

Connections

AUGUST 2018



PANORA TELCO

114 East Main Street
Panora, IA 50216
(641) 755-2424
Online: www.panoratelco.com
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



403 State Street
Guthrie Center, IA 50115
(641) 332-2000
Online: www.guthriecentercom.com
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
but closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. for lunch

Office Closure

Labor Day, September 3, 2018

Win a \$10 Bill Credit

What color is the button you use to activate Restart TV?

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Clip and return by August 31, 2018 to either Panora Telco, 114 East Main Street, Panora, IA 50216 or Guthrie Center Communications, 403 State Street, Guthrie Center, IA 50115.

Congratulations to Harold and Cheryl Rosen, the most recent Panora Telco winners; and Janelle & Tom Langgaard, the most recent Guthrie Center Communications bill credit winners.

One winner chosen at random per quarter.
Contest open to Panora Telco and GCC customers age 18 and over. Applicants can win once per 12-month period. Other restrictions may apply.

Are You Loving Your Free Internet Speed Increase?

We certainly hope so! Beginning in July, Panora Telco and Guthrie Center Communications automatically increased our residential FiberFast Internet speeds but kept the prices the same. So if you previously had our FiberFast Internet plan with 15/1 Mbps speeds, your home now has a 50/10 Mbps connection. That's more than triple the download speed and 10 times the upload speed for not a penny more.

Higher Speeds for Happier Customers

Andy Randol, CEO and General Manager, explains the free speed upgrade this way: "We wanted to provide a better experience for our Panora Telco and Guthrie Center Communications customers and give them what they've been asking for—faster internet speeds. Given the growing number of internet-connected devices in today's homes, the speeds that worked a few years ago simply aren't enough anymore. By automatically increasing our FiberFast Internet speeds at no additional charge, our customers didn't have to do a thing except sit back and enjoy the benefits."

The benefits of faster speeds include:

- Improved streaming of movies and TV shows
- Better online gaming performance
- Less buffering



New Broadband Only Plans

Another request Randol has heard from customers over the years is for internet service with no voice line requirement. He notes, "Quite frankly, some of our customers were 'fit to be tied' about having to sign up for home phone service in order to get our internet. Thanks to the recent FCC reform order, Panora Telco and Guthrie Center Communications are able to offer Broadband Only plans for the first time. We're thrilled to be able to give our customers the option of Broadband Only plans with speeds of 75/25 Mbps or 150/50 Mbps."

Randol adds, "Our companies remain focused on meeting the needs of our local customers. We increased speeds and added Broadband Only plans because of that commitment."

To learn more about our full range of internet options, call Panora Telco at (641) 755-2424 or Guthrie Center Communications at (641) 332-2000.

Should You Mount Your TV Above a Fireplace?

Despite what you may see on home design shows, wall-mounting a TV above a fireplace is generally not a good idea for two reasons:

1. **To see the best possible picture from your set, the center point of the screen should be directly in line with your eyes when you're seated and watching TV.**

If you mount the screen high on the wall above your fireplace, your eyes will have to adjust to focus on the center point and you'll have to crane your neck during a two-hour movie, which can lead to headaches and sore muscles.

2. **If it's a working fireplace, the heat from the fires could do damage to your set.** That's why every TV manual warns you to keep your set in a cool place.

Given this, you may want to display artwork above the fireplace and place your TV elsewhere in the room.

Panora Telco and Guthrie Center Communications can help equip your home for optimal viewing enjoyment. We sell and install TVs as well as offer a variety of TV packages and movie channels. Visit www.panoratelco.com or www.guthriecentercom.com for details.



Restart TV

lets you restart programs in progress

Running a little late getting home? Relax! Just press the green button to go back to the start of a show or movie that's already begun. Restart TV is FREE with your FiberTV subscription and is now available on virtually all channels.



Contact us to learn more.

We Hope the Coming School Days Add Up to Great Experiences

Panora Telco and Guthrie Center Communications are big supporters of our community's schools and the important work happening inside their classrooms—from solving problems to inspiring creativity. As another new school year begins, we wish good luck to all the students, parents, and teachers in our service area.

Do you have an internet or Wi-Fi problem to solve? Contact Panora Telco or Guthrie Center Communications for the solution.



Beware of Scams Involving Gift Card Payments

Have you been asked to go get gift cards to pay for something? Don't do it. Gift cards are for gifts, not payments.

The FTC is hearing from people who say they've received calls claiming to be from the IRS, or tech support, or a so-called family member in need. For example, many have received threatening voice messages from a scammer pretending to be from the IRS, who convinces the person that to avoid being arrested for tax evasion, he or she must pay the fine with iTunes or other gift cards.

Those who fall victim to this scam go to a local store and buy the requested gift cards. Next, the scammer demands the gift card numbers and PIN, and the money is gone. Scammers love gift cards since they're the equivalent of giving cash and are nearly untraceable, unless you act almost immediately.

If you get a call like this, hang up. No reputable company or government agency (including the IRS) will ever demand payment with gift cards. Don't believe emails with this type of message either.

On the surface, these scams appear easy to spot and hard to believe, but Americans have been swindled out of millions of dollars from them. These callers are highly trained and can be very convincing.

Also be on the lookout for another gift card scam targeting Amazon shoppers. It works like this: When shoppers find items they want on Amazon that are listed for sale by third party sellers, they're told to email the seller directly before placing the order. That's when the bait-and-switch begins.

Once the victims describe the item they want, they receive payment emails that appear to come from Amazon but are actually fake emails from the scammer. The instructions say to purchase an Amazon gift card and send the number and PIN from the card to the seller in order to complete the payment process.

The scammer then takes the card information and depletes the gift card. The victim is out the money spent on the gift card, and Amazon is unable to help since the card was purchased legitimately and used by the scammer.



Pig Out on National Bacon Lovers' Day

National Bacon Lovers' Day is celebrated yearly on August 20, and enthusiasm for this popular cured pork product has grown since the late 1990s. Traditional uses of bacon, such as the BLT sandwich and Cobb salad, have been joined by more creative ideas including bacon ice cream, bacon air freshener, and bacon bubble gum. There's even a bacon alarm clock that wakes you up to the aroma of freshly cooked bacon.

According to www.foodimentary.com, bacon is one of the oldest processed meats in history. The Chinese began salting pork bellies as early as 1500 B.C. Today, more than half of all U.S. homes (53 percent) keep bacon on hand at all times.

If you want to add some sizzle to your day on August 20, the options are practically endless. Fry bacon with your eggs for breakfast. Enjoy a bacon-topped burger for lunch or dinner. Wrap asparagus or scallops with bacon for a snack. Or treat yourself to chocolate-covered bacon for dessert. For more ideas, check out "50 Things to Make with Bacon" at www.foodnetwork.com.



Why Landline and Cellular Service Make a Great Pair

When you have landline service and cellular service, you get to enjoy the best of both worlds when it comes to phone advantages. Here are good reasons to keep landline service as part of your communications mix:

- **A landline phone stays put.** If you frequently misplace your cell phone, having it as your only method of phone communication can be a hassle. With a landline phone at home, you always know where it's located and can get to it quickly.
- **You can more easily separate work and personal calls.** If you work from home, it can be helpful to give only your landline number to work-related callers. That way, you can maintain a better work-life balance and not feel like you're "on call" on your cell phone wherever you go.
- **You have a backup when your cell phone is lost, stolen, or damaged.** Let's say you have to ship your cell phone off for repairs, and it will be a week or more before you get it back. When you also have landline service, you still have a way to make and receive calls.

Visit www.panoratelco.com or www.guthriecentercom.com to check out all the landline plans and services offered by Panora Telco or Guthrie Center Communications.

Beginner's Guide to Streaming Movies and TV Shows

If you haven't yet jumped on the streaming bandwagon, this article is for you! It covers the basics to help you get started enjoying this entertainment technology.

What is streaming?

Streaming is content sent in compressed form in a continuous stream over the internet and played as it arrives. The user does not have to wait to download a file to play it.

What devices are needed?

You can watch streaming movies and TV shows on your smartphone, tablet, laptop, desktop computer, HDTV, or "smart TV." For example, you could connect your laptop to your HDTV with an HDMI cable and stream on your laptop and watch on the TV screen. If you have a "smart TV," it has built-in apps (and app stores) and networking to get on the internet. You can use them to download most of the streaming apps you'd want.



What streaming apps are available?

You have many options here, too. Here are a few of the most popular ones:

- **Netflix** – You can watch past seasons of TV shows and recent movies at a low monthly cost. Netflix also offers original shows such as *Orange is the New Black* and *House of Cards*.
- **Amazon** – This streaming service is available to Amazon Prime members. Like Netflix, it offers many TV shows and movies to choose from as well as its own original content.
- **Hulu Plus** – You can get next-day access to shows from ABC, NBC, Fox, and CW, along with some cable channels. Hulu Plus also offers some movies and original TV shows.
- **Dish's Sling TV** – Sling TV offers about 20 channels in its basic package including ESPN, ABC Family, AMC, and Food Network but no broadcast channels like CBS or NBC. Add-on packages for sports, movies, kids, lifestyles, and world news are also available.
- **HBO Now** – New episodes are available through apps about the same time they are shown on TV. Current and past seasons of most HBO shows are available on demand, as well as hundreds of movies.

What are the internet requirements?

For a good streaming experience, you'll probably want internet download speeds of 20 Mbps or more.

Call Panora Telco at (641) 755-2424 or Guthrie Center Communications at (641) 332-2000 or visit www.panoratelco.com or www.guthriecentercom.com for details on the internet speeds we have available in your area.