

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

Communicator

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January 2009

The Ceremonial "First Call"



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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The Communicator

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New Hope Telephone Cooperative
P.O. Box 452
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For Customer Service: Call 723-4211

For Editorial Advertising:

Call 723-2008

or email communicator@nehp.net

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On the cover:

Original board member John Ed Butler makes ceremonial first call via fiber connection to current board president Greg Glover. Read more on page 6.

Manager's Comments

Building on the principles of our past



Have you noticed that the older we get, the faster these 'new years' roll around? The 2008 calendars still seem new and fresh, and it's already time to throw them

away and hang up new ones.

This is the time of year that most people do some serious evaluating. We look back on the past 12 months and think about the progress we've made, the challenges we've faced and the relationships we've built. New Years Day is a great time for reflection.

I've been doing some reflecting myself, and I'm encouraged at the progress your New Hope Telephone Cooperative made in 2008. Optical fiber was the big story, as I discussed in last month's column. We made some impressive strides last year to move NHTC toward its goal of building a new optical fiber system throughout our service area.

Something happened in December that caused me to look back even further than 2008. Beginning on Page 6 you will read about John Ed Butler. Mr. Butler was a member of the original NHTC board of directors, the only founding board member who is still living today. He joined us in December for a ceremonial 'first call'

across an early phase of our fiber optic network.

After Mr. Butler's visit, I couldn't help but think about how much has changed since the day those men collected memberships and borrowed federal dollars to start a telephone cooperative in rural North Alabama. The big investor-owned company probably thought they were crazy, trying to make a phone system profitable in such a rural community. But as a cooperative, profit wasn't the motivation. The motivation was quality service at a reasonable price.

I cannot imagine the challenges our founders faced while trying to launch a new cooperative in the early 1950's. Five decades later, we face our own unique challenges in our efforts to build a new fiber-based network in New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads. But we move forward knowing we are on the path forged by our founders more than 50 years ago.

The future we are building today may be a high-tech one, but we're building it on the same principles that motivated Mr. Butler and our other founders to create a phone system for this rural region — and we are indeed grateful for their efforts.

Tom Wing

General Manager,

New Hope Telephone Cooperative

Customer Appreciation Day

NHTC will host its fourth annual Customer Appreciation Day on Friday, February 13, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come by for refreshments and register for door prizes to be given away throughout the day.

We hope to see you there!

Eliminate unwanted telemarketing calls

Imagine your family gathering in the living room for family movie night. The popcorn has been popped, you have your favorite snack in hand and you are relaxing in your favorite chair. The movie begins, and everyone seems to be enjoying their time together. The plot thickens, and finally it is the moment you've all been waiting for. Suddenly, the phone rings. You jump out of your seat and rush to answer it, only to be greeted by an automated message.

Telemarketing calls can be annoying, but there is a way to prevent these unwelcome phone calls from interrupting your day. The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls.

Consumers may register their residential or cell phone numbers at no cost

on the National Do Not Call Registry either by telephone or Internet. To register by telephone, call 1-888-382-1222 from the number you wish to register. For TTY, call 1-866-260-4236. To register online or obtain additional information, visit www.donotcall.gov.

Although adding your telephone number to the registry will stop most telemarketing calls, it will not prevent all of them. Because of limitations in the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC), calls from or on the behalf of charities, political organizations, and telephone surveyors will still be permitted. Also, companies with whom you have an existing business relationship would still be allowed to contact you.

However, if you wish to stop calls from organizations excluded from the National Do Not Call Registry, you may ask the telemarketer to place you on that company's Do Not Call list. If the organization ignores your request, they may be subject to a fine of up to \$11,000.

Inclusion of your telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry will be effective 31 days after your registration. Your number will remain on the list permanently unless you decide to remove it. ▲

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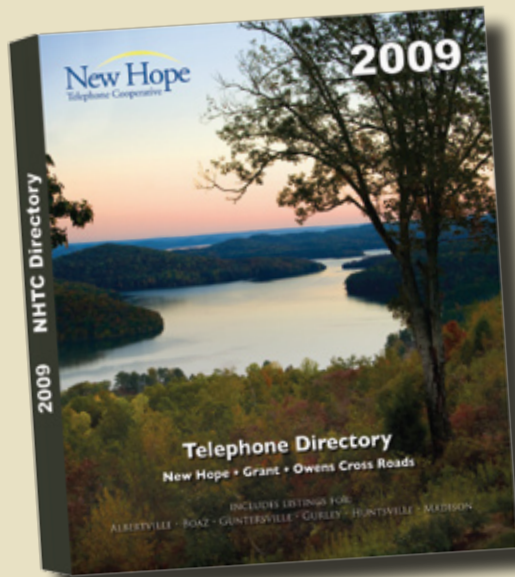
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A sneak peak at the new directory



The new telephone directory will be arriving soon. And with it come some exciting changes. According to Marketing and Public Relations Director Misty Williams, "We felt it was time for a change, so we've revamped the phone book."

The front of the directory has always been designated for member information, instructions, emergency contact numbers, and information about phone service and the cooperative. "The new directory features a much easier to read and understand explanation of calling features, easier access to emergency numbers and many other changes," says Williams.

Another exciting addition to the directory is an eight-page Newcomers Guide. This guide features contact information for businesses and utilities that those new to Grant, Owens Cross Roads and New Hope will find useful. Even those who have always lived here will enjoy the information about local attractions.



Your new directory features an introductory section which includes:

- ✓ Easy to find emergency numbers
- ✓ Step-by-step, easy to understand instructions for calling features
- ✓ Rates and prefixes for calling plans
- ✓ Area code & Time zone map
- ✓ NHTC member information
- ✓ Cooperative Bylaws
- ✓ Plus much more!

The Newcomers Guide is a resource designed to provide residents new to Grant, Owens Cross Roads and New Hope with numbers for utilities, hospitals, schools and more.

Newcomers and long-time residents will enjoy the Points of Interest section which provides a listing of some local attractions.

Public officials for Marshall and Madison county and state officials are listed.



We're protecting your privacy

NHTC has policy in place to keep your personal information private

New Hope Telephone Cooperative is the sole owner of all information collected while conducting business with individuals or businesses. We will not sell, share nor rent this information to others in ways other than those outlined in this statement.

The ways we may collect information:

NHTC may collect non-public personal information about you from the following sources:

- Application for service
- Verify employment with employer
- Credit bureaus
- Consumer reporting agencies

The ways we use customer information:

Personal information provided by subscribers will be used by NHTC to

provide a more personalized experience for the customer, but information which identifies a specific individual will not be disclosed to others without the user's permission unless necessary to provide services which the subscriber has requested.

We take every precaution to protect our customers' information. All of our customers' information is restricted in our offices. Only employees who need the information to perform a specific job are granted access to non-public personal information.

The circumstances under which we will disclose customer information:

We may disclose all the non-public personal information we collect, as described above, to companies that perform marketing or public information services for us. Except for the customers signing non-publish/private

telephone agreements, we may disclose your name, address and phone number to companies that produce, publish, print, mail, or in any way maintain customer correspondence for our company. These would include, but not be limited to, emergency service providers (911), directory publishing companies, directory assistance providers, companies handling NHTC publications. We ensure that such outside service providers sign legal agreements stating that they will use your information only for the purpose for which they have been hired.

If we decide to change our privacy policy, we will notify all subscribers no less than 30 days in advance. Customers will always be given a choice as to whether or not we use their information in a different manner.

Inquiries about NHTC's Subscriber Information Privacy Policy should be addressed to: New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Attention: Privacy Policy, PO Box 452, New Hope, Alabama, 35760.▲

NHTC has scholarship available for DAR and NH senior

Guidance counselors at both New Hope and DAR High Schools have NHTC scholarship applications. The cooperative will award one \$500 scholarship to a deserving senior from each school.

Additional scholarship opportunities are available through the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS). Established by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), the FRS organization promotes, educates and advocates rural telecom issues in order to sustain and enhance the

quality of life within communities throughout rural America. FRS awards 30 scholarships for \$2,000 annually to deserving youth from rural communities. If a student from DAR or New Hope receives the FRS scholarship, NHTC will contribute \$500 making the total received \$2,500. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, so ask your guidance counselor for both applications today!

Scholarships are made available without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender or disability.



NHTC marks 'first fiber call'

Original board member and current president make history

History was made December 4th at New Hope Telephone Cooperative when John Ed Butler and Greg Glover participated in the ceremonial first phone call over the company's optical fiber network.

Butler is the sole surviving original member of the NHTC Board of Directors. He originated the historic phone call from the home of NHTC employee Shawn Smith, where a test connection for fiber had been installed.

NHTC Board President Greg Glover took the call inside the central office, where a bank of phones and equipment has been set up to test the fiber system. "Everything is working great," Glover reported, as he simultaneously spoke on the phone, pulled up a Web site and watched

television. All three services — phone, Internet and cable TV — were coming across a single fiber connection.

"Keep up the good work!" Butler said as the historic phone call ended.

Making history

Butler is no stranger to historic moments. As a young man, he was involved in a project that helped shape the future of rural North Alabama.

Growing up on the family farm in Poplar Ridge, Butler was familiar with telephone service. A phone line extended from New Hope to the farm, and maintenance was the responsibility of the Butler family. The Butler Brothers General

Store and the New Hope Drug Company each had a phone on the single line that connected to Huntsville.

Butler left for Auburn University and, after earning his degree, returned home to join the family farming operation. He soon joined the ranks of the Lion's Club and found himself involved in an ambitious community project.

Club member Bob Moon, owner of the pharmacy in New Hope, was spearheading efforts to bring a phone system to town. Once it became clear that the big investor-owned utility would not serve New Hope, the Lion's Club began investigating the cooperative form of business.

The federal government's Rural Electrification Administration had been expanded to help communities create their own telephone companies. The government's low-interest, long-term loans had worked in bringing electricity to under served portions of the country, and now the same would happen with telephone service.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative was formed, and Butler was asked to serve on the founding board of directors. He was joined by Bob Moon, Lawrence Hereford, John G. Butler and James Mann.

It took many hours of hard work by dedicated community leaders, but citizens were convinced that telephone service was necessary in order for the region to advance.

The Lion's Club played other important roles in the progress of New Hope. The organization helped incorporate the city, organize the volunteer fire department and attract a bank to New Hope.



HISTORIC MOMENT—John Ed Butler makes a ceremonial first call on NHTC's optical fiber network. Butler is the sole surviving member of the original Board of Directors that formed NHTC in the early 1950's. He made this call in December outside the home of NHTC employee Shawn Smith (the first test install for a fiber connection on the system). To Butler's right is the Optical Network Terminal (commonly referred to as the ONT), the box where the fiber service enter the home.

All things new

Butler says he could not imagine, when he started work on a basic phone system all those years ago, that it would grow into something so advanced.

Indeed, the very copper-based system that served New Hope, Owens Cross Roads and Grant for decades is being completely replaced by a new state-of-the-art optical fiber network.

“Our ceremonial first official phone call between Mr. Butler and Mr. Glover marked a milestone in the history of New Hope Telephone Cooperative,” says NHTC General Manager Tom Wing. “That live fiber connection that’s now working on our system is just the beginning of how we are changing the telecommunications experience in North Alabama.”

When the fiber project is complete,

every member of NHTC will have access to the highest quality voice service, a blazing fast Internet connection, and the best digital television picture available — and it will all come into their home over a network of fiber strands the thickness of a human hair.

“Pulses of light passing through pristine strands of glass,” says Wing. “It sounds like science fiction, but it is the future of telecommunications because of

its matchless quality and almost limitless capacity. And NHTC is proud to bring this service to our members.” ▲



A FIBER CONNECTION—NHTC Board of Directors President Greg Glover takes a phone call, surfs the Internet and watches a cable channel in the fiber test area inside the cooperative’s central office. He was part of the ceremonial first fiber call with NHTC founding Board member John Ed Butler.

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NOT IN OUR CITY

NHPD takes an aggressive stance on methamphetamines

Methamphetamine has been listed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in 2008 as the number one drug threat in Alabama. It has been a threat in rural parts of Alabama for far longer.

Local Police Chief Shannon Hoover says New Hope is no different.

“This is our number one priority as a law enforcement agency,” Hoover says. “This is what we are going after, crystal methamphetamine.”

“We are successfully hunting down the people who are cooking it, the people who are manufacturing it and the people who are distributing it,” he added. “The farther up we pull the rug, the more roaches we are finding. We are going right after them and we will prosecute them to the full extent of the law.”

Hoover is not just talking a big game. His aggressive no-nonsense approach to fighting crime has transformed the New Hope Police Department into a force to be reckoned with.

In the past month alone, Hoover and other New Hope officers have taken down three clandestine meth labs, made two arrests for distribution of methamphetamine and one arrest for distribution



New cooking methods have made methamphetamine, or meth, a serious problem that New Hope Police Chief Shannon Hoover is working to eradicate. His force has been instrumental in several drug arrests in recent months, and plans for more soon.

of marijuana.

Methamphetamine, or meth, is the fastest growing drug threat and the most prevalent synthetic drug manufactured in the United States. Called crank, speed, glass, ice or crystal, this powerfully addictive stimulant is most commonly sold as a white odorless powder or a clear chunky crystal that is injected,

snorted, smoked, or ingested orally.

Methamphetamine wreaks havoc on the physical and psychological state of its users. Meth users initially experience a short, intense rush that is followed by a euphoric high lasting up to 24 hours. Methamphetamine use increases heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature and rate of breathing. It can cause episodes of extremely violent behavior, paranoia, anxiety, schizophrenic-like symptoms, confusion and insomnia.

With chronic methamphetamine use, the user becomes addicted and a tolerance is developed. In an effort to achieve the same high, users take larger doses of the drug and take it more frequently.

Once addicted, users binge on the drug, forgoing sleep and food for as long as 15 days or until they run out of drugs or become too

disorganized to continue using. Violent and erratic behaviors frequently occur in the last phase of meth bingeing. Long-term meth use often results in severe dental problems, chronic sleep disorder, heart problems, malnutrition, uncontrollable repetitive physical movement and irreversible brain damage. Addiction also

often results in long-term depression and psychotic behaviors that persist for months or even years after an individual has stopped using the drug.

Because meth can be made easily from common household items, clandestine labs are very commonly found in unsuspecting rural areas such as New Hope. Most meth is cooked in kitchens, garages, hotel rooms, trailers or other makeshift laboratories placing family members and neighbors in very serious danger. The many toxic, flammable and explosive ingredients required to produce meth cause its manufacture to be an extremely dangerous process. Cooking meth also produces noxious gases that, if inhaled, can cause numerous health problems or even death. Anyone in the vicinity of a meth lab is endangered by the possibility of fire, explosion or exposure to toxic fumes.

Meth production also has a very negative impact on the environment. The manufacture of each pound of crystal meth produces from five to seven pounds of toxic waste. Lab operators routinely dump waste into streams, rivers, fields and sewage systems. The chemical vapors produced during the cooking process absorb into the walls and carpets of houses and buildings, making them uninhabitable. Cleaning up these sites requires specialized training and costs an average of \$2,000-\$4,000 per site in funds that come out of the already-strained budgets of state and local police.

Danger also exists for police and

other law enforcement when raiding meth labs. In addition to existing dangers from toxic fumes, explosions and dealing with psychologically unstable criminals, police often enter meth labs that have been booby-trapped to explode or release dangerous chemicals or gases.

Despite these dangers, Chief Hoover is confident that the New Hope Police Department is prepared.

"We are better trained than ever and have the ability and know-how to do

this," Hoover says. "In the past there has been the school of thought that maybe there wasn't a lot that we could do about taking out these dangerous criminals other than calling in other law enforcement. We wear the same badges as anybody else, and we have a police

force that is extremely competent and effective."

Hoover praises his force for all of their hard work and dedication, but specifically notes the work of NHPD Sergeant Steven Dick.

"Sergeant Dick is one who has aided in the launch of every investigation,



Sergeant Steven Dick has been instrumental in the recent drug arrests. Sgt. Dick has been on the New Hope Police Department for more than three years.

***"The farther
up we pull the
rug, the more
roaches we are
finding."***

found key contacts and tracked down necessary resources," Hoover says. "He is the first one through the door on every bust and his ability and proactive approach to this job is second to none. He has been my right-hand man and has been instrumental in the success of these investigations and busts."

The work of the New Hope police department has been noticed by local, regional and even federal law enforcement, but they are not the only ones that are aware of all of the hard work. Hoover says that criminals are starting to hear about their work as well.

"The drug community is afraid, and rightfully so, because they know that we are coming," Hoover says. "There is no doubt about that. We are going after the head of the snake. Anyone who has the knowledge to cook crystal meth is going to jail. That's the bottom line. New Hope will not be a safe haven for individuals who are attempting to poison this community. We will hunt them down and they will be incarcerated."▲

Taylor reflects on first two years in office

Rep. Butch Taylor has not forgotten where he came from. He is a simple man, a man of the people. He did not reach the House of Representatives through wealth and privilege. This New Hope native earned it the old-fashioned way, through hard work, dedication and the support of a public who believed in him.

Taylor, who was elected into the Alabama House of Representatives in a special election in 2007, represents Madison and Jackson Counties in Alabama's 22nd congressional district.

Long before he was known as Representative Taylor, he was known as Coach Taylor. As a basketball coach and teacher at New Hope High School for 31 years, he certainly earned the title.

Rep. Taylor began teaching and coaching basketball at New Hope in 1974. He began his political career eight years ago in 2000 when he was elected to the New Hope City Council. He retired from teaching two years later and was elected to the Madison County School Board in 2002.

In 2007, at the urging of his community, Taylor ran in a special election to represent the 22nd District in the Alabama State Legislature. He was elected into office on March 6, 2007.

Taylor says that he was a bit

overwhelmed when he first got to Montgomery.

"It was a little intimidating when I first walked into those chambers," Taylor says. "I was wondering how somebody from New Hope, Alabama could represent 43,000 people."

"Then, I got my feet wet and with the help and guidance of some of the other members, I realized that I could do this and do it well," he added. "I was determined that no matter how new I was to the legislature or where I was from, that I would do my best to represent my district, and I think I've done that."

Taylor says that his many years of teaching and coaching at New Hope have helped him in his first term in the Alabama Legislature.

"I have always tried to do my best as an educator, coach, city councilman, whatever position I was in," Taylor says, "and I have tried to take that philosophy to Montgomery."

Rep. Taylor says that, when the time comes, he plans to run for re-election.

"I believe that I have done a lot of good for this area and I will continue to do the best job that I can with our district," Taylor says. "I care about these people and I am committed to representing them to the very best of my ability."



Rep. Butch Taylor was a teacher and coach at New Hope High School for 31 years

"As long as our district wants me here and I believe I am making a difference, I will continue to serve the good people of the 22nd district," he added.

Butch Taylor has proven that if you work hard and set your goals high enough, anything is possible, even for a small-town boy from New Hope, Ala. He is a role model not only for students from New Hope, but for young people everywhere.

Taylor and wife Ann still reside in New Hope. He is father to Jake Taylor and has two grandchildren. ▲

Facts about the Alabama House of Representatives

- The Alabama House is comprised of 105 members.
- Each member represents approximately 40,000 citizens in his or her district.
- Members of the House are elected for four year terms.
- The Speaker of the House is elected by his colleagues to serve as the presiding officer.



- The Latin phrase "Vox Populi," which is on the seal of the House of Representatives, means voice of the people. The House of Representatives is designed to be the one governmental body that is the closest to the people.
- Representatives are paid \$10 per day they are in session, plus expenses.



PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NEW HOPE

I have always been fascinated with people's names. For example, how did you get your first name?

Does your name reflect who you are as a person?

In the Bible, there are many names that reveal character and strong leadership skills. People like Moses who became the leader of an entire nation of people. Joshua a military leader that encouraged people to move forward followed Moses. David killed Goliath; what coach hasn't used that story to motivate his or her team when odds were against them? Ezra and Nehemiah inspired people to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

Joseph was his birth name but it did not do him justice so his friend renamed him Barnabas or "Son of Encouragement." The name Barnabas

suggests that people were refreshed by this man's cheer and confidence in God. Rather than draining courage out of people, Barnabas was an encourager. You've heard said, "Some people bring joy wherever they go, and some bring joy when they go." Barnabas would be the former.

On one occasion, when no one else would, he stood up for Saul of Tarsus. I can just imagine Barnabas writing to the church at Jerusalem, "God is at work here. Things are happening. Need mature believers to help these people grow. I am thinking about asking Saul of Tarsus to join me. He would be a good fit."

Makes me wonder, what would my Christian friends rename me? What would they rename you? Are you an encourager or discourager?

See you in church.

Inspiration Corner

Celebrating a new year reminds me of the animated Walt Disney movie, **The Lion King**. This is a great good versus evil movie, with a most appropriate theme song, "**The Circle of Life**." There is one circle of life that does not always return for the better. In the Lion King, Simba was unwilling to think of anyone other than himself, until he was knocked on the head by Rafiki (These were professional actors so please don't try this at home). Similarly, what happens in some family circles is someone's unwillingness to change. A harmful way of life, like substance, physical or mental abuse, or the idea marriage is a self-service feeling rather than a commitment, becomes that family's circle of life. This circle leaves spouses and children crying out

in despair, "Is this what life is supposed to be?"

Proverbs 22 reads, "train up a child in the way he should go so that when he is old he will not depart from it." There is more to this verse than the obvious, but just as compelling. A child is "trained" by the way his/her parents live, good or bad, and will typically grow to live that way also. Jesus says, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest." I pray that if your circle of life is a family burden, you will look for help in a church near you, with a pastor who can guide you to a new circle of LIFE.



Michael Carpenter, Pastor
New Hope United Methodist
Church & Oak Bowery
United Methodist Church

New Hope High School Teacher of the Month



New Hope High School students recently voted Coach Mack Malone as teacher of the month for January. Malone says he enjoys teaching and coaching at New Hope and is proud to be chosen by his students.

"It means a lot to me," Malone says. "I really enjoy teaching. I am getting to do exactly what I love to do."

Coach Malone has been a teacher for seven years. He spent his first three years teaching and coaching at Madison County High School where his father taught for 27 years and has been a teacher and football coach at New Hope for four years.

Malone attended Athens State College where he received a degree in physical education and a minor in history in 2002. Coach Malone is from the Riverton area and graduated from Buckhorn High School in 1997.

He is married to wife Mary Beth Malone from Decatur.

Communication is important for parenting success

Dianna White, a counselor at NHES and pastor Michael Carpenter have teamed up to create a two-part series on parenting. This is the first installment. Read the final installment next month.

Has your child ever said to you, “You just don’t understand”?

Communication is an important parenting skill that begins at birth and continues throughout life. Parents teach their children important behavior, attitudes, and values through communication.

A parent’s ability to communicate sets the stage for the child’s developing personality. A parent who communicates love for their child helps raise a child who is capable of showing love. Parents who accept responsibility for their actions allow the child to model responsible behavior as they grow.

You are constantly communicating with your child. Everything you say, every emotion you express; every action you take affects your child on some level. Parents communicate with their children nonverbally and verbally, by example and by listening.

Non-verbal communication includes facial expressions, body language, and attitudes toward others. Parents who show love by hugging make a child feel loved and accepted. Parents who are withdrawn or unfeeling can hurt a child without ever raising their voices or a hand. Parental neglect is one of the strongest causes of low self-esteem in children.

Verbal communication consists of the words, manner, and tone in which parents speak with their children. Parents who interact with their children by yelling and threatening may raise children beset with insecurity and anger. Children do

not understand that a parent’s threats and angry actions are usually directed at the behavior and not the child. Instead, they believe they must be bad people to cause their parents to react so strongly. Parents who speak calmly and respectfully help children develop a healthy, positive self-image.

Setting a good example for your children is the most powerful way to teach them positive behavior and attitudes. Parents who believe in “do as I say, not as I do,” confuse their children. Parents must strive to keep their actions and words consistent.

A very difficult aspect of communication is listening and being attentive to what your child is trying to say. Parents who take time to listen to their children, without judging what their child has to say or how they plan to respond, create a positive exchange. ▲



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New sign replaces "The Big Tree"



There is a new sign welcoming all who travel Highway 431 to the town of New Hope. The sign rests on the very spot where for the past hundred or so years a large oak tree lived.

The Big Tree, as it was known by all, had quite a history. It was used to give directions to people coming into town, couples have wed underneath its massive

branches, people have used it as a meeting spot and for much more. But years of progress for New Hope, the widening of Highway 431 and other projects took their toll on the tree. The root system was damaged and the tree died. In December 2007, County Commissioner Jerry Craig had a crew from the County Shed remove the dead tree because it presented a hazard.

At that time plans were made to have a sign erected in its place that would pay homage to the tree which once stood in the same location.

Since Highway 431 is a state highway, approval had to be given from the Alabama Department of Transportation to have the sign placed on their right-of-way. The state required drawings and design plans before any decision could be made. After a few adjustments, authorization for the new sign was given and the sign was installed in early October.

Volunteers from throughout the community worked to add landscaping and Largens Irrigation provided an irrigation system and lights for the sign. Several businesses also provided funding and other support for the sign. They include: Coopers Small Engines, Citizens Bank, Allstar Pool, Tara Manufacturing, Tara Graphics, Poplar Ridge Homemakers, Family First Homemakers, New Hope Beautification Committee, New Hope Telephone, The City Of New Hope, New Hope County Shed & Commissioner Craig and Larry Furlough, who coordinated the project. ▲

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Memories of "The Big Tree"

Being a member of the older generation in New Hope I especially am saddened by the loss of the Big Oak Tree which was truly a landmark.

At the time I grew up at Owens Cross Roads, the school there consisted of nine grades. In the spring of 1936, when I was to graduate there, the school system's funds were depleted. In order to finish ninth grade we had to go to 'pay school' at New Hope for six weeks. I wonder how my former daddy afforded to send me. But those school bus trips then and on until I graduated from high school in 1939 afforded me many opportunities to admire the tree.

Then during World War II I taught fourth grade at New Hope and continued to commute from Owens Cross Roads and enjoy the Oak from 1942-1946. I've lived at New Hope ever since I married in 1946 and enjoyed the tree when passing it all these years.

I'm such a lover of trees I would like to have seen it stand, though dead, if it were not for the danger to be a home for birds and animals and just for 'old times sake.'

—Frances Maples Mann

I was sorry to learn that the big tree was cut down; however, trees, like everything else, do not live for eternity. I'm glad, however, that you are collecting memories of the big tree at the intersection.

My most vivid memory of the big tree was when the 'Goat Man' and his cart, pulled by several goats, parked and sometimes spent the night under the tree when I was a child and he traveled through our area (about 50 years ago). Many of us went to see the 'Goat Man' and his goats — just like a circus coming to town — even though the smell was not too pleasant.

As I have traveled around our state, many Alabamians remember the 'Goat Man,' and I often hear requests for pictures of him with his goats. If anyone in the NHTC reading area has a picture of Goat Man with his goats, please contact me at PO Box 162, New Hope, AL 35760.

*Thank you,
Nancy Worley*



SOUPS

SALMON CHOWDER

3 Tbsp butter
 3/4 cup chopped onion
 1/2 cup chopped celery
 1 tsp garlic powder
 2 cups diced potatoes
 2 carrots, diced
 2 cups chicken broth
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp ground black pepper
 1 tsp dried dill weed
 2 (16 oz.) cans salmon
 1 (12 oz.) can evaporated milk
 1 (15 oz.) can creamed corn
 1/2 pound Cheddar cheese, shredded

Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Saute onion, celery, and garlic powder until onions are tender. Stir in potatoes, carrots, broth, salt, pepper, and dill. Bring to a boil, and reduce heat. Cover, and simmer 20 minutes. Stir in salmon, evaporated milk, corn, and cheese. Cook until heated through.

JAMBALAYA

1 bell pepper, chopped
 1 onion, chopped
 2 medium tomatoes, chopped
 1 cup chopped celery
 1 clove garlic, crushed
 2 Tbsp minced parsley
 2 tsp chopped thyme leaves
 2 tsp oregano
 1/8 tsp cayenne

1/2 tsp salt
 4 oz. smoked sausage, chopped
 8 oz. chicken breast, chopped
 2 cups beef broth or bouillon
 1 cup cooked rice

In slow cooker, combine all ingredients except rice. Cover & cook on low 9–10 hours. Turn slow cooker on high, add cooked rice. Cover; cook on high 20–30 minutes.

BRUNSWICK STEW

1 (2 1/2 lb.) fryer chicken
 Water
 1 (28 oz.) can crushed tomatoes, sweetened with 1/3 cup sugar
 1 (16 oz.) can creamed corn
 1 cup ketchup
 1/2 cup barbecue sauce
 1 Tbsp liquid smoke
 1 onion, chopped
 1 Tbsp vinegar
 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
 Salt and pepper
 Celery salt

In a large pot, place the chicken and enough water to cover chicken and bring to a boil. Cook chicken until meat falls off the bone, approximately 45 minutes. Drain the chicken and reserve 2 cups of stock. Remove the skin and bones and chop meat. In a separate pot, mix the chicken and remaining ingredients. Simmer slowly for 30 minutes, stir-

ring often to prevent sticking. Add a little bit of the stock if the stew becomes too thick.

WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

1 Tbsp vegetable oil
 1 onion, chopped
 3 cloves garlic, crushed
 1 (4 oz.) can diced jalapeno peppers
 1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chile peppers
 2 tsp ground cumin
 1 tsp dried oregano
 1 tsp ground cayenne pepper
 2 (14.5 oz.) cans chicken broth
 3 cups chopped cooked chicken breast
 3 (15 oz.) cans white beans
 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium-low heat. Slowly cook and stir the onion until tender. Mix in the garlic, jalapeno, green chile peppers, cumin, oregano and cayenne. Continue to cook and stir the mixture until tender. Mix in the chicken broth, chicken and white beans. Simmer 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Slowly stir in the cheese until melted.

We need your recipes. Do you have a favorite recipe that you'd like to share? Perhaps it's your grandmother's chocolate pie or great grandmother's pound cake recipe. Each month *The Communicator* magazine will feature tried-and-true, kitchen tested recipes submitted by readers. If you'd like to share your recipe send it to: NHTC • The Communicator • PO Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. You can email your recipe to www.communicator@neh.net, if you prefer.

March will feature Crock Pot Recipes • The deadline for March is January 20.

April will feature Breads • The deadline for April is February 20.

May will feature Pasta • The deadline for May is March 20.

WINTER CHILL



Brittney Tipton during 2007 ski trip with First Baptist New Hope Youth Ministry. Photographer: Greg Brock.



Fountain Pond frozen solid January 2nd, 2008. Photo sent by Doug Stainbrook.



Trey and Noah Gulley playing in the snow, January 2008. Photo by their mother, Jessi Gulley.



Arlington National Cemetery decorated for Christmas. Photo submitted by Lou Ann Poole.



Tanner and Brynn Atchley and Ruby Davis in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Photo taken by MawMaw Rebecca Davis.



Lily Ann Morrow at 9 months old. Picture taken by her grandmother, Theresa Posey of New Hope.



Anna Tipton and Savannah Brock warming up at Starbucks on a cold day. Photographer is Greg Brock.



Elizabeth and Christopher Burton. Parents are Kym & Chris Burton.



Hannah and Hayden Hill enjoying life at Grannah's. Photo Sharon Hill.

"Springtime" is the photo theme for March. Send pictures matching the photo theme to: NHTC • Attn.: Communicator Photos • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. You may prefer to e-mail your photo to communicator@nehp.net. Follow these guidelines for publication: (1) Photos must match theme. (2) **Photos must be high resolution.** The resolution offered by some printers is not high enough for publication. (3) Do not write on the back of photo. Include names of persons in photo, as well as, photographer, address and phone number on paper taped to back. (4) Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your photo returned. (5) The **Deadline for March is January 20th.**

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.

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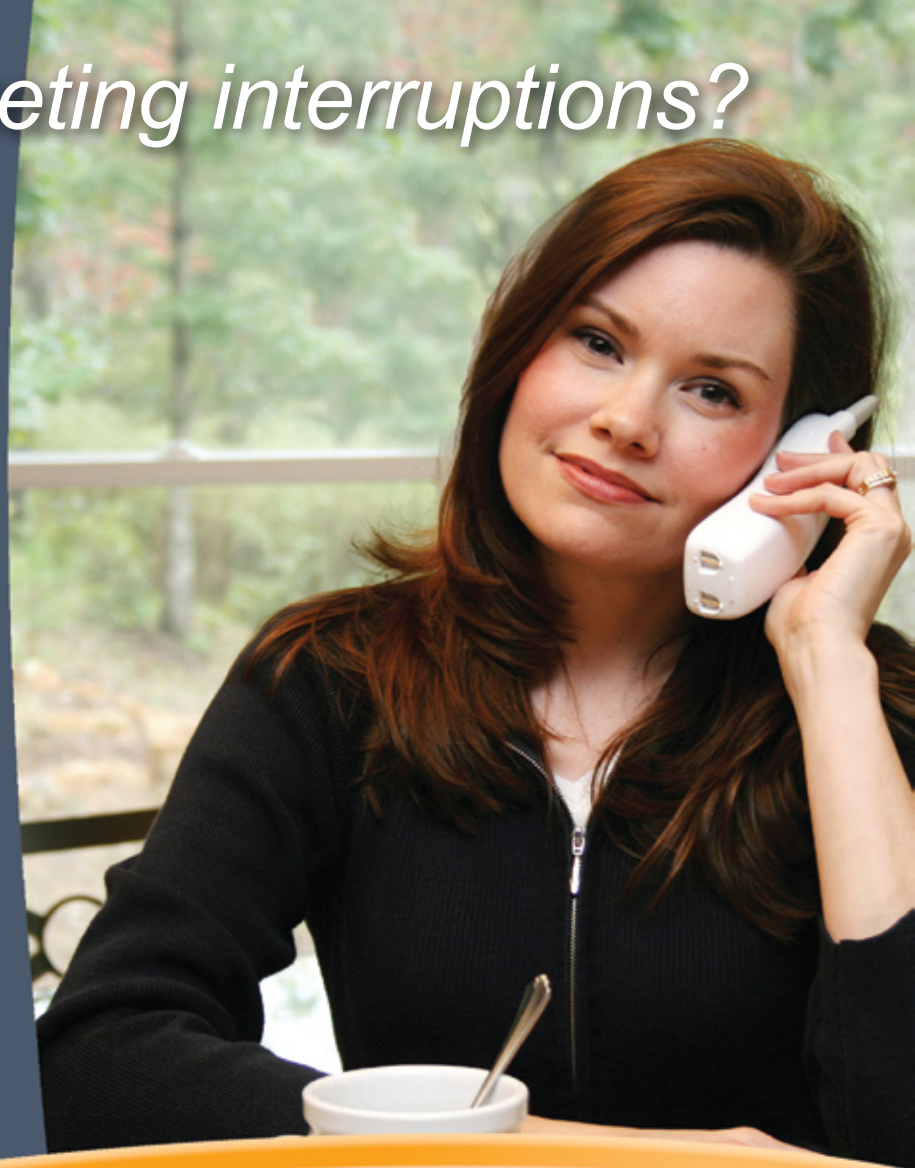
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