



## GEEK SPEEK!

### Today's Topic Computer Data Backup

Routinely backing up our important data is something we should all do. Unfortunately, we don't realize this until we're scrambling to recover data on a hard drive that has just crashed. Family photos, MP3's, word documents or that spreadsheet you've been working on – all gone. Luckily you can avoid this painful experience by using the backup utility that comes with your Windows operating system, using a CD burner, or some form of external hard drive.

With a CD burner you can simply drag and drop your most precious files onto a disk using the software that came with the device (usually Roxio Easy CD Creator or Nero). You can also use this technique with a jump drive or an external hard drive. If you decide to use this method, we suggest weekly or monthly backups where you physically remove the backed up data from your home or office and store it at another location. The reason being is that a house fire or other disaster could destroy both your PC and your backup data sitting beside it.

Another option is using the backup utility already installed on your computer. If you are using Windows there is a program in place you can use. Navigate to START, PROGRAMS, ACCESSORIES, SYSTEM TOOLS and you'll find the backup utility. You will be able to follow the Wizard when backing up.

You can now backup the files that are most important to you. Since Windows and your other programs can be reinstalled, you're probably better off keeping your data in a central location that is easy to find, such as My Documents. Once you have located the data you want to back up, simply use the utility to create a backup of your data. Put this file on another hard drive, burn it to a disk, or copy it over to another computer on your network.

No matter how you backup, make sure you never rely on a single source. Rotate your backups out of the home and take advantage of the backup utility in Windows. Do not be passive with your data; you will be much better off if your system fails.

## Winter Preparedness

### Dial 511 For Winter Road Conditions

Winter is just around the corner! If you are planning on driving this season make sure you call "511" from your home or cell phone for up-to-date road conditions and weather information on any interstate, US, or state highway in South Dakota and adjoining states and stay safe on the road.

### Vacation Rates

JVT members who spend part of the year in warmer climates are able to reduce the price of their monthly phone bills by putting their phone service on "vacation" while they are away. The vacation rate for local phone service is half the cost of the regular rate. Customers with high-speed Internet pay 25% of their regular rate while their service is on vacation. Completely disconnecting your phone runs the risk of your number being reassigned to someone else and not included in phone books. Call 611 for more information.

### Winter Information On The Web

[www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi\\_before.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi_before.shtm)  
The Federal Emergency Management Agency site includes information on winter driving, winter storms, winter preparedness, and more.

[www.weather.gov/om/winter/](http://www.weather.gov/om/winter/)

Learn more about snow, ice, strong winds, and even check out a wind chill chart at the official site of the National Weather Service.

[www.doityourself.com/energy/prepareforwinter1.htm](http://www.doityourself.com/energy/prepareforwinter1.htm)

A two-part guide for preparing your home for the winter to help with heating costs.

## JVT Sponsors Softball Team

JVT sponsored a men's softball team this summer. The team was quite successful, ending up league champions of the E division. **Congratulations!**



## WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS!

Avera Clinic of Groton 397-4242  
Coats Shelley Doland 635-6599  
Devine Ebba Bristol 492-3309  
Dunker Craig & Natasha 14709 405th Av 395-8520  
Evenson Dustin Frederick 329-2025  
Ford Marc & Stephanie Mellette 887-3360  
Fornof Howard & Maggie Butler 492-3226  
Hanson Justin Groton 397-8220  
Jo's Schoolhouse Café Hecla 994-2345  
Lendry John Groton 397-8662  
Lewandowski J Groton 397-2802  
Little River Pheasant Hunts Stratford 395-6933  
Lone Wolf Saloon Stratford 395-6466  
Mayou Stacy & Teresa Groton 397-2626  
McCowan Brian Hecla 994-2141  
Napton Darrell Frederick 329-2076  
Olson Heide Frederick 329-2626  
P & D Pork Frederick 329-2050  
Rancho De La Pulgas Frederick 329-2149  
Reed Kim Columbia 396-2336  
Setter Dave & Kristie Frederick 329-2149  
Smeins Nadine Bristol 492-3276  
Smith Joe Northville 887-3904  
SDWG Hecla Corn Receiving Houghton 994-2700  
Steiner Jan Barnard 329-2192  
Swisher Jay Groton 397-8337  
Thurston Cattle Groton 397-2371  
Van Hatten Clinton & Amanda Conde 382-5305  
Zambo Densley & Arda Conde 395-6220

JVT's office will be closed  
on Thanksgiving Day - Thurs.,  
Nov. 22. We wish everyone a  
very happy Thanksgiving  
and thank you  
for your patronage!



## IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 All Saints Day
- 1 National Family Literacy Day
- 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 8 1895, X-Ray Discovered
- 10 1969, Sesame Street Debuted
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 11-17 American Education Week
- 12-18 National Children's Book Week
- 15 Recycle Day
- 17 National Young Reader's Day
- 18-25 National Bible Week
- 20 Mexican Revolution Day
- 22 Thanksgiving Day  
**JVT Office Closed**
- 29 1922, King Tut's Tomb Opened

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

JVT is pleased to announce extended office hours in order to better serve you! On Thursday, November 1, JVT's Groton and Aberdeen offices will be open from 8am to 6pm Monday through Friday. In addition, the Aberdeen office (located at 2211 8th Ave NE) will be open on Saturday from 9am-12pm. You can call the office by dialing 611 from your home phone or stop by either location. We look forward to serving you!

## 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

# JAMES VALLEY

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[www.jamesvalley.com](http://www.jamesvalley.com)

# DIAL TONES NEWSLETTER

Vol. 54 November 2007 No. 489

keeping you in touch

## \$256,020 Paid Back To Members

Capital Credit Checks Mailed Out Last Month

One of the greatest benefits of being a member of a cooperative is the allocation and payment of capital credits. Because JVT is a cooperative, any income above JVT's expenses is allocated back to the patrons based on the percentage of business that each customer does with the co-op.

Each year JVT members receive a notice of capital credits they earned during the previous year. This year the notice was sent in July, informing you of the capital credits you earned during 2006 and what your accrued balance was for the unretired years you have been a JVT member.

In October of each year, JVT conducts a board approved capital credit retirement for a portion of the total accrued balance. This year JVT is paying its members \$256,020 to retire accumulated capital

credits. This year's check is payment for accrued patronage with JVT at the following percentages for the years listed:

- \* 2006 - 5% of accrued balance
- \* 1997 - 25% of accrued balance

**Capital credit retirements reduce the cost of your JVT services.** Over the last several years, each JVT member is getting an average allocation of 51% of the amount they paid for services in the prior year. **That effectively makes your local dial tone, long distance, cable TV, and Internet rates 51% lower than what your monthly bill indicates!**

The more business you do with JVT, the more money you will receive back as capital credits. This is important to keep in mind as JVT rolls out additional products, such as cell phone service.

## New Newsletter Design, Bill Format

This month's newsletter features a new design developed by JVT's marketing staff. We hope you find the newsletter informative and easy to read.

Along with a new newsletter design, this month's JVT statement has a different look. The statement has a new, full page, two column set-up neatly organized to provide a more user-friendly format, thus making it easier to read and understand. In addition, the bill now includes fewer pages, using less paper and saving on postage and material costs for the cooperative.

The company has purchased a new machine that will stuff and fold all of the monthly statements. In the past, the statements for JVT and its subsidiaries were prepared manually. With the amount of bills sent out each month, the cooperative will save considerable money in reduced labor costs and improved efficiency. If you have any questions regarding the new statement, please call JVT's office at 611.

## Homecoming Parades



JVT participated in its last homecoming parade in Conde on Sept. 28. Congratulations to all area sports teams on their successful seasons!

# JAMES VALLEY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

# What's On This Month...

## DTV Transition

**JVT members will not be affected**

Many of you may have heard about the Digital TV transition that is set for February 17, 2009. Below is more information about the transition.

The switch from analog TV (the traditional TV system using magnetic waves to transmit and display TV pictures and sound) to digital television (the new TV system using information transmitted as "data bits" -- like a computer -- to display movie-quality pictures and sound), is referred to as the digital TV (DTV) transition. In 1996, the U.S. Congress authorized the distribution of an additional broadcast channel to each TV broadcaster so that they could introduce DTV service while simultaneously continuing their analog TV broadcasts. In addition to improved picture and sound quality, an important benefit of DTV is that it will free up parts of the broadcast spectrum for public safety as well as other valuable uses. This is possible because the modern technology of DTV is more efficient than analog TV technology. DTV allows the same number of stations to broadcast using fewer total channels (less of the broadcast spectrum) which will free up scarce and valuable spectrum for public safety and new wireless services.

Congress passed a law on February 1, 2006, set-

ting a final deadline for the DTV transition of February 17, 2009. Most television stations will continue broadcasting both analog and digital programming until February 17, 2009, when all analog broadcasting will stop. Analog TVs receiving over-the-air programming will still work after that date, but owners of these TVs will need to buy converter boxes to change digital broadcasts into analog format. Converter boxes will be available from consumer electronic products retailers at that time.

JVT's cable TV customers will not be affected by the transition because the cooperative's cable television signal is already 100% digital. For more information visit [www.dtv.gov/consumercorner.html](http://www.dtv.gov/consumercorner.html).



## Thanksgiving Day TV

After you've stuffed yourself on Thanksgiving Day, there's only one thing to do...sit down and watch some TV! Here's just a few programs to check out.

**Green Bay Packers @ Detroit Lions** at 11:30 am on channel 11- Fox.

**New York Jets @ Dallas Cowboys** at 3:15 pm on channel 4 - CBS.

**Indianapolis Colts @ Atlanta Falcons** at 7:15 pm on channel 58 - NFL Network.

**Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** at 9 am on channel 5 - NBC.

**Law & Order: Criminal Intent** and **SVU Marathon** starting at 5 am on channel 33 - USA Network.

**Ghost Hunters Marathon** starting at 10 am on channel 116 - Sci-Fi.



## Project Runway

**Channel 36 - Bravo**

**Project Runway**, one of Bravo TV's most popular shows, will premiere Thursday, November 14, at 9 pm on channel 36.

Once again, supermodel Heidi Klum heads a panel of industry luminaries, including top women's and men's wear designer Michael Kors and Elle Magazine fashion director Nina Garcia, who will serve as judges and industry mentors charged with selecting and molding the budding designers. In addition, each week will feature a special guest judge based on the specific challenge given to the participants.

Tim Gunn, Chair of Fashion Design for Parsons The New School For Design, will return to guide the contestants through each of their challenges. The fifteen contestants will be whittled down to only three finalists who will face-off in front of an audience of movers and shakers at New York Fashion Week in February.

## Feature Channel of the Month - Lifetime

**Lifetime Television** is the leader in women's television and one of the top-rated basic cable television networks. From a single cable channel, Lifetime Entertainment Services has now grown to three networks — **Lifetime Television, LMN and Lifetime Real Women.**

**Lifetime** has significantly increased its commitment to original programming, which has been rewarded by audiences and critics alike, highlighted by **Army Wives**, the most watched series in the network's 23-year history which airs Sundays. As part of its bold new programming strategy, **Lifetime** premiered two more series as part of its Sunday night original drama lineup, **Side Order of Life** and **State of Mind** on Sunday, July 15 — marking the first a basic cable network has ever launched three new dramas for the same night in the same season.

The largest producer of original movies on all of television, Lifetime has produced 180 **Lifetime Original**



Channel 49

## Add Cable TV Today!

**Service Available in 11 Towns**

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

- ✓ Andover
- ✓ Claremont
- ✓ Columbia
- ✓ Conde
- ✓ Ferney
- ✓ Groton
- ✓ Hecla
- ✓ Houghton
- ✓ Mellette
- ✓ Stratford
- ✓ Turton

You can select from two TV packages. The Family View package includes 58 channels with local networks and popular networks such as The Weather Channel, ESPN, CNN, Discovery, History Channel, NFL Network, and American Movie Classics. The Expanded View package includes 40 additional channels and 40 channels of digital music. If you live in one of the above towns and would like to add cable TV, call JVT's office at 611 today!

## Cell Phone Update

**Should You Keep Your Number?**

JVT's staff has been very busy over the last several months making preparations for providing cell phone service to its members. Many people have shown a great interest in the service and we're happy to report that your wait is almost over. Hint, hint... Don't stuff your Christmas stockings yet!

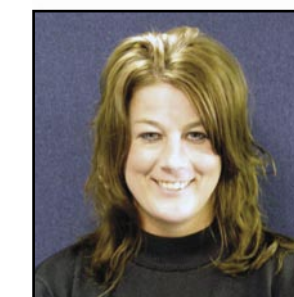
One of the questions that many have asked is: "Will I be able to keep my existing cell number?" If you take JVT's cell service, you will be able to keep your number as the cooperative will offer wireless local number portability. This allows wireless subscribers to change



service providers within a given location while retaining the same phone number. **Wireless consumers who wish to port their phone number need to keep a copy of their current provider's statement.** JVT will need information from the statement to complete the porting process.

Many members will want to take a new cell number. JVT's cell phone numbers will be your exchange plus "7###". For instance, Groton members would have a cell phone number of 397-7###. The main advantage of taking a new cell number would be these numbers would follow the same long distance rules as your land line phone. Therefore, **you would not incur long distance charges when calling a cell phone from your land line phone if the exchange prefixes for both phones are the same.** If you choose to take a new number, JVT will provide options for having your old cell number forwarded so you do not miss any calls.

## CSR Joins Staff



Laurie Bruening recently started work at James Valley Telecommunications as a Customer Service Representative for the Aberdeen office.

A native of Hitchcock, Bruening attended Huron

University earning a degree in Business Administration. Bruening lives in Aberdeen and enjoys racquetball, playing cards and showing quarter horses.

*Welcome Laurie!*

## Last Kick For Cash Held

JVT's last Kick for Cash contest was held in Conde on Oct. 5. Pictured is Randy Mason, who was unsuccessful in his attempt at a 20-yard field goal.

A contest was also held in Frederick on Sept. 21 and Troy Van Dover was the kicker. He was also unsuccessful. JVT donated \$100 to each of the schools who hosted a contest. **Thanks to all who participated - see you next year!**



keeping you in touch