

# The Local Connection

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## Customer Service Corner

- Cable customers: Check out Channel 60—it is an on-line channel guide that you might find useful.
- Don't forget to ask about our DSL specials—good through February. We have some slight differences in the promotions, so be sure to ask us about the details. Both of them will save you money, and we want you to get the service that is right for you.
- Don't forget about our new security product SecureIT Plus. It will automatically handle your Anti Virus, Anti Spyware, Anti Adware, as well as updating your Windows operating system and more. Ask us for all the details.

## 10 Ways High Speed Internet beats the blahs!

10. Receive new pictures of your grandchildren by email from your daughter.
9. Forward those pictures to your friends—telling them how beautiful and smart your grandchildren are.
8. Learn how to “chat” or “IM” with your friends.
7. Research family history through various sites. Contact long lost great uncle Claude to see if he has pictures of Great Great Grandma for the upcoming family reunion.
6. Type a favorite vacation spot into Google and click on the “I’m feeling lucky” button.
5. Research who you are going to draft for your Fantasy Baseball team this Spring.
4. Find a ‘blog’ that interests you and read it on a regular basis. What’s a ‘blog’? You can research that using high speed Internet too.
3. Download some music, a podcast or an audiobook for your new iPod.
2. If you don't have an iPod, you can research and buy one on-line.
1. Research a warm weather vacation spot, buy your tickets or make your reservations on-line and then pack your bags.



The number of fun things you can do with a high speed Internet connection from Marne Elk Horn is endless. There are some great work related applications too—like filing your taxes, communicating with customers or vendors, and even learning about the latest news affecting your industry.

If you need more inspiration or details, call us. We will be glad to talk with you about all your options to be sure you get the product that is right for your needs.

## Interesting Industry Info

There has been a lot of talk about cable programming, pricing and packaging recently by regulators, legislators and the media. The issue at the heart of the matter is how to control indecency from coming into our homes. Needless to say, the issue is much more complex than sound bites or quotes in the newspaper can relay. Some think introducing “a la carte” pricing and packaging is the answer to both the indecency and rising cost issues, however this approach does not consider that end users will each want different “sets” of programming. To provide these “sets” of services, the costs per program would jump dramatically as programmers and providers work to change the equipment needed to provide the service.

## Do Not Call Registry Update

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have established a national Do-Not-Call Registry.

The Registry applies to all telemarketers (with the exception of certain non-profit and political organizations) and covers both calls from in-state and out-of-state telemarketers. Commercial telemarketers are not allowed to call you if your number is listed on the registry.



You may register your phone number at no cost, and it will remain on the national Do-Not-Call Registry for five years. You may re-enter your number onto the list when the five years have passed, and you may remove your name/number from the list at any time.

The Do-Not-Call Registry will not prevent all unwanted calls. It does not cover the following:

- Calls from organizations with which you have established a business relationship;
- Calls from companies to whom you have given prior written consent;
- Calls which are not commercial or do not include unsolicited advertisements;
- Calls by or on behalf of tax-exempt non-profit organizations.

Consumers may register their residential telephone number, including wireless cellular numbers, on the national Do-Not-Call Registry at no cost by telephone or on the Internet.

To register by phone, customers may call 1-888-382-1222 from the phone number you wish to register.

Hearing impaired customers using TTY may call 1-866-290-4236.

You may also register via the web at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Inclusion of your telephone number on the national Do-Not-Call Registry will be effective three months following your registration.

### Register your phone number by:

Calling	1-888-382-1222
Internet	<a href="http://www.donotcall.gov">www.donotcall.gov</a>
TTY	1-866-290-4236

## Business Spotlight - Danish Windmill

You cannot come to Elk Horn without noticing the Danish Windmill.

“The windmill is a dream come true, a successful project for the community,” said Lisa Riggs, the Windmill’s General Manager. “I am sure that at the time they started this endeavor they did not realize the end project would be this successful.”

The Windmill has 12 full and part-time employees who serve the 60 to 80 thousand tourists that visit each year from all 50 states.

In addition to being a tourist attraction the windmill acts as an Iowa Welcome Center, and the largest import Danish gift shop in the country.

The windmill was built in 1848 in

Denmark and moved to Elk Horn in November of 1975 to honor the area’s Danish heritage.



The Danish Windmill was moved to Elk Horn in 1975

The Internet has opened many doors for the gifts the Windmill sells. Their on-line sales doubled from 2004 to 2005 and products have been shipped all over the world!

The Windmill uses both METC phone and high-speed Internet services to take tour reservations, orders and to update their website: [www.danishwindmill.com](http://www.danishwindmill.com)

“We are thankful for the partnership we have with Marne Elk Horn,” stated Lisa. “I feel proud to have them in our community because they are always working to provide state-of-the-art technology for members of the community to use.”

We are pleased to have the Windmill in our community and we would like to encourage you to visit them—and to take your friends and family along, too.

## What's Ahead — Janell Hansen, General Manager

What is new in your world? It is a New Year, so renewal and resolutions are on everyone's mind.

It's always fun to see all the new gadgets and toys that arrive in stores around Christmas. We get more and more questions each year from customers who are wondering how things work—ipods, digital cameras, laptops, Blackberries, wireless phones and accessories, new TVs and more.

One of our renewed resolutions here at METC is to stay informed and educated about the technology customers are using and want to use. With these new "gadgets" come the need for new services—and we're here to help!

Did you make any New Year's resolu-

tions? If you resolved to expand your use of technology, look to METC to help you with just about anything you want to do.



If you want to get Voice Mail so you can eliminate the answering machine that takes up space on your counter—we can help.

Maybe you want to add a wireless network to your home or business to share resources like a printer or a high-speed Internet connection. We can help you there, too!

If you are an Exira customer, we hope you resolved to check out the new product offerings we have launched. We are signing people up like crazy to our phone, cable, and Internet bundles, so we're ready for

you when you have a minute to call or stop in. We are so pleased to have this service to offer in Exira and are very happy with the response we have had.

Maybe you're thinking that in the winter you like to just sit back, relax and watch some TV. It's a great time to add a movie channel to your TV service. I'd also like you to check out Channel 60. It's our new on-screen channel guide that we think is very handy.

The staff at METC makes every effort to stay knowledgeable about the new technology. Please give us a call when you have a question about what to choose for products or services.

Remember, we are here for you!

## Employee Spotlight — Britta Larsen, Part-time office staff

We are pleased to introduce Britta Larsen as a part time employee of Marne Elk Horn. Many are likely to recognize her from the many days and evenings she spent working at the Danish Inn.

She has the opportunity to join us through the Honors Mentoring program at Elk Horn Kimballton High School. Britta joined us in August and quickly started to get a broad understanding about factors that affect our ability to provide telephone, cable TV, Internet and cellular services to our customers.

"Over the first couple of weeks, I had the chance to shadow every employee and it really let me see the different technologies and teamwork that it takes to provide the services that we provide," stated Britta.

"Also, I did some mapping work and that project helped me visualize just



Britta Larsen

how broad an area Marne Elk Horn serves. It is amazing."

When Britta isn't at METC, she stays very busy as a senior at EHK High

School. She participates in golf and flags, as well as serving as the President of her Class for the past two years. Britta has also been on Student Council for the past two years and is serving as Vice President this year.

Britta enjoys being involved with school activities and hanging out with her friends and family, as well as working at the Danish Inn on Sundays.

Don and Jan Larsen are Britta's parents and they, along with brothers Kaj and Tyler, recently celebrated her 18th birthday on January 6th.

Britta is planning to attend a 2 year school and then transfer to a University to major in Communications, Marketing and Advertising. Additionally, she is interested in New York City, and looks forward to visiting the city for the first time later this year.

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**Your local connection to it all**

**We're on the web at  
www.marneelkhorn.com**

## Upcoming Events

- Danish Museum – Clint Hansen display  
January 19, 2006 -- July 5, 2006
- E Club Meeting Feb 8
- Exira School Board Meeting Feb 13
- EHK/Exira No school - Teacher inservices Feb 17 & March 24
- Presidents Day - No school EHK/Exira Feb 20
- EHK Pops Concert @ 7:30 March 7
- E Club Meeting March 8
- RHC Band Festival @ O-M March 13
- Exira School Board Meeting March 13
- EHK/Exira Parent/Teacher conferences March 21 & 23
- RHC Art Fair @ Walnut April 4
- Teacher in-service - 12:30 dismissal EHK/1:30 Exira April 5
- Exira School Board Meeting April 10
- E Club Meeting April 12
- Easter Vacation - 2:30 dismissal April 13 - 18
- EHK/Exira Prom April 22
- Danish Museum – Fitness, Form and Rhythm in Motion: The Danish Gymnastic Tradition in the United States  
April 20, 2006—March 15, 2007

## Community Involvement



Everyone enjoyed Family Fun Night – November 19th. Our staff had a great time working AND playing at the event.



Above Cathi Menter and her son Conner are preparing for the next round of BINGO. At right, Glee Gude Smith (formerly of Elk Horn), her son Zack and another BINGO player share a laugh at the event.