



GRAND MOUND PHONET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter Published for our Customers

March 2012

NOTICE

**All GMT Long Distance Travel Cards
will be discontinued on
March 15, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.**

Due to waning orders and our vendor's exit from this line of business, Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone and Iowa Network Services will no longer be providing Travel Cards (Calling Cards) as a product; therefore, effective March 15, 2012 at 8:00 a.m., all GMT Long Distance Travel Cards will no longer function.

If you need an alternative option to your Travel Card, we suggest purchasing a prepaid phone card that can be found at most retail locations.

Also, if you still have a Travel Card, we advise you to destroy it after March 15, 2012 or sooner if you are no longer using it.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions, please call our office at 563-847-3000.

**GRAND MOUND COOPERATIVE
TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION**

GMCTA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR MARCH 10, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the members of Grand Mound Cooperative Telephone Association will be on Saturday, March 10, 2012.

The meeting will be held at the Grand Mound Community Center beginning with a 12:00 noon luncheon followed by the business meeting at 1:00 p.m.

The business meeting will be for the purpose of electing directors and transacting other business as necessary.

The official notice of the meeting will be mailed to the members of GMCTA on February 29, 2012.

ZEUS RETURNS: FBI WARNS OF 'GAMEOVER' ID-THEFT MALWARE!

A new variant of the notorious Zeus identity-theft Trojan is making the rounds and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) says it is capable of defeating common methods of user authentication employed by financial institutions.

The latest strain of the ID-theft malware, called Gameover, begins as a phishing scheme with spam e-mails – purportedly from the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA), the Federal Reserve Bank, or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) – that leads to malware infection and eventual access to the victim's bank account.

From the FBI warning:

The malware is appropriately called "Gameover" because once it's on your computer; it can steal usernames and passwords and defeat common methods of user authentication employed by financial institutions. And once the crooks get into your bank account, it's definitely "game over."

Gameover is a newer variant of the Zeus malware, which was created several years ago and specifically, targeted banking information.

The FBI said the phishing lures typically includes a link in the e-mail that goes to a phony website. "Once you're there, you inadvertently download the Gameover malware, which promptly infects your computer and steals your banking information," it warned.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!



**Call Before You Dig!
1-800-292-8989**

Notification service for locating underground

Or Dial 811

Spring and summer are just around the corner. Of course, that means the digging season is knocking at our door.

Please call Iowa One Call at

811

or

1-800-292-8989

to have the underground facilities located and marked. Call 48 hours in advance of digging and remember that

IT'S THE LAW!

Order one, two or all three for your computer and receive



**Protection,
Peace of Mind and
Convenience**



**NOW AVAILABLE
THROUGH
GRAND MOUND COOP.
TELEPHONE
AND
GRAND MOUND
COMMUNICATIONS CO.!**

SecureIT Plus

Get a fully managed anti-virus/anti-spyware software package that protects your PC, controls the sites your kids visit, provides hard-drive maintenance plus sends you a monthly newsletter.

Online Backup

Features 50GB and 250GB storage points for Windows and Mac. After initial backup, this service automatically begins safeguarding your family photos and documents that matter most plus it can be used on multiple computers.

Password Genie

Designed for security and convenience, this password management tool works across multiple computers and users.

Easily save all your usernames and passwords in one securely protected location and accessible only by you.

Password Genie automatically logs you into your favorite sites saving you time by remembering all your passwords so you don't have to.

24/7 SecurityCoverage Technical Support available with all three of these services!



SUN OUTAGES COULD BE HEADED OUR WAY

Every spring and fall, usually during March and September, television viewers encounter a brief inconvenience known as sun interference. Sun interference occurs when a satellite transmitting TV signals comes directly between the earth and sun. The rays from the sun are so strong that they overpower the satellite's signals and cause channel outages.

For roughly two weeks during these periods, television signals may be interrupted or lost during the sunniest part of the day, between noon and 3 p.m. These interferences range from minor freezing or sparkles to a complete loss of signal, but usually only last 5 to 15 minutes.

Since signals are received from many different satellites, sun interferences may occur at different times on different channels.

Sun outages are a short-term problem and are not cable outages. There is no need to report an outage caused by the sun to our office.

Data backup is like talking about car insurance to most people. It isn't a fun topic to discuss, but if you've ever experienced a crashed computer or stolen laptop, you are painfully aware of the benefits of an external hard drive or an online backup source. Data backup allows users to store documents, photos, emails and files to a source other than their computer system. In the event of a computer crash or hardware malfunction, you are protected against loss of personal files. The cost of data backup varies depending on the amount of memory stored and whether you use an online resource or external hardware.

WARNING! With the spring storms soon to be approaching, remember to have a good surge protector installed on your computer/phone line or unplug power cords during the electrical storm to protect your computer.

For *Internet* related problems call:

**GMTel.net's Technical Support
1-866-847-4638.**

They are available to help you 24 / 7.



**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, DSL, FTTH and Wireless Internet.

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Business Office Hours

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8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Chris Beuthien

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