

Letters from

Jerry Kadavy - Vice President Network Operations

Echoing the "spring cleaning" theme of this issue of GoPioneer, wireless carriers are in the process of some spring cleaning also. You may have heard about CDMA shutdown or 3G (third generation) shutdown. AT&T has announced its 3G shutdown is set for February 2022 and Verizon has announced they will shut down all its 3G sites by the end of 2022. Verizon's announcement is particularly important to Pioneer Cellular subscribers since Verizon is our major nationwide roaming partner.

Wireless carriers are cleaning up their older generation of wireless services to provide greater capacity on their 4G LTE and 5G networks. There is limited amount of radio spectrum wireless carriers can use to provide their services. Although recently some new radio spectrum bands have been allotted to wireless carriers, 3G networks are using a wide swath of the available bands. By shutting down the 3G sites, more spectrum bands can be allocated to 5G services. In addition to reallocating more radio spectrum bands to 5G, the 3G shutdown will reduce the wireless carriers' maintenance, tower lease and energy costs.



Many ask why we have to move to newer generations of wireless technology. 3G networks have been around for about 20 years. In that time, many new technical advancements have occurred that make more efficient use of radio spectrum and electrical power while providing much higher data speeds. The emergence of 4G LTE technology augured in new applications that weren't feasible on older 3G technology like Uber and turn-by-turn navigation in Google Maps. We are at just the beginning of wide-spread 5G deployment which will bring a whole new generation of applications.

VoLTE or voice-over-LTE is the technology that made 3G shutdown a possibility. VoLTE involves digitizing voice into data packets and then sending the packets over the 4G LTE network. There's more to VoLTE than just replacing existing voice service. VoLTE can provide much faster call set up times and higher quality audio especially when calling another VoLTE phone on Pioneer's network.

Older wireless phones may not be capable of using VoLTE technology. Although Pioneer has not set a date to shut down its 3G network, if you have a phone that is not VoLTE capable, you may not be able to make or receive voice calls when you are outside of the Pioneer Cellular service area by the end of this year. To check if your phone is VoLTE capable, go to GoPioneer.com/VoLTE and check the list of VoLTE capable phones. This website also provides instructions on how to enable VoLTE on phones that are capable.

Welcome to GoPioneer!

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 Wi-Fi 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 March 2022:

Spring Cleaning

This month, jumpstart the Spring season by tidying up some of your technology. We all jump to dust off our fan blades or deep clean the walls, but so many people completely forget about cleaning up things like their tech drawers or even their internet presence.

Learn the proper way to Google yourself, how to safely clean your phone (inside and out), and discover much, much more in this 'Spring Cleaning' edition of GoPioneer.

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Spring CLEANING

With National Spring Cleaning Week (beginning the fourth Sunday in March) quickly approaching, some people are dusting off their cleaning to-do lists and hoping to toss their seasonal depression out with the dust bunnies. Most people know the drill—wipe down the windows, clean out closets, tidy up the refrigerator—but many completely forget about their technology.

The next few spreads will help you perfect your spring cleaning list. First up? The dreaded junk drawer. No need to worry, we're all guilty of having a junk drawer of one type or another. Your junk drawer might be a tub or basket...maybe even a purse. The point is, we all throw our "this could come in handy" items somewhere and then, as any busy human does, we forget about it.

So this year, do yourself a favor and take the time to clean out the junk drawer this Spring. Make it a point to remove some of the useless (or easily replaceable) tech items to help decrease clutter and clear up some space!



CLEAN OUT THE JUNK DRAWER

Keep an eye out for:

Extra Charging Cords

We get a new cord with every new piece of technology. No one needs 32 USB-C cords, 16 micro-USB cords, so do yourself a favor and toss all but one or two.

Old Phones

 Let go of that Blackberry already. Even if it does turn on and it "works just as good as the day you bought it", you won't have service at the end of 2022 when 3G networks shut down. Make sure to dispose of it properly by recycling it!

USBs & SD cards

If you've had it in the junk drawer, you probably don't need it anymore. Take a few minutes to glance at the contents and unless it's filled with photos or videos of loved ones, toss it.

Computers

While they might not fit in your junk drawer, you probably have them stuffed in a closet somewhere. Recycle those bad boys. Companies like Best Buy, who recycle computers for free, require their partners to wipe all user data before recycling reusable parts, so there's no need to worry about your personal data!

Old Batteries

If you don't remember putting it there, toss it. Not only is it hard to know if they're good or bad, but it can also be a fire hazard. If you have metal (screwdrivers, scraps, even paper clips) in the drawer and it happens to touch both ends of the same battery, it could cause a spark. There have even been cases of 9-volt batteries starting house fires... yikes! It's best to just toss them (or, preferably, recycle them!) and start fresh.

- MP3 players
- Earbuds
- Rechargable batteries
- Old Tiles/Trackers
- Remotes

PHOTOS & VIDEOS

It's fun to flip through the thousand or so photos I've accumulated (thanks mom and dad;)). However, they do cause a lot of unnecessary clutter. Digitizing your photos could clear up your shelves and help create back-up copies. By converting those old photos to a flash drive or even the Cloud, you make it easier to share them with loved ones and ensure you never lose them in a disaster.

Scan them!

Scanning your photos is the cheapest way to digitize your photos, but it is the most time consuming because it requires you to individually scan dozens, if not hundreds, of photos. If you don't have a scanner at home, don't go out and buy one, there are apps that can help! One of the best available is Google's PhotoScan app, which is free for Apple and Android users (see pg. 8).

Pay for a Premium Service.

Paying a service to digitize your photos can be a little pricey, but it saves you time and guarantees quality! Plus, some companies will even digitize your VHS or Movie Reels (if you have one of those laying around...). If you're wanting to start exploring some options, check out imemories.com. They offer many digitalizing options for photos and VHS tapes starting at 59 cents a photo.

DID YOU KNOW...



YOU CAN RECYCLE TECH FOR FREE AT BEST BUY.

Grab all your old tech and make a trip down to Best Buy this month! Best Buy works with electronics recyclers that adhere to high guidelines and standards. They make sure all customer data is wiped, ensure products do not end up in landfills, and properly dispose of all hazardous material. It's the safe, sustainable way to dispose of your tech!

The best part? It's completely FREE. Many Best Buy stores have bins that accept recycled items like wires, cords, and rechargeable batteries. If you have any questions, or items that aren't intended on the bins, just visit the Customer Service counter.

TOSS THE PHONES & TABLETS

If your kitchen drawer is starting to look like a phone graveyard, it's time to let the old phones go. Lucky for you there are a few ways to toss your phones and tablets without throwing them into the trash bin. (Which, really, you shouldn't do!)

Sell it!

Though some phones aren't worth much, it's always worth taking a look at 'trade-in' values at stores like Best Buy or even your mobile carrier. Pioneer Cellular (and others) will offer trade-ins for their customers! There are many places that will offer you a cash-for-device trade, which helps you tidy up and get some of your money back. It's always worth comparing offers to see who will pay you the most. Some companies, like cell4pets.com, even donate a portion of their proceeds to charity.

Donate it!

If your phone isn't worth much or, in some cases, doesn't even work, you can donate it to organizations like Secure the Call, who takes unwanted cellphones and refurbishes them for at-risk people such as domestic violence victims and seniors. There are many different types of charity organizations like this, so if you're wanting to donate, just search around! It's likely your organization of choice will even pay shipping.

Recycle it!

You should NEVER throw away a cell phone. Cell phones contain toxic metals that can harm the environment and precious metals, silicone, glass, and plastic that can be recycled and reused. If you have a device that no longer works, take the extra step and find a location near you that will recycle it for free.

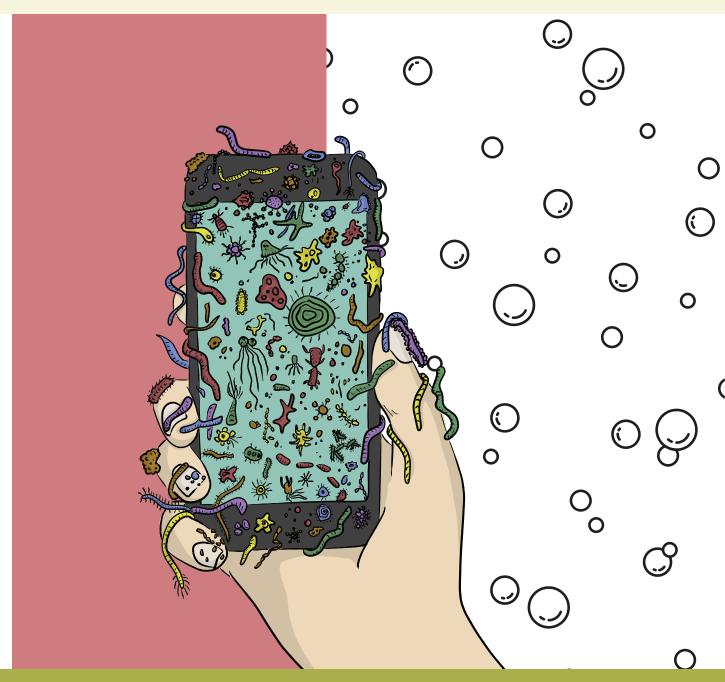
WHAT THEY ACCEPT:

- Battery Backups
- CD/DVD drives
- Desktops
- Hard drives
- Ink/toner cartridges
- Laptop batteries
- Memory
- Tablets
- E-readers

- All-in-one computers
- Cables and connectors
- Computer speakers/controllers
- Laptops (limit of five per day)
- Mice and keyboards
- Modems/routers/hubs
- Web cams
- Netbooks
- Printers

KEEP IT G

SPRING IS A GREAT TIME TO CLEAN YOUR PHONE TOO



our phone travels with you virtually everywhere you go. From your purse, your back pocket, your car, in your kids' sticky hands, to even the bathroom, your phone is always there. There's nothing more annoying than when it lags, crashes unexpectedly, or won't hold a charge. Whether it's loaded down with apps, files, or photos and videos, Spring is a great time to remove the old and welcome in the new.

BACK IT UP

Over the years you accumulate a lot of clutter on your phone. You may take thousands of photos and videos and many, I'm sure, are very near and dear to your heart. This is why it is very important to make sure that your phone is backed up. If you want, you can sign up for a cloud-based storage solution, so you don't have to worry about losing your precious memories if you end up dropping your phone in water or losing the device. This is something you should be taking care of and checking up on every few months, especially if you take a plethora of photos. You can also transfer the data from your phone to a computer to back up your data. Apple has an iCloud service that stores your phone's information, but it may be necessary to pay and upgrade to a larger plan to make sure your data is fully backed up.

DECLUTTER

Another really important thing to keep in mind if you want your phone to be in tip-top shape, and that is to declutter. Take time to go through your applications and figure out which ones can be deleted or removed from your device. Sometimes you download an app for one specific purpose and once that use is over with, there is no need to keep the application on your device. Photos and videos also bog down

your phone and can take up the much-needed space and cause performance issues on your device. When you have time, take a few minutes to go through your camera roll and discard any unnecessary photos. Most of the time I'll take multiple photos at once and only a few of those are any good. So do yourself and your phone a favor, clear out the accidental screenshots, blurry, and blink-filled bad photos you inevitably have. Your phone will thank you!

DOUBLE CHECK YOUR LOCATIONS

Allowing apps to track your location can undoubtedly drain your phones battery. It's definitely necessary for some apps, like Uber or Lyft, but not every app needs to know your location. There are some applications that having locations services turned on is pointless and is only there to collect data and use your battery. If you're on an iPhone go to Settings > Privacy > Location. From there you can choose the apps that you want to have location privileges. On an Android, you get to choose which permissions you grant to apps whenever you download them. If you want to add or remove those permissions, just go to Settings > Apps > Select the app > Permissions.

LAST STEPS

Making sure your phone is up to date is always a good idea. Not only will your phone get security updates and bug fixes, but many times new features will be introduced. These fixes will offer you a better experience overall and help your phone last longer and run faster.

Another last step is to clear your cached data. Cashed data is really helpful because it saves on mobile data and gives you quicker load times. But all that data can build up over time and eventually slow your phone down. The more time you spend online, the more cached data you will accumulate.

DON'T FORGET TO WIPE!

The most important step is to physically clean your phone! Don't forget to remove your phone case and wipe down your phone with a clean cloth. You take your phone with you everywhere you go and it accumulates so much dirt and grime. There's no better time like the present to spruce up your phone inside and out!

Written and Designed by: Blake Baker

TIDY UP **YOUR INTERNET PRESENCE**

If you're like me, your internet presence goes back at least a decade, which means there's quite a lot of photos, posts, and data out there on the internet. Just taking a quick scroll back to some of my first Facebook posts from middle school made me cringe, which mean it was time to tidy up my internet presence.

Most of us live a good portion of our lives online. We share bits of ourselves on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and maybe even Myspace and have for years. The problem with this is that sometimes we forget that the internet is public and we aren't always thinking about what a post or photo may say about us. This is why many employers and companies are looking to Google to find out who, exactly, you are, but it doesn't just stop at the interview stage. In fact, the last few years have had many cases of people being fired for their social media posts, some that have even been from months or even years in the past. This is why you need to be very aware of what information and data of yours is posted online.

Follow some of the steps and guides on this spread and Google yourself before tidying up your internet presence.

70% of employers are snooping through social media profiles.

54% of employers have eliminated a candidate based on Social Media.

Careerbuilder.com



WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR?

Anything that will have an impact on your reputation like:

ABUSIVE CONTENT

If your feed is full of arguments, rants, or 'strongly worded opinions', you may come across as an overly negative person. While social media can be a great place to share your opinions, it might be best to make sure posts like this are private or limit what opinions you post.

ADULT CONTENT

While a picture at the beach isn't a big deal, there's an alarming amount of people that think nothing about posting pictures of themselves in their underwear or less. The internet is a public place and even when you're sharing privately, things can get screenshotted or reposted. As a rule of thumb, don't post anything you wouldn't want your grandma to see.

ILLEGAL CONTENT

Not only could this get your resume swiped right into the recycle bin, but it could also get you a few nights in jail. If authorities see credible evidence for illegal activities, you could be arrested. Think about explaining that slip up to potential employers during a background check... yikes.

OFFENSIVE CONTENT

Racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination should have no place in your life and certainly not on social media. Even if it's "just a joke", sharing or posting something that could be seen as bigotry and be an instant no to employers or even your current employers. Over the last few years there have been dozens (if not more!) people that have been fired from their current jobs due to offensive posts on social media.

PROFANITY

The language you use on social media is usually the type of language you'll use when interacting with coworkers. While the occasional naughty word isn't the end of the world, you don't want a possible employer to stumble across a post or profile that's more profanity than true content.

ogle YOURSELF

Why is my address online?

Many online searches simply aggregate publicly available information. Sites like Whitepages and Instant Checkmate take information from public records such as:

- Voter registration
- Social media accounts
- Google
- Marriage, birth, or death certificates
- Property deeds
- Court reports

What if I find something I don't like?

If you find information you don't want visible online, you have some options. First, determine who posted it. If you posted the information yourself, all you have to do is delete it! If someone else posted it, though, you'll have to ask them to remove the information for you. However, websites like Whitepages are not obligated to take anything down because all the information they have is public record.

How do I get them to take it down?

It is typically very time consuming and difficult to get sites to take the information down. Whitepages, who is one of the largest data brokers in the US, is one of the easiest to remove your data from.

- Go to whitepages.com
- Type your name and city in the search box and click Search
- Scroll until you see your profile with a View Details
 button next to it. Click this button and you'll be taken to
 your listing with your personal information. Note: You will
 likely see a version of your profile first with a View Full Report
 button. Do not click this one, it requires you to pay to access it.
- Copy the URL of your page, then go to the whitepages opt-out page: whitepages.com/suppression-requests and paste the URL of your listing. Click Opt-out.
- Confirm your listing by clicking Remove Me. On the next screen choose "I just want to keep my information private" from the drop-down menu. Click Next.
- Type in your phone number to recieve a verification code.
 Click Call now to Verify, which will give you a verification code.
- Wait for the verification robocall. This took about three seconds for me. Wait for the prompt from the robot and enter your verification code.

Congrats! You are now removed from Whitepages free searches. However, if you want to remove your data from Premium subscribers, you'll need to submit a trouble ticket. See where the "very time consuming and difficult" part comes in?

THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO GOOGLE YOURSELF:

It's time to dust off your Googling skills! To get the most complete and accurate search results, search for things like your name, email address, home and work address, city, and phone number(s)—all written in a variety of ways. It's important to put quotes around your search terms so Google will know to search for the exact phrase.

Try following these examples (with your information of course!) and investigate yourself.

- First and last name:
 - "Jane Doe"
- First, middle, and last name:

"Jane May Doe"

• Last name followed by first name:

"Doe, Jane"

• Last name followed by first and middle name:

"Doe, Jane May"

• First and last name, plus city (outside of quotes):

"Jane Doe" Kingfisher

- Street address:
 - "432 Elm St."
- Street address, plus city (outside of quotes):

"432 Elm St" Kingfisher

- Email address:
 - "janedoe@gmail.com"
- Phone number, plus area code (no spaces or hyphens): "4058889999"

Is there an easier way?

Yes, but it will cost you. The easiest way to get information like this removed is to pay someone else to do it. DeleteMe is one of the leading privacy removal services with an A+ Better Business Bureau rating. They remove your information from all major data broker websites and guarentee to keep it off for a year. Their packages start at \$129/year for one person.

For more information, visit *joindeleteme.com*. They also have a useful DIY opt out guide for almost every data broker site if you choose to remove this information yourself.

TO KEEP THE HOUSE TIDY

Between busy work schedules, the kids sports games, and the general hustle and bustle of our day-to-day lives, house cleaning can easily fall to the back burner. While it might be nice to hire a house cleaner, it's not a typical option for the standard home owner. So who do you call on when you need a little help? Well, maybe a friend or family member, but I like to ask "is there an app for that?". The answer is almost always yes.

On this page, explore a few cool apps that are either free or subscription based that just might help make your day a little easier.

Check these apps out in your designated App Store!





TASKS AND LIST MAKERS

If you're a Google Suite user, Google Tasks is for you. Though there are many different task and list maker apps out there, what makes Google Tasks different is its intergration with other Google Apps like Gmail or the Google Calander. By having Gmail intergrate with tasks, you can turn any email into a Task with just a click, assign it a due date, and add notes for context, so you never slip up on your inbox management. With Calander, any task with a specific due date and/or time show up on your Calendar to help keep you on task. Neat, right?





TOSS THE BUSINESS CARD

If you have a stack of business cards on your desk, in the bottom of your purse, or hidden away in a drawer, then this app is for you. There are many different sorts of business card apps out there, but BizConnect is applauded for it's "near perfect scan accuracy". This app saves contacts to your Outlook or Google contacts, allows you to organize cards in groups or folders, and even export information to Excel. The best part? This app has a free version that allows you to scan 50 cards per day.

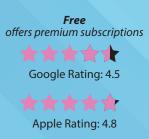




SPLITTING CHORES

Splitting chores can be the worst and not all of us have time to make a full chore chart between roommates or even family. Nipto is a simple app that divides chores and gives you points for completing them. This turns it into a game of who can rack up the most points, which could be used to create a reward system for kids or a goal for roommates. Either way, it's a nice way to get things written down. If you want to build a schedule or set due dates, you'll need to pay for Nipto Premium, which gives you access to other features like tracking chores with Alexa.





DIGITIZING PHOTOS

If you're wanting to digitize your photos without a scanner, PhotoScan is your best bet. This app is simple to use and automatically corrects edges, adjusts perspective, and removes the glare and reflection off photos. The idea behind PhotoScan was to create a photo scanner that worked with existing photo storage and sharing applications like Google Photos, Dropbox, or other cloud storage services. This makes it easy to store and transfer your photos without the exchange of a scanner to a thumb drive and finally computer. Start snapping!





PANTRY STOCK

I hate getting to the store and second guessing what I have at home, because more than likely, I'll buy a 'just in case' item only to find out it's the fourth bottle of cinnamon in my pantry. If you're like me, then you definitely need to check out a pantry app. My favorite is KitchenPal, which tracks what's in your pantry by scanning the bar code and keeps an eye on expiration dates. It also finds recipies with your pantry items, works as a grocery list and much more. Free users can store up to 100 items, but the premium features are worth the \$12 a year.





National Spring Cleaning Week Begins: *March 27th!*

"National Cleaning Week celebrates the importance, value, and positive impact that cleaning has on public health, the environment, and the economy. This week also offers the perfect opportunity to raise public awareness for the value of clean spaces, appreciate front-line cleaning professionals, promote cleaning organizations, and advocate for the cleaning industry."

-National Today. com

A New Way to Give Care: Opportunity and Love

The Center of Family Love sets high standards for disabled care

Written by: Shawn Dillon Staff Writer - Center of Family Love

THE BEGINNING

On the outskirts of Okarche in rural Oklahoma, 1981 was a year of hope for the first 54 residents of the Center of Family Love. The genesis was a small group of Knights of Columbus with disabled children. They had collectively asked a frank, necessary question: what happens to our children when we die? Troubled by the prospect of their children living in stark state institutions, this group banded together with community and raised a million dollars in a yearthe equivalent of 8 million today! From babysitting money to state-wide fundraising efforts, they built a place for those with intellectual and physical disabilities to grow and thrive for the duration of their lives.



As relayed by Debbie Espinosa, President & CEO of the Center of Family Love, "the original gift these Knights of Columbus provided, which remains possible through support of community, has really become a place for our residents to experience the joy

of life." Debbie greets the residents by name as we walk the paths of the Center of Family Love campus, occasionally dodging residents on big tricycles as they ride and smile in the sunshine.

The Center of Family Love has ten residential houses for over 130 residents, with a waiting list of 13 years. Not months, years. That is a true litmus test for the reputation of an organization and the programs they provide. Debbie is accompanied by the Vice President of Philanthropy, Nellie Sanders. "When we both arrived here nearly a decade ago, the concept of doing more than just care, to build hope and dreams and fulfillment was just a cutting-edge concept. No one else was really doing it, especially without charging families a dime," Nellie said. As we meander, Debbie and Nellie greet Shay, a five-year resident who works in the Kristy Lyn's Flowers & Gifts. A friend of the organization recently made Shay's dreams of being a veterinarian come true (see inset). "We have dreams, but I truly believe theirs are bigger," Nellie adds.

Setting the Precedent for Care

The Center of Family Love provides numerous activities and developmental programs to help the residents create and fulfill their dreams. With care requirements ranging from full-time to near-independence, the goal of CFL is to develop the independence and increase







Shay is a five year resident of the Center of Family Love who predominately works in the Wittrock Greenhouse growing microgreens and organizing flower arrangements.

What is your job here at the greenhouse? Flowers. I come in here whenever they need me to and work with flowers, because that's my favorite thing. Yeah, I love doing flowers.

How did you get into doing flower arrangements?

I didn't when I first worked here. It was like one day... they asked, 'Do you want to do a flower arrangement?' And I said, 'Ah! No, no, no, no, no, no flowers.' So the old florist taught me. I would sit down and watch her do flower arrangements and then she eventually taught me how to do them. I actually did a casket a funeral. A coach died here a while back and I did his stand up display for his funeral. I did two of them and it was actually my first time and it was awesome because I have never done any anything with flowers before.

What is your favorite thing about Center of Family Love?

Actually, I really like the people. The staff, the people and clients because they're really sweet and they understand and they take



with Shay

good care of us. If we need anything, we can always go to them. You can count on them to do anything for you.

If you could give someone only one piece of advice, what would it be?

One piece of advice... to just keep loving one another.

What is your least favorite household chore and why?

I don't really have one. I really like doing the dishes because I'm really picky about dishes and I love to use bleach on everything so I do dishes with bleach because that's my favorite thing.

What was one of the coolest things you've done here?

I got to be a vet for a day. It was really fun. I was sitting out here planting and Debbie Espinosa came by. And she was like: 'Did you hear the good news? And I said no. And she said, she told me and and I was so excited. I just have a good connection with animals. It's awesome. Everywhere I go, I just have good connection with animals.

the joy of living for every single resident. "We want to change the trajectory of where this industry has always been, and that has been caregivers," Debbie said. "And that's great, we do want to take care of our residents, but more importantly, we want to expand their minds to develop them to help them to grow to become the best version of themselves possible."

From therapeutic programs like art, ceramics, and ballet, to vocational training, residents are engaged and challenged every day. For those that develop the skills through vocational training to gain employment, there are business partnerships like OEMA, Nortek Air Solutions and First Saturday Lime and careers at organic businesses like Filters for Life and Kristy's Flowers & Gifts. These opportunities provide residents with the independence of earning a paycheck and the fulfillment of a real career. Demonstrating the innovation of this approach, the Farm to Fork program provides both therapy and income; Cattlemen's Steakhouse, among other top Oklahoma City restaurants, buys produce from the Center of Family Love hoop house. As another example, Filters for Life sells resident-made filters to all Oklahoma state agencies and other commercial and private customers, recently certified to manufacture UL rated filters.

None of these opportunities would be possible without the critical involvement of community, from restauranteurs to filter production experts and buyers, from flower and plant patrons to professionals like Dr. Staci Robertson at Nichols Hills Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Robertson hosted Shay for her dream day as a veterinarian. And none are more involved than the original Knights, who have "stayed engaged all these years and they continue every year since our beginning to share our organization with the community as if they are the fathers to our residents," Nellie Sanders said.

Looking to the Future

"The Center of Family Love gets calls from all over the country, asking what our secret is," Debbie told me. Clearly this organization has something good going here, and if they want to "change the trajectory of where this industry is headed," as Debbie laid out the challenge, then they must dream big. And big they have dreamed. The Center of Family Love is building a state-ofthe-art Newfield Community Education Center that will meet the needs of Oklahomans with disabilities, statewide, expanding services to hundreds of individuals and their families. Based upon a holistic wellness model, the beautiful new building (pictured below) will host a range of therapy services, community classes, and business opportunities, all designed to positively impact the Oklahoma intellectually and developmentally disabled population it serves, while creating intersections with the broader community. Therapy and vocational training and services will also lighten the load for those on that long, long waiting list.

How You Can Help

To support this positive organization for change, you make donations by going to cflinc.org or calling 405-263-4658 extension 1009. But support comes in many forms besides just financial. According to Nellie, Dr. Matousek, from the Wheatland veterinarian clinic wants to fund a dog biscuit program where the residents earn a wage while making dog biscuits. "It is the partnerships that we have in these communities right around us that are our greatest supporters." Nellie and Debbie said they are always looking for new partners, business ideas, and of course, volunteers. "I don't think the world sees the opportunities and the advantages that they [the residents] can give to the world," Debbie said. "Their gifts, their talents, they're hidden and we want to change that."

The most important thing to know about the Center of Family Love? "We have dreams, but their dreams are bigger."



Taking You Forwa A Pioneer Fiber Overbuild Upda

What am I looking at?

You're looking at Pioneer's progress and future projects! This is our fiber map, which features completed, current, and future fiber overbuild projects!

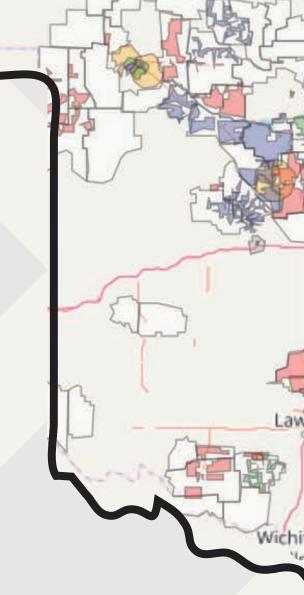
Pioneer's participation in A-CAM, Reconnect and corporate funding of town-overbuild projects currently under construction will bring fiber to nearly 23,000 locations with a committed investment of over \$129 million. Equal access to fiber broadband means rural Americans have equal access to opportunities in today's information age. Fiber brings the opportunity for businesses, families and schools to access information and technology without the need to move away from the communities they love. We're excited to say that we are continuing to expand and cover new areas and invite all of our customers to visit our website and register their interest. The more people that register in your area, the higher the probability that Pioneer will overbuild your Community first. These projects depend on many variables and time lines must be flexible to allow for unforeseen interruptions like weather and working conditions. The entirety of Pioneer's communities will have fiber by 2027.

How do I show my interest or get updates?

Pioneer has a whole web page dedicated to Fiber.

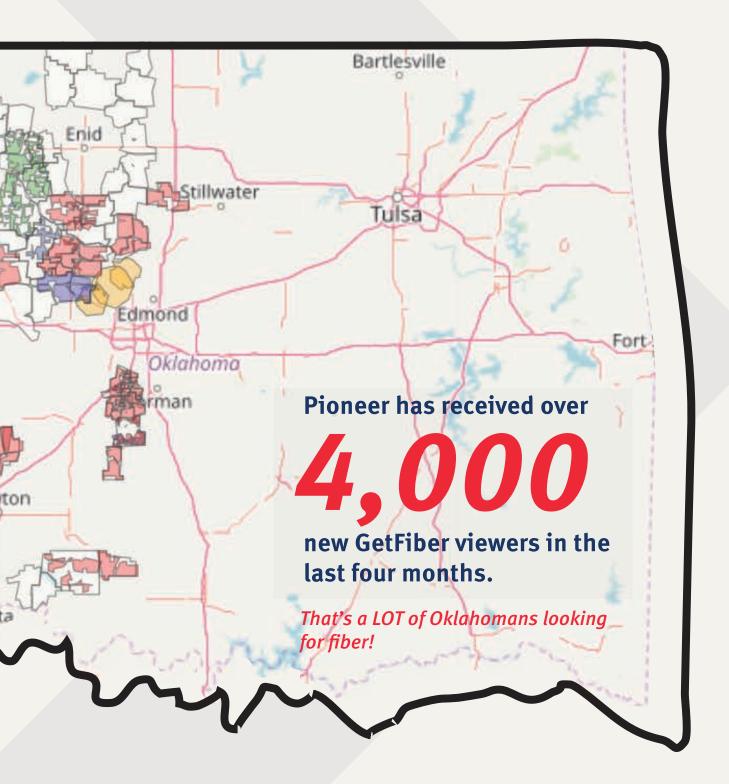
Visit GoPioneer.com and click 'Get Fiber' to:

- View future fiber areas and their progress.
- Sign up and register your address which:
 - » Helps get your community one step closer to being our next location for overbuild
 - » Gives you personalized updates on the fiber in your area
 - » Gives you an estimate on what your pricing would look like for your chosen services





- Fiber available
- In construction
- **Pre-Construction**





When Junior Kade Hicks began his college journey, he was attending Western Oklahoma State College and majoring in biology with every intention of going on to be a Physical Therapist.

"In between my freshman and sophomore years, I really got into music," Kade said. "I've always been someone who could get into music, but I kind of just always put it off. Then, suddenly I realized I had a lot more fun doing music."

Kade received his associate's degree in biology before transferring to Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he began pursuing his true passion.

"I started playing piano when I was eight years old. Then I took lessons all the way up to seventh grade," Kade said. "I also taught myself how to play guitar. I started that last November, so I've got a year of guitar under me."

Kade is already beginning to spread his love of music to others.

I decided I wanted to be happy every day.

"As of right now, I've got a really good job leading worship at a church. And if I can stack on being a choir instructor or director after I graduate and lead that worship, that'd be amazing."

Kade is already working with students who wanted to learn about music by teaching private lessons in guitar and piano.

"I've had a kid asked about voice I'm not sure if I'm going to do it yet. I'm still kind of learning about the voice, but eventually I'll probably do voice too. I have a lot of options."

Kade knows that he made the right choice to go into Education despite the difficulties that might come with the profession.

"When I decided not to do PT, I kind of understood I was taking a big pay cut. But I also understood that I'm going to be a lot happier because regardless of how much money you make, at the end of the day, you lay your head down on on the pillow and you're like; 'Am I happy? Am I sad?'," Kade said. "I decided I wanted to be happy every day."

Kade is responsible for paying for his own school, which is why he's so grateful for the Pioneer scholarship.

"It helps me a lot because I don't have to pick up another job to help pay for school," Kade said. "So I can sit down and focus on playing my guitar and focus on just getting better musically, so I can be more trained to teach people."

Being a good teacher is important to Kade, because it was one of his high school teachers that helped him discover music.

"I was always did sports and stuff in high school, so music kind of always stayed in the background because it wasn't really the cool thing to do," Kade said. "But my choir director heard me singing alone, like all by myself, she was like, 'Oh, my God, you can sing. She kind of forced me to get more involved and even go to State where I got medals for soloist."

He hopes to inspire and help his students like his teacher did for him.

"She really pushed me out of my comfort zone. She helped me to step out of my shadow and do something I love that I had always put behind myself," Kade said. "So I hope to do that for other kids and have them open their eyes and encourage them to do what they love."

Even when Kade isn't giving lessons or doing school work, he's still practicing his instruments.

Even when I'm watching movies, I'll play scales and stuff on my guitar and just jam out, but whenever I need a break, I'm always doing something with my instrument," Kade said. "Whether it's singing and playing or just playing, I'm always doing something with my guitar."

Kade will graduate in May 2023 with a bachelor's in music education. He's not sure what he'll do after, but he hopes to become a choir director somewhere local and begin inspiring students.



What would you name your next pet?

Kurt Cobain. I'm a big Nirvana junkie; freak; addicts, whatever you want to call it.

What do you like as toppings on your ice cream?

Ice cream always has to have chocolate syrup. And then I really like when they have like, the chunky chocolate chips. I'm a chocolate guy. Oh, can't forget the M&M's and whipped cream.

Would you rather own a dragon or be a dragon?

I'd rather own a dragon, but one that answers only to me.

If there were no consequences for a day, what would you do?

This is going to make me seem like a bad person... but I will tell you I would have a full guitar collection.

If you had a remote that has the power to reroute, rewind or fast forward, which one would you press?

Definitely fast forward. [How far?] That's hard. I want to experience everything I'm going through now, which I've never been able to say before, but I guess after I've got my job and I'm settled down. So probably a good six or eight years.

Who is your hero?

It's so hard when I get a hero question, but everything in my life is tied to music. So I would have to say: *Alice In Chains, Nirvana, Pearl Jam,* and the *Foo Fighters*. They all just really helped me these past two years. They're how I learn guitar, so I guess I would call them my heroes.

What do you do in your spare time?

Recently, I've been watching the *Avengers* movies on Disney Plus in timeline order.

What is your favorite gaming console?

I started out on Xbox 360 and I stuck with Xbox from there out. And then I recently just got my PC, so I'm in the middle of switching.

"People always love it."

Do Ahead Potatoes

ingredients

1 5 lb.	bag Yukon Gold potatoes
1 c.	sour cream
1 6-oz.	cream cheese
2 T.	butter (plus extra for top)
2 tsp.	onion salt
1 tsp.	salt
1/4 tsp.	white pepper (or preferred
	pepper)



Peel and cube potatoes; boil until just tender. Drain well and beat. Stir in remaining ingredients.

Spoon into a large buttered baking dish and dot with additional butter, or pour melted butter over top.

Warm in microwave to serve immediately, or cover tightly and refrigerate.

Remove from refrigerator and allow to come to room temperature, then heat in oven at 350° for 30 minutes, or until hot.

Recipe serves 12.

or Julie Broddle, Quality Assurance Specialist in Billing, her 'Do Ahead Potatoes' are the perfect side for a family gathering.

"I found the recipe on an Oklahoma State

"I found the recipe on an Oklahoma State message board. I was obsessed back in the day when my son was in college because he cheered for Oklahoma State, so I was always looking at things," Julie said.

After she found the recipe, Julie found herself using it pretty often when she was cooking a big spread for holidays like Thanksgiving.

"Usually my oven is super full, so this was something I could make ahead and then just pop it in the microwave to heat it up," Julie said. "I always need my oven for other stuff and I don't have a big oven."

Julie thinks this recipe is perfect for family gatherings and she's always had great feedback.

"People always love it. I think it's because it has that twice-baked potato type flavor to it. It's the sour cream and the cream cheese in it," Julie said.

Two recommendations Julie has is to use your mixer to mash the potatoes for that smoother consistency and don't be afraid to try new things. "People can add like green onions if they want to flavor it up a little more," Julie said. "I like to do shredded cheese and all that kind of stuff, so people could do that too. I really should have put that in the original recipe, because they can make it more like a loaded potato that way."

This recipe can be stored in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.



Julie Broddle and her three grandkids.



Share this recipe online. @GoPioneerOK

COMMUNITY EVENTS

APRIL 2022

March 26

Runnin' on a Prayer Retro 5K Run/Walk P-Bar Corn Maze 1002 Old 66 Rd. Hydro, OK 73048

Join us Runnin' On a Prayer will benefit Western Oklahoma Christian School. WOCS is a non-profit school that operates solely on fundraisers, donations, and tuition. The school is located in the communities of Weatherford, Clinton, and Elk City. We will have three different runs to choose from: the One Mile Run Run, the 5K Walk/Run, and a virtual race. Feel free to dress up in 80s style on the day of the race!

Event Hours:

Saturday, March 26

One Mile Fun Run 8:30 a.m. 5K Walk/Run 9:00 a.m.

April 9-10

Book Club Paper Pages Bookstore 117 N. Grand Crescent, OK 73028

Join us at Paper Pages Bookstore for our monthly book club! We have many book clubs: There Be Dragons (fantasy, Sci-Fi, and Dystopian), Tilt the Bottle Turn the Page, and Chapter and Cork are three we currently have scheduled. Follow us on Facebook: Paper Pages Bookstore for all book club dates and events or send us a message if you have any questions!

Event Hours:

Saturday, April 9

There Be Dragons 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 10

Tilt the Bottle Turn the Page 2 p.m. Chapter and Cork 5 p.m.

April 30

Independent Bookstore Day Paper Pages Bookstore 117 N. Grand Crescent, OK 73028

Come out and visit Oklahoma Living Magazine's best bookstore and celebrate Independent Bookstore Day. We will have prizes, giveaways, and much more! Follow the Paper Pages Bookstore Facebook page for more information closer to the date.

Event Hours:

Saturday, April 30 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Pictured: Employees of the Hope Outreach Thrift Store unloading over 30 monitors donated by Pioneer.

PIC OF THE MONTH

To a Good Cause

Pioneer donated more than 23 monitors to the Hope Outreach Thrift Store in Enid, Oklahoma. The organization will sell these proceeds and use them to pay wages and provide services to individuals in Enid and surrounding areas. Their areas of ministry include homeless services, parenting services, transitional housing, community care, and providing opportunities to those struggling to find work because of past experiences. To learn more visit: hopeoutreach.org.

HAVE A LOCAL EVENT COMING UP?

Reach out to GoPioneer Magazine to have your event featured.

Email us at: GoPioneerOK@ptci.com

Please note: we will need to have your dates a month and a half in advance!







David & Kathy Harris - Shattuck - Celebrated their 48th Wedding Anniversary Jan. 18th. They have three daughters, three sons-in-law, four granddaughters, and six grandsons.

Paul & Betty Bateman - Garber- Celebrated their 61st Wedding Anniversary Jan. 20th.

Dean & Karen Berkenbile - Hunter - Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Feb. 19th. They have three children and 10 grandchildren.

Mike & Tamra Gonzalez - Watonga - Celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary Feb. 21st. They have a daughter, two sons, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and eight grandchildren.

Arlyn & Joy Moon - Greenfield - Will Celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary March 11th. They have three daughters, three sons-in-law, five granddaughters, and two grandsons.

John & Billie Cope - Frederick - Will Celebrate their 75th Wedding Anniversary March 22nd. They have three sons, two daughters-in-law, four grandsons, two granddaughters, six great-granddaughters, one great-grandson, and one great-granddaughter.

Kenneth & Roberta Morrison - Will Celebrate their 62nd Wedding Anniversary March 31st. They have a daughter, two sons, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law, two granddaughters, and four grandsons.

Daren & Hope Hamen - Cleo Springs - Will Celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary April 5th. They have three daughters.

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:

Email: Subject: GoPioneer Anniversaries GoPioneerOK@ptci.com