

Connection

Vol. 18, No. 1

January 2018

Daycare nets grants for safety

Little Home Daycare is the recipient of a \$300 Aureon Network Services Charity Grant, plus a \$300 matching contribution from F&B Communications.

Grant funds will be used by the center for important safety upgrades to exit signs and emergency lights to meet state compliance requirements.

Little Home is the only DHS-licensed childcare facility in Lowden and offers care for infants, and children as well as preschool and before and after school programs.

F&B is one of more than 100 Iowa independent telephone company member-owners of Aureon, which helps to provide advanced telecommunications services across the state.

Nearly \$26,000 has been awarded to organizations in the F&B service area in the last 22 years since the charity grant program began.

The charity grant program is open to non-profit



FUNDING FOR SAFETY UPGRADES. Pictured (left to right): John Vogelaar, Aureon; Karen Mackey, Little Home Daycare; Ken Laursen, F&B.

organizations in the F&B service area. Grants are awarded quarterly and chosen by an independent review committee organized by Aureon.

College scholarship deadline Feb. 20

\$3,000 available to local high school senior

Good grades, band, basketball, drama, track, church, National Honor Society, community service and student council. If you know a bright student who is highly involved, then they are likely a good candidate for the F&B Communications scholarship.

This spring F&B will award one \$500 scholarship to a deserving high school senior in the telephone service area based on scholastic achievement, citizenship and school and community involvement.

This is the sixteenth year for the local F&B program.

F&B is also teaming up with the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) to give all applicants an opportunity to win one of several \$2,500, awards and other national telecom scholarships.

Application materials will be available after Jan. 3.

Additional scholarships through F&B's trade associations with Iowa Communications Alliance and Aureon are also available.

For more information on scholarships or an application form, visit www.fbc-tele.com/scholarship or contact F&B at (563) 374-1236.

How to apply

1. Download application from www.fbc-tele.com
2. Complete application, essay, community leader's recommendation and educator's recommendation forms (in sealed envelopes).
3. Postmark application materials or deliver to F&B Communications by Feb. 20, 2018.

Holiday Tech Expo drawing winners

Congratulations Tech Expo drawing winners:

Blu-ray Player: Barb Ihns, Lowden; Bluetooth Speaker: Barry Hoffmeier, Lowden; USB Flash Drive: Samantha Kalarovich, Wheatland; 50 Digital Prints: Sandi Klahn, Wheatland.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Technology Solutions' Holiday Tech Expo last month.

Almanac calendars

2018 F&B almanac calendars are available. Stop by the F&B office or Technology Solutions to pick up a complimentary calendar.

Chiller shuts down

NBC Universal discontinued transmission of Chiller on Dec. 31. The channel has been removed from the F&B lineup.

Holiday hours

F&B Communications and Technology Solutions will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's.



Holst new PC service tech



RILEY HOLST

Riley Holst has joined the F&B team as a computer service technician.

Riley is currently a student at the University of Dubuque studying computer information technology.

He works part-time at the Technology Solutions store assisting customers with their repair and sales needs.

What's the hype about WatchTVEverywhere?

It's a free service available to subscribers of qualifying F&B TV packages. With WatchTVEverywhere, you can watch some of your favorite channels and programming — including live TV and full episodes of current TV shows — on your tablet, smartphone or laptop.

You can use WatchTVEverywhere anywhere you have an Internet connection such as hotels, airports and restaurants.

The first step is to complete a one-time registration at www.fbc-tele.com.



GO BIG AND GO GIG

F&B is pleased to make speed increases to many of our broadband packages effective Jan. 1, 2018. The upgraded speeds are offered at no additional monthly cost and allow subscribers more bandwidth to access online services. Visit www.fbc-tele.com to see current Internet offerings.

NOTICE TO OUR VIDEO CUSTOMERS:

As communicated last month, many of our agreements with the local broadcast channel providers were due to expire at the end of the year.

Based on the current status of these negotiations, we do not anticipate that we will be dropping any of the local channels. In fact, as a result, we will be adding more local multicast channels from these providers.

As we have explained in previous years, outdated federal laws and regulations give broadcasters enormous negotiating leverage over our company and often times they present "take it or leave it" offers that give us little room for true negotiation.

While it appears that we will not be dropping any channels, the new agreements do provide for significantly increased rates for carriage. These charges are in turn passed on to you as the end viewer.

Video rates will increase effective Feb. 1, 2018, as noted on your January statement. These increases are a direct result of increased charges from local broadcasters and cable programmers.

We continue to work on enhancing our video offering and will be making an announcement in early 2018 regarding the choice of a smaller channel package as well as new features.

We take pride in serving our communities and thank you for your patronage.



F&B Communications, Inc.
103 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 309
Wheatland, IA 52777

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm

PHONE NUMBERS

Business Office
(563) 374-1236 or (563) 574-1236
Trouble/Repair
(563) 374-1238 or (563) 574-1238
Internet Tech Support (24/7)
1-888-832-4322
Technology Solutions
(563) 374-1322

WEB SITE

www.fbc-tele.com

EMPLOYEES

General Manager: Ken Laursen
Assistant General Manager: Aaron Horman
Office Manager: Ariell Connelly
Administrative Assistant: Carla Olson
Billing/CABS: Kendra Rock
Customer Service: Michelle Harrison, Kelly Scott
Plant Supervisor: Derek Hendrickson
Plant Technicians: Pat Ahrens, Scott Butt, Drew DeLoe, Tyler Leibold, Logan Warren
Technology Solutions: Brooke Cavey, Chandler Gannon, Riley Holst, Matt Morris, Joel Schroeder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Paul Ketelsen
Vice-President: Ryan Vander Heiden
Secretary/Treasurer: Brenda Kay
Directors: Norman Boussetol, Doreen Henning, Joel Paulsen, Roland Reiling