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10-Digit Dialing Mandatory as of July 6, 2022

Everyone in South Dakota will soon have to dial local numbers using 10 digits — the area code and the seven-digit phone number.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

In order for 988 to work in the 605 area code, 10-digit local dialing must first be implemented. To complete local calls, all customers in the 605 area code will

need to dial the area code followed by the seven-digit telephone number. Ten-digit dialing will become mandatory for our network (and most of South Dakota) on July 6, 2022.

This will affect both landlines and cell phones. If you have programmed seven-digit phone numbers into speed dial functions or cellphone contact lists, you will need to reprogram those as 10-digit numbers in order to make a phone call after that point.

You can visit <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline> for more information.



Grand Giveaway Winner

Congratulations to Josh and Hannah Carlson, who won a \$200 Aberdeen Parks & Recreation gift card, in our Grand Giveaway! Their son, Oscar, is pictured with Hannah.

Wondering how to register? No problem, because there's no purchase or registration, just winners! Each month we randomly select one of our "grand" residential customers to win. Our next winner could be you!

Call 811 Before You Dig

Summer construction season is upon us, so remember to call SD One-Call before doing any digging for construction or home improvement projects. SD One-Call will help determine if there are any buried utility lines in your yard. The call is free and there is no charge for the utilities to locate their

facilities. By calling SD One-Call at least 48 hours before you dig, you can avoid costly bills that may be charged to you if facilities are cut. Calls to SD One-Call are answered 24 hours a day.

Visit www.sdonecall.com for more information.

Aberdeen Area Humane Society Sponsored Pet

Mayhem is our May Aberdeen Area Humane Society sponsored pet. She is a 1-year-old Doberman mix who came to the AAHS as a transfer from the City Shelter in June of 2021. If our sponsored pet is adopted in their corresponding month, we will donate \$250 to AAHS.

As of printing deadline, Mayhem is still available. You can find out more about her and other available pets at anewleashonlife.net or call the AAHS at 226-1200 to schedule a time to visit.



Lifeline Discounts Available

Lifeline is a federal program that provides a monthly discount on home phone, cell phone or internet service to eligible low-income households. If you qualify, the Lifeline assistance program provides a \$9.25 credit on your monthly internet service or a \$5.25 credit on your monthly home phone or cell phone service. Only one discount is available per household on either your home phone, cell phone or internet service. Please visit lifelinesupport.org for more information about the Lifeline program or NV.FCC.gov to apply for Lifeline benefits.



Mother's Day Contest Winner

Congratulations to Linda Schmig who was our Mother's Day giveaway winner in May and won a \$100 Mavericks gift card.

Linda was randomly selected after posting her favorite thing about being a mom on Facebook. Thank you to all the moms that participated.



Weather Precautions

According to weather.gov/safety/lightning, each year in the United States more than 400 people are struck by lightning. Lightning kills an average of 20 people in the United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured. Most of these tragedies can be avoided with a few simple precautions. When thunderstorms threaten, get to a safe place. Lightning safety is an inconvenience that can save your life.

In addition to protecting yourself by staying inside during storms, it is also imperative to protect your equipment from lightning strikes. Computers, monitors, routers, printers, televisions, electronic telephones, cable TV boxes, and any other electronic items made with delicate components are potentially in danger.

Lightning can enter your home through three paths: 1) Electrical wiring from power lines that feed your house, 2) Data wiring used for telephone, DSL, and cable services, 3) Directly through the atmosphere.

While there are no guarantees, there are steps you can take to minimize the chance of your equipment being damaged during a storm. All equipment should have adequate, high-quality surge suppression and/or battery backup power to

protect from damage caused by a potential lightning surge. However, the best guarantee for protecting your equipment is to simply unplug it before severe storms arrive. If you will be away from home during the thunderstorm season, unplug your equipment before you leave.

For more information about lightning and its potentially harmful effects, visit the website mentioned above or lightningsafety.com.



Hub City Radio Mobile Alerts are a great way to get weather updates via text message. You can get alerts by county as well as a daily forecast. Visit hubcityradio.com to sign up.

You can also download various weather apps including Dakota

News Now Weather, Accuweather, or The Weather Channel at Google Play Store.

Refer A Friend

Looking for some easy money? Just refer a friend to NVC and you and your friend will each get a \$100

credit on your next bill! Just have them give us your name as the referrer.

Travel Tips to Stay Safe While Away

Summer is here, which means barbeques, picnics and maybe a getaway is right around the corner. If you're getting ready for camping and travel season, check out these tips below before you go.

Secure your home.

Don't make it easy for burglars to get inside your home. Move your hidden keys, make sure the cameras are charged and working, lock all your windows, and take an inventory of what you've left inside your home.

Be aware of online scams.

Nothing will spoil your getaway faster than knowing that you have been swindled out of your vacation budget. Entering phrases like 'best deals' into whichever search engine used can sometimes bring up websites that look official, but are designed solely to take advantage of consumers.

Don't rush to post on social media about your trip.

Don't announce to the world that you won't be home for a couple of days, and don't mention when

you will be back. It is OK to post vacation photos but wait until you're home. It may save you from having unwanted guests in your home.

Ask a friend or neighbor for help.

Have someone you know well bring in your packages and mail, since it can be a giveaway no one is home. They could also water plants and make sure the appliances are still working. Make sure they know how to contact you in case of an emergency.

Bring along important documents.

Whether it's a paper copy or in electronic form, having a copy of your insurance cards, passport, vaccine record and any necessary medical forms can be helpful if your luggage is lost or stolen.

A summer vacation is meant to be a relaxing time. These tips should help you feel at ease while away.



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