

MID-PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL October 2025

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Mid-Plains Communications
411 N Hale | PO Box 300
Tulia, TX 79088
www.midplains.coop
806-668-4420

HOLIDAY HOURS

The holiday season is fast approaching and we want to ensure that our employees have time with their family and friends.

The following holidays, Mid-Plains will be closed:

- November 11th in observance of the Veterans Day
- November 27th & 28th in observance of Thanksgiving
- December 24th at noon, 25th & 26th in observance of Christmas
- January 1st in observance of New Year's



For technical support, our 24/7/365 line is available at 1-888-817-2052.

FUSF INCREASE FOR OCTOBER 2025



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved an increase in the "Federal Universal Service Charge" (FUSC) from 36.0% to 38.1% of your monthly interstate access charges for both residential and business customers, effective

October 1, 2025. This charge supports the national Universal Service Fund, which helps make local telephone service more affordable for low-income customers, those in high-cost rural areas, and individuals with disabilities. If you have any questions about this change, please contact Mid-Plains at 806-668-4420. For more details, you can visit the FCC's website at

<https://www.fcc.gov/general/universal-service>.

WEBMAIL UPGRADE

As of September 30th, we've successfully upgraded to a new and improved Webmail platform. This enhanced system offers 15GB of email and online storage, along with greater convenience, improved efficiency, and better organization.

With this upgrade, our customers will benefit from expanded features, increased storage capacity, stronger security, and fewer service interruptions.

At Mid-Plains, we're committed to delivering reliable, up-to-date services that meet your evolving needs. Thank you for your continued support and for choosing Mid-Plains.



TEXAS LIFELINE

The Lifeline program is a State of Texas assistance program that is designed to help qualified low-income individuals pay the monthly cost of basic telephone service.

Lifeline reduces the basic monthly telephone rate up to \$12.75 for those who qualify. This program does not cover the cost of additional services such as caller ID or voice Messaging.

You can apply for Lifeline Discounts by calling toll free 1-866-454-8387 or online.

For more information concerning Lifeline visit their website at

<http://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/lowincome/Assistance.aspx>.



COOKING WITH MPRTC.....

CHICKEN CASSEROLE



2 Skinless-boneless Chicken Breast
(Cooked and Diced)

1 Can Cream of Chicken Soup

1C. Diced Celery

1C. Diced Texas 1015 Onion

½ C. Toasted Slivered Almonds

2 C. Cooked Rice

3 Hard Boiled Eggs (diced)

¾ C. Mayonnaise

1 C. Chicken Broth

2 Tbsp. Lemon Juice

½ tsp. Salt

¼ tsp. Pepper

1 Sac Ritz Crackers(crumbled)

In a 13x9 pan, combine chicken, celery, onion, almonds, rice and eggs. In a bowl combine chicken soup, mayonnaise, broth, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Mix well. Pour soup mixture into the 13x9 chicken mix. Mix together. Cover with crumbled crackers. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes-1 hour.

CANYON'S READER'S CHOICE AWARD



Mid-Plains is proud to be the recipient of the 2025 Gold Readers' Choice Award for Best Internet — our fifth consecutive year earning this honor. This achievement wouldn't be possible without the dedication and hard work of our incredible team. We remain committed to delivering exceptional service to our customers for many years to come.

OCTOBER IS COOP MONTH

Co-op Month is an annual event celebrated in October to raise awareness and highlight the unique benefits of cooperatives. This month is an opportunity to recognize how co-ops, like electric, financial, and food cooperatives, positively impact communities and local economies. Co-ops are known for putting the needs of their members first, prioritizing community well-being over profits.

Our annual Co-op Appreciation Month Luncheon will be October 17, 2025 AT 411 N Hale Ave, Tulia TX 79088

We will be serving at 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Our offices will be closed after our luncheon.



ONLINE SAFETY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Internet safety is more important than ever, given how much of our lives are online these days. Here are some essential things everyone should know about staying safe:



1. Use Strong Passwords

- **What makes a good password?** A combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. Aim for at least 12 characters.
- Consider using a password manager to store and generate unique passwords for each of your accounts.

2. Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

- Always enable 2FA when possible. It adds an extra layer of security, requiring both your password and a second method (e.g., a code sent to your phone) to log in.

3. Beware of Phishing Scams

- Phishing involves tricking you into giving out personal information (like passwords or credit card numbers). Always double-check the sender's email address and look for signs of a suspicious link or attachment.
- Don't click on links in unsolicited emails or text messages. If it's something urgent, go directly to the website or app to check.

4. Secure Your Wi-Fi

- Change the default password on your router and use WPA3 encryption if possible. A weak Wi-Fi password can give attackers easy access to your home network.

5. Be Cautious About Sharing Personal Information

- Be mindful of what you share online, even on social media. Posting too much information can make you an easy target for hackers or identity thieves.
- Don't share sensitive data like full birth dates, addresses, or personal identification numbers publicly.

6. Update Software Regularly

- Whether it's your phone, computer, or apps, always install the latest updates. Many updates include patches for security vulnerabilities.

7. Use Secure Websites

- Look for **HTTPS** in the URL (not just HTTP) when entering personal or payment information on websites. HTTPS means the site is encrypted and more secure.

8. Educate Yourself About Malware

- **Malware** includes viruses, ransomware, and spyware that can harm your device or steal your data. Use a reputable antivirus program and avoid downloading files from unknown sources.
- Be cautious when opening attachments or clicking on ads that seem too good to be true.

9. Know How to Spot Fake News & Misinformation

- Verify the source before believing or sharing news online. Misinformation can spread quickly, so check facts, especially from trusted, credible sources.

10. Be Aware of Location Tracking

- Turn off location services for apps that don't need it, and be mindful of what you share on social media (e.g., don't post your live location or travel plans).

11. Don't Reuse Passwords

- If one of your accounts gets hacked, reusing passwords across multiple sites means the hacker could get into other accounts as well. Always use unique passwords for each site.

12. Protect Your Children Online

- Kids and teens are especially vulnerable to cyberbullying, predators, and inappropriate content. Set parental controls, teach them about online risks, and monitor their online activity.

13. Learn About Digital Footprints

- Everything you do online leaves a trace. Your social media posts, online purchases, and even the websites you visit can be tracked. Be mindful of what you put out there.

14. Secure Your Devices

- Use device locks (PINs, fingerprints, or face recognition) on your phones, laptops, and tablets.
- If you're selling or giving away an old device, make sure you erase all personal data before passing it on.

15. Stay Informed About Current Threats

- The landscape of internet safety is always changing. Keep an eye out for new scams, threats, or vulnerabilities to stay ahead of the curve.

These practices can go a long way in protecting your privacy, personal data, and online identity. It's all about staying vigilant and proactive. Anything here stand out as something you hadn't thought of before?

MID-PLAINS HAPPENINGS

Mid-Plains is grateful to be part of so many vibrant communities in our region. We value the opportunity to participate in local events and to give back in meaningful ways. Our summer of 2025 was filled with a variety of wonderful activities that kept us busy and connected.

HAPPY DAYS CELEBRATION

AUGUST 14TH - 16TH

HAPPY, TEXAS



Swisher County Picnic Celebration

July 14-19, 2025 in Tullia, Texas



CAPROCK ROUNDUP



For more pictures and information about our community involvement, visit us online at

<https://www.midplains.coop/community-involvement>.

MID-PLAINS MANAGED WIRELESS WI-FI ROUTERS

Just \$0.40 per day

Convenient **Smartphone App**

View network activity, equipment, and usage in real-time

Create and name user profiles to monitor devices and usage

Set and manage time controls for internet access

Create guest profiles for visitors

Full-service troubleshooting, both remote and on-site

Enhanced network-level security

Let us handle the setup and management of your Wi-Fi router. Call **806-668-4420** today!

GET MORE BLAST FOR YOUR BUCK.

Switch today and have the ultimate internet experience.

From the world's most powerful Wi-Fi to network security and parental controls, this is as advanced as Wi-Fi gets. Experience fast, consistent service anywhere in your home and control it all. Fully serviced. Fully supported. And now, fully yours. To learn more visit, <https://www.midplains.coop/command-iq-and-experience-iq>

The best Wi-Fi experience is the one that's always connected and managed for you.

MID-PLAINS
COMMUNICATIONS

SETTLE FOR MORE.



Advanced Managed Wi-Fi by YourBrand

Direction for your connection

Whether you're a parent, professional, or someone who needs their internet to function at the highest level, ExperienceIQ helps you to manage your home network with purpose from the Mid-Plain Wi-Fi app.

Focus

Eliminate distractions and disruptions by using My Priorities to give preference to devices and set schedules for work and play. Adjust at a moment's notice with our easy to use [your brand] app.

Family

Enforce your house rules quickly and easily while maintaining the family peace with the ExperienceIQ™ Parental Control features. Create profiles for users to filter inappropriate content, block certain sites and categories, and set time limits and downtime.

Freedom

Remain confident that your connection is working for you and keeping you and your family safe.

Maximize your moments

Create work and school hours for your household to limit distractions.

Enjoy uninterrupted and buffer-free quality family time by prioritizing your devices.

Back-up your screen goals with downtime hours, screen time schedules, and time limits on certain apps.

Block inappropriate content to devices on your network.

Optimize your bandwidth where you need it most.

