

The

Communicator

MARCH/APRIL 2016



STAYING CONNECTED

from party line conversations to fiber optic transfers

We're looking for our SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Small businesses are the heart and soul of our communities, and this year we are celebrating National Small Business Week by honoring a local Small Business of the Year.

May 1-7 is the week set aside in 2016 to honor America's small businesses. Since 1963, the president of the United States has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize those companies who create so many jobs and provide important products and services.

We are proud to support these efforts by delivering the technology small businesses need to stay connected. Through our Small Business of the Year program, we will spotlight those who are ensuring our

communities remain vibrant and continue to grow.

To nominate a business for our Small Business of the Year, visit BroadbandBuildsBusiness.com and complete the simple online form. Anyone can nominate a business — the owner, an employee or a customer.

The deadline for nominations is March 15.

Our Small Business of the Year will be featured in this magazine and will receive additional prizes as well.

Help us celebrate National Small Business Week and say thank you to those small businesses we depend on every day. Visit BroadbandBuildsBusiness.com and nominate your favorite small business — even if it's your own! 📧



HELP US FIND OUR SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR!

- Visit BroadbandBuildsBusiness.com
- Complete the online nomination form
- Share the link on Facebook and Twitter
- Encourage others to nominate their favorite small business

Hurry, the deadline for nominations is March 15!

SMALL BUSINESS
Did You Know?



America's 28 million small businesses create nearly two out of three jobs in our economy.

—sba.gov

NTCA THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION RURAL CONNECTIONS

BY SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD, CEO
NTCA—THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

Telemedicine and rural health

At the Consumer Electronics Show (CES), held every January in Las Vegas, companies unveil the latest gadgets that are meant to entertain us, make us smarter/faster/healthier and, in general, lead to a happier, more convenient life.

NTCA's Vice President of Policy, Josh Seidemann, attended this year's show looking for new products that build on the power of broadband. He saw many new offerings that focused on health care, fitness and smart home technology.

I am particularly interested in how broadband is enabling the delivery of better health care to rural America. From electronic medical records to remote diagnostic equipment, telemedicine is one of the greatest uses of the rural broadband networks like the one your telecommunications company is building.

CES offered plenty of exciting telemedicine news. In addition to many new gadgets coming to market, Josh learned that 20 to 30 percent of medical office visits could be conducted just as effectively through telemedicine. This means that a reliable broadband connection could save countless hours and millions of dollars, particularly in rural areas where travel to medical facilities can often pose a hardship. Plus, 12 states adopted compacts last year to expedite physician licensing for telemedicine, and we look for more to join that effort.

Broadband is already improving rural health care, and the future holds great promise for advances in this area. 📧

TELEMEDICINE

Patients say connecting with doctors online improves health care experience



Broadband Internet service is often celebrated as a tool for economic development and distance learning. According to a recent report in *The American Journal of Managed Care*, broadband can also be a key to better health care.

The report cites a study by Kaiser Permanente, which revealed that a third of patients with chronic conditions who exchanged secure emails with their doctors said these communications improved their overall health. Nearly half of those surveyed had used email as their first method of contacting doctors for various health issues.

“As more patients gain access to online portal tools associated with electronic health records, emails between patients and providers may shift the way that health care is delivered and also impact efficiency, quality and health outcomes,” says Mary E. Reed, DrPH, staff scientist with the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research and the study’s lead author.

Such online tools may also play a role in controlling health care costs. Of those patients who use email and who have higher out-of-pocket medical expenses, 85 percent reported choosing email as their first method of contacting their doctor. 

AMONG PATIENTS WHO HAD EMAILED THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER:



42% said it reduced phone contacts

36% said it reduced in-person visits

32% said it improved their overall health

No broadband? That's a bad thing.

As broadband impacts more areas of our lives, people are placing greater value on broadband as a necessary service. According to a survey by Pew Research Center, 69 percent of Americans believe that people with no broadband connection are at a major disadvantage in at least one of these five areas: 1) finding out about job opportunities or gaining new career skills; 2) learning about or accessing government services; 3) learning new things that may improve or enrich their lives; 4) getting health information; and 5) keeping up with news and information.

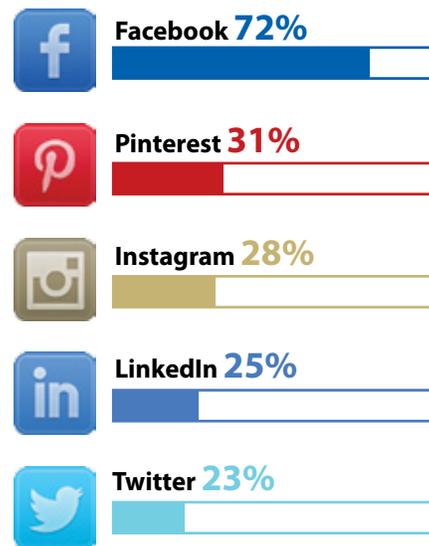


ARE YOU SOCIALLY CONNECTED?

There was a time when email was the main way of connecting with others over the Internet. Today there are many sites and apps that allow users to post status updates, share photos, message friends and more.

A recent Pew Research Center survey asked Internet users which of the top five social media sites they use. Here are the results:

Percentage of online adults who say they use the following social media platforms



WANT TO WEIGH IN ON THE NUMBERS?

Visit www.HowDoYouBroadband.com and take our quick survey!

Simplifying rural support

In recent columns, I've used this space to describe the challenges we and other rural telcos face in providing service. The Universal Service Fund, or USF, is the backbone of our efforts to serve rural America — and that system has long been in need of reform.



JIM COOK
General Manager

The FCC recently threw out its overly complicated plans to reform this system that is so vital to the nation's communications network. To understand the importance of the USF, let's look at its history.

In 1934, forward-thinking leaders of our country decided it was important for everyone to have access to communications. In creating the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), they also created the USF, which has become one of the major building blocks of our nation's communications networks.

Those leaders knew that our country would be stronger, safer, more equitable and even more democratic if every citizen — not just city residents — had access to telephone service.

They also acknowledged that to make this happen, high-cost rural networks like ours, where there may only be a few customers per mile of line, needed support from more profitable urban networks where hundreds or even thousands of customers are packed into a mile of telephone line.

The monthly phone bills for those few rural customers couldn't and still can't cover the cost of installation and upkeep of a network. Faced with the idea of providers having to charge rural residents with unreasonable bills to provide the same access their urban counterparts could get for a much lower price, the FCC wisely leveled the playing field by creating the USF and requiring all phone users to pay a small fee each month to support high-cost networks.

This system was set up based on phone lines, and the amount of support a rural provider gets is based on the number of telephone lines the telco provides in a high-cost area. While that made sense for decades when landline telephones dominated the communications world, customer habits have changed. Landlines still offer important benefits, but broadband is fast becoming the primary way people communicate. Our industry anticipated this and has been encouraging the FCC to revise the USF system to support rural telcos based on broadband service instead of phone lines.

Despite years of advocacy from rural telcos and our national trade group, NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, the FCC has been painfully slow in modernizing its rules. That is why rural providers like us require customers to have a phone line with their broadband. We can't provide broadband without a phone line because we would lose the USF support, which would increase what we would have to charge for broadband service as much as four-fold.

We encourage the FCC to “start over” on USF reform, and we are hopeful that some day we will see a more simple, commonsense approach to reforming the USF — an approach that will benefit communities served by rural providers like New Hope Telephone Cooperative. Until then, the hundreds of providers like us across the country will keep working with one voice through NTCA to ensure Washington regulators hear your voice. 🗣️

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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:



Remembering the story of how NHTC began and revisiting the technology advances of recent decades.
See story Page 12.



You're invited to the

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 17
NEW HOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Door Prizes

Entertainment

Refreshments

Voting starts at 5 p.m., and the business meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.

Members must bring a valid photo ID to vote in the board election.



Welcome to the family!

NHTC is celebrating the new arrivals to two of our employees' families.



Rebecca Hyde is from Grant and has worked at NHTC for nearly seven years as a customer service representative. She and Jacob Kirkland welcomed **Lilliann Jayne Kirkland** to the world on Dec. 3. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19 inches long.



Chris Childress is a warehouse attendant with NHTC. He is approaching eight years with the cooperative. He and his wife, Laura, had their second son on Nov. 20. He joins his big brother, Drew. **Brody Jacobs Childress** weighed 10 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

New Hope Telephone Cooperative is offering two \$500 scholarships — one to a graduating senior from DAR and the second to a graduating senior from NHHS — to help with college expenses.

Applications are available from your school's guidance counselor, online at www.nhtc.coop or at NHTC's business office at 5415 Main Drive, New Hope. Don't miss out on this opportunity! All applications must be received no later than April 8, 2016.





The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island

BY ANNE BRALY

Photo courtesy of The Ocean Course

Lovable links

Every full-size golf course has at least 18 tee boxes and 18 holes. But it's what the course does between the tee and the hole — and what surrounds them — that makes a course special. More than any other sport, golf is enhanced by the beauty of the playing field, and the South is home to some of the most picturesque public courses anywhere. Here's your guide to which courses do it best.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island

Named one of the toughest courses in the nation by Golf Digest, this course, designed by architect Pete Dye, does more than offer tough, link-style fairways that loop between and around the sea on one side and marshes on the other. With stiff ocean breezes, gnarly oaks and no paved cart paths, playing this course is a battle against Mother Nature, but one richly awarded with scenic views and an experience you won't soon forget.

- ▶ **No. 1 handicap hole:** The No. 2 hole is a double dogleg, par five that features a long marsh crossing to a diagonal landing area and then a risk/reward second shot: either a hero shot over a marsh or a layup to an extremely narrow green.
- ▶ **Grass:** The entire course is grassed in Seashore Paspalum, a salt-tolerant grass specifically designed for The Ocean Course by the University of Georgia.
- ▶ **Signature hole:** No. 17, the 197-yard par 3, made famous in the 1991 Ryder Cup.



TECH-SAVVY TRAVELER:

With many sports, there are apps to help you improve various aspects of your game. If you're chasing a dimpled ball around manicured greens, then here's an app to simplify the process. **GolfLogix** is a handy way to calculate your next shot, with GPS, scorecard, stats and tee times. As for those of us watching from our own clubhouse, **The Masters Golf Tournament** has created a free app for us to track the early round contenders ... during your lunch break, of course.



- ▶ **Course length:** 7,356 yards (everyday play). The course can be stretched out to more than 8,000 yards.
- ▶ **Greens fees:** Early March through November — \$374 (\$341 for resort guests), December through early March — \$274 (\$248 for resort guests)
- ▶ **Phone:** 843-768-2121



Photo courtesy of The Stonehenge

TENNESSEE

The Stonehenge Course at Fairfield Glade

Crossville, Tennessee

The newest of four courses at the Cumberland Plateau resort, Stonehenge has been named the best public golf course in Tennessee, in part due to its natural beauty — rock outcroppings, mountains and lakes. It also has narrow, tree-lined fairways and water hazards that lead to challenging greens.

- ▶ **No. 1 handicap hole:** No. 4. It's a challenging dogleg left that stretches out to 428 yards. The tee shot has to land between fairway bunkers on the right and a grove of trees on the left. A perfectly placed tee shot leaves you 160 yards to a small green with a front right, green-side bunker.
- ▶ **Grass:** One of a handful of courses in Tennessee entirely planted with bentgrass
- ▶ **Signature hole:** No. 14, a downhill par 3 that sits in front of Lake Dartmoor
- ▶ **Course length:** 6,549 yards
- ▶ **Greens fees:** \$47 (members), \$77 (guests)
- ▶ **Phone:** 931-484-3731

ALABAMA

Silver Lakes

Gadsden, Alabama

One of 26 courses along the state's famed Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Silver Lakes offers championship golf against a backdrop of some of Alabama's most stunning scenery: the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The course was completely renovated following a 2011 tornado that struck the area, resulting in what many say is the best course on the trail. It has three nine-hole courses — Heartbreaker, Mindbreaker and Backbreaker — that can be combined to make three different 18-hole courses, all offering different experiences.

- ▶ **No. 1 handicap hole:** No. 9 on the Heartbreaker/Backbreaker course. There's water down the left side of the hole and water in front of the green, plus the wind is usually against you on your tee and approach shots.
- ▶ **Grass:** Champions Bermuda (greens), Bermuda (tees and fairways)
- ▶ **Signature hole:** Heartbreaker No. 9, which offers a stunning view of Lake Lee
- ▶ **Course length:** Heartbreaker/Backbreaker — 7,622 yards, Backbreaker/Mindbreaker — 7,450 yard, Mindbreaker/Heartbreaker — 7,456 yards
- ▶ **Greens fees:** \$48-\$69
- ▶ **Phone:** 256-892-3268

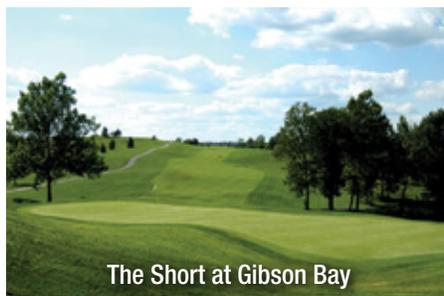


Photo courtesy of The Short

KENTUCKY

The Short at Gibson Bay

Richmond, Kentucky

Swing your clubs through the Bluegrass State on a course that will test your game through 18 holes of risk and reward. The

fairways are tight, the greens and bunkers always well maintained. You'll find many challenging par 4s and a monstrous par 5 on No. 15.

- ▶ **No. 1 handicap hole:** No. 14. It's a 601-yard, par-5 hole with a split fairway, and you're hitting to an elevated green.
- ▶ **Grass:** Bentgrass fairways and greens
- ▶ **Signature hole:** No. 10. It's 379 yards from the black tees and has a lake running the entire length on your right.
- ▶ **Course length:** 7,130 yards
- ▶ **Greens fees:** \$27 (weekdays), \$36 (weekends), \$22 (after 3:30 p.m. every day)
- ▶ **Phone:** 859-623-0225

TEXAS

Garden Valley Golf and Resort

Lindale, Texas

It's been said this course is the Augusta National of Texas, and while pimento cheese isn't sold in snack bars along the fairways, the Dogwood Course is just as picturesque with its tree-lined fairways and blooming flowers in the spring, not to mention quite a few challenging holes. It's a hidden gem in the heart of East Texas and consistently voted as one of the top 10 in the Lone Star State.

- ▶ **No. 1 handicap hole:** No. 5. It's a straight par 5, with hazards left and right of the fairway. The green is protected by water, which cannot be seen if going for the green in two shots. And there are bunkers behind the green.
- ▶ **Grass:** Bermuda (fairways), Champions Bermuda (greens)
- ▶ **Signature hole:** No. 13. It's an elevated tee revealing a downhill, slight dogleg framed by towering pines that surround the property. From the fairway you can look across the lake and see the 15th green and the 16th tee box.
- ▶ **Course length:** 6,850 yards
- ▶ **Greens fees:** Monday-Thursday — \$49 (\$25 seniors 55 and over); Friday-Sunday — \$59 (\$38 seniors)
- ▶ **Phone:** 903-882-6100 ☎

Coming Soon...

NHTC's SmartHub program



With SmartHub, you will have the power to:

- Pay your bill immediately with secure online payments
- View monthly usage and history through the My Usage tab, which allows you to make informed decisions
- Manage account information directly and track payment history from mobile devices on our website, nhtc.coop
- Sign up to receive notifications via email or text messaging concerning activity on your account
- Contact our office with customer service requests

Sign up at nhtc.coop!

877-474-4211 • 256-723-4211



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



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

DIGITAL SPRING CLEANING

By MELISSA SMITH

Springtime is a great time to clean and freshen up your home. You may not realize it, but your computer may need to be cleaned up as well. Not just in a literal sense, but also digitally. There are a few quick-and-easy steps you can take that, if done routinely, can really change the performance and speed of your computer.

GET ORGANIZED

Saving documents on your desktop not only clutters the look of your screen and makes things difficult to find, but it can also take up space on your computer. Consider this: Think of your computer as a filing system in an office. To better know where things are located, create a folder structure that makes sense to you. Start by compartmentalizing things that are important: photos, financial documents, school work and other items. Make a folder, name it something intuitive, then make subfolders and appropriately name them, including dates. For instance, you may have a "Photos" folder that has subfolders for each year or special events like a wedding or Christmas.

DELETE UNWANTED DATA

As you browse the Internet, each site you visit stores data on your hard drive. These files can really add up over time and slow down your computer. Luckily, they're easy to get rid of. Open your favorite browser and find the settings or preferences. From here, deleting these temporary data files should be straightforward and is something you should do regularly. Every operating system is different, but with the click of a button, you can find online how to delete these files.

SAY NO TO JUNK MAIL

It's easy to let email messages pile up in your inbox. Over time, these messages (and especially their attachments) take up space on your computer. Go through regularly and delete any unimportant messages.

Unsubscribe from promotional emails that may no longer be useful to you, and use folders to organize your inbox to separate priority, social and promotional mail.

CALL FOR BACKUP

Photos, music and videos take up a lot of space on a computer's hard drive, and even the best hard drives eventually fail. It's best to always have a backup of your important files. Consider investing in an external hard drive, or look into a cloud-based backup system like Dropbox or CrashPlan. Both programs work similarly, but CrashPlan can be programmed to periodically back up your files automatically. **Need help with your computer? NHTC's PC repair service can help. Call for details today: 256-723-4211.**

KEEP IT CLEAN

Keeping the physical parts of your computer clean will also benefit its performance. Keep a bottle of compressed air and spray the crevices periodically. Dust can build up in small spaces and cause overheating, especially in laptops. Purchase some specialized wipes to keep your keyboard sanitary and your screen clear. 🗨️



Julie Hill

PLAYING *in the* DIRT

A Q&A with Julie Hill, a blogger from Greenville, South Carolina, who shares her love and knowledge of gardening with readers.

Check out her blog

SOUTHERNWILDDSIGN.COM

Q: What do readers find at your blog?

JH: Blogs are an extension of who we are, and I am a dirt nerd through and through. I am far more comfortable in dirty clothes creating beautiful settings, observing wildlife and growing food, so the blog contains lots of advice on gardening with nature. You can also find a list of host plants for butterflies and follow along with my newest venture into a cut-flower market garden.

Q: Why did you become a blogger and how has it changed your life?

JH: Before I moved to South Carolina, I owned a nature center and butterfly farm in Texas and was fortunate to teach thousands of children and adults about gardening and nature. After I moved, I no longer had that outlet, so blogging became a new teaching platform.

Q: Is it necessary to condition your garden's soil before planting?

JH: Building good soil is the foundation for all successful gardens. And using compost is one way. It can be worked into the soil or top-dressed any time of the year.

Q: What are the earliest plants you should plant?

JH: The best time to plant trees and

shrubs is in the fall, when the soil is warm and plants are starting to direct their energies into growing their root systems. And there are flowering annuals and vegetables that can be planted virtually all year long. Just check the tags.

Q: For beginners, can you give suggestions on the easiest flowers and vegetables to grow?

JH: Look for those that are native to your area and check with your local extension agency or knowledgeable local nursery for guidance. Be sure to look at the plant tags for growing requirements. I've found that some of the easiest to grow include basil, bush beans, cucumbers, carrots and radishes.

Q: What are the big trends in gardening right now?

JH: There is movement back to our gardening roots as we are coming to understand our role as caretakers of this planet. I'm seeing a rise in the use of native plants that are water-wise and wildlife friendly. People are getting interested in flowers again, particularly pollinator-friendly perennials. And also, people are growing more of their own food. It is an exciting time to garden.

Q: What will visitors find growing in



OTHER GARDENING BLOGS WORTH READING:

▶ **GARDENRANT.COM**

A blog filled with gardening ideas, including a section allowing readers to share ideas as well as gardening issues. Rant away.

▶ **WWW.SMALLKITCHENGARDEN.NET**

Don't have much room for a garden? This blog gives you ideas for gardening in a small space, so dig right in.

your garden this season?

JH: I have two raised beds for vegetables planted with lots of heirloom tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers and peppers. And I have a couple of large containers on the back deck for herbs. But the most exciting part of my garden this year is the addition of large beds of flowers that will be destined for bouquets. 📷



JOIN THE POD PARTY!

PODCAST POPULARITY IS EXPLODING

By MELISSA SMITH

Americans are increasingly turning to podcasts for entertainment and information, with listenership almost doubling in the past few years. There's a reason these "radio-on-demand" shows are so popular; chances are there's a podcast on any subject you find interesting. With a broadband connection, it's easy to download a podcast over Wi-Fi and listen whenever you want.

Podcasts are free to download, and can be found using apps such as iTunes, Stitcher or Pandora. Look for some of these top-rated podcasts to get you started.

"BACK TO WORK"

Want to learn the secret to productivity? Writers and entrepreneurs Merlin Mann and Dan Benjamin host this show about examining the way you work. Learn more about maximizing your workflow, finding motivation and just getting more done. Your boss will thank you.

"SERIAL"

If you're looking for a mystery that will keep you in suspense week after week, check out Serial. Hosted by Sarah Koenig, this podcast takes listeners through one true story over the course of a season. The host doesn't know what will happen until shortly before listeners, and the plot unfolds weekly. Be sure to listen to episodes in order, as the story unravels chapter-by-chapter each week.

"AP PLAYOFF PULSE"

There's no shortage in podcasts for the

fanatics out there. Get your fix on the latest in recruiting and analysis of college and professional sports. The AP Playoff Pulse discusses the latest news in the college football world. Also, subscribe to CBS Sports Radio for all things college sports related, but you can most certainly get your March Madness fix here. Baseball fans will enjoy Baseball Tonight with Buster Olney. This non-television variation of the popular ESPN show is full of guests. They're mostly ESPN personalities, but other writers and sports know-it-alls make their way onto the show occasionally to engage listeners with facts and talk about the news. It's the next great American pastime.

"SPARKLE STORIES"

Tired of reading "Goodnight, Moon" over and over to your children before bed? Children's stories often stand the test of time, being passed down from generation to generation. But, if you're ready for something different and original, check out Sparkle Stories. They're original high-quality audio stories written just for children that always include a life lesson.

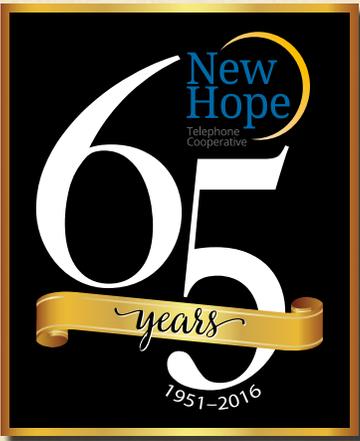
With a subscription, you get access to over 800 stories, but if you would like to try it out first, a free podcast is offered weekly.

"KID FRIDAY"

Kids today can use a lot of technology better than some adults. This video podcast, which can also be listened to without video, is dedicated to all things tech. Hosted by teenagers Hannah, Zoe, Dave and Winston (the poodle), your kids will enjoy listening to people their own age talk about the newest websites and apps.

"STUFF YOU MISSED IN HISTORY CLASS"

Let's face it, history class isn't interesting to everyone. This podcast covers interesting facts that are nowhere to be found in textbooks. Hosted by two journalists who really love random facts about history, Tracy V. Wilson and Holly Frey unveil all the cool stuff we never knew. Did you know hippos almost became one of the common meats we eat in America? You'll be the most interesting person at the lunch table with this new knowledge as a conversation starter. ☞



Keeping you connected for 65 years

BY MELISSA SMITH

Syble Whitaker and her husband, Clyde, first received NHTC service in the spring of 1954. She was pregnant, and he worked in Huntsville. The couple only had one car, and he was concerned about her being alone and unable to contact anyone in case of an emergency.

“It helped out a lot to have a phone,” says Whitaker, who is now 90 years old. “I felt much better knowing that I could call someone if I needed help.”

At the time, not every rural community had the security of a phone service such as the one provided by the New Hope Telephone Cooperative, which has kept customers connected to their community, and the rest of the world, for 65 years.

People such as the Whitakers, however, had vital communications services thanks to the cooperative. And members today continue to have access to cutting-edge technology through high-speed fiber Internet, TV and phone service.

And even as it expands with new technology, the cooperative holds true to the legacy created by the founders of NHTC, formed when members of the Lions Club, an organization known for programs to promote eye health and to help those with difficulty seeing, led the push for modern communication.



Syble Whitaker shows an NHTC directory from 1954 to her daughter, Lou Ann Poole.



A phone from a bygone era.

which connected to the Butler Farm. And when John Ed Butler returned to the family farm after graduating from Auburn University he also joined the Lions Club to help bring telecommunications to his rural community.

After being rejected by the big investor-owned telephone company, members of the Lions Club decided to take matters into their own hands by applying for a loan. An amend-

ment to the Rural Electrification Act made the loan possible. It offered low-interest, long-term loans to rural communities that needed telephone service.

The Lions Club encouraged people to become members of the cooperative at \$28 per household. A board was later estab-

BUILDING A COOPERATIVE

In 1948, New Hope had one phone line that connected to Huntsville. There were two phones connected to this line: Butler Brothers General Store and the New Hope Drug Company. Each business had one phone.

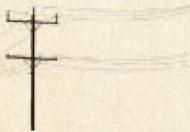
There was another connection that extended to Poplar Ridge,

1948

1948 New Hope had one phone line connected to Huntsville.



1953 The first telephone lines became live and service was spread from New Hope to Owens Cross Roads and Grant.



1991 Dial-up Internet service was offered to customers.



1951 New Hope Telephone Cooperative was founded.



1972 NHTC began offering television service to members.



lished with John Ed Butler, Bob Moon, Lawrence Hereford, John G. Butler and James Mann serving. The first telephone lines were connected in 1953, and service spread from New Hope to Owens Cross Roads and Grant.

“It is a privilege to continue the legacy of excellent customer service and being able to provide the latest in technology to our valued customers,” NHTC General Manager Jim Cook says.

“Thanks to the tenacity and forethought of the members of the Lions Club, we can all enjoy staying connected.”

A MODERN NETWORK

In 2015, NHTC added 48 miles of fiber in the Owens Cross Roads exchange, almost completing that community’s network. Later on in the year, crews began the final phase of installing 70 additional miles of fiber in New Hope. The goal for 2016 is to complete the final phase of laying fiber to the New Hope and Owens Cross Roads exchanges.

NHTC offers customers top-of-the-line digital phone service, fiber Internet, television and home security.

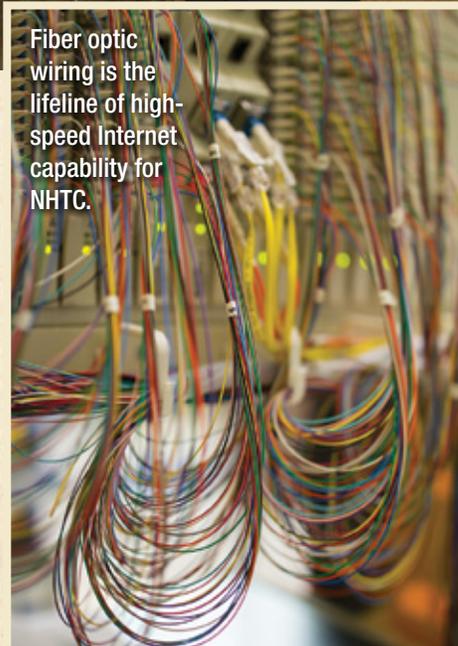
LOOKING TO THE PAST TO APPRECIATE THE PRESENT

For families such as the Whitakers, who in the 1950s were just happy to have any phone access, looking to the past creates an appreciation of the present high-speed system.

When those first phones arrived, people were on a party line phone system. You had a number, and if someone called, all phones on the party line would ring. “If you had a nosy neighbor, they could hear what you were saying,” Whitaker says. Neighbors were respectful of one



Jim Cook stands in the newly remodeled lobby. Cook has been the general manager of NHTC for four years



Fiber optic wiring is the lifeline of high-speed Internet capability for NHTC.

another’s privacy, but there was a three-minute time limit. “Back then, if someone else was using the phone, unless it was an emergency, you had to wait your turn.”

It wasn’t until 1960 that the Whitakers got a private residential line. The cost was \$5 a month. Whitaker now has fiber service through NHTC.

And her daughter, Lou Ann Poole, appreciates how NHTC has benefited the community. “Being in a rural area, I think NHTC customers have always been really lucky to keep up with the times,” says Poole, an NHTC employee for 36 years.

Poole held on to the phone that was taken out of her mother’s house when she updated service. At her home, she displays the phone in a built-in cabinet in the wall. She can still use the phone to answer and

make calls. Just like the cooperative, the technology was built to last. ☎

- 2001** DSL Internet service was offered to customers.
- 2002** Premiere issue of The Communicator.
- 2004** Moved into new building on Main Drive.
- 2006** Fiber-to-the-Home project is announced.
- 2013** Digital Literacy program was started.
- 2014** Home Security Automation (NHTC Security Solutions) was offered.

EGG-CELLENT OPTION

As Mother Nature ushers in the warm weather of spring, deviled eggs are hatching on tables throughout the South. Everyone has their favorite recipe — some like them sweetened with a little bit of pickle relish, while others prefer a more savory filling. Whatever the preference, no one is chicken about going back for seconds. Or thirds. Rarely is there a deviled egg left to be had on the platter.

Faith Price and her husband, Jeff, are owners of Shady Grove Farm in Lancing, Tennessee, an 80-acre spread along the Cumberland Plateau in Morgan County. Among the livestock raised on the farm are laying hens that produce eggs sold at nearby Dixie Lee Farmer's Market, as well as to those who stop by the farm to buy a dozen of the day's collection.

Raising chickens is a full-time job that keeps the Prices busy. "It's not difficult, but it takes a commitment," Faith says. "We have a portable coop that we move throughout the farm to help with debugging and to fertilize our fields. So our birds don't just give us eggs, they are employees as they do work for us."

But the best part is the product they produce — eggs. "We sell out very quickly, whether it is at the farm or at the market," she says. Whenever there are enough left over for the family, Faith says deviled eggs are a favorite. "They're a cool, refreshing side dish that hits the spot," she adds.

Deviled eggs are a beloved American dish. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 1 billion eggs are typically sold in the week leading up to Easter. And while there is no official data that says deviled eggs are the most popular of all egg dishes, Google Trends research and social media conversation analytics point to that conclusion, says Kristin



Faith Price cooks up a Southern favorite on the Tennessee farm she shares with her husband, Jeff.

Livermore, director of marketing communications for the American Egg Board.

"Maybe it's because deviled eggs are such a versatile dish," she says. "They are the perfect addition to any party or meal."

"Deviled eggs go with just about any dinner, whether it is a roast and potato meal or a simple hot dog and beans meal," Faith says. "We would eat them every week if we could keep eggs in stock for ourselves." 📧



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

PERFECT HARD-BOILED EGGS

Here's a quick and easy method for hard boiling eggs. For easier peeling, use eggs that are seven to 10 days old.

- Place eggs in a saucepan large enough to hold them in a single layer. Add cold water to cover eggs by 1 inch. Heat over high heat just to boiling. Remove from burner. Cover pan.
- Let eggs stand in hot water about 12 minutes for large eggs (9 minutes for medium eggs, 15 minutes for extra large).
- Drain immediately. Then, cool completely under cold running water or in bowl of ice water before making deviled eggs.

— American Egg Board

Here are several of the Prices' favorite fillings that go beyond tradition. They're not just for Easter anymore.

TRADITIONAL DEVILED EGGS

- 1 dozen eggs, peeled, cut in half, yolks removed
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup mayo
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- 2 teaspoons pickle relish
- 1 teaspoon pickle juice
- 1/2 teaspoon honey
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Paprika for sprinkling on top

Mash egg yolks with ingredients except paprika. Fill egg whites with yolk mixture and sprinkle with paprika. Chill until ready to serve.

SAVORY EGGS

- 1 dozen eggs, peeled, cut in half, yolks removed
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup Miracle Whip
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Smoked paprika for sprinkling on top

Mash egg yolks with ingredients except paprika. Fill egg whites with yolk mixture and sprinkle with paprika. Chill until ready to serve.

SOUTHWESTERN DEVILED EGGS

- 1 dozen eggs, peeled, cut in half, yolks removed
- 1 large avocado
- 2 teaspoons lime juice
- 1 teaspoon cilantro
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Paprika for sprinkling on top

Mash egg yolks with ingredients except paprika. Fill egg whites with yolk mixture and sprinkle with paprika. Chill until ready to serve.

HONEY EGGS

- 1 dozen eggs, peeled, cut in half, yolks removed
- 6 tablespoons plain yogurt



Faith Price describes this versatile treat as “a cool, refreshing side dish that hits the spot.”

WHAT THE DEVIL?

Deviled refers to any foods that have been prepared with hot and spicy ingredients, such as cayenne and curry, two spices often used to make deviled eggs. Deviled dishes were very popular throughout the 19th and into the 20th centuries, especially for seafood preparations and some appetizers.

— *The Encyclopedia of American Food & Drink*

- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Paprika for sprinkling on top

Mash egg yolks with ingredients except paprika. Fill egg whites with yolk mixture. Chill until ready to serve.

SWEET BACON DEVILED EGGS

- 1 dozen eggs, peeled, cut in half, yolks removed

- 1 pound bacon, cooked and diced into small pieces
- 1/2 to 1 cup Miracle Whip
- 1 teaspoon parsley
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon chives
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Paprika for sprinkling on top

Mash egg yolks with ingredients except paprika. Fill egg whites with yolk mixture and sprinkle with paprika. Chill until ready to serve. 📺



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