



# THE CONNECTION

## This 'N That

### 7th Annual Customer Appreciation Open House

Everyone is invited to attend our customer appreciation open house on Friday, September 19 in our office from 10:00am-3:00pm.



We'll answer questions about Internet, SecureIT Plus, cable television, telephone and cellular service throughout the day.

Door prize drawings will be held and homemade apple pie will be served!

## FREE Computer Classes

Plan to attend an upcoming computer class. All classes start at 7:00 pm.

- **iTunes - Thursday, August 14**  
Guthrie Center Public Library
- **Intro to Computers - Thursday, September 11**  
Panora Public Library
- **Q&A Session - Thursday, October 9** Guthrie Center Public Library
- **Digital Pictures - Thursday, November 13** Panora Public Library

Register by calling 332-2000. Class size is limited. Full 2008 schedule can be found on our website at [www.guthriecentercom.com](http://www.guthriecentercom.com).

## Protect Your Electronics

Protect your computer modems and other valuable electronics by using an adequate surge protector with a phone port.

## Iowa OneCall

Summer is a busy time for digging projects such as construction, planting trees & installing new fence.

Call OneCall at least 48 hours before you dig at 811 or 1-800-292-8989. Locate requests are taken 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Not only will it keep you safe, it's the law!



## System upgrade offers expanded services



**Matt Weiser works on the optical network terminal, where the fiber connects to the customer's home or office.**

comes into your home is viewed as 'data' by the network that provides it.

The information delivered over the Internet – like software, video clips and movie rentals, continues to come in larger data packages. The same can be said for entertainment delivered over cable TV with the advancements in High Definition channels and the expansion of programming choices in general.

The equipment upgrade that is being completed now paves the way for customers of Guthrie Center Communications to receive extremely fast Internet speeds now, but it also will provide for over 100 Mb per customer in the future.

It is hard to even think about how our need for speed could grow, but it will. There is a race to deliver large amounts of bandwidth to customers at both homes and businesses.

So, why is there a need for speed? The main reason is how services are starting to be delivered to you. Almost everything that

have upgraded the network so that it can meet your needs today and any needs you may have in the future. The new

system will help with all aspects of our product delivery – Internet, cable TV and voice services. It will allow for consistently delivered and predictable speeds as required by customers.

"We serve customers with fiber to the home, which provides

outstanding service, but we needed to be sure we continued to meet the needs of our customers today and long into the future. This upgrade allows us to do that very well," concluded Andy Randol, GCC General Manager.

**"WE NEEDED TO BE SURE WE CONTINUED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CUSTOMERS TODAY AND LONG INTO THE FUTURE."**

**ANDY RANDOL,  
GENERAL MANAGER**

## Area senior receives scholarship

An area senior was awarded a scholarship from Guthrie Center Communications.



**Sydney Spencer** of Guthrie Center is this year's GCC \$500 scholarship winner. Sydney, the daughter of Dan Spencer and Kim Kline, lives in Guthrie Center

and graduated in May from Guthrie Center High School.

She plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, with an emphasis on Human Services.

"We are proud of all of our graduating seniors," stated GM Andy Randol, "We wish all area seniors the very best with their plans for the future."

Congratulations Sydney!

## Retransmission Consent affects our customers

Often, a change in our business doesn't have any affect on you. However, something called 'Retransmission Consent' will impact customers who receive cable television services.

It used to be that broadcast channels, like KCCI, Fox, WHO and WOI would ask that we carry their signal on our cable system.

It was a jointly beneficial arrangement. Our customers received the local channels on the cable system, and the broadcaster's programming and advertisers received a wider audience – often because we were boosting their signal when we placed it on the system.

Now, broadcasters require that we sign a Retransmission Consent agreement AND pay them per customer to carry their signal on our system.

The bottom line is, that most likely, these new costs will cause us to raise the price of our cable TV service at some point in the future. This is just another case of programming costs spinning out of control.

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**Guthrie Center  
Communications . . .  
a partner in your future**



# Learn *for* Life



book, a class, a program or a teacher ready to teach you. And, best of all, your options to learn have expanded and

the costs to learn, in many cases, have gone way down over the past 10 years.

It's Back to School time, but we figured why should the kids get to have all the fun. Learning is a lifelong pursuit and now there are more options than ever to keep you learning for a lifetime.

Regardless of your age, learning evolves along with your interests. Maybe you want to know more about a hobby or a home improvement project. Possibly you want to become an expert on American history or fulfill your lifelong desire to learn to fly an airplane. Or, maybe your kids just need your help with their homework.

Whatever you want to learn, there is a

Without question, the Internet is a great tool to use for education. It can be a research library, an on-line classroom or an impromptu homework assistant.

Cable TV also offers volumes of knowledge to aid your learning on channels like: The History Channel, Discovery, The Learning Channel, Iowa Public Television, and many others.

Add to this the classes at churches, community colleges & libraries and you can continue to Learn for Life.

High Speed Internet 2 Months for <b>\$19<sup>95</sup>/month</b>	SecureIT Plus Automated, guaranteed virus & spyware computer protection 2 Months for <b>\$2<sup>95</sup>/month</b> (Regular price \$9.95/month)	Basic Digital Cable TV 2 Months for <b>\$25/month</b>
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Learn for Life promotion valid from August 1 & October 31, 2008. Call or see website for full details.

## Low income lowans may qualify for assistance

Assistance in paying your telephone bill is available to qualifying low-income lowans as part of two federal support programs. These programs, 'Lifeline Assistance' and 'Link-Up', are available through Guthrie Center Communications.

'Lifeline' is a plan that assists qualified low-income lowans by providing a monthly credit on their telephone bill up to \$8.25.

'Link-Up' is an assistance plan that helps qualified low-income lowans pay for the installation of basic telephone service by reducing connection charges by 50 percent, or \$30, whichever is less.

Another feature of the Lifeline program enables qualified applicants to avoid paying a service deposit if they voluntarily agree to have long distance calling blocked from their telephone.

lowans who participate in one or more of the following programs are eligible: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental

**Lifeline and  
Link-up are  
available to  
qualifying  
customers**



Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program or the National School Lunch Program.

Application forms can be obtained from our office or at the local and county offices of the Department of Human Services, Area Agency on Aging, and the Community Action Program offices of the Department of Human Rights.

Visit our website for more information.

## Interns spend valuable summer at Guthrie Center Communications

Ben Algreen and Matt Weiser have been working this summer with Guthrie Center Communications.

Ben is a 2006 graduate of West Central Valley High School in Stuart and in May, 2008 earned an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Telecommunications from Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

Matt is a 2004 graduate of Adel-Desoto-Minburn High School and earned an Associates Degree in Business Administration from DMACC in 2008 and will graduate in

May, 2009 with an Associates Degree in Telecommunications from DMACC.

When asked about their summer, here's what they had to say:

**Ben:** "The summer has been a good learning experience for hands-on aspects of being a technician. I've really enjoyed my time here. It's been a great experience."

**Matt:** "Great experience. I've learned many new things about the telco industry and have enjoyed the work."



**Matt Weiser (left) and Ben Algreen (right) worked at GCC this summer after obtaining their education at DMACC.**