



The Private Line

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Santel Announces “Big Dig” Plans



Santel held a groundbreaking ceremony in Letcher on July 19th and officially kicked off our commitment to upgrading 100% of our service territory to fiber optics. While we have been making steady progress over the past several years and have already upgraded approximately 60% of our network, we’re now starting what will be an aggressive 5 year plan that will see us installing fiber to every remaining customer premises. This will be a \$24 million investment in the communities we serve as well as the rural areas of Letcher, Tripp, Alpena and Wolsey. Santel CEO and General Manager, Ryan Thompson, notes that the demand for faster Internet has skyrocketed in the past five years, increasing by 770%. “Our existing networks are, quite frankly, breaking.” Fiber optic cables are stronger, faster and do a better, more consistent job of delivering signal versus the traditional copper lines. The new service, FiberMaxx, means maximum Internet. Every Santel customer will be capable of gigabit Internet when the project is complete.

With a project of this size, Santel will be making use of funding provided by the Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Services and the FCC’s Universal Service Fund. The specific timeline for all areas has not been announced, but affected customers will receive correspondence from Santel to keep them up-to-date with plans for their location.



Attending the groundbreaking in Letcher, above l-r, Chris Nelson, PUC; Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson PUC; Joe Fiala, Governor’s Office of Economic Development; Tiffany Hoffman, Letcher Community Development Foundation; Mark Chada, Letcher Mayor; Jeff Ebersdorfer, Dakota Heartland Development Assn; Richard Alt, President Santel Board of Directors; Jerry Jenssen, Santel Director; Kent Swenson, Santel Director; Becky Pitz, Santel Director; Bryan Hisel, Exec Director Mitchell Area Development Corp; and Ryan Thompson, Santel CEO/GM. At left, Thompson and Fiegen study the map of Santel’s service area.



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.



REDZONE

From **NFL NETWORK**

Catch every touchdown from every game on every Sunday afternoon with NFL RedZone from the NFL Network. For just \$50, you get access to all the action for the entire NFL season. RedZone can be found on Santel channels 155(SD) and 699(HD), or you can also use your Santel subscription to log into the NFL website or NFL App using your PC, game station, tablet or mobile device. Call 796-4411 or email info@santel.coop to sign up now!

66th Annual Meeting Planned

Santel's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 25th with a meal beginning at 6pm followed by the business meeting at 7pm. The meeting will be held at the Woonsocket Community Center. There are big things happening at Santel and we're excited to tell you more about them!



We currently have open positions on the Santel Board of Directors for each of our three service districts which means that every Santel member is eligible to run. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting so you must attend to vote. The service districts are as follows:

- ◆ North District—serves Wolsey, Alpena and Woonsocket
- ◆ Central District—serves Forestburg, Artesian, Letcher and Mt Vernon
- ◆ South District—serves Ethan, Parkston and Tripp

To run for the Santel Board of Directors, a candidate must obtain at least 15 petition signatures from active coop members residing in the district for which they would serve. An executed Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Qualified Certification Statement must be presented at the Santel office, along with the signed petition, by no later than 20 days in advance of the annual meeting date, which means they must be at our office by no later than 5pm on September 5th. Petitions are available at 308 S Dumont Ave in Woonsocket, by emailing info@santel.coop, or by calling 796-4411. You may also contact us if you'd like to learn more about the roles and responsibilities that come with being a member of the Santel board.



Directory Additions

LETCHER

Anderson, Jeff 248-2484

PARKSTON

Binder, Paul 928-6538

Koch Heating & AC 928-4328

Stern, Glennis 928-3792

Sweetgrass Veterinary Service LLC 928-8387(VETS)

Vermeulen, Chad & Darcie 928-3551

FAQ from Santel's Internet Helpdesk

Question: What does it mean when I try to view a webpage and get a 404 message?

Answer: A 404 error is a code produced by the server when it cannot find the webpage you were trying to reach. There are several reasons you might get this message:

1. You typed in the URL incorrectly in the browser's address line. This is easy to do and you should double check it and try again. Remember that these are often case sensitive.
2. You clicked on an outdated or "broken" link. Try going to the webpage directly instead.
3. The page has been removed from the website.
4. The page was moved but the website did so without redirecting the old URL to the new one. Try searching for the entity name in a Google search instead.