

# GO PIONEER

JUNE 2024

## 4 Apps TO DEBUNK YOUR NEWS

PG. 01

**FOCUS  
ON.**

Compass  
Athletics

3 Spreads to Help

**EMPOWER YOUR  
MEDIA LITERACY**

*Discover how to discern fact from fiction when dealing with news, social media, and online content inside!*

# Letters from **LEADERS**

**Mike Baustert** - VP Operations & Engineering



## ***Embracing Opportunities & Innovations in the New Year***

New technology and its acceleration are astounding. It seems like every day a new golly-gee-whiz-bang gadget that we cannot live without is being introduced. These new items guarantee us more freedom, less stress, and an inner peace that has, til now, evaded us. If we stop and reflect, there have been technologies that we wouldn't want to live without. Our daily lives would look entirely different without cell phones, GPS navigation, email. Do I really need to check in on my dog, speak to him, and even give him a treat remotely from work? Probably not, but you have to admit, the dog is loving it! Could we possibly evolve past this point? Well, apparently we can.

Future technology concepts offer up the usual suspects: Artificial Intelligence, augmented reality, machine learning—things we expect to see. My recent research did turn up a new one for me, “AgeTech.” AgeTech is technology that is designed to tackle the challenges of aging, while including older adults in the design process. Most of this technology centers around aging in place, which is “the ability to live in one’s own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level.” This can become increasingly challenging the older people get, and especially if family support is scarce. Technology can help overcome these challenges, and supplement human care-giving.

Many companies are shifting their focus to this technology. Some companies are integrating wearable technology that tracks movement, heart rate, and other vital signs. These devices can also detect falls and other health issues and can alert caregivers or family members in case of an emergency. Wearables that enable people with dexterity loss gain independence via touch-free control of smart devices, or breath- and saliva-based biosensors, to deliver digital therapeutic interventions for various conditions. There are amazing things being done in the technology realm... and that's not just in the med-tech world.

Another data speed record has been achieved. Aston University researchers (Birmingham, England) have sent data at a speed of 301 terabits or 301,000,000 megabits per second, using a single, standard optical fiber. That is 4.5 million times faster than the average home broadband. This is equivalent to transferring 1,800 4K movies over the internet in one second.

What will we need that kind of speed for? We don't have the answer to that yet... but the possibilities are unlimited. To me it's comforting to know that the fiber Pioneer is investing in today, is fully capable of these speeds, and guarantees all of tomorrow's opportunities for our customers and communities, whatever they may be.

Wishing you a safe and blessed summer.

## **Welcome to GoPioneer!**

**O**ur 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.

## **Contact Us**



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## **Topic of June 2024:**

### **Empowering Media Literacy**

In this edition of GoPioneer, we dive into the issue of misinformation and disinformation. As the 2024 election approaches, experts are expecting a drastic increase in 'fake news' and we want to equip you with the tools and insight to navigate a complex online landscape.

Approach this issue with an open mind, as we explore challenging topics and shed a light on the prevalence of bias in news media. It's important to note that our intention isn't to tell you what news sources to trust or engage with. Instead, we are committed to empowering you with knowledge and awareness to discern fact from fiction.



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# BREAKING NEWS

## 2024's Election Will Be Riddled with Misinformation

### Being able to distinguish between reliable news and misinformation is always important.

However, there are sometimes when navigating the messy online-world is even more critical. In today's world, information is always accessible, and as we approach another election year, it's important for us to understand how misinformation and biases can affect the information we consume.

#### Let's start small—what is misinformation:

Misinformation refers to false or inaccurate information that is spread. Whether it was intentionally misleading or not doesn't matter—if you share something that is incorrect, you're still responsible for spreading misinformation. Misinformation is typically unintentional and can arise from misunderstandings or misreporting, unlike disinformation, which is deliberately deceptive.

Social media platforms are fertile ground for the rapid spread of misinformation. In fact, 72% of individuals have mistakenly shared a fake news story on social media (Nielsen Report) and researchers at MIT found that fake news spreads up to 10 times faster than true reporting on social media. That's a lot. But it makes sense when you consider the blend of rapid sharing capabilities and algorithm-driven content delivery. Social media ensures that misinformation can go viral long before factual corrections or even true news can make any headway.

#### The Impact on Elections:

We've already seen misinformation spread during election years, but 2024's election year is shaping up to be one of the worst yet. With the rise of A.I. images, deepfake videos, robocalls and even A.I. generated stories, it's getting harder and harder to sift

through "true" media. Already, experts are warning about A.I. usage during the election period, and how they expect it to be used against voters or to sway their opinion.

We saw a prime example of A.I. misinformation being used in the elections just a few months ago. Residents in New Hampshire received the following call from President Joe Biden.

*"It's important that you save your vote for the November election," the voice said. "Voting this Tuesday only enables the Republicans in their quest to elect Donald Trump again. Your vote makes a difference in November, not this Tuesday."*

Seems fishy, right? Turns out, Joe wasn't involved at all. This was a call created with A.I. software by Steve Kramer, who worked for Democratic presidential candidate Dean Phillips. It went out to "just under 5,000" Democrats who were likely to vote. This is obviously an awful, terrible, no-good deal, and a sign that this year's election is going to be riddled with more misinformation than any other year before.

This is why it's so important that you're vigilant and engaged when it comes to taking in news, social media posts, or even phone calls, regarding candidates and elections. We want to help you be informed and give you the tools you need to form your own opinions when it comes to voting.

## DISCLAIMER:

Politics are highly emotionally driven. Over the next few pages, we will explore topics like media misinformation, biases, and more, equipping you with the tools to navigate the pervasive and often misleading pool of information available 24/7 online.

This content does not target any specific political alignment; it merely uses sources and examples to illustrate broader issues.

**This issue's goal is to empower you as an informed and prepared voter in an increasingly complex and digital world.**

# THE FACT IS...



FAKE NEWS ON TWITTER

## SPIKES



during key events like U.S. presidential elections.

*The spread of true and false news online - Journal: Science, 2018*



in the severity of long-term global risks.

*The Global Risks Report 2023 - World Economic Forum*

False information  
will reach its **first  
1,500 people**  
**6x faster** than  
authentic  
information.



The World Economic Forum ranks the  
spread of misinformation and fake news  
**among the world's top global risks.**

*The Global Risks Report 2018*

*The spread of true and false news online - Journal: Science, 2018*

### IT COSTS:



## \$2,600

to buy a social media account  
with 300,000+ followers

## \$55,000

To fund a Twitter attack that  
successfully discredits a  
journalist

## \$400,000

To influence policy changes on  
trade agreements,  
impact elections, or change the  
course of a referendum

*Fake News and Cyber Propaganda: The Use and Abuse of Social Media - Trendmicro*

## Four Websites to help **Debunk Your News**

### **OPENSECRETS.ORG**

a nonprofit that tracks money in U.S. politics and the effect it has on elections and public policy. They are a great source for discovering how much and where candidates get their money. They also track lobbying groups and whom they are funding.

### **POLITIFACT.COM**

a fact-checking website that rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials and others who comment on American politics.

### **SNOPES.COM**

a website that conducts extensive fact-checking research on popular topics, often chosen based on reader interest and viral content.

### **OPENSECRETS.ORG**

monitors the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases. They also have a section dedicated to debunking misinformation on social media called "Debunking Viral Claims."

Note: while these are noteworthy causes and trustworthy sources, **it doesn't mean they don't have bias.**

Some platforms will **inadvertently** lean left-or-right when choosing what topics they cover the most. This doesn't make them bad choices; bias is, unfortunately, a very **human** trait. It is important, though, that you're aware of where and when bias may be present.... guess we should cover that too! Check out the next spread. ->



# What in the BIAS

Have you ever noticed how two people can experience the same exact thing, but have totally different opinions about it? For example, you might go to a movie and really love it, but your friend might have found it terribly disappointing or boring. This happens because opinions are influenced by personal preferences, experience, and interpretations of material, resulting in differing viewpoints despite experiencing the same content.

News can be like this, too. The way that stories are told or what is included in them can be influenced by the people telling them. It's not always intentional. Sometimes, the reporter might have strong beliefs that bleed into the story, or they might not have found a key piece of information. On the other hand, media companies might prioritize clicks and resort to sensationalist headlines to draw attention. Biases can sneak into everything, which is why it's important to be a vigilant reader who looks at all sides of the story.

**Check out the next page for a few most common biases found in the media, so you can become a pro at spotting it.**

EDITOR FAV

A SITE TO KNOW:

**ALLSIDES.com**

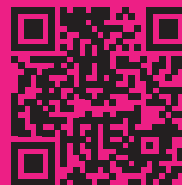
They provide balanced news, media bias ratings, and diverse perspectives for free. The AllSides Mission is to “Free people from filter bubbles so they can better understand the world — and each other.”

A filter bubble is a type of intellectual isolation. Filter bubbles happens when people are only exposed to news, ideas, and people that confirm their existing beliefs.

Filter bubbles empowered by social media, because algorithms and their ‘for you’ content are created to provide you with news, products, and content that you’re the most likely to engage with.

One of the coolest ways Allsides attempts to pop the filter bubbles is by displaying a broad range of the day’s top news stories. They don’t just give you the news, but provide you with three different articles from across the web From the Left; From the Center; and From the Right.

**AllSides is self-aware. They understand that it’s nearly impossible to avoid bias, but they believe that education, self-awareness, and exposure to other perspectives is very important. AllSides is transparent about everything, from their political leanings to their funding. Their founders lean left, right, and center, respectfully, and the website even lists the political biases of every AllSides staff member on their Team page. That’s... pretty cool, if you think about it.**



Sophie Park for The Washington Post

#### HEADLINE ROUNDUP

### What's Behind Campus Protesters' Calls For 'Divestment' From Israel?

Student protesters on campuses across the country are calling for their schools to divest from Israel. What does this mean, and what impact would it have on the Israel-Palestine conflict?...

#### From the Left

**'DIVEST':** College endowments turn into flash point of student protests

Washington Post

#### From the Center

**Dear Columbia Students,** Divestment From Israel Won't Work

Wall Street Journal

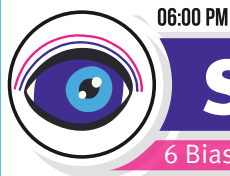
#### From the Right

**Columbia University Will Not** Divest From Israel, President Says

The Daily Wire

Check out their media bias page, which includes media bias and fact check bias charts. The methodology behind their bias charts are based on “multipartisan, scientific analysis, including expert panels and surveys of thousands of everyday Americans,” and sort out some of the biggest news websites (like CNN or Fox).

*Note: It's totally okay to read biased news, but it's also important to know which way your choice media leans.*



06:00 PM

# SPOT THE BIAS

6 Bias to watch for online and in the news

## Partisan Bias

A type of bias where the media *shows preference towards a particular political party or ideology*. A lot of the time, you don't even have to look past the headline to spot a bias.

Here are some examples of a **Republican Bias** and **Democratic Bias** in headlines published in April 2024:

### **Biden signs foreign aid bill providing crucial military assistance to Ukraine**

Michael Williams, Arlette Saenz, Kevin Liptak - CNN.com - April 24, 2024

### **Biden appears to read script instructions out loud in latest teleprompter gaffe: 'Four more years, pause'**

Anders Hagstrom - Fox News - April 24, 2024

## Sensationalism Bias

This happens when stories or posts use exciting or shocking stories or language at the expense of accuracy, to provoke public interest or excitement. Media outlets may resort to sensational reporting to increase viewership or readership, leading to exaggerated or misleading news. A lot of people think of these stories as "click bait."

Try and guess what this story was about. Note the language used in the headline.:

### **DOG DAYS Dog owners warned of deadly hidden danger lurking in bushes, shrubbery & on beaches after pet rushed to vet**

Karim Camara - the-sun.com - April 9, 2024

*It was a snake bite.*

## Omission Bias

Omission Bias happens when important information or viewpoints are left out of a narrative, resulting in a skewed or incomplete understanding of the topic. This can happen either intentionally or unintentionally and can significantly impact how the audience perceives an issue.

### **How to Spot:**

This is a dangerous and tough-to-spot bias. How can you catch missing details if you don't already know the story? It's important to approach media with a full-attention and reading comprehension. If it seems like key facts or viewpoints are missing, then you should look for another source.

## Corporate Bias

This bias is found in media that's influenced by the interests of the corporation owning the media outlet or its advertisers. This can lead to the underreporting of issues that might negatively affect the owner's financial interests or have an overemphasis on topics that reflect positively on them and their companies.

### **How to Spot it:**

This is a hard bias to spot because influences are often very subtle and involve consumers understanding the deeper relationships between media outlets and their financial backers or parent companies.

Here are three organizations that often analyze and report on media biases, including corporate biases:

1. Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR)
2. Media Matters for America
3. Columbia Journalism Review

## Confirmation Bias

The tendency to favor information that confirms one's preexisting beliefs or hypotheses. In media, this can result in selectively reporting news that supports certain views and ignoring information that contradicts them.

### **How to Spot it:**

Most "unbiased" reporting will have differing viewpoints in the story. If an argument is based heavily in anecdotes or isolated examples for a specific viewpoint, then it's probably biased one way or the other. Watch for stories that are shared on social media or groups with strong opinions... these sort of accounts can act as echo chambers that reinforce confirmation bias by constantly presenting information that aligns with a user's existing belief.

## Source Bias

Source bias is found in stories that rely on sources that share a particular bias themselves. It often occurs when the sources quoted in an article or report have a specific agenda that aligns with the media outlet's or journalist's own biases.

### **How to Spot:**

Source bias can be in any kind of story, but it's more likely to be present in content found in: Political reporting, Corporate News, Health and Science, Environmental Issues, International Affairs, Social Issues, Economic Reporting, and Cultural or Religious Topics.

### **Tip:**

Don't be afraid to recognize the alignment of your favorite news sources! Evaluate the balance of competing viewpoints or data—if presented at all—and look for coverage from several sources, especially if it's a topic listed above!

# Go With The *Flow*

## START

Encounter Information  
*You come across a piece of information via news, social media, email, etc.*

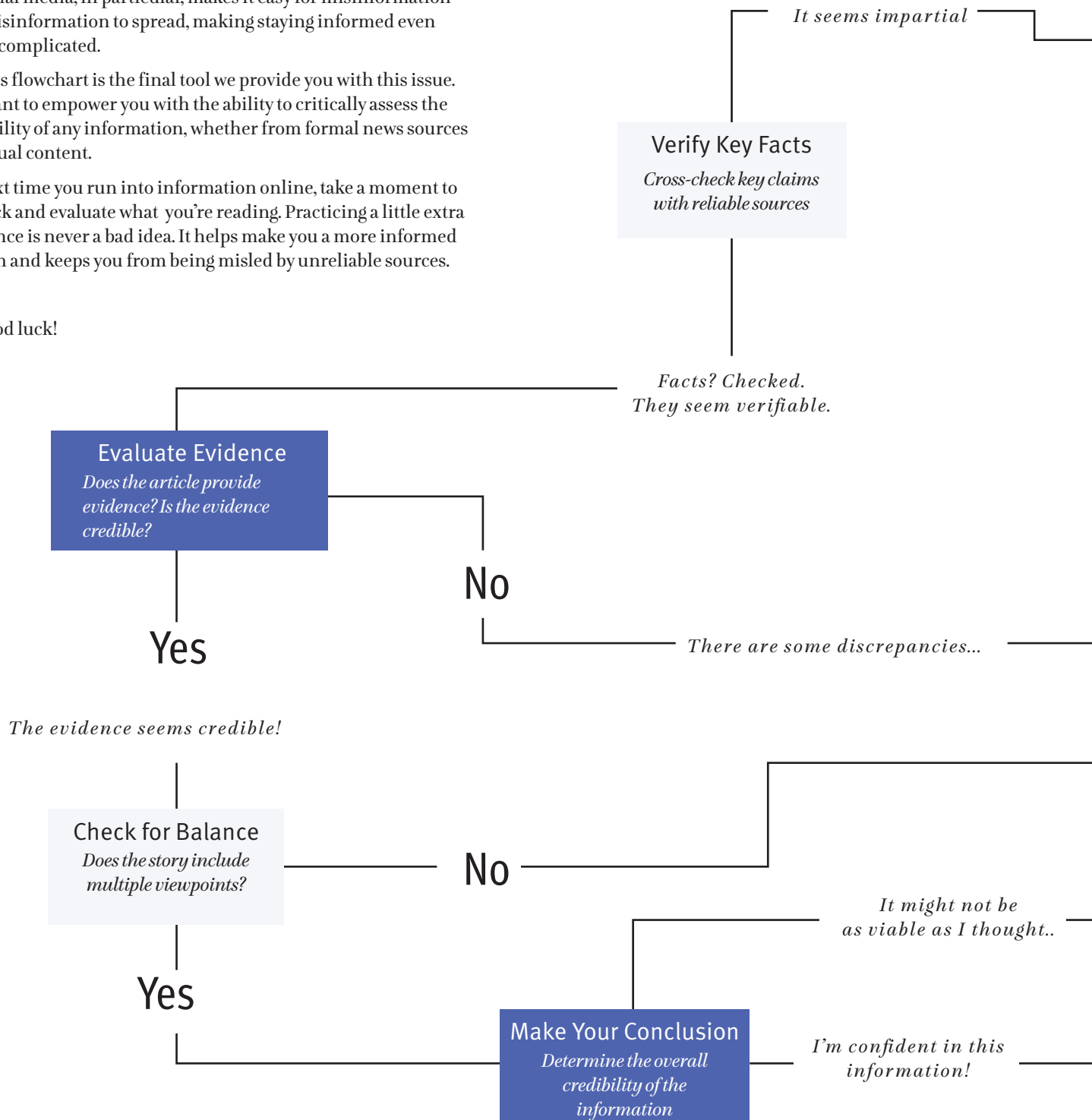
Being in a world with a 24/7 news cycle can be exhausting, but it's important that we keep on our toes, especially during significant events like the 2024 election. Sometimes, the information we encounter might not even be news, but just a post from a friend or an influencer.

Social media, in particular, makes it easy for misinformation and disinformation to spread, making staying informed even more complicated.

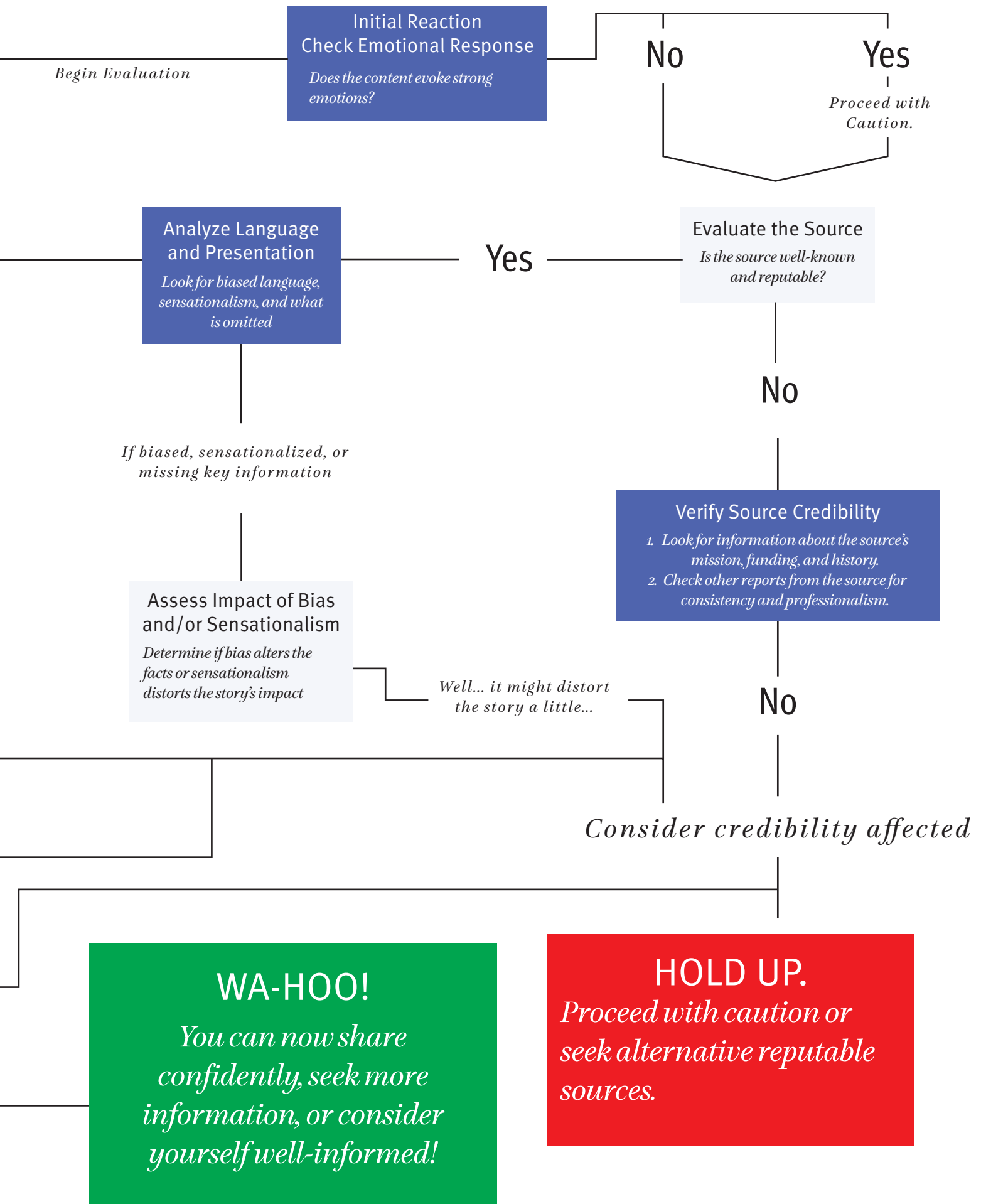
This flowchart is the final tool we provide you with this issue. We want to empower you with the ability to critically assess the reliability of any information, whether from formal news sources or casual content.

Next time you run into information online, take a moment to sit back and evaluate what you're reading. Practicing a little extra vigilance is never a bad idea. It helps make you a more informed citizen and keeps you from being misled by unreliable sources.

Good luck!







# Compass Athletics: Community Champions

How Dana and Eric Wheeler Transform Local Sports Retail and Empower Young Athletes

## Returning Home

Dana and Eric Wheeler's journey into the world of sports retail in a small town in Oklahoma is a story of transformation, community impact, and deep-seated passion for sports and teamwork.

It was opportunity that brought Dana and Eric back home to western Oklahoma.

"We were living in Washington, and I'd been in the corporate world for 20 plus years when our company was bought out. I decided that we want to do something different and didn't want to work for somebody else," Eric said. "We want to own our own business."

The Wheelers didn't find anything in Washington, so they expanded out and back home to northwest Oklahoma, where both Dana and Eric are from.

"I couldn't find anything that really fit what we needed or wanted. I just happened to Google northwest Oklahoma businesses for sale," Eric said. "This little sporting goods store by the name of 'Joe's cheap sporting goods' popped up, which is where I bought my stuff when I was a kid."

After making sure the business would still be for sale, the Wheelers visited just two weeks later while in town for a family reunion.

"We already owned a house here—the house I grew up in—and we came back, and we looked at it [the business] and said, 'we want to do this,'" Eric said. "The kids were up and grown and we talked to them, and they said, 'cars drive and planes fly.'

So, we made an offer and jumped in."

## Moving with a Mission

The Wheelers returned to Oklahoma in 2011 and changed the business name to Compass Athletics. They'd move from their original building just three years later due to growth.

"We looked and looked and couldn't find anything," Dana said. "Then this building became available. When we first asked about it, we were told they had two or three people ahead of us that really wanted it, but it just ended up working out."

Dana said moving to the location at 2024 Main Street was 'the best thing' they ever did. The growth they experienced had a lot to do with their mission and need in western Oklahoma.

"We both believe in sports and the lessons sports teach," Eric said. "Preparation, hard work, and determination and commitment—these are just some of the lessons sports provide. There's also a need for it. If you're not able to shop here, you're going to Oklahoma City or Enid, and by being here, we can keep business here and benefit Northwest Oklahoma."

Expanding into outside sales helped Compass Athletics reach more underserved areas in Western Oklahoma. This now accounts for 75% of their business.

"We always knew that was something we wanted, and it was the direction we intended to go," Eric said. "We didn't



at a glance

# Q+A

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

This is silly, but I think everybody should go skiing once. It's one of my favorite things. - Dana

Everybody should stand on the beach of an ocean at least and just look at how massive it is and just realize, in the whole grand scheme of things in this world, there's a lot more stuff that goes on around you. It helps to kind of put things in perspective, because a lot of times you get caught up thinking the whole world revolves around you but then, you stand on the beach and see the ocean and you realize, okay, it doesn't revolve around me. - Eric

*Do you have a favorite breakfast cereal?*

Well, peanut butter Captain Crunch. I mean, if you're going to go, you might as well go all in with the sugar! It's not healthy at all, and I don't eat it anymore, but it has always been my favorite. - Dana

Eric [third from left] and Dana [right] with their children.



# FOCUS ON.

Compass Athletics





Dana [seventh from left] and Eric [to her right] with their kids and grandchildren.

## with Eric and Dana

*What is your favorite thing about being an owner?*

I think it's a sense of accomplishment. I had an uncle that owned a store up in Idaho and— it's probably the second month we're in business and he came down to see us and he said, 'there's gonna be days you're going to walk out of here and you're going to turn around, you're going to lock the door. And you're going to say to yourself 'why am I beating my head against the wall to do this.' Then you're going to have days you're going to walk out, you're going to turn around, you're going to lock the door and you say, this is the best day of my life. Just hope the second is more often than the first.'

I don't know how many times, especially in the first two or three years, Uncle Trent's word rang true to me. — *Eric*

*If you could speak to your younger self, what would advice would you give him or her?*

Be more outgoing. — *Dana*

Be less outgoing. — *Eric*

[Both laugh]

expect it to grow too much, but it did. There was such a need here. We service schools with uniforms, equipment, trophies, all that stuff and now have an outside salesman on the road five days a week."

Dana is proud of the growth they've experienced. She believes it has to do with the vision they had when purchasing the business.

"Our vision was to become the Lowe's of sporting goods," Dana said. "If you were on a team that needed baseballs and bases and uniforms—you know, all this stuff—for your team, you could walk in here and we could do it all."

Compass Athletics serves more than just western Oklahoma. They often have customers from Texas, South Kansas, and the Panhandle.

The Wheelers are heavily involved in their community, from sponsoring tournaments and school events, to serving on community boards. However, they keep their focus on serving their customers. They want to help parents and kids connect with sports.

"We try to make it easy for the mom who may be a single mom, who wants their boy to play football. She has no clue what she's doing, but she can come in here, and we'll walk her through it," Dana said. "We won't oversell her. We will tell her 'these are the things that you need. These are the things that you don't need.'"

Dana and Eric believe in honesty and integrity when it comes to doing business.

"A lot of the time parents think their kids need all this stuff to start but they don't. We'll tell them that. 'This is what you need to get started, then if he decides he wants to stay with it, then come back and we'll get you these other things that you might need or want,'" Dana said. "But, we try to make it easy for them to come in one stop shop, they can get everything that they need for their sports here, and we'll walk them through it."

For them, a hard day is worth making a customer's life simpler.

"I like when a customer gets ready to check out and they say 'boy, that was easy.' I always think 'okay, we did our job,' all because we made it simple," Eric said. "We always talk about the old easy button—you know, the one from Staples? 'That was easy—WAH' — I think about that all the time."

## Reflection, and Looking Forward

The Wheelers love what they do, but that doesn't mean they haven't hit a few snags.

"This hasn't been easy. None of it has been easy. People think you own a business and you have unlimited money and you can take off whenever you want to, and go do what you want to do," Dana said. "Well, that's not how this works. You sacrifice a lot, you put a lot of money into it and a lot of time and effort into it just to keep it moving, let alone be successful."

When asked about a few of the challenges they've face, Dana had a few on her list.

"Every time you think you've gotten over the hump, you get a COVID, or a new expense, or a van dies and you have to buy a new delivery van—but we love it. It's so fun, but it's not easy."

Dana and Eric don't have any plans to retire any time soon.

"You look at a business and you think 'what point do I walk away from that.' Do we look at maybe selling it? Do we look at setting it up with staff?" Eric said. "It's become such a part of us that it's almost difficult to imagine doing that."

Dana said they're five to six years away from even beginning to talk about an exit plan, but they understand the importance. One thing they know for sure is they won't be selling it to the highest bidder.

"We've had two offers to sell in the past, but I don't want it to get caught up where employees are just a number and it's just an address on a long list of stores," Eric said. "I don't want that to happen to our people or the business we worked so hard for."

The Wheelers hope to continue their work as long as they are physically and mentally able. For now, they have a simple mission.

"Our goal is to continue serving our community and help every young athlete step onto the field equipped with the right gear and support," Eric said.

You can learn more about Compass Athletics by visiting their website: [compassathletics.biz](http://compassathletics.biz).





# My, My, How Modern

Pioneer has made two major upgrades to our website!

Pioneer is excited to announce two new and improved changes to our website.

Our team has taken huge steps to modernize our online presence and introduce innovative features. Our new e-commerce capabilities and an A.I. assistant upgrades are designed to make accessing our services more convenient for our customers and members and are a part of our ongoing commitment to providing you with an exceptional customer experience.

## E-Commerce Integration: Anytime, Anywhere Service

You can now sign up for Pioneer internet services online at your convenience! There's no need to wait for business hours or to make phone calls, unless you prefer person-to-person service, which we still warmly welcome.

This service also extends to plan upgrades and add-ons, allowing existing customers to easily modify their services to suit any changes to their needs.

## AI-Powered Assistance

We've introduced an A.I. assistant to our website! This virtual busy-body is constantly learning and evolving to better serve you. Whether you have questions about Pioneer products or need guidance on services, our A.I. assistant is here to provide you with immediate and accurate information and direct you to the right resources!

You can find our A.I. assistant in the upper right hand corner of our website when using your computer, or in the bottom right hand corner of your mobile device.



*Just look out for  
this little guy!*

## Plus, Check Out Our Apps!

### SmartWifi

SmartWifi is a FREE app that allows you to run speed tests, manage your WiFi, view device usage and more! There are more premium upgrades that provide different services and protections, but any Pioneer customer can download and use its primary features free of charge!

### SmartHub

SmartHub is Pioneer's online billing and account management tool. You can use this app to securely manage your services, view monthly bills, sign up for paperless billing, make payments, and more!

# Two ways to connect

# MEET OUR MARKETING



*Manny is a Public Relations Specialist Intern that will primarily be serving the Weatherford area!*

## ***Hello everyone!***

My name is Manny Sanchez, and I am thrilled to be interning at Pioneer. I am from Elk City, OK and currently a Senior at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. I will be graduating this May of 2024 with a degree in Marketing, a minor in Allied Health Science, and an Associates in World Languages.

Throughout my time at SWOSU, I've been actively engaged in various aspects of marketing, both inside and outside the classroom. One of my significant involvements has been with Rotary. Within Rotary, I've had the opportunity to collaborate on various projects, improving my skills in communication, project management, and networking—attributes that translate into the active realm of marketing.

Outside of my marketing responsibilities, I enjoy spending time with family and having some relaxation. I have recently been accepted into the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program at the University of Oklahoma (OU).

Reflecting on my journey, I recall the nerve-wracking yet exhilarating experience of applying for the MBA program. After submitting my application and enduring the anxious wait, I was thrilled to receive acceptance into the program.

Currently, I'm honored to intern at Pioneer, where I'm gaining hands-on experience in event marketing, public relations, and data analytics, among other areas. The mentorship and support from Pioneer and its team have been very valuable and will shape me into a more confident and capable marketer.

Thank you for taking the time to learn a bit about me, and I'm eager to contribute my passion and dedication to what is to come.





### **Kinley Rendon • District 6 • Comanche**

Junior Kinley Rendon attends Cameron University. She was inspired to major in Cellular and Molecular Biology after tearing her ACL.

"While it was one of the hardest things I ever had to go through, I had amazing physical therapists who kept me motivated and on track to regain my strength and return to full activity as soon as possible," Kinley said.

Physical Therapy became her favorite part of the day because she had 'caring, kind, and encouraging therapists.'

Kinley wants to use her degree to attend PT school

and hopes to specialize in sports or pediatric physical therapy. She wants to innovate in the industry and help patients more than they thought possible.

"I want to be there for my patients, every step of their journey, just like my therapists were for me," she says.

In her spare time, Kinley enjoys spending time with her family, engaging in sports, and indulging in her favorite TV show, "The Andy Griffith Show."

Kinley currently has a 4.0 GPA and plans to graduate in May 2025.



### **Keziah Grant • District 5 • Blanchard**

Keziah is a dedicated Music Education major at Southern Nazarene University.

Her passion for music and education drives her to not only perform and teach, but also to make an impact in the lives of her future students.

"After graduation, I hope to help my students excel in music and aid in their personal growth, guiding them into becoming the individuals they are meant to be," Keziah said.

Keziah is actively involved in campus life, participating in two clubs, starring in musical productions including a notable role as Mother

Abbess in "The Sound of Music," and engaging in a Christian prayer group that supports the university community. She also commits to service hours each semester through the Hope Rising scholarship program.

"The biggest challenge for me has been ensuring that school and music do not overshadow other important aspects of life."

Keziah hopes to graduate in May 2026 and pursue her master's degree.



### **Rachel Mitchell • District 3 • Frederick**

Rachel is a junior at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), majoring in Elementary Education with a minor in Agribusiness.

"I know that's a weird mix, but I've always wanted to teach and I've also always been really involved in agriculture through high school and stuff," Rachel said.

Growing up on her family's farm and ranch in Frederick, Oklahoma, she developed a profound connection to agriculture, while her love for teaching was nurtured by her desire to influence young minds.

"Teaching fifth or sixth grade has always excited me. I especially enjoy the challenge and reward of engaging with students at that curious age," Rachel said.

Rachel currently spends four days a week in a sixth-grade classroom, an experience she cherishes for the meaningful interactions and the surprising moments of humor and honesty from her students.

Rachel plans to graduate next year and hopes to go into teaching.



### **Elizabeth Perdue • District 10 • Kingfisher**

Elizabeth is a senior at Oklahoma State University, majoring in Agriculture Communications and Agribusiness with a pre-law option and a minor in Legal Studies.

Her educational pursuits are rooted in her lifelong connection to agriculture, inspired by her upbringing on a fourth-generation family farm and ranch.

"I've always been drawn to the vast fields of agriculture and knew I wanted to make a significant impact. Agriculture Communications seemed like the perfect fit, allowing me to advocate for

an industry that's been a central part of my life," Elizabeth said.

Elizabeth plans to pursue a master's degree post-graduation, exploring further specializations within agriculture, possibly in international agriculture or through an MBA.

"I want to be a bridge between the farm and the consumer, enhancing understanding and appreciation of agriculture through effective communication," Elizabeth said.

Elizabeth graduated this May.

# **Meet Our Pioneer Scholars**



# Frozen Oreo Dessert

## ingredients

2 c.	heavy whipping cream
1 can	can condensed milk
1 jar	jar chocolate ice cream sauce
1 jar	jar caramel ice cream sauce
30	Oreos, crushed

In a large bowl, beat whipping cream with hand mixer until it is light and fluffy and forms peaks (takes several minutes). Add the can of condensed milk and gently stir into mixture.

Pour about 1/2 jar of chocolate sauce and 1/2 jar caramel sauce into the mixture (more or less depending on your taste preferences). Stir until well combined.

Fold in Oreos, leaving a small amount for the top. Pour this mixture into a freezer safe 9x13 dish. Sprinkle remaining Oreos on top and drizzle a little of both chocolate and caramel sauces on top as well.

Cover and freeze several hours until firm. Slice and enjoy!



Jaime and her husband, Robby



*Where did you find this recipe?*

“For the life of me I can’t remember how or where I came across this recipe, or if I just took bits and pieces of things I’ve seen and just put it together... All I know for sure is that I’ve had it for a long time.”

*What is your favorite thing about this recipe?*

“I love this recipe because I love ice cream and this is a super simple way to make it and it can be easily adjusted by adding different things in place of the Oreos. You can add Reese’s peanut butter cups, crushed toffee, nuts, or whatever you like. It’s simple enough I can make it in my camper, throw it in the freezer, and have it ready for that evening.”

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

“Make sure the whipping cream is thoroughly whipped and you may need to melt the chocolate sauce slightly to pour it.”



**-Billing And Quality Assurance Admin, Jaime Pool**



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## 25+ YEARS ANNIVERSARIES

**Lee & Pat Johnson** - Weatherford

Celebrated their 59th Wedding Anniversary January 29th.  
They have two children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Joe & Colleen Fischer** - Chattanooga

Celebrated their 72nd Wedding Anniversary January 19th.  
They have two children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, four grandchildren, two grandchildren-in-law, and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Gator & Connie Pyle** - Chickasaw

Celebrated their 43rd Wedding Anniversary April 3rd. They have a son, a daughter, three grandchildren, and a grandchild in heaven.

**Brian & Sharon Miller** - Kingfisher

Celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary May 7th. They have two sons.

**Terry & Denise Ashton** - Waynoka

Celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary May 19th.  
They have two children and four grandchildren.

**Dale & Reba Bobbitt** - Newcastle

Celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary July 22nd.  
They have a child.

***Magazines and Anniversaries will be delivered in August and September.***

***Happy Anniversary from all of us at Pioneer!***

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