

HelloCentral

SUMMER 2017

A Big Tribute to Small Businesses

National Small Business Week is the first week in May. It's a great reminder to think about how much our local small businesses add to this community in terms of jobs, unique products, personal service, and much more.

Wheat State Telephone encourages you to shop local, spend local, eat local, and enjoy local. If you own a small business, we congratulate you and wish you much success.

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OFFICE CLOSURES

Memorial Day, May 29, 2017
Independence Day, July 4, 2017

HELLO CENTRAL EDITOR

Berniece Millsap



IS YOUR GROWING BUSINESS OUTGROWING ITS INTERNET?

No matter what type of business you run, you need an internet plan that works as hard as you and your employees do. Otherwise, you're waiting rather than working.

Wheat State Telephone offers business internet plans with speeds up to 50 Mbps/20 Mbps along with local support and expertise to guide your technology planning.

CALL 1/800 442-6835 TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

Service availability and internet speeds will depend on location. Call us for complete details.

Call 811 Before You Dig to Help Prevent Utility Damage

An underground utility line is damaged once every six minutes nationwide because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. This statistic comes from data collected by Common Ground Alliance (CGA), the association dedicated to protecting underground utility lines and the safety of people who dig near them.

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries, and costly repairs. There are more than 20 million miles of underground utilities in the United States, according to data compiled by CGA from various industry groups.

To know what's below, always call 811 before digging on your property. That way, local utilities can come out and mark where underground lines are located. Data shows that when you call 811 the appropriate amount of time before digging, you have a less than one percent chance of striking a buried utility line.

Wheat State Telephone thanks you in advance for doing your part to help prevent utility damage.



Are you looking for ways to make movie nights at home even better? Wheat State Telephone offers all kinds of star-studded entertainment options sure to be big hits with your family and friends.

Topping the list are HD Service and Premium Movie Channels. These two go together like popcorn and butter. They're the perfect combo to take your Wheat State Telephone TV package from pretty good to pretty amazing.

With HD Service, your eyes and ears are in for a real treat. You'll get an incredibly lifelike picture that's so vivid and crisp, it feels like you're right in the middle of the action. You can watch full-screen versions of movies — not to mention more of the big games — and see truer colors with sharper details. Plus, HDTV further enhances your movie night experience with high-quality digital sound.

Premium Movie Channels are your ticket to a dazzling collection of new and classic movies plus award-winning original series. You can subscribe to a single channel or choose one of our multi-channel packages for the best value. You're the director of your home's movies!

Our Premium Movie Channels include:

- HBO
- STARZ ENCORE
- Showtime
- Cinemax



For a plot twist on movie nights, consider surprising your audience with nontraditional popcorn. You'll find lots of recipes here, from coconut curry popcorn to buffalo ranch popcorn: www.babble.com/best-recipes/25-creative-homemade-popcorn-recipes

Now through June 30, 2017, add HD Service for just \$9.99 per month. Call 1/800 442-6835 now to sign up.

Tech Trends to Watch in the Next Several Years

According to members of the Forbes Technology Council, an organization for senior-level technology executives, we should be keeping our eyes on technology trends including these between now and 2022:

Conversational Interfaces

A conversational interface is any user interface (UI) that mimics chatting with a real human. So instead of communicating with a computer on its own inhuman terms — by clicking on icons and entering commands — you interact with it on your terms by just telling it what to do. Right now, there are two basic types of conversational interfaces: voice assistants (which you talk to) and chatbots (which you type to).

Virtual Reality

Examples of virtual reality environments include games, movies, trainings, and simulations. Pilots can learn to fly, for example, by using a virtual reality environment representing a plane. Equipment needed for virtual reality applications usually includes a handset or hand-held controller. The virtual reality experience includes visual, audio, and haptic (touch) elements.

Autonomous Cars

An autonomous (or driverless) car is a vehicle that is capable of sensing its environment and navigating without human input. The potential benefits include saving lives and reducing costs. Many such vehicles are being developed, but as of February 2017, the automated cars now permitted on public roads are not yet fully autonomous.

Internet Of Things

Many people consider the Internet of Things (IoT) to be one of the most exciting and useful tech trends. IoT refers to internet-connected devices ranging from kitchen appliances to heart monitors that are able to collect and exchange data using embedded sensors. As this technology grows in the next few years, more devices will join the list.

Speaking of internet-connected devices, you may need a faster internet connection if you have lots of them in use at your house. Call us at 1/800 442-6835 or visit www.wheatstate.com to check out the speeds we have available.



These Quotes About Motherhood Will Make You Smile

Motherhood definitely has its humorous moments and inspires a great deal of laughter (along with those inevitable tears). In honor of Mother's Day, here are a few smile-producing quotes to enjoy:

You're just like a human napkin for kids, like, they just wipe their face on you and stuff. – Tina Fey

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?
– Milton Berle

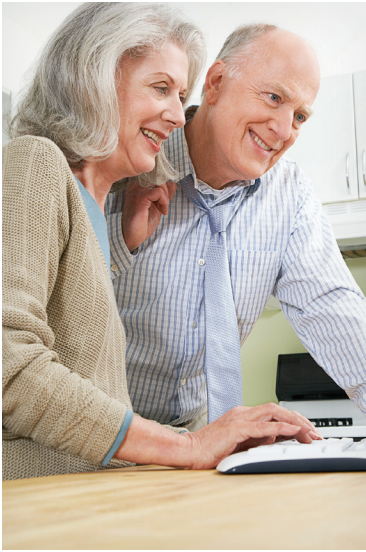
The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for 30 years she served the family nothing but left-overs. The original meal has never been found. – Calvin Trillin

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car for ever after. – Peter De Vries

Always be nice to your children because they are the ones who will choose your rest home.
– Phyllis Diller

When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out.
– Erma Bombeck

Are you smiling yet? Wheat State Telephone wishes all of you a very Happy Mother's Day!



Older Americans Month is in May

The Administration on Aging has announced that the 2017 theme for Older American's Month is "Age Out Loud." This theme is intended to give aging a new voice—one that reflects what today's older adults have to say about aging.

More than ever before, older Americans are working longer, trying new things, and engaging in their communities. They're taking charge, striving for wellness, focusing on independence, and advocating for themselves and others. They expect to continue to live their lives to the fullest, and they're insisting on changes that make that possible.

Technology is playing a big role in enhancing the lives of older Americans, and Wheat State Telephone is pleased to be part of this. We offer internet, phone, TV, and other services along with helpful local employees to make selecting and using new technology easier.

To learn more, stop by our office or call 1/800 442-6835.

Quick! Take an Internet Speed Test!

If your internet connection doesn't seem to be as fast as you'd like, we have a quick tip: Before you call the Wheat State Telephone office, check your current download and upload speeds using one or more of these websites:

- www.speedtest.net
- www.testmyspeed.com
- <https://fast.com>



Space out the speed tests over a few days, and at varying times of day, to get an accurate measure of your internet connection. You'll note that most of the focus of these tests is on download speed, which is key to activities such as streaming video. But upload speed can also be important if you share a lot of photos/videos or play online games. Remember, the number of Mbps listed when you sign up for most internet plans are "up to" speeds and cannot be guaranteed.

Once you know the current internet speeds at your home, call us at 1/800 442-6835 to talk about next steps. You may have issues to address such as an outdated or poorly located router. Or it might be time to sign up for one of our internet plans with faster speeds.

In an Emergency, Could Your Child Find the Phone?

Picture this: An emergency happens in your home—let's say you're choking or having another medical crisis—and your young child needs to call 911. If there's no landline, your child will have to locate your cell phone (which could be anywhere), unlock it, enter a passcode or tap on the word "Emergency," find the phone icon, get to the keypad, enter 911, and then tap on Call or Send. That's a long list of steps for a child, especially during the stress of an emergency.



By contrast, when there's a landline, your child can get to it without searching. Calling is also easier, since he or she just needs to pick up the receiver and punch in 911. Even if your child can't give your address, a landline enables the 911 dispatcher to quickly locate your exact location.

Call 1/800 442-6835 for details on our low-cost landline service.