

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2025**

Company: Clarity Telecom, LLC d/b/a Bluepeak

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Denver, CO
80237

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Company contact: Carolyn McCarthy

Study Area Code: 399006 (CLEC)

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 1st 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.mybluepeak.com



Company's information posted on USAC website.



Other (describe):

*Required

Woman pleads not guilty to aggravated assault

MADISON WILLIS
Journal staff

A Rapid City woman pleaded not guilty after being charged with one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and one count of

simple assault.

Cheri Zerbest appeared in court Monday for her arraignment hearing in front of Judge Eric Kelderman. The Pennington County State's

Attorney's Office alleged on July 10, 2023, Zerbest had committed aggravated assault with a firearm and simple assault against Michael Victor Cinkan. In the state of South Dakota,

aggravated assault with a deadly weapon is a class three felony with a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine. Simple assault is a class one misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of one

year in county jail and a \$2,000 fine. Zerbest's next motions hearings is Sept. 19 at 9 a.m. You can contact Madison at mwillis@rapidcityjournal.com

Man pleads no contest to third-degree rape

MADISON WILLIS
Journal staff

A 32-year-old Rapid City man pleaded no contest to third-degree rape at his Monday change of plea hearing in Pennington County Court.

In a Sept. 20, 2023 indictment, a Pennington County grand jury charged Brandon Robbins with one count of second-degree rape. The indictment alleged Robbins assaulted a woman on Feb. 10, 2023.

The state filed a document with Robbins' indictment labeling him as a habitual offender. Robbins was convicted of burglary in 2018 in a Texas court, according to the document.

Defense attorney Elizabeth Regalado said the plea agreement was al-

tered since his July 17 status hearing, due to evidence being presented that Robbins was intoxicated during the incident.

Robbins entered into a no-contest plea agreement with the Pennington County State's Attorney's Office. In exchange for the plea, State Attorney Adam Shiffermiller said the state would be requesting 12 years in prison with five years suspended.

In the state of South Dakota, the maximum penalty for the class two felony, third-degree rape is 25 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

Robbins' sentencing hearing is Aug. 5 at 9 a.m. You can contact Madison at mwillis@rapidcityjournal.com

City committee urges proper parking in striped areas

JOURNAL STAFF

As the nation commemorates the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Sturgis Rally kicks off, the Rapid City Disability Awareness and Accessibility Committee urges drivers to avoid parking in white or yellow-striped areas adjacent to accessible parking spaces.

The white and yellow-striped zones next to accessible parking spots are essential for providing space for drivers and passengers in vehicles equipped with wheelchair ramps, as well as for those using manual wheelchairs, walkers or crutches. The areas allow wheelchair ramps to extend from vans, enabling users to enter and exit their vehicles safely.

"The striped areas are not for motorcycle or vehicle parking," said Tamie Hopp, chairwoman of the city's

Disability Awareness and Accessibility Committee. "These spots serve a very important and useful purpose. Although the areas may look like a convenient option for parking a motorcycle or car, these areas are designed specifically for use by people needing accessibility options."

For the third consecutive year, the committee is leveraging the ADA anniversary and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally to raise awareness about proper parking practices. Parking in white-striped areas next to public accessible spaces can result in a \$100 citation, while parking in areas marked with yellow stripes and striped downtown can lead to a \$25 fine. Private businesses also use yellow striping to indicate accessible parking spaces.

"This time of year, with the anniversary of the ADA

and the start of the rally, it's the perfect time to remind both residents and visitors of the importance of not only the striped areas in parking lots but also of the access parking areas for people with disabilities," Hopp said. "Throughout the year, we encounter issues with drivers parking in areas reserved for drivers with accessibility issues."

The striped areas provide people who need space to maneuver in manual wheelchairs, retrieve walkers from their vehicles, or use crutches. The striped accessibility parking areas serve a very important purpose, as do all disability-reserved parking areas, according to Hopp.

Parking accessibility is a crucial issue for people with disabilities.

"You can be dealing with a health issue or condition in an instant," Hopp said.

"Many don't realize a person can be a heartbeat away – or one step away – from possibly becoming disabled. You can break an ankle or a leg in a fall. Suddenly, that reserved parking space or striped area takes on new meaning and importance for the person who needs it."

The ADA, enacted by Congress and signed into law by President George Bush in 1990, ensures protections for people with disabilities in various aspects of public life, including voting and parking.

For more information about disability issues and the work of the city's Disability Awareness and Accessibility Committee, visit the committee's Facebook page under the social media tab at rcgov.org or visit the committee's page under Citizen Boards and Commissions on the city's website.

Man sentenced to 20 years for child pornography

JOURNAL STAFF

A 33-year-old Rapid City man convicted of receiving child pornography was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release.

At the July 25 sentencing, U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier also ordered the man pay \$12,000 in restitution and a routine \$100



Cadotte

assessment to the Federal Crime Victims Fund.

Tull Logan Cadotte was originally charged in July 2021 with sexual exploitation of a minor, receipt of child pornography,

and possession of child pornography. On May 3, 2024, he pleaded guilty to receipt of child pornography.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Cadotte sexually abused a female minor he was entrusted to babysit for several years and recorded the abuse. The child's mother contacted the Rapid City

Police Department in January 2021, according to court documents. The woman's report kicked off an investigation into Cadotte.

Police arrived at the home where Cadotte lived with his father in February 2021 to execute a search warrant and found hundreds of sexually explicit depictions of minors on his

devices.

According to the statement Cadotte signed when he pleaded guilty, he deleted material from his phone and an encryption software on multiple devices when police arrived. The images police found that Cadotte admitted to possessing showed the sexual abuse of prepubescent children.

Cadotte will be required to register as a sex offender when he completes his federal prison sentence.

In the meantime, he is held at the Pennington County Jail on state charges of child pornography, child rape, and sexual contact with a child under 16.

Contact Shalom Baer Gee at sgee@rapidcityjournal.com

Wildland fire burns 75 acres near Hot Springs

JOURNAL STAFF

Crews were able to contain a wildland fire that burned 75 acres near Hot Springs over the weekend.

South Dakota Wildland Fire, the U.S. Forest Service and numerous other departments responded to the Round Top Fire approximately five miles southwest of Hot Springs early Saturday afternoon.

According to a Facebook post from the South Dakota Department of Public Safety, the lightning-caused fire at times burned through rocky and rugged can-

yon areas inaccessible by dozers. Crews were able to dig fire lines by hand to assist in containment. DPS said Sunday night the fire was 100% contained.

The Round Top Fire wasn't the only wildland fire event near Hot Springs over the weekend. According to Great Plains Fire Information, crews were on-scene Monday mopping up the 13.4-acre Limestone Fire, a lightning-caused fire first reported early Saturday afternoon in Wind Cave National Park.

Firefighters remained on-scene Saturday night to prevent the

fire from jumping control lines during a high wind event, according to a National Park Service press release Sunday.

Crews from Wind Cave National Park, the Black Hat Handcrew from South Dakota Wildland Fire, the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue fire department and the Black Hawk Fire Department helped control the blaze along with two aircraft, the initial attack helicopter from the Black Hills National Forest and a SEAT, Single Engine Airtanker, operating out of the tanker base at the Hot Springs Municipal Airport.

The fire was located approximately two miles northeast of the park's visitor center. No structures were threatened, and no injuries were reported, officials said.

The fire danger remains very high, and people are reminded to be safe in their outdoor activities.

Crews with South Dakota Wildland Fire battled a 75-acre wildland fire near Hot Springs on Saturday, July 27, 2024.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Highway 385 construction on pause for Sturgis Rally

JOURNAL STAFF

All construction activities on U.S. Highway 385 will be paused for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally from Wednesday, July 31, through end-of-day on Monday, Aug. 12.

During that timeframe, all lanes will be open to traffic. The road surface from S.D. Highway 44 to Lake Pactola will be a type of sealed rock that resembles asphalt with lane markings painted onto it. In addition to the road markings, there will be a temporary traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 385 and Highway 44.

There will be one and one-half miles of gravel surfacing from Highway 44 to one-half mile north of Silver City Road and a 1,000-foot-long gravel diversion immediately south of the Pennington-Lawrence County line. Both lengths of gravel will be treated to control dust.

Both the sealed rock surface and the temporary gravel surfacing may become slippery when wet, so drivers are advised to use caution in the event of inclement weather. The

South Dakota Department of Transportation, the contractor, and South Dakota Highway Patrol will be ac-

tively monitoring road conditions within project limits for the duration of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The speed limit through the project construction area is reduced to 45 mph.

For those driving

through the Highway 385 project, or any construction project, the SDDOT reminds travelers to re-

duce their speed and exercise extra caution to safely manage changing roadway conditions.

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Mexican Restaurant & Tapas Bar

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Do you need help paying for your Phone or Internet Service?

Bluepeak's Lifeline discount may be able to help.

Lifeline is a government program that provides a monthly discount on phone and Internet to eligible households.

Since 1985, the Lifeline program has helped millions of eligible Americans stay connected to family, work, doctors, and emergency services by making Phone and Internet service more affordable.

To see if you qualify for Lifeline, please call 888-975-4BLU (4258).

*Lifeline is available on one telephone line or one internet connection per household and is non-transferable.

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