



Mountain Telephone

JULY/AUGUST 2026

CONNECTION



Creech Triplets

Head to pharmacy school

ANNUAL REPORT

MRTC
EMPLOYEES

By Mike Romano, CEO
NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association

More Than Service— A Commitment to Community

Before I begin this column, my first in your magazine, I would like to introduce myself. I am Mike Romano, the new CEO of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association. I look forward to sharing a national perspective on the vital work your broadband provider does, and there is no better place to start than with the connections that work creates. Of course, I'm not only talking about broadband connections, but community connections, as well.



MIKE ROMANO
Chief Executive Officer

Across the country, community-based broadband providers like yours deliver advanced, high-speed networks that keep rural communities connected. But these providers' impact extends far beyond the technology they deploy. They are also active partners in the communities they serve.

Rooted in their hometowns, these providers are invested in helping their neighbors thrive. That may mean hosting workshops to help teach community members how to use new devices or stay safe online, supporting local schools with back-to-school supply drives, sponsoring sports teams and community events, creating good-paying jobs or partnering with local economic development organizations to build stronger communities. Their success is measured not only by network speeds and connections, but by the opportunities those connections make possible.

I am excited to highlight these efforts and the remarkable things happening in rural communities in future columns. When you choose a local provider, you get more than quality high-speed internet. You also have a partner committed to your community's success, today and for years to come. 📶

A LEGACY OF SPEED AND RESULTS

Fast, reliable and irreplaceable, your internet service connects you to essential digital services and resources. The pace of change has been blazing.



1. The Dawn of the Internet (1970s–1980s):

Early computer networks connected universities, researchers and government agencies, laying the groundwork for the modern internet.



2. Bringing the Web Home (1990s):

Internet access entered the home. Connections were slow by today's standards, but suddenly information, email and websites were available—even if it took a noisy modem to make it happen.



3. Always-On Connections (Early 2000s):

Faster, more dependable internet changed expectations. Users could stay connected without tying up phone lines.



4. The Streaming Era Begins (Mid-2000s):

Rising speeds made online video, music and larger file downloads practical for more households and businesses.



5. A More Connected Lifestyle (Late 2000s–2010s):

Internet service became essential, supporting smart devices, online gaming, social media and remote work.



6. High-Speed Homes and Businesses (2010s):

Growing demand drove another leap in performance, enabling high-definition streaming, cloud services and multiple connected devices running at once.

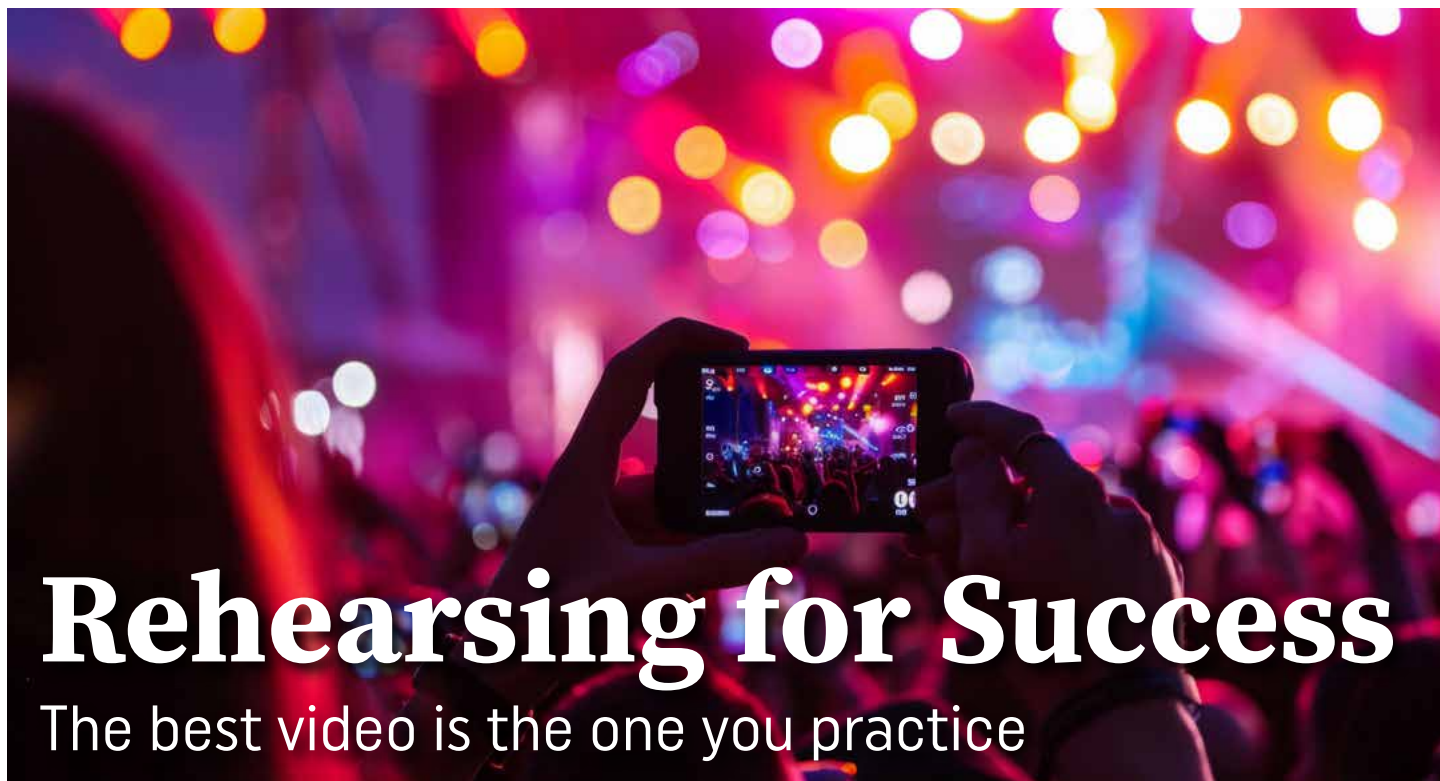


7. Keeping Pace With Demand (2020s–Present):

Today's networks deliver remarkably fast speeds and reliability, powering everything from telehealth and online learning to smart homes and more.



8. The Future Is Unlimited: Thanks to your broadband service, you'll have the speed you need.



Adobe Stock image by Emilia

Rehearsing for Success

The best video is the one you practice

Story by LAURA MCGILL

Smartphones make it easy to capture video of life's important moments. From concert footage of your favorite band to milestone events like graduations and weddings, there are so many special moments worth recording. Don't risk the results by being unprepared.

IN ADVANCE

The video camera on your phone is an amazing tool. And like with any tool, you need to practice to get the most out of it.

- Familiarize yourself with the settings and features to use them effectively. Do test shoots to learn and adjust.
- Holding a phone steady is harder than you think. If you notice your practice videos are shaky, try using a selfie stick, gimbal stabilizer or tripod.
- Take your videos up a notch with editing apps. These apps allow for color corrections and audio adjustments, as well as transitions, cuts and captions to produce an enhanced video.
- Be as prepared as possible by thinking ahead. Start with a full battery. If you are planning to shoot a long video or multiple videos, consider a portable battery pack. Check your phone's available storage capacity. During a shoot is the wrong time to realize you are out of space.

IN THE MOMENT

Once the camera is rolling, be aware of your phone's settings and your surroundings.

- Switch your phone to airplane mode to avoid interruptions from calls or notifications. Make sure your lens is clean.
- Position yourself in the optimal location. It is better to

be closer to your subject than to use the zoom function.

Remember, while filming in landscape mode is best for traditional video, some social media platforms prefer vertical formats. Choose the best approach for your end goal.

- Think about the lighting and sound. Pick a spot that is well-lit and close to the sound. If possible, use a microphone to improve sound quality.
- Tap the record button, then double-check that you are recording.

STORAGE OPTIONS

Now that you've shot that great video, you'll want to store it somewhere safe.

Physical external storage options include USB-C flash drives, SD cards and external solid state or hard drives. External storage means a one-time purchase of a device that gives you full control of your files.

Using a cloud storage service means that your videos and other files are stored with a third party. Some may offer a small amount of storage free of charge to their users. For example, Google provides 15 GB free for Google accounts. Additional storage is available for a monthly fee, maxing out at 2 TB for \$9.99 per month.

Amazon Prime members have access to 5 GB of free video storage from Amazon Photo. The free level also includes unlimited storage for photos. Additional video storage plans start at \$1.99 a month. iPhone users start with 5 GB of free storage through iCloud. They can upgrade to iCloud+ options, which range from 50 GB up to an impressive 12 TB. 

Back to School, Connected at Home

Broadband helps rural students shine

Summer still has a few weeks left, and I hope you're soaking up the long days, whether that means back-porch visits, a trip to a lake or a weekend on the road to see family. But right about now, signs of another season are starting to show up, too. Do you have school supply lists on the kitchen table or are sports practice schedules flying by in text messages? If they're not already, families will soon shift back into the weekday rhythm of school.



SHAYNE ISON
General Manager

Many traditions tied to kicking off a school year haven't changed, whether that's buying new clothes and school supplies or bus rides and practices for fall sports or bands. Education itself, however, is now very different than even a few years ago. Technology, including the increasing use of artificial intelligence, plays a critical role in both the opportunities and challenges facing our youth.

The news is filled with stories about the types of jobs that will need workers, as well as those that technology may reshape.

Mountain Telephone remains committed to providing the technology and resources needed to support our children so they can succeed. A fast, reliable internet connection is the gateway to all things tech that enriches your life and one that puts our community on the

same playing field as any big city. No matter the technology, this network will put the latest resources at our children's fingertips.

We're in a time when homework may appear in online portals, and notes and reminders come through email or apps. And fast-evolving tools are creating fresh opportunities for creativity and research, as well as the vital need for future generations to learn critical-thinking skills.

The benefits of our fast, reliable network also extend beyond school, and the pages of this magazine often highlight how small businesses use broadband to run credit card machines, manage inventory and keep in touch with customers.

As new technologies become increasingly woven into our day-to-day lives, whether it's quickly editing a photo on a smartphone or a business finding new ways to complete day-to-day tasks, a broadband connection is the link that ties it all together. Without it, innovation can't occur.

That's why we keep investing in our co-op and services. We emphasize the ability, even the responsibility, to allow every student to log in without frustration. A business should be able to reliably keep working without the fear of interruption, and families can stay connected without worry.

Most importantly, we are committed to giving today's students the tools they need to develop the skills necessary for tomorrow even while at the same time our business community grows and innovates.

I hope you enjoy the last days of summer and are excited about the possibilities represented by our children and the future they will create. 📠

The Mountain Telephone Connection is a bimonthly newsletter published by Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative, © 2026. It is distributed without charge to all member/owners of the cooperative.



Mountain Telephone

Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc., is a member-owned cooperative dedicated to providing communications technology to the people of Elliott, Menifee, Morgan, Wolfe and a section of Bath counties. The company covers 1,048 square miles and supplies service to nearly 11,500 members.

Send address corrections to:

Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative
P.O. Box 399 • 425 Main St., Suite A
West Liberty, KY 41472
Telephone: 606-743-3121

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UTILITY RESOURCES

On the Cover:



From left, Josh, Joey and John Creech graduated from Morehead State University in May. They are now headed to pharmacy school. See story Page 12.

Photo courtesy of Tracy Creech

2025 BALANCE SHEET

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$ 20,503,581
Other Assets	
Investments in affiliated companies (including cellular)	52,746,548
Miscellaneous Physical Property	3,566,938
Other Investments	24,304,479
Total Current/Other Assets	101,121,546
Telecommunications Plant	130,498,346
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(74,323,047)
Net Telecommunications Plant	56,175,299
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 157,296,845

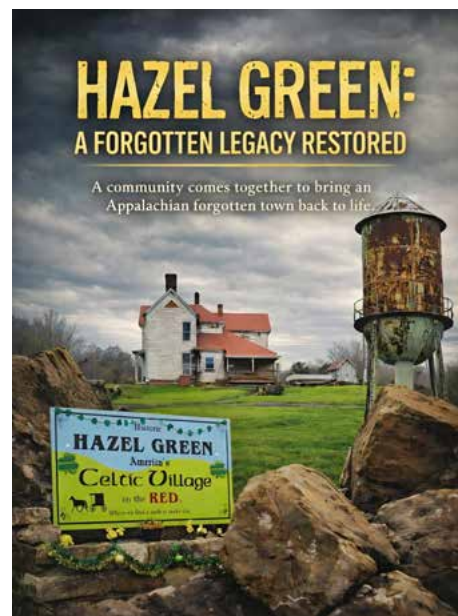
LIABILITIES and MEMBERS' EQUITIES

Current Liabilities	5,587,444
Long-Term Debt to U.S. Government	3,192,741
Members' Equities:	
Memberships	156,191
Patronage Capital	148,603,399
Retired Capital Credit Gain	1,324,535
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	(1,567,465)
TOTAL LIABILITIES and MEMBERS' EQUITIES	\$ 157,296,845

Each year, Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative's Board of Directors sets the capital allocation based on the financial well-being of the cooperative. This factor determines the amount that will be returned to each customer when capital credits are dispersed. The 2025 patronage allocation percentage applied to accounts is 12.91% or 13 cents on the dollar. Keep in mind, the more services you receive from Mountain Telephone, the greater your investment in the local network and therefore the greater your capital credit return.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Our office will close **Friday, July 3**, in observance of Independence Day, and **Monday, Sept. 7**, for Labor Day.



HAZEL GREEN DOCUMENTARY

Congratulations to Wolfe County High School graduate and Morehead State University student Heather Parks. She is the executive director of the documentary "Hazel Green, a Forgotten Legacy Restored," which debuted this spring on campus. View it at youtube.com/@heatherparks5837.

"Hazel Green doesn't have to be a place that was left behind," she says. "This is everyone's town, and we have a chance to be proud."



Heather Parks, documentary executive director

Take Family Fun on the Road

Tips for traveling with kids

Story by LAURA MCGILL

Nothing ruins a family road trip faster than an unhappy child. Meltdowns at the museum and refusals at restaurants are the stuff of parents' nightmares. However, with a little planning, family getaways can be enjoyable experiences for everyone.

Consider the ages and tolerance levels of your kids when deciding how many miles you should drive, how many days to stay and what activities to plan. If this is your first family getaway, pick a closer destination and a shorter stay. If everything goes great, you can extend your visit. If things don't go so well, you can end the trip early and be back home quickly.

ON THE ROAD

Pack a few favorite toys and games and bring along plenty of snacks. Keep a supply of over-the-counter medications for cuts and scrapes, upset tummies and motion sickness handy. Look for convenient stops along the way to take short breaks.

Spend some time getting your children excited about the destination before you leave. Check for coloring pages and puzzles from the tourism office. You can also share details about the places you are going to visit to build interest and to set expectations.

AT YOUR DESTINATION

Make sure your plan includes where to stay and where to eat. Pick a family-friendly accommodation close to the places on your itinerary to cut down on time in the car. Do some research in advance to check out restaurant menus, especially if you have a picky eater.

Pace yourself and be flexible because something will likely not work out as planned. Have options in mind if you need to adapt to weather conditions or need to slow things down with a low-key activity. ☺

Adobe Stock image by Halfpoint





Adobe Stock image by Kiebergpici

Where to Go

To increase your chances of having a fun family trip, pick some activities you know your children will enjoy. Maybe they are all about dinosaurs, or perhaps they love animals or are obsessed with their favorite sport.

GET PREHISTORIC

In addition to a collection of 70 million-year-old dinosaur bones, the museum also features 40 million-year-old whales and the impressive skull of a saber-toothed cat that was unearthed about an hour's drive from the museum.

The Middle Tennessee Museum of Natural History in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, allows visitors to observe ongoing research while touring exhibits of dinosaur bones and other unique relics from around the world. Cave City, Kentucky, takes the roar outdoors at Dinosaur World, where guests can walk among hundreds of life-sized replicas and enjoy interactive exhibits.

EXPLORE NATURE

If your trip includes a Saturday near Franklin, Tennessee, stop by Noble Springs Dairy for Baby Goat Cuddling Days. During your visit, you can learn about the farm, pet some adorable baby goats and try some amazing cheese. In Cottageville, South Carolina, Bee City Zoo offers animal encounters with hedgehogs, lemurs, sloths and more.

Its reptile center will certainly illicit a few shrieks with snakes, lizards and alligators.

CATCH THE GAME

If your child likes baseball but major league prices aren't in the budget, try a minor league game. The tickets are more affordable, stadiums are smaller, putting you closer to the field, and the atmosphere is relaxed and family friendly with a children's play area at many of the ballparks.

Madison, Alabama, just outside Huntsville, is home to the Rocket City Trash Pandas. Bats are swinging in Tennessee with the Nashville Sounds, Memphis Redbirds, Knoxville Smokies and Chattanooga Lookouts. In Kentucky, the Louisville Bats and Bowling Green Hot Rods take to the diamond. Central Indiana welcomes fans to watch the Indianapolis Indians. Fans in South Carolina cheer for six teams, the Greenville Drive, Hub City Spartanburgers, Augusta GreenJackets, Myrtle Beach Pelicans, Charleston RiverDogs and Columbia Fireflies.

This summer's biggest sporting event is the FIFA World Cup. With 48 clubs playing games in 16 host cities, it's generating a lot of excitement. If your child now has soccer fever, consider a closer-to-home option at an MLS NEXT Pro league match. Huntsville City FC plays its home games in Huntsville, Alabama, and the 2026 season runs through September.



The Mountain Difference

Photography by WILLIAM LEMASTER

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Elaine Prater



Ethan Howell



Garet Loudermilk



Garrett Howell



Gene Cornett



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James Lane



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Jason Sargent



Jerry Hampton



John Aragon



Jonathan Keeton



Josh Adkins



Keith Stamper



Kent Cole



Kesha Ison



Kevin Brickey



Kirstin Beculhimer



Kolten Hamilton



Latisha Phipps



Leann Hittepole



Leslie Cecil



Liam Morgan



Lisa Nickell



Maria Nickell



Matthew Daniel



Michael Bradley



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Noah Pack



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Randy Cantrell



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Rose Howell



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Travis Keeton



Tyler Adkins



Wes Collett



Will Lane



William Copley

Without a Trace

Bigfoot researchers hope to turn myth into reality

Story by DREW WOOLLEY

Charlie Raymond knows all the best spots for Bigfoot hunting in Kentucky. As founder of the Kentucky Bigfoot Research Organization, he can tell you where you're most likely to run into the dark-haired Skunk Man or an Anderson County Sasquatch nicknamed Howdy for its habit of waving at spotters.

So, when a group of Girl Scouts visiting from Ohio wanted to go on their own expedition about 10 years ago, he knew Mammoth Cave was the place to take them. Bigfoot sightings at the edge of the park spiked after a park employee reported seeing what he thought was a bear stand up on two legs and run off.

"I told them Bigfoots are curious, so the best thing to do is go out there with no flashlights and just laugh, talk and act natural," Charlie says. "Here I've got two dozen giddy girls, aged 10 to 14. I said, 'You're perfect bait.'"

Much like the skeptical Scout moms who joined them, Charlie didn't really expect the group to run into Big Mo, the name of the Bigfoot living in the area, according to local legend. But Charlie showed the girls how to knock trees with a baseball bat and make whooping noises, which he believes the creatures use to communicate.

Then, they heard a distant knock and whistle in response. Shortly after, there was a loud bang as something big struck the boardwalk they were standing on. The entire group was so startled that Charlie recalls one of the moms making a break for the parking lot, leaving the girls behind.

"I think it thought we were another Bigfoot calling for help, then it stomped or jumped on the boardwalk as kind of a bluff charge," Charlie says. "But I heard when they drove back to Ohio, those girls didn't talk about putt-putt or riding horses. All they talked about was that night."

MYTH AND MEMORY

Charlie is just one of many Bigfoot researchers around the country hoping to find definitive proof of the legendary elusive creatures. Driven by true believers, skeptics and gawkers alike, the ongoing hunt has produced hit TV shows, museums and even festivals that bring people together from all corners.

Robert Dobler, a senior lecturer at the Indiana University Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, says the lasting power of these creatures is fundamentally human.

"I think it's human to need to think about things outside of the everyday or the mundane," he says. "We're interested in these creatures that exceed language as often as they exceed categories. These stories are how we can take something that is unknown and unknowable and still find ways to talk about it."

That sense of the unknown is often inseparable from the creatures themselves. For Bigfoot or his Florida cousin, the Skunk Ape, it might be the wilderness of the forests or swamplands where they're believed to reside. In West Virginia, the dangers of munitions dumps often conjure sightings of the Mothman. Similarly, in Texas, stories of the Chupacabra are more likely to swirl when anxieties about uncontrollable livestock loss due to disease are at their height.

But that doesn't mean those stories are entirely false.

"A lot of skeptics think these claims are made for attention," Robert says. "But the reality is most people know they are vulnerable and subjecting themselves to potential ridicule. So, they're usually reluctant to talk about it and kind of careful about who they tell."

David Bakara, who owns the Expedition: Bigfoot museum in Blue Ridge, Georgia, has had much the same experience when people share their stories. Some people are still terrified of their experiences. Others are driven by curiosity. But they are all trying to confront something they know shouldn't exist.

"Almost all the Bigfoot researchers I know used to be just normal people that watched football and cooked ribs in the backyard. Then they saw one of these things, and it kind of happened on accident," David says. "Some things, the more you dig into them, the more boring they are. But that's not the case here. The more you look into Bigfoot, the more interested you become."

UNTAMED PLACES

That allure of the unknown is one of the reasons Charlie helped start the Red River Gorge Bigfoot Festival, which takes place in Stanton, Kentucky, each May. The idea originated with a drive-in screening of "The Legend of Boggy Creek," a 1972 docudrama about the Fouke Monster, a Bigfoot-like creature spotted around Fouke, Arkansas.

Now, the festival is an opportunity to gather researchers and cryptozoologists to speak to believers and naysayers alike. The celebration is one of many across the country focused on Bigfoot and other local cryptids that give enthusiasts a chance to gather without fear



Photos courtesy of Charlie Raymond



Photos courtesy of David Bakara



Sheepsquatch

A Southern variation on Bigfoot, Sheepsquatch is reportedly a large beast with shaggy white fur and curled horns similar to a ram's. The creature has been spotted in remote forests and hollows along the Appalachian Mountains and is said to be distinctive for its sulfuric odor.

If you would like to report a Bigfoot or cryptid sighting, in Kentucky or beyond, you can contact Charlie Raymond and the Kentucky Bigfoot Research Organization at info@kentuckybigfoot.com.

AI-generated image by Brandon Pomrenke/ChatGPT

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Charlie Raymond carries along a bat on Bigfoot investigations in hopes of communicating with the creatures through tree knocks. Charlie's wife, Lyndsey, is a fellow Bigfoot investigator and a police officer with experience in forensics and fingerprint analysis. David Bakara opened Expedition: Bigfoot in Blue Ridge, Georgia, in 2016. David built the museum in the style of the roadside attractions he loved as a kid.

of judgment. But Charlie's hope is that the experience can also open more people's minds and encourage them to ask questions.

Barring that, it's an opportunity to step away from technology and gain a better appreciation for all wildlife, whether it's the creatures we know or those yet to be discovered.

"There are lots of things in this world we don't know about. A lot of animals we discover every year," he says. "We like to say, 'Leave only footprints. Pick up your trash, stop and smell the flowers every now and then and respect the wilderness.' Just like Bigfoot." 🐾



Original AI-generated image by James Middleton/Adobe Stock

ON THE HUNT

Ready to track down your own Bigfoot sighting? The Bigfoot Mapping Project has you covered. The site tracks reported encounters all over the country, with filters for locations where footprints, vocalizations and tree knocks are part of the accounts. Visit bigfootmap.com to find the location of your next adventure.

STRONGER TO

Wolfe County's Creech triplets accepted to pharmacy school

Story by LAURA MCGILL

Identical triplets Joey, Josh and John Creech have shared almost every moment of their lives from birth through college at Morehead State University. Now, that close connection is taking them, together, to Marshall University School of Pharmacy.

Their parents, Tracy and Joe Creech, were surprised to find out they were expecting triplets. "Joe's brother and his wife had just had twins shortly before we got pregnant," Tracy says. "But we

weren't really thinking about it." Already the parents of Jordan and Maggie, the couple planned to have one more child to complete their family.

Welcoming three babies at once was a big adjustment. Jordan was 9 and Maggie was 2½ when their younger brothers were born. Maggie always wanted to be with the triplets. "In some ways it was like having quads," Tracy says. "Jordan was a big help to me, helping me take care of the others."

For the first six months of the triplets' lives, Tracy couldn't tell them apart, so she painted their toenails different colors so she wouldn't mix them up.

SHARING THE SPOTLIGHT

From the moment they were born, Joey, Josh and John have been a fascination. When the family was coming home from the hospital, they stopped at a fast-food restaurant to get Jordan and Maggie ice cream. The triplets quickly became the



From left, Joe, Tracy, Josh, John, Joey and Maggie Creech pose for a family photo ahead of the triplets' Morehead State University graduation in May.

Photos courtesy of Tracy Creech

TOGETHER

center of attention. “A photographer was at the restaurant and asked if he could photograph them,” Tracy says. “He sat them up on the counter and took their picture.” Many similar moments followed.

During their time at Morehead State, Josh says they were often photographed and videoed. Some people tried to be discreet while others were more obvious. “Sometimes we’d be walking and you’d just see a phone go across,” Josh says. Joey picks up the thread, “At this point, we’re used to it, but like, that’s not something normal.”

Morehead State professor David Peyton says the Creech brothers adjusted well to life on campus. “The attention they get from being triplets is very positive, and they return that positive vibe to the people around them,” he says. “Obviously, they didn’t choose to be triplets, but they choose every day to embrace it and to do most everything together.”

SHARING THE CLASSROOM

While in the Wolfe County school system, the brothers were sometimes split up into different classes. But as soon as they reached Morehead State, they intentionally took every class together. “It was the exact same,” Josh starts. “We’d have the exact same schedule,” Joey continues. “It made it easier on us to have essentially a built-in study group.”

Heather Parks met the Creech brothers in kindergarten. She considers them her first friends, a relationship that continued at Morehead State where she often saw the strength of their bond. “They bounce off of each other,” she says. “If one doesn’t understand a subject as well, they teach each other.” Wolfe County High School’s Greg Potter spent six years with them as their FFA adviser and agrees the brothers

help each other. “They drive each other to be better,” he says.

“We have a bit of competitiveness,” Joey says. “You want to do the best, but you also want the others to do good. You don’t want to do good because they did bad.” With a sly smile, John adds, “Yeah, you want to do just a little bit better than the other two.”

SHARING THE WORK

Growing up, the brothers were expected to help on the farm and at the family’s store, C & C Grocery. As college students, they returned home each weekend to lend a hand. “Our job is essentially whatever Dad needs done,” Joey says.

As much as they have in common, each brother takes on a unique role in the trio. “I’m stubborn,” Joey says. “I don’t take anything seriously,” John adds. “I’m in the middle,” Josh concludes and shares that any disagreement gets resolved with a two-thirds vote or a coin toss. Tracy agrees with their assessment. “Josh takes care of the group,” she says.

After pharmacy school, the brothers plan to return to Hazel Green and open their own business together. “It’s a fairly common trend for our healthcare-related students to return and practice in rural areas, and it’s admirable because most will take a significant cut in salary to practice in their hometowns or other small communities,” David says. “But this case is a little more significant, because in addition to returning to their hometown, they are also forging a career path that keeps them close to each other for the rest of their lives.”

Greg is excited about the triplets’ plan to return to the area. “Most kids who graduate and leave for college don’t come back,” he says. “I hope the Creech boys come back and make the community stronger.”



From top, Joey Scott, Josh Luke and John David let their personalities shine through in their kindergarten graduation photos taken in 2009.

No matter where their path leads, Heather is cheering for her friends. “I know they are going to be successful,” she says. “They are the most amazing boys.” ☑

Summer Potluck Staples

Reliable, affordable dishes perfect for warm-weather sharing



Potlucks call for recipes that can handle travel, sit happily on a table and please a wide range of tastes.

These summer-ready dishes rely on ingredients readily available in July and August, use straightforward techniques and are developed for home cooks. All are budget-conscious, and none require special equipment. 🍴

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

OVEN-BAKED BARBECUE CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS

- 3 pounds chicken drumsticks
- 1 1/2 cups barbecue sauce
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 F. Pat chicken dry and season with salt and

pepper. Toss with oil and arrange on a foil-lined baking sheet. Bake 30 minutes, turn, brush generously with barbecue sauce and bake 15 minutes more until cooked through and sticky. Serve warm or at room temperature.

EASY PEACH CRISP

- 6 cups fresh peaches, peeled and sliced
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

TOPPING:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, melted



LEMON HERB ORZO SALAD

- 1 pound orzo pasta
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 cups English cucumber, diced
- 1/3 cup red onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped

DRESSING:

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- Salt and black pepper, to taste

Cook orzo in salted water until tender.

Drain and rinse with cold water. In a large bowl, combine orzo, tomatoes, cucumber, onion, feta and parsley. Whisk dressing ingredients and toss with salad.

Chill at least 30 minutes before serving.



SLOW-COOKER PULLED PORK SLIDERS

- 4 pounds pork shoulder or pork butt
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 12 slider buns

Season pork with salt, pepper and paprika. Place in slow cooker and add broth. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours until very tender. Shred meat with forks, discard excess fat and stir in barbecue sauce. Serve warm on slider buns.



WARM DILL AND MUSTARD POTATO SALAD

- 3 pounds small red or Yukon Gold potatoes
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons whole-grain mustard
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 cup celery, finely sliced
- 1/3 cup red onion, finely diced
- 1/4 cup fresh dill, chopped
- Salt and black pepper, to taste

Boil potatoes in salted water until fork-tender. Drain and cut into bite-size pieces while still warm.

In a large bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, mustards and sugar. Add warm potatoes, celery and red onion, tossing gently so the potatoes absorb the dressing. Season with salt and pepper. Fold in dill just before serving. Serve warm or at room temperature.



Preheat oven to 375 F.

Toss peaches with sugar and lemon juice and spread in a baking dish. Mix topping ingredients and sprinkle evenly over fruit.

Bake until golden and bubbly, about 40 minutes. Cool slightly before serving.





Mountain Telephone

P.O. Box 399 • 425 Main St., Ste. A
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A Personal Invitation to

**OUR 2026
ANNUAL MEETING**

Wolfe County High School
**Thursday Night,
July 9, 2026**

Registration

5 pm to 6:15 pm

Business Meeting

6:30 pm

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