

# SKT

# Connection

FALL 2016

## We Love It When You "Like" Us on Facebook

We encourage you to "Like" SKT's Facebook page. By doing so, you'll be able to take advantage of special fan-only promotions and events. You'll also be the first to know what's happening at SKT including new products and services, company developments, and customer alerts.

To join our Facebook community, search for SKT at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) or access it on our homepage at [www.SKTMainstreet.com](http://www.SKTMainstreet.com). Once you're there, simply click on the "Like" button at the top of the screen. Our goal is 500 "Likes" and we're almost there!



## Contact

SKT  
112 S. Lee, Clearwater, KS 67026  
620.584.2255 or toll-free 888.758.8976  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For help with service problems during non-business hours, please call 888.758.8976.

24/7 Internet Help Desk  
800.968.1855

Visit Us Online  
[www.SKTMainstreet.com](http://www.SKTMainstreet.com)



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*\*Some restrictions apply. Contact us for more details.*



## Count the Internet-Connected Devices in Your Home

When you add up all the Internet-connected devices your family now uses—including computers, tablets, smartphones, smart TVs, Blu-ray disc players, video game consoles, and streaming media set-top boxes—what's 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.

In fact, according to estimates by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the average household with two teenage children will own roughly 50 Internet-connected devices by 2022. These will include everything from Internet-connected washing machines to smart refrigerators and bathroom scales, a trend dubbed the "Internet of Things."

Multiple devices, used simultaneously by several family members, can easily max out your home's Internet service and make it seem as if it's running slowly. To eliminate this problem, upgrade to an Internet plan with greater bandwidth and faster speeds. SKT 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 888.758.8976.**

# What Parents Need to Know About Cyberbullying

Years ago, bullying might have involved a scuffle on the playground or mean words spoken on the school bus. Today, it's more likely to take the form of cyberbullying, where the bully uses online messages to hurt or intimidate another child. Common cyberbullying activities include malicious instant messages, posting embarrassing images of the victim online, and posting or encouraging others to post nasty comments on the victim's Facebook page.

As a parent, you want your children to come to you when things go wrong online. Yet studies show that children are often hesitant to tell their parents about cyberbullying incidents because they're afraid their parents will overreact by taking away their devices.



### So what can parents do? Safety experts generally agree on the following:

- Talk regularly and specifically with your children about online issues. Let them know they can come to you for help if anything is inappropriate, upsetting, or dangerous.
- Tell your children not to respond to any cyberbullying threats or comments online. However, do not delete any of the messages. Instead, print out all the messages, including the email addresses or online screen names of the cyberbully. You will need the messages to verify and prove there is cyberbullying.
- Don't overreact by blaming your children. If they are being bullied, be supportive and understanding. Find out how long the bullying has been going on and let your children know they are not to blame for being bullied.
- Don't underreact by telling your children to "shrug it off." The emotional pain of being bullied is very real and can have long-lasting effects.
- Talk to your child's teachers and the school's guidance counselor so they can keep an eye out for in-person bullying during the school day.
- If there are threats of physical violence or the cyberbullying continues to escalate, get law enforcement involved.

**To learn more about cyberbullying, visit the National Crime Prevention Council's website at [www.ncpc.org/topics/cyberbullying](http://www.ncpc.org/topics/cyberbullying).**



## Crooks Use Caller ID Spoofing to Wear “Mask” of a Local Phone Number

One of the best ways to avoid phone scams has traditionally been to not answer calls from numbers that you do not recognize on your Caller ID. But crooks have a sneaky way around this. With Caller ID spoofing, they are able to make it appear as if their calls are coming from a local phone number. They literally hide behind the “mask” of a legitimate phone number in order to increase the likelihood that you’ll pick up the phone.

How does it work? Caller ID spoofing providers (such as SpoofCard) allow individuals and organizations to dictate what phone number they want to appear when they place calls. They pay for a certain number of call minutes, then use an online interface to enter their phone number, the number to be called, and the number they want to appear in the recipient’s Caller ID. The Caller ID spoofing service then makes the call on the spoofer’s behalf.

The goal of this scam is to try and get you to reveal personal information such as account numbers, passwords, and Social Security numbers. To avoid becoming a victim of Caller ID spoofing, take the following precautions:

- Never give out personal information over the phone, such as account numbers, unless you initiate the call.
- If you receive a call requesting information, ask for the name of the organization that is calling. Then, call that organization, using the phone number on your bill or statement —NOT the number on your Caller ID. If the call is legitimate, you will be transferred to the appropriate department. If it’s not legitimate, you can inform the organization of the spoofing incident.

To learn more about Caller ID spoofing, visit [www.fcc.gov/guides/caller-id-and-spoofing](http://www.fcc.gov/guides/caller-id-and-spoofing).



## We Are Where You Are

For over 75 years, SKT has kept far-away friends and family close with clear, dependable phone service. Today, we continue to help families stay connected with an ever-expanding array of communications options, including Internet, Cable TV, Wireless, Security, and Home Automation services.

Though the technology changes, one thing remains constant—our longstanding commitment to maintaining strong relationships with the people of our community.



T.J. Prater of rural Burden and Elaine Webb of SKT hold a check representing a recent \$10,000 donation presented to the Burden “Ballin’ For A Cause” fund held at Legacy Regional Community Foundation of Winfield. The donation was made possible by CoBank’s “Sharing Success” program which matches charitable donations of CoBank customers up to \$5,000. That match was provided by SKT, a CoBank customer. The funds will pay for the new tile basketball/volleyball surface in the Burden City Park. Also pictured, from left to right, are Yazmin Wood, David Lawson, Eddie Weigle, and Lonnie Stieben.

## Recipe from an SKT Customer

Janetta Burris of Clearwater shared this recipe with us. It's from a 1950s cookbook of her Mom's. These cookies are not only delicious—they're pretty. Make them tonight!



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### Easy Color Cookies



1/2 cup shortening	1/2 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup granulated sugar	1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon water	1 egg
1 cup + 2 tablespoons flour	1/2 teaspoon soda
1/2 teaspoon salt	3/4 cup M & M plain chocolate candies

Blend shortening and sugars. Beat in vanilla, water and egg. Sift flour, soda, and salt together and add to the sugar and egg mixture; mix well. Stir in the M & M candies. Drop from teaspoon onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375° for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

Have a recipe you'd like to share? Send it to [connection@sktc.net](mailto:connection@sktc.net) or SKT, PO Box 800, Clearwater, KS 67026.

## Take a Shot at Winning \$100, \$50, or \$25 from SKT!



Shelly von Merveldt entered this photo in the 2016 Photo Contest. It features two of Rolf and Shelley von Merveldt's horses, BoBeau and Miss Jackie, standing among Ashy Sunflowers on The von Merveldt Ranch in Chautauqua County, Kansas.

SKT customers in Atlanta, Beaumont, Burden, Cambridge, Dexter, Elk Falls, Grenola, Latham, Longton, Piedmont, Reece, and Rosalia are invited to enter the 2017 Southeast Kansas Area Telephone Directory Cover Photo Contest. Up to three images may be submitted per person, and the photos must have been taken in SKT's southeast Kansas service areas.

The first-place winner will receive \$100 and their photo will be on the front cover of over 1,500 telephone directories. The second-place winner will receive \$50, and the third-place winner will receive \$25 from SKT.

**The deadline for photo entries is Monday, October 3, 2016.** Photo files may be emailed to [sktdirectory@sktcompanies.com](mailto:sktdirectory@sktcompanies.com), or prints may be mailed to SKT Directory Cover Photo Contest, PO Box 800, Clearwater, KS 67026, or brought to the SKT Solution Center at 112 S. Lee in Clearwater.

Please be sure to include the photographer's name, address, telephone number, and a brief description of the photo(s). Prints will be returned, if requested.

**Good luck! We can't wait to see your photos.**