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JULY/AUGUST 2012

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Stars & Stripes Forever

As you gather with family and friends this July 4th, we hope you take pride in the many blessings, freedoms, and opportunities we enjoy in the United States. All of us contribute, each in our own way, to making our nation a great place to live.

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



FCC's Reforms Target our Bottom Line

At the West Central Telephone Annual Meeting held in May, we focused on the implications the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) reforms could have on our cooperative—particularly on our fiber-optic construction projects. We planned to complete the Fiber to the Home project this year, bringing fiber to rural Sebeka and Wolf Lake residents, but have put our plans on hold until we are clear on how these new rules will affect our cooperative.

The FCC's Order, which was released in November, is vague in many areas, with deadlines looming but no clear direction or mechanisms in place to carry them out. After reading through the 740-page Order, we are still unclear as to how much the changes will affect our bottom line. However, it is clear that the cooperative will lose revenue.

Although WCTA generates revenue through diversifications sources like renewable energy

and surveillance cameras, the three main revenue sources come from customers, USF, and ICC. Under the FCC's Reform Order, we will face significant loss of two of the three revenue sources, the USF and ICC, both of which were designed to help make it possible for small carriers like WCTA to help build the telecommunications network that the entire nation uses. While there will be new funds for broadband expansion, it is unclear how that will replace the large investments we have already made.

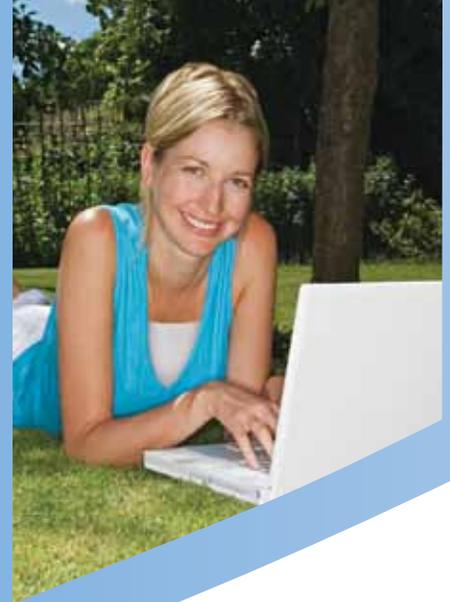
At this time, we are confident that we can continue the Fiber to the Home project using general funds and breaking the project up into three or four smaller phases. **We will keep you informed; however, your voice and opinion can make a difference by contacting members of Congress. For more information, visit www.saveruralbroadband.org.**



New Wi-Fi Hotspot in Sebekka

Visitors to the Sebekka Park and Campground will now have high speed Internet access via a Wi-Fi hotspot. While the service is provided by West Central Telephone, it's been made a reality in part through the Technical Assistance Fund grant and the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC). MIRC is a coalition, under the Blandin Foundation, working to bring resources and support to rural communities through education and broadband adoption.

The community of Sebekka felt that creating a public high speed Wi-Fi hotspot would be an asset to their community and help promote the area to businesses and individuals looking to relocate in a rural setting. Campers and visitors to the area will be able to stay connected with their work, friends, and family through the superfast access point, and at no cost. This is available to all, so grab your laptop and head over to the Sebekka Park for part of your workday.



A STARZ Original Series **BOSS,** Season 2 **starz**

Mayor Tom Kane's (Kelsey Grammer) grip on Chicago is more intense than ever. After nearly losing his career, his family, and his mind, Kane turns to solidifying his power with the help of new aides (Sanaa Lathan and Jonathan Groff). As his calculating wife (Connie Nielson), susceptible daughter (Hannah Ware), and political pawn (Jeff Hephner) pursue their own agendas, the odds stack against him. Through all this, Kane struggles to keep his debilitating brain disease in check in his quest for the last thing that matters to him—his legacy.

West Central Telephone offers 15 blockbuster channels from Starz® and Encore® in one package for only \$12.95 per month.

Sign up in July or August, and your first month is FREE!



Visit starz.com for airdates/times. STARZ and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Boss 2 © 2012 Lions Gate Television Inc. All rights reserved.



FCC Establishes Access Recovery Charge

As part of the Universal Service Fund (USF) Reform, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an Order late last year establishing the Access Recovery Charge (ARC) in order to transition a portion of the costs of providing service in high cost areas to the end user customer. The FCC believes that more of the cost of providing service in rural areas should be the customer's responsibility rather than supported by the USF.

The ARC is applicable to both residential and business customers, with residential customers incurring \$0.50 per month and business customers incurring \$1.00 per month per line. The new fee will be billed effective July 1, 2012.

Support the Troops & Ride



The 9th Annual Honor Ride Fundraiser leaves the Wadena VFW located at 213 SE 1st Street at noon on July 14, 2012—rain or shine. Registration is from 10:00am to 11:45am, with a short program at 11:30am. The fee is \$15 for each person and includes a meal after the ride. The ride ends at the Menahga VFW.

All proceeds benefit the soldiers and families of the Wadena National Guard. For more information, contact Karla Richardson at karla.richardson@us.army.mil.



This perfect pair delivers big original series like Boss, Season 2 and new hits like The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo on STARZ. You'll also get tons of Hollywood favorites on channels like ENCORE LOVE.

15 channels of nonstop entertainment for FREE the first month. Order today!

Unclaimed Checks

Each year, many capital credits checks are returned because of incomplete or non-current addresses. Some checks that have been received by customers are never cashed. If your name or someone you know appears on the list below, we may be holding a capital credits check from 2005. If you know any of the following people, please contact the office at 218-837-5151 or 800-945-2163.

Mary C Aguilar	First Choice Mortgage	Troy & Crystal Jacob	R E Miller	Dierdre Schmitz
Clark Anderson	Tom Foley	Hannah Jacobson	Rodney Mills	Joe & Susan Slavick
Kim Augustine	Steve Forar	Ronald Jacobson	MNDOT Maintenance	Roxanne Stanfield
Automated Wagering Inter. Inc.	Feliciano Gomez	Lindsey Johnson	Donald Molter	Patrick & Deb Stanton
Kimberly Baker	Frank Gordon	Susan Johnson	Teresa Neal	John Stark
Carl A & Lucille Bergman	Brian & Debbie Haataja	Victor Kern	Sarah Nelson	Harlan Stockwell
Lee Bernier	Lawrence Hammerbacker	Linda Knapp	Arthur Olmstead	Ted & Gens Bar-B-Q – Jeff Ludovissie
Trina Brackin	Allan Hanson	Judy Kocurek	Adam Olson	Dean Tschudi
John Bristlin	Laura Hanson	Jim Kolars	Stanley Olson	Florence Weber
Michael A Carpick	Tom Hanson	Kenneth Kowalke	JoAnn Palmer	Susan Wehmas
Michael B Cedarbloom	Ken Harrison	Kelly Kuschel	Jim & Gail Peterson	Randy Weiher
Fred & Cynthia Cox	Carl Hendrickson	Trudy Kutzorik	Marie R Peterson	Amanda Weishair
Annarika Creamer	Joan Henry	Arlene Larson	Steven Peterson	Carolyn Wesenberg
J. & L. Cutler	Greg & Sheila Hensel	Henry Leibr	John A. Pierce	Ron Wielinski
Fannie J Daggett	Arnold W Hill	Eugene Leonard	Emil Pietila	Bruce Ylitalo
Delta Environment Consult	Layne Hillier	Jody Lopez	Greg Pippert	Billy Young
Todd Doll	Juli Holkesvig	Pennie Lottman	Donna Ritari	Donald Zartwell
Robert H & Marvel Downey	Lorraine Holm	Ronald Madlo	Grace Robinson	Glenn Zettervall
Jennifer Dunker	Kathy Hummingbird	Garrett Marshall	Greg Ruotsala	
David A. & Kelly Erwin	Steve Hunter	John Martinez	S & M Auto – Roger Motl	
Judy Evans	Donald Ihme	Norman Maunu	Melanie Sainsbury-Nelson	
Kathryn Fairchild	Roy Iverson	Guy McDonald	Charles Schleder	
Ralph Fick	Candy Jackson	Dawn Miller	Andrew Schmitz	

All checks that are not claimed will be turned into the State of Minnesota as unclaimed property by October 15, 2012. If the unclaimed property remains unclaimed, then after a reasonable time the state returns the money to the WCTA Scholarship Program. Typically, this money would be lost to us, but because of our cooperative status, we are able to use the funds to benefit the scholarship program.



Welcome, New Members

A Clean Plate.....	564-1010
Aho, Ryan	538-6058
Ascheman, James.....	564-7789
Ash, Leslie E.....	445-5776
Boyd, Kurt.....	837-6122
Burke, Gerald	445-5761
Carlson, Jacob	564-0701
Dero, Nancy	564-1956
Dougherty, Dustin.....	445-5765
Emry, James.....	564-3709
Finley, Marilyn (Cookie).....	837-4109
Fore, Trent	445-5764
Haataja, Brent	564-5904
Hendrickson, Nathan & Lisa....	564-5789
Hillstrom, Susan	538-6547
Hoefs, Howard	564-0819
Hron, Jerry	837-3006
Huhta, Nathan J	564-5822
Hull, Jacob	564-5747
Isola, Brent	538-6067
Junes, Dennis.....	564-5821
Kapaun, Jan.....	564-4109
Keranen, Robert	564-6549
Komulainen, Sayon.....	538-5720
Malone, Lone	837-2340
Matson, Arnold.....	564-5883
Mattson, Heidi	837-6104
Miska, Kevin.....	564-5847
Nelson, Kristina	564-5912
Nelson, Randy.....	564-5850
Olson, Erik.....	445-5763
Petersen, Janel.....	564-5782
Rasmussen, Russell	564-0186
Sanders, Paul	564-5869
Scheler, Amy	837-6115
Schwalbaugh, Susie	837-6123
Shear Attraction.....	445-5172
Stevens, Kevin.....	837-6120
Stine, Michael.....	472-8096
The Outpost	564-9585
Thorpe Jr., Rod	564-5818
Uselman, Dan.....	445-5742
Verndale Grocery & Treasures Too	445-5182
Wilcox, Evelyn	564-7775



A *Pinterest*-ing Way to Collect and Connect

Pinterest (www.pinterest.com) offers a virtual place to house collections of the images you believe are beautiful, funny, important, or otherwise interesting. On a Pinterest pinboard, you can even collect intangibles like the snippets of stories, sayings, and ideas you used to tack onto a bulletin board or glue into your scrapbook.

Most Pinterest users are women (80 percent, according to a recent Google Ad Planner inquiry by Ignite Social Media), so collections tend toward fashion, cooking, home décor, crafts, and children. Men tend to collect images related to automobiles, sports, men's fashion, gadgets, and travel. Practically everyone on Pinterest collects images representing movies, music, books, humor, and inspiring sayings.

The beauty of Pinterest is you can collect whatever strikes your fancy. Pinboards are personal and often highly unique. You get a sense of who people are by looking at their pinboards and pins. If you like what you see, you can follow them or click on their pins and Repin them on your own boards. You also can add pins to your Like list or Comment on them. You can even click on a pin and go to its original source to find out more. Click on names, pins, and boards in activity feeds to see new things and meet new people.

The beauty of Pinterest is you can collect whatever strikes your fancy. Pinboards are personal and often highly unique.

You can use Pinterest pinboards to help you accomplish tasks from big to small. Collect ideas to help plan a wedding, decorate a home, organize recipes, document your style, or organize your office. Pin funny or inspiring images to cheer up your family during a difficult time, add to an intellectual dialogue, or introduce yourself to a new group.

Pinterest is an invitation-only website, so to get started you need to ask a friend who's already on the site to invite you. Once you receive your email invitation, you simply click the link to set up your account. The Pinterest wizard will take you through the steps, and you can start pinning!