



LIFELINE

providing discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain phone and broadband service

You may be eligible for assistance in paying your telephone bill if you receive benefits from certain low-income assistance programs. For more information or an application form, please contact us at 888-586-3100. They will do the verification process with you over the phone and can provide you with an application.

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offers a monthly credit of \$10.00 on your landline telephone service plan. You may receive the TAP credit on one landline per household.

The federal Lifeline Program offers a monthly discount of \$5.25 on some landline telephone service plans. Lifeline also offers discounts on some wireless telephone service plans. In addition, the program offers a \$9.25 discount on some broadband internet service plans. You may receive the Lifeline discount on one telephone service per household.

The federal Lifeline Program incorporates the broadband discount (not applicable to TAP).

If you live on Tribal lands, you may qualify for additional discounts. Tribal Lands Link Up offers a one-time credit of up to \$100 on installation or activation charges. Tribal Lands Lifeline offers a monthly credit up to \$34.25 on your landline, broadband service, or wireless telephone plan.

The telephone or broadband service must be in your name. You must show proof that you or a member of your household participates in at least one of the following programs or is income eligible:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Food Support/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid/Medical Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance and living on Tribal lands
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and living on Tribal lands
- Tribally Administered Head Start (for those meeting income-qualifying standards) and living on Tribal lands
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF) and living on Tribal lands

If you do not participate in any of the programs listed, you may qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the 2023 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines: (The federal poverty guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME
1	\$19,683
2	\$26,622
3	\$33,561
4	\$40,500
5	\$47,439
6	\$54,378
7	\$61,317
8	\$68,256
For each add'l person add	\$6,939

For more information or to request an application form:

PHONE
(888) 586.3100

ONLINE
<https://NationalVerifier.ServiceNowServices.com/lifeline>

TELE U WHAT
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email: info@paulbunyan.net
online: paulbunyan.net



BEMIDJI

1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone (218) 444.1234
Toll Free (888) 586.3100
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Apple Certified Repair
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

GRAND RAPIDS
510 SE 21st St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone (218) 999.1234
Toll Free (888) 586.3100
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Apple Certified Repair
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tracy Mistic-Schaar, District 3
Inger-Wirt, Squaw Lake, Deer River,
Dora Lake, Kelliher, Northome,
Blackduck, Ash River, Big Falls

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1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 27
BEMIDJI, MN

Holiday Office Closures

MONDAY
DECEMBER
25

MONDAY
JANUARY
1

Emergency 24 hour repair will remain available and can be reached at 1-800-475-8309.



COOPERATIVE NEWS AND INFORMATION • DECEMBER 2023

TELE U WHAT

Merry
Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Holiday Open House

Friday, December 8 • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Bemidji & Grand Rapids

Please join us for hot cider, cookies, collector ornament, and 2024 calendars.

AUGUST

Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on August 14, 2023. Also attending were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson and Administrative Assistant Kalsie Vanasse.

- Financial reports, delinquent accounts, member lists, and other service reports were reviewed and approved.
- The CEO provided a recap of the recent Dragon Boat event, which Paul Bunyan Communications is the Title Sponsor and long-time supporter.
- IT & Development Manger Steve Howard and Data Services Representative Tier III Aaron Huls provided the quarterly cyber-security update.
- Customer Service Manager Christie Turn presented the quarterly operations update.
- Tom Campbell from Olsen & Thielen joined via Zoom to review the Enhanced Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM).
- Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter board member Shelly Geerdes and Executive Director Christine Latzke joined to share about their organization and future goals.
- Accounting Supervisor Terri Crews, also a volunteer at Village of Hope, joined to discuss recent and ongoing facilities challenges.
- The CEO provided a brief update on Digital Equity.
- CFO Dave Schultz provided an overview on the mid-year financials.
- The CEO gave his monthly report. He reviewed meetings he attended and upcoming meetings. He discussed the MRCTI conference Bemidji will host September 13 at Itasca Park Headquarters and in Bemidji. He provided an update on the new CEO transition. An employee in-service will be held January 15, 2024.

OCTOBER

Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on October 2, 2023. Also attending were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson, CFO Dave Schultz and Administrative Assistant Kalsie Vanasse.

- Financial, delinquent accounts, member lists, and other service reports were reviewed and approved.
- The monthly financial report was presented by CFO Dave Schultz.
- Customer Service Manager Christie Turn presented the quarterly operations update.
- IT & Development Manager Steve Howard provided an update on a number of expansion grant opportunities.
- The CEO provided an update on tele-health technology, service, and partnership opportunities.
- An overview presentation was provided regarding Directors and Officers insurance.
- Greater Bemidji Executive Director Dave Hengel provided an update on regional economic development projects and activities.
- Network Operations Manager Rob St Clair joined to discuss company vehicle needs.
- Technology Experience Manager Leo Anderson joined to provide an overview of upcoming requirements for digital television software and services.
- The 2023 NTCA Fall Conference was reviewed.
- NTCA's 2024 Rural Telecom Industry Meeting will be held February 2024. Attendees were designated. Voting delegate and alternate were designated.
- The 2024 Strategic Planning Session will be held January 26.
- The CEO gave his monthly report. He reviewed meetings he attended and upcoming meetings. He highlighted the successful Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI) Annual Meeting, recently hosted by Mayor Jorge Prince and the City of Bemidji. He provided an update on the Enhanced A-CAM support election.

PLAY PAUL BUNYAN COMMUNICATIONS

PICK-IT BOWL CHALLENGE

PICK THE WINNING TEAMS OF THIS YEAR'S COLLEGE BOWL GAMES AND YOU COULD WIN A CREDIT ON YOUR PBC ACCOUNT

- 1ST PLACE \$500 CREDIT**
- 2ND PLACE \$250 CREDIT**
- 3RD PLACE \$100 CREDIT**



VISIT PAULBUNYAN.NET TO GET STARTED GAMES START DECEMBER 15

PICK-IT

Must be 18 years of age or older. Limit one entry per person. Prizes not redeemable for cash. Void where prohibited. Some restrictions may apply. See Pick It Bowl Challenge website for complete contest rules.

CORBIN MYHRER OF GUTHRIE WINS 70" TV WITH HOCKEY HOT SHOTS



Corbin Myhrer of Guthrie made his shot at center ice during the 2nd period intermission at the Beavers game Saturday, October 28 against St. Thomas to win a 70" HD Smart TV with the Paul Bunyan Communications Hockey Hot Shot contest.

Corbin is 12 years old, attends Bemidji Middle School, and is a Bemidji Youth Hockey player.

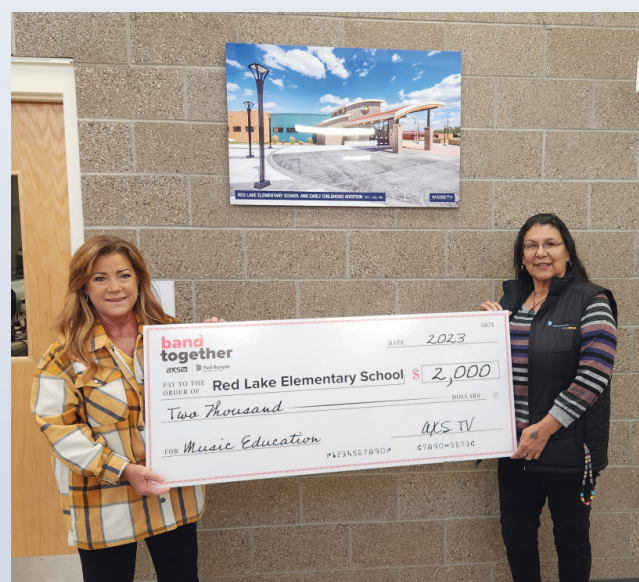
The Paul Bunyan Communications Hockey Hot Shots contest is held during an intermission at select Bemidji State University Men's Hockey home games. Three contestants are selected at random to participate each night.

All contestants receive a coupon for a free PBTv On Demand movie rental, any contestant hitting the board receives a Paul Bunyan Communications Bluetooth speaker, and a contestant who puts the puck in the net through the middle of the Hockey Hot Shots board wins up to a 70" HD Smart TV.



YouTube WATCH ON OUR CHANNEL
[YOUTUBE.COM/@PBCOMMUNICATIONS1](https://www.youtube.com/@PBCOMMUNICATIONS1)

RED LAKE ELEMENTARY MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM RECEIVES DONATION



Red Lake Elementary Music Teacher Beth Hendricks (left) and District 6 Director Glenda Martin

Red Lake Elementary School was selected to receive a \$2,000 grant as part of AXS TV's Band Together For Music Education - an initiative connecting AXS TV with affiliates, local communities, and schools to support vital music education programs and the benefits they provide students. AXS-TV is a part of PBTv HD service on channel 658.



Red Lake Elementary serves over 600 children from Early Childhood through 5th grade. Students in Pre-K through 2nd grade receive music instruction/class every other day. Currently 3-5th grade students do not have musical instruction and this grant will go towards providing digital music activities for those students.

2023 GIGAZONE EXPANSION UPDATE

We continue to expand the GigaZone each year to reach more areas that are without quality broadband access. This year we expanded to areas of Aitkin, Itasca, and St. Louis County.

2023 expansion construction is completed and services available in the following areas:

RURAL WARBA, GOODLAND, & SWAN RIVER
 810 locations

MARBLE
 Over 300 locations in city of Marble

CENTRAL ITASCA COUNTY

Over 190 locations in areas of Carpenter and an unorganized township in northern Itasca County that is east of Effie and Deer Lake.

Expansion construction is in progress and services are expected to become available in early 2024 in the following areas:

ASH LAKE

66 locations around Ash Lake located within the Kabetogama State Forest north of Orr.

CALUMET

This expansion included over 200 locations in Calumet.

HWY 169 SOUTH OF GRAND RAPIDS

This expansion included over 260 locations on South Hwy 169 between Smith Road in SE Itasca County to Hill Lake in Aitkin County.

WEST CENTRAL AITKIN COUNTY

This expansion included over 680 locations in areas of the following townships: Aitkin, Spencer, Waukenabo, and Logan plus two unincorporated townships.

If you did not sign up for services before construction was completed you can still have the fiber optic connection brought up to your home in the summer of 2024. Just sign up for services now to get on the construction list.

To see if your location is included, check our map at [GigaZone.com](https://www.gigazone.com)

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

You or someone you know may have unclaimed capital credits from Paul Bunyan Communications. Check out our link below to find out.

www.paulbunyan.net/unclaimed-capital-credits