

winter 2015

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THE DCT link

LIFE'S CONNECTIONS DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS



The new Hofmann Trucking building, inside and out.

Business Spotlight... Hofmann Trucking



When we hear Hofmann Trucking, we think high-tech...don't you? It may not seem like an obvious relation, but this trucking company is up-to-date and on the cutting edge in the transportation business – with the help of DCT phone and internet services. “Phone and Internet service is a lifeline for us. Our business relies on communication heavily.” Curt Waldie, V.P. of Hofmann Trucking explained. Together, Larry Lee Hofmann and Curt Waldie own Hofmann Trucking, Crossroads Repair, and Sundhagen Sand & Gravel.

Hofmann Trucking has been a loyal DCT customer in Jamestown for 16 years, and we have been with them through it all; from starting up at their first location, to helping them move to a temporary location when they were displaced due to a fire, and now moving to their new location. They recently completed moving out to a new location west of Jamestown, near Titan Machinery. However, the one thing that never changes for Hofmann Trucking is their need for communication services.

Phone service is a vital communication line between all trucks and the main office. If they don't have phone service, business cannot operate. Internet service is also a key service for them. All dispatch and truck-tracking programs are Internet based, so “being at the highest speed is important” Curt says. It's all about speed and time; communicating quickly with trucks and being able to access information online instantly. They also understand the importance of staying up-to-date and evolving with technology in order to run more efficiently and provide the best service for their customers. And efficient they are; their 24 hour operation runs continuously, with at least one employee working in the office at all times.

Because Hofmann Trucking relies on fast and continuous communication, they continue to stick with DCT. Curt said two of the main reasons they stick with DCT are the people they work with and the service they receive. Great customer service is worth a lot to Curt and the Hofmann Trucking team. As Curt said, “You can't put a price tag on service. We are also in the business of service and know what is demanded of us, so to have a company meet all of our expectations is invaluable.”

You can find them online at www.hofmanntrucking.com or search for Hofmann Trucking on Facebook. Better yet, stop out and visit them at their new location! But when you're looking up Hofmann Trucking, don't forget: 1 f, 2 n's!



Letter from the General Manager

Keith A. Larson, CEO/GM

As you all know, it's been a beautiful fall, which has allowed us to wrap up all our outside plant construction for the year.

Our contractor was busy from June until the middle of October constructing new fiber facilities to the rural area South of Jamestown and placing a transport fiber with 144 fibers adjacent to the Interstate for approximately 85 miles. After the fiber optic cable was placed in the ground, spliced and tested, we got busy connecting up the 171 new subscribers to the fiber facilities. We expect to have all customers connected by the middle of December. As you may recall, we received a Rural Utilities Service Community Connect Grant to pay approximately 85% of the construction costs to these new subscribers.

High winds on the morning of October 12th, damaged our tower and antennas located in North Jamestown that serves many of our rural, wireless Internet customers. A heavier new tower was erected in early November, but the antennas were not readily available and had to be manufactured. The antennas are scheduled to arrive on November 30 and we have a contractor arranged to install them the first week in December. We should have the wireless service up and running shortly after the installation of the antennas. Wireless customers that were out of service and that had fiber constructed to them this summer were given priority in getting connected to the new network. We apologize for the time the system was down. Unfortunately, there is little we could do regarding the effects of Mother Nature and the availability of equipment.

We recently received good news regarding a lawsuit filed by Sprint and Verizon against Dakota Central and hundreds of other phone companies nationwide. A US District Court in Texas dismissed the case for a variety of reasons. The lawsuit disputed certain access charges that were billed to the two Interexchange carriers. The dismissal should clear the way for us to go back and collect disputed amounts that have been withheld and also alleviate the possibility of us needing to pay any additional amounts back to the carriers. The carriers are still able to appeal the decision but we believe our legal position is very strong and we would win any appeal challenge.

As this year winds down, we shift our focus to 2016's new and upcoming projects. We have quite a number of construction projects in the works, including additional fiber construction to approximately 60 locations and the upgrade of transport fiber capacity in Jamestown to 288 fibers. We will wrap up the second year of changing out the Optical Network Terminals located at each premise in Jamestown and the upgrade of electronics in a number of our other exchanges. With all this work accomplished by next fall, we will be able to offer 100% of our customers Gigabit network access; a claim only a few companies nationwide can make!

We at DCT wish you all a safe and very joyful holiday season!

Keith A. Larson





Act of Kindness #952:

DONATE ^{TO} THE DCT TOY DRIVE

In the spirit of the season, we invite you to help us create magical moments in a child's life!

Bring a NEW, unwrapped toy to the Carrington or Jamestown office by December 14 and you will be entered in the drawing for a Kindle Fire tablet.

Toys will be distributed to deserving children in the area before Christmas.





Your 2016 Techy-Toy Guide

(you're welcome)

It's never too early to start shopping for Christmas! Whether you are on the hunt for a gift for your child, friend, parent or grandparents, we have the perfect ideas for pretty much any gadget-loving (or even the gadget-challenged) person in your life! Who doesn't love gadgets?



Amazon Echo

Do you ever dream of having a personal robot, or at least a personal assistant? The Amazon Echo is pretty dang close to a personal robot, and could definitely qualify as an assistant. Using an advanced voice recognition system, the Echo can hear you from across the room (even when music is playing). By using the wake word "Alexa," you can ask it just about anything and it will tell you, including what is on your calendar for the day or the weather forecast. You can also tell it your grocery list,

to remind you about an appointment, and much more. If that's not enough – it can help you control smart devices in your home, such as lights and thermostats. Of course, the Echo operates from the cloud, meaning it's constantly getting smarter and updating automatically. You can find it on amazon.com for **\$179.99**.

Wocket Smart Wallet

If you seem to have more cards in your wallet than cash, the Wocket is for you. The Wocket Smart Wallet is designed to replace all the cards in your regular wallet, as well as protect your identity. All you have to do is scan and program any of your cards (credit, debit, ATM, loyalty, membership, etc.) in your Wocket, and store the physical cards safely at home. The information stored in the Wocket is transmitted using the WocketCard, after you have authenticated the

transaction, of course. And if you are still needing to carry that cash, there are optional accessories for that. Available for purchase at www.ocketwallet.com.

Polaroid Zip Mobile Printer

Do you miss the days of Polaroids? With Smartphones and Digital cameras these days, it's rare that we get the instant gratification of a physical photo print as soon as a photo is taken. Well – the Polaroid Zip mobile printer is here for you. Just link up the Zip to your smartphone and print any image on your phone in full color. What's even better, the Zip is about the size of a smartphone with a case, and doesn't weigh much more. So take that selfie with grandma, and print her a copy to hang on her fridge while you're at it! You can find the Zip at Wal-Mart or amazon.com for about **\$130**.

Drone

What is a "drone" exactly? Think remote control helicopter on steroids. Drones are small, unmanned aerial or ground-based vehicles that can be operated with a radio controller, or programmed to drive or fly by themselves. So what better gift for any tech-lover or toy-lover than a drone? Photography or just for fun, the possibilities are endless! There are many sizes, styles, and price points to suit whatever it is you are looking for, so make sure you shop around. Best Buy offers many options, so that would be a good place to start!





Hey, UND hockey fans...

Midco Sports Network is now on
DCTV channels 27 & 28!

2015-16 UND Hockey Televised Game Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	CHANNEL
Dec 4	Denver	7:37 PM	MSN-27
Dec 5	Denver	7:07 PM	MSN-27
Jan 1	Alabama-Huntsville	7:37 PM	MSN-27
Jan 2	Alabama-Huntsville	7:07 PM	MSN-27
Jan 9	U.S Under-18 Team (Ex.)	7:07 PM	MSN-27
Jan 15	Omaha	7:37 PM	MSN-27
Jan 16	Omaha	7:07 PM	MSN-27
Jan 22	Colorado College	7:37 PM	MSN-27
Jan 23	Colorado College	7:07 PM	MSN-27
Feb 12	@Denver	9:06 PM	CBSSN
Feb 19	Minnesota Duluth	7:37 PM	CBSSN
Feb 20	Minnesota Duluth	7:07 PM	MSN-27
Mar 4	Western Michigan	8:00 PM	CBSSN
Mar 5	Western Michigan	7:07 PM	MSN2-28
Mar 18-19	NCHC Frozen Faceoff	TBA	CBSSN

www.undsports.com

Help Us Locate These DCT Members!

The following is a list of members that had a Capital Credit check or statement issued by Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative in May 2015 that remain unclaimed or uncashed. If your name is on the list or if you can help us locate someone whose name is on the list, please contact Dakota Central Telecommunications at 652.3184 or 952.1000, or contact Deedra Aasand at daasand@daktel.net.

2015 Capital Credit addresses needed:

Gary Austin	Sheila Levesque
Kim Bechard	Des McIntyre
David Bolin	Harry Mehring
Arland Clelland	Michael Miller
Ross Genre	John & Lori Peet
Keith & Glenda Giese	Marvin & Frieda Schatz
Gilbert A. Gussiaas	Vincent Schmit
Tim Hoffman	Mary Schumacher
Wilmer W (Bud) Jasmann	Elaine Somerville
Elroy Knecht	Krista Tanata
Larry Lanenga	Deborah Thorstad
Jean H Lester	Trebor LLC

Step-by-Step Guide to Programming Your New Remote

1

Program the Remote to Your TV

1. Make sure the TV is on.
2. Press **TV**, it will blink once.
3. Press and hold **SETUP**, the TV key will blink twice.
4. Press **9-9-1**, the TV key will blink once.
5. Press and release the **CH+** key continuously, then stop when the TV turns off.
6. Press **SETUP** to save code.

2

Program the Master Power Control

This eliminates the need to press the "STB" and "TV" buttons when turning on the TV.

1. Make sure the TV is on.
2. Press **STB**.
3. Press and hold **SETUP**, the STB key will blink twice.
4. Press **9-9-5**, the STB key will blink twice.
5. Press **POWER**.
6. Press **TV**.
7. Press **STB**.
8. Press and hold **SETUP**, until the STB key blinks twice.

Changes and Additions to Your DCTV Channel Line-Up

Midco Sports Network (MSN) has moved from channel 15 to channels 27 & 28 (MSN2).

BEK TV updated channels:

- 19 CoziTV/BEK Prime East
- 20 BEK 247
- 24 Livestock Auction Channel
- 26 BEK Extra

Jewelry TV has moved from channel 464 to channel 60.

NEW! ESPN College Extra – channels 46-53.

CardinalTV 80...We Have Lift-Off!

The new DCTV channel CardinalTV 80 launched the week of September 25 for homecoming, featuring homecoming highlights, coronation, football and volleyball games. DCT employees and CardinalTV students got everyone pumped up at the CHS Homecoming football game by launching (pun intended) CardinalTV shirts and footballs into the crowd.



DCT Now Offering \$1,000 Scholarships!

Dakota Central Telecommunications Board of Directors is pleased to announce the sixteenth year of the Dakota Central Scholarship Program, and the second year of the Jerry Eissinger Memorial Scholarship. In the past, Dakota Central has awarded ten \$500 scholarships to high school seniors, and an additional \$500 to the top scoring applicant as the Jerry Eissinger Memorial Scholarship winner. We are excited to announce that this year the DCT Board of Directors has decided to offer five \$1,000 scholarships, as well as the Jerry Eissinger Memorial Scholarship. That means High School seniors have a chance to be awarded a total of \$1,500 in scholarships!

To be eligible, the applicant must currently be a high school senior who plans to attend a college, university, vocational or technical post secondary school. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must use telephone, television or Internet service from Dakota Central. To be considered for this year's scholarship, applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2016. Applications have been mailed to area high schools and may also be obtained by calling or stopping by the Dakota Central office in Carrington or Jamestown, or at www.daktel.com/scholarships.

Foundation for Rural Service Offers \$75,000 in Scholarships

Applications are available at the Dakota Central office for a scholarship being offered from the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). FRS is a national non-profit organization that helps educate the public on the telecommunications industry and improve the quality of life throughout rural America. FRS is an affiliate of the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA), an Arlington, VA-based trade organization of 540 independent telephone companies across the country, of which Dakota Central is a member. As your local telecommunications service provider, it is our pleasure to participate in this scholarship program. Should a student from our service area be selected to receive one of the 30 national scholarships (\$2,000 each), we will contribute an additional \$500 to the scholarship, bringing the total one time scholarship award to \$2,500. It should be noted that preference will be given to individuals expressing an interest in returning to a rural area to work following graduation. For more information on the FRS Scholarship program and to download an application visit, www.frs.org and follow the link on the homepage. Applications can also be picked up at the Dakota Central office. Completed applications should be sent directly to FRS, postmarked no later than March 1, 2016.





2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat

In celebration of Co-op Month in October, we teamed up with other local Co-ops in Carrington for the 2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat Halloween extravaganza. Despite the gusting wind, over 350 Trunk-or-Treaters joined us in costume for some Halloween fun on October 31! The co-ops were also joined by other businesses in town that wanted to take part in the action. The more the merrier, we say! Each business had their trunks decked out for Halloween, handing out candy and fun goodies! We sure had a blast “Trunk-or-Treating” and we hope everyone else did too!



Holiday
OPEN HOUSE

Stop by and see us before the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train arrives in town!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
1:00-3:00 PM
Carrington Holiday Open House
630 5th St N



Holiday Dazzle Parade

We had a blast at Jamestown’s Holiday Dazzle parade on November 24th. You will also see us in Carrington’s Parade of Lights on December 7th at 5:30pm – we hope to see you there!





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The DCT Link is published by Dakota Central Telecommunications.

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Win credit on your DCT bill!

Win **\$25 credit** on your DCT bill. Just return this coupon by January 31, 2016, to be eligible for the drawing.

Congratulations to last issue's winner:
Arlen Rumer, Wimbeldon.

NAME

PHONE #



www.daktel.com 652.3184 952.1000