

YOUR NDTC QUARTERLY

# OUTLOOK

FALL 2023

COMMUNITY FOCUS:

## Spirit Lake Nation

A Reflection On 55th Annual Powwow



30 YEARS OF CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

LIGHTNING-FAST 10 GIG INTERNET

PROTECTING YOUR INFORMATION ONLINE



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## Contact

211 22nd St. NW | PO Box 180  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
Phone: 701.662.1100  
Fax: 701.662.6444  
gondtc.com

## Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.  
Phone lines are open until 6 P.M.  
Repair Center also available  
Sat. 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

## Help Desk

701.662.8350 available 24/7

## Payment Drop-Offs

- NDTC office in Devils Lake
- 1st United Bank in Cando, Rugby, Maddock, & Devils Lake

To report trouble, call 701.662.1100.  
If after hours, follow prompts  
for assistance.



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NOTES FROM THE

# General Manager



**W**ow, there went another summer that flew by. I hope everyone had an opportunity to get outside and enjoy our nice weather. NDTC and its employees have been having fun getting out and seeing many of you at our 30th anniversary celebrations in your communities. Thanks for being our customers, and we hope to see a few more of you as we wrap up our visits this fall.

Summers continue to be very busy for NDTC. July 1st, we rolled out 10 Gig broadband service throughout our serving area. We also adjusted our speeds and pricing to accommodate everyone's different needs. Our broadband speeds now range from 250 Mbps to 10 Gig. All broadband services are fed by fiber optics, which means our upload and download speeds are equal. This is important with everyone sending and receiving large files like video. If you have any questions about speeds, we are here to help.

Technicians have been working at upgrading the ONTs (electronics in your home) to newer ones capable of handling the higher broadband speeds. Next on the list is moving many of our customers off older equipment in our central offices to new electronics we have installed. Speaking of our technicians, sometimes when you have such a great group, you take them for granted. NDTC had some large fiber optic cables cut recently, and everyone stepped up and did a wonderful job. I cannot thank them enough!

NDTC did some construction this summer. We placed new fiber optics from Devils Lake to Crary. This was plowed along Old Hwy 2 to upgrade the cables placed in the late eighties. Our construction company continues to place new service entrances as needed. If you are planning a new home or shop and would like to have service there, please give us a call so we can get it done before freeze-up.



**RODNEY  
HOFFMEYER**

NDTC GENERAL  
MANAGER

A lot of this work we do is partially funded by Universal Service Funds (USF). USF helps support and maintain the network, while keeping services affordable. Someone that lives in Devils Lake will pay the same rate as someone living in rural Drake. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is proposing to make changes to these funds we receive today. NDTC will be looking at the best options available, so we can continue to offer a high-quality broadband service that is affordable for our customers now and into the future.

Thanks for spending a little time with me. We would love to hear from you, if you have any questions or concerns.

**Have a great Fall!**

*Rodney Hoffmeyer*

→ **COMMUNITY FOCUS**

# THE TRUE CULTURE OF SPIRIT LAKE NATION

**A**s each summer comes, the Spirit Lake Nation has its Annual Fort Totten Days Powwow. During that week, the community is busy prepping the powwow grounds, preparing floats, coordinating vendors, and much more. While this is taking place, we are reminded that the event for the community is much more than what the public sees.

**“ THE POWWOW REPRESENTS HONOR TO THE DESCENDANTS AND ANCESTORS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE.**

LONNA JACKSON-STREET

Through song, dance, and drum, it represents the true honor that comes with not only the tradition, but the competition that follows it. It's truly a beautiful culture when you think about it. The community is doing something they love, while showing a true purpose to the cause. The newly elected Chairwoman, Lonna Jackson-Street, spoke to us about the powwow and

its importance as well. “It is a true symbolism of our culture and traditions we have. It connects us to the community and attracts relatives from all over the United States and Canada. Native American culture brings everyone together because we are all related. We express through dance, and each one plays an important story that is represented through ceremony and/or elders,” said Lonna.

“The powwow is a great event that brings guests and visitors to our area. It's a great way for our tribe to be involved in their culture along with others who want to learn. There are many dances that represent many different things,” said Representative Darren Walking Eagle. Some of the dances are men's grass dance, men's traditional dance, men's fancy dance, women's fancy shawl, women's jingle dress, and women's traditional, and kids also participate in the dances. The dancers have a sole connection to representing the cycle of life and honoring their creator and mother earth. The drum is also an important piece of not only the powwow, but other parts of this beautiful culture.

As we look at all the beauty behind the event, we must remember that this wasn't always allowed. It wasn't until 1978 when the American Indian Religious Freedom Act would be adopted into law. When visiting with Darren Walking Eagle, he stated that “it wasn't always something we could do, we had to change our identity for many years. It's our job to sustain the culture for future generations and preserve it as long as possible.”

There are many families that travel around the U.S. and Canada for powwows to compete, but it is also important to show these traditions to the youth here that don't have that opportunity. Giving them the knowledge of dances,







**The powwow is a great event that brings guests and visitors to our area.”**

LONNA JACKSON-STREET

ceremonies, sweats, medicines, and the true love of mother earth are vital to their race. The elders are the knowledge keepers, so when you see young children around them, it shows the beauty and patience they have. The teachings they provide to the reservation are irreplaceable.

While attending the 55th Annual Fort Totten Days, one could feel the pure love and culture of the people on Spirit Lake. The great welcoming feeling, along with amazing energy, can only make any person or spectator love this event.

The Dakota people of Spirit Lake Nation have a prayer that gives us insight to the importance of their culture.

### **DAKOTA PRAYER**

**Grandfather, Great Spirit, you have been always, and before you nothing has been, there is no one to pray to but you. The star nations all over the heavens are yours, and yours are the grasses of the earth. You are older than all need, older than all pain and prayer. Grandfather, Great Spirit, look upon your children, the Spirit Lake Oyate, that they may face the winds and walk the good road to the day of quiet. Grandfather, Great Spirit, fill us with the light, give us the light. Give us the strength to understand and eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft earth, as relatives to all that live. Help us, for without you we are nothing.**

**IN THE WORDS OF THE DAKOTA PEOPLE, “MITAKUYE OWAS’IN” (WE ARE ALL RELATED).**



**WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR COMMUNITY FOCUS?**

Call us at 701.662.1100, share how our services have benefited you or the people in your area, and you may be featured in our Community Focus!



**A**s the local growing and progressive telecommunications company headquartered in Devils Lake, NDTC is excited to be celebrating our 30th anniversary of serving the communication needs of the residents and businesses in local area communities. NDTC's mission to "Provide a quality communication network that strengthens our communities" has remained true since the company began.

The roots of NDTC go back to 1993, when a consortium known as The Phone Company (TPC), formed by United Communications (Langdon, ND); Dakota Central (Carrington, ND); and Polar Communications (Park River, ND) purchased 15 exchanges in the Devils Lake area from GTE, forming North Dakota Telephone Company (NDTC). On November 1, 1993, NDTC began operations with 29 employees.

Within three years, NDTC added 11 exchanges and five more employees, bringing the total number of staff to 34 and making it the beginning of an innovative period for the company.

In the last decade, the NDTC team has grown, digital switching has been installed on our network, and thousands of miles of fiber optic technology have been buried. This allows NDTC to be prepared for any future demands on the network. NDTC has facilitated service offerings ranging from Digital TV to surveillance cameras, and many additional customer-centered products. Over the past few years, NDTC

has instituted programs to ensure the cyber safety of all users of its network.

NDTC has been on the leading edge of telecommunications advancements by becoming a Smart Rural Community Gig-Certified provider in 2018 as a member of the Rural Broadband Association (NTCA). Gig internet is the fastest internet available anywhere, and our fiber optic broadband internet can deliver speeds up to 10 Gig. We're ensuring that with the fiber broadband infrastructure in place, our customers will continue to have access to the highest speeds now and in the future. As a member of the Broadband Association of North Dakota, the rural interests of our state's information-technology based economy are represented. As a telecommunications provider, NDTC is among those most progressive, determined, and dedicated to the prosperity of their subscribers.

**“As we celebrate our 30th anniversary this year, our hearts are filled with gratitude, as well as the zest to keep the service to our customers on an exceptional level. Our vision to connect and enhance the lives of those we serve has always been at the heart of what we do. It has been a memorable journey with a great team. I look forward to seeing what the future brings.”**

RODNEY HOFFMEYER, CEO/GENERAL MANAGER



# COME INTO THE FUTURE WITH LIGHTNING FAST

# 10 GIG INTERNET

Over the past two decades, an amazing transition of internet service and speed has taken place. Looking back to how things were with dial-up compared to the high-speed internet of today, it's hard to imagine how we survived doing even the simplest tasks over the web. Now, we can look completely into the future with fiber broadband internet.

Broadband is a transmission of technologies that sends information across long distances at an extremely fast speed. NDTc is now the first in our region to have 10 GIG high-speed internet. Our customers can take advantage of receiving the best high-speed and high-bandwidth communication available, on the fastest fiber network around.

The capabilities of our fully fiber network to better NDTc communities is endless. Having a fast internet speed like

this can only improve many things within our everyday lives. Assisting and aiding first responders, security, and connecting more people is what makes this worth it. It's great to know that people can feel more at ease with the speed and reliability of NDTc's fiber internet services.

As the fast pace of technology evolves, it will only continue to get faster. Businesses will thrive with better capabilities and receive information faster and easier.



**NDTc is ready to take you with us into the future. Call 701.662.1100 for more information.**

# 3 Common Cyberattacks and How to Protect Your Online Information

In today's digital world, the internet has become an essential part of our everyday lives as we work, play, learn, shop, bank, and more online. However, as technology evolves, so does cybercrime.

In honor of Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October, we want to provide information that will help you identify three common cyberattacks, so you can better protect your personal information online.

## Common Types of Cyberattacks

Cybercriminals are always trying new ways to trick you into giving them your sensitive information. Some of the most common methods they use are ransomware, phishing, and password cracking.

### 1 Ransomware

Through this method, hackers encrypt a victim's personal information to prevent them from accessing their files, databases, or applications until a sum of money is paid. Ransomware is distributed through email scams and other targeted attacks, with messaging that attempts to fool you into clicking on a malicious link or an unsecure website. If the attempt is successful, the ransomware is downloaded directly to your computer.

### 2 Phishing

Phishing is a cybercrime that targets people through email, phone, or text messages by posing as legitimate businesses

to try to gain access to your passwords, credit cards, or other personal information. These scams often include offers that are "too good to be true" or that induce a sense of urgency to trick you into clicking a malicious link before you realize it's a scam.

### 3 Password Cracking

Another common cyberattack is password cracking. Through this method, criminals try different techniques to break through the password authentication step on a website to access your sensitive information. Creating weak passwords, using the same password for all your accounts, or storing passwords as plain text on your computer increases your risk of being a victim of password cracking.

These three types of cyberattacks are only a few of the many ways criminals attempt to steal your sensitive information. Fortunately, you can be proactive about protecting your data.







# NATIONAL DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

**T**he National Do Not Call Registry, managed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), was established in 2003 to offer consumers a chance to stop unwelcomed sales calls.

It's free to register your number(s) in the database, and when you do so, telemarketers covered by the registry have up to 31 days from the date a number is registered to cease calling that number. Both landline and cellular numbers can be added to the registry, and once added, will not expire.

There are exceptions granted by existing laws and regulations, so not all unsolicited calls will stop. Some examples include political groups, not-for-profit organizations, surveys, and debt collectors.

If you've already added your phone number and are still getting a lot of unwanted calls, odds are the calls are from scammers. NDTC's Call Screening service is available to prevent robocalls/spoofed calls to your landline. Otherwise, if you do happen to answer one of these calls, hang up and report the call to the FTC. Do not get scammed into pressing buttons to be removed from their lists or giving **ANY** of your personal or banking information.

Companies that can call you are ones you've recently done business with, or if you've given them written permission to call. But if you ask them not to call you, they must stop. Be sure to write down the date you asked them to stop.

Visit [donotcall.gov](http://donotcall.gov) to register a number, check if you previously registered, file a complaint against someone violating the Registry, or for more information.

**Call us to hear more about our Call Screening service.**



**For more resources about cybersecurity and how to keep your information safe online, visit [staysafeonline.org](http://staysafeonline.org).**

## How to Protect Yourself Online

Cybercriminals only thrive when people are unaware of how to identify potential scams or adequately protect their sensitive information. Here's a list of a few ways you can improve cybersecurity in your life:

- Install anti-virus software on your computer and keep it up to date.
- Do not click on a link or open an attachment in an email or text unless you are expecting the file and have verified the sender's contact information.
- Create strong passwords that include a mix of numbers, symbols, and at least 15 characters, and consider using a password manager to keep them safe.
- Be extra cautious about messages urging you to act quickly.
- Watch for spelling errors in email addresses, as scammers often use slight variations in spelling during phishing attempts.
- Be wary of any electronic requests for payment or transfer of funds.
- Scrutinize every correspondence that starts with "we've noticed suspicious activity" or similar message.
- Always be mindful that everyone is at risk of cybercrime.



# 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

**T**he 988 Lifeline was established in July 2022 to improve access to immediate support to meet the nation's growing mental health, suicide, and substance use distress needs.

Simply calling or texting 988 or chatting 988lifeline.org will connect a person in crisis to compassionate care and support for any mental health or substance use-related distress. Anyone—a person in crisis, or someone supporting a person in crisis—can reach 988 in the United States through any land line, cell phone, and voice-over-internet device.

With rising levels of anxiety, depression, emotional distress, and overdose deaths, it is crucial that people have somewhere to turn when they're in crisis. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States. The number of people with a substance use disorder continues to increase. The 988 Lifeline is a direct connection to immediate and free support and resources for anyone in crisis.

## WHATEVER TIME: DAY. NIGHT. WEEKEND.



**If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.**

## MAINTENANCE WINDOWS:

**M**aintenance windows are a scheduled period of time during which preventative maintenance that may cause a disruption of service is performed.

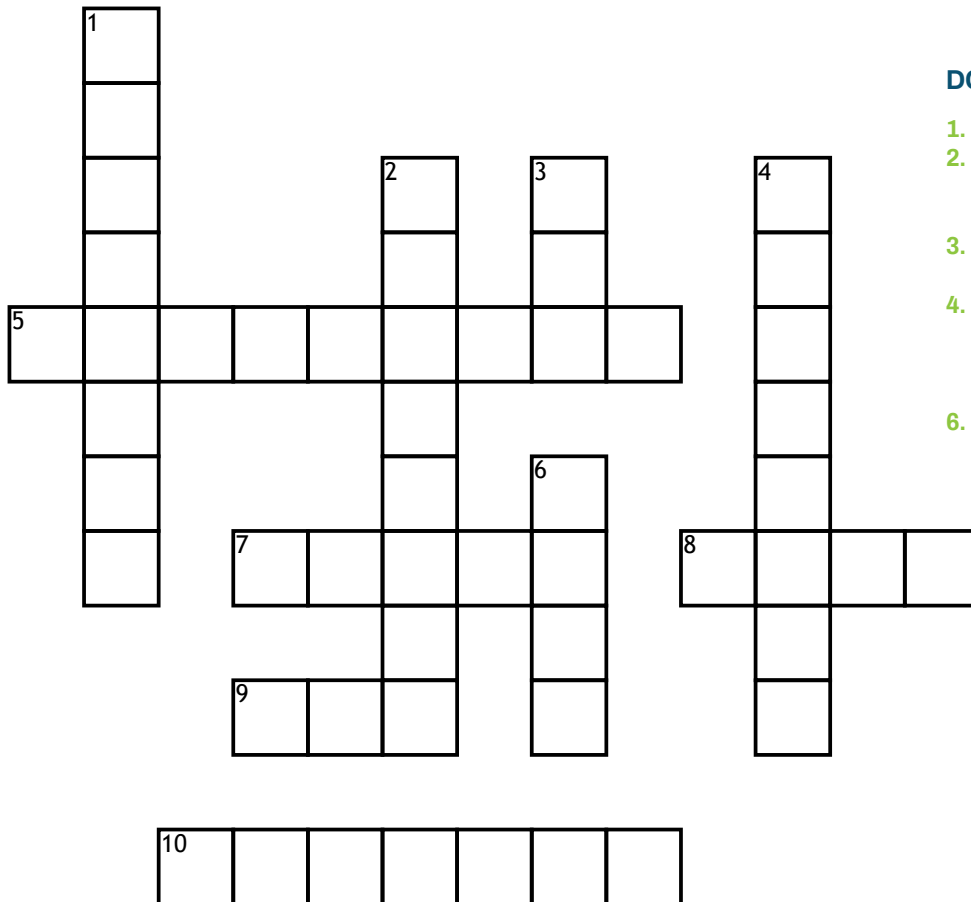
Our NDTC IT Service Department uses these maintenance windows to perform work on our NDTC Network Infrastructure (system maintenance, backup, upgrades, etc.)

as needed. Because Maintenance Windows may affect a small number of our exchanges or all of our exchanges, our team will generally schedule them after midnight and before 5:00 a.m. Maintenance windows help us ensure you are getting the best experience with the least interruption of service.

As these Maintenance Windows are scheduled, NDTC will post the time and potentially affected exchanges on Facebook. We highly encourage you to follow us on Facebook to keep up to date on all of NDTC's happenings, including our Maintenance Windows.



# INTERNET CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## ACROSS

- 5. Unique number used to identify a computer on the internet.
- 7. Sending and receiving of typewritten messages from one screen to another.
- 8. A computer that is used to transfer data on the internet.
- 9. It is the web browser address of internet pages and files.
- 10. Free software package or mobile app that lets you view web pages, graphics, and most online content.

## DOWN

- 1. Main or index page of a web site.
- 2. Consists of software or hardware that protects your computer from hackers and viruses.
- 3. Large database of domain names and their correspondent IP addresses
- 4. Broad term that describes transferring something you find on the internet or World Wide Web to your computer or other device.
- 6. Modern online writer's column.

win

\$25

CREDIT

FROM NDTc

Return this completed coupon to NDTc to be eligible for the next drawing. Congratulations to Elizabeth Evans from Devils Lake! She was the winner of the credit from the Summer newsletter issue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

5 Across on Crossword Puzzle \_\_\_\_\_

I understand my full name and my city of residence will be listed in the next newsletter if my name is drawn. \_\_\_\_\_  
(initial)



211 22nd St. NW | PO Box 180  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

**WIN**  
**WIN**

**EARN \$50 FOR BOTH YOU AND A FRIEND  
WHEN YOU REFER THEM TO OUR SERVICES!**

Currently an NDTC customer? Refer us to a friend, family member, neighbor, or even a stranger, and both of you will receive a \$50 bill credit after 60 days!\*

\*Terms and conditions apply. Ask us about details.

Visit: **[gondtc.com](http://gondtc.com)** or Call: **701.662.1100**