



# THE Connection

## ONE WAY TO MAKE YOUR LIFE A LITTLE EASIER

*"Honey, did you call and pay our GBT bill today?"*

*"Oh shoot, I didn't have time at work today and now the office is closed. I'll try to remember to do it tomorrow."*

At GBT, we know life can be busy and you need the convenience of checking on your account, updating your records, or paying the bill when time permits, which is why GBT has an eBill Mobile App that offers all that. With GBT's eBill Mobile app, you can pay your bill when your schedule allows, enroll in auto-pay and paperless billing, update contact information, submit service issues, or look at past payment history. The best part of the app is, it's easy to register, and once you have setup the app, you don't have to worry about constantly logging in every time you need to access it. Just download it on your phone and enjoy the convenience of accessing all these great GBT features on your time!



GET IT ON  
**Google Play**



Download on the  
**App Store**

### Easy Set Up

1. Download the eBill mobile app through your app store. Scan the QR code or search **eBill Mobile**.
2. Once downloaded, enter the zip code of the area you receive GBT services at and click on the GBT logo that says **Golden Belt Telephone**.
3. Next, enter in the username and password that you have set up for your GBT eBill account.
4. If you have not set up an eBill account, click the **Register Here** button, where you will need to enter an invoice number and amount due from your most recent bill.

**Questions? Call us at 785-372-4236**



## GET TO KNOW YOUR GBT NEIGHBOR

**Drew, GBT Assistant Systems Administrator**

### What do you do?

I work with our customers in providing cyber security hardware and software management for their businesses. This includes configuring and maintaining firewalls, switches, access points, servers, computers, and everything in between.

### Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in Ness City. I then went to NCKTC in Beloit for my Associates in Information Technology. After graduating college, I moved back to Hays and worked for a little over a year before I landed my awesome position here at GBT, which then brought me back to my hometown of Ness City where my wife and I are raising our two boys Earl and Dean.

### What are your work and non-work highlights this year?

Work Highlights – rapidly growing our BTS (Business Technology Solutions) Department by adding multiple new clients. Non-work Highlights – Taking our first family vacation to Colorado.

### What is something you'd like every GBT customer to know?

Think before you click!

### What is something memorable a GBT customer has said to you?

There have been multiple customers who voice their appreciation for a job well done which always makes my work that much better.



**Pictured:** GBT's Combination Technician, Kaleb, Splicing Fiber near Ness City.



## SPLICE, SPLICE BABY.

Alright, stop, collaborate and listen...to get a behind-the-scenes look into how GBT technicians splice fiber to connect your home and all its devices to the rest of the world!

Did you know that fiber is strands of glass that are designed to carry large amounts of data long distances, in a very short amount of time? So when a GBT technician is splicing fiber, they are fusing 2 strands of glass together using electric arc to produce enough heat to melt the fibers together. The quality of the splice is very critical to how well information can be transported where it needs to go. When splicing technicians have to make sure the fibers are not contaminated or have any foreign substances on them, so a clean environment is essential.

## DON'T MISS THIS \$5000 OPPORTUNITY!

Applications are now being accepted to The Foundation for Rural Service Community Grant! Sponsored by GBT, 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. Past winners have boosted their communities with nearly \$18,000 in grant funds invested in the GBT service area--your project could be this year's winner!

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!



**Pictured:** GBT's Marketing Specialist, Kara, with the 2021 FRS Community Grant Winner.

### FRS provides PRIORITY to projects that:

- can be fully funded by the grant maximum of \$5,000 or at least 75% of the project;
- focus on Technology and Broadband;
- have a long-term impact for the community and its residents;
- promote community participation and engagement;
- create a more sustainable rural community!

### FRS will NOT AWARD projects to:

- Individuals
- Endowments
- Scholarship Programs
- Event Sponsorships
- International Organizations
- Community Food Programs
- Lobbying and Political Activities
- Loan Repayments
- Ticketed Events
- Religious-based Activities
- Infrastructure/ Building campaigns
- For-Profit Businesses
- Capital Campaigns

Grants range from \$250 to \$5,000 in the categories above. Contact Kara Jecha for more information at 785-372-4236.

Email applications in PDF format to [marketing@gbtlive.com](mailto:marketing@gbtlive.com) by July 15, 2022.



## GBT Presents \$2500 FRS Scholarship

Preston Dunn of St. John received a \$2,500 scholarship through the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). Founded in 1994, FRS is the philanthropic arm of NTCA--The Rural Broadband Association, of which GBT is a member. GBT is excited to partner with FRS in providing this opportunity. With over 2,000 nationwide applicants and only 38 recipients chosen, this is a huge accomplishment.

## JR. BOARD WRAP-UP

GBT wrapped up its 9th Junior Board recently with 7 area students from 6 local schools participating. These 7 area seniors are provided learning opportunities about who GBT is and what we do, including how communication services are delivered to the area. The Junior Board received an in-depth look about voice, video, and Internet and got to tour the NTW Cellular

Headquarters in Hays. GBT gets to learn technology insights from our student leaders. One highlight of the year was the first ever Technology Open House the Jr. Board hosted in March at Rush Center, where the public could come and ask technology questions. Another topic the Jr. Board brought up was how complicated it really is to get Internet or other communication services to their house. They were amazed by the complexity and cost to provide services! For their participation in the Jr. Board, each member will receive a \$750 scholarship.



**Pictured:** The 2022 GBT Junior Board (left to right) Peyton Butler, Adam Hands, Jenna Ratliff, Eva Gaschler, Brooke Herrman, Amy Fooks, Jerett Seeman.

## GBT Directory Photo Contest



Want a chance to showcase your photography skills and let the Golden Belt area see your talents? 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. Pictures must be taken in the GBT service area and must be submitted by August 14th. All photos will need to be submitted digitally via email for quality purposes. There is a 10-picture limit on the number of submissions by one person. Please include name and where the photo was taken on all submissions. Send your pictures in today - you may win the \$100! Submit all 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!



Existing customers:

Upgrade your Internet speed

SAVE  
\$100

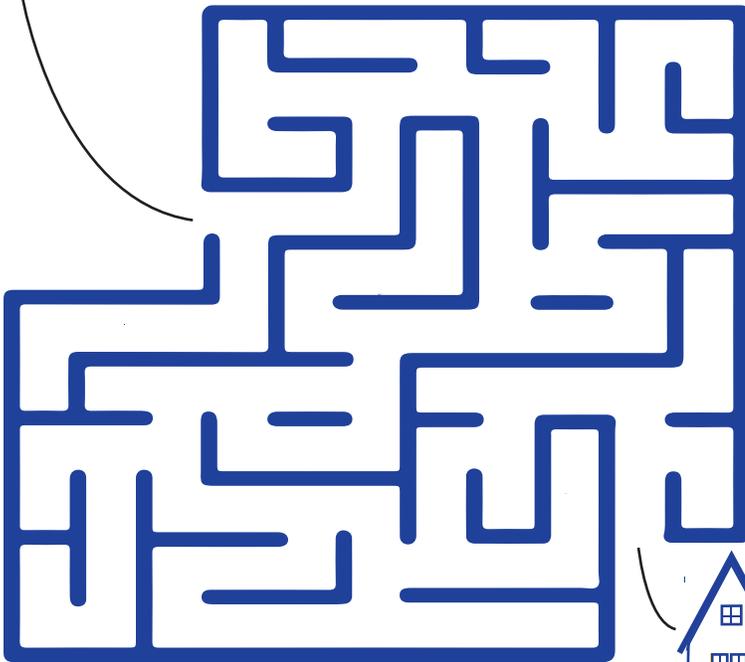


Visit [www.gbta.net/promopage](http://www.gbta.net/promopage) or call 785-372-4236

**GBT Hunting:**

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 Bison! When you complete the puzzle, email [gbthunting@gbta.net](mailto:gbthunting@gbta.net) and say "I helped bring Fiber to rural Bison!" to be entered to win a \$10 bill credit! Congratulations to Gary & Karen Schmidt for winning last month's game!

C.O. (Central Office)



**Recipe of the Month:**

**Chocolate Chip  
Cookie Ice Cream  
Sandwiches**

*Recipe by: Lisa Starr, Albert*

*Nothing beats the heat like cool ice cream - sandwich it between two chocolate chip cookie and YUM. We bet your mouth is drooling already!*



**Ingredients**

- 2 sticks (1 cup) butter, softened
- 3/4 c. brown sugar
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 T vanilla
- 1/2 c. malted milk powder
- 2 c. flour
- 1 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/4 tsp. salt
- (12 oz) Mini Chocolate Chips
- Vanilla Ice Cream

**Directions:** *Step 1:* Cream butter and sugars until fluffy. Add eggs and beat slightly. Add vanilla and beat until combined. Add malted milk until combined. *Step 2:* In a separate bowl, combine flour, soda, and salt. Mix it with wet mixture. Add chocolate chips and stir gently. *Step 3:* Bake at 375 degrees for 9 to 11 minutes on an ungreased baking sheet. Cookies will be flat. Remove to a cooling rack. *Step 4:* After cookies cool, place softened vanilla ice cream between two cookies. Wrap individually in Saran Wrap and freeze.



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 - 1pm; 2pm - 5pm

**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)  
Kyle Bahr, Editor | Kara Jecha, Editor | Addie Flax, Graphic Design