

The

Communicator

MAY/JUNE 2014

Published for
customers of

**New
Hope**
Telephone
Cooperative
Your Broadband Connection

PEACE AND TRANQUILITY

await visitors at
nature trail

FESTIVALS OF THE SOUTH

Celebrations devoted to
our Southern culture

COACH SANDERS

Retired teacher leaves
legacy of caring

Our national telco association joins with 34 rural groups to work for broadband support

Access to affordable broadband Internet affects all aspects of rural life, and regulators should act quickly to put a plan in place that will support the availability of affordable broadband service in rural America.

That was the message a group of 35 national organizations sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in March. NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association signed the letter, along with groups representing consumer, community and business interests. NTCA is the national voice of telecommunications companies such as ours.

Because of the way Universal Service Fund (USF) support is currently set up, “consumers in rural America are being forced to select services they may not want, such as traditional landline telephone service, in order to gain access to broadband services at an affordable rate,” says Shirley Bloomfield, CEO of NTCA.

The letter specifically urged the FCC to move forward as quickly as possible to implement a Connect America Fund (CAF) mechanism for rural telecommunications companies like ours — a mechanism that will “provide

In addition to NTCA, other organizations signing the letter include:

- ▶ Agricultural Retailers Association
- ▶ American Association of Community Colleges
- ▶ American Farm Bureau Federation
- ▶ American Library Association
- ▶ American Telemedicine Association
- ▶ Independent Community Bankers of America
- ▶ National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education
- ▶ National Rural Economic Developers Association
- ▶ National Rural Education Association
- ▶ National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- ▶ National Rural Health Association
- ▶ National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative
- ▶ Rural School and Community Trust
- ▶ State Agriculture and Rural Leaders

sufficient and predictable support for broadband-capable networks across all of rural America,” Bloomfield adds.

The letter stated that “our groups include representatives of agribusiness, farmers and ranchers, rural health care providers, rural educational initiatives, economic development agencies, utilities, lenders and other sectors that are indispensable to our rural and national economies.” ☎

—From NTCA Reports



Telcos respond as FCC pushes for increase in local service rates

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced in March a new “rate floor” for rural telecommunications services that, if enacted in full, could raise local phone service rates by 40 percent for some rural consumers.

This increase is intended to bring rates across the country into better balance. To comply with the new minimum, some telecommunications providers would be forced to raise their

rates for local phone service by as much as \$6 per month.

NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association filed a notice with the FCC expressing concern on behalf of the nation’s rural telecommunications companies. “The strict implementation of this rule presents real challenges for rural consumers and could put at risk access to both quality voice and broadband services in many rural communities,” wrote NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield in the notice.

Suggestions to the FCC include phasing in the rate increase amounts over time as well as delaying the dates for the increases to be implemented.

As your telecommunications provider, we will continue working through NTCA to present the concerns of rural consumers to the FCC. Please see the July/August issue of this magazine for an update. ☎

The IP Evolution

Support for 'middle mile' networks is vital to keeping rural regions connected to Internet

The technology that powers the Web — known as Internet Protocol, or IP — has become the standard for transmitting information between devices. As we use this technology to connect everything from security systems to appliances, in addition to watching movies and sharing files over the Internet, it is more important than ever that federal regulations support the “IP Evolution.”

When you use your Internet connection and our local network to access the nation’s Internet backbone, your information travels across “middle mile” networks. Because these networks are a vital connection between your local provider and the rest of the Internet, it is important that our nation’s policies support their development — especially as people in rural

America grow to rely more on broadband connections for education, business growth, entertainment, telemedicine and general communications.

“The networks required to connect rural areas to Internet ‘on-ramps’ are costly, and consumer demand is increasing the need for bandwidth,” says Mike Romano, senior vice president of policy for NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association. “To keep rural broadband services affordable, such networks need universal service support.”

As your telecommunications provider, we will continue working through NTCA with other companies like ours across the U.S. to encourage changes in federal regulations that will help consumers take advantage of the IP Evolution. ☎



Lifeline Service

When you need help paying for telephone service

Is your annual household income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of its size? Do you or someone in your household participate in any of the following low-income government assistance programs? If so, you may qualify for Lifeline Service.

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program’s Free Lunch Program

To find out whether you qualify for Lifeline assistance, customers must fill out standard forms, available at your local telephone company’s office, as mandated by the Federal and/or State government. Your telephone company is not responsible for determining who qualifies for these programs or who receives assistance. Customers must meet specific criteria in order to obtain assistance with their local telephone service, and qualifying is dependent upon government-established guidelines. To qualify for Lifeline credit, each customer must apply and provide proof that he/she, or a household member for whom he/she is financially responsible, participates in at least one of the programs listed above or that the customer meets the income-based requirements. Additional eligibility requirements may also apply. Customers must choose to apply the Lifeline discount to a landline or a wireless number, not both.

For more details about Lifeline Service and to apply for assistance, please contact your local telephone company.



“Is my child the victim of a cyberbully?”

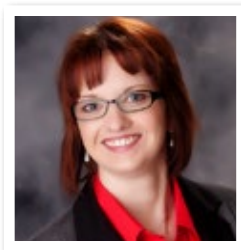
It is difficult enough for a child to face a traditional bully. But as we learned in the March/April issue, cyberbullies can be particularly damaging because they are always present. Using the same technology that brings fun and convenience into our lives, a cyberbully victimizes people through email, social media and text messaging.

If your child is the victim of a cyberbully, it is important to recognize it and intervene as early as possible. Children who are victims of cyberbullying may:

- Become withdrawn or depressed, and exhibit anti-social behavior
- Say things about hating school or not having friends
- Experience a drop in their grades at school

- Appear anxious when their cell phone rings or they receive emails and texts
- Quickly stop using the computer, cell phone or other technology when you enter the room
- Decide to quit using the Internet, cell phones and other technology

What can you do if you see these signs in your child? In my next article, we will discuss ways to respond if you find out your child is the victim of a cyberbully.



Carissa Swenson is the owner and technology specialist of TechTECS, a technology training, education, consulting and support company.

Ringside seats to TV's future

Today's television industry is very much like a wrestling match. In one corner stands the champion, the current structure where pricing and packaging are driven by the content providers. In the other corner is the fast-rising newcomer: OTT.



The term OTT means “over the top,” and is used to describe television programming that is available outside of a TV subscription. This includes services like Netflix, Hulu Plus and Amazon Instant Video.

These services charge a subscription fee for users to watch movies, TV shows and even original programming — and the approach is changing peoples' viewing habits. For example, the Netflix political drama “House of Cards” released its second season in February, and almost 700,000 Netflix subscribers watched

all 13 episodes in the first weekend. Viewers are becoming more interested in watching what they want, when they want to watch it (even if that means spending their weekend consuming 13 hours of a political drama).

Also in February, we saw the launch of a service that is different from anything we've seen so far. The WWE Network offers wrestling fans original programming, a back catalogue of shows spanning decades and access to its pay-per-view events — all for \$9.99 per month. And it's only available over the top. Will this be a model that other niche providers pursue? Would consumers pay a separate fee for that kind of access to football or basketball? Home improvement or gardening shows? It remains to be seen.

We all use our TVs to connect with traditional programming, like the packages offered by NHTC. But how do people access the OTT programming? The list of devices is long, and continues to grow. There's the popular Roku and Apple TV, devices that connect to your television and your home's Internet connection. In April, Amazon introduced its own video streaming device. Some devices with different primary functions, like the PlayStation, Xbox and Blu-ray players, also provide access to OTT services. And many newer television sets have built-in OTT functionality.

Rick Schadelbauer is an economist with NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association. In a recent industry report, Rick shared with us that the number of households with connected TVs is on the rise. “According to a study recently released by The Diffusion Group (TDG), more than six in 10 U.S. households have at least one television connected to the Internet in order to access content from online services,” he wrote. And that number is up 19 percent from 2013.

These numbers, along with the OTT examples I mentioned above, paint a clear picture: television entertainment is rapidly evolving. Adding more pressure to change is the fact that content providers continue to demand more money from companies like ours, while telling us what channels we must carry and where we must place them in the lineup.

As we watch this match play out, there is good news for members of NHTC. We continue to invest in creating a robust broadband network, and we will be ready to provide you with a reliable connection to whatever services you decide to access — across whatever device you decide to connect to our network. ☎

JIM COOK
General Manager

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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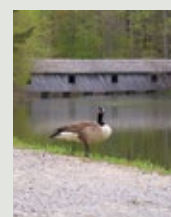
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On the Cover:



The Madison County Nature Trail on Green Mountain offers hiking, picnicking and fishing. It's a great place for families or groups. See story Page 8.

Lions Club clean-up day successful

The Lions Club's annual clean-up day was a big success again this year. Volunteers removed litter from about 18 miles of roadway around New Hope. Enough debris was removed to fill a dump truck. The event is made possible thanks to the volunteers, New Hope City Council, Commissioner Eddie Sisk, Madison County DOT, Green Team, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and donations from many local businesses.

Special thanks to these businesses

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| • A-1 Sanitation Service | • New Hope Furniture Mart | • Cooper's Small Engine | • El Paso |
| • Hardee's | • Cadence Bank | • Julia's Hair Care | • Main Street Florist |
| • New Hope Discount Drug | • Huntsville Gourd Patch | • Piggly Wiggly | • Styles by Beverly |
| • Allstar Pools | • New Hope Telephone Cooperative | • Connally's Auto | • Furlough Wrecker |
| • Hornbuckle Barbershop | • Citizens Bank | • LBC Inc. | • Main Street Salon |
| • New Hope Florist | • Jif-E-Mart | • Pit Stop Beverage | • Tara Graphics |
| • Barbara's Beauty Shop | • Old Vienna Bakery | • Dennis Martin Realty | • G & G Pizza |
| • Howard's Trophy Shop | • Classic Pizza | • Liberty Kim's Food | • Mason's Beverage |
| • New Hope Funeral Home | • Jim Kennemer | • Stapler Construction | • Wavaho |
| • Betty's Boutique | • Owens Cross Roads Cafe | • Dot's Dairy Den | • Galen's |
| • Hubbard Tire | | • Main Street Events | • New Hope BBQ |
| | | • Stapler Furniture | • Grandmother's House |

Community Calendar

EVERY TUESDAY

Story Time • New Hope Library

Books will come alive as Mrs. Lorna shares stories, music and crafts each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. For more information call 256-723-2995.

JUNE 2

Summer Reading Program "Fizz, Boom, Read" • New Hope Library

The kick-off event takes place at the New Hope City Park. Enjoy lunch, fun and games as we get ready for an exciting summer program for ages preschool and up. We hope you will join us! For more information call 256-723-2995.

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+



+



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Becca Hyde, CSR

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*Only new bundles with phone, Internet and TV service qualify for discount. Some restrictions apply, call NHHC for complete details. \$100 savings is awarded as a \$10 monthly credit for 10 months.

Broadband Builds Business

Small businesses depend on broadband access as they drive America's economy



Look for the "Broadband Builds Business" logo in our magazine throughout the year as we highlight companies who are using broadband to create new business opportunities and to bring new services to their communities.

► Are you a small business owner?

Share your story of how you're using broadband to grow your business at **BroadbandBuildsBusiness.com**. We may feature you in our magazine!

BY STEPHEN V. SMITH, EDITOR

Every day across rural America, small business owners are taking care of their communities — from grocery stores, restaurants and service stations to beauty shops, newspapers and banks.

Not only are these small businesses meeting our local needs, but they are also a vital part of our country's economic recovery. According to reports compiled by the ADP Research Institute, the six-month period from September 2013 to February 2014 found that businesses with fewer than 50 employees created some 455,000 jobs, or 42.8 percent of all jobs created.

As small business owners put people to work — and generate some 46 percent of the nation's gross domestic product — they increasingly rely on broadband Internet access to manage and grow their companies. In fact, reports from the U.S. Small Business Administration show that broadband is one of their most important resources (*see infographic, next page*).

"Access to high-quality broadband Internet service is absolutely vital for small businesses seeking to grow their operations," says Rick Schadelbauer, an economist with NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association. "It allows small business owners to cost-effectively promote the unique aspects of their operations and provides access to customers and markets that would be otherwise unattainable."

Beyond having a website, small businesses are also using their broadband connections to engage with customers through social media. They are using online software for functions such as project management, bookkeeping and sales tracking. And they are networking with vendors to maintain inventory and track orders.

As broadband becomes the lifeblood of small business, telecommunications providers like us remain committed to delivering reliable, affordable broadband to rural America. 📞

THE FACE OF SMALL BUSINESS

In communities across the region, small businesses are using the power of broadband to operate more efficiently and provide better service.



BELLE CHEVRE (Elkmont, Ala.) relies on broadband to help market its cheeses, which have won nearly 100 national awards and been declared a "national treasure" by critics.



WOUND CARE RESOURCES (Yorkville, Tenn.) provides products to treat chronic wounds. Broadband is the company's lifeline for making sales and backing up its files.

• National Small Business Week is May 12-16 —

THE IMPACT OF SMALL BUSINESSES ON THE U.S. ECONOMY

SMALL BUSINESSES COMPRISE:

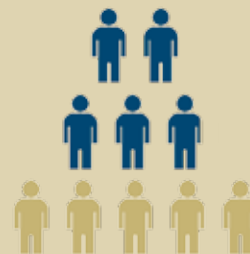


99.7%
of U.S.
employer
firms



64%
of net new private-sector jobs

49.2%
of private-
sector
employment



43%
of private-sector payroll



(Gross Domestic Product)

46%
of private-sector output



of high-tech
employment

Source: SBA, Office of Advocacy publication
"Frequently Asked Questions about Small Business," Sept. 2012

AND THEY DEPEND ON BROADBAND TO:



ACHIEVE
STRATEGIC GOALS



IMPROVE
COMPETITIVENESS



IMPROVE
EFFICIENCY



REACH MORE
CUSTOMERS



INTERACT WITH
VENDORS

Source: SBA, Office of Advocacy report, "The Impact of Broadband Speed and Price on Small Business," November 2010



HILL TIRE (Walterboro, S.C.),
a family-owned tire company serving
customers since 1968, uses broad-
band to connect with its distributors,
track hours and train employees.



**EASTERN KENTUCKY FOOTHILLS
ECO-AGRITOURISM** is a group of
45 businesses in five counties using
broadband to promote the region as
a premier tourist destination.



**GRAND VISTA HOTEL (Helenwood,
Tenn.)** uses broadband to provide
Wi-Fi service to guests anywhere on
its property, allowing the hotel to re-
main competitive with larger chains.

Support small businesses in your community



A NATURE LOVER'S PARADISE

By KERRY SCOTT

The end of the school year is just around the corner, and parents will soon be looking for ways to keep kids entertained. While there's nothing wrong with playing the occasional video game or watching TV, there's a better choice.

The Madison County Nature Trail is just a short drive up Green Mountain in Huntsville and boasts 72 acres of rustic beauty. Parents can pack a picnic lunch and let their kids enjoy a few hours in the great outdoors. "It's a family-friendly park," says Butch Chaffin, park manager. "The slightly cooler temperatures on the mountain, combined with the shade from the trees, make it an ideal place to escape the heat."

The park opens every day at 7 a.m. and doesn't close until a half hour before sunset. Kids under 16 and seniors over 60 can fish in Sky Lake for \$1.50 per person on weekdays. Fishing is not allowed on weekends.

The one-and-a-half-mile path that meanders around the lake is an easy walk. Along the way, visitors will pass through the Cambron Covered Bridge, a favorite spot for photographers.

Next on the trail is a log cabin built in the 1800s by Charles Green. A plaque at the cabin details the history of the Green family.

The path winds on from there, and over the years hikers have worn down another path that extends the total length of the trail to just over two miles. Not everyone walks both, but those who do find mountain laurel, rhododendron, ferns and other plants. Deer, raccoons and opossum have all been spotted along the trail as well.

A small open-air chapel overlooks the lake at one spot along the trail. Many weddings have been held there. There is no charge to use the chapel, but it does require reservations. When not already reserved, it's available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The large covered pavilion is also available for groups by reservation at no charge.

Just north of the springhouse stands a champion winged elm tree. The tree was recognized by the Alabama Forestry Commission as the largest of its species in the state.

Near the end of the trail sits a replica of an old-fashioned groundhog-type whiskey still. "It's actually the original site of a still, but this one isn't operational," says Chaffin with a laugh.

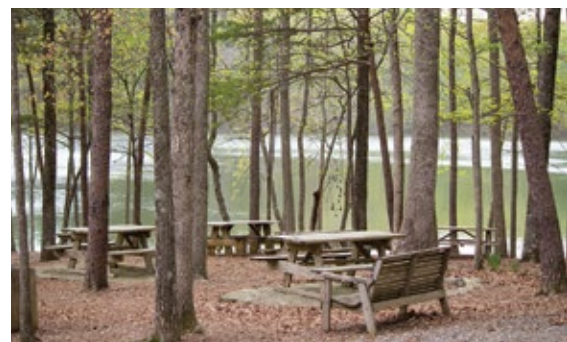
Clean restroom facilities and plenty of picnic tables round out the park, making it a great place to bring the children and enjoy a few hours over the summer. ☎

LEFT: The Cambron Covered Bridge spans a portion of 17-acre Sky Lake at the Madison County Nature Trail in Huntsville.

BELOW, TOP: This small waterfall is one of several great photo opportunities along the one-and-a-half mile trail.

MIDDLE: A map at the park entrance highlights some of the stops along the trail.

BOTTOM: Pack a picnic lunch and spend the day enjoying the peace and tranquility of the park.



For more information visit www.madisoncountyal.gov/services/naturetrail.shtml. To reserve the pavilion or chapel, call 256-883-9501.



-Chassity Page-

Page performs in Capital One Bowl

Chassity Page was only 6 years old when she first twirled a baton with KKT All Starz. She began twirling with the NHHS Marching Band when she was still in middle school.

Now a sophomore, she's the majorette captain. And most recently, she was part of the halftime show at the Capital One Bowl on New Year's Day in Orlando.

Page says her trip to the bowl game started over the summer at a twirl camp she attended at the University of Alabama. More than 200 girls from across the United States attended. "The last day, they chose 10 of us to perform as part of the Capital One Bowl, and I was one of them," she recalls.

In early December, Page received a video with the music and choreography. "It had to be perfected before I arrived in Orlando," she says. Fortunately, her

hip-hop experience helped her pick up on choreography. She still spent 2 hours a day practicing the routine.

Once in Orlando, she spent two 12-hour days on the field working with the entire team — band, flag twirlers, cheerleaders and majorettes — to perfect the routine. "It was an experience I'll treasure forever," she says.

Page hopes that this experience will help her get a twirling scholarship. "I would love to go to UNA because that's where my teachers were from," she says. "But if I got a scholarship to another college, I'd love that, too."

She says her parents have always supported her dreams. "I think they were more excited than I was about being selected," says Page. "They know this is what I want to do and have supported me every step of the way." 📞

Smith earns place in District One Honor Band

Emily Smith was recently selected to perform with the Alabama Bandmasters Association District One Honor Band. Smith, a junior who plays clarinet with the New Hope High School Band, is the first student from NHHS to be selected in about 10 years. "We had a student selected to perform with the middle school band a few years ago, but I'm the first high school student in quite a while," says Smith.

Smith was one of about 200 students who were selected after an audition of more than 600 middle and high school students from across north Alabama.

With only two days to perfect four songs before their performance, Smith says the practices were long and grueling. "Everyone was selected based on their skill, so they were all amazingly talented," says Smith. "Our conductor, Dr. Hartenberger,

really inspired me."

The experience is one Smith says will be treasured forever. She plans to major in music in college and perhaps become a conductor one day herself. "This is what I really want to do," says Smith, "and this experience has helped bring me closer to my goal."

Her band director, Mike Aycock, has been very encouraging. "Since he's come to our school, the band has skyrocketed," says Smith. Since Aycock took over, the band has received nothing but the highest marks at competitions.

Smith says her parents are her greatest champions, though. "They have been really supportive," she says. "In fact, I've been taking private lessons for about a year, and they bought me a professional clarinet because they wanted to show me how much they support my dream." 📞



-Emily Smith-

Southern Celebrations

Festivals highlight big and small icons of rural life

BY ELIZABETH WOOTTEN

It's not every day that people stop to celebrate watermelons. Or MoonPies. Or crape myrtles. But throughout the summer, many counties and cities host unique festivals devoted to such unheralded aspects of life in the South. And the celebrations they put on can give you and your family the opportunity to experience all kinds of fun activities.

Not sure where to start? The Internet is a great tool that can help you during the planning stage. Finding directions, events and hotels is made easy by travel and tourist websites. With a little research, you can have your trip mapped out in no time. Get to planning those one-of-a-kind adventures for you and your family today. Here are some festivals to get you started.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Walterboro Antiques, History & Arts Festival • May 16-17, Walterboro

Hampton County Watermelon Festival • June 14-22, Hampton
Known for the longest parade in South Carolina, this event includes a wide variety of events such as a parade, a street dance, Battle of the Towns, Mud Run and more. This year's theme is The Hampton County Watermelon Festival Promoting Physical & Spiritual Wellness. www.hcmelonfest.org

Lowcountry Blueberry Jam & Blueberry Festival
June 22, McClellanville

South Carolina Festival of Stars
June 27-28, Ninety Six

14th Annual South Carolina Festival of Discovery
July 10-12, Greenwood

Edisto Music & Shag Fest
Aug. 29-30, Edisto Beach

McCormick Gold Rush Festival
Sept. 20, McCormick

From breakfast at the McCormick United Methodist Church to panning for gold at the Heritage Gold Mine, there is plenty to do for all ages at this daylong festival. Live music, games, a silent auction and live artist demonstrations are just a few of the activities to enjoy. www.mccormickgoldrush.net

Due West Fall Festival
Sept. 27, Due West

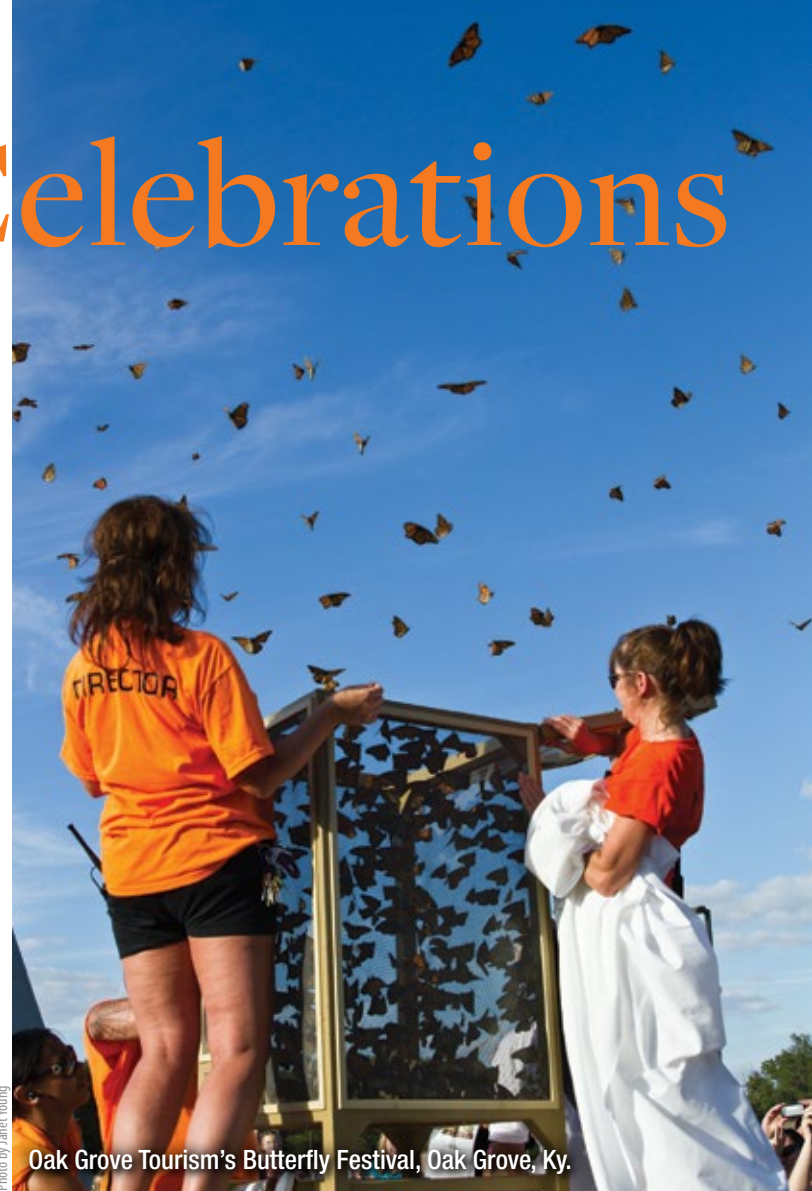


Photo by Captured Moments Photography

▲ Beaufort Shrimp Festival
Oct. 3-4, Downtown Beaufort

Celebrating wild-caught shrimp and local food and fun in the Lowcountry, the festival features an arts and crafts market, a 5K run/walk, live entertainment, children's activities and, of course, plenty of shrimp. www.downtownbeaufort.com/beaufort-shrimp-festival

28th Annual Belton Standpipe Heritage & Arts Festival • Oct. 4, Belton



Oak Grove Tourism's Butterfly Festival, Oak Grove, Ky.

TENNESSEE

Poke Sallet Festival
May 9-10, Gainesboro

A tractor show, quilt show, iris show, Outhouse Race and Poke Sallet Eating Contest are some of the features this year. Kids can enjoy the day, too, with a petting zoo, rides and games. www.pokesalletfest.com

Annual Highway 52 Yard Sale
May 16-17, Macon County

Country Fried Festival at Milky Way Farm • June 7-8, Pulaski

4th Annual Genealogy Jamboree and Pioneer Day • June 12-14, Cumberland Gap

The Secret City Festival
June 13-14, Oak Ridge

Defeated Creek Bluegrass Festival
June 13-14, Defeated Creek

Lions Club Annual Hillbilly Days
June 19-21, Lafayette

Bell Buckle RC-Moon Pie Festival
June 21, Bell Buckle

The Southeastern Tourism Society has named this festival a Top 20 Event. A 10-mile run kicks off the event, with a parade, bluegrass music, a performance by Speakeasy, the coronation of the king and queen and more sprinkled throughout the day. www.bellbuckle-chamber.com

The 15th Annual Lavender Festival
June 21, Oak Ridge

Lynchburg Frontier Days
June 26-28, Lynchburg

Nine Mile Bluegrass Festival
June 27-28, Pikeville

Smithville Fiddler's Jamboree & Crafts Festival

July 4-5, Smithville

Celebrate Independence Day weekend with traditional Appalachian music and old-time fun. Beginning at 9 a.m. each day, the festival will include more than 35 categories of music and dancing as well as food and craft booths.
smithvillejamboree.com

Smokin' in McMinnville BBQ Festival
Aug. 8-9, McMinnville

Franklin Jazz Festival
Aug. 30-31, Franklin

32nd Annual Standing Stone Marbles Festival & National Rolley Hole Championships
Sept. 13, Hilham

ESPN, ABC Evening News, Sports Illustrated and others have featured this one-of-a-kind festival. Although registration is required for the Rolley Hole Tournament, activities open to all include marble making, a swap meet and demonstrations.
www.facebook.com/theNationalRolleyHoleMarblesChampionships

Half Moon Music Festival
Sept. 14, Ten Mile

Rockwood Fall Festival 2014
Oct. 4, Rockwood

6th Annual October Sky Festival
Oct. 19, Oliver Springs

European American Heritage Festival • Oct. 25, Pulaski

KENTUCKY

33rd Annual Little River Days
May 16-17, Hopkinsville

The Lower Town Arts & Music Festival • May 16-17, Paducah

Mountain Memories Festival
June 6-7, Frenchburg

Stringbean Memorial Festival
June 19-21, Jackson County

Bluegrass and mountain music honoring the memory of David "Stringbean" Akeman. Music classes and workshops.
www.stringbeanpark.com



▲ **18th Annual Duncan Hines Festival** • July 12, Bowling Green

Berea Celtic Festival
Aug. 15-18, Berea

Swift Silver Mine Festival
Aug. 29-31, Campton

Hatfield-McCoy Heritage Days 2014
Aug. 29-31, Pikeville

Tobacco Festival
Labor Day Weekend, Sandy Hook

Blazin' Bluegrass Festival
Sept. 18-20, Whitley City



▲ **Gourd Patch Arts Festival**
Sept. 20, Mayfield

25th Annual World Chicken Festival
Sept. 25-28, London

A tribute to the heritage of Colonel Harland Sanders, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, this international celebration includes a variety of attractions, from Chick-O-Lympics and Barnyard games to face painting and a car show.
www.chickenfestival.com

Cave Run Storytelling Festival
Sept. 26-27, Morehead

Morgan County Sorghum Festival
Sept. 26-28, West Liberty

◀ **Oak Grove Tourism's Butterfly Festival** (See photo, opposite page)
Sept. 27, Oak Grove

From a monster mural to an insect road show exhibit, there are activities for children of all ages. Learn about nature through hands-on activities during the day, and stay for the release of hundreds of butterflies at the end of the day.
www.oakgrovebutterflyfest.com

The Murray Highland Festival
Oct. 25, Murray

ALABAMA

30th Annual Poke Salat Festival
May 16-17, Arab

Mentone Rhododendron Festival
May 17-18, Mentone

On Friday, there will be a bonfire in the town square where you can enjoy marshmallow roasting, storytelling, and live entertainment. The festival also includes food, arts and crafts, children's events, live music and more. www.facebook.com/MentoneAlabamaFestivals

▼ **NACC Latino Festival**
June 7, Rainsville



31st Annual Sand Mountain Potato Festival • July 4, Henagar

Main Street Music Festival
Aug. 8-9, Albertville

Ardmore Crape Myrtle Festival
Aug. 30, Ardmore

Purchase crape myrtles of all colors and sizes as well as other plants and flowers at this event. You can also experience crafts, antique cars and tractors, children's activities and more.
www.ardmorealtnchamber.org

The 44th Annual St. William Seafood Festival • Aug. 30, Guntersville

Best known for its famous gumbo, the festival is the primary fundraiser for St. William Catholic Church and attracts seafood lovers from near and far. Come enjoy freshly prepared food at Civitan Park on Lake Guntersville. stwilliamchurch.com/seafood_festival

Ider Mule Days
Sept. 1, Ider

Riverfest Barbecue Cook-off
Sept. 19-20, Decatur


Boom Days Heritage Celebration
Sept. 20, Fort Payne



▲ **New Hope Annual Outdoor Juried Arts & Crafts Festival**
Sept. 27-28, New Hope

48th Annual Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention
Oct. 3-4, Athens

Athens Storytelling Festival
Oct. 23-25, Athens ☎

A photograph of Jackie Sanders, a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. He is sitting on green metal bleachers in a gymnasium, holding a brown basketball in his right hand. The bleachers are empty except for him. The background shows the gymnasium floor and more bleachers.

Jackie Sanders retired in December after more than 35 years as a teacher and coach.

MORE THAN A GAME

Retired coach Jackie Sanders taught discipline in and out of sports

BY MIKALA REASBECK

In his third year of college, Jackie Sanders wanted to study journalism, but opted for English instead.

“I loved to play ball and I loved to read,” he says. “So, I became a teacher and a coach.”

At the time, he could have never guessed the effect that this decision would have on his life and the lives of thousands of kids over the next 35 years.

By the time he retired in December, Sanders had coached boys and girls basketball, fast- and slow-pitch girls softball, boys baseball, soccer and boys volleyball. The legacy he left behind is not simply that of a dynamic coach, but also that of a caring, devoted pillar of the community.

A LEGACY OF CARING

In 1978, Jackie Sanders got his first job as a physical education teacher for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade at Owens Cross Roads School. His first year of teaching would also be his first year of coaching, and he wouldn't stop for another 35-and-a-half years. When OCR became an elementary school and transferred seventh- and eighth-grade students to New Hope Middle

School about 12 years ago, Sanders transferred, too.

Throughout his career, he would sometimes teach up to nine classes a day, then run to practice or a game that could go well into the evening. For a lot of people, those long days would simply be too much, but for Sanders, it was just part of the territory. “If you come to love it, like I did — great,” he says. “If you don't, you probably shouldn't do it.”

Sure, he loved his job. Anyone spending that much time on anything for 35 years would have to. But he loved the kids — the students and the athletes — more.

Steve Clemons is a basketball coach and teacher at Buckhorn High School. He played for coach Sanders at Owens Cross Roads School in 1986 and 1987. All these years later, he's got nothing but praises to sing for Sanders, a man who he says had a huge impact on his life. “He was the first coach we played for that made us understand we also had to succeed in the classroom,” Clemons says.

At Clemons' first job, he actually coached against Sanders for six years. After games, Clemons says he would call Sanders because, “I just wanted him to think I was doing a good job.”

Clemons wasn't the only one to benefit from Sanders' kindness. "He paid for shoes for kids who didn't have money. He gave rides to kids who needed one," Clemons says. "He never left anybody out, and always made everyone feel included."

A GOOD COACH

Sanders coached boys basketball every year since he started, and just about every other sport at some point, too. During his first year, he also coached boys volleyball because of a federal mandate requiring that if there was a girls sport, boys also had to have an opportunity to play. Volleyball, though, isn't a particularly

popular sport among boys, and Sanders says the team picture looks like "a police line-up."

His boys basketball team once went on a 40-game winning streak, but that's not his greatest achievement. He made sure that all the athletes knew that they needed to hold themselves accountable before and after the games. If someone wasn't doing well in school, he or she simply wasn't allowed to play — a policy that cost Sanders at least one county tournament.

Sanders' propensity for letting generations of students and athletes know that he cared about each and every one of them is remarkable. It isn't something that comes

naturally to many people, but it's definitely something that every child needs.

"I fuss at them, and I expect a lot out of them, but at the end of the day, you find something good to say," he says. "Loving them was easy."

Adolescents and pre-teens aren't always the easiest bunch to love. As many parents can attest, girls at this age can be especially hard to handle, or as Sanders says, "mercurial little ships that blow pretty easily."

"They wear their feelings really close to their skin," he says. "As an adult, you know it'll be better later on, but they don't know that. Their pain is real, and you have to respect that."

Sanders pushed his athletes to do their best, and while that process was difficult at times, no one could question whether he had their best interests at heart.

RETIREMENT

When the coach's father took ill in December, Sanders decided to retire. After decades as an important fixture of the Owens Cross Roads School and New Hope Middle School communities, his departure came so suddenly it caught many people by surprise.

"I'm sure I'm going to attend games and keep a low profile — keep my mouth shut if I have an opinion," he says about staying active in a community where he can't go anywhere without "seeing 25 people that I've either taught or coached."

His father passed in January, so now he's taking time to help a sick friend and to spend time with his mother. He's also doing more electrical work, as well as hoping to play more golf and get a bit more fishing in than he's been able to in the past few decades.

"And I'm going to have a garden," he boasts. "We had one before, but now maybe we can have a better one."

"It's all 'old fogey stuff'," he says, but he's really looking forward to it. ☎



The gymnasium at Owens Cross Roads Elementary School was named after Sanders, who coached seventh- and eighth-grade boys there for more than 20 years.

Meet the **DECK CHEF**

Kent Whitaker wasn't born with a silver spatula in his mouth. Like every grill master, there was a time when Whitaker knew nothing about grilling. Granted, it's hard for him to remember the exact moment he took to the grill, knowing how to coax the best flavor from the meat that lay before him.

But now at the age of 47, he says it was during his teenage years that he began grilling seriously, learning a good deal of his technique from his dad.

"Outdoor cooking has always been a big part of our family," Whitaker says. "Both sets of grandparents loved to grill. But it was my dad who ruled charcoal grilling." His dad's instruction, along with a good deal of trial and error, Whitaker admits, helped him hone his skills at the grill.

"I've never had anything blow up or caught a car on fire like in the commercials," he says. "I was cleaning old grease off my smoker, and there was so much smoke that a neighbor ran over to see if our house was on fire."

Whitaker has authored numerous cookbooks sharing his love of the grill, with valuable tips on smoking, barbecuing and grilling meats as well as recipes.

"I'm still perfecting things and love the learning process and trying new things," he says, adding that he loves to try grilling new foods and adding twists to recipes.

"Some have not been what I call successes, though!" he says. "You learn by trial and error; some stuff you pick up in restaurants or class."



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



ABOVE: Gas or charcoal? Kent Whitaker says both. The grillmaster likes the flexibility of grills, so he can tailor a cooking method based on the cuisine.

RIGHT: One great thing about grilling is its portability. Whitaker frequently takes his grill on the road to football games, including the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



COOKING METHODS



Whitaker says the first thing one should know about grilling is the difference between cooking methods.

- **SMOKING** uses very low heat (52° F – 140° F). Several hours up to several days, depending on temperature.
- **BARBECUING** also uses low heat (190° F – 300° F). Takes several hours with low, slow heat.
- **GRILLING** requires high heat (400° F – 550° F). Hot and fast and ready in minutes.

Once you've learned the basics, he says it's time to experiment with different rubs and marinades, as well as meats and other foods.

Whitaker has several monikers attached to his love of grilling. "Cornbread" is one; "Rib Bone" another. But most know him as the "Deck Chef." And that's where you'll find him on the Web: www.thedekchef.com, a site with recipes as well as a place to buy his cookbooks.



Grilled Strawberry Pound Cake

GRILLED STRAWBERRY POUND CAKE

This is my all-time favorite grilling recipe for an after-meal sweet tooth.

Nonstick spray
Pound cake slices
Spray butter, such as Parkay
Brown sugar (optional)
Strawberry ice cream
Sliced strawberries
Strawberry syrup
Toasted sliced almonds

If you fear placing slices of pound cake directly on a grill, try using a grilling basket or use a sheet of heavy duty foil to make a griddle-like surface. Use the nonstick spray to lightly coat the grill or foil as it heats up. Use butter spray or melted butter to lightly coat each slice of pound cake. Grill until edges are browned and the slice is heated evenly. If desired, sprinkle the slices lightly with brown sugar before removing from the grill. Place a slice on a plate, top with ice cream, sliced strawberries, drizzle with strawberry syrup and top with almonds.

GLORIOUS GRILLING!

APPLE BUTTER PORK CHOPS WITH COLA PECAN GLAZE

The flavors in this dish just seem to be meant for each other.

For the chops:

- 4 one-inch thick pork chops, bone-in or boneless
- 1 1/2 cups apple butter
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Glaze:

- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- 1/2-1 tablespoon minced garlic
- Butter
- 1 can of Coke (not diet)
- Handful of finely chopped apples
- 1/4 cup finely chopped celery
- Parsley flakes
- Salt and pepper dashes
- Crushed pecans

Place chops in a shallow glass dish. Combine remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour marinade mixture over chops. Cover tightly and refrigerate for several hours, overnight if possible. Remove pork chops from marinade. Place on grill approximately

six inches above medium-hot coals. Grill, turning and basting with marinade.

For the glaze: In a small skillet, sauté the onion and garlic in the butter until tender. Carefully add in the remaining ingredients and allow the Coke to reduce to half. Once the mix starts to bubble it will reduce quickly, so be ready to remove it from the heat. If the mix burns the sugar, the Coke will become bitter and you will need to start over. Drizzle glaze over chops and serve immediately.

ZESTY CHEATER WINGS

This recipe is so easy that it's like cheating.

- 12-24 mini chicken wings and drums
- Zesty Italian dressing
- Barbecue sauce
- Minced green pepper
- Minced onion
- Dried parsley flakes
- Hot Sauce

Marinate the chicken in equal parts of Italian dressing and barbecue sauce, toss in some hot sauce and spoon in a few tablespoons of minced peppers, onions and some dried parsley flakes. Cover, chill for a couple of hours and grill until juices run clear.

WHISKEY LONDON BROIL

- 1 (2- to 3-pound) London broil or flank steak
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup whiskey
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup hot sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/2 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Combine all of the marinade ingredients. In a resealable bag, combine the meat and marinade. Chill in refrigerator for at least five hours (overnight or all day is better). When ready, heat up the grill and wipe a bit of oil on the grates or use nonstick spray. Remove the beef from the marinade and cook directly over the heat, turning as needed until outside is evenly cooked. I hate to put a time on this because it really depends on the thickness of your cut. You are probably looking at four to eight minutes per side, possibly more. Cook to your desired doneness. Allow to rest for a few minutes on a plate covered with foil. Slice thin and serve hot. 🍴



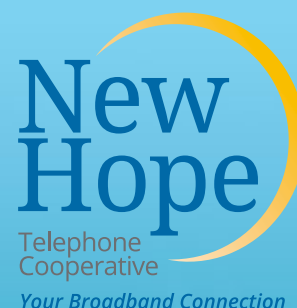
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Make plans to join us!

NEW HOPE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

ANNUAL MEETING



Tuesday, May 20

New Hope Middle School Library and Auditorium

- ▶ Registration and voting begin at 5 p.m.
- ▶ Entertainment by the Redstone Bluegrass Boys will begin around 6 p.m. in the auditorium.
- ▶ Business meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

For the second year, voting will be held in the New Hope Elementary/Middle School Library to better accommodate our members.

Be sure to bring your admittance ticket and a valid photo ID with you to vote in the Board election.

BOARD ELECTIONS for Place 1 currently held by Greg Glover and Place 8 currently held by Jimmy Segler

Great door prizes again this year!

Someone will win our Grand Prize:

a 2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS 4x4 (120K miles)
which was recently retired from NHTC's fleet!

* You must be present to win door prizes.



Grand Prize