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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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Like to Join the Nominations & Election Committee?

As a member of West Central Telephone Association, you are eligible to serve on the Nominations & Election Committee. Members of the committee are responsible for appointing qualified candidates to run for directorship, collecting ballots and verifying election results at the annual meeting held in May. If you are interested in serving as a committee member, please contact West Central at 218-837-5151 before January 18.



WEST CENTRAL TELEPHONE WISHES YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If your family received new internet-connected devices as holiday gifts — such as tablets, laptops, smartphones, streaming equipment, smart home solutions, video doorbells, and home security systems — you may need a new internet plan as well.

Upgrading to faster internet will enable you to use many devices simultaneously without experiencing slowdowns and buffering. We offer a range of plans with speeds up to 1,000 Mbps.

CALL 837-5151
TO START THE NEW YEAR WITH NEW INTERNET

Service availability and internet speed will depend on many factors. Speed quoted refers to wired connection. Contact us for details.



Contest Winners Announced

Aleksi and Henrik Wuollet of Menahga submitted the winning photo featured on the cover of the 2021 WCTA Directory. Henrik took the photo of Aleksi with the family's dog. The rising sun contrasting with the dark of the night in the photo made for an impressive silhouette! Aleksi and Henrik won \$200 for the winning entry.

Five fabulous artists placed first in their age division in the annual WCTA Holiday Coloring Contest. The winners were: Olivia Dahlvang, Oscar Bruns, Ephraim Roiko, Abigail Huhta and Aubrey Ruonavaara.

West Central TV Channel Updates

At the time of this writing, we are still negotiating retransmission of several networks including KVLV, KXJB, KARE and KVRP. We have completed negotiations for WUCW and have received a fair rate; the other networks are again asking for huge rate increases. Unfortunately, this means we will most likely impose a rate increase as a result. Rest assured we will do our best to negotiate and keep the rates as low as possible.

We have added the following HD channels:

- Game Show Network HD on 307
- Pursuit HD on 308
- Great American Country HD (GAC) on 310
- Fusion HD on 311

We have received multiple requests to add the Newsmax network over the last couple of months. The channel is now added to the Ultimate or Complete TV packages on channel 102. Delivering breaking news and analysis on the latest topics, Newsmax TV includes exclusive interviews with high-profile talent and contributors from across the political spectrum, up-to-the-minute headlines and the latest info on politics, health, personal finance and other news.

In November, we added new channels that feature local sports, programs or other school events. Each school provides the content for their channel, and they are available to all TV subscribers:

- Sebeka Trojans on 900
- Menahga High School on 901
- Verndale High School on 902



For the current channel lineup, visit www.wcta.net.



American Gods
Premiering January 10
@ 7:00pm

STARZ

Following his discovery last season that Mr. Wednesday is his father, Shadow attempts to break away and assert himself as his own man. As he settles into life in Lakeside, he uncovers a dark secret while exploring questions of his own divinity. Guided on this spiritual journey by the gods of his black ancestors, the Orishas, Shadow must decide exactly who he is—a god seeking veneration or a man in service of the “we.”

Starz® and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Visit starz.com for airdates/times. Frozen © DISNEY ENTERPRISES INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Scholarship Opportunities



As an investment in our youth, West Central Telephone is committed to the future of rural Minnesota. We are pleased to announce the following scholarship opportunities and invite all high school seniors to apply.

FRS College Scholarship Program

The FRS College Scholarship program provides \$2,000 and the sponsoring NTCA member company provides \$500 for a total of \$2,500. In addition to the FRS general scholarships, FRS has the following named scholarships:*

- Staurulakis Family Scholarships
- TMS Scholarships
- Everett Kneece Scholarship
- Roger Alan Cox Memorial Scholarships
- Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship

**Submitting one application is sufficient for eligibility of all available scholarships. Scholarships are completed online and must be submitted no later than March 5, 2021. For applications and guidelines, see your high school guidance counselor or visit www.FRS.org/student.*

WCTA Scholarship Program

High school seniors whose parents are cooperative members are encouraged to apply for one of eight scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The application deadline is April 2, 2021. Our cooperative status allows us to fund our scholarship program in part through unclaimed capital credits.

Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation Scholarships

The MTA Foundation will award six scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2021. Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$2,000. There are two types of scholarships this year:

- **One \$2,000 Telecom Scholarship** – To be eligible, applicants must be majoring in either Telecommunications or Information Technology (IT) at a university, college or technical college and be a Minnesota resident.
- **One of five \$2,000 General Scholarships** – To be eligible, applicants must be attending post-secondary education at a university, college or technical college, be a Minnesota resident, and the applicant's family must subscribe to at least one service from an MTA member company.

Once completed, the application must be printed and submitted to WCTA by February 19, 2021.

2nd Year or Beyond Scholarship

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 and are from any one of the telephone exchanges of WCTA currently attending 2nd year or beyond higher education are eligible. **Past scholarship winners are also eligible.** The application deadline is May 28, 2021.

Links to all scholarships are found on www.wcta.net under the Scholarships tab.

HBOmax

Current HBO subscribers now have access to HBO Max, your new entertainment experience like no other. It's the HBO you know and love – and now with the HBO Max app, you've got a new way to stream everything on HBO plus even more amazing shows and movies. The best part is it's yours to enjoy at no additional charge with your current subscription.

Simply download the HBO Max app or visit play.hbomax.com/login from your browser. Just sign in through your TV or mobile provider using your account credentials to start streaming today!

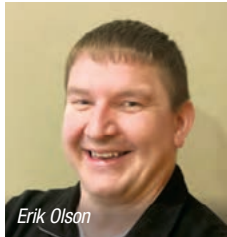
- Download the HBO Max App or visit play.hbomax.com/login
- Click "Sign In" (browser) or click the "Person" icon (app)
- Tap "Already Subscribed? Sign In"
- Choose "Sign In through a TV or mobile provider"
- Select your provider from the alphabetized drop down
- Sign in using your watchTVeverywhere account credentials
- Set up profiles and stream

Call 837-5151 today to add HBO.



Welcome New Members

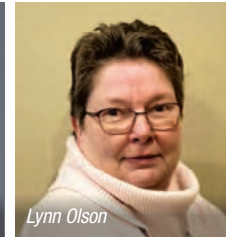
Anderson, Shirley894-3813
 Barmah, Hats.....895-4287
 Becker, Mary Lee894-1369
 Bjerga, Mike & Judy894-3454
 Boettner, Michael R.....837-3355
 Bullseye Bar & Grill445-2855
 Central MN Fierm BA894-0170
 Chase, C.....894-1390
 Davis, R.....414-6996
 Deans Tire Service894-3024
 Denny, Matthew & Kayla414-6726
 Denny Phyllis.....837-4148
 Dolezal, Jamie & Jennie895-5602
 Erholtz, Duff.....414-6761
 Finke, Peter & Darla.....414-6571
 Gosse, Carol894-2050
 Hamann, Bob & Joan.....894-3139
 Hasselberg, Joe & Barb414-6961
 Houselog, Roger & Laurel414-6365
 Kenmar Energy895-4288
 Lisson, Albert & Carol.....894-3296
 Ludlow, Leeroy & Dawn414-6139
 Marsh, David & Cynthia.....894-1559
 Martin, R C.....414-6052
 Matson, Lindy564-6121
 Mertens, Darcy.....414-6639
 Monte, Eva.....414-6044
 O'Brien Eastside
 Mini Storage.....894-4136
 Peterson, Charles & Shirley ..564-9326
 Peterson, Doug.....414-6075
 Peterson, Roger & Martha...894-1829
 Porter, Keith & Sandy894-2464
 Reese, John & Barbara894-3259
 Rife's.....445-9200
 Ron's Auto Repair894-3367
 Schmitz, Joni445-4140
 Seipkes, Pam.....414-6286
 Siedeman, Carolyn.....894-1468
 Solien, Eleanor629-1575
 The Pirates Den.....445-2855
 Todd Wadena
 Electric Coop631-3120
 Tyrrell, Stanley & Janice.....894-1821
 Waaraniemi, Ann.....564-5767
 Wicht, Harold629-1004
 Wiebolt, Mike & Jani.....414-6979



Erik Olson



Jim Nardello



Lynn Olson



Kristi Vanroekel

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Erik J Olson CPA Ltd

Erik J Olson CPA Ltd is a local accounting and finance firm located at 503 Jefferson St S in Wadena. They specialize in personalized financial consulting, tax accounting services and other services to meet your financial needs. Unlike some firms, Erik J Olson CPA Ltd will do more than just prepare your business or individual tax return; they also offer continuous tax planning so you can achieve your full financial potential.

Erik Olson is the owner of the firm and was born and raised in Wadena. Erik earned his BS in accounting at St. Cloud State University before becoming a licensed CPA. He opened his own practice in 2012, and now has 17 years of experience under his belt.

Jim Nardello, also a CPA at the firm, earned his BBA in accounting from Hamline University. Jim works with a wide range of clients in many industries.

Lynn Olson is the Office Manager (and Erik's mom). Lynn keeps the office running smoothly and handles bookkeeping, corporate tax returns and customer service.

Kristi Vanroekel is the Staff Accountant specializing in payroll.

Erik J Olson CPA Ltd trusts West Central Telephone's business support services to keep their network running smoothly and ensure that the important work they do is backed up and safe-guarded properly. We encourage you to trust the folks at this firm to help with your financial needs. For more information, call 631-1405, email kristi@ericjolsoncpa.com or visit www.ericjolsoncpa.com.

Call West Central Telephone at 837-5150 to learn more about our IT Business Support services for your business.