



EAST BUCHANAN TELEPHONE COOP & COUNTY LINE FIBER

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Unwrap Your Free Internet Upgrade!

'Tis the season for giving back, and as a token of our appreciation for your continued patronage, we're excited to let you know that we're upgrading your Internet service to the next higher package for the entire month of December—at no extra cost to you! We truly value our customers, and this is our way of saying "thank you" for choosing us. Whether you're using our service for entertainment, work, or staying connected with loved ones, we hope this upgrade brings a little extra joy to your holiday season. After New Years, we'll automatically move you back to your pre-December Internet package unless you notify us that you prefer to remain at the higher speed. Enjoy the enhanced experience and know that we're grateful for you. Here's to a wonderful December filled with festive moments and happy memories!

Happy Holidays from all of us at EBTC!

MIKE'S MOMENTS

Before we turn the page on November, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on this past year and things for which I'm "thankful". I'm thankful for our coop members and customers. The purpose of our non-profit cooperative is to serve our coop members with the best possible service and best prices – and we couldn't do it without your support.

I'm thankful for our Board of Directors – a portion of which are elected each year by our coop members to represent their wishes. The Board of Directors has made some very difficult decisions since the Covid pandemic. Their foresight will benefit EBTC and County Line Fiber long into the future, and I'm thankful for their direction. I'm thankful for our employees as 2025 was a challenging year for all involved. With new fiber projects, we've added more staff members in this year of transition – and the "newbies" have really picked up the pace and are great additions to our staff.

And I'm thankful to our employees who've retired in 2025. While Annette Kress retired at the end of July after 25 years, Stan Steele is retiring on December 31st after 48 years at EBTC! He has seen many changes over the years from aerial Cable TV service to replacing all our copper lines to now having replaced all the copper with fiber optic cable over the past 6 years. We greatly appreciate his dedication and loyalty!

I'd like to wish everyone a belated Happy Thanksgiving, and a joyous Christmas season!



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- FREE INTERNET UPGRADE
- MIKE'S MOMENTS
- 3 LUCKY WINNERS
- EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES
- CHANGE TO INTELLIFI
- AUREON CHARITY GRANTS
- RECIPE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

3 LUCKY WINNERS

October's Lucky 3 Winners were: Connie Werling, Twyla Larsen and Nadine Chesmore! Call into our office with the locations of Dasher, Vixen, and Rudolph to be entered into our drawing December 23rd for a chance to win \$10 off your invoice!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

East Buchanan Telephone Coop is celebrating several employee anniversaries in December & January.

Anniversaries:

Sara Connolly- 6 years on 12/10
Mike Becker- 7 years on 1/1
Jordan Hettinger- 3 years on 1/3
Hunter Canfield- 1 year full time on 1/1
Dasher- bringing presents to little kids since the beginning of time.

AUREON CHARITY GRANTS

Did you know that through EBTC, you can get access to both grants and small business loans?

EBTC partners with Aureon who offer charity grants for non-profits up to \$5,000. Aureon donated \$20,000 to non-profits in Iowa through sponsoring phone companies in both Q1 and Q2 of 2025, and donation requests are always awarded on a quarterly basis. Several non-profit projects in the EBTC service area have been awarded in recent years. Aureon and local phone companies also offers larger Ripple Effect grants in conjunction with Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) for economic development projects. These Ripple Effect awards for the first half of 2025 can also be seen at

<https://info.aureon.com/e/1080583/CharityGrants/ggrpq8/2170119580/h/a2vDdvrRyOT5UsWsBnrufas5WWNlZPua6N9biv399E>.

Ripple Effect Grants support community projects that are at the first initial concept stage of development.

IADG offers grant support for project design and engineering, meaning that if you have a project idea, a quick call to IADG may allow you to do the preliminary design and drawings of your project at no cost to you. Note that the project must not be started in order to qualify for IADG assistance for this phase of your project, so it's imperative that you contact EBTC or IADG before you begin.

EBTC also has a Revolving Loan Fund available for business expansions or for Vixen business start-ups. Each loan request is evaluated by the EBTC Board of Directors before final approval is given. Nearly \$75,000 is currently available in this fund.

For more information, please contact the EBTC office at 319-935-3011.

CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT COOKIES

Ingredients

- 2 2/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder, Dutch processed
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3/4 teaspoon peppermint extract (optional)
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup candy canes, crushed



YOUR WI-FI JUST GOT SMARTER

We're excited to announce an upgrade to your home Wi-Fi experience at no cost to you! We're moving from Plume to Intellifi.

Our new smart Wi-Fi solution designed to give you:

- Stronger coverage in every corner of your home
- Smarter performance with automatic speed optimization
- Easy control through a simple app
- Built-in security for peace of mind

What you will need to do

IF YOU DO NOT USE PLUME Will not need to do anything.

IF YOU USE PLUME APP WITH NO EQUIPMENT (EVO)

You will need to download the new Intellifi app using the QR code below.

IF YOU USE PLUME APP AND HAVE EQUIPMENT (EVO)

Our techs will be dropping a new Intellifi device off or you can stop into the office to pick one up and you will need to install the new Intellifi app using the QR code below.

EVO
(Discontinued)



Questions? We're here to help call 319-935-3011.

- Preheat oven to 350F. Line a large half sheet baking tray with a silicone baking mat or parchment paper and set aside.
- In a medium to large sized mixing bowl, add in flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Whisk well to combine, then set aside.
- In a large mixing bowl, use a hand mixer or stand mixer to cream together butter, white sugar, and brown sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 3-4 minutes. Add in egg, vanilla extract, and peppermint extract, and beat again until smooth and fluffy.
- Add in the flour mixture, then beat together until well combined. Fold in the chocolate chips and crushed candy canes until well-dispersed.
- Use a medium cookie scoop to scoop out 2 tablespoons of cookie dough onto the prepared baking sheet. Place the cookie balls onto the lined baking sheet, spaced at least 2 inches apart (you can fit about 6 on a large cookie sheet).
- Press in extra chocolate chips and candies on the top.
- Bake (in batches) for 10-12 minutes, until edges just start to brown. Remove Rudolph from oven and allow the cookies to cool in the baking sheet for 5 minutes, then carefully transfer to a wire cooling rack to cool completely. Repeat baking in batches with remaining cookies.