

FIND THE POT OF GOLD



Take a good look at the picture of the Pot of Gold to the left. If you look hard enough, you'll find a smaller version of that picture hiding someplace in this newsletter. When you see it, just pick up the phone and call to let us know that you found it. We'll hold a drawing 2 weeks after mailing and all of the names of those who let us know they found the pot of gold will be entered into the drawing for a \$20.00 credit on your Plains Telephone bill. Remember...find the pot of gold and then call to tell us that you found it. We'll put your name in a drawing for this publication and you could be our next winner.



March 2018

Happy Saint
Patrick's Day

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May your day
be touched by
a bit of Irish
luck and
warmed by the
smiles of the
people you
love.

The Shamrock is the most common symbol of Ireland. Around the world, the tender, three-leaf plant used by Saint Patrick to illustrate the presence of God in the natural world, is instantly recognized as a kind of logo for Irish culture.

The leaves of this simple plant are meant to symbolize the Father, Son and The Holy Spirit in the Catholic Trinity. Saint Patrick used shamrocks to convert the Druids from their Pagan ways, by convincing them that the Holy Trinity was present in every lush, green field of their native land.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

We invite you to join us
for our 65th annual
membership meeting!

April 26, 2018

Liberty School

9332 Highway 36

Joes, Colorado

6:00 pm..... Dinner & Registration

7:00 pm..... Business Meeting

We hope you'll be able to join us for our annual meeting! You can expect an excellent meal, some fun and special giveaways and prize drawings, including our progressive annual prize drawing for \$600.00 cash, and we'll also be holding director elections for the Cope, Kirk & Seibert exchanges and updating you about Plains Telephone happenings over the last year.



Passwords.....

Who hasn't forgotten a password? Of course you want your information to be safe, but not so safe that you can never log in yourself! It never fails that when you try to make the password secure enough to keep the hackers out, you also forget it yourself and then you end up f news for all of you who have trouble remembering passwords. The National Institute of Standards and Technology updated the guidelines for passwords in 2017 and they are quite different from the old ones, not to mention being more user-friendly.

The new recommendations for passwords include: *Eight-character minimum length, up to a maximum of 64 characters*

There are checks to disallow common passwords or passwords that are known to have been breached.

Guidelines support all special characters as well as spaces.

The biggest difference between a weak password and a strong one is length. The longer a password is, the harder it is to crack. Creating long passwords was more challenging with the old guidelines because of all the restraints.

Under the new guidelines, users can link many words together to create a memorable phrase as a password. Something like *"mydoglikesjamandmustard"* could be quirky enough to remember, but at 23 characters long, it's much harder for a hacker to figure out.

Another good idea is to take the first letter of each word in a memorable sentence and combine those letters to create a password. You can make up your own sentence, use your favorite song title or take the first sentence from your favorite book. The important thing is to choose something memorable for you, but not obvious to someone else.

The new rules may seem deceptively simple, but they have one main goal: getting people to use longer passwords. By making it easier for you to create a password you'll remember, the new guidelines are creating an incentive to choose a password that will provide stronger protection in the long run. As individual organizations update their own systems to reflect these changes, you'll see new requirements as you set up new passwords. Hopefully we can all have some fun with creating new and safer passwords.

Source: Website Compass Magazine

We're Here for You!

We've recently added some new employees here at Plains Telephone and we'd like you to meet them.

Our new Combination Technician is **Philip Cox** from Wray. He's training in all aspects of fiber telecom installation and repair and he'll be ready to work in the Wray area when our new service opens up there later on this year. Philip grew up in Wray and lives there with his wife, Andria and their two sons. They are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their third child. Here's a photo of Philip, just hanging around in Wray.



Our new office employee is **April Simmons** who is our Accounting Manager. April has more than 30 years experience in the telecommunications industry. She started as an accountant with a family owned provider in Bixby, OK for ten plus years. She then worked as a consultant dealing with regulatory filings and separations for twelve years, and for Wiggins Telephone, a cooperative, for eight years. She enjoys working for Plains, another cooperative, with two days in the Joes office and the remaining work week from home on the FTTH network. She also enjoys sharing her quilting skills. April is originally from Tulsa, OK, but has lived in Colorado for the past 12 years.

We're happy to have both April and Philip as part of our company, and we hope you'll have a chance to say hello to them at our annual meeting on April 26. You'll also have a chance to meet our general manager, **Ronny Puckett**, who just joined our team in September of 2017.

Ronny comes to Joes after seven years as a Regional Director at NECA. His career has afforded him to have experience in telecom operations, equipment and technology. Ronny has a BS in Accounting and a Graduate degree in Finance. Ronny is married and has two adult children. His wife is a school administrator in St. Louis, daughter Katie is a teacher and son Brandt is in management with Amazon. We're happy to have Ronny here and looking forward to having his



If you're a Facebook user, we invite you to "like" Plains Telephone, where we post photos and fun every day, just because we can! One of our favorite days of the week on Facebook is Windmill Wednesday, when we share photos of some of the beautiful windmills we see here in Plains Telephone Country. You are invited to share a photo of your favorite windmill with us! Just email your windmill photo to windmill@plainstel.com and we'll post one photo weekly on Windmill Wednesday and give you credit as the photographer.

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