

# GOPIIONEER

SEPTEMBER 2024



## FOCUS ON.

Ardor Solutions

PG. 07

## Say Goodbye to DIY Drama

Learn more about Pioneer's new  
product: Arlo Secure.

PG. 09

## DIGITAL PARENTING 101:

**3** Key Stories  
to help you  
protect and educate  
your kids in a digital age.

Begins on PG. 01

# Letters from **LEADERS**

*Brenda Walta - VP Finance & Administration*

As students enter the new school year, the telecommunications industry is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital tools and remote learning, making robust and reliable broadband services more critical than ever.

Many years ago, before the internet existed, getting a snow day or bad weather day out of school was the “ultimate”. Naturally, school was not canceled until the morning of, but it didn’t matter. It was awesome to stay home, miss school, no new assignments, and if we were lucky enough, play in the snow. Today, it is much different. Schools declare a remote learning day due to potential bad weather. Students still get assignments and need the internet to participate in remote learning or prepare assignments. This has made a significant change in education.

Pioneer has responded by enhancing our infrastructure to provide faster and more reliable internet connections. During the latter part of 2016, Pioneer elected to participate in a government program called Alternative Connect America Model (ACAM). This program was so successful pushing fiber out to those unserved and under-served, the government offered a new program called Enhanced ACAM (E-ACAM) in 2023. E-ACAM required providing broadband to 100% of the locations within Pioneer’s telco footprint by 2028. Pioneer elected E-ACAM in late 2023. Pioneer’s current build-out schedule should be completed in four years or less, which is ahead of schedule. Over 77% of Pioneer’s customers have fiber broadband today. Pioneer continues to work diligently pushing fiber out to all the other subscribers. This includes expanding broadband access and in most cases fiber broadband to all Pioneer exchanges, ensuring that students from all our schools have the opportunity to participate in virtual learning and can utilize the internet to assist with their education.

Affordability can be a significant barrier to digital education. To address this, Pioneer continues to offer Lifeline Support, which subsidizes internet plans for families meeting the qualifications established by the FCC. This support can be a monthly discount up to \$34.25 per month for eligible subscribers living on Tribal lands. Much of Pioneer’s service territory is considered Tribal lands, providing a great discount to our qualifying subscribers. Programs such as Lifeline ensures that financial constraints do not hinder a student’s ability to access quality education.

In conclusion, as students return to school, Pioneer and the telecommunications industry is at the forefront of ensuring that education is accessible, engaging, and secure. By enhancing connectivity, supporting innovative platforms, making technology affordable, and prioritizing cybersecurity, Pioneer is not only meeting the current demands but also paving the way for the future of education. Here’s wishing everyone an amazing school year!



## 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.

## Contact Us



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## Topic of September 2024:

**Back to School: Prepare the  
Tech!**

In this issue of GoPioneer, we’re wanting to help you prepare and educate your kids this school year. Discover how to foster healthy tech habits at home, decode the digital lingo every parent needs to know, and more. Our mission is to keep you informed and prepared.

Whether you’re curious about the evolving role of technology in our lives or looking for ways to balance screen time with real-life activities, this issue is packed with practical advice, expert tips, and inspiring stories to help you and your family thrive in 2024.

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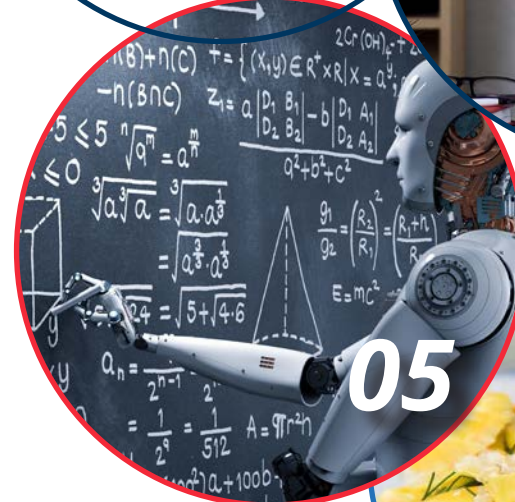
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# BUILDING DIGITAL LITERACY

## *Raising Digital Citizens: Teaching Responsible Online Behavior*

### BEGINNER'S CHECKLIST FOR TEACHING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP:

#### ■ Set Clear Rules About Online Behavior:

- Establish guidelines for acceptable online conduct.
- Discuss the consequences of inappropriate behavior.

#### ■ Discuss the Importance of Respecting Others' Privacy:

- Explain why personal information should be kept private.
- Teach them to respect others' privacy and not share others' information without consent.

#### ■ Educate About the Permanence of Digital Footprints:

- Highlight that online posts and actions can be permanent.
- Discuss how digital footprints can affect future opportunities.

#### ■ Teach Recognition and Handling of Cyberbullying:

- Help your child identify signs of cyberbullying.
- Provide strategies for dealing with cyberbullying, such as reporting and blocking.

#### ■ Encourage Open Communication About Online Experiences:

- Create a safe environment for your child to share their online experiences.
- Be approachable and non-judgmental to foster trust and openness.

It's undeniable that the internet is, and will continue to be, a prominent part of the lives of younger generations. This makes teaching kids about online safety and responsible behavior more important than ever. Over the years, I've noticed a drastic shift in the kind of information "kids" (ranging from super young (kids) to young adults (18+)) share online. When I was younger, my parents really emphasized the importance of 'stranger danger' and ensuring that I was safe online. They taught me not to give out any personal information, and to always be wary of people sliding into my DM's (direct messages), which keeps me cautious and aware today.

Nowadays, I've seen that change. There's not a lot of fear in the current sphere of internet life. Kids today often include all sorts of personal information in their bios on social media, and make posts that reveal far too much. It's not uncommon to see profiles with full names, locations, their school names, phone numbers, sexual orientation, and so much more—it's a concern that's super concerning, particularly for young kids, because it exposes children to potential dangers and breaches of privacy.

As a parent—or even just an adult with a young kid in their lives—it's crucial to adapt to these changes and continue to educate younger people about the risks of sharing personal information online. The internet has become a much scarier place in the last ten to fifteen years, and we need to guild kids so that they understand that the internet is both very public, and anything shared could be used against you.

### COOL RESOURCES TO KNOW:

#### BE INTERNET AWESOME BY GOOGLE

Be Internet Awesome is a program that includes a fun (and free!) web-based games called Interland that teaches kids how to be safe and responsible explorers online. There are also plenty of conversation guides to help families tackle tough conversations.

#### COMMONSENSEMEDIA .ORG

Common Sense Media is a non-profit who's mission is to ensure that digital and media experience contribute positively to children's development. Their website has things like: media reviews and content appropriateness, digital literacy and citizenship resources, parenting advice from researchers and experts, advocacy for policies that protect children, and much more!

# NAVIGATING ONLINE INTERACTIONS:

*It's important to provide children with realistic examples of what they may face online... even if the interactions may be obvious to you. Understanding both positive and negative interactions can help kids navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. Here are some common scenarios and how to handle them:*

## POSITIVE ONLINE INTERACTION

### **Supportive Comments:**

**Example:** A teenager posts about their school project on social media, and friends leave encouraging comments like, "Great job! Your project looks amazing!" or "You're so talented! Keep up the good work."

**How Someone Could Respond:** "Thank you! I'm really proud of how it turned out," or just like/love the comment.

**Impact:** Encourages a positive and supportive online community, boosting the poster's confidence and sense of belonging.

## NEGATIVE ONLINE INTERACTION

### **Sharing Inappropriate Content:**

**Example:** A teenager shares explicit images or videos on their social media profile or in a group chat.

**How Someone Could Respond:** When finding content like this, particularly if the one that sees it is a minor, it's important that they know they should: report the content to the website and tell a trusted adult what they saw.

**Impact:** Can have long-term consequences, including damage to reputation, potential legal issues, and exposure to online predators.

## POSITIVE ONLINE INTERACTION

### **Respectful Disagreements:**

**Example:** Two users have a different opinion on a topic, but they engage in a respectful discussion, acknowledging each other's points and sharing their views without resorting to insults or personal attacks.

**How Someone Could Respond:** "I see your point, but I think this way because..." OR just leave the post alone! It is okay to back out of a confrontation, especially online.

**Impact:** Fosters a healthy exchange of ideas and teaches the value of respectful communication even when opinions differ.

## NEGATIVE ONLINE INTERACTION

### **Online Harassment:**

**Example:** Someone repeatedly sends threatening or harassing messages to another user, either through social media, email, or messaging apps.

**How Someone Could Respond:** "I'm blocking and reporting these messages."

**Impact:** Creates a hostile online environment, leading to fear, anxiety, and a reluctance to engage in online activities.

## NEGATIVE ONLINE INTERACTION

### **Spreading Misinformation:**

**Example:** Someone shares a false news article or misleading information about a serious topic, and others believe it without verifying the facts.

**How Someone Could Respond:** They can comment something like: "This information isn't accurate. Please check the facts before sharing." They could also just choose not to engage or, on some platforms, they can report it for being misinformation and the website will add a community note that marks it as such.

**Impact:** Contributes to the spread of false information, creating confusion and potentially causing harm depending on the content.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT NOTE:

One of the best and most important things you can do when discussing online presence with children of any age, *is create an open, kind, and safe space.* Encourage kids to share their online experiences without fear of judgment. Being approachable and supportive will help them feel secure and confident and make it more likely that they'll tell you when something made them uncomfortable or upset.

# Fostering HEALTHY Tech Habits at Home

No matter what your feelings about the internet are, it's an undeniable fact that kids need to be online. Schools now have digital school days, some even assign projects that are completely online, and many provide students with laptops. Barring a complete and utter blackout, it's unlikely that kids will grow up in a world without a constant online presence. However, this just makes it more important than ever for parents to be informed about current trends and internet-happenings, and to help children create a balanced relationship with technology.

Here are five practical tips to help foster healthy tech habits at home:

## Set Screen Time Boundaries:

Establish clear rules about how much time your child can spend on screens daily. Use tools like Life360 and Bark to help enforce these limits.

## Model Good Behavior:

Children often mimic their parents' behavior. Show them the importance of taking breaks from screens by practicing what you preach.

## Encourage Offline Activities:

Promote hobbies and activities that don't involve screens, like reading, sports, or family game nights, to ensure a well-rounded lifestyle.

## Tech-Free Zones:

Designate certain areas in your home, such as the dining room or bedrooms, as tech-free zones to encourage family interaction and better sleep habits.

## Open Dialogue:

Maintain open communication about the apps and websites your child uses. Encourage them to share their online experiences and concerns with you.

Parenting in a world that's gone completely digital isn't easy, but investing the time to educate yourself is worth it to help raise responsible kids who have a healthy relationship with the internet!

*Check out a few essential apps and key terms you need to know on the rest of this spread!*

## EMPOWER YOUR PARENTING With These Essential Apps



### LIFE360

Life360 is a family safety and location-sharing app designed to keep families connected and secure.

**What It Can Do:** Life360 offers real-time location tracking, driving reports, and safety alerts. It also provides features like location history, emergency assistance, and a private family map where family members can share their whereabouts.

#### Free Plan:

*Basic location sharing, two days of location history, and two Place Alerts.*

#### Gold Plan:

*\$14.99 per month. Includes everything in the free plan, plus 30 days of location history, unlimited Place Alerts, crash detection, SOS alerts, and roadside assistance (up to 5 miles).*

#### Platinum Plan:

*\$24.99 per month. Includes all Gold Plan features, plus stolen phone protection, ID theft protection, disaster response, medical assistance, travel support, and roadside assistance with towing up to 50 miles.*



### BARK

Bark is a monitoring app that keeps track of text messages, emails, and social media activities for potential safety concerns. Bark is constantly analyzing conversations for signs of cyberbullying, online predators, suicide idealization, and adult content, and sends alerts to parents any time it finds one of these issues. The great part of this app is that it doesn't allow parents to see anything and everything a child does, providing kids' with privacy while also keeping them safe.

*You can save money by signing up with Pioneer for just \$12/month! Visit [GoPioneer.com/bark](https://GoPioneer.com/bark) for more information.*

# A PARENT'S ONLINE DICTIONARY

## Key Terms and Concepts Parents Should Know.

*It's important that parents and guardians stay informed about online activities and trends their children might encounter. Here are some key terms and concepts that can help parents monitor and guide their kids' online behavior.*

### Finsta (Fake Instagram)

A secondary Instagram account where users, typically teenagers, share more personal or candid content with a select group of friends. While a Finsta can be a way for kids to share with trusted friends, it can also be a space where they post risky or inappropriate content away from parental supervision.

### DMs

AKA, Direct Messages. These are private messages directly between users on a social media platform. DMs can be used for private conversations that parents might not be aware of, including inappropriate or unsafe interactions.

### Geotagging

Adding location data to posts and photos shared online. Most smart devices will automatically add this information to their photos, and it will travel with the photo when posted online to social media.

### Doxxing

Publishing private or identifying information about an individual online, typically with malicious intent. Doxxing can be the release of any information about a person, but it's most commonly used to out a person's location to intimidate or threaten.

### Deepfakes

Artificially manipulated videos or audio recordings that appear real. This are becoming more and more common with the adoption of AI Deepfakes can be used to deceive and manipulate, potentially leading to serious reputational damage.

### VPN

A Virtual Private Network is a service that encrypts your internet connection and hides your IP address. It helps protect privacy and is typically used on public Wi-Fi networks.

### Memes

Images, videos, or text that are humorous and widely shared across the internet. They're often harmless, but can spread harmful stereotypes or misinformation.



### Subtweeting

Posting about someone on social media without mentioning their name, often to criticize or mock them. This is usually done by not putting the @ sign in front, so the user isn't notified, but still talking about them.

### Ghosting

Suddenly cutting off all communication with someone without explanation. Ghosting can affect a child's social relationships and emotional well-being, whether they are the victim or the perpetrator.

# AI IS **UNDERMINING** YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

AI generators like ChatGPT are becoming more common in both educational and everyday life. While this technology can offer great benefits, the use by children and students can have a significant drawback, particularly when it comes to their learning processes and development.

ChatGPT (and other AI tools) are being used by students in schools for a variety of tasks. With the AI software being free, and more advanced versions being around \$20/month, students are using them to write assignments, generate ideas, or even solve more complex problems. These tools can be great for providing quick answers and assisting with drafting essays or content creation, which may seem super beneficial at a first glance. However, the convenience of AI tools can come at a high cost to a child's learning or cognitive development.

Many experts and educators are afraid of students becoming over-reliant on AI. Over-reliance happens when users accept AI-generated content without question, which is particularly concerning if they completely trust AI-models.

Here are four major areas where a child relying on ChatGPT can suffer:

## **Erosion of Critical Thinking Skills:**

According to a study by Zhai et al., the regular utilization of AI-systems for academia (like generating ideas or writing essays) has been linked to a decline in cognitive abilities, a diminished capacity for information retention, and an increasing reliance on AI systems for information. In a study that focused on the concerns of over-reliance and diminished critical thinking skills, Krullars et al. (2023) argues that the over-reliance on AI dialogue systems could diminish student's drives and commitment to learning when they rely too much on them instead of participating in a learning environment. By using AI, students will lose the opportunity to engage deeply with the material and think independently.

## **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:**

The ability of AI tools to produce well-written text has raised concerns about plagiarism. Some students may be tempted to pass off AI-generated content as their own, leading to issues of academic dishonesty and a lack of genuine learning. Because of this, some schools have banned the use of ChatGPT and other generative AI tools on their networks and others have updated their policies and handbooks to redefine 'cheating.' (EdTech Magazine, 2023).

## **Dependence on Technology:**

Over-reliance on AI can lead to a dependency that diminishes students' abilities to perform tasks without technology assistance. This dependency can be detrimental in situations where critical thinking and original thought are required and could lead to a major disadvantage when they later enter the workforce (MDPI, 2023).

## **Bias and Misinformation:**

AI tools are trained on vast datasets that may contain biases. This can result in biased outputs or the distribution of incorrect information, which can mislead students and impact their understanding of topics or lead them to be suspected of cheating under school regulations/rules. (EdTech Magazine, 2023).

While AI can be an awesome way to assist learning or cutting out the more 'mundane' work, the use of AI needs careful consideration so that it doesn't undermine a student's educational development. Educators AND parents need to make sure that these tools are used as... well, tools! Encourage your students to think critically and educate them on the downsides and proper uses of AI tools like ChatGPT. Fostering independent problem-solving skills are essential of raising well-rounded and capable future-adults!

## **SOURCES:**

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# 5 ESSENTIAL LESSONS FOR KIDS USING AI

## 1 MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE LIMITATIONS

Explain that AI isn't perfect and can sometimes provide incorrect or biased information. Encouraging your child to cross-check any facts AI may give them with multiple resources is a safe bet, particularly if they are using it as a research resource or starting point. Teaching your child (of any age!) to ask, "How does AI know this?" isn't a bad place to start, because it will help create a habit of questioning information sources.

## 2 AI IS A TOOL, NOT A CRUTCH

Encourage your child to use AI for assistance, but remind them of how important it is for them to do their own critical thinking and problem-solving. Actively using and building on their knowledge and resources will help them develop strong cognitive skills and ensure they don't grow over-reliant on technology.

## 3 RECOGNIZE AND AVOID PLAGIARISM

Teach your child that passing off AI-generated content as their own work is plagiarism. While it's not terrible to use AI to brainstorm or get ideas, it's always best for them to do their own research and put things into their own words.

## 4 PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Educate your kid on the importance of keeping personal information private, especially when using an online AI program. This could be private information about them OR sensitive information about clients/friends/other individuals.

Even though AI models like ChatGPT are 'just computers,' they do save and learn from the information given, which means information they give out could be spat out on the other end to a stranger.

## 5 FOSTER CREATIVITY

Teach them that AI is a great way to help enhance their creativity, rather than replace it! AI is fantastic for generating ideas or working through a particular problem or project, but it should be your child that actually brings the ideas to life.

## PRO-TIP:

### **Treat AI Like a Friend for Ideas!**

Think of AI as a friend you bounce ideas off of. Just like a friend might give you suggestions, share some feedback, or say, "Hey, I heard this once," you always need to double-check what they say.

Why? Because, just like with a friend, it's important to verify the information, make sure it's accurate, and see if it fits with what you need. AI can be super helpful for brainstorming and getting new ideas, but your judgment and research are what make those ideas... well, ideas!

# Building a Legacy: The Ardor Solutions Journey

*How Passion, Precision, and Perseverance Turned a Simple Idea into a Respected Industry Leader*

**W**hat started as a simple idea fueled by frustration has grown into a respected name in industrial coatings and polished concrete. Tommy and Tammy Clay's Ardor Solutions is more than a business; it's a legacy built on passion and precision.

Tommy was working with a contractor on network integration in Tennessee and similar areas, when he heard the call to head home.

"My dad's health had gotten bad," Tommy said. "When I went home for my summer visit, he'd said 'hey, I'm really worried about what happens to this company and your mom if something happens to me,' and I said, 'all you have to do is ask,' and I came back to work with him."

Tommy would work with his dad at his commercial painting business for about five years and help grow the company from 1.5 to six and a half million a year, but it wasn't all great.

"I was very tired of commercial painting. It always felt as if you're the lowest of low. There's no licensing in Oklahoma, so anyone can pick up a brush, spray rig, and go paint, so you're fighting against everybody," Tommy said. "General contractors [GCs] would

really put you in tough spots and make you come in and do work outside your scope and that really cut into margins. I felt like all I did was argue on the phone all day."

Tommy would hit his tipping point while working on the Compsource Building in Oklahoma almost 22 years ago.

"They had this area cordoned off for the flooring guys and I needed to get a 30-foot boom lift to do touch up around the skylight. I was trying to get in the area, and there was no one there, they're not even in the parking lot, and would take me 15 minutes," Tommy said. "The GC's like 'can't do it. If they show up and you're in there, they'll pack up and go and I don't know when I'll get them back.'"

Tommy decided that he wanted that kind of sway. His father wasn't interested in creating a division in his company for flooring, so Tommy and Tammy "took all their savings, 401K, cashed in, and started Ardor Solutions."

"It was just her and I. I bought a shot blaster and some grinders and got to work. In the beginning I was mainly doing contract work for other larger contractors," Tommy said. "I had a friendly contractor in Dallas, that turned down small work that he didn't

have any desire to do, so a helper and I went down, and we'd spend two to three weeks doing minimal jobs. We just grew from there."

## **Building a Foundation**

Ardor Solutions was small fish in a big pond when they started, so they "had to take the work that nobody else would take."

"For a lack of better words, we got dirty in that world. We took on the very hard, arduous work that the other guys didn't want to do and created a reputation for ourselves," Tommy said.

Tommy describes the world he'd entered as the 'Wild West,' because polished concrete had no set standards or rules. However, after about two years in the business, polished concrete 'started its evolution in the U.S.'

"We were fortunate that when we started in that industry, it was in that beginning phase and that we've been able to grow with it," Tommy said. "I've been fortunate enough to be heavily involved in creating the standards across the country."

Tommy has been a part of the Concrete Polishing Association of America. They were the lead in setting standards in a very unregulated industry. Eventually it was picked up by American Society of Concrete Contractors and now goes by the name of Concrete Polishing Council. He helped create curriculum for training, sat on the board as education chair, and taught 'all over the country' and in China.

With time came a lot of success for Ardor Solutions.

"We've just grown... we try to stick to the philosophy of 'do what you say, when you say, and be honest,'" Tommy said. "We've won national recognition awards that we're real proud of. We did the Crayola experience in Orlando, Florida, and national recognition for the Jackson High School in Missouri we just try and keep moving."

Tommy and Tammy don't take credit for all the success. They know the work 'isn't easy' and they're thankful for

*Flooring project by Ardor Solutions which helped transform the historic Fred Jones building into the luxurious 21C Hotel in Downtown OKC.*





*Award-winning polished flooring at the Crayola Experience in Orlando as created by Ardor Solutions.*

every employee, past or present, that has worked for them.

“I’ve got employees here that have been with me almost since day one. The Morales brothers have been with me 19 years, and we’re in our 20th year. We probably have a core of 10 that have been, on average, with us over 12 years now,” Tommy said. “We’ve been extremely fortunate to have some phenomenal long-term employees that have helped us grow the way we have.”

The employees of Ardor Solutions aren’t just hard workers, but artisans.

“I ask the guys all the time ‘Are you proud of that?’” Tommy said. “I tell them that they are craftsmen and you need to be proud of the workmanship you provide. You’re not just standing behind a grinder. How you show up and how you leave a job site is what has built our reputation, and I tell my guys to be proud of that, that it’s not me that does that, it’s them.”

### **Looking Ahead**

Despite their success, Ardor Solutions has had several challenges.

“One thing you learn when you’re dealing with commercial industrial work, is there are more businesses that are bankrupt because they’re too successful than not being successful enough,” Tommy said. “And so, what I mean by that, is you can take on more and you can be successful and make money on everything you do, but if you’re not able to manage that cash flow, as that growth goes, you go bankrupt, because you don’t have money to pay anything, but on the books, you’re showing a nice profit.”

Tommy said it took them about six years to get to the point where they had to look for help, and those years were “scary.”

“You had no net to help catch you and I learned that you need to create banking relationships while you’re a healthy company, not a needy company,” Tommy said. “When you’re healthy, they want to throw the world at you, but if you go to them in the beginning saying, ‘I need help,’ they say, ‘we can’t do that.’”

The team has had steady growth for almost 20 years, in ways that they hadn’t

expected.

“When we started, my vision was to be a solution-based company. We didn’t have a reputation, and if there was a problem, I wanted to be the one who could find the solution for it,” Tommy said. “We’re very proud of how far we’ve come and that we had the equipment and manpower and assets to be able to jump when everyone said to jump.”

The Clays aren’t planning to go anywhere any time soon, but as they continue to build their legacy, they hope to build a name that lasts.

“I want us to be remembered for a company that puts out exceptional quality of work and that is honest about what they do and how they do it. We want to be a company that people can depend on,” Tommy said.

# Say Goodbye to **DIY DRAMA**

Pioneer's Arlo Secure Makes Home Cameras Easy!



At Pioneer, we understand that your home is more than just a place—it's your sanctuary. That's why we're excited to introduce Arlo Secure, the ultimate smart home security system that not only keeps an eye on your home but does it with style, sophistication, and zero stress on your part.

Let's face it, you could buy a security camera set online, struggle to install it yourself, and cross your fingers that it works—or you could let the experts at Pioneer handle it all for you. Here's why you should leave your home security to the pros and enjoy the full Arlo Secure experience.

Imagine this: You're sitting in your living room, enjoying your favorite show, when you get an alert on your phone. But this isn't just any alert—Arlo's high-resolution video shows you exactly who (or what) is at your door in stunning 2K resolution. Whether it's a package, a friendly neighbor, or that stray cat that's been wandering around, you'll know instantly, thanks to Arlo's AI object detection and customizable cloud activity zones.

But what really sets Pioneer's Arlo Secure apart? Pioneer's professional installation and maintenance service. No more guessing which wire goes where or worrying about whether you did it right. Our experienced technicians handle everything, ensuring your system is set up perfectly from day one and continues to work flawlessly.

With Arlo Secure, you're not just getting a top-of-the-line security system; you're also getting the peace of mind that comes with knowing your system is backed by local experts who care about your community. And because Arlo Secure integrates seamlessly with your Pioneer Fiber or Fixed Wireless Internet, you'll have lightning-fast access to all your video feeds, no matter where you are.

So, why settle for a DIY option when you can have the full Pioneer experience? Skip the stress and get the best—Arlo Secure is here to keep your home safe, smart, and secure, all with the expert touch that only Pioneer can provide.



Arlo Doorbell



Outdoor Essential 2 Camera

*With up to 15 cameras and professional installation, Pioneer helps you build a package that truly makes your sanctuary safe and secure!*

- Professionally Installed
  - No Service Commitment
  - Self-Monitored
  - 2K Resolution
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**Lanie Bowles**  
District 1  
Buffalo

Lanie is an Accounting major at the University of Central Oklahoma, expected to graduate in May 2026. Her academic journey has been one of exploration and self-discovery, having initially pursued a nursing degree for three semesters before realizing her true interests lay elsewhere.

After a brief period in General Business, Lanie found her passion in Accounting, sparked by her work in an insurance office and further solidified by her current internship at UCO's Office for Advancement, where she works alongside the Senior Director of Operations.

"I started working in an insurance office and decided what I liked about it and what I did well in, which led me to another job at the university," Lanie said. "With this job I have gotten to see a glimpse into the accounting world and I have loved it. I am very analytical so accounting was kind of a perfect fit."

After graduation, Lanie plans to obtain her CPA license and pursue a career in

accounting. She is particularly excited about the financial stability that will allow her to travel—a personal goal she is eager to achieve.

Throughout her college experience, Lanie has juggled both on-campus and off-campus jobs, making work a significant part of her extracurricular activities. Despite the challenges of balancing work and school, she has found time to enjoy hanging out with friends and family, getting her nails done, going to the movies, and shopping.

Reflecting on her journey, she offers this advice to future college students: "Be open-minded and let life lead you where you're supposed to go. If you had asked me a year ago if I'd be here today, I would have said no way because I was so set on nursing school. But now I live by the saying, 'Everything happens for a reason.'"



**Calin Martin**  
District 6 - Tech Scholar  
Comanche

Calin is an aspiring automotive technician pursuing an Associate in Applied Science in General Motors ASEP at OSU Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, with plans to graduate in August 2025.

His passion for automotive repair began at 16 when he purchased his first vehicle, a 2004 Chevy Blazer, which required significant work.

With the guidance of his father, Calin tackled various repairs, from replacing shock absorbers and brake pads to installing his own sound and exhaust systems. This hands-on experience ignited his interest in automotive service, leading him to continue his education at OSUIT.

"I took an Auto Service class my Senior year of high school and really enjoyed the hands-on learning approach and decided I wanted to continue that type of education at OSUIT," Calin said.

After graduation, Calin plans to pursue a career as a GM technician, aiming to diagnose, repair, and maintain vehicles to keep them running smoothly.

His passion for mechanics is driven by the satisfaction of solving complex

issues and making customers happy.

Outside of his studies, Calin is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and is actively gaining experience through his internship at Merit Auto Group, where he works every two months as part of his college program. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hiking, and spending time with friends and family.

"The Pioneer Scholarship helps me by covering some of the costs associated with my tuition, fees, and books," Calin said. "My goal is to graduate debt-free, and this scholarship plays a big part in helping me achieve that."

Reflecting on his academic journey, he advises future college students to consider all their options:

"Don't think that you have to attend a 4-year college or university after high school. There's nothing wrong with attending a Vo-Tech or Technical School," Calin said. "My coursework is tough but rewarding. Visit as many schools as you can and find the one that's the best fit for you."

# Meet Our Pioneer Scholars

# Herbed Summer Squash Salad

## ingredients

- 2 lbs. zucchini and yellow squash
- 1/3 c. fresh dill
- 1/2 c. fresh parsley
- 6 cloves of garlic
- 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1/4 c. vinegar
- 1/4 c. water
- 1/4 c. virgin olive oil
- italian seasoning

*Note: 2 lbs. of squash ~ 2 of each.*

Shred squash using a spiralizer or hand grater. I like mine to be thicker. Mix all other ingredients and stir into the squash. Sprinkle in Italian seasoning or salad seasoning on top and then toss in the bowl. Cover and chill at least 2 hours.



Joy and her husband, Ron.

### Where did you find this recipe?

“In the summertime, when I have friends or family give me fresh garden vegetables, I just made up this recipe from several different recipes. On the 3rd Friday every month, our church has a Rib Dinner to raise funds for our youth program, and I had a neighbor let me pick their garden. I came up with this recipe and got lots of people bragging on it and asking for the recipe.”

### What is your favorite thing about this recipe?

“My favorite thing about this recipe is how easy it is, and you can add to it to make it your own. Some things I have tried are cherry tomatoes, chopped ham pieces, shredded cheese, celery, olives, mushrooms, etc.”

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

“I have used slices but prefer using a spiralizer, which makes it look fancier, and I think it makes it taste better. You can peel them if you do not like the skin or just wash them good, and it gives you that crunchiness which I like, just my personal preference.”

**-Internal Auditor, Joy Trammell**



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## 25+ YEARS ANNIVERSARIES

**Art & Loretta Shepard** - Helena  
Celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary January 11th.  
They have four sons, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**Joe & Colleen Fischer** - Chattanooga  
Celebrated their 72nd Wedding Anniversary January 19th.  
They have two children, four grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 11 daughters-in-law, and a grandson-in-law.

**Bobby & Letha Jones** - Bridge Creek  
Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary February 14th.  
They have three children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Gator & Connie Pyle** - Chickasha  
Celebrated their 43rd Wedding Anniversary April 3rd. They have two children and four grandchildren.

**Thomas & Rhonda Luckinbill** - Blanchard  
Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary May 9th.  
They have three children, 15 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Terry & Denise Ashton** - Waynoka  
Celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary May 19th. They have two children and four grandchildren.

**David & Susan Hollar** - Apache  
Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary May 31st. They have two children and four grandchildren.

**Tommy & Donna Ross** - Newcastle  
Celebrated their 49th Wedding Anniversary June 6th. They have three children, nine grandchildren, and three children-in-law.

**John & Judy Winter**  
Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary July 6th.

**Dale & Reba Bobbitt** - Newcastle  
Celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary July 22nd. They have a son.

**Jim & Trixie Leslie** - Dacoma  
Celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary August 6th. They have two children and three grandchildren.

**David & Rae-Jean Burke** - Mustang  
Celebrated their 48th Wedding Anniversary August 14th. They have two children and four grandsons.

**Blake & Laura Callaham** - Kingfisher  
Celebrated their 27th Wedding Anniversary August 16th. They have two children, a son-in-law, two granddaughters, and a grumpy old cat.

**Richard & Joy Glenn** - Temple  
Celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary October 10th. They have two children, three grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

**Christian & Katie Carnott** - Calumet  
Celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary October 16th. They have two sons.

*The next Magazine will be in October.*

**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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