

www.gbta.net
Help Desk: 785.372.4236



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

PO Box 86 • 602 N US Hwy 281
St. John, KS 67576
620.377.5555
Hours:
11:00am - 5:00pm
Mon-Fri

The Annual Meeting of The Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc. will be April 21, 2021. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the meeting will be Drive-Thru at the GBT Headquarters, 103 Lincoln Street, Rush Center, Kansas. Voting will begin at 5:00 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m.

Is your cellular phone needing an upgrade? Does the battery drain quickly, or maybe you just want a bigger screen? Better yet, maybe a gift your family will love and Nex-Tech Wireless will pay for? Our promotions just keep getting better! 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 or activate a new line and save up to \$800 and enjoy the personal touch our cellular representatives provide!

GBT representatives will be onsite to direct traffic and register members. All voting members will be given a registration gift and be entered to win some great prizes. In addition, a free meal will be provided courtesy of the Cooperative. The election results will be posted on the GBT website April 23, 2021, and in the May 2021 newsletter.



UP TO \$800 off the device of your choice!





Best Phone

114 W Main
Ness City, KS 67560
785-798-3100



Best Price

101 W 9th
Ellis, KS 67637
785-726-3200



Best People

122 W 5th
Larned, KS 67550
620-910-7676

602 N Hwy 281
St. John, KS 67576
620-377-5555

103 Lincoln
Rush Center, KS 67575
785-372-4236

www.nex-techwireless.com | Questions? Contact Customer Care - 877-621-2600



THE GBT 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21

VOTING IS OPEN FROM 5:00-6:30 PM

103 LINCOLN RUSH CENTER, KS GOLDEN BELT TELEPHONE OFFICE

FOOD AND PRIZES TO ALL WHO ATTEND

**INSTEAD OF HOLDING A TRADITIONAL, SEATED MEETING OR WAITING IN LINES, MEMBERS WILL REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLES AND DRIVE THRU THE ALLEY BETWEEN BUILDINGS AT GBT HEADQUARTERS*

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LET US MANAGE YOUR WI-FI WITH



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SIGN UP TODAY **GET 3 MONTHS FREE!**

GBT'S TOP-OF-THE-LINE WI-FI ROUTER

To get the best Wi-Fi, you need the best router. **We've got you covered.**

FREE ON-SITE TECHNICAL SUPPORT

GBT is **here for you** with any questions or issues.

WORRY-FREE INSTALLATION

Our techs install start to finish and optimize **your Wi-Fi to fit your needs.**

FAST SPEEDS

No lag, buffering, or downtime. Our routers **utilize the newest Wi-Fi technology.**

STRONG, RELIABLE, & SECURE WI-FI

Strengthened Wi-Fi to **reach every corner of your home** and automatic software updates provide **superior security.**

785-372-4236 | www.gbta.net

Offer valid 4/1/2021 - 4/30/2021. Certain restrictions may apply.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

I love doing GBT's accounting. I have always loved numbers and getting to see and explain the financials. I enjoy streamlining processes and making jobs easier for everyone!



HOW HAS YOUR JOB CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED WITH GBT TO NOW?

When I first started, everything was handwritten on paper. Since then, a lot has changed. I have transitioned all of the numbers to our new system and have continued to utilize automation and technology to make our accounting efficient.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF YOUR JOB WITH GBT LOOK LIKE?

Instead of being the "good old phone company," we're diversifying more and more to meet the needs of modern technology. Internet is the future. Accounting will always be there, but we're having to become more diverse to keep up with the technology.

WHAT IS SOMETHING NO ONE WOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I've been told I'm not a "typical accountant." I grew up in the 80's era so I love 80's rock! I jam to it loudly on the way to work and in my office!

WHAT DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE OUTSIDE GBT?

I have two adult sons who we love keeping up with. We farm so I like helping out with that, especially the cow-calf side. I also enjoy working out, sports, and spending time with my and my husband's parents. I also love music and have it playing all of the time no matter where I am.



I've been told I'm not a "typical accountant"...

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:
KRISTA

Don't Lose Money: Read This - Tell A Friend - Tell A Family Member - Just Tell Someone!

Every month GBT receives painful calls from customers who have been scammed out of money. The scams come in a myriad of ways, with the most popular attributed to phone calls, emails, and allowing remote access to your computer or cell phone.

If you are like most adults, you will stop reading past this point and say, "I'm smarter than that; I won't fall for it!" But let us tell you about a recently retired Sheriff (whom we will call "Steve") that was scammed out of more than \$400.

With his permission, "Steve" asked us to share the following story: He was selling an item on eBay, and the person buying the item was having difficulty transferring the money to Steve's eBay account. Knowing he needed assistance, Steve typed in "eBay Support" and called one of the first phone numbers that popped up on the Google search. A nice young man answered saying, "eBay Support, how may I help you?" Steve went on to have a 45-minute conversation with the man, who did extensive troubleshooting, knew everything about eBay, and helped Steve download a mobile pay app on his phone so they could test the transactions. It appeared the man had everything working, as Steve could now see eBay transactions on his bank statement. Steve was happy until the next day, when he realized there were multiple \$200 transactions being deducted from his bank account! After a full day of reporting to the police, contacting his banks to make them aware of the scam, and deleting the online application the "eBay Support tech" had him put on his phone, Steve finally had time to sit back and realize what had happened.

Steve told us as a retired Sheriff, not only had he dealt with criminals for over 20 years, he had also investigated scams similar to his. But the professionalism, knowledge, and how smooth this "support guy" was made Steve break EVERY personal security rule in the book--if it can happen to him, it can happen to anyone!

Another scam our customer "Jim" recently experienced was "an issue" with their computer. A pop-up appeared saying the computer had issues and to contact Microsoft, along with a phone number for support. The customer called the number and gave remote access to the "Microsoft technician" (whom they believed worked for Microsoft). The "Microsoft technician" started to open windows and click on buttons very quickly. Eventually, the conversation led to the scammers needing a credit card number or directing Jim to buy \$250 in gift cards at the local Dollar General. Jim would then need to give them the codes on the back of the gift cards or they would lock up Jim's computer. Thankfully the Dollar General Clerk asked Jim why he was buying \$250 worth of gift cards, and even though Jim was given strict instructions to not discuss the purchase with anyone, he told the cashier why he was there. The cashier convinced Jim he was being scammed and to not purchase the gift cards.

The Internet is a great tool, but it also opens us up to criminals that operate all around the world. Below are some tips GBT recommends to all our customers that might have helped Steve and Jim:



1. NEVER give computer, mobile, or other devices REMOTE ACCESS to anyone you don't know.
2. NEVER open EMAILS you don't know or aren't expecting, and don't click on LINKS you are unfamiliar with. Even if a link looks like it's from a known site, like Amazon or UPS, we recommend not clicking on it. Go to their official website and access your account that way.
3. When looking for a telephone number or contact information, make sure you are going to the company's OFFICIAL WEBSITE for this information.
4. Do not answer phone numbers you DON'T RECOGNIZE (even if it looks like it's from a local area code) and do not click on TEXTS or LINKS that are sent to you from numbers you don't recognize.
5. Do not fill out random surveys on SOCIAL MEDIA! These may seem like innocent fun, but many people use their wedding date, the school where they graduated, or their kids' names for personal account passwords. Many times, the survey originators have hidden agendas, and the information you are giving the world to read can be used to access your personal accounts.
6. If you are being PRESSURED to act quickly (your grandson is in jail and needs money now), or instructed to not tell anyone else, or to not hang up the phone, YOU NEED TO HANG UP THE PHONE! If circumstances are legitimate, they should give you time to hang up, verify the correct call back number (by looking it up), and then calling them back.

GBT has trained technicians who can identify and assist in removing tracking software and returning your device to a safe working condition. If you suspect your computer or mobile devices have been hacked or compromised, please call us at 785-372-4236.





What is Kansas Relay?

Kansas Relay is a public service which guarantees all citizens access to prompt, professional and accurate communication through the telephone. Consumers of these specialized services, specifically individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have difficulty speaking, can communicate on the phone via TTY, Voice Carry Over (VCO), Hearing Carry Over (HCO), Speech-to-Speech (STS), Spanish and Captioned Telephone in order to connect with family, friends or businesses.

How does relay work?

Simply dial 711 or the appropriate toll-free number to connect with Kansas Relay. A qualified Communication Assistant (CA) will ask for the area code and number of the person you wish to call and begin the relay call. Generally, the CA will voice the typed message from the text telephone (TTY) user to you. The CA relays your voiced message by typing it to the TTY user.

Captioned Telephone (CTS)

Captioned Telephone is ideal for individuals with hearing loss who are able to speak for themselves. A captioned telephone works like any other telephone with an essential difference: it allows users to listen to their phone conversations while reading word-for-word captions of what's said to them. To call a Captioned Telephone user, dial: 711 or 877-243-2823.

Speech-to-Speech (STS)

STS is especially useful for people who have difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone. STS involves a specially-trained CA who is familiar with the speech patterns of a wide variety of individuals who have difficulty being understood.

Spanish Relay

Kansas Relay allows Spanish-speaking relay users to access all relay call types. Calls can be translated between Spanish and English if you and the person you are calling are both in Kansas.

How do I apply for specialized equipment?

The Kansas Telecommunications Access Program offers telecommunications equipment to eligible individuals in Kansas who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or have difficulty with speech, mobility and cognitive functions. For more information, visit www.atk.ku.edu/ks-tap or call 800-526-3648.

Access Numbers:

Dial 711 or

TTY/Voice: 800-766-3777

Spanish: 866-305-1343

Speech-to-Speech: 866-305-1344

Customer Care:

V/TTY: 866-735-2957

KSRelay@HamiltonRelay.com

www.KansasRelay.com

Oversite for Kansas Relay is provided by Assistive Technology for Kansas. If you have questions or concern, contact: atkapps@ku.edu or call 800-526-3648.

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

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SECURITY



WIRELESS

Cinnamon Raisin Bread

Submitted by LaVina Johnson

Ingredients:

1 1/2 C milk

1C warm water

2 pkg dry yeast

3 eggs

1/2 C sugar

1 tsp salt

1/2 C butter

1 C presoaked raisins

8 C flour 2T milk

3/4 C sugar

2 T Cinnamon

2T melted butter



Directions:

Warm milk, let cool

Dissolve yeast in warm water, set aside until frothy, Mix in eggs, sugar, butter, salt and raisins.

Stir in cooled milk.

Add flour gradually to make a stiff dough.

Knead dough for a few minutes.

Place in large greased bowl, cover, let rise until doubled.

Roll out on lightly floured surface into a large rectangle 1/2 inch thick.

Moisten with 2 T milk.

Mix together 3/4 C Sugar and 2 T Cinnamon.

Sprinkle on moist dough.

Roll up tightly, roll should be 3 inches in diameter.

Cut into 3rds and tuck ends.

Place in 3 greased bread pans, let rise 1 hour.

Bake 350* for 45 min.

Remove from pans onto cooling Rack and brush with melted butter.

GBT Hunting

Shamrock Hunting Winner

Brenda Hoopingarner - Otis



Count this one too!

March's Newsletter had a total of 36 black Shamrocks! Brenda won a \$10 bill credit from GBT just for playing!

It's time to count... throughout this issue of the Connection there are many Black Butterflies. Can you count them? When you find them all, e-mail us by the 10th of the month at marketing@gbtlive.com with the total number of Black Butterflies, and you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$10 bill credit on your next GBT bill!