

The Communicator

JULY/AUGUST 2016

ANNUAL MEETING

Door prizes and
entertainment
highlight meeting

NEW FACES

Meet NHTC's newest employees

COLLEGE-BOUND

Look inside to see who earned
NHTC scholarships this year



MAKING AN IMPACT WHILE MAKING CONNECTIONS

New study shows that rural broadband adds significant dollars and jobs to nation's overall economy

BY STEPHEN V. SMITH

Rural broadband is about more than connecting people to high-speed internet service. A new study reveals that your telco and companies like it, along with the vendors that support the industry, made significant contributions to the U.S. economy in 2015.

The study, “The Economic Impact of Rural Broadband,” was published in April by the Hudson Institute, a research organization promoting American leadership, and the Foundation for Rural Service, a non-profit established in 1994 by NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association to advance an understanding of rural issues.

The rural broadband industry had a \$24.1 billion impact on America's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) last year. A country's GDP represents the total dollar value of the final goods and services produced by

all industries and is a means of gauging the economic health of a nation.

In addition to its immediate economic impact, broadband is important to rural communities because it connects citizens to educational, shopping and job opportunities. The Hudson/FRS study, however, revealed that rural broadband has a striking impact on urban areas as well.

Of the \$24.1 billion that rural broadband contributed to the GDP, some 66 percent, or \$15.9 billion, accrued to urban areas. Further, of the 69,595 jobs supported by rural broadband, through direct employment and employment generated by its purchase of goods and services, some 54 percent were in urban areas. This can be attributed to the fact that many vendors supplying the industry (with equipment, materials, regulatory and other consultant

services, etc.) are centered in urban areas.

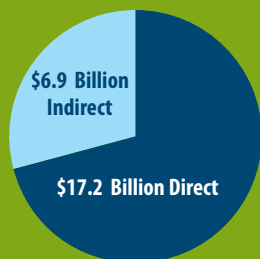
“This illustrates that rural broadband is not just a rural issue,” says Shirley Bloomfield, CEO of NTCA. “A healthy U.S. economy actually needs rural broadband, and a healthy U.S. job market actually needs rural broadband.”

Rural broadband also contributed to the economy by supporting e-commerce activity. The U.S. Census Bureau tracks economic transactions that occur over the internet, and, according to the report, rural broadband providers supported some \$100 billion in e-commerce through the service they provide to manufacturers (the sector where e-commerce was the strongest).

The report provides additional details, including a state-by-state breakdown of financial impact and number of jobs. To view the report, visit www.frs.org.

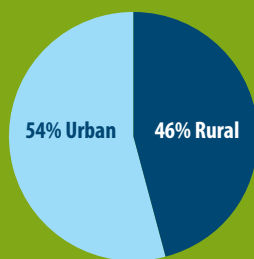
RURAL BROADBAND AT A GLANCE

IMPACT ON GDP \$24.1 billion



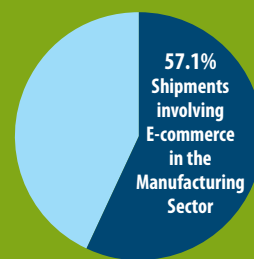
Rural broadband companies contributed \$24.1 billion to the economies of the states in which they operated in 2015 — \$17.2 billion through their own operations and \$6.9 billion through the follow-on impact of their operations.

JOB 69,595



The rural broadband industry supported 69,595 jobs in 2015 through employment within the industry and employment generated at companies that provide goods and services to the industry. More than half of these jobs were found in urban areas.

E-COMMERCE \$100 billion



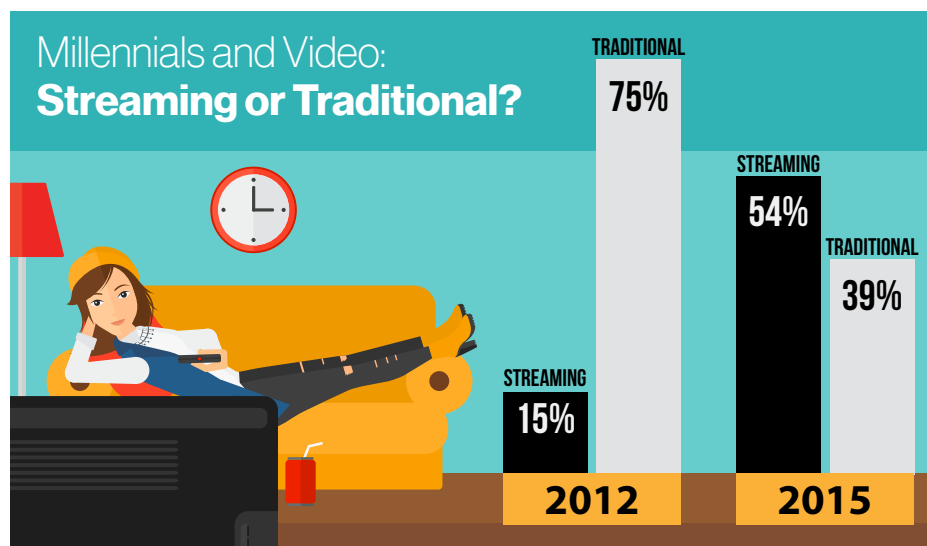
Rural broadband providers supported an estimated \$100 billion in internet-based sales in 2015 through the service they provide to manufacturers in their service areas. Of the sectors in which the U.S. Census Bureau tracks e-commerce, manufacturing led with 57.1 percent of all shipments involving e-commerce.

Millennials now prefer streaming over live TV

According to the “State of Cable & Digital Media 2016” report by Horowitz Research, millennials (those aged 18 to 34) are far more likely to stream video than to watch traditional, live television.

Streaming video is content delivered over an internet connection to smart TVs, tablets, smartphones, computers or streaming players such as Roku, Amazon Fire TV and Apple TV.

The numbers show a dramatic turnaround from 2012 and further underscore millennials’ need for high-quality, high-speed broadband connections.



Source: Horowitz Research

Call completion What can you do?

Rural call completion continues to be a challenge, as people experience failed connections and poor call quality when making long-distance or wireless calls to rural landlines. Following are some steps to take if someone has trouble completing a call to you from a long-distance or wireless telephone service provider:

1 Encourage them to report the issue to their provider. They will need the date and time the call was attempted, plus the calling and called telephone numbers.

2 Encourage them to report the problem to the FCC by calling 888-225-5322 or visiting consumercomplaints.fcc.gov. They will need the date

and time the call was attempted, the calling and called telephone numbers and the name of their long-distance or wireless telephone service provider.

3 Call your local phone company and provide the same information so they may work with the long distance or wireless provider to isolate the problem.

NTCA THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION RURAL CONNECTIONS

BY SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD, CEO
NTCA—THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

Progress on call completion issue

While the issue of call completion into rural areas continues to be a problem, we saw some progress a few weeks ago when a Utah-based long-distance carrier and call-center service provider agreed to pay \$100,000 to settle an FCC investigation.

Rural residents and business owners have long reported that some long-distance and wireless callers are not able to get through to their landline telephone, and that some calls that do come through have poor call quality. A leading cause of these call completion issues is standard service from third-party companies, known as “least-cost routers,” that long-distance and wireless companies use to route their calls into rural areas.

The FCC investigation and ultimate settlement took place in part thanks to a consumer in rural Minnesota who complained repeatedly to the FCC. This is not an easy step for a consumer to take, and it puts the burden in the wrong place.

While we certainly appreciate the FCC’s actions, such efforts have so far not been able to stop this practice. This calls for the need for legislation like that introduced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Rep. David Young (R-IA) to shine the light on these least-cost routers and put an end to the call completion problem once and for all. NTCA is eager to work with members of Congress and the FCC to ensure that all carriers and intermediate providers finally understand that practices contributing to dropped and uncompleted calls are simply unacceptable. ☞

Building for the future

Many of us use broadband when we first wake up, at the last moment before we go to sleep and during much of the time in between. For something that barely existed 15 years ago, it's remarkably embedded in our lives.



JIM COOK
General Manager

In the morning, before we even get dressed, we check the weather. That's right; broadband helps us decide what clothes to wear every day. When we get in our cars, many of us listen to podcasts, stream internet radio stations or use our phone's GPS for directions if we're going somewhere new. These services may exist on our mobile phones, but it's important to remember that it's often broadband providers like NHTC that have built the network to connect cell towers to servers.

At work, more and more of our jobs rely on broadband. We email customers and co-workers. We order parts. We download new curricula, training videos or manuals. We upload our documents, diagrams and data to far-flung vendors, partners and clients.

More and more of us are using videoconferencing to interact face-to-face with people around the country or even around the world.

Toward the end of our work day, some of us search recipes or restaurant menus to decide on dinner. After we eat, many of us shop online, share photos with family members or browse social media. Then, as our evening comes to an end, we stream TV shows, catch up on news articles or read an e-book we've downloaded on our tablets.

To be sure, the internet has made so many day-to-day tasks more convenient and has allowed us to work more efficiently.

It's easy to say no one could have predicted how big the internet has become in our daily lives, but as your local broadband provider, it's our job to predict these types of advances and prepare for them. We've worked hard over the past several decades to be sure we invested in the network our customers would need, before they would need it. For our area to keep up with the business trends, quality of life and educational opportunities in other areas, it's been paramount that our network be able to handle future demands.

Looking forward, I don't see these advances slowing down. On the contrary, I believe changes in telemedicine, streaming entertainment, cloud-based computing, home automation and long-distance learning will rapidly increase the importance of a reliable broadband connection.

I'm excited to see the new ways technology will improve our lives over the next 10 or 15 years, and I'm excited to be part of the team that's delivering this technology to the customers of NHTC. 📺

The Communicator

JULY/AUGUST 2016

VOL. 15, NO. 4

The Communicator is a bimonthly magazine published by New Hope Telephone Cooperative, ©2016. It is distributed without charge to all cooperative members/owners.



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

Send address corrections to:
New Hope Telephone Cooperative
P.O. Box 452
New Hope, AL 35760
256-723-4211
www.nhtc.coop

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Garland Elders, President
Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Mike Whitaker, Vice President
New Hope Exchange

Jeffrey Cantrell, Treasurer
Grant Exchange

Randy Morrison, Secretary
Grant Exchange

Calvin Bearden
Grant Exchange

Jeff Cooper
New Hope Exchange

Jim Duncan
New Hope Exchange

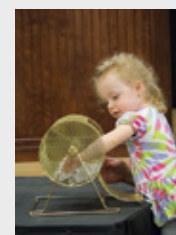
Greg Glover
Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Barry Jones
New Hope Exchange

Produced for NHTC by:



On the Cover:



Chloe Pannell draws a ticket out of the cage for a door prize at NHTC's annual meeting on May 17. A 50-inch flat-screen television was the grand prize.
See story Page 12.

Congratulations to our **scholarship winners**



» **HALEY PRITCHETT**, a New Hope High School graduate, was awarded a \$500 college scholarship by NHTC. She plans to attend Calhoun Community College to study elementary education. She is the granddaughter of Tammy and David Pritchett. Pritchett is a member of the National Honor Society and Leadership Beacon. Along with taking AP courses in school and serving as a reading coach, she also played on the softball team. She was a member of the Student Government Association and Future Business Leaders of America, Anchor Club, Indian Education and the Hampton Cove Church of Christ youth group. She works part time at the CARE Center and at Pickers on Main and the CARE Thrift Store. Her community involvement includes Family First Homemakers Club and DAR. She also prepares and delivers meals and does grocery shopping for elderly neighbors. And, she drives a senior group to weekly "Ladies Day Out" and organized and published a cookbook fundraiser for the CARE Center and New Hope High School.



» **SKYLAR ASPEN STONE**, a KDS DAR High School graduate, was awarded a \$500 college scholarship by NHTC. She plans to attend Northeast Alabama Community College and later transfer to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry. She is the daughter of Amanda and Tim Stone. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, Historical Society, LEO Club, Journalism/Yearbook Staff and Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes. Along with taking AP courses in school, Stone works as a nanny, caring for children and helping them daily with their homework. She does volunteer activities with her church, such as coordinating clothing donations for people in need, trash cleanup in the community, cooking for the sick and making get-well cards for patients in nursing homes.

Don't forget to sign up for
the new SmartHub app!



Access your NHTC account from any tablet or phone by downloading the new SmartHub app.

View and pay your bill online and see payment history. Also, you can request to set recurring payments and even receive text alerts from NHTC.

» **Sign up today and receive
a \$5 credit on your bill!**



To access the SmartHub app on an iPhone or iPad, simply scan this QR code with your device.



To access the SmartHub app on an Android device, simply scan this QR code with your device..

If you're on a computer, visit nehp.smarthub.coop



Save the date and make plans to join NHTC! Customer Appreciation Day is Friday, Oct. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come out for food and fun!

BIDS FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE

NHTC is currently accepting bids for lawn maintenance. Please call 256-723-4211 for more information.

ASTRONOMICAL ATTRACTIONS

*Explore the galaxy from
these heavenly hotspots*

BY ANNE BRALY

City lights cast a blanket over the night sky, effectively covering the brilliance of the stars. But step out into the country and the universe presents itself with a light show like none other. Here are some of the best places for stargazing in the South — wonders to behold by simply looking up.

TAMKE-ALLAN OBSERVATORY Rockwood, Tennessee

Though many parts of the Cumberland Plateau have seen extensive growth resulting in light pollution, Tamke-Allan is in an isolated location ideal for stargazing, says Dr. David Fields, astronomy professor at Roane State Community College. The observatory was opened by the college in 1998.

“Only by experiencing astronomy and discussing the implications of an infinite universe does one begin to appreciate the challenges and adventures that astronomy offers,” Fields says.

And what newcomers to Tamke-Allan will experience includes observing the skies through one of several telescopes: a 13.1-inch Dobsonian; a computer-controlled 12-inch Meade; and a large 6-foot-long, 8-inch telescope. In addition, there are several smaller telescopes used for teaching, but visitors are encouraged to bring their own.

- ▶ **Hours:** The first and third Saturdays of every month, beginning at 7:30 p.m., weather permitting.
- ▶ **Admission:** Free, but bring food to share with astronomers.
- ▶ **Information:** www.roanestate.edu/obs



TECH-SAVVY TRAVELER:

Good news! If you don't have time to make it to an observatory or planetarium — the night sky puts on a show every night from dusk to dawn and technology can help you know what's going on. Websites like seasky.org provide calendars to know when eclipses, meteor showers and other phenomena will occur and darksitefinder.com can help you find areas away from city lights where you can see the sky best. For more advanced astronomers, mobile apps like **Star Chart**, **Sky Guide** and **The Night Sky** can help you identify stars, planets and constellations.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

Golden Pond, Kentucky

Visitors to the Golden Pond Planetarium and Observatory can stand beneath a 40-foot domed ceiling and learn about the constellations on a simulated night sky. Then, they can see the real thing through two state-of-the-art telescopes, one that will track anything in its view, and another that allows viewers a safe look at the sun, a sight unlike any you've ever seen. But if you're looking for a setting in the wilds of nature, take your tent and binoculars and set out for an overnight in the backcountry, where, on beautiful nights, blackened skies are backlit with nature's laser show. And if you're lucky, you'll catch a falling star.

- ▶ **Hours:** Open all year, except Thanksgiving Day, December 24-26, December 30-31, and January 1.
- ▶ **Admission:** Daytime shows are \$5 (ages 13 and up) and \$3 (ages 5-12). Evening shows are \$7 (all ages).
- ▶ **Information:** www.explorekentuckylake.com or www.landbetweenthe lakes.us.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Summer is one of the best times for stargazing. "It's the time of year that gets the brightest inner parts of the Milky Way and its star clusters and nebulae," says Dr. William Keel, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

While most university programs are student-only events, the astronomy department opens its doors to all on select evenings for both viewings on campus, from the observatory high atop Gallalee Hall, and off campus, from beneath the dark skies of Moundville Archeological Park.

When the observatory's copper-topped dome opens, a large telescope mounted on a giant arm swings into position, its lens searching for the mysteries of the universe that light the night sky.

Sometimes as many as 200, or as few as 10, delight in night-time field trips to Moundville, where portable telescopes bring into focus planets and other celestial

spectacles not seen by the naked eye.

- ▶ **Hours:** See website for schedule
- ▶ **Admission:** Free
- ▶ **Information:** astronomy.ua.edu/Public.html
- ▶ **Elsewhere in Alabama:** The dome of the planetarium at the Von Braun Astronomical Society on Monte Sano Mountain near Huntsville started life as the shipping cover for a Saturn V fuel tank. Public planetarium shows begin at 7:30 p.m. every Saturday. Admission is \$5 (adults), \$3 (students) and free for children under 6. For more information, visit www.vbas.org.

RAFES URBAN ASTRONOMY CENTER

Denton, Texas

Ever look up and ask yourself, "Hmm. Wonder if that's a star or a planet? Oh, could that be Orion's belt?" Party with the stars at one of Rafe's popular star parties and you'll have the answer delivered on the spot by knowledgeable astronomers. "Most people really just want to know what they're looking at," says Randall Peters, planetarium manager. And for the best view, the party is in an amphitheater adjacent to the observatory, complete with a dozen telescopes of all sizes and configurations.

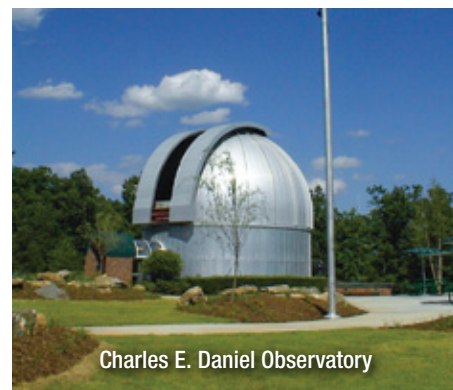
Rafe also features four telescope huts, each housing Celestron C8 telescopes, and two large domes that house Celestron C14's.

Rafe is operated by the University of North Texas, less than 10 miles east, making it a short drive to the campus to experience Sky Theater, a planetarium inside the Environmental Sciences Building. It's open every Saturday and takes guests on a ride through the cosmos via a high-definition projection system beamed onto a 40-foot domed ceiling.

- ▶ **Hours:** Star parties are every Saturday beginning 30 minutes after sundown. The Sky Theater offers a children's matinee at noon and public shows at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Saturday.
- ▶ **Admission:** \$5 (star parties), or star party/Sky Theater combo tickets may be purchased for \$7 (children under 12

and students with ID), \$8 (senior citizens) and \$9 (adults). Sky Theater-only tickets are \$3 (children under 12 and students with ID), \$4 (senior citizens) and \$5 (adults). Credit/debit cards not accepted.

- ▶ **Information:** www.astronomy.unt.edu.



Charles E. Daniel Observatory

CHARLES E. DANIEL OBSERVATORY

Greenville, South Carolina

Greenville's Daniel Observatory at Roper Mountain Science Center boasts the eighth-largest telescope in the nation. The 23-inch refractor telescope was completed in 1882 for Princeton University. It was rebuilt in 1933 and housed at the U.S. Naval Observatory before being moved to the science center's observatory in 1978.

"Our telescope is a window to the universe, enabling the observer to see everything from the moons of Jupiter to distant galaxies," says Greg Cornwell, planetarium and public program specialist.

In addition to Friday's Starry Nights planetarium show beneath its 50-foot domed ceiling and public viewings at the observatory, the center's Roper Mountain astronomers offer astronomy classes for students, special events and other organized activities. All this happens high atop the mountain, bringing guests just a bit closer to the stars.

- ▶ **Hours:** Starry Nights, 7-10 p.m. every Friday.
- ▶ **Admission** (includes planetarium show and observatory viewing): \$5 (adults) and \$4 (children 5-12 and seniors 60-plus).
- ▶ **Information:** www.RoperMountain.org.



SECURE YOUR FAMILY, REFER A FRIEND



Protect those you care about with NHTC Security Solutions



No one likes the idea that trouble may disrupt a home, the place where you should feel safest. Yet, every day, mishaps do occur — burglaries, fires, floods, injuries and more.

So consider an extra layer of prevention — turn to NHTC Security Solutions. Have the peace of mind that your loved ones and valuables are as secure as possible.

And remember, NHTC Security Solutions is keeping more families safer than ever before with coverage in Hampton Cove, Gurley and Brownsboro.



SECURE A FRIEND — EARN A \$5 CREDIT

Are you an existing NHTC Security Solutions customer? Talk to your friends and family about how much you love NHTC Security Solutions.

1

All you have to do is provide NHTC the details:

- Your name
- Your phone number
- The referral's name
- The referral's phone number

2

Submit the referral:

Call: 256-723-4211
Email: ndudley@nehpc.net

It's just that simple. Every referral who signs up for NHTC Security Solutions earns you a \$5 bill credit.

AL LIC #1660

Neighbors helping neighbors

Getting to know our newest employees

By MELISSA SMITH

NHTC is more than technology — it's a group of professionals who are devoted to serving you. Please welcome the latest additions to our team:



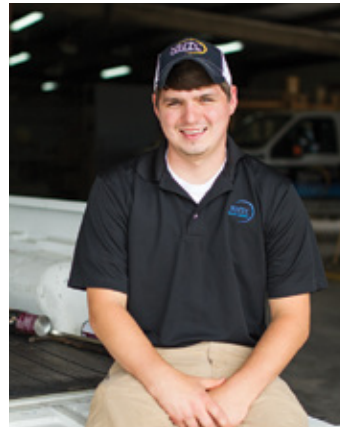
▲ JASON DAVIS

Jason Davis is an outside plant technician. He manages many copper and fiber service orders and troubleshoots in New Hope and Owens Cross Roads. He also helps with construction projects. Davis lives in Grant and enjoys fishing, riding horses, being outdoors and volunteering with Grant Fire and Rescue.



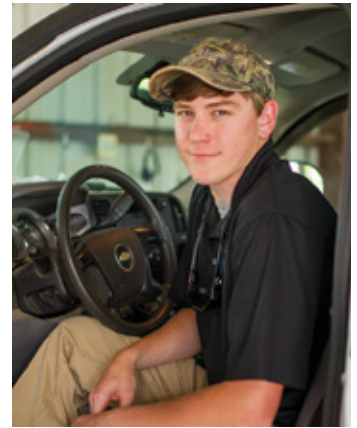
▲ HUNTER WHITE

Hunter White is an outside plant technician. He installs fiber service to customers' homes and to businesses. Engaged to Tara Richard, he lives in New Hope, where he enjoys hunting, fishing and shooting. A member of Old Center Missionary Baptist Church in Butler's Mill, he is also assistant fire chief with Grant Fire and Rescue.



▲ MICHAEL BROWN

Michael Brown is an outside plant technician. He helps install fiber optics and repair internet, IPTV and telephone service. He is married to Taylor Brown and lives in New Hope. When not working, Brown enjoys hunting, fishing and off-roading. Helping customers is his favorite part of his job.



▲ ZACH GUFFEY

Zach Guffey is an outside plant technician. He splices fiber lines, creating new connections that are the core of the network. He lives in Grant and enjoys hunting, fishing and off-roading. He attends Center Point Baptist Church in Scottsboro. "I enjoy keeping my neighbors' services working," he says.

THE CREWS AT THE HEART OF NHTC

NHTC depends on a crew of professionals who serve what is known as the outside plant — a broad term encompassing all of the cabling structures needed to make the system operate efficiently.

These professionals are responsible for everything from the lines that run to your home to deliver services, such as television and internet, to construc-

tion projects that keep the expansion of the fiber network rolling. And that's just the beginning because the roles of the outside plant technicians are diverse.

These are the people we depend on in all kinds of weather to keep service going strong for our customers. After storms or snow, they're the ones working to restore service.

Also, the duties of outside plant tech-

nicians encompass a range of jobs, such as doing the work necessary to expand the fiber optic network.

Possibly most importantly, outside plant technicians are committed to helping members keep their services in excellent working order.

We are proud to have these new employees on board as part of our NHTC family. ☺

Sue Rodman

MOM *on the* MOVE

A Q&A with Sue Rodman, a blogger from Atlanta who writes about her travels with her husband and sons, Nicholas, 18; Sam, 16; and Jake, 11.

Check out her blog, at
FIELDTRIPSWITHSUE.COM

Q: What will readers find at your blog?

SR: Readers will find fun things to do in Atlanta, as well as great places to go that are easily accessible from Atlanta. I try to give folks the information they'll need before they go, as well as tips to have the best experience possible. Having the right expectations going into an experience can be the difference between a great trip and one that's not so great.

Q: When did you begin blogging and how has it changed your life?

SR: I began blogging in late 2008. The blog has afforded opportunities for me and my family that I never would have dreamed of before. I've also met some incredible people. It's been fun to feel like I know folks around the entire country.

Q: Has there been a point when you questioned bringing the children along on a trip?

SR: Never. There are no bad field trips, only better stories. However, I will say that my husband has commented that the kids don't need to come every time, and as they have gotten older we are trying to do some trips without children. They don't like to be left home, but we remind them that we didn't go to places like the Turks and Caicos until we were middle-age.

They have plenty of time. They don't need to see the entire world right now.

Q: Do you often set out for a day hike, or do you enjoy making your hikes a multi-day escape?

SR: When I was younger, I would occasionally combine hiking with camping, but never more than a few days at a time. Despite my love of the outdoors, "roughing it" has never really been my thing. A year ago I purchased a Subaru Outback. I can now sleep overnight in my car, enabling me to go farther afield in search of trails.

Q: What's the most memorable trip you've taken with your kids?

SR: We spent a month in Breckenridge, Colorado, one summer. It was an amazing experience. If you have a job that allows you to work virtually, I highly suggest looking into getting away for an extended period like that. We really got to know and explore the area without being rushed. It was good for the kids to see a different lifestyle from our hectic city life and realize there is more out there than our bubble; you just have to go look for it.

Q: How does traveling with children benefit them and you?



OTHER BLOGS YOU MIGHT LIKE:

► **GONEWITHTHEFAMILY.COM**

A blog written by a mother of two young children that includes a collection of travel advice and trip reports, as well as tips, tricks and resources for traveling with little ones.

► **CURRENTLYWANDERING.COM**

Ever thought about selling your home and hitting the road in an RV or trailer? Read about the adventures of a family of five living in a 188-square-foot Airstream.

SR: Where do I start? My boys have pulled out history books and pointed to photos of things we've seen every year. Travel brings education alive. It makes kids curious. It also helps them visualize the boring stuff in school and makes it relevant. Travel gives our family shared experiences and many laughs from our adventures. 📷

Looking for work in the digital age

Broadband helps job seekers expand their search

BY PATRICK SMITH

When it comes to job hunting in the digital age, an employer's first impression comes long before the first face-to-face meeting. Web searches, social media, email and online applications may have already painted a picture long before you step through the door.

And without some coaching, it's easy for that first impression to be something an applicant wouldn't want. Job seekers should be aware of everything from resume typos to questionable social media posts.

But regardless of the added scrutiny, searching for work online benefits both job seekers and employers. And anyone looking for work who isn't searching online greatly limits their ability to find a job.

LOOKING ONLINE

Applicants can start their online job search in a variety of ways. CareerBuilder.com, Indeed.com and Monster.com are three of the biggest online job-posting websites.

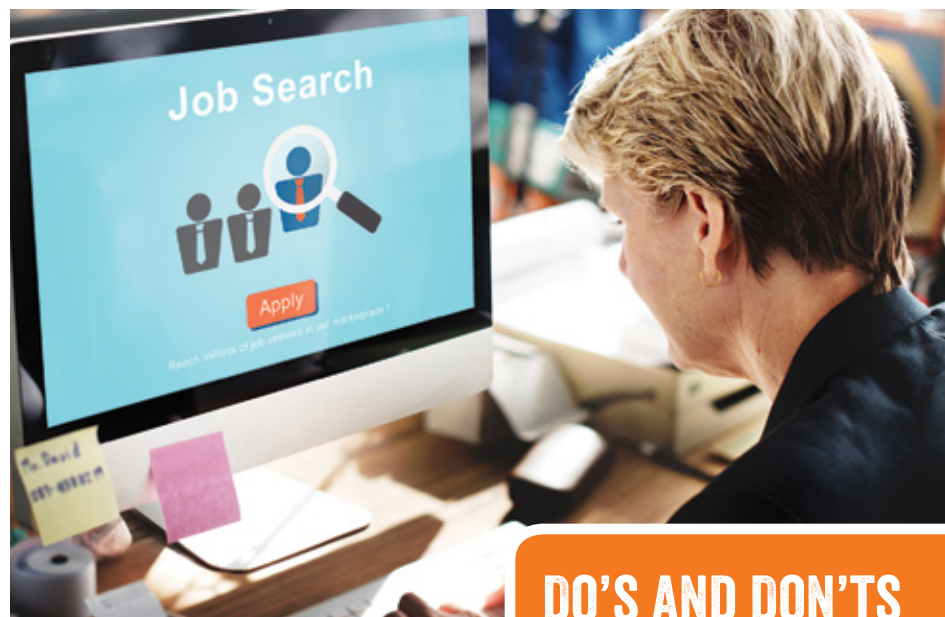
Additionally, don't overlook the importance of networking — both in person and online. Many experts encourage people to start a LinkedIn.com social media account. LinkedIn allows users in similar fields to network and connect.

When you're ready to apply, don't

send the same resume to 100 different job openings. Tailor your resume and cover letter to each specific job. And make sure the materials have been checked for misspellings or incorrect information. Even your email address can make an impression on employers. Make sure it's straightforward and professional.

Also, be aware of what you're sharing on social media. According to a 2013 survey by CareerBuilder.com, 37 percent of employers use social media sites like Facebook to screen job candidates — and one-third of those employers say they have found information on someone's social media site that has caused them not to hire that person.

Finally, before the interview, be sure to research the company online. Look into exactly what the company does and read recent news releases so you're up-to-date with the latest information. Being informed about the company also allows job seekers to ask smart questions during the interview. ☞



DO'S AND DON'TS

- **DO** create multiple resumes and cover letters tailored to the specific jobs.
- **DO** make sure everything on your resume is accurate and true.
- **DO** find out as much as possible about the company and job you have targeted.
- **DO** make it easy for employers to open your resume. PDF files of your cover letter and resume usually work best.
- **DO** network with people in similar positions, both in person and online.
- **DO** stay in touch. Follow up on your application with an email a few days later to show your interest in the job.
- **DO** drive to the location where you will be interviewing a day or two early so you don't get lost on the day of the meeting.
- **DON'T** send an email or letter without rereading it to check for attachments, grammar and spelling.
- **DON'T** apply for something you aren't qualified to do.
- **DON'T** be afraid of being rejected.
- **DON'T** be late for your interview.



Members gather in the New Hope Elementary/Middle School auditorium for the business meeting.

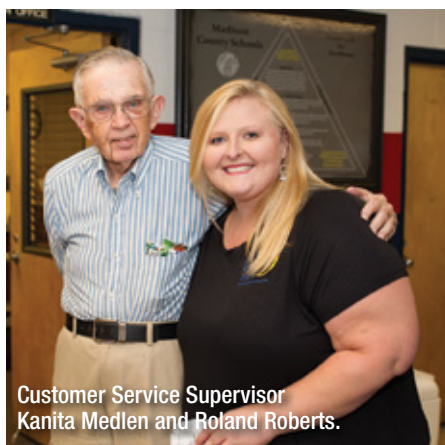


Jean Stapler, right, and Shelby Shaneyfelt cast their votes for NHTC board of directors members.

Solid and strong

NHTC holds 65th Annual Meeting

BY MELISSA SMITH



Customer Service Supervisor Kanita Medlen and Roland Roberts.



Margaret Meeks has some fun in the photo booth.

More than six decades ago, members of the New Hope Lions Club embraced a vision for their community.

After failed attempts to court investor-owned telephone network companies to New Hope, members of the club acquired a government loan and founded New Hope Telephone Cooperative.

At the 65th Annual Meeting on May 17 in the auditorium of the New Hope Elementary/Middle School, General Manager Jim Cook reported that the cooperative continues to thrive.

“Since our last meeting in May 2015, our employee team has been working hard to make NHTC a stronger company,” Cook said. “They have done this by delivering exceptional customer service, introducing new products and services, growing our customer base and expanding our broadband deployment.”

In a video, he also discussed the Federal Communications Commission’s Universal

Service Reform Act, which will ensure that people in rural areas will have access to the same high-speed broadband networks as those in more urban areas.

The cooperative also expanded its security service territory to include Hampton Cove, Brownsboro and Gurley.

“While deploying new products and services and enhancing existing products is important to the future success of New Hope Telephone, the construction of our fiber-to-the-home broadband network is, by far, the single most critical initiative your co-op has ever undertaken,” Cook said.

Within the next month, crews should complete placement of the core fiber backbone that will eventually connect all members to a high-speed broadband network.



Addison Tart greets members coming to vote in the school library.

VOTING GOES HIGH TECH

During the annual meeting, members arrived at the school at 5 p.m. to elect board members. To help the process, the cooperative introduced a new app designed to track voter registration.

Members signed a registration form, which contained a bar code. The bar code was then scanned by an employee with an iPad. Those steps electronically registered each member, allowing them to cast their vote. The app tracked the number of members, enabling NHTC management to track in real time when the number of members registered had passed the percentage needed to validate the election.

After voting, attendees enjoyed lemonade, popcorn, cookies and other refreshments. There was also a photo booth filled with fun props and musical entertainment provided by Coach Chris Clark from Rainsville.

Also, members learned they can now manage their accounts with the new online SmartHub app that can be downloaded from any smartphone or tablet. With the app, members can view their bill, track billing and payment history, request to set up recurring payments on a convenient schedule, opt in to receive text messages and alerts from NHTC and report problems with their service.

And several door prizes were awarded, including flat-screen televisions, iPads

and free services from NHTC. Carolyn Guyse won the grand prize, a 50-inch flat-screen television.

The business meeting ended with the announcement of the election results. Place 4 incumbent Barry Jones and Place 5 incumbent Mike Whitaker were voted back into their board seats. The board elected their new officers for the year as well. ☎



Central Office Technician David Whitaker refills lemonade for guests.



NHTC Board of Directors: Front row, from left: Jeffrey Cantrell, treasurer; Mike Whitaker, vice president; Garland Elders, president; and Randy Morrison, secretary. Back row, from left: Jim Cook, general manager; Jeff Cooper; Barry Jones; Jim Duncan; Greg Glover; Calvin Bearden; and Mac Martinson, NHTC attorney.

HOT DOG HAVEN

Any given weekend, day or night, folks crowd the town square in Abbeville, South Carolina, all coming for one thing: their love of a classic food America can call its very own — hot dogs. And no one serves them up any better than The Rough House.

The downtown eatery has been making hot dogs the same way for 84 years, says owner Darrow Kay. “Except for the kind of mustard we use,” he says. “We now use French’s.”

The Rough House keeps things simple. In a day when hot dog stands display outrageous toppings, such as avocados, cucumbers, tomatoes — even pineapple and teriyaki sauce — The Rough House takes a simpler approach that turns back the clock on tubular cuisine.

“Mustard, onions and chili are the only toppings we offer,” Kay says.

There’s Texas Pete on the table if you want to drizzle on some hot sauce to add a little bark to your dog. But if you want ketchup, you’ll have to add it yourself. Consider it a cardinal sin at The Rough House. “Our hot dogs taste too good to ruin them with ketchup,” Kay says.

And it’s not just the menu — hot dogs, ice cream and MoonPies, plus RC Cola, Cheerwine and Coca-Cola served in glass bottles — that takes a step back in time, adding a touch of nostalgia. So does the décor that sports old signs and photos from yesteryear.

“We have pictures on the walls of the old, local baseball teams from Abbeville and Calhoun Falls,” Kay says.

And don’t be surprised to find three generations of local families in one picture, all smiling back at you.

“One particular Saturday, there was a grandfather who was in one of the old baseball pictures,” Kay says. “He brought his son and grandson to see the old photos



Darrow Kay says things are built on tradition at The Rough House — from the hot dog toppings, sides and drinks to the old photos on the wall.

and to eat hot dogs and enjoy the atmosphere like he did as a young man. It most certainly put a smile on my face to keep the tradition alive.”

It’s all about life in a small town on a summer day, folks coming to The Rough House to experience one of life’s most-treasured, but simplest, culinary pleasures — a hot dog. Working guys in boots caked with mud and men in suits and ties sitting side-by-side. Grandparents with their grandkids, treating them to what may be their very first Rough House dog.

“It’s awesome to serve the children here in Abbeville,” Kay says. “The majority of the parents and grandparents make sure the children use good manners by saying ‘yes sir’ or ‘yes ma’am’ and ‘thank you.’ Thank goodness that manners are still important and alive in the South.”

While there’s nothing better than a hot

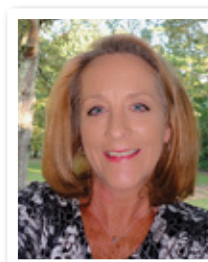
dog on a warm summer day, the sides that come with it are equally important. Here are several that Kay has found to be the best — and they’ll come as no surprise: baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw. 🍷

IF YOU GO...

Where: The Rough House

Address: 116 Court Square, Abbeville, S.C.

Hours: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday.



Food Editor **Anne P. Braly** is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Prior to pursuing a freelance career, she spent 21 years as food editor and feature writer at a regional newspaper.

MAGIC BAKED BEANS

"I'll go ahead and warn you; these beans are delicious," Darrow Kay says.

- 8 slices of thick bacon
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 3 cans pork and beans (your favorite brand)
- 3/4 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup distilled white or apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

Cut bacon slices in half, then fry them on medium-low heat. You don't want to brown or crisp the bacon at all; the point is only to render the fat and get the bacon pieces ready to bake and turn brown in the oven. Remove bacon pieces once the fat is rendered; do not clean the skillet or pour off grease. Add onion and green pepper to the skillet and saute until tender. Pour in beans and stir together.

Combine barbecue sauce, brown sugar, vinegar and mustard; stir into beans and simmer for a few minutes. Transfer mixture to a casserole dish and put half-cooked bacon slices on top. Since the fat has already been rendered from these, they're going to cook up really nicely in the oven ... and there won't be that big layer of grease standing on top of the beans. Bake slowly in a 325 F oven for 2 hours or until the beans have thickened with no soupiness at all.

CREAMY COLESLAW

- 1 pound package coleslaw mix
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup kosher salt

For the dressing:

- 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon celery salt
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley leaves, chopped

Pour the coleslaw mix into a strainer and place in the sink. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup sugar and 1/4 cup kosher salt and lightly toss. Let sit for 5 minutes to draw out moisture from the cabbage; rinse well with cold water. Spin the coleslaw mix in a salad spinner and place in a large bowl.

For the dressing: In a medium bowl mix the mayonnaise, sugar, cider vinegar, celery salt, kosher salt, freshly ground black pepper and chopped parsley. Whisk well and pour 2/3 of the dressing over the cabbage mixture, and toss to combine. Add more of the dressing as desired and season with more salt, pepper or parsley to taste. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or overnight before serving.

GRILLED BLUE CHEESE-AND-BACON POTATO SALAD

- 3 pounds baby red potatoes, cut in half
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup white balsamic vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 4 ounces crumbled blue cheese
- 6 bacon slices, cooked crisp and crumbled

Preheat grill to 350-400 F (medium-high) heat. Place potatoes in a single layer in center of a large piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Drizzle with olive oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bring up foil sides over potatoes; double fold top and side edges to seal, making 1 large packet. Grill potatoes, in foil packet, covered with grill lid, 15 minutes on each side. Remove packet from grill. Carefully open packet, using tongs, and let potatoes cool 5 minutes. Or, if you do not have a grill, potatoes can be roasted in a 400 F oven with olive oil until browned and tender. Whisk together mayonnaise, parsley, vinegar, sugar and mustard in a large bowl; add potatoes, tossing gently to coat. Stir in blue cheese and bacon. Serve. 🍴



Grilled Blue Cheese-and-Bacon Potato Salad



P.O. Box 452
New Hope, AL 35760

Presort STD
US Postage PAID
Permit #21
Freeport OH

Do you need to **SUPERCHARGE** a student's life?



Make a student's homework a little easier. Take advantage of NHTC's

*Back-to-School
Broadband deal!*

Research has never been so fast,
nor has connecting with online tools
been so easy.

NHTC will waive the connection
fee, and you get **HALF OFF** your bill
for three months — That's right,
up to \$167 in savings!*

*Speeds are best effort up to stated speed. Actual speeds vary depending on devices connected to the internet.
Savings begin after three months' payment in full. Actual savings may vary.

256-723-4211
nhtc.coop

**New
Hope**
Telephone
Cooperative
Your Broadband Connection