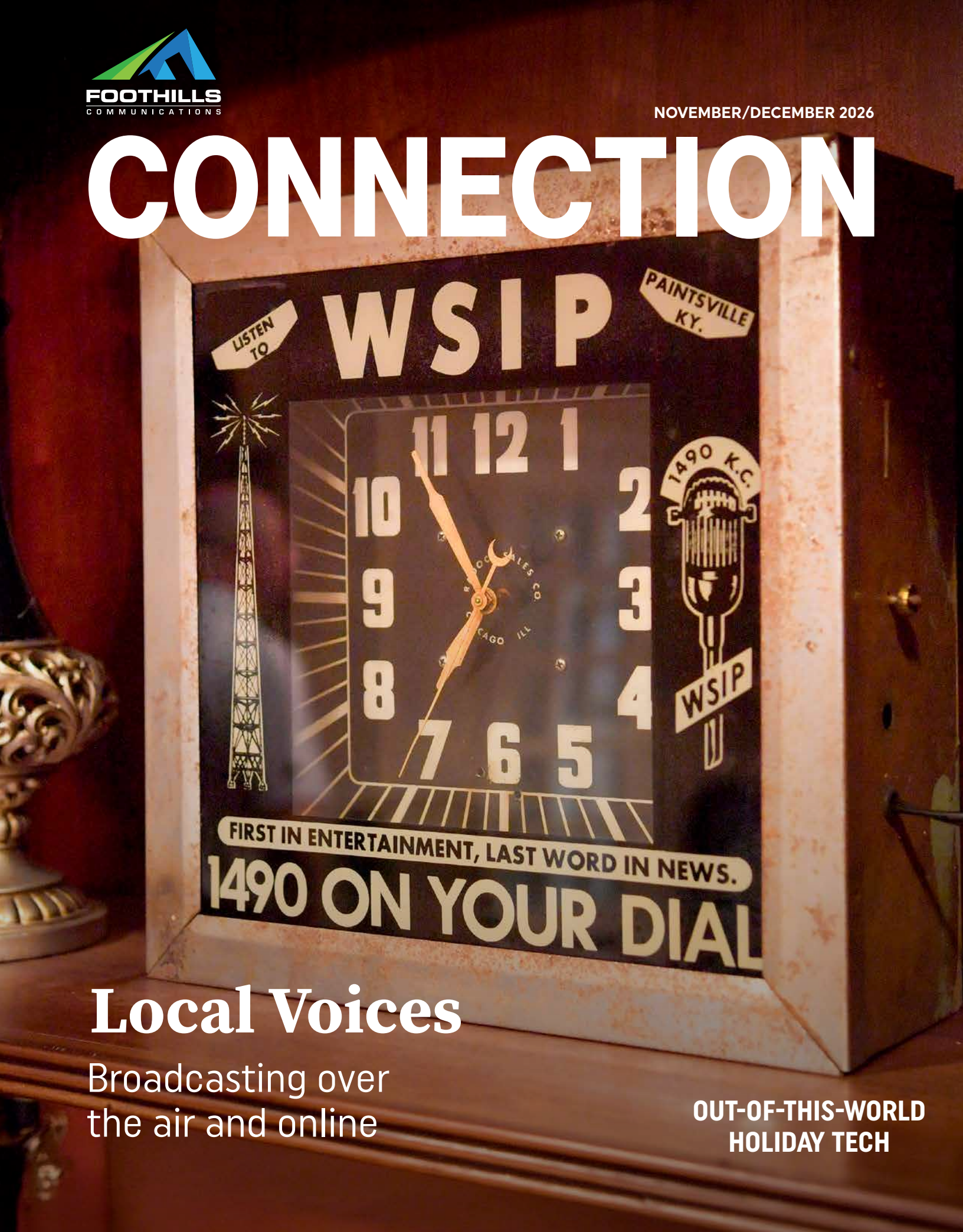
FOOTHILLS COMMUNICATIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

CONNECTION



Local Voices

Broadcasting over the air and online

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD HOLIDAY TECH



Original photo by Mark Gilliland

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Launch your smart home

Smart home devices can sometimes sound like science fiction. The truth is much more down-to-earth. Simply think of a smart home as a collection of devices that connect to your internet and are controlled by your phone, your voice or on a schedule you decide.

The possibilities seem as endless as a clear night sky, and that can feel intimidating. Fortunately, a little planning and knowledge go a long way. So, keep it simple at first.

START WITH THE BASICS

You don't need to outfit your entire home overnight. Begin with one or two devices that solve real needs. Smart speakers, which may include voice assistants, smart plugs and smart bulbs, are great entry points. They're affordable and easy to install. They can also show how everything works together.

PICK A HOME BASE

Most smart devices work through an app, and many people find it helpful to center their setup around a single ecosystem such as Amazon Alexa, Google Home or Apple Home. Adopting one system can make setup smoother and reduce compatibility headaches.

STRENGTHEN YOUR WI-FI

Your smart home runs on your internet connection, so a reliable Wi-Fi network is essential. If you notice slow speeds or dead zones, contact your broadband provider to learn about upgrading your router or other available options. A strong connection ensures your devices respond quickly and consistently.

NAME THINGS CLEARLY

It might sound mundane, but naming your devices thoughtfully makes a big difference. "Living Room Lamp" is much easier to remember and say out loud than "Plug 3." As your setup grows, clear names keep everything organized.

KEEP SECURITY IN MIND

Because these devices connect to the internet, it's important to protect them. Use strong, unique passwords and keep your apps and devices updated.

Before long, you'll find your home responding in quiet, helpful ways. And while there may not be an astronaut at your door, it might just feel like you've taken a small step into the future.

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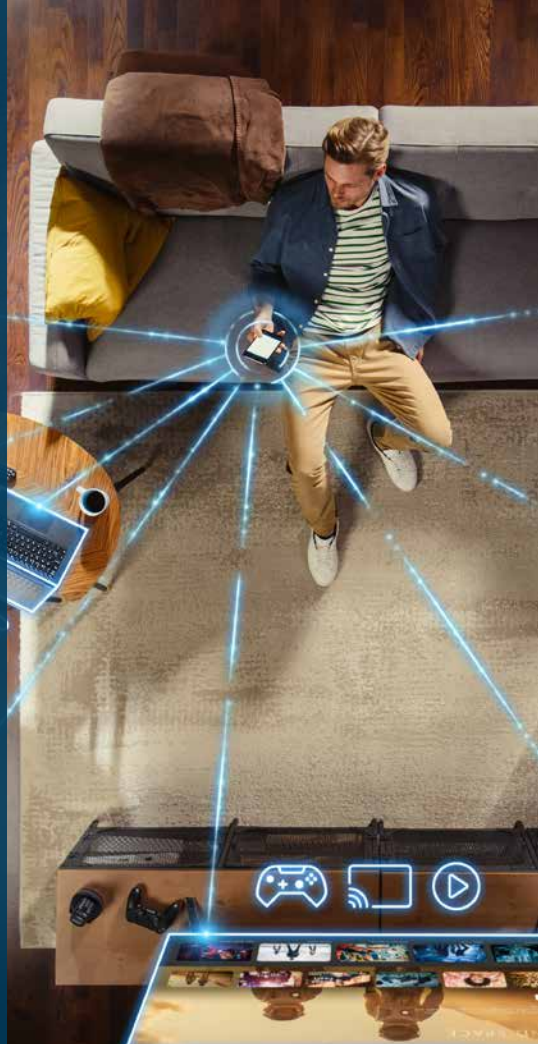
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Your launchpad to connected living

It really wasn't that long ago that the idea of a "smart home" sounded pretty futuristic. Today, smart devices are part of everyday life—and just about all of them have one thing in common: they depend on a good broadband connection.



RUTH CONLEY
Chief Executive Officer

Our new **Wi-Fi Wishbook** is a fun way to explore some of the technology available for your home, with ideas for almost every room—and even outside. From smart lighting, security cameras and thermostats to kitchen gadgets and entertainment, there are plenty of ways technology can make life a little easier, safer and more convenient.

And with Christmas just around the corner, you might even find a gift idea or two for someone on your list—or maybe something you decide you need for yourself.

The good news is you don't have to turn your house into the Jetsons' home overnight. Sometimes just one or two smart devices can make a bigger difference than you might expect.

Of course, none of those gadgets are very useful without a strong, reliable connection behind them. That's where Foothills comes in. We're proud to provide the fiber connection that keeps it all working.

Technology will keep changing, but our job remains pretty simple: **keeping you connected and ready for whatever comes next.**

FOOTHILLS COMMUNICATIONS
CONNECTION
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026 VOL. 13, NO. 6

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FOOTHILLS COMMUNICATIONS

Foothills is a member-owned cooperative that has been serving residents and businesses in Eastern Kentucky since 1951. In the early days, we only offered telephone service over copper wires. Over the years, we have expanded our network and now provide broadband internet and cable TV services over fiber optic facilities to much of our service area, which includes Magoffin, Johnson and Lawrence counties, as well as parts of Boyd and Carter counties and Prichard, West Virginia. We love being part of the communities we serve. Our customers are our families, friends and neighbors.

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Foothills Mission Statement
"To provide the latest in communications at affordable prices with exceptional service."

Produced for Foothills Communications by:
Pioneer UTILITY RESOURCES

On the Cover:



Photo courtesy of John Michael Laney

WSIP has been broadcasting music, local news, weather, traffic and sports from Paintsville for more than 75 years.
See story Page 6.

CONNECTED KITCHENS

Smarten up the heart of your home

LEAK DETECTORS

These small sensors monitor sinks, dishwashers and refrigerators and send an alert to your phone if they detect moisture. When shopping for the perfect detector, look for loud alarms. Some even pair with systems that shut off water automatically.

SMART COFFEE MAKERS, GRINDERS

Start brewing your next cup from your phone, with a voice command or by setting a schedule. Some models can grind beans just moments before brewing. Choose one that fits your coffee preferences. Simpler machines are often easier for everyday use.

DIGITAL FAMILY CALENDAR

This wall-mounted digital calendar displays schedules, chores and reminders for the whole household. Sync it with your Google or Apple calendar, and put it somewhere everyone will see it, like the entrance to the kitchen.

SMART OVENS

Smart ovens connect to your phone to preheat, adjust settings and send alerts when dinner is done. Look for easy-to-use controls and features you'll actually use when selecting one.

SMART REFRIGERATORS

A smart fridge monitors temperature, sends maintenance alerts and sometimes shows what groceries are inside. These are a larger investment than other smart kitchen appliances, so prioritize practical features.

SMOKE, HEAT AND GAS DETECTORS

These detectors send alerts to your phone and identify different risks. Look for long battery life and clear notifications. Some can even trigger other devices, like turning on the lights.





Original photo by Mark Gilliland

Tuned In

Local radio stations support the community

Story by LAURA McGILL

Broadcasting live from Main Street in Paintsville, WSIP 98.9 FM and its sister stations—WKYH 99.3 FM and 600 AM, WKLW 94.7 FM and WSIP 1490 AM—have distinct formats and personalities, catering to multigenerational audiences with a wide range of musical tastes.

Whether the playlist features Chris Stapleton, Taylor Swift, Loretta Lynn or hits from the ’70s, ’80s and today, all the stations, part of the Forcht Media family, share one very important attribute—dedication to the community.

“It is about the relationship,” General Manager Jamey Johnson says. “We have a strong connection with the people we serve.”

A PART OF THE COMMUNITY

WSIP’s 100,000-watt signal covers a 100-mile radius, making it possible to reach some Eastern Kentucky listeners. “When you are driving in the mountains here, there are only a few stations that you can hear,” Jamey says.

WSIP does more than supply the soundtrack for music fans’ commute. It’s also a trusted source for information on everything from local high school football to city council meetings and vital weather updates. By combining its over-the-air broadcast with its website, wsipfm.com, the Forcht Media app, the 98.9 WSIP - The Country Giant Facebook page and livestreams, the station extends its reach to keep listeners near and far informed and entertained around the clock.

Some listeners love to tune in for lighthearted banter, like the “Tasty Tuesday” segment, with discussion topics ranging from flavors of snack crackers to brands of ranch dressing. On



Photos courtesy of John Michael Laney

The Forcht Broadcasting Paintsville team includes, from left, Mike Fyffe, Adam Preece, Jamey Johnson, Olivia Ross and Scott Ratliff.

Wednesdays, the conversation is with County Judge Executive Mark McKenzie on topics like school bus routes, safety reminders and community events.

Each Friday, the "Community Highlights" segment shares the latest from the Johnson County Health Department. And the recurring "Pure Paintsville" program features interviews with representatives of the local tourism office to keep everyone informed about local happenings.

Other local updates include Facebook Live coverage of local government meetings, election night results from the courthouse and conversations with school superintendents. And the long-standing show "Swap Shop" is still on the air, connecting sellers and buyers of just about anything.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

Friday nights in the fall are especially busy for the radio stations because that means football coverage for three area high schools. WSIP FM broadcasts games for Johnson Central High School's Golden Eagles. The Tigers of Paintsville High School take to the field with WKLW. And for Lawrence County High School games, WKYH covers all the Bulldogs action.

The games are also carried live on the stations' websites and on their apps. This makes coverage available to fans well beyond the reach of the over-the-air signals. After the clock runs out on football season, the crew stays busy covering basketball, baseball and softball games.

In addition to local sports coverage, WSIP FM airs University of Kentucky football and basketball games. WKLW airs Cincinnati Bengals football, and WKYH airs Cincinnati Reds baseball.

LOCAL FOCUS

This variety of coverage is a lot of work for the staff, but according to Program Director Adam Preece, that's what makes WSIP and the other stations special.

"It goes back to what local radio is. It is local people talking about local things, highlighting the successes of our youth and being woven into the fabric of our communities," he says. "If local people are rallying behind something, so are our radio stations, because we're local people, too! It is different every day, and I like that."

THE SOUND OF HOME

The Country Giant 98.9 WSIP has been on the air for more than 75 years. It shares a staff and studios with sister stations WKYH 99.3 FM and 600 AM, WKLW 94.7 FM and WSIP's 1490 AM.

While listeners can expect to hear worldwide hits, they'll also learn a few things about what's happening close to home.

Listeners can tune in to WSIP FM each Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. for an hour of local music. The program is sponsored by the US 23 Country Music Highway Museum in Staffordsville. On Thursday nights, from 7-10 p.m., "Tommy Meade's Old Time Bluegrass Show" spotlights traditional bluegrass tracks and includes artist interviews and local guest musicians. Sundays are reserved for religious programming. "This could be the only church someone gets," General Manager Jamey Johnson says.

WSIP's regular programming lineup includes "Mornings with Jammin' Jamey," from 6-10 a.m.; "The Lunch Break with Scott," from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; "Afternoons with Adam," 3-7 p.m.; and Olivia Ross and Matt Johnson evenings and weekends.

Decisions about which songs hit the airwaves on each station are made locally. "We select all the songs," Program Director Adam Preece says, adding the stations take their reputation seriously. "We don't rely on syndicated programming because we want to be original. We like creating a fun, original product right here!"



Scott Ratliff, sports director, coordinates the local coverage of games from three high schools.



General Manager Jamey Johnson is on the air weekdays from 6-10 a.m.





Adobe Stock photo by ppa5

RELAXATION STATIONS

Bring the spa experience to your bed and bath

FRAGRANCE SYSTEM

Release your favorite scent on a schedule or whenever the device detects motion, keeping your space fresh without constant spraying. Look for adjustable intensity and simple app controls. Avoid placing it directly near vents.

SMART SHOWER EXHAUST

These fans clear steam and odors, and some feature voice control and automation. Models with built-in humidity sensors are especially helpful. They activate when steam rises. Check compatibility with your favorite voice assistant.

SMART BEDS

A smart bed can help shape how you feel when you start and end your day. Popular features include sleep data tracking and temperature control for optimal comfort. These systems often rely on a companion app for full functionality.

SMART CURTAINS

Automated curtains can gently let in natural light as you wake up. Look for quiet motors and check that the curtains fit your existing curtain rods. Battery-powered models are easier to install, but wired versions offer longer-term convenience.

SMART TOOTHBRUSHES

These high-tech dental devices build better daily habits by tracking how long and how well you brush. Look for an app that's easy to understand. Most connect via Bluetooth rather than Wi-Fi, and battery life varies by model.

AIR PURIFIERS

Compact air purifiers reduce moisture-related odors and airborne particles, keeping the bathroom feeling clean. Choose one suited for small spaces and look for an automatic mode that adjusts as air quality changes. Place it near, but not too close, to moisture sources.

NOW-THIS-IS-LIVING ROOMS

Level up your favorite gathering space

SMART SPEAKERS

These voice-controlled devices play music, answer questions and control other smart products. Place them where you love to lounge, near a couch or on a side table. Look for devices with clear voice recognition, which matters more than extra features. Google and Amazon offer solid options.

SMART DISPLAYS

Enhance the smart home experience with a screen. These convenient displays show video calls, recipes or camera feeds. They work best in spots where you glance often, like a media console. Check privacy settings and camera controls to stay confident about your security.

SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect directly to streaming apps and your home network, eliminating that clunky cable box. Look for an easy-to-navigate menu and reliable app support. A world of endless entertainment awaits.

SMART THERMOSTATS

A smart thermostat learns your schedule and preferences, adjusting temperatures automatically. It's an effortless way to control energy costs. Before buying, be sure to check the device's compatibility with your heating and cooling system.

GAMING CONSOLES

Modern consoles aren't just about online gaming. They also double as entertainment hubs that stream movies and shows, play music and connect to other devices like smart speakers.

PET FEEDERS AND CAMERAS

Automatic feeders and pet cameras keep you connected with your best buddies when you're away from home. Look for simple controls and reliable notifications.

ROBOT VACUUMS AND MOPS

Put your cleaning on a schedule. Robot vacuums and mops only need clear floor space to get to work. Mapping features help them learn the layout of your home, so efficiency improves over time.



Adobe Stock image by James S. Cowan


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KEEPING TABS ON YOUNG EXPLORERS

Tools designed with child safety in mind

Designed for children of all ages, from infants to teens, smart home devices can help ensure a safe environment even when the kids are not in.

IN-ROOM MONITORS

Smart monitors stream live video to smartphones. Some models can notify parents when their little one is moving around more than normal. Others double as sleep trackers and even play lullabies and white noise to soothe the baby back to sleep.

SMART LOCKS TO THE RESCUE

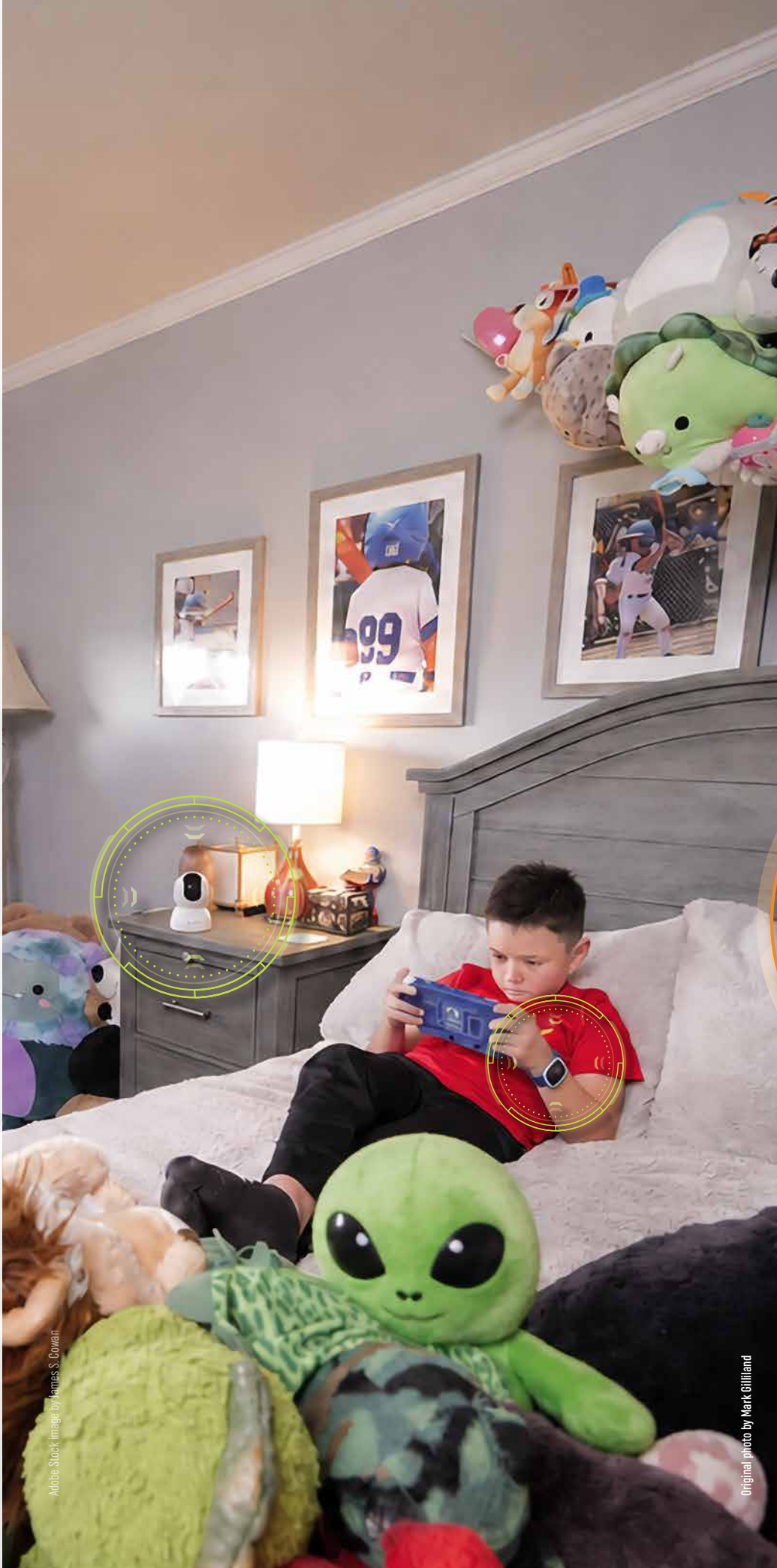
Avoid that moment of panic when a busy child locks himself in his room. Modern smart locks are considered “invisible” due to their slimline looks. App compatibility, remote access and door status detection complete the package.

WATCH THIS!

Sure, they tell time, but today’s smartwatches also include two-way calling, limited texting to preapproved contacts, GPS tracking and school-mode settings to reduce distractions. Some even provide video calling and voice memos.

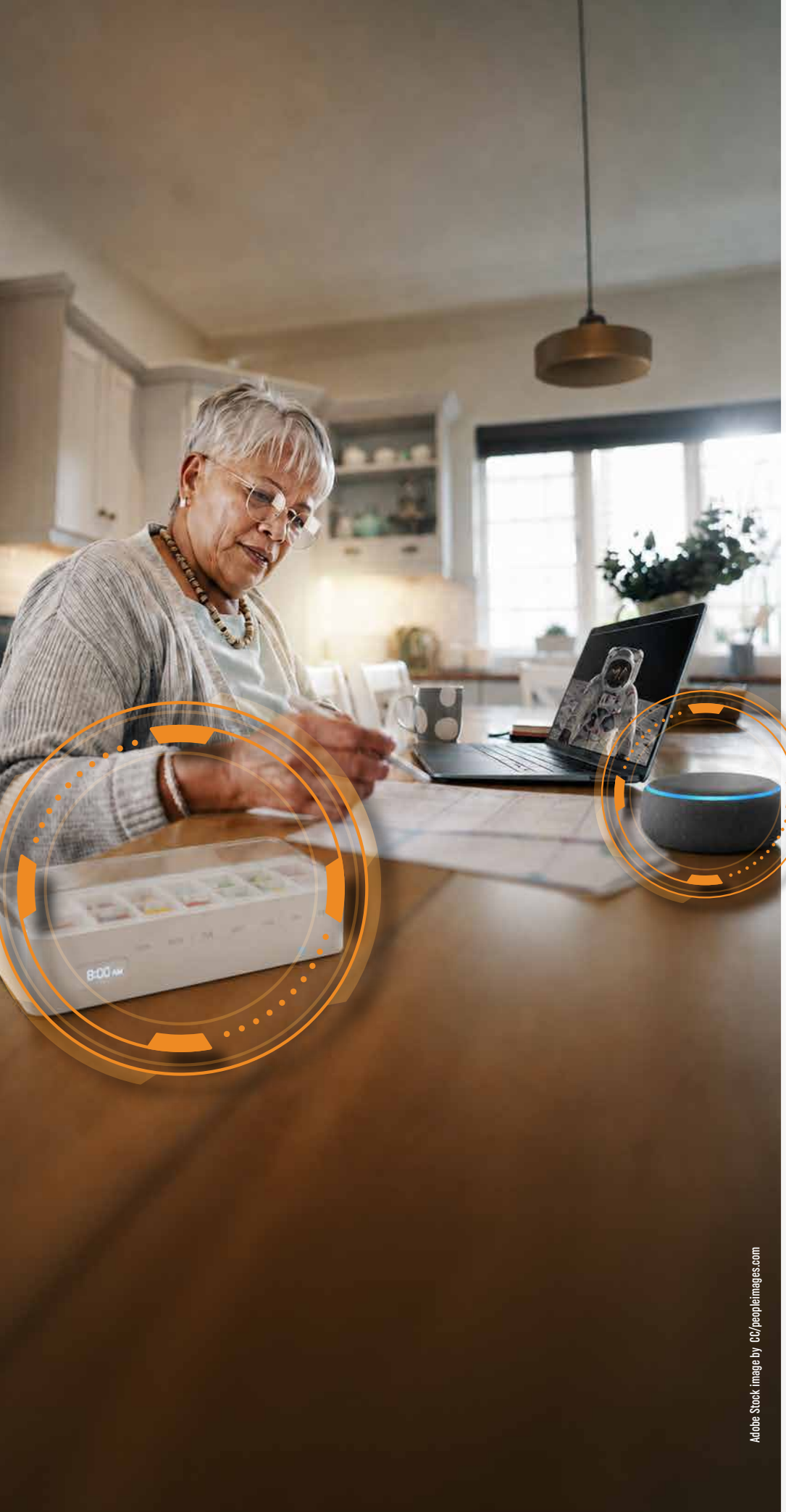
ALWAYS IN TOUCH

Infants and toddlers are not ready for advanced wearables, but a GPS tracker offers real-time location data and can even alert parents when their child leaves a preset safe zone. Small and lightweight, they can be attached to a backpack, belt loop or shoe. Many come with an SOS button to send a location alert.



Adobe Stock image by James S. Cowan

Original photo by Mark Gilliland



Adobe Stock image by CC/peopleimages.com

SAFE SIGNALS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Smart tools help enable independent living

Wi-Fi-enabled tech tools can provide safety and peace of mind for loved ones of older adults who want to stay in their own homes.

SMART SPEAKERS

Smart speakers can remind someone to exercise, take medications and ease feelings of isolation. They can also be an important lifeline in the event of a fall or injury, with voice prompts to call emergency contacts.

PILL ORGANIZERS

Multiple medications with different dosing schedules can be hard to keep track of. A smart pill container organizes them by time and day of the week. You can also set reminders and controls to release only the needed pills at the required time to avoid accidental overdosing.

APPLIANCES

At some point just about everyone forgets to turn off the lights or oven. Smart appliances can automatically turn off after a period of inactivity. Smart plugs and outlets can control other devices from a phone or tablet and even connect with a smart speaker to allow voice commands.

STAY ALERT

Even with safety features in place, accidents and health emergencies happen. Stand-alone medical alert systems can be placed in a central location, or a wearable device can call for help with the push of a button. Some can detect falls, even if the person is unable to press the button, or monitor medical conditions like diabetes.

BRING YOUR SMART HOME TO LIFE

Once your smart home is up and running, dial it in to operate as smoothly as possible.

MATCH THE DEVICE TO THE JOB

Not every smart option is interchangeable. For example, smart bulbs are great for lamps and fixtures. Smart switches make more sense for built-in ceiling lights. Trying to use both on the same circuit may mean you can't control the lights at all. So, pick the right type of device for the job to create predictability.

PAY ATTENTION TO POWER

Device behavior may change based on how it's powered.

Battery-powered devices are easier to install but may respond slower to preserve battery life. Plug-in devices tend to be faster and more reliable, but they need a nearby outlet. So, choose plug-in options for devices like security cameras or doorbells.

KNOW YOUR WI-FI BANDS

Many newer routers offer two Wi-Fi bands, 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz. The distinction matters.

Many devices are built to work on the 2.4 GHz band because it travels farther and handles walls better. When setting up devices, check the instructions to verify the correct Wi-Fi band.

SENSOR STRATEGY

Motion sensors can feel magical or mildly annoying, depending on how they're placed.

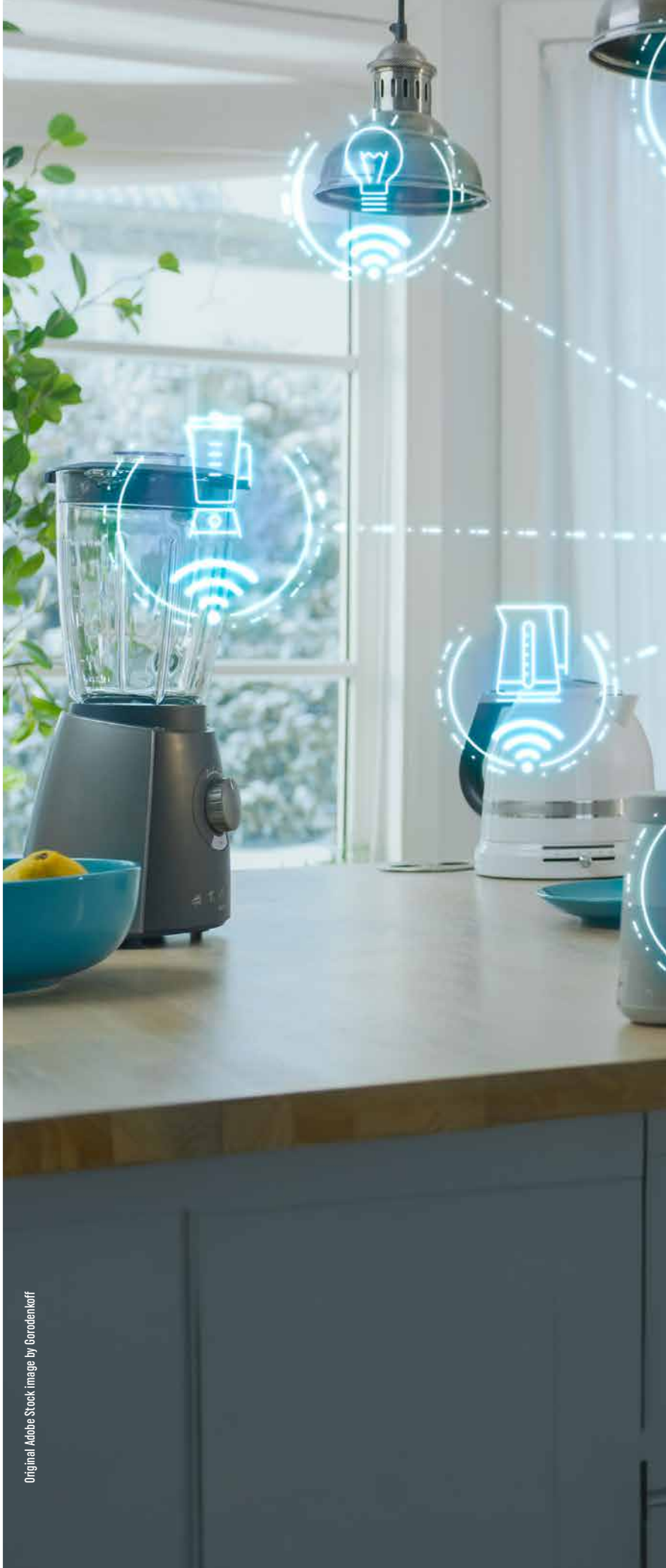
Shifting sunlight or passing cars can trigger a window-facing sensor. Also, if a sensor is aimed too high or too low, it may miss movement altogether.

For best results, place sensors where people naturally cross their path, and avoid direct exposure to windows or heat sources.

UNDERSTAND DELAY AND 'LAG'

If a smart device doesn't respond instantly, it's usually doing extra work behind the scenes. A voice command travels to your speaker, to remote servers and finally back to your device. If your internet connection is busy, each step is more noticeable.

When timing matters, like turning on lights when you enter a room, consider using local controls, such as motion sensors or switches, instead of voice commands.



Original Adobe Stock image by Gorodenkoff



BACKYARD BLISS

Let gadgets take the chores out of the outdoors

SMART WATERING SYSTEMS

No need to remember to water the lawn or garden ever again. These systems automatically handle it based on schedules, weather or soil conditions. Look for options that adjust to rainfall and connect easily to your existing sprinkler setup. Placement matters—zones should match the needs of different plants.

SMART GRILLS

Use connected thermometers and apps to cook with precision. You can even check temperatures from your smartphone without lifting the lid. Look for clear readouts and reliable alerts.

SMART BIRDHOUSES AND FEEDERS

These devices include small cameras, letting you watch birds visit and even identify species in real time. Choose a model with weather resistance and a simple app. Placement should balance visibility with a bit of privacy for your feathered friends.

SMART CHICKEN COOPS

A smart coop door opens and closes automatically, usually based on light or a schedule, protecting your chickens at night. Battery life and durability are important, especially in changing weather.

ROBOT MOWERS

Robot mowers quietly trim your lawn on a schedule. They are best in yards with clear boundaries and minimal obstacles. Setup can take a little time, but once mapped, they keep yards tidy with little effort.

WEATHER STATIONS

A home weather station tracks conditions like temperature, rainfall, wind and humidity right where you live, giving you more precise insight than a general forecast. Look for easy-to-read displays and app integration. Sensors should be in open areas, away from buildings or trees that could skew readings.



AI-generated image by Brandon Pomienke



Engineering the Future

Lawrence County graduate pursues a high-tech aerospace career

Story by LAURA McGILL

Mark Webb, a 2021 Lawrence County High School graduate, has his sights set on the stars. Literally.

Earlier this year, Mark earned his Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from the University of Alabama. He is now living in Huntsville, also known as Rocket City, and works nearby in Decatur for Hexcel, the world's largest producer of aerospace carbon fiber.

Mark's interest in engineering stems from a love of science. "As early as middle school, I was watching YouTube videos about random scientific stuff and being super interested in it, but I didn't have any specific idea of what I wanted to do," he says. "Over time, I started gaining a lot of general knowledge about space."

Mark credits his time at LCHS for providing clarity. "It wasn't until I started taking engineering classes in high school and college that I realized my real interest was creative problem-solving, which led me to choose engineering as a career path," he says. "Blending that with my interest in space, I chose aerospace engineering."

While attending LCHS, Mark enrolled in the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State University. The dual enrollment program allows students to earn college credit while completing their high school diploma. "My two primary classes were space systems engineering and astronomy," he says. "The goal was to see which one I liked better to help me make a decision between pursuing a career in astrophysics or in aerospace engineering."

Mark's mother, Molly Meek, says when Mark graduated high school there were no colleges in Kentucky offering a degree in aerospace engineering. "This opened up scholarships that Mark was able to apply for and then received, which provided him the opportunity to attend the University of Alabama," she says.

To make sure this move so far from home was going to be a good fit, Molly says the family toured the campus in April of Mark's senior year of high school. "After the tour, I knew that he had found something he loved," she says. "The professor we spoke with told him that in the field of aerospace you have to have a knowledge of all types of engineering—mechanical, chemical and electrical, to name a few. I knew that he would be able to do so many things with this degree that he would be able to find a job he loved."



Photo courtesy of Mark Webb

Mark Webb graduated from the University of Alabama in May, earning a degree in aerospace engineering.

FINDING COMMUNITY

Mark admits he had some challenges in college. "I think I had to learn how to study better, but more importantly, I think I had to develop a determination and discipline to get work done and stay on top of my studies," he says. He credits his fiancee, Raquel O'Neill, with keeping him on course. "She's such a positive force in my life and always pushed me to work harder and stay focused even when I didn't feel like it," he says.

In his new job, Mark has found other rewarding relationships. "The folks I work with are great to be around and also super talented at what they do," he says. "So, I'm consistently having positive interactions and learning a lot from the people there. I've learned that a collaborative environment like that really helps everyone to succeed."

SEASON'S CHEATINGS

Six holiday scams to watch for this Christmas

Holiday excitement can make it easy to let your guard down. Keep your season merry by avoiding these common holiday schemes.

CHECK THE CARD

Inspect gift cards and packaging for signs of tampering before buying. Scammers can steal card numbers, then drain the balance once money is loaded onto the card. When possible, choose cards kept securely behind the counter.

SKIP THE SWAP

Social media gift exchanges promising multiple presents in return for sending just one gift are classic pyramid schemes. They can expose your name and home address to strangers. The U.S. Postal Service considers them illegal.

QUESTION THE DEAL

An unbelievable holiday bargain may be bait. Fake shopping ads can lead to bogus websites designed to steal payment and personal information. Check links carefully and shop directly through websites and retailers you trust.

PAUSE BEFORE CLICKING

Unexpected package alerts, tracking links and urgent holiday messages can be phishing attempts. Don't click unfamiliar links or respond to suspicious calls, texts or emails. Instead, verify the information directly with the company or sender.

INSPECT THE APP

Santa chats, reindeer cams and other holiday apps can be fun, but some may collect personal information or carry malware. Check reviews, privacy policies and parental controls before downloading any apps.

VERIFY BEFORE GIVING

Don't let scammers take advantage of your holiday generosity. Research charities before donating, resist high-pressure requests and make sure you know where your money is going. Established charities can be checked through give.org.

SPOT A SCAM?

Report suspected scams and find consumer tips through the Better Business Bureau's Scam Tracker at bbb.org.



Adobe Stock image by Masque

GARAGE GLOW-UP

Storage solutions get smarter

SMART GARAGE DOOR OPENER

Open and close the garage door from your phone, no matter where you are. These devices also can send alerts if you leave the door open. Look for models that work with your existing opener, or consider a full replacement if yours is older.

SMART TOOL CONTROLLERS

A smart tool controller connects to outlets or power strips, letting you turn tools on or off remotely or on a schedule. This can add a layer of safety—especially for devices you don't want left running.

MOTION SENSORS

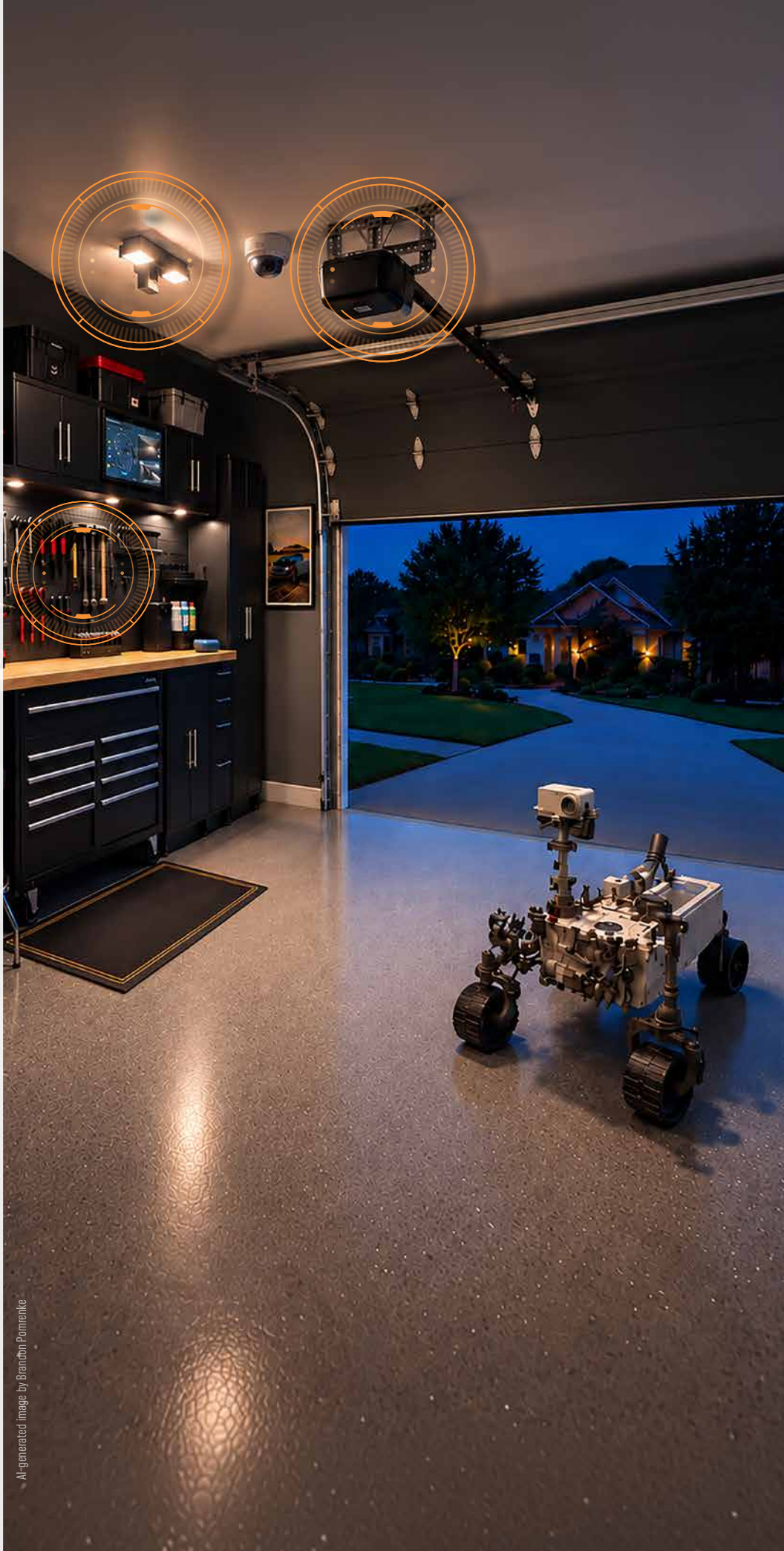
Triggering lights by detecting movement, these devices mean no more fumbling for switches when your hands are full. Place them in your home where you naturally enter or move through, and adjust sensitivity to avoid false alerts.

TOOL TRACKING SYSTEMS

Keep tabs on valuable equipment. These systems often use small tags paired with an app to show where tools are—especially useful for those that move between the garage, yard and other workspaces. Look for long battery life and simple setup.

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY SENSORS

These sensors monitor conditions inside your garage, which can affect tools, stored items and even your car. They send updates to your phone so you can catch issues earlier, like excess moisture. Place them away from doors or direct drafts for more accurate readings.



AI-generated image by Brandon Pomrenke



Original Adobe Stock image by Ranju

SHARE YOUR SOUNDTRACK

Take your tunes to every room

MULTIROOM LINKED SPEAKERS

Play the same music throughout your home or different songs in different rooms. Simply put, these speakers keep everything in sync. Look for systems with easy grouping controls and reliable connections. Placement matters: Spread them evenly so sound feels balanced, not crowded.

WI-FI TURNTABLE

A Wi-Fi turntable blends classic vinyl with modern streaming. It spins tunes while also sending the audio to wireless speakers, a great option for record fans who don't want to be tied to one room. Check compatibility with your speaker system, and keep the turntable on a stable, vibration-free surface.

A SMART DISPLAY FOR MUSIC CONTROL

A smart display, like a Nest Hub, acts as a visual control center. It can show lyrics, album art and playlists while letting you control playback with your voice or a quick tap. Place it someplace convenient, like a kitchen counter or side table, and review privacy settings so it fits your comfort level.

SMART GUITAR AMP

Devices like smart guitar amps and connected apps let musicians adjust tones, save presets and even record, making it easier to experiment without extra gear. Look for intuitive controls and headphone options if you want to keep your compositions to yourself.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

In observance of the upcoming holidays, our offices will be closed on the following dates:

Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27

Christmas: Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25

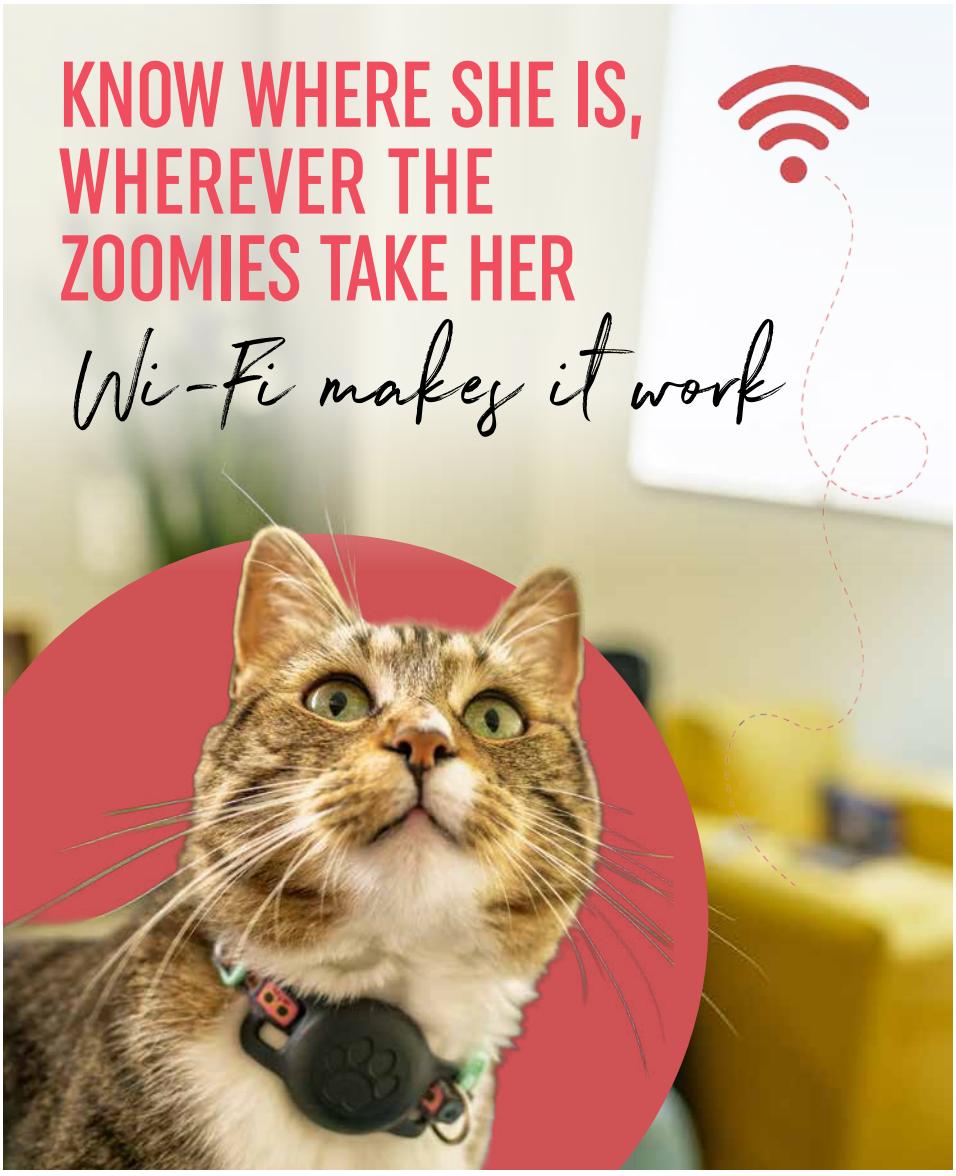
New Year's Day: Friday, Jan. 1

A Grateful Nation Gives Thanks

Foothills proudly honors the men and women who served in our armed forces.

Thank you for your service.



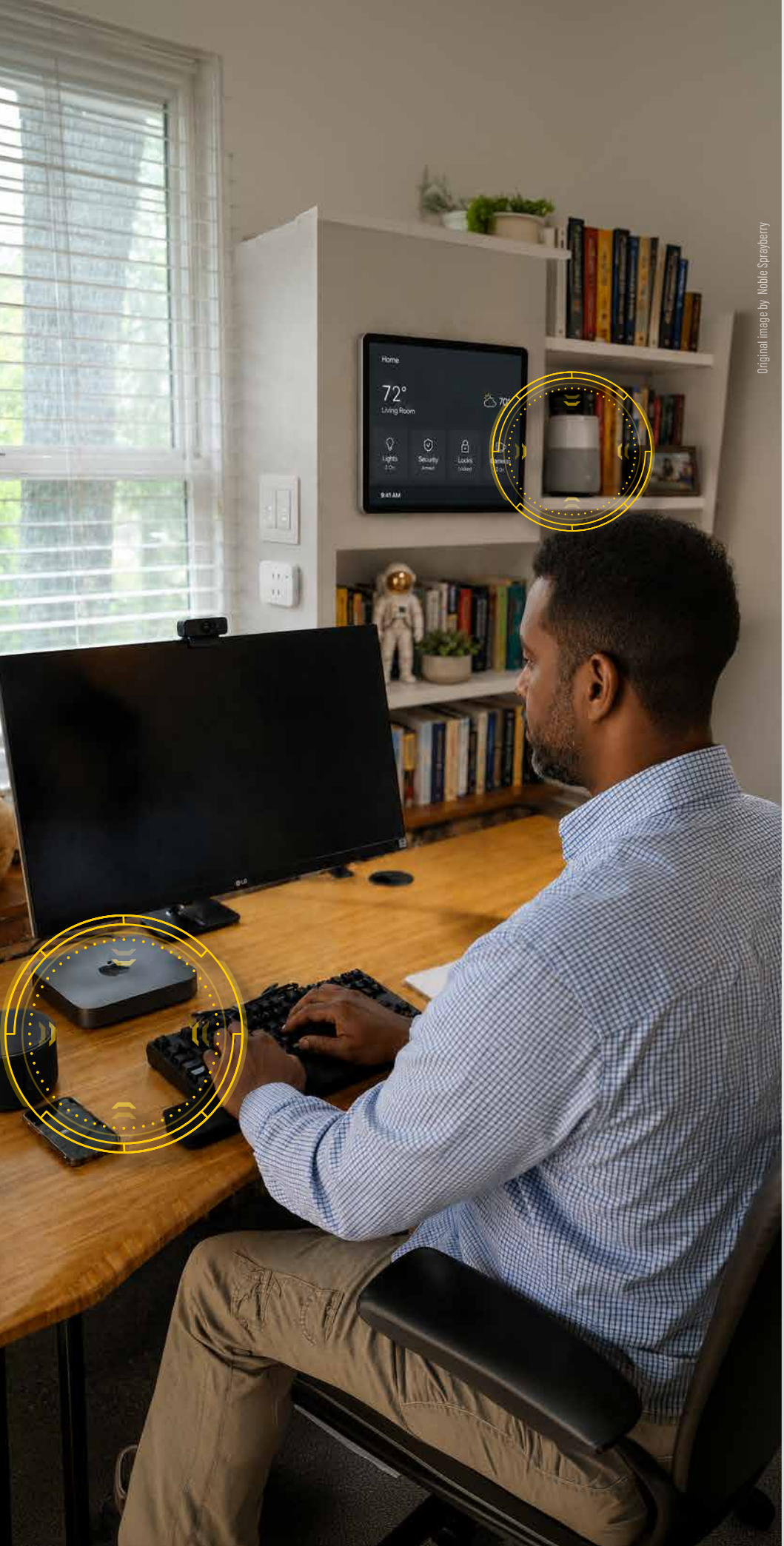


FREE PREMIUM MOVIES FOR FOOTHILLS TV SUBSCRIBERS

Enjoy a free preview of premium movie channels for the holidays!

Beginning Dec. 23 and running through New Year's Day, access HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, Starz, Starz Encore and MGM+ for free!





Original image by Noble Sprayberry

PRIORITIZE PRODUCTIVITY

Customize your work-from-home setup

Working from home is now a way of life for many people. And while a kitchen table and laptop may get the job done, having the right setup can make a big difference in comfort, focus and productivity.

A smart workspace takes advantage of connected technology to simplify tasks, reduce distractions and help you stay on course throughout the day. Consider thoughtful additions that make a difference in creating a more efficient and comfortable work environment.

IMPROVE YOUR CONNECTION

A reliable internet connection is crucial for any part of your smart home setup, but you really don't want to worry about interruptions during important video calls or in the middle of uploading a large file. If your connection feels slow or inconsistent, consider the location of your router or whether your work may require more bandwidth.

CREATE A FOCUSED SPACE

Begin with devices that support your daily routine. With a smart speaker or display, you can help manage your schedule, set reminders and answer quick questions without interrupting your workflow.

Add smart plugs and lighting to turn on lights at the start of your day or adjust brightness and temperature with a simple voice command when you're in the zone.

Noise-canceling headphones or even app-controlled white noise machines create a more focused atmosphere. You can also use smart assistants to set timers for focused work sessions or breaks, helping you stay productive throughout the day.

KEEP SECURITY IN MIND

Because your work may involve sensitive information, it's important to protect your devices and network. Use strong passwords, enable two-factor authentication when available and keep your software up to date. Be sure to review the privacy settings on your devices, too.

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