

HelloCentral

SPRING 2018



You're the Heart of Our Community

Happy Valentine's Day from Wheat State Telephone. We love providing the communications services you need to share your thoughts and learn new information. Our community is strong because people like you continue to build strong connections with others. Thanks for being a good-hearted neighbor.

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Hello Central Editor
Berniece Millsap



Does speed get your heart racing? Those thrills aren't limited to a snowy trail. Accelerate your internet speed at home with this insanely fast plan:

50 Mbps Download
20 Mbps Upload*

LEAD WHEN IT COMES TO SPEED.

CALL 1/888 377-6523
FOR AN INTERNET UPGRADE.

*Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Contact us for details.



Clean Out Your Computer Day

The second Monday in February is designated as Clean Out Your Computer Day. It was started in 2000 by the Institute of Business Technology.

Granted, this holiday doesn't exactly merit a party. But it's a good reminder to take care of some computer maintenance tasks you may be putting off. Over time, unused files and programs take up precious memory and can slow down your computer. So celebrate by doing the following:

- Clear off your desktop by deleting or archiving files you no longer need there.
- Organize your folders, files, and bookmarks.
- Uninstall programs you no longer use.
- Delete junk or duplicate files.

You may also want to carefully clean off your computer on this day using special products designed for this purpose. It's amazing how much better the screen and keyboard will look after a few minutes of wiping and dusting.

FTC Tells Secret to Avoiding Mystery Shopper Scams

A mystery (or secret) shopper is a person paid by a retailer to make purchases at a store and then turn in reports about the shopping experience. The retailer uses the information to guide decisions about pricing, product displays, staff training, and so on.

While there are legitimate secret shopper jobs available, scammers are also out there ready to take advantage of desperate job seekers.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) warns of an email offering "secret shopper" jobs with retailers like Wal-Mart, Kmart, Best Buy, or Home Depot. If you click through, it appears to be a retailer's site but is actually a lookalike site designed to fool you. You're asked to provide some personal information to get started and told you'll soon get a cashier's check for around \$1,500. Next, you're instructed to deposit the check into your account to "activate" your employment, keep \$300 as "advance payment" to cover initial expenses, and wire back the rest. The check is a fake, and if you deposit it, you're on the hook to pay the bank back any money you withdrew.

Follow these tips from the FTC to help you avoid a mystery shopping scam:

- **Do your research.** Most legitimate secret shopper jobs are posted online by reputable marketing research or merchandising companies. A quick internet search can help you verify the company's reputation and legitimacy or flag any complaints. Scammers like to use the names of well-known companies like Home Depot or Wal-Mart to gain your trust.
- **Never wire money to someone you don't know.** Wiring money is the same as sending cash. Once you send it, you can't get it back.
- **Never agree to deposit a check from someone you don't know.** If the check turns out to be fake, it will eventually bounce.
- **Never give your personal or financial information out online.** Guard your personal information and treat it as if it were cash. Do not enter your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers online or by phone to someone who gets in touch with you.

Scammers may be shopping for victims, but you don't have to become one of them.





Do You Know What These Acronyms Mean?

From time to time, you probably come across a series of capital letters that make no sense to you in a Facebook post, tweet, or text. So to help you out, we're listing the meanings of some of the most common acronyms used online.

AFAIK	As Far As I Know	IMHO	In My Humble Opinion, In My Honest Opinion
AFAIR	As Far As I Recall/Remember	IMO	In My Opinion
BAE	Before Anyone Else	IRL	In Real Life (used to talk about something that is not online)
BFF	Best Friends Forever	MFW	My Face When
DAE	Does Anyone Else, Did Anyone Else	MRW	My Reaction When; Me Right When
FTFY	Fixed That For You	NBD	No Big Deal
FTW	For The Win (indicating that something is extremely good)	NGL	Not Gonna Lie
FWIW	For What It's Worth	OMG	Oh My God, Oh My Goodness, Oh My Gosh
GG	Good Game, Good Going, Good Guy, Good Girl - usually used sarcastically	OP	Original Poster (original person who posted the story)
HIFW	How I Feel When	SMH	Shaking My Head
IANAL	I Am Not A Lawyer (disclaimer for when giving legal information)	TBH	To Be Honest
IDK	I Don't Know	TBT	Truth Be Told
IIRC	If I Recall Correctly, If I Remember Correctly	TIL	Today I Learned
IKR	I Know, Right	TMYK	The More You Know
ILY	I Love You	TYVM	Thank You Very Much
		TTYTT	To Tell You The Truth

As online communication evolves — and people keep looking for more writing shortcuts — the lexicon of acronyms will continue to grow. Along with emojis, these acronyms provide a way to express messages in the fastest, most efficient way possible.

Easy, Economical, and Earth-Friendly Go Green with eStatements

Do something great for the environment and your bank account — switch from paper billing to eStatements from Wheat State Telephone. This free feature lets you receive your monthly bills from us by email and pay them online with your credit card or debit card.

Making the switch to eStatements is a small change that yields big savings:

- **Save time.** You can pay a bill in seconds with just a few clicks.
- **Save money.** Reduce what you need to spend on checks and stamps.
- **Save trees.** You help reduce paper use with eStatements.

It's quick and easy to get started with eStatements, too. To go green and save green, simply visit www.wheatstate.com today and follow the step-by-step instructions to set up your eStatements account. If you have questions or need help with this process, call us at 1/800 442-6835.



National Chili Day Spices Up February

When it's chilly outside, there's nothing quite like warming up with a big bowl of chili. Appropriately enough, National Chili Day takes place on February 22 during one of winter's coldest months.

Here's a little trivia to go with your chili:

- A green chili pod has as much vitamin C as six oranges.
- Some cultures put chili powder in their shoes to keep their feet warm.
- The first chili cook-off took place in 1967 in Terlinga, Texas. It ended in a tie between a native Texan and a New Yorker.
- Hot chili peppers burn calories by triggering a thermodynamic burn in the body, which speeds up the metabolism.
- Chili pepper color is a function of ripeness. Green peppers are usually not fully ripe and the same pepper could be green, yellow, orange, or red depending on its level of ripeness.



Would you like to spice up your movie nights at home? Call 1/800 442-6835 and ask about our Premium Movie Channels.



There are times when you simply need speed to succeed.

World-class athletes competing in luge, bobsleigh, alpine skiing, and speed skating all race against the clock, and moving quickly is also essential to winning performances in other winter sports such as figure skating and ice hockey. While it takes many years of practice to reach the medal podium, the difference between gold, silver, and bronze can come down to mere fractions of a second.

Speed is also vital in busy households, even if you're just a weekend athlete or get most of your exercise running errands. You need a fast internet connection for winning results when you stream movies or TV programs, play online games, or have multiple people using devices simultaneously.

Wheat State Telephone offers affordable internet plans with download speeds up to 50 Mbps. Check out all the options at www.wheatstate.com or call us at 1/800 442-6835 for help selecting a winning plan for you.

2 Reasons to Love a Landline

Compared to other voice options, landline phone service provides these key advantages:

1. **Safety.** Emergency operators automatically see your exact location when someone calls 911, regardless of whether the caller can speak or not. This can be critical during a medical event that hampers speech or if a young child needs to call 911.
2. **Dependable Quality.** When was the last time your landline dropped a call or had bad reception? You don't have to deal with weak or non-existent coverage with a landline.

What's more, you get these valuable advantages for a low monthly price. Call 1/800 442-6835 to learn about our landline service.

