



**Webster-Calhoun**  
Cooperative Telephone Association

# Connections

March 2024

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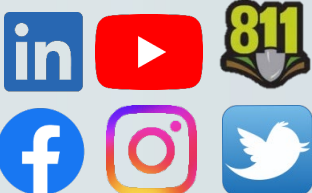
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## Low-Income Assistance Programs

**Lifeline** is a federal program dedicated to making phone and internet service more affordable for low-income households. This benefit provides eligible consumers with a monthly discount of up to \$9.25 for Internet service OR up to \$5.25 for Home Phone service. Webster-Calhoun is a provider for Home Phone and Internet Service.

Learn more about Lifeline: <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/get-started/>

**Important Notice Regarding The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP):** The program has stopped accepting new applications and enrollments effective Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is due to lack of additional funding from Congress. If you are already receiving this benefit before the final enrollment date, you will continue to receive the benefit through the end of the program. The funding for the program is projected to run through April 2024, but this date may change.

Read more about ACP ending: <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>

## Annual Meeting & Returning Mail Ballots

The Annual Meeting is planned for Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Southeast Valley Gymnasium at 7PM. Donuts will be back!

Mail ballots were sent out in February, please allow plenty of time for the U.S. Postal Service to return your mail ballot to our office. Returning the mail ballot will qualify you for the chance to win a 55" Smart TV in each of the 3 voting districts! A grand prize 65" Smart TV will also be given away at the meeting.

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**Annual Meeting of Members**

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 • 7:00pm

SVHS Gymnasium

# WCCTA TV Rate Changes Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>

As was announced in the February newsletter, TV rate changes will take effect this month. If you look closely at your monthly invoice, your television package is split into two separate lines, retransmission fees and the television package itself, which then equals the new rate when added together. This may be confusing when you're reviewing your bill, but the two amounts combined is the amount you pay each month for the Television package (rented equipment and taxes/fees are separate charges).

## Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, TV rates will be:

**Lite: \$46.95** (increase of \$5.00 from previous rate)

**Standard: \$113.95** (increase of \$15.00 from previous rate)

**Ultimate: \$133.95** (increase of \$15.00 from previous rate)

*Retransmission fees and the TV package price are separate line items on your monthly invoice. Refer to the charge detail section of your monthly invoice for more information.*

## Pick-It March Mania!

Webster-Calhoun is happy to announce our Pick-It March Mania contest for 2024 has returned! Have fun with this college basketball contest for our local communities and enter to win prizes!

Pre-register for the contest at: <https://wccta.pickitchallenge.com>

Your bracket will be available to complete after Selection Sunday, March 17th, when the NCAA announces which teams will be participating in the tournament. You will be able to change your picks up until five minutes before the first game of the tournament. No one may submit a bracket after that deadline has passed.



## Rural Fort Dodge Expansion

This Spring, work will continue with construction crews burying, splicing, and testing fiber as Webster-Calhoun expands further into the rural Fort Dodge area (not within the city of Fort Dodge).

Webster-Calhoun was awarded two separate grants from the State of Iowa to help fund parts of this project.

When completed the expansion will provide fiber service to an additional 700 locations.

