W.E. Energies meter likely culpable in house fire
Utility “smart” meter linked to fire causing $100,000 in damages
WAUKESHA, WI – Months after a fire broke out in a suburban Wisconsin home, an independent investigation and analysis by safe technology advocacy group Wireless Action suggests that “smart” meters may to be blame...

The electric meter was manufactured by Landis & Gyr, a company whose meters have previously been linked to fires and explosions. W.E. Energies states that their meters “meet all regulations and testing requirements”, including the Underwriters Laboratory standards. However, Norman Lambe, a Californian insurance consultant, testified before the New Mexico Regulation Commission in 2016, stating that even Landis & Gyr meters certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) have caused fires. Automated metering infrastructure (AMI) meters, commonly known as “smart” meters, have been publicly scrutinized on and off for over a decade.

Josh Hart, director of StopSmartMeters!, wants consumers to know that customers have the final say in the equipment that goes on their home. “These meters are a serious threat to your health, privacy, and safety. The utilities do not have any legal basis to force smart meters on your home – period.”

Hart recommends concerned homeowners send a letter to their utility demanding any digital metering equipment be replaced with an electromechanical meter.

See METER, PAGE 2A

5G protests worldwide
Sept. 26th brought yet another International 5G Protest Day
On September 26, 2020, towns and cities from 25 countries worldwide organized to protest 5G, the new next-generation wireless technology currently being deployed by many countries around the world.

Organized by Stop 5G International, this is the fourth Global Protest Day this year. Protesters are taking to the streets to voice their objections to the accelerated deployment of 5G, which in the United States has been expedited by the Federal Communications Commission with no safety testing or consideration for health or environmental effects.

While wireless carriers have promised great technological and economic benefits from 5G, other sources say that 5G may not be all that it is cooked up to be. In 2017, 180 scientists and doctors from 35 countries recommended a moratorium on 5G. Since then, more scientists have signed, with 406 total signatories as of August 27, 2020. An appeal to stop 5G on earth and in space had 299,889 signatories from 220 nations and territories as of October 3, 2020.

See AREA CODES, PAGE 2A

District of Columbia to receive second area code
771 to be overlaid on 202 by 2021
WASHINGTON, D.C. – Since its inception, 202 has been the area code faithfully serving our nation’s capital. It’s among the 86 original area codes devised by the Bell System in 1947. However, it won’t be alone in this endeavor much longer; within the next 12 months, it will be joined by a new area code, due to the need for numbering relief.

With just 23 usable prefixes remaining, the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) determined that Washington, D.C. was in need of number relief. NANPA presented its case to the D.C. Public Service Commission one month ago on September 1st, outlining the plan for an all-overall overlay, which the D.C. has adopted. Starting October 2021, anyone in Washington, D.C. will need to dial the area code and number for all calls, local and long distance. This ruling dates back to a 1996 order by the Federal Communications Commission which held that “dialing parity” would be mandatory in overlays, so as to avoid giving those in the original area code a competitive advantage. Beginning 1, permiscuous dialing will begin, during which customers may dial local calls using seven or ten digits. Once October 2021 hits, ten digits will be required for all calls. Those dialing calls with only seven will be instructed to hang up and dial their call again with the area code first.

Not everyone is enthused about the idea of an overlay. The Anti-Digit Dialing League, which formed in 1902 to oppose the transition from 2L+5N exchange dialing to 10-digit dialing, now calls for the transition to 10-digit dialing to be stopped. Rate 10 out of 10 on the C

See DIASLING, PAGE 2A

ZeroLogon: Massive Windows Server vulnerability
Patch now to avoid critical exploit
A massive vulnerability affecting all versions of Windows Server has some security experts calling it one of the serious vulnerabilities in years.

Rated 10 out of 10 on the CVSS security scale, CVE-2020-1472, dubbed “ZeroLogon” is a critical vulnerability affecting the Netlogon Remote Protocol. The privilege-escalation bug allows an unauthenticated attacker with network access to the domain controller to compromise the entire Active Directory domain. The vulnerability isn’t just theoretical – proof-of-concepts are already circulated on GitHub, and possible exploits in the wild make this a critical zero-day vulnerability.

Microsoft issued a patch for Windows Server versions 2019, 2016, 2012, and 2008 R2 in August during its regular Patch Tuesday updates. Samba and 0patch have also issued patches.

Although only domain controllers are directly affected, any machines relying on domain controllers for authentication are implicitly vulnerable by extension, putting hundreds of

See ZEROLOGON, PAGE 2A

Beginning of the end for DSL
AT&T discontinues new DSL orders nationwide
Got DSL? If not, you might not be able to get it anymore. As of October 1, 2020, AT&T is no longer processing new orders for DSL service. Existing customers can keep their DSL – at least for now.

AT&T issued the statement that “We’re beginning to phase out outdated services like DSL and new orders for the service will no longer be supported after October 1. Current DSL customers will be able to continue their existing service or where possible upgrade to our 100% fiber network.”

However, AT&T also announced in 2019 that it is mostly done expanding its fiber network. As of June 30, 2019, only 28% of households had AT&T’s imprint had fiber-to-the-home (FTTH).

See DSL, PAGE 3A
Nationwide 911 outages increasingly common

CenturyLink failures lead to unanswered emergency calls

Monday, September 28th saw another multi-state 911 outage. According to CenturyLink, in Minnesota, 135 emergency calls to 24 public service answering points (PSAPs) failed to route to a dispatcher.

The exact cause of the multi-state outage is unknown, but CenturyLink did say the issue originated on a partnering vendor's platform when an "internal networking component failed to correctly forward traffic".

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety advised affected residents to dial the department's 10-digit public numbers instead during the outage. 13 other states also experienced outages, some for as long as ninety minutes. Tucson, AZ, also experienced an outage.

This latest of outages is not long after a cascading CenturyLink failure on Sunday, August 30th led to a 3.5% decline in web traffic. Many sites proxied through Cloudflare were temporarily offline.

This is not the first time CenturyLink has experienced technical issues.

Zerologon

From Page 1A

millions of machines worldwide at risk. It’s critical that all Windows Servers be immediately updated to avoid compromising the entire network. Microsoft has already observed attackers targeting the vulnerability using publicly available exploits. The attack can succeed in a matter of seconds, and once it does, it’s game over for the network.

The Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency issued its own alert urging IT administrators to patch all domain controllers immediately. They’ve created a patch validation script that can quickly detect vulnerable servers. The DHS directed all federal agencies to patch CVE-2020-1472 no later than by the end of September 21. Noncompliant machines were directed to removed from the network.

According to Secura, which published details of the vulnerability, the danger stems from a flaw in a cryptographic authentication scheme used by the Netlogon Remote Protocol. This allows impersonation of any computer, including the domain controller itself, which allows for arbitrary remote procedure calls. The August 11 patch disables unsecured RPC communication. Another patch on February 9, 2020 will require all network devices to use secure-RPC unless an exception is specified.

Secura researcher Tom Tervoet found that due to an insecure use of AES-CFB8B, a client can simply send 8 bytes of zeros and rety it 256 times, bypassing authentication (hence “Zerologon”). Full details of the vulnerability are available at www.secura.com/pathlogging.php?id=2055

Dialing

From Page 1A

in many area codes, the FCC has directed that these area codes also move to requiring ten-digit dialing for all calls. This affects an unprecedented 83 area codes, which otherwise would continue to retain seven-digit dialing. Of the 360 geographic area codes currently in use, 161 – a little under half – currently allow the use of seven-digit dialing for local calls.

Although 87 area codes actually contain a 988 prefix, 3 of them were already slated to receive overlays and would have moved to ten-digit dialing regardless. Additionally, the 988 exchange in the 904 area codes was returned to the number pool.

The FCC’s plan directs that permissive dialing begin on April 24, 2021 in the area codes that will need to move to ten-digit dialing. Permissive dialing will end on October 24, 2021. Implementation enforcement will end on July 15, 2022, and on July 26, 2022, all calls to 988 will be directed to 1-800-273-8255 (TALK).

AT&T and CenturyLink both filed ex-parte filings in the relevant FCC docket, citing concerns that the large number of switch translations required and the shortage of experienced technicians will make it difficult to meet the FCC’s deadlines.

Some citizens are concerned, too. The Anti-Digit Dialing League, which was originally formed in 1962 to oppose all-number-calling, expressed opposition to plans for ten-digit dialing, solely because of 988. “We firmly oppose all use of overlays, because they mandate ten-digit dialing. We will also oppose other measures which effect the same result. This implementation could be done in a much less disruptive way.”

Although 45% of area codes currently retain seven-digit dialing, according to a recent study, only around 40% of Americans dial some or all of their local calls using seven digits – roughly the same proportion of Americans who use a landline with some frequency. A majority expressed support for 988. However, a surprising majority also said it would oppose initiatives like 988 if they interfered with the ability to dial local calls using seven digits.

The Anti-Digit Dialing League, seeking to capitalize on widespread but perhaps unvoiced opposition, has offered three proposals to mitigate the FCC’s ruling: reassigning numbers in 988 prefixes and returning 988 to the number pool (as was done in area code 904), imposing a timeout on calls to 988, or only requiring ten-digit dialing in prefixes where 988 is a local call. The A.D.D.L. notes that not all proposals suit each area code equally, and that each state will have its own unique needs.

Although many people will be dismayed at possibly losing seven-digit dialing, there’s an upside to living in the modern area. While membership in the ADDL used to cost $2, it’s now handled electronically. Interested parties can join an ADDL chapter near them for free at https://addl.phreaknet.org.

Area Codes

From Page 1A

now opposes 10-digit dialing instead. The A.D.D.L. filed comments urging for a split instead of an overlay, so that seven-digit dialing could be retained, stating that “a transition away from seven-digit dialing is a very serious and irreversible decision with significant consequences...” Unsurprisingly, public sentiment is largely against 10-digit dialing, which is inconvenient and burdensome. Although splits haven’t been commonplace since 2006, Washington D.C. also presents unique constraints. According to Beth Sprague from NANPA, an overlay is the only method permitted in an area that currently has a single area code with 988 prefixes in the same rate center. Although few others filed public comments, most others were supportive of the overlay, although one commenter supported retaining permissive dialing.

A number of other area codes were proposed by local citizens during the hearing. Among them were 262, 485, 852, and 421. However, the choice of area code is up to NANPA, not the D.C. Public Service Commission. NANPA decided to go with 771, which had been reserved for this purpose.

An Area Code Implementation Working Group will be established to educate people about the new area code and dialing procedures. The new area code, 771, will go into effect in late 2021.

Meter

From Page 1A

W.E. Energies does not formally allow Wisconsinites to opt out of smart meters or choose another kind of meter. Their site publicly claims that their meters operate at radiofrequency levels far below limits set by the Federal Communications Commission. However, critical scientists point out these standards are decades old and fail to take into account non-thermal effects and current research. The U.S.’s radiofrequency limits are among the most permissive in the world, and peer-reviewed research has found biological effects at levels well below those permitted by the FCC.

Waukesha fire marshal Brian Charlesworth said in an interview with Wireless Action that he had not observed any fires of this kind before and that the department was not knowledgeable about or aware of smart meters. W.E. Energies said simply “Our company does not have any record of our equipment involved in a fire”, which seems to be contradicted by statements in the investigation reports. W.E. Energies declined to comment further.
14-story cell tower pending permit

Wisconsin village to continue discussion at next village meeting

WAUKESHA, WI — The 190-foot monopole proposed by Verizon and Diamond Communications, LLC near Infinity Field, a youth baseball complex owned by 5 Diamonds, will be up for hearing once more on Thursday, October 8, 2020, during the next meeting of the Village of Waukesha village meeting.

The village held hearings on August 13 and September 10. At its last meeting, the board unanimously agreed to reconvene the hearing on October 8.

This is not the first time in recent history that there has been opposition to cell towers in Waukesha. In 2016, a 106-foot U.S. Cellular tower was supposed to be installed on El Buen Samaritano United Methodist Church, in the City of Waukesha's Magnolia neighborhood as part of a relocation. Local residents opposed the tower, and the church changed its mind. The church had already entered a contract, but there was significant opposition from local residents who protested, with a local alderman and representative supporting their cause. Months later, an agreement was reached to keep the tower at its current location.

This time around, however, the current location is on W.E.'s Energies' high-voltage equipment, and W.E. Energies wants Verizon's current antenna there relocated for safety reasons. Remaining at its current location won’t be an option this time.

Although many neighbors in the vicinity were opposed to the tower, the same degree of opposition to the tower hasn’t surfaced. This may partially be due to COVID-19, which may have made some people less comfortable organizing a protest together. Wisconsin’s daily COVID-19 case numbers are currently among the highest in the country.

DSL From Page 1A

In rural areas, only around 5% of households have access to fiber.

Cable companies like Spectrum will be left the sole provider of new broadband connections in many areas. With no competition from DSL, cable Internet will be the sole form of broadband connectivity for many new subscriptions.

At the same time AT&T is discontinuing new DSL orders, some rural residents still have no broadband access at all. J. Hart, of Plumas County, CA, has been fighting to get basic DSL service from AT&T for years and been consistently refused. He recently purchased a second phone line so he could use dial-up Internet without tying up the phone line that he and his wife share.

The alternative? Pay $600 a month for a business fiber connection. “While affordable fiber is great, AT&T has refused to provide even basic high-speed broadband connectivity. It’s very frustrating,” says Hart.

With much of the U.S. no longer having any broadband alternatives to cable Internet – if they’re lucky enough to be able to get it – cable companies are likely to continue solidifying their market share.

Putin’s computer not running unsupported operating system

Top computer appears to be running Windows 7, not Windows XP

Claims that Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin’s computer appeared to be running Windows XP first surfaced back in December 2019, when Russian Open Media claimed photographs published by the Kremlin showed Putin’s computer running Windows XP. This claim was picked up by The Moscow Times, Dailymail, and even Forbes and The Guardian.

However, this appears to be little more than a sensationalist claim. Russian media cited the purported blush of tint of the computer’s taskbar, vaguely visible in photographs. News agencies around the world echoed the claim without further verification.

However, high-resolution photos directly from the Kremlin contradict this statement. A shot from November 1, 2019 clearly showing the computer’s desktop reveals the computer is instead running Windows 7, with the basic theme as opposed to the Aero theme. Icons on the desktop and in the taskbar as well as the date indicator and a visible Start orb further confirm the Kremlin’s top PC is running Windows 7, not Windows XP.

Outages From Page 2A

has been involved in 911 outages. In 2015, CenturyLink and Intrado paid $16 million after 6,200 emergency calls were unanswered the previous April. The same companies also paid $575,000 for a multi-state outage in August 2018. This was followed by another multi-state day-long outage in December 2018 and multiple outages in Arizona earlier in 2020.

CenturyLink’s problems with cascading failures reveal that many of the systems we depend on today are increasingly interconnected and vulnerable to issues hundreds or even thousands of miles away. The fragile nature of the United States’ 911 infrastructure is dire evidence of that.

End of the line for Flash Player

Adobe to end support by end of 2020

While it has been on the decline for years, Adobe Flash Player is now less than three months away from the end of support. After December 31, 2020, Adobe will no longer update or distribute Flash Player.

Once ubiquitous in the creation of interactive multimedia experiences on the web, Flash has long been superseded by open standards such as HTML5, WebGL, and WebAssembly. Now considered “deprecated”, many web browsers now disable the Flash plugin by default. Adobe says users will be asked to uninstall Flash later this year.

Microsoft plans to rid Windows of Flash Player as well. It will be removed from the new Chromium-based Microsoft Edge by January 2021, and Internet Explorer 11 and the legacy Microsoft Edge will also no longer receive security updates.

An update to completely remove Flash Player will also be made available in the Update Catalog before the end of 2020 and will become optional in Windows Update in early 2021.

With both Adobe and Microsoft aggressively killing off Flash Player, users should ensure that their systems are ready for the changes, particularly if they use pages that still require Flash. Adobe and Microsoft will remove all downloads for Flash-related content after 2020, and Microsoft will remove all APIs, group policies, and user interfaces governing Flash sometime in the summer 2021 for Windows 8.1 and Windows 10. Microsoft did not say if it will also be removed from Windows 7 through extended security updates.

In the meantime, until December 31, Flash can still be downloaded at https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/otherversions/

“What facts don’t cease to exist just because they are ignored.” — Aldous Huxley

“The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those that speak it.” — George Orwell
**OPINION**

*Letters to the Editor*

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

**LETTERS POLICY:** Letters should be typewritten, signed, and include phone number, city, and state. Phone numbers will not be printed when letters appear. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Please keep letters to no more than 300 words. Submit letters at https://nocarrier.interlinked.us

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Send your submission in today!

We want to hear from you! Send in your letters to the editor at https://nocarrier.interlinked.us — include your full name, city and state, and email and telephone number (for verification only).

Views expressed in letters to the editor do not reflect those of this publication or its general readership.

Topics are not restricted strictly to the focus of this newspaper, but we may prioritize more relevant letters over less relevant ones if there are space constraints. Well-articulated and thought-provoking letters are encouraged. All political viewpoints are welcome, but we reserve the right to refuse to publish material that is primarily hateful, inciteful, misleading, nonfactual, or inflammatory.

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Anti-Digit Dialing League. Will you be forced to dial 10 digits locally because of the FCC’s 988 order? If so, you are not alone – 83 area codes will be! Join us in our opposition to 10-digit dialing for local calls! We oppose overlays and we are fighting for a more just implementation of 988. Join your local chapter today! addl.phreaknet.org. Dues, none; donations, sought.


Interested in promoting your business? All inbound callers will hear your personalized ad. Call (406) 957-1717 to negotiate a rate.

The EMF Medical Conference 2021, a virtual conference, will convene Jan. 28-31, 2021 to review the latest exposure science. Leading physicians, clinicians, and scientists will conduct presentations on the recognition, diagnosis, and treatment of EMF associated illness. 4 days of learning, 34 lectures, 6 panels, EMF meter workshop. This conference has been approved for 16.5 hours of CME. https://emfconference2021.com

**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**

See page 5A for Classifieds submissions instructions.
**HUMOR**

This notice can now be found in all French churches:

*It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God. On the other hand, it is not likely that He will contact you by phone.*

Thank you for turning off your phone. If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to Him. If you would like to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

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**Pampers: Earlier and Earlier**

In an effort to expedite the eradication of mankind by total sterility, Pampers has joined the growing number of companies using wireless technology to completely eliminate human fertility. To further this cause, they have unveiled Lumi smart diapers, a new and innovative way of reducing sperm and egg count from the get-go.

Pampers enthusiastically announced that this was an unprecedented way of ensuring that all future homo sapiens would be irradiated from the delivery table. "The wireless industry has already managed to get irradiating devices into every adult and teenager's pocket," a Pampers spokesperson announced. "Now, even children have them. People are getting exposed to large doses of RF radiation earlier and earlier in life. Decreasing sperm counts in young men already indicate that phase has largely been a success. The next frontier to conquer, naturally, was the infant years. Unfortunately, not all parents are willing yet to install iPhones into their infant's crib. So, this solution was actually a natural progression from that: every baby needs diapers, so why not install a wireless transmitter in the diaper itself? Until the baby is old enough to hold a microwave transmitter next to its skull, we're able to ensure that the baby is still getting its daily dose of microwaves."

The wireless industry has already countered, explaining that babies are not supposed to hold iPhones up to their heads — rather, they're supposed to let them sit on their lap, where they can sit right on top of the reproductive organs. "When people hold mobile devices up to their head," FCC head Ajit Pai explained, "they're most directly exposing their brain, which can, at best, lead to brain cancer. The problem is that people with brain cancer are not prevented from copulating. By keeping the devices too heavy for infants to hold, wireless carriers ensure they end up on the infant's lap, where it can then directly radiate the testicles or ovaries. It's a more efficient approach in the long run."

Pampers concurred with Pai's statement, pointing out that the Lumi technology can literally bring the project — a matter of reproductive harm to a diaper — rather, they're supposed to let them sit on their lap, where they can sit right on top of the reproductive organs. "When people hold mobile devices up to their head," FCC head Ajit Pai explained, "they're most directly exposing their brain, which can, at best, lead to brain cancer. The problem is that people with brain cancer are not prevented from copulating. By keeping the devices too heavy for infants to hold, wireless carriers ensure they end on the top of the groin, and likely on top of a diaper or some other clothing. The diapers are underneath and in direct contact with the skin, which gives us a slight advantage. We can increase the likelihood for anal or rectal cancer in a way the wireless carriers could only dream of."

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