

June 2006

Teleconnections

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Webster-Calhoun
Cooperative Telephone Association

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Allocation Notices To Be Mailed In June

As a local telephone subscriber, you are automatically a member of Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association. Your cooperative's mission is to provide you with the best possible service at a reasonable cost. Each time you subscribe to one of Webster-Calhoun's services, you are not just becoming a customer; *you are making an investment in a company you and your neighbors actually own!*

What is an "Allocation Notice"?

Anyone who did qualifying business with Webster-Calhoun in 2005 will receive a capital credit allocation notice. This notice shows the total amount of dollars allocated, or set aside, and will be returned to you at a later date. This notice will include the allocated amount for 2005 and amounts from other years not yet retired (2000 – 2004).

Why do I have to wait for the money?

In order to operate the business, capital credits remain with the cooperative for a certain amount of time before they are returned to the members. Rural cooperatives, like any other business, must have some money on hand to provide current operating funds and to invest in facilities. The WCCTA Board of Directors determines the financial condition of the cooperative and resolve if the capital will be retired in full or in part.

My refund amount is more/less than my neighbors – why?

Capital Credit refunds are calculated based on the total amount of patronage each account has done with Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association. For example, how much was billed to you during 2005 for local service, long distance calls, Internet service, and long distance minutes of use (long distance calls you've made and received.)

Basically, if one account did more business with Webster-Calhoun then they'll receive a larger portion of the profits back since they invested more.

June is National Safety Month!

For more information on safety and health issues, visit the National Safety Council's web site at www.nsc.org.

Flag
Day
is
June 14th



**Don't Forget To Call
Your Father And
Wish Him A Happy
Father's Day!!**



Sunday, June 18, 2006

A Foreign Language? R U There?

The popularity and rise in use of instant messaging, Internet chat rooms and text messaging has resulted in the use of a new language tailored to the immediacy and compactness of these new communication media. If you have ever been in a chat room or received an instant message or text message from someone that seemed to be in its own foreign language, you're not alone!

Although more common to teens and young adults, you may be familiar with the basics such as LOL (Laugh Out Loud), C U L8R (See You Later) or even the smiley face ☺. Here are a few challenges for you to decipher:

TXT: DUHBoutTSlowTmatoSauce?
ItCldntKtchup!

*Did you hear about the slow tomato
sauce?
It couldn't ketchup!*

TXT: WotGtsWeTrTMorItDris?
ATw!

*What gets wet the more it dries?
A towel!*

TXT: DUHTQiksndJk?
ItLTakSomTim2SinkIn!

*Did you hear the quicksand joke?
It'll take some time to sink in!*

School's Out! Are The Kids Enjoying Summer Vacation At Home?

Get **Caller ID** if you want children to only answer phone calls from people they know!

Is it frustrating to get a busy signal every time you call home to check in? Don't worry about the kids being on the computer with **High Speed DSL Internet or a 2nd Line!**



IUB High Speed Survey Results Show that Higher Percentage of Rural Communities Have High Speed Access than non-Rural Communities.

A recent Iowa Utilities Board report confirmed what we have known for the past couple of years – the “digital divide” favors rural Iowans over their non-rural counterparts.

According to the report, “Assessing High-Speed Internet Access in the State of Iowa: Fifth Assessment,” the IUB found that 95% of rural communities have at least one type of high-speed internet, compared to 84% of non-rural communities. The survey measured high speed internet provided by local exchange carriers (LECs) like WCCTA, cable companies and high speed/satellite providers as of January 2006.

The report also found that Iowa now ranks first in the nation when it comes to the number of providers of high-speed lines, attributing this to the large number of smaller ILECs in Iowa compared to other states. The IUB's survey showed there were 194 ILECs and CLECs, 18 cable companies and 21 wireless or satellite companies that provide some form of high-speed Internet technology in the state of Iowa.

The report found that competition in provisioning high-speed Internet services is increasing in both rural and non-rural communities, with 560 rural communities having 2 or more high-speed providers.

The IUB defines high-speed technology as 200+ kilobits per second (Kbps), consistent with the FCC's definition of high-speed Internet access. The report found that nearly 50% of non-rural customers subscribe to service with download speeds of 1-4.99 Mbps, while 71 % of rural customers subscribed to services with download speeds of 200-512 Kbps.

Of the 1,231 Iowa communities represented in the assessment, 963 of the communities are identified as rural -- those with less than 2,500 inhabitants that are not served by an urban exchange. The IUB praised the high response rate to the survey, pointing out that 100% of LECs responded to the survey.

Note: Webster-Calhoun is capable of providing high speed Internet to 100% of 11 out of 16 exchanges regardless of whether they are rural customers or within city limits. Construction is currently progressing on the remaining communities.