Shop Early for Great Gifts...

Need a great gift? We have the perfect solution for you whether you're looking for a new computer or a new phone. Midstate Communications has the electronic items you need at the price you can afford.

Get a new Dell laptop, All-In-One, or Desktop computer and add the payment onto your Midstate bill for up to three years and pay NO INTEREST for it!! Your monthly payments for your computer could be as low as $30.00 a month. Or if you are looking for that second computer for the kids, stop in and look at the new Chrome Book at just $141 down and $3.00 a month. This is a perfect 2nd computer in your home for all of your internet needs.

Midstate has a great line of electronic items such as Kindle Fires, tablets, cordless phones, computer accessories, DVR’s, and much, much more. For the “hard to buy for” person in your family, we have a great idea, how about paying for their cable television or internet service for a month or more. If your teenager has a laptop computer from school, add a wireless router and make your home wireless for Christmas! Do your shopping early and do it right here at Midstate Communications!

Pinnacle Publishing Representative...

A representative from Pinnacle Publishing, the directory company that publishes our “Central Connections” directory, will be in our service area starting December 2, 2013 to begin doing business visits in an effort to sell yellow page advertising. Rod Wentzel will be stopping by businesses throughout the Midstate service area to meet with you about your yellow page advertising along with the on-line Local Solutions advertising and how they can benefit your business.

We hope that you will welcome Rod and take a few minutes to find out how yellow page advertising might work for you.

Galaxie Music Channels on Midstate Digital Cable...

Get in the Holiday Spirit with Galaxie music channels on Midstate Digital Cable TV. Starting November 5th and running through January 7, 2014, Galaxie music will be playing special Holiday music to get you into the Holiday spirit.

• Holiday Hits – All of your favorites on one Galaxie channel. Hear familiar classic carols along with new takes on traditional songs. Perfect for the whole family and as a backdrop for decorating and parties!
• Smooth Jazz Christmas (replacing Smooth Jazz during holiday period, Channel #516) Christmas is coated with a splash of stylish contemporary jazz. Bring the instrumental sound of the season to your party. Some of the greatest holiday hits with a jazz twist.
• Navidad Latina (replacing Latino Tejano during the holiday period, Channel #549) Latin and universal Christmas music with a Spanish flavor. A variety of Christmas songs and carols.

Galaxie music channels can be found on Midstate Digital Cable channels 501 – 550.

Trivia~Trivia~Trivia

On the show “Everybody Loves Raymond”, how many siblings does Raymond have?

**Deadline to enter is the 15th of the Month. All correct entries will be entered into a drawing for $10.00. Submit your answers by: 1) Writing your answer on a piece of paper with your name, address and telephone number, and mailing to our Midstate office at PO Box 48, Kimball SD 57355 or 2) Go online to our website at www.midstatesd.net and click on the Trivia link in the bottom left corner and submit your answer online following the online instructions. Trivia submissions will not be taken by telephone.

And the Winner is...

Ronald Assmus Jr. knew Fred was Little Ricky's dog's name on “The Lucy Show”!

Midstate Offices will be closing at noon on Tuesday, December 24th and will be closed all day Wednesday December 25th for the Christmas holiday. Our offices will also be closing at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, December 31st and will be closed all day on Wednesday January 1st for New Year’s Day!

Important Dates to Remember...

Please mark the following dates, regarding our billing schedule, on your calendar. Bills are mailed the last business day of each month, and payment is due on the 20th of the month. Paying on time saves frustrating calls and unwanted late fees.

• Last Business Day of Each Month
  Bills mailed out from Midstate’s office
• 5th of Each Month
  Disconnect of all accounts with a 30 day balance.
• 20th of Each Month
  Bills are due in either Midstate office by 12:00 p.m.
• 20th of Each Month
  Overdue notices mailed out and late fees will be applied to all delinquent accounts.

*All Midstate bills are due upon receipt. Any bills that have not been received by the 5th of the following month will be disconnected. To be reconnected the bill must be paid in full and will be subject to a down payment and appropriate reconnect fees.

Galaxie music channels can be found on Midstate Digital Cable channels 501 – 550.
Why You Shouldn’t Drop Your Landline Phone Service:
Cellular and Internet-based phone service can delay first responders

According to an article published by AARP, a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people age 50 and over, they warn Americans that their landline telephone service may just save their lives.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which regularly tracks telephone usage, says the number of U.S. households relying only on cellular devices for phone service jumped to more than 35 percent by the first half of 2012 from about 20 percent in 2008. But some telecommunications experts warn older people to put plans to drop their landlines on hold.

“Having a quick and reliable option to reach emergency responders and immediate family is essential,” says Raghu Santanam, a paramedic and professor of information systems at Arizona State University.

Many examples of the importance of having a landline telephone have been documented in the case of an emergency. One example quoted by AARP is from Susan Odom of Atmore, Ala., who believes she would have choked to death if she hadn’t dialed 911 on a traditional wired landline. A 911 call from a cellular phone or an Internet-based Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service often requires routing the call to the correct emergency response center, which can cause delays for first responders when every second counts.

“If you call 911 from a landline, you get several advantages,” Odom said of her incident. “First, the call shows up on a computer screen in the correct 911 center. The screen shows a map and exactly where the call is coming from, the address and the name of the residence. Should the caller be unable to speak, get confused or not know where they are, the 911 screen shows EMS... right where to go.”

Since landline phones are self-powered, it makes even more sense for older people in rural communities or areas prone to storms to resist offers from cable, cellular and satellite companies. In the case of bad-weather conditions, landline phones are much more likely to be available. Why you may ask? Satellite-based Internet services in rural areas can have outages during storms when you need them the most. And cellular towers can be vulnerable to losing power in natural disasters.

There are even more reasons to have a landline phone in your home. In the case of danger, reverse 911 calls, prerecorded robocalls that enable authorities to notify people about imminent dangers such as tornados, do not automatically contact cellular or VoIP phones.

Landline carriers such as Midstate, are required to provide the phone numbers of their customers to local reverse 911 systems. While cell phone users and VoIP customers generally must sign up to receive emergency alerts.

Dependability is another factor when considering the decision to keep your landline phone. Unlike landline phones, there is no mandatory quality of service for any of the newer technologies such as cellular or VoIP services. The quality of these services varies greatly. Medical alert services and remote monitoring of medical devices such as pacemakers that are designed for traditional lines may or may not work on an Internet Protocol substitute and will absolutely not work on a cellular phone.

So when it comes to your personal safety, make sure that you include a landline phone in your safety planning. It may just save your life!

Protect Your Computer from Viruses and Other Harmful Attacks with Kaspersky

When it comes to protecting your computer and all the information you store on it, one virus protection provider stands above the rest, Kaspersky! Midstate Internet Tech Support has selected Kaspersky as their virus protection of choice because when it comes to protection Kaspersky simply does more and helps defend your computer from outside attacks.

Antivirus provider Kaspersky has designed its products to detect all malware, even if it’s sponsored by the National Security Agency or other government entities under programs espoused to target terrorists or other threats. When it comes to malware attacks Kaspersky has a simple philosophy, they detect and remediate any malware attack, regardless of its origin or purpose.

Call Midstate’s IT Services today at 778-8028 and get the Kaspersky advantage.

Plan Ahead With 511 and SafeTravel USA!

Winter will soon be here bringing with it possibly nasty driving conditions. Maybe it’s time for a reminder of what a hazard winter driving conditions can be!

If you are planning on driving throughout the winter, make sure you plan ahead by checking your local weather station and by calling 511 from your phone before heading out the door. With just a little information from you, 511 will give you up to the minute road conditions for your route.

If you prefer to use the Internet you may also visit www.SafeTravelUSA.com for all the latest road conditions, weather reports, and views of many major highways. It is available on your computer or tablet, or as a free app available for your smart phone or tablet.

This winter, plan ahead and be safe by calling 511 or logging on to SafeTravel USA.

Last Chance for Free Directory Changes!

December 15th is the final date to make any changes necessary to your directory listing for Free. The 2014 “Central Connections” directory will be printed at the end of the year. If you need to make a change to your directory listing, please do so before December 15th. If no changes are made your listing will appear as it did in last year’s directory. If you would like to add an additional listing, such as your cell phone number, there is an additional monthly fee per listing. To change your listing, please call one of our Midstate offices at 778-6221 or 234-8000 before December 15th.