

The
Communicator

Vol. 4, No. 4

May 2005

**NHTC's Annual Meeting
set for May 17th**

Ready to advertise?

Jobbie Pritchett retires

Community News

School News

More inside!

Many reasons to be proud you are a member of NHTC

We appreciate all of the positive comments we are hearing from so many satisfied customers. We want to enjoy and participate in your successes.

As we approach the Annual Meeting, it is my privilege to address some of the great advantages of participating in our cooperative. The advantage that seems to be the most near and dear to everyone this time of year is the opportunity to reap the benefits of ownership. Again this year, active members will receive a check in early to mid-May, refunding 2% of their accumulated equity. NHTC is one of only three telephone cooperatives in the state, so most of our fellow Alabamians do not enjoy a return on their use of telecommunications services. We must realize other types of cooperatives have never been so fortunate to return portions of their members' equity.

In deciding on a refund (and if so, what percentage) the directors annually face the challenging task of analyzing requirements placed on us by Rural Utilities Service, Federal Communications Commission, Alabama Public Service Commission and the pressures exerted on us by the industry's progressive competition and technology. Sure, they would love to give back lots of money each year. However, it is their fiduciary responsibility to make a sound decision for the Cooperative as a whole, both now and down the road. With increasing industry and economic challenges, capital credit refunds may or may not be made in the future.

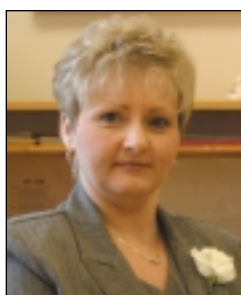
Not only do we enjoy the capital refunds when they are available, we can join in the pride that is felt, knowing our cooperative has an outstanding response time for installation and a 'second-to-none' response time on service restoration. Thanks to con-

tinually updating and maintaining our plant, we are fortunate to experience much fewer outages than many in our industry. Of the service interruptions we experience, 99% of our telephone service restorations are within 24 hours of receiving the reported outage, 90% - 95% are within 8 hours, and many within 2 - 4 hours.

Your cooperative is also outperforming those known as 'industry leaders' in areas of new technology. It is an amazing accomplishment to be able to provide broadband service to any customer in the most remote parts of our service area. In Alabama, Bell-South can only provide DSL to 45% of their customers and have a target of reaching 65% deployment by 2007. We are moving forward and have great expectations for sharing even more accomplishments as we progress. These are a few of the reasons you can join me in saying "I'm proud to be a member of NHTC!"

I'm looking forward to joining you at the 2005 NHTC Annual Members' Meeting at 7:30 pm, May 17th, in the New Hope Elementary/Middle School Auditorium. Please come early to register and enjoy the entertainment that will be provided.

Ralph Marston once said, "Be happy with the little victories, and they soon merge together into big accomplishments. Appreciate every moment, and they will bring you great treasure."



*Teresa Hunkapiller
General Manager of
New Hope Telephone
Cooperative*

New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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

Board of Directors

Barry Mefford, President
New Hope Exchange

Greg Glover, Vice President
Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Jeff Cooper, Secretary
New Hope Exchange

David Ayers, Treasurer
Grant Exchange

Jimmy Segler
Grant Exchange

Jeff DeArmond
Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Jim Duncan
New Hope Exchange

Barry Jones
New Hope Exchange

Dennis Pence
Grant Exchange

The Communicator

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New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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New Hope, Alabama 35760
www.nehp.net

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WordSouth Public Relations, Inc.
www.WordSouth.com

On the cover:

Scenic overlook at the Grant Wildflower Area near DAR School.

Excerpts from Bylaws on Voting Procedure to Elect Board Members

Article IV Board Members

Section 1. *General Powers.* The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of directors, consisting of nine (9) members. The membership of the Board of Directors shall be based as follows:

New Hope, four (4) members on the Board of Directors; Owens Cross Roads, two (2) members on the Board of Directors; and Grant, three (3) members on the Board of Directors.

Section 2. *Election and Tenure of Office.* The persons presently serving as directors of the cooperative shall compose the Board until the first annual meeting or until their successors shall be elected by a secret ballot at each annual meeting of the members, beginning with the year 1984 by and from the members at large to serve until the next annual meeting of the members or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. If an election of directors shall not be held on the day designated herein for the annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, a special meeting of the members shall be held for the purpose of electing directors within a reasonable time thereafter. Directors may be elected by a plurality vote of the members. All elected directors shall serve a term of four (4) years provided they do not resign or are not removed from office by the members. All directors terms will be staggered so that two (2) are elected each year, except in 1987 three (3) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected and every four (4) years thereafter; i.e., 1991, 1995, etc., three (3) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected.

Section 3. *Qualifications.* No per-

son shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the cooperative who:

a) Is not a member of the Cooperative; and

b) Is not a bona fide resident of the respective exchange from which said Board member was elected.

c) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling or reselling telephone service or supplies, or constructing or maintaining telephone facilities, other than a business operating on a cooperative non-profit basis for the purpose of furthering rural telephony.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board.

Section 4. *Nominations.* It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than seventy five (75) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a three member (3) committee on nominations consisting of one (1) member from each exchange, so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principle office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting a list of nominations for board members which shall include

at least two candidates for each board position to be filled by the election. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations. Any fifty (50) or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, if any, received at least five (5) days before the meeting shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nominations has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate, for the same position.

Any nominee by petition or from the floor must meet the qualifications stated in the Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3.

Section 5. *Failure of Action by the Nominating Committee.* In the event the nominating committee fails to make a report after 3 requests by the Secretary and having been notified and appointed in accordance with the Bylaws Article IV Section 4, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to make said nominations or nominations based upon the guidelines set out in the Bylaws, Article IV, Sections 1 through 4.

Get ready for NHTC's Annual Meeting

Make your plans now to attend the 2005 NHTC annual members meeting. We invite you to join your neighbors and friends as they conduct the business of their telecommunications company.



The registration process has outgrown the hallways of the school. In order to better accommodate registering and receiving your ballots, we have moved to the New Hope Elementary/Middle School Lunchroom. Directions will be clearly marked, and assistance will be available for those who are unable to walk the extra distance.

Registration will run from 5:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. Please remember to bring your admittance ticket and a valid government-issued photo id.



When you register, you will receive a sealed envelope with the ballots for the election of board positions #2 (currently held by Jim Duncan) and #3 (currently held by Jeff Cooper), along with a certificate for a free T-shirt. If you are staying for the meeting, you may want to wait until nominations are made from the floor before marking your ballots. If you are unable to attend the business meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m., you may mark your ballots and deposit them in the ballot box. You will need to take

your certificate for your free T-shirt, sporting NHTC's new logo, to the T-shirt table to pick up your free shirt.



Once you have registered, we ask that you move to the auditorium where you will find soft drinks and a variety of entertainment available. Once again, the ever-popular DAR Show Choir will perform. The entertainment will end at 7:15 p. m., in preparation for the business meeting to begin at 7:30 p.m.



If you register and attend the business meeting, you are eligible for door prizes, including one or more large televisions and a total of \$400 in cash prizes. Drawing for the prizes will be held during the business meeting.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting

May 17th
Doors open at 5 p.m.

New Hope Middle
School Lunchroom
and Auditorium



Beginning at 7:30 p.m., the 2005 Annual Meeting of NHTC members will be called to order. After a brief welcome, the Tallying Committee will be chosen and the meeting will proceed with nominations from the floor for

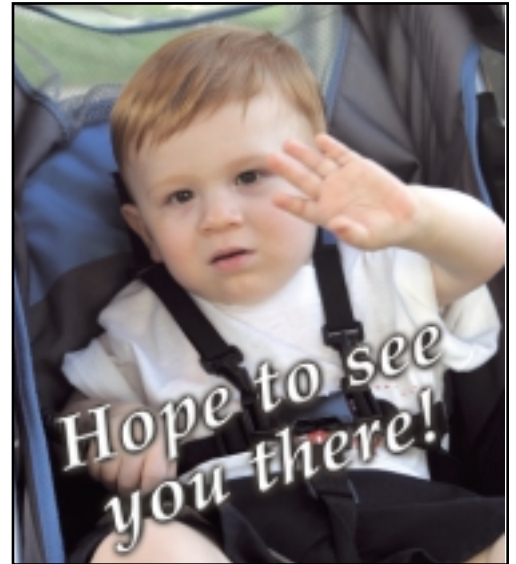
board positions #2 and #3. After the call for nominations, ballots will be marked and passed to the end of each row of seats.

As the Tallying Committee processes the votes, the meeting will proceed with the Manager's message from Teresa Hunkapiller and Board President's message from Barry Mefford. While addressing any business related topics, we will make every effort to be concise and informative. Following any business matters, we will draw for door prizes and announce the voting results.

We owe a debt of gratitude for the informed members who actively participated in bringing great services to this area. Now it's your turn to learn more about what we do and why we do it, so

that you may play a vital role in the great services that lie ahead. Remember, it's your Cooperative.

Please mark your calendars and be an informed and active member.



What's so special about a cooperative?

The first American cooperative was established by Ben Franklin in 1752 to bring affordable goods and services to those who did not have

access to them. That is exactly what local citizens, including the New Hope Lions Club, did for us in the early 50's.



Service providers, at that

time, offered telephone services only in densely populated metropolitan areas, where they could make a nice profit. Our very own 'Ben Franklins' established our cooperative to provide communications services for our small towns and rural areas. At NHTC we still value the privilege of providing services to our members in rural areas.

The basic principles of the Cooperative form of business are:

1) Anyone who can use the services of a cooperative and is willing to accept the responsibilities of membership is eligible to join

2) Power is shared equally among all members, via electing a board of directors and, when necessary, voting on specific issues

3) Provide a service to its members (not to make a profit)

4) Return margins above and beyond the costs required to cover the operating expenses.

Capital credit checks to be mailed soon

The Board of Directors for New Hope Telephone Cooperative recently approved a two percent (2%) refund of capital credits for all active members. These refunds will represent 2% of the total capital credits each member has accumulated to date, less any refunds already given.

This is another example of the benefit of a cooperative, Board members stated. The profits of New Hope Telephone are not sent to out-of-town

investors; rather, they remain in the communities that are served by the cooperative.

"I'm sure each of you will be looking forward to receiving your check, I know I am," stated NHTC General Manager Teresa Hunkapiller. "This is the only time each year that I receive a check from a company instead of mailing them one." The refund checks are scheduled to be mailed to members the first week in May.

A note to our wonderful members

Our sincere appreciation goes out to those customers who have attempted to have us bill their DSL modem purchase on a 3-month payment plan. Your patience has been wonderful as you have shared our experiences in stretching the limits of a 15-year-old software package. We appreciate your understanding, and hope you can appreciate our determination to use our existing resources in order to offer you as many options as possible. We are actively analyzing software options and plan a migration in late 2005 or early 2006.

Sincerely, Team NHTC

New pricing for PIC change

Effective April 29, 2005, the charge for you to change your long distance service provider, commonly referred to as a presubscribed primary interexchange carrier (PIC), will increase from \$5.00 to \$5.50. The PIC Change Charge recovers the costs to manually process your change in long distance service provider. This increase is a result of new pricing regulations put in place by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Can you find it?

Hidden somewhere in the pages of this month's issue is a clue that could earn you a credit on your telephone bill! Look carefully through the pages of *The Communicator* to find the clue, which will direct you to find specific information about New Hope Telephone Cooperative. Follow the clues and give NHTC a call at 723-4211. The first caller with the correct information will receive a \$5 credit on their next phone bill! So start searching... and good luck!

A message from The C.A.R.E. Center

HEALS clinic to open in New Hope

Healthcare is largely unavailable in the rural, low-income communities of eastern Madison County. On the property of New Hope Elementary rests a dilapidated single-wide trailer that will soon become the New Hope HEALS Clinic, with your help.

This clinic will serve over 2,400 students from New Hope Elementary, New Hope High School, Madison County Elementary, Madison County High School and Owens Cross Roads Elementary.

This urgent endeavor is a collaborative effort of volunteers, local churches

The New Hope HEALS clinic will provide the following services:

- Diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses
- Immunizations
- Laboratory testing and services
- Sport and school physicals
- Vision and hearing screenings
- Social work services
- Health education
- Injury prevention
- Referrals for other specialty services

and businesses, along with HEALS, The C.A.R.E. Center, and Leadership Huntsville/Madison County.

The total project is projected to cost upwards of \$175,000. The renovation of the structure itself will cost \$25,000.

The C.A.R.E. Center has committed to raise the funds for the trailer renovation.

Renovation monies must be raised by May 15, 2005, to reach the target goal of June 30, 2005, for installation of equipment.

The clinic is set to open in the fall of 2005.

A business or individual contribution of any amount is welcome. Your donation to

The C.A.R.E. Center, a 501(c)3 organization, is tax-deductible.

For more information, please contact the Community Assistance Resource Effort at 256-539-2683.

Community Action announces Head Start registration

The Head Start Program of the Community Action Partnership Huntsville / Madison and Limestone Counties, Inc., is holding registration for low income and disabled children ages three and four (please note, three-year-olds may apply if they are three by Sept. 1, 2005).

Head Start is a comprehensive child-care program. It offers USDA-approved

meals, along with services to children with non-disqualifying disabilities. The program also allows for maximum parent participation.

Legal residence of enrolled children must be in Madison or Limestone counties only. Eligible children are accepted in the program without regard to race, color, sex, national origin or non-quali-

fying disabilities.

All persons interested in submitting an application should contact the Central Office at:

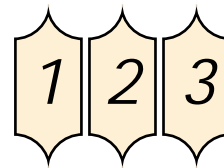
Community Action Partnership
Head Start Department
3516 Springfield Road
Huntsville, AL 35810
(256) 851-9804

NHTC accepting bids on equipment

NHTC is accepting sealed bids for a trencher/backhoe/plow combo, as is. The specifications are as follows:

- Vermeer V-450
- Model #V780
- 507 hours
- On a tri-axle trailer
- Good tires on unit and trailer

Sealed bids may be mailed to or dropped off at the NHTC Business Office, 5415 Main Drive, New Hope, AL 35760; Attention: Teresa Hunkapiller, General Manager. The deadline for bids is 5/31/05. The winning bidder will be notified by close of business on 6/1/05. NHTC reserves the right to reject all bids.



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

Survey yields strong results

NHTC ready to publish ads in *The Communicator*

After months of study and planning, New Hope Telephone Cooperative is ready to accept merchant advertising in its monthly publication, *The Communicator*.

As part of its research toward making the decision, NHTC conducted a survey of its business members earlier this year. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the interest in local advertising among businesses in the NHTC area.

"We were well pleased with the results of the survey," says Maria Goodson, Public Relations and Marketing Manager for the cooperative. "We discovered that many businesses in our area are looking for a way to communicate with their local market."

In the past, businesses have had few options for advertising locally. With no newspaper specifically serving the New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads area, business owners had been forced to look outside the immediate area for advertising opportunities. At times these have not been cost-effective solutions.

"What makes *The Communicator* such a great option for businesses is that it has grown into a true community publication," says Goodson. "The magazine contains a lot of NHTC news, but it also features plenty of community announcements and information of wide appeal. This encourages a broad readership."

The full-color magazine style of *The Communicator* draws readers in, while

the information contained each month proves to be a valuable community asset. Plus, advertisers can know that its circulation is targeted to the New Hope, Grant, and Owens Cross Roads area.

Best of all, the magazine offers thorough coverage. "Everyone with telephone service from NHTC receives a copy," Goodson says.

"This will not only be a service to businesses, but local shoppers will benefit, too," she adds. "It will help everyone stay informed about shopping opportunities in our local economy."

Based on the results of the survey, Goodson has begun meeting with businesses in the area who expressed interest in advertising in *The Communicator*.



New Hope Mayor Brad Beasley draws the \$100 winner from the New Hope Telephone Cooperative Advertising Survey. Thanks for the help, Mayor!

And the winner is...

Tara Manufacturing of Owens Cross Roads was the winner of NHTC's Advertising Survey prize drawing. Tara Furlough is shown at right with her \$100 prize check, standing in front of one of the beautiful screen posters produced by her company. Furlough said the company will donate the prize money to the Owens Cross



Roads recreation league to help maintain the softball and baseball fields.

ATTENTION BUSINESSES:

To learn more about advertising in *The Communicator*, call Maria Goodson at 723-3748.

NHTC Board establishes policy for advertising in its member magazine, *The Communicator*

NHTC ADVERTISING POLICY

April 1, 2005

NHTC publishes the monthly magazine *The Communicator*, with two primary goals in mind:

- 1) Keeping our members informed about news and events affecting their Cooperative, while passing along information about NHTC's services; and
- 2) Providing our service area with a means of circulating community news and features among the Cooperative's membership.

By opening the magazine to advertising, both goals are advanced:

- 1) Revenue from advertising sales helps fund NHTC's efforts to keep its members informed; and
- 2) Members are presented with information on local purchasing opportunities, while member merchants are given access to cost-effective advertising opportunities to sustain and grow their business.

In an effort to ensure a sound, fair and reasonable execution of our advertising program, the following guidelines will apply to all advertising in *The Communicator*.

- 1) Ads will be accepted from members of NHTC only. At this time, advertising opportunities are not available to anyone who is not a member of NHTC.
- 2) All ads submitted for publication must be professionally designed and appealing; NHTC staff and representatives will assist with ad development at no additional cost to members.
- 3) No ad will be accepted for publication that contains vulgar, lewd, obscene or otherwise inappropriate or objectionable text or images.
- 4) NHTC reserves the right to refuse to publish any ad for any reason, based on the best interest of the magazine and its service to the public.
- 5) Advertising in *The Communicator* will be open to all members as space is available, on a first-come first-serve basis. Each issue of the magazine will feature a limited amount of advertising space; as a result, there is a possibility that some advertisers may not be able to place their ads in the desired issue. NHTC will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all appropriate ads.
- 6) Types of advertising accepted for publication in *The Communicator* (provided they meet the guidelines mentioned above) include, but are not limited to:
 - A) Promotions
 - B) Product and service sales
 - C) General business information
 - D) Political (with proper disclaimers as required by law)
- 7) At this time, advertising opportunities are not open to classified ads and personal listings, or to anyone who is not a member of NHTC.
- 8) In regard to advertising opportunities, NHTC does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.
- 9) While requests will be considered, NHTC cannot guarantee that ads will be placed on a particular page or in a particular order. Placement is at the sole discretion of NHTC staff and representatives.
- 10) NHTC reserves the right to revise these guidelines at any time. Members will be notified, either by mail or through the pages of *The Communicator*, in the event such revisions are made.
- 11) NHTC staff and representatives will develop and maintain a schedule of advertising rates that will apply to all advertising sales. This rate schedule will include discount incentives for multiple-issue contracts. Special pricing packages may be made available on occasion as part of one-time promotional opportunities.



New Hope High School graduate **Liam Dean** of New Hope is stationed in Iraq with the U.S. Army. He is the son of Jeff Dean and Tobie Hill, and the brother of Lyulf Dean.



Inspiration Corner

Aren't phones the greatest thing? They help families worry less by staying in touch more, especially in the summer months when family members are all out doing their own thing. There was a time when some pastors said telephones were the most evil thing that had been invented. Now it would be nearly impossible for us pastors to do without one.

Speaking of staying in touch more and worrying less, Paul writes to us from 1st Thessalonians saying, "Pray without ceasing." No lines, no charges,

no debt on our part at all talking to God. Try it for a day – talk to God as if He were on the phone and feel the joy and security of knowing the Spirit of God as a constant in your life. Want more? You may look for a church home and find what it's like to serve as "a

part of the body of Christ."



*Pastor
Michael Carpenter,
New Hope United
Methodist Church*

Just a Thought

by Roland Roberts



One morning, while I was working in the registration/admitting lobby of Crestwood Hospital, some people from the seniors group began setting up tables. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for those waiting in the lobby to create cards to be sent to our military personnel serving in Iraq and other foreign countries.

I thought that those waiting for procedures and their families or friends would be too apprehensive over being in the hospital to care about designing cards for military personnel that they didn't even know. When I stated my opinion to another volunteer, she agreed.

Soon after the materials for making the cards were in place, adults and children began to work on this project. In about three hours, some three-dozen attractive cards had been prepared. It was nice to be wrong.

It is also satisfying to see the

Who really cares?

groundswell of support across the nation for our troops who serve in harm's way. *The Communicator* consistently pays honor to our local men and women in the armed forces. And many others do as well.

While I know there must be other groups that do similar things for our soldiers, sailors, and marines stationed on foreign soil to protect freedom and spread democracy, I am familiar with Military Outreach and Encouragement (M.O.R.E.) at the Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville. This group meets weekly to write letters to some of these troops and send them on occasion some of the basic necessities that are not readily available in war zones.

As the children of Israel were traveling from Egypt towards the Promised Land, they encountered the Amalekites. Amalek, who was the nation's king, would not let the Israelites pass through. So a great battle took place.

"When Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed: and when Moses let down his hand, Amalek prevailed." [Exodus 17:11]

So Aaron and Hur seated Moses, who was past 80, on a stone at the top of the hill overlooking the battlefield. Then they held up his hands and Israel continuously prevailed. By sundown Joshua had led Israel to victory.

Those who support the US military forces are, in a manner of speaking, holding up the hands of these men and women so that they might prevail in the protection of freedom at home and abroad.

Who cares that the United States of America is "The land of the free because of the brave?"

It is obvious that the overwhelming majority of those, who are proud to be citizens of this awe-inspiring nation, do care and support those who daily sacrifice for our freedom.

School Calendars

New Hope High School

May 24-25

Graduation Dates

May 26

Last Student Day (Full Day)

May 27

Teacher Workday/Staff Development Day

May 30

Memorial Day (Holiday - Employees)

Owens Cross Roads

May 17

PTO Meeting & Science Fair - 7 p.m.

May 20

Pre-K Orientation for next year's students - 8 a.m.

May 25

Kindergarten Graduation - 6 p.m.

May 26

Awards Day - 7:45 a.m.

DAR High School

May 12

Marshall County Youth Leadership graduation for 2005 school year

May 20

Football Jamboree (1st ever game for DAR) at Brindlee Mountain High School

May 20

Awards Day

May 21

Graduation

The Superintendent in the Hat

Madison County Schools Superintendent Ray Swaim made a visit to Dava Swafford's 5th grade class at Owens Cross Roads Elementary to celebrate Read Across America. The Read Across America event is sponsored by the National Education Association and is held each year on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2nd. This nationwide initiative promotes reading every day. During Mr. Swaim's visit, he treated the students to a meal of green eggs and ham prepared by Mr. Swaim himself. The students presented Mr. Swaim with an apron signed by each student.



Pictured (L-R) are Ronnie Lanier, Cat in the Hat (Patra Lyons), Swaim, Brandy Simmons

New Hope Elementary School dates

There's plenty of excitement at New Hope Elementary School as the 2004-05 school year draws to a close. Just take a look:

- May 19 - **Field Day** for Kindergarten through fourth grade
- May 20 - **Field Day** for fifth grade through seventh grade
- May 20 - **Picnic** for eighth grade
- May 23 - **Graduation**
- May 25 - **Awards Day**

After school program being considered

Efforts are underway to gauge the public interest in developing an after school program for students of New Hope Elementary School (Pre-K through 5th grade). The after school care program would begin in August 2005, with hours set from 2:35 to 5:30 p.m.

Activities would include snack time (included in cost), homework time, arts and crafts, and structured playtime. The cost would be \$6.00 per day per child.

Those interested in having such a program available for their child should contact Sharon Hill at 723-5514.

Students rank high on reading test

Each year, students in Kindergarten through fourth grade take a reading test given by the state of Alabama. The DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) test is given three times each school year. After the mid-year report, New Hope Elementary learned that its students ranked 45th

overall out of 719 schools included in the report.

This is a great accomplishment for New Hope Elementary and all its K-4 students. If you have a child or a grandchild in school at New Hope, let them know how proud you are of their accomplishments.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY - JUNE 2005

May 6

Jewelry Sale (sterling silver)
South Hampton Nursing Home - Owens Cross Roads
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Proceeds aid nursing home's Activity Dept.

May 9 - 13

National Nursing Home Week
South Hampton Nursing Home - Visitors welcome
Volunteers needed for entertainment
Contact: 725-3400

May 13

National Nursing Home Pageant
South Hampton Nursing Home
2 p.m. - Contact: Sheila Lacourse, 725-3400

May 16

New Hope Historical Association Meeting
New Hope City Hall, First Floor - Museum
7:00 p.m. Contact: Lou Ann Poole, 723-2525

June 4

Chamber Shootout at OK Corral
North Alabama Regulators Club
The Grant Chamber of Commerce will be hosting
a pancake breakfast and selling refreshments.
This event will serve as a fundraiser for the Chamber.
Contact: Grant Chamber of Commerce, 728-8800

June 8

Fundraiser for New Hope Founder's Day
Wayne's Restaurant, Hwy. 431 in New Hope
4 - 8 p.m. - Fish and chicken fingers - Tickets \$7
Contact: Billy Jones, 723-4241 or Billy Colburn, 603-3182

June 18

Golf Tournament
Twin Lakes Golf Course - Arab
Contact the Grant Chamber of Commerce at
728-8800 to learn how you can help support this
fundraising community event.
To learn more, visit the Chamber online at
www.grantchamberofcommerce.com

Keep your community informed. If you have an event your group or organization would like to publicize, submit it to the Community Calendar. Contact Maria Goodson at NHTC with the event name, date, time, details and contact person with phone number.

Grant Fire Department Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 14, 2005 • 8:00 a.m.
Twin Lakes Golf Course

3 Man Scramble • \$150 team entrance fee

1st & 2nd Place • 1st & 2nd Flight

Meal and beverages provided during and after tournament

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Patterson – 505-1204 • Bob Davis – 728-2698
or James Fuell – 728-4948

PTO raises money for playground through Miss Sweetheart Pageant



Miss Sweetheart Pageant winners were, left to right: (seated) Breanna Nora Grace Maples, 0 to 24 months; Chloe Shadden, 2 yrs. to 4 yrs.; (standing) Emily Flemming, 2nd to 3rd grade; Samantha Martin, 4th to 6th grade; and Mekenzie Mitchell, pre-K to 1st grade.

Money raised from the Feb. 19 pageant helped reach the PTO goal of pro-

viding a new playground at New Hope Elementary.

The New Hope PTO would like to thank Scott Adams for organizing the pageant, and Deborah's Florist for donating decorations. Monetary donations were also received from New Hope Funeral Home and New Hope Founder's Day Committee.

New Hope's Jobbie Pritchett retires from Madison County road department

The 'county shed' in New Hope serves as the equipment yard and offices for this part of Madison County's District Three. It is the place where county employees gather in the morning, collect their assignments, and roll out the graders and dump trucks and other machinery to maintain the area's county roads.

It is also the place where Jobbie Pritchett has spent countless hours during the past 28 years. The dedicated county employee retired last month at age 80.

"He is the most dependable employee you could ask for," said Madison County Commissioner Jerry Craig at a recent lunch held in Pritchett's honor at the county shed. "He took a lot of pride in



Honoring Jobbie Pritchett's years of service to citizens of Madison County were, left to right: Madison County Commissioner Jerry Craig; county employee and Pritchett's grandson Brandon Pritchett; Pritchett's wife of 62 years, Era Belle Pritchett; Pritchett's son, David, a water board employee and New Hope City Councilman; and Jobbie Pritchett.

what he did."

Pritchett was an equipment operator, keeping the road sides mowed during the summer months. "He made District

Three look good," Craig said.

When the growing season ended and grass no longer needed cutting, Pritchett would help keep other equipment in top working order. "If Jobbie was involved, it was done right," Craig said. "He is well-respected by all county employees and citizens alike."

His age has not slowed Pritchett very much. "We start work at 7:00 a.m.," stated Craig. "Sometimes, Jobbie would be here by 2:30 or 3:00 in the morning, to open the gates, empty the trash..."

Craig presented Pritchett with a certificate. Those attending the retirement celebration included county employees, elected officials, and Pritchett's family.

Gardening and landscaping can help you stay fit

Gardening may not be an Olympic sport yet, but it can still be a great way to get exercise. You can skip those pricey gym fees while communing with Mother Nature at the same time (don't forget the sunscreen!).

If you've never thought of gardening as good exercise, think again. Gardening can be a great way to burn some

calories, build some muscles, and see great results!

- **Lawn maintenance.** This includes raking leaves, bagging grass clippings and leaves, pushing a mower, spreading grass seed, and tilling the ground.
- **Shrubs and bushes.** Forget the power clippers and get out the hand clippers to trim shrubs and bushes.

- **Planting.** This includes carrying bags of soil, shoveling, hoeing, and tilling.
- **Landscaping.** This offers a real workout with activities like carrying and stacking wood, clearing land, laying stepping stones for walkways, digging and clearing garden ponds, and laying brick walkways and patios.

Source: American Cancer Society.



From the kitchen of Ben Harris

New Hope's Ben Harris has been cooking all his life. He not only enjoys trying new recipes, but takes great pleasure in sharing his culinary specialties with friends. "We always have something in the freezer in case someone drops by," he says.

Harris and his wife, Mary, married

20 years ago. "I cooked while she worked for 14 years," he says.

When he's not in the kitchen, Harris enjoys spending time with Mary on their Harley Davidson motorcycle. His energy and vitality — not to mention his Harley — would keep anyone from guessing that Harris is actually 92 years of age.

Quick Trick Clam Chowder

Great for "pop-in" company

- 1 pkg. scalloped potatoes
- 1 can (7-8 oz.) minced clams (reserve liquid)
- 1 Tbsp. shredded green onion
- 1 Tbsp. green pepper
- 1-1/2 c. milk
- 1 Tbsp. butter

In large saucepan, mix potato slices, sauce mix, amount of water and milk called for on the package, clam liquid, green onions and green pepper. Heat to boiling, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer about 25 minutes or until potatoes are tender, stirring occasionally. Stir in clams, 2-1/2 c. milk and butter. Heat through. Serve with cornbread muffins. Recipe can be doubled or tripled and frozen.

Chicken & Ham Supreme

For special occasions

- 6 whole chicken breasts, boned, halved
- 1/4 c. margarine
- 2 c. chopped onions
- 1/4 c. cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 12 slices Swiss cheese
- 12 chicken bouillon cubes
- 12 slices boiled ham
- 1 lb. 8 oz. spaghetti cooked 8 mins. & drained
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 c. dry Sherry
- 4 c. milk
- 3 c. water

In Dutch oven, brown chicken a few

pieces at a time in margarine over medium heat for 15 minutes or until tender. Remove chicken, add onions and cook 5 minutes. Mix cornstarch, salt & pepper. Gradually stir in Sherry until smooth. Add to onions with milk, water, bouillon cubes stirring constantly. Bring to boil over medium heat. Boil one minute. Grease 6 qt. shallow baking pan or two 3 qt. casserole dishes. Add spaghetti and pour on sauce, then toss. Roll cheese inside ham. Arrange ham rolls with chicken over spaghetti. Bake tightly covered in 325° oven for 45 to 60 minutes or until hot. Makes 12 servings.

California Amaretto Cake

Frequently requested by friends & family

- 4 eggs
- 1 pkg. two-layer yellow cake mix
- 1 pkg. (3-3/4 oz.) lemon-flavored instant pudding mix
- 2 Tbsp. Amaretto
- 1/2 c. vegetable oil
- 1/2 c. plus 2 Tbsp. water

Beat eggs until light. Add cake mix, pudding, Amaretto, water & oil. Beat for 10 minutes. Pour into greased and floured 10-inch tube or bundt pan. Bake in 350° oven for 50 minutes. Cool in pan. (Do not invert pan while cooling.) Remove from pan and glaze.

- Glaze:
- 2 c. confectioner's sugar
- 2 Tbsp. orange juice

- 2 Tbsp. Amaretto
- 1 Tbsp. grated orange rind
- About 2 Tbsp. additional Amaretto, if glaze is too thick
- Orange peel twists and sliced almonds

Combine first 3 ingredients in the saucepan and heat just until boiling. Stir in orange rind. Cool. Gradually stir in 2 Tbsp. Amaretto, or just enough to make glaze soft enough to drizzle over the cake. Garnish with twists of orange peel and almonds.

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. We have begun featuring a Cook of the Month in each issue of *The Communicator*. And we're not just looking for southern fare — gourmet chefs are welcome, too.

To be considered for this new 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.



Vacation Photos



Josh and Jeremy Whitaker of New Hope – Photo taken by mother, Brenda Whitaker at Lake Guntersville State Park.



Lily Whitaker enjoying the ocean view at Gulf Shores, Alabama. Photo by Evie Whitaker.

July's photo theme is "**Good Ole Summertime.**" 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. If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print.

The deadline for the July entry is May 26.

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.



This beautiful photo of a rainbow was taken in Hawaii overlooking the Punch Bowl Cemetery. Photo was taken by Alfred L. Lankford of Grant during his 50th wedding anniversary trip.

A word of *testimony*



Your tech support is wonderful! The technician was courteous, and understood everything. He even called me back to make sure everything was working. Every time I call they are very helpful.

—Sharon Hart, DSL customer (with NHTC's Paula Hendrix)



I enjoy my
cable TV!

—Zella Whitaker,
a resident
at South
Hampton
Nursing Home



Internet service
from NHTC is my
lifeline!

—Sheila Lacourse,
Activities Assistant at
South Hampton
Nursing Home

Do you have a testimonial about your service from NHTC you'd like to share? Come by the office or give us a call, and you might see your face in the pages of The Communicator!

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