

the NETWORK



Built by James Valley
Telecommunications

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The Groton office remodel is off to a loud start with walls coming down and spaces opening up. You can already see the potential for a brighter, more open layout. This first step makes everything feel real and sets the tone for the exciting changes still to come! The top picture is from a previous remodel in 1996 when a board room and additional offices were added.



The payment drop box will not be available during the Groton office construction.



Grand Giveaway Winner

Congratulations to Stacy Zimmerman who won a \$100 Netflix gift card, a \$50 Hulu gift card and a \$100 credit on her account in our Grand Giveaway!

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!

AAHS Sponsored Pet

We are so happy to share our January Aberdeen Area Humane Society sponsored pet Shadow was adopted!

We donate \$250 to the AAHS if our sponsored pet is adopted during that month. Thank you to all who shared our post on Facebook! The AAHS is full of amazing animals waiting to find homes. Visit anewleashonlife.net to find your new best friend!



Update Your Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us to update your email address and ensure we have the one you use the most.

We use email addresses to send important messages on our hours, products, possible equipment upgrades, etc. We also use cell

numbers to contact customers about billing and upgrades. If you have a number you would prefer we use, please let us know.

We will not share or sell your email address or cell number to any other company.

2026 Bob Peterson Memorial Scholarship

James Valley Telecommunications will be awarding three \$2,000 scholarships this school year to area seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of the cooperative.

Scholarship applications have been forwarded to the guidance counselors at area schools. Applications are also available online at www.jamesvalley.com.

The deadline for returning an application to James Valley Telecommunication's office is February 27, 2026. All applications must be received in the office by that date to be considered.

Seniors must be attending an accredited college, university or vocational school in South Dakota in the fall of 2026. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. As part of the application process, all applicants must submit an essay of 400 words or less on the topic, "What innovation do you think will have the biggest impact in the next 10 years - and why?"

JVT members can also apply for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) scholarship. Requirements and application instructions are available at frs.org.



No more dead spots with NVC worry free Wi-Fi

State High School Events Coverage

State Gymnastics: Mitchell, Friday - Saturday, February 13 - 14

- Vault - Special Events ch 151
- Bars - Special Events ch 152
- Beam - Special Events ch 153
- Floor - Special Events ch 154

Esports State Tournament: Aberdeen, Friday - Saturday, February 13 - 14

- livestream on sdpb.org/esports

State Wrestling: Sioux Falls, Thursday - Saturday, February 26 - 28

- all matches available at trackwrestling.com and sdpb.org

Check our Facebook page for updates.

What is an Authenticator Code?

You may have recently logged into your bank account or another service and been prompted to enter an authenticator code. An authenticator is a security app installed on your smartphone, tablet, or computer. It generates temporary, 6-digit, one-time passwords (OTPs) that help verify your identity when signing in to apps or websites.

You were likely asked for an authenticator code because the service requires Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), also known as Two-Factor Authentication (2FA), to help keep your account secure.

An authenticator provides a second layer of security in addition to your password. Unlike SMS text messages, authenticator apps do not require internet access or cellular service to generate codes. They work by syncing with the service's server time.

You may be prompted for an authenticator code for several reasons, including:

Credential protection: Even if a hacker steals your password, they cannot access your account without the physical device that generates the code.

New device or location: Logging in from a new device, browser, or location may be flagged as

suspicious activity.

Compliance requirements: Many financial institutions, workplaces, and educational organizations require MFA to meet security regulations.

SIM-swapping protection: Authenticator apps are more secure than SMS codes, which can be intercepted by hackers.

Enhanced security: MFA confirms your identity using "something you know" (your password) and "something you have" (your phone or device).

Accessing sensitive information: You may be changing passwords, updating billing details, or accessing confidential work or financial data.

If you receive an authenticator prompt without attempting to log in, this may indicate that someone else has your password and is trying to access your account.

Common authenticator apps include Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator, and Authy, all of which are available in your device's app store.

FBI Warns Android TV Boxes Contain Malware

Beware of “free TV boxes” that promise unlimited access to live sports, movies, or premium channels. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. These devices can expose your home network to malware, hackers, and serious security risks.

The FBI has issued a warning about a large-scale malware campaign known as “BadBox 2.0.” This threat has been found on millions of internet-connected devices, including TV streaming boxes, digital projectors, and even aftermarket vehicle entertainment systems.

According to the FBI, many of the affected devices were manufactured in China and secretly backdoored to host malware. In some cases, the malware is installed before the product is sold; in others, devices become infected during setup when required apps containing hidden backdoors are downloaded.

Warning signs your device may be compromised:

Streaming devices from unknown or unrecognized brands.

Unofficial or suspicious app stores.

Requests to disable Google Play Protect.

Devices without Google Play Protect certification.

Ads or prompts offering “free” streaming from unofficial sources.

How to reduce your risk:

Avoid downloading apps from unofficial app stores.

Disconnect any device that appears suspicious.

Replace questionable streaming boxes with products from well-known, trusted brands.

Keep devices updated and regularly review what’s connected to your home network.

As your trusted provider, you can be confident that any device NVC installs in your home meets strict safety and security standards.



FREE your family with an Unlimited Data plan!

GET IN TOUCH WITH NVC

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SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY ENEWSLETTER AT [NVC.NET](https://www.nvc.net)

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