

THE PROGRESS

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PARK REGION
Mutual Telephone Co.

 www.parkregion.com

WHY DOES MY CABLE BILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE?

We often receive this question from our valued customers. Several factors contribute to the cost of video service including infrastructure costs, maintenance and support; but by far the leading cause of rate inflation is due to the cost of programming. There was a time when programmers paid cable operators to add their channel to cable systems. Over time the number of programmers has declined, largely due to consolidation and the addition of niche channels. This has resulted in an ever-growing number of channels mandating carriage, with each channel contributing to additional cost. These contracts also include automatic rate increases year over year. A second significant factor is sports programming. This is the

most expensive programming for us to acquire distribution rights for and the contracts include restrictive language as to channel placement and which channels must be offered to our customers.

We do everything possible to minimize what we charge our customer for video service including reviewing our channel lineup to determine if we should drop channels from carriage or add new programming. We value our customers and appreciate your continued loyalty and support. Be assured that we do our best to provide a balanced program offering in an effort to satisfy all of our customers.

PIONEERCARE AUXILIARY DONATION

PARK REGION DONATES TO PROJECT DRAGONFLY



David Pawlowski, Park Region/Otter Tail Telcom Business Operations Manager
& Lois Stinogel, PioneerCare Auxiliary President

In April, Park Region board members approved a \$1,500 donation to the PioneerCare Auxiliary to be used toward remodeling costs associated with construction of the Dragonfly Gift Shop at PioneerCare Center. Proceeds from sales at the gift shop will go toward more support of the PioneerCare residents. The gift shop will occupy space within the main lobby of the PioneerCare Center and be easily accessible to residents and visitors alike.

When it comes to the health and welfare of the communities and customers we serve, we are happy to be able to provide some assistance.

Legislative Visits

Minnesota Telecom Alliance members were in St. Paul on April 10th to update legislators about the great work our companies are doing delivering broadband in Minnesota and to ask for their continued support of our industry. Representing our company at Day on the Hill were GM/CEO Dave Bickett and Directors Joyce Herbranson (Vining) and Paul Beckman (Underwood). The following week Mr. Bickett and Directors Dan Barry (Maine) and Eugene Ouren (Erhard) headed to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to meet with Minnesota delegates to discuss telecom legislation.



Day on the Hill meeting with Senator Torrey Westrom (R, Dist 12)

Annual Meeting Wrap Up

Over 300 people gathered at the Park Region Telephone Company Annual Meeting and Customer Appreciation Event held on April 25th at the Underwood School. This was a make up day after the weather caused a postponement of the original meeting date on April 11th. The Underwood Lions served their famous pork chops followed by coffee and cookies in the gym served by the Park Region Board of Directors. Kids enjoyed popcorn and a movie while the adults attended the annual meeting.

Controller Mary Jo Biegler gave the financial report, and GM/CEO Dave Bickett reviewed 2018 company activities and previewed plans for the coming year. Numerous prize drawings were held at the conclusion of the meeting.



Incumbents Candace Catoe (Ashby), Dwight Hintermeister (Dalton), and Joyce Herbranson (Vining) were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Grand Prize Winners:

Google Home Hub: Dan Weigold
Service Credit: Logan Sonmor
Television: Gloria Radtke



MOVIES IN THE PARK

We would like to invite you to join us for a movie under the stars. This summer we will be sponsoring thirteen different movies on fifteen separate evenings in three local communities!

On average, 200 people gather on Thursday evenings in Roosevelt Park in Fergus Falls to watch a movie on our inflatable 9'x16' screen. Fresh popped popcorn is available, adding big flavor to the evening. For those of you who like to multitask, free wireless internet is available at Roosevelt Park during the movie.

Live music sponsored by A Center for the Arts starts at 6:30pm. A food vendor is also available for your convenience. Movie starts at 9pm.

We will be showing movies in Fergus Falls, Browns Valley and Ashby.

We hope to see you and your family this summer at Movies in the Park. Come out and enjoy the show!



Dollars for Scholars

Nick Foss of Fergus Falls High School was the recipient of the Park Region Telephone/ Otter Tail Telcom Scholarship awarded at the Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars luncheon held in May. The scholarship is geared toward students with an interest in telecommunications and technology.



Nick Foss & David Pawlowski

Congratulations Nick! We wish you the best as you pursue your degree in Computer Science

Welcome to the Team

Toni Anderson joined our team in April and works as a Customer Sales and Service Representative in our Fergus Falls office. Toni lives on a farm near Ashby and has a daughter and son-in-law who live near Ashby as well. She has two small dogs and enjoys working outdoors, going for walks, gardening and traveling. For the past 13 years Toni has worked for SunOpta out of Alexandria. Toni is active in her church and is currently the President of her church council. She loves the arts and is a season ticket holder for the Theatre L'Homme Dieu in Alexandria.

We are excited to have Toni join our team! Please help us welcome her to Park Region Telephone and Otter Tail Telcom.



Cable TV Channel 14

The provider of the TV guide data displayed on channel 14 unexpectedly terminated our service. Through negotiations with them we've been able to work out a solution that will bring this service back. However, there will be a change. Channel 14 will no longer be split but will instead display only TV guide data. The video service that is currently on channel 14 will be moved to the 3 Star tier of programming. Guide service will be restored once we receive the necessary equipment and put it into service. We apologize for interruption of this service but are doing all we can to get it back on the air.



PARK REGION Telephone Co.

ROTHSAY TELEPHONE | VALLEY TELEPHONE

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NEW LISTINGS

BROWNS VALLEY

Smith, D.694-2779

ROTHSAY

Simmer, Zach & Nicole867-2404

BATTLE LAKE

Neverwinter Clothing & Gifts864-2601

FERGUS FALLS

Bussa Law531-2121
Erlandson, M.736-4754
Ebersviller, Rod736-8800
Zimmerman, Marion736-8829
Kurtz, Marie736-8831
Reiten, Don736-8866
Dyrud, A. & D.998-0101
Wilson, Shannon.....998-2121
Meyer, Gail998-2126
Waring, D.998-2138
Anderson, R.998-2257

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Rothsay Telephone Company

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Call 800.247.2706 for 24 hour
service or simply dial 611 to
reach your local office!

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