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**CONNECT RURAL IOWA: BLAKESBURG AND ELDON SELECTED FOR DSL
HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE FROM IOWA TELECOM**

NEWTON, IA - Iowa Telecom, local telephone company to Blakesburg and Eldon, announced today that the two towns are the latest communities selected to receive Digital Subscriber Line – or DSL – High-Speed Internet service. This means that qualifying customers in Blakesburg and Eldon will have access to DSL High-Speed Internet within sixty days and may now put their name on a list to request service.

This service is one element of *Connect Rural Iowa*, a multi-year, multimillion-dollar initiative recently announced by Iowa Telecom. In 2004, the company plans to invest \$17.8 million to develop enhanced and new telecommunications services throughout rural Iowa. Investment and planning is underway on a wide variety of projects throughout the state, ranging from local telephone office upgrades to installing higher capacity fiber optic systems.

DSL High-Speed Internet will be available at a variety of speeds and will allow for Internet use with uninterrupted telephone service. Blakesburg and Eldon residents currently having to go without telephone service while on a dial-up Internet connection will now have the option of being on the telephone and the Internet at the same time, without either service experiencing an interruption or delay. Those individuals and businesses interested in loading web pages and transferring data at much higher speeds will be able to do so.

Alan L. Wells, President and Chief Executive Officer of Iowa Telecom said, "The implementation of DSL High-Speed Internet will be one of the more apparent results of *Connect Rural Iowa* in these communities this year. With the tremendous growth in Internet use, the need to provide faster connection speeds is growing. Iowa Telecom DSL High-Speed Internet ends the long wait to access the World Wide Web, e-mail or important downloads. DSL gives people another option for the speed and simplicity they need to make sure that the Internet contributes to their lives and businesses in the best possible way."

The difference between standard dial-up Internet connection and DSL High-Speed Internet is best shown in download speed. A standard dial-up connection operates at approximately 28 kilobytes per second (28k). At top speeds reaching just above 1000k per second, or 1 megabyte (MB), DSL High-Speed Internet can download a file in less than a minute that might take more than half an hour to download on standard dial-up.

With a choice of download speed ranging from 128k to 1.024 MB, depending upon the speed of the service and price desired, DSL High-Speed Internet from Iowa Telecom will be attractive for both home and business.

"The deployment of DSL High-Speed Internet is an example of how Iowa Telecom is delivering quality, innovative telecommunications services that the people in Blakesburg and Eldon need to connect them to neighbors down the street and around the world," said Wells. "DSL availability is only one new result of *Connect Rural Iowa*, an initiative that will allow businesses to compete nationally and globally."

Additionally, in the weeks following the launch of DSL High-Speed Internet in Blakesburg and Eldon, Iowa Telecom will announce a demonstration night to allow residents to sample the service, ask questions, and experiment on computers connected to DSL High-Speed Internet.

For more information on Iowa Telecom DSL High-Speed Internet, residents may call 1-866-375-4692 or email DSL@IowaTelecom.com

Iowa Telecom is a telecommunications service provider that offers local telephone, long distance, Internet and broadband services. Today, the company serves over 500,000 Iowans in over 400 cities and towns and employs over 600 people throughout the state. Its mission is to enhance people's lives and communities through quality communications services. The company's headquarters are in Newton, Iowa. www.IowaTelecom.com

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