THE LINK

DAKOTA CENTRAL

FALL 2026

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ESPN Unlimited



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

A letter from our General Manager

Celebrating 75 Years of Connection and Looking Ahead

As we welcome fall, I want to take a moment to thank you for being an important part of Dakota Central's journey. This year has been especially meaningful as we celebrate our 75th anniversary, a milestone that represents not only decades of innovation and growth, but generations of relationships with the customers and communities we are privileged to serve.

Throughout the summer, we've had the opportunity to celebrate alongside many of you at community parades and local events. Seeing our employees, customers, families and neighbors come together has been a wonderful reminder that Dakota Central has always been about much more than technology. **We are about connecting people and strengthening the communities we call home.**

Seventy-five years ago, a group of determined local leaders came together with an ambitious goal: bring reliable telephone service to rural South-Central North Dakota. At a time when some families had no telephone service and others shared party lines, they believed rural communities deserved access to the same opportunities as anywhere else.

A lot has changed since then.

We've moved from party lines to private lines, from copper to fiber, and from basic telephone service to broadband, streaming and a world where nearly every part of our lives relies on connectivity. Today, Dakota Central customers have access to one of the most advanced rural broadband networks in the country, with speeds up to 10 Gig.

The technology has changed. Our purpose has not.

We continue to invest in the infrastructure and innovation necessary to keep you reliably connected to what matters most. Whether that's a conversation with someone you love, a student learning from home, a farmer using precision agriculture, a business reaching new customers, or simply enjoying movie night with your family, we're happy to be the one to connect you.

Our meaningful partnerships remind us that building strong communities takes more than infrastructure. It takes people and organizations willing to invest in one another, and Dakota Central is proud to be part of that.



As we look toward the next 75 years, technology will continue to evolve in ways we can only begin to imagine. Artificial intelligence, connected healthcare, education and smart agriculture will create new opportunities, and world-class connectivity will be increasingly important to keeping rural North Dakota competitive.

We may not know exactly what the future will bring, but we know what Dakota Central will bring to it: the same commitment that has guided us for 75 years, adapting, innovating, investing and serving.

Thank you for celebrating this milestone with us, for trusting us to keep you connected and, most importantly, for allowing Dakota Central to be a part of your communities.

Here's to the next chapter!

Holly Utke
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager

Company News



Service Award Recipients

We're proud to recognize and celebrate the team members who've reached milestone work-iversaries this year. From five years to thirty, these awards reflect the dedication and heart our employees bring every day. Their commitment drives the work we do in our communities, and we are grateful to have them on the team!

Congratulations to this year's recipients!

30 years
Larry Gilge

25 years
Deb Clifton
Darrin Hertle

15 years
Luke Kutz

5 years
Aaron Backer
Nikki Boote
Ashley Kramer
Brittany Miller
Ben Steinolfson

★★★★★

"Hats off to Tyler! We have problems with our TVs, and he helped fix them. Tyler was so kind and helpful. He is a keeper!"

- Gale, Dakota Central Customer

75 YEARS | DAKOTA CENTRAL

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



R3 Meats Cuts Fresh Opportunities in Carrington

When an unexpected chance to take over a staple 25-year-old business came along, Tyler and Kylee Ingebretson jumped right in—renovating, expanding, and bringing fresh energy (and delicious new products) to R3 Meats. As their local communications provider, Dakota Central is proud to power their day-to-day operations and help this family-owned business thrive.





While the business is certainly not new to town, R3 Meats (formerly Barton Meats), is now owned and operated by Tyler and Kylee Ingebretson of Carrington, as of August 2025. What came about as an unexpected opportunity, the idea of owning their own business was never something they imagined. “Some kids grow up knowing they want to farm someday, but I never grew up thinking I would be a butcher,” Tyler joked. Kylee added, “when the previous owner approached us about taking over the business, we couldn’t pass up the opportunity. With both of us having worked at the business already, it made sense and we were able to jump right in.”

They took over ownership of the 25 year business in August of 2025 and started working on renovations right away, which involved expanding the building to increase the size of the processing room as well as freezer capacity. They now have a significantly larger freezer to store processed product. They offer a full-service butcher shop and retail store, selling a variety of fresh and frozen products including steaks, brats, beef jerky, seafood, seasoned and cooked taco meat, and much more. “The most challenging part of the business is anticipating demand at different times of the year, and trying to come up with new products people will want to try,” Tyler said. On the other hand, “working with customers, meeting new people, and having great staff” is what he enjoys most about being a business owner.

"The flexibility allows us to spend time with family and manage all that comes with raising three girls."

- Kylee Ingebretson

Along with the people they work with, Kylee explained how owning a business also benefits their family. “The flexibility allows us to spend time with family and

manage all that comes with raising three girls." Speaking of, if you're curious what inspired the business name, it stands for the names of their three daughters- Rilynn, Reegan, and Remee.

A business can't run without a connection to the world, and that's what we're here for. With phone, internet, and managed Wi-Fi services, R3 Meats is able to take orders and communicate with customers, process payments, and monitor thermostats wirelessly. As a local business themselves, they value having local support when they need it. "It's so nice to have a technician come right away when we need help, instead of contacting a call center and not knowing who you're taking to," Kylee said. Tyler also described how helpful Dakota Central technicians were when connecting wireless thermostats in the freezer and other devices.

Now that the renovation is complete and business is booming, Tyler and Kylee are thinking about what the future holds for R3 Meats, which includes expanding their offerings and introducing new products. Tyler added, "if the right opportunity came along, we'd love to open another retail location."

As R3 Meats continues to grow, Tyler and Kylee are committed to carrying on the reputation of providing quality products and great customer service. We can all agree that having access to local, high-quality meat is a great thing for our community, and paired with their passion and dedication, the future looks bright for R3 Meats and the customers they serve!

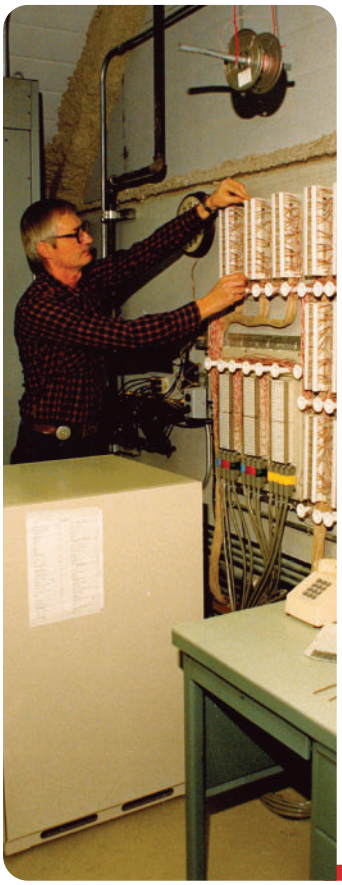








Did you KNOW?



Dakota Central's Carrington office was originally a chicken hatchery. Including the **first renovations in 1956** to convert the hatchery into a business office, the building has been renovated 5 times since to accommodate for growth and expansion. Talk about a facelift!

In **1990** Dakota Central expanded service offerings to include upgraded phone service, TV, and internet. The cooperative saw a demand for added services, and connected over 500 rural residents with cable TV in the first year.

The first telephone customers shared a phone line with 8-10 other farms (or parties), which was referred to as **"party lines."** Each home had a different ring to distinguish who was receiving the call, however, any party could answer any phone call. If you know what party lines were like, you know!

Dakota Central's Jamestown office opened in **2000**. Underground fiber optic cable was installed throughout the city, offering high speed internet, digital TV, and phone services. Local Jamestown residents were hired to support Jamestown and surrounding area customers, many of which are still at your service today!

In **2011**, Dakota Central became one of the first companies in the nation to complete its **100% Fiber-to-the-Home network**. This gave homes and businesses the opportunity to have the highest quality services available. This was a rare undertaking at the time, and an aggressive accomplishment of Dakota Central's Board of Directors and employees!

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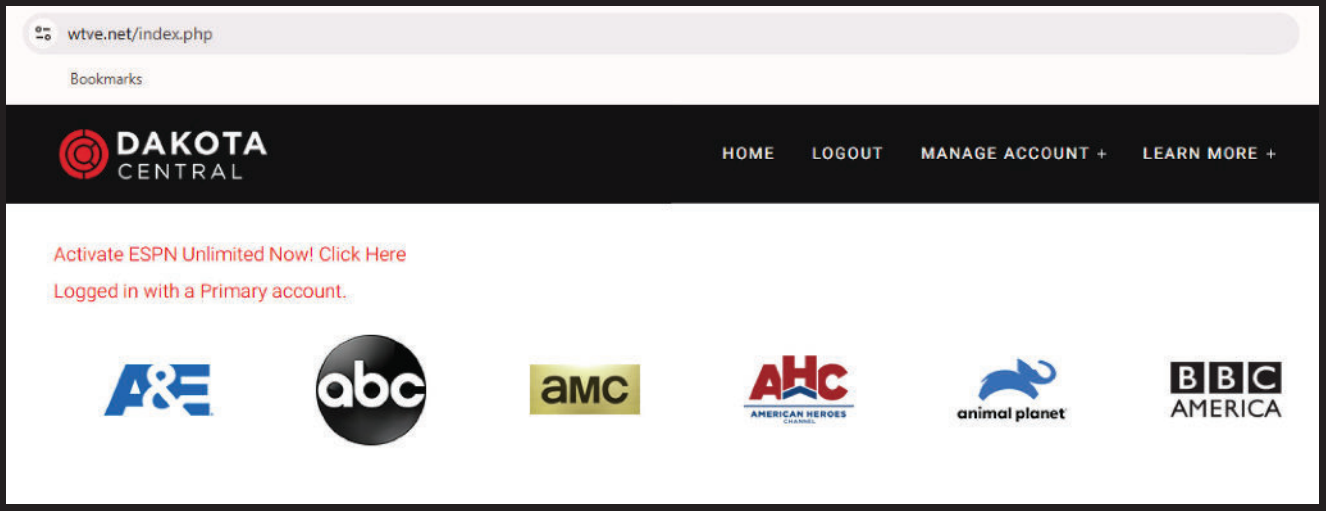
Coverage of Top Sports: NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, tennis and golf majors, WWE, SEC, ACC, Big 12 football and basketball, postseason action,and more.

Fan-Favorite Shows: SportsCenter, First Take, College GameDay.

Live & On-Demand Streaming: Watch across smartphones, tablets, smart TVs, and computers.

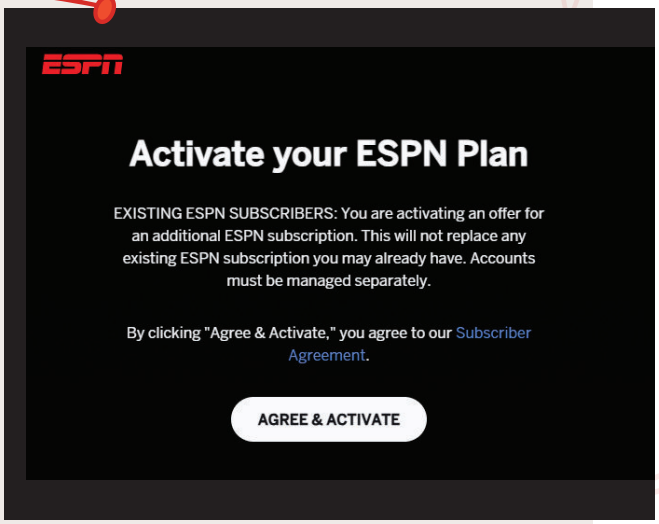






Follow these steps to get started:

1. Go to **wtve.net** and choose Dakota Central from the drop down list.
2. Log in with your WTVE account or sign up if you do not have an active account.
3. Once logged in, there will be a red hyperlink to click on: "**Activate ESPN Unlimited Now! Click Here.**" This will direct you to an ESPN webpage. Click "Agree & Activate"
4. Complete ESPN/MyDisney Setup:
   - Enter your email address and click Continue.
   - If your email is not recognized, create an account by following the on-screen directions.
   - If your email is recognized, enter your password to log in. You'll then arrive at the ESPN website/app, where you can access ESPN Unlimited content.



techTIP

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES:
Amazon Firestick Tips & Tricks

Amazon Firestick opens up a world of streaming, apps, and entertainment possibilities right from your TV. To help you make the most of this handy device, we've rounded up some tips and tricks to enhance your Firestick experience. Let's dive in!



Restart Without Unplugging

Instead of physically unplugging the Firestick to reboot, use the remote:

- Press and hold the **Select** and **Play/Pause** buttons simultaneously for about five seconds to restart the device.

If Your Firestick is Not Responding

If your Fire Stick displays a blank or black screen, shows a **"No Signal"** message, or is unresponsive and you cannot use the remote restart shortcut, follow these steps:

- Leave the Fire Stick connected to your TV.
- Unplug the Fire Stick's power cord from the wall outlet or power source.

Clear the Cache for Faster Performance

Over time, apps on your Firestick can accumulate cache data, which may slow down performance. To keep things running smoothly:

- Go to **Settings** > **Applications** > **Manage Installed Applications**.
- Select the app and click **Clear Cache**.

Use Voice Commands for Convenience

The Firestick remote comes with Alexa built-in. Simply press and hold the microphone button to:

- Search for movies, shows, or genres.
- Open apps or adjust settings.
- Ask for weather updates, sports scores, or other Alexa-enabled features.



Organize Your Apps

Keep your favorite apps easily accessible:

- On the home screen, press the **Options** button (three horizontal lines) on the app you want to move.
- Select **Move** and place it in your preferred spot.

Update Your Firestick Software Regularly

Keep your Firestick running smoothly and ensure compatibility with new apps by updating its software:

- Go to **Settings** > **My Fire TV** > **About** > **Check for Updates**.



With these quick tricks and Dakota Central's fast fiber internet, streaming is simpler than ever. Grab your popcorn, sit back, and enjoy seamless viewing on your streaming device!

DAKOTA CENTRAL

604 18th St SW
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We'll be drawing TWO winners to receive a $25 bill credit. Scan the code to enter!
Congratulations to last issue's winner:
Kaytlyn Maccario, Hurdsfield
Next drawing date: **November 1, 2026**

Scan code to enter:

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

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