

The  
**Communicator**

Vol. 3, No. 6

November/December 2004



# FOUNDERS DAY



*at Grant & New Hope*



INSIDE:

Protecting Your Privacy • Touring the Trading Post • Area Christmas Activities

Once again, I want to thank the NHTC Board of Directors for unanimously placing their confidence in me as the new general manager. I also want to express my gratitude for the overwhelming display of support and enthusiasm that has been shown me by members and employees alike since being named to my new position.

I am excited to be your new manager. For the past 17 years, I have served New Hope Telephone in a variety of capacities. The years invested in the accuracy of financial statements gave me a thorough overview of our company in a way that no other position could. Frequent interaction with agencies such as the Alabama Public Service Commission, the Federal Communication Commission, the Rural Utility Services, and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association allowed me to gain valuable insight into our fast-paced industry. I understand that the company's goal of meeting subscribers' needs must be addressed in light of many external variables including rapidly changing technology, economic conditions, and governing regulations.

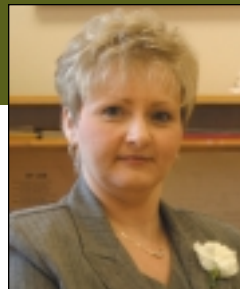
I am honored to represent New Hope Telephone on an industry level. Thanks to dedicated employees, such as Lou Ann Poole who has just completed 30 years of service, and devoted Board members and a great customer base, we have a solid company. The employees, with over 275 years of combined NHTC experience, have a renewed dedication to quality customer service. The Board members are striving to provide good leadership and make sound decisions for a strong future. With everyone com-

mitted to the "cooperative spirit", we will all grow stronger and be a more effective team, capable of meeting the changing needs of our communities.

I certainly hope everyone reading this has fully recovered from the late summer visits of Charley, Frances and Ivan. We at NHTC were prepared for much worse, and are very thankful that our service area experienced only minor wind damage. I'm proud of our crews for hustling to restore telephone and cable television service in just hours. Our prayers go out to the victims south of us who are still recovering from the severe storm damage they sustained.

We at NHTC appreciate your patience during all of our 2004 transitions, from moving into our new facilities to working through the leadership changes. Our Co-op's dedicated customers and staff have once again stood strong. We are thankful for each of you and wish everyone a gracious Thanksgiving and blessed Christmas season. Join us in being thankful for all of our blessings - especially remembering the troops who have fought and those who are still fighting for one of our most precious blessings - freedom.

We look forward to growing with you in the upcoming New Year. For more details on an exiting 2005 at New Hope Telephone, keep your eyes open for the January/February issue of the Communicator. I will leave you with a quote from Irving Berlin: "Life is 10% what you make it and 90% how you take it." ■



Teresa Hunkapiller  
General Manager

## New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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

### Board of Directors

Barry Mefford, President  
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## The Communicator

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# NHTC subscriber information privacy policy

New Hope Telephone Cooperative is the sole owner of all information collected while conducting business with individuals or businesses. We will not sell, share nor rent this information to others in ways other than those outlined in this statement.

## *The ways we may collect information:*

NHTC may collect non-public personal information about you from the following sources:

- Application for Service
- Verify Employment with Employer
- Credit Bureaus
- Consumer Reporting Agencies

## *The ways we use customer information:*

Personal information provided by subscribers will be used by the NHTC to provide a more personalized experience for the customer, but information which identifies a specific individual will not be disclosed to others without the user's permission unless necessary to provide services which the subscriber has requested.

We take every precaution to protect our customers' information. All of our customers' information is restricted in our offices. Only employees who need the information to perform a specific job are granted access to non-public personal information.

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## *The circumstances under which we disclose customer information:*

We may disclose all the nonpublic personal information we collect, as described above, to companies that perform marketing or public information services for us. Except for the customers signing non-publish/private telephone agreements, we may disclose your name, address and phone number to companies that produce, publish, print, mail, or in any way maintain customer correspondence for our company. These would include, but not be limited to, emergency service providers (911), directory publishing companies, directory assistance providers, companies handling NHTC publications. We ensure that such outside service providers sign legal agreements stating that they will use your information only for the purpose for which they have been hired.

If we decide to change our privacy policy, we will notify all subscribers no less than 30 days in advance. Customers will always be given a choice as to whether or not we use their information in a different manner.

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## NHTC Visitor Policy

All NHTC Visitors who wish access to areas other than the customer service lobby must check in at the customer service counter. The employee that they are to visit will be paged to greet them and attend them during their visit. The visited employee will notify customer service when the visitor leaves the premises and the visitor's departure time will be logged.

Business pickups and deliveries by insured carriers (UPS, FedEx, etc.) during normal business hours are not required to process through the business office. However, sales persons, vendors and contractors must. Anyone who has need to remain on the premises for more than a brief visit will be issued a visitor's pass to be returned at the end of their visit.

This applies to all NHTC properties including the Grant and Owens Cross Roads offices. This is for individual and company security and will minimize the Cooperative's exposure to potential liabilities.

## Scholarships available

High school seniors in the New Hope Telephone Cooperative service area are eligible to apply for a \$2,500 scholarship. The program is sponsored by the Foundation for Rural Service, a program of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association that supports the continuing education of rural youth.

The Foundation will award a total of 25 scholarships.

To be eligible, applicants must have at least a 'C' grade point average and be accepted by an accredited two- or four-year college. They must also express an interest in returning to a rural community following graduation.

To apply, students must complete an application, available at the New Hope Telephone Cooperative office. They must also prepare a brief essay. Other requirements are explained in the instructions that come with the application.

Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender or disability.

Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2005, and mailed to the Foundation address provided on the application instructions.

# *You've just gotta see it for yourself* **Kennamer Cove Trading Post**

The first thing you notice when driving by is the large attractive sign. Then the wide front porch calls out to you, inviting you to pull up a chair and sit a spell.

As intriguing as the building may be on the outside, the real surprise is waiting through the front doors of the Kennamer Cove Trading Post.

The one-of-a-kind building is a dream come true for Steve Kennamer — a dream made reality through several years of hard work. “In the fall of 1996, when the State of Alabama was really building up Cathedral Caverns, it hit me like a sledgehammer,” says Kennamer, whose ancestors settled in the cove that lies just south of the Jackson/Marshall County line. “I knew I had to build a building that would attract people.”

What he didn't know was just how much work would be involved. Or how much reward. Through several years of challenges and obstacles, Kennamer — with the help of his wife Cheryl — has created an amazing attraction that has not only been a blessing to his family but has delighted visitors since the day it opened to the public.

A towering wall covered with a vast collection of mounted deer heads greets visitors just inside the front door. Various North American game animals are on display throughout the building.

A large banquet room is accented by an elaborately painted concrete floor, which many visitors mistake for tile. The two enclosing walls of the banquet room are covered with murals, amazing works of art created



by retired D.A.R. School art instructor Debbie McBride. The rustic outdoor scenes depict an earlier time when the cove was being settled.

The banquet room may be rented for a variety of events. Catering service is also available, for parties of ten to 150 people.

Signs of nature are everywhere in the Kennamer Cove Trading Post. Visitors marvel at a large waterfall that looks incredibly natural. Surrounding the waterfall are several wildlife exhibits. The building is filled with the aroma of wood, from the different types of trees found growing in the area.

The gift shop offers items connected with Cathedral Caverns, as well as items created by local craftsmen and artists. You can sit around the fireplace in the bragging corner, pick up a snack and soft drink, or enjoy a





hand-dipped ice cream cone.

For many, the most intriguing elements of the Kennamer Cove Trading Post are the historical displays. Exhibits feature photographs depicting the area as it was decades ago. These include early family photos of Kennamer Cove settlers, old schoolhouse photos, and early scenes of Cathedral Caverns.

Also on display is the spinning wheel once used by Kennamer's great-grandmother, as well as his grandmother's sewing machine.

On one wall hangs a letter holder used in the Kennamer Cove Post Office, which operated from 1850 to 1909. The holder contains actual letters written during that time period.

As you leave the building, you pass under a feature that holds special significance for Kennamer. A nine-foot wooden cross is embedded in the stone work, fashioned by Kennamer from oak planks that were once part of a 100-year-old family barn in the area. "Little did I know," Kennamer says, "this wood that once belonged to my ancestors would become the old rugged cross that would grace the entrance and welcome each visitor to the Trading Post."

The Trading Post is even more amazing when you consider that it was the work of Kennamer and his son, Chris. "I came up with the idea, figured out how to accomplish it, and my son and I physically completed each task," he says. "This had to be done while working a full time job."

To maintain focus and not get discouraged, Kennamer says he drew strength from Proverbs 3:5-6, which says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto thy own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths."

The Kennamer Cove Trading Post is located on 8327 Cathedral Caverns Hwy. For information call 728-4545. ■



The artwork of Debbie McBride adorns the walls of the banquet room.



Visitors to the Kennamer Cove Trading Post enjoy the wildlife exhibits.



Historic displays depict the Kennamer Cove of yesterday.

## Area Christmas Activities

Christmas is one of the most festive holidays of year, and there are plenty of community activities on the calendar to get you into the holiday spirit. Make some of these events part of your holiday schedule.

**Grant Christmas Parade**  
December 4th - 4 p.m.

**Grant Christmas in the Park**  
December 11th - 5 p.m.

**New Hope Christmas Parade**  
December 4th - 1 p.m.

**New Hope Lighting of Christmas Tree**  
December 8th - 6 p.m.

Want to give a special gift this holiday season? South Hampton Nursing & Rehabilitation Center relies on the support of the community to make Christmas a special time for the residents. Needs include small prizes for bingo winners, gifts for their bingo 'store,' and supplies for making arts and crafts. Of course, the gift of time is most valuable; anyone wishing to volunteer to make the holidays brighter for area seniors should contact Sheila LaCourse or Katie Stoner at 725-3400.

**HEROES**—TVA Police Officer Jackie Parcus (left) is shown presenting certificates to Chris McGaha (center) and Jimmy Dake. The two New Hope men were recently awarded the Tennessee Valley Authority's Citizen Service Award. The award honors the courage shown by the men in January of 2003, when they voluntarily searched a burning apartment for trapped residents and pulled a burned man from certain death shortly before the apartment exploded. Officer Parcus had noticed what he thought was smoke coming from the building while driving through New Hope on his way to work, and had stopped to ask McGaha and Dake if they smelled smoke. For his efforts, Officer Parcus was named Officer of the Year by the TVA Police and was awarded the agency's medal of honor.



## Santa is coming!

Get into the Christmas spirit by treating your children or grandchildren to a photo with Santa.

On Saturday, November 27, Santa will be at **Mimi's Cafe and Bakery** on Main Street in Grant. For just \$5, kids can take home a photo of themselves with Jolly Ole St. Nick.

Also on hand to entertain the kids will be Mrs. Santa Claus, plus a live Gingerbread Man character. Each child will receive a Santa cupcake and a drink, along with a bag of goodies compliments of Mimi's.

This fun holiday event is scheduled for 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cafe will be decorated for the holidays, so come early and enjoy the holiday fun.



## Inspiration Corner

### My Backyard Fence

*By Pastor Michael Carpenter, New Hope United Methodist Church*

When I was a child my parents installed a fence in our back yard. This fence was used to prevent me from getting out and into trouble. Some look at the Ten Commandments in a similar manner, as a fence used to keep us from getting out and into trouble. However, I want to challenge you to look at the commandments as God's way of installing a fence that keeps trouble from getting to you. Is the Love of God great or what?

If you are not a regular church member I challenge you to learn more about God's Love and Grace. Find a church that can meet your spiritual needs and find how much greater life can be the more we stay inside the fence.

*"Inspiration Corner" is a brief feature that will hopefully encourage and inspire you, while giving you something to pause and think about. Local pastors and ministers are invited to submit for consideration a short devotion (max. 130 words). Send to Tammy Pritchett at NHTC; please include name, title, church affiliation and phone number.*



# FALL PHOTOS



**Sam Stapler**

Photo taken by Sam's mom, Tomi Stapler



**Seth Holland**, son of Jeff & Sarah Holland. Photo by Seth's mom, Sarah.



**Lilly Paige Brown**, daughter of Thom & Melissa Brown. Photo by Elaine Ledbetter.



**Hannah Hill**

Photo by Sharon

## RECIPE

### Stickey Pecan Pie Bars

#### Crust:

1 pkg. Duncan Hines cake mix      1 stick melted butter  
1 egg

#### Filling:

3/4 cup dark or light corn syrup      1/4 cup light brown sugar  
2 large eggs      1 tsp. vanilla extract  
1-1/2 cups chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place cake mix, butter, and egg in a large bowl. Blend with mixer on low speed for 2 minutes. Batter should come together in a thick dough. Using finger tips, press crust mixture evenly over the bottom and 1/2 inch up the side of an ungreased 13x9 baking pan. Place pan in oven and bake crust until it just begins to brown, about 20 minutes. Remove pan and set aside. Leave oven on 350 degrees.

To prepare filling, place corn syrup, brown sugar, eggs, and vanilla in the same mixing bowl used to prepare the crust and same beaters (no need to clean them). Mix on medium speed until well combined. Fold in pecans until well distributed. Pour filling over baked crust. Place in oven and bake until brown and filling just starts to set, about 22 - 25 minutes.

—Submitted by Mary Williams

**PHOTO CONTEST:** Our January/February photo theme is "Man's Best Friend" Send your favorite pet photos to: NHTC • Attn: Tammy Pritchett • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. We will select winners for publication in our next issue! If your entry is selected, you'll see your photo in print, plus receive a free gift from NHTC.

**Deadline for entry: December 10, 2004.**

NOTE: Be sure to include photographer's name, address and phone number, as well as the name of any people featured in your photos.

All submissions become the property of New Hope Telephone Cooperative and will not be returned. 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.



**NEW EMPLOYEE**—New Hope Telephone recently welcomed Bobby Morrison to its staff as an accountant. He comes to NHTC from Sanmina-SCI of Huntsville, where he worked in corporate finance. Having worked in a building with 3,000 other employees, Morrison says he is looking forward to the small-town atmosphere at New Hope. "I appreciate the opportunity to work for

an organization like New Hope Telephone Cooperative," Morrison says, "and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone in the area." A resident of Brownsboro, Morrison has two children: son Jarred, age 10; and daughter Haley, age 6.

**30 YEARS**—Lou Ann Poole was recently honored for 30 years of service to New Hope Telephone. She serves NHTC as repair service dispatch and service order coordinator. Poole started at the Cooperative as dispatch and assignment clerk, and began learning about the work that goes on outside the building to keep the system operating. "I assured them I could read, comprehend and understand what was going on outside," says Poole. Her duties not only put her in working contact with engineering and central office operations, but also with the ever-evolving technologies of providing broadband voice and data service.



## A Cable Christmas Special from NHTC

# Free Cable TV installation!

*Now through Dec 31, 2004*

**Need more reasons to take advantage of this holiday special?**

- **Local channels at no extra cost!**
- **Local channel with community programming!**
- **No contract required!**
- **It's your cable company, locally owned by your New Hope Telephone Cooperative**

**Call today!**  
**723-4211**

**Remember: CALL US BEFORE YOU DIG! (256) 723-4219**

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