



Lifeline Program helps some residents pay for internet, phone service

The Iowa Utilities Board is spreading the word about the federal Lifeline Program which helps low-income residents of the state pay for communications services. Eligibility for the program is based on income and you should check to see if you qualify.

Connect Your State to the First Nationwide Broadband Network for EMS

Strong benefit for first responders to have priority use of broadband.

The 1996 EMS Agenda for the Future and the 2004 Rural and Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future finally allowed us to rethink the role of EMS in the overall healthcare system. They made the case for EMS involvement in meeting a community's primary and preventive healthcare needs where other resources couldn't. Concepts such as mobile integrated healthcare and community paramedicine (MIH-CP) and EMS 3.0 system building are the foundation of that initiative.

Senators to offer bipartisan amendment boosting cyber scholarships

A bipartisan pair of senators is introducing an amendment to annual defense policy legislation aimed at expanding an existing federal cybersecurity scholarship program.

The Case for Online Learning

Online learning provides flexibility in how people learn new information.

Online learning has been a part of higher education since the late 1990s. As the Internet improved, so did the opportunity to move from point-to-point video-conference delivery of instruction to asynchronous online learning. A recent survey of college and university deans reported that 90 percent of respondents indicated their campus would be increasing online offerings over the next decade. In 2016, more than 21 million people attended a U.S. college, and one-fourth of those were taking an online course.

Ransomware defense depends on product upgrades, patches

Strong cybersecurity to degrade/mitigate threat.

While thousands of computers across the globe were infected with WannaCry in May, intelligence officials believe U.S. government systems were not compromised the way institutions in Europe were because U.S. agencies patched software and retired products at the end of their lifecycles.

Patients and families save time and money with telemedicine visits

Telehealth provides a flexible way to get care.

Patients and families who use telemedicine for sports medicine appointments saved an average of \$50 in travel costs and 51 minutes in waiting and visit time, according to a new study by Nemours Children's Health System. Each telemedicine visit also saved the health system an average of \$24 per patient, researchers reported at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference & Exhibition.

SANDY Act passes US Senate

Strong bill will help speed up comm infrastructure repairs following natural disasters.

The Secure Access to Networks in Disasters (SANDY) Act passed the Senate. The bill will help speed up communications infrastructure repairs following natural disasters. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), who first sponsored the bill in 2015 following Hurricane Sandy, said he was confident the bill would pass the House quickly.

FCC chairman outlines steps to encourage mobile broadband deployment

Revised net neutrality rules, opening up spectrum

Addressing an audience of wireless industry leaders hungry to capture the revenue potential of 5G networks, US Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai laid out the ways he thinks government can grease the wheels for greater mobile broadband deployment, including a revised policy on net neutrality.

How is 5G actually going to work?

Insights into how the industry is steadily advancing.

If you've been wondering at what stage all of this new technology is at and just how far away we still are from 5G, 5G Americas, an industry trade association and voice of 5G and LTE for the Americas, has recently published a paper looking specifically at how the industry is steadily advancing.

Back to school, back to the problem of rural broadband parity

Prosperity gap among our rural and urban communities.

As students return to school, we are all reminded of the challenges created by gaps in broadband access in Maryland's rural areas and beyond. The issue is not only important as we try to educate our students and future workforce but as we try to close the prosperity gap among our rural and urban communities.

ACEP Frontline Podcast features FirstNet, Highlights Network's Ability to Help Improve Patient Care

Strong emergency communications.

FirstNet Board member Kevin McGinnis and FirstNet Senior EMS Advisor, Brent Williams, sat down with Dr. Ryan Stanton, producer of the American College of Emergency Physician's (ACEP) podcast "Frontline" to discuss the role the FirstNet network will play advancing emergency communications for emergency physicians and technicians.

In wake of Equifax breach, government shines light on entire industry

Government agencies have contacted Equifax's largest competitors to learn more about the potential for cyberattacks on the credit monitoring industry as a whole, a senior federal official told CyberScoop.

Speedtest's 2017 Report Ranks the Fastest Fixed Broadband Service Providers In The US

Download speed 17% average increase.

Speedtest's 2017 report on internet access speeds in the US provides a more detailed analysis of fixed broadband service providers than the report it issued last year. Not only are service providers ranked using a more sophisticated metric, but Speedtest provides insight on how successful the providers are in giving their customers a minimum level of acceptable service, regional differences among providers, and more.

The 'Internet of Things' comes to rural America

The IoT can connect nearly all aspects of farm operation.

IoT is short for Internet of Things. The term refers to the network of physical objects — or things — that feature an Internet Provider (IP) address for connectivity and the communication that occurs between those things and other Internet-enabled devices and systems. You can add agriculture to that list, as well. Actually, many producers have been tied into IoT systems for some time now.

Pediatric Health System Uses Telehealth to Help Patients During Hurricane Irma

Strong broadband for telehealth.

Anticipating the upheaval that tropical storm Irma would bring to Floridians, Nemours Children's Health System is using telehealth to provide pediatric care for any patient in the state who needs it.

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An initiative by the Iowa Communications Network, [400 East 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319](https://www.icn.org)