EXHIBIT E

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 20_25_

Company:

Address:

Telephone number:

Company contact:

Study Area Code:

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.

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe):

*Required



West River Cooperative Telephone Company 801 Coleman Avenue PO Box 39 Bison, SD 57620 605.244.5213 westriver@sdplains.com www.wrctc.coop www.facebook.com/WRCTC

October 30, 2024

Mr. Ryman LeBeau, Tribal Chairman Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Government PO Box 590 Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Mr. LeBeau:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as part of its 2012 Order reforming the federal universal service mechanisms related to telecommunications and information services, adopted new "Trial Engagement" provisions that are intended to improve communications and foster a greater understanding between service providers and Tribal entities of the factors necessary to deploy and sustain telecommunication services on Tribal lands. *See* FCC Public Notice, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Wireline Competition Bureau Issue Further Guidance on Tribal Engagement Obligation Provisions of the Connect America Fund, DA 12-1165, released July 19, 2012.

Pursuant to the FCC's rules related to Tribal Engagement, West River Cooperative Telephone Company would, as soon as possible, like to begin discussions with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in a manner consistent with the FCC rules. Accordingly, we would request a meeting with the Tribe. The purpose of this meeting will, generally, be to exchange information related to the deployment and provisioning of communications services on Tribal lands. While West River Cooperative Telephone Company leaves to your discretion attendees from the tribe at this requested meeting, it is important that at least some of the tribal representative attendees at the meeting are "decision-makers," as this can change the perspectives of the discussions. West River Cooperative Telephone Company asks that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe provide a name and contact information for a Tribal representative who can assist in scheduling and arranging a meeting with the appropriate Tribal government staff and leaders to discuss deployment and sustainability of telecommunications services on Tribal lands. This information may be provided to the undersigned by calling (605) 244-5213, or through an email directed to ekahler@wrctc.coop. Please respond by December 31, 2024.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We look forward to discussing these important matters with you.

Sincerely,

Eric Kahler, General Manager EK:tkk



West River Cooperative Telephone Company 801 Coleman Avenue PO Box 39 Bison, SD 57620 605.244.5213 westriver@sdplains.com www.wrctc.coop www.facebook.com/WRCTC

October 30, 2024

Janet Alkire, Chairwoman Standing Rock Sioux Tribe PO Box D Fort Yates, ND 58539

Dear Ms. Alkire:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as part of its 2012 Order reforming the federal universal service mechanisms related to telecommunications and information services, adopted new "Trial Engagement" provisions that are intended to improve communications and foster a greater understanding between service providers and Tribal entities of the factors necessary to deploy and sustain telecommunication services on Tribal lands. *See* FCC Public Notice, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Wireline Competition Bureau Issue Further Guidance on Tribal Engagement Obligation Provisions of the Connect America Fund, DA 12-1165, released July 19, 2012.

Pursuant to the FCC's rules related to Tribal Engagement, West River Cooperative Telephone Company would, as soon as possible, like to begin discussions with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in a manner consistent with the FCC rules. Accordingly, we would request a meeting with the Tribe. The purpose of this meeting will, generally, be to exchange information related to the deployment and provisioning of communications services on Tribal lands. While West River Cooperative Telephone Company leaves to your discretion attendees from the tribe at this requested meeting, it is important that at least some of the tribal representative attendees at the meeting are "decision-makers," as this can change the perspectives of the discussions. West River Cooperative Telephone Company asks that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe provide a name and contact information for a Tribal representative who can assist in scheduling and arranging a meeting with the appropriate Tribal government staff and leaders to discuss deployment and sustainability of telecommunications services on Tribal lands. This information may be provided to the undersigned by calling (605) 244-5213, or through an email directed to ekahler@wrctc.coop. Please respond by December 31, 2024.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We look forward to discussing these important matters with you.

Sincerely,

Ēric Kahler, General Manager EK/tkk

Lifeline

Receive up to \$9.25 off your phone or Internet service

Lifeline is a federal program that helps lower the monthly cost of your phone or Internet service.*

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

You qualify for a discount if:

- You participate in any ONE of these government benefit programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Medicaid
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - -OR-
- Your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines

HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY

A household is a group of people that share income and expenses.

- You are only allowed to get one Lifeline discount per household.
- If you share housing, complete the Household Worksheet.
- The worksheet is available on our website. LifelineSupport.org. You can also ask your Lifeline service provider.



	APPLY ONLINE Find the online application at CheckLifeline.org.
<u> </u>	MAIL YOUR APPLICATION Print an application from LifelineSupport.org. Fill out and mail it with proof of eligibility to:
	Lifeline Support Center P.O. Box 7081 London, KY 40742
50	CONTACT A PHONE OR INTERNET COMPAN Find a company that provides Lifeline at LifelineSupport.org .

Click Companies Near Me.

If you live in CA (CaliforniaLifeline.com), OR (Lifeline. Oregon.gov), or TX (TexasLifeline.org), visit the website for your state to find out how to apply.

HOW TO SHOW YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

You may need to show proof that you qualify for Lifeline, such as:

- A copy of your SNAP or program letter OR
- A copy of your pay stub or tax return to prove your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

*If you live on Tribal Lands, you may receive an additional discount toward your service. If you have a disability and need assistance with your application, contact the Lifeline Support Center.



LIFELINE SUPPORT CENTER (800) 234-9473 9 AM-9 PM ET 7 DAYS PER WEEK LifelineSupport@usac.org www.LifelineSupport.org

Lifeline is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help make communications services more affordable for eligible consumers. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers the Lifeline program. USAC is responsible for helping you apply for the program, understand eligibility requirements, and keep your benefit current through an annual recertification process.

Lifeline Program Application Form





Universal Service Administrative Co.

1. About Lifeline

Lifeline is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that provides a monthly phone or internet service discount for qualifying low-income consumers.

Rules

If you qualify, your household can receive a monthly Lifeline benefit of up to \$9.25 to lower the costs of phone or internet service and up to \$34.25 for qualifying households on Tribal lands.

- 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.
- If you get Lifeline for bundled phone and internet service, you can get the benefit for your mobile phone bundled service or your home bundled service, 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.

What is a household?

A household is a group of people who live together and share income and expenses (even if they are not related to each other). Complete the Lifeline household worksheet to determine if more than one qualifying household is located at your address. If more than one person in your household participates in Lifeline, you are breaking the FCC's rules and will lose your benefit.

Do not give your benefit to another person

Lifeline is non-transferable. You cannot give your Lifeline benefit to another person, even if they qualify.

Be honest on this form

You must give accurate and true information on this form and 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.

You may need to show other documents

If the Lifeline Program Administrator is not able to validate that you or someone in your household qualify by checking available electronic resources (including eligibility databases for the FCC's government agency partners), you may need to provide additional documents. For example, you may need to provide an official document that proves your participation in a qualifying government assistance program, your income, or your identity. Please include copies of your proof documentation when you submit your application to speed up processing time.

Apply

To apply for a Lifeline benefit, fill out the required sections of this form, initial every agreement statement, and sign on page 6. You can also apply online at **LifelineSupport.org** for fastest processing. Mail the form to this address: USAC Lifeline Support Center PO Box 1000 Horseheads, NY 14845

Universal Service Administrative Company | www.lifelinesupport.org Need help? Call the Lifeline Support Center at 1-800-234-9473

Lifeline Program Application Form



OMB APPROVAL EDITION 3060-0819

Universal Service Administrative Co.

2a. Your Information

All fields are required unless indicated. Use only CAPITALIZED LETTERS and black ink to fill out this form.

*The Safe Connections Act (SCA) was enacted to ensure that survivors can separate from abusers without losing independent access to their mobile service. Through the SCA, survivors can receive a 6-month benefit by providing proof of a legitimate line separation request submitted to a service provider and confirming that they are experiencing financial hardship. A survivor is defined as an individual who is not less than 18 years old and either (1) experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, or (2) cares for someone who has experienced such acts. If participating through the SCA, consumers can list an address from the last 6 months. It does not have to be your current address.

rst						
			TTT			
liddle (optional)					Suffix (opt	ional)
			TIT			
ast						
/hat is vour pl	hone number (if	vou have one)?	What is v	our date of l	oirth?	
			Month	Day	Year	
/hat is your er	nail address (if y	ou have one)?				
	TTT		TTT	TT		TT
			1111			
Vhat are the la	st 4 numbers of	your Social Security	Number (SSN)?			
		your Social Security				
f you do not have a	a SSN, what is your 1	ribal Identification Numb	er?	e SCA (Safe		Act)*:
f you do not have a	a SSN, what is your 1		er?	ne SCA (Safe		Act)*:
f you do not have a	a SSN, what is your 1	iribal Identification Numb	er?	ne SCA (Safe	Connections	Act)*:

*If I selected the phone or text option, I consent to let USAC contact me at my Lifeline phone number for important reminders and updates to my Lifeline service.

If I selected the text message option, message and data rates may apply.

Text STOP to end messages.

OMB APPROVAL EDITION 3060-0819

15

Lifeline Program Application Form



Universal Service Administrative Co.

2c. Your Information (continued)

Only fill this section out if you are applying through a child or dependent.

Check if you are qualifying through a child or dependent in your household If so, answer the following questions:	l.
What is their full legal name?	
First	
Middle (optional)	Suffix (optional)
Last	
What is their date of birth?	
Month Day Year	
What are the last 4 numbers of their Social Security Number (SSN)?	
If they do not have a SSN, what is their Tribal Identification Number?	

Lifeline Program Application Form





1

Universal Service Administrative Co.

2b. Your Information (continued)

*Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma; Alaska Native regions established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688); Indian allotments; Hawaiian Home Lands-areas held in trust for Native Hawaiians by the state of Hawaii, pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 July 9, 1921, 42 Stat. 108, et. seq., as amended; and any land designated as such by the FCC for purposes of this subpart pursuant to the designation process in the FCC's Lifeline rules.

A map of qualifying Tribal lands is available on USAC's website: https://www.lifelinesupport.org/ wpcontent/uploads/documents/getlifeline/fcc_tribal_lands_map.pdf

Street Number and Name Apt., Unit, etc. City	kround
Apt., Unit, etc. City State . Zip Code Is this a temporary address? Yes No Check if you live on To	kround
Apt., Unit, etc. City State . Zip Code Is this a temporary address? Yes No Check if you live on T	kround
State . Zip Code Is this a temporary address? Yes No Check if you live on T	kround
State . Zip Code Is this a temporary address? Yes No Check if you live on T	kround
Is this a temporary address? Yes No Check if you live on T	kround
Is this a temporary address? Yes No Check if you live on T	kround
Concernent Concernent Concernent	kround
What is your mailing address? (Only fill this out if it is not the same as your hom	ne address.)
Street Number and Name	
Apt., Unit, etc. City	
State Zip Code	

Lifeline Program Application Form



Universal Service Administrative Co.

3. Qualify for Lifeline

Fill out this section to show that you, your dependent, or someone in your household qualifies for Lifeline.

You can qualify through certain government assistance programs or through your income (you do not need to qualify through both).

When you mail this form, please include documents that show you participate in one of the programs you selected or that you qualify through your income. A list of acceptable documents is available at LifelineSupport.org

Qualify through a government program:

Che	ck all programs that you or someone in your household have:	l
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Food Stamps)	l
\Box	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	l
\Box	Medicaid	
\Box	Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)	l
	Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs	
\Box	Survivors of Domestic Violence through the Safe Connections Act (SCA) - must also complete	l
	Section 5 on page 7	
Triba	al Specific Programs	
	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance	
\Box	Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)	
\Box	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	
\Box	Tribal Head Start (only households that meet the income qualifying standard)	
		1

Or

Qualify through your income:

(Only fill this out if you do not qualify through a government program.)

Including you, how many people live in your household? (check one)	Is your income the same or less than the amount listed for your state and household size? (only check yes or no next to your household size)								
	All 48 States, DC, and Territories (not Alaska and Hawaii)	Alaska	Hawaii						
1	\$20,331	\$25,394	\$23,369	Yes	No No				
2	\$27,594	\$34,479	\$31,725	Yes	No				
3	\$34,857	\$43,565	\$40,082	Yes	No				
4	\$42,120	\$52,650	\$48,438	Yes	No				
5	\$49,383	\$61,736	\$56,795	Yes	No No				
6	\$56,646	\$70,821	\$65,151	Yes	No				
7	\$63,909	\$79,907	\$73,508	Yes	No				
8	\$71,172	\$88,992	\$81,864	Yes	No				
If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$7,263	Add \$9,086	Add \$8,357	Yes	No No				
135% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines									

*The Federal Poverty Guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.

Universal Service Administrative Company | www.lifelinesupport.org Need help? Call the Lifeline Support Center at 1-800-234-9473

Lifeline Program Application Form





Universal Service Administrative Co.

I (or my dependent or other person in my household) currently get benefits from the government 4 program(s) listed on this form or my annual household income is 135% or less than the Federal Initial Poverty Guidelines (the amount listed in the Federal Poverty Guidelines table on this form). Agreement I agree that if I move I will give my service provider my new address within 30 days. Initial l agree, under I understand that I have to tell my service provider within 30 days if I do not qualify for Lifeline penalty of perjury, anymore, including: to the following Initial 1) I, or the person in my household that qualifies, do not qualify through a government statements: program or income anymore. 2) Either I or someone in my household gets more than one Lifeline benefit (including more You must initial next to than one Lifeline broadband internet service, more than one Lifeline telephone service, or each statement. If vou fail both Lifeline telephone and Lifeline broadband internet services). to initial each statement, your application will be know that my household can only get one Lifeline benefit and, to the best of my knowledge, considered incomplete. my household is not getting more than one Lifeline benefit. Initial By providing a phone number, I agree that all of the information I provide on this form may be collected, used, shared, and retained you consent to letting USAC for the purposes of applying for and/or receiving the Lifeline Program benefit. I understand that Initial contact you at that phone if this information is not provided to the Lifeline Program Administrator, I will not be able to get number via artificial or Lifeline benefits. If the laws of my state or Tribal government require it, I agree that the state or prerecorded voice message or Tribal government may share information about my benefits for a qualifying program with the text for important reminders Lifeline Program Administrator. The information shared by the state or Tribal government will be and updates about your Lifeline used only to help find out if I can get a Lifeline Program benefit. benefit. For text messages, message and data rates may All the answers and agreements that I provided on this form are true and correct to the best apply. Text STOP to end messages. of my knowledge. Initial I know that willingly giving false or fraudulent information to get Lifeline Program benefits is punishable by law and can result in fines, jail time, de-enrollment, or being barred from the Initial program. My service provider may have to check whether I still gualify at any time. If I need to recertify (renew) my Lifeline benefit, I understand that I have to respond by the deadline or I will be Initial removed from the Lifeline Program and my Lifeline benefit will stop. The certification below applies to all consumers and is required to process your application. I was truthful about whether or not I am a resident of Tribal lands, as defined in section 2 of this form. Initial

Signature	Today's Date

Lifeline Program Application Form





Universal Service Administrative Co.

5. Survivors of Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Survivors can qualify for an emergency Lifeline benefit through the Safe Connections Act (SCA) by (A) providing evidence of a leaitimate line separation request submitted to the provider, and (B) confirming their participation in a broader range of qualifying programs or that their income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Qualify as a Survivor of Domestic Violence:

(Only fill this out if you qualify as a Survivor of Domestic Violence)

Check all programs that you or someone in your household have:

Federal Pell Grant for the current award year

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch or Breakfast Program, or enrollment in a Community Eligibility Provision School

Or

Certify your income by completing the chart below.

Including you, how many people live in your household? (check one)	state and househol	Is your income the same or less than the amount listed for your state and household size? (only check yes or no next to your household size)							
	All 48 States, DC, and Territories (not Alaska and Hawaii)	Alaska	Hawaii						
1	\$30,120	\$37,620	\$34,620	Yes	No No				
2	\$40,880	\$51,080	\$47,000	Yes	No				
3	\$51,640	\$64,540	\$59,380	Yes	No				
4	\$62,400	\$78,000	\$71,760	Yes	No				
5	\$73,160	\$91,460	\$84,140	Yes	No				
6	\$83,920	\$104,920	\$96,520	Yes	No				
7	\$94,680	\$118,380	\$108,900	Yes	No				
8	\$105,440	\$131,840	\$121,280	Yes	No				
If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$10,760	Add \$13,460	Add \$12,380	Yes	No				
200% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines									

*The Federal Poverty Guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.

The rederat Poverty Guidelines are typically updated at the end of Sandary.

I have received documentation from my service provider that I submitted a legitimate line separation request, and I am submitting my application with evidence of that documentation.

If my eligibility cannot be confirmed automatically, or if I do not have proof of my income, I certify under penalty of perjury that my income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and I am experiencing financial hardship (only to be completed if documentation cannot be easily provided).

Initial

Initial

I understand that by qualifying for Lifeline through the Safe Connections Act (SCA), I am eligible for the benefit for 6 months. I understand that once the 6 month benefit period is over, I may qualify for Lifeline through participation in another qualifying program or by confirming my initial income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Lifeline Program Application Form





Universal Service Administrative Co.

6. Representative Information

Representatives who help consumers apply (such as phone or internet company agents, state and Tribal partners, etc.) are required to register in the Representative Accountability Database (RAD) and must enter their information in this section.

 _	 	ID?	1 1	 				1	1	-	
			1 1		1		1				

Notice

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Section 54.410 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules requires all Lifeline subscribers to demonstrate their eligibility to receive Lifeline services. This collection of information stems from the FCC's authority under Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §254. Using this authority, the FCC has designated USAC as the permanent Lifeline Administrator. The FCC has published rules detailing how consumers can qualify for Lifeline services and what Lifeline services they may receive (47 CFR §54.400 et seq.). The data provided in response to this information collection will be used by USAC to verify the applicant's eligibility for Lifeline services.

We have estimated that each response to this collection of information will take, on average, between 0.25 and 0.75 hours. Our estimate includes the time to read the questions, look through existing records, gather the required data, and actually complete and review the form or response. If you have any comments on this estimate, or how we can improve the collection and reduce the burden it causes you, please write to the Federal Communications Commission, OMD-PERM, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0819), Washington, D.C. 20554. We also will accept your comments via the Internet if you send them to PRA@fcc.gov. Please DO NOT SEND COMPLETED DATA COLLECTION FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

Remember – You are not required to respond to a collection of information sponsored by the Federal government, and the government may not conduct or sponsor this collection, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. This collection has been assigned an OMB control number of 3060-0819.

The Commission is authorized under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect the information we request on this form. If we believe there may be a violation or potential violation of a statute or a Commission regulation, rule, or order, your response may be referred to the Federal, state, or local agency responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing the statute, rule, regulation, or order. In certain cases, the information in your form may be disclosed to the Department of Justice, court, or other adjudicative body when (a) the Commission; (b) any employee of the Commission; or (c) the United States government, is a party to a proceeding before the body or has an interest in the proceeding.

If you do not provide the information we request on this form, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400-54.423.

The foregoing Notice is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, P.L. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. § 3501, et seq.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The Privacy Act is a law that requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to explain why we are asking individuals for personal information and what we are going to do with this information after we collect it.

Authority: Section 254 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 254), as amended, 47 U.S.C. §254, authorizes the FCC to operate the Lifeline program. Using this authority, the FCC has designated USAC as the permanent Lifeline Administrator. The FCC has published rules detailing how consumers can qualify for Lifeline services and what Lifeline services they may receive (47 CFR §54.400 et seq.).

Purpose: We are collecting this personal information so we can verify that you qualify for the Lifeline Program and so we can efficiently provide Lifeline services to you. We access, maintain and use your personal information in the manner described in the Lifeline System of Records Notice (SORN), FCC/WCB-1, is available at https://www.fcc.gov/managing-director/privacytransparency/ privacy-act-information#systems/.

Routine Uses: We may share the personal information you enter into this form with other parties for specific purposes, such as: with contractors that help us operate the Lifeline program; with other federal and state government agencies that help us determine your Lifeline eligibility; with the telecommunications companies that provide you Lifeline service; and with law enforcement and other officials investigating potential violations of Lifeline rules.

A complete listing of the ways we may use your information is published in the Lifeline SORN described in the "Purpose" paragraph of this statement.

Disclosure: You are not required to provide the information we are requesting, but if you do not, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400-54.423.



OFFICE CLOSED

West River Cooperative Telephone Company will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2024 in observance of Independence Day.





facebook.com/WRCTC Leave us a Review! West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Calling on You 2024 Scholarship Winners

WRCTC and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 23rd year to award \$750 scholarships to graduating seniors from area school districts. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as an investment in the economic future of our rural area. It is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the areas we serve. Winners have been awarded their certificates at the Academic Awards programs at their respective schools. Congratulations, Class of 2024!

ALLIE KOHN, daughter of Ryan and Jeanna Kohn, graduated May 12, 2024, from Lemmon High School. Ranked 4 of 25 in her class, Allie graduated with a 3.898 GPA. She plans to attend Dickinson State University, where she will major in Elementary Education. Allie participated in many extracurricular activities throughout her high school career such as Student Council, FFA, Basketball, Volleyball, Track, and Cross Country. Upon college graduation, Allie plans to return to Lemmon with hopes of getting an elementary teaching position at the school. She would also like to help coach sports, starting with younger ages and working her way up to high school sports.





MADDIE HULM, daughter of Brent and Cindy Hulm, graduated May 11, 2024, from Bison High School. Ranked 1 of 5 in her class, Maddie graduated with a 4.159 GPA. She plans to attend Black Hills State University and will major in Elementary Education. Maddie was involved in many activities during high school such as FCCLA, Student Council, Regional Student Council, National Honor Society, Cross-Age, Yearbook, Academic Olympics, Quiz Bowl, Volleyball, Basketball, Church Youth Group, Confirmation, and Feeding South Dakota. Once she graduates from BHSU, she plans to move back to Bison, or another small community, and teach. Her long-term goal is to be the best teacher possible whom kids love and look up to.

BRENNAN GLINES, son of Ryan and Natalie Glines, graduated from Harding County High School on May 18, 2024. Brennan ranked 11 of 15 in his class and graduated with a 3.325 GPA. He plans to attend Dickinson State University to major in Finance and minor in Entrepreneurship. Brennan participated in many activities during high school such as Football, Basketball, and Student Council. Once Brennan graduates, he plans to open an Investment and Real Estate LLC. When he has PO Box 279, Bison; earned enough capital from his LLC, he would like to reinvest his earnings back into his hometown of Buffalo by opening more businesses.



inside this issue

CommandIQ App	2
Directory Photo Contest	
Lifeline Information	
911 Increase	3
New Members	4
New Employee	4
Rural Broadband	4
Youth Tour Winner	4
Internship	4
Find Your Address	



KIMBERLY JOHNSON, daughter of Dean and Rebecca Johnson, graduated May 18, 2024, from Newell High School. Ranked 1 of 22 in her class, Kimberly graduated with a 4.163 GPA. She plans to attend Dickinson State University to work towards her Doctorate of Chiropractic Medicine and Minor in Spanish and Business. Kimberly has been involved in many extracurricular activities such as FFA, Student Council, National Honors Society, SDQHYA, AQHYS, and sports. Once Kimberly graduates from college, she would like to open her own Chiropractic Clinic in a community PO Box 126, Vale; that is in need of healthcare options.

SARAH HOLZKAMM, daughter of Rick and Bekki Holzkamm, graduated May 19, 2024, from Hettinger High School. She ranked 3 of 18 and graduated with a 3.91 GPA. Sarah will be attending Washington State University in the Fall where she will major in Anthropology and Linguistics and minor in Chinese and French. Sarah spent a lot of time in extracurricular activities including, Band, Choir, National Honor Society, FFA and Acalympics. Once Sarah finishes her undergraduate, she plans to continue to earn her Ph.D. She would like a job where she can travel abroad while studying different cultures and languages, and how they affect society and the world.



Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications service more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers in the marketplace. The discounts, which can be applied to standalone broadband, bundled voice-broadband packages - either fixed or mobile - and stand-alone voice service - will help ensure that low-income consumers can afford 21st-century broadband and the access it provides to jobs, education, and opportunities.

The History of Lifeline

The FCC established the Lifeline program in 1985 to ensure that qualifying low-income consumers could afford phone service and the opportunities and security it provides. Congress supported and strengthened Lifeline in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, requiring that affordable service and advanced communications be available to low-income consumers across the country. In March of 2016, the FCC modernized Lifeline for advanced services by beginning a transition toward support of broadband service.



How Lifeline Works

Lifeline provides an eligible customer with broadband internet at a discount of up to \$9.25 per month. Eligible voice only subscribers will receive a discount of \$5.25 per month. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service but may not receive a discount on both services at the same time. Lifeline also supports broadband-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands.

To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs. You can see if you are eligible with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline.

How Do I Qualify?

The following is a list of assistance programs that qualify a participant for Lifeline:

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

How Tribal Link Up Works?

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

Tribal Lifeline takes up to an extra \$25 off your monthly bill, for a total Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month. You can get Tribal Lifeline if you live on Tribal lands. Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions, Hawaiian Home Lands, or Indian Allotments. The following is a list of Tribal assistance programs that also qualify a participant for Lifeline:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at www.wrctc.coop.

Submit applications to:

USAC

Lifeline Support Center

911 Increase

The State of South Dakota increased the 911 emergency services surcharge to \$2.00 during 420 Main Ave, Lemmon; the 2024 legislative session, making this mandatory increase effective 7/1/24 through 7/1/26.

Pursuant to South Dakota Codified Laws § 34-45-4 voice service providers are required to collect and remit the 911 emergency surcharges to the SD Department of Revenue and to state such charges in any billing statement, invoice, or receipt.

This increase will only affect members with telephone services, located in South Dakota.

COMMANDIQ

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ME?

In the next few months, we will cover COMMANDIQ, PROTECTIQ AND EXPERIENCEIQ and discuss WHY these Apps are beneficial to YOU!

COMMANDIQ is a **FREE** application on your smart device that allows YOU to control your internet! It's like a remote control for your Wi-Fi - HOW COOL IS THAT?! While running the app from the palm of your hand, you can change Wi-Fi passwords and Wi-Fi Network names, run speed tests, turn Wi-Fi on and off for specific devices, and receive notifications when a new or unknown device connects to your network! Did we mention it's **FREE**?! Having access to your internet wherever you are gives YOU the power!

There are so many benefits to the COMMANDIQ App! The list goes on and on! Call the office today PO Box 392, Buffalo; for more information!

- а COMMANDIQ is 18459 Stonelake Rd Newell; available to all Managed Wi-Fi subscribers.
- **PROTECTIQ and EXPERIENCEIQ require our GigaSpire** and a subscription.
- Have Managed Wi-Fi and not sure what device you have? Give us a call today at 605-244-5213!



BABY ANNALS 2025 DIRECTORY PHOTO CONTEST



We are looking for photos for the 2025 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of any type of baby animal! We want to see the view through your lens!

Please submit your pictures to bschecher@wrctc.coop

WRCTC requires that all photos be submitted digitally. Digital photos are more vibrant and clear, they keep their quality and are easy to access while designing the directory.

- We will not crop your photos for the contest, they will be used as submitted.
- Photos must be taken in WRCTC's territory.

Deadline to enter the 2025 Directory Photo Contest is July 31, 2024.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES: The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a person who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the subject is under 18 years of a age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each member may submit FOUR photos. Photos may be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. Submission of the photo releases all right of ownership of the photo and authorizes WRCTC to publish the photo on the directory cover, or use as WRCTC desires, allowing proper acknowledgment to the photographer. Photos must be taken in WRCTC's service territory. The winners will see their photo on the front cover of the 2025 directory and will be awarded a \$100 cash prize for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

New WRCTC Members

<u>Buffalo</u> Sever, Jon

605-375-3084

New Employee



JULIANNA (KARI) ZITTLEMAN b egan working for WRCTC and Grand Electric on May 1, 2024, as the Cashier/ Receptionist. She is responsible for greeting members at the front desk, posting payments, answering phones, and completing payment reports. Julianna most recently worked at the North Dakota Department

of Environmental Quality. She graduated from Bison High School and obtained a Bachelor's in Biology from the University of Mary in Bismarck. While attending college, she met her now husband, Jarad Zittleman.

Julianna, Jarad, and their house cat, Mikko, recently moved back to Bison to be closer to her parents, John and Veronica Kari, and to help out on the family ranch. When Julianna is not working, she enjoys gardening, baking, cooking, and spending time with her family and friends. Welcome to the Cooperative Family, Julianna! We are excited to have you as part of the team!

Advocating for Rural Broadband

In May, General Manager Eric Kahler and Board of Directors Vice President Garrett Schweitzer attended a conference in Washington, D.C., where they met with South Dakota's three congressional delegates, United States Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, and United States Representative Dusty Johnson. During their meetings, they discussed the critical role that the Universal Service Fund plays in West River's ability to continue to provide its members with access to high-quality and affordable broadband and all rural providers across the nation.



Youth Tour Winner

LAINEE GEBHART, daughter of Dalton and Sara Gebhart, Meadow, has been selected to join the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

Lainee just finished her sophomore year at Lemmon High School.

Congratulations, Lainee!

Internships

This year, West River Cooperative Telephone Company participated in the Lemmon High School Internship Program.

Trevor Ellingson, Lemmon High School, job shadowed Andy Arthur, Bison Area Technician, as he did his everyday work. Trevor was 811 3rd Ave E, Lemmon; able to gain on the job experiences, earn credits towards a high school class, and figure out if a telephone technician would be good career choice after graduation. If you would be interested in interning at WRCTC, call the office at 605-244-5213.



Trevor Ellingson learns to splice fiber

Trevor Ellingson (left) and Andy Arthur (right) install a barn camera system

Find Your Address

Five addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new addresses. If you find YOUR address,

all you have to do is notify our office. The \$20 will then be deducted off your next telephone bill. Changes of address in the New WRCTC Members section do not count. **Deadline is June 25, 2024.**

