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Issue November 2011



Grow With Us

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Local Commitment. Global Solutions.

Directory additions

Bellingham

Doug Jorgenson..... 568-2241
 Mickie Miller 568-2172
 Christopher Strei 568-2451

Cerro Gordo

Erick & Jami Brask 752-4273
 Michael Kontz 752-4321

Chokio

Chance & Samantha Borman 324-2491
 Paul & Stacy Erdal 324-7422
 Mari P. Grafsgaard 324-7326
 Juan Carlos Santander 324-7128
 Jason Snell 324-2648

Correll

Greg DeCathelineau 596-2104

Hancock

Travis Campbell 392-5175
 Audrey Evink 392-5650
 Donald Hanrahan 392-5770

Joseph Ingersoll 392-5712
 Jeremy & Sara Ver Steeg 392-2094

Milan-Big Bend

Mark & Amy Bjornjeld 734-8349
 Mathew & Janelle Madden 793-6619
 Kirk Dennis Otterdahl 734-4591

Morris

Walter Baker 585-6499
 Florine Bannick 585-6561
 Jo Esterling 589-0466
 Harold & Marion Fahl 585-6525
 Kevin Kolden 585-6750
 Laverna M. Lesmeister 589-1941
 Lillian Lesmeister 589-3400
 K. Miller 585-6535
 George Nagl 589-9988
 Penny Nemmers 585-6497
 Donald Sperr 589-1729

Odessa

Michael Haukos 273-2287

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 508 Atlantic Ave.
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 320-585-4875
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www.fedtel.net

Office Hours:
 Monday - Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Current Topics

Call Before You Dig Dig "It's the Law"



Simply Dial 811

Simply Dial 811 from your telephone. Remember to call 48 hours before you dig.
South Dakota: 1-800-781-7474

Calendar

- November 6: Daylight Savings Ends
 - November 8: Election Day
 - November 11: Veterans Day
 - November 24-25: Thanksgiving
OFFICES CLOSED
- Happy Thanksgiving!**

Cable TV Pricing - Expect Changes in the Near Future

Cable TV Providers across the nation have begun the process of negotiating new 'Retransmission Consent' agreements for the 2012-2014 time frame. Every three years new agreements need to be negotiated before the end of the year. In 2008, broadcast stations brought in slightly more than \$500 million in retransmission fees from cable, satellite and telecommunications operators. Experts expect these fees to rise to \$1.2 billion in 2011 – doubling the current fees. Channels involved in this process are listed on the chart.

Current legal constraints prohibit us from providing you with the amount broadcasters are requesting for each channel. Broadcasters also require these channels be available in the basic package. This means that Cable TV subscribers will be required to pay for the receipt of the channel – whether you want it or not.

Channel #	Channel Name	Broadcaster Name
3	WUCW	Sinclair Broadcasting
4	WFTC (UPN 9)	Fox
5 / 15.1 / 305	KSAX - ABC Alexandria	Hubbard Broadcasting
7 / 15.11 / 307	WCCO - CBS	CBS
9 / 16.1 / 309	KMSP - Fox 9	Fox
11 / 17.1 / 311	KARE - NBC Minneapolis	KARE11
12	KSTC	Hubbard Broadcasting
13	KVLY - NBC Fargo	KVLY
18.1 / 313	KSTP - ABC Minneapolis	Hubbard Broadcasting

All retransmission consent agreements must be completed by December 31, 2011 to ensure continued carriage of these channels on January 1, 2012. Federated Telephone will do our best to obtain fair pricing terms for our members. Our December newsletter will provide more details.

Senator Amy Klobuchar Visits Farmers Mutual

On Saturday, October 15th, 2011, U. S. Senator Amy Klobuchar visited Dawson as part of her Western Minnesota rural economic tour. Klobuchar was especially interested to learn how in Lac qui Parle (LqP) County is bringing broadband Internet access to their county.

Pam Lehman, LqP EDA Director, introduced Senator Klobuchar as well as Kevin Beyer, General Manager of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company. Beyer informed the crowd that the Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) Project would begin on October 24 in the City of Dawson. This project will take an estimated two years to complete. "Senator Klobuchar has done an excellent job bringing rural broadband awareness to Washington, D.C.," said Beyer.

Klobuchar said she learns a lot by touring the rural communities and how much technology is still needed. Kids that grow up in rural Minnesota should have the opportunity to work here. With a fiber to the premise network, kids will soon have the ability to stay right here in LqP County, and still work for companies located in larger cities because of their Internet connection. The Fiber to the Premise Project will allow LqP County the ability to compete for economic development options and maintain its population.





Changes/Corrections to the 2012-2013 Directory

Work will begin soon on the 2012-2013 issue of the Area-Wide Directory. A sales representative from Pinnacle Publishing will start contacting business customers in mid-November for directory advertising.

Each customer is given one free listing of his or her telephone number. Additional directory services are available for a small monthly fee. Additional listings are when the same telephone number is listed under two or more different names. The listing of a cell phone number or an email address is considered a Foreign Listing. If you would like to set up any special directory services, please contact our office by dialing 611 from your home/business telephone or call our office.

Please look over your current directory listing. If you have any changes or corrections to your listing, please contact our office during business hours Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



Minnesota Election Day November 8, 2011

To find your polling place:
Visit: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>

You can also visit this site to see a list of candidates in your area and see a sample ballot.

Are you having Trouble using the telephone due to a hearing or speech disability?

Minnesota Relay is a free service that uses a specially trained communications assistant (CA) to relay the telephone conversation between a person who has a hearing loss or a speech disability and the person they wish to speak with. 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.

Now it is easier 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 call you wish to make.

Types of Relay Services Available

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 a hearing person. The CA then types the hearing person's response to the VCO user. Requires a special telephone.

2-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 hearing person, and listens directly to the hearing 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.

TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT

DISTRIBUTION (TED) PROGRAM

The TED Program provides free specialized telecommunications equipment to income eligible Minnesotans who are having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing, speech or physical disability.

More Information: www.tedprogram.org

1-800-657-3663 (voice)

1-888-206-6555 (TTY).

Know the Road Dial Up or Log On for Weather Conditions at your Fingertips



Call 511 from any phone, including cellular phones, by dialing 511 or log onto www.511.org. It's a **FREE** Service.



Weather-Related Road Conditions

Congestion Levels

Traffic Incidents

Call Completion Issues

On behalf of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Federated Telephone Cooperative and other rural telecommunication cooperatives across the nation, National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) sent a letter to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Genachowski on September 20, 2011, requesting the FCC convene and host a public workshop to investigate and resolve problems that continue to prevent the proper routing and termination of telephone calls to rural customers. NTCA stated rural telecommunications cooperatives are powerless to correct this issue on their own as many of these problems may lie with underlying routing providers selected by those who offer retail long distance services in urban areas.

Farmers and Federated have actively participated in information gathering sessions with other local telephone providers as well as national telephone associations, such as NTCA. This is a growing epidemic and is causing great concern in the telephone industry.

In addition, consumers have been asked to forward letters to their elected officials asking for their help in resolving call completion problems that are occurring in rural areas across the nation.

Due to these combined efforts, the FCC has at last announced that it is launching a Rural Call Completion Task Force to address call routing and termination problems in rural America. This task force met on October 18th and focused on identifying the specific causes and discussing potential solutions. Issues for the Task Force and Workshop include:

- The extent of the call termination problem in rural areas.
- The causes of the problem, including whether carriers are violating the law by blocking or restricting calls to other carriers.
- Actions that can be taken by the FCC to address the problem.

The Rural Call Completion Task Force includes staff from the agency's Wireline Competition, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Enforcement Bureaus. You can report your problems directly to the FCC at: https://esupport.fcc.gov/ccmsforms/form2000.action?form_type=2000B.

"While we do not expect any immediate remedy, this is at least positive momentum and progress" stated Kevin Beyer, General Manager for Farmers and Federated. "As stated previously, the issue does not reside in Farmers or Federated's network, but we are taking every opportunity to work on the state and national levels to expedite a solution for our members."

Important Information

Emergency Assistance: TTY callers should dial 9-1-1 directly in an emergency. All 9-1-1 centers are equipped to handle TTY calls. Minnesota Relay can process emergency calls, but this may delay the response to your call.

Billing Options for Long Distance Relay Calls

- Direct
- Collect
- Third-party billing
- Pre-paid or carrier calling card

Filing a Complaint: To file a complaint regarding Minnesota Relay, please call 1-800-657-3775 (voice/TTY). You will need to provide the date and time of the relay call, the CA's identification number and the nature of your complaint. To file a relay complaint with the Federal Communications Commission call toll-free at 1-888-225-5322 (voice) / 1-888-835-5322 (TTY), or file on line at <http://esupport.fcc.gov/complaints.htm>.

For More Information on Minnesota Relay Services: www.mnrelay.org or 1-800-657-3775 (voice/TTY)