

**South Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications Officials
Meet with Congressional Delegation**

Discuss efforts to deliver enhanced communications opportunities
Courtesy of Greg Dean, South Dakota Telecommunications Association

PIERRE – Nearly 30 representatives of South Dakota’s cooperative telecommunications companies recently met with all three members of the state’s Congressional delegation to explore the unique challenges small companies face in delivering affordable, cutting-edge communications services.

Among the issues discussed was the critical role of the federal universal service fund, which helps support efforts to connect South Dakota consumers to the nation’s broadband-capable network and the numerous opportunities for education, health care, commerce and entertainment it provides. These local telecommunications company officials urged Sen. Tim Johnson, Sen. John Thune and Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin to continue advocating policies that will sustain universal service support in the long term. In the future, small telecommunications companies, like those that serve South Dakota’s small towns and rural areas, will look to the federal universal service fund for continued support as a way to keep infrastructure up-to-date and costs affordable for South Dakota residents.

The group also discussed the growing concern over what is known as “phantom traffic.” During the past several years, small telecommunications companies have seen a significant increase in the number of telephone calls coming on to their networks that can not be billed back to telephone company where the call originated. That drives up costs for South Dakota companies and South Dakota consumers. Two bills were recently introduced in Congress in an attempt to address this issue--one in the Senate with Sen. Thune as a co-sponsor, and one in the House with Rep. Herseth Sandlin as a co-sponsor.

The South Dakota telecommunications officials were in Washington to participate in the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association’s Legislative & Policy Conference, held April 14-16. The annual event hosts more than 600 rural telecom representatives from throughout country the for educational briefings about emerging rules and regulations and other pressing industry issues as well as visits to policy-makers on Capitol Hill and the FCC.

Among the South Dakota companies who were represented at the conference were: Venture Communications, headquartered in Highmore, SD; Alliance Communications, Garretson; Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Wall; James Valley Telecommunications, Groton; West River Cooperative Telephone, Bison; Valley Telecommunications, Herreid; Midstate Communications, Kimball; and, Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Clear Lake. Directors Mark Wattier and Roger Zastrow represented JVT.



**Directors Mark Wattier and Roger Zastrow
with Senator Tim Johnson.**

PHONE DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Barber Judith** Bristol 492-3156
- Breck Betty** Groton 397-8116
- Farmers Union Insurance** Doland 635-6511
- Hearnen Travis** Conde 382-7436
- Jones Kristi** Groton 397-8233
- Larson Tricia** Groton 397-8191
- Little River Pheasant Hunts** Stratford 395-6927
- McKiver Kyle & Connie** Columbia 396-2415
- Murray Jason** Stratford 395-6445
- Noethlich Daniel & Teresa** Doland 635-6543
- Premus Mary** Bristol 492-3302
- Rasmussen Frank & Emma** Claremont 294-5215
- Reif Jerry & Deann** Groton 397-2232
- United Methodist Church Parsonage** Groton 397-4538
- Welch Steven** Doland 635-6552
- Woodring Dwight** Doland 635-6915
- Zweber Vic** 397-7734

THE NEW PHONE BOOKS ARE HERE!

The June 2008 Phone Directory will be delivered to homes early this month. Please take a moment to review your listing and call 611 with any changes.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 International Children’s Day**
- 5 1783, First Hot Air Balloon Flight**
- 5 World Environment Day**
- 10 Disconnect Day**
- 12 1839, Baseball Invented**
- 14 Flag Day**
- 15 Father’s Day**
- 15 1752, Ben Franklin’s Kite Experiment**
- 18 International Picnic Day**
- 21 First Day of Summer**
- 30 Monthly Statements Sent Out**



Discounts available for low income phone customers!

If you cannot afford telephone service, Lifeline/Link Up may help you pay part of your monthly phone costs and/or connection charges if you qualify for the program.



Participants can save up to \$8.25 on their monthly telephone bill for basic local service. The discount applies only to basic local phone service where the eligible participant resides.

Discounts available for low income cell customers!



If you cannot afford cellular service, Lifeline/Link Up may help you pay part of your monthly costs and/or activation fees if you qualify for the program.

Participants can save up to \$8.25 on their monthly cell phone bill for basic local service. The discount applies only to basic local cell phone service where the eligible participant resides.

Eligible members can only receive credit on one wireline or one wireless phone per household. Call 611 for more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Houghton - Columbia - Frederick | District 1 | Roger Zastrow |
| Claremont - Hecla | District 2 | Wendell Rye |
| City of Groton | District 3 | Merle Hanson |
| Rural Groton - Andover | District 4 | Bill Ewalt |
| Ferney - Mellette | District 5 | Duane Jark |
| Conde - Bristol | District 6 | Mark Wattier |
| Turton - Doland | District 7 | William Troske |



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Mon-Fri 8am-6pm
www.jamesvalley.com



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keeping you in touch

**Bob Peterson Memorial Telecommunications
Scholarship Winners Announced!**

JVT is very pleased to announce the winners of the five \$500 Bob Peterson Memorial Telecommunications scholarships! Any graduating senior whose parents or legal guardians are members of the cooperative could apply for the scholarships and we had twenty nine applicants this year. The winners, chosen by an independent judge, were selected based in part on academic achievement and an essay on the theme “How do you use the Internet today and how do you envision using the Internet in the future?” Each winner’s essay will be printed in future Dial Tones issues.



Angela Morgan

School: Northwestern Area
Parents: Jerome & Lisa Morgan
Hometown: Mellette
College: University of South Dakota
Career Plans: Medical Field



Mary Remily

School: Doland
Parents: Rod & Audrey Remily
Hometown: Doland
College: Presentation College
Career Plans: Nursing



Kalli Dinger

School: Britton-Hecla
Parents: Verl & Sandy Dinger
Hometown: Hecla
College: SD School of Mines & Technology
Career Plans: Metallurgical Engineering



Monica Geary

School: Conde
Parents: Bruce & Cindy Geary
Hometown: Conde
College: Northern State University
Career Plans: Elementary Education



Kelli Wiedebush

School: Warner
Parents: Randy & Carol Wiedebush
Hometown: Mansfield
College: Dakota State University
Career Plans: Professional Accountancy

Three Directors Elected at Annual Meeting

Directors Roger Zastrow (District 1), Bill Ewalt (District 4), and William Troske (District 7) were re-elected at the annual meeting held on May 22. Other results from the meeting were not available at press time and will appear in the July Dial Tones.



What's On This Month...

VIDEO RATE INCREASE

Effective June 1, some JVT cable television subscribers will see a rate increase of \$3 per month for the Family View and Expanded View cable television packages and an increase of \$2 per month for the cost of premium movie suites.

We work hard to hold rate adjustments to a minimum. This is the first rate change for JVT members in over two years and our efforts to control expenses have resulted in no increases to the prices customers pay for high-speed Internet and phone service. In addition, customers currently in a bundle with cell phone service will not see any rate increase.



The major challenge with the cable TV rates is the rising cost of TV programming - namely, the fees we are required to pay the owners of the networks. Taken together, those fees, which are beyond our direct control and represent our single-largest expense category, are growing at approximately 9% each year, three times faster than the rate of inflation. As much as we dislike having to increase rates, we understand that occasional increases are necessary in order to provide the best value and the best service to you.

We are committed to helping our members save money wherever we can, such as through packages that bundle TV, Internet, phone service, and cell phone service. These bundles provide significant annual savings over the price you would pay if you ordered the services separately and from different providers. Please contact a JVT customer service representative to discuss the options that are available. Thank you for your patronage and support. We will continue to do the very best we can to obtain popular programming at the most reasonable prices possible.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

What are JVT employees watching on TV? This month we asked Internet Specialist Jason Hill to discuss his favorite shows:



Jason Hill

“With the nice weather my spring TV viewing habits drastically change because I am usually out and about. So right now there are only two shows that I need to watch. The first is *SportsCenter* on ESPN, it gives me all the highlights from the night before and spotlights upcoming games that might be interesting. The second is *The Office* on NBC. The show is in its 4th Season and by far my favorite sitcom of all time. I think what makes the show great is its “mockumentary” style without a studio audience or laugh track.

Other shows and channels that keep my TV on are **Headline News** on channel 19 while I am eating lunch, **FSN** (channel 26) for all the Minnesota Twins baseball games and the NBA playoffs on **TNT** (channel 42). If I have already seen the *SportsCenter* for the day or I am not interested in it that night I will turn to *Scrubs* re-runs which are shown on NBC, TBS and WGN.

Recent movie purchases using the Video-On-Demand feature included *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *The Darjeeling Limited* and *Into The Wild*. They were all very good movies and I would recommend them to anyone!”

HDTV UPDATE!

Service Available in Some Areas

Some JVT members who have HD television sets can now take advantage of the company's HD service!

High-definition television yields a better-quality image than does standard television because it has a greater number of lines of resolution. However, you must have an HD set and the programs you are watching must be broadcast in HD to take full advantage of the service.

JVT is currently working on their HD lineup which will include approximately 25 channels. The cost for JVT's HD service is \$9.95 per month per television set. DVR service is also available and can be purchased in a package with the HD service for only \$14.95/month. DVR purchased alone will cost \$9.95/month per TV.

DVR stands for digital video recorder. Also referred to as PVR or personal video recorder, a DVR functions a lot like a VCR, except it uses a hard drive to record as opposed to videotapes. This means that there aren't any tapes to cue, and there is more recording time available. In addition, the image quality of a DVR recording is considerably better than a VCR tape. One of the most popular DVR features is its ability to pause, rewind, or replay live television.

Because these services require additional equipment both at your house and in JVT's office, HD and DVR are not available in all towns yet. If you are interested in either service, please contact JVT's office to see if it is available to you. Thank you for your patience as we roll out this new service!

Call now - your first two months are free!

Add Cable TV Today!

JVT's all-digital cable television service is available in the towns of:

Andover	Claremont	Columbia
Conde	Ferney	Groton
Hecla	Houghton	Mellette
Stratford	Turton	

If you live in one of the above towns and would like to add cable TV, call JVT's office at 611 today!



GEEK SPEEK!

Today's Topic: Summer Travel Tips

The Internet is filled with many great websites to help you plan your summer vacation, from finding cheap airline tickets to reserving that perfect hotel for your family. A few sites recommended by CNN's Travel and Leisure experts are:

Cruisecritic.com - plan the perfect cruise, includes a section for first-time cruisers.

Homeandabroad.com - plan a trip to one of more than 90 destinations from start to finish.

Farecompare.com - helps you find the lowest airfares available from popular travel sites.

Kayak.com - searches 159,000 hotels worldwide.

Lastminutetravel.com - last minute deals on luxury hotels.

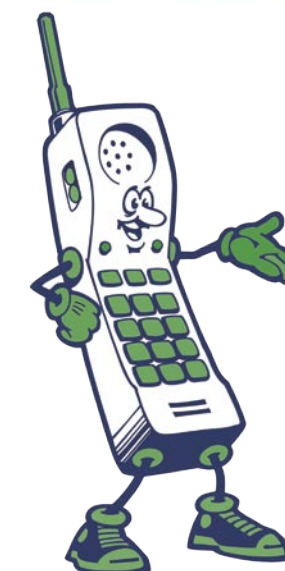


Dial Before You Drive!

By dialing “511” from any phone (cellular or regular) you can receive up-to-date, location-specific road restriction, condition, and weather information on any Interstate, US, or state highway in South Dakota and several adjoining states. You can also call 866-MYSD511 (866-697-3511) or visit the website listed below.

safetravelusa.com

Internet technical support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-888-919-8945.



Cell Tips & Tricks

Sign Up For Mobile Alerts!

Get text messages on your cell phone regarding news, events, cancellations, and more!

Stay connected wherever you are! Get breaking news, weather, contest info, sports scores and more sent to you as a text message on your cell phone.

To sign up, visit www.hubcityradio.com and click on the “Mobile Alerts” banner. Enter your cell phone contact information and select the categories you want to receive. The Mobile Alert program is free, however standard text messaging fees will apply.

- **Breaking News Alerts**
- **Weather Forecasts**
- **Severe Weather Alerts**
- **School Cancellations**
- **Stock Watch**
- **Local Sports Scores**



FEATURED CELL PHONE

MOTOROLA KRZR



- **Integrated Music Player**
- **Bluetooth**
- **Memory Card Slot**
- **1.3 Megapixel Camera**
- **Internal Antenna**
- **Built-In Mini USB Connector**
- **WAP/Web Browser**
- **Text & Picture Messaging**
- **Voice Dialing**

Retail Price \$299.95

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

\$79.95 with two year contract!

Visit www.jvtwireless.net for more information or stop by JVT's offices in Groton or Aberdeen to see more phones!

keeping you in touch