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Let New Hope Telephone Cooperative handle your messages

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Sign up for NHTC Voice Mail
and we'll waive the \$10 connection fee!

- Retrieve your messages from any phone, anywhere
- No tapes to break or answering machines to tear up
- The most convenient way to manage your messages



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Put New Hope Voice Mail to work for you.

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A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

Communicator

Vol. 3, No. 2

April 2004

**NHTC
Board of
Directors
names new
General
Manager**



DAR's Winning Ladies

NHTC Annual Meeting set for Tuesday, May 18

Changes will help cooperative adhere to bylaws

Members should make plans now to attend the Annual Meeting of New Hope Telephone Cooperative. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18 at the New Hope High School Auditorium.

Doors open at 5 p.m., with the business meeting set for 7:30 p.m.

Elections will be held for the Place 4 and Place 5 positions on the Board of Directors.

Members of this year's Nominating Committee are Jim Richard of New Hope (chairman), Tony Craig of Owens Cross Roads, and Scott

Chandler of Grant.

Important changes have been made to this year's Annual Meeting, in an effort to more closely follow NHTC's bylaws:

1) Every voting member will be required to present a photo identification when registering.

2) An alphabetical roster will be used to check off members' names during registration.

These changes will help ensure better adherence to the 'one member, one vote' policy as spelled out in the cooperative's bylaws.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP STATUS

The bylaws governing New Hope Telephone Cooperative establish a 'one member, one vote' principle. During the past several years, that principle has not been strictly followed, with members receiving an additional membership when adding a phone line. NHTC's attorney has advised the Board of Directors that this policy should be strictly adhered to. In an effort to get in line with federal statutes — and to avoid jeopardizing the company's status as a cooperative — NHTC has launched a project to consolidate all multiple membership that have been issued to individuals or businesses who have multiple phone lines. This move will in no way affect capital credits earned by members; no one will lose any money as a result of the consolidations. In fact, this move will save NHTC considerable administration costs. More information concerning this project will appear in future issues of The Communicator magazine.

Capital Credit Refunds will be mailed in May

The Board of Directors for New Hope Telephone Cooperative recently approved a two-and-a-half percent (2.5%) refund of capital credits for all members. These refunds will represent 2.5% of the total capital credits each member has accumulated to date, less any refunds already given.

This is another example of the

benefit of a cooperative, Board members stated. The profits of New Hope Telephone are not sent to out-of-town investors; rather, they remain in the communities that are served by the cooperative.

Refund checks are scheduled to be mailed to members the first week in May.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative

is a member-owned corporation dedicated to providing communications technology to the residents and businesses of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

Board of Directors

Barry Mefford, President
New Hope Exchange

Greg Glover, Vice President
Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Jimmy Segler, Secretary
Grant Exchange

Jeff Cooper, Treasurer
New Hope Exchange

David Ayers
Grant Exchange

Johnny Cobb
New Hope Exchange

Jeff DeArmond
Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Jim Duncan
New Hope Exchange

Dennis Pence
Grant Exchange

The Communicator

Vol. 3, No. 2 April 2004

is a bimonthly magazine published by New Hope Telephone Cooperative, © 2004. It is distributed without charge to all members/owners of the Cooperative. For questions or comments, please contact:

New Hope Telephone Cooperative
Tammy Pritchett or Sue Whitaker
P.O. Box 452
New Hope, Alabama 35760
Telephone: (256) 723-4211
www.nehp.net

This publication is produced for New Hope Telephone by:



www.WordSouth.com

Springtime Photo Winners



1st place - Madelyn Grace Spray, daughter of Amanda & Jeffrey Spray. Photo by Jenny Green.
2nd place - Reagan Fichtner, photo by mother Carla Fichtner.
3rd place - MaHaley Belle Mann, daughter of Joey & Davina Mann. Photo submitted by MeeMee & Poppa (John & Linda Honea).

Honorable Mention



PHOTO CONTEST: We're looking for your favorite Summertime photos to use in the June issue of *The Communicator*. Send photos to: NHTC • P.O. Box 452, New Hope, Alabama 35760. We will select winners for publication in our next issue! If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print, plus receive a free gift from NHTC.

Deadline for entry: May 10, 2004.

NOTE: Be sure to include photographer's name, address and phone number, as well as name of any people featured in your photos.

All submissions become the property of New Hope Telephone Cooperative and will not be returned. By submitting your photos: (1) you attest that you are the creator and owner of the photos, (2) you give New Hope Telephone permission to publish your material in *The Communicator*, (3) you agree to offer said photos without the expectation of payment from New Hope Telephone, and (4) you understand that photos are selected for publication in *The Communicator* at the sole discretion of New Hope Telephone, and that submission of your photo does not guarantee your photo will appear in the magazine.

— RECIPES —

Chocolate Tower

- 9x13 pan brownies, prepared
- 2 boxes chocolate mousse, prepared separately
- 6 Heath™ bars, crushed
- 1 large tub Cool Whip™

In trifle bowl, break half of pan of brownies into pieces and put in bottom of bowl. Then layer mousse, Heath™ bars, and Cool Whip™. Repeat layers. Refrigerate.

—Submitted by Evie Whitaker

Quick & Easy Beef Noodle Dinner

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 pkg. egg noodles
- 1 8-oz. carton of sour cream french onion dip, or sour cream
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup

Cook noodles and drain. Brown ground beef and drain. Mix sour cream and soup together, then stir into beef and simmer until warm. Serve over noodles or you may mix all together.

—Submitted by Patsy Martin

2ND ANNUAL Golf Tournament

SPONSORED BY
GRANT FIRE & RESCUE

May 1, 2004 • 8:00 a.m.
at Twin Lakes Golf Course

4 Man Scramble
\$200 team entrance fee
1st & 2nd place awards
1st & 2nd flight

All proceeds go toward the
purchase of a new fire truck.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
JOE POWELL—582-8616; JAMES FUELL—
728-4948; BOB DAVIS—728-2698; OR
ROBERT PATTERSON—728-2286

Pageant to crown South Hampton's beauty queen

The South Hampton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will host a beauty pageant to celebrate National Nursing Home Week.

The event is planned for Friday, May 14, beginning at 6 p.m. "It's a lot of fun," says Sheila LaCourse, who coordinates activities for the Center. "The ladies love getting fixed up and participating in the pageant."

The Center's winner will travel to Birmingham in August for the national competition.

The public is welcome to attend the Center's evening of fun. "We also need performers to entertain before the event," says LaCourse.

During the celebration, the Center will host a jewelry sale, with proceeds benefiting the activities department.

For more information about the pageant or opportunities to volunteer, please contact LaCourse at 725-3400.

OWENS CROSS ROADS PTO

2ND ANNUAL
SPRING FLING

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2004 • 11 A.M. 'TIL 3 P.M.

A lot of fun for the whole family!

Games • Balloons • Dunkin' Booth • Moon Bounce • Slide
Rock Climbing • and much more!

Concessions Open

Purchase arm bands for unlimited rides all day

\$10 ADVANCE • \$12 DAY OF SPRING FLING

ARM BANDS GO ON SALE MARCH 29, 2004 AT OWENS CROSS ROADS SCHOOL.

Come join the fun and activities!

Volunteer spirit strong at OCR School



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE—Pictured left to right are: (top row) OCR Homemakers Club members Terra Wilcox, Glenda Patterson, Barbara Webster Glenda Moody, and club president Debbie O'Neal; (bottom row) OCR teacher Mariann Shipman, parent-teacher liaison Patra Lyons, and principal Dr. Donna Goode.

Members of the Owens Cross Roads Homemakers Club understand the importance of volunteering their time for today's child. They highly support the volunteer program at Owens Cross Roads School. "If everyone could just light one candle," says club member Terra Wilcox, "what a bright world it would be." The club meets every fourth Tuesday, and anyone wishing to participate should call 723-2314.

Owens Cross Road Elementary has started a volunteer reading program, and is looking for readers and listeners to work with students. If you'd like to help, contact Patra Lyons at 725-4233.

Blakemore new NHTC manager

Terry Blakemore has spent the past 16 years in the fast-paced world of deregulated telecommunications. Now he's ready to apply his experience and knowledge to serving the members of New Hope Telephone Cooperative.

The NHTC Board of Directors recently named Blakemore as the new general manager for the cooperative. He replaces Tom Butler, who retired in January after 30 years of service.

Blakemore and his family have resided the past two decades in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he served as general manager of TennMark Telecommunications, Inc.

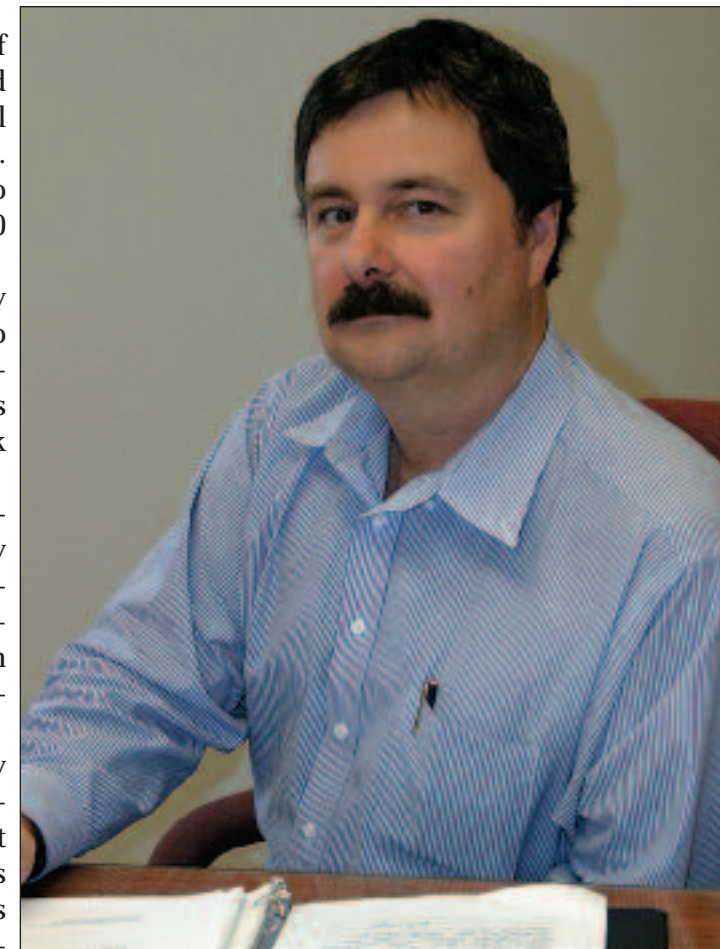
"TennMark was a deregulated telephone subsidiary owned by three cooperatives," Blakemore says, "Bledsoe, North Central, and Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperatives."

The company initially focused on installing and supporting state-of-the-art telecommunications systems for commercial accounts served by the three cooperatives. Blakemore saw an opportunity to expand the business to state government agencies, and grew TennMark five-fold in the process.

It was during this growth period that Blakemore established many relationships in Montgomery, serving the telecommunications needs of a number of state agencies. He was also an active member of the Alabama-Mississippi Telephone Association.

The three cooperatives which owned TennMark sold the profitable

company in 1999 to raise working capital for system expansions. The worldwide company that acquired TennMark came to rely heavily on Blakemore's extensive knowledge of the regulated and deregulated



telecommunications environment, as well as his understanding of industry trends.

As a result Blakemore found himself traveling across the country. As his frequent flyer miles accumulated, so did the time he was spending away from his wife, Denette, and sons Evan and Lee (now ages 15 and 8, respectively).

With plans for European travel in the near future, Blakemore decided it was time to slow the pace. That's

when he discovered a job posting on the Web site of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association. "It said a telephone cooperative in New Hope, Alabama, was searching for a general manager," Blakemore recalls. "I thought I had been everywhere in Alabama, but I didn't know where New Hope was."

He and his wife found New Hope on the map, and eventually discovered many things they liked about the region — including the school systems and the recreational activities afforded by the area's natural beauty.

NHTC's Board of Directors was as impressed with Blakemore as he was with north Alabama. He was selected from a field of applicants and offered the chance to lead the cooperative into the future.

"I look forward to working with all the cooperative employees," says Blakemore, who employs a team player management style. "And I'm excited about working for and supporting the Board of

Directors, to implementing its policies and pursuing its business goals."

With a long history of cooperative experience, Blakemore understands that NHTC members expect and deserve first-class service. "I'm dedicated to working with everyone at New Hope Telephone Cooperative to consistently meet or exceed member expectations," he says. "And I look forward to getting to know the people of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads." ■

Six seniors leave behind legacy in DAR girls basketball

The six seniors on DAR's varsity girls basketball team have enjoyed an incredible high school career, and they are leaving behind some impressive stats.

"Four out of the six have played varsity ball since their ninth-grade year," says their coach, Jimmy Jones. In addition to being solid athletes, Jones says the departing seniors are "super role models for the younger kids... and also the older kids."

It has been an amazing run for the six seniors — Tracy Choat, Dori Giles, Mia Keller, Brooke Largen, Tiffany Moore and Mary Beth Sivley. Consider the stats:

- Overall four-year record 104-27
- Four-year regular season area champions
- Four-year area tourney champions
- Area record of 50-1
- Regional finalist all four years
- Regional win and Final Four appearance in 2004
- Four-year record versus 3A schools of 58-4

Never mind that DAR is the smallest school in Marshall County. Its basketball program holds its own, in part because it is built on strong tradition. "We have a lot of kids playing now whose moms or dads played here," says DAR Principal Charles Edmonds, himself a former track student under Jones.

"On Friday nights," he says, "everything shuts down in Grant and everybody goes to the basketball game."

Jones has been the driving force behind DAR's girls varsity basketball program for the past five years. "He's one of those people you can trust," says Phillip Cooper, New Hope Telephone Cooperative employee and father of a DAR student. "He wants these girls to be good people, besides being good basket-

ball players."

Cooper says Jones strives to teach his players "that hard work and determination equal success, not only on the court but also in the classroom. He wants his players to display character that will help them be successful in life once their basketball careers are over."

Edmonds agrees. "Coach Jones does an outstanding job, and he works very hard," Edmonds says. "Plus, he's a great guy and a fine Christian man... who else would you want coaching your girls than Jimmy Jones?"

Despite the long hours and commitment, Jones has enjoyed the past five years. "It's been a good run," he says. "These girls have given their community and their families a lot to be proud of."

"They've acted like young ladies on and off the court," he adds. He also realizes that the departing seniors have set the bar a little higher for those who follow them. "They've left a great legacy for the younger kids," he says, "and they're motivated to work hard and get back to Birmingham."

While the team is losing a great deal of experience at graduation, Jones is positive about next year's basketball season. "We've got some good young talent coming on," he says. "And they have a chance to be as successful as the ones leaving."

Regardless of the outcome, two things are certain: the girls will work hard this coming season and give it their best... and the whole town will be there to support them. ■



A CLASS ACT—Members of the 2003-2004 DAR Girls Varsity Basketball team have forged a winning legacy — along with winning attitudes — that have brought pride to their community and families. Picture here, left to right, are Head Coach Jimmy Jones, Jordan Lemaster (21), Tiffany Moore (10 - Senior), Katie Rice (12), Brooke Largen (30 - Senior), Tracy Choat (20 -Senior), Mia Keller (24 - Senior), Dori Giles (15 - Senior), Ashley Whitaker (22), Mary Beth Sivley (13 - Senior), and Assistant Coach Robbie Rice.

Don't miss the fun at the
2ND ANNUAL
Spring Fling & Bluegrass Festival
sponsored by the DAR PTO
Saturday, April 17, 2004
11 a.m. — 7 p.m.
DAR School

Food • Arts/Crafts • Games

Bluegrass Entertainment featuring:
STEPHEN HELTON & THE FLINT RIVER BOYS
MAC RICE & THE RIVER BOTTOM BAND
LEON VENERABLE
TRIPLE 13

Cajun Shrimp & Chicken Finger plates
by Grant Fire & Rescue
Shrimp plates: \$10 • Chicken plates: \$7

For more info or to rent a booth
contact Kim Burks at 728-5252
or Audrey Troup at 728-7015

LOCAL HEROES



SSGT Thomas W. Kirsopp of New Hope was deployed to Iraq in February. He is pictured here with wife Ginger, son Thomas and daughter Cara. Kirsopp serves with the National Guard's 279th Signal Battalion. His unit, B Company, is based in Guntersville. The unit left for Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in November for training before heading for the Middle East.



Eric Lee Holcomb of New Hope is a Lance Corporal with the United States Marines. He received his basic training at Paris Island, South Carolina, and is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. He is pictured here with his wife Kristine (Ferguson). A 2002 graduate of New Hope High School, Holcomb is the son of Bonnie & Kenneth Mayes.

Soldier Update:

In the February issue of The Communicator, it was reported that New Hope Telephone Cooperative lineman Daniel Martin of Grant had been deployed with his National Guard unit for training to Fort Stewart, Georgia. Martin's unit has since arrived in Iraq to provide tactical communications and to begin rebuilding the war-torn nation's telecommunications systems.

Help us honor our local soldiers

We want to help the community say 'thank you' to all our men and women serving in the War on Terror. Send us the name, and a photo, of your family member from Grant, New Hope or Owens Cross Roads who is serving our country overseas. Please include the names of their family members, their

branch of service and the unit they are assigned to. We'll publish them in The Communicator throughout the year to show our appreciation for their sacrifice. Send material to New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Attn. Tammy Pritchett, PO Box 452, New Hope, Alabama 35760.

Advertising spots available NHTC Cable channels

Local business can now tap the power of television to market their services in the Grant, New Hope and Owens Cross Roads area.

Reasonably-priced advertising spots are available on several NHTC Cable channels, including Discovery, ESPN, Fox News, Lifetime, TBS, TNT, Weather Channel and USA.

Rates range from \$2 to \$5 per 30-second spot, depending on the time frame in which they appear. Advertisers may also take advantage of special event packages that feature NFL, NASCAR, NCAA sports, NWA or WWF.

To discuss how advertising on NHTC's Cable system can benefit your business, contact Ken Whitehead today at Avalon Media Group by calling 256-381-7840.

NHTC's Web site has valuable info for Internet users

When you have a question about your Internet service from New Hope Telephone Cooperative, the first place to turn for help is our company Web site (www.nehp.net).

When viruses like the 'Blaster Worm' make their way across the Internet, NHTC's Web site features information to help users remove the unwanted attacker. Notices are also posted regarding new problems such as Spyware, as reported in the previous issue of The Communicator.

Visit the NHTC Web site today. Because a little knowledge now can help prevent problems later.