

THE



HOLIDAY  
2011

CONNECTION



### Fiber In Your Future

We are excited about the progress of our Fiber on the Plains project! Materials are arriving in Joes, but - as you may have noticed - so is the frost. The construction crews will begin working as soon as weather allows.

What is fiber-to-the-home (FTTH)? It's the delivery of a communications signal over optical fiber from our switching and data equipment all the way to your home or business, replacing existing copper telephone wires. Fiber-to-the-home is relatively new and it's the fastest method of providing vastly higher bandwidth to consumers and businesses, enabling us to offer more reliable voice service as well as much higher broadband speeds.

The Foundation for Rural Service says "each new generation of FTTH electronics allows the service provider to offer significantly more bandwidth over greater distances. There is no end in sight as to the amount of bandwidth that is possible over fiber cables."

We are thrilled and excited to bring fiber optics to all our community homes and businesses in the Plains Telephone area!

### What Will Be Different

Our current plant includes fiber optic cable in each exchange combined with copper cable to each home. The copper plant will be replaced with fiber to each premise.

A box called an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) will be mounted on the exterior of each home or business. It contains the electronics that convert a signal of light into useable phone and Internet. The ONT measures 12" x 10" x 4", almost the same size as the existing gray box mounted on your home now.

In addition, there will be a box installed inside your home or business to supply power to the ONT. This box will also contain a battery backup in case of power outage. It measures 9.25" x 6.25" x 3.5". This battery backup should supply your ONT with power for 6-8 hours in the event of commercial power failure.

*Our Fiber on the Plains project is scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2013. Watch for additional information regarding when you can expect to see a construction crew in your area.*

**D. Kevin Felty.....General Manager**

**Board of Directors**  
**Richard Meade.....President**  
**Joes exchange, 358**

**Denise Weyerman.....Vice President**  
**Idalia exchange, 354**

**Lora Liming.....Secretary**  
**Kirk exchange, 362**

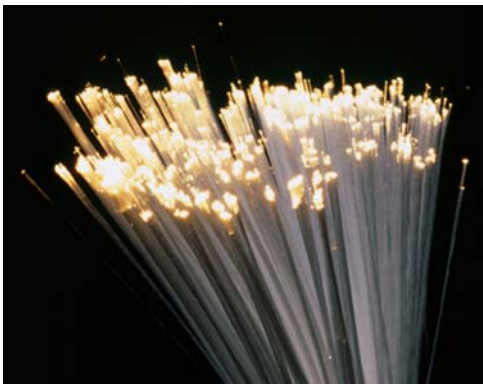
**Gerald Guy.....Treasurer**  
**Seibert exchange, 664**

**Dwayne Bowers.....Director**  
**Anton exchange, 383**

**Michael Leerar.....Director**  
**Eckley exchange, 359**

**Linda Sackett.....Director**  
**Cope exchange, 357**

**Our office hours are from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday**



## Great Sites To Check Out In December

### Jigsaw Puzzle Fun

[ngm.nationalgeographic.com](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com) – Need a break from work or something to do on a snowy winter day? This site allows you to put together a variety of jigsaw puzzles, all featuring beautiful National Geographic photos. Choose from animals, landscapes, plants, people, weather, or machines. Each puzzle is timed so you can try to get faster or challenge a friend.

### Reclaim Forgotten Assets

[www.unclaimed.org](http://www.unclaimed.org) – The National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators has created this site to help you reclaim property you may have forgotten about. Unclaimed property can be in the form of bank accounts, stocks, refunds, trust distributions, insurance payments, CDs, utility security deposits, safe deposit box contents, and more. Just click on the map to search in your state by simply entering your name.

### Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!

[www.foodnetwork.com](http://www.foodnetwork.com) – The Food Network's "12 Days of Cookies" site is the place to be for cookie lovers this holiday season! View photos of mouth-watering cookies and get the recipes from your favorite Food Network stars. Check out videos of the stars making their recipes; or watch them throw a cookie swap and learn how to plan one of your own.

### Make Holiday Ornaments

[www.bhg.com](http://www.bhg.com) – Glitter and ribbons and beads, oh my! This Better Homes and Gardens site offers 24 easy ways to turn them into festive ornaments for your Christmas tree. But don't stop there. Check out the rest of the site for articles and videos with decorating ideas for your table, windows, doors, and mantel.

### Best Flight Fares

[www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com) – Bing Travel allows you to find the best fares for flights from most major U.S. and Canadian cities to destinations worldwide. Enter your departure and destination locations, and get a list of fares plus a Price Predictor that tells you whether to buy (if prices are rising) or wait (if they're dropping). Use the Flexible Search function to find the cheapest time to fly.



**We thank you for  
your business!**

With the holiday season here, we'd like to say *thank-you*, from all of us here at Plains Cooperative Telephone to all of you! You and your family are important to us! Our wish for you this holiday season is for family and friends - and for a little extra time to enjoy them.

As part of our thank-you to you, we'll be sending out our 2012 Plains Telephone calendar, featuring great photos with the theme "Happiness is..." Once again, we received great pictures from the creative photographers in our area. You can also pick up a pocket appointment calendar in our office.

**Happy Holidays to you!**



## Warm Wishes for the Holiday Season

During this busy holiday season, we know you'll be thinking of friends and family both far and near. Even if you can't gather with your loved ones during the holidays, you can count on Plains Telephone to keep you connected. Our customers depend on Plains Telephone when it means the most - during emergencies, on holidays, and in all kinds of weather. Whether it's a long distance call to far away family, holiday wishes by email, or shopping for that perfect gift, we're here to help you stay connected.

Is your family spread around the country? Make use of our **conference bridge** to hold a fun holiday family conference. It's simple and free!

1. Choose a time and a five digit access code
2. Each person calling will need to dial 358-0001  
(1-970-358-0001 if calling from outside the area - toll charges will apply for those attendees.)
3. Each person will enter the five digit access code after dialing.
4. There are 12 ports available for attendees to use.

Need a new phone? Visit our **phone store** here in the office to pick out a new set. If you're shopping for your favorite techie, don't forget to check our **computer store** for both desktop and laptop computers and accessories.

Are you thinking about adding **high speed Internet** to your account? Check our **DSL promotion** on the back page of this newsletter for the details. When it's installed you can sit in your living room and finish up your Christmas shopping, look for recipes for holiday goodies, and check the weather report at the North Pole to be sure that Santa will show up on time. If you don't have time to get all your Christmas cards stamped and mailed out, you can still email a Christmas greeting to a far away friend at the very last minute.

### Wireless Magic?

What really happens when you place a cell phone call?

A call from a cell phone is transmitted from your phone to the nearest cellular tower, but from there it rides a fiber or copper land facility on a rural telephone company's backbone network to that company's central office. Then it goes on to its final destination, whether it's another cell phone, a home phone or a business line.

A rural telephone company's network is also required for the never-ending data transmitted to and from cell phones and smartphones, including text messages, emails and web access.

*Quite simply, your cell phone call could not be completed without Plains Telephone network.*

### Chewy Chocolate Bars

- 3/4 cup honey
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1-1/2 cups mini marshmallows
- 3 cups rice krispies
- 1 cup salted peanuts

In a large saucepan over medium heat, melt together the honey and peanut butter and bring to a boil. Stir in chocolate chips and marshmallows, stirring until smooth. Add the cereal and peanuts. Blend well and remove from heat. Pour into a lightly greased 9 x 13 inch pan and pat firmly with a spatula. Let cool slightly and cut into bars before hardening.

*Yummy!!*



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Joes, Colorado  
PERMIT NO. 4

## Your kid called...she wants a pony DSL from Plains Telephone



Have you been waiting to add DSL to your Plains Telephone account? This is the time! Sign up for new DSL service between now and January 15 2012 and we'll waive the \$185.00 installation fee **and** the \$95.00 activation fee when we set up your DSL!

**We can even sell you a new laptop to use with the new DSL!**

**Call us at 358-4211 for all the details!**

*It's the gift that keeps giving all year...without the hassles of a pony.*

*Credit restrictions and minimum system requirements apply. Installation cost is waived with a 12-month commitment. Additional labor charges for networking may apply. DSL is our high speed Internet offering within our telephone service area only. The monthly cost for our basic DSL package is \$39.95 a month plus tax.*