

The

# Communicator

MAY/JUNE 2013

Published for  
customers of



## INDIANS WRESTLING

First team in  
NHHS history

### HOG HEAVEN

Tasty BBQ recipes

### GET OUTDOORS

Destinations and tips

# Investing in a stronger future

For those who put money in the U.S. stock market, the past few years have been like a long ride down a rough road. The same can be said for the real estate market. But as your telco, we are making investments that have guaranteed returns.



**We are investing in our communities.** We are committed to doing more than just providing a basic service to the communities in our area. We understand that quality of life is about more than the basics; it's about having access to services that create greater opportunities for our families, businesses, schools and other institutions. We are investing the time and resources into making sure you have access to those advanced services.

**We are investing in technology.** Technology is the key that makes those advanced services possible. Just like electricity in the 1930s and 1940s, and reliable telephone service in the 1950s, broadband is the new infrastructure that is driving our community development. We are investing in the equipment and people to deliver broadband technology to everyone in our service area.

**We are investing in education.** Today, children in rural America can have the same opportunities to pursue a top-notch education as their urban counterparts. To take advantage of those opportunities, the systems and the technology must be in place — from Wi-Fi tablets to distance learning. We are partnering with our schools by investing in the broadband network that makes advanced education happen.

**We are investing in health care.** Technology is changing health care faster than perhaps any sector. From electronic medical records to telemedicine, technology is helping people receive better care while helping providers control costs. We are partnering with health care providers by investing in the broadband network that powers these advances.

**We are investing in business.** Local businesses are no longer competing with just the shop next door or in the next town. Now they are competing with companies in other states, and even other countries, thanks to the Internet. We are partnering with our businesses by investing in the broadband network that helps them offer the best local service while competing on a much larger stage.

**We are investing in the future of this industry.** The progress of rural America is directly tied to the success of the rural telecommunications industry. On Page 2 of this issue, you will read how two national rural telco associations have come together to form one voice in order to be more effective in representing your concerns in Washington, D.C. In April, leaders from rural telcos across the country met in our nation's capital to discuss policy concerns and remind our elected officials that any reforms to this industry must be fair and workable for rural communities. For every proposed law or regulation that comes along, we are there to work on your behalf to protect the progress we have all made together.

These are the kinds of investments we are making — and will continue to make. And they are guaranteed to yield a return, because ultimately what we are investing in is a stronger future for you and your family. ☎

**JIM COOK**  
General Manager



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

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### On the Cover:



New Hope High School's wrestling team has impressive first season.

See story, Page 13.

Photo by David Brewer

# 2013 Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, May 21\***

**New Hope Middle School  
Library & Auditorium**

**5 p.m. Registration • 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting**

**\*New this year: voting will be held in the New Hope Elementary/  
Middle School Library to better accommodate our members.**

*Be sure to bring your admittance ticket and a valid photo ID with  
you to vote in the Board election.*

*\*The date listed in the last issue of The Communicator was incorrect.*



*We hope to see you there!*

**Entertainment • Refreshments • Door Prizes  
Board Elections for New Hope Place 2 and New Hope Place 3**

## Tree Dedication Ceremony

Family and friends of Dr. Ralph Cain gathered at New Hope High School on Dec. 30 to dedicate a tree in his memory. Cain, who passed away Nov. 5, spent 34 years in public education. He came to New Hope High School in 1970 as a coach and teacher, and ultimately retired as a school superintendent in South Carolina in 2003. Upon returning to New Hope with his wife, Rhonda, Dr. Cain volunteered as a football coach for NHHS. The tree, a Japanese maple, will be cared for by students in New Hope High School's agriculture program.



DR. CAIN'S FAMILY attended the tree dedication ceremony in his memory. Back row: (l to r) sons Butler, Kipp and Justin. Front row: wife Rhonda and daughter Kendra Harper.



This Memorial Day, take time out to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in active military service to our country.

NHTC will be closed May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.



Wade and Marsha Martin of New Hope use Skype to video chat with their son and his family who live in Alaska.

*By Kerry Scott*

# Long-distance loved ones

Video chat services are helping people stay connected with friends and family down the street and around the globe

Over the next few weeks, families will celebrate both Mother's Day and Father's Day. For parents whose children have grown and moved away, video chat services and NHTC's broadband network can help close the distance between them and their loved ones.

Marsha and Wade Martin of New Hope have embraced technology to maintain a close relationship with their son, Jordan, an Air Force tech sergeant stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson near Anchorage, Alaska.

When Jordan made the announcement to his family ten years ago that he was joining the Air Force, Marsha knew it would be difficult letting go. "We've always been a really close-knit family," she confides.

She and Wade were determined that they would stay connected.

While Jordan was in San Antonio for basic training, they would send him letters. He would call when allowed to and write letters, but not very often. "He's not very big on writing," jokes Wade.

Then Jordan was off to tech training in Wichita Falls, Texas, before being stationed in Alamogordo, N.M., where he met and married his wife, Elizabeth, who is also an Air Force tech sergeant.

It was Jordan who introduced the idea of using Skype ([www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)), a free video chat service, to his parents. "He knew more about the technology than we did," says Wade. "But we learned in order to stay in touch."

Marsha says that using Skype over the years, especially when Jordan was deployed to Afghanistan, has been a special blessing. "I could see that he was in good health," she explains. "It's a lot different just being able to see him and know he's okay."

When Jordan and Elizabeth had their son, Isaac, it became even more important to keep that close bond with the family. Marsha says they talk on the phone or through Skype as often as they can. In fact, they used Skype on Christmas morning to watch Isaac open his presents. "It's hard not to be there," Marsha says, "but this sure helps."

Wade, who is a bivocational pastor, says he wants to encourage other families to do all they can to stay connected with their loved ones. "I've always stressed the importance of family relationships," he says. "Our relationship with one another is really the only thing that lasts. Everything else is transitory as far as I'm concerned."

Steve and Pam Campbell of Grant have also used Skype to bridge the distance gap with their oldest child. While their daughter Jessica was two-and-a-half hours away attending college at Shorter University in Rome, Ga., they talked to her via Skype at least twice a week.

Steve, the central office manager for NHTC, was familiar with the service and showed his wife how easy it was to use. "It was great," says Pam. "It helped keep Jessica from being homesick and it helped us keep from missing her so much."

Jessica says those video conversations made her feel like she was in the same room with her parents. "It made me feel like I wasn't missing out on anything," she says. "It also helped when I was having a bad day. I knew I could count on my mom

and dad to give me a little TLC."

"Sometimes I would show her our pets because I knew she missed them," says Pam. "I have even carried the computer around and shown her what the house looked like when I was making some changes. We just had normal everyday conversations."

Now that she's graduated from Shorter, Jessica is back in her hometown, a newlywed and in her first year of teaching at her alma mater, DAR. She still uses Skype, but these days it's to stay in touch with the friends she made at college. She says it is more personal than a phone call or email. "It feels like you're right next to whoever your talking to even though you could be hundreds or thousands of miles apart." Jessica explains.

She and her parents say they would encourage anyone to give the service a try. "It's easy to learn, so don't be intimidated by it," says Pam. "It's a free service, so there's nothing to lose. If you have Internet, a computer and a webcam, you're set."

"Broadband is about more than technology," says Jim Cook, NHTC general manager. "It's about making connections with people. Video chat is a great example of how families are taking the technology we provide and using it to enhance their lives.

"NHTC is proud to deliver that kind of service to the people of Grant, New Hope and Owens Cross Roads." 📞



**Mother and daughter Pam Campbell and Jessica Cavender chatted using Skype while Jessica was away at college.**



**With Skype, you can be on your first video call within minutes of setting up a free account!**

**All you need to get started is:**

- A free Skype account. Visit [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) to get set up. (Skype offers paid services, but if you only want to make video calls, you won't need any of the paid services.)
- A computer with speakers and a microphone, or a headset
- A separate webcam if your computer isn't equipped with one
- A broadband Internet connection (If you have Internet service from NHTC, you're set.)

**Once you've created an account:**

- Ask your friends and family to create a Skype account, too. Skype-to-Skype calls are free, so both parties will need an account
- Send a request to your Facebook and email contacts to create a contact list in Skype

**When you're ready to talk:**

- Launch the Skype app
- Sign in using your Skype name and password
- Double click on one of your online contacts and talk to them

# Peyton goes to Washington

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity takes Hicks to nation's capital

How many people do you know who can say they've met the president, supreme court justices and joint chiefs of staff at 18 years old? New Hope High School senior Peyton Hicks can! Hicks received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when he — along with 103 other students from across the United States — was selected to attend the U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C.

The students also received \$5,000 college scholarships.

The prestigious program was established in 1962 to offer outstanding high school juniors and seniors who are interested in public service an opportunity to get a first-hand look at government in action. The Hearst Foundations, a group of philanthropic organizations founded by William Randolph Hearst, provides funding for the program and scholarships. Hearst was a U.S. congressman in the early 1900s, but was best known as a publishing mogul, running as many as 28 newspapers.

Hicks' interest in politics was piqued when he attended American Legion Alabama Boys State last summer. This program provides an opportunity for select boys from across the state who demonstrate strong moral character and leadership in their schools and communities to come together and, over the course of a week, form a working state government. "You really come to a good understanding of how government works," says Hicks. "It opened my eyes and helped me develop my own political views."

NHHS guidance counselor Laurie Kinstler was aware of Hicks' interest in politics, and immediately thought of him when she received a notice about the Senate Youth Program. "I knew he was qualified academically and had a great interest in politics," says Kinstler. "I encouraged him to consider applying. I knew the competition would be tough, but I believed in him."

Fortunately, Hicks decided it was something worth pursuing.

## NO LAUGHING MATTER

The application process consisted of a written test, essay and personal interview. During the interview, Hicks was asked why he deserved to be selected. "I told them it would be a great accomplishment, not just for me and my family and school, but for my entire community," says Hicks. "I told them about an experience at Boys State last summer, when some kids found out I was from New Hope. They made jokes saying nothing good comes out of

NHHS senior Peyton Hicks goes over the itinerary for Washington Week with guidance counselor Laurie Kinstler.



here. I wanted to prove them wrong. I want to help change the culture of my hometown."

Kinstler believes it's that compassionate attitude toward his community and others that helped Hicks secure the scholarship opportunity. "He's really passionate about this," she says. "I believe he can be anything he wants."

## POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS

Hicks isn't ready to settle on one career path just yet. "I know that I want to be in politics, but I don't know how to get there," he explains. "I don't know if politics is a lifelong profession. One thing I do know is that I'm coming back from Washington Week with the politics bug!"

He's also coming back with new friends. "I can tell we're going to be a tight-knit group," says Hicks. "These are the future leaders of America. I can tell these guys are well-rounded individuals that will be great friends."

Leading up to Washington Week, he and the other participating students formed a private Facebook group so they could get to know each other. Hicks says it provided them with a chance to discuss politics and national news. "Their insight and consideration of complex matters is amazing," he says.

## WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Although opportunities like this don't happen every day, Kinstler knows there are more. "I would encourage kids to work and show teachers their commitment," she says. "Lots of opportunities, including Boys and Girls State, are based on nominations from teachers. And not all are based solely on academics."

Hicks adds, "Don't let surroundings define you. You're just as capable as anyone else. I feel super blessed to have been given this opportunity, but I know tons of other kids who would have been just as well-suited. I would encourage everyone to be proactive and search out opportunities. When you find one, make the best of it." 📞

# Wrestling comes to New Hope High School

## Coach Childers pleased with results of school's first team

**T**hirteen students at New Hope High School have the distinction of being members of the first wrestling team in the school's history. Obie Childers, the young team's coach, says the addition of wrestling to the athletic program came about at NHHS as a result of student and parent interest over several years.

Principal Lavell Everett asked Childers if he would head up a team for the school. Although he had no personal wrestling experience, Childers told Everett he was "up for the challenge."

In order for the team to have any success, Childers knew they needed training from someone who had more knowledge of the sport than he had. He found the help he was looking for in Glynn Stowe, a retired coach who taught at Butler and Grissom, among other schools. "This guy has amazing credentials," says Childers. "He was a head wrestling coach for 14 years and won seven state championships before retiring."

Stowe's willingness to teach the team the fundamentals of the sport led the squad — made up of mostly seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders — to a successful first year. "All of these kids had zero experience at the beginning of the season," says Childers. "But we've had kids place or win medals at every tournament we've been to."

Childers believes wrestling is appealing because it is different from most other sports in that each wrestler must depend solely on his own strength and ability. "With team sports like football and basketball, no matter how well you perform you're still dependent on the rest of the team's performance to pull off a win," he explains. "In wrestling, it's all on you."

Blake Jackson, a freshman wrestler who had a very successful first season, agrees with his coach. "I play baseball and football and love both sports," he says. "But I like not having to depend on anyone else. I just love going out there and relying on



New Hope High School 2012-2013 Wrestling Team

myself to perform." Jackson finished the season with an impressive 22-3 record.

His teammate Jake Wilbourn is the only sophomore on the team. Although Wilbourn suffered a season-ending injury in his first match, he still attended practices and supported the rest of the team for the remainder of the season. "This is a great group of guys," says Wilbourn. "They thought of me as a leader at first, and I wanted to set a good example. I was still learning a lot about technique, even though I couldn't practice."

Technique, along with strength, agility and a competitive spirit, are attributes that Wilbourn and Jackson believe make a good wrestler. Some of the younger team members, including Blake's brother Eric, are already looking forward to next year. "I'll definitely be back," says Eric, whose best tournament finish this season was fourth place. "I believe that the experience I gained this year will help me have a better season next year."

Adam Reed, one of the eighth-graders on the team, says he, too, plans to return next season. "In football, not everyone gets recognition," he says. "With wrestling, everyone gets noticed."

The fact that most of the team plans to return to the sport next year excites

### NHHS Wrestling Roster:

- Eric Jackson (7th grade)
- Drew Pinkerton (7th grade)
- Jacob Reavis (7th grade)
- Tyler Williams (7th grade)
- Byron England (8th grade)
- Adam Reed (8th grade)
- Jared Cagle (9th grade)
- Frank Carlisle (9th grade)
- Shane Hammond (9th grade)
- Blake Jackson (9th grade)
- Brian Smith (9th grade)
- Thomas Sutton (9th grade)
- Jake Wilbourn (10th grade)

#### Coaches:

Obie Childers & Glynn Stowe

Childers. He hopes to have a much larger team for the school's second season because they can compete for a state championship when they have wrestlers in each weight division. "I didn't have any expectations going in for how well the team would do," he says. "I only hoped that they would all give it their best so they didn't have any regrets at the end of the season. They've all done that and I'm looking forward to even more success next year." 📞

# Introducing NHTC's Digital Literacy Training Center .....

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at the Annual Meeting  
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