

# HelloCentral

WINTER 2016

## Appreciation, Celebration & Illumination

Wheat State strives to say thanks to our customers throughout the year. Now that the holidays are approaching, we want to make sure this message of appreciation shines as brightly as the season's lights.

It's an honor to be part of your celebrations.

### CONTACT

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### OFFICE CLOSURES

- Thanksgiving Holiday, November 24 & 25, 2016
- Christmas Holiday, December 23 & 26, 2016
- New Year's Holiday, January 2, 2017

### HELLO CENTRAL EDITOR

Berniece Millsap



# MORE CHANNELS

*make chillin' more thrillin'*

When it's finally time to relax—after a long day of working, shopping, decorating or baking—treat yourself to an upgraded TV package from Wheat State Telephone with your choice of Premium Movie Channels.

**Sign up for EnFusion TV and your installation is FREE.\* That's a savings of \$199.**

**CALL 1/800 442-6835  
FOR A COOL YULE  
AND A MORE  
ENTERTAINING  
NEW YEAR!**

Mention promo code YuleAD.

\*Some restrictions apply. This offer is good through December 22, 2016. Contact us for more details.





## Spend Less Time and Gain More Security With eStatements

You've probably heard many times that switching to eStatements is good for the environment by reducing paper use and saving trees. What you might not realize is just how beneficial eStatements is in other ways.

First of all, eStatements is much faster than paying bills the old-fashioned way by writing checks and mailing them. Most importantly, replacing paper bills and statements with electronic versions allows you to reduce the flow of personal information from unsecured mailboxes, where it can be a target for identity theft. Wheat State offers free eStatements, which lets you receive your monthly bills from us by email and pay them online with your credit card or debit card.

To get started with eStatements, simply visit [www.wheatstate.com](http://www.wheatstate.com) today and follow the step-by-step instructions to set up your account.

## Food for Thought: You May Want to Ban Phones at Holiday Dinners

A Harris Interactive survey found that 66 percent of Americans think checking phones should be banned from special occasions like Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas. When it comes to women 65 and older, that number goes up to 85 percent. The reason? When family members bring phones to the table, it can diminish everyone's ability to fully experience the joy of the holiday gathering.

Of course, given how attached many people are to their phones, successfully achieving a phone-free dinner may be a challenge. If you decide you don't want phones at your holiday table, consider these strategies:

- Let everyone know about the rule well before dinner begins, so guests can prepare for it.
- Share the benefits of "unplugging" and emphasize the benefits of in-person conversations.
- Make a game of it. Perhaps anyone caught checking his/her phone has to help wash the dishes.

**Phone-free holiday dinners may or may not be right for you, but at least we've given you food for thought!**

## Success Tips for a Home-Based Business

Running a small business from home can minimize overhead costs and help you enjoy a better work-life balance. To boost your chances for success, however, you need to create the right business environment.

For example, get a separate landline just for business use. That way, you can more easily separate work and personal calls, and you won't have to worry about a child picking up the phone during a business discussion. Also, make sure your workspace is not part of your family space by having a designated office.

When you need to do something outside your realm of expertise—such as set up a Wi-Fi network—don't hesitate to ask for help from local communications experts.

**Wheat State offers a variety of solutions perfect for home-based businesses including landline service and high-speed internet. For details, visit [www.wheatstate.com](http://www.wheatstate.com).**



# 5 Clever Ways to Save Money When You Shop Online

To get the best deal from online merchants, you need to know the tricks of the trade. It pays to use these shopping tips:

## 1. Use multiple coupon codes strategically.

If the website lets you combine different coupons and promo codes at the check-out, use them in the right order. Say you have a promo code for a 20% discount and a coupon worth \$10 off. Apply the 20% promo code first, which will subtract 20% from the full price. Then use your \$10 coupon.

## 2. Use live chats.

Live chats are available on most websites. Be polite and ask a few questions about the product you'd like to buy. Next, ask if there are any discounts available. It's not a well-known fact but chat support can issue special promo codes that are not widely available.

## 3. Leave items in your cart.

This strategy works two ways. By placing items in your cart and stepping away for a day or two, you may avoid making an impulse purchase you'll later regret. Secondly, most retailers hate unclosed deals and will try to get you to buy by emailing a discount code. This only works when you have an account on the merchant's website and are logged in when you leave your cart.

## 4. Accumulate more coupons with multiple email addresses.

Increase your chances of saving big bucks by signing up for an online merchant's newsletter or email list with multiple email accounts. This way, you may end up with two or three 50% discount codes instead of just one.

## 5. Download the Honey app.

This app, available at [www.joinhoney.com/install](http://www.joinhoney.com/install), will automatically find and apply coupon codes when you shop online. Click on the Honey button during checkout and Honey will automatically apply coupon codes to your shopping cart. Click on the Honey button on a supported online store and instantly see all the coupons and sales available for the store.

Be sure to also check out [Wheat State's website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for our current money-saving promotions.



## Watch Out for These Holiday Scams

The Better Business Bureau warns consumers to beware of the following:

- **Fake shipping notifications:** Scammers send emails pretending to be from companies like UPS or FedEx with links to package tracking information. Don't click on any links or open any attachments coming from a questionable source (typos and grammatical mistakes are red flags).
- **Phony charities:** Scammers take advantage of the holiday spirit of generosity with fake charity solicitations in emails and on social media. Check out charities at [give.org](http://give.org) before donating.
- **Temporary holiday jobs:** Retailers and delivery services need extra help at the holidays, but beware of solicitations requiring you to share personal information or pay for a job lead. Apply in person or go to retailers' main websites.
- **Free gift cards:** Pop-up ads or email offering free gift cards are often just a ploy to get your personal information for identity theft.
- **Social media gift exchange:** It sounds great—buy one gift and get 36 in return. But it's a variation on an illegal pyramid scheme.

For protection against other online threats, call 1/800 442-6835 and ask about our computer security services.



## Many Have Big Appetites for Quick Food Videos

You've probably seen these time-lapse videos in your Facebook news feed. You know the ones—lasting just a minute or two, they show you how to make cheese-stuffed pizza pretzels or s'mores cupcakes or something equally tasty. They're taking over social media and compelling users to stop scrolling mid-feed and watch them.

What's behind the popularity of these videos? One factor is the universal appeal of food and cooking—figuring out what to eat each day is something we all do. Another thing fueling the success of these videos is the rise of mobile devices. Those who grew up with smartphones are more comfortable getting recipes via a video than opening a cookbook.

But the icing on the cake, so to speak, for time-lapse food videos is their simplicity. Since social media can be filled with heated discussions and negative news, these videos offer a quick "vacation" to a place that's simply delicious.



## Make Family Movie Nights More Fun and Memorable

Family movie nights are a great way to relax and spend time together. To make yours even better, try these ideas:

### Get Creative and Pick a Theme

Get everyone excited by creating a theme for your movie night. This can be simple or elaborate and involve food, clothing, or both. For example, you could eat frozen treats like popsicles when watching *Frozen* or Southern food while watching *Steel Magnolias*. Have everyone throw on cowboy hats for a western-themed night or baseball caps while watching a double header of baseball movies.

### Create a Comfortable Space

Nothing can ruin a movie night like a messy environment, poor visual quality, or uncomfortable seating. Make sure your TV is large enough for good viewing and your couches and chairs are as comfy as possible.

### Make It a Regular Event

Many families have found it works well to have a standing movie night, either weekly or monthly. That way, family members can have it on their calendars and be more likely to attend. After all, the goal is to strengthen bonds and create happy memories.

### Take Turns Choosing the Movies

You may want to give young kids a pre-selected list to choose from to avoid watching the same favorite movie over and over. If you've got teens, tell them you'll watch anything they choose as long as they return the favor when it's your turn.

### Share Your Reviews

When the credits start rolling, make time to chat about what you watched. What did you like or didn't like? What lessons did you learn? You may want to visit the library or do online research with your children to follow up on interests piqued by the movie.

**Wheat State can help make the most of your family movie nights with premium movie channels. If you stream movies via Netflix or a similar service, ask us about upgrading your internet speed for the best viewing experience. Call 1/800 442-6835 for details.**