



Heart of Iowa Expands & Welcomes Grundy Center to the Family!

The Heart of Iowa team had a busy summer with new construction. In May, we announced the expansion of our fiber to the home network into the community of Grundy Center. Our expansion covered the entire community offering fiber to the home to all businesses and households. Our long-time construction partner, Central Cable Contractors, started building the fiber optic network in June. In July, we hosted an open house at our office at 617 G Ave in downtown Grundy Center to meet the community and share the Heart of Iowa story. The main fiber construction phases were completed mid-September. Drops crews stayed around and continued to bury fiber lines to the residence until early October. Fiber splicing crews arrived in August continuously splicing and testing all the new fiber connections, the first customers were connected to our redundant network in October. We are excited to bring our dependable and robust communication services to Grundy Center. Our team of 25 employees with 280 years of combined experience complimented by our 24/7 technical support is ready to provide great experience.

Office Locations:

502 Main Street
Union, Iowa 50258

617 G Avenue
Grundy Center, Iowa 50638

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm



Proudly Servicing these Communities

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Albion | Bangor |
| Beaman | Conrad |
| Eldora | Ferguson |
| Gifford | Green Mountain |
| Grundy Center | Haverhill |
| Laurel | Liscomb |
| New Providence | Steamboat Rock |
| Union | Van Cleve |
| Whitten | |

Select Areas of:

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Ackley | Le Grand |
| Gladbrook | Marshalltown |



**Grundy Center Open House
July 12, 2025**



**Grundy Center Office
617 G Avenue**

Think You'd Spot a Phishing Email? Most People Don't



PHISHING

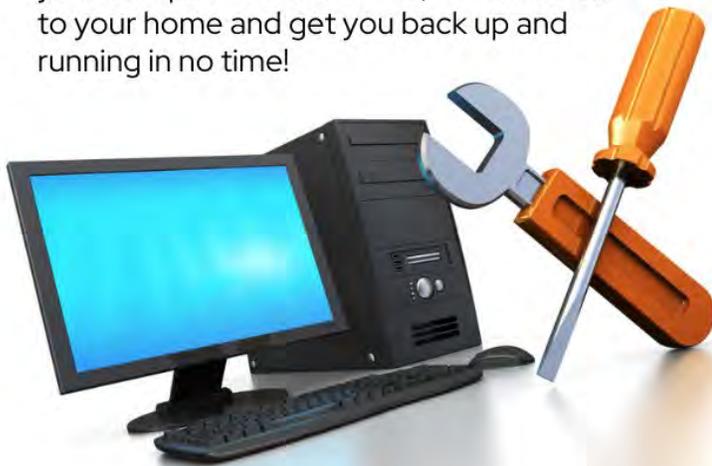
Phishing attacks collect your personal and financial information using email, text, or malicious websites to infect your digital devices with malware. Cybercriminals attempt to lure users to click on a link or open an attachment that infects their computers or mobile phone and makes the user vulnerable to an attack. Think twice because cybersecurity is the collective responsibility of everyone.

Phishing emails or texts may appear to come from a trusted financial institution, e-commerce site, a government agency, or any other service, business, or individual. The email or text may ask for account numbers, passwords, or Social Security Numbers. When users respond or click on a link, attackers take the data to access users' accounts.

- **Play hard to get with strangers.** Links in emails, texts and online posts are often the way cybercriminals compromise your devices. If you are unsure who the message is from—even if the details appear accurate—do not respond, and do not click on any links or attachments—just delete it. Be cautious of generic greetings, as these are often phishing attempts. If you question the message, call the company directly.
- **Think before you act.** Be wary of messages that implore you to act immediately, causing you to fear your account is in jeopardy. If you receive a suspicious message that appears to be from someone you know, reach out to that person directly on a secure platform. If a message is from an organization, but still looks “phishy,” reach out to the organization to verify the message.
- **Check hyperlinks.** Avoid clicking on hyperlinks in messages, and hover over links to verify authenticity. Ensure that webpage URLs begin with “https.” The “s” indicates encryption is enabled to protect users' information.

Some things are better off left to the professionals...

When your computer acts up, it can be incredibly frustrating – and a major waste of your valuable time. The next time you run into trouble, give us a call. You can bring your computer to our office, or we'll come to your home and get you back up and running in no time!



Hourly service charge applies

KNOW YOUR CYBER BASICS

- **Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA).** Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA), meaning use two or more user verification methods to log in to your accounts or devices, to ensure that the only person who can access your account is you. Use it for email, banking, social media, and any other password-protected service. If MFA is an option, enable it on a trusted mobile device, such as your smartphone, an authenticator app, or a secure token—a small physical device that can hook onto your key ring.
- **Shake up your password protocol.** Use the longest password or passphrase permissible. Use strong and unique passwords, which can prevent criminals from gaining access to accounts and protect you in the event of a breach. Use password managers to generate and remember different passwords for each account.
- **Use password managers.** There are password apps to generate and remember different passwords for each account.
- **Install and update antivirus software.** Make sure all your computers, Internet of Things devices, phones, and tablets are equipped with regularly updated antivirus software, email filters, and anti-spyware.

For the past 28 years our Board of Directors have approved donations to local area food banks. This year our team presented \$3,000 in donations spread across six organizations.



A.C.T.S. - Albion



Emergency Food Box - Marshalltown



House of Compassion - Marshalltown



Hardin County Food Shelf - Eldora



Community Food Outreach - Union



Operation Threshold - Grundy Center

Scholarship Opportunities Available



Each year, Heart of Iowa and supporting associations, offer scholarship opportunities to qualifying high school seniors of subscribers.

For the past 35 years, Heart of Iowa has awarded 347 educational grants.

Scholarships vary in amount and eligibility, so it's important to review the details for each one.

Go to:
www.heartofiowa.coop
 Click on About Us
 Then click on Scholarships/Grants

Application Links at:

heartofiowa.coop/scholarships-grants

Heart of Iowa Educational Grant

Application deadline: April 1, 2026

Foundation of Rural Service Scholarship

Application deadline: February 14, 2026

Aureon ITC Scholarship Program

Application deadline: March 1, 2026



Heart of Iowa
 received
7,371
 locate requests in 2025





Approved Amazon Firestick Device
 Fire TV Stick 4K Max*

For Sale at Heart of Iowa
\$60.00 plus tax

XtremeTV+ Local Package	\$55.00
XtremeTV+ Total Package	\$135.00

DVR Service

Cloud DVR 250 Gig Recording	\$9.95
Cloud DVR 500 Gig Recording	\$16.95

Premium Channels

HBO Plex	\$16.95
Cinemax Plex	\$13.95
HBO/Cinemax Plex	\$27.95
Showtime/The Movie Channel/Flex Plex	\$10.99
STARZ Plex	\$13.95



GIG-CERTIFIED PROVIDER



Mark Your Calendar

68TH ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026



Dejardin Hall, Marshalltown Community College Campus
 Doors Open at 3:00pm Meeting at 4:00pm

The Aureon Charity Grant is dedicated to funding non-profit organizations and initiatives that make a meaningful difference in communities. With a focus on programs that promote education, health, and social development, the grant aims to empower local organizations by providing the financial resources necessary to bring about lasting change. Whether it's funding innovative community outreach programs or supporting essential services, the Aureon Charity Grant is committed to helping those who are dedicated to improving the well-being of others.



Hardin County Farm Museum - Eldora

Applications are open to eligible non-profits, and selected recipients will receive both funding and mentorship to maximize their impact.

To apply, visit:

<https://heartofiowa.coop/scholarships-grants/>



Growing Albion Rail Trail



Black Dirt Days - Conrad



The Union Library submitted an Aureon Charity Grant application for a puzzle table. The application was not selected so Heart of Iowa fulfilled the request including assembly and delivery!



Liberty in Liscomb



3 Ways You'll Benefit from eBilling

Are you still paying your Heart of Iowa bill by writing a check and mailing it to us? If yes, check out the following ways switching to eBill and electronic pay can benefit you.

- **You'll increase security.** Paper bills leave you vulnerable to sensitive information being stolen and used for identity theft. With eBill, you communicate securely with via a password-protected online portal
- **You'll save money.** You won't have to buy as many stamps or checks with eBill.
- **You'll save time.** With eBill, you can pay online in seconds or have your bill paid automatically with automatic payment.

Cybersecurity Starts at Home and in the Office

Simple Habits to Protect Your Data Everywhere

In today's connected world, protecting your data is more important than ever. Cybercriminals target everyone—from individuals to large businesses. Whether you're working from home, using personal devices, or browsing online, following a few basic cybersecurity habits can help protect you from online threats.

1. **Use Strong, Unique Passwords.** Avoid using common words or easily guessable information. If you have trouble remembering them, consider using a password manager to securely store and generate passwords.
2. **Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).** Multi-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security by requiring something you know (password) and something you have (like a phone or authentication app). Enable MFA on accounts that support it, such as email, banking, and social media.
3. **Be Cautious of Phishing.** Be wary of unsolicited emails, text messages, or phone calls that ask for sensitive details like passwords, bank account numbers, or credit card information. If in doubt, always verify with the sender through official channels.
4. **Keep Software Updated.** Make sure your devices are set to automatically update, and regularly update apps and operating systems.
5. **Secure Your Wi-Fi Network.** Avoid using easy-to-guess passwords. If you have guests, set up a separate network to keep your personal devices secure.
6. **Back Up Your Data.** Backing up your important data is one of the simplest ways to protect it from cyber threats like ransomware.

GET BOTH FOR ONLY \$8.25/mo

ProtectIQ®

ProtectIQ® is a security feature that helps protect your home network from online threats like viruses and malicious websites. It works automatically in the background to block harmful content before it reaches your devices.

- Blocks threats automatically
- Protects all connected devices
- Runs silently in the background
- Real-time alerts
- Works with CommandIQ®

ExperienceIQ®

ExperienceIQ® is a tool that lets you manage your home Wi-Fi experience. It gives you control over things like setting parental controls, creating time limits for internet use, blocking specific websites, and prioritizing devices for better performance.

- Set parental controls
- Create time limits
- Block websites
- Prioritize devices
- Works with CommandIQ®

Supporting Our Future Leaders



South Hardin football field underwent a major renovation and addition. A new scoreboard was added requiring a fiber optic connection. Heart of Iowa provided the Fiber materials and labor to help connect the scoreboard.



Marshall County Central Iowa Fair



Hardin County Fair



Grundy County Fair



Union-Whitten Hustlers

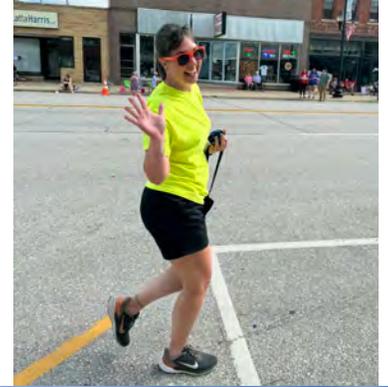
THERE'S A LOT TO Love.

HEART of IOWA

**FIBER-FAST
INTERNET**

**24/7 LOCAL
TECH SUPPORT**

Thank You Heart of Iowa Employees for another FUN Year!!



1 GIG

FIBER INTERNET

\$125.00/mo

EXPERIENCE IT!



Thank You - Heart of Iowa Employees



Stephen Reinholz
Part-Time



Wade Slaughter
3 months



Ryan Woiwood
6 months



Samantha Critchfield
1 Year



Nicole Collins
1 Year



Cayden Davis
1 Year



Garrett Kaufman
1 Year



Chance Cordes
1 Year



Shelby May
2 Years



Whitney Bracy
3 Years



Vincent Livengood
3 Years



Roger Fahrni
4 Years



Junior Prusha
4 Years



Derek Stanton
12 Years



Brent Gunderson
17 Years



Tom Hallam
17 Years



Rob Hauser
18 Years



Nathan Butler
21 Years



Kendra Faris
21 Years



Mindy Andrews
21 Years



Jenny Pekarek
24 Years



Heidi Young
26 Years



Jay Duncan
27 Years



John Caster
27 Years



Kathi Patten
28 Years

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Please take a moment to leave us a review and let us know how we did.

You can scan one or all QR codes provided, or visit our website at
www.heartofiowa.coop/feedback

Thank you again for being a valued customer of Heart of Iowa!



New Customer Survey



Google Review



Facebook Review

www.heartofiowa.coop

641-486-2211

24/7 Technical Support: 877-486-4422