

CONNECTION

HAPPY SHOPPING

Seasonal Shoppe offers boutique experience

HATS OFF

Special section honors our graduates

SCREEN TEST

Online tools help filmmakers break boundaries

NTCA THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

RURAL CONNECTIONS

By SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD, CEO
NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association

Broadband is critical for working from home

Nearly all of us have spent at least some time this past year working from home. And while remote work surged during the pandemic, it certainly isn't a new idea. Between 2005 and 2017, according to Statista, there was a 159% increase in remote work. Today 11.2% of Americans are working from home, up from 5.7% in 2019. And many are growing to prefer it — 22% of workers say they'd like to work from home permanently. I believe full-time remote work makes it difficult to create and maintain a collaborative work culture, but I do think that work is likely to have a new face when we get back to "normal."

The Foundation for Rural Service recently published a white paper entitled "Rural America's Critical Connections." (You can download it for free at www.frs.org.) The report cites a Global Workplace Analytics report that states, "Our best estimate is that 25-30% of the workforce will be working from home multiple days a week by the end of 2021."

What does this mean for broadband, that critical connection that helps us work remotely? It certainly means our country needs to continue the work to get broadband to everyone — and that in doing so we must build robust networks using technology proven to support the speeds and synchronous connections that working from home requires. Regardless of the work patterns and flexibility we see in the coming year, one thing is for certain: NTCA members such as your provider will continue to be at the forefront of connecting rural America. 📶

ASCENT — ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS

A free online resource helps female entrepreneurs



About 45% of businesses are owned or co-owned by women. Spanning a range of industries, most of these businesses are small with potential for growth. The federal Small Business Association wants to provide support.

The free, information-packed online Ascent program offers a range of helpful resources.

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Experts in women's entrepreneurship created informational Journeys. Participants can choose any Journey, opting out of sessions with information they already know. Each Journey includes Excursions filled with resources needed to master a topic.



Exercises and tools



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Discussion guides



Videos



Key insights



Self-assessments

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR BUSINESS?

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Secure your Internet of Things

The Instant Pot, a pressure cooker, is one of the most popular small kitchen appliances of recent years. Naturally, there's a model capable of connecting to the internet via Wi-Fi — an example of the Internet of Things, or IoT.

Smart thermostats, door locks and security cameras are just a few devices on the IoT spectrum. Refrigerators, toys and a range of whimsical gadgets are all on the bandwagon. And businesses and industry, including agriculture, manufacturing and medicine, take advantage of connected devices.

Like the connected Instant Pot, which lets a cook control it via a smartphone app, IoT devices provide convenience, useful data and new ways of using technology. Cisco, a leader in networking systems, estimates that more than 75 billion such devices will be in use by 2025.


The utility of what is sometimes described as the fourth industrial revolution is balanced by the need for mindful caution. These devices offer people with bad intent potential doorways into private homes and businesses that use the internet-dependent gadgets.

Meanwhile, companies are finding new ways of leveraging these systems. One example is Amazon Sidewalk, which rolled out earlier this year. Here's how Amazon described the innovation: "Amazon Sidewalk is a shared network that helps devices like Amazon Echo, Ring security cameras, outdoor lights and motion sensors work better at home and beyond the front door."

Essentially, Sidewalk links your Amazon devices to those of your neighbors through a specialized network. Why? Well, imagine your internet goes down while you're out of town, making your security-focused Ring Doorbell useless. With Sidewalk, however, your internet-connected doorbell would keep right on working, relying on the internet connections of your neighbors to power the system. Everyone on the Sidewalk

system gives up a little bit of their internet bandwidth to this network. Instead of a smart home, Sidewalk can create a smart neighborhood.

Amazon released a detailed white paper outlining the system's security features. And while security experts have been quoted praising the company's efforts, others have expressed concern about privacy and the potential for hackers to target the system. Amazon Sidewalk can be turned off in the settings section of the company's smartphone app.

As IoT devices proliferate and offer new, practical ways to leverage the power of the internet, knowledge and a few practical security steps can offset possible risks. In the past, the FBI noted the need for IoT caution. "Unsecured devices can allow hackers a path into your router, giving the bad guy access to everything else on your home network that you thought was secure," Beth Anne Steele wrote for the Portland FBI office. 

Security tips for IoT devices

- Change the device's default password. Consider a different device if instructions for changing the password aren't readily available.
- Long passwords — as long as possible — work best. Make them unique to each IoT device.
- Many IoT devices connect to smartphone apps. Take a few minutes to understand the permissions granted to these apps. An internet search will help here, too.
- If possible, have a separate network for devices, such as an internet-connected refrigerator and a laptop containing sensitive information.
- Regularly update the devices, and turn off automatic updates.



Working around the clock for you

Just a few months ago, in this very magazine, I described looking forward to a bright start to the new year. I imagine that, like me, many of you were hoping for a warmer welcome to 2021 than the severe weather that struck our area in February.



RUTH CONLEY
Chief Executive Officer

The trouble started on the 11th with the first of two ice storms. Our employees are no strangers to working in icy conditions, and they set to work making repairs and rebuilding parts of our system where fallen trees brought lines down. But before they could even complete that work, a second ice storm hit on the 15th.

That one-two punch left about 80% of our customers without service. With hundreds of trees down, many people were cut off and without power for weeks. Where trees hadn't taken out service lines, they had fallen across roads. Some of our team members cut their way out from their own homes before they could even report to their designated work areas.


As if that wasn't enough, less than two weeks later our service area was struck again, this time by a major flood on the 27th. Some of our poles were washed out by the waters or mudslides. Other areas where repairs had been ongoing were suddenly inaccessible due to the flooding. And with the heavy rainfall saturating the ground, even more trees came down, bringing service lines with them and making it still harder for crews to get where they were needed.

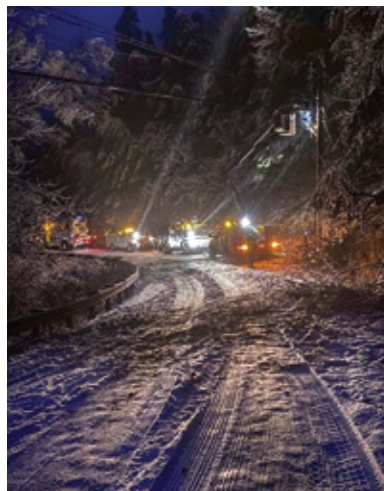
Suffice to say, February was a trying month. For parts of our system, repairs even stretched well into April. I really want to stress how proud I am of the way our cooperative came through it all. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding during this difficult period, particularly those of you in the northern part of our system who were hit hardest.

I would also like to take a moment to give a special shoutout to our employees, who worked incredibly long hours to restore service for their neighbors. They did so without complaint.

It may not be apparent when you are stuck at home waiting for internet and phone service to be restored, but these outages take a toll on our entire team.

From the day of the first ice storm to the moment service was fully restored, our employees spent weeks working overtime to get our customers back online. They put in close to 100-hour workweeks, often getting only enough sleep to wake up and get right back to making repairs. Even now, after service has been restored, we continue to make repairs to parts of our system that are not back to where they need to be.

So if you know one of our employees or you see them out and about, take a moment to thank them for their tireless work, not only during these storms but also throughout the year. We are proud of the effort each member of our team makes every day to keep us all connected. 



CONNECTION

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Foothills is a member-owned cooperative that has been serving residents and businesses in eastern Kentucky since 1951. In the early days, we only offered telephone service over copper wires. Over the years, we have expanded our network and now provide broadband internet and cable TV services over fiber optic facilities to much of our service area, which includes Magoffin County and portions of Johnson County and Lawrence County. We love being part of the communities we serve. Our customers are our families, friends and neighbors.

Foothills Communications
P.O. Box 240
1621 Kentucky Route 40 West
Staffordsville, KY 41256
www.foothills.net
606-297-3501

Foothills Mission Statement

"To provide the latest in communications at affordable prices with exceptional service."

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WORDSOUTH
— A CONTENT MARKETING COMPANY —

On the Cover:



Bekah Rudd and Patricia Frazier, of the Seasonal Shoppe in Salyersville, offer a variety of gifts, clothing and decor.
See story Page 12.

Happy Mother's Day!

Kick back and relax with free Showtime
Channels 440-464 from May 8-9.



Happy Father's Day!

Take entertainment to the next level with
free HBO Channels 400-410 from June 19-20.

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★
MEMORIAL DAY

The Foothills Communications office will close on
Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.
Thank you to all who served and sacrificed.

**Always Call
Before You Dig.**



One easy call gets your utility lines marked
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Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Marvelous vistas

Rhododendron make summertimes scenic

Story by ANNE P. BRALY

Climb to the top of Roan Mountain, a 5-mile ridgetop along the Appalachian Trail, in the month of June, and something magical happens. The view, normally green with vegetation, turns into a blanket of crimson as the rhododendron opens in full bloom.

“The views are spectacular — and that’s an understatement,” says Keith Kelley, ranger for the Cherokee National Forest, Watauga District.

It’s this view that people have been traveling to experience for generations, according to Jennifer Bauer. She is the author of three books about Roan Mountain. The most recent is “Roan Mountain: A Passage of Time.”

As early as the 1700s, botanists made their way up the mountain range to study

the flora and fauna. In 1794, Andre Michaux discovered alpine species rarely found outside of the New England and Canadian latitudes. Five years later, John Fraser hiked up the mountain, collecting specimens of rhododendron and noting the existence of the fir tree we now know as the Fraser fir. And yet another early explorer was Elisha Mitchell, for whom Mount Mitchell is named.

But it wasn’t until the magnificent Cloudland Hotel opened high atop Roan Mountain that it became known to the general public and word of its rhododendron — the largest proliferation of wild rhododendron in the world — spread across the South and beyond. Today, little remains of the Cloudland other than a forest service marker providing information


about the hotel’s glorious heyday. But people continue to come to see the magnificent gardens tended by Mother Nature. Sometimes too many people, Kelley adds, so he offers a suggestion should you go.

“South of Carver’s Gap is an area known as the Rhododendron Gardens, which you can drive to, park and hike from there,” he says. “There is a small user fee you have to pay to enter the area, but it is well worth it. That area is accessed by turning south at Carver’s Gap.”

Bauer’s attachment to “The Roan,” as she calls it, began in college when she was a student at East Tennessee State University. Her botany professor introduced her to The Roan, and the rest, as they say, is history. She’s now been with Tennessee State Parks for 38 years, the first 21 of which were spent working as an interpretive ranger at Roan Mountain State Park. The position enabled her to conduct research in an effort to learn more about the natural history of The Roan and its people. Bauer is now the park ranger at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park in Elizabethton, Tennessee.

Roan’s highlands, which reach up to 6,285 feet at its peak, is where you’ll find the Rhododendron Gardens — toward the west end of the highlands at the end of a U.S. Forest Service road that turns off from Carver’s Gap at the North Carolina/Tennessee state line.

“When they are in full bloom, you see a sea of crimson flowers in areas where there are not many spruce and fir trees popping up among them,” Bauer says. “But even with the trees, it’s a beautiful sight. In other areas of the mountain, you’ll walk through areas that are in different stages of transition between balds to forests. In these areas the rhododendron reaches for the sun and blooms among the spruce and firs. All of these unique habitats present a feeling of great beauty and a sense of visiting an enchanted forest.”

Any time of year is worth visiting, Kelley notes. “But in June, the rhododendron are in bloom, along with some of the other vegetation, which offers incredible, breathtaking scenery.” 

Where does Roan Mountain get its name?

Some say the name refers to the reddish color of the mountain when rhododendron comes into bloom in early summer or when the mountain ash berries appear in autumn. But, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, there’s another theory. Some say it comes from Daniel Boone’s roan-colored horse, because the man and his horse were frequent visitors to the area.





Grow it yourself

Rhododendron grows best in cooler climates and acidic soil — definitely not the hard-packed red clay found throughout the South. There are hybrid varieties, though, that have been developed for the southern garden. But that's no guarantee they will survive. Rhododendrons do not like high heat and wet soil. However, if you're willing to try, here are some tips from Southern Living.

- **Start with heat-tolerant plants.**
- **Pay attention to the soil and have it tested for acidity. Also, plant your rhododendron in an area that drains quickly and contains lots of organic matter, such as chopped dead leaves, cow manure and ground bark. Again, no clay.**
- **If your ground is flat, plant the rhododendron in a raised bed.**
- **Finally, choose a location that is lightly shaded in the afternoon and shielded from strong winds.**

Balding

The Appalachian Trail travels along the highest ridges of the Roan Mountain range, which separates Tennessee and North Carolina. A portion of the highlands is a red spruce and Fraser fir forest. Other areas of The Roan are described as "bald" communities. Just as the name implies, balds are areas on mountaintops where the forest ends and thick vegetation of native grasses and/or shrubs begins. One of the most popular areas along the entire Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia is the portion that crosses the balds of Roan Mountain, says Jennifer Bauer, former ranger at Roan Mountain State Park and a board member of Friends of Roan Mountain.

How the balds developed is anyone's guess, but scientists now believe they may have formed during the last ice age when constant winds and freezing temperatures caused trees to make a hasty retreat down the mountaintop. Mammoths and other beasts acted as Mother Nature's personal weed eaters, keeping the balds grazed. Now that the woolly beasts are gone and temperatures have warmed, balds are beginning to grow some "hair." But Roan Mountain's balds still shine. Among the most popular are the balds starting at Carver's Gap and going north.

They are, in order:

- 🌸 **Round Bald**
- 🌸 **Jane Bald**
- 🌸 **Grassy Ridge**
- 🌸 **Yellow Mountain**
- 🌸 **Little Hump Mountain**
- 🌸 **Hump Mountain**

Congratulations, seniors!

Johnson Central High School

Abigail Sheylan Adams – JCHS
 Taylor Dawn Adams – JCHS
 Jesse Matthew Adkins – JCHS
 Tiara Renae Adkins – JCHS
 Tiara Renae Adkins – Eagle Academy
 Caylin Abigail Allen – JCHS
 Felicia Rose Allen – JCHS
 Emily Renae Arms – JCHS
 Marcus Logan Auxier – JCHS
 Alexis Tamara Baker – JCHS
 Emily Elizabeth Baldridge – JCHS
 Zachary Michael Baldwin – Eagle Academy
 John Tyler Banks – JCHS
 Hailey Ann Barnett – JCHS
 Gabriela Cherie Barton – JCHS
 Devan Aldan Basir – JCHS
 Amidy Dawn Bentley – JCHS
 Evan Bennie Darnell Bevins – JCHS
 Hannah Leann Bishop – JCHS
 Ashley May Blackburn – JCHS
 Dallas Lee Blackburn – JCHS
 Jeremy Marcus Blair – JCHS
 Kelci Michelle Blair – JCHS
 Gabriel Trinity Blair – Eagle Academy
 Taylor Michael Blakeman – JCHS
 James Logan Blanton – Eagle Academy
 Jordan Christopher Blanton – Eagle Academy
 Sandra Blanton – Eagle Academy
 Blayne Harlan Boone – JCHS
 Christopher Eric Booth – JCHS
 Kailei Briannalyn Bowers – JCHS
 David Brock Bowling – JCHS
 James Douglas Brooks – JCHS
 Joseph Ford Burchett – JCHS
 Raina Blair Burchett – JCHS
 Daysha Kiara Burchett – Eagle Academy
 Kameron David Burke – JCHS
 Dillon Bryce Burkett – Eagle Academy
 Kyle Andrew Burns – JCHS
 Anna Grace Butcher – JCHS
 Twyla Lindsey Nicole Butcher – JCHS
 Kaylee Ann Cantrell – JCHS
 Roger Tate Cantrell – JCHS
 Allison Mackenzie Case – JCHS
 Eric Allen Castle – JCHS
 Makenna Rayelee Castle – JCHS
 Nathaniel Lee Castle – JCHS
 Serena Lashae Castle – JCHS
 Willis Dalton Castle – JCHS
 Brandon Wayne Caudill – JCHS
 Daniel Jacob Caudill – JCHS
 Marcus Alan Caudill – JCHS
 Seth Aaron Caudill – JCHS
 Trinton Allen Caudill – JCHS
 Joshua Henry Chance – JCHS
 Joanna Ellen Chapman – JCHS
 Lakeisha Mae Clevenger – JCHS
 Bram Christien Clevinger – JCHS
 Joshua Joe Trenton Click – JCHS
 Emily Brooke Cole – JCHS
 Alexis Jade Collins – JCHS
 Jayden Riley Collins – JCHS
 Keara Abigail Collins – JCHS
 Bo Devery Lee Collins – Eagle Academy
 Emma Brooke Collins – Eagle Academy
 Keara Abigail Collins – Eagle Academy
 Clayton Matthew Colvin – JCHS
 Donald Keith Colvin – JCHS



Madison Grace Colvin – JCHS
 Alonzo Conley – JCHS
 Bryston Dakota Conley – JCHS
 Tyler Michael Conley – JCHS
 Hannah Breeann Conley – Eagle Academy
 William Michael Cook – JCHS
 Ben Alexander Crace – JCHS
 David Trenton Crider – Eagle Academy
 Dustyn Rylee Cunagin – JCHS
 Hannah Danyel Curnell – Eagle Academy
 Alicia Noelle Curtis – JCHS
 Kadence Alexis Dalton – JCHS
 Abigail Grace Daniel – JCHS
 Derrick Keith Daniels – JCHS
 Mackinley Ray Daniels – JCHS
 Randell Alexander Daniels – JCHS
 David Douglas Daniska – JCHS
 Casey Joe Davis – JCHS
 Jasman Rayne Davis – JCHS
 Mckayla Renae Davis – JCHS
 Jalena Makenley Paige Deboard – Eagle Academy
 Joshua William Dorton – JCHS
 Deja Rayn Dotson – Eagle Academy
 Hailey Ann Elam – JCHS
 Jennika Marie Eldridge – JCHS
 Shanika Tanshay Fairchild – JCHS
 Lindsey Paige Fannin – JCHS
 Matthew Braden Ferguson – JCHS
 Mark Ryan Finney – JCHS
 William Conner Finney – JCHS
 Collin Lee Fishbaugh – JCHS
 Kinley Jolee Fitch – JCHS
 Luke Anthony Fitch – JCHS
 Dylan Joseph Tanner Freeman – JCHS
 Sintera Lenette Futch – JCHS
 Chloe Elizabeth Gamble – JCHS
 Natalie Sue George – JCHS
 Russell Weston Goble – JCHS
 Tiffani Dianna Goble – JCHS
 Jackson Thomas Colton Goggans – JCHS
 Tamara Laura Grass – JCHS
 Koalton Edward Green – JCHS
 Koalton Edward Green – Eagle Academy
 Chance Davis Griffith – JCHS
 Chase Edward Hackney – JCHS
 Hana Lee Hackworth – JCHS
 Clayton James Hall – JCHS
 Tyler Chase Hall – JCHS
 Clayton James Hall – Eagle Academy
 Madeline Brooke Hamilton – JCHS
 Maddalyn Alison Hammond – JCHS
 Abigail Denice Hannah – JCHS
 Dustin Marcus Harmon – Eagle Academy
 Mackenzie Elizabeth Hayden – JCHS
 Taylor Michael Hayden – JCHS
 Nicholas Devon Henry – JCHS
 Alisia Reese Hensley – JCHS
 Jacob Maurice Heuser – JCHS
 Kiana Abigail Heuser – JCHS
 Savannah Kay Hines – JCHS
 Susanna Renee Hines – JCHS
 Eric Dwayne Hitchcock – JCHS
 Luke Ryan Hitchcock – JCHS
 Katelyn Brooke Hohenecker – JCHS
 John Tyler Holbrook – JCHS
 Savannah Grace Holbrook – JCHS
 Kevin Michael Hopson – JCHS
 Ryan Douglas Howard – JCHS
 Alexander William Howard – Eagle Academy

Ryan Douglas Howard – Eagle Academy
 Seth Everett Jackson – JCHS
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 Mary Alison Johnson – JCHS
 Paul Gabriel Johnson – JCHS
 Damien Dante Johnson – Eagle Academy
 Adam Tyler Jude – Eagle Academy
 Andrew Tyler Keeton – JCHS
 Jacob Tyler Kellems – JCHS
 Mason Colby Kestner – JCHS
 John Paul King – JCHS
 Trinity Kylee Kretzer – Eagle Academy
 Dustin William Lafferty – JCHS
 Emery Caleb Lafferty – JCHS
 Hunter Bradley Lafferty – JCHS
 Brandon Tyler Laney – Eagle Academy
 Kodie Cheyanne Lemaster – JCHS
 Michael Thomas Lemaster – JCHS
 Michael Thomas Lemaster – Eagle Academy
 Eve Caroline Lewandoski – JCHS
 Philip Conner Lewis – JCHS
 Milleah Hope Limle – JCHS
 Kennedy Nicole Little – JCHS
 Jaycee Mckale Lovely – JCHS
 Nathanael Lee Lovins – JCHS
 Chloe Bryanna Lykins – JCHS
 Makenzie Brooke Martin – JCHS
 Haley Elizabeth May – JCHS
 Isaiah Bryce May – JCHS
 Jarrick Kain May – JCHS
 Brenton Christopher Maynard – JCHS
 Konstance Mercedes McCarty – JCHS
 Austin Tyler McCoy – JCHS
 Spencer Lewis Ryan McGraw – JCHS
 Tyler Dean McGuire – JCHS
 Ian Michael McIntosh – JCHS
 Katelynn Paige Meade – JCHS
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 Christopher Aaron Meek – JCHS
 Christopher Albridge Meek – JCHS
 Zoey Grace Meek – JCHS
 Brooklynn Leshea Meeks – Eagle Academy
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 Johnathan Logan Mollette – JCHS
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 Caitlin Olivia Morgan – JCHS
 Zachary Scott Morgan – JCHS
 Caitlin Olivia Morgan – Eagle Academy
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 Willie Kingbrack Mosley – JCHS
 Sydney Renee Mullins – JCHS
 Hunter Wayne Mullins – Eagle Academy
 Louann Carol Muncie – JCHS
 Cody Douglas Murphy – JCHS
 Courtney Alexis Music – JCHS
 Ethan Ray Music – JCHS
 Payton Micheal Mynhier – JCHS
 Nathaniel Mark Narendrakumar – JCHS
 Nathaniel Jay Newsome – JCHS
 Kylee Reese Newsome – Eagle Academy
 Allyson Brooke Obrian – Eagle Academy
 James Paul Osborne – JCHS
 Lacie Mckae Osborne – JCHS
 Ivy Rain Parks – JCHS

Ivy Rain Parks – Eagle Academy
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 Courtney Abigail Nichole Patrick – JCHS
 Kaylee Alyssa Gail Patrick – JCHS
 Charles Justin Patrick – Eagle Academy
 Emily Paige Pelphrey – JCHS
 Kelsi Grace Pennington – JCHS
 Audrianna Nicole Pierce – JCHS
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 Rebecca Aileen Porter – JCHS
 Andrew Logan Preston – JCHS
 Cheyenne Naomilyn Preston – JCHS
 Guthrey Dylan Preston – JCHS
 Bradyn Michael Price – JCHS
 Cody Lee Price – JCHS
 Meghan Elizabeth Pruitt – JCHS
 Jacob Russell Pugh – JCHS
 Kaleb Scott Ramey – JCHS
 Timothy Douglas Ramey – Eagle Academy
 Richard Levi Ramsey – JCHS
 Alexis Leigh Ratliff – JCHS
 Johnothun Kile Ratliff – JCHS
 Kylee Lynn Ratliff – JCHS
 Meghan Grace Ratliff – JCHS
 Savannah Faith Ratliff – JCHS
 Skyler James Ratliff – JCHS
 Jarrett Michael Reed – JCHS
 Savannah Ashley Reinhthaler – JCHS
 Hailey Brooke Rice – JCHS
 Jake Evan Rice – JCHS
 John David Roberts – JCHS
 Gabriel Isaac Ross – JCHS
 Taylor Angelique Rowland – JCHS
 Madison Paige Russell – JCHS
 Zachary David Russell – JCHS
 Hunter Tayton Salyer – JCHS
 Ethan Blake Sansom – JCHS
 Logan Alexander Sanson – JCHS
 Ryan Lewis Sartin – JCHS
 Alexandria Madison Scarberry – JCHS
 Joseph Robert Schmidt – JCHS
 Hunter Gage Scott – JCHS
 Peyton Bradley Sergeant – JCHS
 Cayleigh Aren- Marie Sexton – JCHS
 Dante Christopher Sexton – JCHS
 Haley Nicole Shepherd – Eagle Academy
 Hannah Marie Skaggs – JCHS
 Natalie Marie Skeens – Eagle Academy
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 Kalee Dawn Slone – JCHS
 Kamen O' Neil Slone – JCHS
 Page Lydia Slone – JCHS
 Chaz Mitchell Smith – JCHS
 Lauren Elizabeth Smith – JCHS
 Skyler Austin Smith – JCHS
 Haley Dawn Sorrell – JCHS
 Katelyn Nicole Spence – JCHS
 Nathaniel Bryce Granville Spencer – JCHS
 Chelsey Raye Spradlin – JCHS
 Matthew Shayne Spradlin – JCHS
 Toby Lee Spriggs – JCHS
 Ashley Nicole Stambaugh – JCHS
 Emma Jane-Ellen Stamper – JCHS
 Natalie Grace Stapleton – JCHS
 Nicholas Alexander Stapleton – JCHS
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 William Jordan Tackett – JCHS
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 Charity Nevaeh Thoms — JCHS
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 Cory Alexander Vanhoose — JCHS
 Bradley Shane Vanhoose — Eagle Academy
 Angel Sue Ward — JCHS
 Grant Arron Lee Ward — JCHS
 Joseph Dylan Ward — JCHS
 Rachel Adrianna Ward — JCHS
 Joseph Dylan Ward — Eagle Academy
 Joseph Blake Webb — Eagle Academy
 Blake Austin Wells — JCHS
 Tana Wells — JCHS
 Zachary Christian Wells — JCHS
 Morgan Blair Wiley — Eagle Academy
 Adam James Williams — JCHS
 Hope Isabella Williams — JCHS
 Alyssa Marie Willis — JCHS
 Cameron David Willis — JCHS
 Harley Cheyenne Witten — JCHS
 Logan Chase Woody — JCHS
 Cameron Scott Wright — JCHS
 Cody Ryan Wright — Eagle Academy
 Lucas Colby Wyatt — JCHS

Paintsville High School

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 Brycen C. Allen
 Ann C. Baldwin
 Hannah A. Belcher
 Johnathan. Blackburn
 Callie M. Blair
 Rebecca M. Blair
 Braden K. Branham
 Jerah K. Castle
 Rexford L. Castle
 Trey W. Childers
 Hallie M. Coleman
 Brayden C. Combs
 Peyton M. Cornett
 Alexandria B. Fannin
 Valerie J. George
 Ryan D. Gibson
 Harrison T. Graden
 Devin C. Hall
 Hadley G. Hardin
 Shelby L. Hatfield
 Byron P. Hopson
 Jake A. Hyden
 Joshua L. Hyden
 Cory M. Jefferson
 Mason K. Lovely
 Nathan D. Marsillett
 Morgan T. McClure
 Alivia B. Mollett
 Kendra L. Mollette
 Alissa N. Mullins
 Seth M. Murray
 Hunter K. Ousley
 Zachary S. Pelphrey
 Karsten R. Poe
 Lauren K. Poe
 Tess C. Sergent
 Lauren E. Souther
 Brandon R. Spencer
 Dustin A. Spurlock
 Gabriel A. Stepp
 Bethany C. Tackett
 Andrew B. Tharp
 Paul Z. Thompson
 Jaxon L. Watts
 Madison A. Webb
 Alexandra D. Witten



Lawrence County High School

Abigail Grace Akers
 Calvin Akers
 Easton Grant Bevins
 Dwayne Anthony Bishop
 Elijah Wade Blackburn
 Breanna Nicole Blevins
 Erika Blevins
 Corrina Sueann Bowen
 Jessie Bowen
 Jonah Bowen
 Lauren Faith Bradley
 Citori Rose Branham
 Alyssa Lachae Brewer
 Lakyn Leeann Bryant
 Whitney Bryant
 Rocky Allen Burchett
 Michael Douglas Burke
 Emma Kathryn Caldwell
 Owen Grey Childers
 Seth Cline
 Shirley Mikell Coburn
 Desiree LaRee Cole
 Ethan Blake Coleman
 Angelina Grace Collins
 Matthew Brent Collins
 Nicholas Collinsworth
 Sarah Jo Parker Cook
 Payton Cole Cooper
 Madison Shea Copley
 Elizabeth Anne Coulter
 Thomas Glenn Dalton
 Jakob Christopher Daniels
 Brandon Lee Davis
 William Kyle Davis
 Adam Dennison
 Tori Leeann Ellison
 Andrew Richard Evans
 Daniel Falls
 Ethan Richard Fields
 Allison Catherine Fissler
 Logan Paul Fissler
 Johnny Allen Fitchpatrick
 Autumn Brooke Fletcher
 Christopher Blake Fletcher
 Jacob Matthew Fletcher
 Blaize Lee Fowler
 Baden Clay Gillispie
 Danny Wade Hall
 Anastacia Jasmine Harczynski
 Jordan Blake Harper
 Madison Michelle Harris
 Beverly Ash Hayes
 James Andrew Hayes
 Hannah Elizabeth Hazlett
 Tatiana E Higgins
 Matthew Blake Hogan
 Alexis Holbrook
 Shawnda Tess Jennings
 Dennis Logan Jewell
 Elizabeth Ruth Jones
 James Tanner Jordan
 Karissa Landyn Jude
 Isabella Joy Keeton
 Brock Edward Kessinger
 Natasha Lynn Kirk
 William Robert Lampert
 Corrina Lemaster
 Jackson Allen Mathieu
 Kaleb Devin Maynard
 Michael Raymond McCauley
 Bailey Elizabeth McClanahan
 Shelby Alora Lynn McDowell
 Jakob Blake McKerr
 Myca McKinney
 Dylan Alexander Miller



Braxton Mollett
 Tiffany Renee Mullett
 Robert Lee Muncy
 Madison Elizabeth Nelson
 Whitney Elizabeth New
 Kaley Jo Alexis Osborne
 Mason Anthony Pack
 Kiersten Dawn Pannell
 Aiden Quinn Parker
 Evan Layne Parker
 Herbie Edward Parks
 Bailey Renae Peck
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 Ebb Jacob Andrew Preece
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 Zachary Eli Randall
 Hannah Sue Ratliff
 Paul Evan Rawlings
 Brody Lee Richmond
 Jayce Junior Rivera
 Stephen Lynn Robertson
 Tristan Matthew Robertson
 Robert Benjamin Roe
 Kaylee Ann Runyons
 Ethan Cordale Salyer
 Rex Alan Sammons
 Jacob Gabriel Savage
 Nicholas Richard Scarberry
 Abigail Hope Sexton
 Kennedy Grace Sexton
 Christopher Berman Skaggs
 Callie Victoria Paige Sleasman
 Dustin Paul Spaulding
 Shaunntae Dominique Sweeney
 Andrew Ryan Tackett
 Trent Alexander Tackett
 Courtney Alexandria Tarring
 Haleigh Janea Thompson
 Kaleigh Diane Vaughn
 Britney Lynn Vinson
 Jenna Sue Wallin
 Joseph Carl Easton Warf
 Ellie Klaire Webb
 Emily Jane Webb
 Jacob Kyle Webb
 Mark Andrew Webb
 Joshua King Wells
 Kirsten Denet Wells
 Aubrey Victoria West
 Logan Wade West
 Dylan Robert Wheeler
 Jamie Dallas Wheeler
 Conner Thomas Michael Whitt
 Randall Ethan Whitt
 Caleb Robert Thomas Wilburn
 Preston Elizabeth Williams
 Tristyn Paige Workman
 Jasmine Paige Young

Magoffin County High School

Armina Adams
 Andrew Adkins
 James Adkins
 Kylee Adney
 Cody Allen
 Crystal Arnett
 Jacklyn Arnett
 Rachael Arnett
 Emilee Bailey
 Miranda Collett Bailey
 William Hunter Bailey
 Aaliyah Barnett
 Haley Barnett
 Kaylee Blanton
 Shannon Andrew Blanton



Julius Brown
 Jamie Burchett
 Jenny Caldwell
 Presley Caldwell
 C. Brady Cantrell
 Kiley Carty
 Terry Cobern
 Jaden Coleman
 Trenton Coleman
 Stephanie Collinsworth
 Hailey Combs
 Destiny Compton
 Zachary Conley
 Hadley Craft
 Elijah Cunningham
 Madison Dalton
 Morgan Damron
 Sebastian Davis
 Alyssa Fletcher
 Dalton Francis
 Jeffrey Gallion
 Gabrielle Gambill
 Christian Gamble
 Natalie Gasparac
 Tyrell Gayheart
 Braxton Gayheart
 Tommy Gipson
 Joshua Hall
 Holly Handshoe
 Dawson Helton
 Ethan Helton
 Stephanie Helton
 Aidan Holbrook
 Jason Holland
 Austin Howard
 Caleb Howard
 Destiny Howard
 Gracie Howard
 Harley Howard
 Hunter Howard
 Issabella Howard
 Jacob Howard
 Jaden Alexis Howard
 Kristian Logan Howard
 Laken Howard
 M. Peyton Howard
 Samuel Howard
 Tarren Hunley
 Shakira Hunter
 John Hurd
 Billy Ingram
 Kenton Isaac
 Haley Jenkins
 Tyler Jenkins
 Zachary Jenkins
 Whitania Jordan
 Brianna Joseph
 Hailey Joseph
 Ethan Keeton
 Christian King
 Erin Kugel
 Michael Lackey
 Brooklyn Lemaster
 Lucas Litteral
 Brooklin Lykins
 Keyonna McCarty
 Ethan Meade
 James Meade
 Riley Meadows
 Chloe Minix
 M. Austin Minix
 Chloe Mollette
 Ben Montgomery
 Alexis Moore
 Kaylee Morrison
 Andrew Mortimer
 Jaedyn Napier

Mable Nickles
 Austin Nipper
 D. Walker Patrick
 Mckayla Patrick
 Nick Patrick
 Laurel Olivia Pelphrey
 Conner Pennington
 Aaron Perkins
 Justin Perkins
 Kathrine Perkins
 David Landon Poe
 Katelin Poe
 Joseph Porter
 Ethan Prewitt
 Ian Prewitt
 K. Alex Puckett
 Haley Ratliff
 Kyle Reed
 Ragina Reed
 Cody Rife
 Jacob Risner
 Tess Risner
 Christina Rowe
 Grant Rudd
 Levi Rudd
 Breianna Russell
 K. Paige Russell
 Tarah Russell
 Ashley Salyer
 Breanna Salyer
 Chloe Salyer
 Isaiah Salyer
 Cheyanne Saylor
 Mason Shepherd
 Krista Slone
 Jozlyn Smith
 Haley Smithers
 Kayla Sparks
 Brad Standifer
 Karlee Stewart
 Loegan Swiger
 Bethany Tate
 Travis Trusty
 Kandice Jade Watkins
 James Blake Whitaker
 Caleb Williams
 Gabriel Williams
 Tameka Williams
 Ethan Wireman
 Autumn Wright

The Piarist School

Aryn N. Dotson
 Katie E. Hall
 Aaron Huynh
 Caleb B. Mullins
 Emma R. Stewart



Morgan County High School

Autumn Brown



You did it!

Final cut

How the freedom of the internet is transforming filmmaking

Story by DREW WOOLLEY

Some filmmakers learn their craft by making home movies in the backyard. Others go to film school. Madelaine Turner likes to say she got her education on YouTube.

“That’s essentially where I got my film degree,” she says. “Movies were my first love, but filmmaking wasn’t something I pursued for a long time. Until quarantine started.”

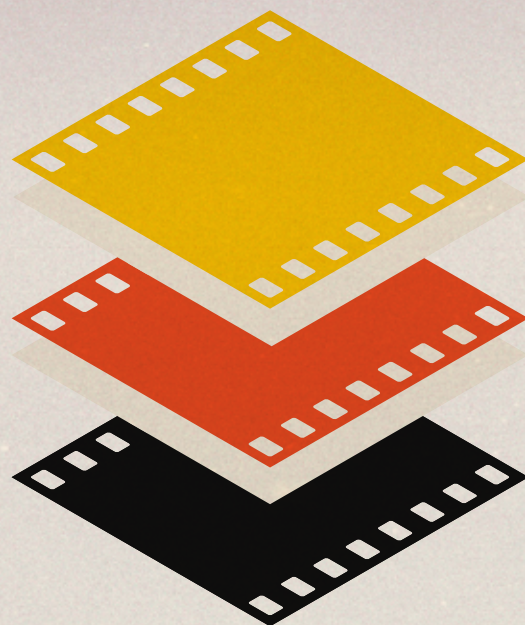
At 27 years old, the California native considers herself a senior by the standard of apps like TikTok. Of the app’s 500 million active users, nearly half are estimated to be in their teens and early 20s.

Originally, Turner’s quick videos were just a way to stay connected with her younger siblings. But she began to view the platform as a way to genuinely flex her creative muscle after a positive response to her Wes Anderson tribute video, “The Anderson Guide to Surviving a Global Pandemic,” filmed using only objects she had in her apartment.

“It gives you really specific boundaries with the content you’re allowed to create, which is 59 seconds,” she says. “So the challenge and excitement as a storyteller, director and creator is getting your point across and making those 59 seconds really enjoyable for your audience.”

Within those confines, Turner has explored her wide-ranging creative interests, from short films paying homage to Jane Austen costume dramas and French heist movies to abstract dream sequences and a cyberpunk take on “The Wizard of Oz.” Each new style gives her a chance to learn more about the filmmaking process both during and after filming.

“I’d never really used a green screen or After Effects before,” she says. “Now, taking on a new genre is really exciting because it allows me to push the boundaries of what I know how to do and challenges me to figure out how I can convey this effectively without having a whole production crew.”



Her growth as a filmmaker hasn’t gone unnoticed. As a freelance screenwriter, Turner has been able to point to her online portfolio and hundreds of thousands of followers to build connections within the movie industry. And thanks to the algorithms of apps like TikTok, Instagram and YouTube, more people are discovering her work every day.

“It allows you to come across content from someone with virtually no following,” Turner says. “And from my perspective, I was putting my stuff out there and very quickly engaging an audience that gave me the permission to go bigger, further and more creative.”

That audience is one of the reasons Turner doesn’t expect she’ll ever stop making short-form videos online, even as she pursues her larger filmmaking dreams. The real-time feedback she receives on those platforms has already shaped her as a filmmaker and may come to shape the industry itself.

“A traditional filmmaker might go years in between films, whereas on TikTok you get this microenvironment of trying new things and getting that quick feedback,” she says.

“So I think I’ve been lucky to hyper-develop my style as a filmmaker because of that feedback loop. Hopefully I can be part of a generation of filmmakers that is able to bridge that gap between the internet and the mainstream.”



Madelaine Turner puts her spin on genres ranging from French heist movies to cyberpunk.



Long distance

For every film festival that was able to pivot to digital in 2020, there were many more that had to be canceled altogether. With so much of the industry on hold, a team of five cinephiles in Brooklyn started the entirely online Long Distance Film Festival, harnessing the power of broadband to give rural and urban filmmakers around the world an outlet for their creativity.

"There was a certain freedom to starting an all-online festival," says Festival Director Elias ZX. "It was much cheaper than doing it in person. We didn't sell tickets and had unlimited capacity so friends, family and fans of the filmmakers were able to join from around the globe and watch the festival in its entirety."

To pull it off, the team partnered with the independent Spectacle Theater and Kinoscope to stream its 15 selected short films to hundreds of viewers around the world. Plans for a second edition of the festival are already underway, with submissions open for 2021.



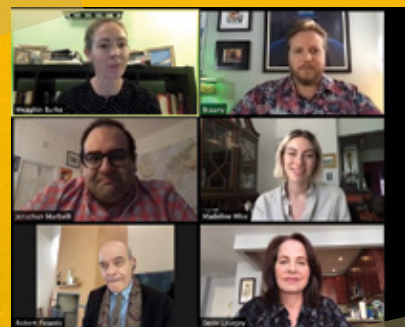
Industry standard

Oxford Film Festival Executive Director Melanie Addington was making last-minute arrangements for the Mississippi-based event when the state's governor banned gatherings of more than 100 people. Using Eventive's brand-new online festival platform, she quickly pivoted to take the event virtual.

"We were one of the first virtual festivals with Eventive and had to learn a lot very quickly, mostly that a lot of our community doesn't have good internet access," she says. "That was restricting in some ways, but it also expanded who could see them to a new audience."

Moving forward, Addington anticipates OFF will have a hybrid format, combining the accessibility of a virtual festival with the in-person experience of a live event.

"This will be what we do from here on out," she says. "Not everyone can travel to Oxford, but they can still take part in the experience. It makes absolute sense for this to become a standard in our industry."





Bekah Rudd's family forms the backbone of The Seasonal Shoppe. From left, Leanna Frazier, Rudd's sister-in-law, and her furry friend, Carla, Rudd, her son, Jesse "Trey" Rudd III, her mother and business co-owner, Patricia Frazier, and Rudd's daughter, Finley Rudd.



The Seasonal Shoppe in Salyersville sells clothing, accessories, home decor and more — all in a warm and inviting boutique setting.

Unique attitude

The Seasonal Shoppe's family legacy creates a fun shopping experience

Story by JEN CALHOUN

To understand Bekah Rudd's vision for her diverse boutique, The Seasonal Shoppe, you first have to understand her childhood.

Back when Rudd was growing up, her father's drugstore, Frazier's Prater Drug in Salyersville, burst with variety. In addition to the old-fashioned soda fountain, everyday items mixed with the weird and the wild — tarantulas and records, fish and Cabbage Patch dolls.



A Radio Shack — yes, the chain electronics store that populated shopping malls in the 1980s — also held space at one side of the vast shop, while at least one arcade game lit up the building. "Literally, that store had anything you could imagine," Rudd says with a laugh. "It was a drugstore, but you never knew what you would find there."

If Frazier's Prater Drug sounds more like a department store than a pharmacy, that's the way Rudd's late father, Tom Frazier, liked it. "He loved this town so much, and he loved the people here," she says. "He wanted people to be able to find whatever they wanted or needed right here. He wanted them to have nice things — things they had in bigger cities — and be proud of that."

Rudd's mother, Pat Frazier, felt the same. Years ago, near the Radio Shack space, she opened her own bit of real estate she named The Seasonal Shoppe,

offering gifts and arts-and-crafts supplies. As times changed and the shop grew, she moved it a couple doors down Church Street in 1997.

HEADING HOME

After high school, Rudd attended the University of Kentucky. She planned on majoring in anything but the obvious family business. "I never knew what I wanted to do, but I didn't want to do that," she says. "Or so I thought."

But the retail gene turned out to be stronger than she could have ever known. Rudd ended up with a bachelor's degree in merchandising, apparel and textiles. After an internship at a Macy's, she wound up working in the retail giant's corporate offices in Atlanta. But life in the corporate world didn't fulfill her as much as being inside the store itself.

"It was a strange time," Rudd says. "I was 24 and single, but I had just rekindled a relationship with my high school sweetheart. My parents told me if I wanted to come back, they might have something for me." That something turned out to be The Seasonal Shoppe. Pat Frazier turned over the management part of the business to Rudd around 2005, giving her the chance to make it her own.

"It was more of a craft store at the time," Rudd says. "There were a small amount of home decor items and very few

gift items. In the back of my head, I kind of always wanted to make it a place like what my dad had done, but a little different.”

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

Back then, Salyersville offered little in the way of clothing stores or gift shops. If you wanted anything really special, Rudd says, you had to leave town. Her friends and customers at her shop started making requests, telling her they needed a store “where you can pick up a shower gift or a nice outfit.”

Rudd made it happen. Now, The Seasonal Shoppe offers a boutique clothing store with women’s clothing, shoes, jewelry and other accessories, as well as gifts and home decor items like Kentucky-made candles, baby gifts, Willow Tree figurines, the popular Simply Southern clothing line and a new Kentucky-made T-shirt line geared toward men.

Rudd also started posting her items, sales and open houses online on Facebook and Instagram. With that decision, she picked up customers from other states, including West Virginia and Virginia. Some of her younger employees even started posting TikTok videos, using the app that lets users create personalized short videos to share with the world.

“We are like a big family,” Rudd says. “I know it sounds cliché, but it’s true. We have fun together, and we take care of each other.” Her daughter, Finley, 10, loves helping out at the shop and being around the older female employees. Her son, Trey, 14, has all the big sisters he can handle.

“I also wanted to be like my dad, because he was always giving kids their first jobs,” Rudd says. “So many people will come up to me and say, ‘I worked in your dad’s drugstore.’ You’ve got to give kids a chance.” Carrying on the family shopkeeping tradition is one of the most important things in Rudd’s life. It keeps her connected to her roots.

“This store and the drugstore have always been important to me,” she says. “It’s a family legacy. I’ve always been really proud of what my mom and dad did. Our town deserves a place of its own.” 📱



The Seasonal Shoppe got its start in Frazier’s Prater Drugs before moving to its own space just down the road in 1997.



The shop gives customers a place to relax, browse and enjoy a day out.



Year-round finds for everyone

The Seasonal Shoppe is at 71 S. Church St. in Salyersville. This boutique shopping experience offers gifts, clothing, accessories, a men’s line, home decor and more. For more information or to check out the shop’s latest inventory, sales and open houses, visit its Facebook and Instagram pages and TikTok site. The shop’s phone is 606-349-3223.



Perfectly pleasing peas

Enjoy a surprisingly flexible legume

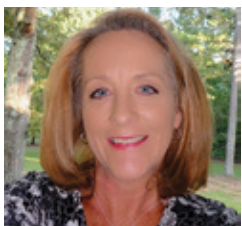
If you're denying yourself the simple beauty of peas, it's time to rethink your weekly menu. Full of healthy benefits and flavor, they should be a part of everyone's diet.

Peas' nutrition profile includes manganese, protein, fiber, vitamin A and folate, with lots of lesser vitamins to boot. And their neutral flavor allows them to go from smoothies at breakfast to salads for lunch and pot pies for dinner. They're inexpensive and add a lot of texture and color to any plate.

Try tossing them with pasta and a creamy Alfredo sauce. Or use peas as a topping for a baked potato with cheese and sour cream. You can also make an incredible pesto sauce for buttery rounds of crusty bread. Simply add a bag of

frozen peas to a handful of mint leaves and a half cup of Parmesan cheese, blend them together in a food processor and add olive oil as the machine is running until you get a smooth, thick consistency.

If you're lucky enough to have a garden full of the green pods filled with fresh peas, you've done yourself a favor. Just go outside and grab a handful of taste and nutrition. If not, grab a bag of frozen peas — they're just as good for you.



FOOD EDITOR
ANNE P. BRALY
IS A NATIVE OF
CHATTANOOGA,
TENNESSEE.



PEA SALAD WITH SMOKED ALMONDS

- 2 (16-ounce) packages frozen peas
- 6 ounces smoke-flavored almonds, finely chopped
- 1/2 a sweet onion or more, to taste, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise (reduced fat OK)
- 1/2 cup sour cream (light OK)
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Place frozen peas in a colander and rinse them under cold water until thawed. Drain and transfer them to a large bowl. Add the almonds and onions. Mix well. Fold mayonnaise, sour cream and black pepper into the pea mixture until evenly coated. Transfer to a serving container and top with shredded cheese. Cover and refrigerate until serving. Before serving, you may want to blend cheese into the mixture, or leave it on top for a prettier presentation.





GREEN PEA BANANA SMOOTHIE

- 1/2 cup frozen green peas
- 1 frozen banana
- 1 cup spinach
- 4 mint leaves or more, to taste
- 1 1/2 cups almond milk
- 1 tablespoon almond butter, optional

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Blend until smooth, about 1 minute. Add more almond milk if needed to achieve your desired consistency.



CREAMY CHICKEN POT PIE

Peas add taste, color and texture to this creamy dish.

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 1/2 cup cold buttermilk
- 1 or 2 tablespoons cold water
- 1 large egg, beaten, for the egg wash

For the pot pie filling:

- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup diced onion
- 2 medium carrots sliced (about 1 cup)
- 1 stalk celery sliced (about 1/2 cup)
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 1/2 teaspoons minced fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh Italian parsley
- 1 3/4 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 3 cups shredded chicken or turkey
- 1 cup frozen peas

First, make the pie dough. Combine the flour, sugar and salt in a large bowl. Add the cubed butter and toss to coat.

Dump the mixture out onto a clean surface and use a rolling pin to roll the butter into thin sheets, combining it with the flour. Use a bench scraper to scrape the rolling pin and to bring the mixture back into a pile as necessary. Continue until all of the butter is incorporated into the flour. The mixture will be very flaky. Return the mixture to the bowl and place it in the freezer for 15 minutes to chill the butter.

Remove from the freezer and add the buttermilk. Use a spoon, and then your hands, to stir the mixture until it comes together into a ball. If the mixture is too dry, add the water a tablespoon at a time. Divide the dough into 2 parts and flatten them into disks. Wrap each disk in plastic wrap and chill in the fridge while you make the filling.

To make the filling, heat the butter over medium-high heat in a large skillet. Add the onions, carrots, celery and garlic and cook until tender, stirring occasionally. Whisk in the flour, salt, black pepper, thyme, parsley, chicken broth and heavy cream. Whisk until there are no flour lumps, then simmer over medium-low heat for 10 minutes or until the sauce has thickened. Stir in the shredded chicken or turkey and frozen peas. Remove from heat and set aside.

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Remove the pie dough from the refrigerator. On a lightly floured surface, use a rolling pin to roll out the dough into a 12-inch circle. Dough should be about 1/4 inch thick. Transfer the dough to a 9-inch pie pan. Pat with your fingers, making sure it is smooth. Trim the extra overhang of dough with a knife and discard.

Pour the filling into the dough-lined pie pan. Roll out the second disk of dough and carefully cover the pie. Trim the extra overhang off the sides. Seal the edges by crimping with a fork or your fingers. With a sharp knife, slice a few small slits in the center of the top crust. Using a pastry brush, brush the crust and edges with a beaten egg.

Bake for 45 minutes, or until the crust is golden brown. Cool for 10 minutes, allowing the filling to settle and thicken a bit. Cut into slices and serve.



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