



Connected



April 2019

Volume 25, Issue 4

Employee Milestones

These employees have Santel Anniversaries this month. Thanks for all you do!

Kregg Krueger
Plant Clerk
30 Years!



Kim Hiemstra
Customer Service
20 Years!



Gloria Vavra
Computer Tech
5 Years!



Spring is upon us and that means a variety of outdoor projects that may require digging. You must call 811 at least two working days before the planned work, even if it's on your own property. If the work will be done by a professional, it is that company who must make the call to request the location of buried services. The call center can be reached at 811 from your landline phone or 1-800-781-7474 from a mobile phone.

There are many different utilities that could be buried on your property and in the right-of-ways including water, electrical, and gas as well as Santel Communications lines. If you nick or damage a buried service line, contact the affected company immediately. Damaging a Santel buried line may disrupt service to you and possibly to many other customers also served by those facilities. It is inconvenient to all affected and can be very costly to you.

It is not necessary to call Santel before digging as the 811 call center will dispatch the locate request to all potentially affected providers. **Calling 811 is simple, free, and it's the law.**



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Office Hours: 8am-5pm Mon-Fri

www.santel.coop

Email: info@santel.coop 796-4411

Santel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Congratulations to Patrick & Lenora Boehmer of Parkston who won the free tickets to see Mollie B & Squeezebox live in Wessington Springs! Thanks to all who entered the drawing.



The best way to recognize an online scam is to understand how they work. Most of them will attempt to manipulate your emotions or capitalize on your fears. Scammers are confident that at least some of their targets will be fearful enough to do what they want and, unfortunately, they're often right.

You'll want to watch for messages that relate to one of the following 4 categories:

1. **You're missing out.** The email might say you've won a prize but you'll need to give them your bank account for them to deposit funds. *If you have to give something to get something, it's likely a scam.*
2. **Something bad is happening.** Everyone has fears of something bad happening and oftentimes it can make a person do irrational things. The scammer may tell

you that your computer has a virus they can fix if you simply give them your credit card. *Before you believe someone, verify for yourself if what they say is true by getting a second opinion.*

3. **Someone is in trouble.** It's human nature to want to help someone in trouble, especially family and friends. You may get an email or phone call that someone you know is in trouble and they ask you to transfer funds to a bank account or to send prepaid debit or gift cards. *Beware of anytime you're asked to send money even if it appears that it's coming from a friend. Always text or call the sender to confirm.*
4. **Guilt trip.** In an effort to view ourselves as kind and helpful people, we may be tempted to comply when someone wants something. It could be your company's IT department asking for your personal credentials or a charity asking for a donation. *Always confirm that the request is legitimate and never follow an email link. Instead research online to confirm its validity.*

SDTA Scholarships Available

The South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) annually offers scholarships to students at any accredited post-secondary institutions in South Dakota. The applicant must be a member/customer or have parents that are members/customers of an SDTA member company such as Santel.

The **SDTA Memorial Scholarships**, typically a minimum of two scholarships, are offered to students for their fall semester attendance. These SDTA Memorial Scholarships are available to students who have completed at least 24 credit hours of instruction (equivalent to two semesters) towards a multi-year program at any of South Dakota's accredited technical schools or any other accredited post-secondary higher education institution in South Dakota (this includes High School "Dual Credit" hours). Applicants that attend a post-secondary higher education institution must be majoring in a program with technical skills or a field of study that is useful for work in the telecommunications or broadband industry. A sample of these majors include:

- Technologies
- Computers
- Engineering
- Technology Education
- Communication Arts
- Business

The application deadline is May 31st each year and the scholarships are awarded prior to the start of the fall semester. For more information on the SDTA Memorial Scholarships, contact any post-secondary institution financial aid office or the South Dakota Telecommunications Association office by phone at 605-224-7629 or by email at admin@sdtaonline.com.



Directory Additions

PARKSTON

Breitkreutz, Marcella 928-6390

TRIPP

Derrico, Kathleen 935-6672

FiberMaxx Plans for 2019

Preliminary work has begun on the 2019 fiber optic projects with construction scheduled to begin later this spring as weather permits. Crews will be burying fiber in the town of Mount Vernon as well as the town and rural areas of Tripp. Customers in those areas will receive more detailed information as the ground thaws and timelines are determined.

Santel is committed to upgrading all cooperative customers to FiberMaxx as quickly as possible. If your location is within the Alpena, Wolsey, Ethan, Artesian or Parkston exchanges and is not yet converted to fiber optics, please know that we have plans for your area and you'll be hearing more from us in the not-too-distant future!

