



September 2020

Volume 26 Issue 9

Santel Awarded Grants to Bury Fiber Optics in Rural Davison County

Santel Communications was recently awarded two separate grants totaling about \$2 million to help fund approximately \$4 million in construction of fiber optics in rural Davison County. The grants are part of Governor Kristi Noem’s Connect South Dakota broadband program. The governor says “Quality, reliable and affordable Internet is more important than ever before. Covid-19 made clear that distance learning, working remotely and telemedicine are the way of the future. I’m excited these dollars will help close our broadband gap.”

Once construction is completed next summer, about 400 locations will have new access to Santel’s high-speed fiber network which will be a significant improvement over their existing service options. The area included, shown below, joins against current Santel cooperative boundaries on the North, West and South sides of the project and will increase our fiber optic locations by approximately 10%. Santel General Manager, Ryan Thompson, applauds Noem, her economic development office and state legislators for recognizing the long-term value that good broadband infrastructure brings to rural areas. “Without this grant, we would not have been able to put this fiber in,” said Thompson.

Initial work on this project has begun with the construction scheduled to be complete by July 1, 2021.



PO Box 67, Woonsocket, SD 57385

Office Hours: 8am-5pm Mon-Fri

www.santel.coop

Email: info@santel.coop 796-4411

Santel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2020 Annual Meeting Notices to be Mailed

Notices will be mailed the first week of September for the Annual Meeting that is scheduled for 7pm on Monday, September 14. Please open your packet promptly. With the health and safety of our members and our staff being the primary concern, the decision has been made for the meeting to be held online.

You will need to pre-register for the meeting so that we can send you the relevant info to join online or via telephone. You should do this as soon as possible upon receipt of the notice. To pre-register, you may go to our website at www.santel.coop/annualmeeting or you may also call 796-4411, email info@santel.coop or text 605-888-7686.

Connect SD
Rural Davison County Projects:
Phase 1 Grant - \$983,533.50
Phase 2 Grant - \$1,056,533.50

- \$4 Million in combined infrastructure improvements
- 400 new fiber connections
- Completed by July 1, 2021

Tech Solutions Welcomes Nichole Bussmus



We would like to welcome Nichole Bussmus as the newest member of the Santel/Tech Solutions team. Nichole joined us this spring as the Tech Solutions Bookkeeper and had the unique experience of being trained primarily remotely as most of our team was working remotely in different offices or from home during the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nichole and her husband Jon have two children: daughter Zoey and son Ruger. The couple raise angus cattle and own a trucking business. Nichole has a cosmetology degree and still enjoys doing hair as a hobby. She came to Tech Solutions after 13 years in the banking business.

In her spare time, Nichole's family loves to go camping, show cattle and rodeo. They enjoy attending Nascar races in Kansas City. They rarely have a dull moment as they ride 4-wheelers and follow the kids' activities including riding dirt bikes, baseball and softball.

Nichole enjoys the variety of tasks in her new role and says the environment is top notch. She loves coming to work each day and seeing what's next to tackle!



Santel proudly supports all of our local teams. Catch all of the action on Santel TV. Channels 90 - 91 and 101 - 107

Ethan * Mitchell * Mt Vernon

Parkston * Sanborn Central

Tripp-Delmont * Wolsey-Wessington

Woonsocket

Due to Covid-19, school events are changing frequently. Watch Santel's Facebook page as well as the Santel TV Guide for the latest broadcast schedules.



Directory Additions

ALPENA

Barton, Jay 849-5333

Kerlin, Jessie 849-3338

ARTESIAN

Stevens, Paula 527-2727

ETHAN

Feedlot 42 227-3333

Tiede, Elisha 227-8657

MOUNT VERNON

Gillen, Nick-Miah 236-6307

WOONSOCKET

Schrank, Arlene 796-8047



SCHOOL HAS CHANGED. SO SHOULD YOUR INTERNET.

This year going back to school might sometimes mean staying at home. Your living room and bedrooms may double as virtual classrooms, with video calls putting more demands on your Internet connection and your Wi-Fi Router.

To accommodate increased school-related usage as well as the rest of your busy family's Internet activities, upgrade your Internet speed to the next higher tier for as low as \$10 per month.

CALL 605-796-4411 FOR DETAILS.

Ask about our Whole Home Wi-Fi System for enhanced coverage and performance.

Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Call for details.

