

January 2006

# Teleconnections

Published by:



**Webster-Calhoun**  
Cooperative Telephone Association

1106 Beek Street, PO Box 475, Gowrie, Iowa 50543 ★ Phone: 515-352-3151 ★ www.wccta.com ★ www.wccta.net

**High School Seniors** interested in scholarship opportunities may want to check with their school's Guidance Counselor or check out the Foundation for Rural Service web site at [www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org).

Should a student from our service area be selected to receive one of 25 national scholarships (\$2,000 each) WCCTA will make a \$500 matching contribution to the scholarship. Each application must come from a student living in the Webster-Calhoun serving area and bear the signature of the WCCTA General Manager, Daryl Carlson, to be eligible. Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

## Automatic Call Back

Even in the age of so much technology, there are times when you dial a number and get a busy signal. Perhaps you continue to hit redial every time you walk by the phone, which continues to result in a busy signal. (Obviously they don't have voicemail from WCCTA which takes your message even when their line is busy!) Frustrated, you give up or just forget to call again later. You need **Automatic Call Back!!**

Although you have no control over the other person's line, you can make your life easier. After you have dialed a number and received a busy signal, simply hang up the receiver then pick it up again. When you hear the dial tone, dial \*66. The system will keep track of that line. If the line becomes free within 30 minutes, your phone will ring a distinctive ring. When you pick up the receiver, that person is automatically called back.

You have to be a subscriber to this feature before you can start using it. Contact our office at 352-3151 and ask for **Automatic Call Back** to be added to your account. It's only \$1.00 per month and there is no installation charge.

Mark your calendar for the 2006  
**Annual Meeting of Members:**

Modern Day Pioneers on March 14<sup>th</sup>  
at the Prairie Valley High School  
Gymnasium in Gowrie.



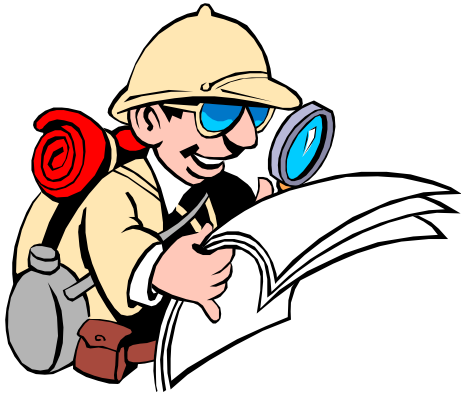
**Webster - Calhoun  
Cooperative  
Telephone Association**

## Board Member Nominating Committee

will meet Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00  
a.m. at the main office in Gowrie.

Election for board positions for  
Badger, Gowrie, Knierim, Pilot Mound  
and Vincent will be held at the Annual  
Meeting of Members in March.

Please contact the General Manager,  
Daryl Carlson, at  
352-3151 for more information.



Have you heard the news? High Speed Internet is available to **EVERYONE** in **Gowrie, Paton, Churdan, Farnhamville, Duncombe and Clare!!** That means whether you live in town or out in the country, blocks from our central office in town or miles away, you can enjoy high-speed DSL Internet from WCCTA! Visit our web site at [www.wccta.net](http://www.wccta.net), choose products and services, then click on DSL for an application or contact our office at 352-3151 for more information.

## Frequently Asked Customer Questions By the Foundation for Rural Service

How is wireless coverage set up, and how does roaming work? If I'm in my service area, why are there dropped calls and dead spots?

**Be sure to update your  
Verizon Wireless phone every  
month or so by dialing  
\*228 Send.**

The area where you make and receive wireless calls is determined by where your carrier has a license and where it has built out its network. You should have a "coverage" map of the geographic area served by your wireless carrier. When you travel beyond your area, you may still be able to use your wireless service—provided by the carrier in the area where you are traveling. This is called roaming. Even if a wireless carrier has not constructed towers and built out its network, roaming can allow its customers to be able to use another carrier's network. If your wireless carrier has a "roaming agreement" with another carrier and if your wireless phone allows roaming, you can connect with the other network to use your wireless service (roaming fees generally depend on the subscribed calling plan.)

Even within your coverage area, limitations in facilities and capacity sometimes can cause problems in call completion. If the carrier's network fails to hand off call in progress as a customer travels from one coverage area to another, a "dropped call" results. Too many callers using the network at the same time can strain capacity, so others will get a busy signal when they try to connect. Terrain also affects coverage causing "dead" spots – areas where service may not be available because the signal between the handset and the tower is blocked or impeded.

Coverage is also affected by the type of wireless phone you have. Handsets can be single-mode; i.e., connect to either an analog or digital network, but not both, or dual-mode; i.e., work with both analog and digital. Obviously, the more networks your handset can connect with, the broader your coverage.

### **It Is, But It Isn't...**

**FACT:** Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association is part owner of RSA 10 (Wireless Rural Serving Area) which owns the license for wireless coverage in the Webster, Hamilton, Humboldt, Wright, Boone, and Story counties. Although it **looks** like a Verizon Wireless coverage area, the RSA 10 partnership utilizes Verizon Wireless to **manage** this coverage area.