Text-to-911 now ready in Linn and Johnson counties

Residents throughout Linn and Johnson counties are now able to notify emergency responders via text message rather than only by phone. However, authorities said that phone calls always are the preferred option when possible. "Call if you can, text if you can't," said Charlie McClintock, Cedar Rapids's 911 director.

Openreach uses drones to boost broadband speeds in hard-to-reach areas

The valley location around the village of Pontfadog proved to be unsuitable for traditional methods of connecting homes, such as erecting cabinets and digging trenches. However, Openreach came up with the idea of attaching a drone to a high-strength fishing line, so it could fly it over the top of the forest canopy without any obstructions. This could then be hooked up to a draw rope, which Openreach could use to pull the fibre cable along a path towards people's homes.

Three Simple And Effective Ways To Stay Ahead Of Cybersecurity Challenges

The investments made in mitigating risk are not to help IF but rather WHEN your organization encounters a breach.

No company is immune from the threat of a security breach. Attempting to prevent breaches is no longer enough. Companies must also insure against cybersecurity risks, leverage data analytics to reduce the frequency and severity of loss and examine all system integrations and parties, including employees, with access to their technology.

Three ways employees will benefit from digital transformation in 2018

Using strong, flexible and fast broadband to augment work, utilize data and encourage creativity.

Business is no longer as usual. New technologies in the workplace, like machine learning and augmented reality, create opportunities for companies to enhance employee productivity. An analyst at Constellation Research, Inc. discusses three key areas where technology will impact work as we know it.

Data Points: Providers weigh telemedicine benefits

76% of organizations surveyed currently offer or are planning to offer flexible telemedicine services.

Telemedicine has been growing in popularity, with more and more health systems offering virtual visits as a way to provide healthcare more conveniently and at a lower cost. But a study earlier this year found that telehealth may not actually save money, and providers have been stymied by limited reimbursement for virtual care.

Virtual reality workforce: First Innovation Academy graduates demonstrate new skills

The first graduates to learn to create content and software for VR & AR.

As the world becomes increasingly more digital, the use of virtual reality and augmented reality technologies will become commonplace in tomorrow's workplace. And 13 students at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges demonstrated Friday that they have the skills to put the futuristic technologies into use today.

The Paperless School of the Future Is Here Now!

Computer networks and Internet resources are helping teachers cut down on paper use.

Teachers can keep grades and attendance online and use texts that are available at no cost. How are these experiments going? Is the "paperless classroom" just around the corner? Included: Education World writer Ryan Francis's look at three classrooms that are trying to go paperless!

Coding at speed of light: Multi-state hackathon demonstrates power of fiber

Wilson, N.C. is one of a handful in the nation to offer gigabit upload and download speeds to every resident.

As technology and legal scholar Susan Crawford told the audience at the Gig East conference recently, cities will be following Wilson's example as they look to build out high-speed fiber broadband networks across their communities. That's because the city is one of only a handful in the nation currently able to offer gigabit upload and download speeds to every residential and commercial customer.

How To Defend Against Bad Rabbit And Other Ransomware Threats

Ransomware now ranks among the most common and worrisome security threats.

Recent research has shown that ransomware — malicious software that infects systems and restricts access to data until those data are unlocked — now ranks among the most common and worrisome security threats, along with distributed denial of service (DDoS) and attacks related to the internet of things (IoT).

Year in Review: 2017 from A to Z

FirstNet, artificial intelligence, digital driver's licenses, and more.

This look back at 2017 is based on the site analytics for Govtech.com that tell us which stories got the most traction with readers. From artificial intelligence implementations moving from concept to reality, to zero waste programs indexing trash using tech, here's a look back at the stories you spent the most time with this year.

Accessing Mobile Devices for Blind

Application Allows User to Interact With Smartphone or Tablet.

Accessing Mobile Devices for Blind would enable blind or severely sight-impaired persons to enjoy a variety of apps and programs on their smartphones or tablets, by equipping these with a series of Braille-based, adhesive-backed films which adhere to the phone or tablet's screen. These films or overlays will correspond to the screen selections of the app, thus enabling the visually impaired to more easily interact with many various applications.

Purdue Uses IoT to Reinvent Farming, Boost Output

Using advanced IoT sensors to study & improve plant growth and food production processes.

Digital agriculture harnesses the Internet of Things and wireless to revolutionize farming and increase food production for exploding population.

AT&T: Fixed Broadband Has Returned to Growth and Has 50 Million Locations in Sight

Striving for strong, flexible, fast broadband.

The latest evidence about how serious AT&T is getting about deploying high-speed broadband came from the company's CFO John Stephens yesterday. Stephens told attendees at a financial conference that the company has a long-term goal of making AT&T high speed broadband available to 50 million locations without increasing capex above 15%.

Metro School is Taking Advantage of 'Computer Science Education Week'

Strong broadband for education.

Schools across the country are teaching students about Computer Science. December 4th through the 10th is considered National Computer Science Education Week, where K-12 students learn about the field and different careers. Teachers hope early exposure helps students feel prepared when they enter high school and take other science related courses.

Thanks to global warming, this remote Alaska town will have internet

High-speed internet cables are being laid between Tokyo and London.

Receding ice is revealing new passageways that boats can sail through, and a company called Quintillion is using the opportunity to lay down high-speed internet cables with the aim of creating a faster digital connection between Tokyo and London. In the process, it's giving internet access to northern townships. Point Hope, Alaska, is one village benefiting from the endeavor, the New York Times reported.