

Standard Journal

50¢

The upper valley's must-have news and information

VOL. 119, No. 112

A digital magnet

Rexburg will be a test site for a new Internet service

KYRA DAVIS
Standard Journal

REXBURG — Rexburg has entered into a partnership that will bring high-speed Internet to the city and its citizens.

DigitalBridge Communications, formerly Teton Wireless of Idaho Falls, which was bought by the large company based in Virginia last year, has chosen Rexburg as the first market to launch its next-generation WiMAX wireless high speed Internet service.

With this service, individuals and businesses will have the option to have a broadband connection.

In a news release, Mayor Shawn Larsen said, "We are delighted to work with DigitalBridge Communications as the site of its first WiMax launch in the country. This WiMax

technology endeavor will allow Rexburg to grow and provide more educational and economic opportunities to our citizens."

Larsen was unavailable for additional comment.

Customers can sign up for BridgeMAXX online at www.digitalbridgecommunications.com or at Computer Media Center in Rexburg.

DigitalBridge Communications General Manager for the western region Donna Nims said Rexburg was among numerous cities considered. It was chosen for its "tech-savvy" population, greatly influenced by Brigham Young University-Idaho students, and the relatively underserved area.

The primary antenna location for the ser-

vice is housed on Rexburg's water tower.

"If you can see the water tower from your home all you have to do is go online and order. We will send the modem, you plug it into power and plug in your ethernet and then as simple as that you are up and running," Nims said.

A second tower was set up on North Second East, which will allow the rest of Rexburg to have access.

Nims said for those in

have to install an antenna, but she said it was not large or unsightly.

Ben Eaton, the city of Rexburg's information technology assistant and graphic artist, said he was one of the people asked to test the service.

"It really works great. It is fast and it picks up Internet signals on top of the water tower," he said.

He said the city of Rexburg would like to use the program for the future, such as eventually allowing police officers to have access to the Internet in their patrol vehicles.

Nims said WiMax is the most advanced service of its kind and will continue to improve over time.

As part of the partnership, Rexburg will receive service at no cost to various municipal facilities across the city. Among the first installations is the Rexburg City Animal Shelter.

The new service will be officially launched Thursday with a "wire-cutting" ceremony at the Rexburg city water tower at 10 a.m.

