



THE COMMUNICATOR

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Each October, we come together to celebrate the cooperative spirit that helps our communities thrive. We celebrate people like you, our patron members, whose commitment and support make the cooperative model successful.

As a cooperative member, you understand the value of working together for a common purpose. The strength of our communities today is a direct result of the collective efforts of generations of members who invested in rural infrastructure and essential services. Reliable electricity, communications, agricultural support, affordable fuel, and many other resources exist because people chose to work together and invest in their communities.

Your patronage continues that tradition. By supporting the cooperative, you are helping provide opportunities and services that benefit not only your own family, but also your neighbors and future generations. Together, we are strengthening the rural communities we love and helping ensure they remain vibrant places to live, work, and call home. *Happy Cooperative Month!*



OUR PURPOSE: OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILIES

100% our purpose and how we've arrived at the point of enjoying the benefits of fiber internet *has been YOU*—you, your families, neighbors, and friends. A 70-year relationship sparked by a desire to have communications in our rural communities. Thus, creating a cooperative with a mission, a purpose, and belief from others that the job could be done.

Even in the challenging and ever-evolving world of technology, our mission does not waiver, it only strengthens. We are committed to the people in the area and believe in each generation's success.



FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES

Great service, unmatched, local customer support, and competitive prices are all elements of the financial advantages that are key values of being part of a cooperative.

The Cooperative is driven by the needs of its patron members, not by profit. Any surplus is reinvested into the Cooperative and/or distributed to patrons in the form of **capital credits**. To learn more about how capital credits work watch a video on our YouTube channel, search **RC Technologies (New Effington, SD)**.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Our patron members are at the heart of every cooperative. They make our communities strong. They are not just customers; but neighbors, friends, and family. **We proudly invest in our local communities** through volunteerism, sponsorships, support for schools, first responders, and local organizations throughout our area.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Coffee chats, educational classes, and workshops, generally offered in the Spring and Fall months, offer valuable information on technology and personal development. **Scholarship opportunities** are available for high school seniors pursuing education at trade schools, technical colleges, colleges, and universities.

Notice

The Universal Connectivity Fee found on your phone bill has increased from 38.8 (0.388) to 42 percent (0.42) for the fourth quarter of 2026.



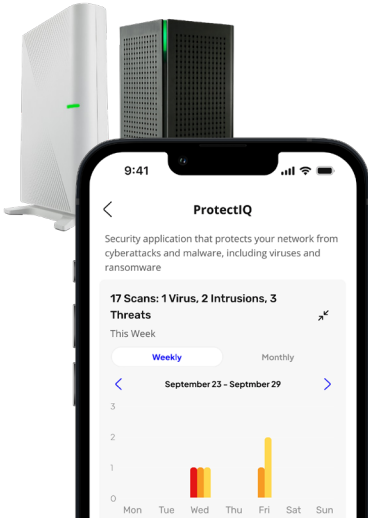
Set clocks back 1 hour on the evening of Saturday, October 31st.

Daylight Saving Time ends
November 1, 2026.



Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Staying Safe Online Starts With You

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a great time to focus on simple steps that can keep our online lives secure. While we work very hard to deliver safe and reliable services, cybersecurity is a shared responsibility between a provider and its users.



We Help Protect the Network

The security of our network is of the utmost importance to us and you. **Firewalls, firmware updates, and other security measures** are used for network security.

As an another layer of protection, our internet packages include equipment with **ProtectIQ**, built-in antivirus and malware protection to assist in protecting your devices online while you're at home.

Our team stays diligent with ongoing **cybersecurity education** through the associations we belong to and our partnership with trusted consultants.

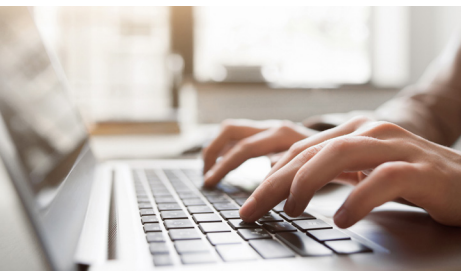
Even with these all protections in place, cybercriminals will target individuals directly. That's why, the **human element** remains one of the most important parts of cybersecurity.

The Human Element of Online Safety

Cybercriminals *begin* their attacks with phishing emails, malicious computer pop-ups, fake websites, or fraudulent text messages designed to trick people into sharing personal/financial information, or clicking on harmful links. They do so with scare tactics and creating a sense of urgency.

Malicious computer pop-ups have become a recent tactic among cybercriminals. A "pop-up" box appears on your screen (possibly accompanied by an alarming noise) claiming that either... your computer is infected with a virus, your account has been compromised, you won a prize, or telling you that you need to take immediate action to prevent data loss. There may be a phone number to call or a button to click—**Don't take the bait!** Simply close the window tab at the top of your browser and don't click any button WITHIN the pop-up.

Unsolicited Assistance from A Tech Company through a phone call, email, or mailer is another way cybercriminals spoof themselves. They could be posing as someone who can assist you with a tech problem, or are selling virus protection. This is yet another way cybercriminals try to get people to share their personal/financial information. It's important to note: if someone you don't know calls *out of the blue* about something, that's a red flag. Bad actors are phishing for vulnerabilities and are hoping someone will take the bait.



Practicing Safe Online Habits

One of the easiest and most effective ways to stay protected is to practice safe online habits, such as **creating long passwords, using Multi-Factor Authentication, if it's an option for your accounts and keeping devices updated**. All of these are important. Also, **software updates** which often include security patches to fix vulnerabilities in the computer programming code that cybercriminals could possibly exploit and take advantage of.

Technology providers, internet providers, security tools, all contribute to a safer online experience. By **staying alert, practicing safe online habits, and keeping devices updated**, we can all create a more secure digital environment. Small actions today can prevent bigger problems tomorrow.