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JULY/AUGUST 2011

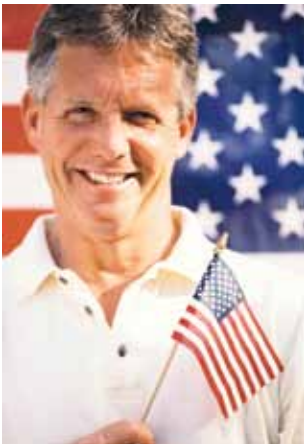
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Celebrate Freedom

As you gather with family and friends this July 4th, we hope you take pride in the many blessings, freedoms, and opportunities we enjoy in the United States. All of us contribute, each in our own way, to making our nation a great place to live.

Our offices will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. We wish you a safe and happy holiday.




West Central
 Telephone Association
We Connect You.™

Landlines are Lifelines

Many people may have thought about eliminating their landline phone and replacing it with a cellphone or Internet-based phone such as a “digital phone” or “VoIP.” But a landline phone is the most reliable device on the market today. It has many advantages over a cellphone or “digital” phone. There are several reasons why a landline is still the best choice — especially in our neck of the woods.

Landline phones provide security in an emergency with reliable 911 services—even if you can't speak, or a young caller doesn't know the address. There is superior quality of sound and clarity. Cellular and Internet-based calls have a place, but no one enjoys delays in conversation or having to repeat oneself because the clarity isn't there. Corded landlines work in power outages and they never need charging. Plus, you have unlimited local calling, better security because the line can't be “hacked” and never a dropped call — the signal is always strong. Your telephone is cheaper in a bundle, and landlines provide a directory listing for free. You also don't have to access (and pay for) the Internet to use the phone. Our customers gave us an outstanding 85 percent satisfaction rating and we believe that part of the reason for such high marks is because we are a local company with local employees in a local office. We live, work, and play here just like you, and we know how important good service is.



With frequent lightning strikes and summer storms, it is a good idea to have a basic wired phone. Cellphones, “digital,” or VoIP phones and cordless phones all rely on power or batteries that need to be charged to work — wired landlines don't.

We have several corded phones to choose from at different price levels and with different price features. Connect one today—and for more information about our money-saving bundles, call 800-945-2163 or visit us online at www.wcta.net!

Protect What's Priceless

Your home, property, and even family members and pets can be at risk when you are away from home. Protect what's yours with digital IP network cameras.

You can keep an eye on your property remotely from any Internet-connected device with a digital IP network camera. Our cameras provide 24/7 surveillance and allow you to have motion-activated digital recordings of all who enter and exit your home or property. The cameras are affordable, and can be used for monitoring any activity in your home. Use it as a nanny cam, or a pet cam, or just keep an eye on your kids this summer while you are at work.



If you are on vacation, and someone breaks into your home or vandalizes your property, the digital recordings are high-resolution and can assist the police with their investigation.

Call West Central at 837-5151 for more information about remote monitoring. With these steps, you can rest easy while you are away.



Why Use a DVR Instead of a VCR?

You've had that VCR for years, and it's long been your way of recording TV shows that you wanted to save and watch later. So why make the switch to a Digital Video Recorder (DVR)?

A DVR offers more features, greater flexibility, and higher quality recordings than a VCR. Here's how the two technologies compare side by side:

VCR	DVR
Set to record and watch later.	Watch one program while recording two shows at the same time.
Watch one program while recording another.	Watch a previously recorded program while recording two more. Start watching the beginning of a show while the rest of the show continues to record.
Records to tapes.	Records to built-in hard drive. No tapes required.
Can record High Definition TV programming but playback is downgraded to analog quality.	Record High Definition TV programming with digital quality playback.
Must record program before you can pause, rewind, or fast forward.	Allows you to pause and rewind live TV.
Must be on a specific channel to record.	Allows you to watch other channels while recording takes place.
Recording is set up by time — not program.	Can be programmed to record recurring programs either first-run only or all.

To order West Central Video from WCTA and enjoy the convenience of DVR service, call us today at 837-5151 or toll free at 800-945-2163 or visit us online at www.wcta.net.

Procrastination Will Cost You

Monthly bills are mailed the first of each month and are due by the 20th of that month. If payment has not been received by the due date, not only will a final notice be sent, but you'll be charged a late payment fee of 1.5 percent on all balances over \$25.

If you disregard a final notice, and a disconnection occurs, not only is a full payment (or reasonable payment arrangements) required to restore service, you'll be charged reconnection fees — \$23.50 for reconnection of telephone, \$7 for reconnection of dial-up Internet, \$25 for reconnection of video and/or high speed Internet.

If you pay your bill with a check or debit card without sufficient funds in the bank to cover the amount, you will be subject to disconnection, and you'll automatically incur a \$30 NSF charge.

The solution? Save time—and money—with E-bill. It's easy to setup, there are never any checks to write or stamps to buy, and you can view and pay your bill online automatically, or on the day you choose.

FTTH Project Postponed

Sometimes events in other parts of the world indirectly impact our business plans. Case in point, the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan mid-March is delaying our fiber to the home (FTTH) projects. Japan supplied 28 percent of the world's fiber-optic cabling, and with 80 percent of their manufacturing sites wiped out, it's questionable when we will see our orders filled.

Because equipment and supplies are on backorder, our original plans to bring FTTH to the Wolf Lake area beginning mid-June have already been delayed, causing us to postpone this project altogether.



We are hopeful that supplies will arrive in time to complete the Menahga rural FTTH project that was started in March. We will update you as soon as we know more.

Support the Troops & Ride

The 8th Annual Honor Ride Fundraiser leaves the Wadena VFW located at 213 SE 1st Street at noon on August 6, 2011 — rain or shine. Registration is from 10:00am to 11:45am. The fee is \$15 for each person and includes a meal after the ride. The ride goes 110 miles with two stops.



For more information contact Karla Richardson at karla.richardson@us.army.mil.

Unclaimed Checks

Each year, many capital credit checks are returned because of incomplete or noncurrent addresses. Some checks that have been received by customers are never cashed. If your name or someone you know appears on the list below, we may be holding a capital credits check from 2004. If you know any of the following people, please contact the office at 837-5151 or 800-945-2163.

Mary Aguilar	Fannie J. Daggett	Victor Isaacson	Gordon Nelson	Michael Sickels
Anthony & Rhonda Aho	Ryan Delaske	Candy Jackson	Sarah Nelson	Spirit Lake Motel
Keith Aho	Delta Environment Consult	Hannah Jacobson	Jane Norman	Randy Sporre
John Alto	Todd Doll	Gale A Johnson	Larry Norris	Patrick & Deb Stanton
Jonathan Anderson	Etters Dairy	Joan Kealy	North-West Cellular Inc	Harlan Stockwell
David & Rebecca Andres	Judy Evans	John Klemek	Mrs Lola R Olson	Larry Stucy
Kimberly Baker	Paige Evans	Linda Knapp	Catherine Oster	Christina Suhl
Carl A & Lucille Bergman	Tim Faerber	William Krell	DH (Mildred) Peterson	Floyd Suhl
Lee Bernier	Kathryn Fairchild	Kumpula Olga	Jim & Gail Peterson	Paul & Nola Swartz
Kevin Berry	Ralph Fick	Kelly Kuschel	Marie R Peterson	Doris Thompson
Robert Berttunen	Larry Fix	Trudy Kutzorik	Steven Peterson	Shannon Thompson
Robert & Karen Bourne	Feliciano Gomez	Gary H Lamp	Eric Pickar	Kenneth W Torma
Daniel Boyer	Frank Gordon	Barbara & Linda Larson	Jayne Pickar	Dean Tschudi
Trina Brackin	Mrs Lea Haavisto	Ophelia Lehner	Linnie (Holmgren) Pickar	Aaron Webb
John Bristlin	Lawrence Hammerbacker	Henry Leih	John A Pierce	Mrs Florence Weber
Debra Brown	Allan Hanson	Eugene Leonard	Emil Pietila	Ron Wielinski
Steve Brown	Laura Hanson	Harriet Litchfield	Irene Puttonen	Mike Willis Sr
Judi Brunner	Tom Hanson	Pennie Lottman	Dean Rohr	Virginia Wolke
Michael A Carpick	Ken Harrison	Dorothy Malaney	S & M Auto	World Wide Salvage
Melissa Champagne	Matt Hendrickson	Garrett Marshall	Lanny Salmen	Gerald Worster
Howard Cloud	Kathy Hummingbird	Jeannie Martini	Charles Schleder	Billy Young
Tom Crawford	Steve Hunter	Steven & Rita McComas	Jeff & Sawn Schwartz	Donald Zartwell
Annarika Creamer	Donald Ihme	Guy McDonald	Linda Seed	
J. & L. Cutler		Tammi McFadzen	Lorraine Settle	
		Donald Molter	Lee Shepersky	

All checks that are not claimed will be turned into the State of Minnesota as unclaimed property by October 15, 2011. If the unclaimed property remains unclaimed, then after a reasonable time, the state returns the money to the WCTA Scholarship Program. Typically, this money would be lost to us, but because of our cooperative status, we are able to use the funds to benefit the scholarship program.



Welcome, New Members

Barlow, Michael A	538-6768
Baso, Dorothy	564-5552
Blanchard, Eleanor	564-5493
Brown, Kelly	445-5499
Brown, Terena	445-5569
Carpenter, Kenneth	445-5548
Dahmen, Thomas	564-5595
Decker, Curt	472-3147
Ewert, Helen	564-5545
Goffin, Marilyn	564-5540
Gumke, Harry	445-7220
Harvala, Floyd	564-5526
Heath, Rick	564-5571
Hillstrom, Susan	564-5939
Holden, Brian	564-5502
Iwen, Jocelynn	564-5519
Janicke, Roy A	837-5918
Jenson, Fletcher	472-3148
Jones, Patrick	564-5573
Keranen, Brian	538-6046
Lindner, Dennis	445-5446
Little, Ryan	564-5561
Lueck, Jeannie M	837-5919
MacDonald, Craig R	564-5583
Makela, Vicki	837-5930
Marjamaa-Grangruth, Jan ..	564-5547
Mayer, Quade	564-5515
Michalski, Christopher	564-5528
Osburn, Cindy	837-5968
Pederson & Pederson Pa...	564-5565
Preiner, Amanda	564-5548
Prunty, Patricia	564-5505
Pulju, Austin D	837-5926
Rice, Mark	445-5559
Ritts, Vera	837-5890
Rogers, Gary	564-5520
Rosin, Sue	445-5540
Schleder, Missy	837-5955
Snyder, Dustin T	445-5442
Stiles, Mary	472-3356
T&P Properties LLC	564-5549
Tangeman, Mindy S	837-5941
Tyrrell, James	445-5558
Vaerst, Martha	564-5596
Walter, Donna	837-5754
Whirley, Joshua J	564-5581

Save Time and Trees With Electronic Billing

Do something nice for yourself and Mother Earth. Switch from paper to electronic bills, statements, and payments. You'll save time by eliminating the clutter of paper statements and the need to write and mail checks. You'll also help conserve resources and protect the environment.

According to a study conducted by the PayItGreen Alliance, a coalition of financial service companies, the average American household receives 19 bills and financial statements in the mail every month and makes seven payments in paper form. Here's the impact on the environment if just two percent more households made the switch to electronic bills and payments:

- More than 15 million pounds of paper would be saved, preserving more than 181,000 trees.
- Emissions of more than 390 million pounds of greenhouse gases would be halted.
- More than 143 million gallons of wastewater would be prevented from entering the environment.

To find out your financial paper footprint, click on "Green Calculators" at www.payitgreen.org.

To sign up for E-bill, simply visit www.wcta.net, click "Payments," then "E-bill Login." Once on the E-bill Welcome screen, choose the option below the login box to register. Be sure to leave the box "Continue Paper Billing" unchecked to save on paper waste.



Economic Developer for Region

Whether you're looking to start a new business, expand your existing business, or have an idea about how to strengthen the economic vitality of your town, you now have a dedicated resource right in Sebeka that you can turn to. The West Central Economic Development Alliance's (WCEDA) primary goal is economic development for the west central region. Newly hired Executive Director J.B. Scherbenske brings over 20 years of professional experience in business and economic development.

Mr. Scherbenske will be meeting with area business people and community leaders over the next few months to learn more about the hopes and challenges facing this area. Although he is employed by WCEDA, his office will be located in the front area of the WCTA Sebeka headquarters to provide a convenient central location. You are encouraged to stop by and say hello!