

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2017**

Company: TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Address: 330 S. Nebraska St.

PO Box 630

Salem, SD 57058

Telephone number: 605-425-2238

Company contact: Heather Kranz

Study Area Code: 391669 and 391682

Lifeline/Tribal 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/ Tribal Link Up within 1<sup>st</sup> 30 days of service.\* (See attached letter.)
- Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
- Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. ([www.triotel.net](http://www.triotel.net))
- Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Required

# Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )

:SS

COUNTY OF HANSON )

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, on his oath says THE ALEXANDRIA HERALD is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Emery Hanson County, South Dakota, by MATTHEW ANDERSON and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned: that it has bona fide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly; that it has been published within said County of Hanson in the English language and admitted to the United States mail under the second class mailing privilege for more than one year next prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and has been printed during such period and at the present time in part in an office maintained at the said place of a publication that I, the undersigned, am either the publisher or an employee of the said publisher of said newspaper and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in the affidavit: that the advertisement headed

## TrioTel Communications, Inc

TrioTel Communications, Inc. provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service	\$18.00/month
Single Party Business Service	\$18.00/month

Local residence and business service includes:

- Voice grade access to the public telephone network
- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge
- Access to 911 emergency services
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers

Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

TrioTel Communications, Inc. voice service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in the TrioTel Communications, Inc. service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238.

Published once at an approximate cost of \$29.74.  
10-27-16 1tc

Trio-Tel Communications

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the said newspaper for one (1) successive weeks; that said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to wit:

The first publication be made on 10-27-16

The second publication on \_\_\_\_\_

The third publication on \_\_\_\_\_

The fourth publication on \_\_\_\_\_

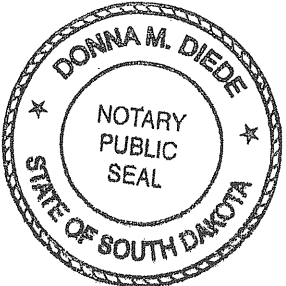
that 29.74 Being the full amount of the fee for publication of the annexed notice, insured solely to the benefit of the publisher of the said newspaper, that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof have been made with any other person whosoever, and that said newspaper is a legal newspaper under the law of the state of South Dakota.

Matt Linder

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28

day of October 2016

Donna M. Diede  
Notary Public, South Dakota



My commission expires 2/10/2022

# Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )  
 :SS  
COUNTY OF McCOOK: )

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, on his oath says THE EMERY ENTERPRISE is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Canistota, McCook County, South Dakota, by MATTHEW ANDERSON, and has been such a newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned: that it has a bona fide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly; that it has been published within said county of McCook in the English language and admitted to the United States mail under the second class mailing privilege for more than one year next prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and has been printed during such period and at the present time in part in an office maintained at the said place of publication that I, the undersigned, am either the publisher or an employee of the said publisher of said newspaper and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in the affidavit: that the advertisement headed

Trio Tel Communications

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the said newspaper for one (1) successive weeks; that said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to wit:

The first publication be made on 11-3-16

The second publication on \_\_\_\_\_

The third publication on \_\_\_\_\_

The fourth publication on \_\_\_\_\_

that \$9.74 Being the full amount of the fee for publication of the annexed notice, insured solely to the benefit of the publisher of the said newspaper, that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof have been made with any other person whatsoever, and that said newspaper is a local newspaper under the law of the state of South Dakota.

Matthew Anderson  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4

day of November 2016

Donna M. Diede  
Notary Public, South Dakota

My commission expires 2/10/2022

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Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program.

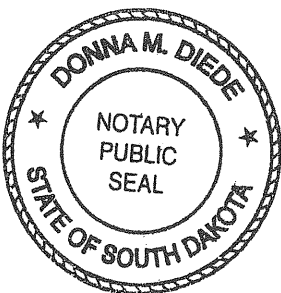
To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

TrioTel Communications, Inc. voice service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in the TrioTel Communications, Inc. service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238.

Published once at an approximate cost of \$29.74..  
11-3-16 1tc



# Public Notice

## TrioTel Communications, Inc. ETC and Lifeline Notice

TrioTel Communications, Inc. provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service  
\$18.00/month

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**J and M Repair**  
James Peterson

Repairing semi trucks, trailers,  
automotive and ATVs

At the intersection of  
Highways 38 and 81

Cell: (605) 421-8414  
Shop: (605) 425-3264

Printer's Affidavit of Publication

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

)SS

COUNTY OF McCOOK)

TROY SCHWANS of said County and State, being first duly sworn on his oath, says THE SALEM SPECIAL is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Salem, McCook County and State of South Dakota, and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; that the said newspaper is a legal newspaper, that it has a bonafide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said County of McCook for more than fifty-two successive weeks prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and has been printed during said period and at the present time, in whole in an office maintained at said place of publication; and that I, the undersigned, am publisher or employee of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all facts in this affidavit;

that the advertisement headed ETC and Lifeline Notice

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the newspaper for . . . weeks; that said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to wit:

- The first publication being made on 11/3/2016
- the second publication on . . . . .,20 . . . . .
- the third publication on . . . . .,20 . . . . .
- the fourth publication on . . . . .,20 . . . . .
- the fifth publication on JILL R LETCHER . . . . .,20 . . . . .
- the sixth publication on NOTARY PUBLIC . . . . .,20 . . . . .
- and the last publication on . . . . .,20 . . . . .

that \$ . . . . . being the full amount of the fees for publication of the annexed notice, insures solely to the benefit of the publisher of the said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for a division thereof has been made with any person; and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of December, 2016

Notary Public, Jill R Letcher County

My commission expires. 12/17/20

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

)SS

COUNTY OF McCOOK)

**Public Notice**

**TrioTel Communications, Inc.**

**ETC and Lifeline Notice**

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- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
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TrioTel Communications, Inc. voice service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through

TROY SCHWANS of said County and State, being first duly sworn on his oath, says THE COUNTRY TRADER is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Salem, McCook County and State of South Dakota, and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; that the said newspaper is a legal newspaper, that it has a bonafide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said County of McCook for more than fifty-two successive weeks prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and has been printed during said period and at the present time, in whole in an office maintained at said place of publication; and that I, the undersigned, am publisher or employee of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all facts in this affidavit;

that the advertisement headed *Public Notice*

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the newspaper for . . . weeks; that said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to wit:

- The first publication being made on *11/1/16*
- the second publication on . . . ,20 . . .
- the third publication on . . . ,20 . . .
- the fourth publication on . . . ,20 . . .
- the fifth publication on . . . ,20 . . .
- the sixth publication on . . . ,20 . . .
- and the last publication on . . . ,20 . . .



that \$ . . . . . being the full amount of the fees for publication of the annexed notice, insures solely to the benefit of the publisher of the said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for a division thereof has been made with any person; and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

*Troy Schwans*  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this *2nd*

day of *December* . . . ,20*16*

*Jill R Letcher*  
Notary Public, *McCook* County

My commission expires *12/17/20*

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### Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complain\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complain_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866)632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender*

### TrioTel Communications, Inc.

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- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
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- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
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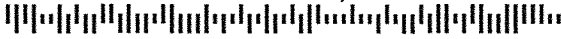
The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in the TrioTel Communications, Inc. service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238.



06 14 2017

PO Box 630  
Salem, SD 57058

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## Notice to TrioTel Communications, Inc. Customers

The Lifeline Program is available from TrioTel Communications, Inc.

The Lifeline Program is a government assistance program that lowers the cost of telephone and bundled broadband services meeting minimum standards for eligible low-income consumers by \$9.25 per month. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

Customers can qualify for one non-transferrable service per household if their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or by participation in one of the following programs:

- \*Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- \*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- \*Medicaid
- \*Veteran's Pension or Survivors Pension
- \*Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and recertify their eligibility annually. By applying for and receiving the Lifeline Discount, subscribers agree to remain with their service provider for 60 days for voice services and 12 months for broadband services.

Toll blocking to prevent the placement of all long distance calls is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

To apply for this low-income assistance, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238, email [heatherk@triotel.com](mailto:heatherk@triotel.com) or stop by our office at 330 S. Nebraska St., in Salem, SD.

MARCH 2016

# TrioTel Communications, Inc.

## Annual Notice

### Lifeline and Toll Blocking Assistance

Lifeline and Toll Blocking support is available from TrioTel Communications, Inc. These programs provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service.

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline.

Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

Customers are eligible if they, one of their dependents or their household participate in one of the following programs:

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

TrioTel Communications, Inc. voice service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

To apply for this low-income assistance, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238 or 611.

### Billing Name and Address Notification

The FCC requires TrioTel Communications, Inc., under certain circumstances, to release the Billing Name and Address (BNA) of telephone customers to telecommunications service providers. The main reason for releasing BNA information is to ensure proper billing for certain types of calls. For instance, calls such as collect, third number billed or calling card calls may be carried by an interexchange carrier who is not your presubscribed interexchange carrier or who does not have a billing contract with our company. Under these circumstances, the carrier does not know who to bill the call to, and therefore, must request the BNA from our company in order to bill the call. We must provide the information to the requesting carrier.

BNA can also be released to telecommunications service providers for other reasons, such as verification for presubscription, servicing your account, to prevent fraud, or when you move from one location to another.

If you have an unlisted or non-published telephone number, you have a choice. If you do not want your BNA released by our company for third party billed calls, collect calls and calling card calls, we need affirmative notification from you within 30 days of this notice. If you provide us with such notification, your ability to make calling card calls or to receive collect calls or third number billed calls could be denied. Should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238 or 611.



*Directory*

## Travel Information Statewide 511

South Dakota Department of Transportation and the South Dakota Highway Patrol provide travelers with a statewide, toll-free phone number for information about weather and road conditions. By dialing 5-1-1, users of cellular and land-based phones will receive up-to-date, location-specific road and weather information on any Interstate, US, or state highway in South Dakota and several adjoining states. If you are outside the state of South Dakota, travel information can be accessed by dialing 866-MYSD 511 (866-697-3511).

**South Dakota**  
For statewide travel  
information, call 511.



## Lifeline Program

The Lifeline Program is a government assistance program that lowers the cost of telephone and bundled broadband services meeting minimum standards for eligible low-income consumers by \$9.25 per month. Customers can qualify for one service per household if their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or by participation in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pension and Survivor Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and recertify their eligibility annually. By applying for and receiving the Lifeline Discount, subscribers agree to remain with their service provider for 60 days for voice services and 12 months for broadband services.

Toll Blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

*To apply for this low-income assistance, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238 or 611.*

## National Relief Helplines

### Financial Assistance for Families

Child Support Enforcement: (888) 369-0323

Free Bankruptcy Advice: (888) 734-2585

Mortgage Relief Helpline: (888) 770-7312

Debt Relief Helpline: (888) 790-1337

Collection Complaint Hotline: (888) 752-3028

Tax Relief Helpline: (888) 452-7841

Student Loan Relief Helpline: (888) 856-2668

Credit Score Improvement: (888) 537-4633

*To learn more, visit: [www.careconnectusa.org](http://www.careconnectusa.org)*

