

LOCAL / REGIONAL

EPB Fiber Optics notifies subscribers of TV rate increase

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn (Feb. 18, 2022) – As TV content providers continue to drive up rates, the cost of subscriptions from TV distributors is going up across the nation including here in Chattanooga. While passing along price increases it cannot absorb, EPB Fiber Optics also announced its continuing commitment to helping customers find their best TV value whether that means switching to the latest EPB Fi TV without set top boxes, subscribing to TV streaming services or a combination of both.

Effective April 1, the price of EPB Fi TV packages will increase by \$2 for Bronze Channels, \$4 for Silver Channels and \$5 for Gold Channels. This is an average increase of 2.9% per customer. The increase does not impact pricing for any other services. Unlike some providers, the price for EPB Fi-Speed Internet remains the same—without increases since EPB launched the service in 2009. Pricing also remains the same for premium channels, equipment rentals and Fi Phone. Bundle discounts for taking two or more fiber optic services still apply. As always, EPB pricing is simple by design with no contracts, hidden fees, data limits or speed throttling.

“Like traditional TV providers and

some of the streaming services that have recently announced price increases, we’ve seen charges from TV content providers skyrocket each year for more than a decade,” said David Wade, EPB President & CEO. “As in previous years, we’re reducing the impact for our customers as much as possible by ensuring that this increase is just enough to cover the additional costs we must pass along. We’re also standing by to help customers find their best TV value with several options to help them save.”

EPB is offering multiple ways to help customers minimize or avoid the impact of TV rate increases.

Many EPB TV customers can eliminate monthly set top box rental fees while keeping their same channels by switching to the latest EPB Fi TV which offers advanced features like Restart, Replay, On Demand and Unlimited DVR. The latest EPB Fi TV service works with popular streaming devices like Amazon Fire Stick and Apple TV that many customers already own. This service gives customers the flexibility to watch live television and recordings on TVs, tablets or smart phones anytime, anywhere.

EPB customers can also find substantial savings by using EPB MyBun-



dle, a free service that helps them cut the cord and find the content they love using TV streaming services which give people more control and flexibility to subscribe to TV content they want and stop paying for unwanted channels.

Since launching EPB MyBundle, which allows customers to comparison shop streaming services and find their best value, EPB has helped many

customers save hundreds of dollars per year—some save more than \$1,000 annually.

Customers interested in learning more about how EPB can help them find the content they want at the best value are invited to contact EPB’s local, award-winning, anytime customer service at (423) 648-1372 or <http://epb.com/mybundle>.

NESMITH: from front

and promoting healthy mental health initiatives,” she shared.

The DREAM Scholars Program is an experiential learning opportunity for community college students designed to enhance leadership, critical thinking and networking skills.

Nesmith and her cohorts will receive customized programming and extensive networking sessions that align with their future goals. All selected scholars will engage in a learning process that culminates in attending the DREAM 2022 conference.

“I am so proud that Zennia was one of eight students from around the country selected to be a DREAM Scholar,” stated Dr. Rebecca Ashford, Chattanooga State president. “She is the first DREAM Scholar from Chattanooga State, and her selection makes the entire campus community proud. Zennia’s personal story and leadership on campus have inspired all of us who have had the opportunity to work with her. She may be our student, but she has taught us so much.”

STATE: from front

to count three fifths of each Black person in determining political representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Black Chattanooga experience only about 60% of the wellbeing outcomes that White residents enjoy,” Rev. Reid, pastor at Second Missionary Baptist Church, explained. “This three fifths of wellbeing presents a significant verdict on the progress which is lacking for quality of life for Black Chattanooga.”

Citing the report and fighting back tears, Candy Johnson, the Chattanooga Urban League’s first female president and CEO, noted that “no one could tell the truth about Black Chattanooga but Black Chattanooga.”

She continued, “The challenges of developing and maintaining an equitable environment for Black Chattanooga are many, varied and real. The quality of life experienced by Blacks and Whites in Chattanooga differs widely from one

another in terms of economics, workforce, health, education, civic life and many other areas.”

Highlights of the “State of Black Chattanooga” include: Black Chattanooga mortgage applicants are denied (27%) almost 108% more often for conventional mortgage loans compared to White applicants (13%); median Black family income is around half of White family income; Black Chattanooga have 3 times the mortality rate from diabetes and hypertension compared to White Chattanooga; Black women face a significantly elevated rate of poverty in Chattanooga, triple the overall poverty rate; and looking at the Class of 2020, only 21% of Black students graduating from Hamilton County high schools were deemed as “Ready Graduates,” compared to 53% of White students.

“Chattanooga is not keeping pace with other Tennessee metropolitan areas for the Black population in median income, educational attainment, homeownership and overall quality of life,”

Rev. Reid said.

“Left unaddressed, inequality dampens overall growth and generates a wide range of adverse social consequences. To work toward racial equity, we must work to eliminate policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that perpetuate unfavorable outcomes for the quality of life of Black Chattanooga.”

In response to the “State of Black Chattanooga,” Mayor Kelly said he plans to “address affordable housing,” “jumpstart the local economy” and “focus on early childhood development.”

John Edwards III, Chattanooga News Chronicle founder and president, served on the State of Black Chattanooga Exploratory Committee.

Since 1982, the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga has been an affiliate of the National Urban League, the nation’s largest community-based organization devoted to empowering African Americans and other underserved individuals to enter the economic and social mainstream.

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