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The Connection

A Monthly Newsletter for the GBT Communities and Patrons

Rush Center Office

103 Lincoln St. • Rush Center, KS 67575
785.372.4236
Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm
| Mon-Fri

Ellis Office

101 W. 9th • Ellis, KS 67637
785.726.3200
Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm | Mon-Wed-Fri
Closed for lunch 12:30pm-1:30pm

Ness City Office

114 W. Main
Ness City, KS 67560
785.798.3100
Hours:
8:00am - 5:00pm
Mon-Fri

Larned Office

122 W. 5th
Larned, KS 67550
620.910.7676
Hours:
8:30am - 11:30am &
Noon - 4:30pm
Mon-Fri

St. John Office

602 N US Hwy 281
St. John, KS 67576
620.377.5555
Hours:
11:00am - 5:00pm
Mon-Fri

2021-2022 Junior Board

GBT is excited to introduce this year's Junior Board, comprised of 7 high school seniors who will meet 6 times throughout the year. Not only will they learn about the operations of GBT, including broadband, voice, IT, StreamIT, & Nex-Tech Wireless, they in turn will also give GBT their perspectives and insight on technology, leadership, community needs, and more!

This is the 9th year for the GBT Junior Board, and the student leaders' insights over the years have enhanced decision making in guiding the future direction of GBT. Welcome to Team GBT!



From L to R: Peyton Butler - Albert, Adam Hands - Burdett, Jena Ratliff - Ness City, Eva Gaschler - Ellis, Brooke Herrman - LaCrosse, Amy Foos - Ness City, Jarett Seeman - Larned.

Get a Free NTW Smartphone!

Looking for a Christmas present that any of your family will love? Better yet, a present your family will love and Nex-tech Wireless will pay for? Upgrade any smartphone today and get a brand new smartphone for free. For those of you wondering, YES, this is valid even if you're already a Nex-tech Wireless customer. Hurry in to a GBT store today to upgrade and save up to \$829 and enjoy the personal touch our cellular representatives provide! Don't have a smartphone? Nex-Tech Wireless has an amazing offer right now to get your older model flip phone upgraded for FREE to a newer model flip phone of your choice; no need to change to a smartphone. Stop by one of our office locations to see your new Basic Phone options!

We're thankful for you.
Get the Samsung Galaxy S21 or the new iPhone 13 **ON US.**



Samsung Galaxy S21

iPhone 13

ON US.

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www.nex-techwireless.com | Questions? Call or text Customer Care at 877-621-2600 |



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on Social Media



From our crew to you, thank you.



Our customers are the best, and we don't take that for granted. It is a joy and honor to bring state-of-the-art communication services to you. *From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!*

To express our gratitude, we're giving all new customers 1 month free of Internet, and all existing customers a 3 month free Internet upgrade this holiday season.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR JOB.

I originally started in 1997 as Administrative Assistant to General Manager Gerald Washburn, working directly with him and the Board of Directors. Time and technology metamorphosed my position to Marketing Specialist today, but I am still blessed to continue working with General Manager Beau Rebel and our Board of Directors, in addition to the IT and Marketing Teams.



HOW DOES YOUR JOB ALIGN WITH YOUR PERSONAL PASSIONS?

Doing my part to make my little corner of the world a better place is my main passion. I get to do that every day by: assisting our area schools, libraries, and healthcare institutions to ensure they receive the most benefit from their USAC Schools and Libraries and Rural Health Care Discount Programs; working with our communities and non-profits on community and economic development through the USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Program and the FRS Rural Community Grant Program; assisting our customers with their IT needs; and

promoting our amazing GBT services, all while working with our great GBT team! We have fiber broadband—how awesome is that?!!

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU ARE PROUD TO HAVE LEARNED LATELY?

The Pandemic pushed us out of our comfort zones—we had to learn how to be remote employees working from home while still taking exceptional care of our customers. The lesson? GBT Broadband was the lifeline for our businesses, residents who worked remotely and had telehealth medical visits, and students learning from home. That is HUGE, and I am proud to be a part of the team making it happen!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GBT CORE VALUE?

Positive Attitude is my fav. If you take on the world with a positive attitude, it sure makes the ride a lot more fun!

“If you take on the world with a **positive attitude, it sure makes the ride a lot more fun!”**



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:
KARA

Is all Internet created the same?

Do you know what type of technology GBT or your current broadband provider uses to provide Internet to your home or business? Did you know there are about 6 different ways to provide Internet, and the type of technology used will greatly affect the capabilities and user experience your household can come to expect? GBT provides Internet to our customers via 4 methods. Read on as we briefly explain each of their capabilities and limitations.

Internet provided via Fiber Optics



Fiber optics today is the best type of technology to provide Internet service. Fiber is a buzzword for those that do not have it but also the most expensive way to provide service. Fiber is the best because it can deliver very fast synchronous download and upload speeds and is the most reliable. At GBT, we can provide up to 1000Mbps download by 1000Mbps upload to almost 95% of our cooperative territory, including the rural areas. Fiber is also the best when it comes to latency, which is the time it takes to send information. When it comes to latency, the lower the number the better, and typically fiber can produce latency at 17 milliseconds (ms) or quicker. Fiber is typically a dedicated connection to every home or business and does not have its bandwidth shared between other subscribers within a service group.

Internet provided via Coax or Coaxial Cable

Coax cable, which at one time was mainly used to provide cable TV service, is a second way to provide Internet. Like fiber, coax connects to your house utilizing a physical cable that transports Internet from GBT's facilities to each individual home. Like fiber, coax can provide fast download speeds up to 250Mbps on a GBT Internet connection, but it is somewhat limited on the upload speed to 25Mbps, and latency usually is the 50-60 millisecond range. Upload speed is used to send files to other people via the Internet and is also utilized when using applications like Facetime or Snapchat.

Internet provided via DSL (Digital Subscriber Line)

DSL replaced dial-up technology to provide Internet service to customers. DSL uses the copper lines also used to provide voice service to allow for Internet up to 20Mbps download by 1Mbps upload. DSL Internet performance is affected by the quality of copper wire that is in the ground and the distance homes or businesses are away from electronics that power these services. GBT continues to invest in our cooperative areas to replace all our DSL with fiber optic infrastructure.

Internet provided via Fixed Wireless

Many people think they have wireless Internet because most households only use Wi-Fi in their homes or businesses when using the Internet. For Internet service providers like GBT, when we refer to wireless Internet, what we really mean is Internet that is getting delivered to homes without a wired connection, but instead using a point-to-point or wireless Internet connection. GBT has recently made several upgrades to our wireless Internet offering and now can provide speeds up to 100Mbps by 10Mbps to most of the non-cooperative areas we serve. Fixed wireless is a great alternative to wired Internet service because it is often less expensive to deploy, but does have limitations based on distance from the tower to the homes and elevation. For fixed wireless to operate, line of site is important, which can often be difficult when trees or other obstacles are in the way.

There are other ways to provide Internet, but these are the 4 primary ways GBT provides service. Geographic location decides what technology GBT uses to provide service. If you've ever wondered why we have maintenance in different areas at different times, or why we are consistently performing upgrades on equipment and software, its because we provide and maintain Internet service on many different platforms. We have extremely talented employees who are able to adapt and support service no matter what medium we're using. Our number 1 goal is to ensure every GBT customer has reliable, state-of-the-art communication services, no matter how you get it!

StreamIT Article



If you are a GBT TV customer, then you know by the end of November, GBT will complete our migration from traditional TV to Streaming TV service. We understand that for some of our customers, this transition has come with some challenges or reluctance to change. Although change is difficult, GBT has been committed to helping all our customers with the switch by spending countless hours educating and showing customers how to use the new platform. GBT has also given customers \$100 worth of equipment which will save them money by eliminating their monthly cost of renting set-top boxes (often a complaint we heard on the traditional TV platform). In addition to eliminating the need for set-top boxes, many of our customers are now experiencing the wide array of StreamIT benefits for the first time: introduction to High-Definition Video, the ability to record shows, utilizing the Restart and Replay features, and now having Internet in their home, which most of us know opens the possibilities to do just about anything!

In addition to bringing the best user experience to our customers through reliable, state-of-the-art communication services, the other main reason for discontinuing our legacy TV and migrating to a StreamIT platform is directly related to the environment of TV and the ease of use and flexibility that so many of us now demand. You might be thinking to yourself 'how has the environment of TV changed?', and 5 minutes later wonder how you can watch K-State football that is on ESPN+, or how you can watch your grandkid play their Friday night sports game being broadcast on the NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) platform. Although ESPN+ and NFHS are not part of our StreamIT programming, you can use the same streaming hardware and follow a very easy process to watch your beloved games! Obviously, an open mind and a change in thinking is always needed if you are going to learn something new, which is why I will end GBT's transition to streaming with this story.

My 4-year-old son, the other day, asked me if he could watch a program on PBS Kids as I was watching a football game on StreamIT. I explained that if he was going to keep me from watching football, he had to do it; so I handed the firestick remote to him and gave him verbal instructions to hit the home button and find the PBS Kids app. I watched as he first clicked left instead of right, but he soon realized he was going the wrong way and clicked right and down until he selected the PBS Kids app and found the show he wanted to watch. With utter amazement and fear, I now realize I might have created a little 4-year-old monster with the TV remote, and truly how easy learning Streaming TV can be!

GBT Hunting

The Welcome Inn Leisure Center won a \$10 bill credit from GBT just for playing October's Hunting Game! There were 18 computers in the October Issue.

Count this one too!



It's time to count... throughout this issue of the Connection there are Fiber Optic Cable Icons. Can you count them? When you find them all, e-mail us by the 10th of the month at gbthunting@gbta.net with the total number of Fiber Optic Cables, and you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$10 bill credit on your next GBT bill!

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter or any of our services, please email us at marketing@gbtlive.com

Kyle Bahr, Editor
Kara Jecha, Editor
Addison Flax, Graphic Design

Leftover Turkey Dog Treats

A fun way to use up Thanksgiving leftover and to let your pup join in on the festivities! Great for stocking up, or for make-ahead DIY holiday gifts!

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup PLAIN mashed, cooked sweet potatoes
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 cups finely chopped, cooked turkey or chicken
- 2 cups whole wheat flour or white whole wheat flour

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a medium bowl, combine sweet potatoes, water, and egg, stirring until thoroughly incorporated. Add chicken and flour and stir again until combined. Batter will be very thick and sticky.
3. To make rectangular biscuits use a spatula to spread the doggy-dough evenly onto a parchment-lined baking sheet to form a rectangle (approx. 10" x 14") at about 1/2" thickness. Use a knife or pizza cutter to score the dough into rectangles before baking.
4. Bake for 30 min., or until the dog treats are lightly golden brown.
5. Cool completely and then break along the score lines.
6. Store in the refrigerator or (for longer storage) in zippered freezer bags in the freezer (thaw before serving).

