



# THE Connection

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- JULY**
- 04** Lewis Days / Ice Cream Social
- 28** Ellis Jr. Free Fair / Root Beer Floats
- 29** Ness County Fair / Hotdog Feed



- AUG.**
- 03** Rush County Fair / Hotdog Feed
- 13** Bazine Picnic / Watermelon Feed  
Timken Picnic / Watermelon Feed

GBT is also excited to provide free public Wi-Fi to the Ness, Rush, Stafford, and Pawnee County Fairs.



## WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

An empty ballfield, an organization that is no longer, an event that is not well attended, a school or city that can't make decisions; these are all realities without volunteers and community involvement. At GBT, many of our employees play an active role as school board members, church leaders, fair board members, coaches, and volunteer countless hours helping make events successful and growing for years to come.

This time of year highlights all the events GBT gets to participate in, including handing out area scholarships, helping facilitate grant applications through our partnership with the Foundation for Rural Service, and seeing many of you at children's events, fairs, city picnics, and festivals. These events are a great reminder of how blessed we are to live in an area where people come together to celebrate and embrace why we live where we do. We hope to see everyone's smiling faces at the area fairs and community events. Stop by and grab what we're handing out, and always feel free to ask us a question or two!

*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."*

– Coretta Scott King

**Cover Photo:** Along with Community Involvement at GBT's core, GBT is always looking for ways to foster and partner in Community Improvement. One example of this in the past month was GBT's support of the expansion of the Macksville City Library. Pictured: Kara Jecha, GBT Marketing Specialist presenting the donation to Linda Murrow, Assistant Librarian; Eileen Loomis, Building Committee Member; and Jody Suiter, Library Director.



## GET TO KNOW YOUR GBT NEIGHBOR

*Linda, GBT Plant  
Records Clerk*

### Tell us about yourself.

*I was born in Topeka and grew up in Valley Center. I met my husband in college and we moved back to the La Crosse area in 1985. We have been here ever since.*

### What do you do?

*I specifically work with customers who we are connecting to Fiber Internet. I talk with them to make sure they're getting the best speeds to fit their needs. For example, if they have kids, if they have 20+ devices, if they stream video frequently... a lot of people have certain needs and that all makes a difference in getting the customer the best user experience!*

*I also take care of our customer's Internet from the back-end. There is so much more beneath the surface of how we at GBT make Internet work. From the time a customer signs up for Internet, to when the techs come out their house, there is a lot my team and I have to do to make sure everything is online and working at its best!*

### What are the highlights of your job?

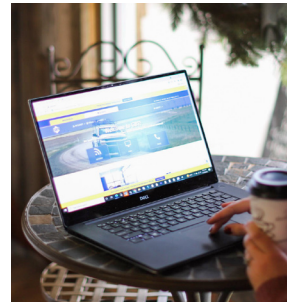
*I get excited every time I switch a customer over to our Fiber Internet. I mean, we have technology here that even the big cities don't have so it's neat to hear new people move into the area and say, "Wow! You guys have Fiber in this town?"*

### Best thing a customer can say to you?

*I always love hearing from customers who compliment us about the fact that we are here FOR THEM. We're always researching, updating to the latest technology, and putting our customers first.*

# USE YOUR GBT SERVICE TO SAVE TIME & MONEY

With gas at almost \$5 a gallon and prices seeming to be increasing on everything, we understand it's important to find ways to save money. Here are some tips on how you can use GBT's Internet and voice services to hopefully save both time and money.



### Check out online options/website.

# 2

With the price of gas and wear and tear on your vehicle, see if you can accomplish what you need online. At GBT, over half of our new customers sign up for service online! We try to make the experience quick and easy, as we understand it can be a challenge or costly to drive into a store. Many other businesses have these options as well. If you're a business who doesn't have an online presence or website, it might be time to create one.

**1 Call before driving to a business or appointment.** It's probably not a secret that many businesses are operating with less staff than they need, and when someone is unexpectedly gone, this can force businesses to close abnormally or reduce hours. Before you drive to an appointment or business, use your GBT landline or NTW cell phone to call and make sure they are open, or maybe even schedule an appointment so they can be prepared and have everything ready to go when you arrive.



# FRS YOUTH TOUR RECAP

*GBT sent 2022 FRS Youth Tour winner Brooke Herrman of La Crosse on a trip to our nation's Capital. Here's what Brooke had to say about her trip:*

"I feel so honored to have been given the opportunity by GBT to go to Washington D.C. My favorite part was knowing that everywhere I went, there was deep meaning behind what I was looking at. I felt so patriotic seeing things like the Capital and White House.

I enjoyed seeing all of the details in every building. The architect of it all truly is amazing. The coolest thing I learned from the FCC was how many elderly people get scammed by phone calls. They also have tips

*"I feel so honored to have been given the opportunity by GBT to go to Washington D.C."*

on how to avoid it, such as if you don't know the number don't answer



# 3

## Telemedicine.

Do you have doctors' appointments or specialists you need to see located several hours away? Save time and money by seeing if they have a telemedicine option. Many doctors' offices and hospitals now offer the ability to have appointments simply by using video chat. All you typically need is a reliable Internet connection and smartphone or computer with a camera built into it.



*There are numerous museums that you can visit virtually, including National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam; and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, South Dakota to name a few.*

# 4

**Virtual Tour or Virtual Vacation.** Now we agree that being at a museum or traveling to some historical location is priceless, but if you can't travel there, see if there is a free virtual tour online where you can explore.

**Facetime.** Speaking of video chat, facetime with friends or family if they are too far away to visit using your smartphone and wifi connection. We know its not the same as physically being there, but getting to talk and see your grandchild's smile on your device is the next best thing. If your grandkids are playing summer sports, many have apps where you can follow along pitch-by-pitch and see how they're doing.

# 6

**Work from Home.** This might be out of your control and up to your employer, but see if you can work from home or utilize a hybrid approach--some days in the office and some days at home. With GBT's reliable Internet and hosted voice solution, we can make it very easy to work from home!



# 5



the phone or avoid having your voice recorded by answering the phone unlike how you normally would. I feel like this is important for our community to know.

Many good memories were made and friendships were gained on this trip. If I were given the chance to do it again I would absolutely take it!



## UPCOMING DEADLINES

JULY  
15

**FRS Community Grant Application Due:** The FRS Community Grant invests funds to support local efforts of non-profit entities to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America. Being a GBT Customer allows you access to this National Grant Program along with the expertise of a grant writer who will review submitted applications to improve your project's chances for winning! Grants range from \$250 to \$5,000 in the categories of technology, education, economic development. Contact Kara Jecha for more information at 785-372-4236.

AUG.  
14

**Directory Photo Contest:** Every year GBT holds a contest to choose the new cover for our Directory. The contest pays \$100 to the winner and is open to all GBT customers and their families. 10 photo limit. Photos need to be taken in the GBT service area. Please include name and where the photo was taken on all submissions. Submit questions and photos to [marketing@gbtlive.com](mailto:marketing@gbtlive.com).



TV buffering?  
Websites loading slow?  
Emails not sending?

It's time to upgrade your Internet experience!



Visit [www.gbta.net/promopage](http://www.gbta.net/promopage) or call 785-372-4236



Existing customers:

Upgrade your Internet speed

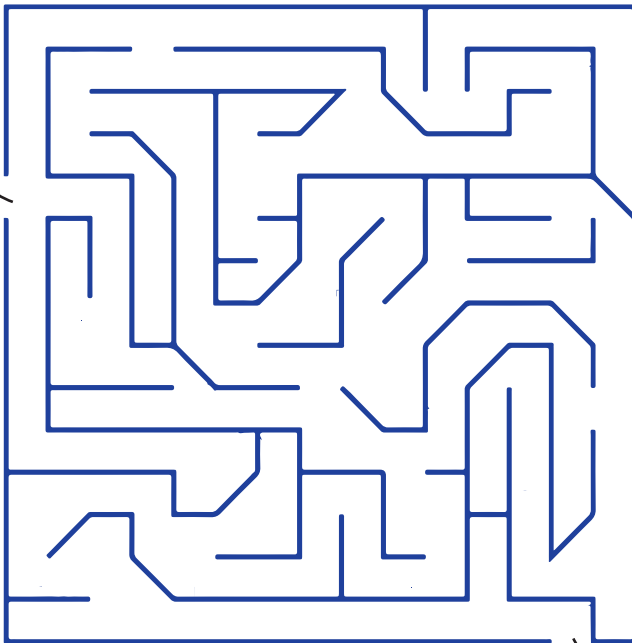
SAVE  
\$100

#### GBT Hunting:

C.O. (Central Office)



GBT is bringing Fiber to 5 communities in 2022 and we need your help! Throughout this year, help us bring Fiber from our Headquarters ALLLLL the way to each of these communities - this month in rural Burdett! When you complete the puzzle, email [gbthunting@gbta.net](mailto:gbthunting@gbta.net) and say "I helped bring Fiber to rural Burdett!" to be entered to win a \$10 bill credit! Congratulations to Vickie Leiker for winning last month's game!



#### Recipe of the Month:



#### Bacon-Onion Jam

##### Directions:

Set a pot over medium heat, and add bacon. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the fat is completely rendered and the bacon has started to crisp. Drain all but 1 tablespoon of the fat from the pot, and add the onions, mustard seed, brown sugar, vinegar and 3 tablespoons of water. Stir to combine, then cover the pot, lower the heat and allow the mixture to cook undisturbed for 15 or 20 minutes. Stir again and then partly cover the pot. Allow the mixture to cook until most of the liquid is gone and the onions have achieved a dark brown jamminess, approximately 60 to 70 minutes. (Add a little more water as needed.) Remove from heat, and serve warm or cool completely. Store, covered, in the refrigerator for up to a week.

##### Ingredients

¾ pound slab bacon, diced into cubes

4 medium-size white or Spanish onions, peeled and diced

1½ teaspoons mustard seed

2½ tablespoons dark brown sugar

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

3T Water



785-372-4236  
[www.gbta.net](http://www.gbta.net)

**Ellis**  
101 W 9th | Open: Mon., Wed., Fri.  
8 am - 12:30 pm; 1:30 pm - 5 pm

**Ness City**  
114 W. Main | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8 am - 5 pm

**St. John**  
602 N US Hwy 281 | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8 am - 1 pm; 2 pm - 5 pm

**Larned**  
122 W. 5th | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8 am - 11:30 am; 12:30 pm - 5 pm

**Rush Center**  
103 Lincoln St. | Open: Mon.-Fri.  
8 am - 5 pm



## The Connection

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter or any of our services, please email us at [marketing@gbtlive.com](mailto:marketing@gbtlive.com)

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