



## MONTHLY NEWS

WORLD-CLASS TECHNOLOGY. UNRIVALED LOCAL SERVICE.

# NOVEMBER 2022

### Top News Inside

- Capital Credit Checks
- Holiday Shopping Online
- Cyber Security
- Employee News
- Season of Giving

### Capital Credits

In October, capital credit checks were issued to active members who had service in the years 2007 - 2010. Active members with a balance of \$50.00 or less were issued a credit on their statement. Cooperatives operate under laws, regulations and rules like other businesses, but are different in the aspect that profits, or margins may be returned to the members who own the cooperative. This means that money left over after operating expenses are returned to the members in the form of capital credits. Member allocations are based on the member's billed services from profits or margins within a given year. Capital credits are divided among the members or owners of the cooperative in proportion to how much they have paid in the services they subscribe to.

***The busiest online shopping season is almost here!  
Here are some tips to keep you safe.***



1. Shop with reputable retailers.
2. Think twice, click once *When the good deals start flooding your emails, remember most hacks begin by asking you to open an attachment.*
3. Beware of amazing deals.
4. Don't browse on public WiFi, use a Virtual Private Network (VPN).
5. Pick strong passwords.
6. Check site security before you buy - *Protect yourself by only shopping on sites with HTTPS as URL prefix and a padlock icon near the URL.*
7. Never give out personal information like Social Security Numbers.
8. Pay with credit, not debit.
9. Keep an eye out for fraud.
10. Track your stuff - *Once you've ordered, track your packages.*
11. Update your operating system. *Updating your Operating system ensures your computer has the latest software to protect itself.*
12. Report scammers.

*The "S" in HTTPS stands for "Secure".*



## ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

# HBOmax™

### November HBO and Cinemax 8-Day Free Preview: 11/22 - 11/29



- *House of the Dragon* - the full first season of the new hit series!
- *HBO Original Series* - new episodes of *The White Lotus S2*, *Hard Knocks In Season S2* the *Shaq Docuseries*, and *We're Here S3*
- *Blockbuster Movies* – the thrilling blockbuster movie *Don't Worry Darling*, along with recent hits *DC League of Super-Pets* and *Elvis*!



On October 1, 2022 NBCU discontinued the Olympic Channel. Channel 50 (Standard Definition) and channel 350 (High Definition) are no longer available

### High School Sports



See High School football and volleyball tournament playoffs by Western Wisconsin Video Production on local channel 14.

## CYBER SECURITY

**KnowB4**

For cybercriminals, stealing your login information can be just as valuable as stealing your bank account information. If they gain access to your email and password, they may find clues in your account that they can use to create highly targeted phishing attacks against you, your organization, or your family. Once the hackers have your login information, the hackers can even sell it for payment.

### How Does It Work?

A popular method used to steal your credentials is to use fake login pages to capture your login details. These types of attacks usually start with a phishing email that directs you to use a link in the email to "log in to your account". The emails are usually authentic-looking and present a seemingly normal request. If you click this link, you're brought to a login page that looks almost identical to the one you're used to but is actually a fake page. Once you've entered your email and password on the fake page, you may be redirected to the real website—leaving you unaware that your login credentials were stolen.

### How Do I Spot a Fake Page?

As the first line of defense, always navigate to your account's login page by typing the web address in your browser, or using a bookmark that you've saved—rather than clicking through links in an email. Also, be aware of the following tips to help you identify fake web pages:

Pay attention to the address bar. To be on the safe side, make sure the website starts with <https://> before entering any personal information.

Check the domain name. Make sure that the website that you are on is correctly spelled and not mimicking a well known brand or company.

Watch for poor grammar and spelling. An excess of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar mistakes can indicate that the website was put together fairly quickly with no regard for professionalism.

Look for reliable contact information. If you can find another way to contact the brand or company, reach out to them to confirm the email is real.

Walk away from deals that are too good to be true. Some retailers will discount older merchandise but if the latest item is also heavily discounted, walk away. It's probably too good to be true!

### Attention:

We appreciate all the Public Service Announcements (PSA's) that are sent in for our local channels 14 & 15.

In order to get the best visible quality of your event, here are some guidelines:

- Landscape format
- Size - 8 1/2 x 11
- Less is more - The fewer the words, the easier your announcement is to read on TV.
- Keep it simple - Date, Place, Time
- Get creative with eye appealing graphics and color

**Go Paperless by setting up ebill and automatic payments.**

You will never miss a payment and the worry of your payment getting lost or to us on time will go away. Concerned about holiday delays, the postal system and late payments? Not with automatic payment. Help save the environment and go Eco-friendly.



## VC CO-OP HIGHLIGHTS



*It was a nice Fall day for the famous Retreat 2-way parade*



*There were thousands of energetic, fun parade goers at the Viola Horse & Colt parade*



*The Westby Snowflake princesses joined VC Co-op employees for a photo op at the Cashton Fall Festival parade*



*Every Wednesday in October was filled with treats for our members in recognition of Co-op Month*

## November Highlights

- November 6** - Daylight Savings Ends
- November 11** - Veterans Day - Our office will be closed
- November 24** - Thanksgiving - Our office will be closed
- November 25** - Our office will be closed, but see us at the Viroqua Twinkle Parade
- November 26** - Small Business Saturday
- November 28** - Cyber Monday

## SEASON OF GIVING



*Christmas is a joyful time of year, but can be very stressful for some families. We would like to help by accepting toys and canned goods to help lower the stress on families less fortunate. We will be accepting donations and in return will donate to Bethel Butikk in Westby. Last year, Bethel Butikk distributed toys to around 250 children. What better way to get in the spirit of Christmas than to give to those in need! We will be accepting donations of **NEW** toys and canned goods until November 25, 2022.*

## FIRE TV STICK WINNERS



Congratulations to these three lucky winners of an Amazon Fire TV Stick from the Vernon County Fair: Left, Vivian Arttus (Viroqua), Traci Moe (De Soto) and Joel Jepsen (Westby). **Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth.**



*VC Co-op wishes you a  
Happy Thanksgiving*



## VETERANS DAY



Left, Gunnar Gretebeck and right, Kevin Karowski

**November 11th is Veterans Day** and on this day we would like to honor all men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. A special "Thank you" to our employee Veterans, Gunnar Gretebeck, who served in the U.S. Air Force and Kevin Karowski, who served in the U.S. Army National Guard. **Thank you to all who have served and thank you for the sacrifices you have made.** Our office will be closed in recognition of Veterans Day.

### Board of Director Veterans



Left, Miles Bohland (De Soto), Brad Gabrielson (La Farge), Marty Stenslien (Westby Rural/Cashton), and Steve Woodhouse (Genoa)

A big thank you also to our Board of Director Veterans who have served in the Armed Forces.

For the best internet experience, your router is key:

**Gigaspire Wireless Router**

**\$6 per month**

#### Advantages:

- Receives Gigabit broadband data
- High-performance system (Wi-Fi 6)
- 6x6 streams of Wi-Fi



## EMPLOYEE NEWS



**Naomi Peterson** was recognized at an employee meeting on October 20, 2022 for her 15 year service award. Naomi began her employment in October of 2007 in Member Support. She was later promoted to Billing and Accounting Assistant. Naomi is a key employee for taking care of our members capital credits.



**Monte Bankes** was recognized for 5 years of employment at the employee meeting on October 20th. Monte has worked in our Network Operations Center as a Network Technician. He has recently taken on more responsibilities with our local channels.



**Josh Fanta, a Member Service Technician** was also recognized for his 5 years of service at the employee meeting on October 20th. Josh works in outside construction and has worked many long hours over the summer to oversee the fiber construction project in Crawford County.



**Christian Leal** also began his employment 5 years ago as a Member Service Technician and received his service award and recognized for his accomplishments on October 20th. Christian is very knowledgeable in his field of work in installation and repair.



103 N Main Street  
Westby, WI 54667

**Lobby Hours:**

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

(608) 634-3136 • [www.vernoncom.coop](http://www.vernoncom.coop)

