

# HelloCentral

WINTER 2015

## Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays from Wheat State Telephone! We have the updated communications services you need to fully enjoy the new devices you receive as gifts. Call 1/800 442-6835 for details.

### CONTACT

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Online: [www.wheatstate.com](http://www.wheatstate.com)

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### OFFICE CLOSURES

- Thanksgiving Holiday, November 26-27, 2015
- Christmas Holiday, December 24-25, 2015
- New Year Holiday, January 1, 2015

### HELLO CENTRAL EDITOR

Berniece Millsap



## LOG MORE MOVIE MEMORIES

### BRANCH OUT WITH PREMIUM CHANNELS

- HBO, Cinemax, Starz/Encore! and Showtime
- Enhance your movie nights at home

ADD A  
**Movie Channel**  
FOR ONLY  
\$6.99 -  
\$17.99/mo.\*

**CALL 1/800 442-6835 NOW TO SIGN UP!**

\*Certain restrictions apply. All prices subject to change. Contact us for details.



## Wheat State Telephone Celebrates 65 Successful Years

This is a special year at Wheat State Telephone, as we celebrate our 65th anniversary! Though there have been many changes in the last 65 years, one thing that has remained constant is our company's commitment to provide up-to-date communications solutions to our customers.

Just like the company founders, Pat and Martha Hurd, who wanted to provide quality telephone service, we continue to strive to stay ahead of the technology curve so our customers can enjoy the very best in broadband and entertainment services. Pat and Martha instilled this dedication in their daughters, and now third-generation owners, Greg Reed and Randy Hoffman, continue the tradition of helping to keep families connected. Today, Wheat State Telephone provides many options—not only Telephone service—but also Internet and Digital TV.

While the methods may have changed over the years, the goal is still the same for Wheat State Telephone: providing cutting-edge products and services to meet our customers' needs, along with friendly, local customer care—families serving families. We thank you for your business and look forward to more progress and new products in the years to come.

## Is Your Internet Plan Sized to Support Multiple Users and Multiple Devices?

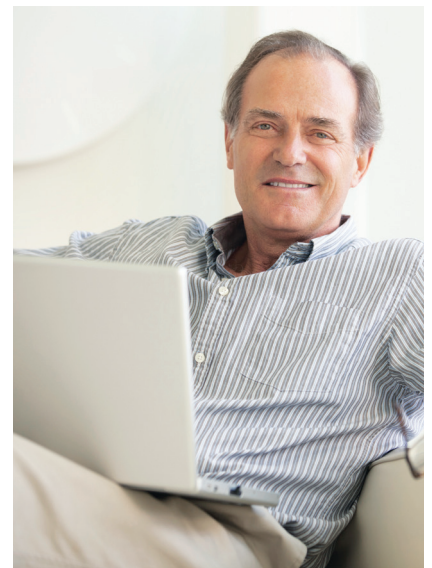
Does your family do a lot of gaming and streaming movies through Netflix? Are there multiple devices in your household including laptops, tablets, and smart-phones? Have you noticed your Internet speeds seem to be going down as your usage goes up? If you answered "Yes" to these questions, you'll want to consider getting more bandwidth (and corresponding Internet speeds) to meet your growing needs.

Many Wheat State Telephone customers are saturating their bandwidth because multiple devices in their homes are connected wirelessly to the Internet. This makes it seem as though their Internet service is running slow when it's actually being maxed out.

Households with several family members accessing the Internet simultaneously will be happiest with one of our higher-level plans that provide greater bandwidth and faster speeds. What exactly is bandwidth? The term refers to how much data you can send through a network or modem connection. Bandwidth is usually measured in bits per second, such as 10 Mbps (10 million bits per second). You can think of bandwidth as a highway with cars traveling on it; the highway is the network connection and the cars are the data. The wider the highway, the more cars can travel on it at one time and the faster they get to their destinations. The same principle applies to data—the more bandwidth, the more information that can be transferred within a given amount of time.

As you use more Web-connected devices, and use them for more data-intensive applications, it's important to make sure your bandwidth increases as well. For help determining which Internet plan is right for your household, call us today at 1/800 442-6835.

**Learn more and get a visual at [InternetFreeway.wheatstate.com](http://InternetFreeway.wheatstate.com) by watching the "Wheat State Internet Freeway" video!**







## From Tabletop to Towering: U.S. Christmas Tree History

Christmas trees go back more than two hundred years in the United States, and their history includes real concerns about conservation as well as artificial options. The National Christmas Tree Association shares these highlights:

**1800s** – The Christmas tree was introduced in the United States by German settlers. It rapidly grew from tabletop size to floor-to-ceiling.

**1851** – Christmas trees began to be sold commercially in the United States. They were taken at random from the forests.

**1853** – Franklin Pierce is credited with bringing the first Christmas tree to the White House.

**Late 1800s** – The first glass ornaments were introduced into the United States, again from Germany. The first ones were mostly balls, but later chains of balls, toys, and figures became more common.

**Around 1883** – Sears, Roebuck & Company began offering the first artificial Christmas trees—33 limbs for \$.50 and 55 limbs for \$1.00.

**1900s** – Due to overharvesting, the natural supply of evergreens began to be decimated. Conservationists became alarmed, and many magazines began to encourage people to substitute an artificial “snow” covered tree, consisting of a branch of a deciduous tree wrapped in cotton.

**1901** – The first Christmas tree farm was started in 1901 when W.V. McGalliard planted 25,000 Norway spruce on his farm in New Jersey. Also in 1901, Theodore Roosevelt tried to stop the practice of having Christmas trees out of concern about the destruction of forests. His two sons didn’t agree and enlisted the help of conservationist Gifford Pinchot to persuade the president that, done properly, the practice was not harmful to the forests.

**1966** – The National Christmas Tree Association began its time-honored tradition of having the Grand Champion grower present a Christmas tree to the First Lady for display in the Blue Room of the White House. That year, Howard Pierce of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, presented a tree to President Lyndon Johnson and First Lady Lady Bird Johnson.

**Today** – Approximately 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold each year in the United States. Almost all of these come from Christmas tree plantations.

## Use Skype on Your TV for Family Chats

Sure, you can use your laptop for Skype sessions with Grandma. But there are big reasons to use the biggest screen in your home—your Internet-enabled smart TV—for video chats instead.

Skype on your TV really is the next-best thing to being there. You and your family can relax on the sofa and talk to a life-size image of Grandma, and she’ll be able to see and hear each of you. Unlike with a laptop, family members won’t have to crowd around a small screen to join the conversation.

In addition to an Internet-enabled smart TV, you’ll need the following:

- A broadband Internet connection
- A Skype account
- An all-in-one TV camera which includes the Skype app

You can get complete details at [www.skype.com/en/download-skype/skype-for-tv](http://www.skype.com/en/download-skype/skype-for-tv).

**A faster Internet speed can enhance the quality and performance of Skype calls. Visit [www.wheatstate.com](http://www.wheatstate.com) to check out our Internet plans.**



## Shop for Gifts on Small Business Saturday

Founded by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses across the country by encouraging holiday shoppers to patronize brick-and-mortar stores that are small and local. It takes place every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and is a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, which feature big box retail and e-commerce stores, respectively.

When you shop locally, you support all the things that make this community great. Plus, the money you spend here, stays here.

Wheat State Telephone encourages you to participate in Small Business Saturday this year on November 28. While you're out shopping, stop by our office for great technology gifts including:

- Desktop and laptop PCs
- Tablets
- Smartphones and accessories
- Gaming systems
- Gift certificates

**Remember, you can make a big difference to the success of small businesses!**



## Landline Phones Offer the Best Sound and Call Quality

**I**t may sound basic, but when you're having phone conversations, you need to be able to hear each word clearly. This is particularly important if you suffer from hearing loss, your household is noisy, or you spend a lot of time on the phone in a home office.

When it comes to consistent call quality, landline phones consistently beat wireless phones. Why? Because users of wireless phone services still experience lapses in coverage, cutting out during calls, and lost words. Laboratory tests indicate that even in the best conditions, including a quiet environment and a strong wireless signal, users consistently rate voice quality lower on a wireless phone than on a landline phone.

In addition, there is a split fraction of a second delay on calls between two wireless phones that makes it seem like you're interrupting the other person. However, if one person switches to a landline, the delay disappears.

**To sign up for landline service, call 1/800 442-6835.**



## 'Tis the Season for Taking Photos

The holidays offer phenomenal photo opportunities—families gathered together, colorful decorations, and lots of special activities. Try these four tips to improve the quality of your shots:

- 1. Compose creatively and move in close.** Put your main subject off-center in the scene for a more artistic affect. And for greatest impact, move in close so your subject fills the frame.
- 2. Take a lot of photos.** This is the single most important advice when photographing groups of people.
- 3. Catch people in action.** Skip the stiff poses and photograph the kids playing in the snow or your sister baking cookies.
- 4. Try different angles.** Portraits can sometimes look flat, so experiment with taking photos from different places. Take a shot from a bird's-eye view of your kids lying down. Or get down on the floor and shoot up at the scene.



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