

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Joe Telker

More than 30 years and counting



Joe Telker came to work at Loretto Telecom in 1988 in outside plant construction. More than 30 years later, he is Loretto's central office supervisor.

He says he was educated at "the school of hard knocks," which prepared him for all the challenges he faces every day. "You have to have the challenges to make it all fun," Telker says. "I love taking an idea, engineering it and making it all work."

Over the years, Telker has occupied a number of roles. Aside from outside plant construction and his current role of central office supervisor, Telker has been an outside plant installation repairman, central office technician and a central office engineer.

Telker has seen a lot of changes during his tenure at Loretto Telecom. "I began when the internet was just dial-up," he says.

Telker is now instrumental in Loretto Telecom's current push to connect members to fiber optic broadband — a future-proof technology that is also the fastest, most reliable internet technology available.

When Telker is not working to improve Loretto Telecom's services, he can be found somewhere in the outdoors. He loves boating, camping and fishing.

"There is never enough time to fish," he says.

Telker is originally from Malden, Missouri, but he now lives in Loretto with Tammy, his wife of 32 years. They have a 28-year-old daughter, Jessie, and a 21-year-old son, Joey. He attends Sacred Heart Church in Loretto.

"Joe is a pillar at both Loretto Telecom and in the community. His knowledge of the industry, nationally and locally, are extremely helpful and beneficial. Joe and his team had many accomplishments recently with many, many more to come," says General Manager Jason Shelton. "Joe and his wife have faced a tragic event over the course of this year, but his leadership has remained steadfast, which speaks to his character and desire to help others." 

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

THE MUSTANG COUNTRY CAFE

Local restaurant fills stomachs and a need in Loretto

Bill Moore spent much of his career in radio, but he went into trucking because he wanted to see the country. When he got tired of life on the road, he looked to fill a need in Loretto.



"I've done a little bit of everything," he said. "I saw that Loretto needed a good country cafe, and boy did they get it."

He and co-owner Pam Morris opened The Mustang Country Cafe in July 2011. It was an instant hit. He says the restaurant, which now sits about a quarter of a mile down Lexington Highway at 412 E. Main St., is famous for its hamburger steaks.

A battle with cancer that has slowed Moore down some compounded with the COVID-19 pandemic that has forced them to temporarily close the dining room have caused business to ebb. The restaurant is now open only for drive-thru and takeout — plus the personal food deliveries Moore makes to the elderly in Loretto. But he is optimistic and has big plans to come back strong in the fall with a new and improved menu. He plans to include more seafood, and they recently added pizza to the list of offerings, which Moore says has been a huge success.

"That has really taken off," he says. "We may even start delivering pizza in the fall to people in Loretto."

The Mustang Country Cafe has phone service and fiber internet with Loretto Telecom, which Moore says he is extremely happy with. The free Wi-Fi is a great service for guests, plus the broadband network allows him to place online orders for food products and supplies.

"Loretto Telecom has been great to work with," Moore says. "We have great service, and if there is ever a problem, I know they will take care of it."

Moore says he also loves Loretto Telecom's dedication to local businesses.

"Loretto Telecom General Manager Jason Shelton is one of my best customers, and I hope that never changes," he says.

Search "The Mustang Country Cafe" on Facebook to learn more. 



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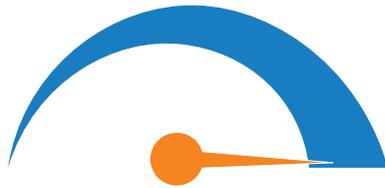


Facts about fiber:

DID YOU KNOW?



- Fiber is a green technology due to its reduced energy consumption compared to other connection types.
- The fastest speed ever recorded on a single fiber line is a whopping 43 terabits per second.
- Fiber is sustainable; it is made from silicon dioxide, the second-most abundant element on Earth after oxygen.
- Fiber isn't just for TV and internet; it also has practical applications in digital signage, imaging optics, hydrophones and spectroscopy.
- Fiber optics use only pulses of light, meaning there is no electrical signal passed through the cables themselves.
- Fiber is a future-proof technology that continues to evolve. New forms of light have been discovered that may shape the future of the technology in exciting and unforeseen ways. 🌊



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