

Connections

JUNE 2025

Dennis Satre Day Is June 7th

Celebrate a pillar of the Hoffman community, Dennis Satre, on June 7th from 2:00–5:00 pm in Hoffman Square (John Kleinsasser Gym) in Hoffman, MN. Program starts at 2:30 pm.

Sizzling Summer Fun

Watch for Runestone Telecom at events including:

- Grant County Fair, July 17th–20th, Herman, MN
- Stearns County Fair, August 6th–10th, Sauk Centre, MN
- Traverse County Fair, August 21st–24th, Wheaton, MN

Contact Us

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Visit Us: www.runestone.net

Find Us:   

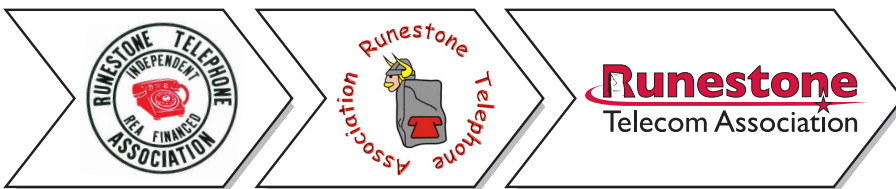
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on Google

Please let others know about your experience as a Runestone Telecom customer. Scan this code and leave a review on Google. Thanks!



Runestone
Telecom Association

75 Years of Keeping You Connected



*Join us on July 16th as we
celebrate 75 years!*

Save the date of Wednesday, July 16th and plan to join us as we celebrate 75 years of service to our communities! This event will be held at West Central Area High School in Barrett and will include a Lion's Club pulled pork sandwich meal and ice cream. Bring your family! Following the meal, our Annual Meeting will update our members with the report on Runestone Telecom. Prizes and RTA swag will be given away after the meeting.





Annual Notice of Lifeline Program and Telephone Assistance Plan

You may be eligible for help paying your telephone bill through these two programs:

The Lifeline Program is a federal one which offers a monthly discount up to \$9.25 on some landline telephone service plans and/or Internet plans. Lifeline also offers discounts on some wireless telephone service plans and some broadband Internet service plans. You may receive the Lifeline discount on one service per household. The definition of a household is anyone living at an address including children, relatives, or people not related to you — who share income(s) and household expenses.

Minnesota’s Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offers a monthly credit of \$10.00 on your landline telephone service. You can receive the TAP credit on one landline per household.

Qualifications

The telephone or broadband service must be in your name. You must show proof that you or a member of your household participates in at least one of the following programs or is income eligible:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

If you do not participate in any of the programs listed above, you may qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines:

The table below reflects 135% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Household Size	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$21,128	\$26,393	\$24,287
2	\$28,553	\$35,681	\$32,832
3	\$35,978	\$44,969	\$41,378
4	\$43,403	\$54,257	\$49,923
5	\$50,828	\$63,545	\$58,469
6	\$58,253	\$72,833	\$67,041
7	\$65,678	\$82,121	\$75,560
8	\$73,103	\$91,409	\$84,105
For each additional person, add:	\$7,425	\$9,288	\$8,546

For more information about Lifeline, go to www.lifelinesupport.org. Note to our RTA customers: This program isn’t currently available in the areas of Alexandria, Glenwood, Herman, Holmes City, Stearns County, Villard, and Wheaton.

Fiber Optics Are Used for Much More Than Internet

As an Internet service provider, we often talk about the fiber optic cables we use to bring our customers incredibly fast and reliable Internet service. That's not surprising, since fiber has led to huge improvements in the online experience.

However, fiber optic cables are used in many other applications, including these:

Aerospace – The ability of optical fibers to withstand cryogenic temperatures enhance their suitability in space. They are used as sensors, communication cables, lighting, and more. Scientists are even experimenting with manufacturing fiber optic cable in space to achieve improved specifications in a zero-gravity environment.

Automobiles – Applications of fiber optics in automobiles include interior/exterior lighting and signal transmission between sensors and computing devices. Those sensors are often used to activate airbags and must be both fast and reliable.

Computer Networking – Schools, universities, business premises, and industrial plants typically use a local area network (LAN) — groups of connected computers or systems. Communication between LAN consoles is significantly easier when using fiber optics.

Lighting – Fiber optic cables are heat-free and durable, and they allow lighting to be directed precisely where it's needed. Since this lighting doesn't carry electrical current, it can safely be used in underwater spaces such as fountains or swimming pools.

Mechanical Inspections – Optical fibers are widely used to conduct mechanical inspections in cramped or difficult-to-reach places. For example, engineers use special cables called fiber optic probes to inspect the welding finish quality of the interior surfaces of stainless steel pipework, and plumbers use fiber optics to conduct in-depth inspections of interior sections of pipes, drains, and sewer lines.

Medical – Endoscopic surgery is dependent on fiber optics for lighting and viewing the site of the surgery. Dentistry uses fiber optic cables to direct a pinpoint of high-power light in the search for cracks and cavities in teeth.

Military – Fiber's low weight, immunity to electromagnetic interference, and security from interception make it excellent in military applications, ranging from underwater sensor systems to command and communication systems.

To learn about Runestone Telecom's fiber network and the Internet it provides, visit www.runestone.net.



Handy Reminders

- Conveniently pay your bill with eBill and AutoPay.
- Pay your bill by the 20th of the month to avoid late fees and disconnection. Please don't use staples to attach your checks.
- Scan to go directly to the TV Guide.



Celebrating Employee Work Anniversaries

Runestone Telecom is fortunate to have so many amazing long-term employees who help us bring you high-quality services. Dan Perry, Network Technician, is celebrating 20 years on June 6th, and Brady Combs, Network Technician, is celebrating 5 years on June 6th. Thank you for all you do!



Dan Perry



Brady Combs

TAM Fee Update

The TAM (Telecommunications Access Minnesota) rate will be going from \$.03 to \$.04 effective July 1, 2025.

New Members

Cyrus

Bratton, Jason.....320-795-2909

Herman

Herman City Maintenance Shop.....320-677-2200

Kensington

Randin, Brian & Priscilla.....320-965-2121

Lowry

Amundson, Douglas.....320-283-5203
Orrock, Les & Kathy.....320-283-6149

Wheaton

Miller, Matt.....320-422-1004
Rinke Farms.....320-563-8383
Young, Janice.....320-563-4667



Save Money by Using Free Streaming Platforms

Given the rising prices of subscriptions to streaming platforms such as Netflix and YouTube TV, you may be looking for ways to cut costs. One option is to drop one or more of your paid subscriptions and use free streaming platforms to help fill in the gap.

While these free options don't offer the same variety and high level of content — and you'll have to sit through ads — they're worth exploring if you're serious about saving money on streaming.

Here's a consensus of what industry reviewers have to say about some of the most popular free streaming platforms:

Best Overall – Tubi (tubitv.com) Tubi offers considerably more free movies than TV shows, but it continues to grow its extensive library. It also offers nationwide and local news livestreams in addition to live sports, weather, and entertainment channels.

Best for Educational and Family Content – Kanopy (www.kanopy.com)

Kanopy lets you stream thousands of films for free, thanks to the generous support of your public library or university.

Best for Channel Flippers – Pluto TV (pluto.tv/us/on-demand) In addition to on-demand movie streaming for free, Pluto TV also has more than 250 live and linear channels on the platform.

Best for Roku Users – The Roku Channel (therokuchannel.roku.com) This platform is designed for people who own the company's streaming devices and TVs. You'll find thousands of free TV shows and hit movies, 400+ live TV channels, and more.

Best for Library Card Holders – Hoopla Digital (hoopladigital.com) This puts your public library at your fingertips. Borrow and enjoy audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies, TV, magazines, or music everywhere you have a screen.

Best Revamped Service – Sling Freestream (sling.com/freestream) Sling Freestream offers more than 40,000 titles of free on-demand TV and movies and 500+ live TV channels. It's an expanded and rebranded version of Sling TV's former offering, called Sling Free.

If the speed of your Internet service hasn't kept up with your household's streaming demands, consider a speed upgrade.

You'll find details at www.runestone.net.

