SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2021

TrioTel Communications, Inc

Company:

Address:	330 South Nebraska Street, PO Box 630			
	Salem, SD 57058			
Telephone numb	605-425-2238			
Company contac	Heather Kranz			
Study Area Code	391669 & 391682			
Lifeline/Tribal Lin	k 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 st 30 days of service.* (See attached letter.)			
Com	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.			
	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. https://www.triotel.net/phone/lifeline/			
✓ Com	pany's information posted on USAC website.			
✓ Othe	r (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 Alexandria, Hanson County, South Dakota, by MATT ANDERSON, and has been such a newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned: that is has a bona fide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly; that is 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 a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the said newspaper for Me (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 $\frac{10/8/3030}{2030}$ The second publication on _____ The third publication on The fourth publication on 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 whosever, and that/said newspaper is a local newspaper under the law of the state of South Dakota.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL

day of

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount 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 (FPHA)

•Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)

Medicaid

•Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

 Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

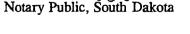
Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline. org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available at no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

Published once for the approximate cost of \$ \$18.21

E1009-3



My commission expires 2/10/2022

2020

Affidavit of Publication
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA) :SS
COUNTY OF HANSON:)
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 Emery, Hanson County, South Dakota, by MATT ANDERSON, and has been such a newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned: that is has a bona fide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly; that is 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
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 $10/8/2020$
The second publication on
The third publication on
The fourth publication on
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 whosever, and that said newspaper/is a local newspaper under the law of the state of South Dakota.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount 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 (FPHA)

•Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)

Medicaid

 Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

·Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available at no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

Published once for the approximate cost of \$18.21.

E1009-3



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My commission expires 2/10/2022

Notary Public, South Dakota

2020

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

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

ingle Party Residential Service ingle Party Business Service

\$18.00/month \$18.00/month

Local residential and business service includes

Intra-company-wide Extended Area Service (EAS)

Voice grade access to the public switched network Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users

- Access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911
- Toll limitation services available

TrioTel Communications, Inc. also offers Broadband Internet Access Service (BIAS). BIAS provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data by wire or radio from all or substantially all internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up service.

If you have any questions regarding telecommunication services, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephonebroadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is nontransferable. Customers can qualify for one discount 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 (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- **Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit**

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available at no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

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 https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-programdiscrimination-complaint-usda-customer 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: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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

DAVIT OF PUBLICATION

DAKOTA, County of Miner: ss.

County and State, being duly sworn, on her oath says: Pioneer is a legal newspaper of general circulation, 1 Howard, said County and State, by Carla Poulson, and r during the time hereinafter mentioned: and that I, gned, am publisher of said newspaper, in charge of thereof, and have personal knowledge of all the and that the advertisement or notice headed

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unto attached, was printed and published in the I newspaper and not in a supplement, once each veeks, the first publication being made on the

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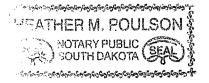


AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of Miner: ss.

Carla Poulson of said County and State, being duly sworn, on her oath says: That the Miner County Pioneer is a legal newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Howard, said County and State, by Carla Poulson, and has been such newspaper during the time hereinafter mentioned: and that I, Carla Poulson the undersigned, am publisher of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit, and that the advertisement or notice headed

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regular and entire is	which is hereunto attach ssue of said newspaper	and not in a supp	lement, once each
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The second publicat	ion being made on the .	day of	20
The third publication	being made on the	day of	20
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My commissi	on expires the/O	. day of OC+	2025





TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount 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 (FPHA)
- •Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)
 - Medicaid
 - •Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- •Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available at no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

9-17



Printer's Affidavit of Publication

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

SS

COUNTY OF McCOOK)

1-0.1.

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.....

Attenne
a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the newspaper for. 1 . 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
9/172020
the second publication on
the third publication on
the fourth publication on
the fifth publication on
the sixth publication on
and the last publication on
that \$ 22.80. 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
My Mann
Subscribed and sworn to before me this
day of September 2020
Luann McKillop
Notary Public,
My commission expires

Public Notice

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephonebroadband service, broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount 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 (FPHA)

•Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Food Stamps)

Medicaid

•Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

•Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available at no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

9-22

Ferrich MCKIIIOD

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 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.....

Lifeline
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
9/22,20 2.0
the second publication on
the third publication on
the fourth publication on
the fifth publication on
the sixth publication on
and the last publication on
that \$ 20.419. 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 to part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.
My Courn
Subscribed and sworn to be ore me this a9th
day of September 2020 Mann McKillop
' M C K
Notary Public
My commission expires. 2-16-24

Notice to TrioTel Communications, Inc. Customers

Lifeline support is available from TrioTel Communications, Inc. This federal program provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telecommunication service.

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service and/or broadband service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$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:

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

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

TrioTel Communications, Inc.'s services are 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 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, email heatherk@triotel.com or stop by our office at 330 S. Nebraska St., in Salem, SD.



South Dakota Travel Information

The South Dakota Department of Transportation and the South Dakota Highway Patrol provides 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 receive up-to-date, location specific road and weather information on any Interstate, U.S., or state highway in South Dakota and several adjoining states. Callers can also request road and weather conditions for any route on the South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota state highway systems. Callers outside the state of South Dakota can reach the SD 511 system by calling, toll-free, 866-MYSD511 or 866-697-3511.

Lifeline Program

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount 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 (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- · Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

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

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

National Relief Helplines Financial Assistance for Families

Bankruptcy Advice: 888-734-2585 Child Support Enforcement: 888-369-0323

Child Care Assistance: 605-773-3165 Credit Score Improvement: 888-537-4633

Debt Collection Complaints: 888-752-3028

Debt Relief: 888-790-1337

Discount Prescriptions: 800-291-1206

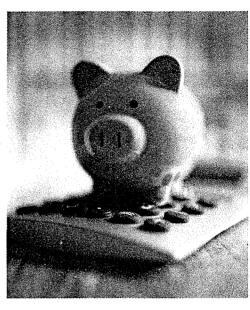
ID Theft Recovery/

Protection Hotline: 877-283-8576 Mortgage Relief: 888-770-7312

Student Loan Relief: 888-856-2668 Tax Debt Relief: 888-452-7841

For more information.

visit www.careconnectusa.org.



National Do Not Call Registry

The National Do Not Call Registry has been established to offer you a choice about receiving telemarketing calls at home. Registering will stop most telemarketing calls, but it will not stop calls from certain non-profit and political organizations with which you have established a business relationship. Consumers can register their residential telephone numbers, including wireless numbers, on the National Do Not Call Registry by telephone or by Internet at no cost. The number will be on the Do Not Call List the day after registration, however, telemarketers have up to 31 days to remove the number from their call lists. You may register up to three numbers at one time if registering on the Internet. If registering via telephone, you can register only one number at a time and you must call from the telephone number you are registering. A number can be removed from the Do Not Call Registry at any time. To register or remove a number from the Do Not Call Registry, call 1-888-382-1222, for TTY call 1-866-290-4236 or register on the Internet at www.donotcall. gov. Additional information can be obtained at www.donotcall.gov.









What is Lifeline?

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet service for eligible low-income subscribers.

How do I know if I'm eligible?

To be eligible for Lifeline assistance, you must meet income-based criteria currently defined as at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see below) OR participate in ONE of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- · Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

135 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines (As of January 2021)

- 1 person: \$17.388
- 2 people: \$23,517
- 3 people: \$29,646
- 4 people: \$35,775
- 5 people: \$41,904
- 6 people: \$48,033
- 7 people: \$54,162
- 8 people: \$60,291

Lifeline Rules

- · If you qualify, your household can get Lifeline for phone or internet service, but not both.
- If you get Lifeline for phone service, you can get the benefit for one mobile phone or one home phone, but not both.
- If you get Lifeline for internet service, you can get the benefit for your mobile phone or your home connection, but not both.
- · Your household cannot get Lifeline from more than one phone or internet company.
- You are only allowed to get one Lifeline benefit per household, **not per person**. If more than one person in your household gets Lifeline, you are breaking the FCC's rules and will lose your benefit.

Additional Information

- · A household is a group of people who live together and share income and expenses.
- · Lifeline is non-transferable. You cannot give your Lifeline benefit to another person, even if they qualify.

^{*}For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$6,129 for each additional person.

- You must give accurate and true information on all Lifeline-related forms or questionnaires. If you give false or
 fraudulent information, you will lose your Lifeline benefit (i.e., de-enrollment or being barred from the program)
 and the United States government can take legal actions against you. This may include (but is not limited to) fines
 or imprisonment.
- If the Lifeline Program Administrator is not able to prove you or someone in your household qualify using the Lifeline form and electronic databases, you may need to show an official document from one of the government qualifying programs or to prove your annual income.
 - If you qualify through a government program: copies of your state ID card and an official document from the programs you are qualifying through. **The document must contain your name**.
 - If you qualify through your income: copies of your state ID card and pay stubs for 3 consecutive months or other accepted documents.
 - Visit www.LifelineSupport.org to see the full list of accepted documents.

HOW TO APPLY FOR LIFELINE

Option 1: Apply Online

Visit the consumer portal, CheckLifeline.org, and create an account. You can fill out a Lifeline Application online. You will find out if you are eligible for Lifeline through the consumer portal immediately after applying online. If the National Verifier cannot prove your eligibility automatically, you will need to upload more documents to the consumer portal.

Option 2: Apply by Mail

Mail in your completed Lifeline Application, Household Worksheet, and copies of your proof of eligibility to:

USAC

Lifeline Support Center

P.O. Box 7081

London, KY 40742

USAC will contact you by email from **LifelineSupport@usac.org** or mail from the Lifeline Support Center to let you know if you qualify for Lifeline. If the National Verifier cannot check your eligibility, you will need to mail in more documents to the Lifeline Support Center.

RENEW EACH YEAR

You must recertify every year. If the National Verifier cannot recertify you, USAC will contact you with instructions to recertify. If you do not respond, you will lose your benefit.

If you have any questions, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.



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