

GO PIONEER

QUARTER 1 2025



FOCUS ON.

Top Cat
Formal Wear

PG. 07

Weather the Storm

Discover how technology helps Oklahomans stay safe and connected during disasters.

PG. 03

SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE

Manage your Pioneer bill and more with ease using SmartHub!

PG. 09

POWERING DISASTER RESPONSE

Learn about the critical role of fiber in emergency preparedness and recovery.

PG. 04

Letters from **LEADERS**

Kim Grellner - VP Marketing Sales & Service



Happy New Year!

As we welcome 2025, we extend our warmest greetings and best wishes to all our customers. Reflecting on 2024, we are proud of our achievements and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Over the past year, we reached several significant milestones. We successfully transitioned 15 communities to fiber, extended our fiber network to an impressive 14,279 miles across our service area, and completed 1,063 miles of new fiber construction. Additionally, we achieved a major financial goal by paying off \$23 million in debt. Through our Cooperatives Helping Cooperatives strategy, we collaborated with multiple electric cooperatives to bring fiber services to our members more efficiently. These accomplishments were made possible by our dedicated employees, who remain ready to meet the growing demand for broadband services.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are setting ambitious yet realistic objectives to better serve our customers. Our focus remains on expanding fiber deployment into rural communities and launching innovative products designed to protect and enhance our customers' homes and properties. In today's interconnected world, broadband is more than a service—it's a cornerstone of economic growth, education, innovation, and progress. Reliable, high-speed fiber internet is the foundation for thriving businesses, connected communities, and limitless opportunities.

Supporting small businesses is another key priority for 2025. In rural communities, small business owners play a vital role in strengthening the local economy. They deserve a broadband network that offers resilience, reliability, and functionality. We are thrilled to announce a new business-focused product launching soon. This solution will provide enhanced functionality, robust protection, and the ability to dedicate networks for staff, customers, and point-of-sale equipment. Stay tuned for more details as we work to empower small businesses in our communities.

As we step into the new year, we are inspired by the fresh opportunities it brings. Together, we look forward to achieving new milestones and creating transformative experiences for our customers and employees. With optimism and determination, Pioneer is committed to bringing fiber internet services to more customers than ever before in 2025.

Here's to a year of growth, connection, and progress. Thank you for your continued trust and support!

Welcome to GoPioneer!

Our mission is to help the communities of Pioneer learn, evolve and move forward in the ever-changing world of technology.

We welcome feedback, story ideas, or any questions relating to this magazine, previous articles, or even your personal inquiries.

Baffled by your teen's obsession with emojis? Confused about why you get WiFi in the garage but not in your bedroom? Let us know! This magazine is just as much yours as ours, and we are excited to help you become more adept in the tech world.

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Topic of Q1 2025:

Empowering Communities with Technology

In this edition of GoPioneer, we delve into how technology is shaping the future of connectivity, safety, and resilience. From the transformative power of the Internet of Things to the critical role fiber internet plays in disaster response, explore the innovations that are helping Oklahomans stay prepared and thrive.

We also highlight practical tips to simplify your life with SmartHub, share insights into ensuring your Pioneer bill is paid on time, and spotlight the journey of a rural formal wear shop overcoming challenges to serve its community.

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INTERNET OF THINGS

It's 6:30 a.m. and your alarm clock chimes to wake you up. As you reach for your phone to silence the alarm, the lights come on in your room. Your feet touch the floorboards, and you find that they're the perfect temperature, thanks to your thermostat already adjusting to your preferred morning setting. Downstairs, your coffee maker begins brewing a fresh pot, while your smartspeaker begins a traffic report on your usual route into work. Sounds made up, right? Maybe something out of a futuristic movie? Well, it's actually the reality of the Internet of Things (IoT).

IoT is the invisible force behind much of the convenience we enjoy today. It connects everyday devices—like lights, appliances, and security systems—to the internet, enabling them to share data and work together. The result? A smarter, more efficient way to live.

The Internet of Things refers to a network of physical devices embedded with sensors, software, and connectivity that enables them to collect and share data. These devices can range from smart thermostats and wearable fitness trackers to agricultural sensors and industrial machinery. By connecting to the internet and communicating with each other, these devices provide a level of automation and efficiency that was previously unimaginable.

This seamless communication between devices wouldn't be possible without the constant generation and exchange of data. At the heart of IoT lies this data, which powers the ability of smart devices to analyze information and make informed, real-time decisions. For example, wearable health devices monitor vital signs and provide real-time feedback, helping individuals lead healthier lives. Similarly, smart home systems can learn your preferences, like adjusting the lighting and temperature when you walk in the door, creating a truly personalized environment.

However, the true potential of IoT depends on the speed and reliability of the internet connection. Fiber internet is the backbone of this newer, more interconnected world, offering lightning-fast speeds and reliability. Unlike traditional connections, fiber can handle the massive data demands of IoT, ensuring seamless communication between devices. This is crucial for applications like home security systems and medical devices, where even a small delay could have serious consequences.

IoT is also shaping industries like agriculture and transportation. Farmers use IoT devices to monitor soil moisture levels, track livestock, and optimize irrigation, leading to increased productivity and sustainability. In cities, IoT enables smart traffic systems, reducing congestion and improving safety.

As we look to the future, the possibilities of IoT are endless. From smart cities with energy-efficient systems to connected healthcare solutions that save lives, IoT is ready to revolutionize every aspect of our lives.

STAT DROP

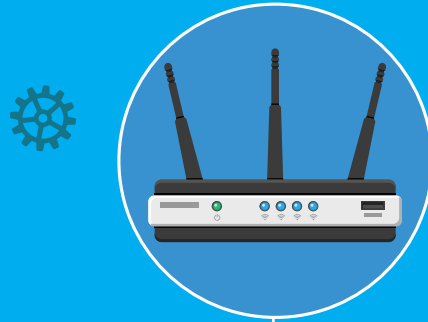
BY 2030, THERE WILL BE **OVER 32.1 BILLION IOT DEVICES** GLOBALLY

STATISTA.COM

STAT DROP

THE AVERAGE U.S. HOUSEHOLD WITH INTERNET ACCESS HAD **17 CONNECTED DEVICES** IN 2023

PARKSASSOCIATES.COM



ROUTER



BLINDS



COFFEE MAKER



WASHERS



SMART TVS



MICROWAVE



SECURITY CAMERA



LIGHT BULBS



STAT DROP

77% OF SMART HOME DEVICE OWNERS **REPORT THE DEVICES IMPROVING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.**

CONSUMERAFFAIRS.COM

STAT DROP

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT BY 2025, **OVER 57% OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS** WILL HAVE **AT LEAST ONE SMART HOME DEVICE**

CONSUMERAFFAIRS.COM

How Technology Helps Oklahoma *Weather the Storm*

Oklahoma is no stranger to extreme weather. With the towering funnel clouds of tornadoes in the spring and crippling ice storms in the winter, Oklahomans have learned to expect the unexpected. Fortunately, advancements in technology are transforming how Oklahomans prepare for and recover from such disasters, offering new ways to save lives and reduce damage.

One of the most critical tools in Oklahoma's fight against tornadoes is the state's early-warning system. Radar systems track storm development with incredible precision, while connected weather sensors collect real-time data on conditions such as wind speed, temperature, and pressure. Fiber internet plays a crucial role in ensuring this information is transmitted instantly to meteorologists, emergency management teams, and local authorities. These systems, in turn, alert residents through sirens, phone notifications, and broadcast messages, giving them critical time to find safety. This gives people time—even if just a few minutes—to seek shelter and protect their families.

During the winter, ice storms bring their own set of challenges, knocking out power lines and freezing roadways. Smart grid

technology and sensors powered by fiber networks allow utility companies to monitor the health of power lines in real-time, pinpointing outages quickly and reducing downtime for businesses and homes. Roadway sensors also help local governments monitor road conditions, ensuring that emergency crews can respond efficiently to the most dangerous areas.

Rural areas, often the hardest hit by severe weather, are also benefiting from these advancements in technology. Farmers use connected weather stations and IoT-enabled devices to monitor conditions that could harm crops or livestock, while local schools and businesses rely on high-speed internet to stay informed and operational, even when conditions outside are far from normal.

As weather patterns become more unpredictable, technology's role in disaster response continues to grow. Fiber internet serves as the backbone for many of these advancements, ensuring that life-saving tools like connected sensors, smart grids, and emergency alerts function seamlessly. In a state like Oklahoma, where resilience is part of the culture, technology is helping communities weather the storm—and prepare for what's next.

How Technology Keeps Oklahomans Safe

This infographic highlights how advanced technologies like fiber internet, smart grids, and early-warning systems work together to keep Oklahomans safe during severe weather events, from tornadoes to ice storms. These tools ensure faster responses, better preparedness, and stronger community resilience

EARLY-WARNING SYSTEMS



Credit: Oklahoma Mesonet | Oklahoma State University

Radar and weather sensors detect storms in real time.

SMART GRIDS



Monitor power outages and speed up repairs.

Fiber Internet: Powering Disaster Response

In times of natural disasters, reliable communication and access to real-time information are critical. Fiber internet has transformed the way communities prepare for and respond to these events, offering unmatched speed, reliability, and resilience compared to older technologies.

Fiber internet's high-speed connectivity ensures that data from weather sensors, radar systems, and IoT devices is transmitted instantly to emergency management teams and local authorities. This allows for faster decision-making, more accurate storm tracking, and quicker dissemination of warnings to the public. Unlike DSL or satellite, fiber is less susceptible to disruptions caused by extreme weather, making it a dependable resource when it's needed most.

For emergency responders, fiber internet is an essential tool. It supports advanced technologies like drones and remote monitoring systems, which are used to assess damage and

coordinate rescue efforts. Utility companies also rely on fiber-connected smart grids to identify outages, reroute power, and prioritize repairs, reducing downtime for affected communities.

Residents benefit as well. Smart home devices, powered by fiber, can alert homeowners to changing conditions, while high-speed connections enable uninterrupted access to emergency updates, maps, and communication tools. In rural areas, where severe weather often hits hardest, fiber internet bridges the gap, keeping communities connected and informed.

As Oklahoma continues to face challenges like tornadoes and ice storms, fiber internet serves as the backbone of disaster response. Its reliability and capacity ensure that critical systems remain operational, helping communities prepare for, endure, and recover from the unexpected.

CONNECTED ROADWAY SENSORS



Alert crews to hazardous driving conditions.

IoT WEATHER STATIONS



Help farmers protect crops and livestock.

HELPFUL TIPS TO Ensure Your Bill Gets Paid

Don't forget to let us know if you move! Check this box and fill out the form on the back of the payment stub.



PO Box 539
Kingfisher OK 73750
GoPioneer.com
(888)782-2667

Bill Cycle 01
09/01/2021 00010

Jane Doe
ACCOUNT NO: 12345
TELEPHONE NO: (405)123-1234

Check for Address Change

Total Charges Due by 09/16	Total Charges After by 09/16
\$235.99	\$239.53
Enter Amount Paid	

Write your account number in the 'for' blank of your check.
This is also the number you'll need to create a SmartHub account.

Jane Doe
123 Easy Street
Kingfisher, OK 73750

PIONEER
P.O. BOX 839
Kingfisher OK 73750-0839



This is your payment stub! Please make sure to send this in with your check.

Check

Pioneer's Centralized Posting team (CP) uses a machine to open many envelopes daily. These envelopes are then distributed to employee(s) that proofread the check against the stub. They are added up and put into

small batches that will be ran though an image machine that takes a snapshot of the stub and customer check. This is ran through several other steps and then sent electronically to make our deposit to the bank daily.

4 Things You Need to Know When Paying with a Check

USE THE ACCOUNT NUMBER ON YOUR PAYMENT STUB



When writing checks or requesting your bank write one, make sure to put the account number found on your stub statement in the 'for:' section of your check.

PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE, PAPERCLIP, OR TAPE YOUR CHECK



Please just place your stub and check in the envelope, and we'll take care of the rest!

RETURN YOUR PAYMENT STUB(S) WITH YOUR CHECK



If you don't return the stub to Pioneer, we won't know which account you're paying and an employee will have to attempt to match the name on the check to an account. However, if the check name isn't the same as the account name, we might not know where to post the payment. If you're paying more than one account with the same check, please include all stubs that will be paid.

USE ONLY BLUE OR BLACK INK WHEN WRITING CHECKS



If you write in any other color, the image to the bank will be blank.

Online

Paying online is easy if you have the GoPioneer SmartHub app. If you haven't created your account yet, it's easy. Just download the app and make sure you have your account number to create your account.

When you make your first payment, you'll be able to store your payment information for future transactions. This means you can pay your bill with just a few clicks next month or, to make it even easier, set up automatic payments.



Google Store



Apple Store

Want to pay on your computer? Easily done! Just visit: GoPioneer.com and click:

[GOPIONEER SMARTHUB LOGIN](#)

If you don't have an account set up, you'll need to click [New User?](#) Sign up to access our Self Service site and enter the required information.

NOTE: You will need your Billing Account Number to set up a new account.

Top Cat: Elegance Meets Community

How a Rural Formalwear Shop Overcame Challenges to Serve Western Oklahoma

In rural Western Oklahoma, formal wear shops are practically nonexistent. For decades, families like Tom and Patricia Kahn's had to travel hours to Oklahoma City or Wichita Falls to find prom dresses or wedding gowns. That gap inspired the couple to create a solution—and a community staple—in the heart of Woodward.

"I was tired of searching for prom dresses, going to Oklahoma City and just wherever you could go to find it," Patricia said. "We even went to Wichita Falls, Texas, one year, where [Tom's] family was from. But, you know, we kind of figured out Woodward needed something like this. They didn't have it, and everybody was having to travel to go get it, so we just decided to open one up."

Eleven years later, Top Cat isn't just a specialty shop—it's a lifeline for brides, prom-goers, and anyone searching for elegant formal wear with a personal touch.

A Leap of Faith

Opening a business came with challenges Patricia and Tom never anticipated.

"We had no idea what we were getting into," Tom admitted. "She said, 'Hey, babe, let's open a dress store,' and I was like, 'Okay.'"

The early days were filled with challenges. "The store looked pretty empty," Patricia said. "We had a lot of inventory, but this store is pretty big, so

it took a while to build that up."

Financial struggles added to the stress.

"When we first started out, there were times when we had to ask 'do we let the electricity go out at the store, or at the house?'" Patricia said. "There was a time where we sat at home in the dark because you can't shut in the business. Business is hard, and you think you can just jump into it, but it's just hard for anyone starting out."

Despite the hardships, Tom and Patricia never wanted to quit, but there was a time when they thought they were going to have to call it.

"It was right around Christmas time, in January, and we couldn't afford rent. So we went to our landlord, Terry Trigo, and we just sat down and talked with him and I told him we couldn't pay rent," Patricia said. "I said prom season's coming, and I know I can get caught up, but I just can't do that today. And he said, 'So what's stopping you? Why are you closing?' And I said, 'Well, I can't pay you, Terry.' And he goes, 'If You said if you got to prom season, you could, right?' And I said, 'Yes.' And he said, 'Then get to prom season.'"

Patricia credits that act of kindness for keeping them in business.

"Because of him being so kind... really, that's why we're here. There's a lot of landlords that wouldn't do that, who wouldn't work with a business that was just starting out." Patricia said.



at a glance

Q+A

What is something you think everyone should experience at least once in their life?

True love. — Patricia

For me, it's seeing a bride in a wedding dress for the first time. The emotions, the family members there—it's such a meaningful experience. Even if it's not the right dress, just seeing her in that moment is special. — Tom

If you could speak to your younger self just starting out, what advice would you give?

Take the chance. Sometimes it works out, sometimes it doesn't, but you don't ever know when your dream is going to happen. Chase it at all times. — Tom

Chase your dreams and keep going. Dreams can change, and that's okay. — Patricia

If you could eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Fried chicken. — Patricia

Steak. She says I make a good one, so I guess I'd keep eating that. — Tom



FOCUS ON. Top Cat Formal Wear



Growth and Community Impact

Top Cat quickly became more than a store; it became a regional destination. The shop now serves customers from Kansas, Texas, and beyond, offering sizes and styles that aren't available elsewhere.

"We carry plus-size wedding dresses that go up to a larger 30 and 40 size. I had a bride frustrated—she couldn't find anything. Not every bridal store will carry a dress that size, which I think is awful, and we did. And she came down and fell in love with the dress and bought a wedding dress from us," Patricia said. "That's why we're here—to make those moments happen."

This philosophy ties into their "no regret" policy. "If someone doesn't absolutely love the dress, we won't sell it to them," Patricia said. "I've seen brides cry because they regretted buying a dress somewhere else. That's not what we want for our customers. When you walk out of here, we want you to be happy."

Their commitment to customer service extends to tuxedo rentals. "We guarantee the fit," Tom said. "If something doesn't work, we fix it—whether that means hemming pants or replacing a jacket—at no extra cost."

Top Cat also gives back to the community in meaningful ways.

"Community service was our top priority when we opened, and now that we're established, we want to give back in meaningful ways," Patricia said. "We don't believe you should have to spend a lot of money to go to a funeral or pay your respects to a family member. We provide black coats for free that we've purchased from our rental company, and everything else in the store is 50% off for funerals."

For the Kahn's, they see their business as more than a store. It's also a way for them to bless others and serve a mission.

"If someone is down on their luck—whether it's for a job interview, a court date, or just needing something a little nicer to wear—we try to help," Tom said. "The Lord blessed us, and we want to give back. Any little bit we can do for someone who needs it, we're happy to do."

Surviving Challenges

Like many small businesses, Top Cat faced significant hurdles, including the COVID-19 pandemic. "COVID hit during our fifth year, which was right in the middle of prom season," Tom said. "We were shut

down for five months and couldn't even get to the store. Prom had already started, and we had taken orders, so we ended up writing \$10,000 in refunds and checks. Those were sales we had already done, but we refunded everybody's money. It wasn't their fault, and it wasn't ours, but we wanted to do the right thing."

The financial loss was a heavy blow, but the couple's faith helped them persevere.

"God took care of us," Patricia said. "We believed that if we stayed honest and did what was right, it would work out."

Their commitment to integrity resonated with the community, which rallied behind them. "The following year, our customers came back in full force," Patricia said. "They saw how we handled it and appreciated our honesty. That support meant everything to us."

Even through the challenges, Patricia and Tom remained focused on serving their customers and community.

"We knew it wasn't just about the money—it was about doing what we felt was right," Patricia said. "And in the end, our community proved that they were there for us, just like we were there for them."

Evolving and Expanding

In recent years, Patricia and Tom have worked to expand their offerings.

When the owners of Maxine's, a beloved Woodward shop, recently decided to sell, they approached Patricia and Tom first.

"They said, 'If anyone gets a shot at it, we want you to have it,'" Tom said. "We saw it as an opportunity to grow."

With the acquisition of Maxine's, Top Cat has transformed from a specialty formal wear store into a hub for casual fashion and business attire.

"We were a specialty shop, but now we're becoming an everyday shop," Tom said. "It's about meeting the needs of our community."

Despite their success, Patricia and Tom remain humble and focused on the future. They credit their faith, family, and community for their success.

"We love what we do, and we love doing it together," Tom said. "This store is a labor of love, and we're grateful for every moment."

Learn more about Top Cat by visiting their store in Woodward, Oklahoma.

Photo: The beginnings of the new casual fashion wear line.

with Tom and Patricia

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a dance instructor," Patricia said. "I did that for 28 years. But dreams change, and that's okay. — Patricia

I wanted to be a pilot. My dad was military, so I grew up wanting that. Then I thought I'd be a baseball player, but God had other plans. I was lost for a long time, but Patricia came into my life, and that changed everything. — Tom

What's something you've never been good at doing?

Fixing things. I was raised on a military base, so we just called someone to handle everything. When I met Patricia, her dad could fix anything. Now, she's the one who does all the plumbing and repairs at home. — Tom

For me, it's roller skating—and picking where to eat! — Patricia

LET'S MAKE LIFE SIMPLE WITH SMARTHUB

GoPioneer SmartHub is a web and mobile app that puts the convenience of managing your Pioneer account in the palm of your hand (or in your lap), with several features:

Access to your billing history

View your current bill, along with bills from the previous months. We're taking you into a world that's far more organized than folders filled with paper statements.

Make a payment

It's fast and easy with GoPioneer SmartHub. When making your first payment, you'll be able to store your payment information for future transactions securely. This means you can pay your bill with just a few clicks.

Set up Automatic payment

Stressing about missing your payment? Don't worry. With GoPioneer SmartHub, you can set

up automatic payments so you can cruise through the month on autopilot, no clicking necessary.

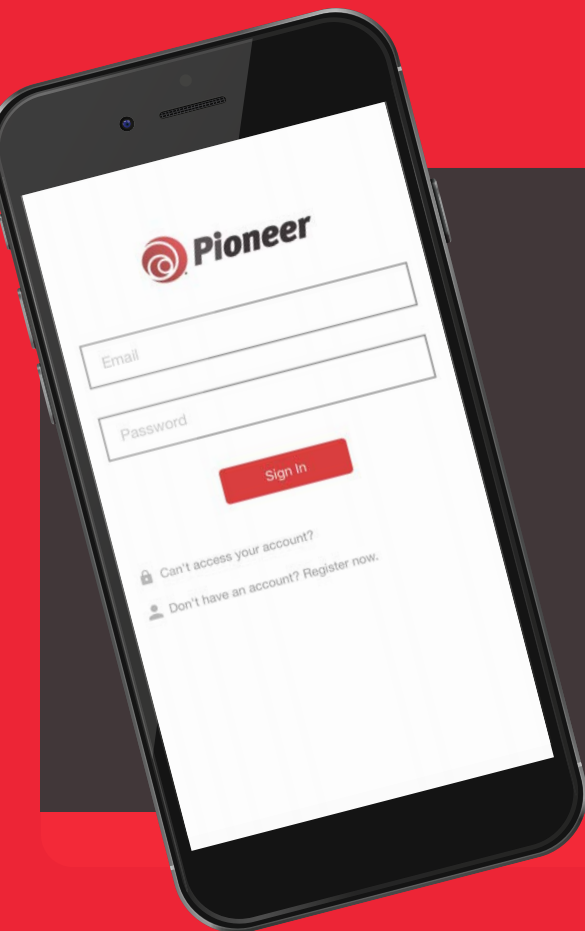
View Usage

No more guessing who uses the most data in the house. Track your data usage with a few quick clicks to observe your consumption history.

Reporting Service issues

While we welcome you into our offices at any time, we know that life can get busy. There's no need to be put on hold either, send in your service issues with a few quick clicks, and we'll put you in the support queue and contact you.

There's much more to be explored in the GoPioneer SmartHub app. Plenty in life is complicated, so make your life simpler by downloading the app today.



APP ALERT!

How to DOWNLOAD THE APP

1. Search *GoPioneer SmartHub* in your app store
2. Download the GoPioneer SmartHub app
3. Click '*Don't have account - Register*'
Note: Make sure you have your Billing Account Number
4. Enter the necessary information
5. Explore
6. Start making life simpler!



Google Play



Apple Store



Safe

Using SmartHub is one of the safest ways to pay your bill and access your information. All critical information is encrypted in every transaction ran and no personal information is stored on your mobile device. Mobile devices do offer you the ability to store your login information for Apps installed on the device, but not the app itself.



Manage

Manage your account without having to come in store. SmartHub allows you to change your billing address, contact methods, change your password and much more.



Access Anywhere, Anytime

Forgot to pay your bill? Not sure if you'll make it in-store before closing time? Ran out of checks? No worries. With the SmartHub app you can access your account and pay your bill anytime, anywhere. Take your vacations, visit the kids- SmartHub's got you covered.



Report Outages

The best part about the apps access anytime, anywhere motto comes into play when it comes to outages. Pioneer prides itself on providing the best service possible, but outages, unfortunately, happen. Use the SmartHub app to jump right into the queue and, closed or not, we'll hold your spot and have one of our techs contact you ASAP to get you back up and running.



Track Usage

Monitor your data usage on your internet account. The information you see in the app and on the web is shown in real-time, so you can always be up-to-date and know where you stand when it comes to data usage.

Meet Our PIONEER SCHOLARS



Kale Smith • District 10 • Geary

Kale Smith is an Engineering Technologies: Electrical/Electronics major at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT), planning to graduate in April 2025.

"I chose to major in Engineering Technologies because I have always been curious about electricity, and I wanted to expand my knowledge on electrical devices and how they work in industry," Kale said.

Kale's goal is to become an Instrumentation and Electrical Technician.

"With this job, I want to be able to bring a fresh mind to whatever company I am with and be able to improve those companies with my hard work and ideas," he said.

While he doesn't participate in extracurricular activities, his focus on academics has helped him maintain straight A's throughout college — a feat he's especially proud of.

"So far my biggest accomplishment has been

keeping straight A's. It's been very hard, but I know I can do anything if I put my mind to it," Kale said.

Despite his successes, Kale acknowledges that he has had challenges in his degree choice.

"It's been hard trying to understand electricity since I've always had a very mechanical mindset... and I've struggled with AutoCAD," Kale said.

The Pioneer Scholarship has been instrumental in helping him achieve his academic goals.

"The Pioneer Scholarship is helping me by achieving a goal I set for myself in college, and that is by finishing with as little to no debt as possible so I can start working and not have to worry about digging myself out of a hole," Kale said.

Looking to the future, Kale is excited for his career, but he's most excited about starting a family and providing for them.

"I want to be able to provide for them in any way possible and do my best to not have to struggle financially," he said.



Katon Lunsford • District 11 • Kingfisher

Katon Lunsford is a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in Strategic Communications with a concentration in Public Relations and Advertising. She plans to graduate in December 2025 and continue her education by pursuing a master's degree.

"Initially, strategic communications was not my intended major, but I have always had a passion for literature, writing, reading, English, and media," Katon said. "Strategic Communications allows me the opportunity to learn the evolution communication has taken through new technology and how to become an effective communicator."

After a previous internship, Katon has been considering a career in journalism, with a dream of working for a newspaper right after graduation.

"It is fulfilling to write pieces, no matter the size or severity of content, because it connects communities through communication. It gives a voice for those perhaps unheard, and allows all ages to have a connection, through my favorite thing — the written word," she said.

What excites Katon most about her future is the variety of paths her major offers.

"My major is very diverse and broad, allowing me to pursue many careers and avenues until

I find one that truly encompasses what I am searching for," Katon said."

One of Katon's greatest accomplishments is receiving the Top 10 Freshman award, selected by OSU's Mortar Board during her sophomore year.

"This award was the accumulation of my heart, grit, and determination. I was very honored to be selected, but even more proud of the personal work I had put into my freshman year," she shared.

However, college hasn't been without challenges.

"Compared to Kingfisher, college is a lake, whereas my previous habitat was a pond. College is a large melting pot of new people, diverse backgrounds, impressive resumes, and highly educated peers. This has led to an increased disbelief in myself," Katon said.

Despite these challenges, she has learned to overcome comparison and self-doubt.

Her advice to new students is this: "No matter your beliefs, you are here, at this exact moment, for a particular reason. You have something invaluable to offer. Passion cannot be taught. Use it to better the opportunities you have been given, instead of wasting time doubting yourself."

Pink Salad

ingredients

1 lb.	sour cream
15 oz.	can mandarin oranges
20 oz.	pineapple tidbits
6 oz.	cherry jello
21 oz.	cherry pie filling
16 oz.	coolwhip
2	bananas
	chopped pecans for garnish

1. Mix the sour cream with the cherry jello until all the granules are dissolved or almost dissolved.
2. Mix in the cherry pie filling until fully combined.
3. Fold in the cool whip.
4. Set aside. Open and drain both the oranges and the pineapple. *You need to remove as much liquid from them as possible so you might need to pat them dry with a paper towel.*
5. Slice the bananas into medallions.
6. Mix all the fruit into the mixture.
7. Once that's done you want to top it with some chopped pecans for garnish.
Its best to let it cool in the fridge for a while then serve!



A fresh bowl of Pink Salad made by Colton!

Where did you find this recipe?

“I got this recipe from my great grandma. She would make this at Christmas and Thanksgiving for our family and everyone would go crazy for it. I'm not sure if she got the recipe from Waldorf and seafoam salads, but I have always loved this as a desert.”

What is your favorite thing about this recipe?

“It's always so refreshing and sweet, and it just brings me back to Christmas with my Granny.”

Do you have any tips and tricks for preparing this recipe?

“Make sure you dont overmix it when folding in the coolwhip or it wont set right. It will get soupy.”

- **Broadband Resolution Specialist,**
Colton Chestnut

Have a recipe or story idea to share?

Email GoPioneerOK@ptci.com OR visit or anonymous entry form at GoPioneer.com/community/gopioneer-magazine.





25+ YEARS ANNIVERSARIES

Gail & Darlene Kirk - Tipton

Celebrated their 66th Wedding Anniversary September 13th. They have three children, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Steve & Shari Holsapple - Oakwood

Celebrated their 39th Wedding Anniversary December 14th. They have two daughters, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren.

Gary & Suzan Brawner - Dover

Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary December 27th. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Kermit & Marvellena Scott - Okarche

Celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary December 27th. They have four children, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Erika & George Hansen - Blanchard

Celebrated their 41st Wedding Anniversary January 3rd. They have a son, daughter, and three cats.

Janet & Mike Murphy - Marshall

Celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary January 13th. They have two children, a daughter-in-law, and a grandson.

Doug & Julie Hayes - Frederick

Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary February 14th. They have three children, four grandsons, and one great-grandbaby.

Happy Anniversary from all of us at Pioneer!

Want your Anniversary published?

To have wedding anniversary announcements of 25 years or more, simply submit your anniversary information including town, wedding date, and number of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to GoPioneer Magazine at any of the following addresses:

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