

Happy Holidays!

NEWSLETTER

Teleconnections

December 2022

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ICA Legislative Roundtable

On Thursday, October 6th, 2022, Webster-Calhoun hosted one of several legislative roundtables held around the state by the Iowa Communications Alliance (ICA). It was a great opportunity for ICA member companies to discuss the benefits of fiber, grant funding, and mapping challenges directly with state and federal legislators. Attendees included Senator Tim Kraayenbrink and Representative Mike Sexton.

Nominating Committee

The Board Member Nominating Committee meeting for 2023 will be held on Thursday, January 5th, 2023, at 11:00AM at the WCCTA office. Contact Daryl Carlson, General Manager, at (515) 352-3151 for more information.



Pick It Bowl Challenge

College football bowl season is here, and we are inviting you to play in this FREE online football contest. Simply make your picks between Dec 4th – 11th for the upcoming college football bowl games and see how you compare with others in the community. It's easy to enter, free to play, and all participants have a chance to win one of several great prizes. Get started today and be one step closer to winning! Sign up and make your picks here: <https://wccta.pickitchallenge.com/>

Holiday Office Hours

Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association will be closed for the Holidays on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th so our employees can enjoy time with family. As always if you need immediate assistance outside regular business hours, please contact support at:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Telephone Technical Support | (515) 352-5000 |
| Internet Technical Support | (515) 352-7000 |
| WCDTV Technical Support | (515) 352-4000 |
| Tech Home Support | (877) 373-3320 |
| Iowa One Call | 811 |



A Program of:
NTA THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION



WCCTA Supports SMCH Renovations

On Wednesday, November 9th, 2022, Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association (WCCTA) awarded grant funds to Stewart Memorial Community Hospital (SMCH) in support of their Putting People First campaign. A \$31 million expansion and renovation project, Putting People First, aims to enhance the overall patient experience, broaden available healthcare services, recruit and retain the best medical staff, and be a catalyst for economic development. WCCTA's contribution of \$5,000 was matched through Aureon's Ripple Effect grant program for a total gift of \$10,000. Developed through a partnership alliance between Aureon and Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), the Ripple Effect program helps Independent Telecommunication Companies, and the communities they serve, become catalysts for advancing the economic health and vitality of rural Iowa.



Stewart Memorial Community Hospital has been serving the community since it opened its doors in 1962. The last significant construction project for the facility was 30 years ago. The board of trustees and the administration identified three areas of concern: safety, efficiency, and privacy/confidentiality. The Putting People First campaign was developed to address these issues by expanding the Emergency and Physical Therapy departments, and therefore the hospital's capacity to serve the community. Once the project is completed, the ER and rehab services department will be three times larger than the previous space, and each will have private rooms or treatment rooms. The new ER location will be closer to the patient wing, increasing availability and efficiency for nursing staff. There will also be a new main entrance, a new emergency entrance and a dedicated helipad to increase the efficiency of emergency traffic flow.

Tis' the Season for...Holiday Scams

You should always be cautious of any amazing deals that are too good to be true, especially as we approach the holiday season. Every year, thousands of people become victims of holiday scams. The two most common forms of these holiday scams are non-delivery and non-payment.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when you are doing your holiday shopping:

1. Be aware of phishing scams and sudden requests to change account information.
2. Always shop from a trusted retailer's website or shop your local area shops!
3. Be careful how you pay for items and if a seller requests you buy gift cards and send them the information – do not comply!
4. Monitor your items' shipping progress with tracking numbers.
5. Make sure you bring packages inside quickly after they are delivered to your home – porch pirates are still an active problem in some communities.

<https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/holiday-scams>