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A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF SCC NETWORKS

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CONTACT

SCC Networks
600 NW Church St.
Leon, IA 50144
Phone: 800-782-7932
Hours: M-F, 8 am-5 pm

After Hours Call: 800-451-2360
Internet Tech Support:
800-721-2577

OFFICE CLOSURE

Monday, September 1
in observance of Labor Day

CATCH THIS MOUSE TO WIN!



This mouse is hiding in a photo somewhere in this newsletter. Find it and call your local SCC office with the photo description to be entered in our "Mouse for Money" drawing for \$5.00 off your next bill. Good luck and we look forward to hearing from you!

Congratulations to Nancy Drake and Riekens Sewing for catching the mouse in our last issue!



SCC Networks is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Does your family do a lot of streaming, gaming, uploading, researching, and connecting? Then your homework assignment is to study this offer:

**SIGN UP FOR
GRM INTERNET SUPERNET 15 NOW**

AND GET YOUR FIRST MONTH

★★★★ **FREE!** ★★★★★

For example, enjoy up to 15 Mbps download speed
FOR ONLY \$60.00/MO*

Already a GRM Broadband customer and want to upgrade your connection to SuperNet 15? Upgrade your service before September 30 and receive your first month of faster speeds at the GRM Broadband rate!



CALL 800-782-7932 TODAY
and we'll erase the installation fee!

**Residential prices are advertised. Business customers, please call for pricing. All prices subject to change. Contact us for details. Offer good through September 30, 2014.*

SAVE MONEY WHEN YOU SAVE VACATION MEMORIES

You want to preserve the wonderful memories from your family vacation, but you don't want to break the bank buying expensive souvenirs. Fortunately, there are easy, low-cost ways to gather mementos during your trip, and then artfully display them at home.

For example, many people make memory jars. Inside a mason jar, simply place small items from your vacation such as shells from the beach, brochures from museums, ticket stubs, restaurant napkins, and a photo or two. Another great idea is to use maps from the places you've visited as mats for framed photos or decorative wraps around candles or vases.

When you're back at home and traveling around online, are the trips taking longer than you'd like? Then call SCC Networks at 800-782-7932 today and ask about upgrading the speed of your Internet plan.



How to Keep Your Family Safe During Power Outages

Power outages can occur for many reasons including utility blackouts, lightning storms, and strong winds. Being without electricity is more than just an inconvenience since we depend on it for some basic needs. Review these tips now so you'll be prepared if the power goes out.

Water Safety

Water purification systems may not operate in a power failure so be aware of safety warnings that may come from your local water utility. The American Red Cross suggests the average person requires a gallon of water per day — half to drink and half for other uses. (One and a half gallons will be needed on hot days due to the increased need for drinking water.) Your best strategy is to store bottled water for use in an emergency.

Refrigeration Guidelines

After a power outage, a full freezer should keep food frozen for 48 hours and a half-full freezer should last 24 hours. These estimates are shortened if the door is opened so use the door as little as possible. Non-frozen perishables must be kept below 40 degrees Fahrenheit at all times. Without opening the door, the typical refrigerator

should keep food cold for about four hours during a power outage. If the power is anticipated to be out longer than four hours, you should pack all eggs, dairy, meat, and fish into a cooler with ice. A digital, quick-read thermometer can be used to determine if food is cold enough. Discard any food warmer than 40 degrees.

Staying Connected

Keep in mind that most cordless phones will not work without electricity, and cell-phone systems have a tendency to overload when the power is out because of overuse.

That's why it's a good idea to keep at least one corded landline phone in your house for emergencies. This type of phone does not require electricity, and will continue to operate during most power outages.

To learn more about our landline options, call 800-782-7932.

Go Online to Cook Up Some Ideas for **Outdoor Entertaining**

Doesn't it seem as though food tastes better when it's cooked (and eaten) outdoors? No wonder so many people love to entertain on their patios and decks. What's more, the birds provide the music, the fireflies provide the lighting, and you don't have to worry about stains on your carpet!



Outdoor entertaining can be a breeze when you plan ahead and make use of the many online resources available. For example, check out these websites for great recipes, decorating ideas, and more:

www.backyardsimple.com – This site is brimming with fresh ideas for backyard entertaining including easy Mason jar lights, grilling tips, serving sizes for a crowd, budget-friendly food, and lawn games.

www.hgtv.com/outdoor-entertaining/package – Get advice from HGTV experts on how to throw a no-stress summer shindig and how to turn your outdoor space into a stylish spot for entertaining. You'll also find unique appetizer recipes and patriotic decorating tips.

www.foodnetwork.com/topics/grilling – Fire up the grill and browse through these grilling recipes for delicious burgers, barbeque, chicken, fish, and vegetables. You're sure to find something new to try.

www.weber.com/recipes – The name Weber is synonymous with grilling, so it's no surprise that their website is the go-to recipe source for grilled foods of all kinds, from starters to main dishes to desserts.

SCC Networks wants you to be safe while you're using your gas grill, so please remember these safety tips to help protect against fires or explosions:

- Check for blockages in the tubes that lead into the burner.
- Check grill hoses for cracks, brittleness, leaks, and sharp bends.
- Replace damaged connectors.
- Use grills at least 10 feet away from homes or other buildings.

On a related note, don't get burned by overpriced or underperforming Internet service from other providers. You can count on SCC Networks for the best Internet values. For details, call 800-782-7932.



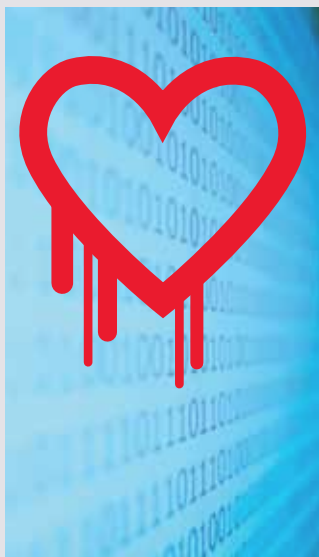
9 FOODS WITH THE FASTEST-RISING PRICES

If it seems like you're spending more at the grocery store lately, perhaps the foods listed below are partly to blame. According to a recent post by 24/7 Wall St., these foods have the fastest-rising prices based on average retail price data published by the BLS Consumer Price Index for the period January 2010 through March 2014.

1. Bacon 4-yr. change: +53%
2. Ground Beef 4-yr. change: +35%
3. Oranges 4-yr. change: +35%
4. Coffee 4-yr. change: +31%
5. Peanut Butter 4-yr. change: +30%
6. Margarine 4-yr. change: +30%
7. Turkey 4-yr. change: +24%
8. Chicken 4-yr. change: +22%
9. Grapefruit 4-yr. change: +22%

Food prices can be volatile and are affected by a number of factors including the changing tastes of consumers, weather conditions, and diseases. But remember, while you can't do anything about food prices, you may be able to save on your communications services. SCC Networks offers great rates on bundles and you can find out more at www.grm.net.

AN IMPORTANT SECURITY LESSON FROM THE HEARTBLEED BUG



You've no doubt heard about the encryption flaw called the Heartbleed bug, which is being described as one of the biggest security threats the Internet has ever seen. This bug affected many popular websites and services — including Gmail and Facebook — and allowed hackers to bypass security and download random chunks of information. These chunks are incredibly small, but if hackers get enough of them, they can reconstruct data they shouldn't have such as account information and passwords.

If you reused the same password on multiple websites, and even one of these websites was identified as being affected by the Heartbleed bug, you'll need to change the password everywhere. In fact, the biggest lesson for all of us from the Heartbleed bug is that we have to stop reusing the same password over and over.

To make password management more secure and convenient, SCC Networks offers Password Genie. To find out about this service, call 800-782-7932.

6 Tips for Improved App Security

There's an app for virtually everything these days, and their power and convenience make us love our mobile devices even more. Be aware, however, that apps also come with some security risks. You can reduce the odds that cyber criminals will succeed in their plots by following these tips:

1. Always download apps from a secure, trusted source. If you're uncertain about an app, do a quick search under the publisher's name and look for many apps with good reviews and lots of downloads.
2. Choose only popular apps. Apps that have been downloaded a lot aren't likely to be poisoned.
3. Think carefully before authorizing any access. For example, some apps use geo-location services. If you allow an app to know your location, you may be allowing the creator of that app to track your movements. Also be wary of apps that request or store sensitive information.
4. Stay current with updates. Apps are updated by their developers to fix the weaknesses that cybercriminals exploit. Monitor your app stores and update your apps at least monthly.
5. Do not allow your mobile device to save your app store credentials, login information, or payment information. Although convenient, this information may be available to, or misused by, hackers.
6. Watch your wireless bill. Some rogue apps do things like cause you to unwittingly subscribe to ring tones. Review your wireless bill thoroughly each month.

Remember, arming yourself with knowledge is your best defense against the security threats posed by apps.

The More Devices You Have, the More Speed You Need

Take a look around your house and add up all the Internet-connected devices you own including computers, tablets, smartphones, smart TVs, Blu-ray disc players, video game consoles, and streaming mediaset-top boxes. What was your total? The NPD Group surveyed more than 4,000 consumers and the average number of devices per U.S. household with Internet service is now 5.7, and that number is expected to keep rising.

Multiple devices, used daily by several family members, can easily max out your Internet service and make it seem as if it's running slow. The solution? Upgrade to an Internet plan with greater bandwidth and faster speeds. SCC Networks offers a variety of plans with download speeds of up to 25 Mbps.

For help determining which Internet plan is right for your household, call us today at 800-782-7932.

