



# Bell Ringer

Volume 55, No 9 February 2022  
Clear Lake, South Dakota 57226



## ITC SCHOLARSHIPS

Going to college is expensive, but ITC can help! The Dean E. Anderson scholarships are available to assist with some of the financial burdens. If you live in the ITC service area, now is the time to check with your school about this scholarship!

ITC offers twenty-three Dean E. Anderson scholarships to high school seniors who plan to attend a post-secondary institution in either South Dakota or Minnesota. Each scholarship is worth \$600 and will be awarded this spring. They were created to assist seniors who want to continue their education.

Scholarships will be awarded to one graduating senior from each of the twenty-two school districts in the ITC service area. Scholarship applicants' parents or guardians must maintain at least one ITC service (Phone, Internet, or TV). Students must plan to attend a post-secondary institution located in either South Dakota or Minnesota.

One \$600 scholarship will also be awarded to a graduating senior who attends a school other than the school in the district where they reside due to open enrollment. This student's parents or guardians must also maintain at least one ITC service (Phone, Internet, or TV) to be eligible for this scholarship.

Please pick up an application packet from your school counselor or print it off our website at [www.itc-web.com/about/community-involvement](http://www.itc-web.com/about/community-involvement). For additional information and a complete listing of terms and conditions, go to the ITC website at [www.itc-web.com](http://www.itc-web.com). Completed applications must be submitted to your respective high school principal/counselor for review by March 4. Open enrollment applications are also due to the ITC Clear Lake office by March 4.

If you have a student who plans to go to a post-secondary institution, encourage them to check out the scholarships offered by ITC!

## THE 2022 PHONE BOOK IS COMING

Even though many people use their smartphones to look up phone numbers and information, there are still helpful things in the new phone book. For example, there is a quick reference to emergency numbers and a Kid's Corner to write parents', neighbors', and friends' numbers at the very front of the book. There are also steps to make international calls, financial assistance info, and info on your Coop.

If you prefer an online phone book option, go to [www.localsolution.com](http://www.localsolution.com). There is a link at the bottom of our website. If you no longer want a print version of the book, you can opt-out by going to [www.yellowpagesoptout.com](http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com) or calling 1.800.343.8086. Enjoy the new book!

Need help?

Chat with us!

START CHAT

## WANT TO CHAT WITH US?

Did you notice the chat bubble in the bottom right of the page when checking out our new website? It's a perfect solution for a quick question about ITC. The chat is available from Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.

**INCLUDES LISTINGS FOR AND DISTRIBUTION TO:**

- Aberdeen, SD
- Aceto, MN
- Astoria, SD
- Aurora, SD
- Bernie, SD
- Brady, SD
- Drexel, SD
- Brookings, SD
- Brockway, Rural, SD
- Byron, SD
- Bushnell, SD
- Canton, SD
- Cherry, SD
- Clark, SD
- Clayton, SD
- Crocker, SD
- Dempster, SD
- Elbowoods, SD
- Estelline, SD
- Florencina, SD
- Garden City, SD
- Gary, SD
- Gobles, SD
- Grover, SD
- Hayti, SD
- Hill City, SD
- Hinckley, SD
- Hixton, SD
- Labolt, SD
- Lake Benton, MN
- Lake Norden, SD
- Milbank, SD
- Minnehaha, MN
- Naples, SD
- Nunda, SD
- Oelrichs, SD
- Porter, MN
- Rosenkrantz, SD
- Renville, SD
- Rutland, SD
- Saint, SD
- South Shore, SD
- Stockham, SD
- Sturgis, SD
- Thomas, SD
- Toronto, SD
- Vista, SD
- Vivian, SD
- Ward, SD
- Waubay, SD
- Wheaton, SD
- Wentworth, SD
- White, SD
- Willow Lake, SD

**INCLUDES LISTINGS FOR:**

- Aberdeen, SD
- Arlington, SD
- Badger, SD
- Bellingham, MN
- Bruce, SD
- Canby, SD
- Colfax, SD
- De Smet, SD
- Egan, SD
- Erwin, SD
- Elkhorn, SD
- Florence, MN
- Gervais, SD
- Hastfeld, MN
- Heiland, SD
- Ingraham, SD
- Irlamdale, MN
- Krantzburg, SD
- Loc Qui Parlo, MN
- Lake Preston, SD
- Louisburg, SD
- Marshall, SD
- Marlette, MN
- Marshall, MN
- Moorhead, SD
- Nassau, MN
- Pierport, SD

**Recycle February 2022**

**The Phone Book**

February 2022  
Area Codes 507 & 605

Pipestone, MN  
Rosen, SD  
Summit, SD  
Wheaton, SD  
West Marietta, SD

## DON'T CLICK THAT LINK

*By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician*

It looks like the bad guys are trying to get people to click on bad email links again. We have certainly seen an uptick in these types of emails. Many people have fallen for these scams. According to Verizon, 32% of all successful data breaches happen because somebody clicked a link they shouldn't have. This is true even though most businesses have an email filter. The last step of the cyber security chain is the person who decides to click the link. It is important to understand the kind of email attacks sent towards you so that you can avoid them.

A phishing email (pronounced like fishing) is an email that tries to deceive you for various reasons. They attempt to get you to disclose information you should keep private, such as your passwords or banking information. The email often appears to be from a person or business that the victim trusts, which makes these messages dangerous.

If you receive an email asking for your date of birth, social security number, phone number, credit card information, home address, or password information, delete it immediately. If you click a link in an email that takes you to a web page that asks for that information, close the webpage right away. If you are not sure, give the company a call and ask them if the email is real or not. Chances are it is a fake.

Don't just trust the email because it looks real. It is extremely easy to steal a company's website, including logos and other information, make a few changes, and upload it to a criminal-owned website. When the victim enters information into this website, they give the criminals their personal information.

Criminals will use this information to impersonate their victims. They might use this information to apply for credit cards or other loans. They may perform a more targeted attack requiring personal information, such as filing fake tax returns with the IRS in your name, called spear phishing. Several variations of these attacks include sending fraudulent text messages and social media requests (smishing). Another popular method is to leave phony voice mails (vishing).

Despite their somewhat amusing names, these are all dangerous messages on various platforms that need to be avoided. These messages often threaten to deactivate an account, such as your ITC email account or claim that you are the victim of credit card fraud. Other messages might ask you to transfer funds for family members or coworkers in jail. Others will tell you that your delivery needs to be rescheduled and provide you with a link to click on. None of these messages are real, and they should be deleted immediately.

Remember, as tempting as it might be, don't click links on emails you weren't expecting, and don't enter any personal information into a website that was emailed to you. If you believe that you are the victim of an Internet crime, you should change your passwords immediately. You can also contact the FBI at <https://www.ic3.gov/> and file a complaint and get more information.

## FACEBOOK FOR FEBRUARY

*By Holly Storno, Marketing Communications Specialist*

This February, ITC University will get you caught up with everything Facebook. With this ever-changing app, there are always new things to think about. Here are some tips when navigating Facebook.

1. Don't share any info that you wouldn't share with strangers. Keep this in mind when entering your "About" section or posting on your page.
2. It is good to know how to block people if you have that pesky person who won't leave you alone. Navigate to the person's profile, click on the three dots below their cover image, and select "Block." Once you agree to the on-screen confirmation, the person won't be able to see you or contact you. You can unblock someone on Facebook by going to Settings & Privacy > Blocking > Block Users. Once there, click "Unblock" next to the name of the person you want to unblock.
3. Facebook allows you to customize your notifications, so you aren't overwhelmed by ones you don't care about. Go to Settings & Privacy > Settings > Notifications. Click on each category and choose how or if you want notifications for that item.
4. If you need a break from an excessive poster, there is an option to "Snooze" them. Click on the three-dot menu in the upper right corner of their posts. Once there, click "Snooze [Name] for 30 days." You can do this with people or pages.

ITC University classes will be on February 16 at 10:00 AM and February 23 at 2:00 PM. The classes will happen again via Zoom. To sign up for this Facebook class, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.

## DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

The National Do Not Call Registry was established by the Federal Trade Commission to offer a choice of receiving telemarketing calls at home or on your cell phone. You can call or go online to register or remove a number from the National Do Not Call Registry. Registration is free. Telemarketers have 31 days to remove your number from their call lists.

To register by phone or verify a number on the registry, call 1.888.382.1222 or TTY, call 1.866.290.4236 from the phone you register.

To register online or verify a number on the registry, go to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). If you register online, you will receive a confirmation email from donotcall.gov. You must click on the link in the email within 72 hours to complete your registration.

With the Do Not Call Registry, you may still receive political, charitable, debt collection, information, and telephone survey calls. A company can still call if you've recently done business with them or permitted them to contact you. A company must honor your request if you ask them not to call.

Phone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain permanently on it unless you ask them to remove it.