

THE LATEST IN SCAMMING...

Ring... ring... did you get a call from a number starting with the area code (876)? They call to say you've won the "Mega Millions" Jamaican lottery, and you could even win a car! All you have to do is pay a few thousands dollars in taxes or fees and the big jackpot is yours— right?

WRONG! Do not send money to anyone who claims to have a prize for you— odds are good that it's a scam. And just so you know, playing a foreign lottery is against federal law.

The newest twist to this old scam is that they are asking you to pay the "taxes or fees" with prepaid cards. They tell you to go to the nearest pharmacy or retail store and buy a prepaid card and call them back and read off all the numbers on the card. Whether you use a prepaid card or a wire transfer— once the money is sent— you can never get it back.

Many people have lost a LOT of money to foreign lottery scams, and some have even reported that they have been threatened physical harm if the fees are not paid.

If you get a call about a foreign lottery, the best recommendation is to hang up! And before you do, you might want to tell the caller this:

- I never entered a foreign lottery, so I could not have won.
- I never send money to some one that calls me
- My phone number is on the Do Not Call Registry, so you shouldn't be calling me— and I'm reporting your number.



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DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

Subscribers may register their residential telephone and wireless telephone numbers on the National DO-Not-Call Registry by telephone or by Internet at no cost.

To register by phone- (must be calling from the number you wish to register)

Call 1-888-382-1222 and listen to the prompts to enter your phone number

To register online- (you can register up to 3 phone numbers at once)

Go to www.donotcall.gov

The Do-Not-Call Registry does not prevent all unwanted calls. It does not cover the following:

- Calls from organization with which you have established a business relationship;
- Calls or which you have given prior written permission;
- Calls which are not commercial or do not include unsolicited advertisements;
- Calls by or on behalf of tax-exempt non-profit organizations.

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK...



Here we are, almost Fall, and I'm still wondering where Summer went?

This has been a strange year with weather and storms. We had several people here locally take direct hits of lightning to their house, storms have produced golf ball to softball size hail, and properties have been destroyed. My property took a direct hit in the first hail storm we had in June, and caused about \$40,000 worth of damage. I am wondering what is in store for us come Winter?

On May 1st, Prairie Networks started a promotion with our satellite internet systems, which has been such a success that we have extended the offer through the end of December of this year. Our offer is no activation, no installation charges for the Exede High Speed Satellite Internet, and at the time of installation, we offer a discounted package price for the first six months, and then the regular price after that. We have completed 5 new installations, and had 12 upgrades over the three month period. Now that we are extending the offer— if you want to upgrade— this is the time to do so! Our customers are liking the new system and the ease of controlling their usage.

This Summer, Agate Mutual Telephone has been busy repairing what the weather damaged, installing new phone lines, and just recently started installing fiber optics along County Road 178, and hope to have that wrapped up in a couple more weeks. At the beginning of 2014 we had 96 phone lines and 59 DSL customers. As of current we are up to 107 and 65, respectively. So growth is occurring in our little community!

We are looking forward to slowing down a bit in the construction season, and working on some internal upgrades that we need to make to increase the capacity and speeds to the DSL here in Agate. We are looking at some upgrades to our central office and the way we host traffic through the CCT Fiber Ring. This will hopefully increase our capacity and allow us to offer faster speeds than we currently have— though it will take time to get the new equipment installed and tweaked to where we want it in order to offer it to you— so bear with us during that process.

As a reminder, class is back in session, so be careful near schools and bus stops! Little ones are sometimes not paying attention and we have to pay attention for them.

As always, don't forget my door is always open, you can contact me at the office at 764-2578, or danh@amtca.net.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hollembeak

General Manager,
Agate Mutual and Prairie Networks



AMTCA GIVES BACK TO TWO LOCAL SCHOOLS...

The employees at Agate Mutual Telephone did some back to school shopping for Deer Trail and Agate Schools for their new school year. Deer Trail School's Dean of Students, Karee Klassen gathered up suggestions from the teachers, and came up with a list of items such as folders, white board markers, glue sticks, backpacks, and Middle School Student Planners.

Agate purchased the items in bulk and delivered them to the Deer Trail School on Monday, August 18, 2014, along with a check for the difference, totaling \$1000 worth of donations.



Back Row L– R: Karee Klassen, Dean of Students, Daniel Hollebeak, General Manager AMTCA, Amy Noah, Office Manager AMTCA, and Robin Purdy, Superintendent Deer Trail School.

Front Row are two Middle School Students holding their Student Planners up for show.

The Agate School, which is Elementary only, chose to spend their \$300 donation on a learning adventure growing tadpoles into frogs. This will go along with their theme of "The Travels of Molly and Mortimer", takes two frogs all across the U.S., learning about each State, and what amazing sights they have to offer. This will be a great learning experience for the children, and they will get to learn how frogs start from tadpoles and grow into frogs.



Agate is also going to use some of their money to purchase a new stereo that the kids can sing along to, and some headphones for individual quiet time. As the frogs start to develop we will continue to update you on their status, and what they have been up to on their travels.

REFERRAL PAY-OUTS

Congratulations to Carissa Cox, and Vanessa Worden for taking Prairie Networks up on our offer to earn \$50 gift cards for each referral they give us!

Word-of-mouth is our best advertisement, so why not get paid for something you might have done in the past? Remind the new customer to tell us who referred them, so that you can get the rewards like Carissa and Vanessa did.

Good Job Ladies!





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SHORT SHORTS

The Kiss

Lauren was frustrated. She had complained a dozen times to her daughter about her newest fad of kissing the bathroom mirror immediately after applying lipstick, but to no avail Lizzy kept doing it. Finally one day after spending a half hour scrubbing the mirror, only to find another kiss mark an hour later. Lauren had enough. "Lizzy!" she hollered, "What?" came her daughter's reply through her bedroom door. "I can't find the toilet brush that I've been using to clean the bathroom mirror. Do you have any idea where it is?"

After hearing the gagging from behind the bedroom door, Lauren knew her days of cleaning kiss marks off the mirror were over!



Community Service

Lisa, a 16 year old girl, nervously brought her most recent boyfriend home with her to meet her parents. Although Lisa was fond of him, she was nervous about what sort of impression he'd make on her parents. After all, he had tattoos and piercings all over his body.

"Mom," said Lisa nervously, "I would like you to meet Spike, my boyfriend, Spike this is my Mom." After a few minutes of small talk and pleasantries, Lisa's Mom called her over and whispered, "Lisa, I don't like him, he just doesn't seem very nice!"



"Mom please!" retorted Lisa, "if he's not a nice guy how can you explain the forty -hours of community service he does a week?"

F U N F A C T S

Did you know...



- There are about 450 types of cheese in the world. France produces 240 of them.
- Illinois has the highest number of personalized license plates than any other state.
- If you travel across Russia, you will cross 7 time zones.
- The tongue is the only muscle in the body that is attached at only one end.
- Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.



Do you have something you want to put in our newsletter? Contact us.