

The Switchboard

August 2004



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Strum: (715) 695-2691 ♦ Independence: (715) 985-3101 ♦ Toll Free: (800) 831-0610 ♦ www.tricountytelephone.com
Hours: Monday, Thursday: 7:00-5:30, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 7:00-4:30. Drop boxes located at each office for after hours payments.

New Listings

Please join us in welcoming new members. Add the following listings to your directory.

Anderson, Sandra	695-3333	J & K	985-3275
Bergerson, Sherry	984-2382	Jaskowski, Martin	695-2773
Cegielski, Craig & Kristine	287-3470	Kruse, Amy	985-2712
Cleasby, Jessica	985-3965	Kubis, Kevin	985-3088
Colin, Miguel	985-3913	Kulig, Jessica	983-5655
Dawson, Tony	985-2720	Larson, Mildred	983-5618
Dunningan, Warren	287-3529	Larson, Raymond	694-2417
Evangel.Luth Call In Svc	983-2213	Lyons, George & Joan	985-3036
Fullmer, Jennifer	695-2739	Marek, Tasha	985-2675
Gunderson, Kristine A.	983-2157	McCann Rae, Lynn	985-3550
Guse, Maynard	983-5821	McGregor, Dorene	983-5597
Hill, Frank & Patrice	287-3592	Mealing, Charles B II	983-5599
Hillstrom, Rondette F.	695-3817	Meyer, Patricia	985-2671

PHOTO CONTEST!



**DEADLINE:
August 15th!
There's still time!**

Tri-County Telephone works together with other local telephone companies to complete the Directory each year. For the 2005 edition, it's our turn to pick the cover and we've decided to give our members a chance to submit photos of their best work. So, start snapping and send in a photo you've taken of our area! You could win the contest and have your photo on the cover of the 2005 Directory!

Entries must be submitted by August 15th to the Strum or Independence office.

All pictures become property of Tri-County Telephone.



Discussions that could result in the merger of Tri-County Telephone Cooperative and Western Wisconsin Communications Cooperative (WWCC) have taken another step. The boards of the two Cooperatives held a joint meeting in April. After the meeting, each Board voted to continue with merger planning. When completed, the merger plan will be presented to the members of each Cooperative sometime next year. If the members approve the plan, the target date for merged operations would be January 2006. In addition, a joint employee meeting was held June 1st. E.G. Nadeau of Cooperative Development Service facilitated the meeting. Jim Kostner, President of WWCC and Garry Hageness, President of Tri-County Telephone were present to answer employee questions. This forum was used so employees could ask any questions or share any concerns they had.

For over 18 years, Western Wisconsin Communications Co-op has been serving rural areas in West Central Wisconsin with full cable television and digital services. They are the only cable television cooperative in America and currently service about 7,000 sub-

scribers. WWCC service area includes: Whitehall, Arcadia, Galesville, Osseo, Independence, Alma Center, Fairchild, Merrillan, Humbird, Ettrick, Trempealeau, Pigeon Falls, Eleva, Centerville and Northfield. Dial-up and high speed internet services are provided through Tri-West Communications, a joint venture with Tri-County Telephone Cooperative. There are additional potential joint services, such as expanded communications services, that would combine the expertise of each company in their respective areas and the infrastructure of each. There are many potential advantages to merging the two cooperatives. We will keep you, the members posted as to any new developments. If you have questions, please contact one of our offices.

To learn more about each company, please visit:
www.tricountytelephone.com
www.triwest.net
www.wgcc-tv.com



This newsletter is produced by the Staff at Tri-County Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Editor/Designer: Laura Ellifson.

**Please add the following number to your directory:
Indee Burger Hut
(715) 985-3072**



www.diggershotline.com
Call Toll Free: (800) 242-8511

Rate Increase

*But it's less than a dime a day...
not much for all you get!*

Visit www.tricountytelephone.com for a complete list of what's included with your service.

To offset some of the operating expenses, reductions in local service revenues, and reductions in access revenues, Tri-County Telephone Cooperative's Board of Directors has approved a \$3/month rate increase. This increase will be effective on the August 1, 2004 billing. We're proud to announce that this is the first rate increase our members have experienced in over 5 years!

The new rates, effective August 1, 2004, will be single party residential: \$17/month; single-party business service \$17.45/month; and our multi-line PABX trunk service will be \$21.90/month. Please call with any questions.

Greater Freedom

ALLTEL
AUTHORIZED AGENT

Large calling area
Lots of minutes

1000 Anytime Minutes
UNLIMITED Night & Weekend Minutes
UNLIMITED Mobile-to-Mobile Minutes
FREE Nationwide Long Distance
FREE ACTIVATION

\$49⁹⁵ mo

Plus 56¢ Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee



Tri-County Donates Bottled Water



When looking for new ways to support our local community organizations, Tri-County Telephone decided to purchase bottled water with our logo printed on a custom label. We donated 12 cases of this water to Eleva-Strum Youth Baseball, 12 cases to Independence Youth Baseball, 9 cases to Bullfrog Baseball and used 9 cases at the Tri-County Golf Classic.

Pictured left: Lois Havenor, Eleva Village Clerk, and Jeremy Allemann, Tri-County Telephone Employee as we donated bottled water to Eleva-Strum Youth Baseball.

AT&T Bill/Collect Contract Expires

Currently if you have chosen AT&T as your long distance carrier, the charges were shown on your Tri-County Telephone bill each month. Tri-County's obligation to bill and collect for AT&T expired on June 30, 2004. The contract with AT&T will not be renewed.

In order to provide a smooth transition for our customers that receive their AT&T toll billing on the Tri-County bill, we will continue to bill on a month-to-month basis for a period not to exceed September 30, 2004. This time is needed by AT&T to convert their accounts to direct billing.

VoiceMail

Cutover to New System Successful

Tri-County Telephone has been switching members who subscribe to Voice Mail over to our NEW system, an exchange at a time, over the last month. By the printing of this newsletter, the cutover will be complete! We're happy to announce a smooth transition to the new system, with trouble calls being minimal. If you'd like to learn more about what features are available with the NEW Voice Mail system, please visit www.tricountytelephone.com or call one of the offices and we'd be happy to assist you.

Golf Outing Raises Money for Area Youth

Each year Tri-County invites area businesses to attend the Tri-County Classic at the Viking in Strum. Money is raised through raffle ticket sales and entry fees. Youth in our communities receive the money through various programs and scholarships that are presented at our Annual Meeting Each year. Over \$1,400 was raised!

Interested in attending next year?
Contact Jon Higley at Tri-County Telephone.



Check Your Listing! Directory Deadline Approaches.

The 2005 Directories are in the works! Please check your listing in the current directory. Tri-County Telephone's member listings are input into the database when new service is acquired. Mistakes can happen. If you notice something you want changed on your listing(s), please contact customer service ASAP. Please note that we can only modify the listings of our members. Our directory contains listings for customers served by other companies as well. These listings are purchased from and provided directly to our publisher by those companies.

More Customers Choose Our Long Distance Than Any Other Carrier.

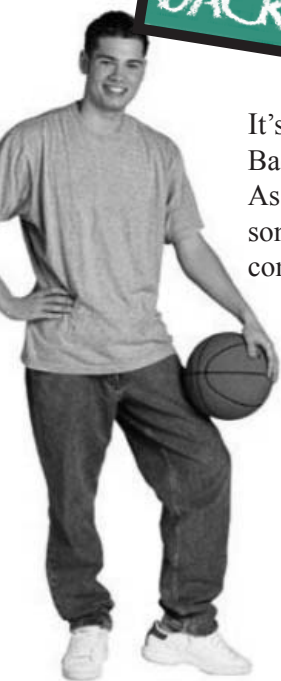
Over 72% of our members have made the local choice for long distance service! The main reason customers say they've switched to us is because of the SAVINGS! On the surface, the rate might not appear to be as attractive as the carriers who charge \$.07 or \$.09/minute. But when you add up all the fees, our long distance is less expensive. When you receive your next long distance bill, call us at either office to see if we can save you money. And you receive Capital Credit Returns!



BACK TO SCHOOL

It's that time of year again! Back to hectic schedules and busy families. As you buy notebooks and pens, consider some of these essentials for making communication easy for your family:

- Toll Free Numbers
- Voice Mail
- Call Waiting
- Teen Line
- Call Forwarding
- Family Pack
- Chat Pack
- Net Pack 1 or 2
- Calling Cards
- Cell Phones



On the Horizon...

Wire Care Maintenance Plan

On-line E-Store

WWCC Merger Talks Continue

Voice Mail

Our NEW Voice Mail system offers you more! Check out the list below and be sure to call for more information on any of the available features!



- Basic Voice Mail \$4.50
- Deluxe Voice Mail \$9.95
- Ala Carte Monthly Pricing:
- Greeting Only Mailboxes . . \$6.95
- E-Forward \$2.00
- Online Management \$2.00
- Distribution List \$1.00
- Message Forward \$1.00
- Associated Numbers \$1.00
- Send Message \$1.00
- Outdial \$1.00
- Pager/Phone Notification . . \$1.00

Try Online Management & E-Forward!

Touch2Talk walkie-talkie capable

ALLTEL
AUTHORIZED AGENT

Cool, new Kyocera Slider™

\$79⁹⁵
After \$30 mail-in rebate

Phone promotion requires 2-year service agreement on \$39.95+ plan. Not valid on family lines or upgrades.

www.tricountytelephone.com