

THE LINK



DAKOTA
CENTRAL

SPRING 2026

dakotacentral.com

Carrington City Library



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Better Than Cell Signal



CELEBRATING



A letter from our General Manager

As the days grow longer and the signs of spring begin to appear, we can't help but get excited about the season ahead.

This year we're looking forward to a year of celebrating 75 years since the cooperative began, and where we've come since then.

At its core, our mission has always been simple: to keep our community connected. What began decades ago as a small rural telephone cooperative has grown into a modern broadband network powering homes, businesses, farms, schools, and healthcare across our service area. While the technology has evolved, our commitment to serving our customers has not.

This spring, we continue investing in our network to ensure the speed, reliability, and performance you expect. Whether you're working remotely, learning remotely, managing your business operations, streaming your favorite shows or even enjoying a daily online puzzle, dependable internet is no longer a luxury, it's essential for everyday life.

Spring is also a time for creation and all it takes is a spark of curiosity to turn into something meaningful. A small business launched from a home office, a garden planned with the help of horticulture research, or a project built after watching how-to videos. Connection fuels the journey from curiosity to creation and we take pride in providing the technology that helps ideas grow.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. We look forward to seeing you out and about in our communities or at one of our celebration events this summer. Check out the dates of our Customer Appreciation picnics on the following page!

Wishing you a safe, productive, and connected spring.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Holly Utke
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager



YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for a Customer Appreciation Lunch as our way of saying thank you for being a valued customer! Stop by for a bite to eat, connect with our team, and have a chance to win some sweet prizes. We look forward to celebrating with you!



August 4
11 AM - 1 PM

Carrington

August 11
11 AM - 1 PM

Jamestown



WELCOME TO THE CREW

We're excited to welcome two new employees who recently joined the connection crew! Their experience, energy and commitment to serving our communities help us continue delivering the reliable service our customers depend on.



Tyler joins us as a Customer Relations Specialist, bringing valuable experience in both customer service and telecommunications. With a strong background in helping customers navigate services and solve problems, Tyler understands the importance of clear communication and responsive support. Knowledge of the telecommunications industry, combined with a customer-first

mindset, makes a great addition to our customer relations team. We're excited to have Tyler helping customers get the most out of their services!

We also welcome **Gaurav**, our newest Network Technician. While new to the area, he has jumped right in and is enjoying getting to know Jamestown. Eager to learn and ready to get hands-on, he works closely with the network team to build knowledge of our services and the communities we serve. His enthusiasm and willingness to take on new challenges makes him a strong addition to our technical team!

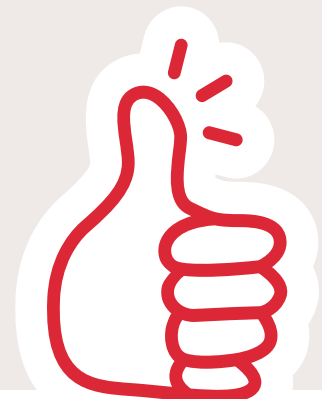


GIVE \$100, GET \$100

Invite your friends, family, neighbors, even your dentist, to sign up for Dakota Central Internet and you'll each receive a \$100 bill credit. Simply tell your friend to name drop and give our Customer Relations

Specialist your name when signing up! You'll see a credit on your bill once that customer has been connected, and they'll see a credit after three months of service. It's a win-win for everyone!

Good internet is contagious



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

At Dakota Central, we are so proud to partner with local gems like the Carrington City Library that go above and beyond to serve our community. We recently sat down with Library Director Michelle Seil to discuss how this unique rural library provides everything from high-tech Makerspaces to fun youth robotics clubs. Read on to see how Michelle manages this vibrant hub and learn about the exciting events they have planned for the summer!



Carrington City Libr

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR Michelle Seil

How long have you been the director at the library, and what drew you to it?

I have been library director for 6 1/2 years. I was a school librarian before that and have loved books since I was young. After I retired from teaching, I was asked to apply for this position. I like to see people of all ages and to read such a wide variety of books.

What is unique about the Carrington library?

Carrington's library is unique because it is one of the few city libraries in rural North Dakota. Most small libraries are county libraries. It's also very unique in the amount of space we have. The building used to be a grocery store! We have a large library area, but we also have a reading room, a Makerspace room, lots of storage, and the community room that we can use for meetings and activities, and that we can rent out for showers, parties, graduations, etc. We host a number of activities during the week catching all age groups, including Reading Club, Coffee Klatsch, Toddler Story Time, Homeschool Power Hour, After School crafts and games, and Robotics Club. It's unusual for a small rural library to have the variety of resources we have, including STEAM-to-Go kits, robotics, games and activities for all ages, learning tablets, Wonderbooks (audio and print books together), a 3D printer, etc.

“The key to our success is community partnership.”

- Michelle Seil

on
ary



What is your favorite part about being involved in the organization?

I love the people I get to see and enjoy sharing author recommendations with adult readers. I especially look forward to preschool story times and after-school activities because the children are so excited to visit the library!

What are the biggest challenges you face?

Time and funding are the greatest challenges. We hosted 206 activities in 2025, and as the only regular staff member, the organization is my responsibility. Funding comes from city taxes, which covers basics, but programming and improvements must be fundraised or supported through grants.

How do Dakota Central's services help the organization?

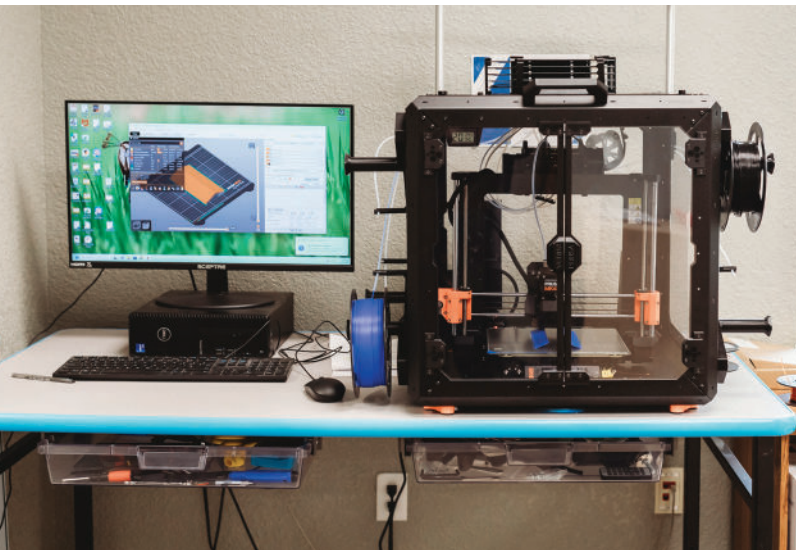
We use Dakota Central's telephone service, and are able to utilize the state network for internet service in cooperation with North Dakota Information Technology Department. Assisting patrons who call is still one of our most valuable services. Patrons also use our fax services, which are provided by Dakota Central telephone. Finally, we have a complete system of security cameras, which were installed by Dakota Central staff two years ago (they were truly wonderful and very professional and knowledgeable). The cameras provide a safe and secure environment for our staff and patrons. Through Dakota Central, we can access the security system remotely should the need arise. This has been a vitally important addition to our library.

How important is it for you to work with a local company like Dakota Central?

The key to our success is being part of a community with support and partnership. We have this with Dakota Central. Their staff is part of our community and because so many of them are library supporters and users, they understand and value our role in the community. It is this support that is vital and unparalleled.

What are some future plans and activities at the library?

So much is going on! Our theme this year is Celebrating America's Birthday. We will have a full slate of summer reading activities, including STEM, arts & robotics camps and weekly activities, movies, story times and Fun and Fit activities. We are sponsoring a writing workshop. We have two lunch and learns: "It's a Horse, of Course" - learning about horses with Holly English of Therabarn, and "Saluting our Veterans" - a panel of veterans will share their experiences. We also have a Zoom session with a paleontologist from the Dickinson Dinosaur Museum. The new story walk will be in place in Carrington, and we'll be sharing stories written by and artwork created by our local youth, stories, and information about local and North Dakota history, and our state's importance in the nation. We have also been selected as a site to host the Freedom 250 Traveling Museum. Five semis packed with information about our nation's history will be in Carrington at Arrowood Prairie Co-op June 17-19 (during the county fair). It's free! And we're hoping people from all around will visit the museum and celebrate our history and freedoms.



“It's unusual for a small rural library to have the variety of resources we have, including STEAM-to-Go kits, robotics, learning tablets, Wonderbooks, and a 3D printer.”

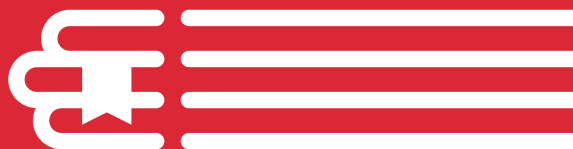
- Michelle Seil





All programs are free and open to anyone. Even though the summer reading programming is primarily geared to kids, anyone can come if they are interested in learning about horses or want to visit with and support our veterans or learn one of our crafts.

There's always more to look forward to at the library!



Good To Know

LIFELINE

Lifeline is an assistance program that helps connect families and households that struggle to afford internet service. These benefits provide a discount of up to \$5.25 toward telephone service or \$9.25 toward internet services for eligible households.



Eligible households can enroll through Dakota Central or learn more at dakotacentral.com/lifeline-support/



Learn more about the Lifeline benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting lifelinesupport.org/

"DO NOT CALL"

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 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.

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

CALL 8-1-1 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!



Visit call811.com for more information.



Streaming Updates

If you're a Dakota Central TV customer, you may have noticed some changes to your channels and Firestick recently. Here are a few things that are new with your TV.

Extra Channels

Have you noticed your list of TV channels has grown? Last fall roughly 60 additional channels were added in the 9,000 channels included with your package. You'll find additional sports and movie channels, as well as some throwback classics, like a whole channel dedicated to Supermarket Sweep (Channel 9106, a Dakota Central team favorite)!



[View the full channel lineup here!](#)

Recording Changes

- Once a recording is deleted, it will remain in the Deleted folder for 48-72 hours before permanently deleted.
- The "Never delete" folder holds 10 hours of deleted content that you can choose to save.
- Recordings are retained for 6 months, then deleted automatically. Previously, recordings were held for 12 months. Make sure you're deleting after watching a show you don't want to keep!

Firestick Home screen

A recent Amazon update has changed the look of the Home screen, adding more tiles to your screen. You may not see this update yet, as Firesticks are updating intermittently. Once your Firestick updates, it may take you awhile to find Dakota Central TV, so have patience! Always remember we're here to help if you run into issues.



TV Tip

Press and hold the blue microphone or "Alexa" button on your Amazon remote (don't forget to wait for the beep!) and say: "Open Dakota Central app". Release the button, Dakota Central TV will open, and you'll be watching TV in seconds.

Give it a try!



YOUR HOME DESERVES Better Than Cell Signal



Sure, the big cellular companies love to dress up their phone networks and call it “home internet”, but let’s be honest, that’s like using a pocket flashlight to light your whole house. Our 100% fiber-to-the-home network was built for real home use, not borrowed from a cell tower a few miles away.

Switching to 5G home internet means settling for a system designed for your phone, not your streaming marathons, gaming nights, smart home devices, or that very important

Tuesday morning Zoom meeting. Slower speeds, unpredictable coverage, and far-away support-teams? No thanks. You deserve an internet experience that works as hard as you do.

With Dakota Central, you get high speeds, reliability, and local support from people who literally live where you live. No corporation call maze required. Say goodbye to data caps, dead zones, and “why is this buffering again?”

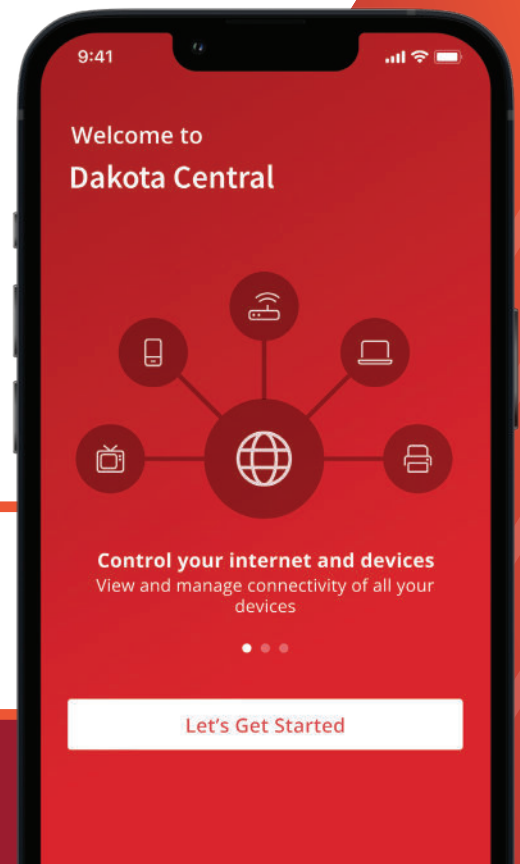
Why fiber internet beats “phone-internet” every time:

- More speed, less waiting.
- Stream, download, game and binge without the dreaded buffering wheel of doom.
- More control over your Wi-Fi.
- Prioritize devices, set schedules, and manage it all with ease in the CommandIQ app.
- More Wi-Fi everywhere, dead zones nowhere.
- Enjoy whole-home coverage without wandering around like you’re hunting for buried treasure.
- More security that actually protects.
- Rest easy, ProtectIQ keeps your network safe from online threats before they ever reach your door.
- More ways to keep the kids safe.
- Built-in parental controls help protect the people you care about most.
- More support that actually cares.
- Real, local experts ready to help. No offshore call centers, no endless hold music.
- More work-from-home power.
- Crystal-clear calls, steady VPNs and productivity that actually produces.
- More gaming, less lagging.
- Because victory tastes better when your connection keeps up with your skills.

**PREMIUM
WI-FI:**

\$9⁹⁵
PER MONTH

No installation fees!



mindGAMES



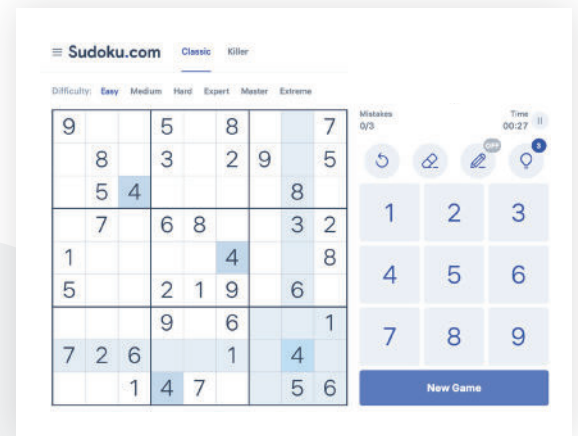
Online Games That Will Get You Thinking

We're all familiar with the crossword or sudoku puzzles found in the newspaper, but have you tried the online versions? These days, those same brain games are online, easy to access and fun to play with family, either virtually or while together! Try out these popular online games by searching online on a smartphone or tablet, or search the app store.



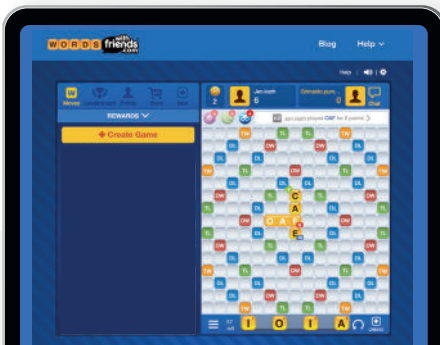
WORDLE

A once-a-day word puzzle that has become a global sensation. Simple, no downloads required, and great to compare scores with family members.



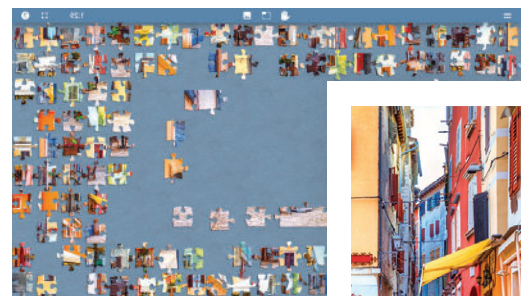
SUDOKU ONLINE

The classic number puzzle, but online and available anytime you want to play!



WORDS WITH FRIENDS

Like Scrabble, but you can play virtually with friends and family.



ONLINE JIGSAW PUZZLES

No missing pieces, and hundreds of images to choose from.

Congratulations to our 2026 Dakota Central Scholarship Winners!

This year marks the 25th year of the Dakota Central scholarship program, which has awarded close to \$140,000 to date.

Scholarship applicants wrote a short essay explaining how access to technology and broadband connectivity has impacted their education or community. Applicants were also judged on community and school involvement, achievements, volunteer work and employment.

The 2026 scholarship winners each received a \$1,500 scholarship, and the top scoring applicant planning to attend school for a future career in technology receiving the Jerry Eissinger Memorial Scholarship for a total of \$2,000.



Jacob Boeshans, Carrington
Son of Angela and Brian Boeshans
**Jerry Eissinger Memorial
Scholarship Recipient**



Connor Gast, Carrington
Son of Carl and Jennifer Gast



Molly Hansen, Carrington
Daughter of Jory and Missy Hansen



Sam Simons, Carrington
Son of Michael and Kristin Simons



Kaitlyn Solwey, Carrington
Daughter of Tom Solwey and
Lisa Hilbert



FROM CURIOSITY TO CREATION

CONNECTION IS CENTRAL



INTERNET | PHONE | TV



**DAKOTA
CENTRAL**

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outage and maintenance notifications!

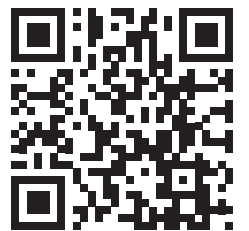
WIN CREDIT ON YOUR DAKOTA CENTRAL BILL!

Win a \$25 credit on your next Dakota Central bill!
Congratulations to last issue's winner:
Mike Balvitsch, Carrington
Next drawing date: **June 30, 2026**

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

Scan here to sign up online



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630 5th St. N Carrington, ND 58421 p: 701.652.3184 f: 701.674.8121

JAMESTOWN OFFICE
604 18th St. SW Jamestown, ND 58401 p: 701.952.1000 f: 701.952.1001

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