

The Communicator

News from your local coop to keep you connected.

May 2024

Protect your devices with our TechShield plans!

Every day the internet is flooded with new threats from all over the world that can infiltrate your devices, corrupt your data and steal your information. TechShield plans give you all of the tools you need to arm yourself against these cyber threats!

Plans include anti-malware, cloud backup, password management plus 24/7/365 premium tech support with TechShield Support.

TechShield - \$8/mo

Protects 5 PCs & 5 Mobile Devices

- Internet security for computers, smartphones & tablets
- Anti-theft for mobile devices
- 50GB cloud backup space keeps your most important files and memories safe
- Convenient password manager to keep online logins safe
- 24/7/365 product support

TechShield Plus - \$12/mo

Protects 5 PCs & 5 Mobile Devices

- Internet security for computers, smartphones & tablets
- Anti-theft for mobile devices
- **250GB cloud backup space keeps your most important files and memories safe**
- Convenient password manager to keep online logins safe
- 24/7/365 product support
- **24/7/365 premium tech support**

Welcome Melissa!

We are excited to have Melissa join our team as an Accounting Manager! Melissa lives in Yucatan Township with her husband, 8 year old daughter, 5 dogs, 4 cats and 2 horses and enjoys rural living. She brings 23 years of telecommunications accounting experience to our team and is excited to become more involved in the Spring Grove community!



Syttende Mai

We hope to see you at the Syttende Mai parade on May 18th! Check out the schedule of events on the other bill insert or online at www.sgsyttendemai.com



Severe Weather Reminder

Storm season will soon be upon us, so we want to remind everyone that Spring Grove Communications requires that our equipment in your home is protected by a surge protector. This includes your router and set top boxes. We highly recommend you protect your own equipment as well, including your TV, desktop computer, laptops and tablets. These devices may be on the counter charging and should be unplugged before the storm or make sure they are plugged into a surge protector. Be sure it truly is a surge protector, rather than merely a power strip. Surge protectors offer a level of protection to your devices against power spikes. On the label, in fine print, you will find 'suppressed voltage rating'.

Your Local Technology Headquarters

507-498-3456 - contactus@sgc-coop.com - www.yourlocal.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Parenting in an online world and how to make it easier

Most parents agree that parenting is a challenge, even under the best circumstances. But with new websites, apps, and other online entertainment and distractions popping up seemingly every day—and kids growing up with devices in their hands, being exposed to more and more of it—parenting in an online world can feel overwhelming. Consider these numbers:

- People Magazine reported on a study that found that 80% of parents think technology has made parenting harder, and 86% of parents think technology has made children grow up faster than before.
- According to a recent Pew Research study, more than half of all parents in the United States are worried about their teenagers seeing explicit content (71%), being distracted from their schoolwork by social media (61%), and other issues like bullying, experiencing anxiety and depression, and wasting time online.
- The COVID-19 pandemic didn't help things, as most children suddenly had more access to screens. In 2021, a study revealed that 82% of parents in the United States were worried about the amount of time their children spent on screens.
- Last year, a British study concluded that parents wanted more controls over the games their kids spent online, with 45% of parents surveyed saying they were worried about the amount of time their children spent gaming.

While there aren't any secret formulas to make parenting easier, there are tools that can help address some major concerns. With our InControl Wi-Fi, there are several ways to use technology to make parenting a little easier (instead of a little harder):

- Limit your kids' access to individual websites and apps. For example, if your children are among the 90–99% of kids in the United States who play video games, you can deny access to certain games, or set time limits or specific times of day that they can be used.
- Set content filters so your children are protected from explicit content. Filters can be applied to any internet-enabled device, including cell phones and Smart TVs.
- If you're one of the 67% of parents who think their child is addicted to social media, you can set limits on social media apps or block certain content on social media.

Parenting is hard work. With InControl Wi-Fi, you can set guardrails around your children's online lives so they aren't forced to grow up too soon, and aren't subject to some of the risks of the online world.

***Ready to take control and steer your Wi-Fi experience?
Give us a call at 507-498-3456 to get started.***

***HAPPY
WORKIVERSARY!***

Shayla Leutink
1 year in May



Office Closed

Our office will be closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. If you have any service outages during this time, please call 507-498-3456 for assistance.