



THE Connection

BRIDGING THE GENERATIONAL GAP: GBT'S INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE CYBER-SMART COMMUNITIES

In recent months, GBT has been actively engaging with area organizations to discuss the importance of being cyber smart and avoiding scams. As your local communication provider, we cherish the opportunity to interact with our customers, sharing crucial information about the dos and don'ts of online safety and what red flags to look out for. Throughout our programs, we've found that while many scams are familiar to our attendees, there is always at least one person who shares a unique real-life story. These personal experiences often highlight how serious these threats can be and how easily one can fall victim to them. The stories and questions from participants spark deeper discussions, emphasizing the importance of staying vigilant.

Our attendees frequently express how beneficial it is to have these discussions and to help friends and family avoid scams. This naturally brings up an interesting topic about engaging our youth. For many who didn't grow up with connected devices or the Internet, there can be a feeling of discomfort or a sense of being behind compared to Millennials or Generation Z, who have always lived in a digital world. For these younger generations, technology and connected devices are second nature, integral to their daily lives, and essential for the functioning of modern schools.

To bridge the generational gap, it's crucial to engage youth in helping adults and the elderly become more comfortable with technology. One effective approach is to encourage family-based technology sessions. In a relaxed and familiar setting, grandparents and parents can learn from their tech-savvy children and grandchildren. This not only boosts adults' and seniors' confidence in using technology but also strengthens family bonds. Involving young people in these teaching roles fosters a sense of responsibility and empathy in them. Often misunderstood and seen as glued to their phones, young people can feel just as awkward communicating with adults. Therefore, as an adult, engaging with youth to learn about technology, the latest social media trends, or new tricks can make life easier and bridge communication gaps.

GBT is continuing to explore ways to help bridge these generational gaps when it comes to technology. If you would like GBT to discuss scams and Internet safety with your organization please reach out to customerservice@gbtlive.com.

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 and wireless 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.

2024 Lifeline Income Eligibility Guidelines

Household Size	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$20,331	\$25,394	\$23,369
2	\$27,594	\$34,479	\$31,725
3	\$34,857	\$43,565	\$40,082
4	\$42,120	\$52,650	\$48,438
5	\$49,383	\$61,736	\$56,795
6	\$56,646	\$70,821	\$65,151
7	\$63,909	\$79,907	\$73,508
8	\$71,172	\$88,992	\$81,864
For each additional person, add:	7,263	\$9,086	\$8,357

You may have to show proof of income, like a tax return or three consecutive pay stubs, when you apply for Lifeline.

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For more information:

Visit <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>
 Visit <https://www.kcc.ks.gov/public-affairs-and-consumer-protection/kansas-lifeline-program>
 or call the Kansas Corporation Commission
 800.662.0027

Subscribers living on tribal lands qualify for additional discounts.

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.

For more information visit: <https://www.kcc.ks.gov/public-affairs-and-consumer-protection/kansas-lifeline-program> or call us at 785-372-4236.

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Additionally, program information may be available in languages other than English.

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1) Mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C.

2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Have you Experienced a Software Update Issue Lately?

On July 19th, a significant update from cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike impacted numerous users in the U.S. and globally. The update, pushed to customers using Microsoft Windows—the world’s most popular operating system—disrupted various sectors including financial services, medical facilities, TV broadcasters, air travel, manufacturing, and more.

As we often observe at GBT, many issues reported by our customers are not related to the Internet itself but stem from software updates pushed by vendors. This recent incident is a prime example of how such updates can cause substantial problems for Internet-connected devices.

In today’s digital era, the average U.S. household has 21 connected devices, including cell phones, TVs, cameras, and smart home gadgets like speakers and thermostats. These devices often run on different operating systems and are subject to frequent updates from their vendors. While these updates are essential for maintaining security and performance, they can occasionally lead to malfunctions or glitches, which users may mistakenly attribute to Internet connectivity issues.

We advise our customers to remember that if one device is experiencing issues while others are functioning correctly, it’s likely a device problem rather than an Internet issue. This concept can be challenging to grasp because there’s no visible change when a device update occurs. However, an update might have affected how your device operates.

To assist our customers in distinguishing between Internet and device issues, we recommend GBT’s managed protection which includes our managed router and wifi. This enables us to diagnose problems more accurately, ensuring you receive the appropriate support. As demonstrated by the global disruptions on July 19th, understanding the nature of these issues is crucial in the modern, interconnected world.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ASHTYN BUTLER

What do you do?

I do marketing and graphic design for GBT and am based out of the Rush Center Office.

Tell us about yourself and how you got to GBT?

I studied at Fort Hays State University where I earned my degree in Communications with an emphasis in Advertising and Public Relations as well as a minor in graphic design. When GBT reached out with a job opportunity I thought not only would it be a good fit but I would also be closer to my hometown.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy being outdoors, going to the lake, traveling, and spending time with friends and family!

UPCOMING DEADLINE

Directory Photo Contest - August 13: 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. This year’s theme is “Innovation.” Photos need to be taken in



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 02 Larned Moonlight Madness / Snowcones
- 10 Bazine Picnic / Watermelon Feed
Timken Picnic / Watermelon Feed



Superior security comes from a company you know & trust.

Did you know GBT offers custom-designed security and surveillance systems for your home or business protection's every need?

Camera Systems

GBT offers a wide range of customized camera systems allowing you to view your cameras locally or remotely on your phone.

Security Systems

- Motion
- Carbon Monoxide
- Moisture
- Glass Breakage
- Temperature
- Fire and Smoke



Recipe of the Month:

Cream Cheese Squares

These cream cheese bars are very easy and deliciously rich and gooey.

Prep Time: 10 mins
Cook Time: 25 mins
Total Time: 35 mins
Servings: 24
Yield: 24 squares



Ingredients

- 2 (8 ounce) cans refrigerated crescent roll dough
-
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
-
- 1¼ cups white sugar, divided
-
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
-
- ½ cup butter, melted
-
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions

Gather all ingredients.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking pan.

Unroll one can of crescent rolls and press dough into the bottom of the prepared pan. Set second can aside.

Mix together cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, and vanilla in a medium bowl until smooth and creamy. Spread over crescent dough layer.

Unroll second can of crescent rolls and lay dough on top of cream cheese mixture; do not press down. Pour melted butter over the entire pan.

Combine remaining ¼ cup sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl; sprinkle on top.

Bake in the preheated oven until top is crisp and golden, 25 to 30 minutes.

Once cool, cut into 24 squares. Enjoy!



785-372-4236
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



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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

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