

# PTCI scholarship gives back to local students

PTCI values education and every year helps 20 local high school seniors work toward their goals of obtaining college degrees. Over the past 28 years, PTCI has awarded over \$325,000 to local students, each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the university or trade school of their choice.

Part of PTCI's mission is to enhance the quality of life for our members and customers, and we feel a duty to do so. Awarding scholarships helps us meet that goal. These scholarships benefit our students, but are an investment in our region as well. Many students return here after graduation to work and enhance our communities.

This year, area high school seniors have until January 31 to submit their applications online. The mobile-friendly process makes it easier for students to apply, and many students use a school computer or cell phone to complete their applications.

**Eligible students may apply at [ptci.submittable.com](http://ptci.submittable.com) until 11:59 pm on January 31, 2020. We'll announce the scholarship recipients in the spring.**



**PTCI**  
PO Box 1188  
Guymon, OK 73942

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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# PTCI communicator

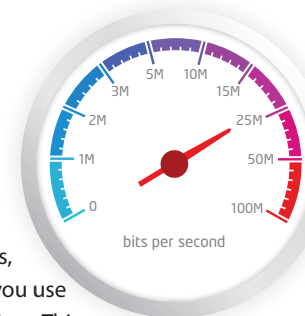
January 2020

## Increased internet use requires increased internet speeds

Have you noticed your internet-connected devices slowing down or lagging lately? Perhaps Santa delivered new data-eating devices to your house last month, and now you realize you need more speed to keep them all running smoothly.

PTCI has the fastest and most reliable internet around. We recommend having at least 20 Mbps, especially if you use multiple devices. This includes smartphones, computers, tablets, smart TVs, smart home equipment, and other gadgets.

**Not sure what speed is right for you? Give us a call at 580-338-2556 or go to [www.ptci.net](http://www.ptci.net) and scroll down to use our Internet Calculator, which will help you decide what internet plan will work best.**



## Contact

PTCI  
PO Box 1188, Guymon, OK 73942  
580-338-2556 • [ptci.net](http://ptci.net)

**Office Closure**  
January 1 – New Year's Day



**Top Left:** PTCI Heavy Equipment Operator Billy Perez uses a scoop in construction of the Fiber to the Home project in Hooker.  
**Top Right:** PTCI Construction Foreman Willie Sullivan directs the boring machine used to bury internet fiber.  
**Bottom Left:** PTCI's Billy Perez and Brice Martinez do preparatory groundwork to set the line before boring a line for the fiber.

## ...And the fiber-to-the-home construction continues

Just when PTCI's hard-working construction crews thought it might be time for a rest, the work orders arrived for the next phase of PTCI's multi-year, fiber-to-the-home projects.

It's an exciting time at PTCI, with a fiber-optic network growing throughout the Oklahoma Panhandle as each day goes by. Crews completed construction in Hooker before the end of 2019 and have begun burying fiber in Texhoma. Boise City will be next in line for construction, likely in the 2020-2021 timeframe.

While all this is going on, PTCI has also started a "Rural Surge" project to build a fiber-optic network to as many farms and ranches in the Oklahoma Panhandle as possible given PTCI's strategic initiative plans. This "Rural Surge" will continue for the next five-to-seven years.

So what does all this fiber mean to you? It means internet speeds up to one gigabit, which is up to 1,000 times faster than what most people are using today. It means you can stream your TV shows with no buffering, while the kids are gaming, and mom is uploading photos for grandma to view.

**PTCI is very proud to provide the best fiber-optic network to our customers. We value you greatly, and by continuing to expand our network, we hope we're showing our appreciation.**

- Help setting up your streaming service
- Help setting up your streaming devices
- Help connecting your streaming devices to your service
- Phone support if you have questions
- In-home support from local PTCI employees

**Streaming Care**  
support for your streaming service

**\$3<sup>50</sup>/month**

[ptci.net](http://ptci.net) | 580.338.2556

Cornerstone Group © 2020

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## Cybersecurity in 2020

With a new year comes new tricks that hackers will use to try to access your valuable information. Here are some tips to help you be prepared:

- **Use strong passwords.** They're paramount for keeping your information secure. Keyloggers are malicious software designed to crack easier passwords, so a unique password comprised of lowercase and capital letters, numbers, and symbols will help keep keyloggers at bay.
- **Stay on top of updates.** Always keep your computer, smartphone, and other devices up to date. Software updates often come with new security patches that help make your devices less vulnerable to attack.
- **Take advantage of virus protection.** Good antivirus software will help block unwanted attempts to enter your computer's system.

Ask us about our Tech Home plans, which can protect your system from security threats as well as back up important files, manage passwords, and support your connected devices. Call 580-338-2556 or visit [www.ptci.net/internet/wifi-security](http://www.ptci.net/internet/wifi-security).

## Streaming workshops

**Spearman-January 15 / 5-7 pm**  
O'Loughlin Center

**Guymon-January 29 / 5-7 pm**  
PTCI North Store

## New business listings

**Guymon**  
Taqueria La Hacienda  
580-338-0593

**Forgan**  
Mach Resources  
580-487-3417

# PTCI lights up downtown for the holidays

PTCI's Randy Jacobs, Jason Epp and Emanuel DeHerrera served hot chocolate to kids of all ages at Guymon's Downtown Open House on Friday, December 6. PTCI employees helped hang the lights for the lighting ceremony and sponsored the Guymon Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree lighting.



# Remind your honor roll students to order their free backpacks

It's the time of year when PTCI will reward your 7th through 12th grade honor roll students. We've made a change this year and will be giving out a free, custom-made backpack to each student for making good grades!

Please remind your children to order their school-specific backpacks soon, as the deadline is Friday, January 24. Order forms will be at their school office and more information is available through the school counselor or office personnel.

# PTCI survey geared to help customers

PTCI is always working to improve the quality of our services, customer care, and support. Every year, we contact customers by email to find out how well PTCI is informing customers about services and providing the latest in communications.

We'll make these 2020 survey contacts during the month of January. We'd like to thank our customers who have taken time to participate in previous years. We urge all of you who receive an email request to complete our survey and answer our questions honestly. We'll use the input we receive as a guideline to help us better serve the communications needs of our friends and neighbors.

If you'd like to provide input, call 580-338-2556 and ask to speak to someone in the Marketing Department. You can also visit [www.ptci.net](http://www.ptci.net) and click on [comments@ptsi.net](mailto:comments@ptsi.net).

# Be on guard for tech support scams

Here's how it works: Scammers may use pop-up ads claiming to sell fixes for your computer, which lead you to a website to download the software. You're told to call to "register" the software, and if you do, you'll be asked for remote access to your computer. Using remote access, they "examine" your computer and say it has problems needing additional "solutions." Next they want your credit card number to purchase these so-called solutions, often leading to credit card fraud.



Alternatively, some scammers call and claim they're on the tech support team at Microsoft or another well-known technology company. They go through the same process of accessing your computer, getting credit card or other information, and causing trouble.

### Follow these tips to avoid being scammed:

- Never give access to your computer to someone who calls you out of the blue.
- Never provide credit card information or other sensitive data to someone claiming to be a tech support representative.

PTCI wants you to stay informed and vigilant so you can outsmart the scammers.

## Word search for the new year

To be qualified for a drawing for a \$20 credit toward your PTCI services, mail your completed puzzle to: PTCI, Attn: Puzzle, PO Box 1188, Guymon, OK 73942, or drop it into the envelope with your monthly payment.

I D V Z N H F H S C  
 R U E Z Q X O K W O  
 P G V C T L R P O C  
 N I R T A O H W N O  
 G O C A W D E Q S A  
 E A I E E H E T S Y  
 I S R T T Y D Z B D  
 D I S X U Q U T D Y  
 F X K N W L G D M A  
 R C E E U J O M Y V  
 L X N X J G O S O I  
 S L A O G N H K E H  
 I U S C P I X J I R  
 M G Z A Q N L H P C  
 L H R T I N W B R B  
 K T E H S I E I X U  
 Y K J S Z G E B V H  
 S N M G H E S N T I  
 C Z V U S B F X Q P  
 J A N U A R Y Y Z Q

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| BEGINNING | PARTY      |
| FIREWORKS | YEAR       |
| NEW       | DECADE     |
| SNOW      | JANUARY    |
| COCOA     | RESOLUTION |
| GOALS     |            |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Jim Schultz was the lucky winner of our December puzzle drawing. Jim received a \$20 credit. Congratulations!