



Have Fun on Your Summer Vacation or Staycation

However you plan to escape your everyday routine—whether by exploring somewhere faraway or being a tourist here at home—KMTelecom hopes your summer adventures create wonderful memories. It's good for all of us to take a break and "recharge our batteries" with new experiences, especially when we can share them with people we care about. Let's make it a sunny summer!

Business Office Closed

Monday, July 4th, 2022

Independence Day

Monday, September 25th, 2022

Labor Day

KMTelecom

18 Second Avenue NW
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634-2511

Local call for KMTelecom customers in Kasson, Mantorville, Rock Dell and Dodge Center

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm
For help with service problems during non-business hours, please call 634-2505.

24/7 Internet Help Desk

Kasson, Mantorville Area 634-2575
Rock Dell Area 634-2575 (FREE call)
Dodge Center Area 633-2575

Visit Us Online

www.kmtel.com

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FASTER INTERNET IS LIKE A NEW TOY

Remember how thrilled you were when you got a new scooter or remote-controlled car? Feel like a kid again by treating yourself to a new internet plan.

With speeds up to 1 Gig, you can play through your day with "I can't wait to show this off to my friends" excitement.

CALL 634-2511 TO GET ROLLING WITH NEW INTERNET

GO AHEAD, BE A KID-AT-HEART!

Save Money by Rotating Your Streaming Services

Do you feel like you're spending too much on streaming services? You're not alone. That's why there's a consumer trend called streaming service rotation.

As its name suggests, this involves signing up for one or two streaming services, watching all the content from them you're interested in, then pausing those subscriptions and signing up for one or two other streaming services. By doing this, you can watch the original series and movies that are important to you without the high cost of paying for every service for every month. Remember, it's typically easy to sign up for, cancel, and restart a subscription, so there's no need to subscribe to any service for the entire year.

There are some downsides to streaming service rotation. Some streaming services take steps to prevent this by releasing original show episodes weekly rather than in season-long batches. In this case, you'll have to wait a few months for the season to finish before you can binge-watch it in a month. In the meantime, you may see spoilers online.



Understanding the TV Requirements for Streaming

All TVs are not created equal. In addition to screen size, picture quality, and sound quality, you also need to consider a TV's streaming capabilities. To help you navigate today's TV landscape, we've gathered some common questions and their answers.

What is a smart TV?

A smart TV is one that incorporates an operating system/platform that allows you to access, manage, and view online and network-based media content without the need to connect to an additional box (such as a Roku or Firestick).

How do smart TVs work?

Smart TVs access online content by connecting to the same broadband router and Ethernet or Wi-Fi network that you use to connect your computer to the internet.



Do I need a smart TV to use a streaming media player?

No. A smart TV is one that can connect to the internet directly to access content from it. Since that's what a streaming media player does, you could say it turns a regular TV into a smart TV.

Can I use a streaming media player with an older TV?

Whether a TV can work with a streaming media player depends on what kind of connection ports it has. If it has an HDMI port, then it will work with most players. If it doesn't have an HDMI port but it has RCA ports (red/white/yellow), then you can get a Roku Express+, which includes composite audio and video connectors (and cable) found on most older televisions as well as an HDMI connection.

What are the general "rules of thumb" for TVs and streaming?

- If you're buying a new TV and don't have any other devices that provide access to internet streaming content, get a smart TV.
- If you already have a smart TV that doesn't provide access to the number or type of streaming channels you would like, consider adding an external media streamer, streaming stick, or internet-enabled Blu-ray disc player rather than buying a new smart TV.
- If you already own a TV without smart features but are satisfied with its picture quality and other features, you don't need to buy a smart TV. Just add a media streamer, streaming stick, or internet-enabled Blu-ray disc player to your current setup.

You may want to upgrade to a faster internet plan to better accommodate streaming. Check out our internet speeds at www.kmtel.com.

Smart Ways to Keep Kids Learning Over the Summer

Learning doesn't need to stop just because the school year did. If you have young children or grandchildren in your life, study these suggestions from Reading Rockets—a national multimedia literacy initiative—to keep the learning process moving forward over summer break.

Check out local summer opportunities. From camps to concerts, see what events are taking place nearby that would help children pick up new knowledge and explore new experiences.

Encourage writing. This could include having children write up grocery lists, send letters or postcards to family members, start a blog, or keep a journal. More ideas can be found at www.startwithabook.org/summer-writing.

Read, read, read. This is the single most valuable learning activity for kids and can be done at home, in the car, or while on vacation. Make library or book store visits part of the summer routine, and guide kids to age-appropriate websites for additional reading opportunities.

Watch a garden grow. Kids can learn a lot by researching, planning, planting, and caring for a vegetable or flower garden. Have them keep a garden journal to record their observations.

Take advantage of interactive online learning. There are many great educational websites for kids of all ages. They include:

- **PBS KIDS Lab** - Educational games, activities, and mobile apps for kids PreK to grade 3
- **National Geographic Kids** - Great nature videos, activities, games, stories, and more
- **Discovery Kids** - Videos, games, and activities to explore dinosaurs, sharks, space, pets, history, and more
- **Smithsonian Kids Collecting** - How to start your own collection and see what other kids collect
- **The Last American Dinosaurs** - From the National Museum of Natural History
- **NASA Kids' Club** - A place to play games and learn about NASA through interactive explorations
- **My Wonderful World** - A multimedia tour of our seven continents

Is your home's internet speed fast enough to successfully handle all the online learning (and online entertainment) going on with multiple users and devices? If you're experiencing annoying slow-downs, call us at 634-2511 and ask about getting a speed upgrade.



Before You Dig, Know What's Below

There could be many things below ground in your yard besides earth-worms. It's also where utility lines are located, including the infrastructure for electricity, water, sewer, gas/propane, and communications. Before you begin any digging project, call 811 to get utility lines located and marked for free. Keep in mind that the depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood or even potentially result in fines and repair costs.

It's really very simple: Don't pick up the shovel until you pick up the phone. Call 811 and know what's below.

\$25

Win a \$25 Credit on Your KMTelcom Bill

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill by June 30th, 2022 for a chance to win a **\$25 credit** to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Congratulations to our March 2022 winners, Jay & Missy Kubat, rural Dodge Center!



Get Help from a Neighbor Nearby

When you need to get an account question answered or a technology problem solved, nothing beats working with a local company. We hope you enjoy the neighborly customer service you receive from KMTelcom as much as we enjoy providing it to you.

Our entire team—whether working in the office or out in the field—is committed to bringing you the best possible communications solutions and making your customer experience a consistently positive one. As your local provider, we live and work alongside you in this community and understand your needs in a way that distant competitors simply can't.

With KMTelcom, you can stop by for in-person assistance or call to talk to one of our local employees. Unlike national companies, you're not limited to 800 numbers answered by a revolving door of people from across the country or on the other side of the world.

For complete contact information including our office hours and technical support details, visit www.kmtel.com/contact-us.

What Can Identity Thieves Do With Your Personal Information?

Identity theft is when someone steals your personal or financial information to commit fraud. This information may include your name and address, Social Security number, or the numbers of your credit cards, bank accounts, Medicare ID, or other health insurance plans.

Once identity thieves have this data, they may sell it on the dark web (a part of the internet only accessible with a special software-and-network combination and a place where cybercrime flourishes because everyone is anonymous). Or they could use it to do the following:

- Make purchases with your credit cards.
- Get new credit cards in your name.
- Open a phone, electricity, or gas account in your name.
- Steal your tax refund before you file your return.
- Get medical services.
- Use your personal information to claim (and receive) unemployment benefits.
- Pretend to be you if they're arrested.

You could end up responsible for what identity thieves do while using your personal information and have to pay for what they purchase—even if you never saw the bills. Here's how that could happen: A thief might get a credit card using your name and change the billing address to his own. The bills go to him, but he never pays them. This will result in the credit card company thinking you're not paying your bills, which will hurt your credit rating.



To help avoid identity theft, keep all your records in a safe place, and if you decide to get rid of any documents, shred them before you throw them away. You should also ask questions before giving out your Social Security number to an organization other than the IRS, your bank, and your employer—why it's needed, how it will be protected, and if you can use a different identifier. Never give your personal or financial information to someone who calls, emails, or texts you out of the blue, since it's likely a scam.

If you're not already using eBilling from KMTelcom, consider signing up now to keep statements out of your mailbox and away from identity thieves. Visit www.kmtel.com/ebilling for more details. **Save \$10 with a bill credit when you set up paperless billing.**