



# MONTHLY NEWS

WORLD-CLASS TECHNOLOGY. UNRIVALED LOCAL SERVICE.

## March 2021

### Top News Inside

- Vernon Tech Center
- 2021 Directory
- Video Monitoring
- Heart of the Driftless Photo Contest
- March Madness

After the closing of VC Co-op's Viroqua Technology Center in October, Scott Leum, President of Leum Technologies, saw an opportunity to fill the void in the community of Viroqua and surrounding communities. After several meetings and hours of brainstorming, a partnership was formed between VC Co-op and Leum Technologies, called **Vernon Tech Center, LLC. (VTC)**. Leum Technologies opened it's doors in December, providing a much needed technology center until the partnership was officially formed. The new center offers a wide variety of products and services for all your technology needs.

#### Some of those services include:

- Computer Sales, Installation, and Setup
- Computer Diagnostics, Repair, and Upgrades
- Help Desk Support for PCs, Macs, Phones, Tablets, and Smart TVs
- Computer Parts and Accessories
- Cables and Connectors for all types of electronics
- Digitizing Photos, Video Tapes, Slides, and Negatives
- Website Design and Hosting
- Onsite and Offsite Backup

The partnership agreement and the formation of the Vernon Tech Center, LLC. between VC Co-op and Leum Technologies was officially signed on February 16, 2021. VC Co-op and Leum Technologies are co-owners and VC Co-op rents the building to them. The expert knowledge of employees in both businesses is an exceptional working partnership and will serve the community well.

VC Co-op looks forward to stand by our Cooperative's mission statement, ***"Our goal is to be the best communications provider possible, and promote economic development in the communities we serve"***.





**ROD OLSON, CEO**

The partnership between VC Co-op and Leum Technologies puts life back into a couple lines of business that we unfortunately had to discontinue. It was not for lack of effort and the pandemic did not help. In my opinion, our staff are some of the best and brightest

people in the area. Offering computer repair, IT services and splitting our support staff to cover two locations was simply spreading us too thin to cover everything we have going. To be efficient and responsive to our 8,000 members, we need face to face collaboration within and between staff and departments.

Our cooperative's state-of-the-art voice and broadband network has a life of its own and is continually evolving and needs constant attention and upgrading. It requires different skill sets than most business networks we were servicing. It was impractical that we could be experts in everything we were asked to do. The staff at the Vernon Technology Center will be able to focus on the things they do best. We will be there as a partner to add what we do best. Together we can capitalize on our individual strengths to provide customized end-to-end IT Service solutions.

IT Services are not just for businesses and office buildings. The pandemic has forced families to adapt to working and studying from home. Most students and remote workers need robust broadband and modern Wi-Fi networks equal to what they have at their offices. Vernon Technology Center will be the place to design and equip your home for whatever you need. Together, we are capable, motivated and ready to develop additional services as the company grows.

Over the years we have participated in many local group meetings where topics included expanding technology awareness, education and training, entrepreneurship and other ideas. Hopefully, if we are successful, some of these ideas can come to fruition with the Vernon Tech Center's help.

## 2021 DIRECTORY



**VC Co-op and Pioneer Directories** will deliver a new 2021 phone directory this summer. The directory is a resource guide for our services, yellow page listings for local businesses, a reverse look up for phone numbers and much more. A foreign listing such as a cell phone number can be added for \$24.00 per year in the directory.

*If you would like to make changes to your residential listings, call (608) 634-3136, before April 9, 2021.*

Sales people from Pioneer will contact member businesses about directory ads soon. *For contact information, call (608) 723-4140 or (800) 241-1244.*



214 N. Main St. Viroqua, (608) 638-2030.

**Vernon Tech Center can help you design and host your business website**

- Website design using WordPress
- Optional online store with WooCommerce
- Optional online payments using PayPal, Square, or CardConnect
- Hosting managed by Leum Technologies, Inc.
- Prices start at \$500 for design and \$50/month for hosting

## MOBILE APP

**Don't forget the app!** If you are away from home and need a phone number, it is right at your fingertips. Look up any local number right on your phone.

The only mobile directory app available to find local businesses easy and conveniently when on the go.

Make sure your business is represented in the **new premier print and digital directory.**

For more information, contact **Pioneer DIRECTORIES**  
**Pioneer Directories at 1-800-241-1244.**

The 2021 telephone directory will be delivered to the door of Vernon County residents this summer!

**CVFIC** **VERNON COMMUNICATIONS COOP**



## TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Security is important and video monitoring has become a smart move for many reasons. Detering criminals is the most obvious. Being able to watch your home any time of the day while you are away gives peace of mind and the presence of a camera is sometimes enough to deter someone from breaking into your home. Being able to check on your family and pets while you are at work, especially during this pandemic, is especially comforting. Remote monitoring lets you see what's going on in your home. You can check on your home any time of the day. *Did you know many insurance companies will give a discount if a security camera is installed in your home?*

**Alarm.com has a solution:** Video alerts trigger recordings and sends the video clip to you. Real-time video through web and mobile, recorded video clips stored in a secured off-site location and cloud storage. Video clips can be viewed any time, and it supports up to 4 cameras.



## MARCH MADNESS



**CBS Sports and Turner Sports** will continue to show all 67 games of the tournament across TBS, CBS, TNT, truTV and their digital platforms, including March Madness Live.

**Sweet 16** — 2 p.m. start on Saturday, March 27, and 1 p.m. start on Sunday, March 28. (CBS afternoon games, TBS primetime games)

**Elite Eight** — 7 p.m. start on Monday, March 29, and 6 p.m. start on Tuesday, March 30 CBS (Monday) and TBS (Tuesday)

**Final Four** — 5 p.m. start on Saturday, April 3 (CBS)

**NCAA championship game** — 9 p.m. start Monday, April 5 (CBS)

## ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



### Additional Network added to TV Packages

Best known for its cable, news channel Newsmax TV channel 480 (HD) and its popular website Newsmax.com, Newsmax TV brings you live 24/7 coverage of breaking updates in politics, world news, health, finance and more. Newsmax estimates it reaches over 33 million Americans each month. Forbes has called Newsmax a "powerhouse" and the New York Times describes its reach as a potent force in U.S. media.

### Did you know GAMES are included in your Television experience for FREE?

The Apps menu on your remote control allows you to access the apps that are available to you.

**To access the available games for your set top box select:**

1. Menu
2. Apps
3. Games - A listing of games will appear.

**Note:** All games are not supported through each set top box version.

**The game selected will appear, then play away!**



### Local Channel 14

New episodes of Sportsman's Journal in March feature Tyler and Sara Trampe in "**When the Wife Guides**", a guide's perspective to "A Successful Bear Hunt" and "Best Bait Casting Rods For Bass".

The Sportsman's Journal features the couple revealing different seasons, locations, tactics and conditions that allow anglers to catch more fish.

Check out the air dates by going to [www.vernoncom.coop](http://www.vernoncom.coop), then go to Community Channels and find TV Schedule.



**March 14**  
*Daylight Savings Begins*



**March 17**  
*St Patrick's Day*



**March 20**  
*Spring Equinox*



103 N Main Street  
Westby, WI 54667

Lobby Hours:  
8:00am - 4:30pm (M-F)

(608) 634-3136  
www.vernoncom.coop



## IRISH CROCKPOT BEEF STEW

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs. beef chuck
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 large carrot
- 4 garlic cloves
- 2 tsp. fresh thyme
- 1/2 large yellow onion
- 2 Yukon Gold potatoes



- 2 C. beef broth
- 1/4 C. tomato paste
- 1 Tbs. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 2 Tbs. all purpose flour
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 Tbs. olive oil

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cut beef in small chunks and season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle the flour over the seasoned beef and coat on all sides.
- In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Brown the beef in batches on all sides for 3-4 minutes or until slightly browned. The beef does not need to be cooked through. Transfer the browned beef to a plate and set aside.
- Add the onions, garlic and carrots to the skillet and cook stirring occasionally for 2-3 minutes or until slightly browned. Add the broth and let it cook for another minute to remove the glaze from the bottom of the skillet.
- In the crockpot, add the potatoes, tomato paste, bay leaf, thyme and worcestershire sauce. Add the beef. Mix well to combine everything.
- Cook on low for 9 - 10 hours, medium for 7-8 hours or high for 6-7 hours.
- To thicken the stew:** 30 minutes before serving, remove about 1/2 cup of the liquid sauce, mix it with about 2 teaspoons to 1 tablespoon of cornstarch. Pour it back and allow to cook and thicken up. *Remove bay leaf, serve and enjoy.*

## MARCH WORD SCRAMBLE

*Unscramble the words below found in this newsletter*

SNIRGP \_\_\_\_\_  
RIVQOUA CEHT ENCRTE \_\_\_\_\_  
RCYODRTEI \_\_\_\_\_  
CMHAR NSDMSAE \_\_\_\_\_  
RAEHT FO EHT SIDRFELST \_\_\_\_\_

*Spring, Viroqua Tech Center, Directory, March Madness, Heart of the Driftless*

