

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

Communicator

Vol. 9, No. 12

December 2010

Season's Greetings



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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The Communicator

Vol. 9, No. 12 December 2010

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New Hope Telephone Cooperative
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For Editorial Advertising:
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On the cover:

Rayburn and Carolyn Lemaster's home in Grant is transformed into a Christmas village each December.

Read their story on page 8.

Manager's Comments

Some thoughts on the end of 2010



NHTC is ending the year on a sad note, saying goodbye to one of our board members. Sonny Cantrell was part of this cooperative for a number of years, and he will be missed.

Our members cannot fully appreciate the important role their board members play in taking care of their cooperative. While they may not manage the day-to-day operations, they make the critical decisions that guide the long-term progress of NHTC. They really do have the best interest of this cooperative at heart, and Sonny was no exception. Sometimes the best decisions are the hardest decisions, and Sonny – like the rest of your board – was always willing to do what was best for the members. Our hearts go out to his family in this time of loss.

Speaking of hard decisions, you will read on Page 6 about an especially difficult one your board recently made. Beginning with the January issue, *The Communicator* will move to a semi-monthly publication schedule. In the nine years we have been publishing this community magazine, we've never run out of important news and interesting stories to

share. And while the cost per member to produce the publication has always been very reasonable, cutting back to every other month will save your cooperative some money. In this economy, it just makes good business sense to tighten your belt where you can.

Finally, I want to offer a heartfelt 'thank you' to Butch Taylor. For the past four years Butch served as our voice in the Alabama House of Representatives. During that time he was always responsive to the needs of New Hope Telephone Cooperative and its members. He took time to listen, and was willing to go to bat for his district to make sure our voice was heard in Montgomery.

Thank you, Butch, for your service, and for your support of this cooperative and its members. I hope you continue to be involved somehow in the community. You still have much to offer.

To Wayne Johnson, who won the seat in last month's election, I offer my congratulations on your victory and an open door to visit NHTC any time.

Merry Christmas to all our members, and may 2011 be a wonderful year full of great news, hope and progress for us all.

Tom Wing

General Manager,
New Hope Telephone Cooperative

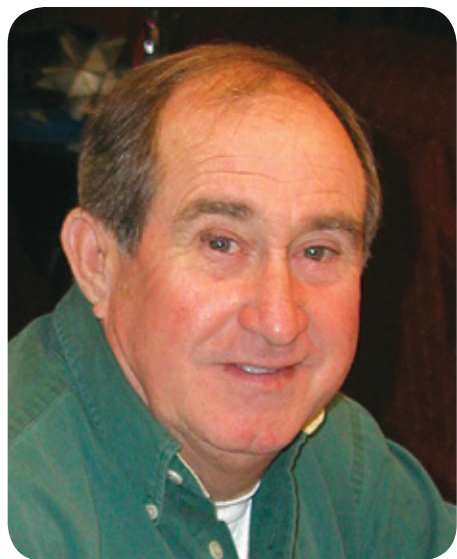
NHTC HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Thursday & Friday, December 23 & 24 for Christmas

Friday, December 31 for New Year's

NHTC wishes you and your family a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Board member Sonny Cantrell passes



James Glenn "Sonny" Cantrell
December 23, 1945 - October 29, 2010

New Hope Telephone Cooperative lost one of its board members when Sonny Cantrell passed away on October 29, 2010.

Cantrell had been serving on the Board as a representative for Grant since 2007. He first served on the board in the mid-1990's when he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of a director who had passed away. He was reelected by members to fulfill two additional terms before coming off the board.

Then in 2007, Cantrell was voted back onto NHTC's Board of Directors where he had been serving ever since.

"Sonny was dedicated to the cooperative," says NHTC General Manager Tom Wing. "He was a real asset to the community he served."

Cantrell's son Jeffrey agrees. "Daddy loved serving on the cooperative's board," says Jeffrey Cantrell. "I think it's because he had a strong sense of community and that was his way of helping support the community he loved."

Cantrell was a brick mason by trade and owned his own company in Grant.

Hunting, fishing and Alabama football were his hobbies.

He is survived by three sons, Jeremy, Jerred and Jeffery Cantrell and two daughters, Lisa Jimerson and Jodi Adams. He had nine grandchildren: Kendra Jimerson, Daryne Jimerson, Landon Jimerson, Caressa Adams, Jacob Cantrell, Lauren Cantrell, Alex Cantrell, Colin Cantrell and Olivia Cantrell.▲

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Don't Click It!

They appear to be helping you, but beware of the nasty 'viruses' that pop up on your computer screen flashing warnings that your computer is infected. It might not be... yet.

The Internet is a great place to obtain knowledge, watch videos, find music, shop and much more. But there are dangers lurking online, too. One of the threats that continues to wreak havoc is called a Trojan.

"A Trojan is something really bad disguised as something really great," explains Network Administrator Rusty Bright.

This malicious software downloaded via the Internet infects your computer, gaining access to personal files such as credit card statements, banking accounts and email servers.

"A Trojan can look like a legitimate Windows program," says Bright, "and you can get it just by going to a website. It doesn't have to be a weird website. It can be a legitimate, trusted site."

Often, a pop-up will appear on the screen and will simulate a virus-scan program. The scan finds several infections in your computer and suggests that the user take immediate action. It is upon clicking this window that your computer will be infected. In fact, the scan was never real to begin with. Your system probably was not infected, but could be now. Unfortunately, once a pop-up has appeared on your screen, it may be hard to terminate quickly.

"If you click on anything, including

the close button, you are at risk of infecting your computer," warns Bright. "Instead, cut the power source immediately. Don't click on anything. Pull the plug if you have a desktop computer or press the power button on your laptop for several seconds until the computer shuts down."

Once the computer has been shut off for several minutes, Bright says restart it in Safe Mode.

Additionally, a Trojan virus may allow a hacker remote access to your system. Once installed, the hacker may perform various operations, including a complete system crash.

Trojans present themselves in many ways and because their designers have become so savvy with their work, the infections are hard to identify. The dangerous "virus-scan program" is made to resemble your operating system's color and design scheme, therefore looking legitimate. Computer programmers have developed so many names for the bugs that they are nearly impossible to be stopped before widespread attack.

Many users may download a Trojan, unaware of what is happening, then realize the mistake only after personal accounts have been hacked and drained.

Unfortunately, the news only gets worse. Many of the popular anti-virus

software programs such as Norton and McAfee may not be able to fully remove the virus from your system.

Thankfully, though, there are steps you may take in order to protect yourself.

- » **TAKE CAUTION** while browsing online. Beware of pop-ups that you didn't instigate.
- » **INSTALL** quality virus protection software, including spyware and malware protection. Bright suggests AGV, Norton or Panda.
- » **VERIFY** an e-mail attachment with the sender before downloading.
- » **DO NOT IGNORE** program updates. Install them as requested by your system. Many of these updates contain patches that will help protect your computer from becoming infected.
- » **CUT POWER** to the computer if a virus scan you did not initiate appears while surfing online.

If you have questions concerning malicious computer infections, contact Rusty Bright, Network Administrator at 256-723-4211 during regular office hours. Tech Support is also available 24/7 at 256-723-8940.▲

NHTC hosted Customer Appreciation Week during National Co-op Month

In October, cooperative businesses across the U.S. celebrate National Co-op Month. Cooperatives are different from other forms of business in many ways. The members they serve are actually part owners in the business. And rather than send profits to shareholders, they are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

NHTC held a Customer Appreciation Week in celebration of National Co-op Month. They served refreshments and gave away door prizes daily. At the end of each day, a grand prize winner was drawn for a discount on their bill. Here is a list of the daily grand prize winners:

- Day 1 - \$10.00 off bill – Sandra & Hubert Thomas of Grant
- Day 2 - \$15.00 off bill – Beagie Stewart of OCR
- Day 3 - \$20.00 off bill – Erma Hutchens of Gurley
- Day 4 - \$25.00 off bill – Howard's Trophy Shop of New Hope
- Day 5 – 1 month free service – Ginger Byram of Grant

"We love our members," says office manager Tammy Weeks. "This was NHTC's opportunity to do something special to let them know how much we appreciate them."

AND THE SURVEY WINNER IS...

NHTC surveyed members in August and September about their choices for high-definition cable channels. All members who completed the survey had their name entered in a drawing for a new Vizio HDTV.

Congratulations to Wayne Ledbetter of New Hope, whose name was drawn as winner of an HDTV. NHTC thanks everyone who completed the survey. We will use the surveys when making choices for new channels.



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The Communicator goes bi-monthly

The first publication of NHTC's member magazine *The Communicator* reached mailboxes in January of 2002. Since then, the magazine has grown to a 16-page monthly publication providing feature stories, community news, information about the cooperative and a place for local businesses to advertise affordably.

Along the way, the magazine has won several national awards, including the National Telephone Cooperative Association's (NTCA) Best Subscriber Communications Program award in 2006.

Unfortunately, a tough economy has forced NHTC's Board of Directors to look at cost-saving measures. Among the decisions made to reduce operating expenses was changing *The Communicator* from a monthly publication to every other month.

"We've gone through the roughest economic time most of us have ever seen," explains Tom Wing, NHTC General Manager. "Almost every household is searching for ways to

save money and cut back. The cooperative is no different."

Board members were determined to make no cuts that would affect the quality of services members receive.

"*The Communicator* is a great community service and the board was faced with a tough decision," says Wing. "However, the magazine does not affect the telephone, Internet or television service our members receive and

board members chose not to compromise the quality of those services."

Beginning in January members will start receiving *The Communicator* every other month. Local businesses can still advertise and community events will continue to be included in the pages.

"The purpose of *The Communicator* has always been keeping members informed about their cooperative. We try to balance that with community news. That won't change," says Wing. ▲



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Grant City Clerk celebrates 30 years

On September 8th, a special person to the people of Grant celebrated 30 years of serving as Town Clerk. Carolyn May was honored by friends, family, and colleagues with a reception and plaque to acknowledge this exciting milestone. She is one of the state's longest-serving municipal clerks.

According to Mayor Larry Walker, the town hopes to keep her around for years to come. "It's been a real pleasure to work with someone having the integrity, knowledge and experience that Carolyn has. It's the [municipal] clerks who keep the small towns running so smoothly," says Walker.

May previously worked in a bank and enjoyed her position there, but

admits her move to City Hall was a good one. The clerical position became available and after taking a look at the job description and knowing she was familiar with the responsibilities, May applied.

Since her hire thirty years ago, much has changed around Grant and in City Hall. The office then consisted of a single manual typewriter, telephone, calculator, and copy machine. Now, however, most of her work is done on a computer, along with other modern technology.

Although retirement is not in her immediate future plans, she does hope to serve the Town of Grant until she is ready to "head to the house," she said. Carolyn May has served 6 mayors and is not finished yet.▲

✝ Inspiration Corner

You've heard, "Don't judge a book by its cover"; Permit me to add, "Nor by its title." For some, job titles have negative associations. Classic examples are banker's hours, doctors playing golf, and police officers spending their day eating doughnuts. Preachers are just as vulnerable. I began the ministry serving four part-time churches, working full-time, and attending school. I was working construction on Grant's public swimming pool when a man heard I was a preacher; "Are you sure you're a preacher?" "I'm trying," was my response. "Why?" "I've never seen a preacher work so hard over anything except a piece of chicken. That's why." Another time I was in a pair of overalls when someone said, "I bet you've never worked in a pair of overalls a day in your life." Following the advice the penguin in the Madagascar movie gave his buddies, I just smiled and waved, wondering what man would own a pair of overalls just for fun.

There was One born, whose title was so misunderstood a king had all boys under age two murdered, because he feared the competition of a new "king." Other kings however delivered rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. No matter the value of the gifts Jesus received, He delivered a gift that will never be equaled. His gift to us is so big it's still being delivered after two-thousand years. What? You haven't received yours? Run get it – it's in your local church! Want a hint?

It's only Eternal Life in a perfect world.



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

Lemasters have their very own Christmas Village



The week after Thanksgiving, something special happens in the town of Grant. Each night, from 5 to 10 p.m. one couple brightens up the sky with thousands of Christmas lights, and entertains passing cars with nativity scenes, snowmen and even a teepee.

“Once you hear the kids getting excited when they see the lights and decorations, it’s all worth it,” says Carolyn LeMaster. Each year, Carolyn and her husband Rayburn spend countless hours creating and maintaining their own holiday tradition — the Christmas Village.

Rayburn and Carolyn have lived in Grant all of their lives. They have been married for 45 years, and for the last 30 of

those years the Lemasters have constructed their own Christmas wonderland on the top of the mountain.

For a half mile, people can see the untold number of lights they string to create a unique holiday atmosphere for their community.

Starting a tradition

The tradition started with Rayburn’s parents, Ed and Otha Lemaster. “We always helped our parents put out their Christmas decorations,” says Carolyn. “Then

one day I had the idea to cut out some Christmas carolers from wood and paint it for them. From there, it grew into something my husband and I loved doing every year.”

The decorations have grown to cover the quarter mile leading to the Lemasters’ home. Dozens of wooden cutouts line the street alongside nativity scenes, large Christmas pines and other decorations.”

One of the trees boasts over 2,700 lights just by itself. “We’re not sure how many lights we have total, but it’s up there,” jokes Rayburn. “We have to redo the tree every few years because of burn-outs.”

A family project

“I bet most people would think we blow a lot of fuses doing this,” says Rayburn. “Luckily, when we started I had some experience that helped with being able to do all the wiring.”

Rayburn spent over a decade building homes before starting his career as a carpenter at NASA. He retired from that position after 34 years.

Despite Rayburn’s experience with a saw, it is Carolyn who does most of the cutting and carving for the Christmas Village.

“I help whenever she’ll let me,” says Rayburn. “But, she is the more creative one. She always has great ideas, and is able to turn those ideas into something really special.”

The couple does have some outside help with creating the Christmas Village. The couple has a son, Danny Lemaster, and two grandchildren, Brooke and Trent Cole Lemaster.

Brooke, 12, has been helping carry on the family tradition by helping Carolyn. “Brooke loves to paint, and she’s a big help putting all of this together,” says Carolyn. “Trent is 14, and



he's been a big help for us as well." Having their family involved in the Christmas Village is important to both Rayburn and Carolyn. "That's how we got started, and so it's nice to see our grandchildren take an interest," says Carolyn.

Not just your ordinary decorations

With as many decorations as the Lemasters have, some are bound to be things one doesn't see in every Christmas display. Driving through the Christmas Village, cars can see Santa on a red Harley-Davidson, and a Native American teepee among others.

"I've always loved teepees, so I finally just included one in the Village," says Carolyn.

Carolyn tries to add to the collection every year. "I try to put in at least five new items every year," she says. "This year we'll be adding a firehouse, gingerbread man, a sleigh with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a lighthouse."

With Carolyn creating new decorations throughout the years, the collection has added up to an entire storage shed full of cutouts and other decorations.

"It's my hobby," explains Carolyn. "I really love coming out here and making these decorations, and I do it all year." The Lemasters' collection can be seen from a car, and from a lighted path or walking lane that runs through the middle of the Christmas Village.

The Lemasters also do more than just Christmas decorations. "You should see this place at Easter," says Rayburn. "We really do something special each year then, too."

Bringing the Christmas Village to Grant is something the Lemasters do for their community, without asking for any form of compensation. Carolyn and Rayburn do not charge for the tour, and there are no signs asking for donations.

Over the years, the site has grown in popularity, and the Village is now a holiday tradition for many people in the area. Carolyn says the Village was designed for children to enjoy, but that most of their visitors are adults.

"Cars start coming up here as soon as we put out the decorations and turn on the lights," says Rayburn. "But the week before Christmas is when it really picks up. It is usually bumper-to-bumper."

You can visit the Lemasters' Christmas Village on Lemaster Road in Grant, nightly from 5 to 10 p.m. through New Year's Day. ▲

This manger scene (top) is one of the many displays that required far more work than a wooden cutout.

The Christmas house (middle) has a chimney that blows smoke when triggered by a switch that the Lemasters keep in their house. "A lot of people keep driving around trying to figure out what makes the smoke go off," jokes Rayburn Lemaster.

The Golfing Santa (bottom) is just one example of the many creative cutouts at the Lemasters' Christmas Village.





The Angel Behind the Shades

Linda Webb suffers from a debilitating disease that is slowly robbing her eyesight. The special sunglasses she wears hide her eyes from the light that causes her so much pain.

After a two-year battle to find out what was wrong, Webb was finally diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder called Dystonia.

There are 13 types of the painful disease, which causes the muscles in the body to contract and spasm involuntarily. It affects around 300,000 people in North America.

Webb's form of the disease is called Benign Essential Blepharospasm (BEB), and mostly affects the nerves in her eyes. As a result of BEB, Webb has lost most of her vision and is extraordinarily sensitive to light.

"Over a period of years," says Webb, "my eyes would just clamp shut. It's like being functionally blind."

Rather than shut herself away and succumb to the disease, Webb decided to fight back by using her life to educate others about Dystonia.

"When I first got diagnosed," she says, "I had never heard of Dystonia and didn't know anything about it. I cried and cried for about two weeks.

"I went to this one doctor who told me that it was no big deal," she says. "So I sent away to the BEB research foundation for a packet about the disease. After I learned all about it, I sent him one," she says. The more she learned, the more Webb wanted to get involved with the research foundation helping to educate others. "I searched for two years and went to five doctors not knowing what I had," she says, "so my goal is helping others to know. Once you know, you can deal with it."

Webb says she has always had the gift for gab, so she parlayed her ability to communicate effectively into a position where her words could do the most good. Webb began to serve as a national spokesperson for BEB and traveled extensively speaking at gatherings and inspiring others with her gentle humor.

"I did a conference in Baltimore, Md., one time," she says, "and I lost my little identification tag. A man came up to me and said, 'Linda, don't worry about it; with that accent, you don't need a tag to

tell us where you're from!'"

Though her disease has caused her to scale back on the travel, Webb is currently the Alabama State coordinator for BEB. This change allows her to still help others while staying closer to home.

A few years ago, Webb was featured in a news story which she says really helped get the word out to others who were facing the same struggles she experienced.

"There was this one man," says Webb, "who called me on the phone and said that he had searched for 13 years to find out what was wrong with him. He said that someone had put a copy of the article about me in an envelope and left it in his mailbox."

"He lived all the way in Tennessee and had no idea who put it there," she says. "But after he read it, he said his wife kept urging him to call me, so he did."

Webb says she gets dozens of calls from people all over the country each year, each one with their own reason for calling.

"My phone is always available," she says. "I don't care if it is during lunch, dinner or the middle of the night, if I can help someone, I will."

"Sometimes people just want to know which doctor I use," she says. "I would never tell anyone the name of a doctor I wouldn't go to myself."

"Sometimes, the people just want to say 'thank you,'" she adds. "One time I got a call from an elderly nun who just told me that I had given her hope. Imagine that, a nun saying I had given her hope."

Webb says she believes her positive attitude and ability to laugh at herself are two of the main reasons why people look to her as a role model.

"I have enormous faith in God," she says. "I never, ever worry about anything."

"If I walk into a door, I just laugh and move over," she says. "People see me laughing at myself all of the time. They may see me with one red shoe and one blue shoe and laugh at me, and that's okay," she says with a smile, "as long as they take the time to find out why."

Besides her dark glasses and smiling face, Webb is known around town for her skill in making delicious baked goods and her generosity in distributing them.

"I love to bake and cook," she says. "I cook for family, neighbors, friends and even businesses."

"My specialty is pecan pralines," she adds, "which is really funny because I don't even like pecan pralines."

Whatever the dish, Webb says she simply gets joy out of making food for others. "To me," she says, "it's not what we get in life that counts. It is what we give away that really matters."

"I believe everyone has a purpose in life," she adds with a smile, "this is mine."▲

Linda Webb chose some of her favorite recipes to share with readers of *The Communicator* this month.

Lemon Squares

by: Linda Webb

Crust:

1 box Supreme cake mix
1 stick melted margarine

1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 egg, beaten

Combine ingredients and mix until a ball may be formed. Press into a 9" x 13" baking pan.

Topping:

1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese
1 lb. box confectioner's sugar

3 eggs

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix last three ingredients and pour over crust mixture in pan. Bake 40-45 minutes. Let cool, then cut into squares.

Buckeyes

by: Linda Webb

2 sticks margarine
1 cup creamy peanut butter
1 lb. box confectioner's sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 bag semi-sweet chocolate chips

In medium sauce pan, melt margarine and peanut butter. Add vanilla. Slowly stir in confectioner's sugar until blended and smooth. Let cool. Roll into small (2 1/2") balls. Melt chocolate chips. Using a tooth pick, dip peanut butter balls in melted chocolate, leaving small peanut butter circle and tooth pick hole on top to look like buckeyes.

Cranberry-Orange Bread

by: Linda Webb

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup orange juice
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 tablespoon grated orange rind
1/2 teaspoon soda
1 egg, beaten

1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons shortening
1/2 cup chopped nuts (pecans or walnuts)
1/2 to 1 cup chopped raw cranberries

Heat oven to 350°. Sift flour, sugar, baking powder, soda, and salt. Cut in shortening until smooth. Combine orange juice, rind, and egg. Pour all at once on dry ingredients, mixing just enough to dampen. Add nuts and cranberries. Pour into 9"x 5"x 3" baking pan. Bake 50 minutes or until done.

Community Events

Womens Prayer & Share Group

Meets every Tuesday 8 - 9 a.m. during the school year at New Hope UMC. For more information, contact Evelyn Butler at 256-723-4424. All ladies are welcome.

December 4

Grant Christmas Parade

Parade begins at 12:30 p.m. with first and second place prizes awarded for 'Best Float' in two categories — youth and adult.

December 4

New Hope Christmas Events

8 - 4 p.m. - Open House at the Shoppes on Main; 2 p.m. - Christmas Parade begins; 5 p.m. - Music in the gazebo featuring the Madison Community Band and at 6 p.m. - Tree Lighting ceremony

with refreshments. Be sure to bring your camera and get photos of your children with Santa.

December 11 - 12

Galilee Baptist Church Play

A performance of *If Christ Had Not Come* will be presented at 6:30 p.m. each night. On Saturday, enjoy a meal after the play and meet Santa Claus. For more information, contact Cody Wheeler at 256-585-8558.

December 19

Children's Program & Musical

OCR Church of God will have a Christmas musical at 10:30 a.m. Come back at 5 p.m. and enjoy a Christmas program by the children called *In Bethlehem Inn*.

December 19

Christmas Play

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist is having a Christmas Play beginning at 6:30 p.m.

December

Christmas Lights at the O'Neals

Drive the family by the O'Neal's home at 211 Clarence Brockway in New Hope and enjoy the spectacular Christmas lights. The display can be seen from December through New Year's Day.

Christmas Lights at the Lemasters in Grant

Take a drive down Lemaster Road in Grant and enjoy the Christmas scenery on display at Rayburn and Carolyn Lemasters. The display can be seen from December through New Year's Day.



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New Hope Library December Calendar of Events

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Tuesday | Story Hour | 10:30 A.M. |
| December 9 | Genealogy | 7:00 P.M. |
| December 10 | Sit-n-Knit | 5:30 P.M. |
| December 10 | Movie: Inception | 6:00 P.M. |
| December 11 | Christmas Open House | 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. |
| December 18 | Movie: Despicable | 4:00 P.M. |
| December 20 | Friends of the Library | 12:30 P.M. |

The Library Will Be Closed On Friday & Saturday, December 24 & 25
To Celebrate Christmas

DAR Crowns

Homecoming Queen



During half-time of the October 29 homecoming game against Brindlee Mountain, senior Tanya Cooper was crowned homecoming queen.

Tanya is the daughter of Sandy and Phillip Cooper of Grant. She is a member of the girls varsity basketball team. Tanya is also an active youth at her church, Hebron Church of Christ.

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CARE Center grant helps NHES students

New Hope Elementary School, in partnership with the C.A.R.E. Center, will soon offer a Twenty First Century Community Learning Center (NHCLC) for students. The program is designed to be a game-changer for students whose grades, attendance, behavior and physical fitness are on the decline. Students will have the opportunity to stay after school and participate in clubs such as D-1 Physical Fitness, Intro to Robotics, Graphic Design Technology, Clay Sculpting, Lego Mania, Readers Theatre, Book Clubs, Webkinz Techno and a gardening club.

“We hope the program will help, in addition to academics, with behavior and discipline issues that we have at New Hope Elementary,” says Andrea Bridges, Program Administrator for NHCLC, “We want children to enjoy the clubs in such a way that they will want to perform and behave better in classes so that they may participate in the program after school.”

NHCLC will serve as an extended day program for students in Kindergarten



through eighth grade. The official project goals are to improve student overall Alabama Reading and Math Test (ARMT) scores, emphasize healthy lifestyle choices, strengthen the family unit, develop age appropriate social skills, and provide job training resources and service learning for parents. To achieve these goals, NHCLC will provide tutoring and homework assistance, in addition to the recreational clubs mentioned above. Specific goals have also been set and are included in the grant provided by the C.A.R.E. Center. These include a 2% increase in attendance and overall ARMT scores, while reducing obesity in the school by 2%.

This is where community involvement becomes a necessity for the program's success. New Hope teaching staff, local college students studying in the field of education, and even high school students will be hired in order to assist with the coordination of the clubs and activities taking place at the Learning Center. Area churches, senior citizens, 4-H, local colleges and businesses are central components in providing services as well.

Basically, elementary students will go to the NHCLC directly after school and will have the opportunity to develop their personality and learning styles through interaction with adults and other children close in age to their own. Through recreation, learning, fun, and diversity, the ultimate goal is to provide a stable and productive environment in which children may prosper and reach full potential.

December registration details are being sent home with students. For more information, contact 256-723-KIDS (5437) or e-mail Amy Conville, Program Director, at ahconville@gmail.com. ▲

Lemaster of Grant wins Iron Bowl tickets

Peoples State Bank of Commerce in Grant first opened their doors for business in 1968. To celebrate 42 years of exceptional service, the bank hosted a 1960's themed Customer Appreciation Day on October 29.

Employees dressed in 1960's inspired costumes and treated customers to refreshments and door prizes.

As part of their celebration, the bank gave away two tickets to the November 26 Alabama/Auburn football game in Tuscaloosa.

Rayburn Lemaster of Grant was the grand prize winner of the Iron Bowl tickets. Bank President Brenda Barnes and Vice President Josh Barnes presented Lemaster with the tickets.



Babes in Toyland



CHRISTMAS 1994 - Courtney Cooper at 2-1/2 years old. Photo sent in by Memaw Salyer.



IT'S A TOYLAND - Landen Pence at 18 months old. Picture taken by Grandma Beth Pence.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL - Austin Keel warms up by the fire. Photo submitted by his grandmother Sandra Walker.



BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS - Zoe Nicole Warden, daughter of Bradley Warden. Photo sent by 'Paw Paw' Spencer and 'Lil Maw' Lesa.



MOTHER AND CHILD - Stephanie Knight with daughter Sara Knight. Photo was submitted by her grandparents.



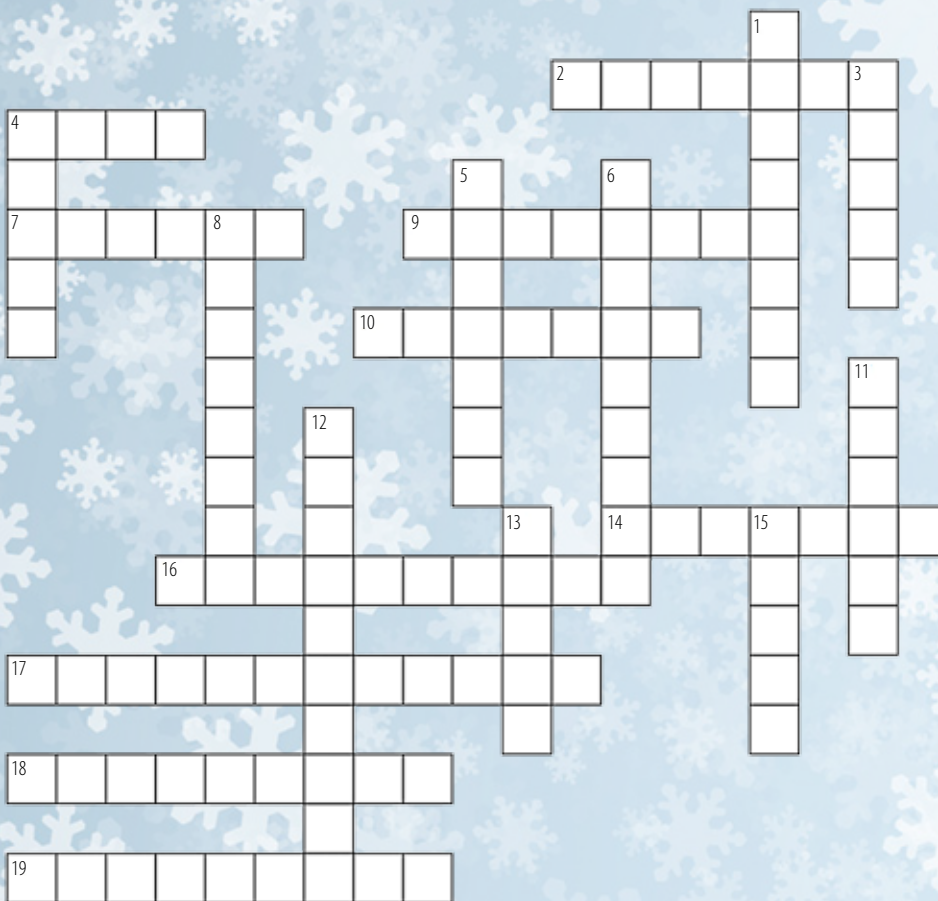
ALL DECKED OUT FOR CHRISTMAS - Margaret Meeks sitting on her front porch in 2007.

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A Christmas Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS:

2. Song lyrics "___ through the snow..."
4. Mother of Jesus
7. Bed where Jesus slept when born
9. Song "Oh, Come All Ye ___"
10. He helps guide Santa's sleigh
14. Author of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
16. The gift on the third day in "The 12 Days of Christmas"
17. Popular Christmas gift in 1984, doll named after a vegetable.
18. The Christmas kissing plant
19. A red and white treat

DOWN:

1. Starred in the movie "Santa Clause"
3. What the wise men brought Jesus
4. Song "I saw ___ Kissing Santa Claus"
5. Used as the first Christmas lights
6. Flock watchers
8. Scrooge's first name
11. The famous snowman
12. A popular flower during Christmas
13. "And on earth ___, Good will towards men."
15. Santa's little helpers

You could win \$50! Complete the crossword puzzle above and mail it in.
You'll be entered into a drawing for \$50 off your next bill!

Fill out form below and mail this page to: New Hope Telephone Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, New Hope, AL 35760
or return with you NHTC bill.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Entry must be received in our office by December 31, 2010 to be entered into the drawing.