

# Communicator

Vol. 5, No. 5

May 2006

## Annual Meeting Preview



### INSIDE:

**BONUS:** Pull-out guide to your Cooperative's Annual Meeting

**Angel Food Ministry comes to New Hope**

**Senior Center offers fun and friendship**

**Interview with Grant's new mayor**

**Recipes • Advertisers • More!**

## Meet the NHTC Team - Part 3

### Tammy Weeks, Office Manager

Serving the basic needs of the customer is the everyday focus of Tammy Weeks' department. As NHTC's Office Manager, Weeks is responsible for a variety of tasks that revolve around taking care of the cooperative's members.

Several areas fall under the responsibility of the Office Manager, beginning with the CSRs, or Customer Service Representatives. "Our people up front are often the first experience customers have with our company," Weeks says. Duties of the CSRs include taking payments, answering the phone, writing up service orders, and helping customers choose the right phone, Internet, cable and long distance options.

Accounting functions also fall under the duties of the Office Manager. This involves processing all of NHTC's financial data, paying the company's vendors, and handling payroll.

Likewise, customer billing and carrier access billing are the responsibilities of Weeks' department.

Finally, repair and service are part of the Office Manager's department. "We generate the orders from customer requests," explains Weeks, "and they flow to the outside crews."

Work flow is one of the driving forces behind a major project currently underway at NHTC — implementation of a new billing system. "We're starting with the hardware component," explains Weeks. "It will be done in sections.

Everyone will be trained, we'll convert that section, then we'll move on to the next component."

NHTC's goal is to complete the process and be ready to generate bills on the new system by fall of this year.

"The new system will take away a lot of the manual processes," Weeks says. "It will be more efficient, with fewer billing errors, and jobs will flow better between departments."

Currently, CSRs must navigate between multiple green screens to access all the information necessary to serve customers. "Once we're on the new system," Weeks explains, "the CSRs will key in a customer's information and the system will present everything they need to take care of the customer."

A tremendous amount of work lies ahead for Weeks' department as they move toward implementing the new billing system. "It will be a challenge, a painful process," she says. "But it will be worth it, because of the tremendous benefit to our members."

Weeks is also implementing a training program for the CSRs, which will be an ongoing process over the next several months. This will further enhance the customer service experience.

"Our overall focus is making this department flow better and work smoother, for the benefit of our customers," Weeks adds. "And we have a great team working hard together to make that happen."



*Tammy Weeks is  
Office Manager for  
New Hope Telephone  
Cooperative*

**NHTC's office will be  
Closed  
Monday, May 29th  
in observance of  
Memorial Day**



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

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*On the cover:*

*Make plans to attend NHTC's Annual Meeting on May 16. Inside this issue is a bonus pull-out section to take with you to the meeting. We hope to see you there!*



# DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE?

If you are a Medicaid recipient, you may qualify for two special programs. One helps pay for your monthly telephone service. The other helps pay for having a telephone installed in your home.

## • **LIFELINE**

*This program provides a discount on the cost of monthly telephone service.*

## • **LINK-UP**

*This program provides a discount on the cost of installing telephone service.*

For a complete set of terms for the Lifeline and Link-Up programs, call or visit our NHTC office. Lifeline and Link-Up are part of the Federal Universal Service Fund program. The Federal Communications Commission introduced this program, and the Universal Service Administrative Company oversees it. The goal of Universal Service is to make sure consumers throughout the United States have essential telecommunications service.

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## The truth about telemarketers and cell phones

We've all seen the e-mails warning us that cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketers and that you can be charged for the calls. The same e-mail urges us to put our cell phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry for Cell Phones. The question is, do we believe it?

Actually, we shouldn't. As with any questionable e-mail, it's best to do a little research to find out what the truth is. According to the Federal Communications Commission here's what we need to know:

- FCC regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers. Because these dialers are standard in the industry most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers on their cell phone without their consent.

- The federal government does not maintain a national cell phone registry. Personal cell phone users have always been allowed to add their cell phone number to the National Do Not Call Registry – the same Registry consumers use to register their land lines – either online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling toll-free 1-888-382-1222 from the telephone number you wish to register. Registrations become effective within 31 days of signing up and are active for five years. ***There is no cut off date or deadline for registration.***

- Business-to-business calls are not covered under the Registry.

For more information about the National Do Not Call Registry and the rules that enforce it, visit the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or the FCC at [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).

## Can you find it?

We've hidden a clue that could be worth a \$5 credit on your next phone bill. Tucked within the pages of this magazine is the answer to this question: *Which president installed the first telephone in the White House?* Find the answer and you could be a winner.

Write the answer and the page number it was found on and mail it or deliver it to our office. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number to ensure proper credit. If you prefer you may email your answer to [communicator@nehp.net](mailto:communicator@nehp.net). NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE!

We will draw from all the correct entries on May 15th. That person will receive a \$5 credit on their next phone bill. Good luck!



*Lyvonne & Terry Farmer invite you to come see what's new at*

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LaVonne Castle  
(Not pictured, Judy Barnes)



Is *The Communicator* an effective advertising tool?  
Ask Lucy (speaking on behalf of Mr. Fix It)!



Have you seen my owners, Harlan and Kim Worley? I sure haven't seen them much since they started advertising in *The Communicator*. When the ad for their business, Mr. Fix It, comes out each month, the phone calls start coming in. They've tried other advertising that never worked, but the response from *The Communicator* has been awesome! Harlan and Kim really like the fact that the NHTC staff takes the hassle out of the advertising process; it's as easy as rolling over or playing fetch! So

the next time your business needs to reach the local communities, follow the actions of my owners at Mr. Fix It and advertise in *The Communicator*. You'll be glad you did - and I'll shake on that!

Contact Maria Goodson today to put *The Communicator*, NHTC's member magazine, to work for your business! Call 723-3748, or email [mgoodson@nehp.net](mailto:mgoodson@nehp.net).

## Cable TV survey winner

Tony Hall of New Hope was the winner of the survey drawing. He won a 19 inch color television set. Congratulations, Tony and thanks to all our members for their response to our survey.

This survey will help New Hope Telephone Cooperative make better choices about what our cable subscribers really want. The information will be used to provide members with the channels they want while maintaining competitive prices in the future.

### *Think About It*

*Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing.*

-- Rollo May

## "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.



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- Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

# Fellowship at the New Hope Senior Center

If you are a senior citizen looking for good company, clean fun and a chance to make new friends, the New Hope Senior Center is a place for you.

"You don't have to stay at home and look at four walls," says Margie Blair, Nutrition Manager for the Center. "People can come here to get out of the house and see that they're not alone in whatever situation."

The coffee pot at the Center begins steaming as early as 5 a.m. each weekday. Visitors arrive throughout the morning, and the cards and dominos start hitting the

tables. "They'll teach you if you don't know how to play," says Blair.

Several women work on beautiful quilts; jigsaw puzzles are also popular. A hot meal is served at 11 a.m., at a cost of only \$1 per person.

As part of the Center's activities, meals are also delivered to the homebound.

Each Wednesday, visitors enjoy live music from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Musicians also perform at the Center each Saturday night; these events are open to all ages.

Seniors throughout the New Hope area are invited to join the fun at the Center.



Come enjoy the fun and fellowship at the New Hope Senior Center.



## PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NEW HOPE

It's amazing what modern day medical science can do! Heart surgery has almost become routine. A person can have their heart repaired one day and be back home the next day. Once this happens the doctor will often instruct the patient to change their diet and in many cases start an exercise program. These changes are required so that the patient will "guard their heart" against further problems.

While it is true your heart can be repaired surgically, the recovery process is ongoing and each day brings new challenges. In addition to diet and exercise the patient must monitor their medications and visit the doctor on a regular basis. Each of these requirements is necessary so the healing process is not slowed or hindered in any way.

We should guard our spiritual heart just as we should guard our physical heart. Read the words of Solomon as he challenges us: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

Watch it carefully. Protect it. Pay attention to it. Keep it clean. Clear away the debris. Remember bad stuff can easily hide in your heart and cause heart problems. In the 7th chapter of Mark we discover several things that will contaminate the heart: "evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly." (Mark 7:21-22, NIV)

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# Lemley plans to continue the progress as Grant's new mayor

For Smanatha Lemley, life is all about serving the people of her community. She does it as a Registered Nurse every day at the Grant Clinic, where she has worked for the past 17 years. And for the past 14 years, she has served her community on the Grant City Council.

Lemley's service recently moved to a different level when Gov. Bob Riley appointed her as Grant's new mayor to replace the late Carolyn Dennis.



"I want to see some projects finished that (Dennis) had started," says Lemley. "She worked so hard on them, especially on the sewer project."

Grant plans to build a sewer system that will include lines throughout the city limits. The project, to be completed in three phases, will also consist of a grinder pump and tank, as well as a lagoon-type treatment system.

Other items the new mayor hopes to see completed include a soccer field and walking trail.

"People know I've always had an open door, and I will continue that," Lemley says. She plans to keep office hours on Wednesdays at town hall.

## Freeze the slammers with PIC FREEZE

Changing a customer's long distance carrier without permission is a practice known as slamming. While the FCC, Federal Communications Commission has taken measures to fight slamming, it still happens.

If you are 'slammed' it can be a lot of trouble to fix and somewhat expensive. To keep from being a victim, NHTC members may sign a PIC FREEZE form. This prevents your long distance provider from being changed without your written permission. It's simple, and it's free.

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Martha Higdon  
Cindy Barnes  
Kathy Ferguson



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# Angel Food Ministry comes to New Hope United Methodist

New Hope United Methodist Church is pleased to announce they are a distribution site for Angel Food Ministries. This ministry began several years ago to provide grocery relief to families across America.

Angel Food's groceries are sold in a quantity that can fit into a medium-sized box at \$25 per unit. Each month's menu is different than the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an average retail value of approximately \$50. 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. Also offered are specialty boxes such as steaks, chicken and pork, and there is no limit to the number of units or bonus foods an individual can purchase. It's both a Bargain and a Blessing! (Rutherford B. Hayes)

Using the quality food at significant discounts is a real and practical way to say clearly that we care. It also infuses a reminder of the value that God places on humans everywhere and that they deserve every opportunity that can be offered them in the name of love and friendship.

For more information or to obtain the next month's menu call New Hope United Methodist Church: 723-4812, or Ellen Rozell at the HEALS Clinic (behind New Hope School): 723-4325. Information can be found by visiting [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com).

Payment has to be made at the time of order and can be made by cash or check. Payment can also be made using the Offline Food Stamp Voucher System. Please make checks payable to New Hope United Methodist Church. Due to time restraints and the ability to store perishable foods, food must be picked up on the designated day and time at New Hope United Methodist Church. Participants will receive this information at the time of purchase. Any food not picked up will be given to a family in the community. Sorry, there can be no refunds or make-up boxes. You must bring a box to pick up your order. We are also accepting volunteers to help on distribution day. If you have an emergency need for food you may contact New Hope UMC at any time to visit their food pantry.

## We're taking orders now for Memorial Day!



*Relax and leave the work to us!*

*Order a whole shoulder or by the pound and don't forget the fixin's!*

*A \$10 deposit holds your order*

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# How did a lady from New Hope change her life?

Dear Friend,

About a year ago something happened to me that changed my life.

*I'm Katie McWhorter. I'm a housewife from New Hope. I had lived in severe pain for about two years until I did something that changed my life. I'll tell you what I did, but first let me start at the beginning.*

I was suffering from neck and lower back pain as well as pain shooting down my right leg. An MRI had revealed a bulging disc in my neck and my lower back. I had considered seeing a new doctor that had moved to Grant who specialized in these types of problems, but I was skeptical since I had already seen several other doctors and nothing seemed to help.

Over the next couple of months my pain seemed to become worse. In fact, I was starting to become very concerned about it. So I decided to give this new doctor in Grant a try. He did an exam, took some x-rays, and then adjusted my spine. After just one adjustment I felt a big difference. *Oh, did I mention that this doctor is a chiropractor?*

*After a few more adjustments I was starting to feel like my old self again.* In fact, when I came in for only my fifth adjustment I said to Dr. Mike, "I told my mother-in-law last night, I just can't believe I'm going to a chiropractor and he is helping me like you have."

Now for Emma, who is the little girl in the photo. About a year ago, she was plagued by asthma. Each day as I changed her diaper, I would give her an adjustment. The asthma started to improve immediately, and now she is virtually symptom free.

The other child, my son Nicholas, has recently been having some headaches. He'll come up to me and say, "Daddy, adjust my neck." And even before he gets up he'll say, "man that feels a lot better, it's all gone."

It's strange how life is, because now people come to see him with their carpal tunnel syndrome problems. Also they come to him with their headaches, migraines, chronic pain, neck pain, shoulder/arm pain, whiplash from

car accidents, backaches, ear infections, asthma, allergies, numbness in limbs, athletic injuries, just to name a few.

Here's what some of my patients had to say:

*"Dr. Mike has been helping me with my low back pain, and headaches for over nine years."* (Larry Luttrell)

*"Dr. Mike helps with my aching back."* (David Ayers)

*"I did have a lot of leg pain due to a pinched nerve. Not any more thanks to Dr. Mike."* (Leonard McPeters)



**Dr. Mike, Emma, and Nicholas Ellis**

Being a chiropractor can be tough, because there's a host of so-called experts out there. They tell people a lot of things that are just plain ridiculous about my profession. But the studies speak for themselves, like the Virginia study that showed that over 90% of patients who saw a chiropractor were satisfied with their results. That's just incredible!

Forty-eight million Americans no longer have health insurance, and those who do have found that their benefits are reduced. That's where chiropractic comes in. Many people find that they actually save money on their health care expenses by seeing a chiropractor. Another way to save... studies show that chiropractic may double your immune capacity, naturally and without drugs. The immune system fights colds, the flu, and other sicknesses. So you may not be running off to the doctor as much. This is especially important if you are self-employed. And an entire week of care in my office may cost what you could pay for one visit elsewhere.

You benefit from an Amazing Offer - Look, it shouldn't cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health care expenses, you may as well write one for a lesser amount for chiropractic. *When you bring in this article by May 26th, 2006, you will receive my entire new patient exam for \$17. That's with x-rays...the whole ball of wax.* And, further care is very affordable. You see, I'm not trying to seduce you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that. Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor. High costs can add up very quickly. By law, we must state that **ADDITIONAL CHARGES MAY BE INCURRED FOR RELATED SERVICES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED IN INDIVIDUAL CASES.**

**Great care at a great fee...** Please, I hope that there's no misunderstanding about **quality of care** just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. My qualifications... I'm a 1991 graduate of Life University. I'm certified by the National Boards as well as the states of Alabama and Tennessee. I've practiced in Marshall County for 12 years after a one-year associateship in Huntsville. I just have that low exam fee to help more people who need care.

My assistant is Sandy and she is a really great person. Our office is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee. Our office is called **ELLIS CHIROPRACTIC CENTER** and it is at 4432 Main Street in Grant. Our number is **256-728-2044**. Call Sandy or me today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you.

- Michael Ellis, D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$10.

P.P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor's office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That's why we have a no-wait policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

# 2006

*A Guide for Members of*

## ANNUAL MEETING



There is no event more important in the life of a cooperative than its Annual Meeting. This is the one day out of the year when members from throughout the service area get together to participate in a business concept that has literally changed their lives.

Without the cooperative form of business, north Alabama would not have the advanced telecommunications services it enjoys today. As America was progressing in the early decades of the 20th century, the rural regions were too often turned down by providers of services such as telephone and electricity; the small population and large land mass of these areas were not seen as profitable by the investor-owned companies.

Cooperatives were formed to empower the people. Through the strength of neighbors joining with neighbors across the countryside, businesses like New Hope Telephone Cooperative were formed. When the big companies refused to serve them, they decided to serve themselves.

Today we continue to reap the benefits of those efforts. By attending the Annual Meeting, you are doing your part to keep the company growing in new and exciting directions while it remains focused on its core mission of delivering quality, modern services at reasonable prices.

**Make plans to attend  
Your Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, May 16**

**New Hope Middle School  
Lunchroom and Auditorium**

**Registration begins at 5 p.m.  
Business Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.**

**Entertainment provided by  
Senior Citizen Band  
and Leon Venable**

**Door Prizes to be Given Away**

**Tear Out This Special Section and Bring It With You to the Annual Meeting!**



# Navigating the Annual Meeting

Participating in the NHTC Annual Meeting involved more movement last year. With the increasing number of members attending the event, NHTC decided to utilize more of the available space at the New Hope Elementary/Middle School.

The result was a smoother flow of walking traffic and more convenience for members attending the meeting. "It worked well last year, and members responded positively" says NHTC General Manager Teresa Hunkapiller. "We will use the same plans for this year's meeting."

## REGISTRATION

The lunchroom for the elementary and middle schools will be the first stop for members. Here you will register your attendance and receive a sealed envelope containing a voting ballot (see next page for voting information). You

will also receive a ticket for a free NHTC t-shirt. You must present photo identification in order to register.

Please note that assistance will be available for those who would have difficulty walking this distance.

## BUSINESS MEETING

The school's auditorium is the site for the business meeting. Entertainment will be provided until 7:15 p.m., when the stage will be prepared for the meeting.

During the business meeting, several important matters will be addressed. Perhaps the most important is the casting of ballots for the Board positions up for consideration. Members will also hear an update on their cooperative's performance from the General Manager, as well as Board President Jeff Cooper. Drawings will also be held for a number of great door prizes.



## *I'm a member of a Cooperative... So what???*

There was a time when most people in our area lived without basic telephone service. The profit-minded service providers focused on serving heavily populated metropolitan areas, leaving our communities to take care of themselves.

And that they did. Through the leadership of local citizens, especially the New Hope Lions Club, a cooperative was formed — NHTC. We began providing our very own telephone service, and the cooperative form of business is what made it possible.

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) The company's chief purpose is to provide a service to its members (not to generate huge profits for shareholders).
- 4) Margins above and beyond the costs required to cover the operating expenses are returned to members in the form of capital credit refunds.

Today our members enjoy advanced telecommunications services thanks to the foresight of local leaders and the cooperative concept.

## *The check will soon be in the mail* **Board Approves Two-Percent Capital Credit Refund for Active Members**

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.

The refund checks are scheduled to be mailed to members within the first two weeks of May.

## *Exercise your duty as an NHTC member*

# Voting Instructions

NHTC encourages all its members to attend the Annual Meeting and exercise their responsibility as owners of the cooperative.

"The success of this company depends on its ability to meet the needs of those who subscribe to its services," says Teresa Hunkapiller, NHTC General Manager. "To ade-



quately do that, our members must participate in the process."

One of the most important ways to do that is to cast your ballot in the election for Directors. By doing so, you are taking part in deciding the leadership of the company, and therefore the future direction of NHTC.

### ***It's Easy...***

- 1) Attend the NHTC Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening, May 16. Be sure to bring a photo ID.
- 2) Present your ID and register in the Elementary/Middle School Lunchroom.
- 3) Mark your voting ballot and drop it in the ballot box. You may also hold onto your ballot and vote in the auditorium after any nominations from the floor and before final tallying is conducted.

**Remember, it's your cooperative, and *your vote counts!***



## *The Voice of the Members:* Electing Your Board of Directors

Local control is the strength of the cooperative form of business. However, it would be impossible for the management of a cooperative to consult every single member regarding every important operating and policy issue.

That is the work of the Directors. Elected by the membership at large, Directors represent the concerns of NHTC's member/owners. It is their responsibility to stay up-to-date on telecommunications issues, and to use their knowledge and understanding to make solid short-term and long-term decisions for the cooperative.

At this year's Annual Meeting, two positions are up for election: seat #1 of the Owens Cross Roads exchange, currently held by Greg Glover; and Seat #8 of the Grant exchange, currently held by Jimmy Segler. They will face



NHTC's Board of Directors are, left to right: (seated) Greg Glover, Vice President; Jeff Cooper, President; Jimmy Segler, Secretary; David Ayers, Treasurer; (standing) Barry Mefford; Dennis Pence; Jim Duncan; Barry Jones; and Jeff DeArmond.

opponents chosen by the Nominating Committee (as well as any candidate nominated from the floor at the Meeting). Current opponents are William Schultz for seat #1 and Richard Burton for seat #8.

Members of the 2006 Nominating Committee are: Scott Chandler, Grant; Maurice Dalton, Owens Cross Roads; and Craig Hill, New Hope.

## The Role and Responsibilities of a Cooperative Director

As the owners of the cooperative, members must understand the role of the board of directors. This ranks as a priority not only because independent telcos now operate in a competitive marketplace, but also because they must blend basic exchange operations with the accounting, marketing, and business practices of nontraditional, diversified activities.

Board members must be knowledgeable about the evolving telecommunications industry, telco management, state and federal regulation, the competitive environment, and the company's long-range plans and future prospects. More than ever, telco board members must embrace change, rather than resist it, and respond decisively. Telco stewardship demands vigilant review of industry and economic developments and their effects on the communities the telco serves and the ability to prioritize objectives and delegate authority.

A director is a trustee or fiduciary of the cooperative. Not merely symbolic in meaning, a director's trusteeship or fiduciary role carries with it responsibilities of obedience, loyalty and

due care in making decisions with respect to the rights, properties and interests of the members of New Hope Telephone Cooperative.

As trustees, directors are entrusted with the responsibility to ensure the future of the telco beyond their own terms of service and maintain its functioning status as a "cooperative-based" membership association. Directors are elected to safeguard cooperative resources--plant facilities and equipment, financial assets and human resources and must discharge the duties of their offices in good faith, in a manner each reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the cooperative, and with the care a prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

To succeed in today's marketplace, boards of directors must be fully aware of their responsibilities to the telco, to members and to the community. With the increased financial risk created by the competitive environment, directors themselves are at higher personal risk if they fail to properly understand their role

in the management structure. Indeed, the board's legal responsibility mandates that directors remain vigilant to the challenges and liabilities that their telcos and they themselves face.

The success of the board in meeting its responsibilities depends on the success of individual directors in fulfilling their responsibilities as elected representatives. As rural communities vie to be part of the digital age, the ability--or inability--of our cooperative to respond to the demands of our subscribers could lead to increased scrutiny or questions about the performance of directors or, even more basic, about their adequacy to fulfill their role in such a complex industry.

Despite all that has transpired in the telecommunications arena since 1995, one fact of life for rural telcos remains as valid as it was then: The board of directors bears the responsibility to ensure the success of the cooperative, and must be willing to assume an even more pivotal role than was required in the past.

## Spring beauty abounds at Warren's residence



Sara Warren's yard delights those who pass by with a profusion of color. This New Hope resident has been tending her various flower gardens for 34 years. That's how long Sara and her husband Carl have lived in their home. Since she is always changing things up a bit, every year brings wonderful surprises. Carl Warren says, "She has so many plants there's almost always something in bloom, except for in really cool weather." These photos show off her beautiful pansies, tulips, hostas and more.



## OCR students are winners

ACE students from OCR School competed in the North Alabama Council for Technology Education Competition this week. They competed against students from schools all across North Alabama in the Multimedia category and the Information Technology Exam. Several students earned awards:

- Dalton Gaither came in 2nd place on the Technology Exam, Level I
- Cassie Bearden and Briana White tied for 3rd place on the Technology Exam, Level I
- Cassie Bearden also won a full scholarship to Space Camp

All of the students who competed proudly represented their school and proved they are successfully competitive with schools all across North Alabama. The ACE students include: Mason Babbidge, Jessica Hall, Alex Rogers, Nathan Rogers, Madison Webster, Jake Wilbourn, Cassie Bearden, Dustin Bearden, Emily Dean, Dalton Gaither, Leah Tabor, Jericoe Trott, Briana White, Katie Clarke, Rebekah Hall, and Kaitlyn Walls.

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\*(APR) Annual Percentage Rate, (APY) Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are subject to change without prior notice. Contact Citizens Bank & Trust for a complete list of details.



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR MAY 2006

## Youth Rally

All youth ages 13 to 19 are welcome. There will be food, fun, music and prizes.

- When: Saturday, May 6th  
Noon until 5:00 p.m.
- Where: Galilee Baptist Church
- Info: 723-2229 or 723-4819

## Cruise-In

North Alabama Street Toys Cruise-In. Custom Cars, Street Rods, Trucks and Classic Cars welcome! (No boom boxes) 50/50 drawing, door prizes, awards. No entry fee- just lots of fun!

- When: First Saturday of each Month April - October  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Where: Hardee's Restaurant  
Hwy 431 S., New Hope
- Info: Billy Vann, 723-4631 or Donald Roy Paseur, 723-4500

## Blood Drive

Give the gift of life...give blood.

- When: Saturday, May 13th  
10:00 until 4:00 p.m.
- Where: New Hope United Methodist Church
- Info: 723-4812

## Mother's Day Concert

An evening concert presented by Doug Seaver. Everyone is invited!

- When: Sunday, May 14th  
6:00 p.m.
- Where: New Hope First Baptist Church

## Youth Fishing Tournament

Madison County Commission sponsored fishing rodeo for kids. Bring one rod & reel or pole, no artificial lures or boats. Hooks, cork and bait provided. Free admission, great prizes!

- When: Saturday, May 20th
- Where: Sharon Johnston Park
- Fishing Times: 5-10 yrs. old  
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.; 11-15 yrs.  
old 10:30 - Noon
- Info: registration forms and info  
on line at [www.co.madison.al.us](http://www.co.madison.al.us)

## Revival

Featuring evangelist Jamey Ragle and music by Doug Seaver.

- When: May 21 - 23  
Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.  
Nightly 7:00 p.m.
- Where: New Hope First Baptist Church

## Grief Recovery

**Jesus Wept** Grief Recovery Group -

When you need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen, or a hand to help, we want to be there for you, whatever season of life you're in. We are not perfect and we can not replace what is lost, but we do care.

- When: Monday Nights, 6 p.m.
- Where: Big Cove Church of Christ, 409 Old Big Cove Rd., Owens Cross Roads, AL
- Info: 534-3432

## Chicken Dinner Fund Raiser

Sponsored by Swarengin Vol. Fire Dept. Plates - \$8. Includes half chicken, baked beans, slaw, roll and soft drink. Pre-order Boston Butts for \$25.

- When: Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.
- Where: 5120 Swarengin Rd. - 5 miles from red light in Grant
- Info: Edith Dake, 728-5638; Brian Crabtree, 728-4216 or 558-3818; David King, 728-7804; Mitch McCullough, 728-7188

## NHHA Story Day

Historical Association presents story day with demonstrations of old-time crafts, skills and leisure activities, stories and music.

- When: Saturday, June 10  
10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- Where: New Hope City Hall
- Info: Teresa Ballard, 723-2161

## School News

### New Hope School

- May 8 - Final PTO meeting, 7 pm
- May 18 - 8th grade graduation, 7 pm

### New Hope High School

- For daily school announcements email [pbaker@madison.k12.al.us](mailto:pbaker@madison.k12.al.us)
- For PTO information email [loramaplesmartin@yahoo.com](mailto:loramaplesmartin@yahoo.com)
- To check your student's grades online get a PIN at High School office.

## American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Relay for Life is a fun-filled event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. During the event teams gather and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

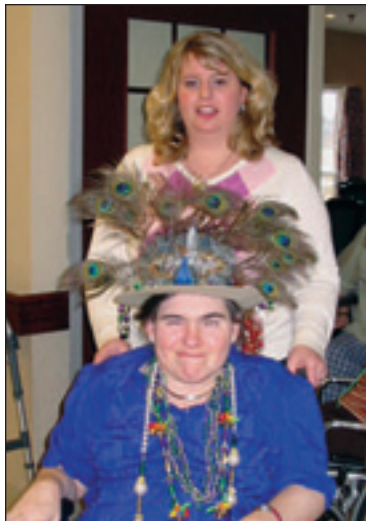
This year NHTC employee, Tammy Pritchett, will walk in memory of her mother, Faye Carlisle, who passed away December 1, 2005 of lung cancer.

Donations are being accepted now and may be made at New Hope Telephone Cooperative's office through May 4th, 2006.



Faye Carlisle passed away December 1, 2005 after a battle with lung cancer.





South Hampton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center celebrated Mardi Gras in style. Shown above: (Right) Betty Woody, resident and Katie Stoner in a mask. (Left) Deborah Meeks, in peacock hat and Lindsay Blackwell.



## Inspiration Corner

The world of advertising is limitless with computer technology. Did you know some advertisements on the wall behind home plate look the same to fans in the stands but are changed on television after every inning? The bombardment of junk email has given me so much grief lately I finally dialed up the nehp.net website and found a lot of new information on spam control. Thank you NHTC. No matter what we do however, we will never be completely free of rogue advertising.

There is a greater problem in our lives than advertising, though the method of attack is much the same. Temptation to sin is Satan's way of trying to make a sale. The good news is we can protect ourselves!!! How? Read! How did I get help for Spam? I went to my internet provider. What about temptation? I go to my Life-net provider. The Bible tells us how to protect ourselves from Satan's wiles. Much like you don't choose to go out and purchase everything you see advertised, you can also ignore that which Satan is trying to sell. Paul writes to the Philippians in chapter 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." In doing so, temptation will be powerless in your life. Want to learn more? Our doors are open!



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

## In memory of Mae Holt

*By: Betty Holt*

Mae Holt is remembered by many women in New Hope for her beautiful sewing. She was talented and determined. One story of her determination is about a tragic time in her life. She and Buford were in their early fifties. Buford died suddenly with a heart attack. "Miss Mae" had never driven a car. Buford drove her everywhere they went. After several weeks passed and she had rooms with Miss Lydie Thomas she knew she must learn to drive. It was necessary!

Son Ted lived in Chattanooga. Donald had moved to El Paso, Texas. With some instruction from Ted and a drawing of 'gear shifting' she practiced in the yard. She was encouraged by friends.

"Anyone who can drive a sewing machine as you can will be able to drive a car," she was told.

Church was a big part of Miss Mae's life. She promised the Lord, "Allow me to get a drivers license and I will never drive outside of New Hope. I will use my freedom to drive to church, the grocery store, to see friends and other short trips."

On the day she was 85 she renewed her license for the last time. She had not broken her promise and had really enjoyed all the years of having this independence.

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-  
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## Teacher Talk

By Carolyn Creighton,  
NHES Asst. Principal

Just as children like to read about things they know or are comfortable with, the same is true about writing. When a student writes about something he knows and understands, he will be more comfortable with the writing process. Sharing writings with friends or family will enhance self-esteem and build a stronger reader.

How are writing and reading connected? Both help develop an extended vocabulary. According to the Alabama Reading Initiative, writing causes students to read for varied purposes. Understanding writing also enhances the writer's ability

to communicate. Both reading and writing assist in the transfer of learning from one content area to another. By arranging reading-writing moments around things happening in the child's life or about topics the child is comfortable with, the child will grow as a reader because he has opportunity to orally share his writings.

As summer approaches and students have independent reading times, why not add opportunities to write as well? If you would like to send samples to me over the summer, please e-mail me at (cmcreighton@juno.com). Happy Summer!

## Willmon returns to banking as president of First Bank

A familiar face returns to banking in Grant, as First Bank of the South welcomes David Myrle Willmon as its new president.

The Grant resident has spent the past 10 years in retirement, fishing, traveling, reading and enjoying time with family.



For the 18 years prior, he served the people of Grant at another bank. Willmon's banking career began in 1962.

"I got bored," Willmon says of his decision to come out of retirement. "I'm a people person, I love meeting people. I was tired of sitting at home."

Willmon says he is looking forward to meeting the community's banking needs once again. He knows many people throughout the area, and looks forward to making new friends.

Patty Rice will continue to serve as vice president on a part-time basis.

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## From the kitchen of Clara Pullen

Clara Pullen's fried apple pies are so good, her granddaughter "can't wait to eat them straight from the skillet while they are still hot."

Indeed, Pullen dries her own apples and even makes her own crust. "That's the fun of making them," she says.

A resident of the Elon Community, Pullen has been cooking since she was a young girl. She still enjoys sharing meals with her family. When her grand-

daughter is home from Jacksonville State - where she is a child psychology major - Pullen cooks breakfast for her.

"At Christmastime, it's bake, bake, bake," Pullen says with a smile. "I start baking at Thanksgiving, and I don't stop until New Year's."

Interestingly, Pullen cooks on the same stove she has owned for the past 50 years. "It still cooks as good as new," she says.

### Fried Apple Pies

2 lb. bag of dried apples, dark ones are best  
Sugar to taste  
Dash of cinnamon  
Vanilla flavoring  
Dash of ground clove

Cook apples until tender and all the water is out of them. Add cinnamon, sugar, vanilla and cloves. Use mixer and beat until mashed and smooth. Use Grand biscuits for the easiest crust, roll out each biscuit until flat, then put apples on half of the biscuit, fold over, press edges with a fork to seal. Fry the pies slowly in a hot skillet with Crisco® until golden brown. Serve while hot.

### Pork Roast

3 lb. tenderloin roast  
Onions to taste  
4 large potatoes, quartered and boiled in broth  
3/4 cup ketchup  
3 Tbsp. flour  
Salt & pepper to taste  
Butter to taste

Boil roast until tender, cook potatoes in broth. Remove roast from pot and pull apart. Place in roasting pan. Thinly slice

onion and place on roast. Arrange cooked potatoes around meat in pan. Mix flour, salt, pepper, butter and ketchup together and pour over roast. Cook in oven until mixture thickens and onions are tender.

### Coconut Cake

1 box yellow cake mix  
2 fresh coconuts, ground plus the juice

Bake cake according to package directions including the juice from 2 coconuts as well.

#### Icing

2 cups sugar  
1/2 cup white Karo syrup  
1 cup water  
4 egg whites, beaten

Cook sugar, syrup and water until it forms soft ball in cold water. Pour over the beaten egg whites. Beat until smooth. Spread over cooled cake. Top with fresh coconut.

### Old Fashioned Tea Cakes

3-1/2 cups self-rising flour  
1 cup Crisco®  
1-1/2 cups sugar  
2 eggs, well beaten

1-1/2 tsp. vanilla  
2 Tbsp. milk

Combine all ingredients as if making biscuits. Roll dough out and cut with cookie cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheet and bake at 350° until light brown

## Cook of the Month

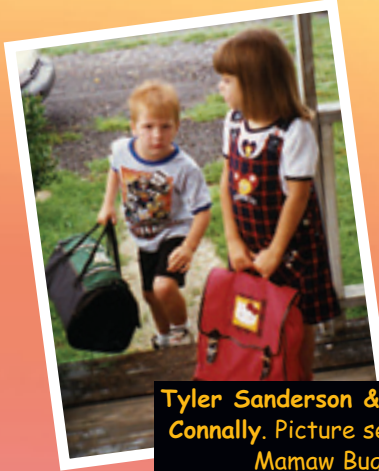
Do you know a great local cook? Maybe it's you! We're looking for a few good cooks to be considered for our Cook of the Month feature.

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.



# "School Daze"



**Tyler Sanderson & Victoria Connally.** Picture sent in by Mamaw Bug.



**Olivia Whitaker,** ready for Pre-K.



**(Above) Jacob Maples & Alex Brown** on Field Day. **(Right) Mrs. Burleson** having fun.



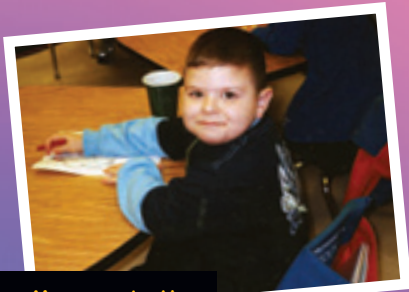
**Alyson Graham's** first day of Pre-K. Photo sent by mom, Amanda.



**Drew & Jay,** sons of Scott & Misty and Clint & Lisa Pinkerton.



**(Above) Mrs. Alberti's** Kindergarten class field trip to Tate Farms. **(Below) Tyler Graves** enjoying field trip. Photos sent by mom, Michelle Graves.



**Clay Maynes,** in Mrs. Popel's Pre-K class. Photo sent in by mom.



**In Loving Memory of Shelby.**  
10/13/94 - 5/3/04  
Sent by little sister, Lilly Paige Brown.



The July photos will feature a Patriotic theme. 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](mailto:mgoodson@nehp.net). If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print. **The deadline for the July entry is May 24th.**

**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.

# Technology at Work

*NHTC is working hard to enhance service through advanced technology*

In recent months the pages of *The Communicator* have featured news about the many upgrades and improvements being made at your cooperative. These cover a wide range of technology, from

network upgrades and billing hardware to our major optical fiber project.

The photos shown here will give you a glimpse into all the activity taking place inside the New Hope Telephone

Cooperative system. A big 'thank you' to all employees involved in these upgrades for their hard work and dedication to providing progressive service to our members.



Installing components for the new OC 12



The first phase of installation for the new billing system



Equipment ready to serve



Ready to bring better service to members



T1 upgrades



Crews training on fiber splicing equipment

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