod Wentzel



Kelly Gordon





COMING SOON

It's soon college basketball season and Polar is hosting a Pick-It March Mania contest this year! All customers are invited to participate in this fun, free online contest. The best part? You can play Polar March Mania with your friends and neighbors and have the chance to win great prizes, all for free!

Game match-ups will be announced March 15 and the first bracket games start March 19!

Watch for more information, including how to sign up, coming soon!



Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Antonson Melba R. 7 Doheny St N Northwood	701-587-5907	Lowe Lori & Jerry 9953 60 St NE Lawton	701-655-3553
Brown Michael & Kelly 14708 County 1 Bathgate.....	701-265-4032	Swenson Charles & Faye 204 Lincoln St Northwood.....	701-587-5687
Dinkel Carol 13687 84 St NE Crystal.....	701-657-2118	Symington Joe 523 5 Ave Neche	701-886-7477
Ferry Mark & Teresa 3512 Highway 1 Lakota.....	701-247-2802	Thorson Jean 405 Bjornson Dr Cavalier	701-265-8826
Gardner Cynthia R. 215 5th St Petersburg.....	701-345-8209	Uggerud Travis G. 8192 154 Ave NE Drayton	701-257-6406
Hagen Jean M. 307 Washington Ave Northwood.....	701-587-6317	Wells Drinking Well 119 Main St N Fordville.....	701-229-3222
Kiner Steven & Brenda res Neche.....	701-886-7892	Wimpfheimer Aaron B 8193 154 Ave NE Drayton.....	701-257-6522
Lee Howard farm Adams.....	701-966-2518		



PO Box 270 | 110 4th St E
Park River, ND 58270

CONNECTIONS

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www.thinkpolar.com

Business Office:

701.284.7221
800.284.7222
sales@polarcomm.com

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