



# PTCI

# communicator

Winter 2022



## More internet use requires more speed

Have you noticed your internet-connected devices slowing down or lagging lately? If Santa delivered new devices to your house last month, you may now be realizing that more internet speed is needed to keep them all running smoothly.

PTCI has the fastest and most reliable internet around. We recommend having a speed of at least 100 Mbps, especially if you have lots of devices.

**Not sure what speed is right for you? Call 800.562.2556 for help choosing a PTCI internet plan.**

### PTCI Headquarters

PO Box 1188, Guymon, OK 73942  
800.562.2556 | ptc.net

### Perryton Store

222 S Amherst, Perryton, TX 79070  
Mon, Wed-Fri: 8:30 am-12:30 pm, 1:30-5:30 pm  
Tue: 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-5:30 pm

### Spearman Store

721 W 7th, Spearman, TX 79081  
Mon-Fri: 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-5:30 pm

### Canadian Store

112 N 3rd Street, Canadian, TX 79014  
Wed: 9:30 am-12:00 pm, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

### Office Closures

- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 3 – New Year's Day (observed)

## Super-fast fiber internet is now available in Gruver

Gigabit speed internet (equal to about 1,000 Mbps) is now flowing to PTCI's newest Texas town, Gruver. After almost a year of placing 12 miles of fiber throughout the town, PTCI installers started hooking up new Gruver customers to the area's fastest internet in December, and they're ready also to serve you.

PTCI's fiber-optic network is not only fast, it's also reliable. Gruver has resilient service via a redundant fiber ring. What does that mean for you? It means fiber enters the town from more than one direction, so an accidental fiber cut is far less likely to shut off your internet access.

**Sign up for fast and reliable internet with PTCI at [www.ptci.net/internet/plans/gruver/](http://www.ptci.net/internet/plans/gruver/) or call 800.562.2556 today!**

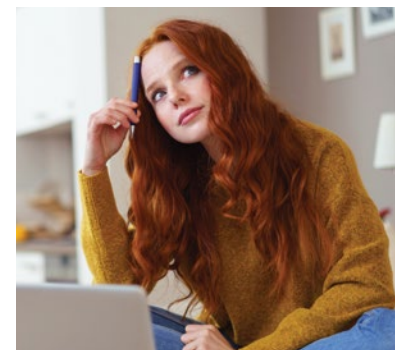
## PTCI scholarship gives back to local students

PTCI values education, and every year we help five local high school seniors work toward their goals of obtaining college degrees. Over the past 29 years, PTCI has awarded over \$325,000 to area students. Each receives a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the university 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, and are an investment in our region as well. After graduating, many students return to the area 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 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, 2022. Recipients will be announced at a later date in the spring.**



## Fix your WiFi issues

When you get home after a long day, the last thing you want to tackle is your household internet problems. Everything from slow speeds, poor signal strength, and buffering have an easy resolution.

So, what is this magic solution? It's PTCI's Whole Home WiFi. This service will fix glitches you didn't even know existed — like firmware upgrades, signal limitations, connectivity issues, and more. All of these router-related issues affect the quality of your internet experience.

### Check out the benefits of Whole Home WiFi:

- Custom home signal assessment
- Automatic firmware upgrades
- Commercial-grade, dual-band router
- Home signal extenders, if needed
- Access to our friendly help desk

If you like the idea of having someone else manage your WiFi, you're in luck. You can enjoy all the benefits of Whole Home WiFi starting at \$9.95/month.

To learn more, visit one of our stores in Perryton, Canadian, or Spearman, or call 800.562.2556 to speak to a friendly customer solutions representative.



## LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Vintage Leopard

Holly McLanahan was just trying to help her daughter make some money the summer before heading off to college. What it turned into was an online boutique that's been voted top in Texas.

"We started back in 2012, really by accident," said Holly McLanahan, owner of the Vintage Leopard. "I purchased items here and there for her to sell online in a local, for-sale group page that she could deliver to customers and make some money. A friend asked if I could get a particular tennis shoe. I searched and searched and finally found it. We started selling it. I didn't want to take up all the for-sale groups on Facebook, so I started a page and included the shoe. It went crazy from there."

Where the craziness went? That was selling 2,500 pairs of that one tennis shoe — all of this while McLanahan still had a full-time job away from her burgeoning online business.

"I didn't have time during the day to devote to this. So, I needed a website where people could go and purchase the shoe on their own without personal involvement from me," McLanahan said.

As the business grew to a place where it could be a full-time endeavor, the relationships became the native Canadian's favorite part of the business.

McLanahan said, "The best part about having an online boutique is being able to connect with people in different aspects. It works great for me because I can still live in this small hometown that I love, and do what I want to do. It's the kind of business you can do from anywhere, and this is where we love to be. It's our home."

PTCI has played a supporting role in the growth of Vintage Leopard by bringing fiber-optic internet capable of gigabit speed to Canadian, Texas.

"As you can imagine, our internet connection is the most important thing with this business," McLanahan said. "Without a solid and fast internet connection, there's not much we can do here. We can't print labels, get the orders shipped out, respond to questions, post on social media, or do any ordering. We are super pumped about finding PTCI and having them come to our community. It's an exceptional internet service that I haven't experienced anywhere else. It's my number one best friend."

# 3 tech resolutions to make in 2022

Don't forget about technology when making New Year's resolutions. It could save you tons of time and trouble in the coming year.

- 1. I will back up my data.** Consider the vast amount of personal data (some of it irreplaceable) stored on your devices. What happens to these files if someone steals your laptop, your hard drive fails, or there's a nasty virus? It's imperative to regularly back up your data, either through an external hard drive or cloud storage.
- 2. I will keep my software and operating system updated.** Software makers continually update their programs to fix problems or add more functionality. If you have the option for "automatic" updates — in software such as your operating system, internet security programs, and Web browser — click to accept this feature.
- 3. I will fight back against spam.** You can greatly reduce the amount of spam you receive by employing a combination of strategies. Check your email or webmail program to see your options for junk mail filters, and bump up your filters so they keep more spam out of your inbox.



## REMINDER: Order honor roll t-shirts for 7th-12th grade students

It's the time of year when PTCI will reward your 7th through 12th grade honor roll students. This year we've returned 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 is Friday, January 28, 2022. Order forms will be at their school office. You can get more information through your school counselor or office personnel.**

# Upload speed is important to video call quality

When you're on a video call — whether via Zoom, Skype, or another app — your internet connection plays a role in the quality of that experience. In particular, a too-slow upload speed can cause delays, awkward frozen screens, and broken audio.

Why is this the case? During a video call, you are downloading the other people's video and simultaneously uploading video from your camera. Similar to how your download speed affects picture and sound quality when streaming a show on your TV, your upload speed affects how others see and hear you on the other end of your video call.

If other participants in a video call say, "You're breaking up," or "I can't hear you," you may be able to quickly solve the issue by turning off your video or switching to a wired connection. Moving forward, however, you'll want to consider signing up for the next-higher internet tier, which will likely increase both your download and upload speeds.

**Call 800.562.2556 for help upgrading your internet plan to enhance video calls and your many other online experiences.**



## Cold-weather care for mobile devices

Smartphones and tablets don't like cold weather. When a lithium-ion battery is exposed to low temperatures, it can drain faster than normal or indicate it has ample power remaining and then suddenly go dead. Low temperatures can also make a device's glass surfaces more sensitive to cracks and breaks.

To keep your device from getting too cold, don't leave it for long in frigid places such as a parked car. It's best to stash it inside pockets closest to your person, where it can absorb some of your body heat. In the event your device does shut down, don't restart it until you're inside and have given it time to warm up. Restarting immediately could actually cause more harm and shorten your battery life.

**To learn more, consult the manufacturer's website.**







PO Box 1188  
Guymon, OK 73942

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
AMARILLO, TX  
PERMIT NO. 664

Local Postal Customer



## Christmas in Canadian

PTCI joined in on the holiday fun at the Christmas in Canadian event on Saturday, December 4. There were games, train rides, food, and fun for all. PTCI handed out candy canes and Christmas-themed coloring pages to all the kids who stopped by. Thank you, Canadian, for letting us be a part of your celebration!



**The best WiFi experience is now FREE for 3 months. Call for free Whole Home WiFi today!**

**PTCI**  
800.562.2556 | ptc.net

Not available in all areas. Some restrictions apply. Offer requires 1 year agreement. Offers expire 3/31/22.