

0 (0s):

This episode is brought to you by progressive saving money on your car. Insurance is easy with progressive. It's an average savings of over \$750 for customers who switch and Save in fact, customers can qualify for an average of six discounts on their auto policy with progressive including discounts, just for starting a quote Online or having multiple vehicles on their policy. Get your quote online@progressive.com and see how much you could be saving national annual average auto insurance savings by new customers surveyed in 2019 potential savings will vary discounts, vary and are not available in all States in situations.

1 (47s):

Welcome to the Clark Howard show where our mission is to serve and empower you. So you make better financial decisions and your life. Today. I have news about a news TV streaming service, and how, if you act quickly, you can get it for half price for a year. Also, there are some news for people who previously did not qualify for Unemployment. So I oversell it when I say there's a new streaming service, but what's happened is CBS all access, which has been one of the few stand-alones that has seem to establish itself in the market with shows from the CBS.

1 (1m 30s):

Stable is now being relaunched on Thursday, wait Wednesday, Thursday for this week, as Paramount Polis Paramount plus offers a much larger catalog of content, plus a decent amount of why programing and Paramount plus is overtime going to be more expensive than the CBS all access. And so if you are a CBS, all access subscriber, which I was because for my wife, it has all of the star Trek stuff. Well, not all of it, but enough of it that my wife is a complete star Trek nerd, who for a lot of episodes of star Trek can quote word for word every line through an episode, episode after episode, don't you think that would qualify as a nerd or star Trek enthusiast?

1 (2m 31s):

What office are you running for? Jackie? She is a Trekkie and a so for her CBS, all access was a must and it was a five 99 a month, I think is what it was. Yeah. And so The, Paramount thing will just be on your screen and the CBS will disappear. But today and tomorrow, and it's not midnight in your time zone, it's through, this is crazy 7:00 PM Eastern time tomorrow and 4:00 PM Pacific time tomorrow and other times zones in-between you can sign up for a special deal for a year and to do this, if you're not into the programming is going broke, saving money.

1 (3m 31s):

I mean, there is no actual real benefit to doing it if it's not your thing. But obviously for me, I signed up right away for the special deal and the reason I did so it won't stop talking. Isn't that funny? I was pulling up to talk about the deal. You will have to choices that you can sign up for a year and under one choice you will get commercials is part of it at a lower price, or you can get it without commercials for what would be a hundred dollars a year.

1 (4m 12s):

But in this promotion, it's 50 bucks a year. But after the first year, the price boomerangs to whatever the then current price is. So this is an opportunity. If this is a programming, catalog your interest in to be able to get it for at least the next 12 months at half price, but there's no obligation. You can just walk away. You have to tell them you're walking away, but you can walk away. And we're going to have a lot of this. We're going to have a lot of combinations of programming. We're going to have a lot of services that are going to become irrelevant or go dark because we're in the early days of fighting for market share among Streaming products of all kinds, either.

1 (4m 59s):

Why programming back catalogs of programming or original content of programming and people are going to be fighting for your eyeballs and to capture them going forward. Now, in the midst of this, people have been firing the cable monopolies for video packages and going Streaming only people been firing the satellites, nobody more than DirecTV, which has lost millions and millions and millions of customers as DirecTV has excelled at customer, no service and ridiculously high prices.

1 (5m 42s):

It is one of the greatest business failures of the modern era, the purchase of direct TV by at and T an at and T has driven into the ground, a purchase that costs them somewhere, including dad around \$65 billion is now valued by the marketplace at 16 billion, just a few years later. And now it's been spun off into a new combo deal with at and T in private equity. Now, let me tell you what private equity will do. They will, the people that remain loyal to DirecTV will get squeezed to the Macs when more and more and more pricing increases and junk fees.

1 (6m 28s):

And this is going to happen throughout traditional pay TV. If you stay in their ballpark, your loyalty is going to be punished, not reward it. If you are a creature of habit. And the whole idea of giving up that cable or satellite remote is too difficult for you. Your wallet is going to be screaming, your choice. And Krista, we're going to talk about with questions today.

0 (6m 59s):

Well, Dave in Michigan says on a previous show, I recall you mentioning in 2021, the monopoly that the cable companies have on us would expire to give us more options. Could you expand on that again?

1 (7m 12s):

So there's a lot happening all at once. So imagine you're a cable monopoly, that's enjoyed the ability to treat people how you want and charge and whatever you want year after year after year, that is going to sunset as we move further and further in 21, there's a couple of key developments that are rolling out state by state zip code by zip code that are changing the equation. And first, both T-Mobile and Verizon market by market.

And even within markets, it may be only a zip code by zip code are launching Home Internet service.

1 (7m 57s):

And the Home Internet service from T-Mobile, whether you're with them or not is \$50 a month flat rate, including unlimited data. And the Verizon depends on whether or not you have your cell service with them are not in terms of what you pay. These services will only get quicker from where they are today. So with the T-Mobile the services fine for web surfing, it's fine for music, if it is okay for video, but not fantastic for video and Christa is I guess, a beta tester for us of the T-Mobile Home Internet at 50 a month.

1 (8m 42s):

And if you were giving it an a to an F, what grade would you give it overall?

0 (8m 48s):

I'd give it an a, I think it's good. Yeah. And, and I had said earlier that you really need to be near it, but you can of course use a wifi extender. Somebody pointed out to me and it's very true. I need to use it more. We have another, we have like a really fast internet at home, but with the kids doing school from Home and everybody working, it just became like unreliable. Sometimes we needed a second unit, so we needed to test it. We need to test it out more.

1 (9m 14s):

So the T-Mobile is bringing people on. Is there a capacity handles? And although they only pitch it is being a 4g speed. The reality is their real goal is to have 5g Home Internet, which will give you a robust service that will compete fully with what you get from the cable monopoly, but without their stink and rotten, terrible data caps, and then Verizon, same basic story with their service. Although their marketing has been clear as mud on their Home Internet you have to go hunt for it where a T-Mobile is happy to put you on a wait list to inform you when they'll make it available to you now.

1 (10m 1s):

And then for people who live in rural America, there's a big deal going on with Starlink. Starlink is now available and parts of States across the Northern tier or the United States. And by the fall of this year should be available across the country. And this is for people who have not had access to reliable, affordable, or fast Internet to have Starlink and the beta testing. It's \$99 a month without data caps. And you have to pay an equipment fee up front for the satellite receiving device that people have been thrilled with it so far.

1 (10m 44s):

And the price points will obviously change over time. The speed of it has been pretty fast. And so that's a quick summary of what's going to be available steadily through 21. This isn't vapor wear, this is real stuff happening right now.

0 (11m 4s):

Okay? And this is timely already is from Alaska, but he's in Hawaii right now with his wife. And he says, while walking on the beach, we had left a cooler and backpack unattended. When we returned, we found the backpack was missing and I immediately realized my wallet was inside.

1 (11m 19s):

No, that is not a day in paradise.

0 (11m 22s):

I understand I'm not supposed to leave anything valuable unintended. And I'm glad we had our keys and both phones on us that we weren't affected. Those weren't effected. They tried using my card's right away. I received five separate credit card decline, notices and texts asking if these charges were fraudulent, which I was very impressed with. As I'd already used to have the cards and Hawaii, my questions to UW, do you recommend freezing all three credit bureaus? If they have both of our IDs, they don't have our social security numbers. So in theory, they shouldn't be able to open any credit lines, but credit to then unfreeze from all three bureaus. Every time I want to apply for a card sounds tedious and more of a hassle than protection. I have credit karma, which will notify me on any hard poles.

1 (12m 5s):

Yeah. Don't wait for credit. Karma credit karma in this case is more like a burglar alarm telling you after the criminals have already broken in where credit freeze stops them from the break-in and the hassle is not that big. I mean, I freeze and thaw. My credit at will is I need to apply for whatever services, whatever credit, and you'll find that it becomes routine. Once you frozen your credit to go through the process of throwing, which is very quick. Now, please consider getting that done. And don't let what happened to you, mess up your vacation because we'll Hawaii is the Best next.

1 (12m 52s):

If you aren't eligible for Unemployment in the past, there are special circumstances where you may be right now. I'll get to that straight ahead.

2 (13m 4s):

This episode is brought to you by progressive saving money on your car. Insurance is easy with progressive. It's an average savings of over \$750 for customers who switch. And Save in fact, customers can qualify for an average of six discounts on their auto policy with progressive including discounts, just for starting a quote online, or having multiple vehicles on their policy. Get your quote online@progressive.com and see how much you could be saving national annual average auto insurance savings by new customers surveyed in 2019 potential savings will vary discounts, vary and are not available in all States and situations

1 (13m 50s):

Over the last year, since the pandemic started right now a year ago, I've had complaint after complaint question after question and heard endless frustrations from people about issues. Getting unemployment insurance. Krista told me just last night, how many complaints had come in and the last week from people having trouble getting Unemployment

0 (14m 17s):

And so many in our questions, email, and also at the consumer action center

1 (14m 22s):

Consumer action center, if you're not aware is where we provide free advice to you. One-on-one and something that we've been doing now for 28 plus years, and at Clark dot com slash CAC, you can see how to speak with a member of our team and get the one-on-one advice. And this has been for all of us, for us, trying to give assistance. And for you trying to get your has been brutal and for no one more, more than people who are eligible under wisdom is PUA, which is a congressionally passed thing that allowed for people who normally would not be eligible for it.

1 (15m 9s):

And yeah, employment to claim specifically gig workers, self-employed individuals, independent contractors, and I've talked with one of the state level or commissioners. And one of the state in my TV work, one of the day States where we've had so many complaints and he said that the problem is they don't have any database. They can go to, to see that people are not falsely claiming to be in those categories and with the unprecedented number of claims. That's why people have waited month after month after month after month.

1 (15m 51s):

And that answer has frustrated people a lot, but it's the answer that labor departments have given state by state around this country. Well, now there's a new expansion of pandemic unemployment assistance that has come by new rules by executive order from the president. And, and this, this case, the category of workers that have never been eligible ever, ever, ever for unemployment insurance will now be eligible.

1 (16m 32s):

'cause if you refuse a job offer in a situation that for you would be unsafe because you're immunocompromised or other specific circumstances, they would make it dangerous for you to go into that workplace. So if your unemployment benefits or something you applied for are, you are denied 'cause you refuse to return to work. Let's say you were furloughed, and then you were called back. But at the environment you would be in was what you felt was unsafe for you. That made you ineligible for Unemployment Insurance until now.

1 (17m 17s):

So this is already in effect, but again, we have 50 state labor department and some will slow walk. This

others will be ready quickly to accept applications. So it's up to you to stay on this, continue monitor the website of your state labor department. And when, if you were in that category, when they give the green light for accepting applications where you appeal or your prior turndown than you want to get on that and stay on it, to get the unemployment compensation, Unemployment Insurance, you are now eligible for Krista

0 (18m 4s):

Bart and Georgia says, I need to order new checks for my mom and is so expensive through the bank. Is there a safe place to order that is more reasonable?

1 (18m 13s):

So Banks that charged for checks and rip you off for them are Banks that maybe you shouldn't be with, because it's just part of what they're all about is figuring out every way to fee you to death. But if your happy at that bank, you want to stay there. You can order checks third party from the same printing outfits that print them for the Banks just at a fraction of the cost. If you're a warehouse club member, you can order through the warehouse clubs, or if you just search Check orders online, you can do so. They're, you know what I used to say, I used to say in your Sunday newspaper and the supplements, there are glossy coupons for ordering cheques at a fraction of the cost is what they are from your bank.

1 (19m 4s):

Now. I mean, I still get a Sunday newspaper, but it seems like I'm the only one left. So now you do a Google search and you'll find the Check ordering outfits. And they are very, very cheap that way.

0 (19m 21s):

Rudy in Ohio says, Clark I have money in an ally savings account that is earning 0.5% and I have money and invest account with a cash buffer that is earning 1%. Does that make sense to keep the money in the savings account?

1 (19m 35s):

As long as the investor account, the money is either in a money market or the alternative would be, if it's an FDI, see insured account through the investment side in either of those cases, absolutely get double your interest at 1%, instead of half a percent, I never could have imagined in my lifetime, I'd be talking about being excited about 1% interest, but on a future podcast, I'm going to talk about an even better way for you to earn interest on your money in alternative to traditional banks, brokerages, or credit unions, to score more on your money.

0 (20m 21s):

Jen and Maryland is sending you an amusing story with a question. She says, my bank recently upgraded in quotes, my checking account would the upgrade. I must now keep a balance to avoid a fee previously. No balance required no longer earn interest previously a few times per month, LOL upgrade. Really. I asked if

they had anything that resembles my old account and she said, they did. I asked don't you upgrade me to that? And she said, no, we can't do that. I asked, can you convert me to that now? And she said, Nope, can't do that. So I'm looking at other Banks in my area. Are they any better in your opinion?

1 (21m 1s):

Oh man. Okay. So one thing you could look at is the Online Banks because with the Online Banks you never pay fees for checking accounts because they don't have all those branch networks, unless you specifically need branches to do things out, go with one of the online. We have a review of several of the Online Banks on Clark dot com. The other alternative is you almost certainly have a number of credit unions near you where you can open a checking account fee free, no minimum balance, none of the rest of the junk fees that the bank that's upgrading you is offering you as your only option that you have to pay fees.

1 (21m 50s):

And how crazy one thing about the bank that you are using that is now saying you're going to have to pay all these fees. They are an unusual operator and that they offer both an online bank and a traditional bank with bricks and mortar, you know, with actual branches, if you get your account through the bricks and mortar side, do you have to pay all their high junk fees? On the other hand, if your account is an online, only account through their online version, then you don't have to pay those fees. That seems so lame.

1 (22m 30s):

And customer unfriendly,

0 (22m 33s):

Carol and Michigan says, does Clark feel you should, you should keep cash in your house.

1 (22m 40s):

Well, yes. And if you're a burglar and you decided, this is the reason you should break into my house, the amount of money is not enough for it to be worth you breaking into the house. But I keep \$400 hidden. And our house for the possibility that the Russians, the Chinese or some other evil state actor messes with our banking system and makes normal ways of doing business electronically or with plastic and accessible that having an emergency supply of cash for that is valuable.

1 (23m 20s):

And the event of a major storm that knocks out power, where you can't pay as you normally would. Having cash is valuable. I was doing carry out at a quick serve place recently. And the fellow in front of me had come in to pick up his food that he had ordered. And he went to pay with plastic and they said, our terminal went down about a half hour ago, and we can only take cash. He had not a penny of cash on him. I offered to buy his lunch for him and his pride wouldn't allow him to do that.

1 (24m 1s):

So he abandoned his food, which they then had to throw away. And then I did have, I always have a small amount of cash on me to deal with things like that. We become so dependent on electronic methods of payment and plastic methods of payment. And let me tell you something, there are people, there are countries and the world that despise us that at times will attack us to disrupt our system. And we have to be flexible and be prepared for those circumstances.

0 (24m 35s):

Roldan says, you mentioned credit freeze for credit, but I don't recall you talking about Check system security freeze for Banks the company claims it is not a fee service, is it we're signing up?

1 (24m 47s):

So Check systems is a company that does a couple of things. What they're best known for is that when you go to open a bank account, they run a background on you and its based on what other banks have said about you as a customer. And so it, the idea of doing a freeze with them is it prevents somebody impersonating you from opening a checking account. If they are you, this is one I don't pay a lot of attention to because generally when people are stealing your identity, they're doing it to access credit is if they are you not to deposit money is if they're, you know, but it is an additional precaution you can take.

1 (25m 35s):

And I want to thank you so much for being a part of team Clark. If you enjoy our podcast, please subscribe, review us and share with your friends and for money saving info around the clock. Check out Clark dot com.