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Annual Meeting Date Set

This year's annual meeting date has been set for Monday, May 16 at 7pm at the Sebeka High School. We plan for this to be an in-person meeting and look forward to seeing you.

The Nominations & Elections Committee will meet March 9 to appoint official candidates who wish to serve on the board. District 2, currently represented by Robert Weaver, and district 5, currently represented by Dave Pulju, are up for election this year; both incumbents are expected to seek re-election for an additional three-year term. Contact a committee member if you are interested in running for the board to represent either of those districts. Committee members are Hazel Yliniemi, David Anderson, Patricia Pederson, Kay Oehlenschlager, Josh Whirley, Elizabeth Hillukka, and James Runyan.

Watch for more information regarding the annual meeting.



Better Wi-Fi. Best Deal. First Three Months Free!

Better get our Manage MyWi-Fi solution before our best deal is gone. We make it easy to enjoy fast and reliable internet for all your devices throughout your home. Our Manage MyWi-Fi solution provides a next-generation router for seamless signal continuity plus 24/7 remote support for a hassle-free experience.

Sign up for Manage MyWi-Fi by March 31 to receive the first three months free! **Call 218-837-5151 for full details.**

Customer Information Policies

WCTA maintains the security and confidentiality of Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI). We never sell or share your private account information to outside companies for any reason. The protection of your information is important to us, and we have procedures in place to ensure your privacy.

We'd like to continue to offer you new products and services, or improve your existing service offerings, based on your CPNI unless you choose to "Opt Out" by calling 218-837-5151. Your approval or denial of CPNI use remains valid until you notify us.

To further protect your privacy, we may ask for a photo ID when you visit in person to discuss your account. We can only discuss account information with people authorized by the

account owner. For some routine customer service issues, we can address CPNI if you have the bill or call detail information you wish to discuss. When you call with account questions, we must authenticate you by asking for your pre-established password, calling you back at the phone number related to your account, or sending the information to your street or email address of record.

Call us at 218-837-5151 with questions.

Scholarship Deadlines

There's still time for high school seniors to apply for one of eight \$1,000 scholarships from West Central Telephone. The application deadline is April 1.

WCTA scholarships are not income- or need-based, and although applicants should have at least a "C" GPA, they do not need to be top of class. Complete the online application, write a brief essay on your chosen topic, and submit by the deadline. For more information and the application, contact your area high school counselors or visit www.wcta.net and click on "Scholarships" located at the bottom of the website.

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, are from any one of the five telephone exchanges of WCTA, and are currently attending 2nd year or beyond higher education are eligible. **Past scholarship winners are also eligible.**

The deadline for the 2nd Year or Beyond Scholarship application is May 27. For more information and the application, visit www.wcta.net and click on Scholarships. You may also contact Geri Salmela with more questions at 218-837-5151 or by email at geris@wcta.net.



Outlander

**Premiering
March 6 @ 8pm**

The sixth season of *Outlander* sees a continuation of Claire and Jamie fighting to protect those they love, as they navigate the trials and tribulations of life in colonial America. Establishing a home in the New World is by no means an easy task, particularly in the wild backcountry of North Carolina — and perhaps most significantly — during a period of dramatic political upheaval.

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Are You Having Trouble Using the Telephone Due to a Hearing or Speech Disability?

Minnesota Relay is a free telephone service that uses specially trained communications assistants to facilitate telephone calls between people with hearing and speech disabilities and other individuals. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are completely confidential. To make a relay call dial 7-1-1. Once connected to the relay service, tell the communications assistant the type of relay call you wish to make. Or, you may dial the specific toll-free number for the type of relay service.

Types of Relay Services

Captioned Telephone Service (CTS)

CTS uses a special telephone with a text display screen so that a person who is hard of hearing *can listen to and read captions* of everything the other person on the call says. You speak directly to the other person on the call, and a relay communications assistant transcribes everything the other person says into captions, which appear on the display screen of your CTS phone.

Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS)

Internet-based forms of CTS are available for those who would like to use CTS on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Go to: www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/internet-protocol-ip-captioned-telephone-service.

Computer (ASCII): 1-800-627-3529

Computer users can access Minnesota Relay. Set your communications software to the following protocols: speeds ranging from 300 to 2400; 8 Bits; No Parity; 1 Stop Bit; Full Duplex. When calling at a rate of 300 or below, follow the above using Half Duplex.

Hearing Carry Over (HCO): 1-800-627-3529

HCO allows a person who can hear clearly but who has very limited or no speech capability to make phone calls. Using a special text telephone, you type your conversation for the relay communications assistant to read to the other person, and listen directly to the other person's response.

Hearing User: 1-800-627-3529

A hearing person may use a standard telephone or mobile phone to place a relay call and speak with a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled.

Internet Protocol (IP) Relay:

IP Relay combines text-based relay service with the ease of the Internet – no need for a TTY. You are able to make your relay call using a computer,

laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Go to: www.sprint-relay.com/sprintrelay.

Spanish Relay: 1-877-627-5448

Spanish speaking persons with a hearing or speech disability are able to make relay calls. This is not a translation service – both parties must speak Spanish, and at least one party must have a hearing or speech disability.

Speech-to-Speech (STS): 1-877-627-3848

STS allows a person who has difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone to communicate using his or her own voice or voice synthesizer. The communications assistant revoices your words so that the other person on the call can understand them, and the other person speaks directly to you.

Text-Telephone (TTY): 1-800-627-3529

This service allows a person who is deaf, deafblind, or speech disabled to use a TTY to communicate with the other person on the call.

Video Relay Service (VRS)

VRS allows a person who uses American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate over the phone. The VRS user connects to the relay communications assistant via an internet-enabled device with a video camera. The communications assistant relays the conversation back and forth between the parties – in ASL with the VRS user and by voice with the called party. Go to: www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/video-relay-services.

Voice Carry Over (VCO): 1-877-627-3024

VCO allows a person with a hearing disability, but who wants to use his or her own voice, to speak directly to the other party. The communications assistant then types the other party's response, which is displayed on the VCO user's text telephone.

For More Information on Minnesota Relay Services

www.mnrelay.org
1-800-657-3775

Important Information Emergency Assistance

TTY callers should dial 9-1-1 directly in an emergency. All 9-1-1 centers are equipped to handle TTY calls. Minnesota Relay can process emergency calls, but this may delay the response to your call.

To file a Complaint Regarding Minnesota Relay

1-800-657-3775
Email: mn.relay@state.mn.us

You will need to provide: the date and time of the relay call, the calling from and to phone numbers, the CA's identification number, and the nature of your complaint.

You may also file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission consumercomplaints.fcc.gov
Voice: 1-888-225-5322
TTY: 1-888-835-5322
ASL via VP: 1-844-432-2275

Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program

The TED Program provides free specialized telecommunications equipment to income eligible Minnesotans who are having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing, speech, or physical disability. mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing
Voice: 1-800-657-3663
ASL via VP: 651-964-1514



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Lake Country Insurance

Randy and Caryl Stave opened Lake Country Insurance in New York Mills in 1988. They've since expanded, opening two additional branch locations in Verndale and Motley. The Verndale branch was opened in July 1993. Ronda Kern, an independent agent with Lake Country Insurance, has been an integral part of the Verndale office since day one. Now located at 113 South Farwell St. in Verndale, the office moved around a bit in Verndale in the past, and Ronda initially hung up the shingle at the Lumber Yard, which is currently Tools & More.

What does Ronda like most about working for Lake Country Insurance in Verndale? She replied, "It gives customers an option to walk in and have a sit-down conversation about their insurance needs with someone local. Lake Country Insurance provides comprehensive home, auto, and life insurance policies as well as commercial insurance policies including workers'

compensation, bonds, fleet, and umbrella policies. We work with a multitude of providers and can help customers get the plan that's right for them."

You can reach Ronda at 218-445-5153 during the business hours of 8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. In addition to using reliable phone service from West Central Telephone, Lake Country Insurance also counts on our high-speed internet for its day-to-day online activities.

Ronda enjoys working with West Central Telephone and feels fortunate that her home was included in the recent expansion that brought fiber to many of our neighbors.

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

Welcome New Members

Barron Jeff & Janice (218) 894-2900
Bayerkohler Lowell & Marilyn.... (218) 894-3755
Bounds Greg & Nancy (218) 894-3279
Braith Jeff..... (218) 414-6378
Brown Kevin & Sue (218) 414-6033
Cheney Gale & Margret L..... (218) 414-6776
Chets Plumbing Service..... (218) 564-4360
Chocker's Bakery..... (218) 564-4170
Coulter Carol..... (218) 894-2294
Davidson Dorothy..... (218) 894-1612
Davidson Samuel & Sabrina..... (218) 414-6147
Dobozenski Julius & Denise (218) 894-3087
Dupont Crystal (218) 837-6918

Edin Marcus & Kim..... (218) 894-0570
Horsma Jay & Kayleen (218) 564-0634
Horstmann Michael & Susan.... (218) 894-2956
Johnson Larry & Dorothea (218) 629-1979
Johnson Mark D..... (218) 445-4148
Johnson Monica & Roger..... (218) 414-6167
Kullerud Laurel A..... (218) 837-5426
Manthe Mitchell..... (218) 414-6685
Nanik Joe & Brenda (218) 894-1875
Nanik Russell (218) 894-1200
Nikkari Chad & Lavonne..... (218) 564-3988
Pickar Adam (218) 472-3223
Puttonen Ethan (218) 564-6661

Richter Dennis..... (218) 629-1502
Sarazin Beau & Charity..... (218) 414-6341
Schimpp Carmen..... (218) 894-1525
Thomastown Covenant Church (218) 894-3923
Wahoo Valley Bar & Grill (218) 894-1691
Weber David (218) 564-3591
Weyer Mike & Joy (218) 894-1028
Wilson Pearl (218) 894-3927
Workman John..... (218) 837-5318
Wright Rex & Annette (218) 894-3462
Young Kevin & Tracy (218) 414-6382