

THE LINK DAKOTA CENTRAL

FALL 2024
dakotacentral.com



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2024 Gift-Giving Guide



A letter from our General Manager

As the days grow shorter and a new season settles in, I find myself reflecting on the importance of gratitude, wonder, and the spirit of togetherness that defines this time of year. At Dakota Central, we are fortunate to be part of such vibrant communities, and I want to express my sincere thanks for your continued trust and support.

This season is special for many reasons. As we celebrate Thanksgiving and look ahead to Christmas, I'd like to share a concept we are embracing: "Thanksmas", a fusion of the two holidays that reminds us to focus on gratitude, kindness, and being together, all at once. It's a time to appreciate all that we have, spread warmth to those around us, and create lasting memories with the people who matter most.

I know that many of us are navigating a busy world, where technology helps us stay connected. Whether you're watching holiday movies or exploring new recipes, I encourage you to take time for rest and reflection. We often push ourselves during the holidays, but it's important to pause, recharge, and enjoy moments of peace.

As, here are a few ways you can use technology to make your "Thanksmas" even more meaningful:

- **Explore the World:** *This is the perfect time to use technology to learn something new. Whether it's exploring different holiday traditions, taking virtual tours of famous landmarks, or discovering new hobbies, the world is your oyster.*
- **Relax and Unwind:** *Take advantage of streaming services, e-books, and online wellness apps to enjoy some downtime. Let technology serve as a tool for relaxation and self-care as you wrap up the year.*
- **Spread Kindness Online:** *Small acts of kindness go a long way. A simple message of thanks, a shared memory, or even a donation to a local fundraising campaign can brighten someone's day, especially in this season of giving.*

Here's to a "Thanksmas" filled with joy, gratitude, and peace. May your holidays be restful, your connections meaningful, and your hearts full.

Wishing you and your loved ones a warm and joyful season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Holly Utke".

Holly Utke
Chief Executive Officer/
General Manager



A Remote for Your Wi-Fi

You've Got the Power



The Command IQ app gives you the power to control every device within your home network. This FREE and easy to use app (included with your Premium Managed Wi-Fi) is the connectivity command center for your Wi-Fi, allowing you to create the ultimate internet experience for you and your family. Some of our favorite ways to use the CommandIQ app:

- See who and what is connected to your Wi-Fi network
- Quickly create and share a guest network for visitors
- Run a bandwidth test
- Create individual profiles for users in your home
- Change your Wi-Fi password
- Monitor usage and schedule offline times for healthy screen time habits

Scan the code to learn
how to get started!



Don't take our word for it, take theirs!

Happy TV Customers



"I love the new upgrade to our TV! So easy to use and I never thought I would be able to understand it but Dakota Central reps are great at helping you!"

- CINDY

"I recently upgraded my television service and your Customer Service Representative was very helpful and courteous. There was no wait time and I was in and out with minimum interference. The new service was explained in detail and I was able to do the install myself!"

- JOE



Business Spotlight: Drift Prairie Brewing Company

“Crafting Beer & Community” is the idea that drives **Drift Prairie Brewing Company**. Launched almost two years ago now, the mission is to provide a family-friendly gathering space unlike any other in town that encourages conversation and connections.

Owned by **Nick Bruns** and **Emma Kleingartner**, Drift Prairie was a pipe dream that finally gained traction and took off after years of shaping. “Whatever we do, we want to do it well,” Nick stated.

Nick explained their vision was to fill a need for young families in **Jamestown** and the surrounding communities by creating a space to gather and feel welcome, while connecting over food and drinks. “We recognized an opportunity to bring this type of space to Jamestown, realizing it was a way to help move the community forward,” Nick described. The goal was for the space to feel unique and fresh, yet comfortable and casual.

You’ll notice inside the establishment there are no TVs for entertainment, just games, to encourage “disconnecting” from technology and to foster personal connections. You’ll also notice there is ample seating space inside, almost too much seating, intentionally. “We want to encourage people to stay and hang out as long as they want without feeling like they’re taking someone else’s spot,” Nick said. To further accommodate





"Whatever we do, we want to do it well."

-Nick Bruns, Co-Owner

families, they created a "kid corner," complete with games and activities to keep children entertained. "Another benefit to having the extra space is the opportunity for businesses and organizations to use the back seating area to host company events or group gatherings. We can do a custom menu for your event to create a fun evening where we do the cooking," Nick added.

Emma, the kitchen expert and menu creator, wanted to keep things "fresh and different" when crafting the food menu. "We agreed from the beginning the kitchen would be greaseless and fry-less, which has been a challenge," Emma explained. "Staples with a twist" is how she would describe the menu items at Drift Prairie. An unexpected addition to the menu is lavosh, in which

they offer a variety of unique toppings and flavors. "The lavosh is a nod to **Lil's Restaurant** that has nostalgia for us," Emma said, which was a staple in Jamestown years ago.

The brewery is a large part of the business and has already expanded since opening. **John Rose**, head brewer, has a passion for brewing new and exciting flavors, like pickle infused beer and strawberry hard lemonade. However, to fill the need of something more simple, John has come up with what they call "Basic Beer" to satisfy those that just want something simple and light. The Drift Prairie Root Beer is also a favorite around town.

Like the unique atmosphere and food and drink offerings, Drift Prairie operates differently than most restaurants in town.

Continued on page 6



Embracing technology, an unconventional ordering system is utilized and completely electronic. Customers can order and pay directly at the table, eliminating disruption from a server. This also maximizes the utilization of staff, making the process extremely efficient. “If we didn’t have internet we wouldn’t be able to operate. Our point-of-sale system and table ordering are all connected with **Dakota Central** internet,” Nick said. The electronic ordering system creates efficiencies, like speeding up orders and again, utilizing staff as efficiently as possible.

Despite overcoming challenges, Nick and Emma agree that the launch of Drift Prairie has been a positive journey thus far, and they’re excited for what’s to come. The connections they’ve made along with hearing about customer’s favorite food and drinks are part of what they enjoy most about running the business. Future plans for Drift Prairie include a menu expansion based on customer feedback, distribution of cans and kegs and getting involved with local community partnerships.

The electronic ordering system creates efficiencies, like speeding up orders and utilizing staff as efficiently as possible.



A Quick Guide



How to Stream NFL Games This Year

The NFL season is here, and streaming is now the go-to way to catch every game. While it's different from traditional cable, streaming offers flexibility and options that make it worth exploring. Here's what you need to know about where to watch, how to watch, and the challenges of streaming NFL games this season.

The Challenge: Adapting to Streaming

- › **Multiple Subscriptions:** You might need several services (e.g., Amazon Prime for Thursday nights, Netflix for the Christmas game) to watch all the action. *
- › **Switching Between Apps:** Unlike cable, you'll be moving between different apps to catch the games. Thankfully, this is easy to do with an Amazon Firestick!

Note: Services like Amazon Prime, Netflix, and others are separate from Dakota Central and require separate subscriptions.

Where to Watch NFL Games



Amazon Prime Video: Exclusive home for Thursday Night Football—the only place to catch Thursday night games.



Netflix: Exclusive Christmas Day games for the first time.



NFL+: Watch local and primetime games on mobile/tablets.

Dakota Central TV, YouTube TV, & Hulu + Live TV: Live on the locals. Access to CBS, NBC, FOX, and ESPN for Sunday and Monday games.

Paramount+ & ESPN+: Stream select games, with Paramount+ showing CBS games and ESPN+ offering some Monday Night Football action.

Availability & Network Control

Remember, it's the networks (CBS, NBC, FOX, ESPN, and Amazon) that control game availability. Even if you subscribe to multiple services, the games you can watch depend on broadcast rights of the networks.

Tips for Streamers

- › **Check Your Team's Schedule:** Different services carry different games.
- › **Plan for Blackouts:** Some games may not be available in your area.
- › **Trial Periods:** Use free trials of different services to see which suits you best.

While streaming may feel different from flipping channels on cable, it offers flexibility and the chance to watch games anywhere. With a bit of preparation, you'll be all set for the season!

Free Streaming Apps



Did you know you can use your **Amazon Firestick**—the same device you can use for your Dakota Central TV app—to access several free streaming platforms? Popular options like **Tubi**, **Pluto TV**, **Freevee**, and **Crackle** offer a wide range of movies, TV shows, and live channels at no cost. While these services are ad-supported, they provide a budget-friendly way to enjoy entertainment. You can also check out **Peacock**, which offers a free tier with select content. With your Firestick, it's easy to switch between all your favorite apps!

* PRO TIP!

Check out the MyBundle tool at mybundle.tv/Dakota/start to find the best streaming platform combination for you!



FIBER VS 5G

When it comes to home internet, we're hearing more and more about fiber versus 5G internet. But what exactly do they mean, and what's the difference? Here's a breakdown to help you understand the differences between these two technologies.

What is Fiber?

Fiber-optic internet uses ultra-thin strands of glass or plastic, known as fibers, to transmit data at the speed of light. It delivers high-speed internet directly to homes and businesses through underground cables. This technology is known for being incredibly reliable, offering symmetrical upload and download speeds, and maintaining a consistent connection even during peak usage times.

Key Benefits

Speed: Offers speeds up to 1 Gbps (or even higher in some areas).

Coverage: Great for home and work-from-home situations, stream on multiple devices simultaneously, and provides strong signal throughout the home.

Reliability: Not affected by weather or interference, providing a stable connection.

Symmetrical Speeds: Upload and download speeds are the same, ideal for activities like video conferencing, online gaming, and working from home.

Future-Proof: Fiber networks can support growing internet demands for years to come.

What is 5G?

5G is the fifth generation of mobile network technology. Unlike fiber, which is a wired connection, 5G is wireless and relies on radio waves to deliver high-speed internet. It's designed to be suitable for mobile devices, smart cities, and IoT (Internet of Things) applications.

Key Benefits

Speed: High Speeds in urban areas, but susceptible to congestion during high-use times.

Coverage: 5G home internet is not yet widely available in all areas, particularly rural areas.

Reliability: Can be affected by obstacles like buildings and weather conditions.

Mobility: Offers high-speed internet on the go, making it perfect for smartphones, tablets, and other mobile devices.

Latency: Can be higher compared to fiber, affecting real-time applications.

What type of connection



Which One Is Right for You?

Choose Fiber if you need a reliable, high-speed connection for your home or business—especially if you engage in activities that require high bandwidth, such as video streaming, online gaming, or remote work.

Choose 5G if you need internet access on the go or live in an area where fiber isn't available yet. It's a great option for those who want a connection for mobile devices, however, is often subject to data caps and increased costs for high data usage.

In summary, both Fiber and 5G have their advantages, and each serves a different purpose. While Fiber offers unmatched reliability and speed for fixed locations, 5G provides flexibility and mobility for users on the move. Together, they represent the future of internet connectivity, ensuring that we stay connected, whether at home or on the go.

Did you know?

Dakota Central supports both Fiber and 5G Wireless

At Dakota Central, we're proud to offer top-tier fiber internet services. Our robust fiber infrastructure also supports 5G wireless networks used by major cellular providers. This means that whether you're at home with fiber internet or on the go with 5G, you're benefiting from the strength and reliability of Dakota Central!



is right for you?

2024 GIFT GUIDE



Check out our recommended gadget gifts this season for the tech-minded loved ones in your life.



Polaroid Hi-Print Pocket Photo Printer

Transform your digital memories into physical photos with this pocket-sized printer that uses sticky-backed paper. You can print your favorite Instagram shots and stick them anywhere.

Available on Amazon for \$79.99

For the Instagram lover

RokBlok Wireless Record Player

This portable, wireless record player rides on top of your vinyl records to play music through its built-in speakers, or wirelessly to Bluetooth speakers. It's quirky and perfect for retro-lovers who want to enjoy vinyl anywhere.

Available on Amazon for \$89.99

For the vinyl enthusiast on the move





Handpresso Portable Espresso Maker

This portable espresso maker is perfect for coffee lovers who want a fresh brew wherever they are. No electricity required—just pump, add hot water, and enjoy a high-quality espresso shot. Great for travel or the office.

Available on Amazon for \$79

For the coffee addict on the go

DJI Tello Quadcopter Drone

A mini Wi-Fi-controlled drone that's tons of fun to fly. You can perform tricks, shoot quick videos, and even learn basic coding with its programming feature! A great entry-level drone for anyone who loves tech and flight.

Available on Amazon for \$99



For the aspiring pilot



Furbo Dog Camera

This Wi-Fi-connected pet cam lets you check on your pet and toss treats from anywhere. Plus, it sends alerts when your dog is barking, so you can talk to them to calm them down. A fun and interactive way to spoil your furry companions!

Available on Amazon for \$99.99

For the pet parent who loves surprises

Bose SoundLink Revolve+ II Bluetooth Speaker

This portable Bluetooth speaker delivers 360-degree sound and is Wi-Fi-enabled for easy control with Alexa or Google Assistant. It's ideal for outdoor gatherings or around the house.

Available on Amazon for \$199



For the audiophile

Anova Precision Cooker Nano

This Wi-Fi-enabled sous vide machine makes it easy to cook restaurant-quality meals at home. Control it through your phone and get precise temperatures for perfectly cooked steaks, fish, and more. Perfect for foodies who love experimenting in the kitchen.

Available on Amazon for \$149.99



For the at-home chef

Cricut Joy Machine

This compact cutting machine is Wi-Fi-enabled, allowing users to design and create personalized crafts from vinyl stickers to greeting cards. It's perfect for crafters who love customizing their projects, from home decor to fashion.

Available on Amazon for \$179.99

For the crafty DIY enthusiast



For the connected home



Dakota Central Gift Certificate

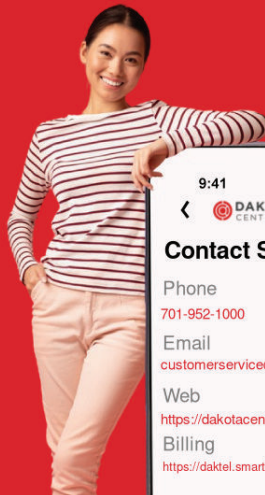
Give the gift of fiber-fast internet or TV from Dakota Central. It's the perfect way to keep your loved ones connected and entertained. Simply choose a set amount, and it will be automatically applied to their account.

Call 701-952-1000 today to purchase a gift certificate for someone special!



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Through the Dakota Central CommandIQ Wi-Fi app, we're never more than a tap away.

- ✓ Control your experience in real-time
- ✓ Call, email or visit our web support
- ✓ Access your billing account

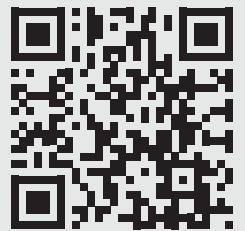
WIN CREDIT ON YOUR DAKOTA CENTRAL BILL!

Win a \$25 credit on your next Dakota Central bill!
Congratulations to last issue's winner:
Patrick and Marcy Greenwood, Jamestown
Next drawing date: **December 30, 2024**

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PHONE NUMBER

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