

# inter face

JULY/AUGUST 2013

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## Stars & Stripes Forever

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 Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. We wish you a safe and happy holiday.



## Wolf Lake Fiber to the Home Construction Update

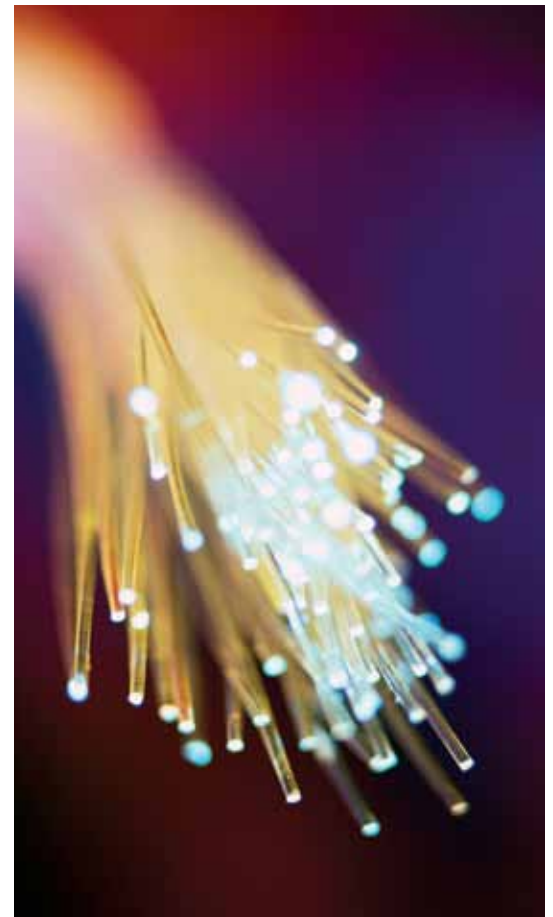
Pre-wiring has been completed in the town and rural areas of Wolf Lake and rural Menahga. The construction crews have been busy boring in conduit that will house the fiber-optic cables. (You may have noticed Arvig trucks in your neighborhood; Arvig's Construction Company came in with the winning bid for the project.)

The construction crew plans to bury the fiber-optic cables in the city of Wolf Lake first, then head east, south, then west and finish in the northern rural areas involved in the project. Fiber splicing crews will follow the construction crew by a few weeks and will splice the fiber on the side of the house as well as the mainline in the road right-of-way.

Once all fiber on a route has been spliced and tested, it will be handed back to our technicians. At that point, a WCTA customer sales specialist will contact customers for access inside the house to cut over existing phone and Internet services.

TV services will not be available until the entire Wolf Lake project is converted to the new fiber-optic system, but interested customers should call the office to be placed on a waiting list. Even if you aren't interested in TV services, Fiber to the Home (FTTH) also provides video conferencing, online face-to-face healthcare, remote home and pet monitoring, online advanced college classes, cloud computing, 3D TV and increased value of your home and community.

Michael Renders, an expert on FTTH survey and research, estimates that home values increase by \$5,500 on average for a home that has a FTTH network. **Now that's an investment in your community that benefits everyone.**




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



# Brave Available Now

## starz

Princess Merida enjoys riding and archery, and isn't interested in marriage—but when a witch casts a beastly spell on her mother, the Queen, only Merida can come to the rescue!

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## Right Size Your Internet Plan

Does your family do a lot of gaming and streaming movies through Netflix? Are there multiple devices in your household including laptops, tablets, and smartphones? Have you noticed your Internet speeds seem to be going down as your usage goes up? If you answered “Yes” to these questions, you’ll want to consider boosting your broadband to meet your growing needs.

Many West Central Telephone customers are saturating their bandwidth because multiple devices in their homes are connected wirelessly to the Internet. This makes it seem as though their Internet service is running slow when it's actually being maxed out. Households with several family members accessing the Internet simultaneously will be happiest with one of our higher-level plans that provide greater bandwidth and faster speeds.



What exactly is bandwidth? The term refers to how much data you can send through a network or modem connection. Bandwidth is usually measured in bits per second, such as 10 Mbps (10 million bits per second). You can think of bandwidth as a highway with cars traveling on it; the highway is the network connection and the cars are the data. The wider the highway, the more cars can travel on it at one time and the faster they get to their destinations. The same principle applies to data—the more bandwidth, the more information that can be transferred within a given amount of time.

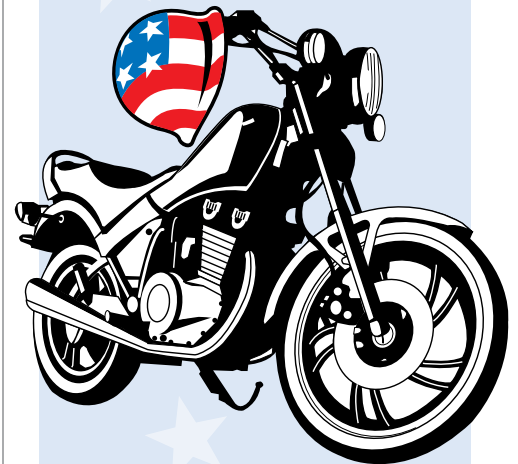
As you use more Web-connected devices, and use them for more data-intensive applications, it's important to make sure your bandwidth increases as well.

You can easily and affordably boost your bandwidth from 5 Mbps to 10 Mbps for only \$10 extra per month; if you currently have a Trio or other “triple play” plan you more than likely already have 10 Mbps and can boost your speeds up to 40 Mbps. Not all speeds are available in all areas, so for help in picking the best plan for your household, call us today at 800-945-2163.

### Support the Troops & Ride

The 10th Annual Honor Ride Fundraiser leaves the Wadena VFW located at 213 SE 1st Street at noon on August 10, 2013—rain or shine. Registration is from 10:00am to 11:45am, with a short program at 11:40am. The fee is \$15 for each person and includes a meal after the ride, plus a chance to win door prizes.

All proceeds benefit the soldiers and families of the Wadena National Guard. For more information, contact Karla Richardson at [karla.richardson@us.army.mil](mailto:karla.richardson@us.army.mil).



# Free Appliance Outlet Control

with Installation of a \$149.95 Smart Thermostat Control or Energy Consumption Monitor\*

## A \$39.95 value!

- Set up rules, monitor, and control your energy use
- Access devices from anywhere via Internet or our smartphone app
- Receive alerts by email or text message
- System is fully expandable to include cameras, remote door locks, alarms, additional sensors and/or controls
- Free \$149.95 Gateway and expert installation included with 2-year contract

\*Requires Internet connection. \$14.95 monthly service fee.



## Unclaimed Checks

Each year many capital credits checks are returned because of incomplete or non-current 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 2006. If you know any of the following people, please contact the office at 218-837-5151 or 800-945-2163.

Aguilar, Mary	Cooper, Bruce & Carla	Haverinen, Dean	Maaninga, Darryn	Saarela, Kenneth
All American Towing, % Jay Kopp	Creamer, Annarika	Haverinen, Jim & Bob	Madlo, Ronald	Sandstrom, Melody
Amundson, Durwood	Crosno, Jenny	Havnes, Nikki	Magnuson, Gary	Scheller, Mark
Anderson, Mark & Lori	Curry, Pam	Hendrickson, Carl	Malley, Jerry	Schleifer, Gloria
Anderson, Scott & Marie	Cutler, J. & L.	Holkovig, Juli	Marlen, Nicole	Schuett, Mike
Anderson, Wayne & Judy	Daggett, Fannie J	Hummingbird, Kathy	Marshall, Garrett	Seay, Stacey
Andreoff, Eddie	Dallmann, Ronald	Hunter, Steve	Matheny, Kent	Shultz, Keith
Augustine, Kim	Dave's Verndale Grocery, % Dave Palloch	Ihme, Donald	McComas, Steven & Rita	Smith, Mollie
Automated Wagering Inter. Inc.	Davidson, D & J	Iliff, Carl & Danene	McDonald, Guy	Sorenson, Heidi
Bachleitner, Loretta	Delta Environment Consult	Jackson, Candy	Mickelson, Eric	Stanton, Patrick & Deb
Backberg, Kari	Domski, Steven & Stephanie	Jim's Drywall, % James Dormanen	Miller, Joe	Stark, John
Baker, Kimberly	Downey, Robert H & Marvel	Johnson, Doreen M	Molter, Donald	Stary Construction
Bakken, Marvin	Elness, Sarah	Johnson, Gale A	Nelson, Sarah	Steinle, Joyce
Beaudet, Roy P	Ercol, N. A.	Johnson, Steven	Nevala, Harry	Stelzer, Jeff & Melissa
Beloy, Justin	Evans, Judy	Johnson, Susan	Nevela, Chad	Stinar, Amanda
Bergman, Carl A & Lucille	Fairchild, Kathryn	Juarez, Francisco	Newhouse, Lisa	Sockwell, Harlan
Bernier, Lee	Ferrian, Evelyn	Kam, Ling	Olson, Glenn F. & Eunice	Sullivan, Tim
Beymer, Merle	Fick, Ralph	Kinnunen, Donna	Olsson, Stanley	Thompson, Brenna
Blueberry, Pines	Fishbaugher, John	Kirschman, Gabriele	Palloch, David	Turner, Darla
Bright, Donald & Sandy	Foley, Tom	Koeneman, Dale	Pam's Auto Sales, % Pam Curry	Twidwell, Darlene
Bristlin, John	Fredrickson, Terry	Kuschel, Kelly	Payne, Wilbur	US Wst Network Planning Dept
Brodmarkle, Harry & Brenda	Fulco Construction, % Paul Robinson	Kutzorik, Trudy	Peabody, Chester	Waaraniemi, Ruth
Buckland, Bonnie	Fuller, Jeffery	Lalum, Robert	Petersen, Cheri	Walkama, Delores
Carlson, Heather	Gilbert, Jim	Lamp, Gary H.	Peterson, Jim & Gail	Weber, Florence
Carpick, Michael A	Gomez, Feliciano	Lapinoja, Helmer	Peterson, Marie R.	Weishair, Amanda
Ceulemans, Gerard & Donna	Gordon, Frank	Laposky, Russell	Peterson, Steve	Wicklund, David
Chets Pumping Service, % Jay & Kayleen Horsma	Greeno, Marvin	Larson, William	Pierce, John A	Wielinki, Ron
Childers, Clint	Hammerbacker, Laurence	Leonard, Eugene	Pietila, Emil	Willett, Sheila
Class A Auto Repair, % Mark & Synette Ash	Hanson, Allan	Lewis, Paul	Polman, Shelly	Wilson, Clyde
Comeau, Richard	Hanson, Kristie	Lopez, Jody	Randall, Richard	Wolski, Arnold R
Conrad, Stephanie	Hanson, Laura	Lottman, Henry	Recomm	Zartwell, Donald
	Hanson, Tom	Lottman, Pennie	Ruwersma, Stewart	Zettervall, Glen

All checks that are not claimed will be turned into the State of Minnesota as unclaimed property by October 14, 2013. 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

Abner, Jonas & Kathleen.....	564-4299
Aho, Seth .....	564-2732
Baarstad, Kelly .....	564-7475
Bense, Julie.....	564-0728
Biksen, Crystal .....	837-6874
Boots, Darrell.....	564-9744
Boyer, Cody.....	837-6071
Brauch, Klye.....	564-7109
Burger Depot.....	445-3663
Byman, Josh .....	837-4965
Cannon, Michelle.....	445-7968
Climmer, Carol.....	445-5891
Delano, Laine .....	564-5524
Dormanen, Char.....	564-0583
Eckhoff, Kevin.....	564-2441
Fellerer, Lori .....	837-6160
Frie, Amanda.....	445-4835
Hammer, Dawn.....	445-7706
Hammond, Emily.....	837-6212
Hanson, Jacob .....	837-1859
Haverinen, Chrystal .....	837-6230
Helgeson, Bonnie .....	564-9510
Hinkemeyer, Jeremy .....	445-5894
Huotari, Nichole.....	564-5616
Keranen, Arnold .....	564-6576
Keranen, Darren .....	538-6576
Kumpula, Tyler.....	564-6588
Lillquist, Michael .....	837-6211
Lund, Edwin Curtis .....	564-8818
Marjama, Gordon .....	564-0748
Mayfield, James.....	538-6078
Mcilheran, Michael.....	564-5967
Mcknight, James .....	445-5874
Myers, Barbara.....	472-3354
Nims, Nathan .....	837-6226
Notsch, Candace .....	472-1576
O'neil, Margel L .....	837-6210
Pederson, Bryan.....	472-3167
Pederson, Christina .....	472-2563
Pickar, Travis.....	837-6215
Protein Source Management..	445-5881
Rasmussen, Paul.....	445-5877
Reinhart, Robert .....	564-0480
Riedel, Tracy.....	564-5906
Root, James.....	564-2582
Roths Riverside Farm, Inc....	445-8000
Salmen, Rodney .....	564-6624
Schave, Michelle.....	564-5977
Schultz, Jason.....	445-5879
Selseth, Donald .....	564-3096
Sharp, Gordon.....	445-5878
Smith, Diane.....	538-6079
Thompson, Andrew .....	564-5972
Waaraniemi, Dustan.....	538-6073
Waaraniemi, Neil.....	564-3134
Weber, Wanda.....	445-1261
Workman, Cathy.....	837-2927
Yang, Shia .....	445-6942
Yliniemi, Paul .....	538-6758
Youngbauer, Chris & Kelly....	445-5196



First responder unit on the Twin Lakes road. Photo taken by Tom Hoppe, Sebeka Fire Department.

## Green Valley Fire Impact

Our hearts go out to anyone who lost their home, their business, or their property in the recent Green Valley Fire that burned through 7,100 acres and destroyed 12 homes, 3 commercial properties and 43 outbuildings. We are thankful for the agencies that assisted the Department of Natural Resources with fighting the fire, and doubly thankful that no deaths or injuries occurred.

West Central employees were instrumental in setting up a media station for press conferences held at the Menahga ALC Tuesday, May 14, the night the fires broke out. Our crew returned Wednesday morning to splice fiber and install equipment to add 11 phone lines and a conference bridge at the Menahga Senior Citizens Center which served as the Minnesota Incident Command Center. WCTA technicians and customer service representatives worked together to accomplish this in record time—just under two hours.

Two of our employees and the president of the West Central Board of Directors also assisted as members of the Menahga, Sebeka, and Wolf Lake Fire Departments. WCTA technician, Neil Aho, was one of the Wolf Lake Fire Department's men who not only kept the fire from jumping over to homes, but literally saved us thousands of dollars by protecting our fiber equipment on site 1 which feeds the Twin Lakes area. Menahga Fire Chief and WCTA employee Dave Kicker said, "Had the fire blazed out of control there, not only would many of the homes have been lost, but about 120 fiber to the home customers in the Twin Lakes area would have lost all telephone, Internet, and TV services as well."

West Central infrastructure wasn't completely unscathed in the fire; 7 of our customers lost their homes—and the WCTA equipment in their homes, as well as various pedestals and various pedestals and other plant equipment losses totaled roughly \$8,800. Sebeka firemen and WCTA Board President Bruce Kinnunen stated, "Property and equipment can be replaced, but thanks to the cooperative spirit of so many agencies, area businesses and volunteers, we prevented what could have been so much worse."