



Ardmore
TELEPHONE COMPANY

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

CONNECTION



Candlelight Antiques

Old-time charm is
around the corner

PETS FOR VETS

BRISTOL
RACETRACK



By Shirley Bloomfield, CEO

NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association

Professionally Secure

NTCA members are committed to your safety

As we enter the holiday season, it is an opportunity to acknowledge a group of professionals you may not realize is working diligently behind the scenes to make this season—as well as every month of the year—enjoyable and safe.

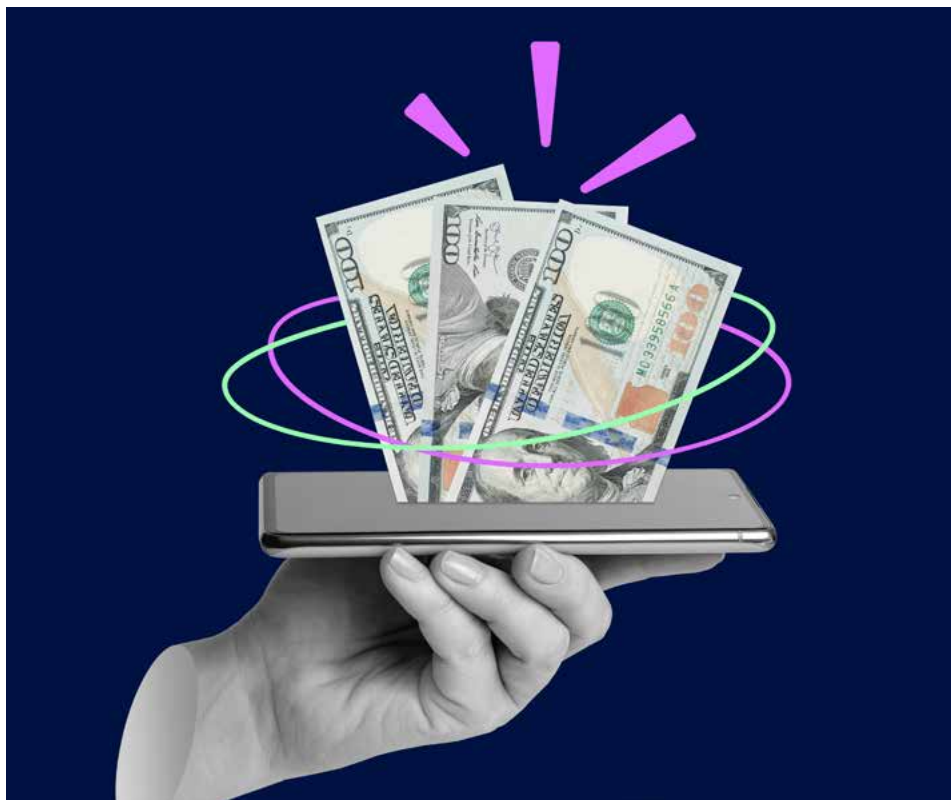
Many of you stream movies, music, short videos or interactive games, and there's always online shopping. NTCA members provide rural communities with the networks vital for all of this and so much more, from banking to education, telehealth and beyond.

Unfortunately, online risks do exist. Scammers may try to capture your personal information, or malicious websites might lead to insecure transactions. There are even attempts to disrupt the infrastructure itself.

Monitoring threats and vigilantly updating everything from software to security strategies is central to the day-to-day job of rural broadband providers. To help with this, NTCA created CyberShare: The Small Broadband Provider ISAC, an information-sharing network that allows participating providers to collaborate and share critical information. Whether it's learning about vulnerable equipment, software exploits, recent cyberattack attempts or mitigation strategies, this information sharing helps members proactively strengthen their defenses to keep you and your family safe online.

You play a role, too. When you're shopping online, make smart choices, such as relying on websites with addresses that begin with https, shop on well-established sites and lean on strong, secure passwords.

Together we can enjoy happy, safe holidays. 📱



Adobe Stock image by LariBat

Use Caution With Cash Apps

While mobile payment apps like PayPal or Venmo make it easy to send and receive money online or through an app on a phone, scammers are also waiting to take advantage.

This service becomes an intermediary between your money and whoever is on the other end of a transaction, which can create an added layer of security.

But if a scammer tricks you into sending money, it's hard to get it back. The Federal Trade Commission notes the risks and offers tips for staying safe.

- Don't send a payment to claim a prize or collect sweepstakes winnings.
- Never give your account credentials to anyone who contacts you.
- Protect your account with multifactor authentication or a personal identification number.
- Before paying, double-check the recipient's information to make sure you're sending money to the right person.
- If you get an unexpected request for money from someone you do recognize, speak with that person directly to make sure the request really is valid, not a scam by a hacker who got access to their account.

If you find unauthorized payments or think you paid a scammer, immediately report the transaction to the service providing the payment app. Instructions should be available on the service's website. Also, report the scam to reportfraud.ftc.gov. 📱

Outside the Box

Personalized presents extend gift-giving beyond holidays

Looking for that gift that keeps on giving long after they've tossed the wrapping paper and bows? With a little online exploration, a nontraditional gift is out there for just about everyone on your list.

GAMING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just like movie and music services, game subscriptions offer unlimited access to huge catalogs of titles for players who would rather not put up the \$70-\$80 average price for each individual game. Paying a part of the most popular subscriptions—Xbox Game Pass at \$9.99-\$19.99 per month, PlayStation Plus at \$17.99 or Apple Arcade at \$6.99—is a great way to show your gamers some love.

WATCH 'EM PLAY

Video game streaming involves broadcasting live gameplay over the internet, allowing viewers to engage with and watch other players in real time. Like livestreaming on Facebook and TikTok, game streamers provide content for viewers worldwide, playing video games and offering commentary.

Twitch is by far the most popular service, with more than 240 million monthly subscribers who play, watch, create content and follow other gamers. Three subscription tiers with different levels of perks range from \$4.99 to \$24.99 per month. Steam is also huge. Discord, Kick, Caffeine and DLive are other popular choices for gifting your interactive gamers, just confirm the platform they prefer so you're sure to get them a gift they can use.

'OF THE MONTH' CLUBS

With a quick internet search, you can set

up a monthly delivery of everything from pickles to pet chews to bath gels, bacon and beyond. Look at sites like Amazing Clubs or Month Club Store to find multiple choices in one spot.

A monthly themed box or crate can satisfy all ages, from educational toys at Crunchlabs and a monthly Lego set through Brick Loot to a spa-in-a-box from Therabox. Visit Cratejoy for a wide selection.

Consider a gift subscription to Dear Holmes, which mails weekly clues on fancy stationery for solving a Victorian-era crime. For \$50, six months' worth of mysteries will turn your person into a solo Sherlock or the leader of a team of Watsons who share stories on YouTube.

GIFT CARDS

You've no doubt noticed the columns of gift cards at your supermarket or drugstore. They look like colorful credit cards, and that's exactly what they are. These pieces of plastic can be applied toward almost anything from cash to food delivery services. The easiest way to give something everyone wants and by far the simplest to ship, gift cards are expected to generate \$447.1 billion in revenue this year.

You can grab gift cards toward recurring subscriptions, like a movie or music streaming service. You're sure to earn points by gifting a part of the monthly Netflix or Hulu charges. Or find a Spotify, Apple Music or SiriusXM gift card and keep the happy tunes flowing all year. 🎧

GIFT CARD SMARTS

Stick to stores you know and trust. Avoid buying online where shady sellers may promote fake or stolen gift cards.

Avoid cards with signs of tampering.

Pay with a credit card if possible. If you run into problems and have to file a chargeback, your credit card company will investigate.

Consider using the gift card quickly to avoid potential inactivity fees or issues like business closure.

Keep copies. If the gift card doesn't work, the number on the card and store receipt will help you file a report with the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

Making the Case for Rural Broadband

Ardmore tells Congress our story

Recently, I testified in Washington, D.C., before the House Committee on Small Business about the ways broadband supports small businesses and rural communities. In the moment, I realized I was really sharing the same story we live every day here at home.



KAREN JACKSON-FURMAN
Chief Executive Officer

Ardmore Telephone Company was created because larger companies weren't willing to serve rural areas. Our company stepped up to connect neighbors who otherwise would have been left behind. That same mission still drives us. We've moved from party lines to a 100% fiber network, so the technology looks very different. But our goal is still to make sure the people and businesses in our communities have the connections they need.

If the last few years have taught us anything, it's that broadband is essential. It keeps kids in class when schools go remote. It keeps patients in touch with doctors. It allows businesses to reach customers across the country or even across the world. Reliable internet is no longer a nice-to-have. It's as critical as electricity or running water.

At ATC, we've chosen to invest in fiber optic technology because we want to provide more than "good enough." Fiber can handle today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities. It supports students learning online, families working from home and farmers using precision tools. And it allows small businesses to thrive right here in rural America instead of relocating to big cities.

I hear those success stories every day. We serve a range of businesses, including local grocery stores, building supply companies, local hardware stores, funeral homes, furniture stores, farms, plumbing supply stores, masonries, clothing stores and so much more. These businesses depend on fiber to keep their operations running smoothly, and each one has chosen to grow right here at home because the connection is strong.

We couldn't do this work alone. Federal broadband programs and local partnerships have helped us expand far beyond what a small company could achieve on its own. Those resources allow affordable service and the ability to keep building into unserved areas.

The importance of all this becomes especially clear in times of crisis. Storms do not damage our buried fiber. Families can call loved ones, emergency responders can coordinate, and businesses keep serving their communities. Connectivity became more than convenience. It is a lifeline.

That's what ATC is all about. We do more than provide internet service. We deliver the tools needed for communities to grow, endure and succeed.

As we look ahead, I want to thank you for being part of this journey. Your needs and your stories remind us why this work matters, and they inspire us to keep building for the future. Together, we'll make sure this place we call home remains connected and competitive now and into the future. 📶

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Ardmore
TELEPHONE COMPANY

is a hometown service provider delivering advanced telecommunications technology to the people of Giles and Lincoln counties in Tennessee and Limestone and Madison counties in Alabama. The company is managed by Telecom Management Services and owned by Synergy Technology Partners.

Ardmore Telephone is an equal-opportunity employer and provider.

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Pioneer
UTILITY RESOURCES

On the Cover:



Robbie and Amber McDowell's trove of retro signs, toys and decor makes Candlelight Antiques a treasure-hunting favorite. See story Page 8.

Photo by Kyla Sullivan

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

To allow our employees time to celebrate the holidays with their families, Ardmore Telephone Company's office will be closed on the following dates:

Thanksgiving Day—Thursday,
Nov. 27

Christmas Day—Thursday,
Dec. 25

New Year's Day—Thursday,
Jan. 1



ARDMORE CHRISTMAS PARADE

The annual Christmas parade will be held in downtown Ardmore starting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 1.

For more information, go to townofardmorealabama.com.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN ADMORE

Ardmore's Tinsel Trail returns this year with the tree-lighting ceremony set for Friday, Dec. 5, at the town hall pavilion.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, Santa will be at town hall for photos and cookies.

The Tinsel Trail is a fundraising event for the local chamber of commerce, which buys the live trees at a discount. Businesses and individuals decorate the trees, which they can sponsor in honor or memory of someone or as a business promotion.

For more information on these events, including schedule details, visit the Greater Ardmore Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page or greaterardmorechamber.com.



The Tinsel Trail fundraising event continues to grow each year.

Speedway In Lights

Bristol gears up for Christmas festivities

Story by KATHY DENES

Ready to take a lap around the “The World’s Fastest Half-Mile” illuminated by 3 million Christmas lights? For the 29th year, Tennessee’s Bristol Motor Speedway and Dragway is inviting the public to come celebrate the season.

The route of the 4-mile-long Food City Speedway In Lights powered by TVA starts at Bristol Dragway, entered off Highway 394. About midway through, drivers enter the iconic “Last Great Colosseum” and circle its half-mile concrete oval. After taking that memorable lap, guests can park inside the track and treat the family to the Christmas Village, presented by HSN.

The Christmas Village, adorned in holiday decor, includes Santa’s Hut, where kids get the chance to meet the jolliest old elf. There are also carnival rides, vendors offering Christmas crafts and treats, a tubing slide and a snow maze.

After enjoying all the village has to offer, guests will get back in their vehicles and continue the drive, which concludes at the Dragway entrance.

ICE, ICE, BABY!

Finishing the drive doesn’t have to mean it’s time to leave the speedway, though. Adding to the holiday sparkle is the Tri-Cities Airport Ice Rink at Bristol

Motor Speedway, presented by Stateline Services and touted as the region’s best and longest-standing ice rink. Visitors can enjoy skating daily from Thursday, Nov. 20, through Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026. Admission is \$12 for guests who bring their own skates or \$15 for those who need to rent them.

The 120-by-60-foot ice rink is covered by a tent at the speedway’s North Entrance. Promotional nights and special events are offered, such as College Nights at the Ice Rink. On Tuesdays, students who present their valid college IDs at the ticket booth will get a free skate rental.

A LIGHT FOR CHILDREN

Proceeds from the Speedway In Lights and affiliated events benefit Bristol Speedway Children’s Charities, which funds agencies that have helped thousands of children. The charity was founded in 1996 when Bristol Speedway became part of Speedway Motorsports, which has a Speedway Children’s Charities chapter at each of its 11 racing venues.

Claudia Byrd, the executive director of the Bristol chapter, was charged with coming up with a signature fundraising event. Inspired by her family’s tradition of enjoying holiday light displays in her hometown, Claudia suggested the speedway present a Christmas lights show. It

quickly got the green light from track owner Bruton Smith. To date, thanks to the Christmas event and others throughout the year, the charity has distributed nearly \$20 million.

“Speedway In Lights is not only the flagship fundraiser for Speedway Children’s Charities but a tradition for so many in the Tri-Cities region,” says Betsy Holleman, the charity’s senior manager for development and events. “The event has accounted for a third of our annual budget for over 25 years. It’s an opportunity to bring family out for an evening of Christmas fun, while supporting kids in our area.”

FAST FACTS

Speedway In Lights begins on Friday, Nov. 21, and continues daily from 6-10 p.m. into the new year, concluding on Saturday, Jan. 3.

Prices for cars range between \$25-\$35. Vans are \$85, and buses are \$150. Visitors can take advantage of Fast Lane presented by Citi, a speedy \$75 option that provides a shorter wait time on select nights when traffic lines get long.

For details about Fast Lane presented by Citi and all other Speedway In Lights event and pricing updates, go to bristolmotorspeedway.com. 📱



ABOVE: The display of Speedway In Lights sponsor Food City brightens up a section of the route.

LEFT: Skaters enjoy the covered ice rink outside Bristol Motor Speedway.



Cases throughout the store contain classic merchandise from brands like Coca-Cola and McDonald's.

Classics *by* Candlelight

Local antique store collects hidden treasures from around the country

Story by DREW WOOLLEY

At Candlelight Antiques, the items for sale aren't the only throwbacks. While owners Robbie and Amber McDowell pride themselves on selling nothing made more recently than the 1980s, they aim to make the entire shopping experience nostalgic, from the retro countertops at checkout to the absence of modern technology.

"It's a real antique store, so we want it to still seem kind of old-timey," Robbie says. "When you walk in you won't see bar codes or computers sitting there. That wouldn't feel right. We handwrite all of our tickets and our tags."

The store opened its doors in 1996, and the McDowells bought it in 2017. Robbie had already been a dealer for the shop, traveling the country looking for hidden treasures to bring back to

Elkmont. When the previous owner retired, Robbie and Amber decided to make the store their retirement plan.

Since then, Robbie redoubled his efforts to build an inventory that stands out from other stores. That often requires him to spend days on the road looking for the items that make Candlelight Antiques special for its customers—classic signs, throwback toys and even some retro books and records.

"Buying is way more fun than selling for me," Robbie says. "I love finding something really unique that other stores don't have. Lots of customers come in, sign our book and tell us it's the best store they've ever been in."

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

That passion for the hunt takes Robbie all over the country.

Some of his most recent visits were to markets in Pennsylvania and other antique stores in Florida, and he has plans for trips to Tennessee and Indiana.

"I'm going somewhere at least every few weeks, and a lot of our dealers do the same," he says. "The thing is keeping some variety. I like the old signs and advertising, but everybody doesn't or can't afford those. You've got to have something for everybody, and that's the challenge.

Another challenge is keeping popular items in stock. Unlike many other stores, most of Robbie and Amber's inventory can't be replaced overnight. Often, customers will return looking for something that caught their eye on an earlier visit, only to find it isn't there.

"I've got an old Bunny Bread sign, and I got lucky to find that one. So, if someone buys it, I can't just take that money and go buy another one of those. Not immediately, anyway," Robbie says. "There's not a factory making those signs. I have to take that money and buy something else."

As a result, Robbie's goal on buying trips is usually to bring back the best of what he can find, regardless of whether it's something he set out looking for. That can mean visiting dozens of other stores and marketplaces only to leave with a few standout items.

"I try to find the best item they've got, which doesn't always mean the most expensive. So, if I go to 50 different markets for a week and buy the most unique thing they have, I may only get a piece here and a piece there. But when I come back here, instead of buying a bunch of stuff, I've got the 50 best pieces from that area."

A SIMPLER TIME

While the McDowells go to great lengths to keep everything the customer sees in-store authentically retro, Candlelight Antiques still runs on a high-speed internet connection. The shop relies on Ardmore Telephone Company for internet service that powers credit card processing, in-store music and security cameras to make sure the unique merchandise is kept safe.

Amber especially appreciates that, on the rare occasions when there is a problem with the internet, she can count on speaking to someone local when she calls the office. And since ATC's system has been upgraded to fiber, they have never had a problem with internet speed.

"Now the internet is fabulous," Robbie says. "They kind of inherited us and we inherited them, but I wouldn't want to do anything different. I've never even called anybody to give me another quote."

That means he can focus on finding the next hidden gem while Amber maintains the old-time ambience that makes Candlelight Antiques a favorite for treasure hunters.

"I think this place just reminds people of a simpler time," Robbie says. "They can come through here and remember that their grandmother had that piece or dad had one of these growing up. They can look around and not be in a rush, even if they don't buy anything. Coming here is just an experience." 📞

RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Many of Candlelight Antiques' customers make a point to drop by while traveling, but it's a convenient stop for any local shopper on the hunt for something different.

26051 Upper Elkton Road, Elkmont, Alabama

256-423-2746

candlelightantiques.net

Follow Candlelight Antiques on Facebook and Instagram.



Photos courtesy of Kyla Sullivan

Robbie McDowell loves bringing back items customers can't find anywhere else, like this crosswalk sign.



HEALING BONDS

Pets for Vets makes the perfect match

Story by JEN CALHOUN

When Clarissa Black first took Bear, her husky-malamute, to visit patients at a Veterans Administration medical center, she had no idea he was about to change hundreds of lives.

Of course, she knew Bear was special. He had a way about him. When someone needed quiet company, Bear could lie perfectly still for hours. If someone was working on mobility, Bear would position himself at the perfect distance, paws up, as if to offer encouragement. And when people looked into the dog's eyes and spoke to him, he'd cock his head and let out one of his husky "woos" right on cue.

"People really felt like he was talking to them," says Clarissa, whose background in animal science and anthrozoology gave her a deeper insight into the interactions. "They felt seen, and they felt heard."

Clarissa's experience with Bear at the VA hospital sparked the idea for Pets for Vets, a nonprofit organization that matches veterans with specially trained companion animals. Since she founded it more than 15 years ago, the organization has matched more than 800 animals with veterans.

WANT TO HELP?

Pets for Vets is a four-star rated, not-for-profit organization that relies on donations to provide free services to veterans. There are several ways to donate.

Donate online: Visit petsforvets.com/donate to make a secure online donation.

Donate by mail: Pets for Vets Inc., P.O. Box 10860, Wilmington, NC 28404.

Other ways to give: The organization also accepts cryptocurrency and vehicle donations that include cars, trucks, boats and motorcycles.

Volunteer: Fill out the volunteer form at petsforvets.com to offer your time and expertise.

For more information about the program, or to apply for a companion animal, visit petsforvets.com or send an email to contactus@petsforvets.com.



LEFT: Spyder's tendency to jump in laps and lick faces helped calm and center Leif Mesinger when he became frustrated.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Clarissa Black, founder and executive director of Pets for Vets, with her late dog, Bear, who sparked the idea for the not-for-profit organization.

We're looking for that reciprocal match where both are getting exactly what they want."

MAKING A MATCH

Once the group approves a veteran's application for a companion animal, the search gets underway. Clarissa's experience as a marine mammal trainer taught her the most powerful relationships happen when both parties get exactly what they need. The process isn't about finding a good dog. It's about finding exactly the right dog.

The matching process is not only thorough, it's personal. Veterans work closely with trainers to identify their needs and prepare for pet ownership. "We spend a lot of time getting to know our veterans, finding out what it is they need, what they're looking for and what would be a good fit for them," she says.

Meanwhile, trainers visit shelters and rescue groups to conduct one-on-one "interviews" with potential animal companions, which can include cats, rabbits and other species, as well. If a veteran enjoys outdoor activities, for example, the trainer might look for a more active dog that loves to fetch and hike. On

the other hand, a more sedentary vet might need a peaceful pooch or calm cat.

From there, each animal undergoes foundation training customized for its future human. During this time, which often takes place in a foster situation, trainers enhance what Clarissa calls the animal's "superpowers," or the natural behaviors that made them perfect for their veteran in the first place.

"We're really trying to make this connection where both are getting exactly what they want," she says. "Ultimately, that connection is what's going to fulfill them and maybe even heal them. There's some research out there that suggests that it's not just any dog, it's the right dog—the dog that people feel connected to—that can help mitigate anxiety and depression." 🐾

SECOND CHANCES

After Leif Mesinger returned home from Iraq, the world felt different. It was harder to navigate and harder to understand. The Army infantryman and gunner suffered a traumatic brain injury from an improvised explosive device blast, and it changed everything.

"My mind was racing, and I struggled to communicate," Leif says in a Pets for Vets testimonial video. "I felt disconnected from everything I used to know."

But help arrived in the form of a tiny, hairless waif of a dog named Spyder. Clarissa Black, founder of Pets for Vets, discovered the dog after meeting with Leif and finding out what he needed in a companion animal.

Spyder's superpower was that he loved to jump into people's laps and lick them. It was a trait Clarissa intentionally honed in Spyder before presenting him to Leif. She knew that kind of gentle, rhythmic contact could ground a person dealing with anxiety.

In time, Spyder's constant presence gave Leif a growing sense of purpose and a deepening bond. Thanks to his more than 15 years with Spyder, Leif's communication with others has improved and his life is more fulfilling than ever. "Spyder was kind of like that saving grace that centered me again and brought me back," he says.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

The program generally serves veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries, but the organization is open to helping any vet who could benefit from a deep connection with a pet. And while the service is completely free to the veterans, it relies on donations from the public and a network of more than 100 volunteer animal trainers across the country.

It's important to note that Pets for Vets animals aren't service dogs that have been highly trained to assist people with disabilities. Still, the organization works hard to meet the veterans' needs as well as the animals'.

"We're not just asking what the dog gives the veteran," Clarissa says. "We want to know what the veteran gives the dog."

Elevate the Customer Experience

Empower your business with ATC's SmartBiz



Are you a business owner who wants to transform your company's interactions with customers? Whether you're running a bustling restaurant, a cozy coffee shop, trendy salon or other business, Ardmore Telephone Company's SmartBiz puts powerful tools at your fingertips.

Too often, information technology solutions fail to meet the needs of companies providing vital goods and services in rural communities. As more businesses move online or have guests and customers who require access to digital resources, these tools are becoming even more critical.

That's why ATC offers SmartBiz—a commitment to uplift the small businesses that are fueling the local economy and contributing to national success. No longer can a business settle for offering basic options to connect online. Support for business-critical applications and robust cybersecurity are now essential tools for every company.

So, if you're a business owner, think beyond Wi-Fi. There are many more possibilities. With SmartBiz, you can offer customers a seamless digital experience that makes it clear your business cares about delivering exceptional service at every opportunity.

Here's what makes it even better—while customers enjoy lightning-fast, reliable connectivity, business owners have the peace of mind that comes with enterprise-level network security protection.

But that's just the beginning. SmartBiz not only keeps customers connected, it also extends a business's reach. Communicate with customers and even process orders when your doors are closed with customized online splash pages. These are your secret weapons for promoting special offers and keeping customers coming back for more.

Then, everything from services to network settings are tied together with the CommandWorx app, a simple, powerful interface that gives business owners peace of mind about their technology so they can focus on their customers.

When your business needs an edge, turn to SmartBiz. 

SMARTBIZ IS MORE THAN GUEST WI-FI

Offering your guests or customers free Wi-Fi isn't just great service. It's also smart business, and there's no better solution than ATC's SmartBiz.

- Match personalized splash pages to your Wi-Fi landing page brand identity.
- Keep your business operations secure and separate from guest networks.
- Protect your guests and business from malicious online activities.
- Match Wi-Fi to business hours.
- Enjoy powerful data-driven marketing insights for targeted promotions.
- Depend on custom terms of service for legal protection.
- Control your network settings effortlessly with CommandWorx.

ATC
FIBER-FAST INTERNET

www.ardmore.net
800-830-9946

Holiday Peace of Mind



ExperienceIQ internet controls keep your devices on the nice list

With family, friends and everyone's kids coming and going during the holidays, you have enough to worry about without constantly monitoring your home network. That's where ExperienceIQ's internet controls from Ardmore Telephone Company come in.

Customize profiles for everyone in your household, set schedules to automatically limit online time, filter content from specific apps and so much more. Best of all, you can access everything quickly and easily from your ATC Control App, giving you more time to enjoy the holiday festivities.

OFFLINE TIME MADE EASY

With houseguests and who knows how many extra devices on your network, making sure every phone, tablet and gaming console is offline during family dinner can feel impossible. But with individual profiles, setting aside offline time is a breeze.

Just create a profile for each person in your household, personalize it with their name and photo and add their devices. When it's time for dinner or board games, simply toggle their profile to pause internet access across all their devices with a single tap.

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE

Worried about the kids scrolling through social media or watching their favorite streamer until all hours of the night? Use their profile to set daily schedules for offline time.

Choose the time windows when you want to limit access—after bedtime, during dinner or at homework time—and the ATC Control App will automatically pause internet access at those times. You can even set daily limits for specific apps or websites.

GET BACK UP TO SPEED

Nothing kills the holiday vibe faster than buffering during your favorite Christmas movie. If your internet is

lagging with more devices than usual, ExperienceIQ can help you get things back on track.

Just open the ATC Control App to check approximate usage by profile. If you spot devices hogging bandwidth, you can prioritize streaming devices or temporarily pause others—so everyone can enjoy the movie without interruptions.

SET BOUNDARIES

Of course, there are some parts of the internet you may not want your family accessing. With the ATC Control App, you can control what each user profile can access, by app or website.

Let your kids play their favorite mobile game without making in-app purchases or accidentally getting to something they shouldn't. ExperienceIQ's YouTube Restriction can even let your kids watch their favorite content creator while blocking access to inappropriate conversations.

Call 256-423-2131 today for more information about ExperienceIQ internet controls.



Adobe Stock image by simona

**Experiencing
internet issues?
LET US HELP!**

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

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



800-830-9946 | www.ardmore.net

Share a Pizza

Share Your Heart

Start a new holiday meal tradition

Turkey, ham, lamb—tradition gives them all a place on the holiday table. But gather the family together for a pizza party, and you can roll out a whole new tradition.

Make your own pizza dough with just a handful of ingredients, and you'll know that there are no preservatives and other unhealthy additives. For a family affair and fun for the kids, create a bar with pizza toppings—pepperoni, sausage, onions, peppers, cheese and the like—and let them make their own.

A preheated pizza stone will crisp the crust, but a cookie sheet also works.

A pizza salad with Italian herbs and a creamy vinaigrette dressing is the perfect pairing.

A dessert pizza with fresh berries and other fruits available year-round delivers a refreshing finish. Make the crust the day before and layer on the cream cheese spread. But wait until shortly before serving to add the fruits so they will stay colorful and fresh.



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



FAMILY NIGHT PIZZA

- 1 cup warm water (105 F)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon active dry yeast
- 1 tablespoon olive or avocado oil
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 2 to 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 500 F. Put a pizza stone or cookie sheet in the oven while it preheats, and let it warm for at least 10 minutes.

MAKE THE DOUGH

In a large mixing bowl, stir water, yeast and sugar to combine. Let mixture sit for 5 minutes or until it becomes frothy and bubbles form. Gently stir in olive oil.

Add 2 cups of flour and salt and mix with a spatula until a ball begins to form. The

dough will still be slightly sticky. Add more flour as needed to form a dough ball.

Transfer to a floured surface and knead into a smooth dough, adding up to 1/2 cup extra flour if needed.

Cover the bowl with a damp tea towel, and let it rise for 10 minutes or up to 1 hour.

ASSEMBLE THE PIZZA

Roll the dough into your desired shape and put it on a piece of parchment paper. Add pizza sauce, cheese and toppings of choice. Transfer the pizza to the preheated pizza stone or cookie sheet in the oven.

Bake for 12-15 minutes or until the bottom of the crust is golden brown. Remove the pizza from the oven, and let it cool for 5-10 minutes before serving.

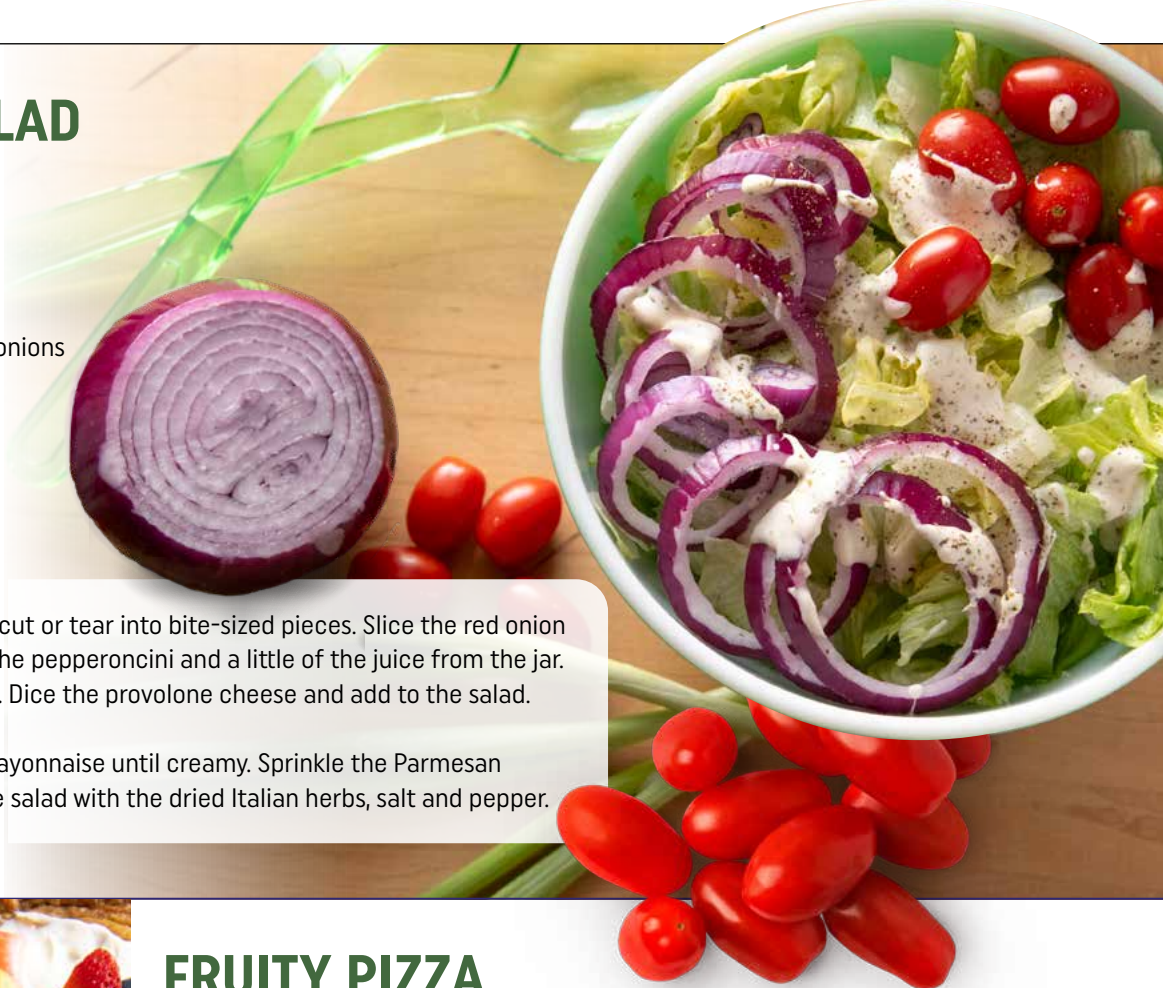
PIZZA NIGHT SALAD

- 1 head iceberg lettuce
- 1 medium red onion
- 6-8 pepperoncini peppers
- Chopped tomatoes to taste
- 8 slices provolone cheese
- 1 bunch fresh chives or green onions
- 1 1/3 cup favorite vinaigrette
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon or more dried Italian herbs
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Wash and air dry the lettuce and cut or tear into bite-sized pieces. Slice the red onion and add to the lettuce, along with the pepperoncini and a little of the juice from the jar.

Toss the tomatoes over the salad. Dice the provolone cheese and add to the salad. Sprinkle the salad with the chives.

Mix the salad dressing and the mayonnaise until creamy. Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese over the top and season the salad with the dried Italian herbs, salt and pepper.



FRUITY PIZZA

FOR THE CRUST

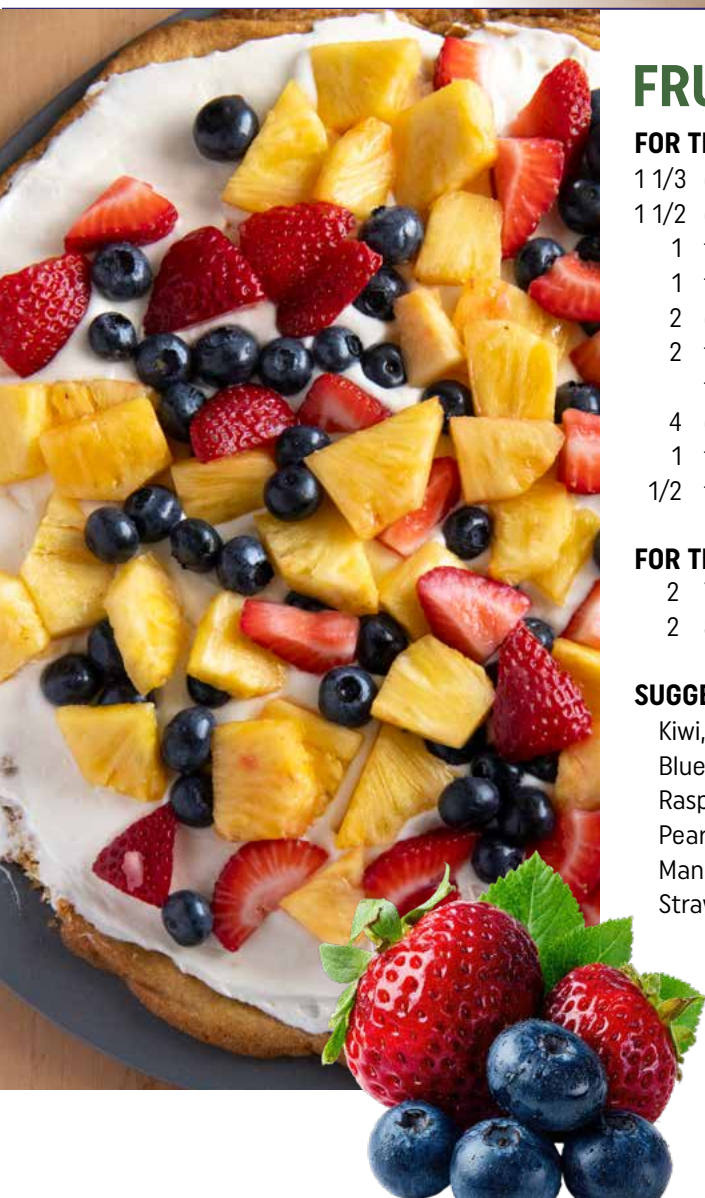
- 1 1/3 cups unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons whole milk, room temperature
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

FOR THE FROSTING

- 2 7-ounce jars marshmallow creme
- 2 8-ounce packages cream cheese

SUGGESTED TOPPINGS

- Kiwi, sliced
- Blueberries
- Raspberries
- Pears, cored and sliced
- Mango, peeled and cubed
- Strawberries, sliced



Preheat the oven to 350 F.

For the cookie crust: In a large bowl, cream the butter, sugar, orange zest and vanilla thoroughly. Add the eggs and beat until light and fluffy. Add the milk and mix.

In a medium bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder and salt, then blend this into the butter mixture. Divide the dough into two disks and lightly flatten each disk between two sheets of parchment paper. If baking one large pizza, do not divide the dough. Refrigerate for 1 hour or freeze for 20 minutes.

Roll each dough half into an 11-inch round, then transfer to pizza pans. Or, press the dough into a large sheet cake pan.

Bake until the cookie dough is cooked and golden brown, but not overly crisp, 15-18 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool completely.

For the frosting: In a mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whip together the marshmallow creme and cream cheese until light in texture. Spread onto each cooled crust.

To decorate: Top the pizza with prepared sliced fruit, as desired. Slice into squares or wedges and serve. 🍷



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