

GRISWOLD Connections

WINTER 2022

Dividend Checks Mailed December 1

Dividends to Griswold Communications shareholders are paid 10 years in arrears; therefore, the checks were for services from 2012. If you do not get your dividend check or you have questions, call our business office at 712-778-2121.

Happy Holidays

Griswold Communications employees and board wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

Our business office will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday, and Monday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday.



Contact

Griswold Communications
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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



THEY'RE BEGGING FOR FASTER INTERNET THIS CHRISTMAS



GET YOUR PAWS ON A HIGHER SPEED NOW

It can be doggone frustrating to deal with the hassles of too-slow internet, like videos that buffer and Zoom calls that freeze up — especially during the busy Christmas season. So we have a suggestion. Switch to one of our internet plans with much higher speeds, and everyone in your household (two-legged or four-legged) will be much happier. **Choose from speeds up to 1 Gig!**

**DON'T FUR-GET TO CALL
712-778-2121 IN DECEMBER**
**WE'LL WAIVE THE \$27 CHANGE FEE WHEN YOU
CHANGE YOUR BLUESURGE INTERNET SPEED.**

Certain restrictions apply. Online experience is impacted by devices used and their performance capability as well as by wireless router capability and environmental conditions.

Just for Fun, Check Out These Holiday Apps

These free apps, available for Android and iOS, are sure to generate smiles for the young (or young at heart) in your family. 767-2520

Christmas Sweeper 4

Attention Candy Crush fans! Christmas Sweeper 4 is like your favorite game, except with a Christmas twist. You'll light candles, clear the snow to uncover gifts, catch jumping snowmen, fill up gift bags, drop Santa down the chimney, and more creative mischief.

Elf Yourself

You replace the Elf faces with the faces of up to five people or pets, select a dance theme, and this app will create a comical elf dance video. Once completed, you can share the video on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Message From Santa!

With this app, your kids can call Santa, get video messages, record a wish list, and hear what Santa is doing. There's also a Santa Chatbot that makes it seem like you're talking with the man himself. You can also request a call from Santa, and your children can record a voice message for him.



Streaming Has Forever Changed At-Home Entertainment

The way most of us enjoy TV today is fundamentally different than it was 10-15 years ago. Instead of watching network and cable programs on a TV only, we're streaming a much broader range of entertainment on a variety of devices—laptops, tablets, and phones—in addition to TVs.

Clearly, streaming is the new way to watch TV:

- According to [statista.com](https://www.statista.com), 82% of U.S. households have at least one streaming subscription and 53% of them have at least three.
- Nielsen's 2022 "State of Play" report says in an average week, U.S. audiences watch almost 170 billion minutes of streaming video content, which is up from just over 143 billion in 2021.
- Audiences now have more than 817,000 unique program titles to choose from across traditional TV and streaming services. That's up 18% from just over 646,000 at the end of 2019.
- There are now 200+ streaming platforms.



Streaming services have changed what we watch, where we watch, and how we watch. We now have much more freedom in terms of at-home entertainment, and this freedom has opened up a whole new world of both challenges and possibilities. 763-4478

For example, given the seemingly infinite amount of streaming content available, choosing what to watch next can be a frustrating and time-consuming experience. How many of us have spent half an hour scrolling through titles, only to give up and just rewatch a favorite movie or TV show?

TV series fans are taking advantage of streaming's viewing flexibility to assume more control. While some watch episodes from start to finish, others rewatch scenes (to understand confusing dialogue) or skip unwanted content (such as violence or scenes with a character they dislike). There are also people who watch all or part of a TV series in fast forward (called "speed watching") to consume as much content as possible in a short amount of time. We can't forget another major option enjoyed by many — bingeing an entire season in a day or two.

Your streaming experience is impacted by the speed of your internet connection. If you think you might need an upgrade, call us at 712-778-2121.

Source: www.nielsen.com/insights/2022/state-of-play

Creative Uses for a Spare Tablet



Now that you have a shiny new tablet, what are you going to do with your old one? If you don't plan to sell it or give it to a family member, here are some fun tablet uses to consider:

- Second monitor to pair with your computer
- Place to paint, sketch, and draw with a digital pencil
- Smart home controller for appliances, heating and cooling, lights, and more
- Larger screen for GPS navigation while driving
- "Car radio" when paired with apps like Pandora, Spotify, and iHeart Radio
- Digital picture frame to display a slideshow of your favorite photos
- Recipe central for the kitchen counter
- Entertainment option for rooms without a TV
- Home surveillance tool or baby monitor
- Portable movie player for car trips with children
- Book library for your collection of e-books

As the number of devices in your home goes up, so should your internet speed. Call 712-778-2121 to ask about getting a speed upgrade.

A Year Gives You 365 Opportunities

Happy New Year from all of us at Griswold Communications. We hope 2023 brings you 365 days of learning, growing, exploring, and connecting.

Should any of those days present challenges with communications technology, you're always welcome to contact us for information and advice.



Download Our eBill Mobile App Today

With the Griswold Communications eBill mobile app, you can safely and securely make payments on the go, view invoices, sign up for auto pay, and more. Download it for free now from the Google Play or Apple store. Current Griswold Communications online users' login credentials will also be used for the eBill mobile app. New users can set up credentials, and if assistance is needed, call Griswold Communications at 712-778-2121.

Bake Cookies Day is December 18

Look through your recipe box, stop by the grocery store, and gather your cookie cutters. Friday, December 18 is Bake Cookies Day — perfectly timed for the holidays.

Many people have kept busy so far this season with shopping trips, gift wrapping, decorating, and Christmas cards. So Bake Cookies Day is a great excuse to shift gears and focus on the fun of baking. It's also a wonderful opportunity to spend time with family and friends in the kitchen, share plates of cookies with neighbors, or mail some goodies to loved ones in other places. 778-2334

If you're looking for some new Christmas cookie recipes, what better source is there than the North Pole? Browse through a delicious assortment at www.northpole.com/Kitchen/Cookbook/Cookies, including Christmas Thumbprint Cookies, "Santa's Whiskers" Cookies, and Holiday Raisin Walnut Bars.

Who knows? You may find a new favorite cookie.





Scholarship Notice for 2023 Graduates and Their Parents

It's never too soon to be thinking about upcoming scholarship opportunities. Griswold Communications offers a local scholarship to students in our school district. There will be additional scholarship opportunities available through other associations of which Griswold Communications is a member.

All details have not been finalized yet, but deadlines for submission of scholarship applications last year were between March 1 and March 15. We anticipate those deadlines to be similar in 2023. More details will be made available as we get them.

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 December 30, 2022 to receive a \$5.00 bill credit. Congratulations to our most recent winner, Jim Kwiatkowski!

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

5 Ways to Shop Locally This Holiday Season

Instead of buying all your holiday gifts from Amazon or big box stores, we encourage you to shop in your own backyard whenever possible. Local small businesses offer unique items that your family and friends will love. Plus, by shopping locally, you're contributing to the economic growth of our area.

To get you in the gift-giving spirit, we'll give you a few festive ideas:

1. Choose Christmas cards from local artists.

Why settle for run-of-the-mill cards when you can send works of art? Check to see if there are local artists who make prints of their work and turn them into Christmas cards (or everyday notecards). Your recipients will be impressed, and they may even want to frame the card to use as wall art.

2. Buy books from an independent bookstore.

Books make great gifts for people of any age. Browse through a small, locally owned bookstore for a relaxing shopping experience. The owner may even be there to help recommend titles for everyone on your list. 769-2458

3. Visit local holiday festivals.

During this time of the year, many community organizations host holiday festivals that include vendor booths. These events provide the opportunity to discover local artisans and makers you might not have been aware of otherwise. You're sure to find one-of-a-kind stocking stuffers and gifts — such as homemade candles, bath soaps, ornaments, jewelry, kitchen towels, T-shirts, and more.

4. Send a seasonal floral arrangement.

When you want to give flowers to someone in town, skip the big online flower services and walk into your friendly neighborhood florist shop instead. You'll be able to literally "stop and smell the roses" during the hectic holiday season and personally choose the type of blooms and arrangement you want.

5. Grab a cup of coffee and shop simultaneously.

The next time you meet a friend for coffee at your favorite independent coffee shop, look around for holiday gifts while you're there. You may be able to pick up a selection of gourmet coffees to give as hostess gifts or buy coffee mugs for your child's teachers.



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