



PTCI

communicator

Winter 2024

More connected devices demand higher internet speeds

Have you noticed your internet-connected devices slowing down or lagging lately? Perhaps Santa delivered 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 250 Mbps if you have many connected devices such as smartphones, computers, tablets, smart TVs, and other gadgets.

If you're unsure what speed is right for you, call us 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.



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

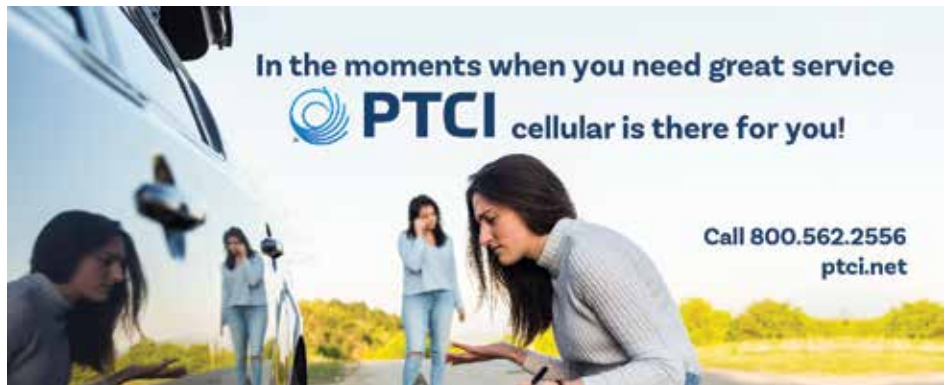


PTCI gets into the spirit of giving

Employee contributions and matching funds from PTCI were given to the Christmas Cheer for Children program, which helped provide Christmas gifts for 35 underprivileged kids. This program annually distributes gifts such as toys, clothing, and school supplies to enhance the holiday for children in need.

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. We exceeded our goal with the biggest year yet! We love supporting these kiddos and an amazing organization."

PTCI also gave customers the opportunity to get into the spirit of giving with our "Give Big and Get the Gig" promotion. Customers could receive a free month of our gig-speed internet by donating at least three non-perishable food items, that were then given to local food banks throughout our coverage area.



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 critical 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 prevent your system from attack.

PTCI wants to help you have a secure 2024!



New business listings

Beaver

Reynoso Tax & Services LLC 580.625.6138
[Directory Listing Correction](#)

Guymon

Dairyland 580.338.2697

Texhoma

Rhoden Welding 580.423.7004

PTCI scholarships give back to local high school 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 31 years, PTCI has awarded over \$400,000 to area students. Each receives 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 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, 2024. 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 provides you with accrued capital credits, cooperative voting rights and an invitation to PTCI's District and Annual Meetings. The 70th annual meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 18 at the Texas County Activity Center.

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



Celebrating Christmas in the panhandle

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, Canadian Christmas, and the Hooker Christmas Parade continued to bring us together. Events like the Home for the Holidays Light display at Thompson Park also 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 Pages ads in the PTCI Telephone Directory.

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

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

Pioneer Communications will begin visiting businesses and selling PTCI directory advertising on February 1 and 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 will be just as important as download speeds in 2024.

Upload speeds affect gaming, livestreaming, posting videos or pics to social media, video doorbells, remote work, and online schooling. Because PTCL understands the importance of both download and upload speeds, all of our PTCL's fiber internet plans offer symmetrical speeds. If you get our 1 Gbps package, you'll receive speeds of 1 Gbps down and 1 Gbps up.

Don't settle for an internet connection that's stuck in the last decade. Call PTCL today at 580.338.2556 or visit ptci.net to check out our great symmetrical plans.

10-digit dialing for local calls begins January 31, 2024



In July 2020, the Federal Communications Commission adopted an order approving the designation of 988 as the 3-digit dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To facilitate implementation, area codes in 37 states where the 988 prefix is a working prefix and which now use 7-digit local dialing must switch to 10-digit local dialing. Now, we are implementing this change to all of our landline subscribers.

Starting January 31, 2024, you must dial 10-digits when making a local call. Failure to do so will prompt a recording, reminding you to redial using 10 digits. In addition to changing your dialing routine, you'll also have to reprogram 7-digit local numbers to 10-digit numbers in any device that automatically makes calls for you, including:

- Speed dial feature on a phone
- Home security equipment
- Personal emergency response system

For more details, visit www.ptci.net.

Word search for winter

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.

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

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| CHARGER | SMARTWATCH |
| KEYBOARD | EARBUDS |
| SMARTPHONE | ROUTER |
| COMPUTER | TABLET |
| POWERBANK | |

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Marilyn Payne of Boise City is the lucky winner of our puzzle drawing. Marilyn will receive a \$20 PTCL bill credit. Congratulations!



Benefits of PTCI's improved cellular network

PTCI's next-gen cellular network optimization continues. Here are a few benefits of this enhanced network:

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

Over the last couple of years, PTCI has been working to continually improve our network continually to provide higher speeds and better coverage for our cellular customers. Ask about our Totally Unlimited Bundle for monthly savings on your cell and internet services.



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 to get good grades! Please remind your children to order their T-shirt this month.

The deadline is January 26, 2024. Order forms will be at their school office. You can get more information through your school counselor or office personnel.

Affordable Connectivity Program Helps Households Connect

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a Federal Communications Commission program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. It provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. The ACP benefit is non-transferrable and limited to one monthly internet discount and a one-time connected device discount.

A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in one of several Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal Head Start (only households meeting the relevant income qualifying standard) Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income program.

If the ACP ends, or when a household is no longer eligible, customers will be subject to the provider's regular internet rates, terms, and conditions.

There are two steps to enroll:

1. Go to AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Additional information about the ACP is available at AffordableConnectivity.gov, or by calling 877.384.2575. You can also call PTCI at 580.338.2556.

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 21, 2024. 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.



PO Box 1188
Guymon, OK 73942

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

Local Postal Customer



Get local support with Whole Home WiFi free for 3 months.



Offer available for new activations. Not available in all areas. Some restrictions may apply.