

The

Communicator

VOL. 10, NO. 2 • MAR/APR 2011

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF

New Hope
Telephone Cooperative
Your Communications Connection

FRESH OFF THE FARM

*Local farm has acres of
fruit & berries for harvest*

END OF AN ERA

Curt & Betty Grocery closes in OCR

The Communicator

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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.

On the cover:

Maggie Valley Berry Patch and Gardens in Grant:

Meet Maggie and David Cox, owners of the award-winning business noted for its beauty and ability to put smiles on faces of every age.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

NHTC is thinking ahead, preparing for the future of television with fiber

Most people have experienced the scramble to find the remote when a television commercial starts blaring loudly. Everyone in the family wants to press the mute button as quickly as possible. Sometimes it seems like the advertisers are trying to get your attention by screaming at you as loudly as they can. I think for most homes, this practice has just meant ignoring commercials all together — probably not what the companies intended when they paid for the advertising.

There's a good lesson to be learned here about how to treat your customers — and what they can do if you resort to cheap tricks and try to simply yell louder than the competition. But a change is on the way. Just before ending its last session, congress passed the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act, or CALM Act for short. Signed into law last year, the act will give FCC the tools to control the volume of "interstitial content" (which is a fancy term for TV commercials).

There are already some limitations in place regarding how loud a commercial can be, but that hasn't been enough. Currently, a commercial cannot be louder than the program it's airing on. Then why do the commercials seem so much louder? Remember, the show you are watching isn't always at its loudest. It is during the explosions or frantic screams that the program can jump to a new volume.

The commercials, on the other hand, start at this volume and stay there. Hopefully, the CALM act will change that. This is a great improvement, for now. For those of us who plan to use our fiber Internet connections to stream television shows from Hulu or any other digital services, the law will be completely ineffective.

The digital revolution puts the law behind the times. A couple of months

ago, I talked about the new ways in which we are watching our TV shows at home, and how NHTC's fiber project could change the way we interact with our television. Through our Personal Video Recorder service, customers will be able to bypass commercials completely by fast forwarding through them. And that is just the beginning.

Eventually, our customers will be using digital services that allow you to select shows individually and watch them (much like Hulu or Apple TV does now). However, Hulu and programs like it are not without their commercials, and the new act says nothing about the digital world. Eventually new laws must be made to address what television is going to look like in the years to come.

NHTC has been getting ready for the future, and making sure that we are prepared for future technology. Our fiber project is future proof, and we remain committed to bringing this infrastructure to our members. The federal government may not be planning for the future of television, but your cooperative is.



TOM WING

*General Manager,
New Hope Telephone
Cooperative*



NHTC has 4,759 members. There are 4,819 telephone lines, 2,894 Internet subscribers and 2,425 cable television subscribers. For many members, the three customer service representatives that make up the Customer Service Team are the only cooperative employees they know. That's because the CSR's are responsible for answering the telephone calls, taking payments, new service requests and requests for changes in service.

Christy Nelson, Missy Stanley and Becca Hyde have a combined 10 years of customer service experience. "Most of our customers never talk to anyone but us," says Hyde. "We handle all of their needs."

"It's a rewarding job," adds Nelson. "I love being able to help customers and solve their problems."

The CSRs have made lots of friends over the years. "We have customers who bring treats during the holidays and throughout the year," says Stanley. "It's a good feeling to know we are thought of like that."

While the team members strive for only positive experiences, they admit they sometimes face challenges.

"Sometimes people are irate when they call," says Nelson. "It's our job to diffuse the situation without reciprocating."

New rules about Customer Proprietary Network Information, or CPNI, have added to the frustration level of some members. CSRs must verify that they are speaking with an authorized account representative before discussing an account. Some members do not understand that. "We try to explain that we are required by law to do this and that it is for their protection," says Nelson.

The fiber-to-the-home project also keeps this team busy. They receive numerous calls about what services will be available with fiber, and when it will be available in certain neighborhoods.

They are currently in the process of contacting members in Grant about the fiber switchover. The cooperative must survey members' needs to determine what equipment is needed for each home.

"We have a rewarding job," says Hyde. "If I can help someone resolve a problem or understand something, then it's a good day." ▲

TechTips

Illegal downloads

are a growing problem for Internet Service Providers (ISPs), including New Hope Telephone Cooperative.

Many members don't realize that when they download music, movies or software without paying for it, there is a good chance they are doing so illegally.

When copyrighted music, videos or other programs move across an Internet protocol (IP) address, the copyright owner can trace that address back to the ISP. NHTC is required to cooperate when notified that a copyright infringement has taken place.

NHTC Network Administrator Rusty Bright says in recent months NHTC has received numerous complaints. "We are seeing an increase in the number of complaints we receive from copyright owners," he explains. When NHTC identifies the IP address-holder, they must notify them that illegal activity is taking place on their computer. All illegally downloaded files must be removed. Additionally, they risk having their Internet service terminated.

"It's really very simple," says Bright. "You wouldn't steal a CD from a store. Well, downloading copyrighted material from the Internet without paying for it is stealing. Don't do it."

"Avoid putting yourself at risk," Bright advises. "There are plenty of sites where music and videos can be downloaded legally." Visit www.riaa.com/toolsforparents.php and click on the link 'Legal Music Sites' for a list of sites.



JOIN US

Tuesday May 17th

NHTC annual meeting

New Hope Middle School Lunchroom & Auditorium
5 p.m. Registration • 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

Member Appreciation Day

New Hope Telephone Cooperative
 invites you to join us
 at the NHTC Business Office
 on Friday, March 25th
 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

We will be serving refreshments
 throughout the day and meeting our
 members. We hope to see you there!

*Be sure to register for door prizes to
 be given away throughout the day!*



Need help paying for Telephone Service?

Do you, or someone in your household, participate
 in any of these programs?

Medicaid • Food Stamps • Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) • Low Income Home Energy
Assistance Program (LIHEAP) • Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

For a complete set of terms for the Link-Up and Lifeline programs, call or visit your local telephone company. You may also contact any other eligible telecommunications company that is certified to provide service in Alabama by the Alabama Public Service Commission or the Federal Communications Commission. Link-Up and Lifeline are part of the Federal Universal Service Fund program. The Federal Communications Commission introduced this program, and the Universal Service Administrative Company oversees it. The goal of Universal Service is to make sure consumers throughout the United States have essential telecommunications service.

You may qualify for these two special programs:

LINK UP

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

LIFELINE

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

To find out if you qualify for these programs, call NHTC at 256-723-4211. You may also call the Alabama Public Service Commission toll free at 1-800-392-8050.

Historic marker in Grant details the town's history

In 2010, the Alabama Tourism Department sponsored a year-long event designed to elevate tourism in the state called 'Alabama Small Towns and Downtowns.'

Then Governor Bob Riley encouraged former residents and tourists to attend homecoming weekends throughout the state in celebration of Alabama's heritage.

More than 200 towns throughout the state participated by sprucing up their town and planning events involving local storytellers, artisans and craftspeople. Activities were held in parks, on downtown streets and attractions throughout the state.

Visitors could listen to local history and folklore, buy a souvenir or take a walking tour of the town. The highlight of each celebration was the unveiling of a locally written historic marker detailing events in the town's history.

The town of Grant was among the participants. In

late 2010, a historic marker was proudly unveiled in front of Grant's Town Hall.

In part, the marker reads: (Front) *Grant, Alabama, a scenic mountain town, is located on top of Gunter Mountain at 1310 feet of elevation. It is surrounded by the Foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and overlooks Historic Kennamer Cove. The Post Office was established*

on May 18, 1887 and the Town was named "Grant" for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant by the independent settlers on the mountain. The people who live in Grant, Alabama today continue to have that independent and patriotic spirit. Grant overlooks the beautiful Cathedral Caverns State Park which is one of the major attractions in Northeast Alabama and features the largest natural opening of any Cave in this country. The Cherokee Indians lived in this cave before any settlers arrived.▲



TOWN GETS HISTORIC MARKER as part of the 2010 Small Towns and Downtowns celebration sponsored by the Alabama Board of Tourism. The marker was placed in front of town hall. Shown above are (L to R): Charles Ayers, council member; Franklin Bevel, council member; Larry Walker, mayor; Joe Frazier, council member; Jimmy Bradshaw, council member; Josh Barnes, chamber member; Brent Parker, chamber president; James Maze, commissioner; Jimmy Keller, council member; and Joe Powell, chamber member.



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Johnny Hairrell,
husband of
Laura Hairrell.
Circa 1950.


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Dial 8-1-1 before digging

Prevent network damage or personal injury with one simple call

When getting ready to perform any type of excavation work on your property, the most important tool is not a shovel or an auger — it is your telephone.

NHTC members have an easy way to determine what utilities may lie buried under their property — before they start digging. They can dial '8-1-1' and have local utility companies mark the location of underground utilities.

NHTC General Manager Tom Wing says, "If our members call 8-1-1 before starting a project, they could prevent damages to buried utilities that could affect service to hundreds or thousands of customers. They are also protecting themselves from personal injury. Cutting into a gas line or electric cable poses great danger."

How does it work?

Call 8-1-1 a few days before any digging project you are planning. The One Call Center will ask you a few questions and determine which utilities must be contacted. Information needed includes the name of the person or company who will be doing the digging, the type of work being done, the location of the project and who to speak to with questions.

The 8-1-1 Center will contact the local utility companies on your behalf and have someone sent out to mark the approximate location of underground utilities. This usually takes just a few days.

Does every digging job require a call?

Homeowners and contractors alike are required to call 8-1-1 for any digging project whether it is excavating land or planting a tree. The depth of utility lines can vary, and there could be more than one utility buried in the same hole.

What do the colored flags mean?

Each utility is marked with a different color flag. The colors are universal:

Red –	Electric
Orange –	Communications, Telephone/CATV
Blue –	Potable Water
Green –	Sewer/Drainage
Yellow –	Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
Purple –	Reclaimed Water
White –	Premark site of intended excavation

What happens if I don't call 8-1-1, and then I dig into underground lines?

If an individual or a contractor fails to call 8-1-1 for line location and then cuts into a buried cable, NHTC will bill them for the cost of the repair. This puts the expense on the party who causes the damage, not on all our members. Making the call to 8-1-1 is a simple way to prevent accidentally cutting into buried lines and causing service interruptions, injury and avoidable expense. ▲

**ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG**



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Common Ground Alliance

Safe digging is no accident.
Always call before you dig. **8-1-1**

Mayor presents Eagle Scouts with certificates

Grant mayor Larry Walker presented five newly appointed Eagle Scouts with certificates of appreciation for their commitment to community service. "We are very proud of the accomplishment these young men have achieved," says Walker. "We appreciate their efforts and devotion to their community."

The boys did their community service projects while earning the rank of Eagle Scout — the highest advancement attainable in the Boy Scouts of America.

The boys admit that earning such an honor was no easy task, as it was a journey that took each of them more than nine years to complete. Along the way, they held leadership positions within the troop and earned a required total of twenty-one merit badges. Between the



Newly appointed Eagle Scouts received certificates of appreciation from Mayor Larry Walker in a ceremony earlier this year. The scouts are (L to R): Cole Swearingin, Tony Pate, Michael Davis, Buddy Hillis and Dustin Davis.

five of them, the scouts earned more than one hundred merit badges, equipping them with skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Not only does becoming an Eagle Scout require earning merits, but each candidate must also complete a com-

munity leadership service project. In perhaps the most beneficial requirement to both the scouts and their community, the new Eagles laid flooring in a local senior center, painted bleachers and dugouts at a recreational park, marked mailboxes with numbers for 911 identification and repainted 50 fire hydrants around the Grant area.

The boys' Scoutmaster, Mike Davis, watched them grow as they worked through the ranks of the Boy Scouts of

America and said he could not imagine a better group of candidates for the rank of Eagle Scout. "All of these boys are community-oriented, outstanding young men," Davis said, "and I look forward to having such productive members in society." ▲

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A berry good life

Maggie Valley Berry Patch and Gardens in Grant, Ala., rolls out of the landscape with all of the glory of a beautiful spring day. Vibrant greens, reds and purples shimmer in the sunlight as multi-colored butterflies float from plant to plant, and birds soar in the sky above.

Children with tiny souvenir metal buckets clasped firmly in one hand lend all of their concentration to the single act of finding the perfect berry to fit snugly inside it.

It is a working berry farm, named for owner Maggie Cox by her husband, David, who originally dreamed up the project Maggie lovingly describes as a “hobby that got out of hand.”

The property, which consists of five acres, was originally in Maggie’s family when she was a child. When she married David, an Arkansas native, the two decided to move to Alabama.

“We moved here in 2002,” says David. “The property was so overgrown that you couldn’t even see the road.”

According to the couple, some of the brush was 40-feet high. Everything from blackberry vines to hedge bushes grew together to create a wall separating the house from the world around it.

“We hired someone with a bulldozer to come in and clear the land,” says David. “They pushed everything aside and for one year all we did was burn and burn to get rid of it all.”

Maggie says once the brush was cleared it was a startling transformation. “Some of the neighborhood kids asked us if we had moved the house closer to the road,” she says.

The couple bought a 23-horse-power tractor with a box-blade and a five-foot tiller on the back and started landscaping and shaping.

“We just wanted a little hobby garden,” Maggie says. “We wanted to grow peaches and a few muscadines.”

As they worked to shape their garden, the landscape seemed to unfold before them and tell them what to do next. The couple began to dream bigger than just a small garden. They started to consider growing berries and muscadines and offer them on a ‘pick-your-own’ basis to the public.

If they were going to open to the public, they knew the first thing they needed for their unique berry patch was a name. Their neighbor across the street, Ricky Sutphin, had a suggestion.

“He said, ‘If you’re going to have a name, call it Maggie’s Valley,’” says David.

The neighbor was referring to the way the land at Maggie Valley slopes on either side toward the low center, creating a natural valley. The couple chose to alter the name only slightly, making it a perfect fit for what they had in mind.

Once the name was in place, Maggie and David had to decide what they would grow. Thanks to the climate in Grant, blackberries and strawberries were another natural fit.

“We started with three 100-foot rows of hybrid thornless blackberries,” says David. “We have Navaho, Apache and Arapahoe. The Navaho is the largest thornless blackberry grown. All three breeds were developed by the University of Arkansas.”

Besides producing large berries on a thornless vine, the hybrid berries have another advantage which makes them ideal for a berry farm.



Originally built in the 1940s, by Maggie’s grandfather, Frank Kennamer, this restored barn has become a showpiece at Maggie Valley Berry Patch and Gardens.

"The Navaho comes out a little later than the Arapajo and Apachee," says Maggie. "We start picking them in late May and go on into early August. It is staggered so we can produce a longer crop."

The thornless, sweet berries can not only be picked later in the year, but also may be plucked from the vines by customers wearing t-shirts and shorts as opposed to long sleeves in the heat of summer.

Because the berries are mulched from underneath and the vines carefully trimmed, there is also little threat of snakes.

Besides blackberries, Maggie Valley also offers endless rows of pick-your-own strawberries. Last summer, Maggie and David had 7,500 strawberry plants ready for customers to glean from.

"We had only Chandler strawberries last year," says David. "This year we are also going to have Camarosa."

For the customer who cannot tell a Camarosa from a Chandler, the difference is not significant. Both are large, red berries with a rich, sweet taste. The biggest difference is the Chandler berry is not as good for processing and freezing, and tastes better if eaten fresh.

Right in the midst of the blackberries, strawberries and muscadines is a 100-foot row of tempting, fat blueberries. Unfortunately for David and Maggie, those being tempted are not always paying customers.

"The birds love them," Maggie says.

The blueberry crop is only available during the months of June and July, and while it is not yet large enough to offer as a pick-your-own crop, the Cox's hope it will be one day soon.

An unexpected attraction at Maggie Valley is an old, restored WWII barn which the couple say has become the centerpiece of their operation.

David has artfully displayed a collection of vintage and reproduction signs he has received as gifts from Maggie and their friends over the years. He would eventually like to put a gift shop and fruit stand inside the barn where customers can enjoy the fruits of their labor in the cool of the day.

Maggie and David love to play host to the scores of visitors who come to their farm each year. "We love to have children come out and pick berries or just walk around and listen as we tell them the names of the different plants," Maggie says.

Last year, she found tiny metal buckets at an area retailer which she purchased and gave to visiting children. "They were the perfect size for one big berry to fit in," Maggie says. "It was fun watching the kids look for just the right one."

In the future, David and Maggie hope to add to their crop, which already includes fresh tomatoes, cut flowers and herbs in addition to the berries. "It is a labor of love," they say.

Maggie Valley Berry Patch and Gardens has received a national conservation award from the D.A.R. and has been featured in multiple printed publications. It is open for business Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1- 4 p.m.

Visit them at www.alblackberries.com, or on Facebook: Maggie Valley Berry Patch and Gardens. ▲



You are invited to visit Maggie Valley Berry Patch and Gardens to purchase ready-picked berries or to pick your own. You should wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Don't forget your hat and sunscreen. Buckets and cardboard flats are provided for picking. Depending on the season, you can choose from blackberries, strawberries or muscadines.

Owners Maggie and David Cox say their goal is to provide a fun outing for you or your group. "We enjoy visitors and will do our best to make it a good experience for you," Maggie says. Groups are asked to call ahead and always bring a camera to preserve the memories.



SAYING GOODBYE...

The Craig family clears the shelves and takes home a lifetime of memories

The end of an era has come and gone in the town of Owens Cross Roads, Ala. On Dec. 31, 2010, Curt and Betty's Store, a fixture for over a quarter-century, closed its doors for the last time.

OCR Mayor Curtis Craig, and his wife, Betty say they miss seeing their customers, but they are enjoying their retirement. The same goes for their daughter, Lynn Hill who worked there since the day the store opened.

Since 1984, the three have spent a combined estimated total of 340,000 hours working at the store, not including Sundays.

"People couldn't believe we were closing," says Lynn. "A lot of them asked what in the world they would do without us."

"We were ready to go to the house," says Curt with a smile. "Age and mileage and our mobility got the best of us. We just got to where we couldn't do it anymore."

Officially, Curt and Betty's was open 12 hours a day, six days a week. But they always opened up after church services on Sundays. The family would

show up and that is where they would share their Sunday afternoon dinner together. Customers were free to shop or hang around and talk. When it was time for church that night, they would close up and re-open for a few hours after the service.

"People depended on us and we wanted to be here for them," says Betty.

The store offered a large variety of groceries, household items and cigarettes. There was also an abundant stock of hardware, dolls, baseball caps and even Easter baskets when the occasion called for them.

One of the best features of Curt and Betty's was the deli meat counter where customers could get bologna and cheese sliced fresh, the old-fashioned way.

Old-fashioned just worked at Curt and Betty's. It was part of the charm of a small-town store. No one was in a hurry. There were no high-tech scanners; every item was priced with a sticker by

Betty or Lynn. When your items were bagged up, they went into a paper bag. "We never did go to plastic," says Curt. "When you put a bag of groceries in a plastic bag in your car, unless you tie it, everything goes in the floor."

There were a couple of chairs along the wall where Curt's barber shop used to be. It was the perfect place to sit and chat, which customers often did.

"I started out in a corner of the



Curt and Betty Craig lock the door of their grocery one final time. They and their daughter Lynn Hill (right) closed the store for good December 31, 2010 after 26 years of serving their community.

building in 1963 as a barber," Curt says. "Back then everybody would sort of hang around talking or playing checkers. When we got the store we just left the chairs there so they could still do that."

The Craigs added on to the original building by purchasing the warehouse and connecting the two buildings.

Although Curt and Betty's changed a lot over the years, the spirit of the place stayed the same.

It was a family-owned operation from their kids stocking the shelves right down to their grandkids sneaking naps on them.

"When Lynn's son Beau was little," Betty says, "he went missing in the store for a few minutes. We finally found him curled up on one of the bottom shelves fast asleep among the groceries."

There are also a lot of stories over

the years that the Craigs and Lynn love to recall. They are a good example of how life used to be, and what will be missing now in OCR. They remember customers playing horseshoes out back, and customers coming by just to pass the time.

The people in OCR will have to shop at the larger grocery stores further out of town now. There will be no one there to put something on a charge ticket if they are running low on money. Progress doesn't work that way. Small stores are slowly disappearing.

"We will miss our customers," says Betty. "We appreciate them for their business and

friendship over the years."

In the past, Lynn worked alone at the store for up to 12 days at a time, so her parents could vacation. "We went to Belgium in 1996 when our grandson, Curtis III was born there," Curt says.

"We went back in '97," he continues. "My son promised he'd take us to Ireland if we did; I had always wanted to go to Ireland, so we went." "I kissed the Blarney Stone," says Betty with a laugh. "I'd like to go to Hawaii next." ▲

When a flood hit Owens Cross Roads on Dec. 23, 1990, Curt and Betty's store was filled with water almost three feet deep. (Photo on right) "We had mud and sand about an inch-and-a-half in the floor," says Curt. "We found stuff a year later that had washed behind appliances. We lost about 30,000 dollars worth of merchandise."



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Mmmm, mmm ... gone!



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ABC Radio newsman, Paul Harvey was the kind of person who could preach without being a preacher. Having grown up listening to him as long as I remember listening to radio, I still find myself grieving most days at noon following his death that late February two years ago. We will be hard pressed to find a newsperson sharing so much truth, patriotism, and faith in so few words as did Paul Harvey. One commentary he often gave before Easter was "the shortest sermon you'll hear all year.... Jesus lived a good life in a wicked world to show us it could be done. And He died. And He rose again to show us....we could do that too."

If you are a child of God Active in your faith, may the joy of Easter, seen in you, have a profound impact on the lives of others. If you are not a child of God, I pray you come to realize Jesus' death and resurrection is meaningful for you because "God so loved the world (you) He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." You see, Easter has nothing to do with how good we think we have to be to be saved; it has everything to do with how Good God's Grace Is. For all who dare to believe in Him will one day be a part of The Rest of the Story. Until then, let's learn more about Easter in a church near you.



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

AN EARLY START

Preschool provides nurturing environment for learning and development of social skills

Where can a four-year-old use a computer, sing songs with friends that teach the days of the week and months of the year? Or, where can a four-year-old master rhymes, letters, colors, shapes, and how to get along with their neighbor?

If you said kindergarten you are close. All these things and more are taught in the preschool programs at New Hope and Owens Cross Roads Schools. Best of all, the programs are free.

Students attend half-day sessions and then have the option to pay for a half-day of daycare where learning continues. Students visit the library, computer lab, science lab, have one to one tutoring and play in creative centers that reinforce school and social skills.

When students leave the preschool program, they are ready for broader instruction

in kindergarten.

Transitions from home to school can be tough for a little person, but the teachers and daycare workers at both schools are up to the task where loving and nurturing is a part of each day.

Everything a child learns is assessed and re-assessed regularly to denote mastery. The school year is remembered by various projects and take-home activities, such as the 100th day of school, homecoming, and grandparents' day.

Registration is March 7th-11th at the school. Each child must be four years old on or before September 2nd. Please bring the following to registration Birth Certificate, Current Blue Immunization Card, Chickenpox Documentation, Social Security Card, and Proof of Residence. ▲

Preschool Registration

March 7-12

Children must be
4 years old on or before
September 2, 2011

Parents must bring:

- Birth certificate
- Social Security Card
- Immunization chart (blue card)
- Proof of residency (Driver's License, utility bill, etc.)



New Hope Rec. Center Season Opening and Signups
Scrimmage games and raffle prizes at the door. Chicken, hot dog and hamburger plates for sale. Look for signs around town for date and details.

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Al-Anon

A support group designed for friends and family members of alcoholics meets at 10:30 a.m. on designated days at New Hope United Methodist Church.

March 28-April 2

Hayden Cemetery Cleanup Week

Caretakers will be removing old, faded flowers from plots during clean-up week. Spring flowers that appear new will be left on memorial. Please remove any flowers that you will want to keep prior to cleanup week.

April 23

Easter Egg Hunt

Peoples State Bank's Annual Easter Egg Hunt begins 1:00 p.m. at Georgia Park on the D.A.R. Campus. Bring your camera for a visit with the Easter Bunny! Ages 2-10 will hunt in separate age divisions and each group will receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes. For more information call 256-728-4213.

April 30

Grant Relay for Life 2011

will be held on April 30 at 1:00 p.m. \$25 entry fee includes Relay t-shirt. Call Peoples State Bank to register today at 256-728-4213. Remember your loved ones with a Forget Me Not card displayed in the lobby of Peoples State Bank for a \$1 donation in honor of someone you care about.

NEW HOPE LIONS CLUB

Spring Clean Street Walk

April 30th • 8 a.m.

Keeping New Hope beautiful, The Lions Club and City Council will host an annual spring cleanup on Saturday, April 30. This year's event will feature a lunch provided by Piggly Wiggly and many raffle prizes donated by area merchants including free items, food and gift certificates. All participants will meet at 8 a.m. in the Superior Bank parking lot. Contact Ava Cambron at 256-723-4695 for more information.

We are your one stop farm and garden center



ThompsonWay Farm & Garden

256-725-3000

9127 Hwy. 431 South, OCR

- Lowest feed prices around!
- All the best brands - Faithway, Nutrena, Purina, Triple Crown and more!
- Volume discounts available!
- Full-line nursery!
- Fertilizer sold in bulk and buggy program, too!
- Rock, Sand and Mulch!
- Fill your propane tank here!
- Slow release fertilizer formulated by local chemist — won't burn plants!

Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday
Sunday 12 to 4 p.m.



X the TXT

On January 26, Michael Higdon, an Allstate Representative, presented middle and high school students at D.A.R. with a special “X-the-TXT” message. He encouraged students to refrain from getting behind the wheel with a cell phone in hand. X-the-TXT is a program aimed at raising the awareness of students across America and preventing fatalities caused by texting and driving.

The statistics are staggering. According to Higdon, auto accidents kill an average of fifteen teens per day, many of which are due to short and simple text messages. Driving a speed of 55 miles per hour and taking your eyes off the road for five seconds, you will travel the length of a football field. It happens every day. Furthermore, distracted driving injures 330,000 people every year.

Real stories were shared with the students of D.A.R. about other American teenagers who have lost their lives while

texting and driving. Danielle Morrison is one of those shared stories. Danielle graduated from D.A.R. High School on May 22, 2010. She was killed on June 19, 2010 in a car accident believed to be caused by a text message.

Michael Higdon had one, clear message in his presentation to the students: no text is worth risking your life--or your passengers--when you are on the road.

Celebrities such as Jordin Sparks and the Jonas Brothers have joined the campaign. The students at D.A.R. were asked to share the information with their friends and parents, while they also took the X-the-TXT pledge and received thumb bands meant to remind them that texting while driving kills.

Driving is a freedom that comes with great responsibility. For more information on X-the-TXT, or to request a showing, visit www.facebook.com/XtheTXT.▲

DID YOU KNOW?

Facts about texting while driving:

- It takes your eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field completely blind.
- It is like driving after having 4 bottles of beer.
- It makes you 23 times more likely to crash.
- Distracted driving injures 330,000 people every year.



DAR High School students stamp their thumbprint on a banner pledging not to text while driving. Everyone who made the pledge received a thumb band and certificate to remind them of their promise.

Best Friends

COMMUNITY PHOTOS



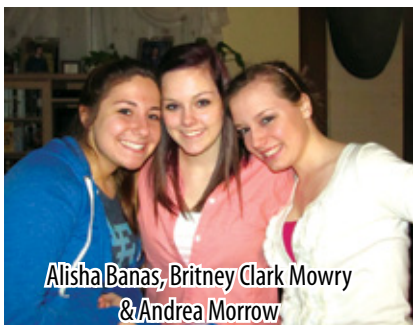
Colby and Colton Shubert



Libby Grace Hall & Reece Erwin



Sara Bursleson & Stacey Burgess



Alisha Banas, Britney Clark Mowry
& Andrea Morrow



Jake Traffensted and Cameron Everhart



Amber Morrow, Britney Mowry, Jay
Harmening and Andrea Morrow



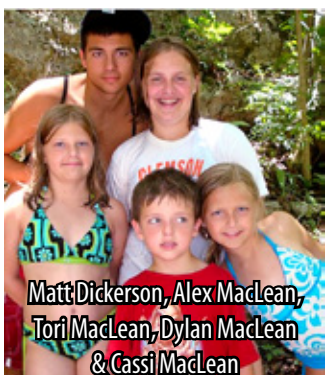
Kaylee Brooke LeBon & Ryleigh Grace Morlan



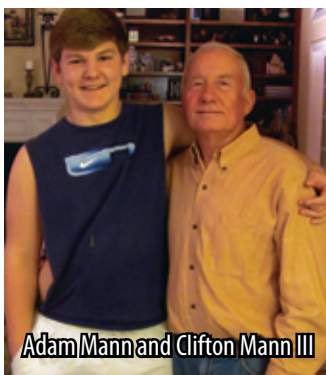
Thomas Sutton, Jared Cagle, Branden
Lawrence and Andrew Cooper



Celsea Steelman and
cousin Colby Shubert



Matt Dickerson, Alex MacLean,
Tori MacLean, Dylan MacLean
& Cassi MacLean



Adam Mann and Clifton Mann III



Tyson & Dollie



Ms. Betty Stapler and
Susie Snow



Chris Everhart and Michael MacLean



Cameron Everhart and Ronnie Haggemaker



Chloe Tart, Hudson Hill and Lilly Brown

"Spring" is the photo theme for May/June. Send to: NHTC • Attn.: Communicator Photos • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, AL 35760, or e-mail your photo to communicator@nehf.net. Follow these guidelines for publication: (1) Photos must match theme. (2) Photos must be high resolution. The resolution offered by some printers is not high enough for publication. (3) Do not write on the back of photo. Include names of persons in photo, as well as, photographer, address and phone number on paper taped to back. (4) Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your photo returned. (5) The **Deadline for May/June issue is March 30th**. 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.

Postal Customer

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**WIN \$10 OFF
NEXT BILL**

Complete the crossword puzzle and mail it in. You will be entered into a drawing for \$10 off your NHTC bill!

Fill out form below and mail this page to: NHTC, 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 April 15, 2011 to be entered into the drawing.

The answers to this puzzle can be found throughout the pages of this issue of The Communicator.

Across:

1. Safe digging is no _____.
2. A red flag is used to mark this type of underground utility.
3. _____ for Life. An event to help raise funds for the American Cancer Society held on April 30 in Grant.
4. an opportunity for 4-year-olds to learn basic skills and prepare for more structured learning in kindergarten.
5. A program that provides some with discounts on the cost of monthly telephone service.
6. Free publication to member of NHTC.
7. Town location for Maggie Valley Berry Patch and Gardens.
8. Annual event hosted by New Hope Lions Club, Spring Clean _____.

Down:

1. Curt Craig's job in 1963.
2. Copyright owners unhappy with illegal _____.
3. Served at Member Appreciation Day on March 25.
4. Highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.
5. Taking your eyes off the road for 5 seconds while driving 55 mpg, you will travel the length of a _____ field.
6. _____ marker was part of Small Towns and Downtowns celebration for Grant, Ala.
7. CSR - Customer _____ Representative.

Play
&
Win!

