ALPINE COMMUNIQUÉ

Real Access. Real Value. Real People.

Bringing Big City Conveniences to Small Town Iowa
Unveiling the Story Behind a Local Gem

In the quaint town of McGregor, Iowa, nestled along the scenic Mississippi River, a culinary haven has become a beloved part of the community since its establishment in 2013. "By the Spoonful," owned by the passionate Katie Ruff, is not just a place to savor delicious food but a testament to the warmth and charm of small-town living. (563-964-9307)

Katie Ruff's journey with By the Spoonful started with a simple coffee conversation with her mom. Raised just 15 minutes outside McGregor, Katie had moved to Ames to earn a degree in culinary science from Iowa State University. At that coffee conversation with her mom, she casually mentioned that she had entertained the idea that, perhaps in 20 years, she would return to Northeast Iowa to open a culinary shop. Fate had its own plans when news broke that a small grocery store on Main Street in McGregor was closing. Seizing the opportunity, Katie orchestrated a swift turnaround, opening By the Spoonful seamlessly, ensuring that locals wouldn't miss a beat.

By the Spoonful is a celebration of local produce, focusing on meats and cheeses sourced from the community. The establishment proudly showcases Iowa's finest wines and craft beers, adding a touch of local flair to every culinary creation. What sets By the Spoonful apart is its fusion of big-city offerings with the charm of McGregor.

Much like By the Spoonful, Alpine Communications has brought innovation to McGregor. By installing the best fiber optic network in small communities like McGregor, Alpine is weaving a digital fabric that connects residents and businesses alike. For Katie Ruff, having a reliable internet connection is crucial for her Point of Sale (POS) system. Alpine provides not just high-speed internet but also peace of mind for busy business owners.
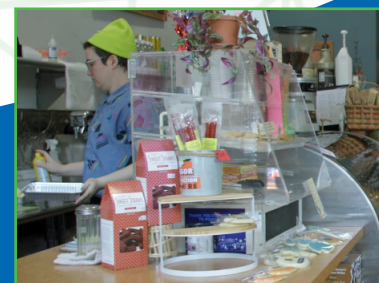
Katie expresses her gratitude: "I've had a great internet experience with Alpine. It's one less thing to worry about." The reliability of Alpine's services allows her to focus on what matters most—providing a comforting and welcoming space for the community.

As a busy business professional, Katie values the peace of mind that comes with having a local company like Alpine Communications at her service. "I just need things to work how they're supposed to," she says. With Alpine, if there are ever any issues, she has a direct line and someone ready to help resolve them quickly. Fortunately, she hasn't encountered any hiccups, emphasizing her positive experience with the internet services provided by Alpine.

In the heart of McGregor, By the Spoonful and Alpine Communications stand as beacons of community, connectivity, and comfort. Both contribute to the thriving spirit of this small town, making McGregor not just a place to visit but a place to call home.

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If your phone number appears in parentheses (XXX-XXXX) in this edition of the Alpine Communiqué, please give us a call at 563-245-4000 by March 31, 2024, and we'll apply a $5 credit to your account!

Diving into a world of virtual excitement at the office!

Employees explore gaming wonders with the Meta Quest 3 headset, discovering how fiber speeds can elevate the gaming experience.

Fiber network updates

As winter's chill settles in, the determination to enhance connectivity in rural areas remains unwavering. In the coming year, the fiber optic Fusion Network will revolutionize the digital landscape for residents in rural Elkader, rural Elgin, Wadena, Volga, rural Strawberry Point, and surrounding regions.

Updates:

RURAL ELKADER – Splicing and testing continue in our rural Elkader locations. We will be moving customers to the fiber network in early 2024.

RURAL ELGIN – Construction continues with our main lines and drops to customer homes. We hope to be able to begin moving customers to the fiber network in Q2 of 2024.

OSTERDOCK AREA – visits began in December. We are excited to meet with customers to discuss everything our fiber network can do for them. If you haven't been visited, please call our office to schedule a time for your consultation.

WADENA, VOLGA, RURAL STRAWBERRY POINT – We will begin visiting residents in our new construction area in mid-January. We can't wait to meet everyone in these areas and tell them about Alpine and the services we have available for them with the new fiber network.

How To Save Money With Internet

Using your internet connection strategically can indeed contribute to saving money.

Here are some ways to leverage your internet for financial savings:

1. COMPARE PRICES ONLINE:
Use the internet to research and compare prices before making purchases. Many online retailers offer competitive pricing, and you can find deals and discounts that may not be available in physical stores.

2. ONLINE COUPONS AND CASHBACK:
Explore websites and apps that offer digital coupons and cashback opportunities. Before making online purchases, check for applicable discounts that can help you save money. (563-426-5886)

3. DIGITAL BUDGETING TOOLS:
Utilize online budgeting tools and apps to track your expenses and manage your finances more effectively. Many of these tools can provide insights into your spending habits and help you identify areas where you can cut costs.

4. STREAMLINING SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Review your subscription services regularly. The Internet is a convenient platform to manage and cancel subscriptions you no longer need. Consider consolidating or eliminating redundant services to save on monthly expenses.

5. ONLINE BANKING FOR MONITORING TRANSACTIONS:
Take advantage of online banking services to monitor your real-time transactions. This helps you stay aware of your spending patterns and avoid unnecessary fees or overdrafts.

6. PRICE TRACKING TOOLS:
Use price tracking tools or browser extensions that notify you when prices drop on items you're interested in. This allows you to make purchases at the most cost-effective times.

7. ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS:
Instead of investing in expensive courses or workshops, explore free or affordable online learning platforms. Many websites offer high-quality educational content on a wide range of topics.

8. TELECOMMUTING OR FREELANCING OPPORTUNITIES:
Leverage the internet to explore remote work or freelance opportunities. Many individuals find additional sources of income through online platforms and freelancing websites.

9. UTILIZE MONEY-SAVING APPS:
Download apps that are designed to help you save money, such as those that round up your purchases and save the spare change or those that provide cashback on specific transactions.

10. ENTERTAINMENT:
Explore online entertainment by renting movies or playing games virtually with friends instead of heading out for the evening. A quiet evening at home in front of the TV with the latest movies from Max, Showtime, or Starz makes for an enjoyable cost-saving alternative.

By integrating these strategies into your online habits, you can harness the power of the internet to make informed financial decisions and save money in various aspects of your life.

Smart Home Automation

Smart home automation refers to the use of technology to control and automate various aspects of a home, enhancing convenience and efficiency. This involves connecting and remotely managing devices such as lights, thermostats, security cameras, and appliances through a central system or a smartphone app. The goal is to create an interconnected ecosystem that allows users to monitor, control, and optimize their home environment for comfort, energy efficiency, and security. This is known as the "IoT: The Internet of Things".

Smart home automation has become increasingly popular and there are many cool devices available to make your home more convenient, efficient, and secure. Here are some interesting smart home devices:

LEARNING THERMOSTATS: Learns your preferences and adjusts the temperature accordingly, and can usually be controlled remotely via a mobile app. There are many manufacturers of smart thermostats, so be sure to check each one to find the user interface most suited to your lifestyle. With any smart thermostat, you will save money on your monthly heating/cooling bills. You can even keep the HVAC unit from working too hard during the day if you are away, and use the mobile app or scheduling feature to bring your home to a comfortable temperature just before you get home from work or vacation.

SMART LIGHTING: LED smart bulbs that can be controlled through a mobile app, allowing you to change colors and set schedules. These are especially useful for setting a schedule while you are away, or even to adjust the light and brightness depending on what event you're hosting or the time of day.

SMART DOOR LOCKS: Allows you to control and monitor your door lock remotely. You can also grant access to guests with virtual keys. Let's say you leave for work, and just as you arrive, you have a panicked feeling that you forgot to lock your door. With smart door locks, you can ease your worry by logging in to the app and making sure your door is locked and secured! Also, if you have pets and you are either delayed or on vacation, you can grant access to a pet sitter or neighbor through the app to make sure your four-legged family member is cared-for.

SMART SECURITY CAMERAS: A doorbell, like Alpine's video doorbell, has a built-in camera that allows you to see and speak to visitors through your smartphone. Especially comforting for parents, you can say hello to your children when they arrive home from school, or speak to a delivery person. Monitor your vacation home, or even be alerted if your elderly family member hasn't moved throughout the house. Enjoy the peace of mind of true home monitoring.

SMART PLUGS: Allows you to turn traditional devices into smart ones, controlling them remotely or setting schedules. Any number of appliances could be connected to smart plugs for safety reasons, giving you the ability to switch off the flow of electricity when the appliance is not in use. Has anyone left the house wondering if the curling iron is unplugged, or the stove is off? Or maybe you want to switch on a crock pot at a certain time? Smart plugs let you control that flow of electricity, making your life easier.

SMART SENSORS: Detects motion, temperature, and vibration. It can trigger other smart devices based on these conditions. There are also thermostat smart sensors, where the sensor can detect motion in a room and let that correspond to a predetermined temperature.

SMART SMOKE DETECTORS: A smoke and carbon monoxide detector that sends alerts to your phone and can be silenced remotely.

SMART SPEAKERS: These voice-activated speakers, like Amazon Echo or Google Home, can control various smart devices and provide information or entertainment. This is always helpful during mealtimes when a conversation arises that requires immediate research! No one has to leave the table or pick up a smart phone to ask important questions. It's also helpful as you're getting ready in the morning to ask your smart speaker about the weather forecast for the day. Many devices can connect to these smart speakers allowing for hands free activation to lights, temperature settings, audio preferences, and more.

SMART BLINDS: Motorized shades that can be controlled via a smartphone app or integrated into a smart home system. Like using smart bulbs, this is an energy-efficient measure to keep your home optimized for temperature and security. You can schedule your blinds to close at a designated time for extra privacy. Or, you can open the blinds with your smart phone before you even get out of bed in the morning.

SMART TV: These smart TVs allow you to stream content, control other smart devices, and use voice commands.

SMART GARAGE DOOR OPENER: Chamberlain MyQ Smart Garage Hub allows you to control and monitor your garage door remotely using a mobile app. This could be connected to a geo-locator, and automatically open your garage door if you are arriving at home. A totally secure, hands-free experience!

SMART KITCHEN APPLIANCES: A smart refrigerator with a touchscreen that allows you to manage groceries, leave notes, and even see inside the fridge with built-in cameras.

SMART SPRINKLER SYSTEM: Monitors weather conditions and adjusts your sprinkler system accordingly, saving water – and money! It's also better for the environment.

WE BELIEVE PEOPLE FEEL MORE CONNECTED AND SAFE WITH A SMART SECURITY SYSTEM FROM ALPINE COMMUNICATIONS.

We go beyond installing a traditional monitored security system, Alpine connects your home using smart home technology. You can protect your home or business from intruders, and you gain the advantage of controlling your home or business environment. (563-245-2953)

An expertly connected home or business enables residents to monitor and control with a wide variety of devices, including thermostats, cameras, and lights.

With so many smart home options in the market, it can be confusing to choose the right device for your needs. Additionally, integrating these devices can be complicated and time consuming for most homeowners. This is where Alpine Communications shines. We provide the expertise to help you create your ideal environment by taking the time to help you select, integrate, and install the right smart home devices to achieve your goals.

We recommend before purchasing any smart home device, ensure compatibility with your existing devices and choose products that are secure and have good reviews. Integration with popular smart home platforms like Google Home or Amazon Alexa can also enhance the overall experience. And remember, you will have the best experience with smart home automation with robust internet connectivity like that provided by Alpine Communications!

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ALPINE
communications

CONNECT WITH US:

923 Humphrey St.
PO Box 1008
Elkader, Iowa 52043

Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday
563-245-4000
or 1-800-635-1059
www.alpinecom.net

Technical Support:
1-888-264-2908
SecureIT Tech Support:
1-877-373-3320

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Whole-Home WiFi Connect From Alpine Communications

Everything you want in home WiFi for every room, every device, every day

We make it easy to enjoy fast and reliable WiFi throughout your home. Alpine Whole-Home WiFi Connect provides a next-generation WiFi 6 router for seamless signal continuity plus 24/7 remote support for a hassle-free experience. (563-255-2762)

Go ahead. Relax.

If you're frustrated with the poor performance and spotty WiFi coverage of your outdated router, it's time to move to Whole-Home WiFi Connect.

Plenty for everyone
Game, stream movies, and connect to work or school– all at the same time, with no interruptions—with WiFi 6.

You're in control
Alpine will proactively manage your WiFi network, identify performance issues and keep your router on the most current compatible firmware.

Secure and worry free
Powerful home WiFi that's fully managed by Alpine Communications and controlled by you.

COMTREND

Expand Your WiFi Coverage

WiFi 6 Access Point
$ 9.95/mo.

Make Your Home a
WiFi Powerhouse with WiFi 6

Installation is a one-time optimization fee of $100.00 and the low monthly rate is $9.95.

Call us to learn more about our new Internet plans with WiFi Connect included
563-245-4000 or visit www.alpinecom.net.