

THE INSIDER

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PLANNING TO DIG INTO A BACKYARD RENOVATION?

With summer right around the corner, you may be dreaming of making improvements to your home's outdoor spaces. If those plans include building a patio, putting up a fence, or planting bushes and trees, remember to call 811 before work begins.

Every digging job requires a call to 811 to have underground utility lines marked. In some cases, lines are buried close to the surface and could easily be damaged by even shallow digging, resulting in service interruptions to your neighborhood.

When you call, simply tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing. The affected local utilities will send a locator to your property, free of charge. Then you'll know what's below and be able to dig safely.

As one of your local service providers, RTI thanks you in advance for your cooperation!

FIND THE WAVES TO WIN!

Waves have been hidden in a picture somewhere in this newsletter. Find them and call your local RTI office with the location and you will be entered into the "Winning the Wave" drawing for \$5.00 off your next bill. Congratulations to Phyllis Duerfeldt, Janet Lease, and Gladys Smith from Nehalem Oregon for finding the wave in our last issue!




IS YOUR INTERNET READY?

Are you planning to stream all the basketball madness in March? Make sure your home's internet connection has the speed you need for a winning viewing experience.

RTI offers super-fast internet plans with download speeds up to 50 Mbps. **Sign up for a new or upgraded plan now, and you'll score free installation from our team.**

FASTER INTERNET IS A GAME CHANGER. CALL YOUR LOCAL RTI OFFICE TO SIGN UP NOW!
RTI 1.888.366.7821 RTI NEHALEM 1.800.350.5036
RTI PEND OREILLE 1.888.636.2840

MENTION PROMO CODE MARCH 20

Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Contact us for details



RTI SCHOLARSHIPS SERVE OUR RURAL YOUTH

RTI Scholarships can be applied for by any high school senior whose parent or legal guardian is a subscriber to at least one of the following RTI services: Cable, Telephone, Cellular PCS, Wireless Internet or Satellite Internet. Applicants can be from Idaho, Nevada, Washington or Oregon.

The application is available on our website at www.rtc.net/Scholarship.

Completed applications must be submitted by April 23rd, 2020. They can be emailed to susan.case@ruraltel.org or mailed to:

RTI
Scholarship Committee
892 W. Madison Avenue
Glens Ferry, ID 83623

March

6th: Historic Opera Theater,

6:30-9 p.m., Glens Ferry

17th: St Patrick's Day

18th: Elks Lodge Bingo Mountain Home, 6:30-9 p.m.

23rd: City Council

Mountain Home, 6-7:30

28th: Goat Tying Clinic, Shufly

Arena, Twin Falls, Idaho

April

12th: Easter Sunday

14th: G.F. City Council, 7-8 p.m.

May

10th: Mother's Day

13th: Glens Ferry School Board meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m

25th: Memorial Day, RTI closed

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 888.366.7821 or visit www.rtc.net for details on the internet speeds we have available in your area.



Are Emails Growing Like Weeds in Your Inbox?

When you're getting buried in emails each day, it may seem like the impossible dream to keep up with all the filing, deleting, forwarding, and responding. You know you should better manage your messages but you can't seem to find the time, especially during the busy summer season. We know the feeling. But if you don't stay on top of your emails, they'll just grow and grow and grow in your inbox, like a mixture of weeds and flowers in an unattended garden.

A good place to start the process of regaining control is by studying what's typically found in your inbox. If there are hundreds (or thousands) of emails in your inbox right now, you could have a systems issue that needs to be addressed. Consider the following strategies:

- Take a closer look at your spam filter. Does it need to be upgraded or the settings changed so that less junk mail ends up in your inbox?
- Are there newsletters you receive regularly that are no longer of value to you? Unsubscribe to them.
- Are you receiving emails that you'd rather not receive? You may need to tell friends and relatives that you'd like to be taken off their "silly jokes and goofy videos" list.

Your approach to dealing with each email is also vitally important. Efficiency experts generally recommend you check your email messages periodically, but not constantly. Scan them quickly to determine which are most important, then read them in order of priority. The goal is to read each email once and act on it — either by replying, filing, or deleting.

The bottom line is this: Don't let the volume of email you receive reduce your enjoyment of the Internet. Instead, simply manage your email more thoughtfully.



LIFELINE SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE COMMUNICATIONS

Lifeline is a federal program to help low-income subscribers stay connected by providing a monthly discount of \$9.25 on their wireline phone, wireless phone, or broadband internet service. 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 qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in at least one of the assistance programs listed below:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

You can check eligibility with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at checklifeline.org/lifeline or call any of our offices for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

March

23rd-27th: Neah-Kah-Nie

School Spring Break

27th: Gallery Show,

The Hoffman Center, 1-5 p.m.

31st: Writing Lounge Word Play, 10:30-11:00 a.m.

April

12th: Easter Sunday

23rd: Scholarship Deadline for RTI High School Scholarships

May

10th: Mothers Day

25th: Memorial Day, RTI Offices are closed



MOM-AND-POP BUSINESS OWNERS DAY IS MARCH 29

The colloquial term “mom-and-pop business” is used to describe a small, family-owned or independent company. In reality, a mom-and-pop business could be run by a mom and daughter, brother and sister, and so on.

Mom-and-pop businesses usually have a small number of employees, modest sales volume, and just one location. They often struggle to compete with national chains such as big-box retailers, who possess more buying power and other advantages.

National Mom-and-Pop Business Owners Day was established by Rick and Margie Segel in honor of their parents, who opened a successful hat shop in 1939 and grew into a 10,000-square-foot clothing store. The special day is designed to recognize the long hours, hard work, and dedication it takes to run a small business.

So on March 29, head to your favorite mom-and-pop businesses to say thank you—for the personal and unique shopping experience they provide as well their support of the community.

RTI is a big believer in the shop local movement, and thanks you for choosing us as your communications provider.

What You Need to Know About Rising TV Costs

Are you frustrated with the cost of cable TV? Here’s the root of the problem: Eight giant corporations own or control nearly 90% of today’s TV networks. To increase their revenue, these corporations require RTI and other cable TV providers to carry their less-popular networks as a condition of providing the most popular ones. They use their size and market power to regularly demand higher fees for their programming.

In addition, people love to watch sports, and the sports executives know it — so the programming comes at a premium. The price networks pay to air sports has caused your basic cable and satellite TV bills to double over the past decade. The NFL alone makes more than \$7 billion annually for broadcast and cable rights to its games. Combine that with the MLB, NBA, NHL, MLS, college sports, and other sources, and the impact is clear. Escalating salaries of star players and coaches place large financial demands on teams and leagues, which drive up programming costs to cover expenses.

Because of the rising fees we’re charged by media giants, RTI can be forced to pass along some of the costs to our customers. We work hard, however, to control costs and bring you the best possible values in TV services.

We appreciate your support of us as your local cable TV provider and promise to keep fighting on your behalf. After all, our customers are also our friends and neighbors. If you have questions or would like more information about our TV services, call 1.888.636.2840. New subscribers will get their installation fee waived during the month of March.

