

# In Touch

FEBRUARY 2017



## Thank You for Buying Local

Each time you choose to make a purchase from a local business, it helps strengthen our local economy. According to the American Independent Business Alliance, every dollar spent at independent businesses returns three times more money to the community than a dollar spent at a chain (and almost 50 times more than a dollar spent at an online mega-retailer).

BEVCOMM appreciates your support and encourages you to buy local whenever possible.

### Contact BEVCOMM

Blue Earth • 507-526-2822

Hager City • 715-792-2103

Minnesota Lake • 507-462-3444

Morristown • 507-685-4321

New Prague • 952-758-2501

Pine Island • 507-356-8302

Wells • 507-553-3144

Weyerhaeuser • 715-353-2434

Winnebago • 507-893-3111



# KISS

# TOO-SLOW INTERNET

*goodbye!*

An internet upgrade means better streaming, better gaming, and better use of your time (since you won't be waiting around watching that annoying buffering pinwheel). BEVCOMM offers several internet plan options, with speeds up to 1 GiG / 50 Mbps.\*

Better kiss too-slow internet goodbye!



## CALL 800-473-1442 FOR SPEEDS YOU'LL LOVE

\*Service availability and internet speed will depend on location.

## Lifeline Program Now Covers Broadband and Phone Services

Since 1985, the Lifeline program has provided a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and emergency services. The FCC, which sets the rules for Lifeline, added broadband to the list of subsidized services beginning in December 2016. Previously, Lifeline offered subsidies only for landline or wireless phone service. Broadband providers are now eligible to participate in the Lifeline program and to offer subsidized internet, which can be a wireless service or a fixed service such as DSL or fiber optics.

The FCC also changed the rules for demonstrating eligibility for Lifeline services. Some proofs of eligibility will no longer be accepted; others have been added. Customers will have to choose whether to obtain federally subsidized service from a telephone or broadband provider.

To learn more, visit [www.fcc.gov/general/lifeline-program-low-income-consumers](http://www.fcc.gov/general/lifeline-program-low-income-consumers) or call BEVCOMM at 800-473-1442.



## There are Downsides to Cutting the Cable Cord

Despite the streaming service options now available, the vast majority of Americans still have cable TV service. What's more, some who have tried cutting the cord have been disappointed in the experience and returned to cable TV.

**What are the downsides of cutting the cable cord? Here are the major ones:**

- **Not all programming is available on streaming.** Some of your favorite shows or channels may be missing if you rely entirely on streaming services. This is particularly true for highly popular programs from premium channels.
- **You will probably need to pay for multiple streaming services.** For example, to get something even close to the programming you want, you may have to subscribe to three or four services. In addition to the costs involved, this also means the hassle of dealing with multiple companies.
- **You often have to wait to watch a program.** Some streaming services must wait until a television show has completed its season's run before it can have a title for streaming, meaning it might be a year before you can watch. Other services may delay the availability of a program anywhere from one day to a full week after it airs on traditional TV.
- **Diehard sports fan may want to think twice.** That is particularly true for NFL fans that simply must watch the games in real time. To do that, you need access to local cable channels, since the NFL Game Rewind streaming service offers only games that have already been played.
- **You could run into problems if your internet service has data caps.** Streaming video, especially HD video, takes a large amount of data bandwidth. Some internet providers put monthly data caps on their services, and consumers that do a lot of streaming can end up exceeding these caps. This can result in reduced service quality levels, dropped streams, or even disconnection.

The bottom line is this: Research carefully and think about all the issues before making a change. You may decide that cable TV service is still the best choice for you.