

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2018**

Company: Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

Address: 301 Second Street South

Bellingham, MN 56212

Telephone number: (320) 568-2105

Company contact: Donna Eul

Study Area Code: 361389

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

- X Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)
- X Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up.* (See attached letter.)
- X Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
- X Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. (www.farmerstel.net)
- X Company's information posted on USAC website.
- X Other (describe): Distributed in our newsletter.
- Lifeline application included in new customer application packet.
-

*Required



Date: January 16, 2018

From: Donna Eul
Marketing/Customer Service Manager
320-568-2105

To: Attention Editor of Appleton Press, Dawson Sentinel, Madison Western Guard, and Ortonville Independent.

RE: Enclosed are two annual advertisement requirements. Both need to be published (1) time in your next edition. Each advertisement should not exceed 4 ½ wide by 3 ½ long. **Please provide tear sheet along with affidavit of publication.**

- Universal Service Advertising.
- Lifeline Advertising.

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company Universal Service Advertising

Description of Available Services and Rates:

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company Available Services

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company offers the following local exchange telecommunications services to all consumers throughout its serving area:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- Local exchange service including an amount of local usage free of per minute charges under a flat rated local service package;
- Dual tone multi-frequency signal;
- Single party service;
- Access to emergency service;
- Access to operator services;
- Access to interexchange service;
- Access to directory assistance; and
- Toll blocking without charge to qualified low income customers.

Basic, local exchange residential monthly service rates, excluding EAS rates, are as follows: \$18.00

Subsidized discounts are available to customers meeting certain low income criteria. Information concerning these plans is available from your Farmers Mutual Telephone Company representative at 1-800-692-0021.

Geographic Areas Where Services Are Available: Farmers Mutual Telephone Company offers service in the following exchanges:

Bellingham (320-568)

Dawson (320-312/542/769)

Montevideo (320-269/301)

Boyd (320-855)

Madison (320-598/698/853)

Ortonville (320-305/839)

Cerro Gordo (320-752)

Marietta (320-668)

West Marietta (605-678)

Do You Qualify for Telephone Assistance?



LIFELINE

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/Medical Assistance, SNAP, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing assistance or the Veteran's Pension or Survivor's Pension Benefit, you may be eligible for telephone payment assistance.



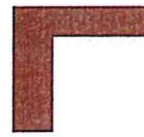
Proud to be Powering Acira!

Contact Farmers Mutual to help answer any questions or determine if you qualify for assistance.

320-568-2105 • www.aciracoop.net

the Appleton Press

241 W Snelling Ave | Appleton MN 56208 | 320.289-1323



Statement

Bill To:

Farmers Mutual Telephone Co.
Donna Eul
PO Box 156
Chokio, MN 56221

Date	01/31/18
Amount Due	\$67.20
Enclosed	

Make any changes needed above and return top portion with your payment. Please disregard if payment has been made.

Date	Description	Amount	Balance		
12/27/17	Balance forward		0.00		
01/24/18	6" Legal - Lifeline	33.60	33.60		
01/24/18	6" Legals - Universal Service	33.60	67.20		
<p><i>FMTC OK'd 2-5-18</i></p>					
Current	1-30 Days Past Due	31-60 Days Past Due	61-90 Days Past Due	OVER 90 Days Past Due	Amount Due
\$67.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$67.20

The Appleton Press | 241 W Snelling Ave | Appleton, MN 56208 | 320-289-1323

Account due and payable 10th of month following purchase. Finance charge of 1.5% per month on past due accounts. Minimum service charge of \$1.00

PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
[FORM Rev. 6/15]

DATE: January 24, 2018

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
S.S.
County of Swift

April M. Ehrenberg, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the **The Appleton Press**, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows:

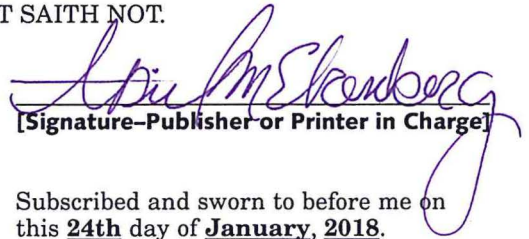
Day of the Week	Month	Day	Year
Wednesday	January	24	2018

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:

6 Inch Composition 1 time(s) at \$33.60


5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices [Effective 7/1/15]. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in **Swift County**. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.


[Signature—Publisher or Printer in Charge]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 24th day of January, 2018.


Notary Public, Swift County, Minnesota
My Commission Expires: Jan. 31, 2020

 **LESLIE K. EHRENBERG**
NOTARY PUBLIC-MINNESOTA
My Comm. Exp. Jan. 31, 2020

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company Universal Service Advertising
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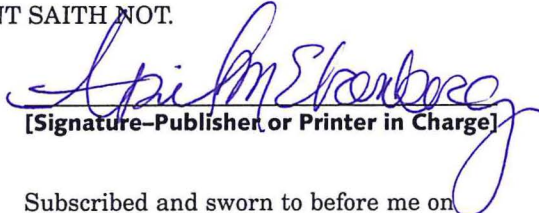
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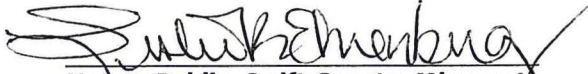

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FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.


[Signature—Publisher or Printer in Charge]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 24th day of January, 2018.


Notary Public, Swift County, Minnesota
My Commission Expires: Jan 31, 2020

LESLIE K. EHRENBERG
NOTARY PUBLIC-MINNESOTA
My Comm. Exp. Jan. 31, 2020

Do You Qualify for Telephone Assistance?

LIFELINE

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, you may be eligible for telephone payment assistance.

FARMERS MUTUAL Telephone Company
Proud to be Powering Aclral

Contact Farmers Mutual to help answer any questions or determine if you qualify for assistance.
320-568-2105 • www.aciracoop.net

WESTERN GUARD

216 SIXTH AVENUE
MADISON, MN 56256

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
1/24/2018	71720

Bill To
FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO. P. O. BOX 156 CHOKIO, MN 56221

Description	Amount
2 Column Boxed Guard Ad - AVAILABLE SERVICES	38.50
Sales Tax	0.00
Total	\$38.50

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
[FORM Rev. 6/15]

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF LAC QUI PARLE)

ADAM CONROY, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the The Western Guard, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts state in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

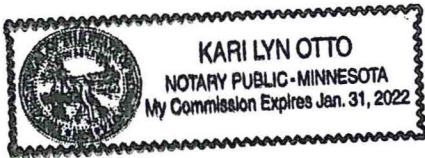
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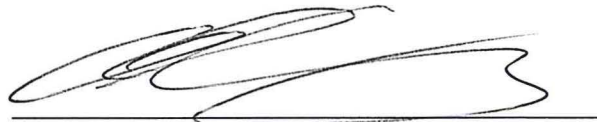
Printed and published once each week, for ONE successive weeks;
it was first published on WEDNESDAY, the 24th day of JANUARY, 2018;
and was thereafter printed and published on every _____ to and
including _____, the _____ day of _____.

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to §331A.06, is as follows: 7⁰⁰ per col. inch.

5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices [Effective 7/1/2015]. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Lac qui Parle County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.




[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
this 24th day of JANUARY 2018.

Kari Lynn Otto
Notary Public

WESTERN GUARD
216 SIXTH AVENUE
MADISON, MN 56256

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
1/24/2018	71705

Bill To
FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO. P. O. BOX 156 CHOKIO, MN 56221

Description	Amount
2 Column Boxed Guard Ad - LIFELINE	38.50
Sales Tax	0.00
Total	\$38.50

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[FORM Rev. 6/15]

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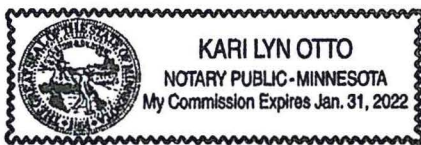
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FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.





[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
this 24th day of JANUARY 2018.



Notary Public

Telephone Discount Application

All personal information is kept confidential. If your application is illegible or incomplete, your discounts will be delayed.

Step 1: Fill out information about the applicant.					
Name: _____					
Last Four Digits of Social Security Number OR Tribal ID Number: _____ Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY): ___/___/_____					
Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: MN Zip code: _____					
This is a temporary address. YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>		More than one family lives here. YES <input type="checkbox"/>	
Billing Address (if different): _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip code: _____					
Telephone number where you can be reached: (_____) _____ - _____					
Telephone or broadband company where you want discount: _____					
Telephone or broadband account number if you have service now: _____					

Step 2: Fill out either Eligibility Option 1 OR Eligibility Option 2.	
Eligibility Option 1	
Check the program you or a member of your household participate in and attach documentation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid/Medical Assistance (MA)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension benefit	
Check the Tribal program you or a member of your household participate in and attach documentation. Bureau	
<input type="checkbox"/> of Indian Affairs General Assistance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribally Administered Head Start (for those meeting income-qualifying standards)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)	
I live on Tribal lands. YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of program participant: _____	
The program participant is a member of my household. YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

Eligibility Option 2	
I do not participate in any of the programs listed in Eligibility Option 1. Instead, my gross yearly income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Check whichever option best matches your household.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1-person household with income at or below \$16,281	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2-person household with income at or below \$21,924	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-person household with income at or below \$27,567	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-person household with income at or below \$33,210	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-person household with income at or below \$38,853	
<input type="checkbox"/> 6-person household with income at or below \$44,496	
For each additional person, add \$5,643.	
Attach one of the documents below.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child support award/Divorce decree • Current pay stubs or other official documentation of income for the last three months • Last year's State, Federal, or Tribal tax return • Retirement/Pension benefits statement • Unemployment/Workers compensation statement • Veterans Administration benefits statement 	
<input type="checkbox"/> How many people are living in my household? _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify the number of people living in the household to be true.	

Step 3: You must initial and sign this application.

You must initial each certification individually under penalty of perjury.

I understand TAP is a state discount and is non-transferable; Lifeline is a federal discount and is non-transferable.

Initial here: [Initial here]

I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving TAP/Lifeline.

Initial here: [Initial here]

I will notify the service provider within 30 days if I no longer qualify for TAP/Lifeline, including: if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based support; if I am receiving more than one benefit; and if another member of my household is receiving a benefit. Initial here: [Initial here]

I will provide the new address to my service provider within 30 days if I move.

Initial here: [Initial here]

My household can only receive one TAP/Lifeline benefit, and my household is not already receiving a TAP/Lifeline benefit. A household is defined as any group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses.

Initial here: [Initial here]

I acknowledge that my service provider can give the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) all of the information on this form; if I do not give my information, I will not be able to receive Lifeline.

Initial here: [Initial here]

The information contained in my certification form is true and correct to the best of knowledge.

Initial here: [Initial here]

I acknowledge that providing any false or fraudulent information to receive TAP/Lifeline benefits is punishable by law.

Initial here: [Initial here]

I may be required to recertify my continued eligibility for TAP/Lifeline at any time, and my failure to certify as to my continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my TAP/Lifeline benefits.

Initial here: [Initial here]

I certify that I am seeking to qualify for TAP/Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands and live on Tribal lands. If seeking to qualify as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, initial here: [Initial here]

You must sign this declaration under penalty of perjury.

By signing below, I declare under penalty of perjury that I understand and agree to all of the following:

- The information contained in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I will inform the company within 30 days if I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving the discount.
- If I move to a new address, I will provide the company with that address within 30 days.

I consent to have all information on this form provided to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), its agents, and any state or federal agency for verifying that I qualify for the Lifeline/TAP programs and do not receive more than one discount.

Applicant Signature (Required): _____ Date: _____

(Optional) If you designate an Authorized Representative for this application, this person must fill in this section to say they completed this form on your behalf and is willing to assist you in seeking telephone service discounts.

Print Authorized Representative Name: _____

Authorized Representative Signature: _____

Authorized Representative's Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____ Date: _____

I certify I have presented all income for all members of my household and myself.

Initial each certification.

January 2018

Questions? Please contact your telephone or broadband company.

- ✓ **Complete** application.
- ✓ **Attach** program participation or proof of income.
- ✓ **Contact** a company where you want the discount before submitting application for the proper mailing address.
- ✓ **Mail** application and income documents to your telephone or broadband company.
- ✓ The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) regulates the TAP/Lifeline programs. If you have an issue with your telephone or broadband company, contact the MPUC at 651.296.0406 or 1.800.657.3782.

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 \$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 (food 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 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, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or the National School 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.

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



LIFELINE SERVICE

Lifeline is a government assistance program that can help pay a portion of your telephone, mobile phone or internet bill each month. Consumers are allowed only one Lifeline program benefit per household.

DO YOU QUALIFY?

Stay connected with a Lifeline discount.

Apply today!

LIFELINE IS A FEDERAL PROGRAM TO HELP LOW-INCOME AMERICANS PAY FOR PHONE OR BROADBAND SERVICE

? How much will Lifeline save me?

If you qualify for Lifeline, you will receive a credit of \$9.25 each month on your bill.

? What services are covered by this credit?

You have the choice (where applicable) of applying your benefit to one of three types of service offerings:

- Fixed or mobile broadband
- Fixed or mobile voice-only
- Bundles of fixed or mobile voice and broadband

NOTE: Lifeline can only be used for one source of communication from the list above.

? Can I receive more than one Lifeline credit?

No, consumers are allowed only one Lifeline program benefit per household.

? How do I qualify?

You are eligible for Lifeline benefits if you qualify for and receive one of the following benefits:

- SNAP
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- The Veteran's Pension or Survivor's Pension benefit.

Additionally, consumers at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines will continue to be eligible for a Lifeline program benefit. (State determinations of income will no longer be accepted.) There are no changes to the eligibility criteria for Tribal programs.

NOTE: Some states have additional qualifying programs, allowances and stipulations. Check with your local telecommunications provider for information about benefits that may be available in your state.

? How do I enroll in the Lifeline program and start receiving this benefit?

To find out whether you qualify for Lifeline assistance, please visit www.lifelinesupport.org or call your local telecommunications provider.

NOTE: Your telephone company is not responsible for determining who qualifies for these programs or who receives assistance. Consumers must meet specific criteria in order to obtain assistance with their local telephone and/or broadband service, and qualifying is dependent upon government-established guidelines.