

GRISWOLD Connections

SUMMER 2022

140th Annual Griswold Old Soldiers Reunion

Plans are underway for the Griswold Old Soldiers Reunion, with activities to be held July 8-10, 2022. Watch for details from the Griswold American Legion & Auxiliary, Griswold American, City of Griswold, and various other community businesses and organizations involved in this event. You can also visit oldsoldiersreunion.com. Save the dates for some summertime fun!



Contact

Griswold Communications
607 Main Street / PO Box 640
Griswold, IA 51535
Phone: 712-778-2121

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



June is Great Outdoors Month

Great Outdoors Month is a yearly reminder to go out and explore all that nature has to offer in the United States—including ocean coastlines, lakes, rivers, forests, mountains, hills, deserts, and prairies. We encourage you to set aside some time in June to explore the great outdoors, whether in a national park or your own backyard.

Why do we love Great Outdoors Month? Because it's a multifaceted celebration:

- **It's a celebration of nature.** Taking part in outdoor activities allows us to learn about the natural environment of the area, such as its wildlife, plants, and climate.
- **It's a celebration of economic growth.** While the primary goal is to explore the outdoors, the event has also aided in the creation of millions of jobs in the growing outdoor recreation industry.
- **It's a celebration of adventure.** The outdoors is all about the excitement of discovering new places and meeting the challenges of weather changes and rough terrain.

If you're looking for ideas for Great Outdoors Month, consider visiting some of our great local parks, check out programs offered by Iowa's county conservation offices, or explore your own backyard.

Be sure to enhance your backyard experience with a fast and reliable Wi-Fi connection for streaming movies, browsing information, and more. Call 712-778-2121 and ask about our wireless router and Wi-Fi extender offering.

Aureon Charity Grants Help Make Our Communities Stronger

Aureon is a business solutions provider with a national presence who partners with Griswold Communications. Aureon makes it a priority to give back and support initiatives that make communities stronger, and the Aureon Charity Grant Program has given nearly \$1.4 million to rural communities since 1994.

Are you involved with a local non-profit? Aureon invites public and private nonprofit agencies to submit proposals for grant consideration to assist with your charity drives and/or funding of a specific project for your respective communities.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the year. At the end of each quarter, the Aureon Charity Grant Program committee will review the applications received during that quarter. 767-2371 All applicants will be notified of the funding decisions. Most awards range in amounts from \$250 to \$1,500.

Apply at surveymonkey.com/r/aureongrants.



What Can Identity Thieves Do With Your Personal Information?

Identity theft is when someone steals your personal or financial information to commit fraud. This information may include your name and address, Social Security number, or the numbers of your credit cards, bank accounts, Medicare ID, or other health insurance plans.

Once identity thieves have this data, they may sell it on the dark web (a part of the internet only accessible with a special software-and-network combination and a place where cybercrime flourishes because everyone is anonymous). Or they could use it to do the following:

- Make purchases with your credit cards.
- Get new credit cards in your name.
- Open a phone, electricity, or gas account in your name.
- Steal your tax refund before you file your return.
- Get medical services.
- Use your personal information to claim (and receive) unemployment benefits.
- Pretend to be you if they're arrested.



You could end up responsible for what identity thieves do while using your personal information and have to pay for what they purchase—even if you never saw the bills. Here's how that could happen: A thief might get a credit card using your name and change the billing address to his own. The bills go to him, but he never pays them. This will result in the credit card company thinking you're not paying your bills, which will hurt your credit rating.

To help avoid identity theft, keep all your records in a safe place, and if you decide to get rid of any documents, shred them before you throw them away. You should also ask questions before giving out your Social Security number to an organization other than the IRS, your bank, and your employer—why it's needed, how it will be protected, and if you can use a different identifier. Never give your personal or financial information to someone who calls, emails, or texts you out of the blue, since it's likely a scam.

If you're not already using eBilling from Griswold Communications, consider signing up now to keep statements out of your mailbox and away from identity thieves. Visit griswoldcommunications.com for more details.

People in Crisis Can Call 988 for the Suicide Prevention Hotline

Suicide prevention is a critical need. Since 2008, suicide has ranked as the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. and it claimed the lives of more than 44,000 Americans in 2020. Evidence suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated suicidal thoughts and actions.

Individuals who need help can find it by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 and through online chats. Griswold Communications phone service customers now also have the option to dial 988 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Veterans and Service members can reach the Veterans Crisis Line by pressing 1 after dialing, as well as by chatting online at www.veteranscrisisline.net or texting 838255.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of more than 200 local and state funded crisis centers. 769-2585 The Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration administers the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which manages the Veterans Crisis Line.

The 988 dialing code is required to be put in use by phone service providers and covered text providers by July 16, 2022. Griswold Communications has it ready now. When a 988 call is placed, it's directed to 1-800-273-8255, which will remain operational during and after the 988 transition.

The adoption of 988 reflects a commitment to delivering necessary intervention services to individuals in crisis. Switching to an easy-to-remember three-digit number makes it easier for them to access the help they need and decreases the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health issues.



Be Prepared When Lightning Strikes

National Lightning Safety Awareness Week (the last week in June) was started in 2001 to call attention to this hazard and educate people on what to do to protect themselves. Since then, U.S. lightning fatalities have dropped from about 50 per year to about 30.

There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. So, remember this: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Too many people wait too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach.

A lightning bolt can carry billions of watts of electricity. If a strike would occur near your home, its powerful surge could damage your electronics and potentially injure you. To reduce your risk, unplug your computers, televisions, modems, and other electronics before bad weather hits. Also make sure your home has a corded landline phone that will continue to work even if the power goes out.

Griswold Communications wants you to stay safe this season. For information about landline phone service, call 712-778-2121.



Have Fun on Your Summer Vacation or Staycation

However you plan to escape your everyday routine—whether by exploring somewhere faraway or being a tourist here at home—Griswold Communications hopes your summer adventures create wonderful memories. 778-5081

It's good for all of us to take a break and "recharge our batteries" with new experiences, especially when we can share them with people we care about. Let's make it a sunny summer!

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 June 30, 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!

Get Discounted Phone or Internet Service with Lifeline

Access to affordable voice and internet service is vital to stay connected in today's world. People need these services to communicate with health care providers, potential employers, educational programs, loved ones, and more. Yet affordable service remains a challenge for many low-income consumers.

The federal Lifeline program helps close the gap for these consumers by offering a monthly discount of up to \$9.25 towards a qualified household's phone or internet service. A household is a group of people who share income and expenses. Consumers who live with another person already receiving the Lifeline benefit may still be eligible for the discount if they do not share income and expenses with that person.

Households with income at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for the Lifeline program. Consumers enrolled in a government assistance program, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing, Veterans Pension or Survivor's Benefit may qualify for Lifeline as well.

The Lifeline program is one of four programs administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), under the policy guidance of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). 763-4481

Consumers should submit an online application at <https://nv.fcc.gov/lifeline> or mail in a paper application to the Lifeline Support Center, PO Box 7081, London, KY 40742.

USAC's Lifeline Support Center serves as a resource for prospective and current Lifeline participants. Consumers may submit questions via email to LifelineSupport@usac.org, or by calling 800-234-9473. More information is available on their website at www.LifelineSupport.org.

