

# The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

## Manager Moment

Winter time can produce ice and snow storms that can create power outages that could last for days. Luckily, we've avoided these long outages, but when it happens in other parts of the state or country, it reminds us that we should still be prepared for it. One thing that people are doing is getting generators set up in the event of a power outage. Unfortunately, connecting a generator

improperly to your houses electrical system can cause damage to appliances and electrical wiring, which can result in a fire. While there are so many different scenarios involved with what items to run off the generator, the best advice I can give is to either use an extension cord from the generator, or if you have a larger one, to contact a licensed electrician, such as PowerCom Electric and

Communications, to ensure the proper wiring.

Matt Collins  
Plant Manager

## Technology & Communications Specialists (TCS)

Technology & Communication Specialists (TCS) would like to announce the acquisition of the Pierre/Ft. Pierre branch of Santel Communications Business Technology Division. TCS is a new company; however it is a division of Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc., which has over a hundred years of experience in the telecommunications industry.

Late in 2009 Santel decided to change business plans and refocus their attention on projects and customers in the Mitchell and Huron markets. The Santel staff felt strongly about finding the right party to continue and enhance the business technology support that has been offered for the last 5 years. Santel's technical services team, led by Bob Unruh, has been completing the transi-

tional work with the TCS team, led by Jason Thiry. "We felt obligated to make sure our customers could have their needs met in a timely fashion, so I contacted Rod Bowar, Manager of Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. and offered the business to them," stated Ryan Thompson, General Manager of Santel.

Continued to page 4



Upgrade your cellular service and see just how sweet life can be.

Join our growing wireless family and in addition to nationwide services and multiple package plans to choose from, you will love our outstanding customer service. Staying in touch is now even easier and more affordable.

Call or stop in today and let us show you how sweet it is.

How Sweet It Is.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAGE	ARTICLE
2	NEW EMPLOYEE
2	WIRE MAINTENANCE
2	CATEGORY 5 AND 6 WORKSHOP
3	ELECTRICAL TIPS
3	MOTOROLA Z6M

## New Employee

Curtis Johnson  
Computer/Network  
Technician

Curtis grew up in Britton, South Dakota. He attended North Dakota State College of Science and received an A.S. degree in Electronics Technology in 1999. He worked as an electronics



## Wire Maintenance

You never know when something might happen to your inside telephone or cable wiring, so why not protect yourself by adding wire maintenance to your telephone and cable lines.

By having telephone wire maintenance your labor, mileage, and materials are covered for only \$3 a month.

If you choose to get cable wire maintenance, it also covers your labor, mileage, and jacks for \$3 a month. Plus if you have cable in additional buildings besides your home, you can cover those too for only \$1 per month.

For more information, contact our office.

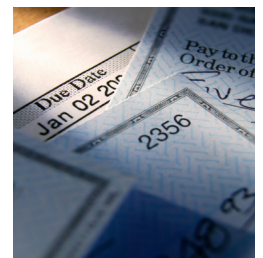
## Category 5 and 6 Workshop

On January 20th Kennebec Telephone employees attended a workshop regarding category 5 and category 6 cabling. The workshop focused on industry standards for installing cable and ends. Category 5 and 6 cable is often times the gray or blue cables that go to your phone and computer jacks. The wires inside are twisted to prevent noise and other problems non twisted wires create. In the picture Frank Moran and Chaz Bowar practice putting on a category 6 ends.



What are the benefits of paying your bill by automatic payment?

- \* There are fewer checks that need to be written
- \* No more postage needs to be purchased
- \* It reduces the paperwork you need to do
- \* It will reduce the chance of a lost or late payment
- \* You will still receive a bill in the mail
- \* You will receive \$5 off your next month's bill if you sign up by February 26th.



Call our office to find out how to get set up today.

technician for two and half years and enrolled in a community college studying computer networking and business. While in school Curtis worked in several technical positions including IT, Engineering, and Business. Eventually he finished his Bachelors in Electronic Engineering Technology at South Dakota State University in 2008.

After college Curtis moved to Pierre to work for a Software Consulting firm where he worked just short of a year eventually joining Kennebec Telephone in 2010. Curtis enjoys the outdoors whether it be hunting, fishing, or playing sports.

## Electrical Tips

Keeping your home safe this year and every year after is critical for you and your family. The following electrical tips could keep your house safe:

**Outlets:** Be sure that there are no loose plugs around so that they don't overheat. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. If there are children present, be sure to use safety covers.

**Cords:** Make sure that they are not frayed or cracked. Don't place them in traffic areas. Do not staple or nail to the walls, baseboards, or any other object, or run them under carpets or rugs.

**Extension Cords:** Be sure not to

overload them with other cords, and make sure that there are safety closures on them if there are children around to prevent them from shock or mouth burning injuries.

**Plugs:** Make sure your plugs fit your outlets; they should fit securely. Never remove the ground pin (third prong) to make a three-prong fit a two conductor outlet. Try to avoid overloading the outlet with too many appliances.

**Light Bulbs:** Check the light bulbs' wattage to make sure they match the fixture and be sure that they are screwed in securely; if they are loose, they may overheat.

**Space Heaters:** Keep them at least 3ft away from combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture, and rugs. Don't use them where kids are unsupervised and remember to turn off and unplug them when not in use.

**Halogen Floor Lamps:** Don't place lamps where they can be in contact with draperies, clothing, or other combustible materials. If you are planning on leaving, be sure to turn off the lamp. Never place a torchiere lamp in a child's bedroom or playroom.

## Motorola Z6m

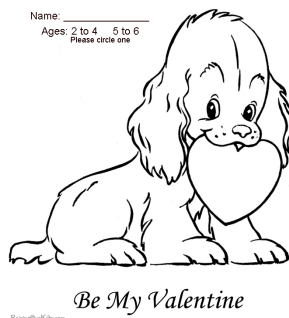
Want something different other than a flip phone. Why not try a Motorola Z6m! This phone not only slides it offers a memory card slot, 3.5 mm headphone jack, stereo Bluetooth, a camera, and a physical key lock switch. If you are interested in this phone, it would cost you \$189 for no contract, \$125 for a one year contract,

and \$77 for a two year contract. If you would like more information about this phone or any other phone or plan, give the office a call at 869-2220.



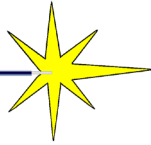
## Valentine's Day Coloring Contest

We are looking for artists, ages 2 to 6, to color the picture for the coloring contest. You can pick up a picture by stopping by our office or visiting our website at [www.kennebectelephone.com](http://www.kennebectelephone.com). Please have them turned in by February 12th.



## Important Dates:

Lincoln's Birthday	February 12
Valentine's Day	February 14
President's Day	February 15
Office Closed	
Ash Wednesday	February 17
Washington's Birthday	February 22



Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.  
Kennebec Long Distance  
Kennebec Telephone Construction  
Kennebec Telephone Internet  
PowerCom Electric and Communicaitons

220 S Main  
PO Box 158  
Kennebec, SD 57544  
Phone: 605-869-2220  
Fax: 605-869-2221  
Email: knbctel@kennebectelephone.com  
Website: www.kennebectelephone.com

*Our mission is to provide the highest quality telecommunications and information service to our customers at an affordable price. We will strive to offer prompt, friendly and dependable service along with the latest technology to attain the highest possible customer satisfaction.*

If you would like more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter, feel free to contact us at 605-869-2220.

## TCS Cont.

TCS officially took over operations on January 15th after hiring an area technician to live and work in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area. "We feel it's very important for our employees to live and be active in the communities they work in, and this is no exception," commented Bowar. "We want to be a positive part of the community."

TCS is a communications com-

pany specializing in business phone systems. They also will be offering business and residential networking along with computer repair. "One of the goals we set for ourselves is to offer the same quality of service we have in the Kennebec and Presho area. This means, in most cases, same day service," stated Bowar. Obviously there is a transitioning period where our tech will need extra

time to get familiar with the programming and wiring of these systems, but hopefully this time goes quickly and is painless for our customers.

For additional information about Technology & Communications Specialists call 605-224-9998 and talk to Jason Thiry or email him at [jasont@kennebectelephone.com](mailto:jasont@kennebectelephone.com).