

VOLUME 20 | ISSUE 3 | WINTER 2020



THE TRIO

Quarterly newsletter for the members of TrioTel Communications, Inc.

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TrioTel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Photo by: Todd Trapani

DIRECTORY **CHANGES & ADDITIONS**

ALEXANDRIA

JW Express.....239-4010

EMERY

Alex Brock.....449-4033

SALEM

Janet Stoffel.....425-2009

Lavonne E. Campbell.....425-2373

Quick Stop, LLC.....425-2812

John & Regina Schipper.....425-2067

Garnet Klueber.....425-2014

Jane Devries.....425-2044

CLIP & SAVE

IMPORTANT DATES

1st of the month - Bills are mailed out

15th of the month - Prompt payments due (1st year customers)

20th of the month - Payment due

HOLIDAY HOURS:

December 24 - Christmas Eve | closing at noon

December 25 - Christmas Day | Closed

December 31 - New Years Eve | closing at 3PM

January 1 - New Years Day | Closed



TrioTel PopQuiz

CONGRATS TO OUR SUMMER TrioQuiz WINNER:
Margie Fluth, Emery SD

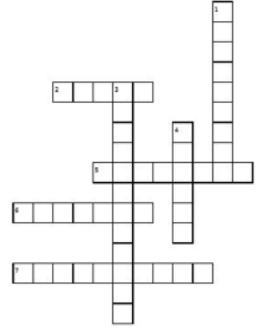
Correct answers to the previous PopQuiz:

DOWN:

- 1. Invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell- **TELEPHONE**
- 3. Newest service at TrioTel- **ENHANCED WIFI**
- 4. You should use **STRONG** passwords

ACROSS:

- 2. Underground glass threads that transmits data - **FIBER**
- 5. Broadband is another word for high speed **INTERNET**
- 6. Your service provider-**TRIOTEL**
- 7. TrioTel's video service - **TRIOVISION**



CAN YOU SOLVE THE CHRISTMAS BRAIN TEASERS?

Mail this in with your next payment or email your answers to customerservice@triotel.net. Please include your name and address to be entered into a drawing for \$10 off your next bill!

Finish the XMAS Sudoku

How many triangles are there in the tree?

Which 7 letters of the alphabet do not feature in the names of any of Santa's reindeer?

J			❄️
	🎅		🎄
	J		🎅

J =1 🎄 =2 🎅 =3 ❄️ =4

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Coming Soon! ○ ● ○ ● ○ ● ○ ●

Keep your eyes open for a new TrioVision listing. TrioTel is teaming up with Mitchell Telecom and will be adding the Mitchell Telecom Sports Channel to our HD lineup. With this new addition, we will be able to air action from the one and only Corn Palace. This new channel will include Dakota Wesleyan games. Stay tuned!



SANDINE STEPS DOWN

after 45 years of service

“I’ve had the greatest experiences over the years and will miss the enthusiasm from my fellow board members and TrioTel employees.”

For the last 45 years, Ron has actively served on the TrioTel Communications, Inc. (formerly known as McCook Cooperative Telephone Company) Board of Directors. In that duration of time, he served 12 years as Vice President and 25 years as Board President. Ron’s loyal years of dedicated service is a true indication of his commitment to South Dakota Cooperatives.

In 1975, Ron’s first year on the Board, the Cooperative looked for ways to raise revenue to hold off a general rate increase to members. They looked into touch-tone dialing and exploring a toll separation study. However, two years later, in 1977, the Board decided not to apply for push-button dialing because they felt it would be financially irresponsible for the Cooperative to install the service at that point. Then the 1980s rolled around, and the Board knew it was time to take the risk.

In 1985, the Cooperative applied for and received a loan through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) for \$1.82 million to be used to construct a toll network, replace moisture-damaged cables, and convert central office analog equipment to a digital network. In 1986, the Board applied for and received another REA loan to replace buried cable facilities that were beginning to deteriorate. In 1988, Ron was in favor of the Cooperative investing in a newly formed statewide company, SDN Communications. Today SDN has proven success with its state-of-the-art fiber-optic network providing government offices, K-12 schools, and universities across South Dakota with high-speed Internet.



Ron, along with the wisdom and guidance of the other Directors, helped increase the Cooperative's service area with the decision to purchase Hanson County Telephone and Cable TV in Alexandria in 1993 and the Salem service territory from US West Communications in 1996. Acquiring these two exchange areas added over 1,400 access lines and 300 cable TV subscribers to the Cooperatives' customer base.



In 2010, with Ron as the Board President, the Cooperative was awarded a \$12.3 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) federal broadband grant/loan to deploy a Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) infrastructure. The Cooperative has since finalized the FTTH project and celebrated 100% fiber connectivity to all members in May of 2013. This placed the Cooperative as the first communications company in South Dakota to provide services to all

members through an advanced fiber-optic network. This progressive platform also provided 122 community anchor sites, including schools, public housing, government facilities, libraries, volunteer fire departments, and emergency management services with quality telephone and upgraded Internet services.

"I hope the coop can continue to expand into profitable ventures that provide growth and prosperity for the company and its members. I leave confidently knowing that TrioTel provides the best broadband possible, and for that, I am proud to have been a part of something so great."



Recognitions

In 2012, Ron was recognized at the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) Annual Meeting for serving on the South Dakota Association of Telephone Cooperatives (SDATC) Board of Directors for 25 years. Fast forward to 2016, Ron was inducted into the SD Coop Hall of Fame. Induction into the SD Cooperative Hall of Fame is the highest honor that the cooperative community bestows on those who have contributed in especially significant ways to the enhancement of cooperatives.

TrioTel congratulates Ron Sandine and will forever be grateful for his work and dedication. He will be dearly missed and we wish him all the best in retirement.

TRIOTEL DIRECTORY COVER PHOTO CONTEST

SHOW OFF YOUR CAMERA SKILLS!



TrioTel customers are invited to enter our directory cover photo contest for a chance to win \$50 and have their name printed on the 2021 directory cover! Email digital photos to customerservice@triotel.net. Images must be 300 DPI to ensure high quality printing. Written permission will be needed for any photos containing people who are easily identifiable. Entries are due by March 1st! Please call 425-2238 if you have questions.

NEW YEAR, NEW PASSWORDS

What a better time than now to revisit all of your passwords and reset any that are less secure or that have not been changed in more than one year. While changing passwords may not be very convenient, the hassle of changing a few passwords trumps in comparison to the hassle of identity theft!

Use random combinations of numbers, letters and symbols that can still be easy to remember. For example, instead of "password" -- which should never be used under any circumstance -- you could use "p4\$\$w0rD."

It is still the same word, and still short, but far harder to guess either by human or program.



Now is a great time to sign up with "watchTVeverywhere," the streaming service included with TrioVision. You get instant online access to over 80 cable channels that you can watch live or past episodes of your favorite shows.



You can watch sports live or on replay! To get started, go to www.watchtveverywhere.com, choose TrioTel Communications Inc. as your provider, and click/tap Register. Complete the form (you will need your TrioTel Account Number), open your email and tap the link in the confirmation message to complete your registration.

Access your available channels from www.watchtveverywhere.com.

WATCH TV EVERYWHERE

'VOICE SEARCH' MAKING STREAMING EASIER

Have you been afraid to try streaming TV shows and movies because the devices or the apps just seem too complicated and hard to figure out? Or have you thought it too hard to figure out which app(s) you need to be able to watch the shows and movies you like? Well, the microphone button is the answer to your concerns.

Many of the streaming remotes have a "microphone" button which allows you to just speak what you want to watch in the remote and it will find all the titles that match what you said and even show you which apps carry those titles. No more searching through each app to see what shows and movies it carries -- only to find out that you don't like that specific app!

Let your streaming devices find the apps you need for the shows you like, all by the command you give with your voice!



Quickly search and play movies , shows, music and more just with a press of a button.

OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED

With the pandemic still spreading in the area, TrioTel's decision to keep the office closed to the public will remain the same until further notice. It is our responsibility to do our part in slowing the spread and ensuring safety to our staff and customers.

TrioTel Staff and Board of Directors want to wish everyone Happy Holidays. Stay safe, we hope to welcome you all in the office soon!

FREE INTERNET FOR 6 MONTHS! *

TELL US WHO YOUR HOLIDAY HERO IS!

TrioTel wants to give back this Holiday Season to those that have been greatly affected in 2020. Nominate someone who you think has positively impacted the community, has been working the frontline, is a devoted teacher, or someone who has struggled to find normalcy since the start of the pandemic.



**Visit our website
www.triotel.net/holidayhero,
nominate who you think is
deserving, and enter them in
our drawing for a chance to win!**

*Visit the website for complete details
and rules

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