

spring 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

- Scam Calls
- Pause Live TV Chip
- Toy Drive Success
- Board Nomination Process

THE DCT link

LIFE'S CONNECTIONS DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

65th Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, June 8th

Dakota Central Telecommunications' 65th Annual Meeting will be held at the Foster County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, June 8th. The business meeting will be held at 4:30 with a meal served from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Hope to see you on June 8th!



Live Webcam

You may have already noticed that you can view a live webcam feed on our website showing the city of Jamestown. The camera periodically spans in different directions to show the current weather conditions, you know, in case you can't see out the window or if you want to know what the weather is like in Jamestown! Check it out at daktel.com/livewebcam, or follow the "Live Webcam" link on the homepage.



Business Spotlight: Central City Auto Auction

The first Saturday of every month you will find Central City Auto Auction in Carrington buzzing with activity during the monthly public auto auction. With vehicles constantly moving through the indoor auction site, bids are coming in online and in-house, and the auctioneer is going a mile a minute. If you like action, this is the place to be on auction day! State-of-the-art technology can be found throughout the auction site to make sure all things operate smoothly, including the sound system, displays, and online streaming. Even when the buzz dies down, there are still things happening behind the scenes. A majority of the business is done following an auction, and as soon as all that business is complete, it's time to get ready for the next one. Aside from the monthly public auction, they also host dealer-only auctions every Tuesday.

At CCAA you will find a handful of full-time employees, including owners Loren and Renee, to keep things rolling between



auctions. Come auction day there are many employees running the show – from professional auctioneers, staff managing the online bids and in-house bids, drivers moving the vehicles through, and more staff coordinating the flow of vehicles.

Now, aside from all the manpower it takes to keep these auctions running smoothly, the thing that makes all of this possible is an Internet connection (from DCT, of course). A reliable and fast connection is needed to keep things rolling, especially because live streaming online is a huge part of each auction with a majority of the buyers being online bidders. The ability for them to accept online bids enables buyers from anywhere in the nation to purchase vehicles. For example, Renee explained that they (cont. pg. 6)



Letter from the General Manager

Keith A. Larson, CEO/GM

As you may have heard, Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow on Groundhog Day, so spring should be on its way soon. Since 1887, he has only predicted shorter winters 18 times so I am hoping he is right this year!

With the thoughts of spring on its way, we are preparing for our construction season. This year will be a lighter construction year than the last, as we have completed the area South of Jamestown where we had received grant money to offset some of the construction costs. In order to complete the areas designated in the FCC Rural Broadband Experiment grant, we will be constructing fiber facilities to about 80 locations approximately three miles North of I-94 and directly to the northwest of Jamestown. Later this spring we will be contacting residents in that area to identify their interest for service. In addition, we will be adding larger fiber cable sizes to our main routes throughout the city of Jamestown, as we are running short on fiber in some areas. Much of the work in the city will encompass pulling the larger cable through existing conduit.

In addition to installing more fiber optic cable, we are doubling the size of our transport system that carries our video and Internet traffic throughout the network. As a result of ever-increasing video streaming and all the devices connected to the network, the bandwidth requirements continue to expand exponentially. DCT also provides the network connections for almost every cellular tower site in our service area. By expanding our transport system we can continue to provide the wireless carriers with the necessary capacity to carry data traffic to their core switches.

On another note, we have recently implemented a notification service that alerts Internet users when they have illegally downloaded copyrighted material. A message will be displayed in the browser window that copyrighted material has been downloaded, which will force the user to acknowledge the notification in order to dismiss it. The system keeps a record of each infringement, and if the user continues to ignore the messages, it may lead to disconnection of service. If you have received a message regarding copyright infringement, I would highly suggest you discontinue such use. Illegally downloading copyrighted material is a federal offense and carries very stiff fines and penalties if the copyright holder prosecutes the customer.

At the time I am writing this, we have been experiencing a pretty mild winter. The length of our daylight continues to increase and brighten our days. Let's hope the mild weather continues until the time you read this!!


Keith A. Larson



**DREAMING OF
A NEW PAD?
LET'S HOOK UP!**



BUILDING OR BUYING CAN BE MIND-BOGGLING – DON'T FORGET WHAT CONNECTS YOU.

Whether you're building your dream home or moving into it, let us get you connected. DCT brings you Internet speeds up to 200 MBPS, fully loaded Digital TV with HD and DVR options, and local phone service all over a reliable **FIBER CONNECTION.**

HOOK UP WITH US and get **FREE INTERNET** for 6 months, plus no activation fee! Offer ends April 30.

Available to new customers only. Must subscribe to Internet and at least one other service. Twelve month agreement required or early termination fee applies. Credit for Internet service will be given every third month beginning after two months of paid service.



www.daktel.com 652.3184 Carrington 952.1000 Jamestown

Straight from the Helpdesk... Tech Support Scam Calls

Scam artists are always coming up with new ways to take advantage of unsuspecting victims, and this time they are using the phone to break into your computer. Their new tactic is to call claiming to be an expert associated with a well-known company, such as Microsoft. They will convince you that your computer has a virus, and that they can help fix the "problem." Once they've gained your trust, they will use a variety of tactics to either gain access to your computer or get your credit card information. No matter which approach they use, their main goal is to make money off you somehow.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET A CALL

If you receive one of these calls from someone claiming to be a tech support expert, hang up and call the company on a phone number you know is legitimate. If the caller is pressuring you or creating a sense of urgency, they are probably a scam artist.

OTHER TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Don't let someone take control of your computer who has called you on their own.
- Don't always believe caller ID in these situations. Scam artists can spoof caller ID numbers and may appear to be calling from a legitimate company, when they are not.
- Be careful when looking up phone numbers for technical support online, as scammers sometimes place ads online to convince you to call them.
- Never give your credit card information to someone that has called you claiming to be tech support. If you are being pressured into buying a product or subscription for security, hang up and call your security software company directly and they will help.
- Never give your password to someone over the phone. It is most likely a scam if they ask for any password.

Another thing you can do is make sure your phone number is on the National Do Not Call Registry (call 1-888-382-1222 or visit donotcall.gov) and report any illegal sales calls that you receive. To file a complaint with the FTC go to ftc.gov/complaint. For more information on this type of scam and others, visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/computer-security.

What's New with DCTV... Pause Live TV Chip

We now have a Pause Live TV USB chip that enables any 140 STB to pause, rewind, and jump – no DVR required! You can rewind the current channel for approximately an hour, but as soon as you switch to a different channel it will re-set.



How do you get started? It's easy – just plug and play! Unplug power from the STB, install the TV chip in USB port on the back of the STB, and plug the STB back into power. You can now pause, rewind then fast forward live TV as you are watching!

The Pause Live TV chip does not replace the need for a DVR, as it cannot record shows. However, it can be used with Whole Home HD/DVR on secondary STB's that do not have the capability to pause live TV.

SAD THAT YOUR WINTER SPORTS ARE ALMOST OVER?

CHEER UP!

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR BASEBALL, TRACK,
PROM, CONCERTS AND MORE! STAY TUNED
FOR ALL THE ACTION!



Business Spotlight:

Central City Auto Auction (cont.)

sell many two-wheel drive pickups to dealers in Texas, so that is a huge advantage for them to be able to sell to anyone.

Another way CCAA utilizes DCT's Internet service is by wirelessly uploading photos of new inventory as soon as it hits the lot. This means that their sale list online is continually updating, right up until auction time. All of the auction information and inventory is posted on their website (www.centralcityautoauction.com), so they are always making sure it is up-to-date and current. As you can imagine, Internet is a lifeline for this business!

CCAA definitely makes use of the Internet to their advantage, but one of the main things that sets them apart from the competition is their location. Loren and Renee Hallwachs have positioned this business in the perfect location that serves an area that is untouched. Being centrally located in the state and close to each major city gives them easy access to a larger number of vehicles, while keeping transportation costs low. CCAA is unique in the fact that they are the only dealer auto auction that also offers public auctions in the entire upper Midwest region, which is a huge benefit for them.

Like so many of us these days, a reliable Internet connection is vital to the success of this business. DCT is happy to be able to help Central City Auto Auction stay "connected" so they can do what they do best!

DCT Toy Drive Success!

Every year during the holidays we love to give back to the community and help children experience the magic of Christmas. Once again, thanks to our wonderful employees and some generous customers, we were able to spread holiday spirit in the form of toys. With the help of Foster County Public Health and Toys for Tots in Jamestown, all the donated toys were distributed to deserving children in the area for Christmas.

Customers that brought toys into both DCT offices were entered in a drawing for a Kindle Fire. Winners of the drawing were Mya and Mason Cook of Carrington. Thank you to everyone who donated toys for the Toy Drive!



Board Nomination Process

Are you interested in being a candidate for Director on the Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative board?

Following is the nomination process:

A candidate must request an application and petition from the Cooperative by simply contacting one of our offices, then obtain the fifteen signatures of Cooperative members from the same district he or she lives – or fifteen signatures at-large for an at-large position. The completed petition must be submitted to the Cooperative no later than April 1. Cooperative members will be informed of the candidates on their May bill. Director elections will be held at the Annual Meeting of Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

Cooperative Districts that are up for election are:

EDMUNDS EXCHANGE

Currently served by **Doug Wede**.

Those with a 285 prefix are eligible to run for this exchange.

YPSILANTI EXCHANGE

Currently served by **Craig Headland**.

Those with a 489 prefix are eligible to run for this exchange.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Currently served by **Kathy McCracken**.

All Cooperative members are eligible to run for this seat.

No nominations from the floor of the annual meeting will be permitted, except in the event that no candidate has been nominated through the petition process.

To request an application and petition, please call Dakota Central at 701.652.3184.



MARCH MANIA PICK-IT CHALLENGE

We would like to introduce a fun, FREE college basketball contest that allows everyone to participate, no matter how much you know about basketball!

Make your picks and have a chance to win some great prizes. Watch for more information on our website and Facebook page in March!

Sign up to play at dct.pickitchallenge.com

Lifeline Program

The Lifeline telephone assistance program has been available for several years to qualifying customers of Dakota Central Telecommunications. Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers will receive \$9.25 per month per Lifeline subscriber.

Who is eligible?

Customers who qualify under one of the following major economic assistance programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SNAP, Energy Assistance, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, National School Lunch (NSL) or income guidelines of 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The named subscriber to the local telephone service must participate in one of these assistance programs in order for that household to receive Lifeline support. When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must self-certify in our office by completing a Lifeline Assistance Application. Lifeline assistance is available on one communications service only. Therefore, if you receive Lifeline credit on your landline telephone, you do not qualify for assistance on your cell phone also.

If you no longer qualify for any one of the economic programs, then you no longer qualify for Lifeline and must contact our office to discontinue this discount. For more information on Lifeline, please call our office at 701.652.3184 or 701.952.1000.

For questions on eligibility, call your county social services office.

ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.



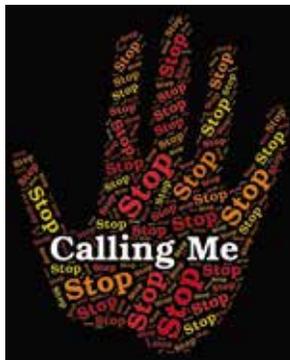
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



TRAVELERS
Common Ground Alliance

Say "Do-Not-Call" to Unwanted Telemarketers

The National Do Not Call Registry has been established to address unwelcome telemarketing calls. The registry applies to all telemarketers, with the exception of businesses with whom you have an existing relationship and certain non-profit and political organizations. You can register your telephone numbers (both landline and cell phones) online at www.donotcall.gov or call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register. Registration is free.



www.donotcall.gov

The DCT Link is published by Dakota Central Telecommunications.

Carrington office: 630 5th Street N Carrington, ND 58421 p: 701.652.3184 f. 701.674.8121	Jamestown office: 604 18th Street SW Jamestown, ND 58401 p: 701.952.1000 f. 701.952.1001	Office hours: 8am-4:30pm M-F To report trouble call your local office and follow prompts.	Internet Help Desk hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
--	--	--	--

Win credit on your DCT bill!

Win **\$25 credit** on your DCT bill. Just return this coupon by April 30, 2016, to be eligible for the drawing.

Congratulations to last issue's winner:
Gerald Samson, Jamestown.

NAME _____

PHONE # _____