

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

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

Address: 4600 S. Ulster St, Ste 1300
Denver, CO
80237

Telephone number: 303-376-7312

Company contact: Carolyn McCarthy

Study Area Code: 391652 (ILEC)

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

Netanyahu warns Hezbollah of retaliation

Blinken discusses need to prevent escalation

John Bacon
USA TODAY

Lebanon and Iran-backed Hezbollah militants braced for retaliatory strikes from Israel on Monday while Israel and Turkey traded angry threats as the war in Gaza threatened to explode across the Middle East.

An Israeli drone strike killed two Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon on Monday, but a more violent response was expected two days after a rocket strike killed 12 children and teens in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Israel and the U.S. say evidence indicates the missile was fired by Hezbollah, which the militant group has vehemently denied.

"The state of Israel will not and cannot let this pass," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday while visiting the Golan Heights. "Our response will come, and it will be harsh."

Israel wants to hurt Hezbollah but not drag the Middle East into all-out war, two Israeli officials told Reuters Monday, as Lebanon braced for retaliation. Two other Israeli officials said Israel was preparing for the possibility of a few days of fighting.

The Israeli officials, including a senior defense official and a diplomatic source, spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity and gave no further information about Israel's plans for retaliation.

"The estimation is that the response will not lead to an all-out war," said the diplomatic source. "That would not be in our interest at this point."

On Sunday, Israel's security cabinet authorized Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to decide on the manner and timing of a response to the strike.

Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper quoted unidentified officials as saying the response would be "limited but significant."

The report said options ranged from a limited attack on infrastructure, including bridges, power plants and ports, to hitting Hezbollah arms depots or targeting Hezbollah commanders.

Prompted by the Gaza war, the hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah have been their worst since they went to war in 2006.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz issued a warning to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Monday after Erdogan said his forces could consider entering Israel to show "Israel can't do these ridiculous things to Palestine."

"Erdogan follows in the footsteps of Saddam Hussein and threatens to attack Israel," Katz said in a social media post that included side-by-side photos of Erdogan and Saddam. "Just let him remember what happened there — and how it ended."

Saddam Hussein was Iraq's president when he was captured by U.S. forces in 2003 and later executed.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke by phone with Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Monday and ex-

pressed condolences for those killed in the Golan Heights and a speedy recovery for those injured, according to a readout of the call released by the State Department.

Blinken also reaffirmed the "ironclad" U.S. commitment to Israeli security from Iran-backed militant groups including Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis.

Blinken and Herzog discussed peace talks and "emphasized the importance of preventing escalation of the conflict and discussed efforts to reach a diplomatic solution to allow citizens on both sides of the border between Israel and Lebanon to return home," the readout said. Rocket attacks back and forth across the border have driven tens of thousands of Lebanese and Israelis from their homes.

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut warned Americans not to visit Lebanon and suggested those already there either leave or "develop a crisis plan of action." Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Rena Bitter, in a statement posted on social media, said Washington is "laser focused on ... the complex and quickly changing" developments in the country.

A travel advisory says Americans in Lebanon should closely monitor local and international news, be aware of surroundings and avoid demonstrations and large gatherings.

The embassy noted that commercial flight schedules are already being altered because of the missile attacks and that, should commercial air travel halt, Americans there "should be prepared to

shelter in place for long periods of time."

Hamas accuses Netanyahu of preventing Gaza cease-fire

Hamas accused Netanyahu on Monday of preventing a cease-fire in Gaza by adding new conditions and demands to a U.S.-backed truce proposal, after the latest talks conducted through mediators.

The group said it had received the latest response from Israel, following talks in Rome involving Israel, the United States, Egypt and Qatar.

"It is clear from what the mediators conveyed that Netanyahu has returned to his strategy of procrastination, evasion, and avoiding reaching an agreement by setting new conditions and demands," Hamas said in a statement.

The Islamist faction accused Netanyahu of retreating from a proposal previously presented by mediators, which it said had already been based on an "Israeli paper."

Washington, which sponsors the talks, has repeatedly said a deal is close; the latest talks are over a proposal President Joe Biden unveiled in May.

Hamas wants a cease-fire agreement to end the war in Gaza, while Netanyahu says the conflict will stop only once Hamas is defeated.

Mediators Qatar and Egypt, backed by the United States, have repeatedly said doors to more negotiations remain open, with both Israel and Hamas voicing readiness to pursue them.

Contributing: Reuters

Budget

Continued from Page 1A

- **Affordability:** Ensuring that technical education in South Dakota is affordable and offers a positive return on investment by maintaining a 5.0 or lower cost to earnings premium for every associate of applied science program in the system by 2030.

- **Alignment:** Preparing learners and graduates for meaningful employment and continued education opportunities by increasing the year five in-state placement rate to 75% by 2030.

The technical college system produced an average of 2,440 graduates each year between 2019 and 2023, and is projected to produce as many as 2,760 graduates each year by 2030, according to an appendix presented to the board. To meet the goal, the technical college system will have to achieve an annual growth rate of 3%. Board members also OK'd the budget request from the SDBOTE office, which Director Nick Wendell will submit to the Bureau of Finance and Management (BFM) in August. After that, he said he will meet with BFM officials and Gov. Kristi Noem's of-

fice about the request in September, and hear more about it in Noem's budget address in December. Budget requests for the fiscal year running July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 include:

- \$7956.80 for the per-student allocation, up from \$6,232.68 last fiscal year. This would total more than \$46.5 million for the system, including to cover \$9 million in ongoing equipment support.

- \$3.3 million in maintenance & repair funding to keep up with rising costs for maintenance and repair on each campus. This is an increase of \$1.5 million from the last fiscal year.

- More than \$2 million in bonding support for debt service, an increase of \$135,907 from the last fiscal year.

- \$2.2 million in tuition assistance from the state, an increase of \$526,950 from the last fiscal year.

The SDBOTE has implemented a tuition and fee freeze in the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, but will need to consider an increase to the state tuition rate in the academic year 2025-2026 to keep the salary policy in line with inflation. The SDBOTE has received about \$10 per credit since fiscal year 2017 for tuition assistance, and recommends increasing to \$13 per credit for the next fiscal year.

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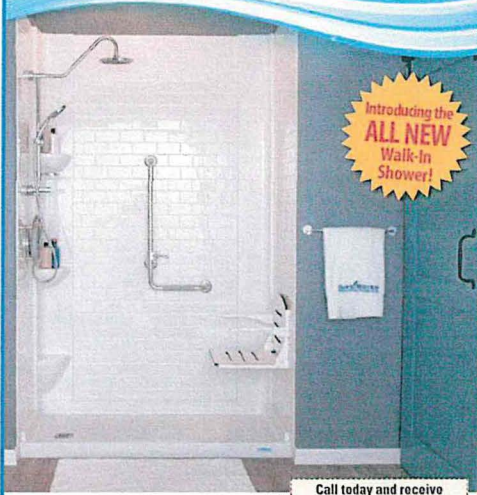
To see if you qualify for Lifeline, please call 888-975-4BLU (4258).

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

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page 2 of 4

Account Number: [REDACTED] 202
Billing Date: 08/16/24
Total Amount Due: \$98.54
Payment Due By: 09/03/24

Need Help Paying Your Telephone or Broadband Bill?
Bluepeak's Lifeline discount may be able to help. Lifeline is a government program that provides a monthly discount on telephone or broadband service 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 telephone service more affordable. To see if you qualify for Lifeline, please visit www.mybluepeak.com/lifeline-assistance-information-2/.

*Lifeline is available on one telephone line or one broadband connection per household and is nontransferable.

SERVICE CHARGES

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08/14 - 09/13	50Mbps symmetrical speed Internet	\$45.00
08/14 - 09/13	Unlimited Phone Line Service ...	\$24.99
	Total Service Charges.....	\$79.99

TAXES AND FEES

State Sales Tax	\$1.97
City Sales Tax	\$0.94

TELEPHONE AND CIRCUIT TAXES AND FEES

Federal Access Charge	\$6.50
Carrier Service Fee	\$1.61
Gross Receipts Tax	\$1.04
E911	\$2.00
Federal Excise Tax.....	\$0.75
Federal USF Fee	\$3.59
State Telecommunications Relay Svc	\$0.15
Total Taxes and Fees	\$18.55

Total Amount Due..... \$98.54

SERVICE LOCATIONS

[REDACTED] HURLEY, SD 57036-6307

Franchise Authority: City of Hurley (SD0092) PO Box 336 Hurley, SD 57036 605-238-0680

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

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Business #: _____

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