

Midstate Messenger

MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

December 2025

*Santa Hotline
Now Open!*



605-313-4000

In the middle of our day, we picked up a call—and were greeted by none other than Santa Claus himself!

He's getting ready for his big night and wants to make sure he hears from kids in our area. If your little ones want to share their Christmas wishes, have them call 605-313-4000. Santa will be listening, and he's got a special message just for them!



Looking to add a new streaming device to your TV? Make sure you choose one that works smoothly with Midstate X-Stream and your preferred streaming apps. Some devices can lag due to weak Wi-Fi or limited storage, so picking the right one up front makes all the difference. Check out the recommended streaming sticks on our website, along with our supported devices guide: <https://web.midstatesd.net/tv/> A quick look now saves a lot of frustration later!

Stream TV The Right Way



Streaming has become the go-to way to enjoy movies, shows, and sports, offering endless entertainment at your fingertips. But with so many devices and unknown sources out there, it's important to know which ones keep you safe, and which can cause real problems for you and your household.

Lately, we've seen more questions about certain streaming devices advertised as "Superboxes" or "free TV boxes". They're often sold as a one-time purchase that gives you access to live TV, movies, and sports without monthly subscriptions. That does sound appealing; however, Midstate is unable to assist with the service or support these "Superboxes".

Beyond legal concerns, some of these boxes can quietly upload unknown files, overload your household's upload capacity, or connect to hidden services without your knowledge. The result can be slow Internet, high latency in gaming, jittery video calls, disrupted streaming, and even impacts on smart home devices. While the specifics vary, the effects range from frustrating performance issues to potential security or privacy risks. For these reasons, sticking with well-known, licensed services and approved streaming devices is always safer.

At Midstate, our priority is protecting members' service quality and security. When a device on your network behaves strangely like this with upload spikes, unexplained traffic, or sluggish uploads, it affects everyone in the home. Compromised devices create slower performance, possible privacy exposure, and extra troubleshooting.

The good news is that there are plenty of safe ways to stream. Mainstream services like Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime Video use licensed apps and work reliably on approved devices. In addition, if you want a straightforward option backed by local support, Midstate X-Stream delivers licensed content over Midstate's Fiber Optic Internet with access to local channels, live sports, and cloud DVR options. It's designed to give members a dependable streaming experience without the risks that can come from unknown devices.

If you're unsure about a device or an app, please contact Midstate so we can help identify if the box is safe and help protect your connection. Call or text us at 605-778-6221. If new to streaming, check out our getting started guide at: <https://gostreamnow.com/midstate/>

Many streaming boxes, which are often called "Superboxes," are illegal. The boxes are intended to allow you to stream copyrighted material without having a subscription for the programming. That is a violation of copyright laws. If you or anyone in your household stream copyrighted material without a subscription, you may be subject to criminal fines and penalties. You may also be civilly liable to the copyright holders for damages which can be substantial.



Warm Up With Us at Our Holiday Open Houses

Drop by our Midstate Communications offices in Kimball on December 9 or Chamberlain on December 10 for a festive afternoon of cookies, warm drinks, and holiday cheer.

While you're here, feel free to ask about your Midstate services — whether it's a quick question, an update, or help troubleshooting, we're happy to assist.

We'd love to see you and truly appreciate your continued support! Happy Holidays!

Tech Talks Coming Soon!

We all live in a connected world, and terms like cybersecurity and phishing weren't part of our vocabulary 20 years ago. Technology has changed a lot—and so have the ways scammers try to trick us.

Our winter Tech Talk Training will give you simple, practical tips to stay safe while browsing, shopping, or using email—no computer whiz skills required! You'll walk away with easy-to-use advice to protect your personal information and avoid online scams. Keep an eye out for dates, locations and details in the January Midstate Messenger—we look forward to chatting with you soon!



Important Dates

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

December 20 - Bills due by 12:00 PM.

December 24 - Offices close at 12:00 PM.

December 25 - Offices closed

December 30 - January bills are mailed out and due January 20th by 12:00 PM

December 31 - Offices close at 3:00 PM



TV Rate Increase

Despite our efforts to keep costs low, we must pass along rate increases from TV programmers. All plans include a retransmission fee of \$42.10 for your local channels.

Starting January 1, 2026, the new monthly rates for Midstate TV will be as follows:

Local Choice \$71.05*	Basic Choice \$114.55*
Digital Choice: \$122.55*	Midstate X-Stream \$117.55

*Grandfathered plans are no longer available for new customers. To learn more about retransmission fees and how they impact your TV service, visit www.tvonmyside.com