

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1, 2011**

Company: Valley Telephone Company

Address: Browns Valley, MN 56219

Telephone number: 218-695-2111

Company contact: Kim Olson

Study Area Code: 361495

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities

Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached __valley newspaper_____.)

Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.* (See attached ___newsletter 8-2010_____.)

Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.

Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website. (____www.parkregion.com_____)

Company's information posted on USAC website.

____ Other (describe): _____

* Required

thus not left out in the cold as Judy and her husband, Steve, prepare to leave for new jobs and lives in Philadelphia; Summer begins grad school in Chicago while boyfriend Jeremy's graduate work keeps him near Elm Creek Manor; Sarah discovers she's expecting twins; Bonnie isn't sure she wants to reinvent the quilt shop destroyed by vandals; and newcomers Gretchen Hartley and Anna Del Maso join the staff of the quilting camp. The section dealing with Gwen's detective work

keep coming in. We are in need of any kind of musical instrument, accessories and packing supplies, as well as funds for postage and printing.

For more information:

Website:

www.operationhappynote.com.

Contact: Operation Happy Note

Address: 122 E. Lincoln Ave.,

Fergus Falls, MN 56537

E-mail:

info@operationhappynote.com

Phone: 218.736.5541

Q: Snakes occasionally can be spotted sunning themselves on driveways. Should property owners be concerned?

A: The most numerous snake in Minnesota is the common garter snake, which is harmless. The appearance of unwanted snakes is usually due to cracks or holes in concrete structures. These spaces provide warm places for the snake to spend the winter. When spring returns, the snakes reappear outside. Since snakes cannot regulate their own body temperature, they rely on their surroundings, such as rocks or concrete, to warm their bodies. If the presence of these snakes is a concern for homeowners, a few simple solutions are to fill the holes or cracks in the concrete; make their yards unattractive to snakes by removing yard or other debris piles and keeping shrubs and trees trimmed, and the grass mowed; and eliminate what snakes eat - mice.

- Lori Naumann, DNR Nongame
Wildlife Program

Lifeline Link-Up Program

As a Valley Telephone customer, you may qualify for discounted telephone service if your income level falls below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if you are currently receiving benefits under or more of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. For more information about the FCC Lifeline Link-Up Program or to certify eligibility, call 1-866-290-1729.



Valley Telephone Company
The Local Choice. The Better Choice.

Casino Lake

Why You Need Your Landline Phone



Many people may have thought about eliminating their landline phone and replacing it with a cell phone or Internet-based phone such as a digital phone or VOIP. Before you make that choice, you should know that a landline phone is the most reliable device on the market today and has many advantages over a cell phone or digital phone. Here are a few reasons you need your landline phone:

- provides security in an emergency with accurate and reliable 911
- superior quality of sound and clarity
- works in a power outage, never needs charging
- provides unlimited local calling
- no dropped calls, always a strong signal
- can't be hacked
- provides you with a directory listing
- you don't have to access and pay for the Internet to use the phone
- provided by a local company with local employees in a local office

Secure Your Wireless Router



A wireless router is used to access the Internet or a computer network without the need for a cabled connection. You can be in any room in your house and be connected to the Internet wirelessly. The wireless router is a great thing, however, it can allow you to enter into a world of problems.

If your wireless router is not secured, anyone within range of your wireless network can get an Internet connection causing you to lose speed or connection. If someone hacks into your router, they can perform illegal activities for which you could be liable. It is also possible to access your personal information, such as websites visited, banking information and credit card numbers. You can unknowingly get or spread viruses. Avoid disaster by securing your router. We can help with our Wireless Home Network Plan for just \$7.95 per month. Give us a call today!

Telephone FYI

Having trouble using the telephone?

Minnesota Relay provides free and full telephone accessibility to anyone who is hard of hearing, deaf or speech disabled.



To make a relay call dial 711 or 800-627-3529

For more information on the variety of services offered through Minnesota Relay: 651-602-9005 or 800-657-3775 (voice/TTY) www.commerce.state.mn.us



Lifeline Link-Up Program

You may qualify for discounted telephone service if your income level falls below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if you are currently receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. For more information about the FCC Lifeline/Link-Up Program, call one of the following numbers:

Otter Tail Telecom customers: 1-866-280-1730

Park Region Telephone customers: 1-866-280-1721

Valley Telephone customers: 1-866-280-1729

Telephone Equipment Distribution Program

The Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program provides free assistive phone equipment such as amplified phones, TTYs (text-telephones), TTYs with telebraille or large visual displays, speaker phones, hands-free dialing equipment, and signaling devices to income eligible persons who have difficulty using the phone due to hearing, speech, vision or physical disabilities.

For more information: 800-657-3663
TTY: 800-657-3513
ted.program@state.mn.us
www.tedprogram.org

Minnesota Relay and the Telephone Equipment Distribution Program are administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) and funded by a telephone surcharge.



High Definition TV is Here!

We are excited to offer you an amazing enhancement to your television viewing experience. A high resolution picture that's so vivid and crisply detailed, you'll feel like you're right in the middle of the action. Our Speedway TV now offers 25 high definition channels for only \$9.95/month. Combine with DVR service and enjoy both services for only \$14.95/month.

You can view our total Speedway TV channel lineup by visiting us at www.parkregion.com. We offer great packages of TV, Internet, local phone service at a fantastic price.

Check us out today!

KXJB - CBS Fargo
WDAY - ABC - Fargo
KVLY - NBC Fargo
KVRR - FOX
Universal HD
ESPN
ESPN 2
ESPNNews
FSN North
Big 10 Network
VERSUS
ABC Family
Disney Channel

Disney XD
Discovery HD Theater
Discovery Channel
Planet Green
The Science Channel
The Learning Channel
National Geographic
Animal Planet
Home & Garden Television
Food Network
A & E
Lifetime Movie Channel

More HD channels coming August 19th

Lifetime * ESPN U
USA Network * Shotoo
Golf Channel * Showtime Showcase
Syfy Channel

*extra subscription services required

From the Help Desk

It has come to our attention that some of our customers may have recently received emails to your PRTEL email account asking you to verify your account information as well as for your user name and password.

These emails are not from Park Region Telephone or Otter Tail Telecom. If you receive an email from a bogus sender please delete the email and do not reply with your user name and password.

Something to note, if you ever receive an email from any of our help desk members and wonder if it is legitimate or not just keep in mind that we will NEVER send you an email advising you to send us your password information.

If you have already responded please visit <http://www.prtelweb.com/account> and change your password. If you need assistance with this, please call our office and we can help you.



What is phishing?

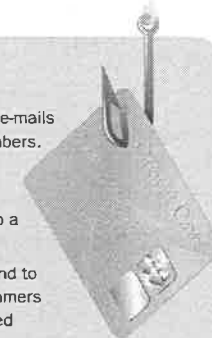
"Phishing" is the term coined by Internet scammers who imitate legitimate companies in e-mails to entice people to share user names, passwords, account information or credit card numbers.

The term "phishing" comes from the fact that internet scammers are using increasingly sophisticated lures as they "fish" for users' private information. The most common ploy is to copy the look and feel of a web page from a major site and use that design to set up a nearly identical page that appears to be part of the company's site.

Recently, scammers have started using new phone technology to manipulate caller ID's and to make customers believe that the call originated from the company's phone system. Spammers have also been using text messaging, instant messaging, and web logs to send unsolicited commercial emails.

We strongly urge you to read the additional information that can be found on the Federal Trade Commission web site: www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt127.shtm.

"Phishing" is a very serious issue. Be cautious with your usernames, passwords, and other personal information when using your computer.



ABOUT MINNESOTA RELAY

Minnesota Relay is a free service providing full telephone accessibility to persons who are deaf, deaf/blind, hard-of-hearing, or speech-disabled. A specially trained communication assistant (CA) facilitates the telephone conversation between a person who has hearing loss or a speech disability and a hearing person. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world (long distance charges apply), 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with no restrictions on the number, length or type of calls. All calls are strictly confidential and no records of any conversations are maintained.

Minnesota Relay is administered by the Telecommunication Access Minnesota (TAM) program within the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The Minnesota Relay center is located in Moorhead, MN. Minnesota Relay and associated outreach services are provided to the state under contract with Communication Service for the Deaf.

Minnesota Relay is funded through a monthly surcharge on each wired and wireless telephone access line in the state.

For specific instructions on placing or receiving a Minnesota Relay call, please see the instructions on page 9 of this directory or visit the Minnesota Relay website at www.mnrelay.org.

Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan

The Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) may provide eligible persons with a credit of up to \$1.75 per month on their phone bills. You are eligible for the assistance if participating in one or more of the following programs:

- * Medical Assistance (MA)
- * Food Support (food stamps)
- * Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- * Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- * Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- * Federal Public Housing Assistance
- * Under 135% of Federal Poverty level

If you do not qualify under the above criteria, but live on a federally recognized reservation, you can also qualify if you participate in one of the following:

- * Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- * Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- * Head Start (only for those meeting the income qualifying standard)
- * National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility by completing an application, providing proof of eligibility for benefit, and submitting it to our business office. Please contact our business office for an application.

Federal Lifeline Plan

You may qualify for a monthly federal Lifeline credit on your telephone bill if you are receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility by completing an application, providing proof of eligibility for benefit, and submitting it to our business office. Please contact our business office for an application.

For Lifeline Information and applications:

Farmers Mutual
Telephone Company
Customers
Call 1-800-892-0021

Federated Telephone
Customers
Call 1-800-374-7133

Valley Telephone
Company Customers
Call 1-866-290-1729

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