

West Carolina Tel

MARCH/APRIL 2015

CONNECTED



SECESSION STORY

Remembering
Abbeville's key role
in the Civil War

HOW SAFE ARE YOU?

Test your security know-how
with our special quiz

NEW LOOK

WCTEL unveils new logo to
capture changing technology



RURAL CONNECTIONS

BY SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD, CEO
NTCA—THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

The search for better broadband should start with existing local providers

There is no question that broadband Internet service is the key to economic and community development, especially in rural America.

However, there are differing opinions in Washington about the best way to continue building our nation's connected infrastructure.

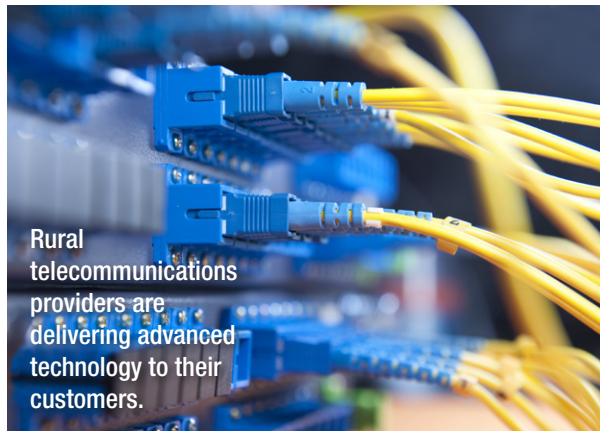
While I applaud President Obama's recent attention on increasing every American's access to robust and affordable broadband, it's not clear that his focus on creating more government-run networks in marketplaces where private operators already exist is the best path toward bringing more jobs and opportunity to rural America.

If our leaders are looking for an excellent model for what can be accomplished, we believe they should turn to the experts who have decades of experience deploying and maintaining modern telecommunications infrastructure: community-based, independent telcos like yours.

Nationwide, there are over 1,000 technology providers like yours that serve over 4 million households in the most sparsely populated pockets of our country, deploying high-speed, high-quality broadband services. For decades, these providers have gone above and beyond to build the infrastructure that allows our country's most rural markets to access the same technologies found in our largest cities — and they've done it all under the extremely difficult financial and physical conditions that come with deploying technologies in rural and remote communities.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of companies such as your local

provider, rural America now has access to affordable broadband in some of the most remote locations. But the sustainability of those networks is at risk, and other areas



need broadband as well. Policymakers in search of answers to these communications challenges in rural America should turn first to those who have shown they can get the job done time and again, rather than casting about for the next new thing, creating regulatory uncertainty and putting at risk significant investments already made in existing networks through the prospect of redundant or wasteful overbuilding.

There's already a great broadband success story out there in rural America, and it is being written by community-based telecom providers like yours. As our national broadband story progresses, we should strive to build upon proven initiatives and leverage existing efforts that are working, rather than pursue new uncharted pathways. As this debate plays out, you can be assured that you have a voice in Washington, as your provider joins with hundreds of others through NTCA as the unified voice of America's rural broadband companies. 📞

LANDLINE?

YOU STILL NEED ONE IN 2015

Today, mobility means everything. We want to check email, log onto Facebook, watch videos, get the news and generally stay connected no matter where we are. And that, of course, includes the ability to make phone calls. With mobile phones in practically everyone's pocket, some people question the need for a traditional landline. But consider this:

- 1** With a landline, you never have to worry about signal strength. Knowing you can get a call through, especially during an emergency, is more than a comfort.
- 2** Speaking of emergencies, your landline sends your complete address information — including apartment number — when you dial 911. Cell phones use GPS-based information, which can be inaccurate.
- 3** The clarity of a conversation on a landline (if you have a quality wired or cordless handset) is unmatched by any cell phone call.
- 4** With the right plan, you'll never run out of minutes with a landline.
- 5** Your "home phone number" provides a way people can always reach you or leave a message. When everyone in the house has their own cell phone with separate numbers, the landline can serve as a central point of contact for the entire family.



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

With so many new apps and services to help keep us connected, email is still king in the business world


From instant messaging applications such as Skype to social media tools such as Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat, the past few years have brought us many new options for connecting electronically. And yet, when it comes to communicating in business, email remains the method of choice.

In the report “Technology’s Impact on Workers,” released by Pew Research Center at the end of last year, 61 percent of workers who use the Internet say that email is very important to doing their job.

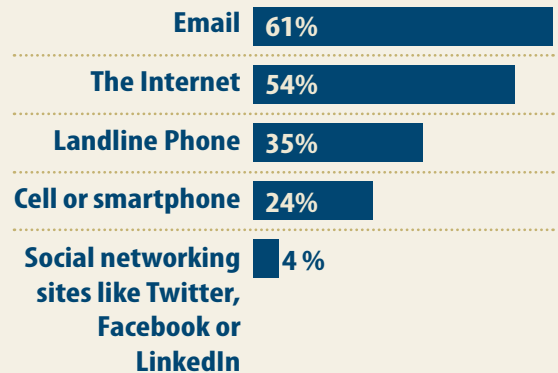
“The high value of email comes

despite the challenges of the past generation,” the report states, “including threats like spam and phishing and competitors like social media and texting.”

Email’s continued reign as the communications tool of choice has its benefits. The study found that 39 percent of workers believe that email, along with the Internet and cell phones, allows them more flexibility in the hours they work.

The downside to that flexibility, however, is that 35 percent — almost the same amount — say these tools have increased the amount of time they spend working. 

Email and the Internet top the list of important tools for online workers



Source: Pew Research Center

Email overload? Manage your inbox with these simple tips

With so much importance placed on email in today’s business world, managing your messages can be overwhelming. You can benefit from this communications tool without letting it wreck your day by putting a few simple principles into action.

Set an email schedule. If you make yourself available for email all day long, you leave yourself open to constant distraction. Set a schedule of specific times during the day when you will check email. You may have to adjust it to find the schedule that’s right for you, but try starting with once before lunch and again early afternoon. You will feel more freedom than when you are drawn in by every email that lands in your inbox.

Turn off notifications. You can’t stay focused on any one


task if your computer provides a pop-up notification every time an email comes in. Turn off that productivity-killing feature. In fact, shut down your email app altogether and only launch it when you are ready to focus on email.

Organize your inbox. Most email apps allow you to set up folders, filters and rules to bring order to your email madness. It

may take a few weeks of adjusting to find the approach that best fits you, but the result will be a more organized workspace. Your mail will be in intuitive categories so that you’ll be able to deal with the most important messages first.

Keep it brief. When you send an exhaustive email with hundreds of words and multiple questions and points, you invite an equally

exhaustive response that you’ll have to wade through.

Consider alternatives. Email is not for every conversation. In fact, it’s a terrible way to manage a project. Post messages pertaining to a specific project inside tools such as Basecamp or Trello. Having all related conversations in the same place with related notes and action items will help you track progress. 



Is email an important part of your business? Do you have any tips for managing email to work more efficiently? Tell us your story at www.BroadbandBuildsBusiness.com.

Fiber network realizing potential

Our culture is fascinated with potential. We talk about athletes at the high school level having great potential, with hopeful futures at the college and pro levels. We talk about friends having the potential to be successful in business, education or the arts.



JEFF WILSON
Chief Executive Officer

When we view something as having potential, we believe that within it lies the power for it to become greater than what it is now, to accomplish good things and impact lives in a positive way.

I can't think of a better description for the broadband network we've built in our region.

Our three-year build out involved 30 different construction companies designing, mapping, planning and eventually laying 1,300 miles of fiber optic cables. In the end, it's brought our area South Carolina's first large-scale fiber optic network.

But that is just the beginning of the story. The most important feature of our broadband network is the potential it holds. Studies have shown that when people put broadband to work in their


homes and communities, some exciting things happen:

- Household incomes rise
- Job opportunities increase
- Poverty levels and unemployment drop

The potential is there — but the key to unlocking that potential is you. Some of our customers are doing an outstanding job in this area:

- Developers at Savannah Lakes say having access to the network gives them an advantage over other communities.
- Stoll Fireplace takes custom orders from all over the world and keeps up with a broad network of dealers over the high-speed connection.
- The Greater Abbeville Federal Credit Union uses the network for a special hosted IP phone system giving them greater flexibility and efficiency.

The network we are building today allows you to take advantage of today's technology. But here's the most exciting thing: Where the true power lies is in our network's ability to adapt to new technologies as they become available, freeing you to explore new ways to put broadband to work. You have the tools to reinvent how you live, work and play.

So go innovate. Go learn. Go imagine new ways to use the technology we are blessed with in this region. Put it to work to change your community, your family, your business. Then be sure to share your story with us. Like those I mentioned above, your story may inspire someone else to unlock the potential of broadband, while discovering the potential inside themselves. 

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is a member-owned cooperative dedicated to delivering advanced telecommunications technology to the people of Abbeville, Anderson and McCormick counties.

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On the Cover:



From left: Susan Keaton, Katy Tilley and Wayne Sears swap Civil War stories in front of the Burt-Stark Mansion in Abbeville. See story Page 8.

New look, same trusted company



As you may have noticed on the cover of this magazine, WCTEL has a fresh new logo.

"We're constantly updating our technology and improving our operations, so it was time to update and improve our logo to reflect that," says CEO Jeff Wilson. "The new logo conveys a cutting edge, professional organization with high standards that is looking toward the future."

The logo will gradually replace the previous logo on printed materials, employee clothes, vehicles, buildings and other locations over the next several months.

"This is something that had been in the works a long time, and we're very pleased with the results," says Shannon Sears, director of commercial operations. "It's not something we took lightly. The oval and the gray and blue colors really put us in line with many other technology companies, which is really what West Carolina has become. We're a top-notch provider, and we needed a top-notch look."

You're invited!

WCTEL has a new interactive security demo station at our Abbeville office, and the security team would love for you to come by and see it. With the full-size display, a security expert can show you exactly what products are available, what they look like and how they work to keep your home safe.

Stop by during business hours to see everything West Carolina Security has to offer!



WCTEL donates \$200,000 to Freshwater Coast Community Foundation

West Carolina Tel is proud to support the Freshwater Coast Community Foundation with a \$200,000 check presented in December.

FCCF's mission is to provide opportunities for individuals and businesses in the Abbeville County, McCormick County and Starr-Iva area to join together to improve and support economic development, educational opportunities and cultural enhancement.

"We appreciate West Carolina and their contribution to our foundation," says Brad Evans, FCCF Chairman. "With this generous contribution, the foundation will impact the overall quality of life in this area through educational, cultural, and economic development."

Pictured: Faye Crocker, FCCF Treasurer; Betty Cowan, FCCF Board Member; Brad Evans, FCCF Chairman; Jeff Wilson, West Carolina Tel CEO and General Manager; Lee Logan, FCCF Board Member; Andy Timmerman, FCCF Board Member; Tom Howie, Steering Committee Member.

A NATION DIVIDED: 150 YEARS LATER

Relive history on a tour of these prominent Civil War battlefields

BY ROBERT THATCHER

This year, the country will conclude its 150th anniversary remembrance of the Civil War. But don't worry if you missed the reenactments and fanfare over the past four years. Take this trip on US Highway 41 from Kentucky through Middle Tennessee to find plenty of history while tracing pivotal battles in America's most costly war.



Re-enactments, like this one near Chickamauga, Ga., can bring history to life, but battlefields throughout the Southeast are interesting places to visit anytime.

Stop #1 – Fort Donelson National Battlefield

Where Ulysses Grant became a household name

Fort Donelson National Battlefield, on the banks of the Cumberland River just south of the Kentucky border, is a natural starting point for a drive through Middle Tennessee. It's also a good beginning militarily.

"Almost everything that happened in the state is a sequel to what happened here," says Doug Richardson, Fort Donelson's chief of interpretation.

Rivers were arteries of commerce for the South, and the Confederates built Fort Donelson to protect the Cumberland and upstream cities like Clarksville and Nashville.

But on Feb. 12, 1862, a little-known Union brigadier general named Ulysses S. Grant set his sights on Fort Donelson. He was confident of victory after his gunboats easily took nearby Fort Henry on the Tennessee River.



Dover Hotel

Donelson was not so easy. Well-positioned Confederate guns brought victory, setting up a successful "break out" through Union lines. But the victory was short-lived, as the Confederates unwittingly helped Grant by pulling troops back to their original positions. Grant retook the lost ground, and the 12,000-man garrison surrendered unconditionally. The battle made Grant a star and was a catastrophe for the South.

TOURING FORT DONELSON

The park preserves more than 20 percent of the original battlefield, with several square miles of earthwork fortifications. Don't miss these highlights:

- » Stand at the gun batteries where Confederate gunners battered Grant's



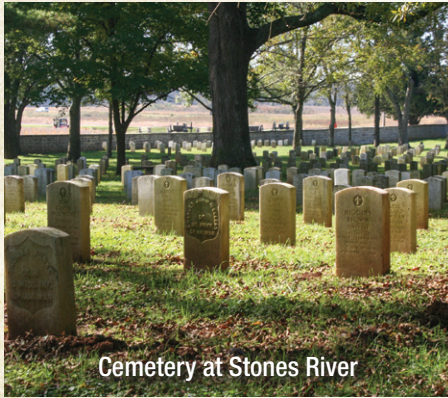
TECH-SAVVY TRAVELER: CHARTING YOUR COURSE

Robert E. Lee is regarded by many as the most clever battle tactician of the Civil War. Imagine what he could have done with a GPS! Nowadays, it's easy to come up with a battle plan and map out the route for you and your troops on your next vacation. Apps like Google Earth provide directions for tourists with aerial or street views of those historic sites from Gettysburg to Charleston. For those battling interstate traffic, Road Ninja is an app that will help you find fuel, food and shelter for the evening, keeping your small army on the move.

- gunboats.
- » Visit the Dover Hotel where Ulysses S. Grant demanded “unconditional surrender” from his old West Point friend, Confederate Simon Buckner.
- » Pause at Fort Donelson National Cemetery for a reminder of the sacrifices that Americans have made from the Civil War to the present day.
- » While absorbing the history, you may also encounter two notable park residents. “We’ve got two resident bald eagles who live down at the river,” Richardson says. “Our eagles are about as famous as our generals.”

Stop #2 – Stones River National Battlefield

The Fight for the Confederate



Cemetery at Stones River

Heartland

We could follow General Grant to the Mississippi line and Shiloh, where his Army of the Tennessee headed after Donelson, but there’s good reason to drive to Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro.

“When Fort Donelson falls, the Confederates have to give up Nashville,” explains Park Ranger Jim Lewis. “And Nashville becomes the base for the Union Army to launch the campaigns which will lead to Stones River, Chickamauga and Chattanooga.”

For many, Stones River is a quiet retreat from bustling Murfreesboro. But the 6,100 gravestones across from the visitor center are a sober reminder of what took place there. Of the 81,000 who fought here, 23,000 were killed, wounded or went missing in action — the highest

percentage of casualties of any Civil War battle.

EARLY SUCCESS, THEN RETREAT

On New Year’s Eve 1862, the Southern army under Braxton Bragg attacked first, catching William Rosecrans’ Union troops at breakfast and driving them north. Then on Jan. 2, the Confederates launched another attack along the east bank of the Stones River to drive Union troops off of a high hill.

“In the process of pursuing, those Confederates will come under the fire of 57 Union cannons along the other side of the river and will lose about 1,800 men in 45 minutes,” Lewis says. “That’s a pretty bloody exclamation point.”

The Confederates then retreated.

TOURING STONES RIVER

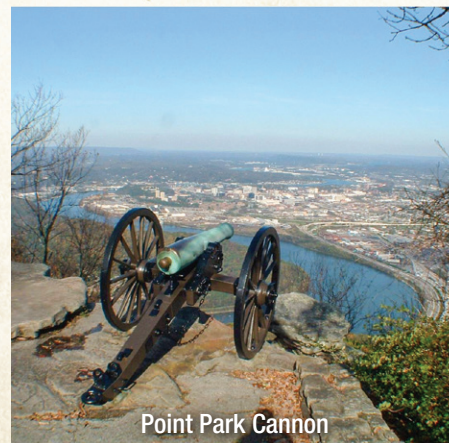
Stones River offers a 12-stop auto tour, including these sights:

- » Walk around The Slaughter Pen, a rock outcropping where Union troops made a stubborn stand.
- » Pay respect at the Hazen Brigade Monument, one of the oldest war monuments in the country.
- » Be awed by Fort Rosecrans, the largest earthworks fortification in North America.

Stop #3 – Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park

The Death Knell of the Confederacy

We’ve followed the Union push to Nashville and Murfreesboro. The next stop is Chattanooga. Actually, we’ll go south of the city to Chickamauga & Chat-



Point Park Cannon

tanooga National Military Park, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Driving to the park, you’ll cross the mountains that convinced General Rosecrans not to advance directly on Chattanooga. He moved southwest of the city to block supply lines, forcing Confederate troops into Georgia as well. But Chattanooga was the Union goal.

“Chattanooga is a doorway through the southern barrier of the Appalachians,” says Park Historian Jim Ogden.

Driving through the dense woods of the 5,300-acre park, you can see why confusion reigned in the war’s second-bloodiest battle. About 35,000 men were killed, wounded, missing or captured in fighting from Sept. 19-20, 1863. Strategic mistakes led to a Union retreat. The Union troops retreated to Chattanooga, where they withstood a two-month siege before ultimately breaking through in the battle of Chattanooga.

“This allowed the Union drive across Georgia in 1864, from Chattanooga to Atlanta and from Atlanta to Savannah,” Ogden notes.

TOURING CHICKAMAUGA

Start at the visitor center on Lafayette Road. After touring the park, drive 17 miles to Lookout Mountain Battlefield for views from 1,500 feet above Chattanooga. Other key sites:

- » Stand on Snodgrass Hill where George Thomas became “The Rock of Chickamauga.”
- » Get a general’s view from Orchard Knob, Grant’s command post, and the Bragg Reservation, Confederate headquarters on Missionary Ridge.
- » Watch the conflict electronically at the Battles for Chattanooga Museum on Lookout Mountain.

Chattanooga was a major blow for the Confederacy. But there’s much more to see on the campaign South – Tunnel Hill, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain all the way to Savannah and then into South Carolina. The war continued on and your trip can too. Visit nps.gov/civilwar for more sites from the War Between the States. 📍

The Confederate Legacy: From Secession to Concession

BY ANDY JOHNS

When Jefferson Davis arrived in Abbeville, he planned to fight on.

Robert E. Lee's army had surrendered in Virginia, and Richmond had fallen a few weeks earlier, but Davis believed his be-

loved Confederacy could survive at least a little longer if he and other officials could rally the remaining armies in Mississippi, Louisiana or Texas.

But in Abbeville, at the home of Major Armistead Burt, cabinet members and

generals advised their president that the Confederacy was on the brink of collapse.

Accounts vary, but when Davis asked about the status of the troops, one advisor is said to have explained, "Mr. Davis, they think the war is over."

Davis was taken aback by the assessment.

"All is indeed lost," he said, reportedly collapsing into the arms of another advisor.

When Davis left Abbeville, the final "death knell" had rung for the Confederacy.

STORIES OF SACRIFICE

Over the past five years, sites across the country have commemorated their Civil War connection during the 150th anniversary of the War Between the States.

But while important speeches, bloody battles and other events occurred from New Mexico to New England, nowhere has a story quite like Abbeville, which truly saw the war's opening and closing acts.

"There's just a wonderful story to tell here in Abbeville," says Katy Tilley, chairwoman of the Abbeville Historic Preservation Commission.

In addition to Davis's realization in what is now the Burt-Stark Mansion, that his country was defeated at the end of the war, Abbeville was also home to one of the first meetings that led to the secession of the Southern states.

"The area is really known as the birthplace and death-bed of the confederacy," says local historian Wayne Sears.

That the two historic meetings, which serve as bookends for the war, happened in the same place is an amazing coincidence that local historians are very proud of. "For those two events to



Katy Tilley says most locals know the story of the Burt-Stark Mansion, but tourists flock to the home to hear the story for the first time.





The McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy House in Abbeville contains a room honoring veterans from many wars, including the War Between the States.

have happened in the same little, out-of-the-way town — it sounds like a movie script, doesn't it?" says Robert Hayes, a local historian and Jefferson Davis re-enactor.

Documents from the time report that a meeting was held in Abbeville on Nov. 22, 1860, in order to "consult as to the course to be pursued by our District in the crisis" — meaning Lincoln's election and the potential of secession. The meeting was also set to determine which local men would be selected as delegates to the coming state convention to vote on seceding from the United States. Such meetings were happening all over the state, but Abbeville's was either the first or second according to Hayes.

On Dec. 20, delegates voted in Charleston 169-0 to leave the Union.

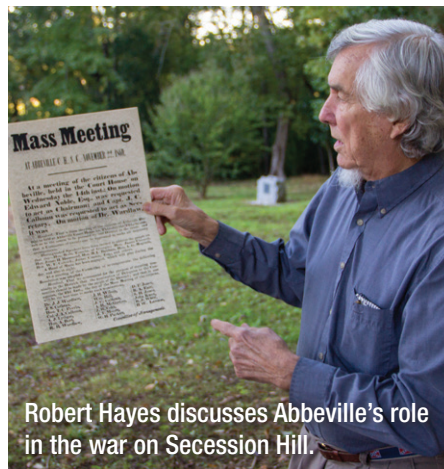
WAR TAKES ITS TOLL

Once other Southern states followed South Carolina in secession and the first shots were fired at Fort Sumter, the war took a tremendous toll on the state and the region.

As with most Southern cities, the war hit Abbeville hard with practically all of the white men heading out to fight.

By one account, the households of Robert Wardlaw and Asa Botts in Abbeville sent a total of 18 sons and sons-in-law off to the war. In another account, a set of five neighbors in Abbeville went to war. All rose to the rank of colonel and all were killed in battle.

"The number of people that died in that



Robert Hayes discusses Abbeville's role in the war on Secession Hill.

war is astronomical," Sears says. "We should commemorate all of the soldiers who fell from our area."

Tilley and other members of the historic commission plan to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Davis meeting at the newly renovated mansion during the Spring Festival this May. She believes the heightened interest in the Civil War during the 150th anniversary period has brought extra visitors to Abbeville, and she expects the anniversary of the Davis meeting will draw additional tourists.

"Anybody that follows history knows this is coming up," she says.

The war remains a hot-button issue today, but Sears, Tilley and Hayes all say that shouldn't keep cities like Abbeville from commemorating their pasts.

"It's such a place in history that we need to remember," Tilley says. "Right or wrong, whether we believe in what they were fighting for or not, the war still left a huge impact on our town and our state."

1865 TIMELINE

Closing acts of the War Between the States


- **Jan. 31** — Congress passes 13th amendment, abolishing slavery
- **Feb. 17** — Columbia S.C. burned
- **March 4** — Lincoln inaugurated for second term
- **April 3** — Richmond falls
- **April 4** — Lincoln tours Richmond
- **April 9** — Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox
- **April 14** — Lincoln shot
- **April 26** — Confederate Joseph E. Johnston surrenders to the Union's William T. Sherman in North Carolina
- **May 2** — Jefferson Davis holds final cabinet meeting in Abbeville
- **May 10** — Jefferson Davis captured
- **May 26** — E. K. Smith, last major Confederate commander, surrenders in New Orleans

RIPPLE EFFECTS

The effects of that May 1865 meeting with Davis and his advisors were felt far and wide. After that session, Davis discharged thousands of troops in Abbeville, paying them from the government's dwindling funds.

The meeting and Davis' capture a week later helped ensure the war would come to an end, rather than drag on as a guerrilla conflict.

The encounter also spawned rumors that Confederate officials buried gold from the treasury somewhere around Abbeville. A reality show recently came to town looking for any signs of the treasure, Sears says. "They didn't find much of anything," he says. However, the commission continues to receive inquiries from treasure hunters about the property.

Tilley says the commission educates locals, especially youth, about the town's role in the war. "Anytime you have something like that in your backyard, you tend to take it for granted," she says. "It's our obligation to preserve this beautiful, historic site for future generations." 

FOR THE EVERYDAY HOME

What will readers find at your blog?

Shaunna West: Perfectly Imperfect is a window into our lives. You'll find DIY projects, furniture makeovers, before-and-after room makeovers, shop talk, topics on running a creative business and even a few family posts.

Why did you become a blogger, and how has blogging changed your life?

SW: I have been writing since I was a little girl, and in 2009, I needed to write. I began sharing my furniture-painting techniques and the process of our attic renovation, and soon, the blog became a business and a place for people to seek inspiration for their everyday homes. The community and readers at Perfectly Imperfect took me completely by surprise. There is a world of people interested in the same things you are, and if you're lucky, you'll even develop relationships with these incredible people. The Internet can be used for such good, and its reach is incredible. I'm

grateful for PI, for my readers and for their willingness to listen to what I have to say.

What are some big trends in decorating this spring and summer?

SW: Any time you gear into spring and summer, people are going to be looking to brighten and lighten their homes. There are lots of beautiful metallics out there and lots of blues and golds and greens as far as colors. Anything you can do to try and make your home feel fresh and clean. Spring is the time when we all begin to organize and begin to purge and pare down and only have what's necessary in the home. Homes should be functional and efficient as well as beautiful. ☺



OTHER HOME/DIY BLOGS YOU MIGHT LIKE:

- ▶ www.TheLetterCottage.net
Layla shares her love of cottage style with readers.
- ▶ www.BeneathMyHeart.net
Tracey describes herself striving to create beauty in her heart and in her home.
- ▶ www.thistlewoodfarms.com
KariAnne shares her transition from the big city to a slower-paced, happier life.

Shaunna's tips for changing your home on a budget



- ★ Keep in mind that your home is your sanctuary away from the busyness of the world. Take the time to create spaces you enjoy and that create rest for you and your family.
- ★ If you're feeling like your home has become dark and dreary, give the walls a fresh coat of paint in lighter neutrals. It will instantly brighten your space. My favorites are Benjamin Moore White Diamond, Sherwin Williams Sea Salt, Sherwin Williams Crushed Ice and Sherwin Williams Comfort Gray.
- ★ Save and invest in key pieces like your sofa and armchairs, and shop flea markets and antique malls for small end tables and dressers. You'll be amazed how much you'll save when you allow time for your space to come together.
- ★ Paint everything in sight. Seriously, paint is the cheapest and fastest way to transform your home. Have a coffee table you love, but hate how beaten up it is? Paint it, and you will have a new piece of furniture in a few hours.

Whatever your interest, there is likely an online community of people who share that interest with you. Our "Featured Blogger" series introduces you to people who write websites about a variety of topics. In the May/June issue, we'll focus on marriage and relationships.

Can you hear the music?

You're only a click away from your favorite tunes

BY CECIL H. YANCY JR.

The Rolling Stones asked, "Can you hear the music?" And the answer is, yes! You can easily listen on your computer or mobile device anytime you like.

Digital music services offer you two ways to listen to old favorites or explore new artists.

A download captures the music on your computer for use in the future — think of being able to burn a CD or play the music by clicking on a file from your computer. On the other hand, music streaming is like having a steady flow of music coming into your computer. Just click and create stations from artists you choose.

While downloads have their advantages, streaming appears to be the wave of the future. By this year, according to a Pew Research Institute study, as many as 80 percent of Americans will listen to audio on digital devices. While 51 percent of all adults say they listen to music on these devices, age makes a big difference in music habits, according to the study. More than 60 percent of millennials and 58 percent of Gen Xers listen to music online compared with 48 percent of younger Boomers. Older Americans tend to prefer the traditional AM/FM radio format. But streaming music is getting so easy, music lovers of all ages can jump on board.

OPEN THE BOX TO MUSIC STREAMING

Pandora opened the box with one of the first online Internet radio services. With Pandora, you can listen free for 40 hours per month, with advertisements. Pay \$36 a year and get the music without commercials. It's easy to use. Say you like Johnny Cash: Type in his name and a "radio station" of his songs and those of similar audiences will begin playing. The best part is Pandora gives you background

information about the artist as the music is playing. You can even skip a certain number of songs you don't like.

NEW RELEASES AND EXCLUSIVES

Spotify is another big player in the music-streaming arena. It has a 20-million-plus song catalog from the major record labels, which can be organized into playlists that allow users to stream their own lists or lists from friends or celebrities. The basic features are free after downloading the application, or the premium version is \$9.99 per month. Music on Spotify can be imported from iTunes and synced with a mobile device so you can make your favorite songs available anywhere you go!

CREATE YOUR OWN ITUNES STATION

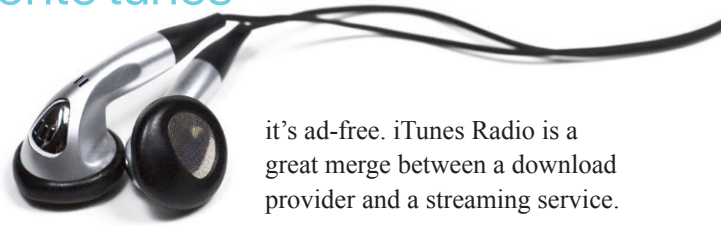
In addition to 25 DJ-curated and genre-based stations, iTunes Radio allows you to create personalized radio stations or follow "guest DJ" stations from famous artists. You can pause, skip and playback with iTunes Radio and even buy the tune you're currently listening to. If you have an iTunes Match Account for \$25 per year,

it's ad-free. iTunes Radio is a great merge between a download provider and a streaming service.

A COUPLE OF CLICKS AND NO COST

If you're leaning toward listening to music online, but a bit overwhelmed by the choices, check out sites that only require a couple of clicks to get started and are designed to be more like your radio.

Sites like Boomerradio.com and Bluegrassmix.com offer an easy way to listen to your favorite tunes, with either stations or DJs that pick the tunes. On the Bluegrass site, DJs host shows. On the Boomer Radio site, users can pick from moods like acoustic café, sweet soul music and classic mix. ☺



How well do you know security?

West Carolina's full line of security services will keep you safe in an emergency

Whoever said "What you don't know can't hurt you" didn't know much about home security.

It's exactly what you don't know about break-ins and fire emergencies that can cost you or your family a high price in property, peace of mind and even personal safety. As with many things, knowledge is your best weapon. Find out how much you know by taking this security quiz.

1) The total number of burglaries in South Carolina in 2013 was:

- A) 12,498
- B) 24,248
- C) 33,076
- D) 40,958

2) What is the most deadly month for house fires?

- A) September
- B) July
- C) January
- D) November

3) Rank the most common times for a burglary to occur:

- A) 3 to 6 p.m.
- B) Midnight to 3 a.m.
- C) Noon to 3 p.m.
- D) 6 to 9 a.m.

4) In 2012, what percentage of burglars used forcible entry to get into a target home?

- A) 15 percent
- B) 28 percent
- C) 47 percent
- D) 60 percent

5) The average dollar loss among homes where a burglary occurred in 2011 was:

- A) \$330
- B) \$884

- C) \$1,493
- D) \$2,120

6) From 2006 to 2010, where did South Carolina rank nationally in fire death rate?

- A) 48th
- B) 33rd
- C) 12th
- D) 5th

7) On average, how many house fires occur in the U.S. each year?

- A) 45,644
- B) 79,467
- C) 198,776
- D) 366,600

8) What percentage of convicted burglars say they would attempt to see if their target had an alarm system?

- A) 12 percent
- B) 38 percent
- C) 45 percent
- D) 83 percent

9) How long does a typical burglar take to break into a home?

- A) Less than 60 seconds
- B) Two minutes
- C) Four minutes
- D) More than 5 minutes

10) What percentage of unsuccessful burglaries can be attributed to alarm systems?

- A) 18 percent
- B) 29 percent
- C) 51 percent
- D) 74 percent



DON'T LET YOUR FAMILY BECOME A STATISTIC!

West Carolina Secure Connect service offers a full line of security and fire detection alarms. In addition to basic and premium security kits, the WCTEL team will conduct a free home security evaluation. To set up an appointment or to learn more, call 864-446-2111.

SOURCES: NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, 2013 CRIME STATISTICS, FBI "CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES", ELECTRONIC SECURITY ASSOCIATION, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTIC

Answers: 1:D, 2:C, 3:C, 4:A, 5:D, 6:D, 7:D, 8:D, 9:A, 10:D



SmartHub mobile app makes monitoring your account easy!

Remembering to pay your WCTEL bill just got a little easier.

West Carolina has partnered with SmartHub to provide members a safe and secure way to manage their accounts through connected devices.

SmartHub makes it possible to access your WCTEL account — even multiple accounts — from your computer, tablet or smartphone. You can view and pay your bill online, get timely account information, notify the cooperative of account and service issues, check monthly service usage and receive special notifications from WCTEL. Conveniently, SmartHub allows members to set reminders and alerts to be delivered to their device reminding them of due dates.

“With the busy lives everyone seems to live now, we could all use a little help remembering things,” says Virginia Harmon, marketing representative for West Carolina. “The app is right there on your phone to remind you of when your bill is due.”

Studies show that nationally, more than one-third of people who miss due dates on their bills do so because they’ve simply forgotten the bill was due.

The same study, Fiserv’s 2014 Billing Household Survey, found that paying bills through mobile apps such as SmartHub is becoming increasingly popular, especially for people ages 18 to 52. The top reasons, according to the surveys, are the speed and convenience of mobile apps as well as alerts and reminders.

“If you wake up in the middle of the night and realize you forgot to pay your bill, the app is right there on your phone,”

Harmon says. “The SmartHub app is just convenient. Its cut down on a lot of time I would spend paying bills.”

Beyond paying bills and checking usage, the SmartHub app can make it easy to call a West Carolina customer service advisor or get turn-by-turn directions to your nearest office.

“There’s a lot to like about SmartHub, and I think our members will be surprised at how easy it is to use,” Harmon says.

WAYS TO PAY

For the times when you don’t need a mobile app, West Carolina provides bill payment options online at WCTEL.com, by phone and in person. West Carolina also offers auto-pay services so you never have to worry about when the bill is due.

And to encourage members to try paperless billing, WCTEL is offering a \$5 credit for customers who go paperless.

Members can pay at any WCTEL office or by phone 24 hours a day at 1-888-813-2340.

“We’re still happy to accept payments at our offices, but many members have asked for other options, and we’re happy to provide a full line of convenient ways to pay,” Harmon says. ☎

BY THE NUMBERS...

The percentage of US consumers using mobile bill pay:



Get a \$5 credit!

Receive a one-time \$5 credit from WCTEL for going paperless!



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REAL MEN DO EAT QUICHE

Bea Salley loves to cook. So much so, in fact, that she says she'd like to own a restaurant in her hometown of Walterboro, South Carolina. But until her ship comes in, she'll stick to catering for area residents in her spare time. Her forte? Quiche.

"I make potato pies, apple pies, coconut pies and cakes, but quiche is my specialty," she says. "It's a good, year-round dish, but particularly in the spring."

Salley's mother died when she was 13 years old. So with just her father and no siblings, she would never have learned the intricacies of cooking had women in her community — she grew up in Oakman Branch right outside Walterboro — not intervened, taking her under their wing to teach her and stirring her interest in what would become her passion.

But it wasn't until about 10 years ago that she realized she wanted to make a difference by catering to her community with more healthful food choices.

"No one in my household — my husband, Fred, our five kids and 10 grandchildren — ever had any problems with high blood pressure or diabetes, and I know what you cook with makes a difference," she says.

So almost all of her recipes, particularly her quiches, have healthy ingredients, such as fish and vegetables, and not a lot of sodium. And everyone loves them, she adds.

But there's a saying that's become quite familiar: "Real men don't eat quiche."

Not so, Salley says.

"There are a lot of men who love my quiche. They say it's filling, so they don't have to eat as much."

David Walton of Summerville is one example. He's been eating and enjoying



A HEALTHY CHOICE — With so many ways to prepare quiche, it can be a healthy choice for any season. Bea Salley likes to use ingredients such as fish and vegetables, while keeping the sodium low.

Salley's quiches for at least a dozen years. "Real men don't eat quiche" simply isn't true when you have quiche as good as Bea's!" he says.

And it's this time of year that Salley's kitchen heats up with quiches in her oven. People like to be outside in the warm weather and not inside cooking, so Salley does it for them.

"Quiche is a quick, full meal for friends and family," she says. Serve a slice of quiche with a salad and a basket of bread, and you have a complete, healthy dinner. Leftovers are even better — if there are any to be had.

Whether you're baking a

brunch-friendly bacon-and-egg-filled treat for Easter or an elegant vegetarian dinner served with a healthy lettuce or fruit salad, quiche is extremely easy to adapt in a number of delicious ways. The recipes that follow are some of Salley's favorites. [📄](#)



Food Editor **Anne P. Braly** is a native of Chattanooga, Tenn. Prior to pursuing a freelance career, she spent 21 years as food editor and feature writer at a regional newspaper.

VEGGIE QUICHE

- 1/4 stick (2 tablespoons) butter
- 1/2 onion, diced
- 1/2 green bell pepper, diced
- 1 10-ounce bag spinach
- 1 12-ounce container fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 medium zucchini, sliced
- 1 medium yellow squash, sliced
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese (or cheese of your choice), plus more for topping
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 9-inch pie crust (store-bought or homemade)

Heat oven to 350°F. Melt butter in skillet over medium heat; add onions and bell pepper; let simmer. Add spinach, mushrooms, zucchini and squash; cover and saute until softened. Stir in salt and pepper; let cool, then pour in bowl and add eggs, flour and cheese, blending mixture together. Last, add sour cream, blending well. Pour into crust, sprinkle with shredded cheese and bake for 40 minutes or until quiche is set around the edges and still slightly loose in the center. Remove from oven and let sit for a few minutes before cutting.

SALMON AND MUSHROOM QUICHE

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup onions, diced
- 1 16-ounce container fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 large can salmon
- 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 9-inch pie crust
- 1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Heat oven to 400°F. Heat olive oil in skillet over medium heat; add onions and let simmer for 3 minutes until onions are soft. Add mushrooms, stirring until soft, then



add salmon. Blend mixture together, let cool, then add Swiss cheese, eggs, flour, sour cream, salt and pepper. Blend all together, then pour into crust, sprinkle with cheddar cheese and bake for 35 minutes or until quiche is set around the edges and still slightly loose in the center. Remove from oven and let it sit for a few minutes before cutting.

Note: This quiche is also good served "crust-less." Bake in pie pan that has been sprayed with nonstick cooking spray using no pie crust. Follow directions as written.

BEA'S PIE CRUST

This is the quickest and simplest pastry crust ever, and it tastes great.

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup shortening (preferably Crisco)
- 5 tablespoons butter, chilled and cut into small pieces
- 3-4 tablespoons ice water
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice

Whisk together flour and salt in medium bowl. Add shortening and butter, tossing with fingers until pieces are well-coated with the flour mixture. Using a pastry blender or your fingers, cut the shortening and butter into the dry ingredients. Drizzle in 3 tablespoons of the ice water and the lemon juice; mix just until the dough comes together, adding the last tablespoon of water if the dough is too dry. Do not overwork the dough or it will become too tough. Pat the dough into a flat disk, wrap tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least one hour before rolling out.

TIPS TO MAKE THE PERFECT QUICHE

Quiche is a simple idea for brunch or dinner, but getting it right can be difficult. Here are a few key steps to ensure that your quiche will be creamy and your crust will be flaky.

- ▶ **The crust:** The first step to a good quiche is having a great pastry shell. It will come out better if you parbake (partially bake) it for about 10 minutes so that it's dry and crisp before adding your filling.
- ▶ **Seal it:** To avoid a soggy pastry, brush the bottom of the crust with an egg wash (a beaten egg white) right after parbaking it. The warmth of the crust when you remove it from the oven is all you need to "cook" the egg white and seal the shell to help keep it crispy.
- ▶ **Say "no" to low-fat:** There's nothing worse than wimpy flavor when you bite into a quiche, so make sure to avoid using low-fat or nonfat ingredients. Their high water content prevents the quiche from setting properly, resulting in a watery finish.
- ▶ **Protect the edges:** Once in the oven, keep an eye on the shell, and if the edges of the pastry start browning too quickly, wrap them in a little aluminum foil.
- ▶ **Loose is a good rule of thumb:** Take the quiche out of the oven when the center is still slightly wobbly. This will ensure that it doesn't over-cook and will still have its creamy custard texture when you cut into it.



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