

# inter free

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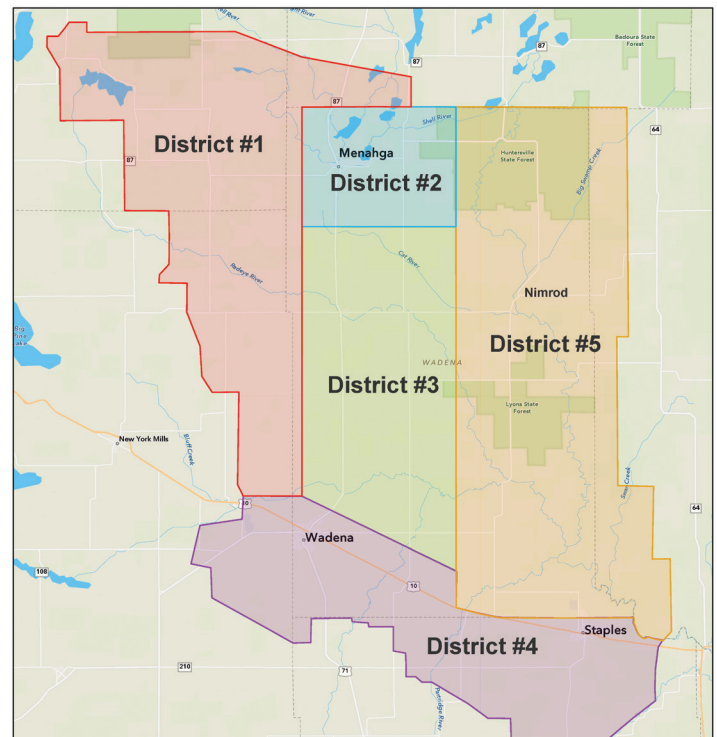
## Like to Join the Nominations & Election Committee?

As a member of West Central Telephone Association, you're eligible to serve on the Nominations & Election Committee. Members of the committee are responsible for appointing qualified candidates to run for directorship, collecting ballots and verifying election results at the annual meeting held in May. If you're interested in serving as a committee member, please contact West Central at 218-837-5151 before January 17.



## New Districts in Place for Equal Representation

Our cooperative has gained service territory and members within the last six years by expanding our fiber network to neighboring rural Wadena and rural Staples areas. These newest members of the association were able to participate in the annual meeting and election as well as earn capital credits for their patronage. However, because the cooperative's directors represented telephone exchanges, the new Wadena and Staples members didn't have a director representing them, and they weren't eligible to serve on any committees or the board.



Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws that allowed for the creation of districts were approved by members at last year's annual meeting. New districts that cover all the added territory and allow members equitable representation were recently approved by the Board of Directors. Now, members in Wadena and Staples are also eligible to serve on the Nominations & Elections Committee and the Board of Directors.

The new districts are shown in the map above. If you're unsure which district you reside in, please contact the office.

# Contest Winners Announced

Jennifer & Ivan Pomey of Sebeka submitted the winning photo featured on the cover of the 2022 WCTA Directory. Jennifer took the photo of the bear walking along the Crow Wing River. The lighting in the photo almost makes it look like a silhouette of a bear rather than a live bear! The couple won \$200 for their winning entry.

In the annual WCTA Holiday Coloring Contest, five fabulous artists placed first in their age division. The winners were: Stuart Honga, Raiina Anderson, Brielle Vonada, Kali Waaraniemi, and EmaLynne Erickson.

## What's New with West Central TV?

Every three years, we complete a negotiations process for retransmission of broadcast networks. Last year we completed a three-year term for most of the networks. The rate increases that the networks imposed for carriage of their channels resulted in a Broadcast TV Surcharge on your bill in July 2021. This month you'll notice the surcharge is higher as a direct result of rate increases from the broadcast networks.

NBC Sports has been discontinued by parent company NBCU as of January 1, 2022. As a result, much of their sporting programs have been shifted to USA on channel 19 in standard definition or channel 220 in HD.

If you're a cowboy and western fan, you'll love INSP's new lineup of shows including *Gunsmoke*, *Big Valley* and *The Cowboy Way*. Movie marathons with John Wayne and Gary Cooper, plus originals like *Ultimate Cowboy Showdown* and *Wild West Chronicles*, will give you binge-worthy TV.

Movie buffs will like the new Showtime package price of only \$10.95/month! Showtime has some of the most popular series including *Dexter: New Blood* and *American Rust*.

If you haven't yet signed up for watchTVeverywhere, visit [www.wtve.net](http://www.wtve.net) and register with your account number and the last name on your billing statement. Once registered, you can download apps to any smart device and watch TV whether you're home or at the gym.

Be sure to follow local sports, programs, and other school events on the school channels. Each school provides the content for their channel, and they're available to all TV subscribers: Sebeka Trojans on 900, Menahga High School on 901, and Verndale High School on 902.

For the current channel lineup, visit [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net).



### Escape Room: Tournament of Champions

Premiering  
January 20 @ 8pm

Six people unwillingly find themselves locked in another series of escape rooms, slowly uncovering what they have in common to survive. Joining forces with two of the original survivors, they soon discover they've all played the game before.

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# Scholarship Opportunities

As an investment in our youth, West Central Telephone is 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 provides \$2,000 and the sponsoring NTCA member company provides \$500 for a total of \$2,500. In addition to the FRS general scholarships, FRS has the following named scholarships:

- Staurulakis Family Scholarships
- TMS Scholarships
- Everett Kneece Scholarship
- Roger Alan Cox Memorial Scholarships
- Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship
- Diana Jo Meyer Memorial Scholarship

Submitting one application is sufficient for eligibility of all available scholarships. Scholarship applications are completed online and must be submitted no later than February 25, 2022. For applications and guidelines, see your high school guidance counselor or visit [www.FRS.org/student](http://www.FRS.org/student).

## WCTA Scholarship Program

High school seniors whose parents are cooperative members are encouraged to apply for one of eight scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The application deadline is April 1, 2022. Our cooperative status allows us to fund our scholarship program in part through unclaimed capital credits.

## Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation Scholarships

The MTA Foundation will award six scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2022. Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$2,000. There are two types of scholarships this year:

- **One \$2,000 Telecom Scholarship:** To be eligible, applicants must be majoring in either Telecommunications or Information Technology (IT) at a university, college, or technical college and be a Minnesota resident.
- **One of five \$2,000 General Scholarships:** To be eligible, applicants must be attending post-secondary education at a university, college, or technical college, be a Minnesota resident, and the applicant's family must subscribe to at least one service from an MTA member company.

Once completed, the application must be printed and submitted to WCTA by February 18, 2022.

## 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 application deadline is May 27, 2022.

**Links to all scholarships can be found on [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net) under the Scholarships tab.**

# HBOmax

## Enjoy Maximum Entertainment with HBO Max

Current HBO subscribers now have access to HBO Max, your new entertainment experience like no other. It's the HBO you know and love — and now with the HBO Max app, you've got a new way to stream everything on HBO plus even more amazing shows and movies. *The best part is it's yours to enjoy at no additional charge with your current subscription.*

Simply download the HBO Max app or visit [play.hbomax.com/login](http://play.hbomax.com/login) from your browser. Just sign in through your TV or mobile provider using your account credentials to start streaming today!

- Download the HBO Max App or visit [play.hbomax.com/login](http://play.hbomax.com/login)
- Click "Sign In" (browser) or click the "Person" icon (app)
- Tap "Already Subscribed? Sign In"
- Choose "Sign In through a TV or mobile provider"
- Select your provider from the alphabetized drop down
- Sign in using your watchTVeverywhere account credentials
- Set up profiles and stream

**Don't have HBO? Call us at 218-837-5151 today to add it.**





## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: The Pirate's Den Bar & Restaurant

Brian Hagen has been a business owner for over 35 years. One of his latest endeavors is the restaurant formerly known as Maasconi's, which he's renamed The Pirate's Den Bar & Restaurant. When he purchased the restaurant, there were no operating gas stations in Verndale. Brian really wanted a gas station in town, and ever the entrepreneur, he added a Cenex C-Store and station to the business.

The Pirate's Den Bar & Restaurant can accommodate large or small groups and private parties, offering a full menu and full bar. It's a fun environment with a friendly staff ready to serve you. Their winter hours are Monday through Saturday from 11 am to 10 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 8 pm.

The C-Store opened in January 2021 and sells hot deli food, frozen foods, and a wide variety of groceries. A customer favorite

and "must try" is the broasted chicken. Its hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 6 am to 9 pm, Friday from 6 am to 10 pm, and Sunday from 6 am to 8 pm.

Brian relies on West Central Telephone for his phone, internet, and Manage MyWiFi services. He does most of his advertising on Facebook, posting specials of the day or week, and with the volume of takeout orders, he's thankful for reliable phone service.

**The Pirates Den Bar & Restaurant is located at 210 W Service Dr. in Verndale. You can reach them by calling 218-445-2855. For daily specials, check their Facebook page.**

**Call West Central Telephone at 218-837-5151 to learn how our services can help your business.**

### Welcome New Members

Boen, Robert & Arlene .....	(218) 631-1561	Hendrickx, Allison.....	(218) 837-0486	Stewart, Barbara.....	(218) 445-1166
Czaia, Morgan.....	(218) 629-1530	Hirschey, Peggy .....	(218) 894-3002	Tast, Michael & Susan .....	(218) 631-4448
Disselbrett, Chett Jr. ....	(218) 631-2272	Kicker, Jacob .....	(218) 472-8102	Tellstrom, Shaina.....	(218) 564-9269
Ellingson, Tim.....	(218) 564-4646	Les' Electric.....	(218) 837-5547	Theisen, Thomas.....	(218) 629-1080
Emslander, Richard .....	(218) 414-6673	Marjama, Michael.....	(218) 564-4122	Topp, Ann.....	(218) 631-4402
Fuller, Rebecca.....	(218) 837-7176	Marty, Lindsey .....	(218) 564-3488	Triepke, James & Carolyn.....	(218) 894-2325
Gustafson, Bonnie .....	(218) 631-2181	Mertens, Mike .....	(218) 472-5244	Wegscheid, Louis & Tina.....	(218) 631-2986
Gustafson, Scott & Linda .....	(218) 631-2186	Pickar, Robert .....	(218) 837-5350		
Harrison, J C .....	(218) 631-1066	Schwartz, Don & Dee.....	(218) 631-3887		