

The Connection

Open House, September 15th 10 am-3 pm

Come enjoy coffee, cookies and sign up for prizes. We will have special deals for all our services - Phone, Internet, Digital Cable, Cellular from Verizon and much, much more.

We always enjoy the opportunity to say "Thank you for your business" to as many of you as we possibly can each year. Watch the newspaper and Channel 12 for further information.

Bill Riley Talent Show August 31st

We are pleased to be able to sponsor the Bill Riley Talent Show to be held Thursday, August 31 at the Guthrie County Fair Grounds.

Please watch the Fair schedule for more information about the event.

Do you have questions about your bill or any service you get from Guthrie Center Communications? If so, please call our office at 332-2000. We love serving our customers and we hope to hear from you—about compliments and concerns.

Thank you for choosing us!

Back to school means changes for everyone

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to a close and the kids will soon be heading back to school.

Within a few weeks, the transition from carefree summer days to structured, planned activities will have taken place. Parents are typically happy to get back into a routine of morning bus routes, quiet homes and homework assignment help in the evenings.

College students will be off to school, some leaving home for the first time. Dorm rooms, professors and new friends will be part of their everyday lives.

Fall activities like volleyball and football will occupy many evenings. Hot summer nights will soon be replaced by cool, fall-like conditions. Farmers will be thinking about harvesting their crops and merchants will be displaying their fall wares.

Guthrie Center Communications will be doing a promotion August 1 through September 30 featuring basic high speed Internet. Sign up for service and receive 2 months for the price of dial-up.

Call our office for all the details or to sign up today.

In addition, we'll also be featuring SecureIT Plus. Get 2 months service for \$2.95/month (regularly \$9.95.)

SecureIT Plus is a great way to protect your computer from viruses, spyware and adware, in addition to keeping your Windows up-to-date, and your hard drive optimized.



We wish you a safe and happy back to school season. Call our office or visit our website to learn more or to take advantage of this great new promotion.

Rural Telecom Forum Summary

Telecommunications companies and Federal legislators spent time discussing the requirements of a possible Universal Service Fund (USF) rewrite at a recent Rural Telecom Forum held in Mason City at North Iowa Area Community College.

At issue is how to continue to provide support for high cost areas for communications services, as well as other programs that USF has traditionally funded.

In attendance at the Forum were Congressman Tom Latham, Congressman Lee Terry (of Nebraska) and Congressman Steve King. Terry was on hand to present

because he sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and is the author of HR 5072 – The Universal Service Reform Act of 2006.

There are many factors that need to be handled as the Universal Service Fund is reformed, some relating to different technologies and some relating to the technical details that occur behind the scenes.

However, it is important for you to know that we are working hard to keep the rates you pay and the services you receive similar to or better than those of your urban counterparts.

Independent Telephone Companies: An Asset to Iowa

Most likely, you know that Guthrie Center Communications is an independent telephone company. What you may not know is that the state of Iowa has over 150 independent telephone companies, the most of any state in the U.S.

Telephone companies, both large and small, are highly regulated by state and federal governing bodies. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), along with the legislature, set the policy and rules at the federal level. The most prominent rules are found in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which Congress established and the FCC interprets and enforces.

The Iowa Utilities Board, along with the state legislature, set rules at the state level. Complaints, rulings and policy is set by the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). As you can imagine, with so many telephone companies in Iowa, the IUB

stays very busy with telephone policy interpretation and enforcement.

As you probably know, telephone companies make their living by providing telephone service to their customers. In addition, many companies over the years have added related services like cable television and Internet to diversify their offerings and to better serve their customers.

Telephone companies also make money by allowing other companies to use their network. Long distance companies pay telephone companies every time a call is placed that starts or ends on the telcos' lines.

Independent telephone companies are a huge asset to the State of Iowa in bringing technology to the rural areas. Additionally, they make donations to their communities'

economic & business development efforts, participate in longterm growth and community involvement.

Guthrie Center Communications is proud to serve the local community and our region with local and long distance, Internet, cable TV and wireless services. Additionally, we offer web hosting and assistance with computer networking and security.



Ask the Help Desk

Question: *I've heard about people getting Web content via RSS feeds? What is an RSS feed?*

Answer: RSS, which stands for "really simple syndication" or "RDF site summary," is an Internet-based information delivery system to which you can subscribe to have news and other information delivered to your computer, much like a newspaper delivered to your front doorstep. RSS allows news website developers to distribute their news and information to customers who gather it in software known as "RSS readers."

This information usually includes the news website's headlines and article summaries that you click on for more information. If a website offers RSS subscriptions, it's usually indicated with some descriptive copy and an orange button labeled "XML" or a blue button labeled "RSS." Just click this button, then copy and paste the appropriate web address URL into your

reader to visit the site and retrieve headlines and article summaries you have requested.

Question: *Why do my Internet speeds vary from time to time?*

Answer: Many factors affect the speed of your Internet, sometimes all at the same time. Your computer is the first element to check—for spyware or viruses.

If you don't have a product like SecureIT Plus on your machine, you should get it, as it will solve this problem for you automatically. Another issue might be the site you are visiting. Certain sites may be extremely busy and not have enough "seats" for everyone that wants to visit—so you have to "wait in line." Finally, if your speed gets really slow or stops working, call us and we can test your connection.



*Guthrie Center Communications...
a partner in your future!*

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WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
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