TCC

Want Better Signal?

Managed Wi-Fi includes a high-power Gigacenter and a Mesh Wi-Fi Extender!

tccpro.net

IT'S STORM SEASON - MAKE SURE YOUR DEVICES ARE PROTECTED!

When storms hit, make sure your devices are protected. Plug your major electronics into a good surge protector. A surge protector is more than a "power strip." A surge protector has a fuse and a switch to cut power from your devices when it experiences a surge of electrcity.

You can also unplug your electronics from the outlet when there's a storm or if you go away for the weekend when there is the possibility of storms.

DISNEY'S CIRCLE

Would you like to better manage your kids' online usage? Set time limits on certain apps or games? Set "bedtimes" for their devices without affecting yours? Control their access/content even when they are away from home?

There's a solution called Circle & Circle Go by Disney. It's a device and software program designed for parents to create simple but effective means of managing their kids online usage. From setting time limits on specific apps or websites to turning off Internet access altogether at bedtime — even when your kids are at their friends houses!

Most devices have built-in parental controls but they are often hard to understand and configure. They also come across more as "spying" than genuine controls.

Circle with Disney's current product is a small hardware device that connects with your Wi-Fi network and is managed by an accompanying mobile app. Moms and dads can configure various controls to filter searches, websites and app content, set "bedtimes," block ads, view internet usage and other insights, and even "pause" the home's internet for a period of time.

For more information, go to https://meetcircle.com/.

AREA STUDENT RECEIVES FRS TOUR SCHOLARSHIP!

Megan Kohel from Whitehall High School is a recipient of the FRS (Foundation for Rural Service) scholarship for the FRS Tour to Washington D.C.! The FRS Youth Tour brings over 100 students to Washington D.C. to learn about the broadband industry and the legislative and governmental process, visit famous historic sites including the Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, Mount Vernon, and Arlington National Cemetery.

We are happy that one of our local students was awarded a scholarship and we are proud to partner with the FRS to provide funding for the scholarships. We hope you enjoy your week in Washington, Megan!

UPCOMING TCC SUMMER EVENTS

June 8 & 9   Independence Days - Watch for TCC in the evening parade on Saturday!!

July 10   TCC Sponsored Baseball Game: Osseo vs. Augusta. Free admission! Prizes! Great food available for purchase!

July 18 - 21 Trempealeau County Fair - FREE WI-FI on the fairgrounds from TCC; stop by our booth in the Merchants Building and sign up to win prizes!

TCC also plans to sponsor a **Beef River Bullfrogs baseball game** and a **Park Beats** concert in the park in downtown Osseo; dates for these events to be determined. Vist www.tccpro.net for more info!

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

Independence Office
23669 Washington St.
Independence, WI 54747

SMART RURAL COMMUNITY
www.ntca.org/smart

GIG-CAPABLE PROVIDER
GIG CERTIFIED
by NTCA

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

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]

Like TCC
on Facebook to get community news, tech tips, virus and scam warnings, free HBO weekend notices, and other local content. No ads or sales stuff. Just helpful local information.

facebook.com/tricounty.coop

KEEPING YOUR 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.!