TCC

2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

In the May newsletter, we inadvertently printed an incomplete list of 2018 Scholarship Winners. Here are the 2018 TCC Scholarship Winners which were announced at our Annual Membership Meeting:

Abagail Palkowski, Abigail Petz, Alex Stevens, Andrew Hanson, Andy Matthews, Anna Bragger, Autumn Bautch, Benjamin Behan, Destin Petersen, Drew Severson, Dustin Knopps, Emilia Hanvold, Ethan Filla, Heidi Ehrat, Hope Siewert, Ian Pfaff, Logan Marsolek, MaKenna Vetsch, Mitchell Thompson, Nolan Martin, Priyank Patel, Ricky Lamp, Sean McRoberts, Tabatha Kolve, and Taylor Weier. Congratulations and thank you to all applicants!

TCC's network was deemed "GIG Certified" by NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association, as being able to deliver Internet speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second (that's 1,000 Mbps!)
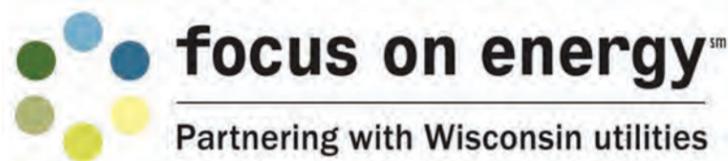
We are the only GIG Certified provider in our area. Being GIG Certified means we have the network to deliver the speed you need for Internet!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Adam Kohnert - I started with TCC as an IT Technician in December of 2014. I work with computers, routers, cable boxes and networking, doing a lot of over-the-phone tech support. I enjoy working in IT (Information Technology) because it is always challenging and I like the fun people I work with. In my free time, I enjoy golfing and traveling.

FOCUS ON ENERGY PROGRAM

TCC has partnered with Focus on Energy to provide energy-saving devices for free or at a reduced rate. Choose from thermostats, smart power strips, and more! Visit http://tccpro.net/gettcc/focusonenergy to get started!

focus on energy℠
Partnering with Wisconsin utilities

SUMMER FUN!

There are a lot of fun events coming up in June including the Chicken Chase, TCC Nights at the Ballpark, Osseo Park Beats, and more! **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** the **TCC Facebook page** (http://www.facebook.com/tricounty.coop) or check with your local community web pages or event calendars to find out what's going on! **TCC is sponsoring two area baseball games in June with FREE Admission, Adult and Kids Prizes, Food/Drinks available and more!!**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6TH - STRUM BALLPARK
BEEF RIVER BULLFROGS VS WHITEHALL WOLVES
GATES OPEN AT 6:30, GAME TIME 7:30

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13TH - OSSEO BALLPARK
OSSEO MERCHANTS VS. EAU CLAIRE CAVALIERS
GATES OPEN AT 6:30, GAME TIME 7:30

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

WWW.TCCPRO.NET 800.831.0610

Strum & Independence Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Galesville Location
Wednesday Noon - 4 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Strum Office
417 5th Ave. N
P.O. Box 578
Strum, WI 54770
715-695-2691

Independence Office
23669 Washington St.
Independence, WI 54747
715-985-3101

SMART RURAL COMMUNITY
www.ntca.org/smart

GIG-CAPABLE PROVIDER
GIG CERTIFIED BY NTCA
THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP
www.TCCPRO.net 800.831.0610

TIPS FOR KEEPING KIDS SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

1. Step into their cyberworld. Experts agree that parents have to get involved. Just as they know every detail of the playground around the corner and who hangs out there-- they need to know their kids' online playground as well. Spend time with your child and let them show you what programs and apps they use, what websites they visit, and how they interact with other users online. Get to know their devices, too, so you know what capabilities they have (cameras, etc.) or don't have.

2. Set house rules. Decide how much time you're comfortable with your children being online and which sites, programs and apps they may or may not access. You might post a short list of these rules or even a signed contract next to the computer. Then talk about the rules, any rewards for keeping them and the consequences for breaking them.

3. Teach them to protect their privacy. While they may not fully understand the consequences of revealing personal information online, you should still make sure your children know:

  * not to open any messages/requests from people they don't know
  * not to respond to hurtful or disturbing messages
  * never to give their name, phone #, email address, password, address,
    school, things they partcipate in, etc. without your permission
  * not to get together with anyone they "meet" online

4. Visibility is the key. Keep the computer/Internet devices in a central spot, where it's easy to monitor use. Kids these days may have phones or tablets, connected wirelessly, so they are not bound to a family room or central location. You may be able to control access through the router (see #7) or by checking the apps and history on the device. You might also wish to monitor your kids' social media accounts by friending/following them.

5. Be their go-to for help. Instruct your child to come straight to you when he or she sees anything that makes them uncomfortable, and assure them that you won't overreact, blame them, or immediately rescind their online privileges.

6. See if your ISP can help. Check with your Internet Provider to see what they have available. TCC's Tech Home Protect package (included with TCC Internet) includes a program called "SecureIT" which has built-in Parental Controls.

7. Your router could help you. Some modems and routers (the device that connects you to your Internet Provider's service) have customizable user access settings that you (or your Internet Provider or local computer person) can set up to allow or restrict access to certain things or at certain times and from certain devices.

8. Set Search Engines to block bad stuff. If you create an account with the search page you use (Google, Yahoo, Bing, etc.) you can set up and even lock parental controls. (But be aware: A savvy child could get around this)

9. Stay in a kid-friendly zone. For beginners as young as 4, consider confining online exploration to web addresses that list child-safe sites on everything from TV, movies, music, and games to world history, science, and trivia. Some quick Google-searching for "kid friendly websites" should help you.

10. Install software to monitor/block web content. You can also download and install filtering software to computers, tablets, and phones to block unwanted content as well. SecureIT, which is included with TCC's Tech Home package, can provide parental controls on desktop and mobile devices. Otherwise, search "parental control software" for ideas.

DID YOU KNOW TCC'S INTERNET ADDS VALUE TO YOUR HOME?

There have been several studies regarding the importance home buyers give to fast Internet access as well as the value that access to fast Internet adds to a home. Families use Internet every day for streaming TV shows and movies, listening to music, online gaming, working from home, doing homework, connecting with friends and family, shopping, home monitoring, and managing the household bills. Internet has become so important in today's society, that it is hard to imagine being without it.

Given that perspective, it is easy to understand several different studies that show access to High-Speed Internet can add as much as 5% to the value of your home and **not** having Internet access can reduce the value of your home! Not only does TCC provide access to High-Speed Internet, with speeds starting at 20 Mbps across our serving area, but in several communities, we can provide Internet service with speeds **in excess of 100 Mbps!!**

So, if you are planning to buy or sell a home --- or know somebody who is --- you may want to consider your access to High-Speed Internet. Make sure you buy in an area with good service and, if selling in an area served by TCC, make sure you leverage the Fast Internet, HD Cable, and Reliable Phone services your location has access to!

[data taken from studies by University of Colorado, Carnegie Melon University, Broadband Now, and real estate professionals]

JA
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Ben from TCC joined many other area business members to spend a day at the Whitehall Elementary/Middle School for Junior Achievement. Topics taught to students included Global Marketing, Personal Finance, Entrepreneurship, and Economics.