

# The Local Connection

Volume 10 | Issue 1 | Winter 2011



With all the devices that connect to the Internet, it has become a must have. If you already have our high speed product, you might want to consider upgrading or if you don't, you may want to add it.

There is a great story about Internet ready devices on pg 2, so be sure to check that out. In addition to all those options, high speed Internet has moved from a luxury to a 'must have' for most homes & all businesses.

It has become an "information appliance" for many - offering everything from

homework support to vacation planning options. It aids with shopping and big purchase research, as well.

In addition, high speed allows you to back up your files simply and easily using our On-Line backup product. You may also keep your PC running smooth, and keep your pictures, music and documents safe from viruses etc. with our SecureIT family of products.

Don't be left behind . . . Get Carried Away instead!

*Fly Higher &  
Go Faster with  
METC!*

**Get High Speed Internet**  
Starting at  
**\$39<sup>95</sup>/month**

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## Customer Service Corner

### Large Print Bills

We are now offering large print bills! Simply call our office to request your next bill to be printed in large print.

### New Directories

Watch for the 2011 telephone directory coming in your mail in March. Stop by the office if you need extra copies.

### Need Multiple Phones?

Check out the convenience of a multiple handset cordless phone system. These phones only require one base to be plugged into a single phone jack. Additional handsets have their own charging base and can be used in other rooms in your house. A simple, inexpensive answer to have easy access without needing a jack in every room!



**Marne Elk Horn**

YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION TO IT ALL

Phone • Internet  
Cable Television • Cellular

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

# What is an Internet ready device and how can it help me?



Many devices (TVs, DVD players & game systems) can be connected to the Internet, and with that opens another set of options. In short, this blurs the line about what you can do on what device.

One important note, just because you can connect to the Internet with your device doesn't mean you can browse the web or do email on your device - at least not yet.

*"The end game is to let you engage your media wherever you want to do so."*

For the sake of this story, let's assume everyone is a novice when it comes to Internet ready devices (like TVs, DVD players and game systems).

It used to be that one watched TV on their TV, played games on their game system with friends on the couch and watched movies from DVDs on your DVD player.

You can still do all that, but now you can do more, if your device is "Internet-ready."

Currently, your device is reliant on small applications (sometimes called widgets or apps) to do common functions like YouTube, Pandora or Picasa web albums.

Many devices also allow you to rent movies via Netflix or Amazon. And most game systems allow you to play your games against others connected via the Internet.

Remember, these devices are not computers, they just run very small 'apps' that allow specific functionality. Enter the iPad and the iPod Touch. These two devices are essentially computers, intended to access the Internet

and use 'apps' to work or play. But, they have very small screens, unlike your TV.

The end game is to let you engage your media wherever you want to do so. Your Internet and TV connections can bring you a lot more than they used to. Ask us about it. There is so much to explore in this area if you want to do so.

## *Have a corded phone?*

Having a corded phone in your house is a good idea. Yes, we are talking about one of those 'old' phones that hangs on the wall or sits on the desk.



Not only can it help when your cordless phone's battery is about to die and you are on an important call, but it could also help you troubleshoot any issues with your phone. Since they don't require AC power, they remove that hurdle from the process.

## Business Spotlight Mill Hus Bakery, Elk Horn

### Grevings offer baked goods to the Danish Villages

Michael and Susan Greving moved back to Elk Horn from Boston about 2 years ago, in fact the bakery was closing about the time the couple moved. Susan is a native of Boston and Michael is originally from Elk Horn.

They opened the bakery in late November of 2010 and they like to think it fills a nice need in the Danish Villages.

Besides working at the bakery, Susan has been involved in the Iowa Great Places project, as well as choreographing musicals for EH-K and Atlantic high schools.

Michael stated, "We have Danish goods, of course, as well as bread and other bakery favorites. We are looking to expand into a few more Danish specialties. And we also serve light breakfasts and a simple, but hearty set of lunch favorites during the week and an expanded brunch on weekends."

"The holiday season was nice, but we do look forward to spring and summer, as it will give us the chance to expand our hours, lunch options and use some outside seating plans we have made."

The bakery is open 8 am-2 pm Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri and Sat in

the winter. Warmer weather will see expanded hours, but exactly what those hours will be is yet to be determined.

"We appreciate all that METC has done to assist us. We have phone, cable TV and Internet from them and we provide

WiFi to our bakery customers," stated Michael.

If you are looking for a great coffee place or if you need a Danish treat or bakery snack, be sure to stop in to Mill Hus Bakery. They are located just south of the METC office!



## What's Ahead

Janell Hansen  
General Manager



# Network that connects us all may be in jeopardy!

We all want to communicate when and where we want to. That can be a voice conversation, an email, a text message or some form of video chat – just to name a few options. What used to be done solely from home can now be done from an iPad, a laptop or a smartphone.

Interestingly, all of these capabilities are still reliant on the network that keeps your home connected. Not the wires

that actually come into your home, but rather what those wires are connected to, the broader network of fiber that stretches across town, the county, our state and our world. It is that network that connects us all.

It is that underground network of fiber, which we, or other companies like us, own that carries almost all of the wireless calls, emails to your smartphone, text messages and allows you to access the Internet from your wireless phone. Wireless phones can't function without an

**“Wireless phones can't function without an underground network to support them.”**

underground network to support them.

The National Broadband plan, that I introduced last time, has an impact on all of this because it incorporates changes to the funding model which is how companies like us get paid to transport traffic.

On the surface this is a good thing because changes are needed to adjust for the significant changes in the marketplace. Deeper down is where the problems start to surface. It becomes apparent that DC regulators want to apply different rules for different areas. They are

proposing to change the long held position that all American's should have equivalent services, by giving more populated areas better services than you will be able to get.

If they have their way, our cost recovery system will be changed, which will not allow us to maintain the network that makes it all possible – including wireless services. In addition, we would not be able to bring you expanded Fiber to the Home products.

When you talk with Federal legislators, tell them to make sure the FCC treats less populated areas the same as metro markets. We all deserve the same platform for opportunities.

## Annual Stockholders' Meeting Monday, February 28 at Elk Horn Town Hall

Stockholders will receive more information by mail in the coming weeks

### METC honored as 'Renew Rural Iowa Leader'

The Farm Bureau has recognized METC with their Renew Rural Iowa Leadership Award. The official announcement was made on Jan 20th on WHO Radio's 'The Big Show'.

METC was recognized for being a long-term supporter of economic development in the region. As you know, METC

supports businesses with great communications services, but also supports development with investments of time and money.

“We are proud to be associated with great companies in our region, both large and small. Economic development is a team effort. Thanks for letting us play a part,” said Janell.



Left to Right: Merlyn Knudsen & Janell Hansen of METC, Joe Elmquist & Laverne Deist of Audubon County Farm Bureau

## 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](http://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](http://www.donotcall.gov).



**NATIONAL  
DO NOT CALL  
REGISTRY**

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

# 'In the Moment' Flip video camera winners

During our 'In the Moment' campaign, we gave away Flip video cameras; one in November, December & January. Shown below are the November & December winners.



**November Winner**  
Tom Godwin, Jr.  
Exira. Pictured is his daughter Margaret.



**December Winner**  
Elise Juelsgaard  
Elk Horn

✂ clip & save ✂

## 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

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

## Password Genie is better than Advil!

# Tech Corner

If you have ever forgotten a computer password, you will appreciate Password Genie's ability to save you a headache!

Password Genie is a simple to use, small program that securely keeps your passwords.

You can install it on multiple computers

and you, your spouse and kids can each have your own account to securely save individual passwords. Password Genie makes using multiple computers, or changing computers a breeze!

Let us show you all the benefits & how Password Genie can save you headaches!

## Upcoming Events . . .

### February

- 1 BB @ Walnut @6:15pm
- 4 BB vs East Greene @6:15pm
- 5 State Large Group Speech
- 7 High School Honor Choir
- 8 BB vs Glidden @6:15pm Senior Night
- 11 No School
- 15 Bloodmobile at Exira School
- 19 All State Large Group Speech
- 21 No School
- 27 Salem Homes Annual Meeting @2pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Atlantic

- 29 Boys Track at Audubon @5pm
- 31 Girls Track at Audubon @5pm

### April

### March

- 10 Early Dismissal @12:30pm RHC Academic Banquet
- 11-12 Individual State Speech
- 15 RHC Band Festival
- 17 Early Dismissal @2:30pm
- 18 No School / Track @ BV 4pm
- 22 Early Dismissal @12:30pm
- 28 All State Individual Speech

- 1 No School
- 2 Exira Prom
- 4 Boys Track at Treynor @4:30pm
- 5 Girls Track at Greenfield @5pm
- 9 Solo/ Small Group Band Contest EHK Prom
- 11 Boys Track at Neola @5pm
- 12 RHC Art Fair & B/G Track at Adair @5pm
- 14 Early Dismissal Girls Track at Guthrie Center @5pm
- 15 Boys Track at Underwood @5pm
- 19 B/G Track at Anita @5pm
- 21 B/G Track at Elk Horn @5pm
- 22 No School - Good Friday
- 24 Easter
- 25 No School / B Track Woodbine @5pm
- 26 Spring Concert & G Track at Audubon @5pm
- 28 B/G Track at Guthrie Center @5pm

