

CONNECTION

Family business

Company seals wood
and relationships

SECURE PARK

SPORTS STARS





By SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD, CEO
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association

Seven decades of service

Supporting rural communities through better communications

NTCA proudly represents more than 850 telecommunications companies across rural America as they provide a variety of services including robust broadband, landline, wireless, data, video and IT support. June 1 marks our 70th anniversary, and it’s a perfect opportunity to reflect upon how far this life-changing industry has traveled.

The independent telephone industry began to develop throughout rural America in the 1890s, largely because these regions were ignored by large national providers.

After World War II, as the telephone’s popularity surged and the value of connectivity was recognized, Congress passed legislation to extend loans to bring telephone systems to rural communities.

With funding on the way, the need for an independent national organization to represent small telephone companies was at an all-time high and, in 1954, NTCA was born.

Eight rural telephone systems in seven states became the original members and got to work advocating to grow the industry.

Over the last few decades, NTCA has focused on the evolution of our members from telecommunications to broadband providers as well as numerous key priorities for rural America, including building a sustainable future for universal service, building Smart Rural Communities, providing cybersecurity tools, being the catalyst for policy engagement and so much more.

As NTCA celebrates its platinum anniversary, we are excited to see what is next for this vibrant industry as it supports rural America and beyond. 📧

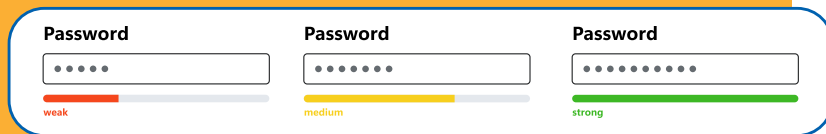
3 tips for password security



Illustration by origami8/Adobe Stock

Passwords are everywhere. From health care and school to work and play, software, websites, essential services and more, most of our daily online activities require a secure login.

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency offers three tips to better password security — and a good password follows all three.



1 MAKE THEM LONG

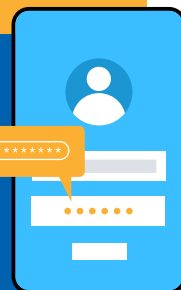
At least 16 characters — longer is stronger!

2 MAKE THEM RANDOM

Option 1: Use a random string of mixed-case letters, numbers and symbols. For example:
cXmnZK65rf*&DaaD or Yuc8\$RikA34%ZoPPao98t

Option 2: Create a memorable phrase of five to seven unrelated words. Then, get creative with spelling and the addition of a number or symbol.

- » Strong: HorsePurpleHatRunBaconShoes
- » Stronger: HorsPerpleHatRunBayconShoos
- » Strongest: HorsPerpleHat#1RunBayconShoos



3 MAKE THEM UNIQUE

Use a different strong password for each account. For example:

- » **Bank:** k8dfh8c@Pfv0gB2
- » **Email account:** LmvF%swVR56s2mW
- » **Social media account:** e246gs%mfS#3tv6



Fortunately, password managers can help you keep up with these longer, more complex codes. Options range from tools already in your web browser to commercial software.



The 30-second commute

Remote work can be a wonderful opportunity

To those who spend long hours in an office, on the road or in the field, working from home might sound like a dream. And, for some, it is.

It's estimated that by 2025 about 22% of the U.S. workforce — or 32.6 million people — will work remotely. A 2023 study by Forbes Advisor found 12.7% of the nation's full-time employees work from home, while another 28% work a hybrid model, dividing the work week between home and the office.

Working from home can help save money on gas, as well as wear and tear on vehicles. The flip side, however, is being face to face with household chores all day. The isolating nature of solo work can also be a challenge, as can establishing the distinction between work and home life.

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

- It makes sense that fast, reliable internet is the first component to remote work success. If your link to the working world is compromised, you can't get anything done. A backup location is another must, just in case a storm

knocks out the electricity or your peace and quiet is temporarily disturbed.

- Experts advise setting up a dedicated workspace — not in an area like your living room or bedroom — free from distractions, preferably with a door. While it might be tempting to work from the bed or couch, soft surfaces don't provide proper support and can lead to headaches, strains and arthritis. It's also important to consider how your workspace will appear to your co-workers and clients during on-screen meetings.
- Creating a routine is vital for remote work. If your family and neighbors know your schedule, they'll be less likely to present distractions.
- The opportunities for remote jobs are out there, you just need to know where to look. Computer tech jobs continue to be the most common opportunities, as are marketing, accounting, HR/recruiting and customer service.

REMOTE WORK RED FLAGS

When searching for work-from-home opportunities, it's important to avoid pitfalls. If the job sounds too good to be true, it usually is. Be wary if:

- The ad says things like, "unlimited earning potential," "investment opportunities and seminars" or "quick money."

- The job requires upfront expenses from you.
- You're asked for personal information — Social Security number, birthdate, banking account numbers, etc. — early in the interview process or as part of your initial application.
- You are offered a job without an interview or anyone contacting or asking for references. 🗨️



Pros of working from home

- Better work-life balance
- More freedom
- Improved employee mindset
- Decreased wardrobe budget
- Comforts of home
- No commute, less wear and tear on vehicle
- Self-regulated hours
- Flexible schedule

Plan Your Summer Vacation in Middle Tennessee with the Help of DTC Communications' High-Speed Internet

INTRODUCTION

Summer is a terrific time to explore the beauty and diversity of middle Tennessee, whether you are looking for outdoor adventures, cultural attractions, or historical landmarks. But how do you plan the perfect vacation in this region while saving time and money? The answer is simple: use DTC Communications' high-speed Internet to discover and take advantage of all that this beautiful region of Tennessee offers.



CHRIS TOWNSON
Chief Executive Officer

FIND YOUR DESTINATION

The first step to planning your vacation is to find your ideal destination. Middle Tennessee has much to offer, from the vibrant cityscapes of Nashville to the scenic countryside throughout Cannon, DeKalb, Rutherford, Smith, and Wilson Counties. The internet is the perfect tool to help you research the various places and activities that suit your interests and budget. For example, you can visit the official website of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development (<https://www.tnvacation.com/>) to discover some of the best attractions, events, and deals in the state. Narrow your search to our area by choosing middle Tennessee, and various destinations emerge for your choosing.

PICK YOUR ATTRACTION

You might be surprised to learn that there are many things to do so close to home. At the risk of leaving out dozens of worthy mentions, I'll list a few you should check out. Find tasty food, cool water, great fishing, and boat rentals at one of the local marinas on Center Hill or Cordell Hull Lakes. Take in a weekend of wonderful music and crafts with thousands of your closest friends at the 53rd Annual Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree this July. Stay at a campground or canoe the Caney Fork River in Smith County any day of the week. View local art and attend wonderful community theatre at the Arts Center of Cannon County in Woodbury. Buy some homemade lemonade, make a few crafts, have your kid's faces painted, and listen closely as stories of bygone areas are passed from one generation to the next at one of many summer festivals held in almost every small town and corner of this beautiful area we call home. See whose entries win best-in-show, enjoy a delicious funnel cake, or experience the thrilling rides at the Grandpa Fair of the South in Alexandria, the Fair on the River in South Carthage, or the enormous Wilson County and Tennessee State Fair in Lebanon.


BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION

If an overnight stay is in your future, you can often book your accommodation from the convenience of your tablet or laptop. DTC's internet can help you find the best options for your needs and preferences, whether you are looking for a hotel, a cabin, a campground, or a bed and breakfast. You can use online platforms like Airbnb, Booking.com, or Expedia to compare different properties' prices, amenities, and locations. Don't forget to check the reviews of your top picks too.

PLAN YOUR ITINERARY

The last step to planning your vacation is to create your itinerary. DTC's internet can help you plan your daily activities, transportation, and local dining options. You can use online maps, apps, and websites to find the best routes, schedules, and fares for getting around the region. You can also use online tools like Tripadvisor, Yelp, or Google Maps to find our area's best restaurants and cafes.

MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

Our high-speed internet can help you plan the best vacation ever – especially when your adventures are just minutes down the road. We are here to help you make meaningful connections. Thanks for allowing us to serve you. 

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DTC Communications is a member-owned telephone cooperative established in 1951. The cooperative supplies communication, entertainment, and security products and services to residential and business customers primarily throughout Middle Tennessee.

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On the Cover:



Alexandria-based Stain & Seal Experts, owned by Ashley and Caleb Roth, focuses on quality products and customer relationships. See story Page 8.

Photo courtesy of Stain & Seal Experts

Celebrating the Class of 2024

CANNON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation is at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 17, at the high school football field, 1 Lion Drive, Woodbury.



Will Gunter



T. Wayne Williams

The valedictorian is Will Gunter, son of Stefan and Elizabeth Gunter. Will plans to attend Middle Tennessee State University and earn at least a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering.

The salutatorian is T. Wayne Williams, son of Marty and Kim Williams. T. Wayne plans to major in agribusiness at University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Tennessee-Martin or Tennessee Tech University.

Many schools in the United States have changed the traditional ranking system based on grade-point averages. Those schools honor students who score a certain threshold using a Latin honors system – summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude.

This year, Smith County and Gordonsville high schools are using the traditional honors system, with plans to announce lists near the end of the school year. Watertown High School also announces academic achievements at the end of the school year.

DEKALB COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation is at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 10, at the DCHS football field, 1130 W. Broad St., Smithville.



Peyton Norris



Kathryn Hale

The valedictorian is Peyton Norris, daughter of Jenny and Jonathan Norris. She plans to attend MTSU, where she will study theater and media studies.

The salutatorian is Kathryn Hale. She is the daughter of Yvonne Hale and Shannon Hale. She plans to attend MTSU and major in anthropology and forensic science in hopes of becoming a forensic anthropologist.

GORDONSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation is at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 17, at the high school, 110 Main St. E., Gordonsville.

SMITH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation is at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, at the SCHS football field, weather permitting, at 312 Fite Ave. E., Carthage.

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, at the high school, 9360 Sparta Pike, Watertown.

615-529-2259

Smithville Jamboree

The 53rd annual Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Craft Festival is July 5-6 in Smithville. There are four ways to watch the jamboree live:

- Channel 3 and 303 for DTC TV customers
- DTC Communications Facebook page
- DTC3 YouTube channel
- dtc3.tv

The two-day festival attracts as many as 30,000 people to the town square. Entertainment begins at 9 a.m., and admission is free for spectators. Registration for contest participants begins at 8 a.m. daily. There are more than 35 music and dance categories, including banjos, mandolins, flat-top guitars, square dancing, buck dancing and clogging. The festival offers arts and crafts from national, regional and local artists.

For more information, visit smithvillejamboree.com, or follow Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Craft Festival on Facebook.

FIND YOUR NUMBER AND WIN A PRIZE!



A prize may be waiting for you in this issue! We have randomly selected the telephone numbers of 10 lucky DTC members and hidden them throughout this publication.

Find your number and call 615-683-1010 to claim your prize!

OLD FRIENDS, NEW LIVES

THOROUGHBREDS FIND REFUGE AFTER RACING

Story by KATHY DENES

Two former star athletes — fierce rivals in their youth, when they raced neck and neck to world renown — enjoyed the spotlight together recently during an unbridled celebration of their 30th birthdays. There was no sign of the competitive spirit that once drove them. Instead, they displayed the calm that comes with finding greener pastures on the sprawling Kentucky farm where they both live.

Retired racehorses Silver Charm and Touch Gold are the very definition of Old Friends — which is the name of the group that houses them and more than 250 other thoroughbreds. Visitors to Old Friends' 236-acre Dream Chase Farm in Georgetown, Kentucky, get to meet these majestic retirees. Since its founding in 2003 by Michael Blowen, a former Boston Globe film critic, Old Friends has welcomed about 15,000 visitors for guided tours each year.

Silver Charm, who won the first two legs of the 1997 Triple Crown, enjoys retirement at Old Friends' Georgetown, Kentucky, farm.



Photos by Laura Battles



ABOVE AND LEFT: Guests meet Touch Gold at the Belmont champion's 30th birthday party.

FAR LEFT: Old Friends founder Michael Blowen addresses guests at the birthday celebration for former rival racehorses Touch Gold and Silver Charm.

MEET THE CHAMPIONS

- Go to oldfriendsequine.org/visit to schedule a tour.
- Walking tours, 90 minutes:
 - » General — \$30 per person, up to 20 people, no children younger than 10
 - » Founder's — \$100 per person, up to 15 people, led by Old Friends founder Michael Blowen, no children under 10
 - » Private — By appointment, \$75 per person with volunteer tour guide, \$200 per person with Blowen as tour guide, up to 10 people, no charge for children 11 and under
- Driving option, three hours:
 - » Every Horse on the Farm — \$150 per person, up to five people meet all the equine residents of Dream Chase Farm, led by Old Friends photographer Laura Battles, no children
 - » Buses and groups of more than 10 people, call 502-863-1775 for tour options.

SANCTUARY

The distance between Louisville's Churchill Downs and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation Sanctuary Farm at Chestnut Hall in Prospect is only 15 miles. But for the thoroughbreds who call the farm home, it's a very long journey.

This sanctuary and event venue was created in 2021 by the TRF, a national group working to save thoroughbred horses from neglect, abuse and slaughter and providing lifelong sanctuary after their racing days are done. The farm is not open to the public, but tours can be booked through private appointment.

Visit trfinc.org for details about tours and any planned events, like the May Front Porch Summer Concert Series outside the historic Chestnut Hall farmhouse. 📩

RETRAIN, REHOME

Other groups are also hard at work for these animals, rescuing, retraining and rehomeing them after their exit from racing. For the past decade, the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance has helped fund the efforts of 86 such groups across the United States, including some based in Lexington, Kentucky.

One of those Lexington organizations, New Vocations, has placed more than 8,000 rehabilitated and retrained retired racehorses in adoptive homes since 1992. Another, the all-volunteer CANTER USA, has transitioned more than 25,000 horses. And for 20 years, the thoroughbreds served by the Secretariat Center at Kentucky Horse Park have been placed in new homes and in a range of new jobs, from therapeutic riding programs to mounted police units.

Providing a safe and secure retirement for thoroughbreds past their racing prime is an expensive endeavor, and most organizations doing this kind of work rely heavily, or sometimes exclusively, on donations. Horse sponsorships, monetary gifts, working as a volunteer, shopping at their online stores, fundraiser participation and buying "wish list" items are a few ways to help. Scheduling tours is another way, and it's the most fun!



615-765-5425

Treating everyone like family

**STAIN & SEAL EXPERTS
FOCUSES ON QUALITY
PRODUCTS, RELATIONSHIPS**

Story by MELANIE JONES

Ashley Roth starts her day early, logging on to the computer to work for the business she runs with her husband, Caleb. Then she puts her mom hat on. It's time for breakfast for her four kids, ages 4 to 13. Next, she switches into teacher mode, as she homeschools them all.

Throughout the day, though, Ashley catches up on emails and phone calls for Stain & Seal Experts, the Alexandria-based business she and Caleb run to serve Middle Tennessee and beyond. They do more than go out and stain and seal wood structures. They also manufacture their own products and sell them online.

It truly is a family business. Ashley takes the children with her when she visits the office. "We're very fortunate to have an atmosphere and a team we feel comfortable having the kids around," she says.

The kids bring whatever they're working on and do schoolwork from the office. If they're all caught up, Ashley says, they can just hang out or help. "We try to include them in the business as well," she says.

The decision to open a family business was an easy one in 2012 for Ashley and Caleb. His parents had their own fencing operation, and Ashley's mother ran her own business. "It's just something we've grown up with," Ashley says. "Then, when we had the opportunity to pursue it ourselves, we knew what to expect and the benefits and hardships that come with it. We work well together. We share roles and responsibilities, and we're able to communicate effectively, so it makes it really easy to be able to balance the work and home life," she says.

The couple's 25 employees are like family, too. "I like my team to like the people they have to



Photos contributed by Stain & Seal Experts

spend the majority of their time with,” Ashley says.

As for the customers, they feel welcome, too. “They’re like family,” says James Jordan, of Magnolia Stain & Seal in Olive Branch, Mississippi. “I talk to Ashley, and she tells me to give my daughters and wife a hug for her.”

James depends on excellent customer service from Stain & Seal Experts. “It’s not even comparable to other companies,” he says. “We’ll make an order, and it’s delivered within 24 hours.” He remembers one time when a bucket of stain was damaged in shipping. It was obviously not Stain & Seal Experts’ fault, he says, “but they made it right.”

WHAT THEY DO

Stain & Seal Experts is a bit different than many companies, Ashley says, in that it operates on three tiers. Stain & Seal Experts is the local service business, Expert Wood Care focuses on e-commerce product sales, and Gopher Wood makes and sells prefinished lumber products.

On the service side, staff members go to work sites to stain and seal new wood projects or restore existing fences, decks, cabins and more. The company also offers a maintenance program. The program does more than help the property look pretty, Ashley says. It also helps the environment. 615-548-4248

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Caleb and Ashley Roth founded Stain & Seal Experts in 2012.

Stain & Seal Experts treated this deck in Nashville.

A privacy fence and pergola glow with a coat of honey stain.

“Do you know how many trees are cut down every year?” Ashley asks. “If you took the trees and stacked them end to end, one on top of the other, you could go to the moon and back seven times. We want to preserve the earth because we have children, and I hope to have grandchildren one day, and I hope for my grandchildren to have children. If we continue to just use and use and use, we’re going to run out.

“When you can protect and when you can restore and then maintain what you already have, it’s better for everybody,” Ashley says.

CREATING QUALITY

On the manufacturing side, Stain & Seal Experts makes its own stains and sealants that it uses on projects and sells to other contractors internationally. This year, the company launched a prefinished lumber line. Buying wood directly from the lumber yard, employees stain and seal it on all six sides. The lumber is then shipped to contractors for use in their construction projects.



All Stain & Seal Experts’ manufactured products can be ordered online. That’s why the company’s fast and reliable DTC fiber internet connection is so important. “You know, we pride ourselves in our customer service, and the level of customer service that DTC provides to us is the same thing that we expect to give our customers,” Ashley says. “That’s why we enjoy keeping our business with DTC as much as we can.”

It’s the customer service that sets Stain & Seal Experts apart. “We’re kind of known in our industry to be the people who are always reachable. We have video chatted with guys on job sites who were having issues, who maybe couldn’t figure out what was going on with the project or what the wood was doing,” she says. “We like to see people succeed, so we will do everything in our power to make sure that happens, especially when they’re using our products.” 🗨️



Living the HIGH LIFE

Hot Air Balloon Rides Make for a Magical Experience

Story by JEN CALHOUN

As a child growing up in California, Kim McCourt scrambled up hills, cliffs and trees to see the land below. “I had this need to see all those things I never even knew were there,” he says.

But when his family moved to the flatlands of Florida, he had to find a new way to see the world. In 1998, he took his first flight in a hot air balloon. “I learned that ballooning is, well, kind of magical,” says Kim, who is now a licensed hot air balloon pilot in the Orlando region. “There’s the exploration part of it, and you’ve got Mother Nature all around you.”

ULTIMATE ADVENTURE

These days, Kim often travels the skies with tourists who want to experience a ride they can’t find at the region’s theme parks. For many, it’s a way to fly without being contained in the metal tube of an airplane. “In the balloon, you can see so much more, and you can actually feel everything,” Kim says. “You can breathe the air.”

There’s a spiritual component, too, says Mark West, vice president of the Balloon Federation of America. West, a former Navy pilot, also served as president and chief engineer of Aerostar International, which was once the largest hot air balloon manufacturer in the country.

“Ballooning has an incredible amount of magic to it,” Mark says. “Virtually everyone who sees one is enamored with them. I suppose they’re kind of representative of breaking free of the bonds of Earth and floating away.”

UP AND AWAY

Across the country, hot air balloon rides are a popular pastime for families celebrating a special occasion or tourists looking for a new experience. Some passengers want to make memories with their families, while others go to commemorate important events, like marriage proposals, bucket lists and to spread the ashes of loved ones into the sky. “There are all kinds of stories,” Kim says. “The only things that stay the same are the sun coming up and people smiling.”

Photos by Kim McCourt



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Balloons get ready for a flight.

Most hot air balloons are operated by gas.

Hot air balloons take off during an event.



But as wide-open spaces dwindle, so do the balloon rides. Pilots simply don't have enough space to land. Weather's also been a factor, because unreliable winds can ground a pilot. Kim says he's seen this firsthand. "Over the last 15 years, the weather went from 275 days we could fly to probably 100 days," he says.

He worries other factors could cause ballooning to take a hit, too. "Fabric, wicker, propane, repairs and parts are way more expensive these days, so it takes more money to maintain them," Kim says.

HOPE FLOATS

Despite the challenges, Kim still grins like a kid after an early-morning

flight. "There's nothing like it," he says. "When we lift off and the sun starts to rise, we might rest at the top of a tree and stare clear down to the bottom of a pond. Then we'll take off again and maybe rest right on top of the water where the mist is coming off the surface. It's up and down, up and down — gently. One person said it was like flying in the hand of God while getting a brain massage."

Balloonists enjoy attempting to describe the sensation of floating on — and with — the air, Mark says. "One of my good friends said it was 'having a destiny without a destination.' I think it attracts people who want to enjoy the beauty of the Earth and want to experience that kind of freedom." 🗨️

To catch a ride with Kim McCourt, visit greaterorlandoballoonrides.com. For more information on hot air ballooning and the people who are passionate about it, visit the Balloon Federation of America's Facebook page, or find the group at bfa.net.



1783 THE BIRTH OF THE HOT AIR BALLOON

▶ June 1783 — First unmanned flight

After a year or two of experimentation and invention, brothers Joseph Michel and Jacques Etienne Montgolfier publicly launch their version of a hot air balloon. It held no passengers. The balloon landed in the middle of a vineyard a little over a mile from where it had taken off.

▶ September 1783 — Confused farm animals

The first balloon flight with passengers launches in Versailles carrying a duck, a rooster and a sheep. The animals made it out alive. However, sources say the sheep kicked the duck and damaged its wing. King Louis XVI of France was pleased to learn that animals could breathe so high up.

▶ November 1783 — First human flight

Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier and another passenger take the first untethered, human-occupied flight. The flight, which launched in France, lasted about 25 minutes and reached an altitude of about 500 feet. Less than two years later, de Rozier and his passenger would become the first people to die in a hot air balloon crash during a flight from France to England.

▶ December 1783 — Hydrogen balloon

Jacques Charles, a French physicist who had been experimenting with hydrogen balloons, boards one with a few colleagues. They traveled 25 miles in less than two hours. They also carried a barometer and a thermometer. Afterward, gas balloons became the preferred method of ballooning.

Sources: DragonFly Balloon Adventures, Virgin Balloon Flights, National Balloon Museum

Online in the great outdoors

Smithville's Green Brook Park adds free Wi-Fi

Story by MELANIE JONES

Patrons attending church concerts at the Green Brook Park amphitheater in Smithville can feel free to post some video to social media while they're there. They won't even have to use their smartphone's data plan thanks to the park's new free Wi-Fi.

Green Brook Park has evolved since its early days as Smithville's original water station, City Administrator Hunter Hendrixson says. The park came about in the early 1970s, after U.S. Rep. Joe L. Evins convinced his colleagues to try the Model City program in a rural area, starting with his hometown in DeKalb County.

Model City brought new funds for several projects, including a new city hall and Green Brook Park. Now, the park is home to several shelters, a playground, an amphitheater and even a splash pad.

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

The city's most recent addition to the park is DTC's fiber internet, which provides enough bandwidth for security cameras and Wi-Fi throughout the property, Hunter says. "We've been talking about it for a while, then Mayor Josh Miller and the board of aldermen decided to go ahead and fund it. It's there for the city, and it's there for the people who use the park."

DTC was extremely helpful in providing the services at the park, according to Hunter. "They're always there for the city, and always have been, so we're very pleased with the results," he says.



▲ The park features an extensive playground.



615-529-0442



▲ Green Brook Park now offers Wi-Fi to visitors.
◀ Several DTC security cameras monitor the park.

The Wi-Fi comes in handy for residents who reserve shelters in the park for reunions, birthday parties and similar events. There's no rental fee to use them, though the city does encourage donations when people make their reservations. "Some people make big donations, some make smaller ones," Hunter says. "It just depends on what they can give."

ATTRACTIONS

The city added a splash pad in 2022. Water shoots from different spots on the ground onto a safe surface where kids can

run and play. "It's been a big hit in the two years we've had it," Hunter says.

There are a few basketball goals. They're not regulation courts, Hunter says, but big enough for some pickup games. Word is just now starting to get out about the newest game in town — disc golf. The park has added a course that attracts players.

One of the park's most popular features is the walking trail, which Hunter says is used every day. It's home base for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life each year. While participants walk the trail, bands play at the amphitheater, where those not walking can gather.

"The park is a pretty important part of the city," Hunter says. "It offers a lot of recreation. We don't have a lot of other options in the city, so we try to do what we can."

To reserve a spot at the park or to learn more, call 615-597-4745. [DTC](https://www.dtc.com)

Best of the best

Honoring local basketball all-stars

DTC Sports has named its third annual DTC Communications All-Star Team for the 2023-24 basketball season.

The team includes 10 boys and 10 girls from area high schools, including Cannon, DeKalb and Smith counties, Gordonsville and Watertown. The 2023-24 season was the 15th

year of area of high school basketball coverage on DTC3, your local sports channel.

DTC Communications and DTC Sports celebrate local teams' successes during the season, and we're proud to recognize the outstanding student-athletes from the DTC service area. ☎ 615-597-7263

DTC ALL-STAR TEAM

BOYS



Eli Adams, senior
Gordonsville



AJ Armstrong, senior
Cannon County



Connor Close, senior
DeKalb County



JJ Goodall, senior
Watertown



Peyton Hix, senior
Smith County



Clayton Rigsby, senior
Smith County



Theo Winters, senior
Cannon County



Dallas Kirby, junior
DeKalb County



Marcus Reynolds, junior
Watertown



J Foster, sophomore
Gordonsville

GIRLS



Airyn Enoch, senior
Smith County



Madison King, senior
Watertown



Merissa Spivey, senior
Smith County



Ella VanVranken, senior
DeKalb County



Abbilyn Teter, junior
Cannon County



Abi Alexander,
sophomore
Cannon County



Macie Brejle,
sophomore
Watertown



MaKenzie Herron,
sophomore
Gordonsville



Kali Underwood,
sophomore
Gordonsville



Chloe VanVranken,
sophomore
DeKalb County

615-563-3069

Follow **DTC3** for all your sports coverage!

Photos of Cannon County athletes courtesy of Ronny Burks, DeKalb County athletes courtesy of WJLE, Gordonsville and Smith County athletes courtesy of Carthage Courier and Watertown athletes courtesy of Main Street Preps.

OLDIES

but goodies

Classic recipes create timeless tastes

Although we love creating new recipes in keeping with today's tastes and trends, there's something sweet about a vintage recipe that can still hold its own. Get ready for a trip down memory lane with these old-fashioned recipes we still love.

From classic chicken tetrazzini to a delightful lemon icebox pie, these vintage recipes are worth holding onto. They may have been gone from our culinary repertoire for a decade or two, but they certainly are not forgotten.

Ready for some nostalgia and satisfied smiles at your table? Give these retro recipes a try, and they're sure to stir up good memories.



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CHICKEN TETRAZZINI

No roundup of retro recipes is complete without a classic chicken tetrazzini.

- 16 ounces linguini or spaghetti, cooked
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 4 chicken breasts, cooked and diced
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, grated
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese shredded

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish and set aside.

Cook noodles to al dente, according to the box instructions. Drain and set aside. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine chicken, soup, sour cream, butter, chicken broth, garlic salt, parsley and pepper. Mix well, then stir in cooked noodles. Pour mixture into prepared baking dish. Sprinkle both cheeses on top and bake, uncovered, for 36-42 minutes, until cheeses are melted and casserole is bubbling.

CREAMED CORN

If you can't wait until summer to take advantage of sweet Silver Queen corn, use the sweetest corn you can find.

- 13 ears of fresh corn, husks and silks removed
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Remove silks from corn. Cream the corn by cutting the kernels from the cobs, then scrape the

corn cobs with the back of the knife to get all the "milk" and pulp. Transfer creamed corn to a large skillet. Add milk, butter and salt. Cook over low heat, stirring often, for 30 minutes. If corn becomes too thick, add more milk for desired consistency. Sprinkle with pepper. Makes 6-8 servings.



CLASSIC SOUTHERN CORNBREAD SALAD

- 1 skillet of your favorite cornbread
- 1 cup diced onions
- 1 green or red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 cup diced tomato
- 1 15-ounce can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 pound bacon, cooked until crisp and crumbled
- 2-3 cups mayonnaise
- 1 package ranch dressing mix

Crumble cooled cornbread into a large bowl. Add onions, bell pepper, diced tomatoes, corn and bacon. Stir until well combined. In a separate bowl, stir together mayonnaise and ranch mix until well-blended. Add mayonnaise dressing mixture to salad and stir until fully mixed. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving.



LEMON ICEBOX PIE

Finish your retro meal with a slice of this much-loved pie.

Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 7 tablespoons butter, melted

Filling:

- 2 14-ounce cans sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup fresh lemon juice
- 5 large egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the crust: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Combine the cracker crumbs, sugar and butter in a medium bowl. Mix with a fork until the crumbs are well coated and stick together when pinched. Press the mixture into the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch pie plate. Bake until set, about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool slightly, about 10 minutes.

For the filling: Whisk together the condensed milk, lemon juice, egg yolks and lemon zest in a medium bowl until combined. Pour the filling into the crust and bake until the center is set but still slightly jiggly, about 15 minutes. Let cool for 30 minutes, then refrigerate until chilled, about 2 hours.

Once pie is chilled, beat the heavy cream, powdered sugar and vanilla in a large bowl with a mixer on medium speed until soft peaks form. Spoon onto the center of the pie and serve.

Alternatively: Buy a premade graham cracker crust as a timesaver. 📌



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