• Central Kentucky Computer Society •

OPEN ONLINE

Join CKCS in June ONLINE for

- **Tech Night**
- **Workshops**
- **SIG meetings**

We invite you to join us ONLINE. Our Moore Drive office remains closed due to the Covid–19 pandemic.

JUNE

JUNE

June 2020

• Since 1984, Empowering CKCS Members With Tech Skills •

Annual CKCS June events:
- ## Regular election
- ## Picnic in the park
- ## Fried chicken supper

Canceled

The Covid–19 pandemic is not only forcing CKCS to close it doors *(CKCS is open online),* it's also forcing the cancellation of a summer tradition:

The regular election of CKCS directors and officers by CKCS members at a June picnic in a Lexington park is canceled this year.

That yearly event normally includes a fried chicken meal, side dishes provided by CKCS members, and a time for fun and fellowship.

Bob Brown, the CKCS nominating committee chair, describes what will occur in this year filled with unexpected and unusual circumstances due to the coronavirus.

CKCS Election Coming Up

The Nominating Committee has done a magnificent job of arm-twisting our current officers and expiring directors into serving another term.

- President Brooke Thomas
- Vice–President Joe Dietz
- Secretary Larry Trivette
- Treasurer Jim McCormick

All have agreed to run.

Directors:
- Boone Baldwin
- Toni Greider
- Jan Landers-Lymon
- Ben Rice
- Mike Seiler

will all run again.

Because the Board of Directors has canceled the June picnic and, therefore, the 2020 election, there will be a special motion made at the June board meeting to re-elect these unopposed officers and directors by board vote.

This is abnormal but within the organization's little known pandemic emergency rules.

Bob Brown
Nominating Committee Chair

If you're reading this, we need your help

By Kurt Jefferson

To say we are going through a time unlike any other in the modern era is similar to saying the Titanic was a ship which encountered a few problems with icebergs and sank.

Or the Internet changed the world.

Or iPhone and Android smartphones sort of changed the way we communicate.

The current Covid–19 pandemic has dramatically changed the way we live, the way we shop, and even the way we get haircuts.

After some nudging from Brooke Thomas, CKCS president, I took over as editor of this newsletter in the fall of 2019.

While producing this month's newsletter I spotted a troubling trend that I had not seen before:

NO NEW MEMBERS

Considering the severity of this coronavirus and its horrible toll, it's not surprising that CKCS has seen no new members join in recent months. The CKCS Resource Center is closed. Classes, SIGS, workshops and more are all online.

People have been consumed by staying at home, wearing masks to protect themselves and others, and doing their darnedest to keep from catching this dreaded virus or spreading it to their loved ones.

Once a vaccine is available and the coronavirus curve has been shattered, how do we bring new people into CKCS?

How do we convince newcomers to join CKCS? Please brainstorm and **email us** *with any and all recommendations for building our membership ranks. We need you. We need your help — now.*

Thank you!

Memberships

Submitted by CKCS Board Member Ben Rice (ben.rice@ckcs.org)

This update is from April 21, 2020 – May 25, 2020.

New Members

None

Four Summer Workshops via Zoom — Learn online

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, all workshops will be taught using the Zoom app. We recommend that participants practice using Zoom before the workshop occurs. Handouts will be sent to everyone enrolled in a workshop via email.

NEW ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES
Payment will be by credit card only. If you want to enroll in any of the workshops call CKCS (859-373-1000) and leave a detailed message giving us your name (spell it), the workshop(s) you want to enroll in, and a phone number where we can reach you (this must be a phone number where we can reach you directly). **DO NOT record your credit card number on your voicemail message.** We will be monitoring the phone messages daily and ask for your credit card number when we call you.

The cost of a workshop is $30.00 if you are not a CKCS member. The cost for CKCS members is $24.00

Workshop	Date	Time	Online Only?
Making a Photobook using Shutterfly	**Tuesday, June 9**	**1–3 P.M.**	**Yes, via Zoom**

You'll learn how to prepare pictures for a photo book, how to transfer pictures to the Shutterfly work-space, and then how to organize your pictures from front to the last page of the book. Finally, we will go through steps to order the book and to apply coupons to reduce the price. Students will be using provided pictures on CKCS computers. We will be using a program called Shutterfly which can be accessed on the internet via a PC or a Mac.

Workshop	Date	Time	Online Only?
Is Windows 10 Driving You Crazy?	**Wednesday, June 10**	**1–3 P.M.**	**Yes, via Zoom**

Students will learn how they can change the Start window to make it less confusing. Also, they will learn how to change the File Explorer appearance. A free program will be demonstrated that will change the Start Window making it look like the Windows 7 or XP Start Window.

Workshop	Date	Time	Online Only?
Understanding Facebook	**Thursday, July 9**	**10 A.M. – Noon**	**Yes, via Zoom**

You'll learn how to maintain a Facebook page. The Profile page and Home page will be explained. How to find friends, make a post, edit and respond to posts, prioritize news feeds, check privacy settings, un-friend and block-friends, and delete and deactivate your Facebook account will all be featured.

Workshop	Date	Time	Online Only?
Get More Out of Your Mac	**Tuesday, July 21**	**10 A.M. – Noon**	**Yes, via Zoom**

You probably use your Mac every day but you're probably not getting the most out of your computer. This course will teach you techniques you can use to be more effective. Topics range from organizing files in a folder to suit you better to keyboard shortcuts to customizing your Dock. Tips provided in this course will save you time and make your computer use more enjoyable.

President's Comments

Despite Covid–19, CKCS has come back strong

By Brooke Thomas

Brooke Thomas
president@ckcs.org

CKCS declared "We are Open" in May and we came back strong!

After taking the month off, 67 people joined us for Tech Night where we learned the "ins and outs" of Zoom.

Some participants were new to the program, while others had different degrees of experience. It was an invaluable presentation because we will be using Zoom to hold our summer workshops, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and Board Meetings.

We continued our strong comeback when Mike Seiler held his Windows 10 SIG. He streamed his presentation and 26 members emailed him that they were watching via our Nest camera/streaming link on the website. He has decided to use Zoom for his next Windows SIG so he can have a dialog with participants.

In that same week Kurt Jefferson held the Mac/iPad SIG using the streaming camera. He has also decided to use Zoom to do his SIG next month.

The screen will be much clearer, and he will be able to take questions from the participants.

Joe Dietz rounded out the month of May with the Digital Photography SIG.

He originally scheduled it to use the streaming camera but opted to use Zoom for the clarity and interaction with the participants.

Joe has also been practicing weekly with a volunteer group using Zoom to teach Advanced Digital Imaging classes.

During these classes we are learning how to use the various features of Zoom to effectively teach the upcoming summer workshops. During each "class" the students learn a skill in the Paintshop Program, but we also learned how to walk students through many of the features of Zoom…things like learning how to download files provided by the instructor and how to share screens so everyone can see each other's work are important skills.

So, when we say CKCS is Open…online, we mean it. Check out all that is going on this summer.

Don't worry that your technology skills will wither away. Join us for the upcoming activities!

Summer Picnic Canceled

Every year in June, instead of Tech Night we hold our picnic and election of officers.

This year dictates that is not possible.

With the uncertainty of when we can congregate safely especially with our age group, the picnic is canceled.

Hopefully, we can hold one next June.

 Check out the rest of the newsletter and see what the presentation will be at June's Tech Night.

May Tech Night: Virus pandemic didn't keep dozens from learning about Zoom
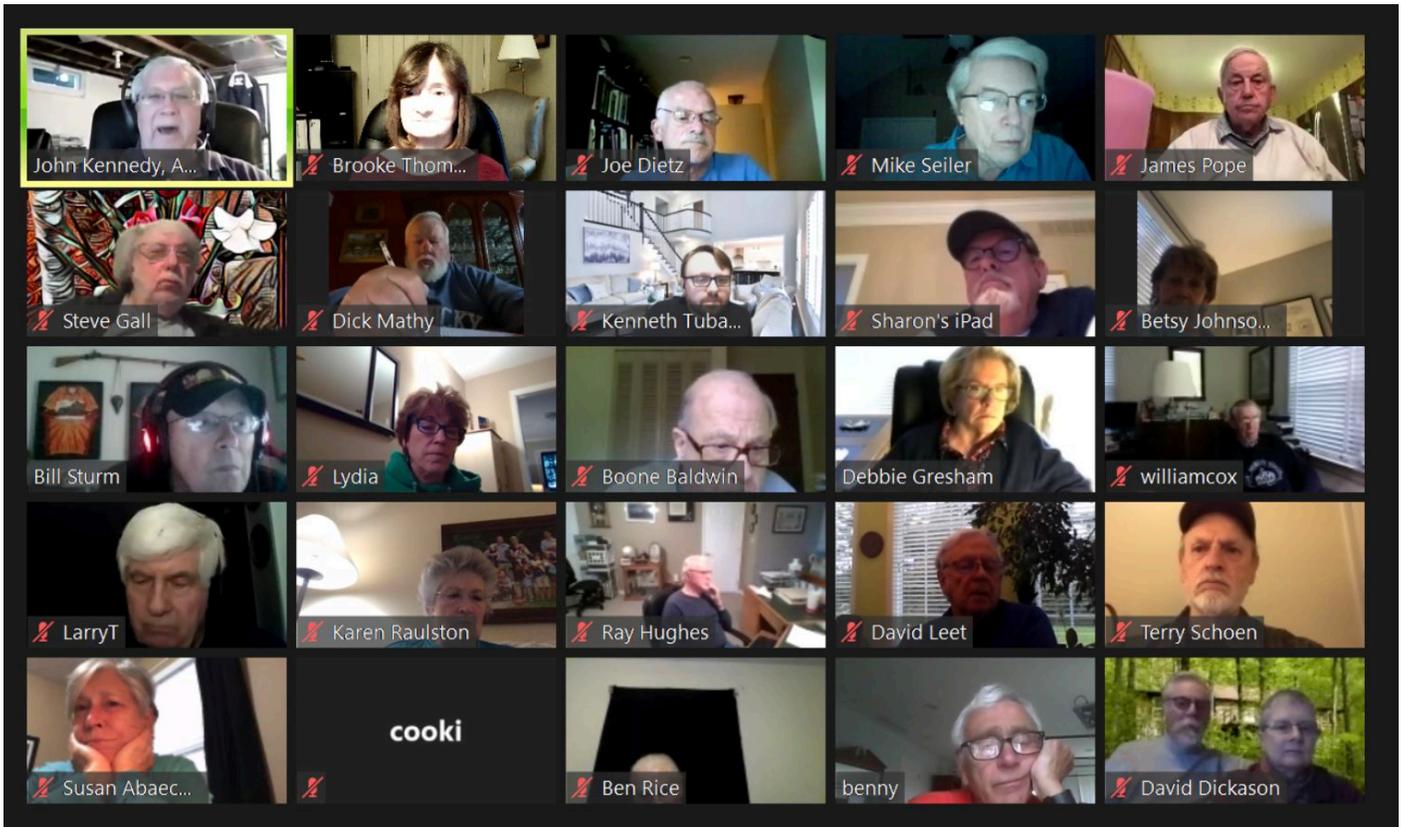
This screen grab shows a tiny portion of the 67 folks who went online during the CKCS Tech Night to learn about the app, Zoom. John Kennedy, APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups) rep, has been teaching many throughout his region how to use Zoom and other online video/audio tools during the Covid–19 pandemic.

Zoom's popularity has skyrocketed as people meet online to hold virtual book groups, gather for online board meetings, communicate with loved ones in distant cities, and hold other virtual gatherings.

It's hard to believe today, but Zoom launched a beta version of its software in September 2012 that could host conferences with up to 15 video participants. The pandemic has increased Zoom's popularity by numbers that seemed impossible only a few months ago.

By February of this year, Zoom had added more than 2.22 million users in 2020 alone – that's more users than it attracted in all of 2019.

Zoom reports on one single day in March, the Zoom app was downloaded 2.13 million times.

Some predict that Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, FaceTime, and other similar software is the future of working, collaborating, meeting and discussion when face–to–face connections are impossible or undesirable.

ⓞⓝⓛⓘⓝⓔ Tech Night: Wearable Devices May Save Your Life

Retired physician and technologist joins us from Arizona for a virtual tech night

Imagine you live alone in an RV Resort in Mesa, Arizona and develop a medical issue that nearly causes your death. That's the scenario Ron Brown will paint when he joins us for June Tech Night via the app, Zoom.

Ron Brown
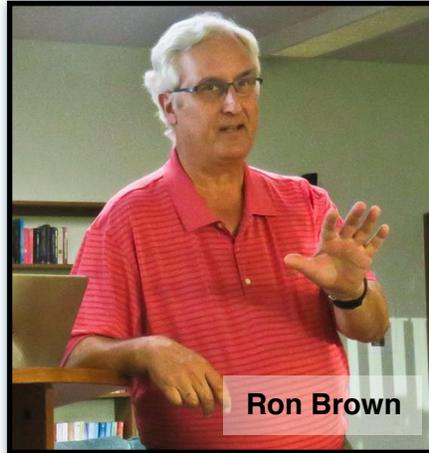
Brown is a retired doctor and specialist in, you guessed it, technology. Part of his presentation will cover some common medical problems in older people that can be helped by wearable devices.

He will also discuss the Internet of Things (IoT) that can play a big role in helping seniors deal with isolation and communication issues. To understand his expertise in giving this presentation, here is an overview of his career in his own words.

"My career started as a Flight Surgeon after having graduated in medicine at the University of Alberta in 1976. In 1981 we settled in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island and I left the military to start a Family Practice. PC's were just being produced and Microsoft Windows was going to integrate everything. I wanted an electronic office and bought interest in a start-up software company in Calgary that made an Electronic Patient Record. As my Family Practice grew so did our software company. Over the next 20 years it grew into an International Company and had me traveling across Canada and the US giving papers at many conferences.

integration, security, and data input. At 55 our two children were well on their way in their own careers and my wife really wanted to get to know me. I retired and sold my medical practice and other business interests. We bought a camper and traveled as "Full Timers" for two years. For a variety of reasons, we ended up in Silveridge Resort in Mesa, Arizona and bought a home without wheels. For the past 7 years we have made many friends and become involved in our new community. I became program director for a very active Computer Club that now has a membership of about 200."

Join us via Zoom for a very informative evening. You will get a copy of the Zoom link via the Thursday, June 4th email "Next Week at Your Computer Society".

If you attended last month's Tech Night you know all about Zoom. If you missed it, here is a video link that will help you learn how to join the presentation. https://youtu.be/hIkCmbvAHQQ

> *To participate in this Tech Night, you will need to open your email from MailChimp (Next Week at Your Computer Society) to access the zoom meeting link. You will get a MailChimp announcement the Thursday before Tech Night with the link and then a follow up MailChimp email message the day of Tech Night.*

> **To get Zoom on your Windows PC or Mac, download it here. (Click on the blue "Download" button under "Zoom Client for Meetings.") You will need Zoom version 5 to join in this session.**
>
> **Find tips for macOS installation here. (You might have to change your security & privacy settings on your Mac.)**
>
> **Zoom is available for the iPad, iPhone and iPod touch through the App Store. Zoom is available for Android devices through Google Play.**

Tech Night: June 8 at 7 P.M. via Zoom

June 2020 CKCS Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Larry Trivette prepared the SIG calendar. Print this page for your refrigerator or bulletin board.

While our Resource Center on Moore Drive is still closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, join us ONLINE for selected SIG meetings.

- **Zoom meetings: click the meeting access link in your received email.**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Jun	**2 Jun**	**3 Jun**	**4 Jun**	**5 Jun**	**6 Jun**
			10 a.m. **Photography Chat** **via Zoom meeting** **7 p.m.** **Board of Directors Meeting** **via Zoom meeting**		
8 Jun	**9 Jun**	**10 Jun**	**11 Jun**	**12 Jun**	**13 Jun**
7 p.m. **Tech Night** **Ron Brown, Mesa, AZ PC Club:** **Saving Your Life with Wearable Technology** **via Zoom meeting**	**7 p.m.** **Windows 10** **MIKE SEILER** **via Zoom meeting**		**10 a.m.** **Photography Chat** **7 p.m.** **Mac & iPad** **KURT JEFFERSON** **via Zoom meeting meeting**		
15 Jun	**16 Jun**	**17 Jun**	**18 Jun**	**19 Jun**	**20 Jun**
			10 a.m. **Photography Chat** **7 p.m.** **Access Database** **STUART ZAHALKA**		
22 Jun	**23 Jun**	**24 Jun**	**25 Jun**	**26 Jun**	**27 Jun**
7 p.m. **FoxPro Database** **GARLAND SMITH**	**7 p.m.** **Digital Photography** **JOE DIETZ** **via Zoom meeting**		**10 a.m.** **Photography Chat** **7 p.m.** **Unix/Linux** **LEWIS GARDNER**		
29 Jun	**30 Jun**	1 Jul	**2 Jul**	3 Jul	**4 Jul**

CKCS Members: We miss Dr. Fixit and iHelp Saturday sessions

Several CKCS members have reached out to say they miss the sessions on the first Saturday of every month which have helped many with tech issues.

Whether it's a dying hard drive on a Windows PC or troubleshooting email on an iPad tablet, CKCS volunteers do their best to help solve problems.

CKCS members have come to rely on these sessions. Since Covid–19 hit, CKCS has held no iHelp or Dr. Fixit sessions.

Bob Brown sent this message in about Dr. Fixit sessions:

Normally, the Dr Fixit SIG meets on the first Saturday of the month. I have not been able to figure out how to hold a computer repair or update meeting over Zoom.

So, I think we will cancel the SIG scheduled for Saturday, June 6 because of the pandemic. While I am at it, the July meeting is scheduled for July 4th, so let's cancel that one also.

Maybe, by August we can find a way to hold small group work sessions without endangering ourselves.

Bob Brown

Most of you know that Dr. Fixit tackles, for the most part, Windows PC–related and Android issues.

iHelp (held in the CKCS classroom) tackles problems and questions CKCS members have with their iPads, iPhones, Macs, and iPod touches (which is basically an iPhone without the phone.)

While Dr. Fixit and iHelp sessions are held at CKCS on the same day but in different rooms, our goals are the same: **To help answer tech questions and solve problems for CKCS members.**

The Covid–19 pandemic has thrown a huge monkey wrench into all of our daily lives – including the Saturday help sessions at CKCS.

It's safe to say there will be no June or July iHelp sessions. The CKCS Resource Center remains closed.

Let's wait and see how things evolve by August and to learn whether the coronavirus curve has flattened enough to see if we can actually meet one another for an iHelp session at CKCS on August first.

As we've said so often during this period of time: Stay tuned.

Digital Photography SIG

Photo Contest Winners for May

Topic: Automobiles

**1st Place:**

Allen Dawson

2nd Place:

Carolyn Nichols

Digital Photography Special Interest Group
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Scripts and Effects
A New Way to Present your Pictures

Joe Dietz
Digital Photography
SIG Leader

We will be ZOOMing. A link will be sent just prior to the meeting

Let's get creative and learn some new techniques to show off your pictures. Using scripts and effects can elevate your art to a new level.
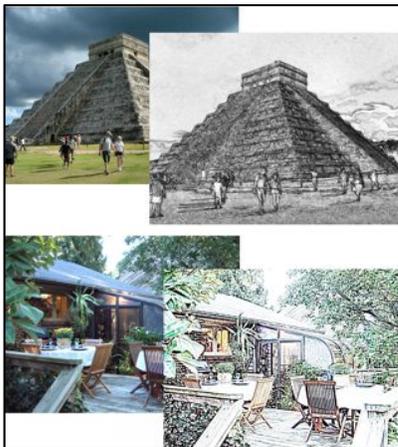
Many programs use scripts and effects to present their pictures in different ways. I will be using Corel PaintShop Pro to demonstrate some different effects that you can use on your pictures. This program has over a hundred different variations and techniques to revise your pictures. Other digital imaging programs offer similar and different methods.

This month's photo contest topic is "**State Parks**". Check through your photos or head out and get some good shots! Send your photo to joedietz@aol.com no later than June 22, 2020.

Join us June 23, 2020 at CKCS. Bring a friend.

7 P.M.

Windows Special Interest Group

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

7:00 pm

Mike Seiler
Windows SIG Leader

I will be using Zoom to present this month's SIG.

The link to join the meeting and instructions about how to join will be sent out via email to everyone on my email list. If you are not on my email list and want on it you can send me an email with your name and email address to w10sig.ckcs@gmail.com

This month I will talk about the "GodMode".

It combines all settings you find in the Control Panel and the Windows 10 Settings window in one place. I will show you how to access it on your computer (it is already part of the Windows system) and look at some of the things you find in it.

I hope to see you in June.

Please send any questions and/or topics you want me to talk about in the Windows 10 SIG to w10sig.ckcs@gmail.com

Google Chrome browser to block battery–sucking ads in August

Starting next month, Google will replace ads that use too many resources in its Chrome browser with an error message.

"We have recently discovered that a fraction of a percent of ads consume a disproportionate share of device resources, such as battery and network data, without the user knowing about it. These ads (such as those that mine cryptocurrency, are poorly programmed, or are unoptimized for network usage) can drain battery life, saturate already strained networks, and cost money," writes a Google spokesperson in its Chromium blog, according to MacRumors.

Google intends to limit resources an ad can use and when it exceeds that limit, the ad will redirect to an error message, letting the user know that the ad is using too many resources.

Google says it has tested plenty of advertising using its Chrome browser and it's targeting the most "egregious" ads using more processor or bandwidth than 99.9% of all detected ads for that resource.

Google intends to release a new version of Chrome with the ad–blocking capabilities in late August.

Google Chrome is currently the most used Web browser in the U.S. with a 58% share, followed by Safari with 15%, Edge with nearly 8%, Firefox with 8%, Internet Explorer with 7.6% and Opera with 0.73% according to March 2020 statistics from Statista.

Analyst: Apple to release new iPads with bigger screens

We can expect a new 10.8–inch screen iPad and a new iPad mini with possibly a 9–inch screen according to Apple analyst Ming–Chi Kuo.

The report, which MacRumors obtained says the larger iPad will launch in the second half of 2020. The new iPad mini is expected in the first half of 2021.

The Verge reports that it's unclear whether the new iPads would replace existing models or be an addition to Apple's popular tablet computer.

In addition, Apple may release its new augmented reality glasses next year or in 2022.

"The two new iPad models will follow iPhone SE's product strategy, and selling points will be the affordable price tag and the adoption of fast chips. We believe that GIS will be the primary touch panel supplier for these two new affordable iPad models," writes MacRumors.

Apple's iPads make up five of the top–ten selling tablet computers in the world, with the top–seller the 10.2–inch, 32GB Space Gray model.

The company introduced the first iPad in April 2010, with the most–recent models being the seventh–generation tablets.

According to Wikipedia, as of May 2017, Apple has sold more than 360–million iPads. "It is the most popular tablet computer by sales as of the second quarter of 2018."
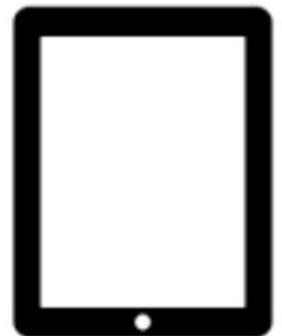
Microsoft announces supercomputer

Microsoft has <u>unveiled</u> what it says is the fifth most powerful supercomputer in the world – in cooperation with OpenAI, a company founded by Elon Musk. OpenAI is an artificial intelligence research lab headquartered in San Francisco.

The supercomputer is a new direction for Microsoft's Azure cloud computing division. Supercomputers are the most powerful computers on the planet and are normally put to use to solve the most trying issues.

Supercomputers are currently being used to seek drugs to fight the Covid–19 pandemic, simulate nuclear weapons explosions, and predict the Earth's climate in future years.

"Built in collaboration with and exclusively for OpenAI, the supercomputer hosted in Azure was designed specifically to train that company's AI models," the company announced at its virtual 'Build 2020' conference in May.

The supercomputer has more than 285,000 CPU cores, 10,000 GPUs, and 400 gigabits per second of network connectivity for each GPU server.

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Microsoft unveils Surface Go 2 tablet and Surface Book 3

If you've been waiting for updates to Microsoft's Surface lineup, they are here. Just last month, Microsoft announced the Surface Go 2 tablet, which, <u>according to Extreme Tech</u>, is "slightly larger and substantially faster than its predecessor." In addition, the Washington state software giant unveiled a new premium Surface Book 3, offering the latest Intel chips.

On the left, Microsoft's new Surface Go 2 and Surface Book 3 (right). New Surface Earbuds and Headphones are also shown here. (Source: Microsoft)

Microsoft described the new computers including new Surface Headphones and Earbuds this way: "The new Surface Go 2, Surface Book 3, Surface Headphones 2, Surface Earbuds and accessories are designed to help you do what you need, from anywhere – a concept that has taken on new weight since we first started working on these products. Instead of planes, coffee shops and offices, we're moving from home office to kitchen table to couch, but our need for devices that keep us productive and connected has never been greater."

AccuWeather: How to help kids beat quarantine boredom

AccuWeather asks how many times have you heard, "But, I'm bored!" bouncing off the walls of your house, apartment, town home or condo since the Covid–19 lockdown began?

Most of us know the Pennsylvania–based company for its weather prediction skills. But the company also knows a thing or two about keeping kids busy during the pandemic.

It's provided a <u>web page</u> containing plenty of tips for parents and grandparents.

Suggestions include: A teddy bear scavenger hunt, science experiments, virtual get–together games, virtual field trips, and even making a time capsule.

AccuWeather writes: "While we might not realize it, we're living in an unprecedented and historic time. How will you explain the world coming to a standstill to your grandchildren? An easy way is to have your kids preserve this moment in time with a time capsule. They can write a letter to their future selves on what life was like during the coronavirus pandemic of 2020. This is a creative outlet that will let them talk about their current feelings and could be quite therapeutic if

they're struggling to cope with this new way of life. You can toss in today's front page of the newspaper and a few pop culture trinkets to show the future generations how we survived and adapted to the changes."

AccuWeather offers excellent tips on tackling a challenging period as kids and grandkids quickly become bored stuck inside quarantined. Suggestions include creating a time capsule, a teddy bear scavenger hunt, virtual field trips and more. The website, <u>Fatherly</u>, also offers dozens of scavenger hunt clues to keep young ones busy during this Covid–19 worldwide pandemic.

Fayette Mall Apple Store reopens with precautions

Apple's retail stores, including the one in Fayette Mall, were some of the earliest stores nationwide to close after the Covid–19 pandemic became apparent.

The Fayette Mall store reopened during the last week of May with new store hours **(but no shopping).**

As I write this, the store opens at 11:30 A.M. and closes at 7 P.M. – far fewer operating hours than in the past.

This gives store employees time to sanitize the tables, Mac keyboards, trackpads and mice, iPhone and iPad screens, and other tech equipment.

For now, Apple is only offering pickup of online orders and Genius Bar visits by appointment.

It plans to offer shopping and walk–in visits to the Genius Bar soon.

A photo appearing on Apple's website describing what customers may expect after an Apple Store re–opens following the Covid–19 pandemic. Temperature checks, face masks, social distancing, and questions about whether a customer has had the coronavirus or come into contact with someone who has been infected with the virus are the new norm. No shopping, for now.

Apple Fayette Mall

Opens at 11:30 a.m.

To ensure a clean, safe environment, we're taking these extra measures:

Limiting store occupancy	Face coverings (will be provided)	Touchless temperature checks	Social distancing	Continuous deep cleaning

A screen grab from the store's website shows precautions taken to keep staff and customers safe. Apple says masks are mandatory and customers who don't have one will be provided a mask. The store is also allowing far fewer customers at one time to enter the store.

As of early June, Apple is encouraging online shopping and "no–contact delivery and support for product help."

Wired: Make your Gmail Inbox Safer

By Kurt Jefferson

For many years, I've used two Gmail accounts and I've always been impressed with how well Google (Google operates Gmail) blocks unwanted email. If you use Gmail like I do, we've got plenty of company. A reported 1.5 billion (with a "B") people are now using Gmail across the world.

The algorithm Gmail uses is constantly changing to block everything from Covid–19 scams to "your best friend has been hurt in an accident in Sydney could you send cash fast" spam.

Now, Wired has come out with a list of "five simple ways" to improve your Gmail experience.

By the way, these tips apply to the www.gmail.com website where you can read your email. But once you make the change there, it will also apply to the email app you use to read email such as Apple Mail, OutLook, Microsoft Account, Thunderbird, Postbox, and others.

Block Persistent Spammers

"If someone's clogging your inbox but Gmail's "Report Spam" feature isn't catching it, Gmail lets you block individual senders easily," writes Wired.

You need to be using Gmail's webmail at www.gmail.com for you

Tue, May 12, 10:51 AM (11 days ago)

- Reply
- Forward
- Filter messages like this
- Print
- Delete this message
- Block "⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛"
- Report spam
- Report phishing
- Show original
- Translate message
- Download message
- Mark unread from here
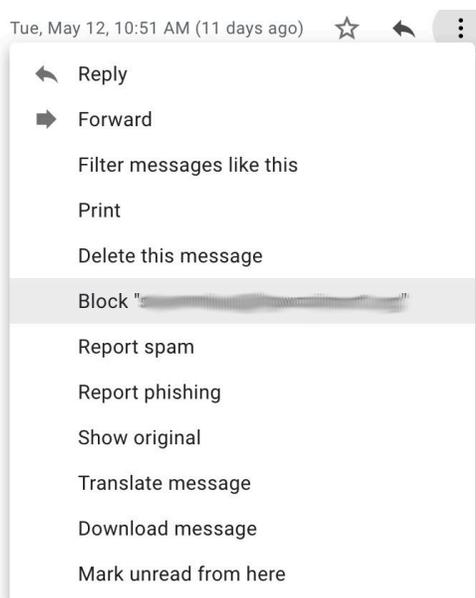
Click on the three vertical dots at the top of an incoming message, then click on "Block" in the list at the bottom. The sender's email address will appear next to "Block."

to change the settings. On a Mac, you can buy the app, Mailplane, and use it instead of going to Gmail's web page if you prefer.

Here's how to block even more spam. Open an incoming email that you consider spam and want to block. Click the three dots on the upper right. Then choose "Block" (the sender's email address will appear to the right of this.

Any future messages from this sender will automatically go into the Spam folder so you won't be bothered by them.

Use Confidential Mode

This is a new feature of Gmail – of which many folks aren't aware.

The recipient cannot copy, forward, print, or download the message and the sender can set it to expire after a set period of time. In addition, the sender can protect access with a passcode (this is just in case the inbox of the recipient has been compromised.) You activate "confidential mode" by clicking on the small padlock icon at the bottom of the compose window.

You can activate "Confidential Mode" by clicking on this padlock at the bottom of new Gmail message you're composing.

You would use this when your message contains private or sensitive contents – when you want to insure that no one else would be able to read what's in your message.

You'll find three other Gmail tips at Wired's website.

When you see an underlined word in this newsletter, click on it and it will take you to a web page where you can get more details.

More Signs of the Times

As warmer weather finally arrives and more folks jog, walk, bike and exercise in other ways, the city of Lexington has posted these signs in city parks.

The point is to keep moving to avoid spreading the coronavirus and to practice social distancing. Groups of ten and fewer people are now allowed to get together but they're expected to remain six feet apart and wear masks when possible.

Covid–19 is serious business folks; and its victims are all ages, all races, and sexes.

Stay safe.

Photos by Kurt Jefferson

Apple & Google team up to create Covid–19 code for coronavirus virus screening

By Kurt Jefferson

You can be infected with the coronavirus for up to 14 days and not show symptoms. That's why this pandemic is so dangerous.

During those 14 days, you might be infecting family members, friends, and others you meet and not even know it. News reports indicate at least 150 people in Springfield, Mo. became infected when a hair stylist with coronavirus cut, trimmed and washed customers' hair. (Those customers then potentially infected others with the virus.)

Because of the long incubation period of COVID–19, how can you confirm whether or not you're infected – unless you get tested every so often?

One logical solutions is a phone app. In early April, Apple and Google teamed up to build COVID–19 tracing into the iPhone and Android operating system. This tool is officially called the "exposure notifications system" and is meant to augment manual contact tracing procedures.

Let's stop and explain here.

There are two different coronavirus tools:

- A phone app which allows you to ask questions to see if you've been exposed. You're prompted to see if you need to get tested for coronavirus. (You can also ask Siri, "How do I know if I have coronavirus?" and it will provide a verbal description of symptoms.)

- Computer code (called API) to be used by officials in a region, state or country to create their own app. Once a state or region has created their own app for the iPhone and Android phones – users download the app and will get notifications to alert them of possible exposure to the coronavirus. The system will use Bluetooth to do contact tracing.

So we're dealing with two different coronavirus tools here.

So far, Alabama, North Dakota and South Carolina have indicated they will create their own apps to use the "exposure notifications system" on Apple and Google smartphone operating systems.

Some states are not creating apps because of security issues, even though Apple and Google have indicated the data are encrypted and secure.

A list from 9to5 Mac indicates Kentucky, and many other states, have not yet responded on whether they'll create their own apps.

Switzerland is the first country to use the Apple–Google computer code to create its own app. Latvia is also creating an app for its residents.

Australia already has released its app in the App Store and Google Play. It urges users to "Keep Bluetooth and Notifications" enabled.

Great Britain has also indicated it will create its own app for contact tracing on both the iPhone and Android smartphones.

9to5 Mac reports that 27 European countries will likely adopt the Apple/Google contact tracing computer code and create their own phone apps.

As I type this the last day of May, a website called The Coronavirus App reminds me of the lives lost, the lives saved, and just how horrid this virus is.

That website reports more than 1.8 million Americans have now been infected by Covid–19. The U.S. is leading Brazil, Russia, Spain, the U.K., Italy, France, Germany, India…

This is one list where we really don't want to be number one.

Trends: Covid–19 has changed plenty in our daily lives

If I asked you to list the number of ways Covid–19 has changed your life, you'd probably run out of paper.

And some of these changes may stick around for the rest of your life.

Harvard Business Review recently crunched the numbers and came up with some fascinating figures.

HBR reports, "Typically, consumers' supermarket shopping habits are stable and slow to change. When people do dramatically change their behavior around buying food and beverages, it's usually driven by a major life event such as having a baby, moving to a new town, or changing jobs."

Covid–19 has thrown consumers' grocery shopping habits under the rug.

"The Covid-19 crisis is, of course, changing everyone's life at once — and anyone who's been to a grocery store can bear witness to the industry's whiplash. During one week in March, U.S. grocery store sales spiked 77% over the previous year, while restaurant sales declined by 66%. In late April, grocery sales were still running 8% above average, with restaurants down 48%," reports HBR.

With most U.S. states poised to reopen, partially reopen, or lift some earlier restraints, where does this leave shopping, cooking, and eating?

Hunter, a food and beverage marketing communications firm, tracks trends. It has discovered that 54% of Americans are cooking more than they were before the pandemic struck. 35% say they "enjoy cooking more now than ever."

If this continues long after the pandemic is over, it signals a major change in the home cooking industry.

HBR notes this may not continue, but it surmises more of us will eat at home, and this includes a shift to more take out and delivery. Drive–throughs will likely become ubiquitous.

WORKING AT HOME

HBR notes a consumer pandemic study by The Cambridge Group suggests that 20–30% of all American employees could end up working at home a great deal. That's a four to six–fold increase from just a few years ago.

This is especially true for high–income employees.

SINGLE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

It might surprise you to know that a lot more of us are living alone. In 1969, the U.S. Census reported 17% of all households included one person.

By 2019, that number had climbed to 28%. Furthermore, "shelter-in-place has probably restricted many would-be couples from meeting each other, and research suggests that anxious times tend to depress the birth rate," reports HBR.

In addition, most Americans now want less density. Crowded elevators and commutes may become a thing of the past.

As HBR puts it, "working side by side next to strangers — has become wholly undesirable overnight."

Microsoft uncovers major campaign to hack into Windows users' PCs

The scam involves Excel files sent as email attachments that install a remote access tool

In late May, Microsoft's Security Intelligence team discovered what it calls a "massive" campaign using Excel files to trick PC users into opening rogue Excel files.

Once computer users open the Excel attachments, attackers can then control their Windows PCs.

Microsoft says hundreds of various Excel files containing malicious Excel 4.0 macros have been emailed.

The email messages claim to be from the John Hopkins Center and use the title "WHO COVID–19 SITUATION REPORT."

Once the recipient tries to open the Excel file, a security warning will appear with a graph showing supposed coronavirus cases in the U.S.

If the user allows it to run, a malicious Excel 4.0 macro downloads and runs NetSupport Manager, which has been used to gain remote access and compromise PCs.

Microsoft's NetSupport Manager is a legitimate tool to gain access to PCs from a distant location.

But in this instance, it's a scam that allows someone to gain access and control a user's PC.

The bottom line? Don't open any Excel files from John Hopkins.
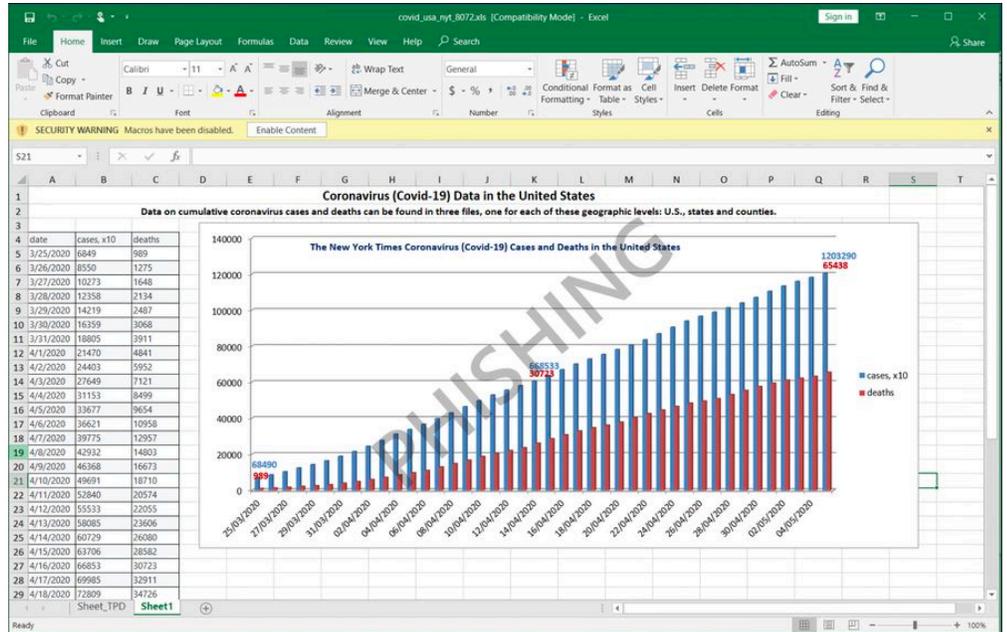
This is one of many Excel attachments containing a macro that allows a hacker to take control of an individual's Windows PC. The file supposedly displays the number of coronavirus cases occurring in the U.S. Microsoft says this scam is unique because of the sheer number of email messages sent out to computer users. It's basically a "phishing" scam (sent by email) but uses the Covid–19 title to spark users' interest and convince them to open the Excel attachment.

One of several tweets Microsoft sent to alert computer users of the phishing scam. What's unique about this rogue attempt to gain access to PCs is the sheer number of Excel files that have been emailed.

Updates issued for dozens of iOS apps – reason not clear

If you've recently noticed that a number of apps on your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch unexpectedly needed to be updated, you're not alone.

The Verge reports that it's not clear why Apple appears to be re–issuing recently published app updates but MacRumors reports it might have something to do with a bug that is impacting apps beginning with iOS 13.5.

The strange action left some users with a message indicating that the affected apps are not accessible. If that occurs, an error message reads, "This app is no longer shared with you."

The solution?

According to The Verge, "the quick fix is to get the app working again without losing its settings and data is to offload the app via Settings > General > iPhone Storage, and then reinstall it. We don't know what's causing this particular "no longer shared with you" error either, but the wording suggests some sort of authentication or certification issue.

Of course, if the error message is occurring on an iPad or iPod touch, you need to delete the app and then reinstall it from the App Store.

Regarding this issue, MacRumors first reported on the Sunday before Memorial Day, "Over the past few hours, a number of MacRumors readers have reported seeing dozens or even hundreds of pending app updates showing in the App Store on their iOS devices, including for many apps that were already recently updated by the users. In many cases, the dates listed on these new app updates extend back as far as ten days."

Comments to the MacRumors article include these readers' remarks:

"Well that explains why I am seeing so many app updates on a Sunday evening…"

"Yep, was wondering why I had 50+ updates on a Sunday night."

"Over 300 app updates in 8 hours. I'm guessing every single app I have will update.

You got 300 apps on you iOS device?!

I got 14 updates when i woke up this morning, although i gotta say that i am obsessed with updates so i check multiple times a day to see if i have updates available."

The best advice may come from The Verge: "Just update and move on, a good motto for life generally."
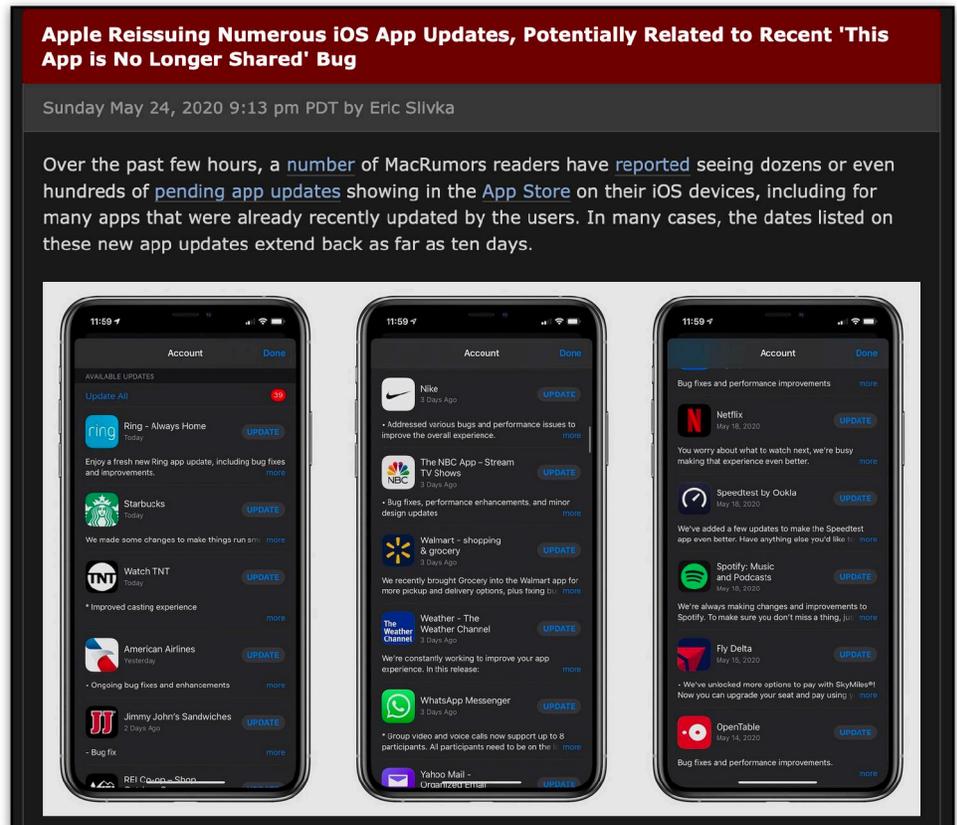
A screen grab from MacRumors show three separate iPhones with dozens of updates for apps that have already recently been updated. Some suggest Apple is fixing some sort of authentication or certification issue (in other words – yes, this is your app, and you have rights to use it on your Apple device.)

By Kurt Jefferson

Demand for streaming services has skyrocketed during this time when more of us are staying home than ever before.

In fact, Netflix now has more subscribers in the U.S. than the entire number of Americans subscribing to cable TV.

Considering demand, I thought now was a good time to provide reviews of what are considered the best streaming services.

The review website, The Wirecutter, owned by The New York Times, gives the Roku Streaming Stick+ the highest marks in its review of streaming devices. There is plenty of competition in this area, including Amazon Fire, Google Chromecast Ultra, and others.

One of my favorite review websites, The Wirecutter, likes Roku Streaming Stick+ better than any other streaming device.

The Wirecutter writes, *"Roku has a larger selection of content than anyone else, and it continues to grow. Finding something that Roku doesn't support is the challenge, and when new services launch, Roku is typically among the first—if not the first—to offer support. Amazon, Google Play Movies and TV, HBO Go and Now, Hulu, Netflix, Pandora, Showtime, Sling TV, and Vudu are all available, along with more, and you can* search across them all to find the content you're looking for."

In second place, The Wirecutter has chosen Roku Premiere+. It labels it, *"The same Roku experience in a stand-alone box."*

Apple TV 4K takes third place. *"Apple's tvOS has the best user experience, and this model supports Dolby Vision, iTunes, and AirPlay. But it doesn't support all the music services, and the search falls a bit behind Roku's."*

The Wirecutter also likes NVIDIA Shield TV (2019) and calls it "The Best Android TV Box." The Wirecutter adds, *"The Nvidia Shield TV is well ahead of other Android TV streamers, with superior upscaling of non–4K content and a fast, clean interface."*

Read Digital Trend's review of "The best streaming devices for 2020."

Read PC Mag's top nine picks of streaming devices.

Read Tom's Guides review of the "Best streaming devices in 2020."

Apple TV 4K takes third place in the review from The Wirecutter website.

Mac/iPad SIG

By Kurt Jefferson

At the June SIG meeting via Zoom, we'll be showing you hidden characters that you can type on both your Mac and iPad. (These also work on the iPhone and iPod touch if you have them connected to a keyboard.)

Plenty of folks in CKCS classes that I've taught over the years don't realize there are many hidden characters in their keyboards.

For this to work on an iOS device (think iPad), you must have a separate Bluetooth keyboard connected to your device. It doesn't work with the virtual on–screen keyboard.

Here are some examples of characters you can create simply by tapping on your keyboard:

¢ £ • › § ª º — ∞ ® † ¥ ¨ ^

You can use these characters in emails, word processors (such as Pages), spreadsheets (such as Numbers), and in social media postings such as Facebook.

For some reason, it's easier for my brain to read:

It was −15º below when we visited Edmonton!

Rather than:

It was 15 below when we visited Edmonton!

I hope to see you on Zoom June 11. If you are interested in attending the SIG meeting, send me an email at: lextown2@gmail.com

I will send you a Zoom link via email you can click on to join the session that evening.

What: Mac/iPad SIG (special interest group) meeting

When: June 11 at 7 P.M.

Where: Online using Zoom

If you want to attend the virtual SIG, email me at: lextown2@gmail.com

You'll get a Zoom link to click on the week of the SIG meeting.

●

The Moore Drive office is closed but CKCS is open — online.

Please take advantage of our online offerings as well as online workshops coming this summer.

●

I'll be teaching a two–hour Mac workshop via Zoom on July 21 from 10 A.M. – Noon. The session is called *Get More Out of Your Mac*.

To enroll, phone 859.373.1000. Leave your name and a phone number. You will get a call back where you'll be asked your credit card number to register. Remember – this is an online workshop – you have to use Zoom.

Do *not* leave your credit card number on voice mail. Before the workshop, you'll receive an email with the web address to join the Zoom session.

Memberships

New Members

None

Renewing Members

- **Nancy E Bonhaus**
- **James Brown**
- **Jerry Brown**
- **Anne Campbell**
- **William P Cox**
- **Robert Hackett**
- **Shelby C Jett**
- **Betsy Johnson**
- **Glenn & Rosalee Kelley**
- **Jerry M Monahan**
- **Karen Raulston**
- **Joseph A Settles**

Thank you!

A big thank–you to renewing members for helping us sustain CKCS. Because CKCS is a non–profit, it needs your support to thrive and survive.

Member of

apcug

Time for a *laugh and music*

Video Links

Quarantine (A "Dancing Queen" parody) (Thanks, Brooke)

Pop Culture (Covid–19 public service announcement) (Thanks, Jerry Heaton)

Amazing matchstick art (Thanks, Jerry Heaton)

Johnny Carson as Ronald Reagan spoof (Thanks, Jerry Heaton)

Buddy Hackett's duck joke has everyone rolling on The Tonight Show

The Vicar of Dibley (bloopers)

Mr. Bean bloopers

Keeping Up Appearances (Outtakes 1)

Keeping Up Appearances (Outtakes 4)

Keeping Up Appearances bloopers

Are You Being Served? Outtakes

Fawlty Towers (Top 10 scenes)

Raymond Burr spoofing Perry Mason on the Jack Benny Show, 1961

Best Carol Burnett Show Bloopers

Michael Davis Ford's Theatre (part 2) (Thanks, Brooke)

The next six links come from Newcomer's Club. (Thanks Brooke, for passing these along)

Let's start with a **trip on Route 66** starting with the late Glenn Frey's cover recording

You are now ready for **a video trip across the country** via Route 66

Maybe you would like to expand your travels to other parts of the country. Here are the **Top 10 scenic roads** to travel as compiled by the Mojo travel group

Interested in a **short trip**, find some new things to enjoy between Lexington and Louisville?

If you go on a **cross country car trip**, you will have to make a few stops for gasoline...here is a Route 66 station (jigsaw puzzle) just for you

Another Sunday tradition in many families was to read the funny paper in the Sunday newspaper: Here is a short summary of **100 years of Sunday Funnies**:

Victor Borge

Bob Newhart, Tonight Show, 1983

The one, the only **Groucho**

Even more video links

50 best **sports bloopers**

250 **best movies on Netflix** right now, ranked by tomatometer

100 **top movies** of all time

50 **Greatest Movie Outtakes** of all time

Top 20 **best westerns** of all time

James Arness **Gunsmoke** Bloopers and Outtakes

50 best **family movies** of all time

Wonderful World – Aussie Pops Orchestra

Here Comes the Sun (Camden Voices – self isolation / virtual choir cover)

Students sing together from home after coronavirus cancels concert

True Colors – (Camden Voices – self isolation / virtual choir cover)

Coro Virtuale – Virtual Choir – Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen)

They Long To Be Close to You – (*1970 #1 Billboard hit by The Carpenters* from Choir Couch)

Longest Time (Phoenix Chamber Choir) – Quarantine edition

You've Got A Friend – (London City Voices Choir)

Sound of Silence – Virtual Choir Oberstufenchor des Burger Roland-Gymnasiums und Ehemaligen

Coronavirus Rhapsody – Phoenix Chamber Choir

Viva la vida – (Cover by Hardenberg-Gymnasium-Fürth)

Heroes – Couch Choir (David Bowie)

A Mighty Fortress is our God – (Virtual Choir #4)

World's Largest Virtual Hallelujah Chorus

Worldwide Easter Virtual Choir

Rise Again – Choir of Women Physicians (Toronto)

How Can I Keep From Singing – NYC Virtual Choir & Orchestra

Waltzing Matilda – Virtual Choir Performance (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra)

50 Ways to catch Corona (Parody based on the Paul Simon hit)

U Can't Touch This

Coronavirus Rhapsody

Ave Maria – Coronavirus Quarantine (Tyrolean National Youth Choir)

Singing together despite coronavirus – Camden Voices (BBC, London)

You'll Never Walk Alone – 15 countries/ 300 people singing

Covid–19 2020 version (Julie Andrews)

Stayin' Inside – Coronavirus Bee Gees parody (from the #1 Billboard hit from 1977)

UK Blessing – Churches from around the United Kingdom sing 'The Blessing'

The Pittsburgh Blessing

Total Praise for Humanity – Greensleeves Gospel Choir

Dublin Youth Choir

'I Am Australian' – Everyday Choir

God Defend New Zealand – New Zealand's National Anthem (Virtual Choir Project)

Jolene Lockdown (Parody)

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