

In Touch

JANUARY 2025



Start the New Year With Confidence

Happy New Year from USA Communications! This new year gives you a new chance to go after your goals, so move forward with gusto. If not now, when? If not you, who? As you navigate the road ahead, remember we're here to help—as your communications provider and your neighbor. We want you to live your best life.

USA Communications
PO Box 389, Shellsburg, IA 52332

Office Locations:

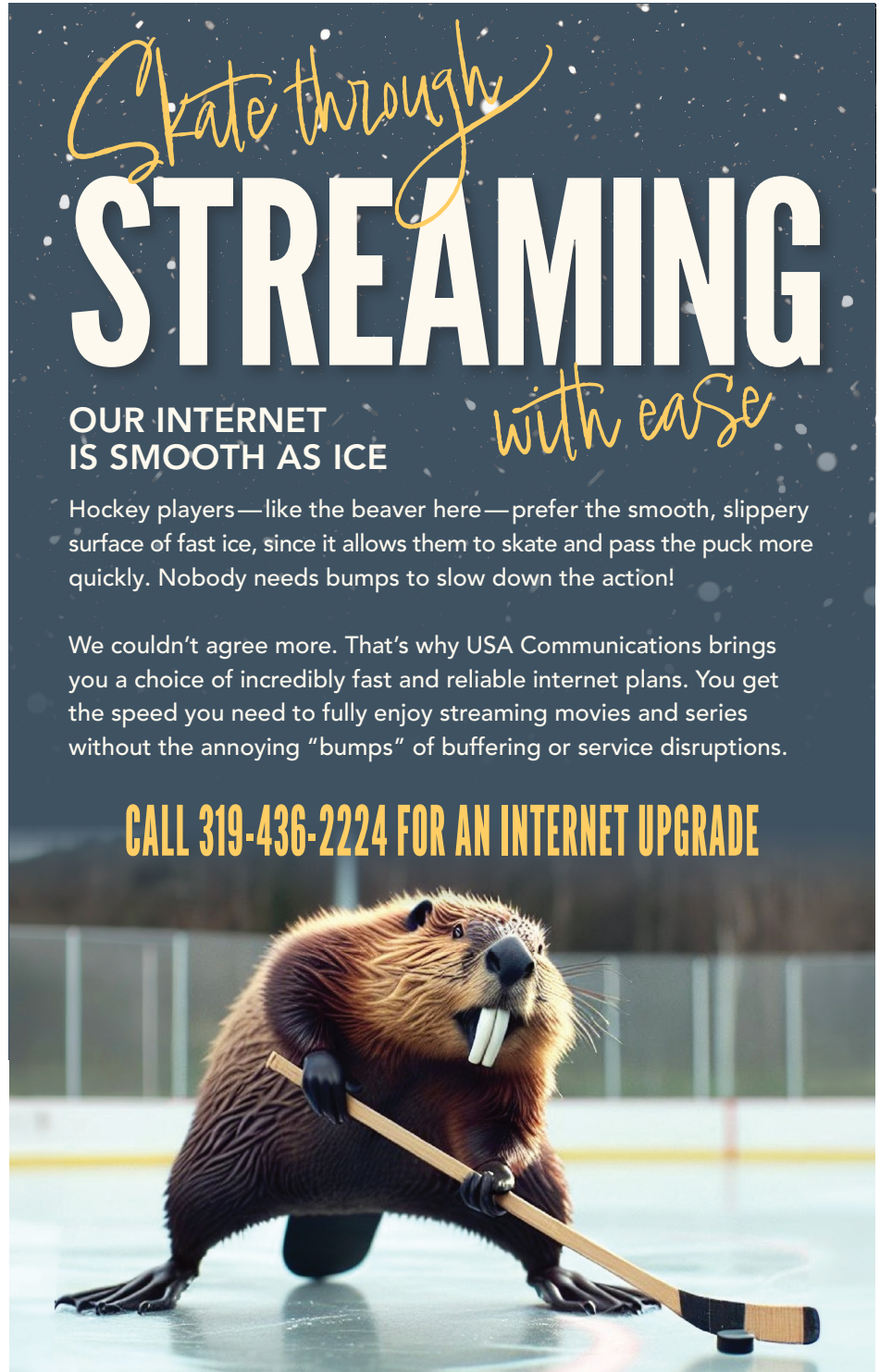
Shellsburg: 124 Main Street
Blairstown: 312 Locust Street
319-436-2224 or 1-800-248-8007
usacomm.coop

Hours: M–F 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Office Closure:

Wednesday, January 1st for
New Year's

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Skate through
STREAMING
with ease

OUR INTERNET IS SMOOTH AS ICE

Hockey players—like the beaver here—prefer the smooth, slippery surface of fast ice, since it allows them to skate and pass the puck more quickly. Nobody needs bumps to slow down the action!

We couldn't agree more. That's why USA Communications brings you a choice of incredibly fast and reliable internet plans. You get the speed you need to fully enjoy streaming movies and series without the annoying "bumps" of buffering or service disruptions.

CALL 319-436-2224 FOR AN INTERNET UPGRADE

Illegal Streaming Devices Pose Security Risk

If something seems too good to be true, it usually is. This adage applies to streaming devices now on the market that offer free access to live sports, movies, and other popular programming which typically requires a TV or streaming subscription.

These illegal streaming devices may look legitimate, since the companies that create and sell them do everything possible to make the device appear that way. There are red flags, however. One of the first signs of an illegal streaming device is the use of terms such as “jailbroken” or “fully loaded” on the website and packaging.

How do these illegal streaming devices work? Their “TV guide” is essentially an illegal IPTV app that allows you to access pirated content including live broadcast channels for free. Here’s the catch—these devices may come pre-loaded with malware. Plus, you may be asked to disable standard security protections, leaving you vulnerable to hackers. Stay away!



To make you feel smarter this winter, we gathered a blizzard of snow facts.

1. **Snow is not white.** It’s translucent. The reason it looks white is because of the light reflecting off the sides of the snowflake, diffusing the color spectrum.
2. **Snowflakes can get huge!** According to Guinness World Records, the largest snowflakes on record were 15 inches in diameter and 8 inches thick. They fell near Missoula, Montana in 1887.
3. **Extreme fear of snow is called chionophobia.** It comes from “chion,” the Greek word for snow. People with this disorder have severe anxiety and panic attacks when they think about or see snow.
4. **Snow is good for the garden.** Not only does snow provide moisture, but it also provides nutrients. Nitrogen attaches to snowflakes as they fall through the atmosphere, which is why *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* calls snow a “poor man’s fertilizer.”
5. **There’s something called watermelon snow.** This is snow with reddish algae growing on it, which is mostly found in the Canadian Rockies.
6. **Monkeys enjoy a snowball fight.** Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys, have been observed making and playing with snowballs. Young macaques will steal each other’s snowballs, then battle to retrieve them.
7. **Snowflakes can fall up to 9 mph.** Their speed depends on the environmental conditions in the air as they drop. It typically takes about an hour for a snowflake to leave its cloud and reach the ground.
8. **Freshly fallen snow absorbs sound waves.** That’s why when you step outside after a snowfall, everything seems quieter.
9. **Mars gets snow.** According to NASA, when winter comes to Mars, the surface is transformed into a truly otherworldly holiday scene. Snow, ice, and frost accompany the season’s sub-zero temperatures.
10. **Snirt is the combination of windblown snow and black dirt.** It’s often seen by the side of roads and in plowed parking lots.