

## College Beer Brewing Becomes Thriving Brewery Operation

### Kathryn Klaes Brings to Life Guttenberg Brewing Company

Kathryn Klaes, Owner/Brewer of Guttenberg Brewing Company, was born and raised in Edgewood, IA and went to college at Iowa State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in food science. After college, Klaes ended up working in corporate food science in Dubuque. "My husband and I always joked the only way we would move home was if we could open a brewery," says Klaes. Well, they're back. (252-2747)

While in college, Klaes worked at a brewery called Franklin Street Brewing. "I discovered an intense sense of community that I had never felt before, it was old people and young people, kids and grandparents, birthday parties, and reunions in a unique setting. This unique sense of place drew people to gather," said Klaes. **Kathryn was thrilled about contributing artisanal value to a community like Guttenberg, utilizing her artistic talent in beer-making to foster a sense of community at a distinctive gathering place.**

"My goal for opening a brewery in rural Iowa was really at first to teach people about craft beer," said Klaes. "Our community was raised on Busch Light. There was a long-standing joke that we are the highest consumer of Busch Light per capita and we are still to this day. So, I didn't want to scare people by only having craft beers." Guttenberg Brewing offers a wide variety of beer, including Busch Light, to make people comfortable enough to come and try something like German style beers which fits into Guttenberg's heritage. Those that are brave enough to try something new and different have lots of options including hot pepper jelly beer. *continued on page 4*



**"Having high-speed fiber internet has been a huge benefit to have everything at the touch of your fingertips in a rural community."**

**Kathryn Klaes  
Owner/Brewer**

**NEW**

## Alpine Communications Announces the Launch of New Website on April 19

Alpine Communications is excited to unveil the launch of its new website scheduled for April 19, designed to provide users with an enhanced online experience through intuitive navigation and improved usability.

With a commitment to delivering exceptional service and convenience to its customers, Alpine Communications has revamped its online presence to better meet the evolving needs of its audience. The new website boasts a much cleaner approach to navigation, coupled with user-friendly features aimed at simplifying and facilitating seamless interactions.

**Alpine Communications invites visitors to explore the new website and experience firsthand the improvements made to enhance user experience. To learn more, please visit [alpinecom.net](http://alpinecom.net)**

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 June 30, 2024, and we'll apply a \$5 credit to your account!



# Aureon Awards Grants to Local Groups



*Pictured left to right: Friends of St. Mary's – Guttenberg, Austin Greve, Patricia Kolker, and Lara Duff, Alpine Communications.*

## **Congratulations to Friends of St. Mary's – Guttenberg for being awarded a Q4 2023 Aureon Charity Grant**

Alpine Communications is grateful to Friends of St. Mary's – Guttenberg for their commitment to fostering community connections and supporting those facing adversity. Their dedication to creating a welcoming space where people can come together to serve others is truly inspiring. We are proud to have supported their request for the Q4 2023 Aureon Charity Grant awarded to them earlier this month.

The renovation of the former convent, nestled within Guttenberg's historic district, marks a significant step towards this vision. Once the residence for Catholic nuns teaching at St. Mary School, this cherished building will be transformed into a versatile space. It will serve as a hub for social gatherings, study groups, and even provide short-term crisis housing—a beacon of hope for those in need. Together, we can continue to uplift and strengthen our community.

**The Aureon Charity Grant Program awards grants on a quarterly basis. To learn more, please contact [Giving@Aureon.com](mailto:Giving@Aureon.com).**



## **The Elgin Sons of the American Legion Squadron undertakes new renovation with the help of Aureon Charity Grant**

As a cornerstone of the community for the past 40 years, the Elgin Legion Post has played an integral role in bringing people together for various events and gatherings. This building has been a versatile and cherished space for countless families and organizations, from receptions to family reunions and blood drives to group meetings. (873-2952)

In collaboration with the Legion Post, the Elgin Sons of the American Legion Squadron #352 is replacing two access doors and upgrading the water heater. This crucial improvement will ensure the continued comfort and convenience of all who utilize the facility. It's important to note that this location serves as the home base for not just one but three different organizations: the Elgin Legion Post, Elgin Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion, boasting a combined membership of over 90 individuals. Easy accessibility and reliable amenities, such as hot water, are essential for these organizations to carry out their missions effectively.



*Pictured left to right: Brian Wenger, Elgin Sons of the American Legion and Lanette Schutte, Alpine Communications.*



**Alpine Communications is proud to announce McGregor Hook & Ladder Company has been awarded a generous grant from Aureon.**

This grant will enable the Hook & Ladder Company to acquire a set of crucial wildland fire gear, enhancing their capacity to respond effectively to a wide range of emergencies in the McGregor area. The wildland fire gear purchased by this grant is specially designed to safeguard firefighters. Its lightweight construction and fire-retardant properties allow their team to move swiftly and confidently in challenging environments, ensuring they can provide the assistance needed when every second counts.

With this new gear, McGregor Hook & Ladder Company #1 is even better equipped to protect and serve our neighbors in times of need. Congratulations from Alpine Communications. We appreciate all you do in our local communities.

*Pictured left to right: Leigh Ruff and Tom Sauer with McGregor Hook & Ladder Company #1 and Austin Behrend, Alpine Communications*



**Call 811 Before You Dig**

If you plan to begin any project that involves digging — such as building a patio, putting up a fence, or planting bushes and trees — remember to call 811 at least 48 hours before work begins.

Every digging job requires a call to 811 to have underground utility lines marked. In some cases, lines are buried close to the surface and could easily be damaged by even shallow digging. Calling 811 to request a utility locate will prevent service interruptions to your neighborhood, serious injuries, and costly repairs to underground lines. **Caution – don't allow digging if utility lines aren't marked.**



*Lori Keppler, Customer Service/Marketing Manager, delivers food donations to the Clayton County Food Shelf on behalf of Alpine Communications. Employees also generously contributed \$300 from various company events to help replenish supplies for the Easter holiday.*

## 2024 Construction Progress

Spring may have just sprung, but Alpine has been in full construction mode for awhile now. Here is an update for each of the projects we have.

**Rural Elkader** – construction is complete, and we are working to get customers cutover as soon as possible. Please reach out to us for migration to our new fiber option network giving you access to faster speeds, FusionTV+ and Fusion Voice.

**Rural Elgin** – construction is nearly finished. Cutovers will begin in April. We are taking appointments to migrate customers to the Fusion fiber optic network so they can begin enjoying faster more reliable connections along with access to FusionTV+ and Fusion Voice.

**Frenchtown** – visits to the locations in this project area have been completed and construction has begun for main line and drops to homes. If mother nature cooperates, we can begin moving customers to our new fiber optic network early May.

**Osterdock area** – we have been driving the countryside trying to connect with locations that have not yet had a visit with us to determine the best construction plan for the Fusion fiber network to your home. We will be concluding visits in the next few weeks, so it is imperative you reach out to Alpine to ensure you are included in the construction project. You will start seeing equipment and construction beginning in April.

**Volga, Wadena, and rural Strawberry Point areas** – we are seeking to connect with residents in this area. With approximately 50% of locations visited, we look forward to continuing to call on this new area to determine the needs and wants for this underserved area.



**We are excited about growing our service area and can't wait to share our trusted, reliable, and simple Alpine experience.**



**Don't miss out on the latest services on our fiber optic network. Call 563-245-4444 to schedule a visit about construction to your location.**

*continued from page 1*

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As small business owner, Klaes oversees everything including brewing, planting flowers, accounting, and day-to-day operations. Having high-speed fiber internet has been a huge benefit to have everything at the touch of your fingertips in a rural community.

“We use Alpine’s fiber optic internet for our point-of-sale system, online ordering, our website and so much more – with great reliability,” says Klaes. **“And it’s important to us that Alpine is local so we’re able to get access to assistance, whether it’s a customer service or someone to actually physically be here in basically no time.”**

*Klaes invites all to “Come visit us and share a beer with friends. We can’t wait to see you!”*

# Tips for Troubleshooting Your Home Wi-Fi Network

In today's digital age, a reliable Wi-Fi connection is essential for both work and leisure. However, like any technology, Wi-Fi networks can encounter issues that disrupt connectivity and frustrate users. From slow speeds to dropped connections, these problems can be a headache to resolve. Fear not! With a few troubleshooting tips, you can quickly get your home Wi-Fi network back up and running smoothly.

**1. Check Your Router Placement:** The placement of your router can significantly impact Wi-Fi signal strength and coverage. Ensure that it's placed in a central location, away from obstructions like walls and large furniture. Elevating the router to eye level can also improve signal distribution.

**2. Restart Your Router:** It may sound simple, but restarting your router can often resolve many connectivity issues. Power cycling the router allows it to clear out any temporary glitches or conflicts that may be affecting performance.

**3. Update Firmware:** Regularly updating your router's firmware ensures that you have the latest bug fixes and security patches. Check your router manufacturer's website for instructions on how to update the firmware.

**4. Check for Interference:** Other electronic devices, such as cordless phones, microwaves, and Bluetooth devices, can interfere with Wi-Fi signals. Keep these devices away from your router and devices, or consider switching to devices that operate on different frequencies.

**5. Optimize Wi-Fi Channels:** Wi-Fi routers operate on different channels within the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands. Use a Wi-Fi analyzer tool to determine which channels are less congested in your area and switch your router to one of these channels for better performance.

**By following these tips, you can quickly diagnose and resolve common Wi-Fi issues, ensuring a seamless online experience for you and your family. Remember, a little troubleshooting can go a long way in keeping your home Wi-Fi network running smoothly.**

**If all of this troubleshooting is too much, call Alpine Communications to sign up for WiFi Connect and let us do the heavy lifting of managing your router for a safe, easy, and reliable connection.**

**6. Secure Your Network:** Unauthorized users can hog bandwidth and slow down your network. Make sure your Wi-Fi network is password protected and use WPA2 encryption for maximum security.

**7. Check Device Settings:** Sometimes the issue may lie with individual devices rather than the router itself. Ensure that Wi-Fi is enabled on your devices, and check for any software updates that may improve connectivity. (245-6828)

**8. Consider Range Extenders or Mesh Systems:** If you have a large home or experience weak Wi-Fi signals in certain areas, consider investing in range extenders or mesh Wi-Fi systems. These devices can help extend coverage and eliminate dead zones.

**9. Contact Your Internet Service Provider (ISP):** If you've exhausted all troubleshooting steps and are still experiencing issues, it may be time to contact Alpine Communications. They can check for any outages in your area or provide further assistance with your connection.





**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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Streaming Convenience**



**Welcome to the latest in television service from  
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We took what you loved about our traditional FusionTV and made it even better with the “plus” of streaming’s enhanced features and user experience. With FusionTV+, you’ll have access to your favorite broadcast and cable channels along with additional entertainment options and the flexibility to watch on your TV or other devices.

**Save more with FusionTV+**

**+ No Fees for HD Content**

If we have the channel in HD, we give it to you in HD at no additional cost.

**+ No Fees for Basic Cloud DVR Service**

FusionTV+ includes a basic Cloud DVR giving you access to 100GB of space to record your shows and watch within 14 days. (964-3211)

**+ No Equipment Fees**

FusionTV+ is designed to work on the devices you already have and know at home. That means there’s one less piece of equipment hooked up to your TV, no new navigation system to learn, and no add-on monthly equipment rental fees for additional TVs.

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Need a little extra help? Ask us about our professional installation. Our technicians will come to your home and help you connect your mobile phones, tablets, FireTV, ROKU and AppleTVs to our new streaming TV service.

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