

Cell phone savvy gives job seekers edge

REGIONAL — Whether you are laid off, changing careers or looking for that first job, one of the most important rules to remember is that a prospective employer needs to be able to reach you. Wireless phones make it easy to be accessible during a job hunt.

U.S. Cellular has tips that can help make your search more successful:

Got Your Number – Listing just your cell phone number on a resume increases your chances of being available for an interview when a prospective employer calls.

Go Like a Pro – Evaluate your cell phone's voice mail greeting. Make sure it sounds professional and includes your full name. Employers want to be sure they have reached the right person.

In the Know – When you are out and an unfamiliar number appears on your screen, you don't have to immediately answer. You want to give a business-like im-

pression – talking in the produce aisle or at a sporting event is not your best bet.

Don't Get Lost – If you are not sure where to go for an interview, Your Navigator, a GPS-enabled application from U.S. Cellular, offers voice prompted turn-by-turn navigation to help you get where you are going on time. Your Navigator is available at a fraction of the cost of traditional in-car GPS navigation systems.

Get Smart – Consider a smartphone or other phones with e-mail capability for your job search. More companies are contacting job seekers via e-mail. With a phone such as the BlackBerry Curve or Samsung Delve, you can send and receive e-mails. Consider setting up a separate e-mail account specifically for your job hunt. While your friends might find "studmuffin96" a cute moniker, hiring managers might question your professionalism.

Stay Social – Look through

the contacts stored in your phone's address book and reconnect with friends and associates. Plus, you can get the latest scoop by having social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn deliver updates to your phone.

Mind P's and Q's – P is for plan. Assess whether you have enough minutes without incurring extra charges.

U.S. Cellular allows customers to change their plan without extending a contract. Q stands for quiet. Remember to silence your cell phone before sitting down to talk with a hiring manager. The 9,000 associates of U.S. Cellular believe a wireless phone enhances people's lives and a wireless company should be in the business of bringing people together. Based in Chicago, U.S. Cellular is the nation's fifth-largest full-service wireless carrier, serving 6.2 million customers across the country. To learn more about the company visit one of its retail stores or uscellular.com.

