



## TIS THE SEASON...

The holidays are upon us once again, and it is an exciting and busy time of the year for most families. We want to remind everyone that as you are shopping, decorating, and enjoying the holiday season, keep a watchful eye out for safety. Just because it is the holidays, does not mean that safety should be forgotten. Watch out for patches of ice; keep Christmas trees away from fireplaces, radiators, or portable heaters; plug in all outdoor electrical decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks; and never leave foods that require refrigeration out of the refrigerator for longer than two hours.

We hope that you have a wonderful and safe holiday season. From all of us at Prairie Networks!

*Gail*

*Larry*

*Jason*

*Daniel*

*Amy*

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## KEEP YOUR PC OFF THE NAUGHTY LIST...



*Naughty*

Keep your PC off the Naughty list this Holiday Season with SecureIT Plus. It is a monthly desktop security service that provides fully automated and fully managed computer protection, guaranteed to keep your computer safe from Internet thefts.

- content filtering and parental controls to keep your children safer
- managed virus protection



*Nice*

- personal firewall to protect your PC
- fully managed spyware detection and removal
- ongoing hard drive optimization and maintenance
- free technical support

*Pricing is only \$7.95/ month. Contact us for more information.*

## FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK...

**A**s the year is coming to close, I wish you and your family Holiday greetings and hope you enjoy family and friends during this season.



This year has flown by fast it seems. It feels like I was getting ready for auditors only yesterday for closing out 2010. Looking back, Agate connected fiber to the CCT fiber ring in July and all of our traffic will be converted by December 16<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to monitor our long distance for least call routing issues and the FCC has finalized their decision on the National Broadband plan and the Colorado High Cost Fund. We do not have the figures on the ramification of funding yet but I am sure it will not be business as usual.

We will continue to provide quality service in the coming year. We have one tech on call on weekends and holidays so if you need phone and DSL outages, please call 764-2578, press 3 and leave a message. Either Dan or Jason will check messages regularly and they will call you back if you leave your number.

Some of you may know, I was diagnosed with breast cancer on November 15<sup>th</sup> after a mammogram and ultrasound. I have one more test that I know of now at this writing, and then surgery and possibly chemo and radiation. This has been a shock to my family and me. It is not something you think would ever happen to you. But, as my good friend told me as far as cancer goes, it's not a matter of if you get cancer, it's a matter of when.

One thing I know, I have so many friends and colleagues in the telecommunications industry that are praying for me and I appreciate it so much. Along with my faith, I will get through this. Without my family, I would really be in a pickle because I don't drive in Denver. I am going to the Sally Jobe Clinic in the Denver Tech Center and they have been wonderful. I will be in and out of the office for these treatments but try to work as much as I can. After 36 years of serving you, I now realize my health must come first.

From my desk to your homes, I wish each one of you a very Happy and safe Holidays!

*Gail Pitzer*

General Manager/ CEO



## IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft has been the number one scam both on the internet and in the real world for more than a decade. And the bad news... it's not just growing but rocketing, as crooks launch ever more sophisticated ID theft tricks. According to the latest figures, there are now at least 8 million identity theft attempts online every day! Here are some things you can do to help protect your identity:

- 1) Only carry the info with you that you absolutely need for day-to-day dealings.
- 2) Keep an eye on your mail, and don't let it pile up when your out of town.
- 3) Know your payment cycles on your credit

cards. If a bill is late, call and ask why. Sometimes thieves request change of addresses for credit card bills.

- 4) Know who you are giving out personal information out to, and only give them what they need to complete the transaction.
- 5) Never give personal information out to people who contact you out of the blue; such as e-mails for information that you did not request.

For more information, you can contact [www.scambusters.org](http://www.scambusters.org).



## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING...

If you have ever needed someone to come to your house to figure out what is wrong with your phone or DSL, chances are you have seen our technician Jason Lacik. Jason has worked for AMTCA and Prairie Networks for 13 years, starting part-time in his sophomore year of high school.

Jason moved to Agate in 1996, when his grandparent's moved to Agate, and Jason liked it so much that he never left the area. Jason graduated from Agate High School in 2000. He is married to his wife Summer, and they have three sons, a cat, and a dog.



Jason has volunteered with the Agate Fire Department for eight years and studied to get his EMT certification. After Jason and his family moved to Limon, he also began volunteering for the Limon Area Fire Protection District and served as the Assistant Fire Chief, and this year became the Fire Chief.

Besides the telephone and DSL troubleshooting, Jason does WildBlue Satellite Internet installations, new construction installation, and other outside plant work that is needed.

In his spare time he likes to sleep. But he would rather have more opportunities to golf. He has participated in several tournaments around the state and likes to see the different golf courses and designs.

The area has benefitted from Jason staying around, and we are glad that he chose to stay and serve our communities.





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Were On the Web!!

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Office Hours:

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday—Friday



## SHORT SHORTS

### Bye Mom!

I was walking through the supermarket to pick up a few things when I noticed an old lady following me around. Thinking nothing of it, I ignored her and continued on. Finally I went to the checkout line, and the old lady was in front of me in line.

“Pardon me,” she said, “I’m sorry if my staring at you has made you feel uncomfortable. “It’s just... you look like my son, who just past away.”

“I’m very sorry,” I said to her, “Is there anything I can do for you?”

“Yes,” she said, “As I’m leaving, can you say ‘Goodbye Mom?’ It would make me feel much better.”

“Sure,” I said. And odd request, but no harm would come of it. As the old woman was leaving, I called out, “Goodbye Mom!”

As I stepped up to the checkout counter, I saw that my total was \$1027.50. “How can that be?” I asked, “I only purchased a few things!”

“Your mother said that you would pay for her things too!” said the clerk.



## F U N F A C T S

Did you know...

- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was invented for a US firm’s Christmas promotion in 1938.
- In 1999, residents of the state of Maine in America built the world’s biggest ever snowman. He stood at 113ft tall.
- Nearly 60 million Christmas trees are grown each year in Europe.
- Dirty snow melts faster than clean snow.
- The winter of 1932 in the US was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.



*Do you have something you want to put in our newsletter? Contact us.*