

Stay Connected

A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT SIERRA TEL • AUGUST 2018



We Hope the Coming School Days Add Up to Great Experiences

Sierra Tel is a big supporter 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 Sierra Tel for the solution.

Contact Us

SIERRA TEL

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Telephone Support:

24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Call 559-683-4611, 209-966-3636
or 877-658-4611.

Visit Us Online:

www.SierraTel.com



AS YOUR KIDS **GROW UP,**
BE SURE YOUR SPEEDS **GO UP**

It's the start of another school year, which means taking stock of your kids' growth. Do they need bigger clothes? Bigger backpacks? Bigger internet speeds? Internet usage expands from grade to grade. Help equip them for success with the speed they need.

CALL 559-683-4611 OR
209-966-3636 FOR A
FREE SPEED UPGRADE*

Mention Promo Code UPAD



**Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Must sign up by September 1, 2018 to get 2 months of our next-faster internet plan at your current plan's price. Some restrictions apply. Contact us for details.*

7 Homework Tips for the New School Year

Here's a refresher course in homework basics to share with the young students in your family:

1. Use a quiet room with an uncluttered desk and a supportive desk chair.
2. Sit up straight in the chair to get your blood flowing evenly and help prevent drowsiness.
3. Start by writing a to-do list of your homework, ordering your tasks from hardest to easiest.
4. Do the hardest tasks first.
5. Stay off Facebook, Instagram, or anything else that will distract you.
6. Speak aloud as you do your homework. This works to maintain focus and reinforce concepts. It can be especially helpful when doing math problems.
7. When you can't seem to finish an assignment no matter what you try, stop and switch to another task for a while. This can help clear your head. After you're feeling more positive, take a fresh look at that challenging assignment.

Good luck to all students, parents, and teachers during this upcoming school year!



Facebook's "About This Article" Feature Combats Fake News

Are you having trouble telling the difference between fake news and actual facts in your Facebook News Feed? To help, Facebook is offering the "About This Article" feature.

This feature is easy to spot. As you scroll through posts in your News Feed, news articles will get a small "i" above and to the right of the headline. Tap on it, and you'll see additional information about this news article:

- Name and location of the publisher
- Information from the publisher's Wikipedia page
- Link to follow the publisher's Facebook page
- Links to related articles for additional reading on the topic
- Map showing where the article has been shared
- Total number of people who have shared the article
- Name and profile pictures of your Facebook friends who have shared the article



When any of this information isn't available, Facebook will say that explicitly. For example, Facebook will note if there's no Wikipedia page for the publisher of the article, which can be a valuable piece of context to know. After all, how credible can an article be if the company behind it lacks enough standing to make Wikipedia?

Facebook has taken other measures to help combat the spread of fake news in the U.S. It trained its algorithms to deprioritize fake news and clickbait as well as articles shared by individuals who post at extremely high frequencies. It also cuts off fake news sites' ad revenue and blocked advertisements created by Pages that share misinformation.

In a blog post, Facebook said, "We'll continue to listen to people's feedback and work with publishers to provide people easy access to the contextual information that helps people decide which stories to read, share, and trust, and to improve the experiences people have on Facebook."

Sierra Tel encourages you to "Like" and "Follow" us on Facebook to see our posts in your News Feed and get our company updates.

TED Talks Offer Lifetimes of Wisdom in a Few Minutes

Have you met TED yet? TED (www.ted.com) is a free and convenient way for anyone of any age to keep learning through engaging content from inspired thinkers, usually delivered in the form of talks lasting 18 minutes or less.

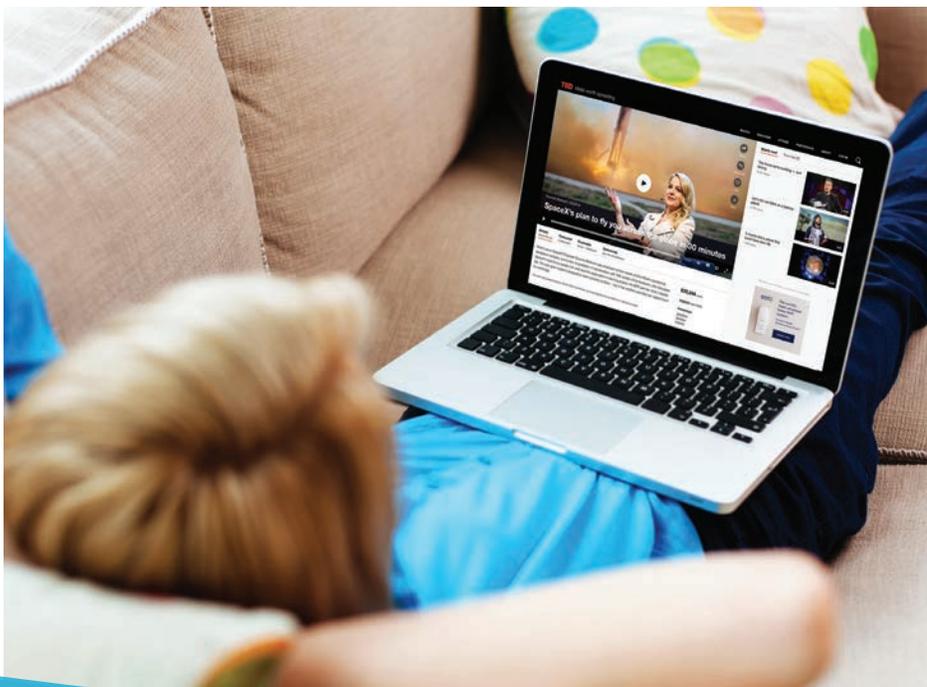
In 1984, the Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) conference began to build its global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. TED believes in the power of ideas to change attitudes and lives for the better.

You can explore a wide range of subject matter at www.TED.com/talks. Search by topic or video duration, and sort by categories including Newest, Most Viewed, Jaw-Dropping, Funny, Inspiring, and Ingenious. Here's a sampling of some of the most-viewed TED talks:

- Your body language shapes who you are
- How great leaders inspire action
- The power of introverts
- How to speak so that people want to listen
- This is what happens when you reply to spam email
- What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study on happiness
- How to spot a liar
- Grit: The power of passion and perseverance
- Questions no one knows the answers to

The website also includes TED Books, an Ideas Blog, and the option to sign up for daily or weekly emails containing featured talks.

Are you experiencing buffering when you watch TED Talks or other videos? That's a sign you probably need a faster internet connection. Call us at 559-683-4611 or 209-966-3636 to learn about our current internet speeds and prices.



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.sierratel.com to check out all the phone options offered by Sierra Tel.

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.

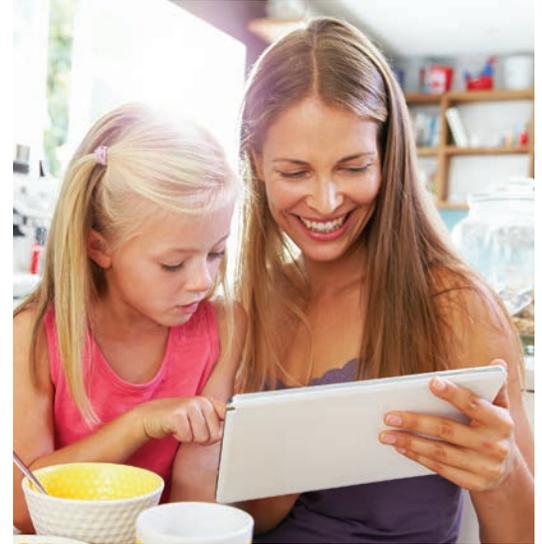
What is streaming?

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 movies and TV shows by streaming them 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 onto your laptop for viewing 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 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.
- **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 want internet download speeds of 20 Mbps or more.

Call 559-683-4611 or 209-966-3636 or visit www.sierratel.com for details on the internet speeds we have available in your area.