

News you can use

Sandy Bodle and Sharon LibbyNix retire



Sharon LibbyNix



Sandy Bodle

After decades of dedicated service to ECTC and our members, Sandy Bodle and Sharon LibbyNix have retired.

Sandy served as ECTC's accountant for the last 18 years, while Sharon was a 26-year veteran Board member.

"These two dedicated many years to ECTC, and they will be greatly missed by all of us," said Josh Netland, general manager. "We wish them both the best."

Smart Home Monitoring workshop scheduled for July 26

Mark your calendars! Our next technology workshop will be at 3 p.m. on July 26 at Emily City Hall. We'll cover our new Smart Home Monitoring services — what they're capable of, how they work, and how technology can help keep a watchful eye on your property while you're away. Call today to reserve your spot, (218)763-3000.

Our last workshop on managing files and photos on your computer was well-attended and we look forward to hosting more technology training sessions for our members in the future.

If you have a topic you'd like to see covered in an upcoming technology workshop, send your suggestion to emilytel@emily.net.

C-I grad awarded ECTC scholarship



Madeline Kertzmann, a recent graduate of Crosby-Ironton High School, has been selected to receive a college scholarship through the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) scholarship program.

FRS, in cooperation with the National Telephone Cooperative Association - Rural Broadband Association, of which ECTC is a member, awarded Madeline

with a \$2,500 college scholarship. Through this program, Madeline will receive \$2,000 from FRS and \$500 from ECTC. With 1,400 applications received this year, 67 scholarships were awarded. Great job, Madeline!



Find Ringo!

Ringo Receiver is hiding somewhere in this newsletter AND on our website, www.emily.net. Find him before July 23rd, 2016 and be entered into a drawing to win **\$20 off** your bill! If you've found him in this newsletter, fill out the information below and include it with your next ECTC payment. One entry per member per quarter, please. Good luck!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Location of Ringo _____ Acct # _____



Contact

Business Hours

Normal business hours:
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday

We have 24-hour coverage for telephone and cable outages
Call (218) 763-3000

After Hours

Any other concerns please call our office and leave a message



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Caution: Internet speed bump in progress

Does your Internet connection seem faster lately? There's a good chance it is! In January we increased Internet speeds to members who are taking advantage of our bundle or Internet packages.

Internet speeds have increased to 10, 20 or 30 megabits (Mb) per second for both uploading and downloading files, depending on your current bundle or Internet package. Prior to this upgrade, the fastest Internet we could offer was 1Mb upload and 15Mb download, making this speed bump a considerable one. Now you can watch YouTube, stream Netflix and upload photos to Facebook until your heart's content!

If you're interested in boosting your Internet speed or bundling your ECTC phone, television and Internet services, check out our website at www.emily.net. We've renamed our bundles and Internet packages to reflect this upgrade in service.

As always, we do our best to meet the changing technology needs of our members, both residential and commercial. To order, expand or upgrade your service, call ECTC at (218) 763-3000.

FEATURED STORIES!



Spotlight on Technology: Smart Home Monitoring



Technology Workshop set for July 26



Find Ringo!



Spotlight on Technology: Smart Home Monitoring

With ECTC's Smart Home Monitoring, you can:

- Access high-resolution live or recorded video of your property
- Monitor temperature and humidity controls
- Be notified when a door or window opens/closes
- Turn on/off a lamp or appliance
- Dim your lights
- Turn on/off outside lights
- Be notified of water leaks

Ideal for seasonal residents, weekenders or business owners, ECTC's Smart Home Monitoring solution allows you to keep an eye on your property while you're away.

Smart Home Monitoring equips homes or businesses with security features including video monitoring and motion sensors, even the ability to turn on and off lights, and monitor heating and air conditioning all from your smartphone or tablet.

Smart services can also include a fluid detection system designed to alert you of water leaks, flooding or other fluid overflows. If unexpected liquid is detected, a notification is sent directly to you by either text, e-mail or phone.

Another smart option is high-resolution video surveillance, with night vision. With this service we'll install video cameras to capture video clips when motion is detected, or window or door sensors are activated so you can keep tabs on your property from anywhere.

Once Smart Home Monitoring is installed, all you need is a smartphone or tablet to check on your home or business. The easy-to-use notification system will alert you via phone, e-mail, or text if a concern arises.

With pricing that starts at only \$11.95 per month, Smart Home Monitoring is an affordable way to protect your home or business, both inside and out.

To learn more about ECTC's Smart Home Monitoring, including pricing breakdowns and feature options, visit us online at www.emily.net or call (218) 763-3000.



Aha! Federal telecom regulations explained

You've probably heard it on the news, or maybe read about it in our annual reports and newsletters, but we'd like to explain how federal regulations affect rural telecoms like ECTC, and the services and rates we're able to provide.

Let's start with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF is a fund managed by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established to provide telecommunication services to rural and high cost areas, low-income consumers, schools, libraries and healthcare facilities throughout the United States.

All telecommunications customers in the U.S. contribute to the USF on an equal basis and fees are set by the FCC quarterly. In return, as a rural telecom, we receive financial support from the USF to ensure that consumers in rural, high-cost areas have access to telecommunications services at rates that are affordable and comparable to those in urban areas.

In 2011, the FCC released an order establishing annual benchmarks for how much must be charged for local service by USF rural and high cost program participants to remain eligible for support from the USF program. In compliance with these requirements, ECTC was required to raise our monthly local phone service rate by \$2, effective June 1, 2016.

Similarly, many of our members ask why they are required to have a phone line in order to receive other ECTC services. The answer, once again, goes back to FCC regulations. The FCC requires a subscription to local phone service in order for us to receive USF support. Without participating in this program, ECTC would not be able to provide services at the affordable rates we offer today.



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Automating your lights with dimmers and occupancy sensors can slash energy bills in a big way. In fact, a single light bulb can last up to 20 times longer when dimmed by 50 percent. **(Source: avdesigns.com)**



Homeowners with automated security features, like motion lighting, door/window sensors and other automated features, can save up to 20 percent on insurance premiums. **(Source: avdesigns.com)**