

The Local Connection



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Make an educated decision

Education is a lifelong endeavor. Regardless if you have someone in your home that is headed 'Back To School', now is a great time to think about learning and helping yourself or your family learn for a lifetime.

If your family has a child or grandchild preparing for school, you have probably seen the school supplies shopping list that may include notebooks, pencils and pens. We think today, that two other items should be on everyone's school supplies list: high speed Internet and SecureIT Plus - and, with our promotion, we have tried to make those two products easy to attain.

From now through September, you can access the benefits of high speed Internet for two months for the price of dial up AND you can protect your computer and all your data with SecureIT Plus for only \$2.95 per month. After two months, the rate goes to the regular price of \$7.95/month.

One of the benefits of high speed Internet includes quick access to a wide array of educational resources for everyone from elementary students to those just wanting to learn something new.

SecureIT Plus automatically protects your computer from viruses, spyware and adware,

all of which can rob your computer of speed and power.

And NOW SecureIT Plus offers Parental Controls that allow parents to limit both when or how long children can be on-line, as well as what content they can gain access to without your password.

Additionally, SecureIT Plus still keeps your Windows operating system up-to-date and your hard drive operating smoothly. And, you'll even receive a monthly report for all the updates.

Back to School time is a great time to upgrade your Internet and protect your data. Call us today for details or to sign up.



Customer Service Corner

- Many customers have taken advantage of our new electronic bill payment. To sign up or find out more, visit our website at www.metc.net.
- See us for all your Back to School items such as cell phones, calling cards, 800 numbers, etc.



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



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

Internet offers more networking options

It used to be that people had to travel difficult journeys to meet, socialize and connect. These trips could take months, finally resulting in a face-to-face meeting.

How the times have changed. Today, people meet and greet in cyber space on networking websites, via email and in chat rooms.

Most tweens and teens are very familiar with today's 'social networking' platform available to them on sites such as myspace or facebook. Online, they can meet and learn about people across town, the state, nation or even world.

Users setup their own page that lists their interests, future plans and activities, typically with a photo or a graphic to represent themselves. They then request permission to link to other users (friends) who have to give their permission before pages can be shared.

Business people can network with sites like LinkedIn or Ecademy. You can find people that graduated from your alma mater or who work in the same industry as you.

Have an interest? Then there is surely a site that will introduce you to people who share that interest; from dog lovers to motorcycle enthusiasts to doll collectors.

Some sites allow you to explore your roots, gather information about genealogy, then assist in finding your long lost relatives.

Nearly every ethnic background, interest group and age has a website just for them.

Of course, with this new way to meet and greet, precautions need to be put in place. People can pretend to be anything or anyone online. Parents, it is a good idea to discuss online sites with your children, so they understand the risks. Make sure they know not to give personal information and you know their online 'friends' just like their local friends. Get their user name & password for any pages they post and then, periodically check their site and discuss potential issues.

Below are just a few sites you might want to check out.



Kids www.clubpenguin.com
www.disney.com

Adults www.classmates.com
www.ivillage.com

Tweens & Teens www.facebook.com
www.myspace.com

Business www.linkedin.com
www.ecademy.com

METC donates to Viking Hjem project

Last year, The Danish Mill Corp. began a new project on the Mill grounds - a Viking Hjem.



A Hjem was a home or business in Viking Age Denmark typically built from timber, stone or sod.

www.danishwindmill.com or call 712-764-7472.

The corporation hopes to raise \$60,000 for the project, paths and outdoor public restrooms. To find out more, visit

METC recently made a \$1000 donation to the project.

Business Spotlight: MV Transportation, Elk Horn

MV Transportation, headquartered in the San Francisco bay area, is still relatively 'new' to the area, so we thought we would try to shed some light on what this progressive company does and how our communities are playing a part.

"We just love Elk Horn and the whole region," said Sean Kimble, the Executive VP of Human Resources, who will be moving his family here soon.

"The people are great and their skills, compassion and work ethic fit so well into what our

company is all about. It is a perfect storm of great news."

"We have had a great partnership with the telephone company and they have been very responsive to our needs."

MV provides transportation in a variety of ways for customers all across the United States. Many cities contract with transportation companies to manage all sorts of transportation, from city buses to specialized transportation for elderly or disabled customers. MV is the leader in this industry.

They are experts in the world of transportation and they pride themselves on safety. In fact much of the safety division is located right here in the Elk Horn support center, along with human resources, accounting and training.

"The Elk Horn support center will continue to grow and we look forward to inviting the public in for an open house in the near future, so they can see first hand what we do," stated Sean.



Sean Kimble,
Executive VP of
Human Resources,
MV Transportation

What's Ahead

Janell Hansen
General Manager



Success is built over the long haul

after will allow you to continue to buy advanced communications and entertainment services at fair prices.

I have written about Universal Service here before and, as before, it is still a critical piece that allows us to serve you with affordable communications services.

The Coalition to Keep America Connected is dedicated to ensuring that all consumers have access to affordable telecommunications services and the latest technologies - no matter where they live - according to three guiding principles: fairness, access and affordability. To learn more, call me or visit www.keepamericaconnected.org.

It is difficult to judge the level of success we had with our visit to both Legislators and members of the Federal Communication Commission in June, and it is not because we were not prepared or were ineffective in our meetings. Rather, it is because in this 'game' the innings are long and sometimes the rules change along the way, so the final score may not be known for 5 or 10 years - at least.

Victory could come in many forms, but the prize we are

At right l to r: Doug Boone, General Manager, Mutual Telephone in Sioux Center, Janell Hansen, METC General Manager & Jerry Melick, General Manager, West Liberty Telephone in West Liberty.



At left l to r: Butch Redman, Doug Boone, Roger Kregel, Jerry Melick, Janell Hansen, Ron Laudner, Jr & Pat McGowan. All were part of Iowa Telecommunication Association's trip to DC.



Mark your calendar - the first day of school for Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School & Exira Community School is Thursday, August 16

Community pride and member service

"I've never lived more than a mile and a half from Elk Horn in my life," stated Terry Madsen. This is the type of pride in his community that Terry displays.

Terry lives with his wife Deb on a farm south of Elk Horn. He has farmed there since 1963 but stated that, growing up, he lived east of town.

In addition to farming, he is the Director of Transportation for the Elk Horn-Kimballton School District, a position he's held for 14 years. Deb has been a kindergarten teacher for the district for 31 years.

Terry and Deb are the parents of two sons: Dean who lives in Omaha and Clark who is serving in the Army in Iraq. They have six grandchildren.

Terry was elected to the METC board in February of 1998. He says when he was asked to run, he thought it would be a good way to help the community, and would perhaps be interesting and fun.

Currently, Terry is the board Vice President. He has also

been the Treasurer. He thinks one of the most interesting things about being on the board is learning about the new and innovative things happening in the industry. He also said that he really enjoys it.

When asked what he thinks stands out in his mind regarding his position or Marne Elk Horn in general, he stated, "Our service. We take pride in making sure customers get what they want and need."

"We take pride in making sure customers get what they want and need."

Board Spotlight



**Terry Madsen
Board Vice President**

Thanks for your time and service to Marne Elk Horn, Terry. We echo your sentiment about assisting and serving 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
 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



Disaster planning will aid recovery efforts

It is critical that telecommunications companies like ours prepare for nearly any situation that could disrupt services to you and we take that responsibility very seriously.

There are many weather situations or other disasters that could adversely affect your family and your business. Those same circumstances could also affect our ability to provide some or all of the services that you have come to rely upon.

Because of that, we have done a great deal of planning to prepare for the restoration of services to you, your family or your business. There are many local, state and sometimes federal organizations which work together to restore services to customers.

We understand that it is difficult, if not impossible to plan for every scenario, but the exercise alone of planning for service restoration will help us overcome even unplanned occurrences to return service to normal as quickly as possible.

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

Cookin' with James



METC had a lot of fun at the Tivoli Fest parade in Elk Horn with our 'Cookin' with James' themed entry. **Shown above left:** James Bieker, METC's Central Office Technician and resident head cook.

Below right: 'Kitchen helpers' Janice Greve, Sue Mardesen, James Bieker, Janell Hansen, Michelle Jens and Jill Madsen.

Upcoming Events . . .

Aug 7-8 Exira School Registration, 1-8pm
 9 Elk Horn-Kimballton (EHK) School Registration, 12-4pm & 6-8pm
 9 E Club Kick Off at REC Center in Exira @5:00pm
 16 EHK & Exira 1st Day of School
 22 Salem Lutheran Homes Family Fun Night - 5-8pm
 31 EHK Football vs. Whiting (Parents' Night)

Sept 15-16 Vikings Meet @Encampment south of AmericInn & Danish Windmill Grounds

Sept 21 EHK Homecoming
 22 Salem Homes 75th Anniversary Celebration 2-4:30pm

Oct 4 EHK Volleyball vs. Riverside (Parents' Night)

Dates of Exhibit at the Museum:

- Cut paper illustrations by Cynthia McKeen through Jan '08
- Papirklip Mobiles by Annette Andersen opens Aug '07
- The work of Helle Jordad, Danish Goldsmith & Designer through May '08
- Paintings by Edward Matwikijw thru Oct '07