

# Finally some relief from annoying robocalls?

By TALI ARBEL  
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — For Michael Rizzo, answering the phone is too often a waste of time.

His Sports City Pizza Pub in Buffalo, New York, depends on customers calling to order wings, pizza and potato skins. But much of the time, it's an automated message pushing a scam.

"It's getting to the point where it's blocking other callers from coming in," the 24-year-old bar owner said.

Help is coming, if slowly. Over the past year, prodded by the government, cellphones have added new tools to counteract unwanted "robocalls." The Federal Communications Commission has proposed letting phone companies block more spam and is hoping to deter scammers with big fines.

Experts say these steps are not a cure-all, but they're a good start.

### Why is this happening?

The federal and state "Do Not Call" lists are supposed to protect people from unwanted calls from telemarketers. But scammers don't care about breaking the law.

Scammers reach people cheaply and easily using "autodialers," which spew out a large number of calls automatically. It's estimated that Americans receive tens of millions of robocalls every day. Not all of them are fraudsters, of course. Pharmacies send automated messages about prescriptions being filled. But too often, it's this: you owe the IRS money; it's Microsoft calling to fix your computer; free cruises!

And spam callers have tricky technology that makes a phone's caller ID display a local or important-looking caller, like the IRS. Cracking down on "spoofed" numbers would make running a scam more difficult and save U.S. consumers millions



In this Aug. 1 photo, Jen Vargas shows the data of a recent robocall on her home phone in Orlando, Fla.

of dollars, a group of state attorneys general said.

### What phone companies are doing

Phone companies and independent apps can screen or block unwanted calls by checking them against databases of known problem numbers and analyzing suspicious behavior, like a number that's calling lots of people on Do Not Call lists.

Wireless carriers also have tools that flag incoming calls with warnings like "scam likely," but they aren't available on all phones, or to many prepaid customers. The versions from Verizon and Sprint cost extra.

A few Android phones, including Google's Pixel, screen spam calls for free.

Jen Vargas, 39, a multimedia producer from Orlando, Florida, said her AT&T app flags and blocks some fraudulent calls to her cellphone, but she's given up with the headline.

"Very rarely do I pick up a call from a number I don't know," Vargas said.

Apps including YouMail and Nomorobo offer relief on home phones for free, with limitations. With YouMail, your carrier must allow "conditional call forwarding," which forwards calls if a line is unanswered

or busy. Nomorobo isn't available through all home phone providers and won't work with older, copper-based landlines. You can also buy gadgets, some pretty clunky, that block calls on home phones. Verizon is also testing warnings about suspicious calls on a home phone's caller ID display.

### Help from the government

Phone companies can already block some calls that are being faked. The FCC has proposed rules to formalize that practice and permit them to block other calls they suspect are scams. That means Verizon can block a toll-free number that accepts calls for a bank but never initiates a call. Carriers would also be able to block calls they know aren't legitimate, like a number with a 911 area code. The rules still need to be finalized.

Maureen Mahoney, a public policy fellow at the nonprofit Consumers Union, said the development is "promising," but won't protect consumers from all unwanted calls.

For one thing, "Do Not Call" lists don't apply to certain types of callers, such as debt collectors and political campaigns. In addition, Mahoney said, the FCC

rules would cover only faked numbers. Not all robocalls are spoofed.

Consumers Union wants phone companies to make call-blocking tools available to all consumers for free.

In the longer term, the FCC supports industry efforts to verify that callers are really who they say they are. Perhaps one day, you'll see a green checkmark on your smartphone when the caller is legitimate. U.S. Telecom, the phone-company lobby, says rolling this out could take a few years, but would prove powerful against robocallers.

The FCC is also seeking ways to stop annoying calls from dogging consumers when they change numbers. Today, if you sign up for Do Not Call but then get a new number, a marketer may not know and could pester you on your new line.

### What can you do?

Robocallers aren't going away, said Aaron Foss of Nomorobo, a call-blocking service for cellphones and home phones. "These guys are criminals and they're going to find their way around any system. But it's our job to make sure we make it as difficult for them as possible."

There are measures for consumers to follow.

- Don't answer the phone if you don't recognize the number. (Yes, this is impractical on business lines)
- Hang up on unwanted callers. Don't talk to them or press any buttons. If you engage with them, they might flag you as someone who's responsive and inundate you with more calls. Block the number after the call, if possible.
- Use call-blocking apps. If you have privacy concerns, check the app's policy to see if it's sharing your call or contacts data with marketers.
- Don't give callers personal information, like bank account or Social Security numbers.



This Aug. 7 photo shows headstones at Carlisle Barracks Cemetery in Carlisle, Pa.

# Exhumed remains don't match 19th century Indian child

CARLISLE, Pa. (AP) — Remains unearthed at a Pennsylvania Army base don't match the Native American child thought to have been buried there after dying at the government-run Carlisle Indian Industrial School in the 19th century, authorities said Friday.

The U.S. Army said Friday the grave thought to contain 10-year-old Little Plume, also called Hayes Vanderbilt Friday, doesn't match his age, and in fact contains two sets of unidentified remains.

The remains of 15-year-old Little Chief, also known as Dickens Nor, and 14-year-old Horse, also called Horace Washington, do match and will be returned to a Northern Arapaho delegation on Monday. They'll be reburied in Wyoming's Wind River Reservation. The grave with Little Plume's headstone contains remains from a teenage male and another person of undetermined age or sex. They will be reinterred at the site.

The government-run Carlisle Indian Industrial School, founded by an Army officer, took drastic steps to separate Native American students from

their culture, including cutting their braids, dressing them in military-style uniforms and punishing them for speaking their native languages. They were forced to adopt European names.

More than 10,000 Native American children were taught there and endured harsh conditions that sometimes led to death from such diseases as tuberculosis.

The exhumations began early Tuesday at the post cemetery on the grounds of the Carlisle Barracks, which today houses the U.S. Army War College.

Seventeen members of the Northern Arapaho tribe, including tribal elders and young people, came to Carlisle to take part in the process. In 2016, the tribe had formally requested the bodies be returned to them.

"The U.S. Army honored its promise to reunite Native American families with their children who died more than 100 years ago at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School," Army National Military Cemeteries Executive Director Karen Durham-Aguilera said in a statement. "We are thankful to the Northern Arapaho families for their patience and collaboration during this process."

# Navy: Only woman in SEAL training pipeline drops out

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The only woman in the Navy SEAL training pipeline has dropped out, a Navy special warfare official confirmed Friday.

The female midshipman voluntarily decided to not continue participating in a summer course that's required of officers who want to be selected for SEAL training, Lt. Cmdr. Mark Walton, a Naval special warfare spokesman, told The Associated Press. The Navy has not released the woman's name, part of a policy against publicly identifying SEALs or candidates for the force.

No other woman has started the long process required to become a Navy SEAL, Walton said.

Another woman has set her sights on becoming a Special Warfare Combatant Crewman, another job that recently opened to women. They often support the

SEALs but also conduct missions of their own using state-of-the-art, high-performance boats. She has started the various evaluations and standard Navy training.

Officials have said it would be premature to speculate when the Navy will

see its first female SEAL or Special Warfare Combatant Crewman.

The entry of women in one of the military's most elite fighting forces is part of ongoing efforts to comply with then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter's directive in

December 2015 to open all military jobs to women, including the most dangerous commando posts.

That decision was formal recognition of the thousands of female servicewomen who fought in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars in recent years.

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Wednesday, Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday, Aug. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, Aug. 18 <sup>th</sup>	
Reptile Man & Kid Zone Scarecrow Contest The Junebugs	Reptile Man & Kid Zone Old Time Fiddlers Talent Show 4-H/FFA Conformation Murray's Wine Tasting	Reptile Man & Kid Zone 4-H/FFA Showmanship Ballet Performance 4-7 yrs. Master Showmanship Adult Showmanship Greased Pig Contest OTPR/NPRA Rodeo Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions	
4-H Food Contest 4-H/FFA Small Animal Showmanship Ice Cream Social 4-H Archery Shoot RDO Tractor Pull Cory Peterson Band	Featuring: Joe Lindsay Nate Bosford	OTPR/NPRA Rodeo Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions	
	<p>OTPR NPRA SLACK</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">Saturday, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Reptile Man &amp; Kid Zone Parade FFA Awards Buyers Luncheon Livestock Auction OTPR/NPRA Rodeo Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">Sunday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup></p> <p>All Exhibits Released Morrow County Rodeo Fair Admission: Ages 8 &amp; Up \$4 daily or \$10 week 7 &amp; under FREE (must be with Adult) Rodeo Admission: 13 &amp; up \$10 7-12 yrs. \$6 6 &amp; under FREE</p>	

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