

GRISWOLD Connections

SPRING 2022

Annual Meeting Coming in April

Griswold Communications' Annual Meeting will be held in April. Plans are being made and when finalized, details will be mailed to each stockholder.

St. Patrick's Day Trivia

Did you know the Chicago River is dyed green every year for the city's St. Patrick's Day parade? Or that the Catholic Church has never officially canonized Patrick as an actual saint?

Whether you're Irish by heritage or just wish you were, Griswold Communications wishes you a Happy St. Patrick's Day. Wear green clothing, enjoy corned beef and cabbage, and maybe dance a few jigs with family and friends.

Contact

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:30 am to 12:30 pm and
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griswoldcommunications.com


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HBO AND CINEMAX FIVE-DAY FREE PREVIEW

We have good news for blueSURGE television subscribers — free preview time is coming! You can enjoy a five-day free preview of the best of HBO (channels 650-655) and Cinemax (channels 670-677) from Thursday, March 10 through Monday, March 14.

Get ready to enjoy:

- New episodes of *Winning Time*, *The Gilded Age*, and *My Brilliant Friend*
- The return of *Dune* on March 10
- Theatrical popcorn titles including *The Many Saints of Newark*, *Cry Macho*, *Malignant*, and *Reminiscence*
- Newly added theatrical hits including *F9: The Fast Saga*, *Halloween Kills*, and *The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard*
- Premiering HBO series of *Euphoria S2* and *The Righteous Gemstones S2*

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 March 14. We'll waive the installation fee to add them.

Give Your Old Tablet New Life in the Kitchen

Did you recently get a new tablet and can't figure out what to do with your old one? Look no farther than your kitchen for some great ideas.

Simply place the old tablet in a convenient spot in your kitchen and create a dedicated recipe reading screen. Use apps such as AllRecipes to display recipes while you cook, or watch cooking shows via streaming for expert guidance and inspiration.

Another use for your old tablet in the kitchen is to play music or videos. That way, you can stay entertained during boring tasks like chopping vegetables or washing the dishes.

Busy households with several family members may want to turn an old tablet into a kitchen command center. For example, the Noteboard app lets you leave sticky notes for each other in multiple colors. If you need a full-on family calendar, check out the Cozi app. Any family member can set reminders, make shopping lists, post photos, and leave notes remotely from their own smartphones.



Average U.S. Household Has 25 Connected Devices



Deloitte, the multinational professional services company, released a 2021 survey that indicates the average U.S. household has 25 connected devices. This is more than double the 11 devices that the average household had in 2019.

Included in the survey were laptops, tablets, smartphones, video streaming devices and smart TVs, wireless headphones and earbuds, gaming consoles, smart home devices, fitness trackers, and connected exercise machines.

According to Paul Silverglate, vice chairman at Deloitte, the pandemic bolstered the use of connected devices. He was quoted as saying, "The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic was like a time machine that suddenly propelled us tens of years into the future. It has changed how we interact with our connected devices, ultimately helping consumers, health care providers, education professionals, technology innovators, and others adapt and thrive in daily life." 763-4345

An increasing number of activities are happening at home that used to primarily take place out in the world. Your household is probably experiencing this firsthand with online learning and gaming, telecommuting, video conferences, digital shopping for groceries and other everyday items, virtual exercise classes and medical appointments, and online social events.

Among the more interesting findings of the Deloitte report:

- More than half of U.S. adults had virtual doctor visits, and 82 percent were satisfied with the experience.
- More than half of U.S. households have a smartwatch or fitness tracker, and 39 percent of consumers own one personally. People use their gadgets to measure walking steps and athletic performance, track heart health, and monitor sleep and calories.
- During the pandemic, 70 percent of consumers started mobile ordering or other smartphone-based retail and expect to continue doing so.
- Two-thirds of U.S. households have some type of smart home devices.

If your current internet connection isn't fast enough to accommodate the increased number of devices in your home, we can help. Call 712-778-2121 or visit [griswoldcommunications.com](https://www.griswoldcommunications.com) to find out what speeds we offer at your location and explore getting an internet upgrade.

5 Ways to Give Back, Even on a Tight Budget

Is the size of your heart much bigger than the size of your bank account? Are you looking for ways to give back without spending any money? Check out the suggestions below.

1. Donate Items You Have on Hand

One of the best ways to give back to your community on a tight budget is to donate items that you no longer need but would be welcomed by others. Some of the top items to donate are clothing and shoes in good condition, non-perishable food, and unopened personal hygiene products.

2. Give Blood

If you're able to give blood, you could save someone's life with your donation. Hospitals and clinics run through blood very quickly, so every drop counts.

3. Ask for a Donation Gift

When you have a gift-giving occasion coming up, like your birthday or anniversary, consider asking your friends and family to donate to your favorite charity instead of buying you a gift. 767-2735

4. Volunteer Your Time

Your time is as valuable as money to nonprofit organizations, since they're always looking for people to lend a hand with fundraising events or ongoing activities. Whether you collect items for a charity auction, serve food at a community kitchen, or help an elderly homeowner with repairs, you'll be making a difference.

5. Promote Causes on Social Media

Sometimes, all it takes to get someone you know to donate to a good cause is putting the issue in front of their eyes. Use your social media presence to spread the word about fundraising events and organizations in need.

Giving back to the community is an important part of who we are at Griswold Communications. We are proud to support local donations, volunteer projects, scholarships, and more.



The Iowa High School Sports Network (IHSSN) will provide full coverage of the 2022 State Basketball Championships March 7-11. Visit IHSSN.com for the full schedule. blueSURGE television subscribers can catch all quarterfinal and semifinal action on IHSSN Games (channel 12 or 412 for HD). Finals will be broadcast on KDSM Des Moines FOX (channel 17 or 417 for HD) or KPTM Omaha FOX (channel 42 or 442 for HD). Action will also be streamed on the IHSSN.com website and app.

WatchTVEverywhere Lets You Be Creative With TV Viewing

Pick your device. Pick your location. Pick your program. With WatchTV-Everywhere, everyone in your family enjoys lots of options for how, where, and what to watch. 769-2478

Slumber party time? The kids can watch a movie on a laptop in their fort. Waiting for a plane? You can catch up with your favorite drama show on your smartphone at the airport. WatchTVEverywhere works from anywhere you have an internet signal, making it incredibly convenient.

Plus, WatchTVEverywhere is FREE with your qualifying blueSURGE television package. To get started, visit www.watchtveverywhere.com and register.



Access Our Online Telephone Directory

The Griswold Communications' 2022 Telephone Directory was mailed to all telephone subscribers. Did you know we also provide an online version at griswoldcommunications.com?

With our online telephone directory, the information you need is always at your fingertips:

- Access it via your computer, mobile phone or tablet.
- Search by category, yellow pages or white pages
- If there is a website listed, click on it to go directly there.

Take advantage of the convenience of this online resource.

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 March 31, 2022 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!

Amazon Impersonators Scam Victims Out of Money

Has Amazon contacted you to confirm a recent purchase you didn't make or to tell you that your account has been hacked? According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), about one in three people who have reported a business impersonator scam say the scammer pretended to be Amazon. The median loss for victims of this scam is around \$1,000.

These scams take different forms. In one version, scammers offer to "refund" you for an unauthorized purchase but "accidentally transfer" more than promised. They then ask you to send back the difference. What really happens? The scammer moves money from one of your bank accounts to the other (like savings to checking, or vice versa) to make it look like you were refunded. Any money you send back to "Amazon" is your money, not an overpayment, and as soon as you send it out of your account, it becomes theirs.

In another version of the scam, you're told that hackers have accessed your account—and the only way to supposedly protect it is to buy gift cards and share the gift card number and PIN on the back. Once that information is theirs, the money is, too.

Here's how to avoid being taken by an Amazon impersonator scam:

- **Never call back an unknown number.** Use the information on Amazon's website and not a number listed in an unexpected email or text.
- **Don't pay for anything with a gift card.** Gift cards are for gifts. If anyone asks you to pay with a gift card, or buy gift cards for anything other than a gift, it's a scam.
- **Don't give remote access to someone who contacts you unexpectedly.** This gives scammers easy access to your personal and financial information such as your bank accounts. 778-5280

Have you spotted this scam? Report it at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. If you think someone has achieved access to your accounts or personal information, visit IdentityTheft.gov. There, you'll find steps to take to see if your identity has been misused, and how to report and recover from identity theft.

