



Bell Ringer

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ITC NAMED A SMART RURAL COMMUNITYSM PROVIDER

ITC was recently named a Smart Rural CommunitySM (SRC) provider by NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association. SRC is a national network of communities powered by innovative rural broadband providers that are building a brighter future for small-town America. The program promotes rural broadband and its role in supporting innovative economic development, effective education, efficient energy distribution and use, state-of-the-art health care, and other important issues for rural America.

To receive recognition as a SRC provider, ITC was required to affirm that it offers 25/3 Mbps broadband to at least 50% of its service area, that it has broadband subscription rates of at least 50%, and that it is committed to program principles of collaboration and innovation. As a result of ITC's national recognition, ITC communities will now be celebrated as Smart Rural Communities in program materials and online at www.smartruralcommunity.com, joining a national network of similarly innovative communities.

Along with being named an SRC, ITC would like to announce GIG service! We are now offering GIG service to all residential and business customers. For pricing or to sign up, visit our website at www.itc-web.com and go to Find Services In Your Area. It's a GIG deal!



GIG-CERTIFIED PROVIDER

NEW EMPLOYEE

ITC is happy to have Heather Landmark as the new Accounting Supervisor. Heather started in May, with her position being created when Tracy Bandemer was promoted to CEO.

Heather lives in Toronto with her husband and has four children and three grandchildren. She previously worked at the Hendricks Farmers Elevator as an Accountant. Heather has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Mount Marty College. She would like to continue her education someday and get a Master's degree in Accounting.

In Heather's spare time, she likes to camp, read, and spend time with her family. She is involved in the Toronto City Council, Deubrook Library Board, and the Deubrook Booster Club.

Welcome to ITC, Heather!



E-STATEMENT WINNERS

ITC's E-Statement promotion ended July 1. Thank you to everyone who went paperless with E-Statement or signed up for Auto-Pay!

As a thank you to all our current customers, ITC had a drawing for four \$25 bill credits! The winners from this drawing are:

- *Donald Kanz of Hendricks*
- *Janel Raymer of Florence*
- *Jeff Ekern of White*
- *Jim McKeown of Aurora*

Congratulations to the winners! Any questions about E-Statement or Auto-Pay, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.





Internet 911: **THE NEW WEBMAIL**

By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician

A popular quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin that says, "When you are finished changing, you are finished," makes me think of the changes I have seen during my career. Just when we get used to how things are, it is time to change yet again. When I first started working in the computer field, the Internet and email were only available to certain universities or through special dial-up services. Today, the Internet and email are a vital part of daily communication for many people. Since it is important, it is often the subject of attacks by criminals looking to exploit old programs.

We are excited to announce our new online email platform that will help meet your needs going forward. Our web platform at <https://webmail.itctel.com> will be receiving a significant upgrade over the coming months. The upgrade will include a new modern look and streamlined features. Still, the most significant changes will be under the hood, which consists of an extra layer of security for you with both reCAPTCHA and optional two-factor authentication.

Our goal is to make the change as simple for you as possible, and most users should have a seamless switchover. Your contacts and emails should migrate to the updated platform when you do. If you notice an issue during this switchover time, you should call the ITC help desk at 1.888.217.5718 for immediate assistance. The help desk is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

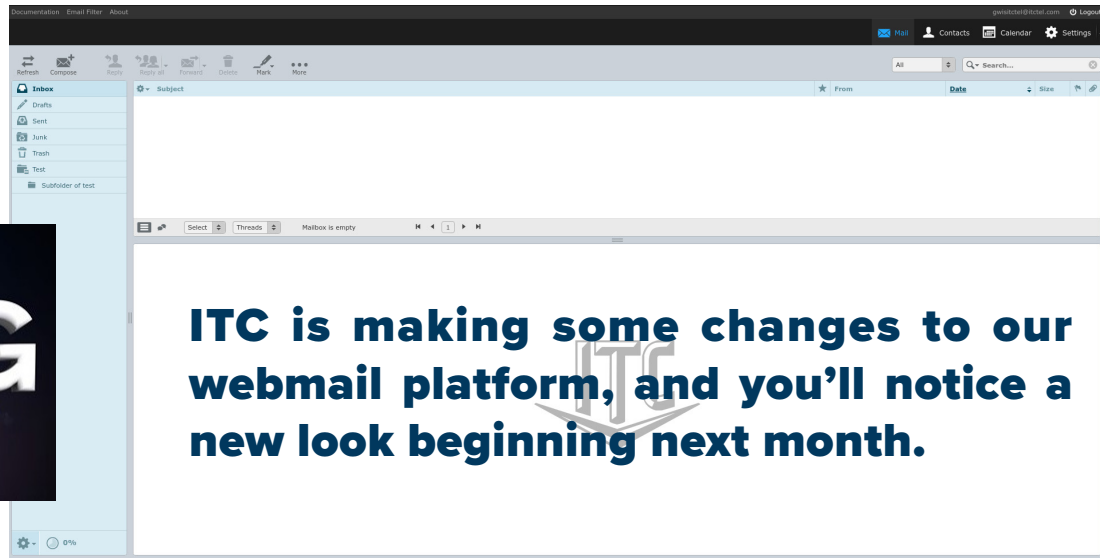
When you first access the new webmail site, you will be greeted by the reCAPTCHA prompt. In addition to your username and password, you will need to click the "I'm not a robot" checkbox. This helps prevent spammers from taking over an account and sending their stuff as if it were coming from you. If the software is not sure if you are a human or not, it might ask you to click on pictures of cars or bicycles, which automated bots have a hard time guessing.

Once you are logged in, check out the Documentation link to see the features. Here, you will find information on setting up two-factor authentication. In the basic view, the Documentation link is in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. In the new elastic view, click mail and then the help button under mail. Clicking on first settings, next preferences, and finally, user interface gives you the ability to choose between the basic "Larry" interface and the modern "Elastic" interface.

The Email Filter link will take you directly to your familiar spam filter. The spam filter works the same as it always has, and your familiar "friends and enemies" lists will also be waiting for you.

You can help ensure the migration goes smoothly by ensuring your preferred web browser and other email software are up-to-date. You can also check your windows updates and make sure you have all the latest security fixes for your computer. Other than that, you should be all set.

Watch the webmail site for more details. If you are experiencing an issue during these updates, please give our Internet Help Desk a call at 1.888.217.5718.



ITC PAYS GROSS RECEIPTS TAXES

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. will be paying the 2020 Gross Receipts Taxes of \$1,009,649.88. These taxes are due before August 1. Gross Receipts Taxes are paid to the State of South Dakota. The state will then disperse them to the appropriate school districts. No Gross Receipts Taxes are paid in the state of Minnesota. Real Estate Taxes are paid instead, with this year's amount totaling \$1644. The Minnesota taxes were paid this past April.