

Midstate Messenger

MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

October 2025



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
EMPOWERING LIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2025,
Kimball High School Gymnasium
Doors Open at 5:30pm

We're excited to welcome our members to the 73rd Annual Meeting! This annual tradition is a time to come together as a cooperative community, enjoy a meal, catch up with friends and neighbors, and take part in a little fun with Bingo and prizes. Thank you to everyone who makes the effort to attend—we truly value your support and involvement. Be sure to watch for our November newsletter, where we'll share the full list of prize winners!

October 5 - Disconnect of all accounts with a 30 day balance

October 13 - Offices closed

October 20 - Bills due by 12:00 PM.

October 31 - November bills are mailed out and due November 20th by 12:00 PM



WANT TO WIN AT STREAMING?

STREAMNOW
IS YOUR PLAYBOOK



KNOW WHERE TO GO ON NFL GAMEDAYS

Since the NFL keeps cutting new deals with streaming services, many football fans struggle to figure out what subscriptions they'll need to watch the games. Fortunately, you don't have to be one of them!

Our online StreamNow guide is the playbook you need to easily navigate through the viewing fragmentation of NFL season. It includes a convenient chart showing where to watch each game, so you can see at a glance which Live TV or On-Demand streaming services will be required to follow your favorite teams.

Visit gostreamnow.com/midstate

This October is all about Cybersecurity, and we're here to help you stay safe online! Follow us on our website and social media pages all month long for helpful tips to keep your devices and data safe. Smart protection starts here.

**Cybersecurity
Made Simple**



Don't Get Tricked by AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are getting so advanced that photos, videos, and even messages can look and sound completely real. These creations, often called deepfakes, are increasingly used in scams, fake news, and misleading online content. What once was obvious trickery is now much harder to spot.

Why It Matters

Criminals are already using AI to make scams more convincing:

- Voice cloning: Criminals copy a loved one's voice from social media to make fake "emergency" calls asking for money.
- Phishing scams: AI helps scammers write emails or texts that look polished, professional, and mistake-free.
- Fake videos and images: Public figures, celebrities, or even you could be shown in false or embarrassing situations.

These scams are designed to make you panic, click, or share before you have time to think.

Protect Yourself Online

The best defense is staying cautious:

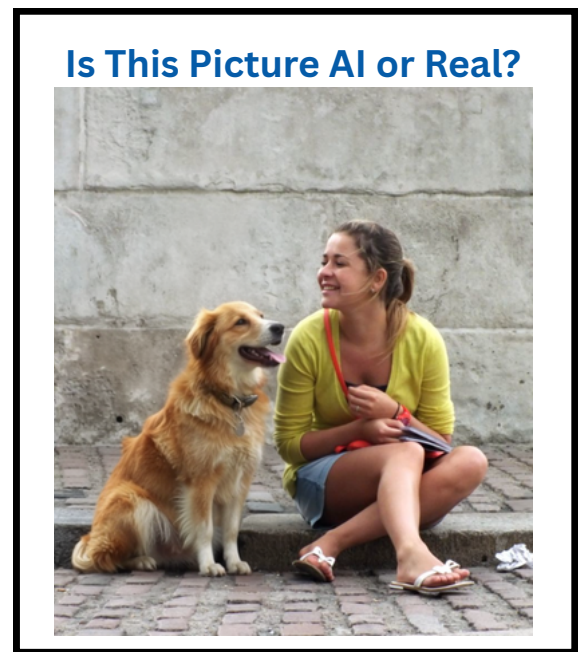
- Share less personal info online (like birthdays, addresses, or videos with your voice).
- Create family "code words" in case of a real emergency.
- Use strong passwords and two-factor authentication to secure your accounts.
- Be skeptical of any urgent request for money or personal details. Hang up and call the person back directly.
- Remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

How to Spot the Fakes

Videos → lips/voice not in sync, stiff or unnatural blinking

Messages → vague, repetitive, or oddly formal

Photos → extra fingers, warped backgrounds, weird reflections, "perfect" skin



Test Your Skills

Take the "Detect Fakes" quiz from Northwestern University and see if you can spot real vs. AI-generated images. <https://detectfakes.kellogg.northwestern.edu/> Don't worry if it's tough—even experts get fooled! The key is to pause and ask: "Is this real?" The photo above is a fake image. The person's expression, along with the dog's, does not look realistic in this image, with both looking in opposite directions.

Friend or Foe?

AI isn't going away—it's becoming part of everyday life. It can be a helpful tool for work and creativity, but it also opens new doors for scams and misinformation.

That's why Midstate Communications is keeping a close watch on AI trends and helping our members stay safe. By slowing down, double-checking sources, and learning to spot the red flags, you can protect yourself and your loved ones. **Stay alert. Stay connected. Stay safe.**