



# THE Connection

## FORGING FUTURES

GBT is excited to announce the recipients of three different opportunities for our area's students. These scholarships go further than being financial aid - they reward deserving students opportunities to learn, grow, and bring back their developed knowledge and skills to impact the future of our local communities!

### 2022 NCK Tech Sponsorship Student

Jadon Copeland, *Ness City*

GBT has partnered with NCK Tech to build a new Telecommunications & Network Technology program. It is a 2-year, 4-semester program through which students will earn an Associate of Applied Science degree. This is a full-ride scholarship with a goal for immediate employment from GBT after graduation.



### 2022 FRS Youth Tour

Brooke Herrman, *LaCrosse*

Each year GBT partners with the Foundation for Rural Service to provide our area's youth a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., joining rural high school students from across the nation to learn about legislative and government processes and the importance of quality broadband connections.

### 2022 WTA Scholarship

Amy Foos, *Ness City*

WTA is a member-driven association strengthening the ability of its members to provide affordable, advanced broadband and communications services in rural America through advocacy and education. Their scholarship program is available to seniors whose parents are employed by a WTA-member company like GBT. The scholarship is based on academics, leadership, character, and community involvement.



## ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

GBT held its 69th Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at the GBT Headquarters in Rush Center. A drive-thru meeting was conducted, with 114 Members receiving an Annual Meeting booklet of 2021 Reports, along with a ballot. Board member elections were held for District 1 - Brownell, Ransom and Utica; District 5 - Albert, Bison, Otis, Timken; and District 6 - Burdett, Rozel. Election Results: District 1 - Cinda Flax; District 5 - James Jecha; and District 6 - Brian Hammeke.

All members attending were provided a BBQ meal and door prizes.





# INTERNSHIP THOUGHTS...

By: Isabelle Cannata, GBT Marketing Intern

As graduation is approaching and I will soon be thrust into the terrifying real world, I can only be grateful that I was allowed a taste of the future through my internship at GBT. I am a Fort Hays State University senior, nearing the completion of my Bachelor of Art in Communication Studies, with an emphasis in Public Relations/Advertising and a minor in Marketing (quite the mouthful, am I right?). I like to consider myself to be a well-rounded individual, which is a fancy way of saying that before choosing these areas of study, I switched between every different degree available in the state of Kansas. Though this was stressful at the time, it allowed me to expand my abilities in areas such as art and journalism, which I have used quite frequently during my internship! In my three years of studying communications and marketing strategies specifically, I crammed a lot of information into my brain. Though I can write a mean marketing plan and read through scholarly articles in a breeze, none of my education actually prepared me for what the workforce entails. I had no idea what the day-to-day operations of a marketer or public relations professional looked like other than the many case analysis homework assignments that I read.

“ *Getting to meet and work alongside all the wonderful employees was by far the best aspect of the job, and I greatly appreciate their kindness and dedication to helping me succeed.* ”

The night before starting my marketing internship at GBT, I called my parents in a panic; I had absolutely no idea what I was doing! I realized that in all my years of studying the theoretical knowledge of marketing and communications, I did not understand how it would translate into a career or what this internship would entail. Should I walk into the board room and just spout off facts about SWOT analysis or how to properly write an annotated bibliography? Are they going to quiz me on SPSS software or judge my lack of tech-savviness despite

applying for a telecommunications company? Thankfully, I had the opportunity to work as a team with Addie Flax, Kyle Bahr, and Kara Jecha, the amazing GBT marketing team. Every morning at work, we would meet to discuss the day's plans; when I was tasked with things that I only understood in theory, I knew I could rely on them to show me the ropes without judgment.

This marketing internship is definitely the best form of preparation that I could ever have! In my short time at GBT, I have had more hands-on experience with marketing than my three years at university combined. Rather than learning about things like social media marketing, I was actually doing it! I also loved being able to use my passion for art and creativity when creating graphics for social media, email campaigns, and various other projects. I was able to send emails that I created to thousands of people, shoot video for promotions and an interview, learn about website design and SEO, and realize that maybe, just maybe, I shouldn't print 400 colored copies of newsletters in one go because the printer will hate me. I am extremely grateful for my time at GBT and cannot emphasize how rewarding this experience was. Getting to meet and work alongside all the wonderful employees was by far the best aspect of the job, and I greatly appreciate their kindness and dedication to helping me succeed. Though I will miss working at GBT more than I care to admit, I can finally say with confidence that I am now prepared for graduation and all the new opportunities that the real world brings. Thank you, GBT!

# WINNER, WINNER!

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2022 Annual Meeting Special Prizes:

\$250 Capital Credit Retirement –  
Jeffery Keener, Rush Center

\$250 Capital Credit Retirement –  
Robert Walker, Ness City

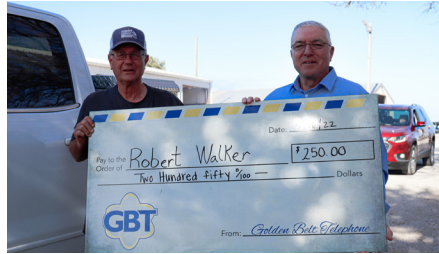
1 Month Free Internet –  
Lowell & Beverly Foos, Bazine

1 Month Free Internet –  
Judy Lee, Utica

1 Month Free StreamIT & Firestick –  
LoRay W. George, Albert

1 Month Free StreamIT & Firestick –  
Kenneth Romeiser, Bison

\$50 NTW Cellular Gift Certificate –  
Reggie & Paula Tammen, Timken



Top: Robert Walker  
Bottom left: Judy Lee  
Bottom Right: LoRay George



## NEW TO TEAM BLUE

GBT is excited to introduce you to our newest team member, Amber, who took the position as our Customer Service Representative for the St. John GBT store.

Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background before GBT? *"I am a mother of 5, I have about 10 years of banking experience, and I ran a daycare out of my home for about a year."*

What are you looking forward to most about working for GBT? *"I am looking forward to helping people demystify their phone and Internet needs. I want to show my customers that technology is not as scary as it looks!"*

One fun/interesting thing our customers should know about your job? *"I love the customers I work with. When they call in with questions or concern, they are getting real people (GBT Customer Service Representative) that understand their concerns. We want to help as best as we can!"*

## Kansas Lifeline:

Lifeline connects eligible low-income families and individuals to the services they need to live, learn, earn and participate fully in their communities. Federal and state discounts of up to \$17.02 per month on phone or internet services are available.\*

### Eligible Services

- Residential phone service
- Wireless phone service
- Broadband internet

### Benefits

- Health and Safety – connect to healthcare providers, call for help in an emergency
- Education – take online classes, complete training programs
- Employment – search for jobs, complete online applications, schedule interviews
- Family Connections – stay in touch with family and friends reducing loneliness and isolation

### Subscribers

Lifeline serves more than 10 million Americans, 35,000 right here in Kansas. Depending on the services provided and your provider, you may be eligible to receive up to \$17.02 in monthly federal and state discounts. Subscribers living on tribal lands qualify for additional discounts.

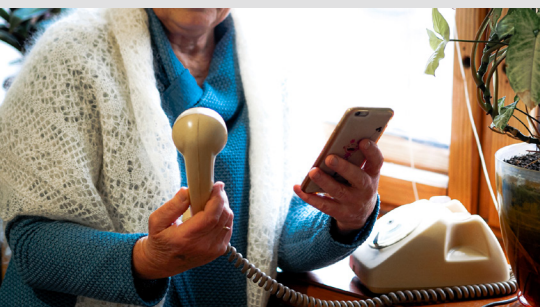
### 2022 Lifeline Income Eligibility Guidelines

Number in Household:	Maximum Annual Income:
1	\$18,347
2	\$24,719
3	\$31,091
4	\$37,463
5	\$43,835
6	\$50,207
7	\$56,579
8	\$62,951

Each additional person in household: \$6,372

### For more information:

Visit <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/> or call 800.234.9473, Visit <https://kcc.ks.gov/telecommunications/lifeline> or call the Kansas Corporation Commission 800.662.0027



### Find out if you qualify:

Guidelines – You may be eligible if you receive any of the following: Medicaid, Section 8 Public Housing Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Head Start (tribal programs for only those meeting its income qualifying standard), and Food Distribution Program on Tribal Lands, and Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

\* The Kansas portion of the discount may only be applied to phone service. The federal discount may be used for internet or phone service.

TV buffering?  
Websites loading slow?  
Emails not sending?

It's time to upgrade your Internet experience!



Existing customers:

Upgrade your Internet speed

SAVE  
\$100



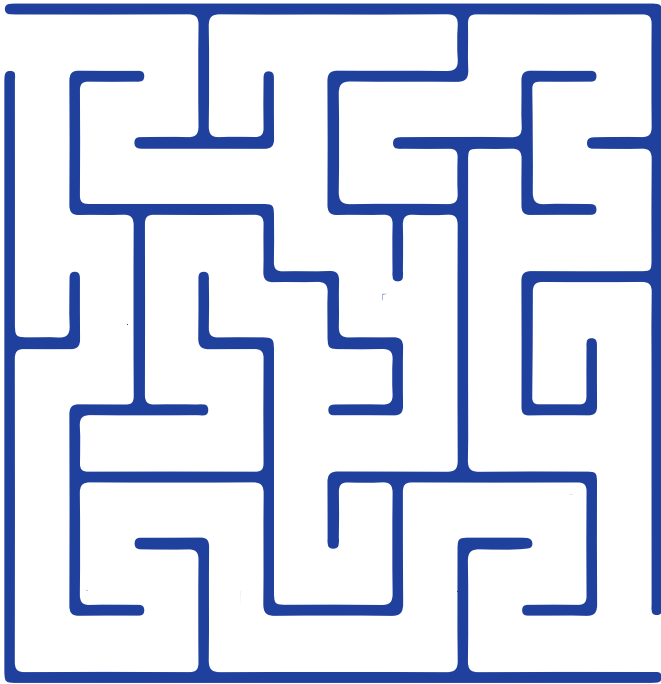
Visit [www.gbta.net/promopage](http://www.gbta.net/promopage) or call 785-372-4236

**GBT Hunting:**

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 Larned! When you complete the puzzle, email [gbthunting@gbta.net](mailto:gbthunting@gbta.net) and say "I helped bring Fiber to Larned!" to be entered to win a \$10 bill credit! Congratulations to Cindy Hemken /Shirley Seltmann for winning last month's game!



*\*We appologize about the incorrect email address in last month's issue. This has been corrected. Please submit all entries to the correct email address as stated above: [gbthunting@gbta.net](mailto:gbthunting@gbta.net).*



**Recipe of the Month:**



**Bacon-Wrapped Chicken**

*Recipe by: Kelly Baalman, GBT CSR Lead*

*This recipe is the perfect summer supper to throw in the oven or slap on your grill! And you know, anything wrapped in BACON is always a hit!*

**Ingredients**

- 1 - Package Boneless Chicken Breast (Cooked)
- 1 - Package Bacon (Cut in half)
- Brown Sugar
- Chili Powder

**Directions:** Cut chicken into 1-2 inch slices. Take a piece of bacon and wrap it around the chicken slice. Spray your baking sheet then place the bacon wrapped Chicken on the pan. Once pan is full, sprinkle brown sugar across all pieces of chicken, then top with chili powder according to taste. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.



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)  
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