

The Local Connection

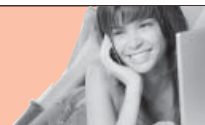


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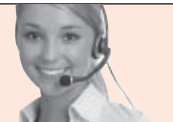
Stay *Connected*



Stay *Entertained*



Stay *Satisfied*



Customer Service Corner

- New AT&T Charges**
 If you use an AT&T Direct Dial Basic Rate Plan, there was an additional \$2.99 monthly fee applied to your January 1, 2009 bill. If you have questions, call AT&T at 888-795-2717. For additional long distance options, call our office.
- New Directories**
 Watch for our new directory coming to your mailbox in March. Make sure to check your listing and contact us with any updates for next year.

The word 'Stay' has many definitions; 22 in one dictionary. Therefore, our Stay Connected, Stay Entertained and Stay Satisfied campaign could mean many different things if one considered it, but its meaning in this case is really quite simple.

We love to serve you, and nothing pleases us more than to know we are doing it well. Because of the products we

provide, Staying Connected, Entertained and Satisfied means we are serving you well.

You can stay connected to family, friends and co-workers by using our telephone, high speed Internet or wireless services.

You can stay entertained by watching our Digital TV and movie channels. Or, you can use our high speed Internet

services for entertainment or even gaming.

You can stay satisfied, knowing that we have an outstanding staff of experts that live and work here to help you with challenges you face.

Take a look at our offers below. We hope you find something that will help you Stay Connected, Entertained or Satisfied.

Bundle

Try a Phone, Internet and/or Cable TV Bundle and Receive

First Month for 1/2 Price

Cable TV

Sign up and Receive

FREE Installation

Plus Receive HBO, Cinemax or Showtime

FREE for 3 Months

Internet

Sign up for New High Speed Service or Upgrade from Dial-up and Receive

FREE Installation



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



Offer valid February 1 through April 30, 2009. Some restrictions apply. Not all products and services available in all areas. Call or visit our office for full details.

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

Annual Stockholders' Meeting Monday, February 23rd at Elk Horn Town Hall

Stockholders will receive more information by mail in the coming weeks

Teaching online classes from Elk Horn

Jeanette Knudsen loves her job. She teaches classes for Bellevue University from her Elk Horn home office using an METC high speed Internet connection.

Since 1960, Knudsen has been teaching a variety of nursing courses, however most have been in the traditional classroom. Two years ago, a friend asked her if she would be interested in a 'virtual' teaching position.

"Bellevue provides the curriculum and the students, I do the teaching and grading." Her classes include Legal Aspects, Human Resources and Leadership. She has 16-24

students at a time, who receive a Healthcare Management Degree when all classes are completed. Students are all over the United States, even Japan & Germany.

"The only trouble I've had is one student didn't get a text book on time. Otherwise, it doesn't matter where a student lives. It works great and I'm happy I can do it from here."



Jeanette Knudsen in her 'classroom'.

#2 Scrooge

Congratulations to METC's own Janell Hansen at coming in 2nd in Atlantic's Annual Scrooge Contest in December. Janell raised a total of \$3,784 which included a match by METC. The annual event raises money for the Atlantic Food Pantry.



It's a Wonderful Life

Congratulations to our It's a Wonderful Life promotion drawing winners. Customers who signed up for select services were eligible to win \$100 in Community Dollars from the community of their choice.

Winners were:

- Nov - Patte Testa, Atlantic
- Dec - Jeff Jessen, Exira
- Jan - Not yet awarded

Business Spotlight: Danish Mutual Insurance & Insurance Services

DMI is proud to serve area customers since 1886

Danish Mutual Insurance (DMI) has a lot to be proud of: they are the oldest business in Elk Horn, have great customers, a great staff and a strong Danish tradition.

Founded in 1886, DMI was organized by farmers wanting to insure their land. Mutuals aren't uncommon, with over 100 operating in Iowa.

Today, DMI clients are about two-thirds farm and one-third residential. They operate in a 7-county area, serving approximately 2000 customers.

In 1992, DMI purchased an insurance agency and formed the subsidiary, Insurance Services (IS), which sells auto, home, farm, life & health insurance

from a variety of insurers, including Danish Mutual.

Danish Mutual is run by a 9-member Board, employs 5 full time employees and Insurance Services has 2. Everyone is in the same building at 4138 Main in Elk Horn. They are looking forward to growth by expanding their coverage area to include more of southwest Iowa, and by offering more services.

DMI and IS utilizes METC's high speed Internet, telephone, cable TV & cellular services.

Stated Manager Tom Cannon, "METC's philosophy is very similar to ours: We are long-term, successful businesses, run by local people, serving local people."



Front L to R: Tom Cannon, Elise Juelsgaard, Sharon Hogberg & Cheryl Petersen
Back L to R: Terry Petersen, Darwin Swanson & Mark Paulsen

"We enjoy doing business, up the street, with Marne Elk Horn."

Tom Cannon, Danish Mutual Manager and Terry Petersen, Insurance Services Manager.



What's Ahead

Janell Hansen
General Manager



We want to be the expert you turn to

services we provide, but mostly we wanted to see what was 'next'.

Without a doubt, our staff is asked about everything from computers to home theater systems, and wireless networks to High Definition TVs. We are the local

technology experts and we wouldn't have it any other way.

So, what did we learn from attending the CES, as it is called by attendees? It is hard to narrow

it down because the product categories are so broad, but in our realm of interest we thought we could refine it to three thoughts.

1) Broadband Internet will be vital for customers to have going forward. Manufacturers of products assume that everyone has it as they develop their products.

2) The lines between cable TV programming and video content from other sources like YouTube, Hulu or Crackle and others are

blurring. Consumer friendly gadgets are on the way to help you combine and view everything on different TVs simultaneously.

3) Touch screens will continue to expand from the little screens like iPods and phones to computers and HD TVs.

There is some cool stuff coming which everyone will want to use, even if you don't know how to make it all work. Our goal is to be the first call you make to assure you get the most out of your technology.

Just recently one of our staff members attended the Consumer Electronics Show. There were many reasons to attend the show since so many consumer electronics are connected to

Do Not Call Registry stops unwanted calls

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls at home.

Register your home or mobile phone numbers for free at www.donotcall.gov or by calling their toll free number 1-888-382-1222.

After registration, unsolicited calls should diminish in about 30 days. All unwanted calls

should cease within 90 days because callers are required to check the registry quarterly.

There are exceptions to the types of calls which can be made to you including: calls on behalf of political organizations, charities, surveyors and companies with whom you've done business or with whom you've made inquiry or submitted an application. For more information, visit the Do Not Call website at www.donotcall.gov.



**NATIONAL
DO NOT CALL
REGISTRY**

- Created in 2003
- Regulated by the FCC & FTC
- Registration is FREE

Poldberg loves the outdoors & our customers

The combination of working outside and with our customers are two of Bruce Poldberg's favorite things, which makes him a perfect match for his job.

Poldberg is METC's longest-term employee, starting his career on August 16, 1976. He grew up on a farm east of Harlan and had lots of relatives in the Elk Horn area, which made it an easy decision when he was asked to start working for us.

Bruce's title is Outside Plant Manager. His main responsibilities are maintenance

of the telephone and cable television facilities & equipment, as well as all the cable in the ground.

Over the years, Bruce says his overall job hasn't changed a great deal but the type of equipment and technology

used changes about every 5 years. "It seems there is always something new to learn and research. We are always looking at how we can

improve our services. That is one thing I really appreciate - that the company wants to provide the best possible product for customers."

"We are always looking at how we can improve our services. That's one thing that I really appreciate."

Employee Spotlight



Bruce Poldberg, Outside Plant Manager

When asked about his proudest accomplishment, he said it was the fact that they've replaced all of the outside plant cable in the years since he's been there. "We started with the worst and replaced more and more every year."

Bruce is married to Calla who is a nurse practitioner at the Shelby County Medical Clinic.

They have 3 sons: Aaron, Neil & Seth and 4 grandchildren. He is thankful that they all live in the area and he enjoys spending time with them. In addition, he also enjoys attending high school sporting events and traveling. Last summer, he and Calla celebrated their 30th anniversary with a trip to Alaska. Thanks, Bruce, for all you do for 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 &
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

The Digital Television transition is here!

February 17th is almost here and, with it, the long-awaited transition from analog television broadcasting to digital television.

We are fully compliant and ready to go. As reported, if you have our cable television service, or another pay-tv service, you have nothing to worry about.

If, however, you use ONLY an antenna to watch TV, it's not too late to do one

Don't
panic!

If you have METC
Cable TV, you're ready for
the DTV Transition!

of the following:

- Sign up for our Cable TV service
- Purchase a converter box

Call us or visit www.dtv.gov for more info.

Thank You!

Thanks to you, we were able to make a generous donation to the food pantry during our 'It's a Wonderful Life' promotion which ran November through January. We matched your donation and delivered everything to the Food Pantry in January.

Right: EH-K Student Council added to our donation by contributing items they collected over the holiday season. Shelby Andersen and Kelsi Madsen, EH-K students.



Left: METC staff, Sue Mardesen, Michelle Jens & Janice Greve with some of the donations.



Enjoy the convenience and savings of our new . . .

Total Connections Bundles!

Telephone • Cable Television • Internet

Upcoming Events . . .

February

- 2 Exira HS Pop Concert @7pm
- 7 State Large Group Speech
- 9 HS Honor Choir @IWCC
- 10 EH-K & Exira Early Dismissal
- 16 Exira No School
- 19 Exira K-11 Spring Pictures
- 27 EH-K After Prom Fundraiser
"Waffle Man" @Kimballton Town Hall

March

- 3 EH-K 7-12 Pops Concert
- 10 Exira Early Dismissal
- 17 RHC Band @CAM
- 23 EH-K & Exira Parent Teacher Conferences
- 27 EH-K & Exira No School

April

- 7 EH-K K-4 Spring Concert @7pm
- 10-13 EH-K & Exira No School
- 15 RHC Art Fair ACA/ICA
- 18 Solo/Small Group
Band Contest
- 20 Ex Jr/HS Spring
Concert @7pm
- 25 EH-K & Exira
Prom

