



PTCI

communicator

January 2021

Increased internet use requires increased internet speeds

Did Santa deliver lots of internet-connected devices to your house last month? Have you noticed them slowing down or lagging lately? That's because you need more internet speed to keep them all running smoothly.

PTCI has the fastest and most reliable internet around. We recommend a speed of at least 100 Mbps, especially if you have multiple devices. This includes smartphones, computers, tablets, smart TVs, smart home equipment, and many other gadgets.

To find out what speed is right for you, give us a call at 580-338-2556. You may qualify for a special internet upgrade.



PTCI
PO Box 1188, Guymon, OK 73942
580-338-2556 | ptc.net

Office Closure
January 1, 2 – New Year's



GIG-CAPABLE PROVIDER



Left: PTCI Heavy Equipment Operator Billy Perez places a beacon into the head of the boring machine. The beacon communicates from below ground to the locator above ground to know which direction the boring head is going both vertically and horizontally.

Top Right: Construction prepares the 1.5" pipe to be pulled back into the boring hole after the bore has been made. This pipe will be the housing for the fiber.

Bottom Right: PTCI Construction Foreman Willie Sullivan directs the boring machine used to bury internet fiber.

Fiber to the Home project moves forward to Boise City

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 daily throughout the Oklahoma Panhandle. Crews completed construction in Texhoma before the end of 2020 and have begun burying fiber in Boise City.

While all this is going on, PTCI has entered year two of our "Rural Surge" to build a fiber-optic network to as many farms and ranches in the Oklahoma Panhandle as is feasible with PTCI's strategic initiative plans. The "Rural Surge" project 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 per second, which is up to 1,000 times faster than what most people are using today. It also means you can stream your TV shows with no buffering, while the kids are gaming and Mom's uploading photos for Grandma to see.

PTCI is very proud to provide the best fiber-optic network to our customers. Expanding our network and providing exceptional high-speed internet to our customers is our main priority.

Christmas Open House and Tree Lighting



PTCI's Norma Green and Daniel Mesta handed out giant candy canes to kids of all ages at the Christmas Open House in downtown Guymon on Friday, December 4. PTCI also sponsored the Guymon Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Tree Lighting and our employees helped hang the lights. We were happy to add more cheer to the holiday season!



Cybersecurity in 2021

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:

- **Strong Passwords** – Good passwords are paramount for keeping your information secure. Keyloggers are malicious software designed to crack easier passwords. A unique password comprised of lowercase letters, capital letters, numbers, and symbols will help keep keyloggers at bay.
- **Software 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.
- **Virus Protection** – Good antivirus software will help block any unwanted attempts to enter your computer's system. Ask us about Tech Home service from PTCI, which can protect your system from attack.

New business listings

Guymon
Fast Lane Tires & Service 580-468-3278

REMINDER:

Be sure to order honor roll t-shirts

It's the time of year when PTCI will reward your 7th through 12th grade honor roll students. This year we've made a change back to giving out a free, custom-made t-shirt for making good grades! Remind your children to order their t-shirt this month.

The deadline to order is Friday, January 29, 2021. Order forms will be at their school office. You can get more information through your school counselor or office personnel.



LOCAL CHARITY SPOTLIGHT: Panhandle Services for Children

Being lost is one of the worst feelings a human can experience, and finding a place you belong is one of the best feelings. That's what Panhandle Services for Children does. It takes children and families that are lost and helps them find a place of belonging.

"The foster care program is truly amazing, and I'm very proud of it," said Executive Director at Panhandle Services for Children Destyni Trayler. "We have a lot of adoptions take place from it. We've even had more adoptions take place than some of the much bigger agencies down state. You see it all from start to finish. You see kids removed from horrible situations and parental rights being removed. But you also see the adoption by the family you've been working with from step one."

Panhandle Services for Children was started in 2012 to help find a place of belonging for children with traumatic home environments—a place where they are safe and their basic physical needs are met as well as their mental needs. Panhandle Services for Children also helps families who desperately want to create those environments, but struggle to get there.

"We're here for whatever needs are there," Trayler said. "Our programs cover everything from anger management to parenting classes to It's My Life, which is a program for first-time offenders or kids on the end of getting in trouble and needing some help. We also go to the schools and teach life skills to all grades."



Destyni Trayler, Executive Director

Panhandle Services for Children is one of 39 youth services agencies networked across the state of Oklahoma. It is the only agency that covers the three counties of the Panhandle. With so many of these agencies located in the metropolitan areas, it is vital to have reliable, high-quality internet access, especially when it comes to fostering paperwork.

Trayler noted, "We contract with state agencies in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City areas, and when they hear Guymon, they think, 'Well, that's in the middle of nowhere.' So they are always concerned about our internet access and our abilities to transfer files. But we have PTCL, so we don't have to worry about that."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected all our programs," Trayler said. "Those we serve have often not been able to meet with us in person. We've had to do a lot of telemedicine services. Without PTCL we wouldn't be able to serve near as many kids and families. The fact that we can see them (through video chat and conferencing) makes a big difference."

If you are in need of family help, are interested in learning more about foster care, or would like to support Panhandle Services for Children, call (580) 338-7082, visit www.panhandleservices.com or their Facebook page, or stop by in person at 310 N. Lelia St. in Guymon.

Word search for January

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

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

BLIZZARD	COCOA
FREEZE	SKI
RESOLUTION	FIREPLACE
YEAR	NEW
ICE	SNOW

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Rick & Mary Ellen Main of Beaver are the lucky winners of our puzzle drawing. Rick & Mary Ellen will receive a \$20 PTCL bill credit. Congratulations!

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. During the past 29 years, PTCI has awarded over \$300,000 to our area kids. The students each receive 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 help us meet that goal. These scholarships benefit our students, but are an investment to our region as well. Many students return to the area after graduating 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 often the students use a school computer or cell phone to complete their applications.

Eligible students may apply at ptci.submittable.com until 11:59 PM on January 31, 2021. Recipients will be announced at a later date in the spring.



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