



**December 2015**

**New  
Noteworthy &**

- December 24-26: Christmas (Offices Closed)
- January 1: New Year's (Offices Closed)
- If you find your account number in the newsletter, you will receive a \$20 credit on your next bill.

**Office Hours  
phone numbers &**

**Commercial Office Hours**

336-973-3103

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Friday

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday

**Repair Office Hours**

336-973-4000

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday

**Wilkes Internet Technical Support**

336-957-TECH (8324)

Open 24/7



**Wilkes**

Communication News is published monthly for members of Wilkes Communications (the trade name of Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation). Wilkes Communications was established in 1951 as a member-owned cooperative serving four exchanges in Wilkes County: (Boomer (921), Clingman (984), Champion (973) and Lomax (957, 928). Wilkes Communications provides complete communication services such as local telephone access, business telephone systems, high-speed Internet and long distance services. Security services are provided through its subsidiary, RiverStreet Networks.

**We wish you and your  
family a very  
Merry Christmas.  
Here's to 2016!**

**New Devices Under Your Tree?**

With all the deals in stores and online, this season is a popular time to purchase new gadgets. If you expect to add more devices to your Internet connection, you may want to keep these quick tips in mind.

- **Bandwidth:** The more devices sharing your Internet connection, the less bandwidth each will have. You may want to consider increasing your Internet plan.
- **WiFi:** Connecting to your new devices wirelessly, be sure your router is up to the task and password-protected. Consider adding our wireless home networking service.
- **Passwords:** With every new app and device, there seems to be another password to remember. Try to use passwords that contain at least one digit and one odd character (i.e. #&%). You may also want to consider using a password storage service.
- **Protection:** Be sure your anti-virus software is always current. Also, consider adding NetGuard for just \$1. It covers free replacement of your wireless home networking router.
- **Old Gear:** If you are getting rid of old devices, be sure to wipe the memory clean of any sensitive data. Back up critical files first before making a switch to a new device too.

## A Savory Twist on Sweet Potatoes

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup chicken stock
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- 5 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch disks\*
- 8 ounces smoked Gouda, grated
- 1/4 cup panko bread crumbs



### PREPARATION:

- Melt butter, add garlic. Add onions and cook 3-5 minutes.
  - Stir in flour. Add cream and chicken stock. Season with salt and pepper.
  - Bring to a simmer, stirring.
  - Like scalloped potatoes, layer sweet potato slices, then some sauce and cheese.
  - Repeat layers, saving 1/4 cup of cheese to mix with bread crumbs for later.
  - Cover with foil and bake at 325 for 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender.
- \*You can microwave the potatoes first to speed up cooking time.*
- Remove foil and top with bread crumbs/cheese mixture.
  - Bake uncovered for 15 minutes.

## Add Extra Safety Measures This Holiday

The holidays often times mean an uptick in break-ins. That could be due to more people be gone on vacation or away for extended holiday festivities. Or, it could be more desperation on thieves' part. No matter the reason, we don't want your home to become a statistic. Here are some easy ways to make you less of a target.

1. Install a RiverStreet security system – stats show that thieves tend to avoid homes with professionally monitored systems. Make sure to place your security signs prominently too.
2. Cover your garage windows – no sense in letting someone see if you are home or what goodies you store inside.
3. Add lighting – Use RiverStreet home automation to turn on and off lights. Not only will you gain energy savings, but you'll keep it too bright for thieves to sneak in.
4. Eliminate hiding places – Assess your yard for hiding options and consider removing or trimming down bushes and other landscaping.
5. Stay Informed – Use your security systems smartphone app to monitor motion sensors, door/window breaks and other tools while away. Add a camera to check in real-time.

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## New Channels Added!

### BASIC PACKAGE:

Comet TV 290

### PREMIER PACKAGE:

3ABN 227  
 BYU 228  
 Cars TV 58  
 Comedy TV 217  
 ES TV 195  
 Horse Racing TV 57  
 Juce 226  
 My Destination TV 104  
 Pets TV 98  
 Recipe TV 108  
 Reelz 194  
 Retirement Living TV 105  
 The Church Channel 225  
 This TV 134



# Win \$250

Ask us about our two months FREE Internet offer this holiday season and enter to win a \$250 gift card.



**RiverStreet**  
 NETWORKS  
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See store for details.  
 Offer ends 12.31.15.