

ALPINE COMMUNIQUE

Real Access. Real Value. Real People.

ALPINE
communications

Q1 Newsletter

Happy New Year from Alpine Communications!

Alpine Communications can help you achieve your goals this year by supplying the most up-to-date communications solutions. Want to maximize productivity and get the most out of each day? Ask about our high-speed Internet plans! A faster Internet connection could make a big difference, even with small tasks. If you want to spend more time bonding with your family, an expanded TV package with bonus movie channels provides quality entertainment for everyone.

Sometimes it takes more than pure motivation to reach goals — in today's day and age, you may need a boost from technology. **Alpine Communications is here to provide outstanding services and friendly advice. Here's hoping 2014 will be a time of successful growth for all of us!**

Resolve to Reduce Your Monthly Expenses with a Bundle

Start the New Year with a new plan from Alpine Communications. When you bundle your phone, Internet, FusionTV, wireless and monitored security services, you will save money every month and enjoy the convenience of one bill:

- **FusionTV Digital TV:** More than 240 channels and includes WatchTVEverywhere
- **High-Speed Internet:** Best value with unlimited data and proven reliability
- **Phone:** Unlimited local calling and with 911 emergency access
- **Wireless:** Affordable nationwide and unlimited data plans
- **Monitored Security:** Peace of mind with monitored security and Personal Emergency Response Systems
- **Extras:** Enhanced voice mail, SecureIT Live and Google Apps

Alpine's Peak Savings Paks start at just

\$29⁹⁵ /mo.

The more you bundle, the more you save!

For details, call us today at **(563) 245-4000**

or build your bundle online at

www.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 March 30, 2014 and we'll apply a \$5 credit to your account!



Start the New Year with a New Plan!

99¢ First Month + 99¢ Activation

CHECK OUT OUR LATEST WIRELESS OFFERINGS:

- Popular smartphones
- Affordable plans for families and individuals
- Unlimited data, texting and voice plans

Plans as low as

\$19.95 /mo.*

*All prices subject to change. Certain requirements apply and limited time offer. Contact us for complete details.



Don't forget to look for your phone number to win!



10 Reasons to Have a Home Phone from Alpine Communications

You may have considered eliminating your landline phone and replacing it with a cell phone or Internet-based system, such as a digital phone or VoIP. Think twice before you make that move, since a home phone from Alpine is the most reliable device on the market today and offers these valuable advantages:

1. Provides security in an emergency with reliable 911 communication.
2. Gives you superior sound quality and clarity.
3. Works even during an electrical outage.
4. Eliminates the need to charge batteries.
5. Provides unlimited local calling.
6. Never drops your calls.
7. Can't be hacked.
8. Saves you money when you bundle services.
9. Provides you with a directory listing.
10. Keeps your communications dollars here to boost our local economy.



For an excellent value, ask about our money-saving bundles that combine home phone, high-speed Internet, FusionTV, wireless, computer protection and monitored security services. (426-5795)

Maximize Your Alpine Internet Connection

High-speed Internet connects you and all of your devices to blazing-fast speeds on an ultra-reliable network with no data-caps. Typically customers enjoy streaming movies, playing games, online shopping and social networking with multiple devices running at the same time. To get the most out of your Internet connection, we recommend following these guidelines for optimizing your computer and Wi-Fi network.

YOUR WIRELESS NETWORK EQUIPMENT

The three major wireless standards are b, g and n, with n being the newest and fastest. We recommend using an 802.11n-capable router as it provides the best coverage and fastest wireless speeds. Alpine Communications offers Wi-Fi networking services and wireless router sales. (245-2535)

YOUR COMPUTER

Your computer's processor speed (CPU), memory (RAM), operating system and your browser all affect how fast your computer performs. The faster the processor, the faster your computer runs. The more RAM you have, the faster your programs run.

YOUR WEB BROWSER

We recommend using the latest version of your favorite browser.

- Google Chrome • Firefox
- Safari • Internet Explorer

YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM

Upgrading your operating system (OS) helps your computer run faster and makes it less vulnerable to viruses. We recommend:

- Windows XP or higher
- Mac OS X 10.4 or higher

REMOVE COMPUTER VIRUSES AND SPYWARE

Spyware is a form of malware that transmits personally identifiable information from your computer over the Internet to another party — without your knowledge. What's more, spyware can slow your computer down. Spyware is installed secretly on your computer when you surf the Internet. Your computer could also be infected with a virus. We recommend subscribing to SecureIT Live for worry-free automated computer protection.

FREE UP HARD DRIVE SPACE

Your Web browser has a Temporary Internet Files cache, which contains a record of everything you've downloaded, such as images, Web pages and cookies. This takes up space on your computer and causes it to run slower. We recommend clearing your cache on a regular basis.

Think Before You Post

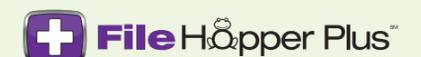
Social media has changed the face of the Internet over the past 10 years, since Facebook's launch in February of 2004. The ability to share your life's story with your friends and family, no matter how far away they live, brought us closer together and exposed the world to new Internet security threats. The advent of social media made it easier than ever for hackers to steal your personal information and money. It's a dangerous social media world filled with fake social media profile pages, which can be laced with malicious links aimed at stealing information, social media plug-ins that install malware and links shortened to hide their scammer-friendly origins. (255-2634)

STAY PROTECTED FROM CYBER CRIMINALS WITH THESE 3 SOLUTIONS:

- Create and use longer passwords with **Password Genie**. Passwords made of random letters, numbers and characters are harder for cyber criminals to crack.
- Use a reliable and secure web security and anti-theft solution, like **SecureIT** on all your computers and web-enabled devices to protect you from hidden phishing sites and malicious links.
- Backup your most important data to **FileHopper**, so you can restore your data if your device gets infected.

The impact of social media on Internet security continues to grow, and it is more important than ever to make sure you're protected against the latest threats.

Sign up for SecureIT Live, SecureIT Plus, FileHopper and Password Genie products, and we'll give you the 1ST MONTH FREE!



Three Area Preps Named INS Players of the Week

For more than six years, Iowa Network Services has proudly sponsored the INS Player of the Week, in conjunction with Learfield Communications Network of Iowa radio stations, to shine the spotlight on youth in rural Iowa who give their maximum effort on the field and on the court.



Pictured is Alpine's Chris Hopp presenting a plaque to Central's Nathan Fitzgerald.

Each week during the high school football and basketball seasons, players are nominated for their outstanding performances from the previous week. The best of the best are named Player of the Week and are honored over the Learfield Communications Network and within the communities served by Iowa's independent telephone companies. (964-2619)

We congratulate Central's Nathan Fitzgerald, North Fayette Valley's Josh Mackey and Clayton Ridge's Kohle Helle for being selected as Radio Iowa's INS Player Of the Week for this past high school football season.



Cash for College: Apply Today for Local Scholarship Opportunities

Alpine Communications has teamed up with The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) and the Iowa Communications Alliance to offer three scholarship opportunities to our service areas' high school seniors.

- 1. The FRS college scholarship program awards twenty-five scholarships in the amount of \$2,500** to winning applicants across the nation. Eligibility requirements and the application can be downloaded from FRS at www.frs.org. **Completed applications must be returned to our office by February 15, 2014**, so that we may complete the sponsor certification and forward the applications to FRS.
- 2. The Iowa Communications Alliance college scholarship program will award \$2,500** to a winning applicant from a rural area who receives telecommunications services from an Iowa Communications Alliance member (Alpine is a member). Eligibility requirements and the application can be downloaded from the Iowa Communications Alliance website at www.IACommunicationsALL.org. **Completed applications must be returned to our office by March 1, 2014** to be signed by Alpine's manager prior to the scholarship deadline.
- 3. The Alpine Communications scholarship program will award four \$500 scholarships** to winning applicants, one graduating senior from Central, North Fayette Valley, Clayton Ridge and MFL MarMac schools. Each school's Dollars for Scholars program administers the scholarship. Eligibility requirements and the application can be obtained from your guidance counselor's office. (873-2460)

Contact Sara Hertrampf at Alpine for more information or assistance with applying for a scholarship.

Community Donates Generously to Mitten Tree

We extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the many customers who donated hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, money and children's clothes to the **Alpine Mitten Tree Program** this year.

We received so many donations in both Elkader and at The Guttenberg Press. Thank you for warming the hearts, hands and heads of many families in our community! (252-2460)



Pictured is Jane Thein, The Guttenberg Press.

Smart Farm Solutions

Remotely manage almost everything on your farm, right from your smartphone or high-speed Internet connection! It's just plain smart to increase your farm's efficiency, safety and security with Smart Farm Solutions, **powered by Clear2there and offered by Alpine Communications**. You can keep an eye on your operations, even when you're miles away or in the house.

- Surveillance Cameras
- Livestock Feed and Water Management
- Bin Monitoring
- Fuel and Fertilizer Tank Monitoring
- Environment Monitoring in Outbuildings and Farmhouse
- Control of Door Access and Locks
- Management of Irrigation Systems

Call (563) 245-4000 for your FREE on-site assessment.



Join the "Rural Is Cool" Movement to Support Your Community

The NTCA - Rural Broadband Association created the "Rural Is Cool" movement as a way for rural Americans to use their voices to shape the future of their communities and local industries. **The purpose of the movement is to spread the word about why rural areas are a great place to work, learn, live and play.**

What makes rural cool? There are many reasons, including a hardworking labor pool, shorter commutes, lower cost of living, more room to spread out, beautiful and quiet outdoor spaces, friendly neighbors, and farm-to-table food.

How can you get involved? Share what's cool about rural communities on your social media channels via video, photos and blogs. Use the hashtag #ruraliscool.

The more voices added to the "Rural Is Cool" movement, the more the movement can grow.

To learn more, visit www.alpinecom.net/ruralcool/ or like Alpine Communications on Facebook.

#ruraliscool





CONNECT WITH US:

923 Humphrey Street
PO Box 1008
Elkader, Iowa 52043

Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday

563-245-4000

or 1-800-635-1059

www.alpinecom.net

Internet Tech Support:

1-888-264-2908

SecureIT Tech Support:

1-877-373-3320



Register Today for Google School

Maximize the benefits of your Alpinecom.net email address, powered by Google Apps. Alpine is hosting one-hour, free "Google School" workshops in **February and March**. Register today for a session and gain the knowledge you need to utilize the Mail, Calendar, Drive, Sites, Photos and Video Chat apps. We encourage you to bring your laptops, smartphones, tablets, iPods and other mobile devices that would utilize Google Apps.



GOOGLE SITES: Learn to create websites for home, hobby or business from scratch or from a template.

Monday, February 17, 2014 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

GOOGLE DRIVE: Learn to upload photos, videos, documents and other important files to the cloud. Use Drive to collaborate and create Documents, Spreadsheets and Presentations.

Monday, February 24, 2014 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

GOOGLE HANGOUTS: Learn to live video call or chat up to 10 friends or colleagues on computers, Android and Apple devices.

Thursday, March 20, 2014 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

GOOGLE CALENDAR: Learn to create and share calendars on computers and mobile devices to organize your home, business or organization.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Workshops are held at the Alpine Communications Business Office in Elkader and are free to all Alpine Internet customers. Google School workshops last approximately one hour, and class sizes are limited. Register today by calling **(563) 245-4000** or register online at <http://tinyurl.com/AlpineGoogleSchool>

Complete a Survey for a Chance to Win \$100

In an effort to provide you with the best possible service, Alpine Communications would appreciate your participation in our Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Please complete and return the survey enclosed in your January bill by February 7, 2014 to be entered into a drawing for 1 of 10 bill credit prizes (one **\$100** prize, two **\$75** prizes, three **\$50** prizes and four **\$25** prizes). If you prefer, you can complete the survey online by visiting our website at www.alpinecom.net.

Sochi Olympics Coverage and WatchTVEverywhere

Get ready for NBCU's 1,000+ hours of live-streaming coverage of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games by signing up for WatchTVEverywhere* from Alpine Communications.

Visit www.watchteverywhere.com to register.



A great way to watch the **Sochi Olympic Winter Games** on the networks of NBCUniversal is on Alpine's FusionTV from **February 6 - 23, 2014**.

Call Alpine Communications at (563) 245-4000.