



Employee Spotlight Jeff Barske

Jeff Barske has worked with the ICN for 17 years as an IT Specialist 5. His primary duties include assisting Aeritae with ICN's New World ServiceNow implementation, where he currently is working on core data configuration of users, customers, and locations. He also maintains existing ICN applications and the MS Access, MS SQL and Oracle databases used by these applications. Jeff explains that the best part of his job is setting up automated information systems that make it easier for fellow ICN employees. Jeff has worked for various State of Iowa agencies: the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture.

Jeff enjoys vacationing with his wife and two daughters. When asked about his favorite travel destination, he explains wherever his two daughters are located. "Emily is in Ames attending Iowa State University, and Elizabeth is married and lives in Killeen, Texas with her husband Zack who is in the Army.

Jeff stands by his life motto which is, "Happiness comes when we stop complaining about the troubles we have and offer thanks for all the troubles we don't have." During his leisure time he volunteers by assisting with running the computer and video at the Marshalltown YMCA for Girls and Boys state swim meets.

If Jeff could meet one person in history it would be Elvis Presley. He explains that he enjoys his music, almost as much as his wife Jane does. A memorable life experience that Jeff describes is driving his dad from Iowa to Houston, Texas when he was in heart failure. In Texas, Jeff's dad had a heart transplant, which extended his life 10 more years.

Broadband News from Around the Web

[Expanding rural Iowa's broadband infrastructure](#)

Western Iowa Telcom, commonly known as Wiatel, recently received a \$24.8 million USDA loan for an extensive fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) project that will greatly expand broadband access to communities, residents and businesses in northwest Iowa.

[The growth of Iowa telemedicine](#)

Telemedicine is the remote delivery of healthcare services including video streaming. This method has been growing in use in recent years, and the topic was the subject of a panel discussion earlier this month at the Iowa Ideas Conference in Cedar Rapids.

[Gov. Reynolds, Lt. Gov. Gregg announce Text-to-911](#)

Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg announced Text-to-911, a new public safety tool available to Iowans, Tuesday morning at their weekly press conference.

[Reynolds applauds Internet growth](#)

The deployment of broadband wireless Internet service in Plymouth County was highlighted at the Farmers Cooperative Company in Craig. The service is offered by N.E.T. Broadband, a partnership created by Evertex and North West REC to connect rural areas with broadband services and technologies.

[Senior at Cornell College helps make surgical virtual reality program](#)

This virtual reality program could make medical students more prepared when entering their first operating room.

[Electric cooperatives stepping in to fill the rural broadband gap](#)

Broadband telecommunications and internet access have become essential infrastructure for any community's future prosperity. However, today, people living in rural communities are four times more likely to lack access to broadband than those in urban communities.

[LightEdge opens a second data center, now needs a deep talent pool](#)

The newest 48,000 square-foot data center for LightEdge in Altoona will serve Iowa residents and companies. It just needs graduates from Iowa colleges to hire.

[Grinnell hospital nears tie with UnityPoint, Des Moines and University of Iowa](#)

Enhancing specialty services, telemedicine, research, and educational opportunities, as well as introducing direct-to-employer programs remain GRMC's goals in the affiliation. The anticipated partnership will also allow the three organizations to share quality data.

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