



# inter face

MARCH/APRIL 09

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## OUTDOOR PROJECTS? DIAL 811 FIRST!

West Central Telephone reminds you to pick up your phone before you pick up your shovel.

Dialing before you dig isn't just a recommendation — it's the law. By digging without knowing where electrical, gas, cable TV and other service lines are, you could harm yourself or others, or interrupt services to your entire neighborhood. You may even incur fines and repair costs.

Call Gopher State One by dialing 811, and representatives will route your request to local utility companies, who will have professionals mark your lines. Call at least 48 hours prior to doing any work, to allow time for them to mark your property.



**West Central**  
Telephone Association  
*We Connect You.™*

## \$8,000 Earmarked for 2009 Graduates

West Central Telephone invites all area high school seniors to apply for a scholarship. Each year, up to eight, \$1,000 scholarships are awarded. Special preference will be given to one scholarship recipient with a declared telecommunications major, although the scholarship committee has sole discretion.

The scholarship program is made possible through unclaimed capital credit checks. Because of our cooperative status, we are able to use these funds to benefit the scholarship program. At this time, there is approximately \$38,000 funding the scholarship program.

Our scholarship program is another benefit available to cooperative members. We would like to see more members apply—there are typically only 25 to 30 applicants each year. If you know a deserving high school senior, please encourage him or her to apply. There are no income guidelines or GPA requirements to meet, simply complete the application, write a brief essay on your chosen topic and submit by the deadline. For more detailed information and applications, contact your area high school counselors. You may also contact Geri Salmela with additional questions at 218-837-5151 or by e-mail at [geris@wcta.net](mailto:geris@wcta.net).



Scholarship candidates must complete the application online and write a short essay on one of the recommended topics. Some tips to keep in mind are:

- Applications can be found online at [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net).
- Check your spelling and grammar usage carefully.
- Write what *you* know, and how *you* feel about the topic.

There is still time to apply — the deadline for applications is April 10, 2009. Good luck!

# CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THESE MONEY-SAVING BUNDLE OPTIONS



## RES1.....\$71.95

- 113 Digital TV Channels
- Caller ID + ScreenPOP (includes 2 set top boxes)
- 1 Residential Phone Line + Enhanced Wire Maintenance

## RES2.....\$99.95

- Everything in Res1 + PikeLine 5 Mbps Internet Connection
- Basic Voice Mail
- Call Waiting/Call Waiting ID, 3Way Calling, Call Forward Busy/No Answer, Speed 30, Smart Screening

## RES3.....\$121.95

- Everything in Res1 + PikeLine 5 Mbps Internet Connection + 46 Additional Digital Channels
- Voice Mail Plus + Visual Message Waiting Indicator
- Find Me
- Call Waiting/Call Waiting ID, 3Way Calling, Originating Call Management, Wake Up Plus

## NET1.....\$59.95

- PikeLine 3 Mbps Internet Connection
- 1 Residential Phone Line + enhanced wire maintenance
- Caller ID + Smart Screening

## Pick a Bundle, Save a Bundle!

You've probably been hearing a lot about service bundles, but you may have wondered what all the hype is about. What is a bundle, anyway? Simply put, it's a package of communications services provided by a single company. By bundling, you can save money and enjoy other advantages as well.

With bundles from West Central Telephone, you can choose to combine your residential phone line with special calling features, high-speed Internet and/or digital cable TV. When you do, you can truly save a bundle versus paying for each service separately with multiple providers. Plus, special promotional pricing can save even more in the short-term. In some cases, you may find yourself paying hundreds of dollars a year less!

Beyond cost benefits, bundles offer greater convenience as well. With West Central as your single service provider, you'll have just one company that you know and trust, where you can call for assistance with all of your telecom services. Plus, you'll receive just a single, convenient bill each month to make paying bills easier than ever. And, you'll earn cash back in the form of capital credits for each and every service you get from us!



West Central makes it easy to choose the right package. Just give us a call at 218-837-5151 or 800-945-2463 to start saving today! For more information, visit us online at [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net).



## VOICE MAIL

### NOW MORE POPULAR THAN EVER

The benefits of voice mail are being recognized in the home and more families than ever are adding this feature to their residential phone packages. Gone are the days of purchasing and replacing specialized machines and worn-out tapes that take up space in your kitchen or home office.

With voice mail, you can enjoy:

- 24/7 service.
- No more missed calls.
- Greater capacity.
- Ability to divert calls.

Ask about voice mail, and see how it can help you!

## IN MEMORY

John Oehlschlager  
September 28, 1940 - February 2, 2009

West Central Telephone Association  
mourns the loss of John Oehlschlager,  
an outstanding member of our Board of Directors  
since April 30, 2001. He will be greatly missed.



## KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR HOME Even While You're Away

You already trust West Central Telephone to bring you quality, affordable communications services. Now you can trust us to protect your home and family, too, thanks to our high-tech digital Internet-based camera systems. IP network cameras offer flexibility and performance for residential and commercial applications. They also answer to the demands of ease of use and remote monitoring. Imagine the peace of mind. Monitor a home or office — live, in color—from a web browser or even a compatible cell phone!

The applications are endless — in the home, keep an eye on the nursery while your child is in the care of a babysitter, keep an eye on pets while you are at work, monitor the pool or backyard area while your children are at play, or just keep an eye on your

property. Some examples of business applications include construction sites, video conferencing, remote warehouses, retail and convenience stores and more. All cameras can be accessed online, in real-time from anywhere and they record and store crisp, digital images.

We'll work with you to configure the best system for your needs, and offer you affordable payment options. Best of all, you don't need any technical expertise to get your security cameras up and running. Our team will install and test it for you. Plus, you'll enjoy the same, local service you've come to expect from West Central.

Rest easier knowing your family, home and precious belongings are protected with IP network cameras from West Central. To learn more or to schedule installation, give us a call today at 837-5151.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the WCTA Annual Meeting

The 59th Annual Meeting of the Members of WCTA is scheduled for May 11, 2009, at 7:00pm and will once again be held at the Sebek High School Auditorium.

Items for consideration include presentation of reports of officers and the manager, election of a director to represent the Sebek exchange and any other business that comes before the meeting.

Bruce Kinnunen, who serves as President of the WCTA Board representing the Sebek exchange, will seek re-election. The Nominations and Elections Committee will officially appoint the candidate(s) who wish to serve as directors at their meeting scheduled March 19, 2009. Members of the 2009 Nominations and Election Committee include Dave Fjeldheim and Ross Beaumont of Sebek, Brian Madsen of Menahga, Harvey Aho of Wolf Lake, Mark Callahan of Verndale and Pat Pederson of Nimrod.

If you are interested in running for the Sebek seat on the board, please contact a committee member prior to their March 19 meeting. All interested parties should review the Bylaws found in the 2009 WCTA directory. You may also call the office at 218-837-5151 for more information about the election process or to express your interest.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ashman, Kevin ..... 445-5181  
 Blueberry, Bugler..... 564-5028  
 Buchholz, Jocelynn.....837-5487  
 Casavan, Joshua.....837-1970  
 Gavin, Thomas..... 472-3120  
 Hamp, Michael.....472-3118  
 Haverinen, Edwin .....564-4975  
 Larson, Melissa ..... 564-5024  
 Makela, Elaine .....564-0416  
 Nickerson, Warren.....564-4985  
 Nikkari, Vickie .....837-5533  
 Paripovich, Dewey.....564-5012  
 Perry, Danielle ..... 564-5009  
 Peterson, Emily ..... 564-4991  
 Puttonen, Kayla .....837-5472  
 Riemann, Lillie .....564-5013  
 Skarka, Bill.....445-4861  
 Stelzer, Gary.....564-5007  
 Subway.....564-7827  
 Tub & Tj Farms, Inc. ....837-5473  
 Waaraniemi, Anna .....564-5041  
 Winter, Kyle ..... 472-3122  
 Wolf Lake  
 Rescue Squad .....538-6032

# Stay Out of the Cold

## Get your computer fixed without ever leaving home!

West Central's TotalTech can help you fix your computer while you stay inside. No hauling wires, computer towers and monitors to the repair shop — TotalTech will remotely repair your computer!



### TOTAL TUNEUP ..... \$49.95

Professionally administered PC diagnostic scan and performance tune-up. This service deletes unnecessary files on your hard drive, recommends and removes unneeded programs, adjusts PC settings and performs an HD defrag and other general cleaning. A custom report is e-mailed to you upon completion!

### VIRUS + SPYWARE REMOVAL ..... \$89.95

Scan and identify computer threats, followed by the professional removal of malicious code via a secure remote connection. Before the session is ended, our trained technicians will perform necessary anti-virus and Windows updates. In addition we will provide you with helpful tips on avoiding infection in the future.

### COMPLETE CARE ..... \$109.95

Combines our Total TuneUp service with our Virus + Spyware Removal giving you over \$25.00 in savings!

### ADVANCED REPAIR ..... \$89.95

Quality advice and remote support to diagnose and repair any computer problem outside the scope of our TuneUp and Virus + Spyware Removal.

### OS TRAINING + CUSTOMIZATION ..... \$49.95

Provides a personal, in-depth walk through of your new operating system as well as customization of settings and features so your new computer can serve you better!

### TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ..... \$169.95

Get full access to all of our TotalTech services and benefits for an entire year all for one low price! Complement this service with SecureIT, our powerful virus protection software and OnlineBackup service and have total peace of mind!

## Stay Safe During Spring Storms

Spring is almost here, and with it will undoubtedly come another wave of thunderstorms. Remember — a lightning bolt can carry billions of watts of electricity. If a strike occurs near your home, it can send a powerful surge that could damage your electronics and potentially injure you.

To help stay safe and protect your electronic investments, be sure to unplug your computers, televisions, modems, fax machines, VCRs, cable outlets, and

telephones before bad weather hits, so you're not in contact with these items during the storm. In addition, avoid contact with metallic items and plumbing, including faucets and bathtubs, until the storm is over.

Of course, a storm can strike any time, and you may not be home to prepare adequately. With that in mind, it's a good idea to have a surge protector with a built-in phone line. It won't provide 100% protection, but it will help. And while you're at it, you may want to ask your insurance provider



what's covered under your homeowners policy in the event of storm damage.

For more tips on staying safe this season, and throughout the year, visit the Electrical Safety Foundation International website at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).