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We Hope Your Days are Merry and Bright

Merry Christmas from all of us at West Central Telephone. May this season be filled with what-ever brings you joy — whether that's baking and sharing cookies, shopping for the perfect presents, enjoying holiday feasts with family, decorating your home from top to bottom or giving back to the community through your time and talents.

We're honored to help keep you connected to your world.

Our offices will be closed to enjoy the holidays on:

Thursday, November 25
Friday, December 24
Friday, December 31




West Central
Telephone Association
We Connect You.™



A WINTER WONDERLAND CREATES
Wonderful Speed

Enjoy Wonderful Speed from Your Internet, Too

It's more fun to move more quickly, whether you're sledding down a snowy hill or flying through downloads at home. So why not give your family the gift of faster internet this holiday season? It's sure to make the new year more wonderful for the binge watchers, gamers, teleworkers and students in your household.

We offer internet speeds up to 1 Gig — that's 1,000 Mbps!

CALL 218-837-5151 TO SIGN UP FOR NEW OR UPGRADED INTERNET.

Internet speed will vary depending on wired or wireless connection, device, and router. We recommend Manage MyWiFi service, which includes a router and monitoring for the best Wi-Fi experience. It's free for the first month and \$6.95/mo. after that. Call for details.



Tell Telemarketers What to Do

The National Do Not Call Registry was created to stop unwanted sales calls. It's free to register your home or cell phone number. It can take up to 31 days for telemarketers to remove your number from their call lists. Charities, political groups, debt collectors and survey companies are still allowed to call you.

To add your number to the registry, go to DoNotCall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236) from the phone you want to register. If you register your number at DoNotCall.gov, you'll get an email with a link you need to click on within 72 hours to complete your registration.

What You Need to Know About Battery Backup

Many of today's advanced home phone services require backup battery power to continue functioning during an outage. To avoid a disruption of service during an outage — and to maintain the ability to connect to 911 emergency services — West Central Telephone provides backup power for your home phones at no extra charge.

What Your Battery Can — and Can't — Do for You

Our backup batteries allow you to continue to use your home phone services during a power outage. Without a backup battery or alternate backup source such as a generator, you will not be able to make any calls, including emergency calls to 911. The only way to maintain the ability to use your phone is by using some form of backup power. Our backup battery does not provide power to any services other than phone. Home security systems, medical monitoring devices and other equipment will not run on a home phone backup battery.

Replacement Options

West Central Telephone maintains and routinely replaces battery backup power. Our team will call you to schedule a time to swap out the battery backup power — at no charge to you.

Expected Battery Backup Duration

Our backup batteries are expected to last at least eight hours on standby power. The battery backup should give you six hours of talk time. We do have options for an extended outage battery that can provide up to 24 hours of standby. Call for more information.

Proper Care and Use of Your Battery

These batteries are rechargeable and have an expected lifespan of two to three years. At this point, we'll contact you to schedule a time for replacement. If your device begins to beep loudly, it means the battery is depleted and needs to be replaced; please contact our office to arrange replacement.



The Birthday Cake

Premiering
November 2 @ 8pm

STARZ

The Birthday Cake takes place on one fateful evening in the life of Gio, the son of a murdered mobster and the nephew of Brooklyn mob boss, Angelo. On the 10th anniversary of his father's mysterious death, Gio carries on the family tradition of bringing a cake his mother baked to this uncle's house for a celebration. Just two hours into the night, Gio's life is forever changed as he begins to piece together what really happened to his father and ultimately comes face to face with the type of violence he has managed to avoid his whole life.

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A WINTER WONDERLAND INSPIRES *Wonderful Activities*

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and we hope you enjoy lots of merriment with family and friends. To kick off your holiday spirit, please join us in the following activities.

Holiday Coloring Contest

Children 9 years old or younger are invited to enter the 2021 Coloring Contest. Pick up an entry form, then color or decorate to your liking. Return your entry to Coloring Contest, West Central Telephone, PO Box 304, Sebeka, MN 56477. Friday, November 26 is the deadline for entries. Winners will be announced the following week.

Holiday Giving: Empty Stocking

In the true holiday spirit, we invite you to start a new family tradition of helping local families in need. We're collecting new toys, games and gifts to give away this season. Cash donations are also welcome. Please drop off your donations at either of our offices by December 3. They'll be delivered to area families before Christmas.

We're also accepting gently used (or new) winter coats, hats and gloves in cooperation with the Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc., which distributes the coats. If you need a coat, please contact your county office.

This Year, Small Business Saturday is Extra Important

American Express founded Small Business Saturday in 2010 to encourage holiday shoppers to patronize small, independently owned stores in their communities. Held yearly on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the event has continued to grow.

The pandemic resulted in huge damage to small businesses, with many forced to close either temporarily or permanently. That's why small businesses need more support than ever. So, on November 27, we encourage you to shop local when buying holiday gifts for family and friends. You'll be giving a gift to your favorite small businesses as well!

Some ideas for gifting include gift cards from salons, restaurants and bars, movie theaters and clothing and shoe stores. Find deals on social media by searching #ShopSmall. Practical gifts include gift cards from local gas stations or hardware stores. Need a gift for someone who has everything? Place a bottle of wine, beer or sparkling non-alcoholic wine in a gift basket with crackers and cheese, then wrap with a bow. You'll help your local small, independent businesses while still finding the perfect gifts.





BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Chick Bee Farms, LLC

Chick Bee Farms, LLC is a honeybee farm in Menahga owned by Jennifer Skaro. It got its start in 2015 with the goal of developing products that would help Jennifer's middle child who suffers from allergies and eczema. They've since formulated a couple of products that include their beeswax in lip balm and a solid twist-up lotion stick.

In addition to beekeeping, Jennifer loves to craft and crochets winter hats, lip balm cozies, wash cloths and other items. In June 2021, she decided to open a storefront in Menahga which now serves as an outlet for her crafted items as well as others.

Chick Bee Farms, LLC is located at 16 Main Street SE in Menahga. All the items sold are handcrafted and include bath and body products, t-shirts, name badge reels, keychains and more. The store is open

Tuesday – Saturday, from 10am – 4pm. You can also shop online by visiting www.chickbeefarms.com and enjoy free shipping.

“Opening a storefront in Menahga is Chick Bee Farm's biggest success to date. I'm grateful to be in a rural community and be able to have high-speed internet for my business,” said Jennifer.

Chick Bee Farms, LLC can be reached by calling 218-837-3007 or emailing Jennifer at chickbeefarms@gmail.com.

Call West Central Telephone at 218-837-5151 to learn more about IT support, internet and Wi-Fi services for your business.

Welcome New Members

Anderson, David L.....(218) 445-7329	Hamberg, Jon & Darlys(218) 894-2608	Mohrlant, R(218) 414-6988
Anderson, Dennis & Ruby(218) 564-8379	Hillstrom, Aaron & Susan.....(218) 564-0345	Mulek, Benjamin.....(218) 445-1787
Berg, Derrick.....(218) 414-6119	Huhta, Paul(218) 837-0581	Niemann, Bethany.....(218) 629-1581
Brill, R.....(218) 895-5882	Johnson, Merlyn & Rishell(218) 445-6020	Olds, Renee(218) 894-3949
Crandall, John.....(218) 564-1552	Kletsch, Joel & Jodi.....(218) 414-6262	Stansberry, Ashley.....(218) 445-6595
Degeest, Gregory(218) 894-3850	Leonard, Deborah(218) 629-1559	Sunset Auto Repair(218) 414-6317
Dennemeyer, Eugene(218) 894-3097	Lothson, Travis & Kathy.....(218) 472-6266	Tellstrom, Shaina.....(218) 564-9269
Fleisher, Lyle & Gail.....(218) 894-1360	Mason Brothers(218) 629-1738	Vonada, Matt & Janelle.....(218) 564-1432
Gorackowski, Todd & Lisa..(218) 414-6464	McCormick, Elaine(218) 564-5516	Wilson, Wayne & Anita(218) 894-4383