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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

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Like to Join the Nominations & Election Committee?

As a member of West Central Telephone, you're eligible to serve on the Nominations & Election Committee, which appoints qualified candidates to run for directorship, collects ballots, and verifies election results at the annual meeting held in May. If you're interested, call us at 837-5151 before January 21.



Does Your Business Need Help Managing Technology?

You probably already know that WCTA provides business phone systems, security systems and surveillance solutions for residents and businesses. But did you know we offer other services tailored to small and medium sized businesses?

These services include business continuity plans. Sometimes referred to as disaster recovery plans, we focus on keeping your business-critical data safe so that in the event of a disaster, your business can continue.

Our team can help prepare you for catastrophe with a strategy that includes:

- On-premise and cloud backup- or both
- Setup and maintenance of networks, hardware and equipment
- Anti-virus/anti-malware for your servers and computers

Depending on your needs, we can also help you with network management, computer setup and repair, virus removal and cleanup, data transfer backup and more. **We can also help you upgrade from *Windows 7 to Windows 10 Pro, making sure all your data is migrated to the new operating system. Call today for 15% off labor to upgrade.**

Let our team of IT professionals help manage your technology. Call 837-5151 today.

**End of life for Windows 7 is January 14, 2020; offer good until February 28, 2019.*



Social Security Administration Warns of Phone Scam

West Central wants you to be aware of an ongoing Caller ID "spoofing" scam misusing the Social Security Administration's (SSA) national customer service phone number, 1-800-772-1213. SSA has received reports from across the country of questionable phone calls displaying this number on the Caller ID screen.

People who have accepted the calls said the caller identifies as an SSA employee. In some cases, the caller states that SSA does not have all of the person's personal information, such as their Social Security number (SSN), on file. Other callers claim SSA needs additional information so the agency can increase the person's benefit payment, or that SSA will terminate the person's benefits if they do not confirm their information.

SSA employees will never threaten you for information or promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information. If you get a call like this, hang up. Do not engage with the caller or provide any information.

Follow West Central on Facebook to stay informed about phone and online scams being reported in our community.



Contest Winners Announced

Dionne Oehlenschlager of Sebeka submitted the winning photo featured on the cover of the 2019 WCTA Directory. Dionne sent several photos for consideration but catching the Wood Duck with his wings spread mid-flight was a great shot that made our directory cover pop! Dionne won \$200 for her winning entry.

Six fabulous artists placed first in their age division in the annual WCTA Holiday Coloring Contest. These winners were Austin Ervin-Tupper, Charlotte Johnson, Mia Dozier, Hannah Haataja, Mayci Baker and Holly Ylitalo.



Dionne Oehlenschlager



What's New with West Central TV

Here's the latest on programming including channel additions, HD programming additions, and rebrands and drops:

- Current TV packages include networks from the Fargo and Minneapolis area, which means you've been paying for CBS of Fargo and CBS of Minneapolis. You now have the option of dropping the redundant network package and shaving \$8.50 off your TV package.
- New packages called Entertainment and Ultimate are available. These packages include most-watched channels and drop the ones that are less watched. We pass the savings on to you.
- Weather Central on channel 29 was dropped to save on rising costs. For the most current and local weather, simply press the red button on your remote control. From there, you can see the forecast and radar.
- You can connect your Amazon Echo to your TV with the Channel Surfer skill. Once this skill is enabled in your Alexa app, and you link your TV with the app, you can use voice commands to control your TV service.



For the current channel lineup, visit www.wcta.net. If you have questions about these new options and programming changes, call us at 837-5151.

Check Out Our Scholarship Opportunities



As an investment in our youth, we're committed to the future of rural Minnesota. We're pleased to announce the following scholarship opportunities and invite all high school seniors to apply.

FRS College Scholarship Program

The FRS College Scholarship Program awards scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to winning applicants across the nation, with a \$500 match by the sponsoring telco (for a total of \$2,500 each). This year, they will be awarding \$125,000 in scholarships in honor of the Foundation's 25th anniversary. FRS Scholarship applications are due in the WCTA office by February 18.

Students may also be eligible for a Staurulakis Family Scholarship valued at \$5,000 or a TMS Scholarship for \$1,500 each. Students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine are given preference for the Staurulakis Family Scholarships. One \$7,000 Everett Kneese Return to Rural America Scholarship will also be awarded this year. In addition, students could receive a \$500 Roger Alan Cox Scholarship.

For applications and guidelines, see your high school guidance counselor or download the application from the FRS Website at <http://www.frs.org>.

Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation Scholarships

The Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation is offering \$2,000 scholarships

to high school seniors who graduate in 2019. Scholarships are awarded after the student demonstrates successful completion of the first year of college or technical school. The application deadline is February 22. Applications must be returned to WCTA for signature.

WCTA Scholarship Program

High school seniors can also apply for one of eight scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The deadline for the WCTA Scholarship applications is April 5. Our scholarship program has been established to encourage youth in our area to further their education after graduating from high school and 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.

2nd Year or Beyond Scholarship

Current college students are urged to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship through the 2nd Year or Beyond Scholarship. Students who graduated from high school and are from any one of the telephone exchanges of WCTA currently attending 2nd year or beyond higher education are eligible. Past scholarship winners are also eligible. The deadline on the 2nd Year or Beyond Scholarship application is May 31.

Links to all scholarships are found on www.wcta.net under the Scholarships tab. Please call Geri Salmela at 837-5151 or email your questions to geris@wcta.net.

Disney Double Feature!

Tangled/Brave

Premiering February 2

STARZ



Tangled @ 6:00 pm

The magically long-haired Rapunzel has spent her entire life in a tower, but now that a runaway thief has stumbled upon her, she is about to discover the world for the first time, and who she really is.



Brave @ 8:00 pm

Determined to make her own path in life, Princess Merida defies a custom that brings chaos to her kingdom. Granted one wish, Merida must rely on her bravery and her archery skills to undo a beastly curse.

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Brave ©DISNEY/PIXAR. All Rights Reserved. STARZ® and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Visit starz.com for airdates/times.

Welcome New, Members

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Bakke, Rose | 837-5686 |
| Carlson, Malynda | 445-2725 |
| Doeden, Patti | 445-5839 |
| Dollar General | 837-0785 |
| Eguwe, Daniel | 629-1249 |
| Ervasti, Teresa | 837-8176 |
| Farmers Union Insurance | 564-5300 |
| Fiedler, Adam | 445-6053 |
| Haataja, Daryl | 564-0190 |
| Hansen, Luke | 837-2224 |
| Haverinen, Kara | 837-9573 |
| Hed, Benjamin | 564-8157 |
| Hendrickx, Michael | 837-4176 |
| Hensel, Mikayla | 564-3034 |
| Hirschey, Jolynn | 445-2007 |
| Howard, Damon | 837-8761 |
| Impola, Elma | 837-3958 |
| Johnson, Robert | 445-5495 |
| Keranen, Michelle | 538-1131 |
| Labs, Brian | 472-8198 |
| Larson, Eunice | 837-5613 |
| Lehner, Chris | 564-7623 |
| Maki, Olga E | 564-8362 |
| Moulzolf, Doug | 445-6079 |
| Newhouse, Jordan | 564-7916 |
| Perala, Kinsey | 837-1438 |
| Perius, Chris | 414-6144 |
| Peyton, Jerry | 837-3186 |
| Pope, Kay | 538-5580 |
| Ramsay, Tom | 538-6694 |
| Riutta, Bernice | 564-7355 |
| Sandberg, Scott | 564-0808 |
| Sweere, Derek | 564-2343 |
| Torgerson, Brandon | 837-3741 |
| White, Ralph | 564-0881 |
| Wofford, Ethan | 538-1765 |
| Ylitalo, Ashley | 564-6203 |



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Lakes Store All

Rural Park Rapids welcomed Lakes Store All in the summer of 2018. Lakes Store All offers massive storage units with 56 garages in eight sizes. Owners Paul and Katie Johannning are also crop farmers with five children. With such a busy life, they love that they can run the business from home using technology from West Central Telephone.

West Central Telephone created a fiber network from the storage units to their house. A Ring video doorbell notifies the couple when customers arrive at the storage buildings. Paul and Katie also have security measures in place with a robust surveillance system. They said, "Working with West Central Telephone made it easy to get the services that help us run our business with ease."

The Johannnings have built a state-of-the-art facility, and since all the storage units are now full, they hope to expand in the future.

If you're in need of a place for storage, you can find Lakes Store All at 15670 County 6, Park Rapids or call 218-380-7447. You can also find them on Facebook.

Call West Central Telephone at 218-837-5151 to learn about security, surveillance, internet and other technology solutions for your business.