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JULY/AUGUST 2022

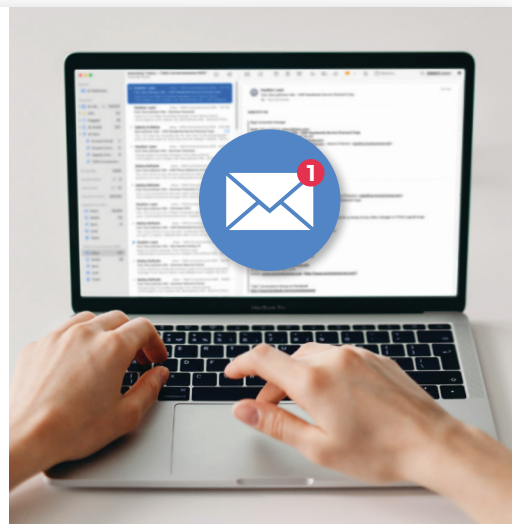
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Let's Celebrate Independence In July

During National Independent Retailer Month, we're encouraged to shop locally and support small businesses. This annual July event also reminds us that when we do, more of our dollars stay here to help the local economy. Think of it this way: We celebrate Independence Day on July 4, and throughout the month, we celebrate independent retailers.

Our offices will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. We wish you a fun and safe holiday!



GO FROM MAILBOX TO INBOX SAVE MONEY

Choose paperless billing and get a \$5 bill credit.

Switch to West Central Telephone's paperless billing and receive your statements via email rather than "snail mail." Paperless billing is available through the SmartHub app.

Add autopay and get another \$5 bill credit!

You'll have one less thing to mail each month with autopay. Your bill with us will be automatically paid from the account you designate in SmartHub.



CALL 218-837-5151 TO SIGN UP AND SAVE UP TO \$10*

**Must sign up for paperless billing by July 31, 2022 to receive a one-time \$5 credit on your next bill. You'll receive an additional one-time \$5 credit when you sign up for autopay at the same time.*





Join Us at Our Summer BBQ in Wadena

Bring your appetite when you come to Sunnybrook Park on Thursday, July 21. We're going to team up once again with Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative for the 5th Annual Co-op Strong event featuring pulled pork sandwiches! The fun starts at 11:00am and ends at 1:00pm.

See more details on the enclosed billing insert.
Co-op Strong!

Let Our IT Experts Help You with Technology

At West Central Telephone, our IT experts can tackle virtually every computer and technology issue you face in your home. If your computer seems slow, we can remove unnecessary files and speed it up. We can make sure you have virus protection and remove any viruses or malware that may currently be on the computer. We can set up your wireless network to give you a safe and secure connection. We can also back up your photos and establish that your passwords are safe (and kept).

If you should decide to purchase a new computer, our IT team can help you choose the right one, transfer your old files to the new computer and set up any software. Other options include setting up Microsoft 365 with monthly or yearly plans and setting up your email and internet service.

Whatever you need for your computer, our IT team is available — just ask! You can reach us at 218-837-5151.



Stewart Amundson



Troy Ayers



Chris Klein



Kelly Moench



Nate Nims



Spider-Man™ : No Way Home

Premiering
July 15 @ 7pm CT

STARZ

With his identity revealed, Peter Parker asks Doctor Strange for help. But when a spell goes wrong, Peter is forced to discover what it truly means to be Spider-Man.

Spider-Man™: No Way Home © 2021 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. and Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. MARVEL and all related character names: © & ™ 2021 MARVEL. STARZ and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC.



What Can Identity Thieves Do With Your Personal Information?

Identity theft is when someone steals your personal or financial information to commit fraud. This information may include your name and address, Social Security number, or the numbers of your credit cards, bank accounts, Medicare ID or other health insurance plans.

Once identity thieves have this data, they may sell it on the dark web (a part of the internet only accessible with a special software-and-network combination and a place where cybercrime flourishes because everyone is anonymous). Or they could use it to do the following:

- Make purchases with your credit cards.
- Get new credit cards in your name.
- Open a phone, electricity, or gas account in your name.
- Steal your tax refund before you file your return.
- Get medical services.
- Use your personal information to claim (and receive) unemployment benefits.
- Pretend to be you if they're arrested.

You could end up responsible for what identity thieves do while using your personal information and have to pay for what they purchase — even if you never saw the bills. Here's how that could happen: A thief might get a credit card using your name and change the billing address to his own. The bills go to him, but he never pays them. This will result in the credit card company thinking you're not paying your bills, which will hurt your credit rating.

To help avoid identity theft, keep all your records in a safe place, and if you decide to get rid of any documents, shred them before you throw them away. You should also ask questions before giving out your Social Security number to an organization other than the IRS, your bank and your employer — why it's needed, how it will be protected and if you can use a different identifier. Never give your personal or financial information to someone who calls, emails or texts you out of the blue, since it's likely a scam.

If you're not already using paperless billing through West Central Telephone's SmartHub, consider signing up now to keep statements out of your mailbox and away from identity thieves. Call 218-837-5151 for more details.

Steps to Take Before You Go on Vacation

You see your vacation as an opportunity for fun and relaxation. Unfortunately, burglars see it as an opportunity to get more easily inside your home. So, take precautions before you leave town.

Secure the inside of your home by putting valuables in a safety deposit box, double checking that all doors and windows are locked and putting a timer on some of your lights. You may want to unplug the cord to the garage door opener so it can't be opened with a code.

The outside of your home should also receive attention. Stop delivery of your mail, put your car inside the garage and move ladders and other supplies a burglar could use to get to the second story. Depending on the season, arrange for someone to mow your lawn or shovel snow while you're away.

Don't forget to let trusted neighbors know you'll be gone and for how long and ask them to keep an eye on your home.

For additional protection, West Central Telephone offers a variety of home security and smart home solutions. To learn more, visit www.wcta.net.





BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Chocker's Bakery

Chocker's Bakery continues the tradition of baking loaf and flat breads, buns, donuts, cookies and cakes that the previous owners offered on Main Street in Menahga. New owner Michelle Wagner also offers cupcakes, rotating seasonal fruit cake donuts and her grandmother's coffee cake.

Michelle's dream of owning a bakery started in college, when she would bake cupcakes and cookies in her dorm. After she and her husband Dustin moved to Park Rapids, they learned the Menahga bakery was for sale, and they took the opportunity to purchase the business.

Chocker's Bakery gets its name from her grandparents, Louis and Margaret Chock. Michelle's grandmother helped her hone her baking skills, and she wishes they were here to see her dream of owning a bakery come true.

Michelle loves everything about this business, including the reliability of West Central Telephone's internet and phone services. They help Michelle run her point-of-sale system and manage social media and other marketing activities. She says one of her biggest challenges is making just the right amount of product for the day!

Visit Chocker's Bakery at 111 Main St NE in Menahga or online at <https://wolf-chinchilla-b4c9.squarespace.com>. For all your baking needs and special preorders, call Michelle at 218-564-4170 during the business hours of 7am-2pm, Tuesday through Friday and 7am- noon Saturday.

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

Welcome New Members

Carlson Mark & Marjorie..... (218) 837-7012
Dallmann Bonnie..... (218) 414-6678
Enticknap Jeri (218) 414-6303
Hoppe Robert & Patsy (218) 837-2382
Iverson Jeff & Kathy..... (218) 414-6541
Joyfull Spirit UMC..... (218) 629-1569
Kahvila (218) 564-3466
Kangas Eldon & Michelle..... (218) 538-0841

Kleinschmidt Merlin (218) 837-6311
Maninga Erik (218) 564-4637
Metteer Gladys..... (218) 837-3345
Moe Jordan & Connie (218) 894-0043
Nickerson Warren..... (218) 564-5787
Northway Bob..... (218) 629-1677
Oswalt Viola (218) 837-0386
Outfront Transport..... (218) 564-2570

Quaschnick Monica (218) 564-1032
Torvinen Terry (218) 837-4067
Verndale Grocery
& Treasures Too..... (218) 837-7039
Wadena County DAC..... (218) 837-7039
Wadena Truck & Trailer Repair.. (218) 629-1299
Winter Justin & Justine..... (218) 445-4343