

Technology Department December Board Report

Winter Break Plans

We are planning some minor outages over the holiday break to perform some server upgrades, a possible wireless firmware upgrade and a few other items that are better done when we don't have many users on the network.

E-Rate

Work continues to submit our Form 470's to USAC/E-rate in the upcoming filing season. Not much new to report as we will apply for our internet and WAN connections under Category 1 which subsidizes 90% of our monthly internet bandwidth costs. We have been with Access Montana for internet for 4 years and under e-rate rules our internet service is required to be advertised for bidding to make sure we are getting the best rates/services for our and the taxpayers money. The only 2 contenders we are aware of to supply those services will be Access Montana continuing our current service and 3 Rivers as they now offer 500 Mbps and 1 Gbps services that were not available when this was last bid out.

The final plans are being drawn up for network upgrades. These should be finalized in the next two weeks.