



The

Communicator

VOL. 11, NO. 6 • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF

New Hope
Telephone Cooperative
Your Communications Connection

**New Hope High School unveils
New Vision for Future**

**Learn this holiday season's
Hottest Wi-Fi Gadgets**

**Grant native spends time in the
Big Brother House**

is a bimonthly magazine published by New Hope Telephone Cooperative, ©2012. It is distributed without charge to all Cooperative members/owners.

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Produced for NHTC by:

WordSouth Public Relations, Inc.
www.WordSouth.com

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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:

The Board and employees of New Hope Telephone Cooperative wish you and your family a happy, joy-filled holiday season!

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Great opportunities ahead for NHTC

It is with great excitement that I greet the people of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads this month as your new general manager. I've already had the pleasure of meeting several members and look forward to getting to know more of you in the months ahead.

My career in telecommunications began in Florida in 1974. Through the years I have had a few occasions to live in areas that were served by utility cooperatives. I was always impressed by the quality of service, the enthusiasm of the employees and the progressive innovation of product delivery and development. I often thought that I would like to work with a telephone cooperative at some point in my career.

When I saw the advertisement for this position, I thought perhaps this might be that opportunity. It met most of the criteria that I was looking for, such as a location in the Southeast, a relatively small company and one that is embracing new technology and innovation.

The more I learned about New Hope Telephone the more I wanted to be a part of this team. The initiative to bring fiber and IP video to the home will make these communities the envy of larger cities and urban areas. The infrastructure NHTC is building can be the foundation for economic growth and will enhance the residential and business growth coming into our service area.

When I first looked at New Hope on the map, I was impressed by how centrally located it is to so many places with so much to offer. I was excited to see destinations like Birmingham, Nashville, Chattanooga and the Smoky Mountains all within a few hours' drive. I look forward to exploring and enjoying these opportunities.

My positive impression of this area was further enhanced when I visited in August. The beauty of the mountains and lakes, the vision of fall as the hillsides change colors and the friendly hospitality of everyone I have met are just a few of the reasons that I am excited to be here.

I've had an opportunity to read about the history of New Hope Telephone and how the persistence, dedication and continued efforts by the local communities led to the creation of the cooperative. This story is a true example of the American spirit at its best — neighbors and families coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities.

The past three or four weeks I have spent much of my time meeting with people to learn all I can about this operation. What I have discovered has been encouraging. First and foremost, NHTC has a great bunch of employees who want to do good work and serve the people of this area well. I also believe there are many great opportunities ahead for this cooperative. Yes, changes in the industry are throwing challenges at all rural providers, but from what I've observed NHTC is up for the challenge.

I look forward to learning more about the communities we serve, and meeting more of our members. I want to listen to your ideas and learn what you would like from

your cooperative. I hope to meet you soon! ▲



JIM COOK
General Manager,
New Hope Telephone
Cooperative



**NHTC
Holiday
Schedule**

Our office will be closed **Nov. 22 and 23** for Thanksgiving, and **Dec. 24 and 25** for Christmas.

Wing retires as NHTC general manager



As 2012 comes to a close, so does the career of an Iowa farm boy who spent more than four decades helping bring reliable telecommunications service to rural America.

Tom Wing has retired as general manager of New Hope Telephone Cooperative, a position he held since April of 2007. The path which brought Wing to NHTC began in 1968 when, as a sophomore,

he was among several high school boys who helped the local telephone cooperative in their Iowa hometown take down aerial lines as the company switched to underground service.

Wing never left the telecommunications industry. He took on his first general manager role at the age of 24, and worked in various capacities with companies in Iowa and South Carolina before coming to Alabama.

"I'm going to miss not only the people I've worked with

here at New Hope Telephone Cooperative," says Wing, "but all the friends I've made throughout the industry. I've had the privilege of working with some great folks across the years, and of being part of several progressive projects that have helped a lot of people.

"It's been a good way to make a living, connecting people and seeing how technology brings a better way of life to rural communities," he adds.

Wing says he is proud of the progress NHTC has made in the past five years.

When he looks to the future of the industry as a whole, Wing is concerned about the impact government regulations will have on the rural telcos across the country. "Some of these regulations are going to be devastating if they go into effect as now stated," he says. "The government can't jerk the funding out from underneath the rural providers and expect them to survive."

Wing plans to spend the first several months of his retirement hunting, fishing and completing a long list of home improvement projects. "I also plan to stay plugged in to the telco industry," he says, "just to stay up-to-date on what's taking place. After 44 years in the industry, it's hard to get that out of your system." ▲

Wishing you
Peace, Joy and
Prosperity this
holiday season
and throughout
the New Year!





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NHTC welcomes new general manager

“We are excited to be here in north Alabama, and to be working alongside the good people here to help this cooperative succeed.”

—Jim Cook

After a nationwide search, the NHTC Board of Directors has selected industry veteran Jim Cook as the cooperative's new general manager.

A longtime resident of Florida, Cook brings extensive experience in the telecommunications industry to his new role. During much of the 1990s he worked for Sprint Corporation, with responsibilities that included director of operations and general manager of sales and service. He spent the following decade with Fairpoint Communications, working in almost every major division of the communications company that serves rural markets across 18 states.

“We're excited to welcome Jim aboard,” says Greg Glover, president of the NHTC board. “We believe his experience and knowledge are going to help the cooperative navigate the challenges that are coming to our industry.”

Cook joined Fairpoint as director of marketing, sales and customer service. In this role he developed plans to drive company growth, with an emphasis on exceeding customer expectations. Moving to director of operations and engineering, he focused on leading several departments to manage the network and the processes that delivered service to customers.

In his final position before retiring from Fairpoint, Cook served as vice president

and chief operating officer of the company's telecom group. “I had responsibility for all operations of the telecom group,” says Cook. “In addition to directing the customer service, installation, repair and billing functions, I also put a lot of emphasis on measuring customer satisfaction. Our core mission as telecommunications companies is to deliver quality, reliable service, and I believe in keeping that mission at the center of an operation.”

Cook has been a customer of utility cooperatives through the years, and says he has often thought he would enjoy working for a telephone cooperative. He understands the principles and commitment to community that guide the cooperative business model, and says he looks forward to helping NHTC address its challenges and capitalize on its opportunities.

Cook and his wife Fran have four children. “The highlight of our lives are our three wonderful grandchildren,” he says. “And we have a fourth one set to arrive on New Year's Day!”

“All of our Florida friends and family are looking forward to visiting us,” he adds, “and enjoying the many vacation and entertainment venues that are so close by. We are excited to be here in north Alabama, and to be working alongside the good people here to help this cooperative succeed.” ▲

Scenes from Founder's Day



Christy Nelson (R) presents Debbie O'Neal with a prize package she won.



John Whitaker and Becca Foster work at NHTC booth.



Members played games to win prizes.

Founder's Day in New Hope was once again a huge success, with seemingly everyone in town showing up for the fun. There was plenty to eat, plenty to hear and more than plenty to see and do. Hundreds of members stopped by NHTC's booth and entered a drawing to win a prize package. NHTC would like to congratulate Debbie O'Neal of New Hope for winning the prize package, which included a folding chair, hoodie, hat and canteen.

Who will win the Iron Bowl?

NHTC is giving away two stadium seat cushions and Tervis tumblers from FOX Sports South. Enter today for your chance to win. Simply vote for the team you think will win the Iron Bowl (Alabama or Auburn). You can vote at NHTC's business office during regular business hours, on NHTC's Facebook page or you can email your vote to suggestions@nehp.net. NHTC will draw a winner from those individuals who voted for the winning team. Good luck!

Merry Christmas

from your friends at

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HAVE YOURSELF A HIGH-TECH CHRISTMAS

The power of broadband Internet from NHTC can make this year's most sought-after gifts even better. Many of the hottest gift items come ready for Wi-Fi right out of the box. Game consoles, media centers and even home security systems are built to get the most out of your Internet connection.

E-READERS

Consider purchasing an e-reader for the book lover in your life. The Kindle and Nook are popular examples. E-readers give their owners access to millions of books, newspapers and magazines, all within seconds of purchase. Using your wireless network, an e-reader can purchase, download and display all your selections. Other features include adjustable text sizing, and some even feature built-in dictionaries as well.

The **Kindle** (www.amazon.com/kindle) is the least expensive e-reader on the market, starting at \$69. It weighs less than six ounces and has a battery life of up to a month on a single charge. The **Kindle Fire** (\$159) is a full-color e-reader with access to movies, TV shows, music and more. The **Kindle Fire HD**, priced from \$199 to \$499, has stunning HD display and exclusive Dolby audio.

The **Nook** (www.barnesandnoble.com/nook) is Barnes & Noble's e-reader. Like the Kindle, it has a smaller, black-and-white option (\$99) and a full-color tablet-like version starting at \$149. The **Nook Color** has access to applications (or "apps"), email, web browsing and music. The **Nook HD** (\$199-\$269) has even more features, longer battery life and more memory.

TABLETS

Most people use their computers for surfing the Web, checking email and using a few apps. Tablets are small devices that allow you to do all these tasks without being tied to a computer. Simpler than a laptop and more powerful than a smartphone, tablets are increasingly becoming the go-to device for everyday computing.

The **Apple iPad** (www.apple.com/ipad) is a small touch-screen tablet that gives users access to over 140,000 apps that range from online banking to college level educational programs. The iPad uses your wireless network to stream HD movies and TV shows, as well as to download books, music, newspapers and more. The latest edition, the **iPad 3**, (\$499) features Retina display, a 5-megapixel camera and twice the speed and graphics performance as iPad 2. The **iPad Mini**, with a smaller 7.9-inch display, is priced from \$329.

The **Samsung Galaxy Tab 2** (www.samsung.com) has an incredibly thin, light body. Available in a 7- or 10.1-inch display

version, it features a customizable home screen and the Android Honeycomb operating platform which offers a wide variety of apps from the Android Market. Price starts at \$199 for the 7-inch display.

Even Microsoft is getting in on the action with their tablet, **Microsoft Surface**, (www.microsoft.com/surface). Starting at \$499, the Surface with Windows RT has a built-in kickstand and your choice of five bold-colored covers that also serve as a solid-surface keyboard.

The **Sony Tablet P** (store.sony.com) is a folding tablet with two 5.5-inch display screens. It's packed with tablet-optimized entertainment services from Sony. View what you're typing on one screen while using the virtual keyboard on the other. Hold it like a book for a great e-reader or open it flat and watch a movie on a single screen. It fits easily into a pocket or purse and is priced affordably starting at \$349.

HANDHELD GAMING SYSTEMS

Kids have been playing handheld games since the first paddle ball was invented. Now, games are high-definition experiences that can entertain and educate both children and adults.

For 20 years, Nintendo dominated the handheld gaming market with variations of its Game Boy device. Now, Nintendo has reinvented handheld gaming with its new **Nintendo 3DS** (www.nintendo.com). Starting at \$169, the 3DS offers 3D graphics and video during game play without requiring the user to wear glasses. Aside from downloading games and apps, the Nintendo 3DS is able to connect to other 3DS systems and share photos, drawings and even chat via your wireless network.

Competing with the Nintendo 3DS is the **PlayStation Vita** (www.us.playstation.com/psvita). This gaming device is centered around social games played over broadband Internet. It uses cloud storage for saved games, allows real-time chat with friends during games and more. With the cross play feature you can start playing a

game on your PS3 console, save the progress and continue that same game on the PS Vita. Prices start at \$249.

MEDIA CENTER

Wireless Internet from NHTC can change the way you watch movies and keep up with your favorite television shows. Besides streaming **Netflix** (www.netflix.com) onto your iPad or through your smartphone, customers can watch almost any media on their television through their Internet connection.

The **Apple TV** (www.apple.com/appletv) is a \$99 device that gives you access to the Internet's largest collection of HD movies and TV shows. The small box plugs directly into your television and will stream films or shows from your wireless network to your TV instantly. You can also subscribe to the Netflix service through your Apple TV.

Imagine being able to control your radio, Blu-ray player, video game system and more from your remote. Today's "Smart TVs" use your wireless network to act as a hub for all of your media devices. The **Samsung Smart TV** (www.samsung.com/smarttv) has custom apps that allow you to control various wireless devices with your TV remote. You can also stream movies, music and more from your computer or media box to your television. The 32" Samsung Smart TV starts at \$749.

Sony has brought the power of the Internet's largest search engine, Google, to the home television. Using your broadband Internet connection, the **Sony Internet TV** with Google TV (store.sony.com/SonyInternetTV) allows the user to search the Web, update their Facebook or Twitter and more right from their television remote. The Sony Internet TV allows you to watch your favorite show in a window, while browsing on the same screen. For those who have an Android or iPhone, these devices can even be used as the remote — which should help users spend less time wondering where the remote has gone. The Sony Internet TV also keeps track of what programming you watch most often. It can then recommend

channels, store bookmarks and help you find what you enjoy most without the need to surf channels. The 32" version starts at \$499, with 40" and 46" versions available.

SMART PHONES

If you have not yet joined the revolution in phone technology, now is the perfect time. Droids and iPhones can keep you connected and entertained. Listen to music, watch movies, play games or run your business on the go. Whichever phone you choose, set it to tap into the power of broadband Internet from NHTC while at your home. By connecting your phone to your wireless network, you will be able to browse and stream data much faster.

The **iPhone 5** (www.apple.com/iphone) comes with all the standard abilities of a smart phone: it has access to more than 500,000 apps, millions of songs through iTunes, Netflix movies, a larger display than the iPhone 4S and has an 8-megapixel camera. It also has a technology exclusive to Apple. "Siri" is a program that allows you to use your voice to send messages, set reminders, send email and more. When you say "remind me that I have a meeting tomorrow at 3 p.m.," Siri will open your calendar, set the meeting and program a notification that will come to your email. iPhones are available on AT&T and Verizon starting at \$199 for qualified customers.

Sharing has never been easier than with the **Samsung Galaxy S III** (www.samsung.com/galaxys3). Share pictures, music, videos and more with other Galaxy S III users just by placing them back-to-back. Text a friend and watch a movie at the same time. Share photos with your friends with face recognition. Smart alerts let you know when you've missed calls or messages. It is priced starting at \$199 for qualified Verizon and AT&T customers.

These are just a few of the many options out there. But no matter what high-tech gadgets you decide to purchase this holiday season, there is a good chance it can be made better with broadband Internet from NHTC. ▲

Oh Brother!

More than six million viewers tuned in to the CBS reality TV series *Big Brother* this summer, as Grant native Danielle Murphree went head-to-head with 15 others for a chance to win \$500,000.



When was the last time someone you know appeared on national television? The odds of it happening seem pretty slim, but Danielle Murphree did just that. Danielle — a 2007 graduate of DAR High School, a nurse and student at the University of Alabama earning her Bachelor of Science in health services — competed in the CBS reality TV series *Big Brother* this summer.

She describes the experience as surreal. “When I was going through the casting process,” Danielle says, “I never actually thought I would be picked to go in the house. I was told that *Big Brother* has the hardest reality show casting.”

Thousands of people applied, and that field was narrowed down to 40 finalists. As luck would have it, Danielle was one of 12 selected to enter the *Big Brother* household. “I didn’t really know what to expect,” she admits. “I was so excited and nervous that I was even doing the show. I just didn’t want to be one of the first people voted out.”

The 12 players were sequestered from the outside world. There were no cell phones, no Internet or news of any kind. There was no privacy either. Cameras were strategically placed throughout the house, and every player had to wear a microphone which captured every conversation. Danielle says there were even cameras in the bathroom. “The only privacy you have in the house is when you go in the bathroom stall,” she says. “There were cameras in there, but they would only turn them on if you went in the stall with someone to have a private conversation. So even there, you didn’t have privacy to talk.”

Each week, players competed for the coveted “Head of Household” (HOH) position, which was the only way to guarantee their safety that week. The HOH also got to nominate two players for eviction. The house guest would vote to send one of the nominees home each week until there were only two players left. At that point, a jury made up of the last seven people evicted from the house voted for the person

they felt deserved to win the game and be awarded the grand prize of \$500,000. The runner up won \$50,000.

In a twist for season 14, *Big Brother* producers sent four former players into the game to serve as coaches. Each coach selected three players for his or her team. Dan Gheesling, winner of *Big Brother* season 10, chose Danielle. “My initial thought,” says Danielle, “when I found out there were going to be coaches was ‘This is going to be amazing!’ because we didn’t have to play against them and they were actually there to help us win.” But as with most reality shows, that excitement was short-lived as the coaches became players competing for the grand prize in week three of the game.

Danielle says her time in the house was very draining. “You’re playing a game 24/7,” she says. “It’s really hard because you are living your real life, but you’re living it inside a game. You are having real conversations with these people and thinking at the same time ‘Are they playing the game right now?’

Is that a lie? You have to constantly try not to become paranoid.”

She played hard, making some gutsy moves and a few she'd rather forget. One of the most annoying things to happen to her since leaving the house is having to constantly hear what she should have done differently. “Everyone has an opinion,” Danielle says. “They think they understand everything that went on by watching the game unfold on TV. People say ‘I would have done this or that’ and ‘how can you have trusted Dan?’ But you have to think, I saw Dan from my perspective. He had never done anything to me. He had always been there for me. I never saw his conversations with other people in the house. You’ve got to remember that I played the game from my point of view, while those watching from home saw everyone’s point of view.”

In the end, Danielle made it to the final three before her former ally and coach, Dan, voted to evict her.

By all accounts, Dan was the most ruthless, cunning player of the season. When the chips were down and it appeared that Dan was certain to be evicted, he pulled a bizarre move — hosting his own funeral in the house — and saving himself in the process. He then proceeded to scratch and claw his way into the final two. He even convinced Danielle to take him off the block and nominate another player, Shane Meaney — with whom she'd been having a “showmance” — on the promise that Dan would not evict Meaney. Of course, Dan's promise to Danielle was not sincere and Shane was sent packing. “That is the one move I regret more than anything,” says Danielle. “I never should have trusted Dan. I regret putting Shane up. I never wanted to see him leave.”

When it came to the final vote from the jury to choose a winner, all of Dan's lies and conniving cost him the grand prize. In a vote of 6 to 1, the jury awarded Ian Terry the \$500,000 grand prize. The single vote in Dan's favor was ironically cast by Dani-

elle. “What viewers didn't see,” she explains, “is during the commercial break Dan apologized, said he let me down and asked me for my vote and I gave him my word. Sometimes in the game you have to lie, but if I tell you to your face I'm going to do something, I will. I couldn't stab him in the back.”

Danielle's parents, Daniel and Melinda Murphree, and her brother, Colt, believe that's a true testament to the kind of person she is. “By voting for Dan, she showed that she was loyal, devoted and was true to her word,” says Daniel. “We thought her game play was excellent. For a country girl she really did good.”

Since leaving the house, though, Danielle has had an opportunity to watch the season and see for herself how Dan really was. She refuses to say much except “I don't have anything nice to say about him.”

The same is not true when it comes to her on-air romance. “The feelings are definitely real,” she says. “I actually just visited him in Vermont and everything is good.”

At first her father wasn't sure if the romance was real. “Then I realized there was no advantage to her being in a relationship, so I knew it was real,” says Daniel. “Shane seems like a really swell guy. I've talked to him on the phone and he's very respectful. If things work out for the two of them, that's great. Meeting someone like Shane is just an added bonus for her having done the show.”

For now, Danielle isn't sure what her plans for the future hold. “Everything is different,” she says. “It's really weird. It's different trying to go back to reality because it's not the same as you remember.”

As for whether or not she would do it over again, she says, “Right now I would say no, I wouldn't do Big Brother again. But never say never.” ▲

Want to know more about the Big Brother house?

Danielle tells us a little more about her experience and what it was like inside the house.

Where is the Big Brother house?

It is actually inside a really large studio in Los Angeles. You are totally isolated. Every single mirror in the house is double-sided. There are cameras on the other side, but you never see or hear anybody but the other house guests.

How long did eviction nominees really have to rally votes?

The Head of Household competition was shown live on Thursday. Nominations for eviction were held on Friday. The Power of Veto competition was held on Saturday and the veto meeting was on Monday. Nominees had three days until the live eviction was aired on Thursday.

Each week people were selected as “Have Nots.” They had to eat slop and whatever America chose for them. Is that really all they got to eat?

Absolutely! Slop tastes terrible! It's like oatmeal, only mostly oats. It's bland and watery and disgusting. I had to eat slop the first week and America didn't get to vote. And the second time, they voted for us to also get codfish and candy canes. I hate fish. I don't even like to smell it, so I only ate candy canes.

One of the players, Willie Hantz, was removed from the show by producers for violence. How did the house react to his removal?

I got put on the block for eviction because Willie was kicked out, but luckily JoJo went home instead. I will say his departure definitely eliminated a lot of drama though.

Third grade scientists



Shown (L to R) are: Mikah Glover, Ronald Lemley, Britain Burcham, Parker Johns, Warren Paseur, Riley Anderson, Bethanne Martin, Kaleb Moro and Hannah Sisco.

Third graders at Owens Cross Roads School have been busy working in their outdoor classroom. As part of their science lessons, they have been learning about what plants need in order to grow. To enrich their science lessons in the classroom, the students are conducting a gardening experiment. They are comparing how well plants grow using three different fertilizers — cow manure, human

hair and a commercial fertilizer, Osmocote.

The experiment began Sept. 7 when the third graders planted seeds for carrots, spinach and sugar snap peas in three of the outdoor classroom's raised beds. Over the next several weeks, they will compare the growth of the plants.

Once the vegetables are harvested, the students will donate them to The C.A.R.E. Center's Food Pantry. ▲

INSPIRATION CORNER

Sometimes in a crowd, I will neglect to offer information about my "status," unless called upon. One reason: I want people to be themselves in my presence; if nothing else, I can usually pick up a good sermon illustration.© I have also found that when people are themselves they will talk. For example, I was once asked, "Why do you celebrate Christmas, with its pagan origin?"

"Because I celebrate Christ and not pagans," I reply.

"So the Christmas tree, decorations and gift giving, does not bother you?" they ask.

"Not really," I say. "I was once lost to this world, but through the Gift of Jesus I have been forgiven of my sins, changed from worldliness to righteousness, and now have a new purpose in life. If that can happen for me, then why can't some worldly observance be given a new purpose as well?"

In fact, John records in Revelation 21, God

is going to "make Everything new." What a day that will be! Life, new and perfect as it was meant to be. Until then, however, we get to celebrate this life. As you go through your Thanksgiving and Christmas season, I earnestly pray you will count many more blessings than trials and realize there is a purpose for your life. Don't let the commercialized demands of the season be a distraction. No matter who you are, your life is a gift with a purpose. Find that purpose in a church near you, or give me a call. And May Your Thanksgiving and Christmas be filled with Joy.



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

OCR town clerk retires

For the last 20 years, Barbara Webster has been helping the folks of Owens Cross Roads in her position as town clerk. As of Nov. 1, that is a thing of the past.

But don't feel bad for Barbara. She's decided to retire so she can enjoy what she calls "a slower pace." When she tells you what all she plans to do, one has to wonder how busy she must have been before. Among her plans are spending more time with her aging mother, her husband, John, who retired himself in 2005, her children and grandchildren.

Barbara also plans to dedicate more time to helping others. She used to be more active in her church, Owens Cross Roads Church of Christ, but hasn't had time recently to devote to work there.

"I plan to do more work in the church, visit nursing homes and help the elderly more," she says. "But I'll feel more relaxed and move at a slower pace. I plan to get more enjoyment out of life."

Mary Lossiah (pronounced Loss-y), who has been with OCR Town Hall for seven years serving as the assistant town clerk, will move into the town clerk position effective Nov. 1. She will also now handle the responsibilities as clerk of the court. ▲



DAR teachers receive grant money



Faculty and staff at DAR School were excited to learn they were approved for grant money to help them purchase much-needed supplies. With so many cuts in the education budget, teachers often do not have the resources available to help them best meet the needs of students.

Rep. Wes Long and Sen. Clay Scofield established the "Teachers in

Need" grant program to help provide funding for technology, special programs and classroom supplies whenever possible.

In September, Long presented several teachers at DAR with this grant money. The funding made it possible for Allison Carr, an elementary speech pathologist, to purchase several apps for an iPad she uses to teach students with speech difficulties. The interactive games and activities make speech therapy much more fun.

Media specialist Tammy Sutton was able to purchase 15 e-readers for students as well as new books and periodicals, and first grade teacher Janna Kenamer purchased a new math program.

KDS Middle School received funding for an ELMO Document Camera. This camera functions in different ways, including acting as a scanner and projector. Teachers can project an image on a large display and zoom in and out on an object. This can make group assignments much more interactive. ▲

Community CALENDAR

November

New Hope Rec Basketball Sign Ups

Contact the New Hope Recreation Center for more information about dates and locations for basketball sign-ups. 256-723-2111.

November 9

OCR Elementary Fall Festival & Bingo

Join us from 6 to 9 p.m. for games and a haunted house. Bingo will begin at 6 p.m. and end when all the prizes have been given out. Prizes include a TV, freezer, bicycles, gift cards and more. Tickets for games are 50 cents each. Have dinner with us, too. Concession stands in the cafeteria will serve barbecue sandwiches and hot dogs.

November 28

Lighting of Christmas Tree

Join us at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall for the annual lighting of the Christmas Tree.

December 1

Grant Christmas Parade

The parade starts at 1 p.m. beginning at DAR and finishing at the old VFW building off Main Street.

December 1

New Hope Christmas Parade

The parade will begin at 1 p.m. in downtown New Hope.

December 8

OCR PTO Breakfast with Santa

Let your child enjoy breakfast with Santa from 7 to 10:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria. A pancake breakfast including bacon or sausage and a drink is only \$5. Professional portraits with Santa will also be available.

Class Reunion

NHHS Class of 1973

Plans are in the works now for the best reunion ever! It will be local at a venue in New Hope the weekend of June 7, 2013. If you are in the Class of '73, please contact Marynell Clark Cole at marynellcc@aol.com or Louann Whitaker Poole at poole@nehp.net to let us know if you plan on attending.

There's a new vision for New Hope

From the first day of the new year at New Hope High School, students could tell that something had changed. Teachers seemed different and talked about things like leadership, lighthouse and synergy. In each classroom and with each teacher, although the lessons were different, they were hearing the same message.

They were witnessing a cultural transformation of the school from the inside out.

Last May, Principal Lavell Everett introduced the faculty to a leadership model they would be implementing throughout the upcoming school year based on principles of the best-selling book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Dr. Steven Covey. Training included two voluntary workshops which had nearly 100 percent participation by the faculty. "We only had one teacher who could not attend," he says. "That's a pretty big feat when you consider that they weren't required to be there."

The program, "The Leader in Me" by Sean Covey, son of the late Dr. Covey, has been implemented in many schools across the country with amazing results. Dr. Nancy Curry, the system-wide school improvement specialist



This mural in the main hallway at NHHS illustrates the principles that are core to "The Leader in Me" program which the school is implementing.

for Madison County, had told Mr. Everett about the program. There were some elementary schools in the Madison and Decatur areas participating, but no high schools nearby were. That meant New Hope High School would have to create their own path. But the faculty was up for the challenge.

“The Leader in Me” is intended to provide students with a model for success. The model helps to instill values that will equip them to perform better academically, to become more productive citizens and to take more responsibility for themselves from learning and embracing the seven principles. They are:

- 1. Be proactive.**
- 2. Begin with the end in mind.**
- 3. Put first things first.**
- 4. Think win-win.**
- 5. Seek first to understand, then be understood.**
- 6. Synergize.**
- 7. Sharpen the saw.**

“Every two weeks, the entire faculty introduces a new principle,” says school librarian Amy Largen. “Each teacher can choose to integrate the principle however they feel it will work best for them. Some teachers are creating a syllabus, some are teaching students practical application. But every teacher on staff is doing something, and the students are hearing the same language and learning how to apply the principle in each classroom to really drive the point home.”

Mr. Everett believes the key to making the program a real success is putting action behind the words. He uses a married couple to illustrate the point. “You can tell your spouse time and time again that you love him or her,” he says, “but you’ve got to show them. Our students are seeing these behaviors modeled in their teachers. It’s not just something they talk about.”

The school’s commitment to change is even painted across the walls of the building. The faculty has painted a mural of the seven habits in the main hall of the school where every student can see it. “This program affected us as a faculty in such a positive way that we knew the students were not going to understand the transformation,” says Largen. “We wanted to find a way to show them, rather than just tell them, what was going on.”

They also introduced a new motto.

“We’ve always had a vision statement,” says Everett. “It was a canned statement that no one really knew. But things get stale and we needed something fresh to accompany the new program that we were implementing.” So as part of the workshop, the staff came up with a new vision statement: New Pride, New Passion, New Hope.

“For as long as most of us can remember, other schools have called us ‘No Hope New Hope’ but that couldn’t be further from the truth,” says Largen. “This new statement reminds us all that we have something to live up to.”

The words have been painted across a hallway. The students hear them every day during the announcements and they appear on every piece of correspondence Mr. Everett



As part of a workshop they attended over the summer, the faculty came up with a new vision statement for NHHS.



Students who exemplify leadership qualities are nominated by teachers for placement on the “Leadership Beacons of New Hope” wall.

sends out whether it is a letter, memorandum or email.

As for how the students are embracing the change, Largen says it’s a slow but positive move. “I see the biggest change among the faculty, right now,” she says. “But our students are motivated and teachers are recognizing students who exemplify the qualities we are trying to instill in them.”

That recognition comes in the form of another wall — Leadership Beacons of New Hope — where two students from grades 9 through 12 are selected by teachers for demonstrating great leadership qualities.

“Ultimately,” says Everett, “we want to see kids who become independent, possess leadership qualities, have goals, plan ahead, listen and try to understand before passing judgement. We want them engaged in conversations that get them thinking about the future. We want to broaden their horizon.” ▲

HOMEMADE

for the holidays



Cake Mix Cookies

- 1 box cake mix, any flavor
- 1 stick butter or margarine, melted
- 1 egg

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients at low speed until dry ingredients are moistened and dough is thoroughly mixed. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls 2" apart onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 9-12 minutes. Cool two minutes on cookie sheets, then remove to wire racks to cool. You can stir in chocolate chips, coated candy pieces, chopped nuts or oatmeal. You can frost the cookies or make sandwich cookies by spreading frosting between two cookies.

Gift wrapping idea: Try decorating a recycled Pringles can with craft paper, ribbon or other trinkets you may have. Just remember to make the cookies small enough in diameter to stack inside the canister!

Peppermint Bark

- 1 1/2 pounds almond bark
- 24 round peppermints, crushed

Line bottom of a baking pan with waxed paper. Put crushed peppermints in bottom, covering with melted white bark.

Cool and break into pieces.

Gift wrapping idea: Let your kids help make "reindeer" gifts. A piece of material or a dish towel and a few craft items are all you need.

Banana Nut Bread

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 3 ripe bananas, mashed
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 325°. Grease 4 mini loaf pans. Beat sugar, oil and eggs until blended. Add bananas. Beat in dry ingredients just until blended. Stir in nuts. Pour batter evenly in mini pans. Bake for 45-50 minutes. Cool in pans for 10 minutes. Remove from pans & cool on wire racks. Wrap in plastic wrap. This recipe easily doubles and triples for larger batches.

Gift wrapping idea: You don't have to go all out to create a lovely presentation. Coffee filters, a strand of ribbon and a label add a beautiful touch to your individually wrapped loaves of bread.

The kitchen is the heart of your home. It stands to reason then that some of the best gifts you can give this holiday season are those that you can make yourself. Not only will the neighbors, teachers and friends in your life enjoy eating these delicious holiday classics, they will appreciate the thoughtfulness that went into preparing them, too. As an added bonus, we have included suggestions for unique packaging ideas for your homemade holiday treats!



Old-Fashioned Potato Candy

- 1 small potato, peeled and boiled
- 6 1/2 cups confectioner's sugar
- 1/2 cup peanut butter

Drain boiled potato, place in large mixing bowl and beat with mixer until mashed. Add 4 cups sugar and mix well. Mix in remaining sugar gradually, scraping down sides as needed until a stiff dough is formed. Line counter with waxed paper dusted with confectioner's sugar. Scrape out dough onto waxed paper and dust top with more confectioner's sugar. Roll in a rectangular shape to a thickness of about a quarter-inch. Spread dough with peanut butter and roll up lengthwise into a log. Roll log up in your waxed paper and cut in half. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. When ready to serve, remove waxed paper and slice into 1/4 inch slices. Store leftovers in the refrigerator.

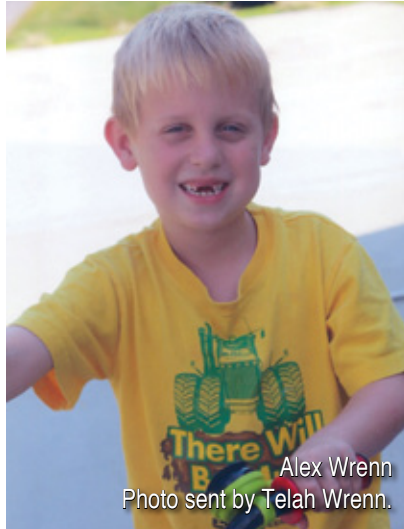
Gift wrapping idea: Chinese take-out boxes can look elegant with simple grosgrain ribbon and painted pinecones.

COMMUNITY PHOTOS

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth



Olivia Grace Kelly
Photo sent by Nan-Nan, Jo Frazier.



Alex Wrenn
Photo sent by Telah Wrenn.



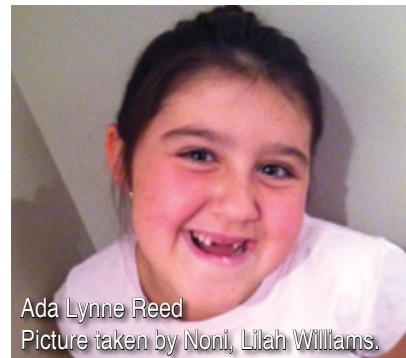
Ivey Grace Lemley,
daughter of Kim & Ivan Lemley.



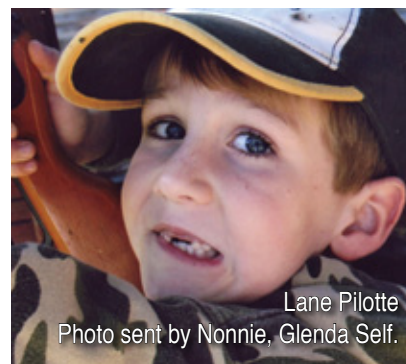
Ashley Stapler, granddaughter of
Rodger & Jan Stapler.



Laney McGehee,
daughter of Lana McGehee.



Ada Lynne Reed
Picture taken by Noni, Lilah Williams.



Lane Pilotte
Photo sent by Nonnie, Glenda Self.



Tanner Hampton,
son of Jason Hampton.



Ridge Pritchett and his sister, Ella Ann,
children of Brandon & Wenona Pritchett.

"Sunsets" is the photo
theme for March/April.
Send to: NHTC • Attn.:
Communicator Photos
• P.O. Box 452 •

New Hope, AL 35760,
or e-mail your photo
to communicator@nehp.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 submission
is Jan. 1.** 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.

'Tis the Season to help our neighbors

NHTC is proud to assist The C.A.R.E. Center by acting as a hosting site for donations for the Food Pantry and Christmas Store

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open to eligible families within The C.A.R.E. Center's service area. The center provides an emergency 3-day supply of food.

The wish list for the Food Pantry consists of non-perishable items such as:

- canned meat (chicken, ham, or tuna)
- spaghetti sauce & noodles
- cereal
- peanut butter & jelly
- canned stew

Christmas Store

The Christmas Store is for individuals who meet certain criteria and is not open to the public. Qualified individuals can purchase Christmas gifts for their children at a 90 percent discount off retail prices. For those who can't afford to pay anything, a work program enables them to earn vouchers which they can use to purchase gifts in the store. The wish list for the Christmas Store consists of:

- toy trucks
- building blocks
- Baby Alive and other dolls
- dollhouses
- Fisher-Price toys
- Nick Jr. toys
- Plug-n-Play TV games
- scooters
- riding toys & bikes up to 24"
- bath kits for teens and adults
- make-up kits for teens
- manicure/pedicure kits
- flat irons for straightening hair
- travel-size tool kits
- simple digital cameras
- pre-paid cell phones and cards
- Alabama/Auburn sweatshirts
- real dartboards for teens
- sports equipment: bats & balls
- shake weights and exercise kits
- iPods and earbuds

***Drop off your items at NHTC during regular business hours now through Dec. 21.**

***Every customer that makes a donation will be entered in a drawing to win ONE FREE MONTH OF SERVICE!**

***For more information about the programs offered by The C.A.R.E. Center, call 256-723-2273.**