



Valley News

Volume 50 Number 3

March 2008

www.valleytel.net

102 Main St. S., Herreid SD

'Analog Sunset' takes effect

Valley Wireless Winter Promotion in full swing!

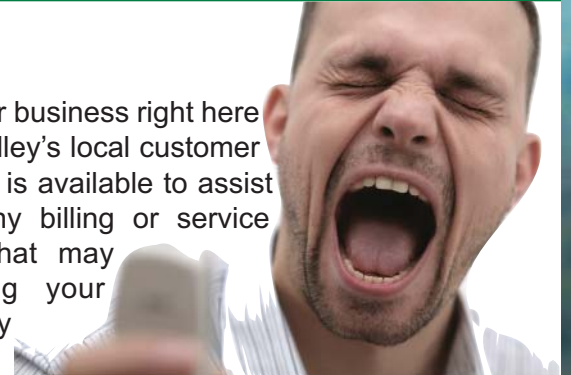
As of midnight on February 18, 2008, cellular telephone providers were no longer required by the FCC to provide an analog cellular signal.

What does this mean for you? If you have an old reliable "bag phone" chances are that by the end of the month, it won't work! Most national cellular providers have notified their customers of this up-coming change. In order to receive cellular service, you may need to purchase a new "digital" handset.

With these impending changes close at hand, have you considered changing to Valley Wireless? Valley Wireless is a full service wireless provider with access to the nationwide network of many national providers. Valley Wireless offers nationwide calling and many different service plans for individuals or families along with advanced features such as voicemail, caller id, and call waiting - all included with your monthly fee! Some of the plans offered by Valley Wireless even include unlimited nights & weekends starting at 7 pm! (*No more waiting until 9 pm to make your important calls.*) Additional features such as text messaging bundles and picture messaging are also available.

Your wireless service can be billed right on your monthly telephone bill, eliminating the need to send another payment to another out-of-state company. In addition to

keeping your business right here at home, Valley's local customer service staff is available to assist you with any billing or service questions that may arise during your use of Valley Wireless.



We are pleased to offer a variety of tried and true Motorola handsets. Our retail store also includes many wireless accessories and accessory bundles for your convenience.

Not sure if Valley Wireless will work in your area?

Valley Wireless utilizes the existing nationwide network. Keep in mind that wireless service in general is not a perfect product. You may, or may not have service in a particular area, on any given day depending on many factors, including the weather, other wireless traffic, or interference from metal buildings, high-line wires, or other anomalies. It may be easiest to think of wireless service as a great convenience (when it works!) We have several activated handsets in our office that you may try prior to signing up for wireless service. (*The national wireless carriers, as well as Valley Wireless do not guarantee service in all areas.*)

Not sure if your handset is analog or digital? Stop by our office in Herreid or give us a call with your model number. We'll check it out for you at no charge! And...you might just find a great Wireless Service available from your friends here at Valley!

While you're here be sure to ask how you can win a trip to Fabulous Las Vegas!

More information regarding the 'Analog Sunset' is available on the FCC's website at the following address:

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/analogcellphone.html>

Valley Scholarship Deadline Approaches

The 2008 Valley Telco \$500 Scholarship Applications for area seniors must be received at Valley's Headquarters office by close of business on March 15, 2008.

The applications are available from area school guidance counselors, Valley's business office, or via our website at:

www.valleytel.net

Winners will officially be announced in our June 2008 edition of Valley News!





Notes from our Manager. . .

Video upgrades necessary

As part of our commitment to our members, we strive to provide quality services. In order to meet that commitment, software, hardware, and equipment upgrades are often necessary.

Over the last month, our technicians have worked diligently to perform upgrades on our video system that will allow the addition of new and improved services. In some cases the upgrades are required by our vendors. These upgrades may involve many different companies and multi-

ple pieces of equipment. The equipment and software upgrades are generally scheduled to begin after midnight and are anticipated to be completed before 6 a.m. with the least amount of inconvenience for our subscribers.

However, sometimes, things do not go as planned! In the event that this occurs, please be rest assured that our technicians are working as quickly as possible to restore the system. Because of the complex electronics and numerous pieces of equipment involved, complete restoration may take some time.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,
John Tormoehlen
General Manager/CEO

What's all this "DTV stuff" about anyway? Part II

You may have seen the commercials running on your favorite channel referencing the "DTV Transition" quickly approaching in February of 2009.

What is this *DTV Stuff* all about? Over the next several months, Valley will be running a series of informational articles to help you understand what *DTV* is and how you may be affected.

What should you look for when purchasing a new TV?

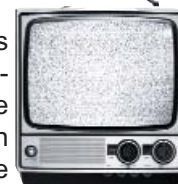
First of all, remember that if you currently subscribe to Valley Video, the STB (set-top-box) that we provide makes the digital transition for you, even if you have an analog television. If you are considering purchasing a new television, be sure that it has a *digital tuner*. As of March 1, 2007, all television receivers shipped or imported into the United States are required to have a digital tuner. Some stores may carry-over old inventory and therefore have a leftover stock of televisions without the digital requirement.

So, be sure to look for a label or marking that may contain the following: "*Integrated Digital Tuner*", or "*Digital Tuner Built-In*". The word "*Receiver*" may also be substituted for "*Tuner*" and "*DTV*", "*ATSC*", or "*HDTV*" may be substituted for the word "*digital*". As we mentioned last month, a "*HDTV*" is not required to view digital content. "*HDTV*" is only required if you wish to view digital programming in "*high definition*".

If you cannot determine if your television has a digital tuner, you should check the equipment for the manufacturer name and model number and contact a consumer electronics retailer, or the manufacturer directly. This information may also be available online through the manufacturer's website. If you still have your user manual, it may be a great place to start!

How much will a "DTV" cost?

Prices vary depending on the many features and options available. These may include display technology such as cathode ray tube screens, rear projection TV's, front projection TV's, and flat panel TV's. Flat panel TV's are often the most expensive and can use either a liquid crystal display (LCD) or plasma screen technology. Screen size is measured diagonally across the screen, and the larger the screen, generally the more expensive the TV!



Will my analog TV still work?

If you receive your over-the-air channels from a rooftop antenna and do not subscribe to a cable to satellite television service, then you will need to obtain a digital-to-analog set-top converter box. Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households will be able to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each to be used toward the future purchase of eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes. A certified converter box is expected to cost between \$50 and \$70. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is administering the coupon program.

How do I get a coupon?

There are several ways to obtain the discount coupons. You can apply online at www.DTV2009.gov or via phone by calling 1-888-DTV-2009. To apply by mail, obtain an application form from the above referenced website and return it to PO Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208. You can also fax the completed application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2.

Coupon supplies are limited and expire 90 days after they are mailed. You may request one coupon now and another later, but no more than two coupons will be issued per household.

Unclaimed Money!

Every October we mail capital credit refund checks and every year we receive a number of checks back in our mail because their owners have moved and haven't kept us updated on their new address.

Please help us get these checks to their rightful owners! We have listed them with their last known mailing address. If you have any idea of where we can locate these people, or a relative, please contact Connie at 437-2615, or via email at connie@valleytel.net.

Ray Ackerman	Roscoe SD
Emma Aman (<i>Deceased - need next of kin</i>)	Mobridge SD
Atkinson Locker, Gary & Shelley Haier	Highmore SD
Tina Booton	Loveland CO
Jodi R Carrico	Aberdeen SD
Corvel Corporation	St Paul MN
Dakota Cafe - Ralph Wolter	Huron SD
Hermanus L Giliomee	Leola SD
John L Gray	Leola SD
Don Hammrich	Leola SD
Kelly Hoeft	Aberdeen SD
Doug Klein	Estelline SD
Margaret Kositsky	Mobridge SD
Frank Lawrence	Leola SD
J Michael Marriner	San Diego CA
Linda Martel	Bismarck ND
Tim Martin	Lamberton MN
Jesse Murray Jr	Deerfield MO
Corey Redmond	Hague ND
Bev Schoonover	Avondale AZ
Mike Thomson	Cedar MN
Edmund Trautman	Mobridge SD
Jackie S Waldner	Raymond SD
Sheri L Wesley	Mound City SD

Dial 511 for

Weather & Road Conditions



Before venturing out into the snow and cold weather on a road trip this winter, remember to dial 5-1-1. This toll free phone number, provided by the South Dakota Department of Transportation and the South Dakota Highway Patrol, offers information about weather and road conditions throughout the state.

By dialing 5-1-1, cellular and land based phone users can receive up-to-date, location specific road and weather information on any Interstate, US, or state highway in South Dakota and several adjoining states.

For more information visit: www.state.sd.us and click on the 5-1-1 icon on the left side of the page. Happy & Safe Traveling!

Roger's Hide & Seek

Hello! "Roger the Ringer" here. February's lucky winners were Ted & Ruth Anderson of the Glenham Exchange. Ted & Ruth are the winners of a \$10 Gift Certificate from Valley Telco. It's really simple to play - just return the coupon from page 4 by *March 17th* and you might be the next lucky winner. So, on your mark, get set, GO!



"Just For Fun"
will return next month!

Mmmm Good!

OLD FAMILY FAVORITES
Recipe for **Chili Snack Mix** From: Gladys Bauer
Herreid Exchange

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1 - 16 oz package corn chips | 1 - 11.5 oz can mixed nuts |
| 1 - 11 oz package pretzels | 1 - 7.2 oz package fish shaped cheese crackers |
| 1 - cup butter, cubed | 1/2 cup packed brown sugar |
| 1 - T garlic powder | 1 - T chili powder |
| 1/2 tsp baking soda | |

Combine corn chips, nuts, pretzels & cheese crackers in large bowl. Put butter, brown sugar, garlic powder & chili powder in saucepan and bring to a boil. Stir frequently. Remove from heat and add soda. Mix well and pour over chip mixture in the bowl. Toss to coat. Put in 15"x10"x1" baking sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Cool & store in airtight container. Yield: 6 quarts

COMFORT FOOD SERVED HERE

Calling Feature of The Month

CALL WAITING

Call Waiting alerts you with a beep during a telephone conversation that another call is waiting to be answered. To answer the second call, depress the switchhook or "flash" button for about one second to place your first call on hold. After releasing the switchhook or "flash" button, you will automatically be connected with the second caller. Depress the switchhook again to return to your first call (\$1/month)

Sign up for Call Waiting during the month of March and receive **FREE ACTIVATION** and your **FIRST MONTH OF SERVICE FREE!** (That's a savings of up to \$11!)

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn Inc.

102 Main St S PO Box 7 Herreid SD 57632

Billing/Service Requests: 605-437-2615

ValleyNet Internet/Email 24-Hour Help Desk: 1-888-866-0812

www.valleytel.net • valley@valleytel.net

Office Hours: 8am - 5pm Monday - Friday

When submitting payments, please be sure to include your payment stub.

Welcome New Members

Eureka, 605-284

Fiddler, Delwin Jr: 284-2110

Hilton, Vaughnda: 284-2110

Ipswich, 605-426

Active Care Chiropractic - Fax: 426-6304

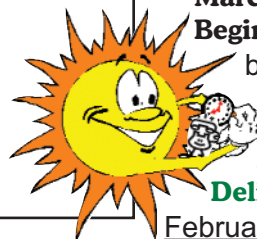
Lee, May: 426-6379

Leola, 605-439

Yost, Ashley: 439-3375

Pollock, 605-889

Briley, W: 889-2305



Worth Noting!

March 9, Daylight Savings Time Begins: Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am! Spring Ahead!

March 10, Valley Telco Delinquent Disconnect - Your February 2008 payment must be posted to your account by 5pm today. If it is not, all of your services will be disconnected by 8am the next day of business.

March 10, 1876: First Successful Telephone Call- The first successful telephone transmission of clear speech when Alexander Graham Bell spoke into his device, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you." and Watson heard each word distinctly.

March 17, Saint Patrick's Day: Commemorates the patron saint of Ireland, Bishop Patrick (A.D. 389-461) who, in about A.D. 432, left his home in the Severn Valley, England, and introduced Christianity into Ireland.

March 20, Valley Telco Payment Due: If we haven't received payment for your March telephone bill by 5pm today, your account will be charged a \$10.00 late notice.

March 20, Spring Begins: "The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." - Henry Van Dyke

March 23, Easter Sunday: Christian festival to commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

2007-2008 Telephone Directories

In order to make our 2007-2008 Phone Book as cost efficient as possible, we have ordered only a limited supply of additional books. Each telephone number receives one copy of *The Phone Book*.

We would appreciate your assistance in recycling the previous year's books by using them in your vehicles and/or in other areas of your home, instead of requesting additional copies for these purposes. This will allow us to keep the cost of publishing *The Phone Book* to a minimum. We currently do not charge Valley members for additional copies of the telephone directory. However, this policy may change if we must increase our order quantities.



Call Before You Dig - It's The Law!

Call 811 at least 48 hours before you dig!

*Valley technicians are unable to locate underground facilities unless we have received an order from South Dakota One Call. Protect yourself and make the call - It's FREE! If you are outside Valley's service area, or using a cell phone to place the call, you may need to dial the toll free number: 1-800-781-7474.

Your Valley Telco Board Of Directors

Eureka	605-284David Roggenkamp, Secretary
Glenham	605-762Michael Schlomer
Herreid	605-437Helen Thullner
Hosmer	605-283Charles Wolf
Ipswich	605-426J. David Williams, Vice President
Leola	605-439Richard Kolb
Long Lake	605-577Charles Maule
Mound City	605-955Dean Wessel, President
Pollock	605-889Donald Wittmeier, Treasurer

"Roger The Ringer"

Hide & Seek

Roger is Hiding on Page _____

My Phone Number Is _____



ClearConnections
COMMUNICATIONS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

