



GRAND MOUND PHONET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter Published for our Customers

September 2005

Holiday Closing

Grand Mound Coop. Telephone & Grand Mound Communications will be closed on

Monday, September 5th
for the 'Labor Day' holiday.

We will reopen on Tuesday,
September 6th
at our normal time.

Have a Safe & Enjoyable Labor Day
Weekend!

MSNBC is coming In September

MSNBC will be added to our Basic CATV lineup at the end of September. Around that time, please tune in to Channel 20 for the latest updates & announcements regarding MSNBC.

"FREE" PAY CHANNELS EXTENDED THROUGH SEPTEMBER

GMCC CATV customers will receive an additional month of free Pay Channels. We have extended our "Free Pay Channels" promotion through September 30th.

Also, during the month of September, if a customer calls us to sign up for any of the Pay Channels (HBO, Showtime or Cinemax), we will waive the \$10.00 charge that it normally costs to add a Pay Channel.

Pay Channel Pricing

1 Pay Channel \$ 9.95/mo.
2 Pay Channels \$16.95/mo.
3 Pay Channels \$20.95/mo.

PAYMENT INFO...

Payments are due on the 20th of each month. After the 20th, accounts are considered past due.

- ❖ Accounts with past due balances are subject to a \$1.00 late payment charge.
- ❖ Please include the bill stub with your payment so your account will be accurately credited.
- ❖ For your convenience, GMCTA & GMCC offers Automatic Bank Deductions. Payments can be taken automatically out of your checking account.
- ❖ There is a drop box at the GMCTA/GMCC

NEW DIRECTORY LISTINGS AND UPDATES

-B-

Ball, Sarah
715 East St Grand Mound.....847-1446

-D-

Donahue, Daniel
2386 250 Ave DeWitt.....847-3113

-I-

Iams, Charles & Stacia
707 DeWitt St Grand Mound....847-1454

-L-

Lichtenstein, J A
2151 240 Ave DeWitt.....847-3302

-S-

Schrumpf, Phil & Mary
2474 230 St DeWitt.....847-1443

-T-

Thompson, D
2079 230 St Calamus.....847-1342



SOLAR INTERFERENCE

During the month of October, we will be experiencing solar interference during which degradation or loss of satellite signal will occur on our CATV system.

The paths of the sun on satellite transmissions cause these 10 to 20-minute disruptions.

This will occur between the hours of 2:00-5:00 p.m. for approximately 10 days during October.



HAS SPYWARE TAKEN OVER YOUR COMPUTER?

Without your knowing it, your computer may be infested by another online plague called "spyware". Spyware is defined as software using an Internet connection in the background without your knowledge. Spyware isn't a single type of software. The term covers a diverse range of applications. A few, indeed, spy by logging your every keystroke and transmitting it over the Internet. Others run secretly, serving ads, slowing your computer's performance, and destabilizing your operating system. Spyware can seize control of your browser's home page, impose pop-up ads, or redirect you from Web sites you select to their competitors.

Spyware often infiltrates itself into a machine by piggybacking on seemingly innocent downloads of software from Web sites. It may be bundled with free software, including music- and movie-sharing programs.

Spyware can also exploit security weaknesses in an operating system or browser. Like spam, spyware is often used by third-party marketers associated with reputable companies whose products they are peddling.

Safe online practices can help prevent spyware from invading your computer. Two of the most recommended antispymware softwares available can be downloaded for free from their respective websites. The first is Lavasoft Ad-aware 6 Standard available at www.lavasoftusa.com. The second is Spybot-Search & Destroy available at www.safer-networking.org.

What is an Independent Telephone Company?

When they hear the words, "small telephone company," many people think of the "Baby Bells" that were a part of AT&T prior to divestiture. They do not realize that there are more than 1,300 independent telephone companies operating in the U.S., companies that never were part of the former Bell System.

Independent telephone companies serve primarily rural areas that the former Bell System chose not to serve and which otherwise may not have had local telephone service.

Many independents are small family-owned businesses, while others are subscriber-owned cooperatives. Generally these companies serve one or more small communities, providing telephone service to fewer than 100 to as many as several thousand customers. There are a few very large independents, such as GTE, that operate throughout much of the country. Also, there are several holding companies that each own a large number of small independent telephone companies.

5 WAYS TO AVOID SPYWARE

- Download and install software only from online sources you trust. Be wary of free music and movie file-sharing programs. Exercise caution with ad-supported applications, particularly if the ad component is provided by a third party. Close windows containing pop-up ads or unexpected warnings only by closing the entire window, not by clicking within the window.
- When installing software, read the license agreement before clicking on Agree or OK. Read any privacy statements. If those are difficult to find or include questionable practices, abort the installation by closing the window in which it's occurring. But don't try to close it by clicking Yes or I Accept.
- Adjust your Web browser software's security settings. If you use Microsoft Internet Explorer 6, keep its security level at medium or higher to block Web sites from downloading a file without your authorization.
- Use updated antispymware software to scan your hard drive regularly. Always download it from a trusted site, either the vendor's or one you know well.
- Learn more about spyware at www.spywareguide.com.



Published quarterly for
customers of

**Grand Mound Coop.
Telephone Assn.
and
Grand Mound
Communications Co.**

providing local
telephone service for the
Grand Mound area, PCS
Wireless, Voice Mail,
Paging Services, travel
calling cards, data and
fax services, CATV,
Internet, and DSL.

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Terri Bumann

Office Assistant

Dee Dee Banowetz

Combination Technician

Chris Beuthien

Board of Directors

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Roger Green
Rick Mineck
Ruth Schroeder
Harry Slaymaker
Wayne Whitman

