

The Local Connection



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It's a Wonderful *Life*

Sometimes the wonderful things in life can get covered up. Maybe they are buried under work, family or other responsibilities. Certainly there are no magic formulas to slow down your life or clean away the clutter.

However, our "It's a Wonderful Life" campaign, which will run

from November through January, hopes to help. Through it, we want to remind you to recognize the 'wonderful' moments that happen everyday, so you can savor them. Like jumping in

a pile of leaves, sharing a holiday meal or spending time with friends or family.

We certainly won't make the claim that our products will make your life wonderful, but at the same time, we hope they can make your everyday life more simple and easy to manage.

For the campaign, we are doing three things.

First, you can sign up for any of the following services and receive \$15 Community Bucks to spend in your local community: telephone, cable TV and Internet bundle, new line of cellular service, add a movie channel, sign up for

Customer Service Corner

- Simplify the season by using our Online Bill Pay service! Log on to your account 24 hours a day and view, print or pay your bill. Receive a free gift when you sign up!
- Think METC for those hard to buy for friends & family. Great selection of communication gifts, purchase a gift certificate or have us apply credit to their account. Free gift wrapping available !!
- As an added service to our communities, METC is your local UPS drop off station.



Proudly serving the communities of Elk Horn, Marne, Brayton, Kimballton, Exira, Audubon & Atlantic



Continued on page 2 . . .

Phone • High Speed Internet • Cable Television • Cellular • Dial-up Internet

... Continued from page 1

online bill pay or bank authorization, upgrade to high speed Internet or add any SecureIT computer service.

Second, all eligible sign ups each month will be entered in

a drawing for an additional \$100 Community Bucks.

We will have a drawing at the end of November, December and January for a new winner each month.

Third, we are collecting food & monetary donations for our Shelby, Audubon and Cass County Food Pantries. You can bring your non perishable food items to our office or the Exira City Clerk's office.

Each New Eligible Service Enters You for a Chance to Be a Winner of One of 3

\$100
Community Bucks

Telephone

Sign up for Any of These Services and Receive

\$15

Community Bucks

- Telephone, Cable TV & Internet Bundle
- New Line of Cellular Service
- Add a Movie Channel
- Online Bill Pay or Bank Authorization
- Add or Upgrade to High Speed Internet
- Any SecureIT Service

Offer valid November 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009. Some restrictions apply. Not all products and services available in all areas. No purchase necessary to enter drawing. Community Bucks available in Dane Bucks, Exira Community Dollars, Atlantic Cash or Audubon Chamber Cash. One \$100 winner will be drawn each month of campaign. Call or visit our office for full details.

Business Spotlight: New Genesis Art Studio ~ Kimballton

Local artist uses talents to benefit area communities

Billy Marples is an artist with a diverse range of skills that he uses in his business, as well as to benefit the local area.

His studio, located in Kimballton, is called New Genesis Art Studio and it is one of the most advanced studios in southwest Iowa. Billy's studio works with bronze casting, painting, photography and digital video production.

The gallery at the studio features other local and regional artists and those exhibits change throughout the year. "I have received many opportunities, so I enjoy working together with other artists to create something together. If I can in any way help give someone an opportunity, that is great," said Billy.

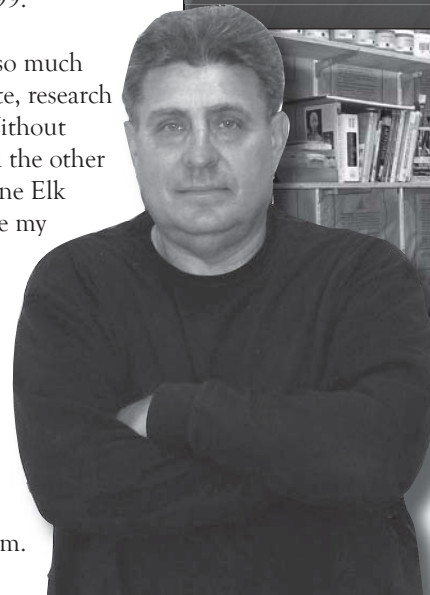
"I am very interested in veterans and knowing their history. They are heroes and we don't even know the stories and history that is walking among us. I have interviewed many

of our local veterans and would love to talk with more."

As for communications, Billy says, "It is great to work with Janell and all the staff at Marne Elk Horn to benefit the community. I enjoy filming the games and I have had many people tell me that they appreciate the chance to see the games on channel 99."

"I use the Internet for so much - keeping up my website, research and so many things. Without phone, Internet and all the other services I get from Marne Elk Horn, I could not make my business run."

Thanks, Billy for your hard work and dedication to the communities in our area. Visit Billy at 122 N. Main Street in Kimballton or at www.newgenesisartstudio.com.



Above: Billy Marples is video taping a volleyball game. Below: Marples' studio showing a bronze casting project.

What's Ahead

Janell Hansen
General Manager



Retransmission Consent will affect you

and those requests are welcome. The manner that we 'select' channels is not a simple one. Often to get one channel we want, we have to pay for two or three we may not want as much, if at all. And now, we have a new twist to handle - called retransmission consent.

Often, a change in our business doesn't have any direct affect on you. However, retransmission consent will impact customers who receive cable TV & satellite services.

It used to be that broadcast

channels, like KMTV, Fox, WOWT and KETV would ask that we carry their signal on our cable system. It was a jointly beneficial arrangement.

Our customers received the local channels on the cable system, and the broadcaster's programming and advertisers received a wider audience - often because we were boosting their signal when we placed it on the system.

Now, certain broadcasters require that we sign a Retransmission Consent agreement AND pay them per customer to carry their signal

on our system. This is just another case of programming costs spinning out of control.

We continue to work to keep our prices low, but these new costs will likely cause **all providers** to raise the price of pay TV service at some point in the future.

Thanks for your business. We value the trust you place in us.



We have been in the cable TV business for some time and we have witnessed many changes. For one, everyone in our industry is calling it 'video' now rather than cable. That is mostly a function of how the service is delivered and not much more.

We receive requests for new cable channels on occasion



In observance of the holidays, our offices will be closed

Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 27 • Christmas - Closing at Noon on Christmas Eve & Closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 • New Years - Tuesday, January 1

check with Janell on Friday after Christmas closing

Petersen enjoys his 'new' spot on the Board

Compared with others, Terry Petersen is a relatively new comer to the Marne Elk Horn Board, accepting the term of Leroy Pedersen when he passed away in August of 2006.

Terry was happy to accept the position because, as he stated, "Marne Elk Horn is a strong organization that is very well respected in the communities that we serve, as well as surrounding communities."

One thing that he didn't realize, until after he started

working on the Board, was all that went into running a communications company. There was a lot to learn and a lot of people to meet including outside consultants, other telephone company employees and industry people.

"The ability to provide the kind of community support that we do is really something to be proud of."

also always very proud to hear how well respected METC is in the state. We really have a tremendous manager and group of employees."

"I enjoy attending industry meetings to learn about upcoming technology and products & services. I'm

Another thing that Terry is proud of is the strong community support METC offers. "We help in giving donations to our fire stations, groups like the museum and businesses like the new Exira grocery store. The ability to provide the kind of community support that we do is really something to be proud of."

And, of course, Terry is also proud of the products & services METC is able to provide our communities. "We offer services equivalent to, if not better than, the metro areas."

Terry has been the Manager of Insurance Services in Elk

Board Spotlight



**Terry Petersen
Board Member**

Horn for 9 years. They provide property casualty insurance. He is married to LeighAnn and they have 7-year old Emily and 5-year old Blake. They enjoy camping, boating and spending time with family & friends.

Visit Us
 4242 Main Street
 PO Box 120
 Elk Horn, IA 51531
 M-F 8:00am–5:00pm

Contact Us
 Phone 712-764-6161
 Fax 712-764-2773
 Email metc@metc.net

On the Web
 www.metc.net

Internet Tech Support
 1-866-764-6161

After Hours Repair
 712-764-6161

Payment Info
 You can submit your payment via

- Mail
- Walk In
- Online Bill Pay
- Drop Box
- Auto Bank Deduct
- MasterCard, Visa & Discover

Your local connection to it all



Check out Channel 99!

Local events calendar,
 local ballgames
 and more!

DVD's of programs
 available at METC office



Since its launch in August of 2007, the Big 10 Network has become a leader in providing Big 10 Conference coverage.

The Big Ten Network provides unprecedented access to an extensive schedule of conference sports events and shows; original programs in academics, the arts and sciences; campus activities; and associated personalities.

During the 2007-08 season, the BTN produced 140 regular season men's basketball games, plus three Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament games. The network also had 64 women's basketball games, more than any other network.

The Big 10 Network continues to be a strong provider of sports programming. We are happy to be able to provide this station to our viewers on Channel 25.



Enjoy the convenience and savings of our new . . .

Total Connections Bundles!

Telephone • Cable Television • Internet

Upcoming Events . . .

November

- 4 Election Day
Exira dismissal @12:30pm
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 20 All State Music Festival
EHK G/BB Jamboree @ Audubon
- 25 EHK B/BB Dane Jamboree
- 26 EHK/ Exira 2:30 Dismissal
- 27 Thanksgiving Day
- 28 No School
- 28-29 Julefest

December

- 8 EHK 12:30 Dismissal
Exira No School
EHK K-6 Winter Concert @7pm

December

- 15 EHK 7-12 Winter Concert @7pm
- 23 EHK/Exira 2:30 Dismissal
for Xmas Break
- 25 Christmas Day

January

- 5 Classes Resume
- 17 State Jazz Band
- 19 Martin Luther King Day
- 19 EHK/ Exira No School



✂ clip & save



Contact Information

Office Phone 712-764-6161
 Toll Free 888-764-6141
 After Hours Repair 712-764-6161
 Office Fax 712-764-2773
 Email metc@metc.net
 Website..... www.metc.net
 Internet Tech Support 1-866-764-6161
 SecureIT Plus Tech Support 877-373-3320
 Iowa OneCall..... 811 or 1-800-292-8989
 4242 Main Street • PO Box 120 • Elk Horn, IA 51531
 Office Open Monday-Friday 8:00am–5:00pm

Our surveys will be delivered soon!

As a way to listen to your needs, we will be conducting a customer survey over the next month or so.

We will use both an on-line survey tool and a paper survey tool to collect information.

If you receive a link to an on-line survey or a paper survey in the mail, please take a few minutes to complete it. The information will help us serve you better.

