



THE Connection

JOIN US FOR 'TECH TIPS OPEN HOUSE'

The GBT Junior Board and Employees welcome all to our Rush Center location Saturday, March 12, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. for our 'Tech Tips Open House'. Bring your technology devices, ask questions, grab some goodies, and enter to win a TV!

What does hosting an Open House have to do with Community Involvement? For the last 9 years, GBT has formed a Junior GBT Board made up of 7 seniors from area schools which GBT serves. Each year, the GBT Junior Board selects an activity/project they help assist with to give back to the community. Typically, these activities have centered around high school basketball games where t-shirts are thrown to fans. This year's GBT Junior Board wanted to try something different--a 'Tech Tip Open House', where individuals from the GBT area can visit our Rush Center Headquarters and ask questions, receive helpful tips on how to use Internet-connected devices such as computers, cell phones, and laptops, and learn more about how GBT provides service to its customers!

Our GBT Junior Board and Employees welcome all to our Rush Center location **Saturday, March 12, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.** Bring your devices and ask questions, check out streaming devices, learn more about social media applications and Microsoft Office Programs such as word and excel, or ask questions about your cellular devices. If you've ever wondered what fiber looks like, you can check that out too. Stop by, enjoy some goodies, and register to win prizes, including a 32" Smart TV! Then stay in Rush Center for the Annual St. Patrick's Day Festivities, including the Car & Antique Tractor Show from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, with the Parade at 2:30 pm.

March Mania is back!

It's that time of the year! Be sure to test your skills and sign up for the 'March Mania Bracket Challenge' for a chance to win some awesome prizes. Stay up to date by following our GBT Facebook page.

Register your account at <https://gbt.pickitchallenge.com/> and fill your brackets out after selection Sunday on March 13th.

AN ODE TO DAVE MCKAY

GBT would like to take a moment to remember Dave McKay, the first General Manager of Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc.

Born January 1, 1923 in Knockanroe Townland, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, Dave was a World War II Army veteran, having served as a medic in the Philippines, New Guinea, and Australia. In 1946, he married Mary Ann Clowers, who served with him in WWII.



Dave McKay, (far left) frequently traveling to Washington D.C. to advocate for rural independent telephone companies in Kansas, like GBT.

Labor Day 1949, President Harry S. Truman announced the Rural Electrification Act would be amended to provide loans to develop modern telephone service in rural areas. GBT was officially incorporated January 2, 1953, and Dave was hired as their first General Manager in October 1954. Construction of the system started in the fall of 1955, and all of the exchanges were converted to dial service in 1956, serving 722 subscribers.

Retiring in 1988 after serving 34 years, Dave had grown GBT to 17 telephone exchanges. He passed away on December 20, 2021 at the age of 98. Dave left this world with the words of the Old Irish Blessing at his eulogy —

May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall softly upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Nominating Process 2022

The Annual Meeting of The Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc. will be April 20, 2022, at the GBT Corporate Office, Rush Center, Kansas, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. In accordance with Section 4.4 of the Bylaws of The Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc., the Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee, who shall be selected from the Districts from which Trustees are to be elected.

At least two candidates shall be nominated by the Committee for each district up for election. Any fifteen (15) or more members of a District acting together may

make other nominations by petition, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

The following Districts will be up for election: District 1 – Brownell, Ransom, Utica; District 5 – Albert, Bison, Otis, Timken; District 6 – Burdett, Rozel.

The Nominating Committee of Kenneth Flax and Bob Tillitson for District 1; RJ Tammen and Keith Brack for District 5; and Derrick Colglazier and Shane Hinnergardt for District 6; will meet March 3, 2022, to determine the nominee slate for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

NEW TO TEAM BLUE

GBT is excited to announce the addition of two new team members, Drew and Kevin!

Drew was raised in Ness City and graduated college from FHSU. Prior to GBT, he worked for a public accounting firm, where he gained great experience and earned his CPA certificate. Drew joined the GBT team as our new Controller. He will lead all financial administration, assist in budgeting, and analyze financial information for GBT. We asked Drew to tell us one fun thing about his job and he replied, "If you want to know more about my job, watch 'The Accountant' haha!" In his free time, Drew enjoys reading and being outside with his dog, Benson.



"I look forward to being part of a team that works towards a common goal of improving rural lives. Too often local Kansans are forgotten about, but not with GBT."

Kevin's background and skill set includes customer service, sales, and management which make him the perfect fit as the new Customer Service Representative for our Larned store! Visit our Larned location to chat with Kevin about NexTech Wireless, GBT Internet, TV, and voice services! Kevin, along with his wife, and three daughters live in Larned. He and his family are very involved in the Larned community and enjoy serving through their church group and the Chamber.

"I am excited to get to work with local folks to help get them all the technology amenities provided through GBT!"



Do your part, be cyber smart.

Email is one of the leading targets where hackers start their malicious activity. To help clarify and eliminate confusion internally and externally, GBT Departments/Employees have transitioned to a different email domain than the one many of our customers use.

Unfortunately, it is common for our customers to receive emails that look like they are coming from Golden Belt Telephone, often asking people to "click on a link to change their password because their account has been compromised". These are nearly always hackers posing as someone else trying to get you to give up credible information that can be used to access your personal information. Although someone can still spoof our email, please note:

GBT plans to send all mass correspondence to our customers via either our website www.gbta.net, our official Facebook page Golden Belt Telephone, or via the two email addresses of marketing@gbtlive.com or customerservice@gbtlive.com.

As always, if you have a question or think you might be getting scammed, please hang up the phone, do not click on any links or give the person on the phone any information, and call us at 785.372.4236.



Family TV time just got even better.

With features like **50 hours of DVR, HDTV, instant rewind and replay, and no clunky set-top boxes**, your whole family will love GBT's StreamIT TV!



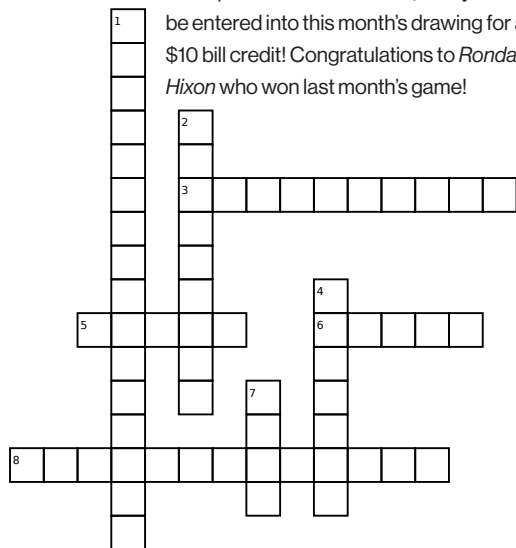
Get **2 FREE Firesticks** when you sign up for StreamIT today!



GBT Hunting:

For this month's game, fill out the crossword puzzle below. Then, email us at gbthunting@gbta.net to let us know you completed the puzzle (You can just say something like:

"I completed the crossword!") and you will be entered into this month's drawing for a \$10 bill credit! Congratulations to Ronda Hixon who won last month's game!



1. Event happening on March 12 hosted by the GBT Jr. Board.
2. You get 2 of these for free if you sign up for StreamIT TV.
3. Where GBT's headquarters is located.
4. One trusted place where GBT sends out mass correspondence.
5. Name of new Customer Service Representative in Larned.
6. One of the leading targets where hackers start their malicious activities.
7. Name of GBT's new Controller.
8. Event held once a year for the GBT cooperative customers.

February Recipe:

Buffalo Chicken Mini Tacos

Recipe by: Dustin Day, GBT Technician

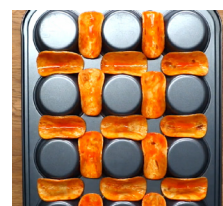
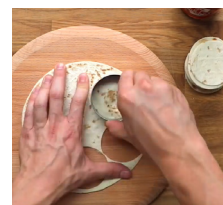
Dustin made these chicken tacos for an employee get-together and we **COULD NOT** get enough. Up until now the recipe has been top secret - but just for you, he's decided to share!

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 8 flour tortillas | 2 tbsp chives, chopped |
| 1/2 cup butter, melted | 1/2 cup cream cheese |
| 1/4 cup buffalo sauce plus another 1/3 cup | 1/2 tsp garlic powder |
| 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken | 1/2 tsp smoked paprika |
| 1 scallion, chopped | 1/2 tsp salt |
| | cheese grated |

Directions

1) Mix butter with 1/4 cup buffalo sauce, garlic powder and smoked paprika. Toss the rounds of tortilla in this. Arrange on the back of a muffin tray then bake for about 10 minutes at 350°F, or until just crisp but not too dark. 2) Meanwhile, combine chicken, cream cheese, scallion, salt and the remaining 1/3 cup of buffalo sauce. 3) Once cooled, spoon the mix into each crispy taco. Top with a pinch of cheese and arrange on a tray. Bake for 5 minutes at 350°F, or until just melted. Top with chives and dig in!



785-372-4236
www.gbta.net

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

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

St. John
602 N US Hwy 281 | Open: Mon.-Fri.
8am - 1:00pm; 2:00pm - 5pm

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

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



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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 | Addie Flax, Graphic Design