

Midstate Messenger

MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

March 2025

Photo Contest Winner Announced



Congrats to Cheryl Pruett of Platte, our 2025 Central Connections Directory Photo Contest winner! She's now \$100 richer thanks to her stunning shot of purple blooms. She noticed this photo opportunity when visiting with a neighbor. Midstate and Santel Cooperative members voted on Facebook, and they agreed—it's a winner! Watch for your 2025 Central Connections Directory coming in April!

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

March 20 - Bills due by 12:00 PM. Overdue notices mailed out

March 31 - March bills are mailed out and due April 20th by 12:00 PM



FIBER ALWAYS WINS

STAY ON TEAM FIBER FOR UNBEATABLE INTERNET SPEED AND RELIABILITY

Fiber internet brings much more to the game than 5G home internet ever will. So, stick with fiber internet to enjoy:

- **Winning speeds** – Up to 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) for buffering-free streaming
- **Winning reliability** – 99.9% uptime for a connection to count on for big March games and more
- **Winning customer experience** – Unlimited usage with no data caps or throttling. It's a slam dunk! Fiber internet always wins!

Retirement Announced

After 29 years of service, we say farewell and congratulations to Geoff on his retirement in February. Since joining Midstate in January 1996—back when we were still Midstate Telephone Company—Geoff has been a familiar and trusted face for our cooperative customers in our West serving area of Fort Thompson, Gann Valley, Pukwana, Chamberlain, and Oacoma. Thank you, Geoff, for nearly three decades of service, and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement! Your ability to make us all smile daily will be missed!



Geoff Derdall
Telecom Technician

Call 811 Before You Dig & Midstate For Spring Installation

Spring is the perfect time to tackle outdoor projects, whether it's landscaping, installing a fence, or building something new. But before you grab that shovel, there's one important step you can't skip—calling 811.

What Happens When You Call 811?

811 is a free service that helps prevent damage to underground utilities like gas, electricity, water, and fiber internet lines. Here's how it works:

1 Call 811 or Submit a Request Online

- At least two business days before you plan to dig, call 811 or visit www.sdonecall.com to submit a locate request.

- Be ready to provide your project details, the location, the type of work, and the planned start date.

2 Utility Companies are Notified

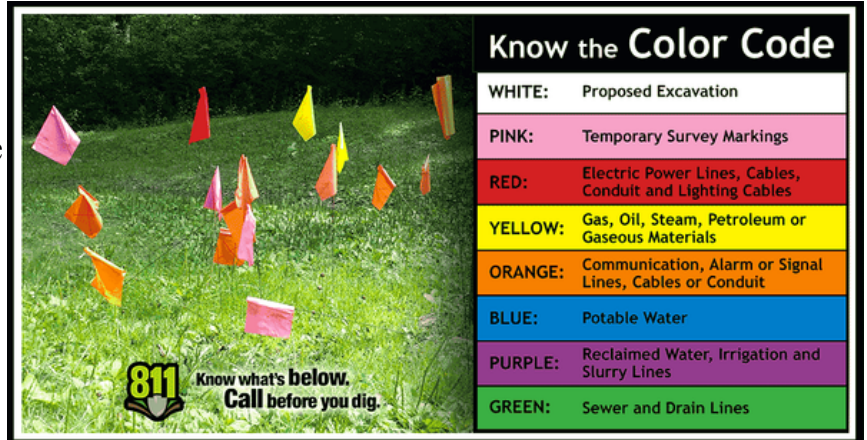
- After your request is submitted, Midstate Communications and other utility providers with underground lines in your area will be alerted.

3 Locators Mark Utility Lines

- Trained professionals will come out free of charge to mark underground lines using color-coded paint or flags:

4 Dig Safely!

- Once the area is marked, you'll know where it's safe to dig. Always dig carefully and keep at least 18 inches away from marked utility lines.
- If your project gets delayed beyond 10 business days, you may need to request a new locate.



Planning Construction This Spring? Call Midstate, Too!

If you're planning a new build, home addition, or major landscaping project that might require fiber internet or phone service, give Midstate Communications a call to get on our spring plow list.

We begin burying fiber in April, and getting on the list early ensures we can plan your installation efficiently. Don't wait until the ground is thawed—call or text us today at 605-778-6221!

Two Quick Calls for a Safer, Smoother Spring

- Call 811 to avoid hitting underground utilities and ensure a safe project.
- Call or Text Midstate Communications to get on the spring plow list for fiber installation.

Coming Soon In April!

TECHTALK TRAINING

Smart Conversations Exploring AI and ChatGPT

Midstate COMMUNICATIONS 605.778.6221

TechTalk Coming Soon!

You've probably heard the buzz—AI (Artificial Intelligence) is everywhere! But what does it really mean, and how can it fit into your daily life? Join us for "Smart Conversations: Exploring AI and ChatGPT," where we'll break down AI in a fun and easy-to-understand way.

No tech experience? No problem! These sessions are designed to be interactive, engaging, and perfect for all experience levels. Stay tuned for dates and details on our in-person chats in Platte, Kimball, and Chamberlain coming up in April.