A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)

Expanded VA Clinic ready to serve

The clinic will continue to move forward with telehealth, providing real-time access to a provider.

Source: Ottumwa Courier

Healthcare

What Patients Like — and Dislike — About Telemedicine
A survey of more than one million patients found that while patients appreciate the convenience, there is enormous room for improvement in the processes of telemedicine.
Source: Harvard Business Review

Telehealth seen as way for farmers to access needed mental health assistance
Along with farmer-specific helplines, farmers across the country can now seek help for mental stress through virtual counseling and online training.
Source: AG Week

Tracking Telehealth Changes State-by-State in Response to COVID-19
Developed a federal and comprehensive 50-state tracker for policy, regulatory and legal changes related to telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic
Source: JD Supra

Education

The Digital Divide and Homework Gap in Your State
This report details the digital divide in each state and provides policy recommendations.
Source: National Education Association

5 Questions Your Cybersecurity Assessment Must Answer
A thorough outside assessment is a critical step in any security strategy. Here's what every K–12 IT leader should learn from one.
Source: EdTech Magazine

Full STEAM Ahead
New kits help hone skills, innovation.
Source: Messenger News

[COVID-19 and the Digital Divide in Virtual Learning, Fall 2020](#)
This report indicates improved access to computers and the internet during the Fall school term, but confirms a continuing and persistent digital divide.
Source: UCLA

[Iowa City among Iowa school districts planning to replace snow days with 'virtual learning days'](#)
Online learning options put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic may mean the end of snow days
Source: Iowa City Press-Citizen

Government

[2020 in Review: The Gov Tech World Turned Upside Down](#)
A look back on the year that was and the complex ways the COVID-19 pandemic impacted everything from policing and civic tech to infrastructure and telework.
Source: Government Technology

[States Prioritized Broadband as COVID-19 Took Hold](#)
As COVID-19 forced droves of Americans to work and learn from home in 2020, the importance of reliable high-speed Internet highlighted the digital divide.
Source: Government Technology

Public Safety

[FBI Switches Remaining Operations from Verizon to FirstNet](#)
FirstNet was intended to be a nationwide, high-speed broadband network exclusively for first responders — one that wouldn't become overwhelmed with traffic in a large-scale crisis, such as a terrorist attack or natural disaster.
Source: Government Technology

[Understanding how FirstNet supports PSAPs and ECCs](#)
How FirstNet supports public safety answering points (PSAPs) and emergency communication centers (ECCs) in everyday operations—and how PSAPs and ECCs are shaping the future of the network.
Source: FirstNet

[Kansas's FirstNet Network Expands, Boosts Capabilities](#)
Kansas' first responders are getting a major boost in their wireless communications with the addition of new, purpose-built FirstNet cell sites and other network enhancements.
Source: Market Screener

Cybersecurity

[Top 4 security trends to watch for 2021](#)
CSO has been following four key trends to project how they might play out in 2021. All have been driven or influenced by the pandemic, which will have a long-lasting impact.
Source: CSO Online

[How to protect yourself from holiday scams](#)
Tips for avoiding scams online during the holidays: look out for false websites, phishing scams that look like tracking links, and tampered gift cards.
Source: Today

[Ransomware prevention: An update for businesses](#)
Ransomware isn't new. What is different is that industry sources report a major surge in the number of ransomware attacks in 2020.

Source: FTC

[Congress Passes The Internet Of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act](#)
Ensure the highest level of cybersecurity at federal agencies by working collaboratively within government, industry and academia.
Source: JD Supra

[Google Reveals Top Searches of 2020](#)
Google's annual list of top trending search terms shows what the world turned to Google for during one of the most historic years on record.
Source: Search Engine Journal

Broadband / Digital Divide

[FCC awards over $140 Million to Iowa Broadband Providers](#)
The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction is a federal program focusing on bringing broadband to 10 million Americans.
Source: Siouxland Proud

[TV White Space Revolution](#)
The FCC amended its rules regarding TV white spaces in late October to increase the maximum permissible power and antenna height of equipment so Wi-Fi signals embedded in unused over-the-air TV channels can be transmitted farther.
Source: Progressive Farmer

[America Needs More Open-Access, Middle-Mile Networks](#)
Economically, the idea is to encourage fair competition and reduce costs for companies so that credible business plans can be made for connecting unserved areas.
Source: Government Technology

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network
providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting [services](#) to
Iowa's healthcare, education, government, and public safety sectors.