



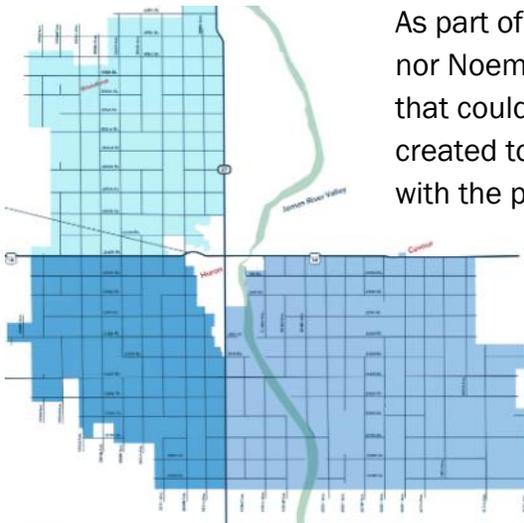
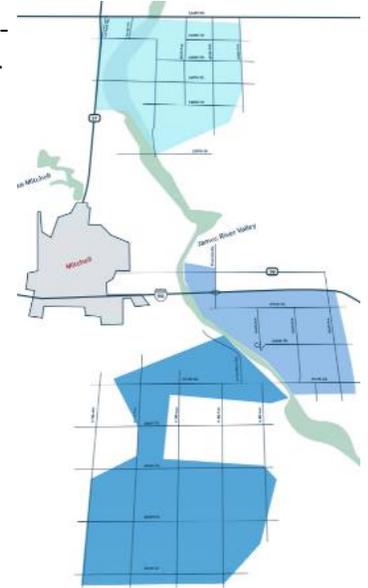
July 2021

Volume 27, Issue 7

State of South Dakota Awards Rural Broadband Funding to Santel

Governor Kristi Noem and the State of South Dakota are motivated to make fast, reliable broadband available to all South Dakotans. Historically, it has been difficult for sparsely populated, rural areas to receive meaningful broadband investments. Santel's mission is to connect rural residents and farms to broadband Internet and the larger world. Put the two together and you have a rare opportunity to improve the rural way of life on many levels.

Santel is currently in the final year of a 10-year network reinvestment plan that will provide 'fiber to the farm' for 100% of its Coop members. There has been increasing demand in Santel's neighboring rural areas that have not seen similar reinvestment. The recent COVID-19 public health pandemic highlighted those connectivity needs in areas such as: working from home, telehealth, education, economic, social engagement and supporting small local businesses.



As part of the ConnectSD program, Governor Noem identified \$30 million in funding from the federally supported CARES Act that could be used for broadband expansion throughout the state. Grants were created to partially reimburse service providers for one-time construction expenses with the project administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. The combination of grant money, cooperative equity, and expertise of the Santel staff gives us a rare opportunity to expand the cooperative's service area in an affordable manner to the benefit of nearly 800 locations. This is in addition to the more than 400 locations we are currently building to the West of Mitchell. If you would like to read more, check out www.santel.coop/about-us/news/.



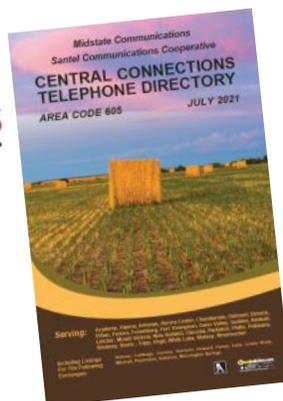
PO Box 67, Woonsocket, SD 57385

Office Hours: 8am-5pm Mon-Fri

www.santel.coop

Email: info@santel.coop 605-796-4411

Santel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



The 2021 Central Connections Telephone Directories will be arriving in July. All customers with active Santel telephone service will receive one in the mail. If you do not receive one, or if you wish to have an extra, they can be picked up from these area businesses as of August 1st: the banks in Alpena, Artesian, Letcher, Mt Vernon, Parkston, Tripp and Wolsey; the City offices in Ethan, Tripp and Parkston; the Country Pumper of Forestburg; Larson Grocery in Fedora; or the Santel office in Woonsocket.

Santel Interns...Learning on the Job



Samantha Dean (left) is working with Santel's Accounting and Customer Service teams this summer. Sam is from the Artesian area and is attending SDSU majoring in Business Economics with a focus on Accounting. She enjoys camping and spending time with family and friends.



Cayden Slykhuis (right) comes to Santel from the Letcher area. He has just completed his first year of the Wi-Fi & Broadband Technologies program at Mitchell Tech. When he's not working this summer he enjoys playing baseball.



Luke Eppel (left) graduated from Mitchell High School and has completed his first year at Mitchell Tech's Wi-Fi & Broadband Technologies program. He says "I enjoy the Wi-Fi Program and am looking forward to working at Santel."

Jordyn Temple (right) also has completed his first year of the Wi-Fi & Broadband Technologies program at Mitchell Tech. He is originally from the Clark, SD area and is a US Marine Corps Veteran. He says "I am excited to broaden my knowledge of the communications field."



NOTICE OF CHANNEL DELETION:

Santel has been notified that Fusion, Santel Channel 45, will no longer be available to us as of July 31, 2021. This is due to a change in ownership of the channel. We apologize for any inconvenience.



Directory Additions

PARKSTON

Boehmer, Joel 605-928-3712

Gerlach, Jared 605-928-3982

TRIPP

Shirey, Austin 605-935-6860

2021 Annual Meeting & Director Election to be Held in September

Santel's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 13, 2021**. There are Board of Director positions coming up for renewal in each of our 3 cooperative districts. Every active member in every cooperative exchange is eligible to run for Santel's Board of Directors. If you are interested in technology, willing to dedicate some hours each month, and would like to take an active role in the leadership of our coop...petitions will be available as of **July 1st**.

Petitions must be signed by at least 15 active members within the cooperative district where you reside. Petitions can

be picked up at the Santel Office in Woonsocket or we can mail or email them also... simply call us at 605-796-4411. Members from Wolsey, Alpena and Woonsocket can run to represent the North District. Members from Forestburg, Letcher, Artesian and Mount Vernon represent the Central District. The South District consists of members from Ethan, Parkston and Tripp exchanges.

Petitioners will also sign a Conflict of Interest Disclosure and a Qualification Certification. All signed petitions must be returned to the Santel office at least 20 days in advance of the Annual Meeting, or no later than **5pm on August 24th**.

