Bringing a high-speed network to rural Iowa

One of first rural electric cooperatives in the country to offer fiber.

Eighty years ago, the rise of rural electric cooperatives changed the everyday lives of Iowans by bringing electricity to the farm. Today, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) is drawing on that same spirit of innovation as we bring state-of-the-art technology to our members. MVlink, a service of MVEC, is a high-speed fiber optic communications network that is breaching the tech frontier for our rural customers.

Five new threats to your mobile device security

Be cyber strong by being aware of these threats.

A decade ago, mobile malware was considered a new and unlikely threat. Many mobile device users even considered themselves immune from such threats. Fast forward to 2017, and more than 1.5 million new incidents of mobile malware have been detected by McAfee Labs in the first quarter of the year alone – for a total of more than 16 million mobile malware incidents.

10 Critical Steps to Create a Culture of Cybersecurity

Protect yourself: 90% of businesses experienced a cyber attack.

Despite constant headlines about cyber attacks, organizations continue to leave their systems and data unnecessarily vulnerable. According to Kaspersky Labs and the Ponemon Institute, 90% of businesses have experienced a cyber attack, with an average cost per breach of $3.6 million. Ponemon estimates that 27.7% of organizations surveyed will likely suffer another material breach within the next two years.

FirstNet Becoming a Reality as the Number of States Opting in Grows to Seven

FirstNet and AT&T deploy, operate, maintain the network.

The summer of 2017 may well be remembered as the time when the nation's broadband first responder network stopped being just an idea and started to become a reality.

Iowa cybersecurity company sees need for regulation to protect privacy

Strong training for cybersecurity.

The Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training program was created by lawmakers to increase worker productivity and help in new job creation. Hopes for the federal government to make similar resources available so firms like his can meet the needs of businesses, manufacturers, food distributors, health care providers and schools in the rapidly evolving world of cybersecurity.

Two U.S. lawmakers think the government has a new cybersecurity problem: The Internet of Things

When hackers took aim at the internet's backbone last year, impeding access to websites like Twitter and Spotify, they did so by weaponizing the Internet of Things. The resulting denial-of-service attack was limited and short-lived, in the end, but cybersecurity fears about IoT remain prevalent — and a group of lawmakers in Congress is now getting to work to ensure the U.S. government raises its own digital defenses in response.

Hospitals Face Growing Cybersecurity Threats

Strong security of digital health data is needed.

In the neonatal intensive care unit of Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, a father is rocking a baby attached to a heart monitor. While doctors roam the halls trying to prevent infections, Chief Information Officer Theresa Meadows is worried about another kind of virus. "The last thing anybody wants to happen in their organization is have all their heart monitors disabled or all of their IV pumps that provide medication to a patient disabled," Meadows says.

Alec Ross: How Iowa can benefit from technological change

Need strong high-speed, low-cost broadband.

Iowa will need to invest in education to withstand the next 20 years of technological change, innovation expert Alec Ross told The Gazette. A former senior adviser for innovation with the State Department, Ross will keynote The Gazette's September Iowa Ideas conference in downtown Cedar Rapids.

IoT is everywhere

The Internet of Things is changing everything. Here's a sampling of use cases, including a few you may not know of yet.

NG911 to Revolutionize Public Safety Capabilities as Next-gen Stakeholders Accelerate Market Growth

85% of 911 calls originated from mobile devices in 2016.

Next-generation 911 (NG11) represents an industry transformation that will proactively enhance public safety by catering to rapidly evolving demands, products, lifestyles, and technologies among citizens. Frost & Sullivan research indicates that approximately 85 percent of 911 calls originated from mobile devices in 2016, a statistic that is only expected to increase in coming years.

Indianola expands fiber network to more homes

72 miles of fiber can provide gigabit internet to homes & businesses.

Indianola will launch a new ultra-fast internet network in 2018. The $12.3 million project calls for 72 miles of underground fiber capable of providing gigabit internet speeds to homes and businesses.

Indy Doctor, Styx Using New Hearing Aid Technology For World-Wide Event

Strong internet-connected hearing aid.

On Aug. 22, legendary rock band Styx will play the final show of their summer tour at a New Jersey venue, during the world's first ever rock concert that will be broadcast directly to those wearing the Oticon Opn hearing aid.

Wifi is key to connecting rural America to new opportunities

Rural U.S. lags behind the world in broadband access.

Recently, Microsoft president Brad Smith presented the company's plan to bridge the "Rural Broadband Gap." It's kind of a big deal. As big a deal as when kids raised in the country didn't get the same education as town kids. You might think that is a story from long ago, but you'd be wrong. It's a present-day problem. Rural America is lagging behind the world in broadband access, and that's unacceptable.

Technologies Behind 911 Have Advanced for Broadband Era, But Not Far and Fast Enough

Hope to stream videos to 911.

Even though People are now streaming emergencies on Facebook, but there is not yet a way to stream videos to 911, said Patrick Halley, executive director of the NG911 Institute, on Capitol Hill on July 17.

Don't just fear the power grid hack. Fear how little the US knows about it

The robust and aggressive takedown of part of Ukraine's power grid by hackers served as a wakeup call for cyber experts and exposed just how much America does not know about foreign operatives' ability to strike critical U.S. infrastructure.

N.Y. Gov. Andrew Cuomo approves $103M to boost tech, connectivity in schools

High-speed broadband, classroom technology and security resources.

The goal of the Smart Schools Investment Plans is boosting high-speed broadband, classroom technology and security resources.