

Connections

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025



Start the New Year With Confidence

Happy New Year from F&B! This new year gives you a new chance to go after your goals, so move forward with gusto. If not now, when? If not you, who? As you navigate the road ahead, remember we're here to help—as your communications provider and your neighbor. We want you to live your best life.

103 N. Main St. / P.O. Box 309
Wheatland, IA 52777

Office Hours: M–F 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Office Closure:

New Year's Day – Jan. 1

Phone Numbers:

Business Office:

(563) 374-1236 or (563) 574-1236

After-Hours Trouble:

(563) 374-1238 or (563) 574-1238

Internet Tech Support 24/7: 1-888-832-4322

Technology Solutions: (563) 374-1322

Visit Us Online: www.fbcom.net

 **Like Us on Facebook:**
facebook.com/FBCommunications



Skate through

STREAMING

with ease

GET IN THE GAME WITH OUR STREAMNOW GUIDE

Are you thinking about joining Team Stream, but are afraid you'll slip up when faced with unfamiliar decisions? Have no fear! F&B has your back when it comes to streaming.

Our StreamNow Guide takes beginners step by step through the streaming process and provides resources including:

START YOUR TRAINING NOW!

Visit gostreamnow.com/fbcomm



Community Giving

F&B is proud to support our community. One way we fulfill this commitment is through the Aureon Charity Grant Program. This partnership with an F&B service partner provides grants to public and private nonprofit organizations for tangible community-based projects. Since the inception of the Aureon Charity Grant Program more than 25 years ago, Aureon and F&B have contributed more than \$50,000 locally. Grant applications are reviewed and awarded quarterly.

Another way F&B gives back to our community is through scholarships including these:

F&B \$1,000 Scholarship

F&B will award this scholarship to a deserving high school senior in our service area based on scholastic achievement, citizenship, and school and community activities.

FRS \$2,500 and Named Scholarships

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, supports the continuing education of rural youth. F&B is an NTCA member company. FRS will fund \$2,000 of each scholarship, with F&B providing an additional \$500 if a winning application is chosen from our service area. Named scholarships are also available.

For grant and scholarship applications, visit www.fbcom.net/grants-scholarships.



What Will the Internet Look Like in 2050?

We've already seen tremendous internet changes in the last several decades—from painfully slow and clunky dial-up connections to incredibly fast fiber connections that support streaming, work from home, online gaming, and more. What will the next 25 years bring?

Here's what technology experts predict:

Hyper-Connected Devices and Environments

By 2050, the Internet of Things (IoT) will expand exponentially. Everything from household appliances to public infrastructure will be connected. Smart cities will thrive on networks that manage transportation, energy consumption, and waste management in real-time, improving efficiency and sustainability.

The Rise of Immersive Experiences

Virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) will become the standard way we interact online, offering immersive experiences in everything from entertainment to education. Social media will shift toward more immersive platforms, where people "meet" in virtual spaces resembling the real world. The metaverse—a virtual universe where individuals can work, play, and socialize—will likely mature into a mainstream online destination, replacing the flat, two-dimensional websites and apps we use today. Instead of information being displayed on screens, it will be floating right in front of us through augmented reality glasses and other devices.

AI Integration

AI will play a central role in online interactions, from personalized virtual assistants to AI-driven customer service, health care, and education. The internet will be more intelligent, offering hyper-personalized experiences tailored to individual preferences, learning patterns, and emotional states.

New Forms of Communication

In the future, we won't be writing text messages, Google searches, or emails. Instead, we'll be using more verbal and auditory communication much like Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa. In addition, brain-computer interfaces could become a reality, which would enable us to transmit information instantly between minds without the need for speech or writing, and holograms will make calls more personal and realistic.

No matter what the internet looks like in 2050, F&B will connect you. To learn more about the internet services we offer today, visit www.fbcom.net.