

The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

MANAGER MOMENT

I recently attended a meeting at Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) to help find ways to get more students to enroll in their Telecommunications program. I attended MTI after high school and graduated in 1996; back then there was a waiting list to get in if you didn't enroll early. I was shocked to find out only 5 students are graduating this year from the telecommunications program. I went into that program for a couple of reasons; I was assured a good job with good pay; I would have a choice of where I wanted to live (small town, city, or something

in between). I also knew that my job would change as technology changed, but I would always have a job. While sitting through the meeting, I realized all the reasons I went into telecommunications still exist today. The following article in this newsletter talks about SD Telecom workers; I would encourage everyone to read. It is quite surprising. If you know a high school student that doesn't know what they want to do, have them check out MTI's telecom program. It's a 2 year course and is by far less expensive than a 4 year college. I think one of the

best choices I ever made was going into the telecom class at MTI. If you have questions about the telecom program at MTI, you can reach them by phone at 605-995-3024 or check them out on the web at www.mitchelltech.edu. You can also talk to Matt Collins, Jason Urban, Trusty Mertens, or myself; we all took the telecom program there and would be happy to describe our experiences.

Jason Thiry
Marketing Manager

SDATC, MTI partner to meet state's telecom labor needs

In an economy awash with pink slips and hiring freezes, students on the verge of college graduation are wondering about their job prospects and high school graduates are unsure about smart career choices.

Despite continuing bad economic

news, one employment sector in the Midwest has a continued high demand for new workers: the telecommunications and data networking industry. SDATC is partnering with Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) in a joint effort to spread the word that telecommunications jobs are not going

away and recruit kids into telecom technologies.

It's basic supply and demand.

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**Thank
you**

We would like to thank everyone who stopped by our booth at either the Kennebec Business Appreciation or Farm & Home Show.

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WOMEN'S ENTERTAINMENT

This month's cable channel is Women's Entertainment (We). We is a channel that women can relate to with their fashion, beauty, home design, personal style, and relationships. Some of the programs you can watch on We includes Rich Bride, Poor Bride; Little Miss Perfect; I want to Save your Life; and Hopkins.

On each episode of Rich Bride, Poor Bride they look at how a bride, no matter what the size of her budget, struggles through the planning of her wedding.

Little Miss Perfect goes through the journey of competing for children's pageants. With pageant director Michael Galarus and two families, we see the pimp, practice, stress, and joy they go through in competing for pageants.

I Want to Save your Life features ways to help you eat healthier and loose weight. Charles Stuart Platin, aka Diet Detective, struggles with his weight and after loosing more than 50 lbs, and keeping

it off for more than 10 years, has made a mission to bring back America to a healthy living.

Hopkins is a seven-part series that takes you through the John Hopkins Hospital to meet patients in their struggles and the doctors forced to make life and death decisions, while keeping their personal relationships from unraveling.

If you would like to find out more about what We has to offer, you can find it on channel 243 of our

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: If I get a separate bill in the mail, is that amount included on my regular monthly phone bill?

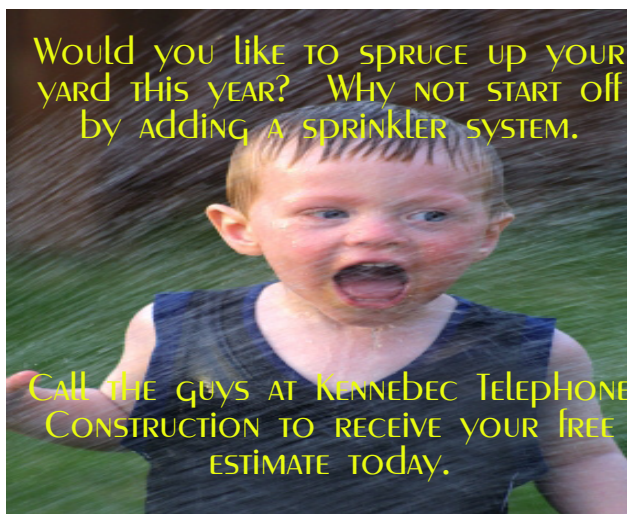
A: No, the telephone, long distance, cable TV, and internet charges come on a monthly bill. The reason you would get a separate bill is if you would get a jack installed with wiring, digging, electrical, or computer work done. We do this so that you are billed in a timely manner and our inventory is correct.

Q: If the power goes out will I still be able to use my phone?

A: Yes, as long as you have a corded phone plugged into a jack; corded phones unlike cordless phones do not use any electricity from your house. They get their power from the telephone company which will be running on back up power.

Q: Is there a way I can get a reduced rate on my phone services?

A: Yes, we have a program that is called Lifeline. If you qualify, you can receive \$8.25 off your phone bill every month.



Would you like to spruce up your yard this year? Why not start off by adding a sprinkler system.

Call the guys at KENNEBEC TELEPHONE CONSTRUCTION TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY.

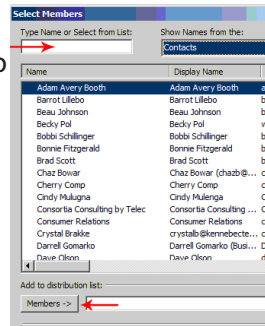


We will be having an Easter Coloring Contest for kids ages 2 to 6. If you would like to participate you can either stop by our office or visit our website for a copy of the picture. Please return it by Friday, April 3rd.

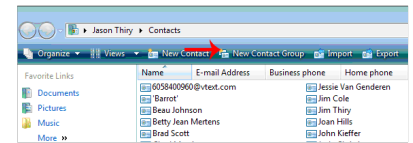
CREATING A GROUP/DISTRIBUTION LIST

Do you have a group of people that you send out emails to regularly? Would you like to just type in one name instead of 10 different ones? This can all be taken care of by setting up a group email. The following will guide you through on how to set up a group/distribution list in MS Outlook and Windows Mail.

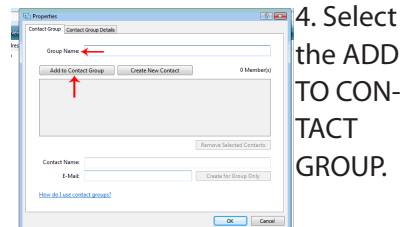
The second way to set up a distribution list is by copying names from an email message.



2. Next click on NEW CONTACT GROUP.



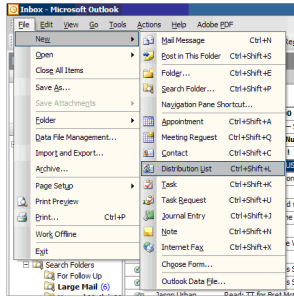
3. Under the CONTACT GROUP tab click in the GROUP NAME and type the name you want for the list.



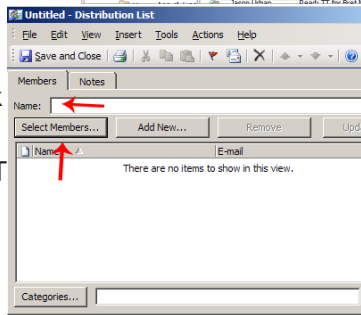
4. Select the ADD TO CONTACT GROUP.

Using MS Outlook, there are two ways to create a list. The first one is creating a distribution list using the Address Book.

1. Go to the FILE menu and click on NEW and the DISTRIBUTION LIST.



2. In the NAME box, type a name.



3. Click on SELECT MEMBERS.

4. In the SHOW NAMES from list, click the address book you want to use.

5. Either TYPE THE NAME OR SELECT from the list box. In the list below, select the name and click MEMEBERS. Do this for each person you want to add and then click ok.

1. In the email message SELECT the names you want to copy.

2. Go the EDIT menu and click COPY.

3. The click on the FILE menu and point to NEW, then click on DISTRIBUTION LIST.

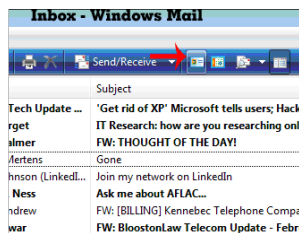
4. When the NAME box appears enter the name you want for the list.

5. Click SELECT MEMEBERS

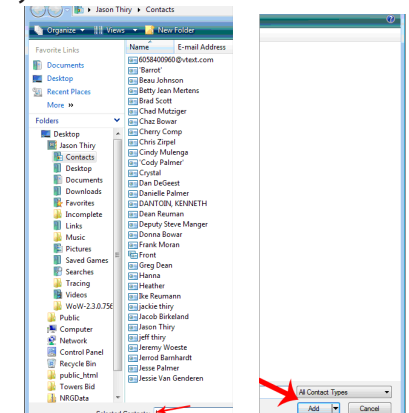
6. Then in the ADD TO DISTRIBUTION list, right-click and select PASTE.

Using Windows Mail you need to do the following to create a group.

1. Click on the CONTACTS icon at the top of the page.



5. From your contacts select the people you want by holding the CTRL button down and selecting the people you want and click on ADD when you have everyone for your list.



6. Click ok in the Properties Dialog box when done.

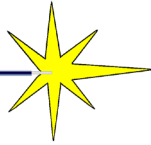
Important Dates:

Daylight Savings
St. Patrick's Day
Spring Begins

March 8
March 17
March 20

Directory Changes:

Presho Fire Dept. Non-Emergency 895-2423



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Our mission is to provide the highest quality telecommunications and information service to our customers at an affordable price. We will strive to offer prompt, friendly and dependable service along with the latest technology to attain the highest possible customer satisfaction.



If you would like more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter feel free to contact us at 605-869-2220.

Meeting telecom future labor needs in South Dakota

Service Demand=Employee Demand

While the economy is forcing many consumers to make sacrifices in order to save a few bucks, the demand for telecommunications-related services is expected to remain steady. According to a recent survey conducted by BIG-research for STORES magazine, an overwhelming majority of Americans said that Internet (81%), cell phone (64%), and cable television (61%) are services they cannot do without.

In addition to standard landline telephone service, all SDATC member companies offer high speed internet. Many member companies also offer wireless and television/video services. Where

there's demand for technology-based services, there's demand for technology-trained employees, and that makes pursuing a telecom technologies or data networking degree a smart choice for the upcoming crop of South Dakota high school graduates.

While the demand for telecommunications workers remains constant, the number of trained workers in the industry is expected to decrease due to the maturity of the current telecommunications workforce in South Dakota and across the nation.

A recent SDATC survey showed that 6.2% of outside plant, central office, IT, Internet, computer,

and networking technicians and supervisors currently working for SDATC member companies plan to retire in 2009. By the end of 2014 another 16.2% of these workers expect to retire, with an additional 7.4% anticipating retirement by 2019.

All told, current technical workforce attrition due to retirement will be nearly 30% over the next 10 years. This expected decline in the number of trained telecom employees working in South Dakota has spurred SDATC/SDTA to partner with Mitchell tech to inform and recruit students into telecom training programs.