

GRISWOLD Connections

FALL 2023



Watch School Events on GrizTiger Vision

School is back in session. Activities are in full swing. Be sure to 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 schools 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

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Visit us online at
griswoldcommunications.com



Nobody wants to deal with internet problems, especially when you're home just trying to relax. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have internet service you didn't have to worry about? That's exactly the kind we offer at Griswold Communications.

Our internet service is so reliable and carefree, you rarely need to think about it—which frees up your brain for the fun stuff, like figuring out which movie or TV series you're going to stream next.

**CALL 712-778-2121 TO SIGN UP.
YOU'LL BE HAPPY YOU DID!**





With eBill, You Can Pay It Your Way

We're all looking for ways to make life a little easier, and one way Griswold Communications does that is by offering you eBill, which saves you time and money:

- No check writing or postage is necessary.
- View your current or past bills online anytime you want.
- Pay online in seconds with your credit or debit card.
- Enjoy security protections via your account number and password.
- No need to worry about lost or stolen paper statements.

In addition to eBill, we also offer other convenient payment options so you can "pay it your way." Choose Automatic Payment to have your Griswold Communications bill amount automatically deducted from your chosen bank account each month — you don't have to do a thing! You can also make a credit or debit card payment over the phone by calling our office and providing your card number.

To sign up for eBill or get details on any of our bill payment options, visit griswoldcommunications.com or call 712-778-2121.

Learn While You Stream with Documentaries

Documentaries can offer a trip back into the past or enable us to better understand the world around us today. They can help us make sense of complicated topics or introduce us to people with lives different from our own.

While they once suffered from the misperception of being "stuffy" textbooks in motion, documentaries and docuseries are growing in popularity and reaching a much wider audience. This is largely due to the higher production quality and greater topic variety of the content now available through streaming services.

You can watch "ripped from the headlines" political or science documentaries, true crime docuseries, backstage looks at pop stars, and many more. The documentary pipeline has become crowded, and the time required to go from breaking news to in-depth documentary has shrunk from years to months. Viewer demand for original, nonfiction content is being met, and streaming services appreciate the cost-effectiveness of producing documentaries compared to scripted content. 769-2303



The major on-demand streaming services — such as Hulu, Netflix, and Prime Video — include documentaries alongside TV series and movies in their vast libraries. In addition, there are smaller streaming services that focus exclusively or largely on documentaries to meet the diverse needs of documentary fans.

If you're the curious type and want to keep learning something new, check out these streaming services that excel in various documentary categories:

- **Kanopy** - Best for Educational and Family Content
- **Netflix** - Best for Blockbuster Documentaries
- **CuriosityStream** - Best for HD and 4K Documentaries
- **Hulu** - Best for Celebrity Biopics and Entertainment Insiders
- **Amazon Prime Video** - Best for Political Documentaries
- **History Vault** - Best for Military Documentaries
- **MagellanTV** - Best for Discovering New Documentaries
- **PBS Documentaries** - Best for Ken Burns Fans
- **GuideDoc** - Best for Prestige Documentaries
- **Mubi** - Best for Film History Buffs

For the best experience while streaming documentaries or any other content, make sure your internet connection has sufficient speeds. For details on our internet plans, call 712-778-2121.

Scammers are Using Frighteningly Effective Voice-Cloning Technology

You get a call with a panicked voice on the line that sounds exactly like your grandson. He says he's in deep trouble—he wrecked his car and landed in jail—and needs you to send him money right away. Don't do it!

The Federal Trade Commission is warning consumers to beware of scammers who use artificial intelligence (AI) to clone voices, then call that person's relatives to claim there's an emergency and ask for money.

With voice-cloning technology, such as ElevenLabs' AI speech software VoiceLab, all scammers need to create a convincing impersonation is a short audio clip of a person's voice, which they could get from a video posted to Facebook, Instagram, or other social media platforms. They can even use a voice mailbox recording or call the targeted person to record their voice.

If a scammer calls you using this technology, it can sound just like your loved one. When you ask questions during the call, the scammer can type out whatever the person's responses should be, and they'll be spoken in the impersonated voice. Adding to the concern is the fact that anyone can use voice-cloning technology. It's like downloading any other app. Plus, there are easily available ways to spoof phone numbers on Caller ID.

How can you prevent becoming a victim? If something seems a little off, and you're not sure it's a friend or relative calling, hang up and call them using a phone number you know is theirs.



The Federal Trade Commission says you can no longer trust voices that sound identical to those of your friends and family members. 778-2366 You should also be suspicious if the caller wants to be paid via a wire transfer, cryptocurrency, or a gift card. These methods of payment are red flags, since they make it difficult to get your money back.



988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Offers Hope

Too many people experience suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress without the support and care they need. However, help is readily available.

By calling or texting 988, a person can connect directly with a mental health professional via the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline). The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a national network of more than 200 crisis centers, staffed 24/7 to provide confidential assistance. These centers are supported by local and state sources as well as the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Veterans can press "1" after dialing 988 to connect directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline which serves our nation's Veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and those who support them. 763-4302 For texts, Veterans should continue to text the Veterans Crisis Lifeline short code: 838255.

What Does it Mean to be a Member in a Cooperative?

Griswold Cooperative Telephone Company, doing business as Griswold Communications, is a locally owned company. Our mission is to provide high quality services at reasonable and affordable rates. Our communications services help economically strengthen our rural communities and make them a more attractive place to live and work. As a member in our cooperative by subscribing to Griswold Communications services, you're making an investment in a company you and other members own.

What does it mean to be a member in a cooperative?

- You become a member by purchasing a one-time, \$25 share of stock when you subscribe to services from Griswold Communications.
- You're entitled to elect representatives to the Board of Directors whose job is to oversee the operation of the cooperative and protect your investment.
- Once operating costs and reinvestments in the cooperative have been met, the remaining money is refunded to the members in the form of Capital Credits. The amount refunded varies from year to year, based on the cooperative's revenue earned and each member's use of services with Griswold Communications.
- Capital Credits are paid 10 years in arrears and require board approval every year. The average 2022 monthly bill of a subscriber with internet, television, and phone was \$211.00. The average 2022 allocation of Capital Credits for those subscribers was \$1444.27. Upon board approval, those allocated Capital Credits will be refunded to the subscribers in 2032 — paying back approximately 57% of those averaged 2022 subscribers' bills.
- When services are discontinued, the \$25 is refunded back to the account. Keep us informed of your forwarding address so we can send your Capital Credit refunds.
- If the shareholder and joint owner, where applicable, are no longer living, Capital Credits may be refunded to the shareholder's estate or the rightful heirs, after the cooperative receives proper documentation from an executor or an attorney.



- Unclaimed Capital Credits are refunds that we don't have forwarding addresses for, or they were sent out and returned to Griswold Communications or never cashed. Ads are published in the *Griswold American* newspaper to attempt to contact past members. Funds that aren't claimed after two attempts go into a reversion fund. The reversion fund is used to fund local scholarships, community donations, and economic development.

We thank our current and past members for their investment in their local telecommunications company and their support. 767-2459 We invite you to evaluate how much you're spending with other similar service providers and ask these questions: How much they are paying you back? How much are they investing in our communities?



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 29, 2023 to receive a \$5.00 bill credit. Congratulations to Chris Bancroft for being the winner from last quarter!

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