



PTCI

communicator

Winter 2023



More connected devices demand higher internet speeds

Have you noticed your internet-connected devices slowing down or lagging lately? Perhaps Santa delivered lots of "tech toys" to your house last month, and now you realize 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 250 Mbps if your household has many connected devices being used simultaneously. This could include smartphones, computers, tablets, smart TVs, smart home devices, and many others.

If you're not sure what speed you need, give us a call at 580.338.2556. Based on your number of devices and online activities, we'll help you decide which PTCI internet plan will work best for you.

PTCI

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



GIG-CAPABLE PROVIDER

PTCI employees donate to Christmas Cheer for Children

Employee contributions and matching funds from PTCI to the Christmas Cheer for Children program helped provide Christmas gifts for 31 underprivileged kids. The Christmas Cheer for Children program distributes gifts such as toys, clothing, and school supplies for children in need each year to enhance their holiday.



PTCI CEO Jana Wallace said, "Christmas Cheer for Children is a highlight for our employees. I am always amazed at the generosity of PTCI staff, and this year was no different, exceeding our goal with the biggest year yet! We love supporting these kiddos and an amazing organization."



Low Prices

Nationwide Cellular

Local Service

PTCI

580.338.2556 | ptc.net

Prepare for cybersecurity issues

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:

- **Create 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.
- **Stay current with 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.
- **Use virus protection.** A good anti-virus will help block any unwanted attempts to enter your computer's system. Ask PTCI about Tech Shield, which can protect your system from attack.

To find out more ways to protect yourself online, attend one of PTCI's Cybersecurity Seminars:

- **Guymon - January 17**
11:30-1:00 pm
No Man's Land Senior Center
- **Beaver - February 13**
12:00-1:00 pm
Beaver County Senior Center



PTCI scholarship gives back to local students

PTCI values education, and every year we help 25 local high school seniors work toward their goals of obtaining college degrees. Over the past 30 years, PTCI has awarded over \$350,000 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. 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 scholarship applications online. The mobile-friendly process makes it easier for students to apply, and they often 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, 2023. Recipients will be announced later in the spring.

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 the PTCI Cooperative! All you need to qualify for membership is to subscribe to our landline or internet service and live in our cooperative's 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.

We enjoyed celebrating Christmas in the panhandle

All across the Oklahoma Panhandle, communities gathered to celebrate the Christmas season, and PTCI was there to be a part of it. Annual celebrations including the Guymon Downtown Open House, Christmas on Douglas, and the Hooker Christmas Parade continued to bring us together, while new events like the Home for the Holidays Light display at Thompson Park added to the Christmas cheer.



Advertise in the PTCI Telephone Directory

Do you want your advertisement to be seen by homes and businesses across the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles? Let us help those potential customers find you with your White and Yellow Page ads in the PTCI Telephone Directory.

The Yellow Pages are where customers go when they are ready to buy. Pioneer Communications (the company that produces the PTCI directory) offers a variety of size and color options for Yellow Page Advertising. Their creative staff will help you select the right combination to attract these prospects and turn them into sales.

Many customers who know the name of your business, but not your number, use the White Pages. When you've worked hard to build loyal customers you want to make yourself easy to find.

Pioneer Communications will begin visiting businesses and selling PTCI directory advertising February 1 and will continue through May 31. Our representatives will have virtual tours for Google and search engine optimization through Advantage 360 available. Delivery of new directories will take place in early October. You can call Pioneer Communications at 1.620.356.3211.



Symmetrical speeds are important

Not all internet packages are created equal. For many years, internet service providers have treated upload speed as a second thought, focusing only on achieving fast download speeds. But upload speeds are just as important as download speeds in 2023.

Upload speeds affect gaming, livestreaming, posting videos or pics to social media, video doorbells, remote work, and online schooling. Because PTCI understands the importance of both download and upload speeds, all of PTCI's fiber plans offer symmetrical speeds. For example, our 1 Gbps internet plan gives you 1 Gbps download speed and 1 Gbps upload speed.

Make sure your internet connection isn't stuck in the last decade. Call PTCI today at 580.338.2556 or visit ptci.net to check out the great symmetrical plans we have available.

PTCI's YouTube channel features what's important to you

Is a busy schedule preventing you from making memories with your local community? Relive some of those great times with PTCI's YouTube channel.

You'll find Guymon High School graduations, prom red carpet events, the All Sports Banquet, Guymon Elementary Oklahoma Land Run Reenactment, coverage of local parades, and other festivities.

You can also check out Aggie sports coverage to keep you in the know about happenings on campus and relive the excitement of our area high school sports teams with archived games in softball, volleyball, football, basketball, and soccer. In addition, PTCI's YouTube channel has great educational videos about our internet, WiFi, cellular, and other services.

PTCI's live stream coverage of area sports is now back in full swing. Subscribe to our YouTube channel and turn on the notification so you can tune into local teams while we're streaming live on location.



Word search for winter

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.



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

- CHILL
- FREEZING
- SKIING
- WINTER
- FROST
- SNOW
- FIREPLACE
- ICE
- SNOWBOARD
- COZY

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Twila Bentley of Laverne is the lucky winner of our puzzle drawing. Twila will receive a \$20 PTCI bill credit. Congratulations!

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

helps make
broadband
more affordable



The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a long-term FCC program that provides federally funded discounts on internet service and connected devices to low-income households. It 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 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 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)
- Medicaid
- Qualifies for a participating provider's existing low-income program, subject to FCC approval of that provider's eligibility process
- 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/broadbandbenefit. You can also call PTCI at 580.338.2556.

Benefits of PTCI's new and improved cellular network

PTCI's next-generation cellular network has arrived! Here are a few benefits of this enhanced network:

- Much faster cellular data speeds resulting in less lag
- The best cellular spectrum available in the area
- Nationwide cellular coverage
- Unlimited cellular data plans
- Better geographic coverage

PTCI will be the first small cellular provider in the nation to partner with large cellular providers to make tower handoffs smooth and without cutoffs. PTCI works hard to improve cell service in our home area and wherever you travel beyond the Oklahoma Panhandle.



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. We're 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 January 27, 2023. Order forms will be at their school office. You can get more information through your school counselor or office personnel.



PO Box 1188
Guymon, OK 73942

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Local Postal Customer

Annual Directory Photo Contest

It's time to show off your talent! PTCI invites you to submit your best photograph for a chance to feature your picture 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 23, 2023. Email files to jason.epp@ptci.net or mail CDs/DVDs to PTCI, Attn: Directory Contest, PO Box 1188, 2222 N Hwy 64, Guymon, OK 73942.



Get Total Home WiFi Security

Call today and get 3 free months of Whole Home WiFi

PTCI
ptci.net