# GOPIONEER



# Lettersfrom

Kim Grellner - Vice President Marketing & Sales

#### Cyber Statistics, an Alarming Impact to Consumers

Consumers continue to utilize the benefits of the internet for shopping, streaming entertainment, connecting with family, gaming and so much more. Without home network protection, these connections to the internet increase the likelihood of being a target of cyberattacks and random probing of vulnerable and unprotected devices on our home networks. The amount of data accessed, utilized and shared across complex networks continues to grow and despite the global efforts to curb the impact of cyber-threats, the statistics indicate growth in the number of threats to consumers each year. As a consumer, I have become more concerned about protecting my personal information while continuing to enjoy the convenience of broadband connectivity.

Pioneer takes cyber security seriously and with the risk of cyber-crime continuing to rise, we have invested in technology to help our customers protect their network from this threat. With GoPioneer Protect SmartWiFi service, malicious website protection, anti-virus and anti-ransomware packet inspection and intrusion detection can help protect your home network. With this application, anything that looks suspicious coming into the home will be automatically blocked. As a customer subscribed to this service, you will have access to a dashboard demonstrating how the service is actively protecting your home network.

You can learn more about protecting your home with the Protect SmartWiFi app on our website at GoPioneer.com. We also have helpful support videos on how to manage your app. Find a link in our support pages at GoPioneer.com. Pioneer can help deliver home network protection and provide peace of mind while you continue to enjoy the benefits of internet access.



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

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

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

#### **Contact Us**



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#### Topic of September 2022:

#### Safety Alert!

When it comes to safety, technology can be a double-edged sword. It's hard to go a day without seeing or hearing about technology being hacked, leaked, or in some extreme cases, destroyed.

This issue of GoPioneer Magazine, we introduce Pioneer's two summer marketing interns who help take you to explore two very important safety topics: password safety and dangerous websites. Enjoy!

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# MEET OUR INTERNS

You might notice a few new names and design styles in the upcoming spreads. Once again, Pioneer was lucky to have two amazing and talented Marketing Associate Interns for the summer! Get to know Chloe and Kyle below and keep an eye out for their designs and stories on the next few pages!

## CHLOE

UCO • Graphic Design • Junior

Hi. My name is Chloe Miller. I'm a junior at the University of Central Oklahoma studying graphic design. Assuming that everything goes according to plan, I will be graduating in May of 2024. While attending UCO, I have become involved in an organization called AIGA. It's an organization that often holds events for students interested in design. Aside from all things design, I do try to keep myself busy doing things that I enjoy. During my free time (when I'm not taking cringy photos or writing cheesy articles about myself), I like to run... at a leisurely pace... also known as walking. It's definitely been a stress reliever for me. This past semester was exciting and terrifying all at the same time. It was the semester that I applied for the design program. I submitted my portfolio at the end of April and after waiting for what felt like the longest three days of my life, I received news that I had officially been accepted into the design program at UCO. Design is something that is important to me, and I'm so happy that I've gotten to work for Pioneer while doing something I love.



Hi everyone! My name is Kyle Schroeder and I am from Okarche, OK. I am currently studying marketing as a senior at Oklahoma State University, planning to graduate in December of 2022. While in school, I have become involved in the data analytics and marketing clubs, and received an Oklahoma State athletics marketing internship. Through these organizations and clubs, I have met so many amazing people and had the opportunity to get hands-on experience in many different fields. In my current position as a marketing intern at Pioneer, I have been able to further myself in areas such as event marketing, public relations, graphic design, and journalism, thanks to all the help and support I have received from Pioneer and its employees. I am planning on taking all these newly learned skills and life lessons into my future career, knowing that I have had the opportunity to become prepared. I am very excited to see what my last semester of school and the future has to offer.

OSU • Marketing • Senior



## PROTECT YOUR HOME

## **Lock Down Your Security Cameras**

So you were lucky enough to score a new set of security cameras on Amazon's Prime Days— sweet! Your home just got a little safer... but not without a few extra steps.

Most of us have read or seen the horror stories involving security cameras and 'mysterious voices' coming from them (if you haven't, a quick Google search is all you need!). This usually happens because someone hacked onto someone's WiFi network and then got access to their security cameras. While this is terrifying to think about, it's actually something that's very easy to avoid.

The most important part to keeping your security cameras... well, secure, is to be proactive! Check out the information on this page and make sure to lock down your cameras and home security!

#### HOW TO TELL IF YOUR CAMERA IS HACKED:

#### 1. THERE'S AN UNUSUAL SOUND FROM THE CAMERA.

Many popular security cameras come with two-way audio streaming which allows owners to listen live audio or speak to those they are watching remotely. Hackers can use this, both accidentally and intentionally, when snooping. If you hear anything unnatural like soft talking or movement, you might be under a cyber attack and need to secure your cameras.

#### 2. YOUR CAMERA IS WORKING SLOWLY

Due to limited memory and small CPUs, hacking can cause cameras to lose efficiency. Hacking can cause the CPU to work harder, making it run slower. If your device has no known hardware issues or isn't outdated, it could mean your camera was hacked. One solution to this issue is to reset your cameras and change your account password.

#### 3. YOUR PASSWORD IS CHANGED

Many apps and websites will send you an email when your password is changed. For accounts like your security system, you should use an email you check regularly. If you get an email saying your password was changed and you didn't do it, it's likely your account was hacked. It's important to click "I didn't make this change" if available on the email and go change your password to your account immediately.

#### HOW TO KEEP YOUR CAMERAS SAFE:

#### 1. KEEP FIRMWARE UP-TO-DATE

Keeping up-to-date on firmware for any electronics is important, especially when it comes something meant to protect your home like security cameras. Updates do quite a bit for you like keeping your data secure. Often updates sent out by the manufacturers are in response to breaches or known weaknesses in the software. Keeping it up-to-date will not only fix these known issues but also avoid system failure or operation issues.

Most smart security cameras, like Blink cameras by Amazon, have an app. By downloading the app and connecting to WiFi you can check for updates.

#### 2. DON'T LET 'STRANGERS' LINK TO YOUR WIF!!

For the sake of this example, a 'stranger' could be your best friend or your cousin from out-of-state. Letting someone link up to your WiFi can be very dangerous to your security. If your friend's smartphone happens to be infected by a strand of malware, hooking up to your WiFi could give it a new route to spread through. It could attack your computers, phones, tablets, and more as it spreads through your network. If your friend really needs access to WiFi, you might have to explore having a guest access network, which is typically provided by your provider. For Pioneer fiber customers, getting a guest access network is easy with the use of our SmartWifi App (see pg. 11).

#### 3. USE STRONG PASSWORDS

When it comes to data leaks and hackers, passwords are your first and best line of defense. Having a strong network password will make it harder and, at times, impossible for someone to hack your data or network.

Here are some tips for developing a strong password:

- Make sure it's long, at least 16 characters is recommended.
- Use a mixture of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.
- Don't use common phrases or personal information.
- Make sure it's unique—don't reuse a password you've already used.
- Use a password manager. These can help keep track of your passwords and some even generate random passwords that are hard for humans and computers to crack.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PASSWORD KEEPERS' VISIT THE NEXT TWO PAGES!

## Protect ur P4ssw





BOOM! Your entire world is suddenly turned upside down because someone saw your notebook filled with simple passwords to all your banking information, work accounts, emails, and personal social media accounts. Suddenly your life is very complicated and messy, and, unfortunately, a mess like this will take a lot of work to clean up all the damage done. Here is some information to keep your online life safe while also allowing you to have peace of mind.

With so much of the world becoming digital through different apps, websites, social media, and even online banking, it is more important now than ever to keep your passwords under lock and key. So much of our personal information is stored in the digital world, and just a few minutes of access can turn our life into a waking nightmare. While some of your passwords might not seem important, they can often provide hackers with privileged access to organizations and networks. One simple password hacked can turn into many, which can become detrimental to a person's work, schooling, finances, and daily life

According to Round Robin, a data security and tech company, between 75% to 90% of all targeted cyber-attacks begin with personal emails. Having access to your personal email is a big deal to cyber thieves. You can protect yourself by following these five key tips. (The more of the following tips you use, the more secure your passwords can be):

- •Creating strong passwords with the use of numbers, symbols, and capitalization of letters.
- ·Having different passwords for every online account (not using the same password for every account).
- •Keeping up to date with data breaches on password-protected sites that you may use.
- ·Changing your passwords regularly.
- •Using a password keeper app or website (rather than writing them down where they can be stolen).

As mentioned earlier in the article, many password keeper apps are available and trustworthy, and most have free accounts. However, not all free accounts are created equal and offer only a portion of their protective features. These apps store most, if not all, of the passwords you may use and keeps them safe using encryption methods. Some apps even generate new passwords for you, making it easier to have different passwords for key accounts. There are many password keepers on the market, but some of the most popular include LastPass, 1Password, NordPass, and Dashlane. All four of these apps offer free versions with many limitations. On the next spread you can see some of their restrictions, pros, and cons.

There's a lot to think about when it comes to password security. So, rather than writing down access to your entire online life in a notebook, give one of the above tips and tricks a try or even opt-in for a password keeper. A password keeper may end up saving you from all the stress of online security troubles.

#### I WANT A PASSWORD KEEPER ON MY DEVICES....

## What app should I use?

Explore some of the most popular apps on the next page.

# EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

## Use what's already installed:

Most smart devices already have their own password keepers, including Apple iPhones and Android phones. The biggest perk is that these are already installed and completely free, but they do have their downsides.

Apple, in recent years, has come up with a solution for the pandemic of password thievery. The system



used by Apple is the iCloud Keychain, and it is available on all mobile devices iOS 7.0.3 or later and Mac devices using macOS 10.9 or later. Along generating passwords and usernames for the user, iCloud Keychain also links your saved password history

across all devices signed into that AppleID. This feature allows you to create an account on any IOS device and share them across all other IOS devices owned. All this is kept safe using a two-step verification process to see saved passwords.

Android has a two-system approach to its password security systems. They have recently adopted Google's "Smart Lock" as their prominent user

system, which has a feature that allows you to sign in using Smart Lock saved passwords on multiple phones, computers, tablets, and other devices. It does this by linking all your devices through your Google Android Chrome or



accounts. The second system used by android is "You Only Log in Once" (OpenYOLO). This system works with password keepers like Dashlane to automatically fill-in and access passwords. However, many developers did not adapt their codes to use OpenYOLO and this system has more-or-less been phased out.

#### Pros

- Built-in
- · Easy to use
- · Two-factor authentication required

- Does not work with non-Apple devices
- Frequently crash on third-party apps
- Must have internet/data to access saved information

#### Pros

- · Can be used and shared across Google products
- Easy to use
- Allows trusted locations (like your home) for easy, quick access

- Some features like trusted location can be a security risk if someone has access to your device
- Will not work with non-Google devices

## Use what's already installed:



#### **LastPass**

LastPass is a well-known password security and generator app that creates and stores encrypted passwords online.



#### DashLane

DashLane is not only a password security app, but also a personal information and payment manager. Available for download on most platforms.

#### Pros

- Free to download
- Freedom to select length and encryption level of passwords
- Automatically syncs between multiple devices

#### Cons

- Limited live customer support
- Occasional server crashes

Starts at \$3/month

#### Pros

- Comes with built-in VPN
- Has emergency contact options
- Has an automatic password changer

#### Cons

- On the expensive side
- Free version only allows 50 passwords

Starts at \$6.49/month



#### 1Password

1Password is a password security app created by AgileBits Inc. It is very simple to use the app and is very well maintained. Plus, the company is well-known and practically impossible to hack.

#### NordPass

NordPass is a free or paid subscription password manager created in 2019. NordPass is available for smart devices and personal computers.

#### **WRITERS CHOICE**

NordPass offers the best security options and ease of use at the FREEmium rate.



#### Pros

- Easy setup and user friendly
- Keeps passwords organized
- Allows password sharing

#### Cons

- Does not offer a free plan
- App can be buggy at times

Starts at \$2.99

#### Pros

- Easy to import data
- Allows two-factor authentication
- Free version offers multiple features

#### Cons

- Limited organization options
- Does not offer team plans

Starts at \$1.19/month

# STRANGER DANGER

Everyone's heard of Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram, but have you heard of Omegle? Omegle is an app that allows you to chat anonymously with strangers and, most concerning of all, anyone can use Omegle without having to register their age or identity.

Omegle was created in 2009 by Leif K-Brooks. Leif told *Today* that the website was created "to help people share broader and more diverse perspectives with others from around the world." The site's popularity was steady for several years but saw a huge increase during the pandemic. With the numerous lock-downs that took place, kids were left craving the usual social interactions that they were now denied. Omegle may look like a perfect source of entertainment for many young people, but parents have well-placed concerns about this site and others like it. Here's a few of the reasons parents, guardians, and even children need to be wary of sites like Omegle.

#### **Online Predation**

Omegle once warned users on its homepage that "predators have been known to use Omegle, so please be careful." The app is viewed by many as the perfect predatory platform because there is no way to track down predators. After all, Omegle requires no personal details. Omegle does have an age limit, but it isn't really enforced. Omegle works around lawsuits and obligations, like Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, with a written statement that users should not be under the age of 13. However, anyone can work around the written words by visiting the site and clicking 'start chat with strangers'.

A very real case of online predation involved a 11-year-old girl (now 19) who filed a lawsuit against Omegle in 2021. The girl was coerced into giving a then 30-year-old man, Ryan Scott Fordyce, her number. Ryan asked for pictures of her smile, but soon started demanding things like nudes and giving her "assignments", threatening to harm her family or kidnap her if she didn't complete them before the deadlines. Though the grooming and predatory behavior was done off Omegle, the lawsuit points fingers at the site for not having any protection in place.

#### **Security Threats**

Text chats on Omegle remain anonymous unless the user gives out their own information. Unfortunately, many users (especially minors) give away their personal information with little to no knowledge about the consequences. While adults are typically more informed about internet safety, they too could be at risk.

Even though chats can be ended at anytime, it's always possible for users to save chat and any sensitive information that was exchanged. Each user is granted an option to save the chat log once the chat has ended. This means that, despite common belief, the conversations that are happening on Omegle are not private. Additionally, when a user decides to end a chat, the site "saves the entire chat log in their server permanently." Even before the chat ever ends, the timestamp, IP address, ID cookie, and other similar information are recorded for both you and your chat partner.

#### **Screen Recording or Screenshots**

Strangers will often try to convince children to video chat with them. Children might think that their behavior is private, but there's always a chance that the other user is screen recording. Omegle doesn't have any codes or protocols to protect from screen sharing, so minors (or anyone using the app) could be vulnerable. Be aware!

Recording conversations from Omegle and posting them on social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram has also become a popular trend. In this case, not only will the conversation not be private, but it may also be displayed to large audiences.

There are many ways to protect your children from sites like Omegle. With apps like Pioneer SmartWiFi, you can block specific web addresses, but the most proactive way to protect your children is through educating them on the dangers of certain sites. Make it your goal to communicate with your children about internet safety and the dangers of talking to strangers. You never know who might be waiting on the other side of your computer screen.



## YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT BE WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR COMPUTER **SCREEN**

## **OTHER SITES TO LOOK OUT FOR**

ChatRoulette

YouNow

**TinyChat** 

**FaceFlow** 

CamSurf

ChatRad

Bazoocam

CamGo

iMeetzu

## Goldseeker.

How a girl from Michigan became one of the most renowned horse breeders in the U.S.

#### A Small Farm in Michigan

Within the city limits of Woodward, Oklahoma is Cudd Ranch, a hidden gem whose red-gated entrance comes after fifteen houses.

Cudd Ranch's story begins in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Renee Cudd spent her childhood years on a farm. Her days were filled with riding horses with her sister, boarding horses, participating in 4-H, and competing in horse shows, so when she graduated, there was only one trail Renee could follow.

"When I graduated from high school. I wanted to go to a school of horsemanship and ended up attending Meredith Manor [Equestrian College] in Waverly, West Virginia," Renee said. "When my mom and dad took me there to look at it and everything my mom and dad told my brother and my family, 'Oh, she'll never stay here."

Renee said "it was nice", but her parents thought a combination of high tuition, compact dorms, and it being a "horse place" would drive her away. It didn't.

Renee graduated and began looking through some of the job placements offered through Meredith Manor's job placement program.

"My mom and dad moved to New Mexico, so I didn't want to go back to Michigan. I ended up doing a job interview with Monte Reger with Reger Ranch," Renee said. "From the moment I came to Woodward I absolutely loved it. I took the job with him and then I worked for him for seven years."

Renee spent her time caring for Leo Goldseeker, son of Goldseeker Bar, a renown Supreme Champion and AQHA Champion, the mares, and foals on the ranch.

It was here that she met her husband, Bob Cudd.

"It's funny— we never took care of other peoples' horses ever. Never, really," Renee said. "Bob had two studs, but he didn't have any place to put them. So, Bob came up there and talked them on in and they struck up a deal and I took care of them. That's how I met Bob."



Monte would pass away in late 1983, but the recently married Cudds would help carry on the Goldseeker lineage.

#### The Start of it All

"In the summer of 1984 they took all Monte's horses down to Ada, where Monte always sold his horses, and Bob and I bought Leo Goldseeker," Renee said. "In the meantime, we tracked down Goldseeker and went and bought seven of his colts, and that's





at a glance

At the end of your life, what would you wish you could have done more of today? What's stopping you?

I wish that I could travel more, I love to travel.
- Starla

That's what I was going to say! - Renee

I think traveling is something that Renee and I really enjoy doing and anywhere in the world if we could. The reason why we don't? I guess probably society and lack of time. - Starla

We have so many things right here in our country that I would love to go see. I would love to go to the grand Canyon, to San Diego—but for me? The reason I don't travel is because I have all this \*gestures to home and ranch\*. I just want to be here to take care of my horses. - Renee

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

A horse trainer. - Renee

I always thought I wanted to be in Real Estate, but I just never pursued that. - Starla



Renee Cudd and her display of awards and photos for her Surpreme Champion Ima Smart Catt.

#### with Renee and Starla

#### What moment in life are you most proud of?

Mine is when I married Bob. He was just... the absolutely kindest, nicest person. I mean he made my life so much better. I had a good life, but when you meet someone that is like the love of your life and you join...it changes everything. - Renee

Probably my work ethic. I taught my boys to be hard workers and I'm very proud of that. - Starla

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

Having a friend like this \*touches Starla's arm\* - Renee

Yeah, absolutely. - Starla

I think about this all the time. If everybody in the world had one friend like Starla, there wouldn't be any problems, but a lot of people don't have friends like that. - Renee

how we started our breeding program."

The Cudd's had the horses, but the ranch was nothing like it is now.

"When Bob and I got married there was nothing here. So we just started clearing spots out. We'd clear a spot out and put a barn there. Then we'd clear out another spot and put another barn. Every single barn on this ranch Bob built."

Cudd Ranch now boasts many barns and one of the most reputable horse sales in Oklahoma.

# Renee's mission is that she's going to raise a good quality horse and she stands behind every horse that she raises.

"We started out very small. In fact, our very first horse sale we had down at the Woodward Livestock Auction. We'd wait until the cow sale on Friday and then we hauled our horses down there," Renee said. "At the time it worked perfect because we didn't have any of the big barns, but two years later we moved to the Fairgrounds."

They had their first sale at the Ranch in 1992 where they sold yearlings in October. However, a blizzard changed things.

"It was 70 degrees that morning and that day there was a blizzard that came into the panhandle. The blizzard killed thousands of cattle," Renee said. "That blizzard got to Woodward around four o'clock. It went from 70 to 30 by five. The horse sale wasn't over, our tent blew down, and when people left here they were saying on the radio not to go any further than somewhere in Kansas. That's when we switched it to June."

Though her husband passed away in 2005, Renee continues her work on the ranch. The horse sale now coincides with the Woodward Elks Rodeo and people from all over the United States attend. The sale averages about 500 attendees.

"I have people that come to my sale, and they'll be home next January messaging me 'what day is your horse sale? I want to schedule my vacation'. If I can get someone here once they usually come back. Everybody just has so much fun."

#### The Promise & Future

"I do what a lot of people don't like to

do: mess with young horses. It's a process. A lot of people don't want anything to do with babies. They don't want to fool with yearlings. They want them ready to ride," Renee said. "I mean, I've just always wanted to raise good colts."

Renee's best friend, Starla Oldham, however, thinks Renee sells herself short.

"Renee's mission is that she's going to raise a good quality horse and she stands behind every horse that she raises. If they leave here and something is wrong, Renee is going to take it back," Starla said. "She loves to see them go on and become something."

While Starla handles the paperwork and a few hands help around the ranch, Renee does most of the care for the 60-65 foals and colts. She wants to start cutting down to focus on more experiences like traveling and showing horses.

"About nine years ago I met a gentleman named Ty Smith. He raises show horses for me. One of them was a cow horse and he ended up taking her to the NRHA Futurity. My very first cow horse that I ever had won a World Championship— and that's this mare right up here on the wall [see top photo]."

Though her World Champion did end up being put down after a leg injury, he bred her to a horse named Shining Spark last year, who is one of the top leading sires of all time in the American Quarter Horse Association," Renee said. "Now I've got a black stud that's going to be my next show horse. So, I'm just so excited. I can't wait until he gets old enough start riding."

Though Renee "doesn't know where she'd be" without her horses, her goal is to free up enough time to follow her next Champion.

"I would like to go to every show that my horse is in, but I can't right now. But hopefully I'll have my horse herd cut down enough so when he goes to show, I can go with him."

To see photos or videos of the ranch, visit: facebook.com/CuddQuarterHorsesLLC.



## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

## How Pioneer **SmartWiFi** Can Help

Pioneer's SmartWiFi app could be one of the most important tools for protecting your home and family. SmartWiFi offers many cool features for Pioneer Internet customers, including many different parental controls, alerts, and even changing your network name and password.

#### The best part? Our customers get many features FREE!

Though some features require a premium subscription, our customers can start protecting their families right away at no extra cost!

Check out some of the features you can use to protect your family on this spread!

#### Can I get SmartWiFi?

Any Pioneer internet customer that has a Gigaspire can use the SmartWifi app!

> 1. Download the SmartWiFi app 2. Scan the QR code on your GigaSpire 3. Follow set up options

#### Some of the features available with the **FREE** version are:

Guest network access, connected device information, parent control profiles, time limits, ability to change WiFi name and password, network usage, smart home devices, and bandwidth testing.

**UPGRADE** PROTECT SMARTWIFI: \$3.95 OPTIONS: EXPERIENCE SMARTWIFI: \$7.95

## PARENTAL CONTROLS

#### CREATE PROFILES FOR ALL USERS

Creating a profile for all users in the house can be a great tool for parents. In the app, having profiles for your children can help you assign their devices, monitor or manage screen time, or block websites depending on the user.

#### **CONTROL SCREEN TIME**

With SmartWiFi, you can easily control screen time for any user. Do you want to limit your children to an hour of internet time a day? Maybe Suzy's been watching Netflix past her 10 p.m. bedtime- no worries, you can set time restraints, too! This app will cut off internet access based on your parameters, making monitoring screen time easier than ever.

#### BLOCK WEBSITES

Are you worried your kids might wander onto a site like Omegle (see page 7)? No need to worry. The SmartWiFi app makes blocking websites from any or all users easy. This is one of the best ways to make sure your family (especially members that are underage and vulnerable) stay safe.

#### **GIGASPIRE FAMILY**



## **NETWORK SECURITY**

CHANGE YOUR NETWORK NAME OR PASSWORD

FREE

Even the most tech-savvy might need to Google 'how to change my network name or password'. Some might even have to call their internet provider to figure out how to do it. But this app makes it easy! With just a few clicks, you can lock down your internet with a new network name and an even more secure password.

#### GET ALERTS, BLOCK THREATS

SmartWiFi goes above and beyond when it comes to protection. Not only does it keep an eye on a single computer, but it protects all users and the network. CALIX, the leading global provider of cloud and software platforms, has found that SmartWiFi protects users from 4-9 threats per month! This includes phishing attempts, malware, and much more!

#### SEE WHO'S CONNECTED

Maybe your internet has been extremely slow lately, it might be time to check who all is online. SmartWiFi allows you to see who is connected to your network. If you find there's an unknown profile or device, you can take action to lock down your WiFi by changing the password and booting all suspicious parties off your network— and all it takes is a few clicks in the app!

FREE



## **WANT MORE INFO?**

Visit us at GoPioneer.com
Or stop by your local office for details.



DOWNLOAD THE APP



uzviminda McKinsey was never severely hurt playing sports, but she had several friends who came out of a match with life-altering injuries.

"I never really was one to get injured, but I had friends that did. I would see them go to PT and see how they progressed and got better over the year," Luzviminda said. "I was like, 'that is so cool' and, but I didn't really started thinking about pursuing physical therapy until the end of my junior year."

In August 2021, she transfered from Redlands Community College to SWOSU to finish her prerequisites and begin her application for their Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program.

"In high school, I was all about sports, so I was set on sports physical therapy," Luzviminda said. "I had to do 40 hours of observation for my application. I did my observations at the Watonga Hospital, so we did a lot of inpatient and outpatient, and I got to see a lot more older people and middle-aged people."

Luzviminda has seen the positive effects of physical therapy in high school, but her observation opportunity put her closer to the patients than ever before.

I guess you could say it was life changing for both of us. I'd never seen something make an impact that big before.

"There was one patient I saw from the very beginning. He came in, and then I was there for the very end. It was just crazy to see the progress he made. I guess you could say it was life changing for both of us. I'd never seen something make an impact that big before," Luzviminda said. "I was just like, 'wow, this actually makes a difference'."

Luzviminda spends most of her time

studying and working to pay for school.

"My parents helped me if I needed it when I was at Redlands, and I lived with them. Now I'm living here, so I'm having to pay bills and rent and live the actual adult life. I hate it," Luzviminda laughs.

Luzviminda keeps high spirits despite the struggle of 'adult life'. She travels back to Watonga on the weekends to work at her family's restaurant.

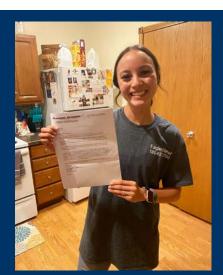
"I mainly work Fridays and Sundays—but whenever I need money— I pick time up." Luzviminda said. "I really relied a lot on scholarships when I was applying for colleges in high school."

The cost of college was one of the reasons Luzviminda chose a community college for her prerequisites. It is also one of the reasons she's very grateful for the Pioneer Scholarship.

"The Pioneer scholarship has really helped me financially, especially with me paying for school myself," Luzviminda said. "I don't receive any additional financial aid so this scholarship has really helped me."

When we interviewed Luzviminda she was in the middle of applying to SWOSU's PTA program. Recently, we were very fortunate to get an exciting update: Luzviminda was accepted into the PTA program in May and will begin her studies in August 2022.

"I think my biggest goal is to just make a difference," Luzviminda said.



Pictured: Luzviminda with her Physical Therapy Assistant Program acceptance letter from SWOSU.

## AGD

#### What is a scene from a TV show that you will never forget?

Derek's Death in "Grey's Anatomy."

#### If you had to be an inanimate object for a year, what object would you choose to be?

A book. Maybe "The Fault in Our Stars."

#### You're about to get in a fight. What song comes on as your soundtrack?

"This Girl is On Fire."

#### Is cereal soup? Why or why not?

Yes, because you use a spoon.

#### What's the closest thing to real magic?

I think I want to say love.

#### What has been your greatest struggle?

I guess you could say I was really shy. Now I'm more open. I used to wait for people to come up to me but now I'm like 'Hey! My name's Lu!'.

#### What's fictional character do you wish you could meet?

Meredith Grey. She's just so awesome and in the show she's never wrong. I mean, people may disagree but...

#### What's your worst habit?

My worst habit? Probably spending money. I'll admit that, haha!

## If you were going to give one piece of advice to an incoming freshman, what would it be?

Push through the hard times. It does get hard and there are surprises you're not ready for, but you can get through it.

## GOOD LUCK LU!

## **Strawberry Cake**

ingredients

1	white cake mix
1 3-oz.	box strawberry Jello
1 can	frozen strawberries in juice (thawe
3/4 c.	vegetable oil
4 eggs	eggs
Combin	e all ingredients and mix well.
Bake acc	cording to the instructions on the
back of	cake mix box. Cool.
	Cream Cheese Frosting
8 oz.	cream cheese
1 stick	butter
1 box	powdered sugar
1 tsp.	vanilla



For Regulatory/CABS Representative, Desiree' Smith, a birthday is not complete in her household without a strawberry cake, and it has been this way for multiple generations.

"Mom always made it for our birthdays," Desiree said. "Because it was my brothers' and I's favorite. It was always our favorite and in the olden days, you know, nobody bought cake. You always made it."

Though this is a long running family tradition, Desiree doesn't get the chance to make it for every birthday.

"When we all get together— we probably have around 60 people? Because my mom had three sisters and then my husband's side of the family comes... we all have fun parties," Desiree said. "We all come together to celebrate— so who would do all the cooking?"

Though her family is full of "good cake" makers, like her grandparents Gene and Opal Leech or her aunt Janice Russell, Desiree is usually the one the family turns to for her mom's strawberry cake.

"Everybody always wants me to make it. Nobody ever wants to make it, but they sure want to eat it," Desiree laughed. "If there's just a few of us, I'll make it and a pan of my brownies, but if it's all of us then his mom has started getting a cake from Sam's."

Desiree is going to pass on this tradition to her two daughters, ages 12 and 18, but not without a few tips and tricks.

"You must use the Duncan Hines brand of cake mix," Desiree said. "I'll just tell you right now, Pillsbury is not the same as Duncan Hines. Straight up. The recipe just says a white cake mix and sure, a cake mix is a cake mix, but I prefer Duncan Hines. It's what mom always used."

Desiree said the cake is perfect the way it is and that you should never substitute the strawberries. Even picky eaters will love the cake.

"I do not eat fruit. I don't like strawberries, but oh heavens, the strawberries and juice make the cake," Desiree said. "Now— if there's a big hunk or something— I will usually take a little pairing knife or whatever and dice it up a little bit because if I don't, it will bake as well."



Desiree in her kitchen with a freshly baked strawberry cake.

Written by Kyle - Marketing Associate Intern

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER 2022

#### September 10

Pioneer Days City Park Cheyenne, OK

The annual Pioneer Day at the Cheyenne City Park this year will have exciting events for the entire family. This years ceremony is dedicated to volunteer firefighters of Roger Mills County. Everyone of all ages will enjoy activities celebrating the spirit of the Oklahoma Pioneer Days. Vendors and concessions will be on the premises selling goods with food booths for refreshment. The event will also include a Silent Auction, Raffle and Fundraiser drawing. Information available on our Facebook page — 'Historic Roger Mills Preservation and Development Foundation' or contact 580.497.3882.

**Event Hours:** 

Saturday, Sept. 10 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### September 24

Cherokee Strip Celebration Main Street Wakita, OK

Wakita is celebrating their 100th Cherokee Strip Celebration. Join us for family fun all day with a 4 p.m. parade and Longhorn cattle drive. "TWISTER" stars will be signing autographs starting at 11 a.m. in the Gazebo location. For more information call: 580-541-6958.

Event Hours:

Saturday, Sept. 24 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

#### October 14

Golf Scramble Frederick Country Club 1001 N. 1st st. Frecerick, OK

Operation Care Ministries of Tillman County is hosting a golf scramble. All proceeds go to assist the residents of Tillman County who are experiencing hardship. It is \$50/player and lunch will be provided. For more information or to sign up contact Jay McPherson: 580.305.3346.

**Event Hours:** 

Friday, Oct. 14 9:00 a.m.





Pictured: Two of Pioneer's favorite Blanchard friends, Chloe and Zoey, visiting the Pioneer booth at Blanchard's Independence Celebration on July 2, 2022.

PIC OF THE MONTH
#PhotoOp

Pioneer had a blast at Blanchard's Independence Celebration. Between hosting the VIP section and hosting our booth we got to see hundreds of customers and new faces from all over Oklahoma!

Hey there! We were recentely notified that the GoPioneer Anniversary submission page was not working correctly. If you submitted your anniversary online and it was never printed, we want to give you a huge SORRY! for missing your special date! The issue has been fixed and we are now receiving all submissions normally. However, to make this as right as possible, we will be celebrating all anniversaries submitted.

Our submission form is back up and running, so please feel free to submit your anniversaries online at: GoPioneer.com/submit-anniversaries or send an email with the necessary information to GoPioneer@ptci.com.

Once again, we are sorry we missed your big day!

Madison McCollum Editor







**James & Cindy Brooks** - Weatherford Celebrated their 41st Wedding Anniversary April 24th. They have two sons and five grandchildren.

**Danny & Patty Manning** - Laverne Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary June 2nd. They have two sons, a daughter, two daughters-in-law, a son-in-law and 10 grandchildren.

**Boyd & Nelwyn Huges** - Freedom Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary June 2nd. They have three sons, a daugher, 12 grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

**George Ray & Deanna Heupel** - Okarche Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary June 23rd. They have six children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Johnita & John Cope Sr.** - Woodward Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary July 1st. They have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren.

**Tommy & Terry Roedell** - Mooreland Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary July 14th. They have two daughters and 2 sons-in-law.

#### Mel & Damaris Hett - Enid

Celebrated their 49th Wedding Anniversary August 5th. They have two daughters, two son-in-laws, two grandsons, and one granddaughter.

#### Gene & Connie Barnes - Enid

Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary August 5th.
They have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren.

#### Michael & Glaida Nixon - Enid

Celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary August 14th. They have three sons, a daughter, three daughters-in-law, and two granddaughters.

#### **Robert & Ruth Ann Swaim** - Watonga

Will Celebrate their 56th Wedding Anniversary August 20th. They have a son, two daughters, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and five grandchildren.

#### Glen & Barbara Sinclair - Watonga

Will Celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary September 23rd. They have two daughters, a son-in-law, two grandsons, and a great-grandson.

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

#### Want your Anniversary published?

\*\*IF SUBMITTING BY MAIL, PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION\*\*

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 Standard mail: GoPioneer Anniversaries Pioneer Telephone Cooperative P.O. Box 539 Kingfisher, OK 73750

GoPioneer.com: Find Anniversaries under 'GoPioneer Magazine' on our website.