

ColoConnections



(L to R) Allan Armbrecht, Board President; Mike Wagenknecht, Adyson Saunders, and Arleen Wagenknecht.

2017 Recipient of Don McIntosh Memorial Scholarship

Colo Telephone Company congratulates Adyson Saunders, the recipient of the 2017 Don McIntosh Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Adyson is the daughter of Arleen Wagenknecht and Mike Saunders, and she plans to attend Luther College to study music education. We all wish you good luck, Adyson.

In 1993, Don McIntosh became Colo Telephone Company's general manager. Don was not only dedicated to his family but also to our company. In December 2003, he passed away after a four-year battle with colon cancer. Because of Don's devotion to his community, this scholarship was established in his name.



Colo Telephone Company's Spring and Summer Update

As we move from spring into summer, Colo Telephone Company has already had a very busy year. On March 3, 2017, Colo Telephone Company held its Annual Shareholders Meeting at the United Methodist Church. This venue was needed due to the largest attendance we've seen in a long while (64 people).

Here are the highlights:

- A meal was served by Niland Café before the business meeting.
- Jeff Naig from BKD CPA & Advisors reviewed the financials.
- President Allan Armbrecht and General Manager Larry Springer gave updates on the company's past and future projects.



Director Pat Peakin did not run for re-election to the Board. Deb McIntosh-Flaherty was elected to the Board of Directors along with incumbents Allan Armbrecht and Amy Lennie. Thanks to Pat for his service on the Board the past few years.

Colo Telephone Company has a very loyal workforce. Two of our employees, Dave Larson and DeAnne Luke, will be celebrating 20 years of service this year. They both have provided our customers with friendly, high-quality customer service over the years.

In April, we had two County road paving projects and a large culvert replacement project that required Colo Telephone Company to move our fiber within the County right of way. The new fiber construction has been completed, and we'll cut over the new fibers in the near future. 377-2682 Also in April, the Skitter TV new software release was implemented, providing fixes and updates to the issue we were experiencing. In addition, TV Everywhere was turned on with 44 channels currently available. More channels are being turned up as authorization is received from the networks.

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303 Main Street
PO Box 315
Colo, IA 50056
Phone: 641-377-2202
Email: colo@netins.net
Website: www.colotel.org

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00am – 4:30pm

After Hours Repair:
641-377-2203 or 611
Telephone Trouble: 641-377-2203
Digital TV Trouble: 641-377-2204
Internet Trouble: 1-800-205-1110
Iowa One Call: 811

General Manager: Larry Springer
Office Manager: DeAnne Luke
Customer Service: Julie Willis
Plant Technicians:
Dave Larson and Dave Shaffar



Call 811 Before You Dig to Help Prevent Utility Damage

An underground utility line is damaged once every six minutes nationwide because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. This statistic comes from data collected by Common Ground Alliance (CGA), the association dedicated to protecting underground utility lines and the safety of people who dig near them.

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries, and costly repairs. There are more than 20 million miles of underground utilities in the United States, according to data compiled by CGA from various industry groups.

To know what's below, always call 811 before digging on your property. That way, local utilities can come out and mark where underground lines are located. Data shows that when you call 811 the appropriate amount of time before digging, you have a less than one percent chance of striking a buried utility line.

Colo Telephone Company thanks you in advance for doing your part to help prevent utility damage.

Hidden Number Contest

If you find your number in italics anywhere in this newsletter, please call our office at 377-2202 by August 1st to be eligible for \$10 off your next month's Colo Telephone bill. Three lucky customers' names will be drawn for the credit.

Colo Telephone Company's Spring and Summer Update

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Colo Telephone Company continues to be an active partner with the Colo community. In December 2016, Colo Telephone Company and AUREON each provided \$5,000 Ripple Effect Grant checks to the City of Colo for planning and engineering services for the Carmody Addition housing project. The Ripple Effect Program provides statewide business and economic development services to communities across the state. Colo Telephone Company also provides low-interest business loans through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program. We're currently providing loans to two businesses and the City of Colo. With the money that's been repaid, we're able to make new low-interest loans to new business projects. Contact Colo Telephone Company for more information.

Find Fun and Unique Things to Celebrate in Every State

With summer in full swing, you may be looking for something different to do for a weekend outing or during your upcoming family vacation. If so, check out this idea-packed site:

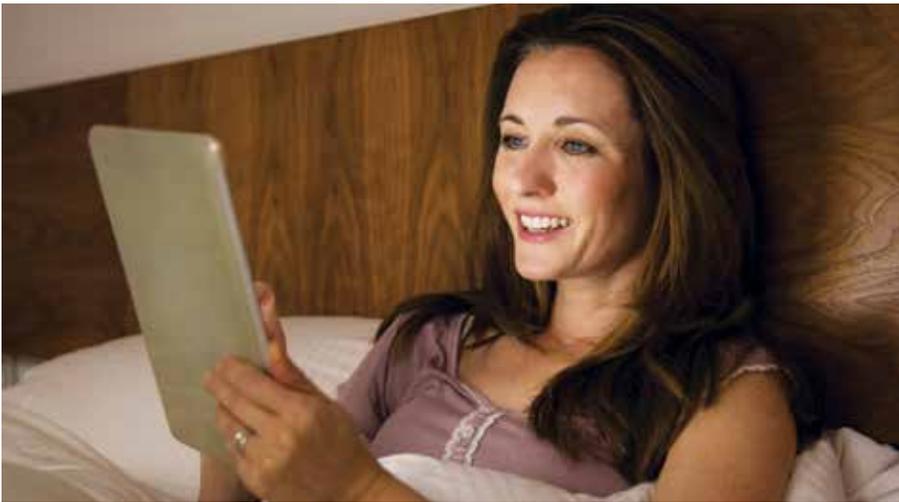
www.onlyinyourstate.com

Simply select a state to see the latest posts about its unique food, attractions, news, and life. Here's a sampling of some posts from across the country:

- Going Into These 6 Caves In Maine Is Like Entering Another World
- The Fascinating Town In Minnesota That Is Straight Out Of A Fairy Tale
- 10 Restaurants In Kansas Way Out In The Boonies But So Worth The Drive
- The Small Town In Pennsylvania With Insane Paranormal Activity
- Sleep Steps From The Beach At These 8 Unbelievable Overnight Destinations In South Carolina
- You Must Visit These 9 Bizarre Route 66 Attractions In Illinois
- The One Trail In Arkansas That Definitely Belongs On Your Bucket List
- 10 Abandoned Underground Spots In Texas That Are Hauntingly Beautiful
- 11 Fascinating Places In Denver You Can Barely Find On A Map
- 10 Amazing Natural Wonders Hiding In Plain Sight In Iowa – No Hiking Required

This site is a great resource for finding lesser-known places to visit and making your leisure time a little more adventurous. Whether you want to pick a one-of-a-kind restaurant for tonight's dinner or take an eerie tour through a town's past, www.onlyinyourstate.com has you covered. You can even submit a video or photo for consideration to be featured on the site.





Free (and Guilt-Free) Places to Download Movies

With so many sites out there offering free movies to download, it can be confusing to determine what's legal and what's not. If you choose the wrong ones, you could commit copyright infringement (also known as piracy) and face penalties. In addition, using illegal sites often leads to malware being downloaded to your device.

To enjoy movie night without worries, grab some popcorn and check out these free and legal sites:

Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>)

The Internet Archive is a treasure trove for movie fans. You can search Feature Films by category including sci-fi, horror, and film noir as well as by the year it was released. The site also offers free books, music, TV broadcasts, and newsreels.

Retrovision Classic Movies (<http://retrovision.tv>)

This free movie download site gives you access to many classics in the public domain and makes your search easy with its genre-specific menus. Or you can look at everything by choosing the All Movie List button. 377-2387

Crackle (www.crackle.com)

Crackle is owned by Sony and gives you lots of popular movie choices that you won't find for free on other sites. Sign up for a free account, create a watchlist, and you'll be shown recommendations based on your priorities. You do need to be willing to watch commercials occasionally.

Classic Cinema Online (www.classiccinemaonline.com)

If you're a fan of classic cinema, you'll want to visit Classic Cinema Online. This site hosts legendary films like *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Moby Dick*, *Lone Ranger* and more — showcased with their movie posters.

You'll have a better experience with downloading movies if your home's internet speed is up to the task. Call Colo Telephone Company at 641-377-2202 for details on our high-speed internet plans.

Colo Telephone Office Schedule

June 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	①	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	②	21	22	23	24
⑤	26	27	28	29	③	

June 1st - June bills mailed

June 20th - June bills unpaid become delinquent

June 25th - June bill disconnect date

June 30th - July bills mailed

July 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	④	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	②	21	22
23	24	⑤	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July 20th - July bills unpaid become delinquent

July 25th - July bill disconnect date

Office Closed: July 4th for Independence Day

August 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	①	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
②	21	22	23	24	⑤	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug. 1st - Aug. bills mailed

Aug. 20th - Aug. bills unpaid become delinquent

Aug. 25th - Aug. bill disconnect date

September 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	①	2
3	④	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	②	21	22	23
24	⑤	26	27	28	29	30

Sept. 1st - Sept. bills mailed

Sept. 20th - Sept. bills unpaid become delinquent

Sept. 25th - Sept. bill disconnect date

Office Closed: Sept. 4th for Labor Day



Watch Out for the Grandparent Scam

Callers pretending to be grandkids are targeting older Americans to try and scam them out of money. Typically, the call begins with “Hi, Grandpa” or “Hi, Grandma,” followed by a sob story about an emergency — such as an arrest or car accident — requiring money to be sent immediately through services such as Western Union or MoneyGram.

How do scammers select their potential victims and know the names of family members? They may use marketing lists and information from social networking sites or obituaries. Or they may hack into email accounts to get contact lists.

These crooks often call in the middle of the night when people are startled and not fully awake. If you get a call like this, take a deep breath and try not to get emotional. Instead, ask some personal questions that would be hard for an impostor to answer correctly. You should never agree to a money transfer based on a single call. Always hang up and do some research, such as calling the relative directly, to check out the story.

Protect Your Devices During Outdoor Adventures

While you may love spending the summer hanging out at the beach or hiking in the mountains, these types of outdoor adventures can wreak havoc on your smartphone, tablet, or laptop. To protect your devices from the elements while you’re enjoying the great outdoors, follow these three tips:

1. Keep it cool.

Leaving a device in the sun too long leads to overheating, which can kill the battery. The best strategy is to turn off all idle apps and only use your device in the shade. When not in use, store it in a bag or under some towels to help keep it cool. It’s also a good idea to use a cooling pad under your laptop when you’re working outdoors, even if you don’t use one at home. Increased temperatures mean even new laptops could easily overheat in the summer sun.

2. Keep it dry.

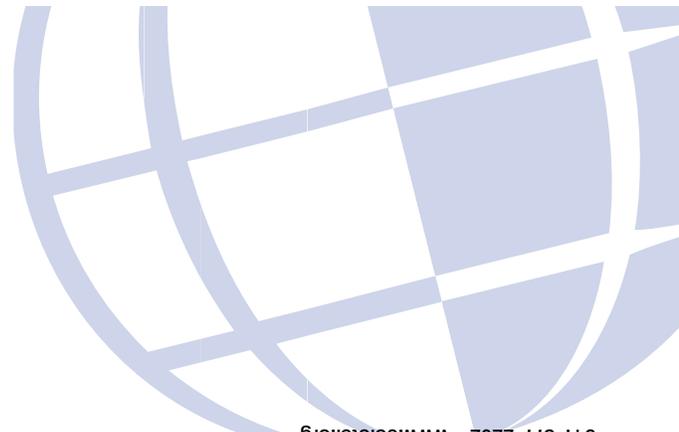
Water is the biggest enemy of your devices, so it pays to get a waterproof (as opposed to water resistant) case if you spend a lot of time on or near the water. There are case options on the market for different types of devices including ones that let you use your smartphone to take pictures underwater. 377-2954

3. Keep it close.

You don’t want to accidentally drop your smartphone over the side of a boat or down a mountainside while you’re busy taking a dramatic vacation photo. So consider getting a lanyard strap to keep it securely tethered to you while you move about. If you’re camping, double check to make sure all devices are inside the tent or camper — and not on the picnic table — before turning in for the night.

With a little extra effort, you can safely take your favorite devices with you as you enjoy your favorite outdoor places. parent is disoriented or in pain and isn’t able to clearly communicate to the 911 operator. With a landline phone, the exact home address is instantly available to emergency personnel.

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Colo, IA 50056

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