

THE PROGRESS

VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 6 | DECEMBER 2019



In This Issue

- Welcome to the Team **2**
- Scholarship Opportunity **2**
- Winter Sports Schedule **2**
- Customer Proprietary Network Information **3**
- Battery Back Up Notice **3**
- Co-op Month Winner **3**
- Halloween Contest Winner **3**
- Holiday Hours **3**
- New Listings **4**

Holiday Open House

Please join us for our holiday open house on Wednesday, December 11th. Stop by our offices in Fergus Falls and Underwood to enjoy delicious holiday refreshments and register for door prizes. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season and thank you for your business all year long!

Living the Good Life, Living Rural

It's not uncommon for the topics of conversation to center around young people moving to the city and that small towns are disappearing from out-state Minnesota. So, why is Park Region and its associated companies making significant investments in bringing fiber to the home? The answer is simple. A couple of years ago Ben Winchester, Senior Research Fellow U of MN Extension, Center for Community Vitality, visited Fergus Falls and gave a presentation on this subject. His findings are contrary to what we may hear from others or are led to believe and point to a vital, growing and dynamic lifestyle being embraced by an ever-growing number of people including young families.

Ben's key research findings and commentary

- The population of residents ages 30 - 49 years old has increased in rural Minnesota counties.
- These newcomers have significant education, skills, connections, spending power and children.
- People migrate to rural communities for 1) a simpler life, 2) safety and security, 3) affordable housing, 4) outdoor recreation and 5) quality schools.
- Communities can work together to attract newcomers and create a quality of life that all residents enjoy.



High school graduates often leave small towns. They go to college or get jobs in the city. But census data shows that many come back to rural areas, often in their 30s and 40s, and they come with college degrees, work experience, professional contacts and children. Some lifetime city dwellers move to rural areas, too. They are eager to make a new life in a rural community.



PARK REGION Telephone Co.
www.parkregion.com | 218.998.2000

Welcome to the Team!

We welcomed Tina Frigaard, our new Human Resources Manager, to our team in October! Tina brings 20 years of Human Resource experience with her and holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Tina and her husband Greg have 2 children and are active in 4-H. Tina enjoys traveling and downhill skiing.



We are excited to have Tina join us as part of our team!

Scholarship Opportunity

Each year, the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) awards \$2,500 scholarships to an exceptional group of rural students for their first year of college or vocational school. Students may also be eligible for several named scholarships highlighted in the application. The FRS has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships since its inception, empowering rural students throughout the country to advance their communities with invaluable skillsets and experiences.

The application period for 2020 has opened. Please visit <https://www.frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships> for eligibility requirements and guidelines and to apply. Application deadline is March 6, 2020.

LIVE LOCAL SPORTS!

Ashby

Basketball



Date	Time	Sport	Opponent
11/22	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Detroit Lakes
12/6	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	LP-Audubon
12/12	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Rothsay
12/13	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Hillcrest
1/24	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Underwood
2/4	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	B-E
2/6	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	CGB
2/10	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Underwood
2/14	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Parkers Prairie
2/20	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Verndale
2/27	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Wheaton

Rothsay

Basketball



Date	Time	Sport	Opponent
11/26	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Ada-Borup
12/3	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Henning
12/10	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Ashby
1/14	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Hillcrest
1/17	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Underwood
1/28	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Mahnomen/Waubun
2/4	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Battle Lake
2/7	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Parkers Prairie
2/13	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Underwood

Underwood

Basketball



Date	Time	Sport	Opponent
12/3	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Ashby
1/9	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Hillcrest
1/10	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Rothsay
1/14	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Battle Lake
1/17	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Pelican Rapids
1/31	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Parkers Prairie
2/6	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Battle Lake
2/11	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	W-H-N
2/18	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Rothsay
2/21	6:15pm	Girls Basketball	Norman County East
2/21	7:30pm	Boys Basketball	Norman County East

Fergus Falls

Basketball, Hockey, & Swimming



Date	Time	Sport	Opponent
11/15	7:15pm	Girls Hockey	Red Wing
11/19	7:15pm	Girls Hockey	St. Cloud - IB
11/26	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Albany
12/5	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Sartell
12/5	7:15pm	Boys Hockey	Sauk Rapids-Rice
12/6	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Alexandria
12/10	7:15pm	Boys Hockey	Brainerd
12/12	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Willmar
12/13	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Brainerd
12/17	7:15pm	Boys Swimming	Brainerd
12/17	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Sauk Rapids-Rice
12/19	7:15pm	Boys Swimming	Sauk Rapids-Rice
12/19	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	St. Cloud Apollo
1/7	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Detroit Lakes
1/7	7:15pm	Girls Hockey	Detroit Lakes
1/9	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	St. Cloud Tech
1/10	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Sartell
1/16	6:00pm	Boys Basketball	Menahga
1/16	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Rocori
1/21	6:00pm	Boys Basketball	Moorhead
1/21	6:00pm	Boys Swimming	Multiple Teams
1/23	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	St. Cloud Apollo
1/23	7:15pm	Girls Hockey	Willmar
1/28	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Detroit Lakes
1/31	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Rocori
2/3	7:15pm	Boys Hockey	Alexandria
2/7	7:15pm	Boys Hockey	Wadena-Deer Creek
2/11	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Sauk Rapids-Rice
2/13	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	Moorhead
2/14	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Alexandria
2/18	7:15pm	Girls Basketball	St. Cloud Tech
2/20	7:15pm	Boys Basketball	Willmar

Park Region Companies are proud to broadcast local sports on PRTV!

Catch your favorite team live on PRTV Channels 1/601, 123/723 or online at www.parkregion.com.

Customer Proprietary Network Information

Federal laws allow us to use information from your current records to market and advise you on new products and services that may satisfy your communications needs, unless you notify us otherwise.

What is this information?

It is information called "Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI)" relating to the telecommunications services you receive from Park Region Telephone, Otter Tail Telcom, Rothsay Telephone and Valley Telephone.

How can we use this information?

This information can be used to advise you about innovative communications services or new communications technology and products. We DO NOT sell or in any way provide this information to any other company other than the 911 records we are required by law to provide if you are a telephone customer.

Who will be able to use this information?

ONLY subsidiary companies of Park Region Telephone, which include Otter Tail Telcom, Otter Com, Rothsay Telephone Company and Valley Telephone Company.

Will Park Region protect my information?

YES! You have the right, and we have the duty, under federal law, to protect the confidentiality of this information. Therefore, regardless of whether you consent or not to allowing us to continue providing you

with marketing and educational mailings, your account information will be treated confidentially.

What action is necessary on my part to show consent?

No action on your part is necessary. If you do not contact us within 30 days and indicate that we may not continue providing you with marketing and educational mailings, we will continue to do so.

What if I do not consent?

You can contact us using the contact information below and indicate that you are withdrawing your approval of our use of your CPNI. You will not receive company information from us at that point. You may miss the opportunity to learn of new, innovative service proposals, new packaging that could reduce your monthly bill and new lower rates on services such as long distance and other information that keeps you informed of the happenings of your local company.

Contact Information:

From any phone receiving service from us, call toll free: 611
Fergus Falls office: 218-998-2000
Underwood office: 218-826-6161
Email: sales@parkregion.com



October Co-op Month Winner

Congratulations to Minerva Pederson of Underwood who won an Amazon Fire Stick in honor of Co-op Month!



Halloween Contest Winner

Cruella de Vil stole our hearts this Halloween. Congratulations to Aimee Tougas for her submission in this year's Facebook Halloween Costume Contest! It was a VERY CLOSE contest with approximately 50 submissions and Cruella de Vil came out on top.

Battery Backup Notice

To improve access to 911 emergency services, the Federal Communication Commission adopted back-up power obligation rules for any service provider utilizing fiber optic or other non-powered media to provide voice services to residential homes. These requirements include an obligation to offer to subscribers the option to purchase back-up power sufficient to operate the terminal located at the subscriber's home for a minimum of 8 hours in standby mode.

As a service to our subscribers, we equip all fiber served premises with a complete standby power solution that exceeds the FCC's mandated operating characteristics at no additional cost.

Under normal operating conditions subscribers have access to all subscribed services including voice, video and broadband data without interruption. However when commercial power is interrupted, the fiber terminal will change to emergency standby mode and disable video and broadband data service while continuing to provide voice service and more specifically access to

emergency 911 service for a period of time. Disabling video and broadband services extends the time the terminal can provide access to emergency services. The battery located in each fiber terminal is capable of providing as much as 12 hours of talk time and 15 hours of standby power when new and fully charged.

Our network operations center monitors the health of batteries and dispatches technicians as needed to replace the batteries once its service life has ended. Battery service life and the ability to provide sufficient standby power are affected by numerous factors including temperature, how often and the duration of commercial power outages and the operating characteristics of phones within the home. We recommend that during a power outage, subscribers limit the use of the landline phone to emergency calls because use of the phone for non-emergency purposes will accelerate power discharge of the battery and limit the amount of standby time. Following these guidelines will ensure access to emergency 911 services over a greater period of time.

Holiday Business Hours

Our offices will close at noon on Tuesday, December 24th and reopen at 8am on Thursday, December 26th. We will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1st.





PO Box 277 100 Main St N
Underwood, MN 56586

New Listings

ASHBY

Thue, Doug & Belinda747-2449

UNDERWOOD

Knutson, Jon & Mary826-6732

BROWNS VALLEY

Renville, Glenn695-2349

FERGUS FALLS

Austin, Mavis998-4759
Beckler, Curt & Lavonne998-3000
Beekman, Raymond998-3192
Carlson, Richard W.998-0075
Davidson, Shirley736-8810
Drake, Jeff & Amy998-0143
French, John (Jack)736-8857
Glawe, J.998-3265
Grasshoff, Jeanette998-4818
Hanson, Allen & Margaret998-0211
Hoff, Claryce998-0094
Klimp, Marlys736-8809

FERGUS FALLS CONTINUED

Kugler, Daryl Jr. & Megan998-0575
Lake Region Assoc of Realtors ...998-3240
Newton, Dean736-8870
North Star District998-1771
Sneva, Paul998-4132
Swenson, Evelyn998-0065
Tomlinson, J.998-0137
Turchin, Scott998-1259

Park Region Telephone

PO Box 277 | 100 Main St N
Underwood, MN 56586
Office: 218.826.6161
Toll Free: 800.247.2706
Hours: M-F 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Otter Tail Telcom

230 Lincoln Ave W
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Office: 218.998.2000
Toll Free: 888.716.8837
Hours: M-F 8:00 AM-5:30 PM

Rothsay Telephone Company

Rothsay, MN 56579

Valley Telephone Company

Browns Valley, MN 56219

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

www.parkregion.com