



# THE LINK

## Annual Toy Drive

In the spirit of the season, we invite you to help us create magical moments in a child's life! All you have to do is bring in a NEW, unwrapped toy to the Carrington or Jamestown office by December 14th. Toys will be distributed to deserving children in the area before Christmas.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: *C-B Charolais*

If you were to tell any rancher ten years ago that he would be able to save babies during calving with a camera and a cell phone, he would probably tell you you're crazy. If you ask the Browns of Montpelier today, they would tell you that now they have it, they couldn't go without.

The C-B Charolais farm and ranch operation has had a security camera system for three years now, and it has completely changed the way they operate during calving season. The C-B Charolais's calve out around 450 calves each year, and third generation Troy Brown claims that even with three of them around there, it was still hard to keep up without a way to monitor the cows, which resulted in lost calves each year.

Troy explained how calving season went before

having a camera system. The process went something like this: someone would physically go check on the cows at least every hour to see if any of them had started calving. Once one had started, they would move them into the barn (if they weren't there already) and keep checking every hour at least. There's a chance a calf would be born shortly after the last check, and if anything was wrong the calf probably wouldn't make it. In doing the checks hourly in the middle of the night, the cows would stir, causing them to go through more straw. He also noted that when they were stirring up the cows at night, more calves were born than too.

Once they realized that the calving process could be done so much more efficiently if they had a way to monitor the cows without actually going out to the barn, they decided to invest in a professional grade camera system. Dakota

*(continued)*

# SPOTLIGHT

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT, CONT.

Central technicians installed a point-to-point solution that brings service from the house to the barn with Access Points, eliminating the need to bury fiber to the barn. Four cameras were installed, three inside the barn in different areas, and one outside. Three of the cameras have the ability to rotate or zoom, which they can control from an app.

Now, things run a little different. It really is a complete family operation, down to Troy's two year old son who already helps watch the cows on the iPad. If the guys are out in the field or busy, Troy's wife or mom can watch the cameras from the phone or iPad, and let them know if anything is wrong. Troy said even if all of them are gone, they can still be checking the cameras. Before cameras, they weren't able to go anywhere together during calving; now, they can all run into town for dinner and they don't miss a thing.

When a cow starts to calf, they make sure they are watching her closely because if there is an issue they usually only have minutes to get to the calf to save it. "The camera system is definitely worth it for us," Troy said. "It saves us at least five calves a year, if not more." He explained how he saved one specific bull calf last winter, and when they sold that one alone it covered the cost of the camera system.

Calves aren't the only thing the cameras have saved. Troy explained that they weren't expecting the cameras to save straw as well. Because they are not stirring up the cows in the middle of the night, they tend to rest more at night. This also means less calves are born in the middle of the night because the cows aren't moving around as much, and waking up less in the middle of the night is always a good thing. "The cameras save me plenty of sleep," Troy said as he laughed. "My dad can go right back to sleep after going out, but if I go out at 3:00 in the morning, I'm up for the day," he said.

"The camera system is definitely worth it for us. It saves us at least five calves a year, if not more."

The Brown's are also impressed with the picture quality of the cameras. Because the picture quality is so good, with the outdoor camera they are able to see other things farther away, like coyotes moving through the calving pens at night. Troy explained, "Now that we have the cameras, we find other ways to utilize them other than for calving. We are able to aim the camera at the house when we're gone in the summer to keep an eye on it." He said it's nice to be able to see what the weather is doing when they're away, and they are able to tell if the power goes out because they will lose connectivity to the cameras.



Of course, as with all technology there are sometimes hiccups. Outdoor cameras may have issues more often due to the elements. For example, Troy explained how there have been times when the snow has been too heavy to see through or the camera has iced up, but he was able to troubleshoot from his phone and rotate the camera so that it thawed itself out.

Overall, the Brown's are pleased with their camera system, and we are happy to help their operation run more efficiently. Now, if the cameras could feed the cows too, they would be set!

## A LETTER FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER



Keith Larson, CEO/GM

We received our first taste of winter early this year with significant snow fall the first week in October. I don't ever recall that much snow in early October. The rest of October and November didn't improve a whole lot with the temperatures far below normal.

Fortunately, our crew finished construction projects early this year. Our major projects included placing fiber facilities to premises located at Spiritwood Lake, Pingree, Buchanan and finishing the west-side of the Jamestown Reservoir. With the remaining areas around Jamestown being less densely populated and more expensive to serve, we don't anticipate any major fiber construction projects next year other than new homes and businesses that are constructed in the areas where we currently provide service.

This fall we replaced the wireless broadband service that we offered in the rural Jamestown area with a new unlicensed wireless technology. Many of our wireless customers in that area were transitioned to fiber facilities this fall, however, we tried to accommodate most of those we were unable to reach with the fiber construction with the new wireless technology. We were successful serving a majority of them, but there were a few instances where interference presented a problem. Because the wireless service is delivered from a tower, interference could be caused by trees, buildings, and proximity to the source. In those cases we were unfortunately unable to provide a reliable service.

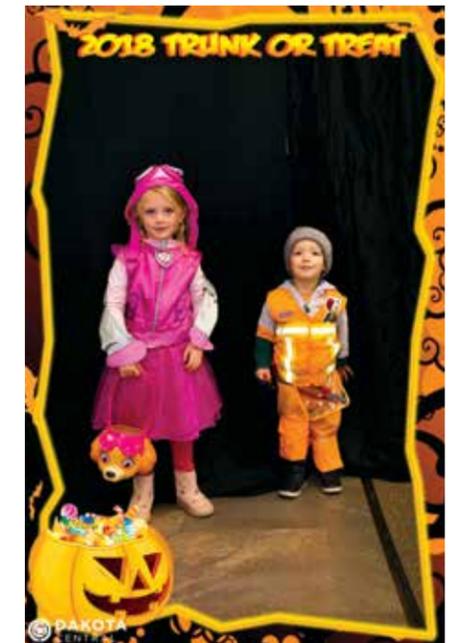
In other company news, the addition to the Jamestown headquarters building is nearing completion and should be finished up by the end of the year. During the month of January, we plan to install furnishings and move the customer support team over to the new addition. The new space will also have a larger training room that can be utilized for classes, meetings, etc. We hope you are able to stop in and see the new addition once we are moved in!

Wish you all the best holiday season!

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

### THANKS FOR TRUNK-OR-TREATING WITH US!

Trunk-or-Treat was held on Main Street in Carrington again this year, and we decided to bring the fun indoors so we set up shop in the Carrington Youth Center. Over 20 Carrington businesses set up their trunks to hand out goodies. Dinosaurs, witches, superheroes and more showed off their costumes in the Dakota Central photo booth, then they were able to warm up and enjoy fresh popcorn and hot chocolate before heading back out for more treats. Below are a few of our own employees' kids and grandkids that came to visit. From left to right: grandsons of CSR Cody Stangeland, Easton and Jayce; children of Field Technician Jordan Berg, Stetson and Brooklyn; and children of Marketing Coordinator Brianne Partlow, Rylee and August. Later that evening, photos were posted on Facebook and the likes, comments, and tagging began! Visit [Facebook.com/dakotacentral](https://www.facebook.com/dakotacentral) to see all of the Trunk-or-Treaters that came to see us!





## HBO FREE PREVIEW SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

The New Year's Free Preview event invites customers to experience the best of HBO and Cinemax and provides the perfect opportunity to catch-up or binge watch all that both have to offer, including the year's biggest movies and of course, don't miss the annual Game of Thrones marathon event! Find the coziest seat in the house this New Year and enjoy the show!

### FEATURED SERIES AND MOVIES:

- Game of Thrones Marathon Event (Seasons 4-7)
- Big Little Lies
- Jane Fonda Documentary
- Life of the Party
- The Greatest Showman
- Tomb Raider
- Justice League
- Kingsman: The Golden Circle
- Fifty Shades Freed
- Plus special shows and movies playing on HBO Family!

## SCHOLARSHIPS DAKOTA CENTRAL OFFERING OVER \$5,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Dakota Central Board of Directors is pleased to announce the 19th year of the Dakota Central Scholarship Program, and the fourth year of the Jerry Eissing Memorial Scholarship. Dakota Central awards five \$1,000 scholarships, and the top scoring applicant is also awarded the Jerry Eissing Memorial Scholarship of \$500. 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.

### NEW APPLICATION PROCESS!

In order to take advantage of the technology that is available, we have switched over to a completely online application system. Applications MUST be completed online by visiting [dakotacentral.com/scholarships](http://dakotacentral.com/scholarships), and supporting materials must be submitted online **no later than March 1, 2019**. Please call or e-mail Brianne with any questions at 652.3184 or [bpartlow@dakotacentral.com](mailto:bpartlow@dakotacentral.com).

## 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](http://www.frs.org) and follow the link on the homepage. Applications can also be picked up at the Dakota Central office. Completed applications can be returned to our office to be signed by a Dakota Central representative **no later than February 22, 2019**.

## GIFT GUIDE TECHY GIFT GUIDE

**Need a little help with your Christmas shopping?** Whether you are on the hunt for a gift for your child, friend, parent or grandparents, we have some pretty cool ideas for any gadget-loving (or even the gadget-challenged) person in your life, because who doesn't love gadgets?

### Ring Video Doorbell \$99.99

"Home Security Begins at the Front Door." With the Ring video doorbell, you can see, hear and speak to people at your door from your mobile device. You can unlock the door remotely to let someone in, or give instructions to the UPS man where to hide the package from your husband...or not. Either way, keep an eye on your front door, even when you're not there.

### Nest Thermostat \$249

The Nest thermostat is designed to learn your preferences and schedule, to keep you comfortable while saving energy. It will turn the heat down when you're away, adjust the temperature automatically when you're home, and you can still control it from anywhere. It's a smart thermostat, taken to the next level! No more thermostat wars...let Nest take control.

### Vizio Sound Bar \$148

"What is a sound bar?", you might be wondering. It might be a revolution or else just a trend, but in the world of home theaters, this is the newest thing. Soundbars are basically a sleek, inexpensive (sometimes) way to beef up your TV sound, without going for a full-on home theater. And according to CNet.com, the Vizio Soundbar is "the best sound bar under \$300 we have ever heard." In other words, it's well worth the price, compared to other "budget" sound bars.

### Wireless Earbuds \$99

Because everything else these days is wireless, why not earbuds? Those cords always get tangled anyway. There are so many different brands/styles/price levels for earbuds out there, so when shopping it ultimately depends on what you're looking for in terms of those specifics. A reasonable pair for the quality are the Optoma NuForce BE Free5 earbuds (according to [techradar.com](http://techradar.com)). However, you can easily find a less expensive pair or a higher quality pair with a quick Google search.



## CHANNELS CHANNEL ADDITIONS

**For your viewing pleasure, we have added more HD channels to the line-up!** Enjoy local sports on BEK, now in HD, along with a few others and the popular Hallmark Drama channel. For a complete channel listing, visit [dakotacentral.com](http://dakotacentral.com) and click on Tools > Channel Line-up.

- 720 BEK Sports HD
- 722 BEK Prime HD
- 726 Outside TV HD
- 706 Fight Network HD
- 707 Fantasy Sports HD
- 727 Midco Sports Network HD
- 860 Hallmark Drama HD





# A DIFFERENT KIND OF BABY MONITOR

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## **FARM AND RANCH PACKAGE**

~~\$1,833~~ **\$1,633 (SAVE \$200!)**

**4-Professional Grade Cameras  
1-Network Video Recorder (2TB)**

*Includes Switch and other required materials.*

*Does not include cost of labor or sales tax.*

*Add monthly maintenance agreement (\$25) and monthly static IP fee (\$8).*

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## Win credit on your Dakota Central bill!

Win a **\$25** credit on your Dakota Central bill.  
Just return this coupon by January 31, 2019,  
to be eligible for the drawing.

Congratulations to last issue's winner:  
**Wanda Wright, Jamestown.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #**

## CAPITAL CREDIT HELP US LOCATE THESE MEMBERS!

The following is a list of members that had a Capital Credit check or statement issued by Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative in May 2018 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@dakotacentral.com.

### 2018 Capital Credit addresses needed:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Mabel Adams          | Tiana Jimenez          |
| Frederick Bekker     | Craig Lindemyer        |
| Hov Brothers         | Cassandra Oviatt       |
| Robert Burdick       | Sherron L Peters       |
| Travis Carpenter     | Danny Schmidt          |
| Robert Clemens       | Wayne Thorstad         |
| Bert Dever           | Bryon Tresenriter      |
| Robert W Fuhrman     | Lowell & Karen Widmark |
| William James Inness | Janice Williams        |

CARRINGTON OFFICE  
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

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

