

JUN 09 2006

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

June 8, 2006

Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Docket No. TC05-153


Dear Commissioners:

Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. and its subsidiary companies (Golden West), in response to the Commission's Order dated June 5, 2006, notify the Commission that effective June 1, 2006, 811 was implemented as a National Abbreviated Dialing Code for One Call Notification throughout our serving areas.

The Golden West Telecommunications June 2006 newsletter (copy enclosed), informed all customers of their ability to dial 811 for One Call Notification.

Respectfully submitted,

Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.
Armour Independent Telephone Company
Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company
Kadoka Telephone Company
Sioux Valley Telephone Company
Union Telephone Company
Vivian Telephone Company


Gwen Davis, Administrative Assistant

Enc.

Horizons

June 2006

A Newsletter for Customers of Golden West

DIGITAL DEN

an Electronic Playground for the Entire Family

possibilities. What are you looking for? Inside on page 2

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Call Before You Dig Is Now As Easy As Calling 311

DIGITAL DEN - an Electronic Playground for the Entire Family

Grand Opening June 1-1

Remember the days when a well equipped den meant a color TV, a leather sofa and matching recliner, some Archie and Veronica comic books, a few issues of Mad Magazine, a good selection of board games, including staples like MONOPOLY® and Scrabble®, and if you were really lucky, your own VHS or Betamax VCR?

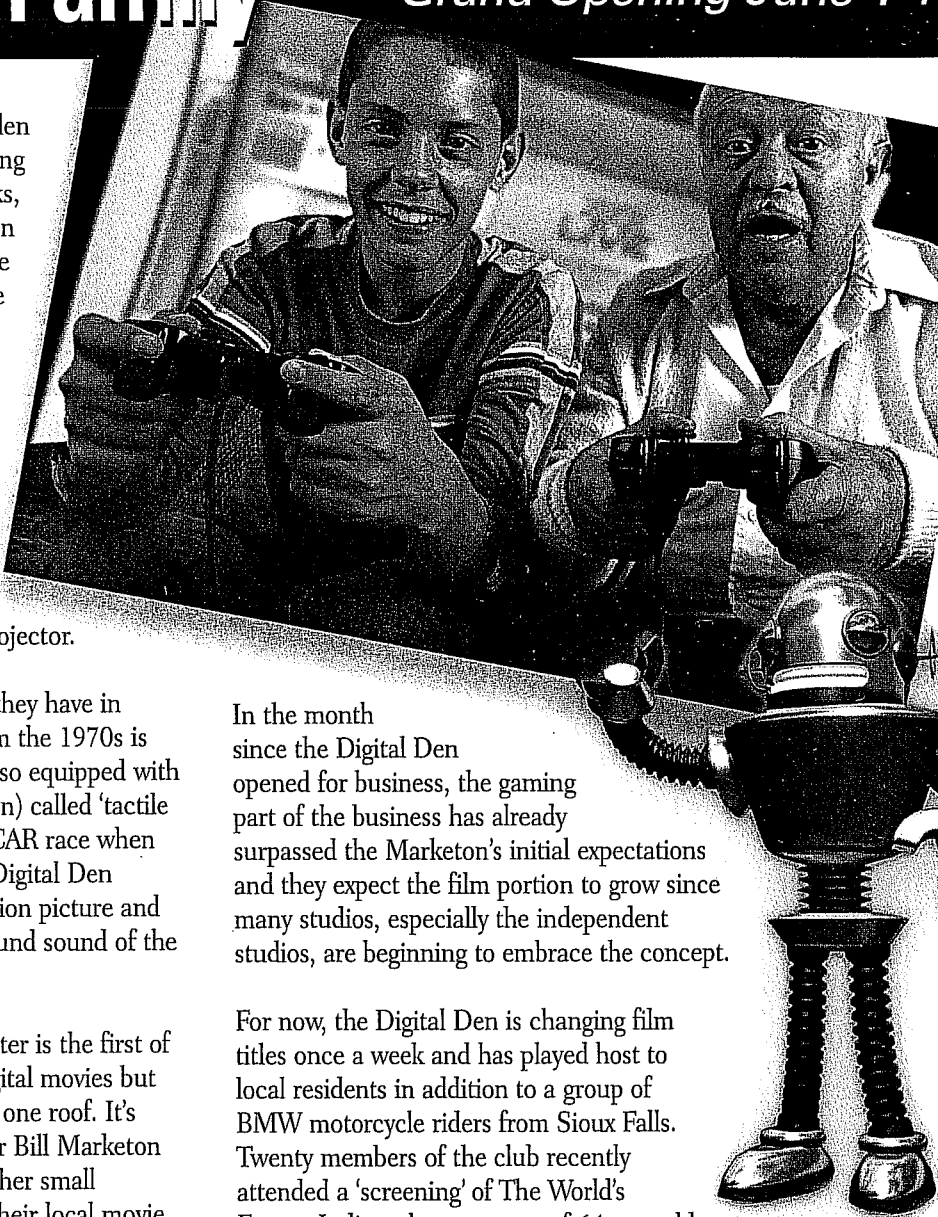
Well fast forward a few decades to the Digital Den, a new family entertainment center in Hartford, SD, and you'll find, among other things, a 43" plasma TV and XBOX 360 for gaming, six high-end personal computers set up specially for gaming and a 41-seat theatre equipped with a 12' by 7' screen, THX Surround Sound and High Definition Video projector.

And as for those 41 seats, about the only thing they have in common with their La-Z-Boy® counterparts from the 1970s is the comfort because eight of the recliners are also equipped with a feature (perhaps better described as a sensation) called 'tactile sound'. "You feel like you're trackside at a NASCAR race when the drivers are told to start their engines," said Digital Den owner Bill Marketon describing the high definition picture and the vibration that accompanies the digital surround sound of the powerful engines firing to life.

This unique all digital family entertainment center is the first of its kind in the nation that combines not just digital movies but gaming and high definition television, all under one roof. It's also one that, if the model works in Hartford for Bill Marketon and his wife Christy, could work in countless other small communities across the nation that have seen their local movie theatres disappear to be replaced by giant cinemplex theatres in neighboring cities.

"Anyone can go and rent a video and watch it on their own 27" television equipped with surround sound but it's not set up to project sound and provide the visual experience the producer intended," said Marketon comparing the Digital Den viewing experience to what the producers and directors see and hear in their own screening rooms.

The same holds true for many of the video games that customers can rent. "People can play many of these same games at home but they won't have the speed to make it as seamless," said Marketon. The same high end computers that make this possible, when teamed up with the Digital Den's high-speed Internet connection from Golden West, also make it possible for gamers to play other gamers from anywhere in the world. How's that for inviting someone over to play games?



In the month since the Digital Den opened for business, the gaming part of the business has already surpassed the Marketon's initial expectations and they expect the film portion to grow since many studios, especially the independent studios, are beginning to embrace the concept.

For now, the Digital Den is changing film titles once a week and has played host to local residents in addition to a group of BMW motorcycle riders from Sioux Falls. Twenty members of the club recently attended a 'screening' of *The World's Fastest Indian*, the true story of 64-year-old New Zealander Burt Munro who, along with his 1920 Indian Motorcycle, set a world speed record at the Bonneville Salt Flats in 1963.

The group loved the movie and was equally impressed with the \$4 admission cost, a price not seen at most movie theatres since the late 1980s. The 'Autobahners' were even more surprised by the \$1.25 cost for a large box of popcorn.

Stop in during the Digital Den's open house from June 1st through June 11th and see today how the well-equipped den of the future will look. The Digital Den is open from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily and is located next to the Sunshine Grocery Store at the corner of Highway 38 and Main Street. You can also contact the Digital Den by calling 605-528-4263 or by going on line to www.digitalden.biz.

Are Keyloggers Looking Over Your Electronic Shoulder?

How to Safeguard Your Keystrokes

There you are, tapping away on your computer keyboard, doing your banking online, buying things online. It's fun, it's convenient. . . and, unfortunately, it's a security risk.

Internet communications are protected in various ways, and the majority of them are safe and secure. But new ways to gain access to critical information spring up about as quickly as mushrooms in a lawn after a good rainstorm. One of the newest types of security-defying technology is something called keylogging.

Keylogging uses a small piece of software called a keylogger to gain access to personal information like account numbers, log-ins and passwords. Pick one up while surfing the Internet or get an email that contains one and it will monitor or mirror everything you do on your keyboard. It then compiles your keystrokes in a file and sends it to some nameless, faceless evil-doer. When this individual receives enough of these files, he'll run a software program that analyzes the various keystrokes for two things: numbers in series and words that look like passwords. That's all the hacker needs to get access to things like bank accounts and other sensitive information.

Keylogging is becoming more of a problem, as many people don't know that their machines are infected until a security breach happens. What's more, simply changing passwords and log-ins won't fool the programs; they're that good at tossing out junk keystrokes and identifying the ones that lead to the information they're looking for.

Golden West is taking measures to protect customers with our new outbound email filtering system that scans for problems. Most emails carrying viruses are intercepted and senders are notified of problems as they occur.

Getting a keylogging notice isn't any fun, but it is something to pay attention to. Should you receive one, keep in mind that it's not just your problem. It can affect everyone you communicate with on-line and, in turn, everyone they communicate with. And so on and so on.

Keylogging fixes include anti-virus software to remove their installation from your computer and firewalls to protect you while you surf so that you don't get them in the first place. If you are interested in an anti-virus software, call any of our offices and ask a customer service representative about Golden West's



Keep Us Posted . . .

We Like to Hear Good News Too.

Parents usually receive their fair share of well-deserved thanks when an appreciative son or daughter graduates from college but it's not at all common for a corporation to receive a college graduation announcement from one of its earlier scholarship recipients.

That trend changed this year for the first time since Golden West launched its scholarship program eight years ago when a 2002 scholarship recipient wrote to thank the Company for its support and to say that she was graduating this spring with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice.

Companies look upon scholarship programs as an investment in the future so it's always nice to know that the investment paid off. Congratulations and our own thank you to Marie Yellow Boy, a 2002 graduate of Pine Ridge High School, and best wishes to the following 2006 Golden West Scholarship Recipients – make us proud!

At-Large Recipient – Jami Crew, Kadoka (St. Thomas More)

Armour High School – Matthew Preheim

Avon High School – Amanda DeJong

Bennett County High School – Savannah K. Gregg

Bon Homme High School – Laura Odens

Bonesteel-Fairfax High School – Evan Schmitz

Bridgewater High School – Stacy Weber

Burke High School – Mark E. Horn

Canistota Public High School – Lindsey Peters

Colome High School – Chris Sherman

Corsica High School – Erin Muckey

Crazy Horse School – Evangeline Poor Bear

Custer High School – Jessica Stanton

Dell Rapids High School – Nicholas E. Evans

Edgemont High School – Katie A. Childers

Faith High School – Kelsey D. Giesler

Freeman Academy High School – Bethany Miller

Freeman High School – Tiffany J. Hora

Gregory High School – Benjamin Kafka

Hot Springs High School – Joel D. Rickenbach

Jones County High School – Kevin Ball

Kadoka High School – Kimberly D. Ulman

Little Wound High School – TyAnn Poutier

Lower Brule High School – Ross Medicine Crow

Lyman School District – Amy Stewart

Marion High School – Travis Ducheneaux

Menno High School – Amber J. Mehlfaj

Midland High School – Chelsea L. Nemecek

Montrose High School – David Painter

New Underwood High School – Angela Drown

Pine Ridge High School – Deanna Big Crow

Philip High School – Heather J. Finn

Plankinton High School – Jena Kristensen

Red Cloud High School – Anna M. Diaz

Saint Francis Indian School – Kenneth Littlewolf

Saint Mary's High School (Dell Rapids) – Kari M. Michel

Scotland High School – Ashley L. Sternhagen

Stanley County High School – Serena Norman

Todd County High School – James Colombe

Tri-Valley High School – Ryan O'Hara

Wall High School – Tiffany Trask

West Central High School – Mollie Muir

White River High School – Erin Heimert

Winner High School – Joseph Drake





Can You Name Seven of Your Closest Friends?

Pick One With a Large Van or SUV.

Where were you last year on the 3rd of July? If you can't remember then you probably weren't one of the approximately 40,000 people who made the trek to Mt. Rushmore to watch the Independence Day Fireworks Display or one of the estimated 20,000 people who watched it from the nearby roads and mountain tops.

If you'd like a reserved seat for this year's Independence Day Celebration and take along seven of your closest friends, then enter the Golden West drawing and not only win reserved seating for eight but a reserved parking place as well.

Last year's pyrotechnic festivities, were watched by more than 27 million households and ranked as one of the top ten fireworks displays in the country. In fact, the Independence Day Celebration has become the second largest event held in the beautiful Black Hills each year surpassed only by another noisy event, the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in August.

The July 3rd activities at Mount Rushmore actually begin that afternoon at 1 p.m. with performances by the likes of the USAF Heartland of America Band, Kenny Putnam and the Fine Pine Quintet, Tonic Sōlfa and others. Xanterra Parks and Resorts, the concessionaire at Mount Rushmore, has also contracted with Brule' to perform on a stage near the Carver Dining Room/Gift Shop.

To enter the drawing (one entry per family), go on-line to www.gwtc.net. Entry forms are also available at Golden West business offices: 415 Crown Street, Wall; 1510 National Ave., Hot Springs; 804 East 2nd St., Mission; 2727 North Plaza Dr., Rapid City; 525 East 4th St., Dell Rapids and 116 N. Main Ave., Hartford. The deadline for entering is June 22nd.

Protect Yourself from "Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda" Syndrome

South Dakota weather is hard to predict but one thing you can count on again this summer is your fair share of electrical or lightning storms.

While these storms oftentimes don't produce much in the line of rainfall, they can throw some lightning bolts your way that can lay waste to computers, telephones and other electronic devices not protected by a good lightning or surge protector.

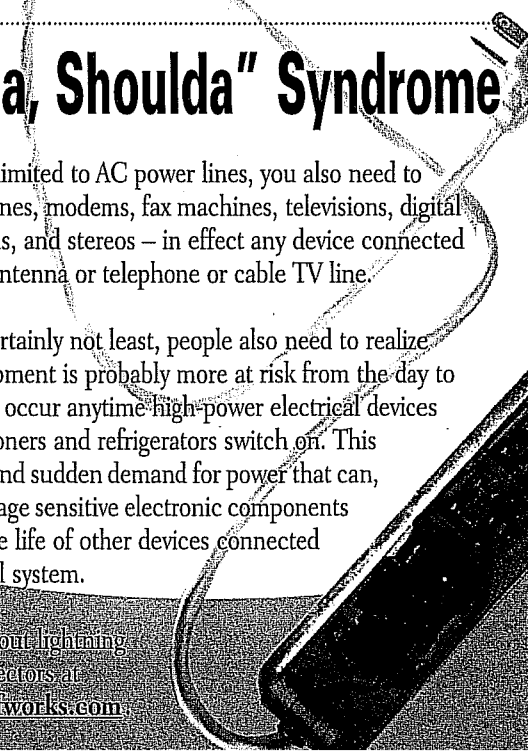
Surge protectors are designed to protect electronic devices from a sudden surge or increase in the standard 120 volts found in normal household and office wiring. Even then, many experts recommend unplugging computers and other expensive electronics during a lightning storm.

To prevent yourself from suffering from the "woulda, coulda, shoulda" syndrome, you need to first ask yourself what you're trying to protect and secondly, how much is it worth. And since

surges are not limited to AC power lines, you also need to protect telephones, modems, fax machines, televisions, digital TV boxes, VCRs, and stereos – in effect any device connected to an exterior antenna or telephone or cable TV line.

And last but certainly not least, people also need to realize that their equipment is probably more at risk from the day to day surges that occur anytime high-power electrical devices like air conditioners and refrigerators switch on. This causes a brief and sudden demand for power that can, over time, damage sensitive electronic components and shorten the life of other devices connected to the electrical system.

Learn more about lightning and surge protectors at www.howstuffworks.com.



April Showers Bring More Than May Flowers . . . Way More.

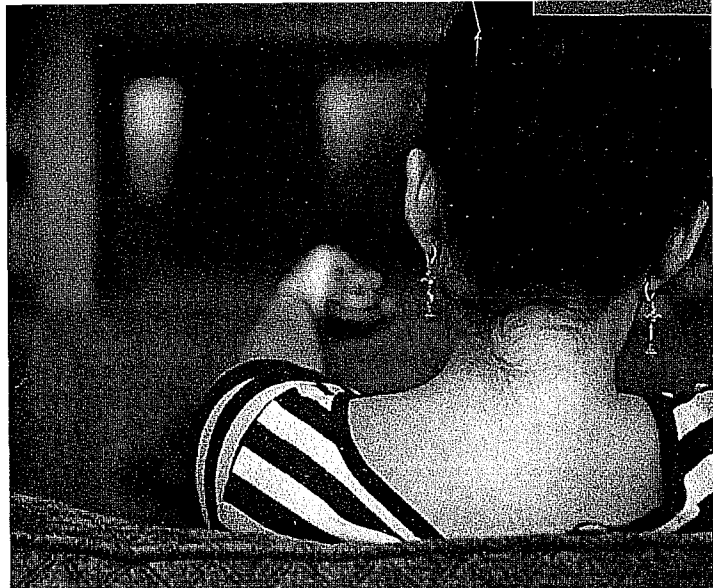
Timing can sometimes be everything as employees at Golden West recently discovered when 30 new standby power generators arrived the same day as the April 18th snow storm that left many customers in the Maurine and Enning telephone exchanges without power.

And while the storm didn't affect the Company's underground telephone cables in the areas about 50 miles east of Newell and Sturgis, it did eliminate the commercial power to several of the RSTs or electronic cabinets used to extend one-party service and high-speed Internet to several rural customers.

"We learned a lot from last November's severe storm in central and eastern South Dakota and one of those lessons is that you can never have too many standby generators," said Golden West General Manager/CEO George Strandell. In fact, the Company had enough generators on hand to loan several to West River Cooperative Telephone Company in Bison whose sister cooperative, Grand Electric, lost nearly 1,800 poles and suffered an estimated \$2.5 million in damage as a result of the storm.

Local Golden West technicians stationed in the area took turns visiting the 17 RST sites every 18 hours to refill the 2.9-gallon gas tanks and were able, as a result, to keep telephone and high-speed Internet working throughout the storm. Some of the cabinet locations were powered by the standby generators from April 18th through April 28th before commercial power was restored.

The April storm points out another reason why it's important to have a regular phone, not just a cordless phone in your home, in case the commercial power fails. Oh yeah, it might not be a bad idea to also have a generator of your own to power your home computer if you want to surf the Internet while you wait out the storm (and its aftermath).



Is Your TiVo® Calling?

It used to be easy to blame problems around the house on your children or a forgetful spouse but with the advent of computers and other devices that literally have a memory and sometimes a mind of their own, those problems may now be more electronic in nature than human.

The latest episode to premiere on the "I didn't make this call" show is one of those electronic problems with human overtones that's been traced back to TiVo®, digital video recording (DVR) devices that are quickly revolutionizing the way people record and later view their favorite TV shows.

A TiVo®, like its VCR predecessor, can be easily programmed to record a particular show on television but that's where the similarity ends because while a VCR can be programmed, a TiVo® can be 'taught' to look for and record any program that falls within a particular viewing interest.

Let's say for example that you like gardening. The TiVo® is able to download, through a phone or Internet connection, an up-to-date schedule of what's playing for the next two weeks on all channels and then use that information to find and automatically record (up to 140 hours) any gardening related program that appears on your line-up.

Teaching the TiVo® the least expensive way to call to download that updated programming information can, however, be a bit of a problem because TiVo® only provides local dial-in numbers in 27 communities across South Dakota. And as luck would have it, those local numbers are located in larger communities like Aberdeen, Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

If you have a TiVo® and don't have toll-free access to a local dial-in number for scheduling updates, try accessing and downloading that same programming information via your high-speed DSL connection. You can receive detailed information from TiVo® on how to connect to your wireless or wired network by going to <http://customersupport.tivo.com/subjects.asp?W1tstl=body>

Calling *BEFORE* You Dig is Now as Easy as Dialing **811**

One Call Does it All at South Dakota One Call

Have you ever stopped to count the number of utilities and other services that are buried in your backyard? A quick inventory might include electric, telephone, cable TV, water, sewer, natural gas and propane service and maybe even that lawn sprinkler system that you installed a few years ago.

Calling to have all those buried utilities located (with the possible exception of the sprinkler system) is now as easy as dialing 8-1-1 thanks to the creation of a national call-before-you-dig 3-digit telephone number by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Officials at the FCC hope the new 811 number for underground locations will become as familiar to people as dialing 911 has for reporting emergencies or 511 for checking on road conditions. The new number is aimed at reducing some of the 400,000 excavation incidents each year that interrupt service and worst of all, result in about 50 fatalities.

Most states, South Dakota included, have established "one call centers" for people to call before they dig with those centers collectively handling between fifteen and twenty million calls with South Dakota contributing about 135,000 calls to that annual total. Even then, accidents still occur because about 40% of the people don't bother calling before doing something as simple as planting that new tree in the backyard or putting in that new chain link fence.

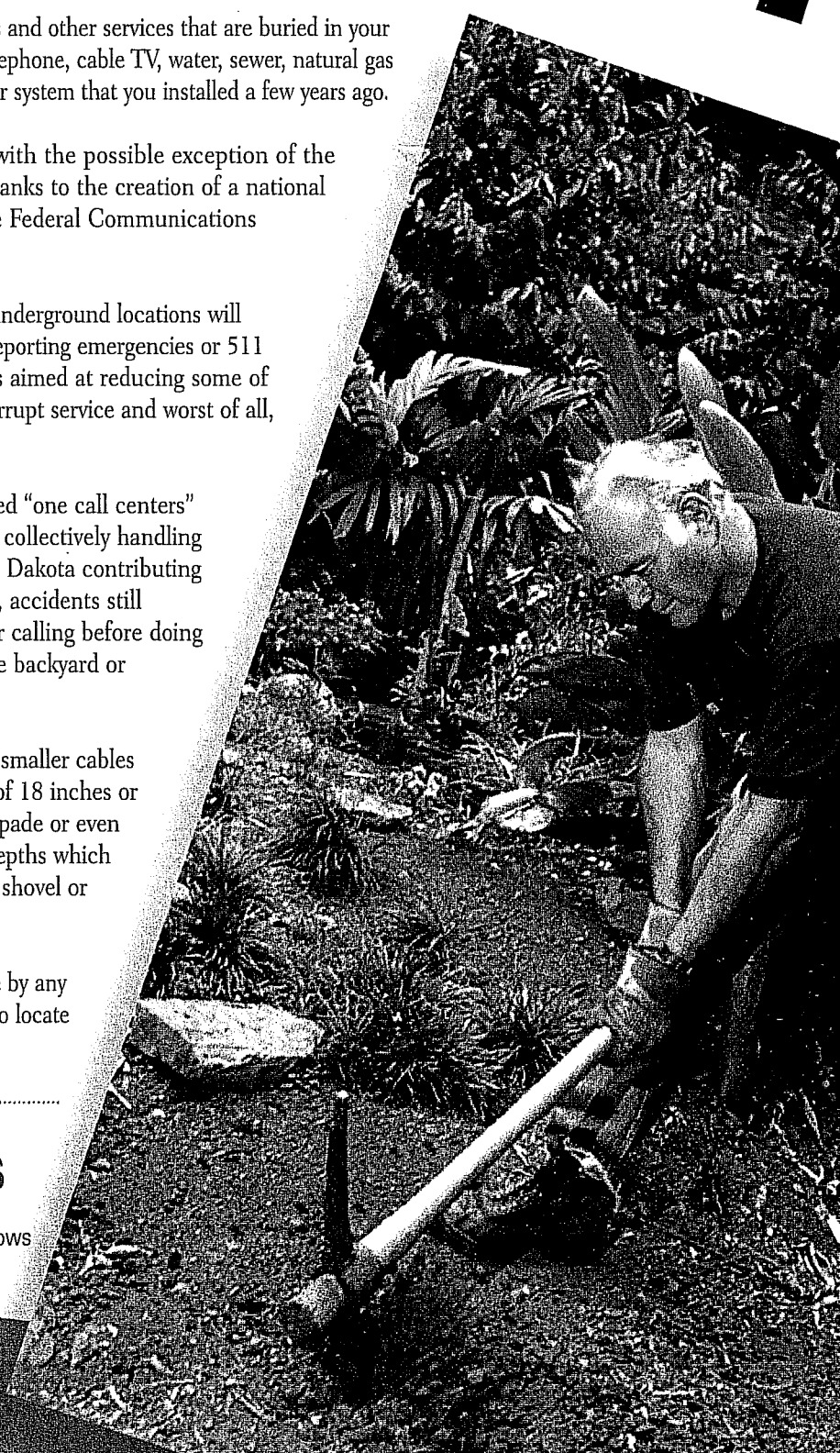
Buried telephone and television lines, especially the smaller cables that cross your yard, may only be buried to a depth of 18 inches or less and could be easily damaged or cut by a sharp spade or even a sand shovel. Other utilities are buried at varying depths which is another good reason to call before getting out the shovel or starting up the backhoe.

Calls to **811** are free and best of all, there's no charge by any of the utilities to come to your residence or business to locate underground facilities. Could it get any easier?

TiVo[®] Factoids

According to the TiVo[®] website, the most-recorded shows (series) the week of Sunday, May 14, 2006 included:

- 1 Desperate Housewives
- 2 American Idol
- 3 Lost
- 4 24
- 5 The Sopranos





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Deluxe Caller ID Includes:

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Deluxe Caller ID works with most newer Caller ID equipped telephones.
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