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A quarterly newsletter from DirectLink

A Visit from Washington DC

Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association based in Washington DC, made a special trip to Oregon just to visit DirectLink offices in both Canby and Mt. Angel last November. She had heard about what a local cooperative had been working on and wanted to learn firsthand how DirectLink is preparing our members for the future.

The DirectLink management gave her a tour of both office facilities, and then dropped in on our partner and the innovative, 100% Gig enabled Sequoia Grove smart apartment complex. Each apartment is pre-wired for DirectLink Gigabit Internet capability, commercial grade WiFi service, and crystal-clear telephony needs. 503-266-3620

Bloomfield was also given a sneak peek at the pending next generation TV product DirectLink will soon launch in both Canby and Mt. Angel markets.

After the demonstration, she exclaimed that the "interface is so clean and easy that even I could handle it without my kids around!"

Regarding the overall 503-651-2948 Oregon experience, Bloomfield commented that, "It was really interesting to see the changing demographic that is classic of Oregon – not only the topography but the shift from very rural to simply rural to small towns."



Shirley Bloomfield CEO of NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association, stands with DirectLink team members: Service Technician Quincy Adams, President Paul Hauer, and Field Operations Supervisor, Doug Bring.



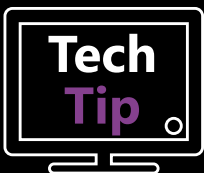
Gadget Review: Drones

By Marcus Jones

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, are finding their way into many aspects of everyday life. Next time you look up, don't be surprised if you see a drone. They also have a wide variety of uses today - contractors use them for geographical surveying and law enforcement uses them to combat poachers. 503-263-2909 Emergency services use drones in rescuing lost and injured people from the sides of mountains and hard to reach places. However, the fastest growing use for the drone remains to be amateur and professional filming. 503-263-6188 Given the robust features and components, it is not necessary to spend a fortune to produce stunning videos or films using today's drones.

An unmanned aerial vehicle has two parts. The first is the drone itself which is made of light composite materials to reduce weight and increase maneuverability. The second is the control board, which houses the navigation system and all the sensors for flight. They are equipped with different state of the art technology such as collision avoidance, HD camera, GPS, and a three axis gimble for steady smooth camera shots while in flight. Most people see this as a flying computer with a camera and sensor attached.

Drones come in a wide variety of sizes, colors and designs. Many can be flown by a remote control or with a smartphone app downloaded from Google Play or the Apple App Store. They are cheaper and are more widely available than planes and helicopters which make them an easy choice for consumers who need aerial views. Introductory pricing starts around \$50 and soars to the thousands for professional grade equipment.



Highlight all text in a document – PDF, Word, or even on many websites – by pressing CTRL + A on your keyboard.

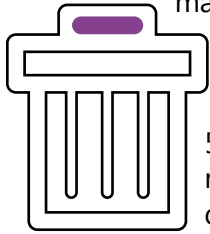
To cycle through all your open Internet tabs on a PC, press CTRL + TAB.

Clean out Your Computer Day

Courtesy of Website Compass Magazine

The second Monday in February is designated as Clean Out Your Computer Day. It was started in 2000 by the Institute of Business Technology.

Granted, this holiday doesn't exactly merit a party. But it's a good reminder to take care of some computer maintenance tasks you may be putting off.



Over time, unused files and programs take 503-651-3610 up precious memory and can slow down your computer.

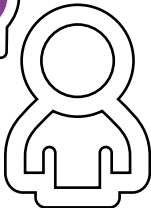
So celebrate by doing the following:

- Clear off your desktop by deleting or archiving files you no longer need there.
- Organize your folders, files, and bookmarks.
- Uninstall programs you no longer use.
- Delete junk or duplicate files.

You may also want to carefully clean off your computer on this day using special products designed for this purpose. It's amazing how much better the screen and keyboard will look after a few minutes of wiping and dusting.



Let us know!



If you have an idea for a local story or article to be considered for a future edition, or comments about this or past newsletters, please email us at:

HereForYou@DirectLink.coop

Community Classes 2018

DirectLink's free and informative Community Classes are designed to help our members better understand and use technology. These events are open to everyone in both Canby and Mt. Angel service areas. Each class is repeated 3 times on the selected date for your convenience.

Location: 150 SE 2nd Avenue
Canby, OR 97013

Time: 10 AM – 11:30 AM,
3:00 – 4:30 PM or 6:30 – 8:00 PM

RSVP: 503.266.8111 or
503.845.2291

March 8, 2018 – *Explore new options in TV entertainment.*

May 17, 2018 – TBD

August 16, 2018 – TBD

November 15, 2018 – TBD

CARE

CANBY AREA RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

AWARD

Has a teacher, counselor, coach or support staff made a difference in your life?

Visit **canby.com** to nominate them today!

Fiber Expansion Continues



The DirectLink network is the only certified Fiber Broadband Association fiber optic network in Canby and was the first to bring speeds up to 1 Gigabit (1000 Mbps) to members. The fiber connection comes from our office directly into your home or business. 503-263-2428 This ensures that DirectLink members receive the fastest, most consistent and uncongested Internet speeds. Only 25% of US homes have access to fiber, and soon all of Canby will too!

The 5-year project is on schedule to convert 100% of the 84-square mile Canby service area to fiber optics by 2020. 503-651-3765 Engineering of the project encompassed most of 2015 and the build began as scheduled in 2016.

In 2017, nearly 1300 homes were converted from the old copper technology to Gigabit (1,000 Mbps) available. This included the North Holly and North Birch Street (15.27 buried miles) project, Territorial Road widening updates, and Barlow area (25.16 buried miles). With all the new residential construction in town, we also added 276 new addresses to our network.

Ookla reports the average Internet speed in the US is currently just over 22 Mbps. DirectLink fiber is 45 times faster. While we have not yet reached every home and business, we have plans to do so very soon so that 100% of our service area has access to Gigabit Internet speeds.

DirectLink also partnered with the Dahlia Apartments last year and have pre-wired each of the 176 units as a smart apartment. That means that commercial grade WiFi, Gigabit Internet and crystal-clear telephone is built in to

each home and ready to be instantly activated remotely – eliminating the need for an on-site installer or scheduling delays.

To learn when fiber will be coming to you, visit www.DirectLink.coop/ft-th/map and enter your address.

What our Members Say...

“ You were easy to work with and you did not try to sell me your most expensive package. You just offered me what I was needing.

A happy member

I like the information you share through the newsletters. And the information you share over the phone when helping me fix our problems.

Kathy Mulligan

You offer [fiber] which is the fastest internet available. Darrin is wonderful. I am still in touch with him because he is doing some wiring in our building. Jessica in the office has been wonderful.”

Jeanie Sanders



Jessica Bomar,
Member Services Representative

Christmas Toy Drive Results



Every year, organizations in Canby and Mt. Angel work tirelessly to place collection bins around the community. Citizens from both areas rally to donate needed items, time and funds to support these causes. Thanks to your generosity, local donors and businesses, we are humbled to relay the reports below.



Kiwanis Toy Drive Helpers

The Canby Kiwanis Community Food and Toy Drive served food boxes to over 375 families and 1,000 bags of Christmas Toys for local children during the 2017 Christmas holiday. 503-266-4347 Volunteers from the Rotary, Rodeo Board, Rodeo Court, local church and community members turned out to aid in the sorting and packing.



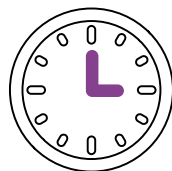
Mt. Angel School Counselor Lucas Anderson

The Mt. Angel Community Food and Toy Drive hosted by St. Joseph's shelter reported that over 150 food boxes were distributed to local families – 50

more than last year - and every child received up to 2 toys. 38 volunteers including the Knights of Columbus of St. Mary donated over 850 hours in December to achieve this feat. St. Joseph's would like to thank Kraemer's Nursery for their generous donation of 350 pounds of food stuffs, St. Regis in Salem for clothing, food and toy donations, the Benedictine Sisters and Oblates at Mt. Angel Abbey for providing hand quilted baby blankets, and the Mt. Angel schools for providing over 2000 pieces of non-perishable food and toys. 503-651-3970 Counselor Lucas Anderson orchestrated a competition between the Mt. Angel schools to help efforts, and the students rallied to the cause. The elementary school gathered 1,610 items, the Mt. Angel Middle School brought in 300, and JFK High School brought in 200. The losing school principals and counselors received a pie in the face from the winners.



New Business Hours



On January 2, 2018, DirectLink office hours changed. The new hours are from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Find your

Find your phone number hidden in this newsletter and call us by February 20th to get a \$20 credit toward your March DirectLink bill!



Fast Speeds Lead to Winning Results

Courtesy of Website Compass Magazine

There are times when you simply need speed to succeed.

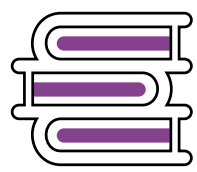
World-class athletes competing in luge, bobsleigh, alpine skiing, and speed skating all race against the clock, and moving quickly is also essential to winning performances in other winter sports such as figure skating and ice hockey. While it takes many years of practice to reach the medal podium, the difference between gold, silver, and bronze can come down to mere seconds.

Speed is also vital in busy households, even if you're just a weekend athlete or get most of your exercise running errands. You need a fast internet connection for winning results when you stream movies or TV programs, play online games, or have multiple people using devices simultaneously.

DirectLink offers affordable internet plans with download speeds up to 1 Gbps (1,000 Mbps). Check out all the options at www.DirectLink.coop or call us at **503.266.8111** for help selecting a winning plan for you.

Friends of Canby Public Library Annual Meeting

You are invited to attend the Friends of the Canby Public Library Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2018, in the Willamette Room at the library from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The meeting will include a review of last year's activities and support of library programs, as well as Election of Board Members. The meeting is open to the public. Invite friends to come with you.



Reading Mentors Wanted

The Reading Mentors Program is seeking volunteers to serve as substitute mentors for the rest of the school year. Mentors make a tremendous difference in a child's life, simply by spending time sharing a love of books!

Learn more at <https://thecanbycenter.org/reading/> and click the Get Involved tab or email kathleen@thecanbycenter.org.

Don Peterson Honored Posthumously with Portrait



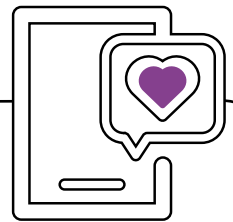
Don & Peggy Peterson

Don Peterson, served on the CTA board for 27 years. He was elected to the board in 1988 and served as Secretary/Treasurer from 1990-1998 and then as Board Chairman from 1998 until his passing in 2015. Peterson was a strong guiding force for the company and throughout the telecommunication and Internet industry. A pharmacist by trade and owner of the former Parson's Canby Pharmacy, board members remarked that he "moonlighted" as a student of telecommunication technology.

Peterson will be remembered as a visionary leader of the CTA board. He guided fellow board members with management assistance in establishing policies and projects including, but not limited to, cable television, internet, infrastructure development, fiber deployment, budgeting, expansion and improvement of services as well as strategic planning. 503-266-4749 At all times during his board career he emphasized that the success of this local cooperative depended upon the skills of its employees.

Peterson's successor and current CTA board chairman Roger Reif, remarked during a short speech at the event, "I value the opportunity I had to observe his skills, leadership and vision." He continued, "I once asked Don how he became so knowledgeable on the [technology] subject. 503-263-6173 He responded by saying he read all newspaper and magazine articles he encountered, would ask many questions of staff and management, and he tried to understand the vision behind mega-companies and competitors' actions."

Current and former employees, board members, Peterson family members from around the United States and local business owners attended the short ceremony at 190 SE Second Avenue. Many locals also joined in to commemorate the legacy of this cornerstone business leader. After the portrait unveiling, attendees enjoyed a cake and refreshments with the Peterson Family.



Follow Us

We frequently post information about scams, local event updates and tech tips on DirectLink social media sites.



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Follow us at www.twitter.com/DirectLinkCoop

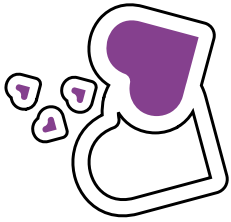


Connect at www.linkedin.com/company/directlinkcoop



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You're the Heart of Our Community

Happy Valentine's Day from DirectLink. We love providing the communications services you need to share your thoughts and learn new information. Our community is strong because people like you continue to build strong connections with others. 503-266-9544
 Thanks for being a good-hearted neighbor.

We're here for you.

Pay & Win

We think that members who pay their bill on time should be rewarded.

Every on-time payment is placed into a drawing for a themed gift basket each month.

The basket is on display in the lobby at both locations throughout the first half of each month. Visit our office and see what you could win!

Monthly Winners

October

Andrew Little (*no pic*)

November

Karlene MacGregor

December

Sherry Olson (*no pic*)

