



SEPTEMBER 2026 • VOLUME 32, ISSUE 3

A quarterly newsletter from your friends at KMTelecom

Labor Day Started With a Parade

The first Labor Day celebration was the Labor Day parade in New York City on September 5th, 1882. Oregon was the first state to pass it as a legal holiday in 1887, and President Grover Cleveland made Labor Day a federal holiday in 1894. Whether you'll be attending a Labor Day event or just relaxing on the patio, enjoy the unofficial end of summer!



Business Office Closed

Monday, September 7, 2026
Labor Day

Thursday, November 26, 2026
Thanksgiving Day

KMTelecom

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Kasson, MN 55944-1491
507-634-2511

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

After Hours Troubles
507-634-2505

24/7 Internet Help Desk
507-634-2575

Visit Us Online
www.kmtel.com

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KMTelecom

BLAME THE DOG.

Not Your Internet.

PAY ATTENTION, STUDENTS. WE'RE TALKING TO YOU.

Now that you're back in school, you might find yourself needing an excuse for why you didn't turn your homework in on time. You could say your dog ate it (if the assignment was on paper). Or for digital work, you could claim file corruption, laptop failure, or a submission glitch.

However, there's one excuse your teachers aren't going to buy – internet outage – because KMTelecom's fiber internet provides 99.9% reliability. Our advice? Just keep up with your homework!

Attention Parents:

Help your friends switch to fast, reliable internet so every student stays connected! When your friends sign up, you will both receive a **\$50 bill credit**, plus an automatic entry into KMTelecom's **\$125 monthly drawing** as we continue to celebrate 125 years of serving our community.



Be a Fan and Keep Rooting for the Home Team

When you buy local and choose to get your communications services from KMTelecom, the benefits go well beyond your home or business to places throughout our community – including ball fields, classrooms, food pantries, and more. Because you support us, we can more generously support our neighbors.

Year after year, we make many financial and in-kind donations to a variety of local nonprofit organizations. Our team has also worked as volunteers at many community events and charity fundraisers. This area is our home, and we want to help make it the best it can be for today's residents as well as future generations. Unlike our national competitors, we care about more than just making a profit. We care about making a difference.

Thanks for being a loyal customer, and thanks for all you do to give back to our community. Please follow KMTelecom on social media to stay updated on our community activities.



Choose Fiber Internet for More Consistency Than 5G

While the abbreviation 5G refers to the fifth generation of cellular networks released in 2019 rather than internet speeds, fiber internet still holds a distinct advantage over it by providing more consistent speed and reliability. Unlike 5G technology – which can be adversely affected by factors including distance from the tower, signal interference, and network congestion – fiber-optic cables deliver much more consistent internet performance.

Why is fiber internet more consistent than 5G home internet? Here are the key reasons:

- **Dedicated Infrastructure** – Fiber uses dedicated, physical, underground cables, which eliminate the environmental interference and signal degradation that can take place with 5G. As a wired, light-based technology, fiber provides lower latency and prevents the bandwidth congestion, speed dips, and shared tower traffic issues common with 5G.
- **No Interference** – Fiber signals are transmitted via light through cables, making them immune to interference from weather (rain/wind), trees, or thick building materials, which significantly degrade 5G signals.
- **Lower Latency** – Fiber provides consistent low latency (ping), which is essential for video calls and gaming, while 5G is prone to packet loss and jitter.
- **Symmetrical Speeds** – Fiber internet typically offers the same high speed for both uploading and downloading, ensuring consistency during heavy internet usage, such as video conferencing. By contrast, 5G home internet typically offers much slower upload speeds.

Keep in mind that with 5G home internet, the speed and reliability can fluctuate depending on how far away a customer is from the nearest 5G wireless tower and the number of people using the network. A 5G home internet connection is shared by many users at once, so during peak usage times, your connection can be deprioritized and your speed slowed down. If your household supports heavy data use with multiple users and connected devices, you may be frustrated by the inconsistency of 5G home internet.

Given the importance of internet service to so many parts of life these days, you need to be able to count on its speed and reliability. You'll get consistently impressive results with fiber internet from KMTelecom.

New Phishing Scam Looks Like a CAPTCHA Request

You know those “I’m not a robot” boxes or image puzzles you see on legitimate websites? They’re known as CAPTCHAs, which stands for “Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.”

Real CAPTCHAs give you image- or text-based tasks to prove you’re not a robot – something like typing letters and numbers exactly as they appear, or matching pictures of things like fire hydrants or traffic lights.

The FTC has warned that scammers are using counterfeit CAPTCHA security prompts to try to trick you into downloading malware. They embed hidden malicious code in a “verification” step that installs information-stealing viruses.

Here’s how this phishing scam works: You get an unexpected CAPTCHA request while browsing a website. The screen looks a lot like a regular CAPTCHA, asking you to verify you’re human. But the message says to type a series of commands – something like “Windows + R,” then “Ctrl + V,” and then “Enter.” The screen might say “security verification,” but you’re actually following the steps to paste and run hidden malware on your device. Once it’s there, scammers can quickly steal your email account login data, mobile banking credentials, or other personal data.

It’s important to note that actual CAPTCHAs will never ask you to run commands on your device. If you notice something downloading to your device after responding to a CAPTCHA, act quickly to remove the malware and protect yourself:

- **Disconnect from the internet.** This stops scammers from accessing your online shopping or banking accounts.
- **Run a security scan to remove the malware.** Keep your software and apps up to date to catch viruses.
- **Change your passwords and enable two-factor authentication** (using a different device) in case the malware already gave a hacker access to your accounts.

If you spot a CAPTCHA or pop-up that you think is trying to spread malware, report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).



We Hope the Coming School Days Add Up to Great Experiences

KMTelecom is a big supporter of our community’s schools and the important work happening inside their classrooms – from solving problems to inspiring creativity. As another new school year begins, we wish good luck to all the students, parents, and teachers in our service area.

Do you have an internet or Wi-Fi problem to solve? Contact KMTelecom for the solution.

\$25

**Win a \$25
Credit on Your
KMTelecom Bill**

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill by September 30th, 2026, for a chance to win a **\$25 credit** to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

To qualify for the drawing, please answer the question below. (The answer can be found in this issue.)

If you refer a friend how much money could you make?

Congratulations to our June 2026 winner, Ray Tyler, Dodge Center, MN.



Let's Clear Up Confusion About Paperless Billing

Are you still hesitant to switch from paper bills to paperless billing? We'd like to set the record straight on these common misconceptions to help ease your concerns.

Misconception 1: Paperless billing isn't secure. The reality is that paperless billing has many safeguards in place, making it more secure than having statements and payments in a mailbox where they could fall into the wrong hands.

Misconception 2: I need paper bills to remind me to pay. On the contrary, it's more convenient to receive text and/or email reminders of when your bill is due. That way, you'll be notified even if you're away from home and not receiving mail.

Misconception 3: I won't have billing statements for my records. Paperless billing allows you to access your current and past bills online, so you'll always have the records you need at your fingertips.

Visit www.kmtel.com to sign up for paperless billing. For help with the process, call 507-634-2511.

Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders Through Education

At KMTelcom, we are proud to support local students as they pursue their educational dreams. Investing in education is one of the many ways we invest in the future of the communities we serve.

Each year, KMTelcom contributes to the scholarship funds at Kasson-Mantorville and Triton High Schools to help graduating seniors take the next step toward their goals. This year, we proudly donated a total of **\$11,000** to these scholarship programs.

We are honored to recognize the following students as recipients of scholarships made possible, in part, through KMTelcom's support.

Congratulations to each of these outstanding graduates!



Ambra Andrist (K-M)
Rochester Community and Technical College
Parents: Jamie And Troy Andrist.
Major: Fine Arts



Abigail Baker (K-M)
Rochester Community and Technical College
Parents: Jenifer and Michael Baker
Major: Radiology



Miles Bungum (K-M)
St. John's University
Parents: Marlo and Aaron Bungum
Major: Exercise Science - Athletic Training / Physical Therapy



Norah Freiderich (Triton)
Bemidji State University
Parents: Amy & Chris Freiderich
Major: Accounting



Allie Graunke (K-M)
South Dakota State University
Parents: Carrie and Brent Graunke
Major: Nursing



Reese Hiatt (K-M)
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Parents: Mindy and Cory Hiatt
Major: Political Science and Psychology



Connor Himlie (K-M)
University of Minnesota State, Mankato
Parents: Brenda and Benjamin Petersen, Brian Himlie
Major: Sports Management



Aiden Long (K-M)
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Parents: Brianna and William Fay
Major: Secondary Education - Social Studies



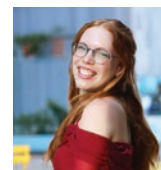
Caelynn Petersilie (K-M)
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Parents: Amy and Andrew Petersilie
Major: Race, Ethnicity, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies with a focus on Native American populations



Jeremiah Peterson-Gordon (K-M)
Iowa Western Community College
Parents: Rachel Peterson and Derrick Gordon
Major: General Education and Business



Aloaha Ricke (K-M)
Augsburg University
Parents: Paula and Thomas Ricke
Major: Exercise Science



Jade Scovill (Triton)
University of Chicago
Parent: Traci Scovill
Major: Psychology