

The Connection

NOVEMBER 2019

Make November and December a Season to Remember

This time of year offers so many wonderful opportunities to gather with those we love and enjoy treasured meals, decorations, and activities. All of us at Runestone Telecom wish you a joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

Remember, it's the little things that make life big — from little giggles from children to little surprises in a box.

Contact

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www.runestone.net

Office Closures

November 28th & 29th for Thanksgiving. There will be a service technician on call for troubles, just call: 320-986-2013 and leave a message.

Runestone
Telecom Association



Enjoy slow-roasted turkey with a side of fast internet

Preparing for Thanksgiving involves lots of online activities—researching recipes, ordering groceries, compiling playlists, reviewing Black Friday ads, and planning your holiday shopping. Then on the day itself, you'll be streaming football games and the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

Here's how to make this holiday (and all the holidays and regular days to come) go more smoothly:

Call 320-986-2013 to order faster internet today.

*Happy Thanksgiving
and thanks for being a loyal customer!*

*Some restrictions apply. Contact us for complete details.

Gobble Up This Turkey Trivia

Want to impress your guests? Share a few of these fun facts about turkey while you're gathered around the table this season:

- The heaviest turkey ever raised was 86 pounds, which is about the size of a large dog.
- When Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin sat down to eat their first meal on the moon, their foil food packets contained roasted turkey and all of the trimmings.
- Americans consume about 17.6 pounds of turkey per person every year.
- Wild turkeys can fly for short distances at speeds of up to 55 miles per hour and can run 20 miles per hour.
- Male turkeys (toms) gobble, but female turkeys (hens) do not. Hens make a clicking noise instead.
- It's estimated that a turkey has about 3,500 feathers at maturity.
- The red fleshy bits hanging off turkeys' beaks are called snoods, not to be confused with wattles, the fleshy bits under the neck.

If you need help preparing and cooking your turkey, you can contact the turkey experts at Butterball during November and December. Call 1-800-BUTTER-BALL (1-800-288-8372) or text 844-877-3456.



Beef Up Your Virtual Recipe Box

While old family recipes are great, new recipes are fun as well. Bring your devices into the kitchen and check out these free apps for inspiration on what to make next:

Tasty. Use the comprehensive search tool to find new recipes, then follow along with helpful videos. Easily post to social media so your friends can share in the foodie fun.

BigOven. Search by keyword, course, ingredient, or collection, or use the leftover feature to enter ingredients from your pantry to see what you can make. Additional features help with menu planning and shopping.

Yummly. Perfect for those with special diets or food allergies, this app has you input some initial information to find the best recipe for you, then it keeps learning to refine future results.

Allrecipes Dinner Spinner. Get dinner on the table with less fuss and more fun. This app allows you to specify ingredients and prep time to find just the right recipe.

Oh She Glows. With a focus on healthy cooking, this app helps you avoid meat-based and processed food. These mostly plant-based recipes include many gluten-free options.

SideChef. Great for beginners, this app provides step-by-step recipe instructions including photos and videos. Search filters allow you to find exactly the right recipe.

When you're browsing around online looking for a recipe, try these strategies to spot a good one:

- **Read the blog text and comments.** You'll be able to tell the level of testing the author used and whether others have had success with the recipe.
- **Make sure the ingredients match the instructions.** Read a recipe all the way through before trying it. Ideally recipes should have ingredients listed in the order in which they're used.
- **Look for specificity.** An ingredient of "1 carrot" is good, "1 medium-sized carrot" is better, and "1 cup chopped carrots" is best. Similarly, descriptive text—like, "the onions should be translucent"—is useful.

Runestone Telecom offers a menu of internet plans to satisfy your bandwidth-hungry household. Visit www.runestone.net for details.



Here's What Happens in an Internet Minute

It's fascinating to see how much online activity takes place every minute of every day. According to *Social Media Today*, here are the 2019 statistics as compiled by Domo, an operating system company:¹

#LOVE is posted 23,211 times

GIPHY serves up 4,800,000 GIFS

NETFLIX users stream 694,444 hours of video

GRUBHUB receives 8,683 orders

INSTAGRAM users post 277,777 stories

YOUTUBE users watch 4,500,000 videos

TWITTER users send 511,200 tweets

EMAILS totaling 188,000,000 are sent

SKYPE users make 231,840 calls

INSTAGRAM users post 55,140 photos

UBER users take 9,772 rides

AMERICANS use 4,416,720 GB of internet data

AIRBNB books 1,389 reservations

VENMO processes \$162,037 in transactions

TINDER users swipe 1,400,000 times

GOOGLE conducts 4,497,420 searches

TEXTS totaling 18,100,000 are sent

APPS are downloaded 390,030 times

TUMBLR users publish 92,340 posts

TWITCH users view 1,000,000 videos

These numbers are sure to increase since the world's internet population is growing significantly year-over-year. As of January 2019, the internet reaches 56.1% of the world's population and now represents 4.39 billion people—a 9% increase from January 2018.

Approximately how much time do you spend each day online? What applications do you use most often? If your home's internet speeds are not providing the experience you'd like, call us at 320-986-2013 to discuss an internet upgrade.

¹ www.socialmediatoday.com/news/what-happens-on-the-internet-every-minute-2019-version-infographic/558793



Be on the Lookout for Scam Pop-Up Ads

You're on a major website such as WebMD and a pop-up ad claiming to be from Runestone Telecom says something like, "Congratulations! You get to spin the wheel to win a prize." When you spin the wheel, you're told you've won money and should push the button on the screen to be connected to a "partner." Don't push the button! It's a scam.

Runestone Telecom never uses pop-up ads on websites belonging to other businesses or organizations. So if you see one claiming to be from us, it's fraudulent. Do not respond to it in any way or click on any buttons or links.

Scam pop-up ads happen occasionally to Runestone Telecom but are part of a much larger and more frequent issue. These ads are the result of malicious code being inserted into the software that virtually all publisher websites use in order to run fast-loading automated ads. It's a seemingly never-ending battle. Hackers will devise a way to interfere with your browsing, publishers will combat it as best they can, and hackers will come up with something new.

If you have questions or concerns about pop-up ads, call us at 320-986-2013.

Start Shopping Small

In 2010, small businesses were hurting from an economy in recession. In an effort to support local shops that make communities strong, American Express launched Small Business Saturday on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Its goal was to encourage people to shop small and bring more holiday shopping to small local businesses.

Shoppers, small businesses, and civic leaders come together to support small businesses and help their communities thrive. One year later, as the Shop Small Movement gained momentum, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution in support of the day.

By 2018, there were more than 7,500 Neighborhood Champions across all 50 states. As shopping small caught on in communities everywhere, Small Business Saturday went from a cause to a day of community celebration. According to American Express, 96% of consumers who reported shopping on Small Business Saturday said the day makes them want to shop small all year long.

Runestone Telecom enthusiastically supports Small Business Saturday and encourages you to shop at local, independently owned businesses as much as possible. We also thank you for choosing us, the local communications provider.

New Members

Barrett

Windom, C A.....320-528-6225
Windom, Lois320-528-5005

Tintah

Collar, Junior Justin218-369-2075

Your Privacy Rights Regarding Customer Proprietary Network Information

Under Federal law, you have a right to—and Runestone Telecom Association (RTA) has a duty to—protect the confidentiality of “Customer Proprietary Network Information.” This notice is to advise you of these rights and obligations, and to request that you permit RTA to use your CPNI for the purposes described here.

CPNI consists of the call, service and billing data regarding the RTA telecommunications services you buy. RTA intends to use your CPNI information to identify and offer to you other RTA communications services that we think will be of interest to you. **RTA does not sell or in any way provide this information to any other company**, other than when required by law or at your written consent. RTA has the duty to protect the confidentiality of this information. Regardless of whether you consent or not, your account will be treated confidentially.

No action is necessary if you wish to permit RTA to use your CPNI in order to tell you about RTA services, new technologies, specials or possible savings to your account. You do have a right to disapprove RTA’s use of your CPNI for the purposes described in this notice, or to withdraw your consent at any time. In order to notify RTA that you do not consent to its use of your CPNI, you must contact us at 320-986-2013 (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Your disapproval for the use of your CPNI will not affect RTA’s provision of the services you now purchase from RTA. You have the right at any time to withdraw your approval or to give your approval if you previously denied approval. Until you notify RTA of your change, your permission or denial of permission remains valid.

Changes Coming to Lifeline Program

The FCC has ordered changes in the federal Lifeline program. Lifeline discounts continue to be available to qualifying customers on voice or broadband services, but the following changes will begin on December 1, 2019:

- The discount available for voice service will be reduced from \$9.25 to \$7.25 per month.
- The broadband service speed purchased must be at least 20 Mbps/3 Mbps to be eligible for a Lifeline discount.

If you are purchasing broadband service which meets the required speed level, your Lifeline discount will not change.

Customers interested in determining if they are eligible for the Lifeline program should contact our office or visit www.lifelinesupport.org/lsc/default.aspx for information.