

THE *Progress* NEWSLETTER

Volume 33 Issue 1
February 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

Directory News
A Trip of a Lifetime
Scholarship Opportunities
Telephone Support Available
Giving Tree Participation
New Listings

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

Don't miss your favorite shows Register to watch TV everywhere



Don't miss your favorite shows or the 2014 Winter Olympics just because you're not at home. Start watching TV outside of your living room on almost any device for FREE! Register once at WatchTVEverywhere.com using your Park Region Telephone/Otter Tail Telcom account number, and access some of your favorite channels and programming from any computer, tablet, or cell phone via an Internet connection. Complete details on how to get registered are available on our website at parkregion.com — register today and start watching!

For Olympic coverage, check out your Android, iPod or iPad App Store and search by the network name for available applications. NBCUniversal will offer two apps for mobile and tablet viewing. The NBC Sports Live Extra app will be available to verified Park Region Telephone/Otter Tail Telcom customers and will offer the same live streaming and event replays available via NBCOlympics.com/LiveExtra. The NBC Olympics Highlights and Results app will include short-form highlights, schedules, results, columns and more and will also link to the NBC Sports Live Extra app.

OUR OFFICES



PARK REGION
Mutual Telephone Co.
Park Region Telephone
PO Box 277 100 Main St
Underwood, MN 56586
218-826-6161
800-247-2706



Otter Tail Telcom
230 West Lincoln
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-998-2000
888-716-8837

Valley Telephone
Browns Valley, MN
Call 800-247-2706
for 24 hour service.

Or
simply dial 611 to
reach your local office!

www.parkregion.com



Like us on
facebook!

Directory News New edition coming soon!

Preparation for the 2014-2015 edition of our telephone directory is underway. Don't miss this opportunity to make your business stand out from the competition with a bold listing or a colored ad for only a few dollars a month.

Representatives from our publishing company will be in the Fergus Falls and surrounding area during the months of February and March to meet with local businesses to discuss advertising. For more information, contact Pinnacle Publishing at 1-800-343-8086.

Save the date!

April 17

**Park Region Telephone/Otter Tail Telcom
Annual Meeting and
Customer Appreciation**

Underwood Public School
Registration and Meal – 5:00pm
Meeting – 6:30pm

A Trip of a Lifetime

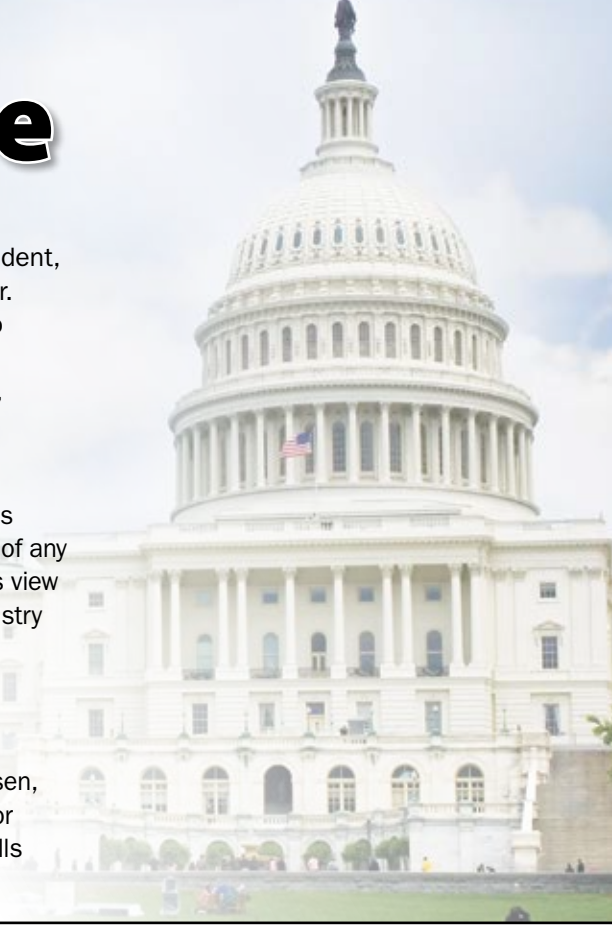
Once again, Park Region Telephone, Otter Tail Telcom and Valley Telephone are proud to sponsor a local high school student on a trip of a lifetime. The selected student will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., May 31-June 4, 2014. The annual Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour brings 100 rural students from across the United States to Washington, D.C., for a 4-day tour of some of the most historical sites in the nation. While there, students learn about the telecommunications industry as well as the regulatory and legislative process. Education sessions on these topics are greatly enhanced by site visits to the US Capitol and meetings with industry leaders and members of congress. Students will also tour such sites as the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Smithsonian Museums, and much more.

Eligibility Guidelines

Applicant must be a high school student, age 16 or 17, at the time of the tour. Applicant's family must subscribe to at least one service from Park Region Telephone, Otter Tail Telcom, or Valley Telephone.

How to apply

Simply write an essay and send it to us by **March 14, 2014**. The essay can be of any length but should focus on a student's view of where the telecommunications industry will be in 5 years. Be sure to include student name, parent(s) name, home address, and phone number with the essay. Essay can be mailed to Park Region Telephone, Attn: Sue Jensen, PO Box 277, Underwood, MN 56586 or dropped off at our offices in Fergus Falls or Underwood.



Scholarship Opportunities for High School Seniors

Scholarship from the Minnesota Telecom Alliance

Park Region Telephone, Otter Tail Telcom and Valley Telephone have begun a search for scholarship candidates. If selected, candidates will receive a one-time \$2,000 scholarship from the Minnesota Telecom Alliance (MTA) Foundation.

To be eligible, applicants must be attending post-secondary education at either a university, college, or technical college, be a Minnesota resident, and the applicant's family must subscribe to

at least one service from Park Region Telephone, Otter Tail Telcom or Valley Telephone. A telecom alliance panel reviews each application and selects the finalists based on applicants' grades, academic achievements and extra-curricular activities. Preference to receive the scholarships is given to students who have an interest in telecommunications technology and rural communities.

Applications must be submitted to our office by **February 28, 2014**. Students may also send the properly completed applications to Sue Jensen, Park Region Telephone, PO Box 277, Underwood, MN 56586. Students and their families can obtain more information and a scholarship application by going to: <http://www.mnta.org/?page=Scholarship>

Scholarship from Park Region Telephone and FRS

Park Region Telephone has teamed up with the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) to offer a scholarship to our customers' high school seniors. The FRS college scholarship program will award scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 to winning applicants across the nation. In addition, four (4) \$5,000 FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarships will be awarded (students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine will be given preference). Applicants must be a graduating high school senior and receive service from Park Region Telephone, Otter Tail Telcom, or Valley Telephone in addition to other eligibility requirements as specified on the application. Visit www.frs.org for more information and to download an application.

Completed applications are due to Park Region Telephone no later than **February 24, 2014**, to allow enough time for our general manager to complete the NTCA Member Sponsor Certification portion of the application.



We're thrilled to have this chance to make an investment in our community by helping young people get a technical or college education. We urge all eligible students to apply!

Telephone Support for Hearing or Speech Impaired

Minnesota Relay is a free service that uses a specially trained communications assistant (CA) to facilitate the telephone conversation between a person who has a hearing loss or a speech disability and the person with which they wish to speak. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world (long distance charges apply), 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are completely confidential.

To make a Minnesota Relay call just dial 7-1-1. Once connected to the relay service, tell the CA the type of relay call you wish to make. Or, you may dial the specific toll-free number for the type of relay service.

Captioned Telephone (CapTel™)

CapTel is an amplified telephone and relay captioning service that allows people who are hard of hearing to see word-for-word captions of their telephone conversation on a bright, easy-to-read display window built into the CapTel phone, while also listening to what is being said using their residual hearing (much like TV captioning). Requires a CapTel phone. If you wish to contact a person who uses a CapTel phone, dial: 1-877-243-2823.

Voice Carry Over (VCO)

1-877-627-3024 Allows a person who has difficulty hearing on the phone to voice their conversations directly to the other person on the call. The CA then

types the other person's response to the VCO user. Requires a special telephone.

Two-Line VCO

1-866-855-4611 Allows a VCO user to use one telephone line for speaking directly to the other person, while the second line is used to receive the CA's typed response from the other person. This enhanced feature provides a more natural flow of conversation without the pauses of single-line VCO calls. Additional service and equipment requirements.

Hearing Carry Over (HCO)

1-800-627-3529 Allows a person who can hear but who has very limited or no speech capability to make and receive phone calls. The HCO user types his/her conversation for the CA to read to the other person, and listens directly to the other person's response. Requires a special telephone.

Text Telephone (TTY)

1-800-627-3529 Allows a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled to use a TTY to communicate with the other person on the call.

Standard Telephone

1-800-627-3529 A hearing person may use a standard telephone to place a relay call and easily converse with a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled.

Speech-to-Speech (STS)

1-877-627-3848 Allows a person who has difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone to communicate using his or her own voice or voice synthesizer. The CA revoices the words of the person with a speech disability so the other person on the call can understand them. No special telephone is required.

Computer (ASCII)

1-800-627-3529 Computer users can also access Minnesota Relay. Set your communications software to the following protocols: speeds ranging from 300 to 2400; 8 Bits; No Parity; 1 Stop Bit; Full Duplex. When calling at a rate of 300 or below, follow the above using Half Duplex.

Spanish Relay

1-877-627-5448 The CA relays calls between a Spanish speaking person with a hearing or speech disability and a Spanish speaking hearing person.

900 Pay-Per-Call Services

1-900-230-3324 Allows a relay user to connect to any pay-per-call service.

For more information on
Minnesota Relay Services
www.mnrelay.org
800-657-3775

Giving Back

This past Christmas, parents of families in need selected Christmas gifts for their children at the Fergus Falls Salvation Army Toy Shop. This Toy Shop would not be possible without the support of our community. In the Christmas spirit, employees and directors of Park Region Telephone and Otter Tail Telcom donated over 100 new toys to aid in the collection efforts. The toys were delivered just in time to be used at the Toy Shop held on December 19th. We are proud to have played an active role in hopefully making another's Christmas one to remember.



2013 Giving Tree at our Otter Tail Telcom office in Fergus Falls.



2013 Giving Tree at our Park Region Telephone office in Underwood.

New Listings



Below is an update of changes and additions to current directory listings.

ASHBY
Wick, Jean 747-2075

BROWNS VALLEY
Duffield, E. 695-2144
Pierce, Kimberly 695-2150
Ziemer, Evan 694-2612

DALTON
Kugler, Delayne & Nancy 589-7479

FERGUS FALLS
Anderson, P. 998-9995
Carrison, Robert. 998-4726
Casey, Andrew & Sarah. 998-4738
Friedrich, Alan 998-2691
Harmony Health 998-4787
Martinson, Peter 998-4858
Norman, Kelly 998-1202
Stensgaard, Troy & Carmen 998-2692
Stinar, Kathleen 998-9028
Watson, Ella. 998-4852

MAINE
Hilleren, Michael & Anna. 495-2052
Irion, Ed. 495-2053
Nelson, Cody 495-2059
Oelfke Cabin 495-3179
Scheer, Verlin & Beatrice. 495-2045
Sonnenberg, D. 495-2056
Tenney, Robert & Jeanette. 495-2171

UNDERWOOD
Johnson, Gary & Annette 826-6339

VINING
Molstad, Craig & Wendy 769-4130
Swanson, David 769-4120

**Craig Olson Sports
LIVE
TV SHOW!**
Watch Mondays at 6:30pm on
PRTV & on www.prtv1.com

- Interviews with area coaches and players
- Audience participation

Be at the show at Z103 Grill!

OTTER TAIL TELCOM
PARK REGION Mutual Telephone Co.

R TV
YOUR LOCAL 1

218-998-2000
parkregion.com

PO Box 277 • Underwood, MN 56586

**OTTER TAIL
TELCOM**

Mutual Telephone Co.

PARK REGION

