

The Local Connection



Summer 2006
Volume 5
Issue 3

Inside this issue . . .

Tivoli Fest	2
Business Spotlight	2
Danish Countryside Vines & Wines	
What's Ahead	3
Keep America Connected	
Board Spotlight	3
Merlyn Knudsen	
Upcoming Events	4
Relay for Life	4

Back to school means changes for everyone

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to a close and the kids will soon be heading back to school.

Within a few weeks, the transition from carefree summer days to structured, planned activities will have taken place. Parents are typically happy to get back into a routine of morning bus routes, quiet homes and homework assignment help in the evenings.

College students will be off to school, some leaving home for the first time. Dorm rooms, professors and new friends will be part of their everyday lives.

Fall activities like volleyball and football will occupy many

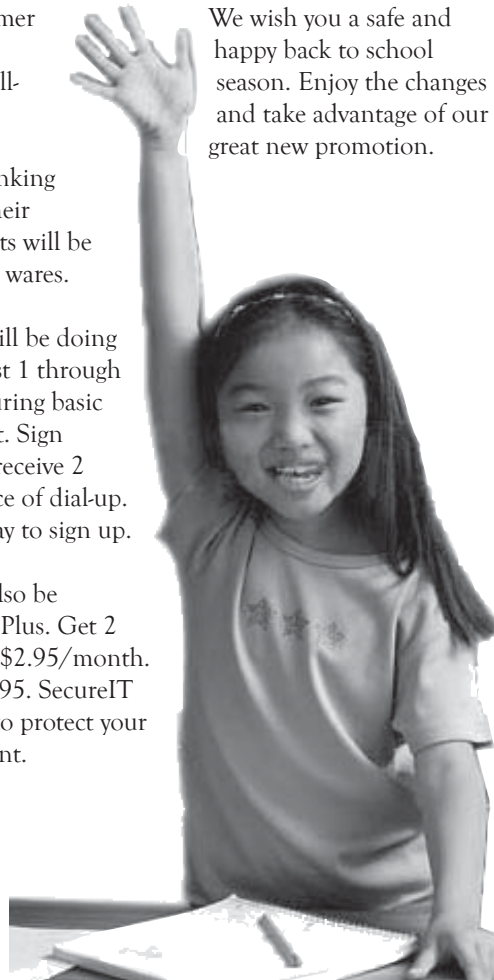
evenings. Hot summer nights will soon be replaced by cool, fall-like conditions.

Farmers will be thinking about harvesting their crops and merchants will be displaying their fall wares.

Marne Elk Horn will be doing a promotion August 1 through September 30 featuring basic high speed Internet. Sign up for service and receive 2 months for the price of dial-up. Call our office today to sign up.

In addition, we'll also be featuring SecureIT Plus. Get 2 months service for \$2.95/month. Regular price is \$7.95. SecureIT Plus is a great way to protect your computer investment.

We wish you a safe and happy back to school season. Enjoy the changes and take advantage of our great new promotion.



Customer Service Corner

Need help keeping in touch with your students heading back to school? Ask about: 800 numbers, calling cards and cellular phones.

Have you received a call from Verizon Wireless about upgrading your phone to a GPS capable model? This upgrade would allow the phone to be traced for E911 purposes in case of emergency. We can upgrade your equipment locally and answer your questions, to make the process simple and easy.

We are here to help you!



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



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

Tivoli Fest '06



Tivoli Fest was held in Elk Horn on May 27 & 28. Wet weather did not dampen the Danish spirit.

Pictured at **left** handing out candy during the parade is Seth Poldberg, Summer Plant Intern.

At **right** is Kristin Hoffman, daughter of Jerry and Kim Hoffman from Elk Horn. Kristin was the lucky winner of our iPod Nano. Registration forms were given away during the parade and taken to the craft show.



At the **bottom** is our own 'Mary Mary' Janell Hansen driven by Jill Madsen during the parade.



Business Spotlight-Danish Countryside Vines & Wines

Danish Countryside Vines & Wines is one of Elk Horn's newest businesses. Owners Allan and Carol Petersen began their endeavor with their first planting of grapes on their vineyard in the spring of 2001.

In 2002, they expanded to six acres. Their original plan to sell grapes to Iowa wineries, quickly changed after their son gave them a wine making kit as a gift. Soon after, they decided to refurbish their barn and open their own winery!

"We were very pleased with the timeliness that was such a necessity at the time to put the finishing touches on the winery and have our building open for business," stated Allan.

METC's first involvement with the Petersen's project was burying telephone cable to the barn and then later assisted with wiring the interior of the winery, which features a gift shop, a party room and the room in which Allan and Carol make their wine.

Along with basic telephone service, the business relies on an additional line to carry their fax machine, credit card machine and Internet service.

METC hosts the company's website: www.danishcountry-sidewinesandvines.com. The couple is working on taking orders on-line, since it is frequently requested by customers. Visit the site for wine selection and directions to the winery.

The Petersens are very pleased with the support and overwhelming response of the local community and surrounding area. Group tours and parties are available and they invite

everyone to come out to visit the winery and the gift shop. The winery and vineyard are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am-6:00pm and Sundays from 1:00pm-5:00pm.

Right: Allan & Carol Petersen at their winery in rural Elk Horn



Left: The Petersen's refurbished barn makes a great winery, party room & gift shop

What's Ahead

Janell Hansen
General Manager



Keep America Connected

want our subscribers to continue to receive the best telephone and telecommunications services available. When Congress begins to rewrite our nation's telecommunications laws, we want to ensure that our subscribers' voice is heard.

The primary points that we will make to Congress are:

Fairness - Urban, suburban and rural consumers alike deserve to stay connected to their families, friends, and the world through communications technologies.

Affordability - Technology is

only useful when it's affordable to consumers. Congress must ensure that all Americans can receive communications technologies at affordable prices.

Access - Every American should have access to the latest, modern technologies, no matter where they live.

One of your legally protected rights as an American is access to affordable telecommunications services. Americans, both urban and rural, are entitled to quality telecommunications services that are comparable in price and scope. A cornerstone of achieving this goal and delivering on this promise is the Universal Service Fund.

METC uses universal service funds to build, maintain and upgrade our telephone networks to provide you with the latest technologies available at affordable rates. Supporting the principles of universal service ensures that all communities can connect to the rest of the world.

As Congress begins to rewrite the nation's telecommunications laws, our company will advocate to ensure the goal of universal service is protected. You, our subscribers, reap the benefits of universal service and have a voice in the debate. For more information on how you can make your voice heard, visit www.keepamericaconnected.org.

Recently, an organization was launched to protect rural telecommunications consumers. The Coalition to Keep America Connected was formed to ensure that as Congress rewrites our telecommunications laws, legislators take into consideration the impact of potential changes on rural consumers.

Our telephone company supports the coalition because we

EHK & Exira's First Day of School is Thursday, August 17th!

Board President Merlyn Knudsen

Merlyn Knudsen is in our spotlight this month as we begin to feature the METC board members, of which he is the President. Merlyn was first elected to the Board on February 22, 1988 representing the Kimballton area. In 1994, he was elected President.

Merlyn stated, "Some of the biggest changes I have seen over the past years would be the continuous upgrading of switching equipment and the changes deregulation has brought to the industry."

Merlyn has enjoyed working with one of METC's latest projects: bringing telephone and high speed Internet service to the community of Exira.

Merlyn stated, "We were very pleased to answer the requests of many Exira residents that wanted the choice of METC as their telephone service provider, in addition to the cable TV we have been providing since '95."

Merlyn and his wife Jeanette are parents to four daughters and one son: Joannie Heuton of Kimballton, Cindy Larsen of Carroll, Peggy Leader of Elk Horn, Max Knudsen of Kansas City, MO, and Brenda Kite of Atlantic.

An avid golfer, Merlyn is retired from farming after 40 years, was a school bus driver for over 22 years, and a seed corn salesman for 15 years. He also served as

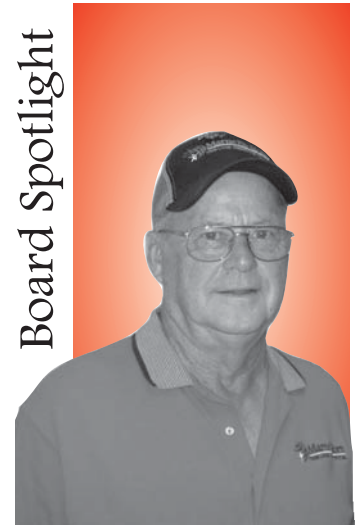
a Shelby County Supervisor for 4 years and is an active Elk Horn Optimist member.

Over the years he has also served on the Elk Horn Kimballton School Board and Immanuel Lutheran Church Council.

Merlyn concluded by saying how much he has enjoyed working with the past and present Board of Directors and knowledgeable staff. He also stated his appreciation for the excellent job former METC General Manager Howard Sorensen and current Manager Janell Hansen have done.

Thanks, Merlyn for all you do for METC and our customers.

Board Spotlight



Merlyn Knudsen
Board President

"Thank you Merlyn for your dedication to METC and our customers"

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

866-764-6161

After Hours Repair

712-764-6161

Payment Info

You can submit your payment via

- Mail
- Walk In
- Drop Box
- Auto Bank Deduct
- MasterCard & Visa

Your local connection to it all



Upcoming Events . . .

August	10	Registration for School - Elk Horn Kimballton (EHK)
	10-20	Iowa State Fair
	17	First Day of School for EHK and Exira
	23	Family Fun Nite @Salem Homes 5-8pm
September	1	EHK early dismissal 2:30
	4	Labor Day No School
	16	Pumpkin Gathering Festival - Elk Horn
	20	EHK 12:30 Dismissal Teacher Inservice
	22-24	Viking Meet - Elk Horn
	29	EHK Homecoming vs Glidden Ralston
October	10	Salem Lutheran Homes Bazaar @Elk Horn Lutheran Church 5:30-7:00
	13	No School - EHK
	15	State Hand Cornhusking - Kimballton
	19-21	Museum Annual Board Meeting in Elk Horn
	26	“Lights On” Celebrating Muesums in Iowa Danish Windmill Open till 7:00
	30	Parent Teacher (P/T) Conferences for EHK
	30	Early Dismiss for Exira P/T Conferences (2:15/2:30)
	31	Progressive Danes Halloween Party - Kimballton 7:00

Relay for Life

Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

Relay For Life began in Tacoma, WA, as the City of Destiny Classic 24-Hour Run Against Cancer in May of 1985. Dr. Gordy Klatt, an area colorectal surgeon, wanted to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society office. He decided to raise money by doing something he enjoyed—running marathons.

In May 1985, Dr. Klatt spent a



METC Relay for Life Team

Left to right: Jill Madsen, Janice Greve, Michelle Jens, Calla Poldberg & Bruce Polberg

grueling 24 hours circling the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma for more than 83 miles. That year, he raised \$27,000 to fight cancer. That first year, nearly 300 of Dr. Klatt's friends, family, and patients watched as he ran and walked the course.

In 1986, 19 teams took part in the

first team relay event on the track at the colorful, historical Stadium Bowl and raised \$33,000.

This year's annual event for Shelby County was held in Harlan on June 9th. Over \$62,000 was raised. Marne Elk Horn has had a team in either the Shelby or Audubon County events for over 10 years and was proud to take part this year.