

GRISWOLD Connections

FALL 2021



Watch School Events on GrizTiger Vision

School is back in session. Activities are in full swing. Did you know you can watch Griswold Tiger and other area events on KJAN's Video Network? Griswold Communications is happy to help support this video network with KJAN and Griswold Tiger students, who are learning communication and technology skills and bringing school events into our local homes. Visit kjan.com to check out GrizTiger Vision.

Contact

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:30 am to 12:30 pm and
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Email us at gctc@netins.net

Visit us online at
griswoldcommunications.com



DON'T MISS THE HBO AND CINEMAX FREE PREVIEW WEEKEND

Are you a blueSURGE television subscriber? You can enjoy a five-day free preview of the best of HBO and Cinemax, September 23 through September 27.

Catch up on what you've missed or binge watch all that HBO and Cinemax have to offer. The preview will include six amazing theatrical titles: *Wonder Woman 1984*, *The Little Things*, *Judas and the Black Messiah*, *Tom and Jerry*, *Godzilla vs Kong*, and *Mortal Kombat*. Also available for viewing will be a new episode from the limited series *Scenes from a Marriage*, the premiere of the new docuseries *House on Stilts*, and more.

If you like what you see and want to subscribe to HBO and Cinemax movie packages, call Griswold Communications at 712-778-2121 by close of business on September 27. We'll waive the installation fee to add them.





Advice from netINS on Phishing Emails

Phishing emails—fraudulent messages designed to trick you into revealing sensitive information—are probably sent to you daily. Many are obviously phishing, but some look much more legit. If you question the legitimacy of an email or recognize that it needs to be reported, send it to abuse@netins.net. Never respond with any personal information like your username, password, Social Security number or bank account information. Legitimate companies, including netINS, will never ask for this information via email.

If you respond to such an email and realize it was the wrong thing to do, call Tech Support at 800-205-1110 immediately. Tech Support will help you change your password to stop the sender of the email from using your information. If a questionable email was found in your spam folder, the email has already been reported and email administration took action to move the message to spam for any customers who received it.

When Ping is Too High, It Can Be “Game Over”

Are there online gamers in your household? If so, it’s important to understand the internet’s role in gaming. While quick thinking and even quicker thumbs are a must, sometimes it’s the internet connection that can make or break a performance. Upload speed is particularly valuable in gaming, since it impacts ping.

What’s ping, you ask? It’s the reaction time required for information to go to the server and back. You can also think of ping as the number of milliseconds (ms) it takes for your computer or game console to respond to a request by another computer.

Ping requirements vary from game to game, and serious gamers will want to strive for the lowest possible ping that the environment can provide. Here are general guidelines:

Less than 20ms: This is optimal for gaming. Visuals are crisp and actions are quick. You should not experience any lags or glitches during gameplay. 763-4585

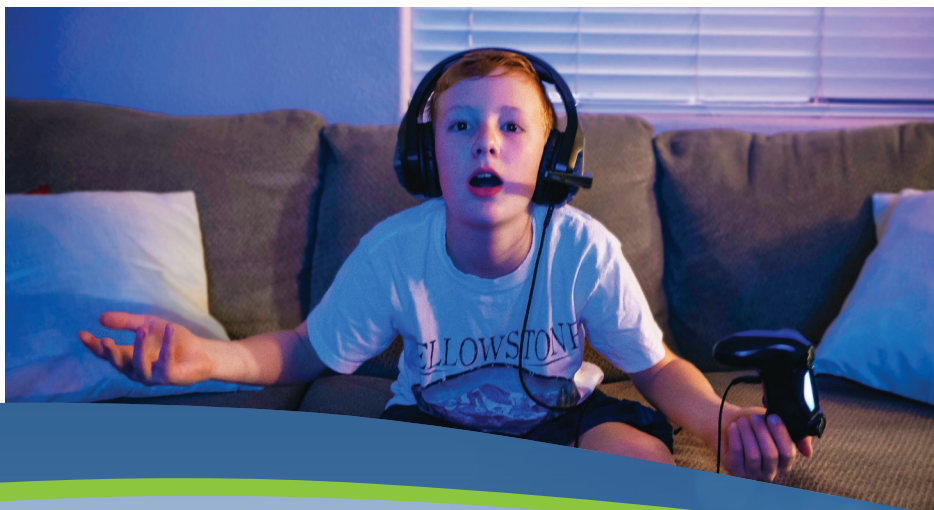
20ms - 50ms: This is the most common range for gamers. You should still experience smooth and responsive gameplay.

50ms - 100ms: This is the average range for gamers who are connecting to international servers. You may experience occasional lag depending on the game and your settings.

100ms - 300ms: Lags and delays are common but do not completely disrupt gameplay. You’re likely to encounter dips in performance and in-game responsiveness.

More than 300ms: There is noticeable lag, long delays in response, inconsistent movements, and lost shots. Ping in this range will likely be more frustrating than rewarding.

To get your ping rate, as well as your download and upload speed, you can visit [speedtest.net](https://www.speedtest.net). For information about upgrading your internet connection to enhance the gaming experience, call Griswold Communications at 712-778-2121.





Watch Out for Computer Vision Syndrome

As a child, you may have been warned by your parents not to sit too close to the TV because it would hurt your eyes. These days, we're spending more time than ever in front of a screen, since computers, smartphones, and tablets have been added to the mix.

Continuous or prolonged use of technology can lead to computer vision syndrome, which may include eye strain, headaches, fatigue, burning or tired eyes, loss of focus, blurred vision, double vision, or head/neck pain. 767-2571

The American Optometric Association (AOA) recommends implementing a 20-20-20 rule with technology — take a 20-second break every 20 minutes and look at something 20 feet away. Staring off into the distance helps the eyes from locking into a close-up position. The AOA also advises people to do the following:

- Keep the computer screen 15 to 20 degrees below eye level (about 4 or 5 inches as measured from the center of the screen) and 20 to 28 inches away from the eyes.
- Avoid glare. If needed, turn the desk or computer to prevent glare on the screen.
- Reduce the amount of light in the room to match the computer screen.
- Blink frequently. It will keep the front surface of the eye moist.

Of course, taking steps to prevent computer vision syndrome is just one aspect of managing your eye health. Another is to regularly schedule a comprehensive eye exam, which can detect eye diseases and conditions in their early stages. If it's been awhile since you or other members of your family have had an eye exam, be sure to make an appointment soon.

New FCC Rules Help to Block Spoofed Robocalls

Americans receive millions of unwanted phone calls daily. These include spoofed robocalls, when a caller transmits misleading or inaccurate caller ID information to deceive recipients into thinking the call is from someone they know or can trust.

These calls are not simply annoying. Robocall schemes take approximately \$10 billion from consumers in scams each year. They're also reducing consumer confidence — by some estimates, more than half of all calls are not being answered. 769-2468

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) now requires all originating and terminating voice service providers to implement caller ID authentication using STIR/SHAKEN technological standards in the Internet Protocol (IP) portions of their networks. This requirement became effective on June 30, 2021. STIR/SHAKEN stands for Secure Telephone Identity Revisited (STIR) and Signature-based Handling of Asserted Information Using toKENs (SHAKEN). It requires carriers to "sign" calls they originate, preventing spoofed caller ID data and guaranteeing that the caller ID information that appears on phones is trustworthy.

To learn more, contact Griswold Communications at 712-778-2121.





You'll Automatically Like AutoPay

There are many household things we need to remember to do on a regular basis, from watering the houseplants to changing the furnace filter. Wouldn't it be nice to scratch one thing off that "to do" list? That's what happens with AutoPay from Griswold Communications.

Once you set up AutoPay, you can simply forget about it. Your Griswold Communications bill payment will be automatically debited from your bank account or charged to your credit/debit card on the same day each month, without you having to do a thing.

Visit griswoldcommunications.com or call 712-778-2121 to learn more.

Hidden Number Contest

We have hidden randomly selected phone numbers throughout this newsletter. If you find your phone number in *italics* anywhere in this newsletter, please call our office at 712-778-2121 by September 30, 2021 to receive a \$5.00 bill credit.

Look now to see if your phone number is hiding in any articles. Good luck and happy reading!

Chat Mobility Purchases Iowa High School Sports Network

Chat Mobility, a wireless telecommunications service provider in southwest Iowa and a partner of Griswold Communications, has purchased the Iowa High School Sports Network (IHSSN), which holds exclusive media rights for the Iowa High School Athletic Association's (IHSAA) championship events. Chat Mobility purchased the company from Krogman & Associates, the founder of IHSSN.

Brian Spurgeon, general manager of Chat Mobility, said, "Chat Mobility is very pleased to announce this acquisition, which aligns with our business objectives and strategies and reflects our commitment to serve those who continue to support us. We truly thank our partner, Griswold Communications, for their vision and support to continually grow our product offerings."

The company will be run by Alan DeBolt, who has been with Chat Mobility for over 22 years. DeBolt will serve as IHSSN's executive director and says viewers of IHSSN's championship events will continue to experience high quality broadcasts starting with this year's state baseball championship games.

DeBolt said, "Broadcast professionalism is a component that trademarks IHSSN. Like our predecessor, we will continue to showcase the talents of the Iowa high school state championship events for the boys' association, the represented schools, their student athletes/coaches and communities. We also look forward to partnering with the Iowa High School Athletic Association in this journey." 778-2172

Tom Keating, executive director of the Iowa High School Athletic Association, said, "We are excited to see Chat Mobility work to enhance the production of our championship events. Their leadership has shown a sincere interest in showcasing the young people of Iowa."

The Iowa High School Sports Network currently produces nearly 80 high school championship events each year, including boys' state basketball, football, wrestling, baseball, and CO-ED state track. Viewers can watch the live stream through IHSSN.com or via the Watch IHSSN App found on many platforms including Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android and Apple iOS devices. IHSSN encourages you to also check your regional TV and cable listings throughout the state. Griswold Communications has the IHSSN Games channel on our blueSURGE television lineup.



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