

The Local Connection

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In the Moment



Capture it with the Flip!

Sign Up for Any Service - Get Entered for a Chance to Win One of 3

Flip Video Cameras

Offer valid November 1, 2010-January 31, 2011. Some restrictions apply. Not all products and services available in all areas. No purchase necessary to enter drawing. One Flip video camera winner will be drawn each month of campaign. Call or visit our office for full details.

Sometimes as we prepare for events, like holidays, we get so entwined with details that we forget to be present 'in the moment'. Because of that, we don't get to enjoy the people or the event that we looked forward to.

These days, you don't have to be in the same room to be together. Technology can help us with new 'moments'. You can reach out to those far away, by sending a video or making a call or even using a webcam.

This year, make it a point to be 'in the moment' when family is around the table (or the computer), or telling stories, or just watching the game. You'll be glad you did.

*Happy holidays from
our family to yours!*

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Customer Service Corner

Smart Phone for Christmas?

Santa's workshop is stocking up on smart phones for the holiday season! Stop in and let us show you the latest in smart phones.

Our elves are knowledgeable and anxious to show you what smart phones can do, how to manage your data, and help personalize your phone for your very own needs! Stop in or call for details!

Holiday Closings

Our offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- Thanksgiving - Thurs, Nov 25th & Fri, Nov 26th
- Christmas - Fri, Dec 24th
- New Years - Fri, Dec 31st



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

Protect your personal information from suspicious callers

Caller ID Spoofing is the practice of displaying false caller identification information on a recipient's caller ID device.



Spoofing can make a call appear to have come from any phone number the caller wishes to use and is generally done as a means to convince individuals to provide personal or financial information. This information can then be used to commit credit card or bank fraud, or other forms of identity theft.

It is a good practice not to give personal information in person, over the phone, by mail or on the Internet, unless you made the initial contact or you're absolutely certain you know who's receiving the information.

The spoofed call can sound very plausible and callers can be very convincing in their requests. Unfortunately, there is little METC can do to prevent, control or track this type of fraud. The best thing we can

do is inform & make you aware of this unethical practice.

If you do receive a suspicious call:

- Ask the caller for their name, phone number and the organization they are representing, then hang up. DO NOT provide personal information.
- Call the organization back using the number listed on your account or statement. Do not use the same number given by the caller.
- Tell customer service about the call you received and the information you were asked to provide.
- If the call is legitimate, you will be transferred to the correct department. If the call is not legitimate, you will help alert the organization and they can report the fraud.

Congress is currently considering new laws that would make this practice a crime and permit law enforcement authorities to take action against spoofers. Please take precautions to protect yourself.



Elements . . . in the schools!

Science is cool and we want kids to know it. So, we partnered with Exira and EH-K elementaries to bring in an exciting science program, called 'Boom!' from the Science Center of Iowa, to the Exira K-5th graders and EH-K elementary students on September 14th.

Joe from the Science Center said, "This assembly is a perfect way to inspire students. It shows students that science is fun and it is all around them."

Thanks to Rochelle Bruns and Lanny Kliefoth from the schools for working with us to coordinate the events!



Business Spotlight Antler Creative, Elk Horn

New business 'sets up (their virtual) shop' in Elk Horn

Trever Andersen & Jordan Hansen started Antler Creative, a web development and web design company based in Elk Horn, in November of 2009, but that was not the beginning of the story.

The two EH-K graduates attended college to study design in Omaha. Post graduation, both got jobs or continued their education.

After spending some time in Denver, Trever and Jordan returned home. They wanted to start a firm and they knew the best place to do that was Elk Horn.

"After working in different places, we both knew that the best place for a start-up would be here (Elk Horn) because of the personal relationships we have with everyone in this area," stated Jordan. "There were not services like ours close by and people want to do business with people they know and trust, so it was a good match."

"The best way to describe what we do is web design and development," commented Jordan. "We listen to what our clients want to do on the web and then we help make those goals happen. Sometimes, just as part of the discussion,

we help clients refine their thinking about how they want their company perceived."

"We get a ridiculous amount of support from METC, and after a person lives elsewhere, you have so much more appreciation for the people and the technology that METC offers the community," said

Jordan. "Words cannot begin to explain all they have done to help us."

Antler depends on high speed Internet & hosting services from METC. "We could likely do what we are doing anywhere, but we choose to live & work here."

Learn more at weareantler.com.



What's Ahead

Janell Hansen
General Manager



Rural customers are NOT second class citizens

A new government plan intends to make that true of our nation's information superhighway—the Internet. And while it's not the highway we drive on, rural consumers should still be very concerned.

establishes a speed goal for rural areas that is twenty five times slower than for urban areas. Shouldn't rural communities have access to the same broadband services as our larger towns and cities?

Rather than support this same universal service philosophy for broadband, the FCC's plan offers faster, better service to some Americans while guaranteeing lesser service to others.

What would happen if the federal government decided that city roads, bridges, and infrastructure should be better constructed and more efficient than the roads in rural America?

What if lawmakers determined that urban consumers should be able to get where they are going & get what they need faster than rural consumers?

The many benefits of broadband are clear, and we applaud the government's efforts to make affordable, reliable Internet connections a reality for all Americans. But the FCC's plan will make rural Americans second class citizens in the new broadband world, because it

“Don't let the FCC keep our rural community on the slow side of the broadband digital divide.”

Years ago, Congress established a universal service policy for telephone service.

It required that those living in rural areas have access to communications services at prices that are affordable and reasonably comparable to those available in urban areas.

Don't let the FCC keep our rural community on the slow side of the broadband digital divide.

Contact your congressional representatives and urge them to support regulatory action that ensures equal access to broadband for all Americans.

If you'd like to learn more about this issue, contact me at our office.

METC Retirement & Anniversaries



Above: METC Board



Jill Madsen - 20 year anniversary



Right: METC employees

Below: Past employees (l to r) Howard Sorensen, Shirley Esbeck, Kenny and Ross Mardesen



Right: Kenny & Joan Mertz with the bicycle that the METC employees gave to Kenny along with a Bass Pro Gift Card.



Jim Lindgren - 22 year anniversary

Kenny Mertz - retired after 14 years with METC

Your local connection to it all

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
- eBilling
- Drop Box
- Auto Bank Deduct
- MasterCard, Visa & Discover

NOTE: \$5 charge applies on past due accounts

Check out Channel 99!

Local events calendar, local ballgames and more!
DVD's of programs available at METC office



Check Out the New Danish Villages Website!

The Danish Villages now has a high tech way of getting out information - a new website! The site was designed by Antler Creative (see story on page 2) and recently released to the public. It is full of great information, upcoming events, history & facts about the Danish Villages.

Find it at www.danishvillages.com.



Mona Petersen, Brayton, was the July winner of our 'Life is Good' summer contest drawing. Mona won a grilling package that included a meat certificate, grilling platter & tools and barbeque sauce.

A few tips for the Internet generation **Tech**

Corner

Have you ever forgotten a password for an online account?

If so, you might want to check out lastpass.com. It is a small program that securely keeps your passwords and can do more – like sync them across PC and mobile devices. Even better, the basic service is FREE.

Sometimes you want access to files, pictures or videos on more than one computer or even on your phone. But how can you do that without carrying around a USB drive?

The inventors of Dropbox found a solution. Check it out at dropbox.com Again, the basic service is FREE.

Upcoming Events . . .

November

- 2 Election Day
- 4 E/EHK Early Dismissal @12:30pm
- 5 & 6 EHK HS Musical @7:30pm
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 16 E/EHK Early Dismissal @12:30pm
- 24 Early Dismissal @2:30pm
- 25 Thanksgiving Day - METC Office Closed
- 26 METC Office Closed
No School

- 23-31 Winter Break - No School
- 24 Christmas Eve - METC Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Years Eve Day
METC Office Closed

January

- 1-3 Winter Break - No school
- 17 Martin Luther King Day - No school
- 28 Early Dismissal @12:30pm

December

- 2 E/EHK Early Dismissal @12:30pm
Exira HS Winter Concert @7pm
- 4 Windmill Gala
- 6 EHK K-6 Winter Concert @7pm
- 8 Exira Elementary Concert @7pm
- 13 EHK HS Winter Concert @7:30pm
- 14 E/EHK Early Dismissal @12:30pm

