

WK&T

JULY/AUGUST 2024

CONNECTION

Published for the members of West Kentucky & Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative

High-tech farming

Targeted fertilizing helps crops thrive

A CUT ABOVE

TRAVELING PETS



By Shirley Bloomfield, CEO
NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association

Serious security

NTCA members are committed to protecting you

Everyone should take cybersecurity seriously, managing passwords and being aware of all the possible threats to your personal information, finances and more. That's not meant to frighten you, because you do have help. NTCA member providers across the nation take your security as seriously as you do, and they work daily to secure the networks bringing you the critical internet-based services you need.

Recently, I had the opportunity to share more about NTCA's cybersecurity efforts for both consumers and broadband providers, including CyberShare: The Small Broadband Provider ISAC, through a meeting with U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director Jen Easterly.

CISA recently launched the Secure Our World program to raise awareness about cybersecurity best practices and empower the public to take proactive steps to protect themselves online. Resources available to the public include a public service announcement, tip sheets on topics like phishing, multifactor authentication and the importance of creating strong passwords and updating software. And there is even a bingo board to make this critical topic engaging for the youngest internet users.

Also, Cybersecurity Awareness Month each October highlights these important issues and emphasizes that you're also part of the team helping keep us all safe. While NTCA members work behind the scenes, you can help by recognizing phishing attempts, choosing strong passwords and more. Visit cisa.gov/secure-our-world for more.

Together, we'll help keep everyone safe and secure online. 

Password management

Essential tools to keep you safe

From work and school to games and streaming entertainment services, access relies on passwords. The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency suggests you consider using a reliable tool to manage these key bits of information — password managers.

Memorizing complex passwords for multiple accounts is difficult, or impossible. So, sometimes passwords are too simple and easily hacked. Password managers, though, can help.



Adobe Stock graphic by Jemastock

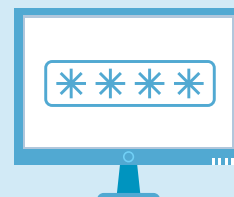


THE BASICS:

A password manager is a software tool that organizes all your passwords. Then, a single master code unlocks this vault — encouraging use of long, complex passwords.

FREE BUILT-IN MANAGERS:

Web browsers, including Safari, Chrome and Edge, have built-in password managers, and these can be accessed across devices like computers and phones. These may suffice for those with only basic needs, but they are limited. For instance, passwords in Apple's Safari aren't accessible on an Android phone running Google Chrome.



PAID TOOLS:

For more robust options, there is software like LastPass, 1Password and Bitwarden. These work across multiple types of devices and have additional features, such as the ability to generate passwords and integration into your favorite web browser.

TWO KEYS FOR SUCCESS:

Make your master password long, reliable and unique. Sixteen characters is recommended. Also, regularly review your stored passwords to remove passwords for accounts you no longer use.



From pages to pixels

E-books are changing the way we read

Readers today can find themselves facing a technological conundrum. While many book lovers treasure traditional books, electronic devices, designed to make reading more comfortable and accessible, are hard to ignore.

For some, there's nothing like the sensation of holding a book and feeling the paper as the pages turn. Printed books will always have emotional, if not monetary, value as collectibles. And they certainly aren't going anywhere.

These days there are countless options of things to download and read on our phones and tablets, but dedicated, handheld electronic book readers, often called e-readers, offer text and lighting customizations and many other conveniences to enhance the reading experience. Nonreflective, electronic-ink displays give them a paper-like look and make it easier to read outdoors compared with reading on a phone or tablet. And, dedicated e-readers present fewer distractions — you won't be interrupted by notifications, calls or texts.

Over the past few years, the price of e-readers has fallen while the hardware has improved. High-end features, such as backlit, high-resolution screens and waterproofing, are standard. If you don't have an e-book reader, there's never been a better time to invest in one.

E-READERS' EDGE

- **Portability:** E-readers are lightweight and can store thousands of books.
- **Customization:** Most allow you to adjust the font and size, background

lighting, etc. They can make reading accessible for individuals with visual impairment by providing text-to-speech and other customizations.

- **Searchability:** E-readers' built-in search functions mean you can easily find a favorite quote or passage in the book.
- **Built-in resources:** Dictionaries and thesauruses allow for immediate definitions.
- **Environmentally friendly and affordable:** No trees are harmed in e-book production, and they usually cost much less than traditional books.

WHICH ONE IS BEST?

Amazon Kindle is synonymous with e-reader for good reason. According to both Wired magazine and The New York Times' Wirecutter, the Kindle is the most affordable, best and easiest choice for reading electronic books.

- **Amazon Kindle:** With a 6-inch screen and a high pixel density for sharper text, the least expensive Kindle — around \$100 on Amazon — offers just about all the advantages of the more expensive e-readers. If you're planning on reading outdoors this summer, it's worth the extra charge, roughly \$50, to upgrade to the waterproof Kindle Paperwhite with its better lighting options.
- **Rakuten Kobo:** Japanese retailer Rakuten currently offers six Kindle-comparable e-readers ranging from \$110 to \$400. The Libra 2 has a physical page-turn button and Bluetooth

support, so you can connect headphones and listen to audiobooks.

- **Barnes & Noble Nook:** The book retailer's e-reader features a touch screen and page-turning button, as well as the ability to annotate and highlight text. The devices start around \$100. As an added perk, Nook owners can read the complete contents of any book for free while in stores for one hour per day. ☞

What will you read?

Once you've settled on an e-reader, where do you find the books? Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo all sell tomes to download to their specific e-readers. But you could read for years without having to spend another dime. Sources of free e-books include:

- **OverDrive.com**, used by 43,000 libraries and schools worldwide, allows anyone with a library card to pull e-books, magazines and audio books.
- **Project Gutenberg**, a library of more than 70,000 free e-books to download or read online. Thousands of volunteers digitize and proofread the books available at gutenberg.org.
- **Mybookcave.com**
- **Planetebook.com**
- **ManyBooks.net**
- **OpenLibrary.org**
- **GetFreeEbooks.com**

Room to grow

One of the many things I enjoy about serving as CEO for WK&T is seeing all the ways our community comes together. We're more than a communications company. We not only want to provide you industry-leading services — like internet as fast as the summer is hot — but we also have a deep, lasting commitment to helping this place we call home thrive.



TREVOR BONNSTETTER
Chief Executive Officer

That mission can be traced back to the earliest days of our cooperative, when WK&T was incorporated in 1951 to bring much-needed telephone service to the people of this area. At the time, major telephone companies didn't see enough profit in bringing that essential technology to rural areas. So, the people of this community pulled together to do it themselves.

Today, we're taking on a similar challenge when it comes to high-speed fiber internet. This new technology is transformative for so many aspects of our lives, from work and education to health care and entertainment. We couldn't just wait for the large providers to get around to rural communities.

We're proud of the progress we've made on our fiber network, but we are still working hard to expand access to more members.

We recently won new grants that will help facilitate the buildouts in additional areas of southern Illinois. We also received additional grant funding to support middle-mile construction between our network and local networks in Henry and Weakley counties in Tennessee.

It all comes down to remembering our roots as a cooperative created by the members to serve the members. It isn't just our job. We are part of this community and want to make it a better place to live for everyone. We don't send money to shareholders across the country, we reinvest in the communities we serve.

It's one of the reasons we have published this magazine — to keep you up to date on what's been happening at your cooperative. Our Annual Meeting gives us the chance to share some of our accomplishments for the past year and provide insight into where your cooperative is heading.

Don't forget to register on Friday, July 12, at Graves County, Carlisle County, Calloway County and Marshall high schools, or our office in Martin, Tennessee. When you register you'll receive a \$20 bill credit and a complementary T-shirt. You will also be entered for cash drawings that will take place at the meeting.

Of course, even the best service doesn't count for much if no one knows about it. That's why reviews on platforms like Google and Facebook have become important for so many people when it comes to making tough decisions. We all feel a little more peace of mind when we know other people are happy with the service they've received.

So, I'd like to ask for your help. I know there are many loyal WK&T members out there who have been with us for years and can personally speak to the strengths of our cooperative community. I ask each of you to take a few minutes to visit our social media platforms to leave your own feedback and recommendations for the WK&T service we rely on every day. Together, we can help bring the power of fiber and the cooperative spirit to even more people who need them. 📱

WK&T CONNECTION

JULY/AUGUST 2024

VOL. 16, NO. 4

The WK&T Connection is published by West Kentucky and Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative, © 2024. It is distributed without charge to all members of the cooperative.



is your cooperative serving West Kentucky and Northwest Tennessee across nearly 21,000 network connections. The company is dedicated to using technology to keep its members connected through local and long-distance calling, high-speed internet, digital television and beyond.

WK&T is an equal-opportunity employer and provider.

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On the Cover:



Kevin Jones and his wife, Debbie, help local farmers get the exact amount of fertilizer and lime where they need it. See story Page 8.

Photo by Tayanne Photo

Spreading the word about a Smart Rural Community

Dresden, Tennessee, recently added signs at each entrance to the city celebrating its status as a Smart Rural Community, served by WK&T's fast fiber internet network.

Part of NTCA's Smart Rural Community initiative, the program recognizes communities served by telecommunications providers delivering technologies that make rural communities vibrant places to live and do business.

The SRC selection is a competitive process, and a panel of experts in the fields of education, health care,

telecommunications, finance and rural economic development reviews applications and awards community-based providers that offer high-speed broadband to the most remote parts of the country.

The SRC designation gives rural communities a better opportunity to compete for grants and other programs that benefit the growth of broadband coverage. WK&T is proud to help Dresden and other communities across our area join the ranks of SRCs throughout the country connecting members and building unity through fiber broadband.



From left, Dresden City Recorder Jennifer Branscum, WK&T Marketing and Revenue Manager Natalie Morgan and Dresden Mayor Mark Maddox celebrate the city's Smart Rural Community designation.

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

The WK&T office will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, for Labor Day. Have a restful and relaxing holiday!

Meet WK&T'S NEWEST EMPLOYEES



LOGAN ALLEN
TECH TEAM INTERN

Where are you from originally?
Mayfield.

What do you like to do when you are not working?
Go to the gym, listen to music, study and be with friends.

What is your favorite use of technology?
Music and coding.



WYATT JOHNSTON
COMBINATION
TECHNICIAN

Where are you from originally?
Anna, Illinois.

What do you like to do when you are not working?
In my spare time I enjoy watching sports, hanging out with family and friends and going to the gym.

What is your favorite use of technology?
My phone.



DANIELLE NICESCHWANDER
TECH TEAM INTERN

Where are you from originally?
Virginia.

What do you like to do when you are not working?
I enjoy playing video games, spending time with my cats and watching true crime shows.

What is your favorite use of technology?
Using PowerShell for repetitive tasks. It is such a time-saver for boring tasks.



BRANDON TAYLOR
COMBINATION
TECHNICIAN

Where are you from originally?
West Tennessee.

What do you like to do when you are not working?
Spend time with my family.

What is your favorite use of technology?
The ease of sharing videos and photos.



BROOKE THOMPSON
STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Where are you from originally?
Cunningham, Kentucky.

What do you like to do when you are not working?
Spend time with family and friends and play with my dog.

What is your favorite use of technology?
Listening to podcasts and audiobooks.



PET-FRIENDLY ADVENTURES

Map out trips with furry friends

Story by KATHY DENES

Summer typically means travel time, whether scenic road trips or flights to vacation destinations. And more than ever before, beloved pets are tagging along for the ride.

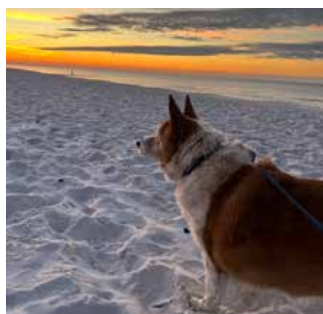
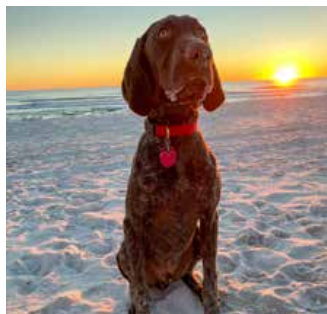
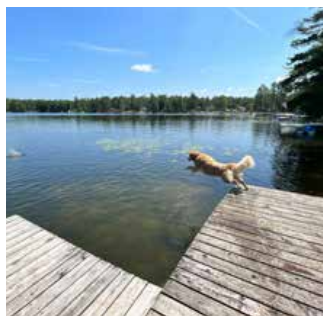
Pet-friendly travel is a hot topic. It's addressed by top vacation resources like Conde Naste Traveler, which has an online list of nationwide hotels and Airbnbs it deems best for accommodating pets, especially dogs. On travelandleisure.com, search "pets," and you'll unleash a wealth of helpful articles.

Even financial companies are weighing in. NerdWallet compiled a list of Best Hotels for Pets in 2024, based on factors like fees and amenities, and rated air travel options, topped by Alaska Airlines. But if you don't want to do the research yourself, there are travel agencies that specialize in planning and taking care of the details for you.

Hotels, resorts, parks and campgrounds usually post their pet policies, fees and amenities, as do airlines, trains and even cruise lines that allow passengers with paws. There are also numerous websites focused entirely on pet-friendly travel, across the nation and around the world. Just browse by city, state or destination at resources such as:

- bringfido.com
- petswelcome.com
- tripswithpets.com





EXPERT ADVICE

“Before deciding to bring your pet along on a trip, you need to ask yourself whether or not it’s in your pet’s best interest to do so,” says Dr. Rena Carlson, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

What’s a fun adventure for us might be overwhelming for our pets. “If you choose to include your pet, a pre-trip veterinary visit is a good idea, to make sure your pet is healthy and up to date on vaccinations and microchip registration, and to obtain a health certificate, which is required by law if you’re traveling to a different state with your pet,” Carlson says.

Your veterinarian can also provide vital information about the risk of parasites and other diseases that your pet may be exposed to at your destination, as well as possible preventive steps or treatments.

“Make sure to plan for their comfort in transit, whether by land or air, with regular breaks and by choosing the least stressful travel options,” Carlson says. “Confirm in advance that your destinations are pet-friendly, and try to maintain your pet’s routine as much as possible to help them feel secure. Your careful planning can ensure a safe and enjoyable trip for everyone involved.” 🗨️



For more great tips for traveling with your pet, check out:

- » pettravel.com
- » petfriendlytravel.com
- » avma.org

YOUR OWN MASSIVE BACKYARD

Whether taking your pooch along for a carriage ride in Charleston — child's ticket required if Fido won't fit in your lap — or entrusting it to doggie day care at Dollywood while you ride the Mystery Mine, the Southeast is loaded with places that welcome four-legged travel buddies. Here are a few destinations that receive high marks from people traveling with their pets:

- **Little River Canyon National Preserve** atop Lookout Mountain in North Alabama welcomes dogs parkwide, but they must be leashed.

- **Chattanooga** has inviting options, from downtown patio dining and parks to mountain trails and attractions.

- **Dinosaur World in Cave City** extends a Kentucky welcome to leashed dogs and provides water stations.

- **Barkwells, gated retreats in Asheville and Brevard, North Carolina**, have dog-centric cabin and cottage rentals, each with a fenced yard and a range of amenities to make it a haven for both pets and people.

- **For South Carolina excursions**, check sciway.net's pet travel guide for info on rentals, parks, beaches, eateries and more.

- **St. Augustine, Florida**, gets a nod from AAA for pet-friendly options, like strolls, visits to popular attractions and perhaps a stay at the historic Bayfront Marin House.

Kevin Jones uses equipment like this Vector to spread lime and fertilizer.



Photography courtesy of tayanephoto



SPREADING THE WEALTH

Kevin Jones' custom application keeps local farmers thriving

Story by DREW WOOLLEY

There are few things Kevin Jones enjoys seeing more than a healthy crop. His favorite is topdressing a field of corn, rolling over those beautiful, orderly rows and knowing he is playing his part in bringing them to harvest.

"There's nothing more fascinating than driving over a beautiful crop that started off right and every plant's the same. And watching that thing go from coming out of the ground to the bin," he says. "It's kind of like having a baby. Just to see something go from a seed to an ear of corn. It's amazing."

Luckily for Kevin, he enjoys that view on a regular basis. As a custom applicator, he works with local farmers to apply fertilizer and lime to their crops to help them get the best yield.

It isn't the career Kevin expected to have, even though he grew up working on a family farm with his dad and grandfather. At that time, they worked about 1,000 acres, growing mostly tobacco.

After more than two decades as the day manager for a large farming operation in McCracken County, Kevin struck out on his own working for smaller farms. After years of building relationships, the agricultural technology company Simplot approached him in 2016 about buying a spreader and doing custom application work for them.

"That's kind of how all this evolved, basically over a handshake and word of mouth," he says. "I never expected



something to come together that quick, but it works great for me.”

HIGH-TECH FARMING

Today, Kevin estimates that he fertilizes approximately 15,000 to 20,000 acres each year and spreads lime over another 10,000 to 15,000 acres. It’s largely a one-man job, with his wife, Debbie, occasionally helping to transport him from one farm to another. The clients order the fertilizer and lime and have it shipped directly to their properties.

When it’s time to start spreading, Kevin mostly relies on his Vector, a tractor-like vehicle with high tires that can ride up to 3 feet above a young crop to spread fertilizer or lime from a container in the back. He also uses TerraGators, similar vehicles with high-capacity tanks to spread lime over soil right up until a crop is planted.

As with so many aspects of agriculture, technology is becoming a more important part of the job. It’s one Kevin doesn’t always enjoy. “I didn’t come up in the computer era, so some of it is kind of hard on me. Sitting down at a desktop just scares me to death,” he says. “But these monitors that we run, they’re very simple for the most part.”

Different parts of a field might need

more lime than others. Farmers test their own soil and provide variable rate maps they share with him. Then, Kevin can simply download that data from a thumb drive onto the monitor in his rig, and the automation technology lets the Vector know which acres need 3 tons of lime and which need none.

“If you’re not familiar with the area, it’ll put you right in the field. It has roads and everything, so it’ll drive you right through it just like Google Maps,” Kevin says. “On some of my equipment, the farmer can even get on my account through the cloud and pull that map up. He can actually see me going through the field.”

A TEAM EFFORT

None of that technology would be possible without high-speed internet service from WK&T. And even if Kevin doesn’t like to use email in his day-to-day life, he still values the impact it has on his business. “This morning one of the dealers emailed me a script for some lime I’m doing for a neighbor. Without internet I would’ve had to drive 40 or 50 miles to his location to get that,” he says. “So, it really helps on time.”

Since 2017, WK&T has been expanding

ABOVE FROM LEFT: The Vector uses data about the field to apply the right amount of fertilizer to different parts of the crop.

Kevin restored this International tractor.

high-speed fiber internet across its service area, bringing speeds of up to 2 Gigs and symmetrical upload/download speeds to customers. As far as Kevin is concerned, it’s some of the best around. “I think we’ve got some of the best internet in the U.S., really,” he says. “Our people really came on board when all that got going, and they’re still running it in places you wouldn’t even imagine.”

It’s all part of the team effort that keeps the local farming community working, just like Kevin’s work gives crops everything they need to grow. One of his favorite parts of the job is the occasional opportunity to join a farmer in the combine as they take in a thriving harvest.

“It makes you feel good that you’ve done your part in making a better yield than what he was expecting,” he says. “It’s kind of like playing basketball. You hit a 3-pointer and you miss the next one, but the man on the other side makes one. We’re doing this together.” 🏀



Planting ideas

FARMER FROBERG USES SOCIAL MEDIA TO PROVIDE LESSONS, LAUGHS

Story by MELANIE JONES

Wearing a plaid shirt and a gray Froberg's Farm cap, Tyler Froberg shares a cool fact about a favorite fruit with youthful viewers. "Every strawberry in the world is picked by hand," he tells eager young minds. "And it takes half an hour to pick one row."

Most fruit and vegetables are harvested by machines, which helps the fourth-generation farmer talk about farming as a STEAM — science, technology, engineering, arts and math — career option he promotes in a video for Lego's education branch, known as Rebuilding the World with Agriculture.

Tyler has made a few videos for Lego, promoting school-based projects like building a strawberry-picking machine that won't destroy the delicate fruit. But his screentime isn't

limited to collaborations with Lego. As Farmer Froberg, Tyler has more than 780,000 social media followers learning about gardening, farming and life on a fruit and vegetable agritourism farm.

TEACHING THROUGH VIDEOS

When he first got out of the Army, Tyler worked on the family farm in Alvin, Texas. "I decided that I had my GI Bill, so I should probably go to college," he says.

After earning a degree in agriculture, he worked for a year as an agriculture science teacher. "I loved it, and when you love something, you tend to be good at it, and when you tend to be good at it, you get recognition for it," he says.

"I think I achieved something that I never thought I would through social media."

— Tyler Froberg
@farmer.froberg

Tyler Froberg, known to his 780,000 followers as Farmer Froberg, took to social media so he could educate people about farming and gardening.



LEFT: Tyler, right, and his uncle, Alfred Froberg, show off watermelons grown at Froberg's Farm.

BELOW: Tyler enjoys making social media videos with his sons, or, as he calls them online, "Little Farmer Frobergs." Tyler and his son, Dustin, have fun sharing gardening lessons.



A nonprofit recognized Tyler as the person it needed to run a program teaching farm skills to fellow veterans. "When I was there, though, I missed the spark that you got with young people, whether it was seeing a seed germinate or seeing an animal being born," he says. "While I was teaching adults, I didn't see the same spark."

Around that time, TikTok became popular, and Tyler got an idea. "I should make little videos, like ag lessons," he says. "I'm still a teacher, and maybe that will scratch that itch. And so, I did."

In the first two months, several of his videos got a respectable number of views. "I had a video hit 10,000 views, and then I had a video hit 250,000 views, and I was like, 'Huh, there might be something to this.'"

Tyler has posted a few poems, tried growing square watermelons and loofahs, and succeeded in growing star-shaped zucchini. He's even zipped layers of jackets to the tune of "Stand by Me" — which got over 5 million views the first time he posted it. But his favorite videos to make are any with his sons in them. "We just laugh and have fun," he says, talking about "Little Frobergs" Dusty, Carson Lee and Tommy "Tomcat."

"I'm not one of those content creator parents that are like, 'No, no, no. You have to say that this way,'" he says. "It's only been three years, and so, it's still kind of new for us. They get excited to go out and film with me." Tyler's wife, Kristi, known on social media as "Momma Froberg," also gets the occasional guest spot.

STAGES TO SUCCESS

Tyler's made plenty of silly videos. His personal favorite involves being a rubber duck farmer. "There were these rubber ducks everywhere, and it was just a lot of fun," he says.

Despite his following on social media, Tyler doesn't consider himself an influencer. "Influencers are putting on makeup trying to influence you to use this certain brand or product, or there are ag influencers who create content for people in the ag industry. They work with brands and influence followers to use certain brands or products, and I don't feel like I do that."

Tyler says there are a few stages every content creator goes through. The first step is embarrassment. "You don't want anybody you know to know that you're creating content," he says.

"Then comes, 'So you're still doing that thing?'" he says. "That's when you see your mom and she's like, 'Oh, you're still making the little videos. It's so cute.'"

The third phase is thinking content creation is a waste of time. "You're starting to take it more seriously," he says, "but you're not getting a lot out of it yet."

Then there's the final step — success. "For me, I got invited to give a commencement speech at a college graduation, and walking out on stage and realizing, 'oh wait, I think I did it.' I'm still not 100% sure, but I think I achieved something that I never thought I would through social media."

What about those strawberry-picking machines?

"I would like to think that Lego went as far as they could with that and got hundreds of thousands of submissions for strawberry-picking machines, but I don't know that to be true," he says. But he planted the seed of an idea. Now it's time to see what grows. 🌱

CHECK IT OUT!

Tyler Froberg's videos are available on Instagram and TikTok at [farmer.froberg](https://www.instagram.com/farmer.froberg). His YouTube and Facebook accounts are under the name Farmer Froberg. For more on his family's farm, go to frobergfarm.com.

‘Under a lucky star’

Crossroads Lawn and Garden celebrates 10 years of service

Story by DREW WOOLLEY

The idea for Crossroads Lawn and Garden started with a bad customer service experience. Richard Boyan and his son, Ian, went for a run one morning in 2013 and started talking about a bad experience they had trying to get their lawnmower repaired.

“We both come from a service background, so we said we should consider starting a lawnmower business ourselves,” Richard says. “We know how to treat people. It’s become our company motto pretty much. We treat people the way we would like to be treated.”

RIISING FROM THE ASHES

Richard had already owned a business in Iowa for 24 years, so he handled sales at the outset, while his son took the lead on the service side. After a few years of steady growth, Crossroads Lawn and Garden was ready to expand, and construction began on a bigger space. Then disaster struck.

On Thanksgiving Day 2017, a fire broke out at the original location, destroying most of the service department. Luckily, the new building was mostly complete, so the Boyans salvaged what they could and began operating out of their current building.

“I like to say we live under a lucky star,” Richard says. “We feel we were very fortunate. Had we not had this building almost complete we would’ve been pretty much out of business because we couldn’t service anything in what was left of the old building.”

In March, the business celebrated its 10th anniversary with an open house, celebrating years of establishing trust and positive relationships with its customers. Crossroads Lawn and Garden still repairs small-engine lawnmowers and sells mowers from Cub Cadet and Toro. But in recent years it also started selling



Photos courtesy of Crossroads Lawn and Garden



ABOVE: Crossroads Lawn and Garden's current location offers more space and an air-conditioned service department.

LEFT: In 2017, a fire at the old location nearly crippled Richard and Ian Boyan's business.

articulating slope mowing tractors from Ventrac and farm tractors from Branson and TYM.

BUSINESS BY BROADBAND

None of that growth would have been possible without the fast and reliable internet service from WK&T that powers everything from Crossroads Lawn and Garden's phones to cloud-based software.

“The fact that WK&T provides us with reliable internet and quick responses if we have an issue or a question or a problem is paramount,” Richard says. “Without them we wouldn’t be able to ring up a customer. We wouldn’t be able

to talk to a customer. So, we’re very dependent on it and extremely happy with the service.”

In the coming years, Richard hopes to be able to add some new technicians to the team at Crossroads Lawn and Garden. But the most important aspect of the business for him will always be connecting with customers.

“I’ve sold all my life, and I enjoy it. We tell new customers, there’s only one way we know how to do business and that’s treat people the way we want to be treated,” he says. “To us it’s really the thing that’s allowed us to succeed. We do what it takes to make the customer happy.”

CROSSROADS LAWN AND GARDEN

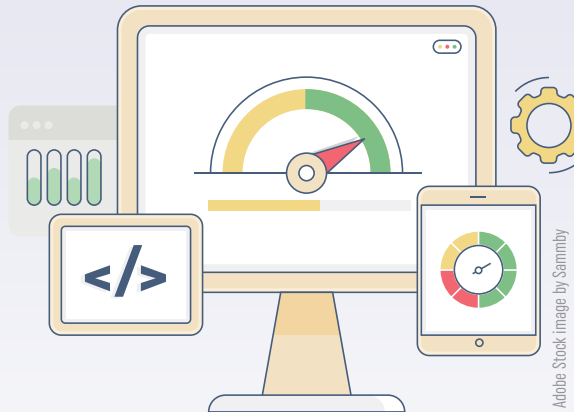
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THE PERFECT MATCH

Why symmetrical speeds make a difference

Most of us know the power of lightning-quick download speeds. Streaming our favorite shows without buffering, browsing the internet without waiting for pages to load and snappy download times even for large files are increasingly the expectation. But, if your upload speeds aren't just as fast, they could be holding back your experience.



Adobe Stock image by Sammbly

DOWN VS. UP

Your download speed determines how quickly you can retrieve information from the internet, and your upload speed determines how quickly you can send or share information online. While fast

download speeds tend to get the most attention, rapid uploads can make a huge difference with day-to-day activities like:

Videoconferencing — A fast download speed will help you see and hear others loud and clear, but fast upload

speeds ensure you can be seen and heard without lag.

Sharing files — Quick uploads help photographers, videographers or small-business owners save time when sharing large files.

Livestreaming — Whether you're streaming on YouTube, Twitch or Facebook Live, fast uploads are essential to producing high quality content.

Security — Many security and doorbell cameras rely on speedy uploads to save or back up footage to the cloud.

AHEAD OF THE PACK

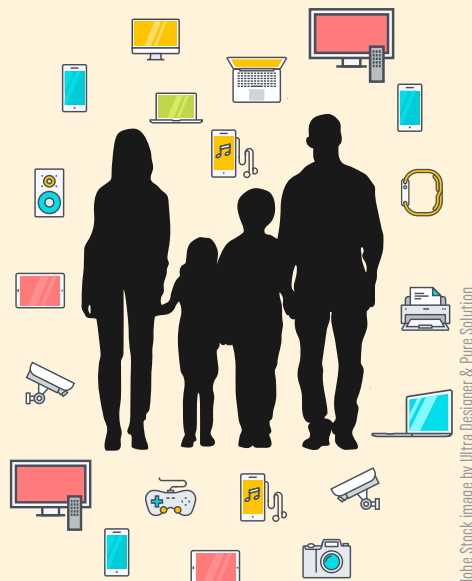
Many internet providers emphasize deals with fast download speeds while burying details about their much slower upload speeds in the fine print. WK&T is different. Our fiber network not only offers download speeds up to 2 Gigs but also supports symmetrical upload speeds. That means you never have to worry about your upload speeds struggling to keep up with your download speeds. 🗨️

WHAT UPLOAD SPEED DO YOU NEED?

Many of WK&T's competitors have upload limits of 10-15 Mbps, but how does that really stack up to the number of users and devices in your household?

To calculate your own upload needs, add 5 Mbps for each active internet user. A family of four would already exceed a 15 Mbps limit, leading to poor performance for everyone.

Add another 5 Mbps for each smart device in your home. For most customers, the total number of smartphones, tablets, computers, TVs and smart appliances they use daily makes symmetrical upload speeds a no-brainer.



Adobe Stock image by Ultra Designer & Pure Solution

Experiencing internet issues? LET US HELP!

If you're having any issues with your internet, please call us so we can work through any service issues together. We are committed to making your connection an outstanding experience.

Fiber-fast internet is the future. And it's here!

WK&T

WEST KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

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Sensational SUMMER SALADS

Among summer's many charms are vegetables and fruit blooming with flavor, and it doesn't take a lot of effort to turn them into delicious salads.

These recipes cover all the salad bases. From crisp leafy tossed salads to sturdy mixes that can sit out for a couple hours while the kids play in the yard and you visit with friends. Keep it easy and choose a make-ahead recipe featuring hearty pastas, grains and beans that can work as a side dish or a full meal, or throw together fruit or vegetable combinations that hit sweet or savory notes.

Summer salads are versatile, so feel free to swap out lettuces, and use a variety of fruits instead of just one kind. After all, it's summertime, and the living — and cooking — should be easy.



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



BLUEBERRY PEACH SALAD

- 1 pint fresh blueberries
- 2 peaches, diced (leaving the skin on adds texture, vitamins and color)
- 2 cucumbers, sliced
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped basil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

In a large serving bowl combine the blueberries, peaches, cucumbers and feta.

In a jar with a lid or measuring cup combine the lemon juice, Dijon, honey, olive oil, basil, salt and pepper. Whisk together until well combined.

Pour the vinaigrette over the salad and gently mix everything together. Taste for seasoning and garnish with extra basil. Serve or cover and refrigerate the salad until ready to serve.



SUMMER CORN SALAD

- 3 cups corn kernels
(approximately 4 ears)
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes,
quartered
- 1 cup cucumbers, diced
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup red onion, diced
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley
- Fresh basil ribbons
- Kosher salt and freshly
ground pepper, to taste

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and add the corn. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until the kernels turn bright yellow. Drain the corn and cool completely. Use a sharp knife to remove the kernels from the corn cob, scraping the cobs to get all the "milk" from the cobs.

In a large bowl, combine the corn kernels, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, feta cheese and red onion. Drizzle the olive oil and vinegar over the salad.

Season generously with salt and pepper, to taste, and toss well to combine. At this point, the salad may be made ahead. Just before serving, sprinkle with fresh herbs, and toss to combine.



SUMMER SHRIMP SALAD

- 2 pounds shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped red onion
- 1 rib celery, finely chopped

Dressing:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- Pinch of freshly ground black pepper

Bring a pot of water to a boil. Add the shrimp and boil for 2 to 3 minutes, until cooked through and pink. Plunge the cooked shrimp in an ice water bath to cool.

Meanwhile, make the dressing: Stir together the mayonnaise, lemon juice and zest, dill, mustard, garlic, salt and pepper.

In a mixing bowl, stir together the cooled shrimp, red onion, celery and dressing, until creamy. Serve plain or nestled on butter lettuce leaves garnished with fronds of fresh dill, if desired. 🥗



MAIN DISH TORTELLINI SALAD

Grilled chicken heightens the flavor of this salad.

- 2 (10-ounce) packages cheese tortellini,
prepared according to package
instructions
- 2 cups shredded chicken
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella pearls
- 1 cup roasted red bell peppers,
chopped into 1/2 -inch pieces
- 1 cup basil pesto (store-bought or
homemade)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Fresh basil ribbons, for garnish

In a large bowl, combine the tortellini, shredded chicken, cherry tomatoes, mozzarella, roasted peppers, pesto and olive oil. Cover and refrigerate. Can be prepared up to a day ahead. When ready to serve, top with fresh basil.



Don't miss

WK&T'S VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 13, at 10 a.m.

Drive-thru registration with West Kentucky Electric Cooperative Corporation is Friday, July 12, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Graves County, Calloway County, Carlisle County and Marshall County high schools, or at the WK&T office in Martin.

Watch live at www.mywkt.net

ALL MEMBERS WHO REGISTER WILL:

- Earn a \$20 BILL CREDIT
- Receive a FREE T-SHIRT
- Be eligible for CASH DRAWINGS



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