

The
Communicator

Vol. 5, No.6

June 2006

Annual Meeting Coverage



Meet the NHTC Team - Part 4

Maria Goodson, Marketing & PR

When I came to work at NHTC just over a year ago, I knew it would be challenging to take on the utility's marketing and public relations duties as a department of only one person. I was excited about that challenge, and I have not been disappointed.

There are so many projects and programs going on at NHTC that my plate has been full since the day I came on board. One of my first assignments was the development of a new company logo. This mark has been good for our company image, helping our members easily identify our trucks, uniforms and printed pieces.

This magazine has been one of the most exciting projects I've ever been involved with. *The Communicator* has grown from a small newsletter that featured mostly cooperative news to a full blown community magazine. Each month I am amazed at the response we get from members throughout our service area. They rely on the magazine to keep up with community events, read school and government updates, and learn about interesting people and places in the area.

With no local newspaper to keep these communities connected, we are proud *The Communicator* has filled that void. We took an important next step last year when we developed an advertising program that provides local businesses with an affordable means of promoting their products and services to their local markets. We continue to have businesses call to discuss advertising opportunities.

As involved as it is, meeting with advertisers and developing relationships throughout our service area in connection with our magazine is only a small

part of my job. Much of my time is spent on the many tasks surrounding new product and service development.

Market research and competitive research must be done before a new product can be seriously considered. Once we decide to offer a new service, contracts have to be negotiated and legal requirements must be met. I have developed and coordinated sales training for the NHTC employees who present the new services to you. There are also many tasks surrounding promoting new products and tracking sales results.

It has been my job to develop marketing plans to help your cooperative remain viable and competitive, while helping members get the most from the utility they own. Earlier this year I was named Project Manager for NHTC's strategic plan, a project that (among other things) will guide the company's move into Fiber-To-The-Home.

In a few weeks customers will begin to see new product and service brochures that pull together and simplify an array of information that has been scattered across many documents. This will make doing business with NHTC much more efficient.

On the Public Relations side of things, I enjoy being involved in customer appreciation functions, local community events and getting to know our subscribers. Thank you NHTC for giving me this opportunity.▲



*Maria Goodson is
PR/Marketing
Manager for
New Hope Telephone
Cooperative*



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

Board of Directors

Jeff Cooper, President
New Hope Exchange

Greg Glover, Vice President
Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Jim Duncan, Secretary
New Hope Exchange

Jimmy Segler, Treasurer
Grant Exchange

David Ayers
Grant Exchange

Jeff DeArmond
Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Barry Jones
New Hope Exchange

Barry Mefford
New Hope Exchange

Dennis Pence
Grant Exchange

The Communicator

Vol. 5, No. 6 June 2006

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On the cover:

Hundreds of NHTC members attended the Annual Meeting to learn more about their cooperative. The Annual Meeting, along with its Board elections, is a cornerstone of the cooperative form of business.

Dial '711' to make a relay call

7-1-1 is a telephone service that connects standard (voice) telephone users and users who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, and/or who have speech disabilities and use text telephones (TTY). It is easier to remember and

use than traditional 800 relay numbers, while creating more user-friendly access for less experienced relay users (including businesses and friends or family members of TTY users).

Dial 7-1-1 or use these toll free Alabama Relay numbers:

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Voice

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Voice Carry-Over

1-800-548-2928

Speech-to-Speech

1-800-548-8317

Spanish (TTY/Voice)

1-900-646-4323

900 Services

Relay Customer Service

1-800-676-3777

TTY/Voice/ASCII

Servicio al Cliente de Relay

1-800-676-4290

TTY Voz ASCII

Can you find it?

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's contest. The answer, *Rutherford B. Hayes*, was found at the top of page 8 in the center column. Ava Cambron of New Hope found the answer and won a \$5 credit on her phone bill. Look for another chance to win next quarter.

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'NHTC is Financially Sound'

Hunkapiller reports on a productive, progressive year at New Hope Telephone Cooperative's Annual Meeting

The threat of scattered showers turned into a downpour, but that didn't keep members away from the Annual Meeting of their telephone cooperative.

The event, held on Tuesday, May 16 at the New Hope Elementary/Middle School, drew hundreds of NHTC members. They gathered to cast their votes in the Board of Directors elections, and to hear an update on the company's progress and performance.

Prior to the business meeting, attendees registered, voted and enjoyed visiting with neighbors and friends. Each registered voter received a free NHTC shirt. The crowd also enjoyed bluegrass music from the Senior Center Band, as well as the country sounds of Leon Venerable and his group.

NHTC Board of Directors President Jeff Cooper called the business meeting to order, announcing that a total of 360 members had registered. A committee was formed to count the election ballots.

Greg Glover, who serves on the Board from the Owens Cross Roads exchange, defended his position against William Schultz. Members returned

Glover to the Board by a vote of 315 to 34. Members also returned Jimmy Segler of the Grant exchange to the Board. He defeated challenger Richard Burton by a vote of 266 to 91.

NHTC General Manager Teresa Hunkapiller reported on the busy year the cooperative had experienced since the previous Annual Meeting. The two words she used to describe the past year were "productive" and "progressive."

"2005 was a great year for the cooperative financially," Hunkapiller stated. She reported that NHTC earned some \$1,778,000 in 2005.

Other indicators of financial strength which Hunkapiller highlighted included an increase in assets, good cash flow, a decrease in liabilities, and continued efforts to pay off debt.

The cooperative was also in a position to refund more capital credits this year than the previous year. The overall refund amount of two percent resulted in some \$264,000 being returned to members. "It's wonderful that you can pay for a service and increase your net worth at the same time," Hunkapiller said.

Among the other developments discussed by Hunkapiller were:

Strategic Plan. The Board and management went through a strategic plan that identified the company's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. After five months of intense research and analysis, it was determined that NHTC's primary focus for the next five to ten years should be to move toward Fiber-To-The-Home, which will bring a host of opportunities to the cooperative and its members.

REGIONconnect. NHTC now offers a calling plan that provides 1,200 minutes of calls into the Huntsville area for only \$22 per month.

Cable TV Tiers. In response to viewer requests, NHTC developed two additional cable TV packages that feature fewer channels and cost less per month than the expanded package.

New Cable Channels. The Jewelry Channel was recently added at no additional charge. This shopping channel pays NHTC, and that money will be used to add RFD-TV to the cable lineup soon at no cost to customers.

Software Replacement. NHTC is in the beginning stages of a plan to replace its old billing software. The new software will generate bills that are easier to read, and will bring greater efficiency to all departments within the company.

Bandwidth Increase. The company's connection to Bell was increased by 400 percent. This allowed for an immediate increase in bandwidth of 40 percent, with quick and efficient upgrades as future needs require.



Hats off to our members!

Many interesting hats caught the camera's eye at the New Hope Telephone Cooperative's Annual Meeting.

Training. All employees have participated in training during the past year, many earning certification in areas such as safety, fiber optic splicing and network design. Customer service representatives are to begin CSR certification classes in June.

CAREconnect. A medical alert system is now available from NHTC, along with a medication management system.

Residential Bundles. NHTC has developed plans that will bundle essential services into packages that will save members money. These plans will likely become available in early 2007, after the new billing software is completely operational.

Business Bundles. In the second quarter of 2007, NHTC will roll out bundled plans specifically designed for businesses.

Cable TV Upgrades. Like all cable companies, NHTC must be HD-ready by 2009. As the system is upgraded toward that goal, more channels will become available along with services like IPTV and Video on Demand. Improved local ad insertion will also become available for the local community.

Communicator. NHTC's monthly magazine continues to earn positive comments from members as it provides community news and offers merchants a way to advertise to their local market.▲



TELEVISION WINNERS D.C. Moore (left) and J.T. Smith, both of Grant, were the lucky winners of the grand prizes at the New Hope Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting. Each went home with a 27" Sharp color television.



NHTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Following the Annual Meeting, members of the Board of Directors conducted a brief business meeting. As required by the company bylaws, they held elections for Board officers. Members of the Board are, left to right: (seated) Jim Duncan, Secretary; Greg Glover, Vice President; Jeff Cooper, President; Jimmy Segler, Treasurer; (standing) Barry Mefford; Barry Jones; Dennis Pence; Jeff DeArmond; and David Ayers.

Congratulations to our Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Annette Clark (*Duffel Bag*)

Clinton & Marie Key (*New Hope BBQ Gift Certificate*)

Robert Keller (*El Paso Gift Certificate*)

Kevin Hamilton (*Porky's Gift Certificate*)

M.A. Hornbuckle (*Ken's Gift Certificate*)

Johnny Woody (*New Hope BBQ Gift Certificate*)

Billy Harless (*DVD Recorder*)

Marvin Gurley (*3 Months Cable TV*)

Bunker Woody (*DSL modem*)

Barbara Hunter (*Mini Hi Fi System*)

James Warren (*DVD Player*)

Jimmy Kennamer (*3 Months Voice Mail*)

Sam Grooms (*\$20 cash*)

Mickey Williams (*\$20 cash*)

Daniel Shaneyfelt (*\$20 cash*)

Mary Louise Cameron (*\$20 cash*)

Robert Woody (*\$20 cash*)

Donald C. Ward (*Cordless Phone*)

Sonny Cantrell (*Cordless Phone*)

Steve Smith (*\$30 cash*)

Alton Willmon (*\$30 cash*)

Mr. Fix It (*\$30 cash*)

Billy Butler (*\$30 cash*)

Al Grider (*Portable DVD*)

Rita Bradford (*\$40 cash*)

Dewayne Durham (*\$40 cash*)

D.R. Paseur (*\$100 cash*)

J.T. Smith (*27" Television*)

D.C. Moore (*27" Television*)

Yes, we accept major credit cards!

New Hope Telephone offers members great flexibility in paying their telecommunications bills. Besides the option of having the amount of your bill drafted from your checking account, you can pay for telephone, cable, long distance and Internet (including modem purchases) directly with your Mastercard or Visa credit or debit card. We also accept Discover. Simply bring the card with you when paying at our office, or call and have your card and bill ready. (Sorry, credit card payments are not accepted through the mail or at local banks where NHTC payments are made.)



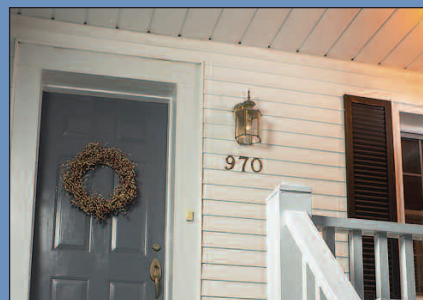
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**New Hope Telephone
Cooperative**

Can we see your house numbers?



Please make certain your address is posted on your home. When these house numbers are visible from the road, our installers and repairmen can easily locate you. This would also benefit your other utilities, as well as emergency responders.

We're celebrating our 2nd Anniversary

And we want you to join the celebration!

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH

Join us for lunch – Tommy Baker and the friendly staff will be serving hot dogs, soft drinks and popcorn.

Register for door prizes to be given away!



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and we want to say **'Thank You!'**



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NHTC welcomes Nelson as new customer service representative

NHTC customers have been greeted by a new face recently.



Christy Nelson was hired in February as a customer service representative. Christy is a 2002 graduate of New Hope High School, and is currently working toward a degree in administrative office management from Virginia College at Huntsville. Christy lives in New Hope with her two young sons.

Weaver recognized for 10 years of service to New Hope Telephone

Shelly Weaver came to work at NHTC 10 years ago, the same week she married her husband, Tim. For the past eight years she has served as accounts payable coordinator, where she handles payroll and processes all payments to vendors and suppliers. When not at work, Shelly enjoys shopping, listening to music, and playing with her hound dog Rex.



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**The
Tree Stump
Philosopher**

I've learned that ...

- When you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
- God didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?
- Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end the faster it goes.

NHTC staff is focused on safety



June is National Safety Month, according to the National Safety Council. But New Hope Telephone Cooperative has made safety a priority every month of the year.

Last summer, NHTC's Tim Wright and Robert Patterson earned certifications as Safety Training Specialists and Safety Planning Specialists. The training was part of a company-wide effort to increase safety awareness for all NHTC employees.

Since that time, NHTC has offered numerous training opportunities to its employees. "We've conducted training for office personnel on ergonomics, workplace violence and robbery," explains Wright, who serves as the cooperative's safety coordinator. Training sessions have been followed by exams to help reinforce what employees learn.

Outside crews have received specialized training in areas such as bucket truck rescue, backhoe and loader safety, and working in proximity of electrical power.

Other topics covered have included how to recognize and prevent heat stress

and how to avoid back injury by using proper lifting techniques.

NHTC also formed a Safety Advisory Committee last year. Current members include Wright, Patterson, Daniel Martin, Mark Beem, Bobby Morrison, Kanita Medlen and Nikki Dudley. The committee's role is to advise management on safety issues and to serve as a sounding board for safety concerns from other employees.

First-aid kits were recently purchased for both NHTC office buildings. Patterson is currently developing fire evacuation plans and tornado preparedness procedures for the buildings.

To increase safety awareness in a workplace that holds the daily potential for life-threatening injuries, Wright and four other employees have become certified in the Essentials of OSHA Compliance. "Over the next three or four years, I hope to send every employee through this certification," Wright says.

Such a focus on safety pays big dividends, both in a human sense (employee well-being), and a financial sense (no loss-time accidents). "NHTC has been accident-free for 14 months," Wright says. "And we're really proud of everyone for that." ▲

Think Safety!

The National Safety Council Web site features numerous tips to help you keep safety in mind while driving, while in the workplace, during emergencies, and in your home and community. These include:

- Don't reach down or behind the driver's seat, pick up items from the floor, open the glove compartment or clean the inside windows while driving.
- Put your best foot forward. Wear the right shoes for the job, and keep the soles clean for better traction.
- Never attempt to drive through a flooded road. Six inches of water can be enough to stall a vehicle. Two feet can float most cars, trucks and SUVs. And never drive around a flood barricade.
- Periodically check the condition of outdoor walks and steps, and repair any damage immediately.
- Always lift with your legs, not your back. Keep the object you're lifting as close to your body as possible.

To learn more about National Safety Month, visit www.nsc.org.



DAR's **Joseph Spurgeon** received a \$500 scholarship from NHTC. Spurgeon's school activities include: Sec. of Student Chamber Assoc., People's State Bank Junior Board of Directors, All County Choir, DAR Good Citizen, Marshall County All Academic Team, National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Science Club. He plays Patriot Baseball and Tennis. Spurgeon plans to attend Snead State Community College.



Amanda Carpenter is New Hope High School's recipient of a \$500 scholarship awarded by NHTC. Carpenter's school activities include: President of the Student Government, Reporter for Future Business Leaders of America, Secretary of Junior Civitans, VP of National Honor Society, a member of Fellowship of Christian Students, captain of the volleyball team, plays golf and basketball. She plans to attend Troy University.

CAREconnect to provide alert services

The latest service from New Hope Telephone Cooperative won't save members any money on their phone bills — but it could save a few lives.

CAREconnect is the newest service being offered by NHTC to meet the



With CAREconnect, you can signal a call center with the touch of a button.

needs of its members. The program provides a personal alert system that pages a call center with the touch of a button. It also features a medication manage-

ment device that works with the call center to help remind people to take their prescription drugs on schedule.

NHTC's Service Representative

Kanita Medlen began researching an alert program after receiving numerous inquiries from elderly members and their adult children about the availability of such services. "I did my research on the Internet, and found six or seven companies that offered monitoring services," she says. Medlen documented what each had to offer and presented her findings to management.

NHTC identified a company with a professional product and a solid reputation. "Their response times are fast, and they have the biggest facility for handling incoming and outgoing calls," Medlen says.

NHTC's PR/Marketing Manager Maria Goodson got to work negotiating contracts with the company, developing pricing and coordinating employee train-

ing. "We have many elderly and home-bound members who can benefit from CAREconnect," Goodson says. "It can give them the comfort of being able to signal for help at the touch of a button. And that will give their families peace of mind, too."

CAREconnect's medication management option will be beneficial to anyone who takes a number of prescription drugs, regardless of their age.

"One of the strengths of a cooperative is its willingness to meet the needs of the members it serves," says Teresa Hunkapiller, NHTC General Manager. "We hope CAREconnect will be a blessing to many elderly people; it may even help save some lives."

See the Back Page for more information about CAREconnect.▲



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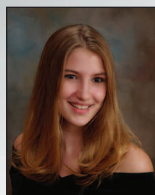


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Joseph
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Stephanie
Rubio



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Sanderson



Garland
Shurden



Sarah
Smith



Martha
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Angelica
Toney



Kyle
Thomas



Jordan
Townsend



Corey
Waugh



Jennifer
Wellman



Jacob
Whitehead



Photo
not
available



Ryan
Woods

Kate Duncan Smith DAR High School



Jacqueline Aguirre

Danielle Anderson

Benjy Austin

Justin Barnes

Cory Bates

Jennifer Batey

Chris Bearden

Kristina Bearden

Eoin Bilke

Brandi Boozer



Bethany Bridges

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Ryan Joiner

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Tonya Morgan

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Kristi Sutton

Matthew Turner

Adam Vencill

Dixie Walker

Ashely Weems

Michael Whiddon

Ashely Whitaker

Ray Winkles

Jonathon Yancy

A reminder from our accountant

Cash your capital credit refund checks

Dear Cooperative Member:

Each year, the Board is faced with the decision whether or not to return a portion of the company's equity to the subscribers. Fortunately, they voted again this year to approve a capital refund.

In the years that a refund is declared, NHTC strives to have all eligible, active members capital credit refund checks mailed within the first two weeks of May. It is very important that once the checks are received by our members that they are cashed or deposited in a timely manner. The checks that are issued are voided after 90 days if not cashed or deposited.

In past years the Coop has experienced a high volume of checks expiring and members requesting replacements. By doing your part, this is an unnecessary expense that can be controlled or eliminated. NHTC always strives to keep cost as low as possible in order to achieve the highest rate of return to our members each year.

Please help us keep our cost low and your return high by doing your part.

Bobby Morrison, Jr.
Staff Accountant



NHTC represents your voice on Capital Hill. Representatives of NHTC recently visited Washington, D.C., as part of the National Telecommunication Cooperative Association's annual Legislative Conference. The group met with elected officials and their staff members to discuss industry issues and represent local concerns. "It is important for Senators and Congressmen to hear from us," says NHTC General Manager Teresa Hunkapiller, "to know we represent thousands of families living in rural America who must be considered when passing legislation." Pictured above in the Rayburn House Office Building are (left to right) NHTC Board member Dennis Pence and NHTC employees Robert Patterson, Donald Morrison and Tim Wright. Photo by Teresa Hunkapiller.

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Receiving advance capital credit refunds

Because New Hope Telephone is a cooperative, our members earn capital credits based on the amount of business they do with us. A percentage of these credits are returned to members as the Board of Directors deems financially feasible (usually on an annual basis).

There are occasions when members request an advance refund of their capital credits. Capital credits may be refunded in advance for the following reasons (please note that with all advanced refunds, 2/3 of the total amount is refunded, with the remainder being forfeited to NHTC):

1) The member is inactive for more than one year

A refund is available one year from the date of disconnect. A form must be completed with the customer's notarized signature.

2) The member is deceased

If phone service is disconnected at the time of death, a refund is processed as soon as all the files related to the capital credit are updated. This is after closing and reconciling of the last quarter in which the member had cash activity. If the surviving spouse continues service, the refund is processed through the end of the quarter in which the member passed away (this is also after the closing and reconciling of that quarter). From this point forward the capital earned belongs to the surviving spouse, even if the phone listing is never changed.

You will need the following forms to request a refund on the account of a deceased member:

- copy of the death certificate
- legal documents naming an administrator/executor
- refund release with notarized signature of administrator/executor

3) The member is placed in a nursing home

Documentation is required certifying that the member has been permanently placed in the facility.

Think About It

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.

-- Anonymous

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Kim Worley
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Call on Mr. Fix It to turn your deck or concrete pad into a custom screened-in porch. It's an affordable extra room that's great for family gatherings, backyard barbecues, or just relaxing with a glass of iced tea and the latest issue of *The Communicator*!

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Send in those letters

Students want to hear about the good ole days

Fourth graders in Mrs. Neff's class at New Hope Elementary School have been working on a project which will continue over the summer and into next year. The class is collecting stories from people in the New Hope community. "We are interested in having local residents tell us about what it was like when they were a child, even if they did not grow up in New Hope," states Mrs. Neff.

Some may write about their favorite (or least favorite) grade in school. Perhaps others will tell about a community tradition that might not continue today,

games, holidays or what kids did for fun when they were a child. And still others can share stories about a favorite pet or family member. Photographs of yourself as a child or of an area landmark the way it was "back then" would be appreciated as well.

If you've got a story or photo to share, please send it to the following address:

New Hope Elementary School
Attn: Wendy Neff
5300 Main Drive
New Hope, Alabama 35760

The Grant Chamber of Commerce encourages everyone to

SHOP LOCAL

"Promoting Unity and Preserving Traditions"

OWENS CROSS ROADS

*Co-Ed Summer
Volleyball League*

Sign-Ups:

JUNE 10TH & **JUNE 11TH**
4 - 6 P.M. & **2 - 4 P.M.**

In the OCR Gymnasium

\$60 per team

3 men & 3 women per team
 All games played at OCR Gym

Proceeds go to OCR PTO to help fund a new playground

For additional Information, contact: Vicki Tolliver, 725-5210 or 527-2532

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY

Angel Food Ministry offers food at substantial savings over what it would cost in the grocery store. Generally, one unit of food assists in feeding a family of four for about one week or a single senior citizen for almost a month. The food is all the same high quality one would purchase at a grocery store. There are no second-hand items, no damaged or out-dated goods, no dented cans without labels, no day-old breads and no produce that is almost too ripe.

- \$25 per unit (about a \$50 value)
- Bring a box to pick-up unit
- Pay with cash, check or Offline Food Stamp Voucher System
- Specials available with unit purchase

Get more information or this month's menu and pick-up dates by calling New Hope United Methodist Church: 723-4812, or Ellen Rozell at the HEALS Clinic, 723-4325 or on the web at www.angelfoodministries.com.

Brought to you by New Hope UMC

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE 2006

June 3rd

OCR Clean-Up Day

Call Barbara Webster to volunteer or for more information, 725-4163. All volunteers will meet at 9:00 a.m. at OCR Town Hall. In case of rain it will be rescheduled for June 17th.

North Ala. Street Toys Cruise-In

Hardee's Restaurant, 6 - 9 p.m.

Custom cars, street rods, trucks and classic cars.

Info: Billy Vann, 723-4631 or DR Paseur, 723-4500

June 5th - 9th

Vacation Bible School

First Baptist Church of New Hope

9:00 a.m. until Noon each day

Call church office for more information, 723-4614

June 10th

New Hope Story Day

Activities include demonstrations of old-time crafts, skills and leisure activities, as well as stories and music. A fun time for all!

New Hope City Hall, 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Teresa Ballard, 723-8332.

June 12th

New Hope City Council Meeting

New Hope City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Grant City Council Meeting

Grant Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

June 15th

Owens Cross Roads City Council Meeting

OCR Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

June 19th

New Hope City Council Meeting

New Hope City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Grant City Council Meeting

Grant Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

New Hope Historical Association Meeting

City Hall, First Floor-Museum, 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Lou Ann Poole, 723-2525

June 19th - 23rd

Vacation Bible School

Galilee Baptist Church, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Call church office for more information, 723-4819

Huck Hornbuckle still gives an ole timey haircut



Step inside Huck Hornbuckle's barber shop in New Hope, and you can feel the pace of life slow down. It's a place where everything is familiar, friends are old and true, and you can still get a haircut for seven dollars.

Hornbuckle has been working on this corner for almost 50 years. The roots of his career serving the public can be traced to 1958, when he began stocking groceries and pumping gas at his father's store — Hornbuckle Grocery.

His father built the shop. "If Daddy hadn't given me the shop, I wouldn't be here," he says. "I've never paid rent."

Hornbuckle completed barber school at Calhoun College, then cut hair for two years under Kenneth Cagle to earn his master's license. "When I started, a cut was \$1.25, and a flat top was \$1.50," Hornbuckle recalls.

While building his client base, Hornbuckle continued to work on occasion for his father at the grocery store. Through the years, he developed a good business with many people who turned out to be life-long friends.

"I've got a bunch of customers that I've cut several generations of their family," he says. This includes men like

Clifton Cody, whose son and grandson became Hornbuckle customers.

As he thinks back over his many years of cutting hair in New Hope,

of stories," he says. "We talk about everything in general — from fishing to women.

"We talk about sports a lot," he

adds. "I'm a big Alabama fan. And right now, we're talking about gas prices and the president."

The barber shop indeed seems to be the hub of the community. People from out of town often stop to ask for directions to locations such as the funeral home, city hall and the telephone company.

If you're looking for a traditional haircut at yesterday's prices, stop by and give Huck Hornbuckle a visit.

His shop hasn't changed much since he cut his first head of hair here almost four decades ago. It is filled with interesting memorabilia such as photos of the Butler Brother's Gin and campaign material from commissioner James Bell.

Hornbuckle has other projects to keep him busy nowadays, but he's still cutting hair. "I'm gonna keep cutting hair a few more years," he says. "I've got some older customers who want me to keep cutting." The shop is open Monday, Thursday, Friday, and half a day on Saturday.

Stop by and say hello to a friend.▲



There are a host of regulars who stop by Huck Hornbuckle's barber shop to keep up with community news and get an ole timey haircut at a bargain price. Above Eugene Hall sits down for a trim.

Hornbuckle recalls the great friends he has made. Marvin Smith. Houston Key. Murphy Moring. David Fisher. Eugene Hall. David Mann, Sr. and Joe Ed Lee, whose Navy photo, autographed, is prominently displayed at the shop.

There are others, too numerous to count. Getting to know so many people and becoming part of their lives is a special privilege for Hornbuckle. "I appreciate their business," he says. "I appreciate them letting me cut their hair."

Besides an ole timey hair cut, you can usually find good conversation at Hornbuckle's shop. "I've heard all kinds



LOCAL HEROES

Christopher Paul Erwin is a Corporal in the Marine Corp. He is a 2002 graduate of New Hope High School. His parents are Jimmy and Shelia Erwin. Cpl. Erwin married his sweetheart, Brandie Kelly on September 10, 2005 at the Botanical Gardens in Huntsville. They reside in California where Erwin is stationed.

In March Cpl. Erwin began his tour of duty in Iraq. His family is very proud of him and pray for his safe return.

Help us honor our local soldiers

Send us the name, and a photo, of your family member from the community who is currently serving our country overseas. Please include the names of family members, their branch of service and the unit they are assigned to. Send to: NHTC, Attn: Maria Goodson, P.O. Box 452, New Hope, AL 35760.

Inspiration Corner

To anyone raising children, can you count the number of times your child has gone against what you say to them? Probably not, but if you can you need to be leading a parenting class. The Bible talks about the relationship of Jesus and children and children and their parents. I recently faced a couple of incidences which saddened my heart. First of all I had a child tell me they wanted to come to church but their parents would not let them. The second incident happened in church. During our services I ask for both prayer concerns and praise offerings. This is a worshipful time in our service. One Sunday after church I was asked if I had seen a child trying to give a praise offering while her parent was not wanting her to be disruptive. Sadly I missed it.

The disciples made an attempt at not letting children get close to Jesus. Jesus said, "Leave them alone and let them come, for such is the kingdom of God. In fact, anyone who does not receive the kingdom as a child cannot enter in". Oh how easy a child-like faith would be if only our adult hearts were not made corrupt by this world. Jesus also spoke of parents and children being separated because of Him. If you are searching for peace in your family I urge you to follow the faith of a child. Come and see and hear!



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



PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NEW HOPE

It happened again this year! Birds visit our home again. I am not sure, but they appear to be the same birds that were here last year. My wife and I go through the same debate every year. Should we keep them from nesting or allow them a place to build their nest and raise their young? Maybe you can relate?

We must be soft hearted because the birds win out every year. Then we watch as they hatch from their eggs and eventually leave the nest. As we watch this yearly process we are reminded of the words of the Lord as He pointed to the birds as evidence of God's providential care for His creation. Is God teaching me some lessons about life?

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and

yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" NIV (Matthew 6:26-27)

*Said a robin to a sparrow:
"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."*

*Said the sparrow to the robin:
"I suppose that it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."
(Elizabeth Cheney)*

Do you know the Heavenly Father?
Why not take time and turn your cares
over to Him today!
See you in church Sunday.



Sophia Shelton is a fourth grader at OCR Elementary School. She won the art logo contest for the UAH Drinking Water Festival. Her design will be on the T-shirt of every fourth grader in the county and city at this year's festival. She also received a \$100 savings bond.

Huntsville's Panoply also offered elementary students an opportunity to show off their artistic ability. Spencer Heathington, a fourth grader at OCR Elementary School, won 3rd place in a contest to design a billboard for Panoply. Spencer is in Mrs. Paseur's classroom.



Hannah Williamson was the first place winner in Panoply's billboard art contest. She is a second grader at OCR Elementary School. Her artwork was featured on billboards around Huntsville promoting Panoply.

South Hampton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center would like to thank the Owens Cross Roads Homemakers Club for all their support of food, paper supplies and craft supplies for our Residents.

And thanks to *The Communicator* for all your support of time and articles about our activities. We appreciate you both for your love for our Residents. Again a big **THANK YOU!**
The Activity Department

"Caring for those who cared for us"



South Hampton Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is a state licensed skilled facility offering short and long term nursing care and rehabilitation services. Our focus is to promote healing and recovery for a return to independent or assisted living whenever possible, and to provide long term nursing care and supervision when independence is not a viable option. Please call or come by South Hampton to meet the staff and tour our facility.

SH
SOUTH HAMPTON
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CENTER

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OWENS CROSS ROADS, AL 35763
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Gloria Shipman
Jeanette Hall
April Pendergrass
Sharon Edmonds
Becky Wytaker
LaVonne Castle
(Not pictured, Judy Barnes)



From the kitchen of **Sandra Walls**

Sandra Walls says she loves to cook. She must; as manager of the New Hope Elementary lunchroom, she is responsible for the preparation of, on average, 170 breakfasts and 550 lunches each weekday.

When her church holds bake sales to raise funds, Walls' cakes are always a hit. "I have made as many as 16 cakes for a bake sale," she says. Sometimes the cakes are sold before the event begins.

Walls began helping her mother in the kitchen as a young girl. "I always wanted to be able to cook as good as my mother," he says. "She was such a good cook, and a good role model."

The recipe below for *Maw Maw's Pot Roast* was passed down to Walls from her mother. The "never fail" recipe for *Chocolate Skillet Pie* was a popular menu item when Walls and her family operated Dot's Dairy Den.

Chocolate Skillet Pie

1 cup sugar
3 rounded Tbsp. flour
4 Tbsp. cocoa
3 eggs, separated
1-1/2 cups milk
3 Tbsp. butter
1 Tbsp. vanilla
1 (8 inch deep dish) pie crust

mix sugar, flour and cocoa in small bowl. Slightly beat egg yolks and milk. Melt butter in an iron skillet over medium heat. Stir in flour mixture with a wire whisk. Remove from heat and add milk mixture with whisk. Return to heat and cook until thickened. Remove and add vanilla. Pour into baked pie shell. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Add 6 Tbsp. sugar, one at a time. Spread over pie filling. Bake at 325° until lightly browned.

Pecan Pound Cake

3 sticks butter
2 cups sugar
6 eggs
2 cups all purpose flour (self-rising will not work for this recipe)
2 tsp. almond extract
3/4 cup pecans, optional

Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after

each. Blend in flour. Add extract and nuts, then blend. Pour batter into well greased and floured tube or bundt pan. Bake at 325° for 1 hour. Note: pecans can be omitted for a wonderful pound cake. This is suitable for freezing.

Maw Maw's Pot Roast

4-5 lb. roast
1 pkg. dry onion soup mix
4-6 potatoes, peeled & halved
1 lb. baby carrots

Heat a large roasting pan on stovetop until very hot. Place roast in pan and brown both sides on med. high heat. Add enough water to cover sides but not top of roast. Pour dry soup mix on top of roast. Cover & simmer for 2-3 hours or until roast is tender. Add vegetables and simmer until tender.

Chocolate Angel Food Cake

12 egg whites
1-1/2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 cup all purpose flour
1/4 cup cocoa
2 tsp. vanilla
1-1/4 cups sugar
1/4 tsp. salt

Beat egg whites until frothy. Add salt; beat until foamy. Add cream of tartar; beat to soft peaks. Add 1 cup sugar 2

Tbsp. at a time, beating to form stiff peaks. Sift 1/4 cup sugar, flour and cocoa. Gently fold into egg mixture 1/3 at a time. Add vanilla with second addition. Pour into ungreased tube pan. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes. Cool inverted. When barely warm, run knife around sides of pan, then gently pull cake from bottom. Turn upside down on plate. Cake should fall out.

Cook of the Month

Do you know a great local cook? Maybe it's you! We're looking for a few good cooks to be considered for our Cook of the Month feature.

Please send us four to six recipes, along with the name and contact information for the cook. Feel free to tie recipes to a specific holiday, event or theme. We will feature a Cook of the Month in each issue, so start sending in those recipes! Mail to Maria Goodson at NHTC today!

Note: Submission does not guarantee publication. Please send copies, not originals. Submit only "tried and true" recipes that have been kitchen-tested.

Summer Fun



Leigha Woodard,
granddaughter of
Alfred & Annie
Simmons.



Ballee Love. Memaw,
Gloria Shipman sent
in photo.



Alex Dowdy, midget
race winner. Photo
by Poppa.



**Morgan & Logan
Whitaker.** Photo
sent by Stacey
Whitaker.

**Cassie
Holliday.**
Her
mom, Brandy
sent photo.



Brady Parker on
a John Deere tractor. Photo
by Granny Craig.



**Alexis
Tunstall & her
aunt, Regina
Tunstall**
splashin'
around.



Tana Bearden. Picture sent
by mom, Angela Bearden.



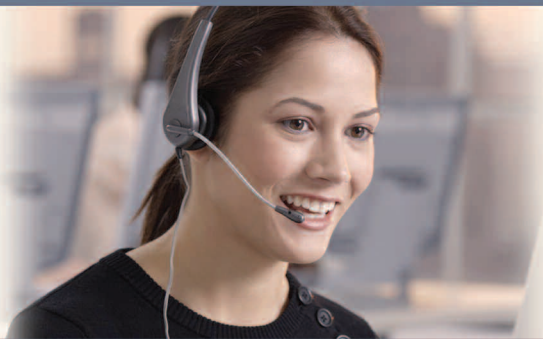
Logan Gowan & David Hill.
Photo sent by Jessica Hill.



Hannah & Cara Kirsopp.
Picture submitted by
Grandma Clara.

The August theme is "V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N". To participate in our Community Photos section, please send your favorite photos, *matching the theme*, to: NHTC • Attn: Maria Goodson • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. You may prefer to e-mail your photo to mgoodson@nehp.net. If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print. **The deadline for the August entry is June 21st.** Be sure to include the photographer's name, address and phone number, as well as the name of any people featured in your photos. Do not write on the back of your photos, but rather write your information on a small piece of paper and tape it to the back.

If you would like your photos returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. 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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