

CONNECTION



Tri Span trio

Louisa company
diversifies

TECH
TIDBITS

MOVIES IN
MOTION



NTCA THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION
RURAL CONNECTIONS

By SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD, CEO
NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association

A front row seat to history

I recently spent the morning at the White House celebrating the historic announcement of \$42.5 billion allocated to all the states and territories in our union to help bridge the digital divide as part of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program, also known as BEAD.

The buzz in the security line was electric as folks lined up early to compare notes on why we are all passionate about broadband deployment, and I enjoyed sharing the activities of community-based broadband providers. I found myself beaming when a few people specifically referenced the fiber networks deployed by NTCA member companies. I love that the hard work of these companies and co-ops like yours is finally getting the credit that is due.

Mitch Landrieu, head of infrastructure initiatives for President Joe Biden, kicked us off and turned the podium to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, who is leading BEAD and has genuinely put her passion behind her work. President Biden then took the podium and got right into sharing how much this historic investment in broadband means for our country. I was delighted to hear all the administration's folks share a mindset on the importance of reliable, comparable and affordable broadband and even how fiber is really the technology of choice for this historic investment.

As Secretary Raimondo noted, it really was a "happy broadband day." And, with the support of your community-based provider, we are sure to have many more delightful broadband days in the future. 📶

Why is broadband vital?

It strengthens rural America



Life is often lived online, including working, socializing, learning, relaxing and more. Without fast internet access, however, these day-to-day essentials grind to a halt. But for rural communities, the stakes are even higher.

While it's something we might take for granted — at least for those of us who have access to broadband — the power of fast internet to profoundly improve quality of life remains striking.



-1-

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

High-speed internet helps rural businesses expand their reach through e-commerce — possibly even connecting globally.



-2-

REMOTE WORK:

Rural workers can tap into a pool of work-from-home jobs, allowing residents to avoid commutes or the possibility of relocating for work.



-3-

HEALTH CARE:

Telemedicine and access to medical resources — such as time-sensitive treatments like stroke care — are critical.



-4-

EDUCATION:

Rural schools, colleges and students can tap vast resources, including virtual classrooms and distance learning programs.



-5-

AGRICULTURE:

Online resources allow farmers in rural areas to optimize crop management, monitor livestock, access weather information and more.

That's just the beginning. New opportunities will continue to appear, and rural internet providers will make the connections to bring those services to you.



©matortin/Adobe Stock

Stream it to win it

DON'T MISS A GAME THIS SEASON

Fall is prime time for sports fans. There's both college and NFL football. The baseball regular season wraps up, followed by the playoffs and World Series. The first NBA games tip off, too. And with such a rich stew of possibilities, the buffet of options for viewing sports is tastier than ever.

Once, a sports fan might be limited to viewing the feats of only regional teams, and the selection of those games was limited to the lineup a TV network offered. Now, however, sports fans can choose streaming services that best suit their interests and budgets. Pricing can change at any time, though, so verify the cost when you're ready to make a game-time decision.

SOME POTENTIAL WINNERS

▶ **NFL Game Pass:** For pro football fans, NFL Game Pass is a game-changer. This streaming service provides access to live out-of-market games. It's hard to beat if you're a fan who wants to keep up with a favorite team whose games typically aren't

broadcast in your TV market. NFL Game Pass also offers on-demand replays, condensed games and access to an extensive archive of previous seasons. While Game Pass is just one possibility for streaming NFL games, it's a good one.

▶ **NBA League Pass:** Do you love professional basketball? Thanks to NBA League Pass, there's a premium service perfect for anyone hooked on the NBA. There's coverage of live games and the opportunity to watch past games on demand. There's plenty of analysis, features, interviews and more. And it also works great on most devices.

▶ **Paramount+, Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV:** These services aren't known primarily as platforms that feature sports. Instead, they established footholds by offering deep libraries of new TV shows and movies, as well as catalogs of longtime favorites. But if you're already subscribing to stream from one of these services, or other

similar ones, take a closer look. You might be surprised by the sports available on a subscription you already have.

- ▶ **YouTube TV:** If you want an experience that's close to traditional TV — all the big networks and smaller ones, too — check out YouTube TV. ABC, CBS, NBC, ESPN and more are all available, and they're streaming in real time. You see the games as they're happening. You can even record events so you can watch them later.
- ▶ **ESPN+:** Are you a fan of sports other than the big leagues? ESPN+ takes a deep dive into soccer, tennis and more. There's coverage of everything from Ultimate Fighting Championship bouts to U.S. Open tennis. Smaller college conferences, such as the Ivy League and Conference USA, are showcased, with baseball, softball, hockey, wrestling and more. There's even access to a library of content from the ESPN documentary series "30 for 30." [📺](#)

Need help paying your internet bill?



The Affordable Connectivity Program helps households struggling to afford internet service.

Eligible users can receive a monthly discount up to \$30.

**To see if you qualify and
to apply, call 877-384-2575 or
visit getinternet.gov.**



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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.

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Foothills Mission Statement

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

Produced for Foothills Communications by:



On the Cover:



Tri Span Construction and Tri Span Boilers owners rely on faith and hard work to keep going. Pictured from left are owners John Pannell IV, Larry Salyer Jr. and John Pannell III. *See story Page 8.*

Photography by
John Michael Laney

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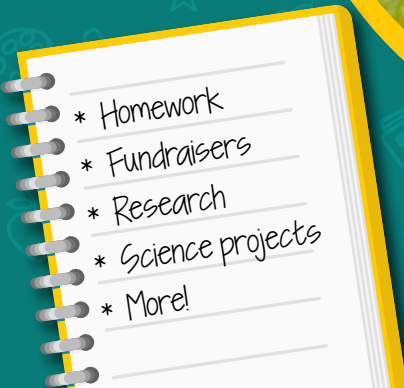


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TAKE A LOAD OFF

Foothills Communications wishes you a relaxing and safe **Labor Day** weekend. In honor of the holiday – and in recognition of our own employees – our offices will be closed **Monday, Sept. 4.**





ON LOCATION

Movie productions seek rural Southern settings

Story by ANNE BRALY

Lights, camera, action! Those words, once heard primarily in Hollywood studios, now echo through wooded forests and city streets across the South. And for many, a visit to places they've seen on the silver screen adds some excitement to a vacation.

"Film has always been such a powerful medium, and I think people enjoy being a part of something that meant so much to them," says Dan Rogers, senior project manager for the South Carolina Film Commission.

It's widely known that the Atlanta area is a hot spot for zombies in "The Walking Dead" and the unusual happenings in "Stranger Things." Nashville's been given the nod by directors, too, with films including "The Green Mile," with Tom Hanks, and "Coal Miner's Daughter," starring Sissy Spacek as Loretta Lynn, filming in Music City.

Small towns, too, have seen their share of screen time. Black Mountain and Cedar Mountain, both in western North Carolina, were locations for several scenes in "The Hunger Games." Berry College in Rome, Georgia, was transformed into Carmichael Plantation in scenes from "Sweet Home Alabama." Also, Tidalholm Mansion along the Beaufort River in Beaufort, South Carolina, set the stage for both "The Big Chill" and "The Great Santini."

So, what is it about the South that has turned it into the new Hollywood? Kyle Bucher, production manager for virtual productions at 3rd Realm Creations in Mobile, Alabama, says it all goes back to what helps make the region famous — Southern hospitality.

"It goes a long way," he says. "The local hospitality of people and their willingness to try and help is ideal. Also, the local creativity among artists and the community is a stark comparison from Los Angeles and other filming areas."

ALABAMA

Lower Alabama has seen a lot of interest come its way since "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" was released in 1977. You can still see where the main character, Roy Neary, lived in Mobile, 613 Carlisle Drive, along with the home of character Jillian Guiler at 22250 Alabama Highway 181, in Fairhope.

More movie sites in Alabama include Waverly Lake, where a scene in "Norma Rae" was filmed, and Eufaula, where the historic streets were the backdrop for "Sweet Home Alabama." Huntsville's Space and Rocket Center has also been a location in several movies, including "Space Camp" and "Space Warriors." Most recently, West Mobile's Honduran Kitchen, off Snow Road, was used to shoot Robert de Niro's new comedy "About My Father," released Memorial Day weekend.



Blacksher Hall, a grand mansion in Mobile, was used in filming "USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage."

Photo courtesy of Kyle Bucher



KENTUCKY

The diverse topography in the Bluegrass State makes it ideal territory for scouts looking to film movies, says Tim Bates, manager of the Kentucky Film Office.

“Some might think that a destination is particularly beautiful, or maybe they really enjoyed a film so much that they want to experience more of it,” he says. “It’s a rather easy connection between filmmaking and tourism.”

Some of the movies filmed in Kentucky and sites that you can visit include, Pompilio’s Italian Restaurant in Newport, featured in 1988’s “Rain Man” with Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise. Or, visit Fort Knox to see where “Stripes,” starring Bill Murray and John Candy, was filmed. The Pioneer Playhouse in Danville was the backdrop for the film “Raintree County” with Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift. Also, Keeneland in Lexington is always a fun place to visit for tours, a chance to see the horses and, while you’re there, see where much of “Seabiscuit” was filmed.



Danville’s Pioneer Playhouse remains a popular place and is the setting for the Elizabeth Taylor film “Raintree County.”

Photo courtesy of Kentucky Tourism



Photo courtesy of New Line Productions

Walk in the steps of Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams along King Street in Charleston as they filmed “The Notebook.”



SOUTH CAROLINA

“Outer Banks” a hit show on Netflix, has brought many people to the area. As a result, “they’ve discovered the beauty of our Lowcountry,” Dan says.

Some of the best areas to visit locations from “Outer Banks” are along Shem Creek in Mount Pleasant. Also, visit the Gaillard Center in Charleston, aka the UNC Chapel Hill Law Library. If you’re in the Charleston area and want to find out more, visit charlestoncvb.com.

Other South Carolina movie sets include Four Square Gospel Church — actually, Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel in McPhersonville — where Forrest Gump went to pray for shrimp, and Lucy Point Creek between Coosaw and Lady’s Island, where most of the water scenes were shot. Movie fans can find more places at southcarolinalowcountry.com.



TENNESSEE

The flatlands and mountains of Tennessee have been the backdrop for many movies, and here are some sites that you can visit and relive the magic of the big screen.

Visit Charleston, Cleveland and the Hiwassee River to see where “Wild River,” the first major motion picture filmed entirely in Tennessee, was made. Tour the town of Charleston with a local researcher, and walk the banks of the river and learn of other nearby places that were used in the film. Email davidswafford@charter.net for details.

Drive by the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville and see where parts of “The Green Mile,” “Last Dance” and “Walk the Line” were filmed.

Visit Knoxville’s Neyland Stadium, Market Square and the historic Tennessee Theatre to check out locations you’ll recognize from “The Last Movie Star.”

The swamp at Reelfoot Lake was a setting for the action film “U.S. Marshals.” Be sure to bring your binoculars, too. The bird-watching here is some of the best in the state.

Visit Fall Creek Falls State Park where you can bring out your Baloo and explore areas where the 1994 live-action adaption of “The Jungle Book” was filmed. Wear your hiking shoes — there are plenty of waterfalls, hiking trails and rocks to climb and a canopy challenge course to experience. 📍



Photo courtesy of Tennessee Tourism

The eerie, spooky swamps in Reelfoot Lake made the perfect backdrop for the thriller “U.S. Marshals.”

BRANCHING OUT

Tri Span entrepreneurs expand businesses with help from above

Story by JEN CALHOUN

Larry Salyer Jr. and his brother-in-law, John Pannell IV, were working on construction crews building natural gas pipelines around the region in 2006 when they were presented with an opportunity.

“There was a natural gas boom around here, and the gas company was looking for contractors,” John says. “They were talking about us starting our own company to do some extra work they had.”

John, a welder, knew they could do it. Larry was not just his brother-in-law but an experienced foreman with many contacts in the industry. He was also known for being the guy you called for the toughest of jobs.

The only problem was money. They didn’t have enough to get a business like that started. But they knew who did — John’s father and Larry’s father-in-law, John Pannell III. “I had a pontoon at the time, and we all liked to fish,” John IV says with a laugh. “So, we invited my dad to go fishing with us one night. We had him trapped on the boat where he couldn’t go anywhere, and we told him our idea. That’s when we hit him up for it.”

With \$10,000 and some expertise, John III helped them form Tri Span Construction. The “Tri” comes from the number of partners, and “Span” is a mashup of the trio’s last names, Salyer and Pannell.



Relatives, from left, John Pannell IV, Larry Salyer Jr. and John Pannell III started Tri Span Construction in 2006. Eventually, they also started Tri Span Boilers and bought a gravel yard.



Several boilers on display inside the Tri Span showroom in Louisa.



Photos by John Michael Laney

BUSINESS HEATS UP

A new division of Tri Span came about accidentally in 2014. John IV was looking around for an outdoor furnace or boiler that could heat his home, his pool and the other buildings on his personal property to save on his electric bills.

“I was paying anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,200 a month, and I was sick of it,” he says. “So, I came across this boiler, and we all three decided we wanted one. We thought, ‘Let’s become a boiler dealer, so we can get them wholesale.’ That’s how we started Tri Span Boilers.”

What they didn’t count on was other people in the region wanting them, too. In order to become a dealer, they had to buy a certain amount of boilers through their supplier, Central Boiler. But that didn’t end up being a problem. Word spread fast, and they sold out before they could even install their own.

“It just bloomed really quick,” John says. “We didn’t even advertise at first. It was just word of mouth. We sold them over the internet and from the office. We have one on display here, so people can see how it works. Now my electricity bills are anywhere from \$178 to \$210 instead of over \$1,000. It makes a huge difference in the winter months.”

ROCKS AND RENTALS

Tri Span developed its third venture in 2017 as a way to save on the increasingly high costs of doing business. The partners bought a nearby gravel yard so they could buy their gravel wholesale instead

of paying someone else a premium for it. “When you do construction work, you end up using a lot of gravel,” John IV says. “This helped us make money or save money, however you want to look at it.”

In addition to gravel, the business sells wood, landscape rods and other supplies. “It’s been doing great, too,” John IV says.

Tri Span has also dabbled in commercial real estate with the 2019 purchase of an office building. They’ve fixed up three of the units for rentals and are in the process of renovating two more. The largest portion of the building is reserved for God’s Food Pantry. “The rent is free for them,” John IV says. “As long as they do that work, they don’t pay a dime.”

HELP FROM ABOVE

When John and his partners talk about their businesses, they’re quick to give praise to God and supportive family members and employees. “You can say all you want, but at the end of the day it’s just that God is good,” John IV says.

Even with their companies’ growth, they’ve seen plenty of bad times, especially with the heavy loss of coal jobs in the region. “There’ve been times when we don’t know what we’re going to do or how we’re going to make payroll,” he says. “But God always comes through. He never fails.”

Currently, the company employs about 29 people, including Ashontae Ellis, a business manager who has helped the partners navigate the constantly changing world of computers and software. Ashontae uses



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Tri Span Boilers employee Josh Kelly works on a boiler.

Tri Span Construction employees, from left, Josh Kelly, Arthur Stevens and Timothy Adkins get ready for a job.

Ashontae Ellis is one of the prized employees with all of Tri Span’s businesses.

the company’s high-speed fiber connection from Foothills Communications to meet all of the business’s goals.

“Right now, things are going pretty good,” John IV says. “Winter is usually our slow time, but last winter we never really did. That’s another God thing. If He shows us an opportunity, we’ll go after it. So far, we haven’t failed. That’s God, too.”

TRI SPAN HEADQUARTERS

Tri Span Construction and Tri Span Boilers are located adjacent to each other at 136 Southland Drive in Louisa. Call 606-638-0783 or visit trispansboilers.com for more information about boilers and how the company can help lower your heating bills.

Learning

The word "Learning" is written in a large, cursive, dashed font. The letters are colored in a gradient from light blue to orange. A black needle with a white thread is positioned horizontally across the middle of the word, with the thread looping through the eye of the needle and around the letter 'i'.

THROUGH OUR CULTURE

Textile arts have long history in rural America

Story by CHERÉ COEN

For centuries, quilts, pieced together from fabric swatches, warmed sleeping families. Woven blankets also provided warmth and offered an opportunity for creativity in a time when women were busy working at home and had little time for the arts.

Today, quilts and blankets still cover beds around the world, but the historic art form has reached exceptional heights through the use of 3D techniques, photography, natural elements and more. “It’s not just a pretty quilt on a bed,” says Deborah Blanchette Bradley, managing director of the nonprofit Texas Quilt Museum. “This is fine art.”

The La Grange, Texas, museum began when quilters Karey Bresenhan and Nancy O’Bryant Puentes, producers of Houston’s International Quilt Festival, wanted to share art quilts year-round and not just during the November festival. They restored an 1892 building to 95% of its original architecture and opened the museum in 2011 to exhibit quilts and educate the public on the art of textiles.

“Our purpose is to help people see and understand the world of quilting,” Deborah says. “Women were the heart of the home. Our mission is to offer and share the legacy and history — mostly women’s history — through quilting.”

The museum weaves together American textile history and modern art in its exhibits, including the recent “A Tribute



Photos courtesy of National Quilt Museum

to Mary Ann Vaca-Lambert,” whose quilts have been displayed internationally. The museum also hosted an “All Creatures” juried show with 50 quilts based on James Herriot’s novels and the popular PBS series “All Creatures Great and Small.”

ADDITIONAL INCOME

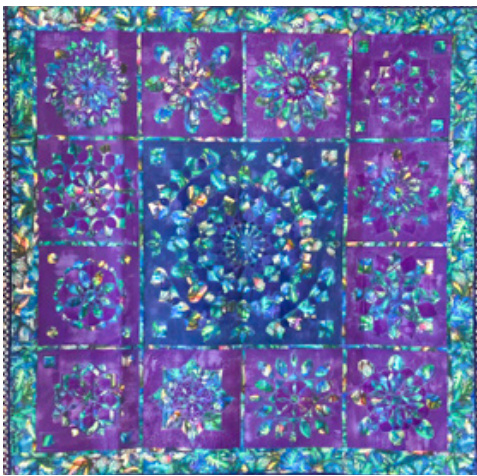
Textiles evolved from utilitarian items to high art, but they also provide many people with additional income. Many members of the McCreary Mountain Craft Center in Parkers Lake, Kentucky, sell their textiles, in addition to other works. The center started as a 4-H organization designed to preserve the craft traditions of Southeast Kentucky.



Photos courtesy of National Quilt Museum

TOP: The National Quilt Museum is in Paducah, Kentucky, one of only a handful of UNESCO Creative Cities in the United States.

ABOVE: The museum displays a wide variety of contemporary textile arts.



A display this year at the Texas Quilt Museum included artwork created by Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo blue ribbon prizewinners.



Photos courtesy of Texas Quilt Museum

“The center was started by an extension agent,” says President Terri Cash. “He wanted to help people in the area make money by selling their crafts.”

The center celebrates 60 years in 2023 and is completely run by volunteers. Artists join for \$10 a year and keep 75% of their earnings. It’s a labor of love, Terri insists. “We’re definitely not out to make money because of the amount of time we put into it.”

Most members are middle-aged and above, but Terri sees young people crafting as well, so weaving and quilting continue to be American art forms. “And we’re happy to pass it down,” she says.

GETTING STARTED

Deborah sees museum visitors looking at professional quilts and other textile artwork and forlornly musing that they could never create such masterpieces. She encourages people to view these showpieces as inspiration to create. “There’s so many ways of being inspired in quilting,”

Deborah says. “You can find inspiration in everything.”

It’s the reason the museum includes education in its programming. It works with Arts for Rural Texas for after-school programs and two summer camps. Children learn skills like needle felting and quilting. “They make a nine-block quilt,” Deborah says. “They learn three patterns and do it all in one week. None of them will look alike.”

The recently opened Discover Exhibit gives children quilt block puzzles and an I Spy adventure through the museum. “It’s meant to inspire kids to learn and take on the art of fabric,” she says. “Art stretches the mind and inspires.”

In addition to the classes and lectures the museum offers, adults looking to get into quilting should find a local guild, Deborah suggests. Quilting guilds exist across the country, and group members are available to mentor and help newcomers. “That’s a great place to start,” she says. “All of these ladies — there’s men in there, too — love to share. It’s like a modern-day quilting bee. If nothing else, it helps you not do it alone.”

Another avenue is sewing classes at extension offices and through 4-H. The University of Minnesota Extension Office, for instance, offers a youth quilting workshop.


Deborah was never a quilter, she was hired to administer the museum, but she’s since taken it up and loves the community she found. “It’s been a wonderful world to become a part of,” she says. 



Photo courtesy of Texas Quilt Museum

Western art created by La Grange High School students is displayed at the Texas Quilt Museum.

Online Resources

• **Paducah, Kentucky**, is home to both the National Quilting Museum and the American Quilter’s Society, dedicated to spreading the importance of quilt making and helping quilters achieve their goals. Because of its quilting heritage and advancements of quilting worldwide, the city was named a UNESCO Creative City for Crafts & Folk Art. View textile art in Paducah’s Lower Town Arts District and visit for AQS’s QuiltWeek April 24-27, 2024. For more information, visit quiltmuseum.org or americanquilter.com.

• **McCreary Mountain Craft Center** celebrates 60 years of showcasing and selling handmade art and crafts. Located in Parkers Lake, Kentucky, near Cumberland Falls, the center sells a variety of textiles. Visit Facebook and search for the McCreary Mountain Craft Center.

• **Texas Quilt Museum** in La Grange rests between Houston and San Antonio and offers exhibits that change four times a year, youth education and one of the largest quilt research libraries in the country. Learn more at texasquiltmuseum.org.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Smoothly navigate internet slowdowns



Your internet-connected devices are the last stops in a river of information bringing you entertainment, business services, communications tools and so much more. Sometimes, however, a clog upstream can turn a digital cascade into a trickle. Streaming movies lag. Websites become slow to load. File uploads take time. When slowdowns occur, it's helpful to understand potential chokepoints.



KNOTTED UP: It doesn't happen often, but there are times when the internet itself has difficulties. A storm might disrupt a massive data center — a place storing hundreds of computers. Or a technical glitch might cause the modern equivalent of a wrong phone number. It's doubtful all services will go out — the internet lives by redundancy. So, a quick Google search should give you the details. Then, a little patience is the cure.



THE LOCAL LINK: Cables carrying massive amounts of information connect our local systems to the broader internet. Our professionals work hard to keep everything up and running. If trouble does occur, we'll be on top of it. A check of our social media will give you the lowdown if there's a problem.



THE NETWORK: Fiber optic lines running through our community use beams of light to transmit digital information to homes and businesses. Rarely, an accident or storm might disrupt this network. Again, if there is a problem our social media will let you know. And remember, we'll make repairs as fast as we safely can.



THE BOX: On the outside of your home, you'll find a vital device. We call it the ONT, and it makes it possible to deliver services like TV, voice and data. If you're having trouble, we may remotely reset the ONT to get you up and running again.



THE WI-FI ROUTER: Your router keeps you connected, wirelessly. Turning the router on and off can unclog a surprising number of internet logjams. But keep in mind, multiple devices connected at once, appliances like microwaves, the distance between the router and your devices and more can all impede the performance of your Wi-Fi network. However, we're here to help.

When in doubt, give us a call at 606-297-3501.

SOCIAL SAFE

Share memorable moments,
not private details

As fall settles in, memorable events are happening. From vibrant fall colors to clashes on the gridiron to cute and creative Halloween costumes, so many are worth capturing in an image or as a written note.

And if an instant in time is worth noting, many people also choose to share it online through social media. There are many options, and most people have a favorite social media service. Each is a little different, though, in how it manages your information.

Following a few basic safety tips will keep your personal details safe as you share the adventures you enjoy.



1 Choose strong passwords and an additional form of authentication

A good password guideline is to include a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters. Another strategy is to use a long phrase you find memorable but can still confound hackers. Also, if available, enable two-factor authentication, which uses a unique code sent to your phone or email as an additional layer of security.

2 Don't overshare

Some information should always be off limits, including phone numbers, email address, place of employment and more. Review your social media account profiles to clarify exactly what information is visible on your accounts and who can see it. Is it everyone, family and friends, or no one? Choose the level right for you.

3 Be photo shy

Carefully choose the photos you post. Images can often provide details such as a place of work, child's school and more that you might find best left private. Also, keep in mind that uploading an image taken with a mobile phone might contain location information. Review the settings specific to your device to learn how to control these details.

4 Treat strangers with care

Sadly, not everything on social media is as it seems. Scammers will even create bogus accounts to entice you to give up personal information. So, before you accept an interaction with someone on social media, first verify who is contacting you. When in doubt, block or ignore the request.

5 Wait until the end of the trip

While it's fun to share images of a trip during the journey, consider waiting until you are home. That way, you avoid broadcasting that your home is vacant. It's an easy, practical step.



Layers of flavors

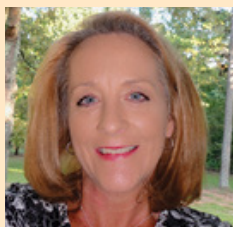
Perfect the sandwich

What makes a sandwich? We posed that question to Bridget Lancaster, host of the popular cooking show “America’s Test Kitchen.”

“A classic sandwich will have a filling between two slices of bread,” she says. “It’s portable, self-contained, and you probably won’t need a knife and fork to eat it. But then you get something like an open-faced sandwich, which is often very saucy or hot and is eaten with a knife and fork.”

Really, a sandwich is what you make it — one slice, two slices, baked, broiled, grilled in butter or served cold. Here are some sandwich tips from “America’s Test Kitchen.”

- Add a tangy sauce such as tzatziki, horseradish or a creamy salad dressing rather than mayonnaise or mustard.
- Consider other breads, such as a sturdy ciabatta or even a nut bread for extra flavor. To keep the sandwich from becoming too much to handle, use just 3–4 ounces of meat and an ounce of cheese. Toast the bread to boost the flavor and keep the sandwich from becoming soggy.
- Instead of a pickle, try chutney or a tangy relish. Instead of iceberg lettuce, try arugula, watercress or spinach. And don’t forget veggies. Consider cucumber, shredded carrots and sprouts.



**Food Editor
Anne P. Braly
is a native of
Chattanooga,
Tennessee.**

Photography by **Mark Gilliland**
Food Styling by **Rhonda Gilliland**



‘America’s Test Kitchen’ **GROWN-UP GRILLED CHEESE**

- 7 ounces aged cheddar cheese, cut into 24 equal pieces, room temperature
- 2 ounces brie, rind removed
- 2 tablespoons dry white wine or vermouth
- 4 teaspoons minced shallot
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 8 slices hearty white sandwich or rosemary bread

Process cheddar, brie and wine in a food processor until smooth paste is formed, 20 to 30 seconds. Add shallot and pulse to combine, 3 to 5 pulses. Combine butter and mustard in small bowl.

Working on a parchment paper-lined

counter, spread mustard-butter evenly over one side of slices of bread. Flip four slices of bread over and spread cheese mixture evenly over slices. Top with remaining four slices of bread, buttered sides up.

Preheat a nonstick skillet over medium heat for 2 minutes. Place two sandwiches in skillet; reduce heat to medium-low; and cook until both sides are crispy and golden brown, 6 to 9 minutes per side, moving sandwiches to ensure even browning. Remove sandwiches from skillet and let stand for 2 minutes before serving. Repeat with remaining two sandwiches.

Note: Hold sandwiches on a wire rack on a baking sheet in the oven at 250 F while the second round cooks.

Easy Reuben

- 8 slices rye bread
- 4 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1/4 cup Russian or Thousand Island dressing
- 8 slices Swiss cheese
- 1 pound corned beef
- 1 1/2 cups sauerkraut, well-drained

Butter one side of each slice of bread. On the nonbuttered side, spread Russian dressing on each slice. Top half of the slices with cheese, corned beef and sauerkraut. Top each sandwich with remaining slices, dressing side down.

Heat a medium skillet over medium heat. Place a sandwich in the skillet and cook until golden and cheese is melted, 3 minutes per side. Serve immediately.




ZIPPY BEEF BARBECUE SANDWICH

Make the barbecue the day before and assemble the sandwiches right before your hike or tailgate or wherever you spend your beautiful autumn weekend.

- 1 1/2 cups ketchup
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup picante sauce
- 1/2 cup dry red wine
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 beef sirloin tip roast (4 pounds)
- 4 garlic cloves, sliced
- 16 kaiser rolls, split and toasted
- 2 cups deli coleslaw

Mix first nine ingredients. Cut roast in half; cut slits in roast and insert garlic. Place in a 5-quart slow cooker. Pour sauce over top. Cook, covered, on low until tender, 8-10 hours.

Remove beef. Skim fat from cooking liquid. Shred meat with two forks; return to slow cooker and heat through. Serve on rolls with coleslaw. 





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