### SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2017

Company:		Valley Telephone Company
Address:		100 Main Street, P.O. Box 277
		Underwood, MN 56586
Telephone	number:	(320) 695-2111
Company contact:		Kim Olson
Study Area Code:		361495
Lifeline/Trib	al Link Up	Advertising/Outreach Activities
X		in media of general distribution.* (See newspaper advertisements.)
X	Letter to existing and new customers (welcome letter) regarding the availability of Lifeline/Tribal Link Up.* (See attached newsletter.)	
X	Company	's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
X	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. (www.parkregion.com)	
X	Company	's information posted on USAC website.
	Other (de	scribe):
* Required		

# Welcome! We are glad to have you....

....as a customer and want to take the time to thank you for choosing Valley Telephone. Our parent company, Park Region Telephone, has been providing quality telecommunications services to the area since 1906 and we are proud to bring that tradition of excellence to Browns Valley.

If you have questions or concerns about your telephone service at any time, please call our office toll free by dialing 611 from any phone receiving service from us.

We'll also be happy to discuss with you other telecommunications needs you might have for your home or business and then offer solutions from our broad range of products and services.

Again, thank you for choosing Valley Telephone Company! It's our privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,

Your griends at Valley Telephone

The Staff of Valley Telephone

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### **Calling Features**

Following is a list of available features and pricing. Please note, some restrictions apply.

Call Waiting	N/C			
Call Forward				
Three-Way Calling	N/C			
Call Transfer				
Toll Control with PIN	\$4.00			
Speed Calling 8-Number	N/C			
30-Number	N/C			
Automatic Callback/Repeat Dial \$1.50				
Automatic Recall/Last Call Ret. \$1.50				
Call Trace \$1.00 per successful activation				
Caller ID	\$4.00			
Caller ID Deluxe	\$4.75			
Telemarketing Do Not Disturb* (must	t			
also subscribe to Caller ID Dlx) \$2.00				
Selective Call Forwarding	\$1.50			
Call Screening/Call Rejection \$1.50				
Selective Call Acceptance \$1.50				
Priority Ringing/Priority Calling \$1.50				
Find Me	\$4.95			

Anonymous Call Rejection and Caller ID Blocking have no monthly charge.

A \$15.00 one-time installation charge applies on all services.

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# How to Contact Us

You can reach our office toll free by dialing 611 from any phone subscribed to our service.

Valley Telephone Subscribers dial 611 or 695-2111 for customer service & repair 24 hours a day. Correspondence should be directed to PO Box 277 Underwood, MN 56586

Park Region Telephone PO Box 277 100 Main St. Underwood, MN 56586 218.826.6161 800.247.2706 Office hours 8am - 5pm Mon-Fri.

Otter Tail Telcom 230 W Lincoln Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218.998.2000 888.716.8837 Office hours 8am - 5:30pm Mon-Fri

Web Address: www.parkregion.com

E-Mail: sales@parkregion.com

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### **Our Services**

#### INTERNET

Bundle your residential phone line and Internet at a great rate, includes junk mail assistance.

Up to 2MB	\$42.45
Up to 4MB	\$53.45
Up to 6MB	\$63.45
Up to 8MB	\$79.40
Up to 10MB	\$88.45

some speeds may not be available in all areas some speeds may not be available in all areas

Speedway Wireless Home Network Plan \$7.95 Our wireless routers are confi gured for added security, includes wire maintenance and tech support.

SecureIT Plus - computer protection for viruses and spyware, pop-up blocking and more \$4.95/mo

We also offer dedicated modems, a full range of Web Page Servcies, High Speed Connection Service, and LAN/WAN wiring. Our experts have been in the Internet business since 1993.

#### **TELEVISION SERVICE**

Our cable television service offers 32 channels for \$59.05/month

Premium Channels:

HBO \$19.95/month Encore/Starz \$14.95/month

### LONG DISTANCE

- -Available to business and residential
- -No calling plans or time restrictions
- -No monthly fees or minimums
- -Billed with Valley local service

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# Some Important Information

### **Directory Listing**

Your name, address and phone number will be listed in the next issue of the directory (with the exception of Non-List and Non-Published numbers) which has an issue date of May 1. However, this information will become part of the area information records soon after your service is connected. We call the information into the area information center daily, but it usually takes a day or two to become active in Directory Assistance.

### **Directory Information**

On the first several pages of your Valley Telephone Company Area Wide Directory published by Valley Telephone, Farmers Mutual Telephone, Federated Utilities and Hometown Solutions, you'll find the following helpful information:

- 1. Emergency Numbers
- 2. Repair Service Assistance Information
- 3. Long Distance & International Calling Info
- 4. Local Calling Areas
- 5. Area Codes
- 6. Calling Feature Instructions

Review this information carefully as it directly affects the use of your service.

### **Billing Policy**

Our rates are based on the issuance and payments of bills received on a monthly basis. The billing date is the first day of the month, with the due date the 15th of each month. Local phone service and cable TV are billed one month in advance. Internet services and long distance charges are billed in arrears.

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### FEDERAL LIFELINE PLAN

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You may qualify for a monthly federal Lifeline credit on your telephone bill if your income level falls at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guideline or if you are receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs:

Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security (SSI), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Federal Public Housing Assistance or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

You may certify eligibility by calling: 1-866-290-1729

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#### How Are We Doing? How Are We Doing? How Are We Doing? Any additional comments or suggestions: Any additional comments or suggestions: Any additional comments or suggestions: I would like more information about: I would like more information about: I would like more information about: High Speed Internet High Speed Internet High Speed Internet Package Pricing Package Pricing Package Pricing П Electronic Billing/Auto Payment Electronic Billing/Auto Payment Electronic Billing/Auto Payment Voice Mail/Caller ID П Voice Mail/Caller ID Voice Mail/ Caller ID **Business Phone Systems Business Phone Systems Business Phone Systems** Wireless Telephone Service Wireless Telephone Service Wireless Telephone Service Television Service **Television Service** П Television Service **Long Distance** Long Distance П Long Distance Please \_\_\_\_ Mail the information Please Mail the information Please Mail the information \_\_\_\_ E-mail the information to \_\_\_\_ E-mail the information to \_\_\_\_ E-mail the information to Call me at Call me at \_\_\_\_\_ Call me at Please return this card in the enclosed Please return this card in the enclosed Please return this card in the enclosed envelope. envelope. envelope. Optional: Optional: Optional: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:

Thanks for your time & your business!

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# About Minnesota Relay

Minnesota Relay is a fine sensor providing full telephone accessibility to persons who are deal, deal-blind, hard-off-floaring, or speech-deadlest. A specially trained communication assisted (CA) facilitates the telephone occurration between a person who has bearing loss or a speech disability and a hearing person. Calls can be made to advisible in the world (long distance charges apply, 24 from a day, 365 days a year, with no indications on the number, length or type of calls. All calls are stockly confidential and no records of any consensations are maintained.

Minnesota Rolay is administered by the Telecommunication Access Minnesota (TANI) program within the Minnesota Department of Commercia. The Minnesota Relay creder is located in Moorhood, MN. Minnesota Relay and associated customer, services are provided in the date and with Contemporation Service for the Day, and Microscop Services

Microscop Relay is funded through a range, and

for specific instructions on placing or water Moneyate kelay call, please are the automate 9 of this directory or wat the bioreacte has seen according on.

### Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan

The Minnesota Telephone Amatance Plan (TAP) may provide eligible persons with a credit of up to \$3.50 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 flood stamps
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- \* Federal Public Housing Assistance
- \* National School Free Lunch Program.
- \* 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 Asistance 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

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If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility to 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 1 800 692-0021

Federated Telephone Customers Call 1-800-374-7133

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

A newsletter for customers of Park Region Telephone, Otter Tail Telcom and Valley Telephone Company.

# the progress NEWSLETTER

### In this issue

- Annual Meeting Save the Date
- Like us on Facebook
- Meet Dora on June 10th
- High-Speed Access for Rural MN
- Welcome to the Team
- Lifeline Link Up
- Go Green: Pay Phone Bills Online
- New Listings
- Movie in the Park Survey

# PARK REGION Mutual Telephone Co.

### **Park Region Telephone**

PO Box 277 100 Main St. Underwood, MN 56586

218.826.6161 800.247.2706

Office Hours M-F 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

# Lighting up the Future

## OTTER TAIL TELCOM

#### **Otter Tail Telcom**

230 West Lincoln Fergus Falls, MN 56537

218.998.2000 888.716.8837

Office Hours M-F 8:00 AM-5:30 PM

### **Valley Telephone**

Browns Valley, MN 56219

Call 800.247.2706 for 24 hour service.

**O**D

simply dial 611 to reach your local office!

www.parkregion.com



### THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016 UNDERWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

### 5:00-6:30 PM Registration

- Registration SW Entrance
- Lion's Pork Chop Dinner Commons Area
- Coffee & Cookies with the Board of Directors Gym
- Entertainment & Product Demonstrations

### 6:00-7:30 PM Kids' Area

• Movie, Popcorn & Prizes for Kids Ages 4-12

### 6:30 PM Annual Meeting

- Announcement of Director Elections
- Financial, General Manager
   Youth Reports



# **Change in Process**

No ballots were mailed out this year with our 2015 Annual Meeting Notice. This is due to a bylaw change that was voted on and adopted by the members at last year's Park Region Mutual Telephone Company's annual meeting held on April 16th, 2015. This bylaw change read as follows: "In the event there is only one candidate duly nominated for election to a Director position (whether by committee action or petition), the single candidate nominated shall be deemed elected by acclamation as an unopposed candidate, and no member voting shall be required for such uncontested Director position. The official notice of the Annual Meeting of the Members shall state the name of the candidate elected by acclamation and the individual presiding at the Annual Meeting may announce that the uncontested candidate was elected by acclamation, and that no vote was required. Each elected Director shall take office at the end of the Annual Meeting.



# Meet Dora on June 10<sup>th</sup>

Dora will be joining us in Fergus Falls and Underwood on Friday, June 10th! Watch our Facebook page for more details!

# The Future for High-Speed Access in Rural MN

In recent Minnesota news, a report from the Governor's Broadband Task Force outlines the status of broadband in our state.

The report finds that in Minnesota, 99 percent of urban areas have access to high-speeds while only 47 percent of rural areas have such access. Internet speeds often vary drastically for rural next-door neighbors depending on their provider—many are entirely without broadband access.

Fortunately Minnesota's coops, like Park Region Telephone, stand out as being rural leaders.

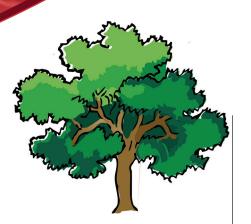
### **Network Funding**

The costs to connect a home or rural business via fiber-optics can range from \$1,500 to \$10,000, sometimes even more when geographic elements like lakes, ponds, and streams are common.

To continue our example, let's assume that the installation costs are \$5,000 for an average home – this requires a \$5 million investment for each 1,000 homes connected. In addition to this capital expense, operational costs need to be covered with monthly cash flows, including: wages, interest payments, maintenance, power, equipment, hardware, underground locating services, and wholesale costs.

Your cooperative is committed to making sure you continue to have access to advanced services. Management and your board of directors are planning for the future to meet your needs, while remaining fiscally responsible as we build your network.

Thank you for choosing Park Region Telephone and Otter Tail Telcom!



### Go Green: Pay Phone Bills Online

Why? Help save natural resources by paying online.

- Easy, fast and secure
- Pay immediately, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay
- Print receipts, view payment history and more

Pay on the Go with PSN Payments App available in the App Store™ and Google Play™.



Call us at 998-2000 or go to www.parkregion.com for more information.

We Accept:









# Welcome to the Team

We are pleased to introduce our newest team member at Park Region Telephone. James Wooton joined our Internet Department in January, working as a Data Network Technician.

James brings a variety of IT experience in hardware/software installation and repair, networking installation/maintenance and security, plus technical customer support with large and small companies. He holds an AAS degree in Computer & Network Technology with a Sys Admin emphasis, and a degree in Aeronautics.

James is married to Elizabeth and they recently moved to a hobby farm near Fergus Falls. His hobbies include playing guitar in bands and recording music



in his home studio, working toward his private pilot's license, 3-wheeling, computers and technology. Welcome James!

# Lifeline Link Up

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), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) 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 Telcom Customers 1-866-290-1730

Park Region Telephone Customers

1-866-290-1721

Valley Telephone Customers

1-866-290-1729

# New Listings

### **ASHBY**

Flewellen, Lowell & Dawn.....747-2068 Frank, Charlie ......747-2953

### **BATTLE LAKE**

The Rusty Nail ......864-2600

### **BROWNS VALLEY**

#### **DALTON**

Davenport, Chris......589-7012

#### **ERHARD**

Peasley, Carrie......842-5134

### **FERGUS FALLS**

A-1 Wayne's Pawn & Second				
Hand Store	998-3030			
Birkholz, Janice	998-2909			
Johnson, Wesley	998-3329			
Manteufel, B & A	998-4809			
Metcalf, Todd	998-4751			
Pittenger, Jim	998-2195			
Schreiber, Donald	998-1215			

#### MAINE

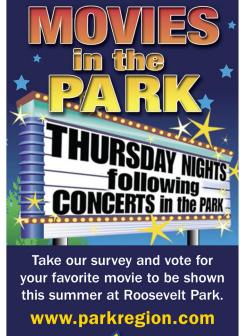
Abbott, Tyson.....495-2014

### **UNDERWOOD**

Bearinger, Jesse & Nicole .....826-6236

### **VINING**

Sandoval, Julio & Marisol......769-4115





**Hurry! Survey ends soon!** 

PO Box 277 100 Main St. Underwood, MN 56586



### Lifeline/Link-Up Program

You may qualify for discounted telephone service. The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Lifeline/Link-up Program provides for discounted telephone service for Americans whose income falls below certain guidelines. If your income level falls at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, then you will qualify for discounted telephone service under the terms of the FCC's Lifeline/Link-Up Program. Consumers will also be eligible to receive the discount if they're receiving assistance from at least one of the following programs: Food Stamps, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Another version of the Lifeline/Link-Up Program is the Tribal Program. It pro-vides basic telephone service for just \$1 per month to people of all races living on tribal lands and expands the eligibility requirements to also include those participating in Tribal Head Start (those meeting the incoming qualifying stan-dard), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance programs, Tribally ad-ministered Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TTANF) and the Tribal Na-tional School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program. To enroll in the Lifeline/Link-up Program, please call 1-866-290-1729.