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A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF GRM NETWORKS

CONTACT

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 Princeton District Office
 1001 Kentucky St.
 Princeton, MO 64673
 Phone: 800-451-2301
 Hours: M-F, 8 am-5 pm

GRM Networks
 Bethany District Office
 3406 Miller St.
 Bethany, MO 64424
 Phone: 800-551-1930
 Hours: M-F, 8 am-5 pm

GRM Networks
 Leon District Office
 600 NW Church St.
 Leon, IA 50144
 Phone: 800-551-1940
 Hours: M-F, 8 am-5 pm

After Hours Call: 800-451-2360
 Internet Tech Support:
 800-721-2577

OFFICE CLOSURE

Our office will be closed:
 • January 1 for New Year's Day

CATCH THIS MOUSE TO WIN!



This mouse is hiding in a photo somewhere in this newsletter. Find it and call your local GRM office with the photo description to be entered in our "Mouse for Money" drawing for \$5.00 off your next bill. Good luck and we look forward to hearing from you!

Congratulations to Mack Wallace, Norma Weatherd, Terry and Stephanie Bundt, Vernon Trower and Jason Hollinger for catching the mouse in our last issue!



GRM Networks is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Get Ready to Enjoy Skitter TV



Watching TV just got bigger and better! GRM Networks will begin offering Skitter TV to our Fiber-to-the-Home customers! By delivering vivid video in both high definition (HD) and standard definition (SD), the quality of Skitter TV will enhance your television experience. The IPTV (Internet protocol television) service currently works over the fiber network but plans have been made to expand the service to customers on a copper connection.

With three channel lineup packages, you can choose the package that fits your viewing preferences. The **Essential Package** includes the local channels such as ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox and more. The **Preferred Package** gives you access to the local stations plus over 70 of the most watched networks. The **Premier Package** provides the top level of viewing options with over 100 of the most popular stations.

Skitter TV will enable you to enjoy live TV recording services like Pause Live TV, DVR service or Whole Home DVR service, so you'll never have to miss a minute of your favorite program! Because Skitter TV runs over a buried fiber network, a little wind and rain will not knock out your service. If you do happen to have questions about your service, you can call a FREE 24/7 support line. We are dedicated to answering all your questions and ensuring you have quality service.

To have your Skitter TV video service installed, call the GRM Networks district office for your area. Our GRM Networks family of employees looks forward to providing you with the advanced technology and exceptional service that comes with Skitter TV.

For more information, call the office or check it out online at www.grm.net/skittertv.



Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors

GRM Networks in conjunction with the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) offers an annual college scholarship program to help further higher education among rural youth. Area high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of the cooperative are eligible to submit an application. FRS awards several \$2,500 scholarships each year to students from rural America. The award can be used during the student's first year of college, university or vocational-technical school. An NTCA member company sponsors each student. FRS funds \$2,000 of each scholarship, and the sponsoring company awards the remaining \$500.

As a bonus, all completed applications for the GRM Networks/FRS scholarship will also be considered for scholarships from four additional funding programs.

- **TMS** will award two \$1,500 scholarships across the nation.
- The **Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship** will award one applicant \$2,500.
- The **Colt Ford Scholarship** will award up to \$15,000 to rural students.
- The **FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarship** will provide four \$5,000 awards to students with an expressed interest in science, math, medicine or engineering.
- All scholarships offered are one-time payment awards.

Applications are available from all high school counselors in the GRM Networks' service area, at our local business offices, and online at www.grm.net. Completed applications must be postmarked by February 13, 2015. **For questions, please contact Amy Clapham at 888-748-2110.**

A SMART COMBINATION: SMARTPHONES AND YOUR HOME WI-FI NETWORK

Do you and your family members have smartphones? Is your home set up with a Wi-Fi network? If the answer is yes to both questions, we have a suggestion for you. When using your smartphone at home, you may want to access the Internet via your Wi-Fi network rather than use the national wireless network of your wireless provider.

This strategy has a couple of advantages. A home Wi-Fi network typically offers a faster Internet connection than many national wireless networks. It can also save you money—especially if you don't have an unlimited data plan—by eliminating the need to use your smartphone's data plan while at home. Check with your wireless provider to verify the details.

Do you need a Wi-Fi network at home? Call one of the GRM Networks offices (Princeton 800-451-2301, Bethany 800-551-1930 or Leon 800-551-1940) to find out how to start enjoying the convenience of a wireless modem with our high-speed Internet service.

2015 FRS YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

For the eighteenth consecutive year, GRM Networks will sponsor two high school juniors on the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The 2015 tour will be held May 30 – June 3.

The Youth Tour will bring over 100 high school juniors from across rural America together for an educational and exciting experience in Washington, D.C. Students will have a first-hand look at the communications industry and learn about legislative and governmental processes. They will also visit famous historical sites including the World War II Memorial, the Smithsonian Institution, Mount Vernon, the U.S. Capitol and Arlington National Cemetery.

Please encourage all high school juniors living in GRM Networks' service area to apply. To be qualified, an applicant's parents/guardians must be a member of GRM Networks and the student must be under 18 years of age at the time of the Youth Tour. Relatives of GRM Networks employees are not eligible.

Applications for the 2015 Youth Tour are available from high school counselors in GRM Networks' serving area, at the GRM Networks business offices or online at www.grm.net. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 13, 2015. **If you have questions concerning the 2015 Youth Tour, please contact Amy Clapham at 888-748-2110.**

3rd Quarter 2014 GRM Community Improvement Grants Awarded

GRM Networks has announced the 3rd Quarter 2014 GRM Community Improvement Grant Program recipients. They are as follows:

1. Friends of the Bethany Public Library in Bethany, MO will use their \$250 grant toward the purchase of a new computer for the library.
2. The Bethany Kiwanis Club in Bethany, MO was awarded \$500 to purchase clothing for needy children in Harrison County.
3. The Lamoni Community Center in Lamoni, IA purchased a television and mounting hardware with their \$500 grant.

Since 1999, GRM Networks has awarded 202 grants to deserving community organizations in its serving territory. To apply for a GRM Community Improvement Grant, visit www.grm.net or stop by any GRM Networks business office and pick up an application. Questions should be directed to Amy Clapham, Marketing Supervisor, at (888) 748-2110. **The deadline for 1st quarter grant applications is March 31, 2015.**



(Pictured from left to right) Billie Jo Ragan, Bethany Public Library Treasurer; Kathy Groves, GRM Networks Customer Service Representative; Back Row: Steve Miles, GRM Networks District Manager; Delsa L. Brooks, Bethany Public Library Vice Chairman; Teresa Pierce, Bethany Public Library Chairman; Jay Hemenway, Bethany Public Library Board Member



(Pictured from left to right) Charlie Yates; Terry Graham, GRM Networks Customer Service Representative; Back Row: Larry Real; Steve Miles, GRM Networks District Manager



(Pictured from left to right) Shawna Robinson, GRM Networks Customer Service Representative; Kash Dhanapal, Lamoni Community Center Director; Steve Harris, GRM Combination Technician

LIFELINE OFFERS PHONE DISCOUNTS TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Many individuals or low-income families qualify for assistance with phone charges, but don't realize that this help is available to them. If you're experiencing financial difficulties, or have a friend or family member in this situation, GRM Networks encourages you to look into the Lifeline Program. Lifeline provides qualified customers with a monthly discount on charges for a single phone line at the applicant's principal place of residence. Iowa residents participating in the federal program can save up to \$9.25 per month. Missouri residents eligible for the federal program can save up to \$15.75 per month. The additional \$6.50 for qualifying Missouri residents comes from the Missouri Universal Service Fund.

You may qualify for Lifeline if you participate in at least one of the following programs or have a total household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

- Medicaid (Medical Assistance)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP- formerly Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch Program (NSL) Free Lunch Program

To learn more about Lifeline, visit the Universal Service Administrative Company's website at www.lifelinesupport.org. Or simply stop by one of the GRM Networks offices for more details. We'll provide you with an application form and help you determine whether or not you qualify for Lifeline discounts.

GIGABIT CONNECTIVITY SPURS INNOVATION AND GROWTH

By now, you've probably heard of "Gig communities," referring to areas where homes and businesses have access to Internet speeds of 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps). This is an extremely fast connection—100 times faster than the average 10 Mbps speeds in U.S. households.

The growing availability of Gigabit speeds will do more than simply enhance our enjoyment of today's entertainment and communication applications. Gigabit connectivity is also expected to lead to the development of new applications.

Historically, every major advance in bandwidth has led to online innovations. For example:

- Faster dial-up modems helped websites become useable.
- Early broadband rollout allowed for quicker sharing of MP3 music files on services like Napster.
- Later broadband advances allowed for streaming activities that have given rise to services like YouTube, Amazon Prime, and Netflix.
- Advances in wireless speeds have enabled everything from massive adoption of social networking sites to location-based sharing services on smartphones.

Industry forecasters expect similar changes as gigabit connectivity emerges. What might we see in the future? For starters, there may be far more vivid telepresence in terms of video and audio quality as well as robotic control, enabling people to instantly meet "face-to-face" in cyberspace with no travel necessary. **Technology moves quickly, and at 1 Gbps, it will really move!**



Bundle Up With Money-Saving Bundles

Our Grand Slam Bundle includes all this for only \$75.95 per month!

GRM Broadband Internet

- Up to 6Mbps down and 1Mbps up
- Tech Home Protect

Local Phone

- Unlimited local calls and 4 calling features!

Long Distance Calling

- 120 Minutes of nationwide long distance

Already a bundle customer? Upgrade to our SUPERNET 15 Bundle for \$87.95!

Subscribe to a bundle or upgrade before January 30th and receive two \$12 bill credits!*

SAVE UP TO
15%
COMPARED TO
INDIVIDUAL
SERVICE PRICES

*Offer limited to residential customers only. Two \$12 bill credits are limited to bundles that include GRM Internet service. One \$12 bill credit will be issued on the Home Run Bundle. Prices do not include applicable taxes, or surcharges. All prices subject to change. Service availability and Internet speeds vary by location. Contact us for complete details.