



Connected



February 2024

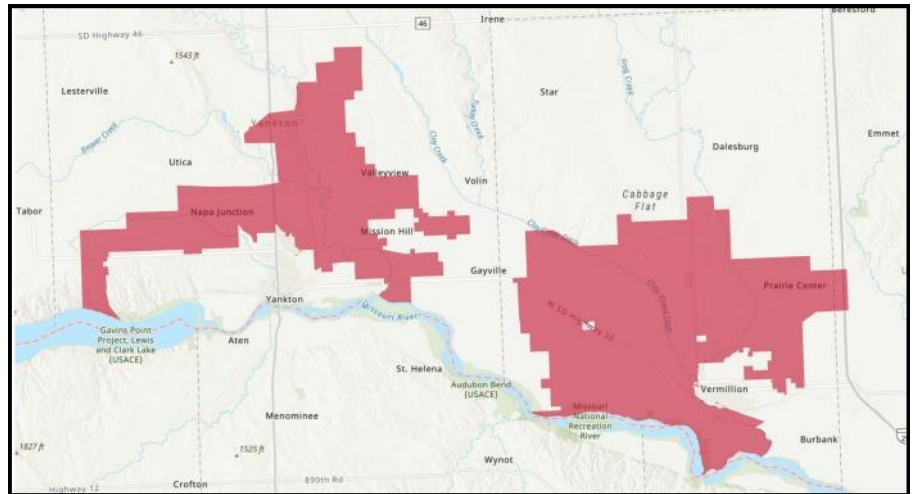
Volume 30, Issue 2

Santel Ends Tech Care Plan

Historically Santel has offered the monthly Tech Care Plan for TV and Internet customers as well as the Wire Maintenance Plan to customers having only telephone.

With the advancements in technology and with a great majority of our broadband customers utilizing Santel's awesome Whole Home WiFi...it had become apparent that the monthly protection plan just did not provide the value that it once did.

Santel will be ending both Tech Care and Wire Maintenance plans in February 2024.



Santel Will Bring High Speed Internet to Rural Yankton and Vermillion

Santel has received a \$13.4 million grant in the final round of broadband awards that the State of South Dakota awarded in late December. This grant will allow Santel to bury fiber optics to almost 900 homes and businesses over a 243-square mile area. Property owners will have the option to receive Santel's phone, Internet and TV services.

The new territory includes two large rural areas around Yankton and Vermillion. Neither section is adjacent to Santel's existing coverage area, so we will reach them by partnering with SDN Communications of which Santel is a part owner with other SD telcos.

These areas are some of the last in the state to receive access to fiber Internet. It is only through the foresight of our state leaders who oversee the ConnectSD grants that this project is possible.

Santel Communications General Manager Ryan Thompson says "that's because the properties are so far apart. It just isn't financially feasible for a company to take on all the costs of getting fiber Internet to homes and businesses in the area." The Santel Board of Directors saw the need and felt it was important to step in. Santel staff will be reaching out to area citizens soon with construction set to start in mid-2024 and be completed by end of 2025.



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.

Santel Announces Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors

We are now accepting applications for the 2024 Ray Judy Memorial Scholarships. Ray Judy was the first general manager of the original Sanborn Telephone Cooperative and we will award 10 scholarships in the amount of \$750 each in his memory.

We will also award 2 more scholarships in the amount of \$300 each by a random draw of all entrants who are not amongst the other ten recipients.

Applicant's parent or legal guardian must be active residential telephone or Internet customers of Santel Communications. Successful applicants must attend a post-secondary school in South Dakota



within twelve (12) months of high school graduation.

Information and the application requirements can be found at www.santel.coop under the About Us / In the Community tab or at your local high school.

Completed applications must be emailed to info@santel.coop and must contain all four of the required items: letter of application, resume, essay and photo. Applications must be received by 5pm on Friday, March 22, 2024.



Directory Additions

HURON

Robert Hohm 605-352-5144

MITCHELL

Dakota Mobile Storage 605-550-7758

PARKSTON

Francis L Mechtenberg 605-928-3287

Marketing Opt-Out

Santel Communications respects your privacy and observes the rules established by the Federal Communications Commission, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and all telecom oversight agencies regarding your Customer Proprietary Network Information.

Santel Communications will never sell your account information or provide details of your telephone calls unless required by law enforcement.

From time to time, we would like to notify you of additional products available from us that are outside the existing business relationship we have with you. However, if you prefer to be excluded from these promotional efforts, **you can sign an opt-out form that will ensure you will be eliminated from all targeted marketing programs for the next two (2) years.** Please contact our office at 605-796-4411 or info@santel.coop to OPT OUT of marketing activities outside of your current services. If you opted out in 2022, it has expired, and you will need to opt-out again at this time.

Your Santel Communications service is not impacted by this notification. Please call our office at 605-796-4411 with any questions. Thank you for being a Santel Communications customer.

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