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JULY/AUGUST 2010

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We Celebrate Heartfelt Pride

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.

As an active part of this community for 60 years, West Central Telephone has had the privilege of providing the communications services you need to get more from each day. Our goal is to help you stay in touch with the people you care about, both here at home and around the world.

Our offices will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day. We wish you a safe and happy holiday.



Let Freedom Ring...Not Telemarketers

The National Do Not Call Registry has successfully reduced, but not completely eliminated, annoying and disruptive calls from telemarketers. That's because the National Do Not Call Registry does not stop calls from the following groups:

- Political organizations
- Charities
- Telephone surveyors
- Companies with which you have an existing business relationship

To avoid having your 4th of July celebrations and valuable family time or dinner hours interrupted by these types of calls, get Smart Screening from West Central Telephone. It automatically screens each call before the phone rings and blocks unwanted calls. You don't have to do a thing — the service does it all for you.

How does Smart Screening work? When telemarketers call, they hear the announcement, "The number you have reached does not accept calls from Telemarketers. If you are a Telemarketer, please add this number to your Do Not Call list and hang up now. Otherwise, please press '1' or stay on the line." Callers will hear the announcement the first time they call and then the service "learns" that they are accepted callers and they won't hear the message again.



You also have the freedom to block other types of unwanted calls. If you receive a call from a particular number and decide you don't want that number to call you again, you can dial a feature code after completing the call. The number will be automatically added to your blocked number list and further calls from that number will not be allowed to go through.

Smart Screening is available from West Central for just \$2.95 per month and is effective as soon as you subscribe. To order or for more information, just call our office at 837-5151.

Proper Way to Display the Flag

Many people want to proudly display the American flag but aren't sure of proper flag etiquette. For handy reference, here's a brief list of guidelines according to the United States Flag Code:

- Display the flag only from sunrise to sunset, unless you have it properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.
- When hanging either horizontally or vertically, the union should be uppermost and to the observer's left.
- The flag should never be displayed with the union down.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it such as the ground or the floor.

- Never use the flag as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery.
- When a flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

For more information, visit www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette-display.shtml.



Protect Your Home Before Your Vacation

You see your vacation as an opportunity for fun and relaxation. Unfortunately, burglars see it as an opportunity to more easily get inside your house and take off with your valuables.

You can do a lot to reduce your chances of being a property crime victim by taking simple precautions to protect your home before you leave town:

- Inform trusted neighbors that you will be gone and for how long. Ask them to keep an eye on your home.
- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have a neighbor pick them up each day.
- Depending on the season, make arrangements to have your lawn mowed or snow shoveled so that your house appears occupied. Also use timers on lights, setting them to go on at different times.
- Double check that you've locked all doors and windows, including all doors in the garage. You may want to unplug the cord to the garage door opener so it can't be opened with a code.
- Don't announce your absence on your answering machine or voice mail message.

- If you have a security system on your house, make sure it is working and on.
- Don't leave a key hidden outside. Leave it with a friend or family member instead.
- Install digital network cameras. West Central Telephone can design and install a net-cam security system that will allow you to literally keep an eye on your home and property while you're away. All you need is a broadband connection and computer or mobile device to view your live cameras over the internet.

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



Fireworks Safety Tips

West Central Telephone wants you and your family to have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July holiday.

To help keep it bright without getting burned, we're sharing these safety tips from the National Council on Fireworks Safety:

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Always have water handy — a hose or bucket.
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type.
- Never use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives.



You Know You're Living in 2010 When...

1. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
2. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they aren't on Facebook.
3. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic. You turn around to go get it.



**Celebrating 60 years
all year long!**

Check the List of Unclaimed Checks

Each year many capital credits 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 2003. If you know any of the following people, please contact the office at 837-5151 or 800-945-2163.

Mary Aguilar	Darla (Dahlvang)	Candy Jackson	Gordon Nelson	Julie Reed (Snyder)
Jason & Amy Aho	Vanourkerk	Jeffrey Johnson	Pat Neurer	Randy Sporre
Jason & Cindy Aho	George & Dea Davis	Lois M Johnson	Alan Nevala	Patrick & Deb Stanton
Christina Aker	Delta Environment Consult	Joan Kealy	Viola Nevala	Christina Suhl
Kimberly Baker	Joe Devore	Mark Kelzenberg	Larry Norris	Shannon Thompson
Paul Barnett	Joel Dufault	Ann Klauenberg	North-West Cellular Inc	Nells Thorsen
David Bartel	Tim Faerber	Kelly Kuschel	Jack O'Brien	John Tormanen
Lucille & Carl A Bergman	Kathryn Fairchild	Trudy Kutzorik	Nowelle Gregory	Dean Tschudi
June Bjerkness	Ralph Fick	Kari Kvamme	Hulda Oltman	UpNorthVillage %Nancy Hillukka
Andy Borg	Frank Gordon	Janelle Lake	Kim Parkos	Lynda Vedbraaten
Robert & Karen Bourne	Eric Haataja	Paul Larson	Marlin Paulston Jr	Verndale Ag Service Inc
Daniel Boyer	Mark Haataja	David Lundquist	Juan Payan	Lorman Vilhauer
John Bristlin	Tom Hanson	Dorothy Malaney	D H (Mildred) Peterson	Jeff Voigt
Debra Brown	Ken Harrison	Clarence Marjama	Jim & Gail Peterson	Aaron Webb
Steve Bruce	Mick Harwood	Garrett Marshall	Marie R Peterson	Mrs Florence Weber
Lisa Cannon	Wayne Haverinen	Norman Maunu	John A Pierce	Ron Wielinski
Michael A Carpick	Ruben Hieb	Tammi Mcfadzen	Emil Pietila	Christian Wilson
Dave Christianson	Kathy Hummingbird	Thelma Meadows	Deborah Reed	Virginia Wolk
Fannie J Daggett	Steve Hunter	Jeff Mehl	Howard A Roberts	Ron & Melissa Yliniemi
		Alice Myllykangas	Linda Seed	

All checks that are not claimed will be turned into the State of Minnesota as unclaimed property by October 15, 2010. 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

Aag, James M	564-5478
Aho, Charles V	564-5364
Beck, Charles H	564-5392
Beier, Nicholas	564-5420
Boe, Brian	837-2979
Burt, Connie	837-6215
Cooperative Network Services.....	564-3000
Davenport, Lyle	564-5127
David, Danae	564-0466
Doss, Dawn.....	564-5367
Gilbert, Joyce	564-5775
Hamp, Rochelle.....	564-5371
Hanson, Donny	445-5385
Hultgren, Carl.....	837-5653
JD Gilmer Trucking	564-5386
Klug, Tammi	564-5913
Kramer, Tony	445-7730
Larson, Wayne	837-5802
Lesnau, Cindy	564-5368
Line, Donald.....	445-4119
Makela, Maxine.....	837-5703
Moats, Michael.....	564-5925
Orlando, Mike.....	445-5717
Paananen, Reino	564-2222
Peterson, Brent	837-5722
Peterson, Steve.....	564-5362
Pierce, James	445-2208
Prodahl, Marlene H.....	837-5740
Schmitz, Ryan.....	445-5296
Seip Drug, LLC.....	564-4655
Solberg, Kent	445-7580
Swanson, Debra	472-3267
Taylor, Joseph	564-5370
The Anchor Youth Center.	445-5384
Ward, Shane	837-5705
Watson, Nile	837-5815
Yungbauer, Albert.....	837-1138

SUPPORT THE TROOPS AND RIDE

The Wadena National Guard invites you to take part in the 7th Annual Honor Ride Fundraiser. The motorcycle ride leaves the Wadena VFW located at 213 SE 1st Street at noon, sharp—rain or shine, on July 31, 2010. Registration is from 10:00am-11:45am with a \$15 entry fee per person. Food will be available before and after the ride, plus door prizes. There will also be a silent auction. All funds raised will benefit troops and their families.

This is a great cause and the only fundraiser that the Wadena Family Readiness Group hosts. So, come on out, support your troops, and have fun on the ride!

Those wanting to take part in the Honor Ride should contact Val Schmitz at 445-5625, or Karla Richardson at karla.richardson@us.army.mil.

