

GO PIONEER

QUARTER 1, 2026

Why Your Cooperative Membership Matters

Learn what makes cooperatives different, why member participation is important, and how your voice helps shape Pioneer's future. Includes Annual Meeting information.

PG. 09

FOCUS ON.

Woodward Arts
Theatre

PG. 07

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON YOUR NETWORK?

Take a look at how internet activity continues all day long — from smart devices and streaming to automatic updates happening behind the scenes.

PG. 1

Letters from **LEADERS**

Kim Grellner - VP Technology Solutions & Strategic Operations



Welcome to 2026 – and Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that 2026 has already arrived. At Pioneer, 2025 was a busy year and it kept us focused on the things that matter most. This year could be described by progress, innovation and our commitment to bring fiber to more of our members in rural western Oklahoma. We also expanded fiber into several communities outside our traditional service area. These efforts strengthened our network, expanded our fiber reach, and positioned us well for the future.

Today, Pioneer is proud to have achieved 83.9% fiber penetration within the Cooperative footprint. We currently have active construction in 26 communities with approximately that many more communities scheduled to begin later this year. Our robust fiber network now spans 15,291 miles across western Oklahoma.

As you'll read throughout this publication, new products and technologies continue to emerge that rely heavily on fast, dependable internet. The increasing need for connectivity underscores the importance of our fiber investment and commitment. We are proud to be your technology partner and look forward to strengthening our relationship with members and customers throughout 2026.

As a Cooperative member, we encourage you to take full advantage of the benefits that come with membership. One of these is the opportunity to participate in the governance of your Cooperative. Please mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting on May 5, 2026. Exercising your right to vote at membership meetings, including the Annual Meeting, is essential to the continued success of Pioneer.

The Board of Trustees manages the Cooperative in accordance with state statutes, our articles of incorporation and the Cooperative's bylaws. Any changes to the bylaws must be made at a membership meeting where quorum is met, making your participation vital to our ongoing operational success.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Annual Meeting! Keep an eye out for the Tele-Topics with additional details, updates, and more information about the many benefits of your Cooperative membership.

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 2026:

The Technology You Don't See (But Use Every Day)

Technology is woven into daily life in more ways than we often realize. From smart devices and streaming to automatic updates and cloud backups, today's homes stay connected around the clock — even when no one is actively online.

This issue explores what's really happening behind the scenes on your home network, why reliable internet matters more than ever, and how small digital habits can make everyday technology feel easier and less overwhelming. Along the way, we also highlight the people, organizations, and cooperative values that keep our communities connected both online and off.

CONTENTS

Features

What's Happening on Your Network?.....01
Take a look at how internet activity continues all day long — from smart devices and streaming to automatic updates happening behind the scenes.

What's Actually New in Tech This Year (and What's Just Noise) 03
Not all tech trends are created equal. See which advancements are truly improving everyday life — and why reliable internet matters more than flashy devices.

Digital Habits That Make Life Easier (No New Devices Required)..... 04
Simple digital organization tips and small tech habits that can reduce stress, save time, and help your devices work better together.

Inside Pioneer

Where Woodward Comes to Create07
Step inside the historic Woodward Arts Theatre and meet the people and volunteers keeping this nearly 100-year-old community arts center alive.

Why Your Cooperative Membership Matters . 09
Learn what makes cooperatives different, why member participation is important, and how your voice helps shape Pioneer's future. Includes Annual Meeting information.

Community

Meet our Pioneer Scholars..... 11
Learn more about three of our scholars for 2025-2026.

Family Recipe12
A hearty, homegrown favorite made with fresh squash, shared by a Pioneer member family.

AnniversariesBack
Help us celebrate the 25+ year anniversaries in our communities.



What's Happening on Your Network *Right Now*

For most people, internet use feels intentional. You open a laptop, stream a show, join a video call, or scroll on your phone. When the screen goes dark, it's easy to assume the internet goes quiet, too.

In reality, today's internet never really turns off.

Even when no one is actively online, connected homes are constantly exchanging information in the background. Phones automatically back up photos and messages. Computers download software and security updates. Smart TVs refresh apps and preload content. Security systems and smart home devices regularly check in with cloud services to stay synced and ready.

This always-on activity is what makes modern technology feel seamless. Files are available across devices. Updates happen automatically. Streaming starts instantly when you press play. Much of this work happens quietly, without any action from users — and without them ever noticing.

As homes continue to add more connected devices, this background activity becomes just as important as visible internet use. A single household may have phones, tablets, laptops, TVs, gaming systems, cameras, smart speakers, thermostats, and appliances all connected at the same time. Many of these devices are communicating with the internet even when they aren't being actively used.

This shift has changed what home internet is responsible for. It's no longer just about browsing or streaming one device at a time. Today's connections must manage dozens of simultaneous tasks — some in the foreground, some quietly running in the background.

Video calls, online gaming, streaming, cloud backups, and smart home systems often operate at the same time, sharing the same network. When internet connections are strong and consistent, all of this activity blends together smoothly. When they aren't, small frustrations start to appear — buffering, delays, dropped calls, or slow response times.

Reliable internet allows this constant activity to remain invisible. Updates happen overnight. Files stay synced. Smart devices respond instantly. Technology fades into the background, where it's meant to be.

As internet use continues to evolve, the most important connections aren't always the ones people see. They're the ones quietly working behind the scenes — keeping homes connected, devices updated, and daily life moving without interruption.

In a world where technology never truly sleeps, dependable internet is what keeps everything running smoothly, even when you're not watching.

Even when no one is actively using the internet, today's home networks are constantly working behind the scenes to keep devices updated, synced, and ready.

Always-On Activity Includes:

- **Automatic software and security updates**
- **Photo, file, and device backups to the cloud**
- **Streaming services preparing content in advance**
- **Smart home and security systems checking in regularly**
- **Multiple devices maintaining connections at the same time**

Why this matters

This background activity helps technology feel seamless. Updates happen overnight, files are available when needed, devices respond instantly — and you never have to think even the slightest bit about it!

What this means for home internet

Modern home internet must be able to:

- **Support multiple users and devices simultaneously**
- **Handle background tasks without slowing visible activity**
- **Stay consistent throughout the day and night**
- **Keep connections stable, not just fast**

The internet doesn't stop when you log off — and reliable connections make sure you don't notice.

A Day in the Life of a Connected Household

A four-person home with multiple devices, shared internet use, and technology running throughout the day. This means they have work, school, entertainment, and smart devices pulling from their internet.

MORNING (6 - 9 AM)

- One adult joins video calls or checks email for work
- Another streams news or music while getting ready
- Kids use tablets or laptops for school prep or assignments
- Smart devices adjust lights, thermostat, and routines
- Phones sync photos and notifications from overnight



Midday (9 AM-4 PM)

- Remote work meetings and cloud-based tools run continuously
- Streaming music or background video plays during the workday
- Schoolwork, online research, or video lessons continue
- Background software and security updates download
- Smart cameras and home systems stay connected



Evening (4-9 PM)

- Streaming peaks across multiple TVs and devices
- Gaming consoles update and play online
- Phones, tablets, and laptops all in use at once
- Video calls with friends or family
- Smart home devices respond in real time



Overnight (9 PM-6 AM)

- Automatic backups for phones and computers
- System and app updates run quietly
- Streaming services prepare content for the next day
- Smart devices stay connected and ready
- Network activity continues even while the home sleeps



Modern internet doesn't support one person at a time — it supports entire households, all day long.

What's Actually

NEW

in Tech This Year *and What's Just*

NOISE

Every new year arrives with bold tech predictions. Headlines promise revolutionary devices, life-changing apps, and trends that claim to reshape how we live and work. New products are announced, buzzwords dominate social feeds, and consumers are told they need the latest upgrade to keep up.

But once the excitement fades, many of those “next big things” quietly disappear — replaced by a new cycle of hype.

What's actually shaping technology today isn't always flashy. It's practical, gradual, and often invisible.

One of the clearest examples is artificial intelligence. Rather than arriving as a single must-have device or app, AI is being woven into tools people already use every day. Photo apps automatically organize images. Email platforms filter spam more accurately. Search tools deliver better results with less effort. These improvements don't require learning something new or replacing existing technology — they simply make familiar tools work more efficiently.

Smart home technology is following a similar path. Early smart devices often added complexity, forcing users to manage multiple apps and systems that didn't communicate well with each other. Today, the focus has shifted toward simplification. Devices work together more smoothly, automation happens quietly in the background, and technology is designed to reduce friction rather than create it. The goal isn't more technology — it's technology that stays out of the way.

Why Reliable Internet Matters More Than New Devices

At the same time, internet use continues to grow in ways many people don't see. Homes now contain more connected devices than ever before, and many of them are active even when no one is directly using them. Phones back up photos automatically. Computers download updates. Streaming services preload content. Smart home devices and security systems regularly check in with cloud services.

This “always-on” activity is what allows technology to feel seamless. Files are available when needed. Software stays up to date. Streaming works instantly. But all of this places increasing demands on home internet connections — not just during peak hours, but around the clock.

As a result, home internet is no longer defined by speed alone. Today's households need connections that can manage multiple tasks at once, support dozens of devices, and remain consistent throughout the day. Video calls, gaming, streaming, smart home systems, and background updates often happen simultaneously. Even when screens are off, networks are still working.

This shift has changed what matters most when it comes to connectivity. Capacity, stability, and reliability have become just as important as download speeds. A strong connection allows technology to work quietly in the background, without interruptions or slowdowns.

New devices often get the spotlight, but they can only perform as well as the network behind them. A faster phone or a smarter TV won't eliminate buffering, dropped video calls, or lag if the connection can't keep up with everything happening at once. Without reliable internet, even the most advanced technology falls short.

When reliability is strong, technology feels effortless. Work meetings run smoothly. Entertainment streams without interruption. Smart home features respond instantly. Multiple users can be online at the same time without frustration. The internet fades into the background — which is exactly how it should feel.

As technology continues to evolve, reliability remains the constant. It's the quiet factor that determines whether new tools actually improve daily life or simply add more complexity. In a world full of tech noise, the most meaningful advancements are the ones people barely notice — because everything just works.

Today's Home Network Has to Manage it All



Multiple Users



Streaming &
gaming



Uploads to
the Cloud



Auto-updates



Smart Devices

New Devices Promise



Faster Phones



Bigger Screens



Smarter Features



More Apps & Tools

Reliable Internet Delivers



Consistent Performance



Smooth Streaming & Calls



Fewer Interruptions



All Devices Working Together

Digital Habits That Make Life Easier

(No New Devices Required)

A new year often brings the urge to upgrade. New phones, new apps, new devices, and new systems promise to make life faster and simpler. But for many households, the challenge isn't a lack of technology — it's managing everything that's already in use.

Sometimes, the most meaningful improvements don't come from buying something new. They come from small digital habits that help existing technology work better.

One of the simplest habits is organization. Photos, files, notifications, and messages accumulate quickly across devices, often without users realizing how much digital clutter builds up over time. Taking a few minutes to organize photos into albums, delete unused apps, or clean up old files can make devices feel faster and easier to use.

Automatic backups are another quiet but powerful habit. When photos, documents, and important files are backed up automatically, there's less stress about losing information. This background process ensures content is available across devices and protected without constant manual effort.

Shared digital tools can also simplify daily life. Family calendars, shared notes, apps and collaborative lists help households stay coordinated without constant reminders or

messages. When everyone is working from the same information, and schedules run more smoothly.

Passwords and security are another area where simple habits make a big difference. Password managers eliminate the need to remember dozens of logins while improving security. Two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of protection without adding complexity to daily routines.

Notifications are often the most overlooked digital habit. Turning off unnecessary alerts helps technology support daily life rather than interrupt it. Being intentional about which notifications truly matter can reduce stress and make devices feel more manageable.

These habits aren't about using technology less — they're about using it better. And they rely on a dependable internet connection that keeps everything synced, updated, and accessible in the background. When connectivity is consistent, digital tools fade into the background and work as intended.

Technology doesn't have to be overwhelming to be powerful. Often, it's the small habits — supported by reliable connectivity — that make the biggest difference in everyday life.

Everyday Digital Habits to Try

You don't need new devices to make technology feel easier. Small changes in how you use the tools you already have can reduce stress, save time, and help everything run more smoothly.

- ☐ Organize photos and files so important moments and documents are easy to find
- ☐ Enable automatic backups to protect photos, files, and devices without extra effort
- ☐ Use shared calendars or lists to keep families and households coordinated
- ☐ Simplify passwords with a password manager for better security and less frustration
- ☐ Adjust notifications to reduce digital noise and interruptions

DIGITAL HABITS THAT MAKE LIFE EASIER

Here are a few ideas on how to do a simple digital reset. There's no need for new devices, or even apps (most devices will have internal apps / settings for these!), but rather a few small changes!



Organize Photos & Files

Try this:

- Create albums for big events
- Delete screenshots and duplicate photos monthly
- Rename important documents for easier searching

This helps:

- Reduce digital clutter
 - Make important files and memories easier to find
-



Enable Cloud Backups

Try this:

- Turn on automatic photo backup on your phone
- Schedule computer backups to run overnight
- Make sure backups happen on Wi-Fi

This helps:

- Protect photos and documents
 - Keep files available across devices
-



Use Shared Calendars & Lists

Try this:

- Set up a shared family calendar
- Use a shared grocery or to-do list app
- Add reminders for appointments and deadlines

This helps:

- Keep everyone on the same schedule
 - Reduce forgotten plans and last-minute stress
-



Clean up Notifications

Try this:

- Turn off alerts from shopping or food apps you rarely use
- Change social media notifications to “mentions only”
- Use “Do Not Disturb” during work or sleep hours

This helps:

- Cut down on digital noise
 - Make important notifications easier to notice
-



Keep Devices Updated

Try this:

- Enable automatic updates on phones and tablets
- Let computers update overnight
- Restart devices occasionally to finish updates

This helps:

- Improve device performance
- Keep security protections up to date

Where Woodward Comes to Create

The story of Woodward's nearly 100-year-old theater and the people keeping it alive

For nearly a century, the Woodward Arts Theatre has been a fixture in downtown Woodward—a place where history, creativity, and community come together. Today, the building and its programming are overseen by Woodward Arts & Theatre Council, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to providing arts and cultural experiences for Woodward and five surrounding counties.

"When it was built in 1929 it was a movie theater, and it was built for silent films, the old black and white silent film ones," Executive Director Candee Brossman said. "And it went on that way through the through the 40s, and then it was purchased and transitioned for Vaudeville in the 80's with improvements and updates creating the space it is today."

The shift to vaudeville transformed the building into a true performance venue—designed for live entertainment and movement.

"So vaudeville means that it was built for performance," Candee said. "Anybody that travels and performs could be considered a vaudeville performer."

That original purpose still defines how the space functions today. The organization operates both the historic Woodward Arts Theatre—listed on the National and State Historic Registers—and the Josie Adams Cultural Center, maintaining both facilities while hosting performances, community and private events, and educational programming.

"WATC is a single employee nonprofit,"

Candee said. "I wear a lot of hats, and sometimes a new hat on any given day." "The needs change but the mission is clear, continue providing arts and cultural events to Woodward and the 5 surrounding communities."

A Longstanding Connection

Candee's relationship with the theater began long before she became Executive Director. She grew up in Buffalo, Oklahoma, about 45 minutes from Woodward.

"The Woodward arts theaters is the only performing arts theater within a 90 mile radius," she said.

As a student in the 90s, she traveled to Woodward for performances and arts education tied to school programs. She fondly remembers learning choreography with Brenda Alexander, a dedicated dance instructor and recent Governor's Art Award recipient, who's taught and performed at the WAT for over 3 decades.

"As I was coming on as Executive Director, Brenda was planning her final dance recital to celebrate 30 years on stage at WAT. It was an interesting intersection of timing and my personal connection to the arts in Woodward."

That continuity—people connecting to the theater at different stages of life—is something Candee sees as central to the organization's identity.

"Everybody loves the theater," she said. "Everybody has a story that connects them here somehow."



FUN FACTS

Built by a skeptic! The theatre was built in 1929 by rancher J.O. Selman and brothers Dwight and Ben Terry. Interestingly, Selman didn't think "talkies" (movies with sound) would last. Because of his skepticism, he insisted the building be designed for Vaudeville and live stage acts, giving it a much deeper stage and more dressing rooms than typical movie houses of the era.

Home to "Youth Summer Arts Camp" for over 40 years! Serving the Woodward Region and 5 surrounding rural counties, the camp has reached tens of thousands of students ages 08–18 who may be underserved and/or at-risk youth.

Hollywood "Film Friendly" In 2022, Woodward became the first "Film Friendly" certified community in the Oklahoma Panhandle/Northwest region. The theatre is a centerpiece of this, hosting major events like the Twister Alley Film Festival and the Thunderbird Drone Festival.

Architectural Survival While many old theatres were gutted or modernized, the Woodward Arts Theatre underwent a massive volunteer-led restoration in 1981. Today, it still features its original



**FOCUS
ON.**

Woodward Arts
Theatre



With Candee

elements.

Original Neon Marquee. Restored to its vintage 1920s glow in 2019, with over 1000 ft of neon.

Orchestra Pit. The theatre still features a traditional orchestra pit, a rare architectural element in modern theaters, allowing for live musical accompaniment and adding to the venue's historic performance authenticity.

Current Centennial Campaign. The historic building turns 100 in 2029 and the organization is working hard to prepare the "Grand Dame" once again. Capital improvements include flooded basement waterproofing and restoration, updated HVAC throughout the entire historic theatre building, an ADA compliant restroom for performers, and front façade updates and marquee repairs.

Capital Campaign improvements are funded by grants and donations from foundations and individuals to the nonprofit organization Woodward Arts & Theatre Council, Inc., a 501(c)(3) in good standing.

Powered by Volunteers

With only one paid staff member, the organization relies heavily on volunteers.

"Everything other than what I do has to be done through volunteerism and networking," Candee said. "When you're maintaining two buildings or two and you are putting on more than 20 shows and productions and events in a year, that's a lot of volunteer hours."

Volunteers come from across the community, including students, church groups, and civic organizations. Local FFA and National Honor Society students often assist during performances.

"Area and local kids come on and help us with shows," Candee said. "And when they come in and volunteer they get to stay and see the show for free."

The venue itself is highly adaptable, shifting layouts depending on the event.

"Many kinds of events. If you can dream it, we can build it," Candee said.

Programming for a Rural Community

Each year, the Council supports more than 20 events, productions, and programs. The offerings are intentionally broad to meet the needs of a rural region.

"We have a very diverse schedule of programming," Candee said.

Two annual anchors include Summer Arts Camp for youth ages eight through 18 and an anniversary show in November.

"We try to bring in some culturally diverse programming that rural Oklahomans wouldn't see on their everyday journeys," she said.

The stage has welcomed nationally recognized performers alongside unique productions.

"Shenandoah was here last year," Candee said. "a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame group the Drifters and we recently had the great Dubois, the trapeze group that performed with the greatest showman."

Many of these performances include outreach into local schools, giving students access to artists they might not otherwise encounter.

The organization also supports productions with local theater groups.

"We're excited to have them working and performing in the theatre," Candee said.

"They'll be doing a musical in the spring called 'Disaster! The musical!'"

A Downtown Anchor

Candee describes the theater as more than a venue—it's a reflection of the community itself.

"It's our generational and dynamic centerpiece for the community," she said. "I can't think of too many spaces or places that connects people in the same way."

She believes the building offers stability and hope for the downtown district.

"I think a lot of times this particular building gives people hope," Candee said. "We hope it feels like home a safe community space for everyone."

That sense of openness shows up in everyday moments.

"That's one of my favorite things about working here at the theater, is you get to see all walks of life," she said.

She recalled meeting visitors who stopped outside the building.

"Hello, we're visting from Russia," Candee said. "So I gave them a five minute tour of the theater to say welcome to our community."

Looking Ahead

Candee says the most rewarding part of the job is helping ideas take shape.

"I love when people come in here with an idea," she said. "I love that this is a space that dreamers can dream."

At the heart of the organization's mission is a simple belief.

"For me, it's believing that everybody is a creator," Candee said. "When people come to build and create their vision, that's when I know we can celebrate being on mission."

As the Council looks to the future, Candee remains optimistic.

"What I've seen happen here with WATC in the last three years is nothing short of extraordinary," she said.

And if the theater were ever gone, she hopes it would be remembered for what it gave the community.

"That it was a community within a community," Candee said. "A safe space... that might carry them through to the next big thing."

More Than a Meeting

Why Your Cooperative Membership Matters

Every year, we invite our members to attend our Annual Meeting. And every year, we're reminded of something powerful:

This isn't just a meeting; it's democracy in action.

As a member of a cooperative, you're not just a customer — you're an owner. That means your voice, your vote, and your participation help shape the future of the services your family and community rely on every day.

So what makes a Cooperative different? Unlike investor-owned companies that answer to shareholders and outside investors, cooperatives are built to serve the people who use them. That means decisions are made with members in mind — not stock prices.

Here's what that looks like in real life:

Local Leadership

Your cooperative is governed by a board of directors made up of fellow members who live and work right here in our communities. They understand local needs because they experience them too.

Member Voice

Each member has a say in the direction of the cooperative. Important decisions aren't made behind closed doors by distant executives — they're guided by member input and participation.

Community Focus

Because we're member-owned, our success is tied directly to the success of our communities. That's why we invest in local events,

schools, scholarships, and infrastructure that helps rural areas thrive.

Service Over Profit

Our goal isn't to maximize profits for outside investors — it's to provide reliable, high-quality services at a fair value to the people we serve.

Why the Annual Meeting Matters

The Annual Meeting is one of the most important ways members take part in their cooperative. It's your opportunity to:

- Hear updates about the cooperative's progress and future plans
- Learn how your membership supports growth and improvements
- Connect with the leadership and team who serve you year-round
- Take part in important cooperative business

This year, members will also be voting on bylaw matters that help guide how the cooperative operates. While full details will be shared through official communications ahead of the meeting, this is an especially important time for members to be involved.

Your participation helps ensure decisions reflect the will of the membership and the long-term strength of the cooperative.

We encourage every member to join us on May 2 for this year's Annual Meeting. Come learn, connect, and be part of the process that keeps your cooperative working for you.

SAVE
the
DATE

May 5

As a member, you're more than a customer...you're an owner. We hope to see you at this year's Annual Meeting.

5

FAST FACTS ABOUT COOPERATIVES

02

YOU'RE NOT JUST A CUSTOMER — YOU'RE AN OWNER

When you receive service from a cooperative, you're also a member-owner. That means the cooperative exists to serve you and your community, not outside investors or distant shareholders.

Ownership in a cooperative isn't about how much money you invest — it's about membership. Every member has a stake in the organization's success and a voice in how it's run.

That's what makes your involvement, including attending the Annual Meeting, so important.

04

LOCAL PEOPLE MAKING LOCAL DECISIONS

Your cooperative is led by a board of directors made up of members from the communities it serves. These are neighbors, business owners, and community leaders who understand local challenges and priorities.

Because leadership is local, decisions are made with real knowledge of the people and places affected — not from a corporate office hundreds of miles away.

01

THE MODEL THAT PUTS MEMBERS FIRST

Cooperatives aren't just another type of business — they're built on a completely different foundation. Here are five quick facts that explain why your cooperative works the way it does... and why your participation matters.

03

ONE MEMBER. ONE VOTE.

In investor-owned companies, voting power is based on how many shares someone owns. In a cooperative, it works differently.

Each member gets one vote — no matter how large or small their account is. This ensures fairness and keeps decision-making rooted in the needs of the entire membership, not just a select few.

When members show up and vote, it keeps the cooperative truly member-driven.

05

PROFITS GO BACK TO MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES

Cooperatives operate at cost. When there are margins left over after expenses and improvements, those funds don't go to outside investors.

Instead, they're reinvested into:

- System upgrades and improvements
- Better services and reliability
- Community programs and events
- Member benefits over time

This structure helps keep services strong while supporting the communities that make the cooperative possible.

Meet Our PIONEER SCHOLARS



Emma Armstrong • District 8 - Technology Center • Nash

Emma is part of the Cosmetology program at Autry Technology Center in Enid, Oklahoma, and will be graduating in December.

"The main reason I chose cosmetology is because God called me to it. I also enjoy doing hair and nails on my sisters, and thought it would be fun to try taking that a step further."

After graduation, she hopes to work in a salon doing hair and nails. Her goal goes beyond appearance.

"I want to show people that they are beautifully and wonderfully created and help them to that in themselves."

Emma looks ahead with faith and excitement.

"I'm excited to see what adventures God has in store for me and how He will have me help people."

She stays involved outside of school by helping with a youth group, attending weekly Bible study, and cleaning house for a neighbor when needed. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, playing guitar, dancing, and spending time with family and friends.

"The Pioneer Scholarship helped a lot with

affording my education and because it helped with tuition," Emma said. "I was able to set some money aside to start saving for things I will need after school when I'm in a salon."

Emma considers one of her biggest accomplishments to be "being a light at school and for the most part getting along with everyone."

She recently stepped outside her comfort zone to become an APR (Autry Professional Representative). Through that, she became eligible to be a tech-fluencer, creating social media content for the school, which helped her grow in time management, creativity, teamwork, and communication.

Her biggest challenge has been "overcoming my perfectionism and not being so hard on myself," something she continues to work on with the support of her teacher, family, and friends.

"Never be afraid to ask questions and always be open to leaning more and more, you will never get to a point where you 'know it all.' Be open to the opportunities around you and have the courage to just go for it, try something new, and make memories. Your time in school is too short to just survive through it, be intentional about making it count."



Calin Martin • District 6 • Comanche

Calin attends OSU Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, where he is currently studying Bachelor of Technology in Applied Industry Leadership online. He plans to graduate at the end of 2026.

"I chose Bachelor of Technology because I recently graduated from OSUIT with my Associates in Applied Science in General Motors ASEP," Calin said. "A few weeks before graduation, my instructor told my class about the online Bachelors program that OSUIT offers to further our education."

The program was an accelerated Bachelors program that would let him take Bachelor courses online, so he'd be able to work while continuing his education.

"This sounded like a great opportunity for me to earn my Bachelors and give me more options in the future, if I ever decide to work in a management role."

Calin is currently working as a GM technician at a local dealership.

"I am enjoying my job and recently started working on jobs on my own, after working with a mentor for over two years." His goal in the field is clear: "My goal is to diagnosis, trouble shoot and repair any vehicles and make customers satisfied with my work and recommend me to others."

Calin is always looking to the future.

"I am excited to see what opportunities my Bachelor degree offers me in the future," Calin said. "I love being a mechanic and fixing vehicles that have mechanical issues. This degree will give me many options in my field."

The Pioneer Scholarship has made a big difference in his college journey.

"The Pioneer Scholarship helps me by being able to help pay for my college tuition, fees and books. My college is set-up on a Trimester, so I have 3 Semesters each year to pay for," Calin said. "My goal is to graduate debt-free from college expenses and this scholarship helps me achieve this, while continuing to work full-time."

Calin has had to learn how to balance work, life, and school, so he's proud of earning honors and being invited into Phi Theta Kappa.

"Don't think that you have to attend a 4-year college or university after high school. Look into all your options. Visit as many colleges/technical schools as you can and find the one that is the best fit for you. You never know what opportunities are out there until you look. I never thought I would earn a degree, let alone be working on a Bachelor's degree while working full-time. Dream big!"

Pizza Squash Pie

ingredients

4 c.	zucchini or yellow squash, sliced into rounds
1	chopped onion
1 lb.	sausage or hamburger, crumbled and browned
1 tsp.	parsley flakes
1.5 tsp.	garlic pepper
2 tsp.	Italian seasoning
to taste	salt
2 sm. cans	tomato paste
1 pkg.	crescent rolls
to taste	mustard
1	egg
8 oz.	mozzarella cheese, shredded

1. Cook squash and onions, 10–15 minutes in butter or vegetable oil. Set aside.
2. Brown hamburger.
3. Add squash/onions, tomato paste, garlic pepper, parsley and Italian seasoning, mix well.
4. Spread crescent rolls in a 9 x 9 pan.
5. Spread a big squirt of mustard on the crescent rolls.
6. Beat 1 egg and mix with the shredded mozzarella cheese. Add to squash mixture. Mix well.
7. Spread on top of crescent rolls.
8. You can add extra cheese on top.
9. Bake at 350° for 18–20 minutes.



Sheila and her husband, Pat!



Where did you find this recipe?

“I honestly don't have a clue where I got the recipe!”

What is your favorite thing about this recipe?

“We always make it in the summer with fresh squash or zucchini we grow or get from friends!”

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

“I use dill mustard that I order from Amazon instead of just regular mustard but either is fine.”



-Sheila Luedders, Kingfisher

Have a recipe or story idea to share?

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





25+ YEARS ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Betty Bateman - Garber

Celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary January 20.
They have three children and five grandchildren.

Stan & Maryjac Rauh - Okeene

Celebrated their 56th Wedding Anniversary January 26.
They have three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Harland & Karen Schweitzer - Calumet

Celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary February 11.
They have two children, four grandchildren and spouses, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jennings - Blanchard

Celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary April 19.
They have five children, 14 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Greg & Linda Ray - Blanchard

Celebrate their 41st Wedding Anniversary June 6.
They have three children and five grandchildren.

Clark & Betty Paxton - Tuttle

Celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary July 2.
They have three children, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

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Celebrate their 54th Wedding Anniversary September 30.
They have three sons, two daughters-in-law, two granddaughters, and five grandsons.

Happy Anniversary from all of us at Pioneer!

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