# The Communicator

News from your local coop to keep you connected.

# April 2024

### **Your Rural Broadband Specialists**

We understand this community, because we live in this community. Every day, we're thinking how the best broadband services and experiences will enrich the lives of our members. Established in 1959, we've been providing connectivity to the residents and businesses of Spring Grove and the surrounding area for over 65 years. Today,



we're delivering what the bigger brands can not – a **personalized and local** digital connection to everything. We are your Rural Broadband Specialists!

- Call us & speak with a live, local customer experience rep
- Our technicians are never outsourced, they work and live in the surrounding area to serve you faster & with more care
- Just as we've done for 65 years, we'll continue to invest in the future so our town can thrive for generations
- We work to get you what you need to experience the best service every time



Alissa and Jacqui attended the Bluff Country Collaborative (BCC) Career Fair and Hiring Event on March 6th in La Crescent. They spent the day chatting with potential job seekers about the many different career paths within the telecom industry! We are growing quickly and adding to our team-- if you

or someone you know would be a good fit, please apply! You can view our current job openings on our website at yourlocal.coop/employment

# Welcome Ali!

Meet Ali! Ali joined our team in February as an Executive Partner. She was born and raised in SE Minnesota near Rushford. Ali is beyond

thrilled to bring 17 years of experience in finance, executive support, and management to the SGC and MiBB team and to be a part of our local communities. In her spare time, you'll find her with family chasing her two-year old son. Ali loves the summer and fall months, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

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#### The Power of Change Round Up Program

The Power of Change is a voluntary program where members can elect to have their monthly bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. Money collected through this program will be given back to events and projects that contribute to the community and local area. This is a great way to give back! Call our office if you'd like to participate in this program.

#### Closed Captioning Concerns

If you have Closed Captioning concerns on GoTo>TV service, such as unintelligible or missing captions, please contact us.

To report a concern: Call 507-498-3456 or email contactus@sgc-coop.com.

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Spring Grove

Your Local Technology Headquarters 507-498-3456 - contactus@sgc-coop.com - www.yourlocal.coop

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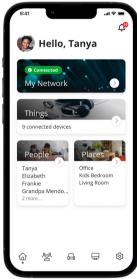
## Why you should declutter your Wi-Fi network

#### Remove old devices from your network:

Older devices with older Wi-Fi technology can slow down your Wi-Fi network because they use outdated, slower Wi-Fi standards that are not optimized for our modern internet speeds. When these old devices are connected to your Wi-Fi, they can use up valuable bandwidth and cause congestion, leading to slower speeds and degraded performance for ALL devices on the network.

Those older devices can also use outdated security protocols, which can make your Wi-Fi network more vulnerable to hacking and cyber-attacks. For example, older devices may only support the WEP or WPA security protocols, which are less secure than the modern WPA2 and WPA3 protocols found on our Gigaspire routers and supported by newer devices. This can put your entire Wi-Fi network at risk and compromise the security of your personal and confidential data.

It's important to remove older devices from your Wi-Fi network if they are no longer in use or are rarely used. The good news is the CommandIQ app will alert you if you have an old device on the network. You can always see what devices are on your network from the 'Things' tab in CommandIQ. If you see an old device, you can remove it from the network with a single swipe. The CommandIQ app is FREE with our Whole Home Wi-Fi routers!





Thank you to Mark Dokken for your many years of service on the Spring Grove Communications Board of Directors! Mark joined the Board in September of 2009 and retired in March. Thank you for your service the past 15 years!

# HAPPY WORKIVERSARY!



**Dustin Myers** 4 years in March



**Cory Tammel** 2 years in March



**Carter Hicks** 1 year in April