

# inter face

JULY/AUGUST 2017

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## Go Forth With Gusto This Fourth

West Central Telephone hopes you enjoy a red, white, and blue-tiful July 4th celebration with family and friends. May this holiday remind all of us to treasure our country's strengths as well as work to make our communities even better.

Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. All of us at West Central Telephone wish you a fun and safe holiday.



## Are Your Social Media Posts Increasing Your Risk of Burglary?

Long-awaited vacations are exciting, and it's only natural to want to share your photos and travel stories on social media. However, your posts could inadvertently be putting your home security at risk by letting burglars know when you're away.

**Here are the main areas of concern and how to address them:**

### Including your location in posts gives thieves valuable information.

When you post an update on many social media sites, they will ask whether you'd like to include your location. For example, Twitter's location icon lets you choose the city and state you're currently in, or you can turn on "share precise location," which will share your exact GPS coordinates. Security experts recommend that you never enable location services for social media sites or add location tags. Why? Because if you post your location while you're at home, thieves have your address. All they have to do is wait for you to later post that you're away on vacation, and they have a vacant house (otherwise known as an easy target) for a burglary.

### Don't post about your vacation until after it's over.

We know it's tempting to show off your toes in the sand or your family in front of a landmark in real time. But it's a better idea to wait until you're back home to share your vacation photos, and when you do, make it clear that the vacation is now in the rear view mirror. If you really want to post about trips while they're happening, create a private photo album on a site like Flickr or Google Photos and share it only with family and close friends.

Remember, you don't want to return home from vacation to find your belongings stolen or damaged. Take precautions before and during your trip to help keep burglars away.

**Another precaution you can take to help guard against burglary is a using a home security system. West Central Telephone can help you choose the best Honeywell system for your needs. Learn more at [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net), and choose Security & Smart Home under Products & Services tab.**

# August 11 is Your Reminder to Call 811

August 11 (8-11) is National Safe Digging Day, a natural reminder to call 811 prior to any digging project to have underground utility lines marked.

## Here's how it works:

- Call at least 48 hours prior to digging to ensure enough time for utility lines to be properly marked.
- When you call 811, a representative will ask for the location and description of your digging project.
- The call center will notify affected utility companies, who will then send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximate location of your lines.
- Once lines have been properly marked, you can carefully dig in other areas.

Examples of digging projects that require a call to 811 before starting include building a deck, planting a tree, and laying a patio. The depth of utility lines can vary, so they need to be marked even if you plan to dig only a few inches.



## Never.Give.Up. 5K Run/Walk Will Take Place August 26

Did you know suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth in Minnesota? One in four public school 9th graders in Minnesota have admitted to having thoughts about killing themselves. The nonprofit organization Never.Give.Up. is dedicated to bringing suicide prevention and awareness education to our schools, and it partnered with Sebeka Public School this year.

West Central Telephone is again sponsoring the organization's fundraiser — the 4th annual Never.Give.Up. 5K Run/Walk. The walk will take place August 26, starting at the Sebeka Public School. Registration begins at 8am, with a race start time of 9am.

All proceeds will be donated to area schools, including 80 percent to the Sebeka Public School with the remaining 20 percent split between schools that have participated in the past. This includes Perham-Dent, Frazee-Vergas, Wadena-Deer Creek and New York Mills Public Schools. The money is earmarked for suicide prevention education.

**To find out more, visit Never.Give.Up. online at [www.facebook.com/NeverGiveUpSuicideSupport](http://www.facebook.com/NeverGiveUpSuicideSupport).**



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Premiering July 1  
**STARZ**

A princess living in an animated fairy tale falls for a charming prince, but runs afoul of the evil queen, who banishes her to the real world — what will happen when the princess finds love in New York City?

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## Don't Let Bandwidth Hogs Cause Household Battles

Does this sound familiar? Your son is making a hefty download of the latest video game while your daughter is watching YouTube videos and your wife is streaming a movie. Meanwhile, you're trying to get some work done from home, and notice that your laptop's internet connection seems to have slowed to a crawl when you attempt to Skype with a colleague. Before long, a bandwidth battle ensues over who's a bandwidth hog and which online activities should get priority.

As a reminder, bandwidth refers to the amount of data that may be transferred over an internet connection per second. Every internet connection has a specified maximum bandwidth — usually measured in bits per second, such as 10 Mbps — and this bandwidth is shared by all the users and connected devices in a household. This includes background internet usage such as software that automatically updates.

You can think of bandwidth as a highway with vehicles traveling on it; the highway is the internet connection and the vehicles are the data. The wider the highway, the more vehicles 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.

When your home's bandwidth isn't adequate for simultaneous use by several bandwidth hogs engaged in streaming, gaming, and video chatting, everyone in the family may experience slower internet speeds. That's when frustrations can grow and bandwidth battles can occur.

In the interest of promoting family harmony, West Central Telephone recommends you upgrade your internet plan. That way, you can all get the speed you need and won't have to argue over who must curtail their online activity to free up bandwidth for someone else.

**West Central Telephone offers family-friendly internet plans with download speeds up to 1 Gig. To find out more, visit [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net) or call 800-945-2163.**

## Watch Out for the Grandparent Scam

Callers pretending to be grandkids are targeting older Americans to try and scam them out of money. Typically, the call begins with "Hi, Grandpa" or "Hi, Grandma," followed by a sob story about an emergency — such as an arrest or car accident — requiring money to be sent immediately through services such as Western Union or MoneyGram. These crooks often call in the middle of the night when people are startled and not fully awake. If you get a call like this, take a deep breath and try not to get emotional. Instead, ask some personal questions that would be hard for an impostor to answer correctly. You should never agree to a money transfer based on a single call. Always hang up and do some research, such as calling the relative directly, to check out the story.



## Channel Changes and Additions

On July 1, NBC plans to discontinue Universal HD Channel 221, and as a result, it will be removed from our HD lineup. Programmer Sinclair recently replaced Get TV with TBD TV on channel 82, and Grit TV with Charge TV on channel 83. We've added KOOL TV out of Alexandria on channel 18. Most recently, we've added TPT MN on channel 87 and PBS KIDS on channel 88.



## Social Media is Consuming More Time than Eating

If you think people are spending lots of time on social media, you're absolutely right. According to a study by Mediakix, a leading influencer marketing company, the average person will spend five years and four months on social media over the course of a lifetime. That's more time than is typically spent eating and drinking but slightly less than the average amount of time spent watching TV.

If you look at the daily statistics, here's how much time the average person spends using each of these social media apps:

- YouTube – 40 minutes
- Facebook – 35 minutes
- Snapchat – 25 minutes
- Instagram – 15 minutes
- Twitter – 1 minute

**How much time do you spend on social media? West Central Telephone hopes that at least a few minutes of that time is spent checking out what we're up to on Facebook, etc. Look for the social media icons on the home page of our website at [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net).**

*Source: [www.smartbrief.com/original/2017/03/time-you-will-spend-social-media-infographic](http://www.smartbrief.com/original/2017/03/time-you-will-spend-social-media-infographic)*

# Welcome, New Members

Allen, Kevan .....	445-2911	Pugsley, Lawrence.....	564-0124
Cameron, Corey .....	445-7773	Roiko, Seth.....	564-2225
Clifton, Jenna .....	445-7293	Sawatzky, Loren .....	564-1707
Ehresmann, Robert.....	445-8234	Schik, Doreen.....	564-0672
Elbert, Gina .....	445-7875	Schilling, Ryan.....	564-3042
Engbretson, Jeremy.....	445-8288	Siltala, Mildred .....	564-3357
Gonzalez, Gasiem .....	445-8566	Spadgenske, Ryan .....	564-6738
Hinkle, Jolene.....	445-2888	White, Joseph .....	564-6280
Johnson, Scott.....	445-9848	Brooks, Paul.....	629-1247
Mcmanigle, Luke .....	445-6435	Great River Energy.....	629-1360
Messer, Gavin.....	445-4341	Johnson, Henry .....	631-1282
Moyer, Corey .....	445-1818	Lillquist, Darin .....	631-2011
Umland, Jacob.....	445-5223	Meekins, Joan .....	631-4283
Adams, Ty .....	472-3438	Murray, Dixie.....	631-3617
Anderson, Bonnie.....	472-9720	Nicholson, Beverly .....	631-4338
Clasen, Mary .....	472-3650	Schmidt, Lisa .....	631-5919
Fordlee, Robert.....	472-6093	Whitetail Run Golf Course.....	631-7718
Guinn, William.....	472-8706	Bettin, Riley .....	837-7663
Shaver, Beverly.....	472-3213	Broughton, Jon .....	837-4881
Woodard, Breanna .....	472-9708	Carter, Martha .....	837-9181
Borth, Derek.....	538-3308	Kettle, Lahoma .....	837-1873
Hensel, Isaiah .....	538-3119	Moran, Christopher.....	837-7776
Kako, Clint.....	538-4367	Pederson, Robin.....	837-3255
Nevala, Jared .....	538-7524	Rhoades, Jaymelea .....	837-6014
Alanen, Aaron.....	564-1592	Tapio, Steven.....	837-9867
Andersen, Gary .....	564-3858		
Bodle, Teresa.....	564-0972		
Buresh, Dave.....	564-3556		
Deitchler, Isaac .....	564-3450		
Ford, Toni .....	564-2265		
Haataja, Darren .....	564-6241		
Haataja, Ross, A.....	564-8580		
Hanks, Travis .....	564-0184		
Herzog, Patricia.....	564-9328		
Hillukka, Kyle .....	564-0431		
Johnson, Brad.....	564-9092		
Langan, Jonathan.....	564-9802		
Martin, Carl.....	564-8491		
Mattila, Devin.....	564-8642		
Mcallister, Susan.....	564-3866		
Messer, Shirley, Ann.....	564-2231		
Olson, Carol .....	564-0777		
Pederson, Glenn.....	564-3273		
Pederson, Jeff .....	564-4874		
Piller, Andrew.....	564-6684		
Preston, Crystal.....	564-8170		

