

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1, 2011**

Company: Santel Communications

Address: PO Box 67

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Woonsocket, SD 57385

Telephone number: 605-796-4411

Company contact: Pam Kopfmann

Study Area Code: 1676

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

- Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)
- Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.* (See attached letter.)
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website. <http://www.santel.net/faq/lifeline.html>
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe): Information distributed to area clinics, county nurse office, community centers, nursing homes and schools; info also included with new service applications and customer welcome packets

*Required



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Wolsey, Beadle County, SD 57384

Wednesday, May 11, 2011



Sheila Schlechter | Staff

Wolsey-Wessington boys' team finishes second overall

ROY LUMPKIN, at right in the Wolsey-Wessington uniform, sprints to catch up to Jalen Boomsma to hand off the baton so Boomsma can finish the final leg of the boys 4x100 race. This race was during the Jimmy Rearick Invitational in Miller May 4. More photos from the meet on page 5.

RAMifications

A belated thanks...to Dad

Ruth A. Moller

I was a late child, the product of my dad's second marriage, after his first wife died of cancer. Mom came along, 12 years his junior, having been introduced by his children's caretaker.

Though I grew up surrounded by nieces and nephews on either side of my age, I was basically an "only child." Dad and I butted heads from the day I was born. As his fifth daughter, he made no bones about it that I should have been a boy. I carried that "should have been a boy" guilt for quite a while.

I was 24 when Dad died at 75. His birthday was April 15...he would have been 119 this year. So we have quite a span of years for forgiveness in there.

The last lucid words he said to me were, "You tricked me," because we took him to the hospital, as he was fast going downhill at home. I still live with that; I'd have preferred an "I love you."

It's taken me many years to appreciate the person he was, and why he was that way.

Dad's German parents didn't speak English. Only after he went to school, and was teased, was he determined to speak English, and he only remembered a few phrases of German.

His parents weren't demonstrative, nor was he. He was staid, he was stubborn, and he had a temper that absolutely terrified me...though he never laid a hand on me. To this day, I hate anger, and I'll go to great lengths to avoid it.

But he was proud of the fact that I had some artistic and writing talent, and I got a college scholarship. He never told me he was proud; I kind of figured it out.

When I was going to be married, he said he wouldn't walk me down the aisle. But he did, and in his pictures he looks proud. He so wanted me to graduate from college, and I did—even married.

He even offered the farm to my husband, who had no desire to farm. For some reason, my dad connected with him.

Over the years, I've put some pieces together. Dad liked to draw (as did I); he played the violin. But when he finished eighth grade, his dad took him out to a team of mules and said, "Here's where your education begins."

So Dad put the "creative" things away, and he was a farmer. He reared five daughters, and lost one wife. He seldom showed much emotion. I can't remember a hug or a kiss from my father. But he wasn't above bragging.

So when his 119th birthday came and went, I said a little prayer for understanding.

What did I learn from a strict German who never hugged me?

I learned you do what you must to survive. I learned you NEVER lie or take advantage of someone else; honesty is the most important thing. I learned that you never suffer fools gladly. For all that I'm thankful.

I didn't follow all the way. I can hug and say, "I love you." I can forgive trespasses against me. Life need not be a constant struggle. Sometimes fun and laughter are good things, and balm to our spirit. I do believe that life, as we know it, has more to come.

I never "walked in my dad's moccasins," so I can't understand all the facets of his personality. But I see him in my son and some of my nephews, who bear such a

striking physical resemblance to him, though their personalities are much different.

I believe every person on earth is here for a reason; Dad not only taught me some things I carry on, he also carried on the line of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even great-greats. And we're all muddling forward.

Thanks, Dad. One day, we'll figure this all out.

Former SD police chief faces retrial on murder

Jury selection is starting in the second murder trial of a former South Dakota police chief who argues it was an accident when he shot his wife in the head. A jury convicted former Highmore Police Chief Ken Huber in 2008 after a trial in Fort Pierre, and he was sentenced to life in prison without parole. But the South Dakota Supreme Court overturned that conviction last year, saying Huber had not been allowed to fully argue his case that the shooting was accidental. The second trial is being held in Huron, and is expected to last about two weeks. Huber told investigators that his Glock .40-caliber pistol fired accidentally on October 28, 2007. He said the bullet struck his wife, Pam Huber, as she lay on a bed.

Prosecutors argue there is no reasonable chance the shooting was accidental.



W-W Breakfast Menus

- May 11** – Bagels or toast, cereal, orange juice or milk.
- May 12** – Bagels or toast, cereal, orange juice or milk.
- May 13** – Rolls, orange juice or milk.
- May 16** – Bagels or toast, cereal, orange juice or milk.
- May 17** – Bagels or toast, cereal, orange juice or milk.
- May 18** – Breakfast cookie, applesauce, orange juice or milk.
- May 19** – Bagels or toast, cereal, orange juice or milk.



- May 11** – Hamburgers, tri-tater, green beans and lettuce
- May 12** – Creamed turkey on a biscuit, peas, peaches
- May 13** – Subs, potato salad, baked beans, lettuce, shape-up
- May 16** – Corn dogs, tri-tater, fruit, lettuce, cookie
- May 17** – Cold meat sandwiches, lettuce, cottage cheese, potato chips
- May 18** – Pizza, tossed salad, jello with whipped cream, fruit and cookie
- May 19** – Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cookie, fruit and lettuce



Notes from the Senate

Tom Hansen,
Senator
District 22

Why do Legislators pay so much attention to property tax? None of it goes into the State's treasury. Property tax is collected by the counties and all goes to school, county, city and township governments. In total the property owners of South Dakota pay out nearly a billion dollars annually in property taxes.

State government gets involved for several reasons. The Department of Revenue and Regulation provides assistance and oversight to the counties. Some pieces of property are referred to as being linear. That group is "centrally assessed. State government determines the value for all them. Centrally assessed property includes railroads, electric transmission lines, pipelines and some of the telecommunications facilities. In many instances those companies own property not only in multiple counties, but in several states as well.

The Department of Revenue is charged with the responsibility to be sure the counties comply with laws passed by the Legislature and as dictated by our Constitution. That states "taxes are to be uniform on all property of the same class." The statutes give direction for collecting tax as assessed against all those classes of real property.

Real property includes land and any structures that are permanently attached to the land. Owners of that property pay tax on what is called an "ad valorem" basis. That means

it is done on the basis of valuation.

There are three main classes of property. The owners of residential property pay nearly 40 percent of the property tax burden. That classification consists of the homes that are identified as the primary residence of the taxpayer. It does not include "second homes" such as lake cottages and does not include apartments. Commercial property is the second largest group. About 35 percent of the tax is paid by those owners. Agricultural property accounts for the remaining 25 percent.

Administration of Property Tax is highly dependent on establishing a "value" for each piece of property. Valuation of residential (owner-occupied) is pretty structured. It is guided by replacement cost or cost of new construction. Comparable home sales provide another useful tool. Establishing a value for taxing purposes on commercial property is more complex, but still fairly easy to follow. Again the cost of new construction and comparable sales provide guidance. Most commercial property has the ability of producing income. Net revenue to an investor can be used as a calculation in getting to a value also.

Finding a basis for the taxation of agricultural property has been more difficult. There once was a time when people purchasing farm real estate did so because of the amount of revenue it could produce. There is no such thing as "cost of construction" of farm land, but comparable sales during those years was relied on to be an accurate means of determining value.

In recent years the price received from sale of a piece of neighboring farm land is often done for reasons other than treating it as the essential part of production agriculture. The 2008 Legislature finally recognized that a change in method was needed. That change came as a result of several "summer studies" and various "task force" groups.

Some wrinkles still remain to be worked out. The 2008 legislation provided for establishing an Oversight Advisory Task Force. It consists of Legislators from both chambers and both parties. There is also participation from the business sector along with some representing the agriculture industry. It is the responsibility of this group to recommend legislation that will smooth out some of those wrinkles.

Can't pay your phone bill? Telephone assistance helps you 'Stay Connected'

Access to local emergency services and community resources is vital to all residents. For some, a local phone can be the difference between social connection and complete isolation.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) wants residents to "stay connected" and is reaching out to those who need phone service but can't afford it.

Under the federal Lifeline program, telephone customers who participate or are eligible for certain public assistance programs are entitled to receive a basic tele-

phone service discount of \$8.25 per month. Link-Up provides a 50 percent reduction in the telephone service installation charge, up to a maximum of \$30, for qualifying households that do not currently have telephone service.

The PUC encourages subscribers of Santel Communications to check on their eligibility of the Lifeline Program. Call 777 if you qualify for Lifeline and Link Up Assistance Programs. You qualify if you take part in any of the following:

- Low-Income Home Energy

Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines

Farm Credit Services of America announces first quarter earnings

Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica), a financial cooperative with approximately 90,000 customers and more than \$16 billion in assets, has announced financial results for the first quarter of calendar year 2011.

Net income for the first quarter was \$99.2 million compared to \$85.7 million a year ago, reflecting an increase of 15.8 percent. Total loan volume increased \$153.3 million, from \$15.5 billion at year-end 2010 to \$15.7 billion. Member's equity increased by \$98.2 million from year-end 2010 to \$2.6 billion on March 31, 2011.

"The strong first quarter results provide us the foundation to continue to serve agriculture and execute on our value proposition which includes an intense focus on the customer experience," said Doug Stark, President and CEO. "It also allows us to build on our financial strength which enables

supporting customers through the cycles of agriculture and an evolving global economy."

The increase in net income was due to growth in loan volume, a slight increase in net interest margin and a reduction in provision for loan losses, partially offset by a reduction in noninterest income and an increase in noninterest expense. The decrease in noninterest income and increase in noninterest expense is primarily due to non-recurring items recorded in the first quarter of 2010.

Public Notices in Newspapers...

Because good government depends on it.



Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service Support provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. **Note:** Telecommunications carriers cannot charge a Lifeline customer federal USF fees on the local service portion of their telephone bill.

What type of discount is available?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$8.25 per month in discounts.

Link Up reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$30. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200.

Toll Limitation Service (TLS) support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring large long distance fees to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost.

Are there any restrictions?

Lifeline can only be used for the main telephone line in a household. Lifeline customers may purchase all services offered to non-Lifeline customers. The name on your phone bill must match the name of the participant who is eligible for the program.

How do I know whether I am eligible?

Eligibility for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support varies by state. In states that do not provide state support, such as South Dakota, the federal guidelines are used. An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines which are on the reverse side.





2011 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

A customer may qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed on the previous page, or have a household income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines:

Persons in Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$14,702
2	\$19,859
3	\$25,106
4	\$30,173
5	\$35,330
6	\$40,487
7	\$45,644
8	\$50,801
For each additional person, add	\$5,157

How do I apply to receive Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support discounts?

To apply for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS discounts, or if you have any questions, please contact our billing office by dialing 777 from your home phone or 1-888-978-7777 from outside of our service area.

