



# PTCI

# communicator

March 2022

## Enjoy the benefits of being a cooperative member

PTCI is a local cooperative, not just a company. This means that PTCI is an organization that its members democratically own. Members of cooperatives get a say in how an organization is run by voting for representatives on the board of directors. PTCI members can directly impact the future trajectory of the cooperative to ensure that PTCI continues to serve our region's communication needs in the best ways possible.

Are you not yet a member? Now would be a great time for you to join PTCI Cooperative! All you need to qualify for membership is to subscribe to our landline or internet service and live in our Cooperative service area. Signing up not only provides you with accrued capital credits but also gives you cooperative voting rights and an invitation to PTCI's District and Annual Meetings.

If you're not sure of your membership status, call PTCI at 580.338.2556.

### PTCI

PO Box 1188, Guymon, OK 73942  
580.338.2556 | ptc.net

### Office Closure

April 15 - Good Friday  
April 16 - Easter Weekend



## GIG-CAPABLE PROVIDER



*Pictured from left to right: OPSU Interim President Dr. Ryan Blanton, PTCI Public Relations and Marketing Representative Jason Epp, OPSU Athletic Director Victor Esparza, OPSU Head Baseball Coach Shawn Joy, and OPSU Director of Alumni Relations Chynna Black.*

## PTCI helps make Battle of the Dugouts a reality

PTCI made an added donation to the Battle of the Dugouts, continuing our partnership with Oklahoma Panhandle State University to enhance education and student life at the Goodwell campus. This project will create an indoor space for Aggie baseball and softball teams to get practice time when the harsh winter weather or high winds of the Great Plains would otherwise prevent it.

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# Affordable Connectivity Program replaces Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a long-term FCC program that provides federally funded discounts on internet service to low-income households. The ACP replaces the temporary Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program developed in 2020 to address pandemic-related challenges to internet access.

The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

Households enrolled in the EBB Program as of December 31, 2021, will continue to receive their current EBB monthly benefit during the 60-day transition period ending March 1, 2022, and if their eligibility is based on criteria that still qualify for the ACP, they will not be required to submit a new application to enroll in ACP. These households may also subscribe to a different internet service offering if they wish.

Households can qualify for the ACP by showing that at least one member of their household meets one of the following criteria:

- Participates in the FCC's Lifeline Program
- Has household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty limit (level adjusted from EBB)
- Participates in a Lifeline-qualifying government program
- Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year
- Participates in free & reduced-price school lunch program or school breakfast program
- Participates in the Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



- Qualifies for a participating provider's existing low-income program, subject to FCC approval of that provider's eligibility process
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
- Tribal Programs for Residents for Qualifying Tribal Lands

**For complete details, visit [www.fcc.gov/acp](http://www.fcc.gov/acp). You can also call PTCI at 580.338.2556 with questions.**

## Annual Directory Photo Contest

It's time to show off your talent! PTCI invites you to submit your best photograph for a chance to have your picture featured on the cover of our telephone directory!

### Details for entering your photograph:

- 1) The contest is open to amateurs, hobbyists, pros, and anyone anywhere in between.
- 2) Photos must be submitted in digital, jpeg format. No more than three photo submissions per contestant.
- 3) Photos should be taken at the highest resolution of at least 300 ppi. (Photos submitted with lower resolution are not judged. To obtain higher resolution, change your camera settings to a minimum of 2550 x 3300 pixels.)
- 4) Take a picture that captures the uniqueness of our area! Photos must be taken within our service area.

**CONTEST DEADLINE IS JUNE 24, 2022. Email files to [jason.epp@ptci.net](mailto:jason.epp@ptci.net) or mail CDs/DVDs to PTCI, Attn: Directory Contest, PO Box 1188, 2222 NW Hwy 64, Guyton, OK 73942.**



# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: No Man's Land Beef Jerky

It all started with a golf outing, some bad beef jerky, and the simple belief that they could do it better. Almost 30 years later, No Man's Land Beef Jerky runs through almost 50,000 pounds of raw meat per day, and sells its products in all 50 states.

"One day we took off to Guymon to go play golf," No Man's Land Beef Jerky co-founder Brit Smith said. "After we finished, we stopped to get some beef jerky. I bought three different kinds, and they were all terrible. I knew I could do better than that! So, I went home and got my Ronco dehydrator out of the closet and picked out a few roasts at my dad's grocery store. On the third try, we had the recipe we liked and put it in an old Wild Bill's Beef Jerky jar."

Brit and his sister Belinda started making jerky in the back of their dad's grocery store at night and taking it out on a delivery route when they were done. That all came to a halt when they ran into a compliance officer because their product did not have an inspection button.

"Belinda calls that our 'bootleg jerky days.' They let us keep our jars but wouldn't let us have the jerky back," Brit said.

They soon started a production facility in Boise City and received their grant of inspection in 1997.

"March marks 25 years of being in business legally," Brit joked.

Another big change happened in 2011. No Man's Land Beef Jerky had grown so much they struggled to keep up, and the limited population of Cimarron County made it difficult to expand. "My mother had a folder with over 5,000 names of stores that wanted to sell our product," Brit said. "Mom started praying for buyers, and the Lord sent us some buyers in 2014. By 2015, we had reached an agreement to become partners."



A factory in Enid was added in 2015, and their fourth plant opened in 2022 to keep up with demand. There's still plenty of room to grow since No Man's Land Beef Jerky is in only about 10 percent of the available U. S. market. This growth demands advanced technology, including PTCL's gigabit-capable internet and quality cellular service.

"The internet speed has helped us out immensely," Brit said. "With our new food safety program coming online, it's allowed us to go live and for our product to be ready to head out the door right off the production line. We're thankful for the services PTCL provides. We couldn't do half of what we do without you."

## Word search for March

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.



P Z G J P O D J F N  
L D G D C V M G A O  
Q E M G W D Y T W N  
V J F R T J S G P A  
F U A H Q Z Q O D B  
V C H P Y M R V H E  
F V F G A T N G S L  
A O R B U N W L J A  
E Y V G T R F V X P  
K Y A Z N X S S D D  
H L P N G P R U X G  
U L Y A U G U R U R  
D E R N D L C A C E  
H L N T O E Y L P E  
B N W K N B V E D N  
V N A H X U A B P L  
A Y M M U E A G A A  
M O N G O L I A H N  
A N A W S T O B M D  
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|-----------|------------|
| BELARUS   | MONGOLIA   |
| GREENLAND | URUGUAY    |
| LEBANON   | GABON      |
| PORTUGAL  | KYRGYZSTAN |
| BOTSWANA  | OMAN       |
| JAPAN     |            |

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

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

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

Deborah Williams of Goodwell is the lucky winner of our puzzle drawing. Deborah will receive a \$20 PTCL bill credit. Congratulations!



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## PTCI sponsors Texas County Junior Livestock Show

PTCI's Daniel Mesta (right) presents Ed Mueller, stock show board chairman, with a donation to the Texas County Junior Livestock Show. PTCI is proud to sponsor this annual two-day event at the Texas County Activity Center, which showcases goats, pigs, heifers, steers, and lambs raised by local youth. PTCI also supports many other youth programs in our service area.



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