



inter face

JULY/AUGUST 2019

THIS ISSUE

- 02 Fox Sports North Sold
- 03 Netflix Recommends at Least 25 Mbps
- 03 Summer Cookout in Nimrod
- 04 Spotlight: Rife's Stop N Shop



Go Forth With Gusto This Fourth

West Central Telephone hopes you enjoy a red, white, and blue-tiful July 4th celebration with family and friends. May this holiday remind all of us to treasure our country's strengths as well as work to make our communities even better.

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. All of us at West Central Telephone wish you a fun and safe holiday.



West Central
Telephone Association
We Connect You.™

Celebrate FREEDOM

Feel Free with Wi-Fi

Wish you could enjoy a strong internet signal while relaxing outside on your deck or patio? Then we have sunny news for you. **Sign up for Manage MyWi-Fi for only \$6.95/month and our technicians will give you freedom to use your internet service all over your property.**

Along with sunscreen and shades, Manage MyWi-Fi gets you ready for outdoor living.

CALL 837-5151 TO SIGN UP NOW

Comerstone Group © 2019

Shallow Digging is Still Digging

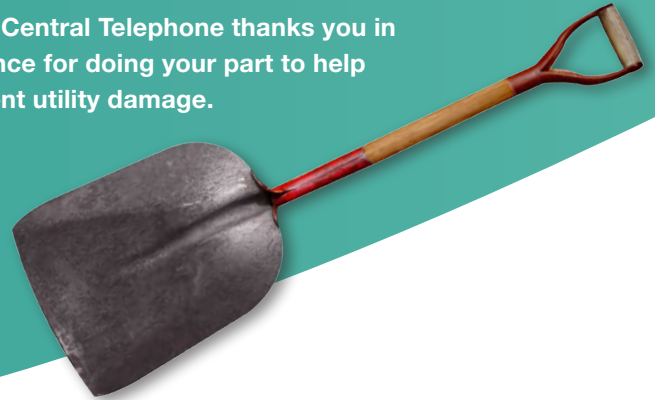
Unfortunately, there are people out there who decide to dig without calling 811 because they think their project is too shallow in scope to interfere with buried lines. That's a misconception that needs to be addressed.

Every digging job requires a call to 811 — even “small” projects like planting trees and shrubs. Some utility lines are buried just a few inches underground, and erosion and root system growth can alter the depth or location of buried lines over time.

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries and costly repairs.

To know what's below, always call 811 at least a few days before you plan to dig on your property. That way, local utilities can come out and mark where underground lines are located. There's no cost to you for this service.

West Central Telephone thanks you in advance for doing your part to help prevent utility damage.



Fox Sports North Sold

At West Central Telephone, we strive to provide the highest quality products for you and our other member-owners, and our TV packages are no exception.

We often hear that customers only want to pay for a few certain TV channels and get rid of the ones they don't watch. While this seems like a logical request, the owners of many of your favorite networks force us to distribute lesser-viewed channels in order to carry the most popular programming. In the current regulatory climate, we're seeing a flurry of mergers and sales of networks, which will have an impact on our future carriage requirements.



You likely haven't noticed any change to Fox Sports North (FSN) while watching the Twins this summer, but soon, FSN will have a new name and owner. Fox Corporation recently sold FSN to Disney Corporation, along with the FX and National Geographic Channels. Disney then sold FSN to Sinclair, one of the nation's largest owners of broadcast stations and the Tennis Channel.

We know keeping the cost of your TV service under control is important to everyone, and we're continually evaluating which channels are the most valuable to our customers. Our agreement with Viacom — who owns Nickelodeon, TV Land, Paramount, and several other channels — expires this fall.

If you currently have Viacom channels, we'd like to hear from you as to how important these channels are to your household. Please take a moment to give us your feedback with this simple, one-question survey at www.ruraltvchoice.com/3001.



Holmes & Watson

Premiering July 27
Holmes & Watson @ 8:00 pm

STARZ

A humorous take on Arthur Conan Doyle's classic mysteries starring Will Ferrell as Sherlock Holmes and John C. Reilly as Doctor Watson.

Holmes & Watson © 2018 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. and Mimran Schur Pictures, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Starz® and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Visit starz.com for airdates/times.

Netflix Recommends Internet Speeds of at Least 25 Mbps for Streaming in 4K

Let's start with the basics. Exactly what is 4K? Also known as Ultra HD, 4K refers to a TV resolution of 3,840 x 2,160 pixels. That's four times as many pixels than in a full HD TV — a total of about 8.3 million pixels. Having so many pixels results in a clearer, better defined picture with more detail and texture. Images on the screen appear lifelike, as though you're looking through a window.

While 4K has been buzzed about for years, the technology is now coming into its own. 4K has moved from being something for the tech-minded early adopters to an important new standard for average consumers.

Not only will you want to think about 4K the next time you purchase a new TV, you'll also want to consider it when selecting the speed of your home's internet plan. Netflix is promoting 4K on its streaming platform and to enjoy it fully, you need a fast internet connection. Why? Higher quality video uses more bandwidth than lower quality video.

According to its website, Netflix recommends a download speed of at least 25 Mbps for 4K/Ultra HD quality. But keep in



mind that if several members of your family will be streaming in 4K on different devices simultaneously, you'll probably want more even more download speed. After all, no one likes to share inadequate bandwidth and see the buffering icon show up on the screen. When you want to enjoy a 4K movie or TV show, you want to enjoy it now.

Do you think you may need an internet upgrade to accommodate all of your online activities, including streaming in 4K? West Central Telephone offers a range of internet plans with download speeds up to 1,000 Mbps — all at affordable prices and backed by local service and support.

For details on our internet plan availability and pricing, call 837-5151 or visit www.wcta.net.

You're Invited to Our **SUMMER COOKOUT IN NIMROD**



Plan to join us Thursday, August 8 at the Nimrod Senior Citizens and Community Center as we team up once again with Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative for burgers, chips and root beer floats! The event starts at 11:30am and ends at 1:30pm. See more detail on the enclosed billing insert. Co-op Strong!



**TODD-WADENA
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Rife's Stop N Shop

320 W Minnesota Ave. Sebeka, MN • 218-837-5455

Rife's Stop N Shop has been a fixture in Sebeka since 1974 when it began as a "Mom and Pop" shop owned by John and Hellen Rife. Rife's offers many services including a convenience store, deli, and gas station. Recently Rife's rebranded their gas services to Arco, a top-tier gas station.

Rife's continues to be a family owned and operated business, owned by Kim and Austen Rife. "The biggest challenge we face is having to compete with bigger establishments, but with the support of the community behind us, we hope to sustain and grow to build our community up again," said Kim.

Rife's Stop N Shop has broadband and phone services from West Central Telephone, and they're working on installing new security and camera systems for their business. "West Central Telephone services are a great support to our business, and it's amazing to keep it all local," she noted.

For more information about Rife's Stop N Shop, stop in or visit them on Facebook at Rife's Stop N Shop. Call West Central Telephone at 837-5151 to learn about phone, internet, security, surveillance and other technology solutions for your business.

Welcome New Members

Bounds, Yvonne.....564-7986
Butler, Patricia538-9927
Derby, James & Joanne631-3783
Doering, Neale & Laure472-2386
Dykhoff, Kyle & Nikki629-1574
Geisen, Rebecca.....564-8886
Haakenson, Jennifer629-1063
Haataja, Todd & Elaine538-6792
Harris, Cheryl837-9327
J & A Dairy LLC.....538-6584

J & A Dairy LLC.....538-6744
Johnson, Hattie.....472-3391
Johnson, Michael & Kelly445-3181
Kahvila564-3466
Kempenich, Douglas.....629-1424
Krekla-Caponera, Pearl837-5248
Meech, Neil.....472-5583
Minnebama Motors LLC445-2262
Morales, Matthew414-6363
Peterson, Joe & Rachel.....629-1939

Ratcliff, Jennifer.....564-6556
Roggenkamp, Roger.....837-7934
Schermerhorn,
David & Cindy564-5948
Skove, Logan.....472-3463
Sowada, Arie564-3351
Stave, Kory445-5773
Truax, Vincent & Mari629-1048
Turner, Steve & Robin.....564-4014
Yliniemi, Ethan.....564-8406